



# JHSD JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

## PRESIDENTS' LETTER

GERRY RESNICK AND PETER GRUMBACHER

CO-PRESIDENTS

Our annual meeting featured the Jewish judges in Delaware, and the number of them as well as their contributions to the Bench made us realize how so small a religious population has made such a difference. Indeed, that is what the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is all about. We want to bring to the attention of 2019 Jewish Delawareans - others, too! - what the yesterdays and their people were like that fashioned today and will surely be a positive influence for tomorrow.

Just take a look at the monthly contribution the JHSD offers in the *Jewish Voice* with articles about bygone days. This is a new initiative made possible by the research of Gail Pietrzyk, our archivist. We are reminded of events some of us recall and which often are a source of inspiration to relatively new Jewish Delawareans.

We hope you will consider membership in the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware...and maybe a donation in honor of a birthday or any other special event, or in memory of a loved one, perhaps a life-long member of our community.

We hope yours will be a relaxing summer. When those waning days of vacations, cookouts and swimming pools are in the air, that's the time to think about the JHSD! OK, maybe that's a bit too dramatic, but the days pass by quickly, a reminder of the memories that are a part of our mission.

## JHSD ANNUAL MEETING 2019

RICHARD D. LEVIN

Approximately 150 people attended the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware on Sunday April 7, 2019 at 2 p.m. held in the auditorium of the Siegel Jewish Community Center. Co-Presidents Rabbi Peter Grumbacher and Dr. Gerald Resnick presided.

During a short business meeting, the Officers and the Board of Directors for the year 2019-2020 were elected. The following were reelected as officers: Rabbi Peter Grumbacher and Dr. Gerald Resnick, Co-Presidents, Ronald Rieberman, Richard Margolin and Dr. Harriet Ainbinder, Vice-Presidents, Danna Levy, Secretary and Eleanor Weinglass, Treasurer. Newcomers to the Board each serving a three year term included Paula Gordon, Dr. Roger Horowitz and Diane Wolf.

The business meeting was followed by "Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue!" a history of Delaware's Jewish judges. The program was chaired by Ellen S. Meyer and presented by Richard D. Levin. Mr. Levin's lecture demonstrated how Delaware's Jewish judges have recognized the significance of this Biblical commandment to not only pursue

justice but in so doing to pursue it with justice. Mr. Levin presented capsules of information about early magistrates and the Jewish men and women who served as judges on Delaware's higher State and Federal Courts for the past 118 years. Mr. Levin presented anecdotes



"Squire" Moses Weil,  
from the collections of the  
Jewish Historical Society  
of Delaware

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

and some of the achievements of each person. He began with Moses Weil, a Civil War veteran who became Delaware's first Jewish Justice of the Peace, and ended with Daniel L. Herrmann, Delaware's first Jewish judge on a Constitutional Court and the only Jewish Chief Justice. Mr. Levin presented anecdotes illustrating the Chief Justice's persona and concluded with a summary of the many transformative changes he made to Delaware's court system.

Mr. Levin then reflected on how each of these Jewish men and women had "meted out justice to rich and poor alike, always mindful of their duties to be fair and honest." And in so doing, he said, "each had tried to make this world a little better for all of us in the true spirit of *Tikun Olam*." He added that they all, in their own way had recognized and responded to the challenge presented by Rabbi Tarfon: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

JHSD is proud to announce the publication of *Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue: Delaware's Jewish Judges* by Mr. Levin containing the information that he presented as well as additional materials about each of the individuals. The trade paperback book is now available for purchase on the JHSD website at a cost of \$10.00. It will also be for sale at the Delaware History Museum Store at 504 North Market Street, Wilmington. Mr. Levin will be signing copies of the book on Wednesday, June 26 from noon to 2 P.M., and at the Siegel JCC's Member Appreciation BBQ from 5 to 8 P.M.

## OUR NEW SUMMER INTERN

GAIL PIETRZYK

The JHSD will host a summer intern from the University of Delaware's Summer Scholars program. We are pleased to welcome Darla Handelman, who will be working on oral histories in Delaware's Jewish community.



It was a pleasure to work with last year's intern, Rachel Bohny, and to see her develop skills in historical research and working with primary sources. Dalia's enthusiasm and excitement about the program promise another rewarding summer with a UD Summer Scholar.

In August, at the conclusion of the Summer Scholars program, participating students present their findings to a large colloquium at the University. Members interested in attending can contact me at 302 655-6232 or follow our Facebook page, <https://facebook.com/JHSDel>, where we will post information about Ms. Handelman's presentation.

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is grateful to Dr. Roger Horowitz, Director, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library and Adjunct Professor, University of Delaware History Department, and Polly Zavadviker, Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies and Director of Jewish Studies. Their support and encouragement has made this relationship with the JHSD and the Summer Scholars program possible.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new board members were elected at the JHSD's annual meeting on April 7, 2019. We extend a warm welcome to Diane Wolf, Paula Gordon and Dr. Roger Horowitz.

Diane Wolf moved to Delaware in 1976 and spent the following 30 years working as a medical librarian, mostly at Christiana Care. While working for the health system, she organized the hospital archives as a 'self-trained' archivist.

Since retirement, she has done some library consulting, teaching and other part-time work. She is an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom (CBS) and has served as an officer and president of the congregation.

She is currently the CBS volunteer librarian and archivist. She hopes to have the archives cataloged and digitized in time for the CBS centennial in 2022.

Diane is married to Lew Bennett; they have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Paula Gordon was an active volunteer during Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth congregation's recent move out of their building of 57 years.

The dedication and care with which she worked to organize, preserve and care for AKSE's records and artifacts over the last 18 months has already earned her the appreciation of the JHSD.

In November, 2018 Paula participated in a workshop at the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, GA, where the papers of her mother, Helen Gordon, are deposited.

Paula grew up in Wilmington and attended AKSE Talmud Torah and Wilmington Gratz. She is a freelance translator and editor.

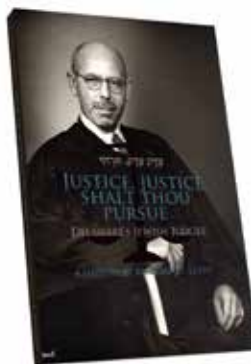
Dr. Roger Horowitz is a historian of American business, technology, and labor. He is an expert on the nation's food and has written widely about the consumption and production of meat in America. Most recently, his research has turned to kosher food, inspired by powerful personal connections and intellectual curiosity. Dr. Horowitz is also the Director of the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and

## JUSTICE, JUSTICE SHALT THOU PURSUE

DELAWARE'S JEWISH JUDGES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Join us for these book signing events



The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is pleased to announce the publication of *Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue: Delaware's Jewish Judges: A History* based on the program presented by Richard D. Levin at the JHSD Annual Meeting. The story of Delaware's Jewish Judges spans 118 years and offers biographical sketches of thirty-eight remarkable men and women from Delaware's Jewish community who have served in the Delaware Judiciary.

\$10 trade paperback



### DELAWARE HISTORY MUSEUM

504 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802

Noon-2:00 PM



### SIEGEL JCC

101 Garden of Eden Road  
Wilmington, DE 19803

5:00-8:00 PM

Society at the Hagley Museum and Library. He is the author of *Negro and White, Unite and Fight: A Social History of Industrial Unionism in Meatpacking, 1930-1990* (1997), *Putting Meat on the American Table: Taste, Technology, Transformation* (2005) and *Kosher USA: How Coke Became Kosher and Other Tales of Modern Food* (Columbia University Press, 2016).



LEND US YOUR SUPPORT! If you have not already made an annual membership contribution, or if you want to lend your financial support to this vibrant, active organization, please return this coupon with your check to: Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, 505 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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Please make your check payable to the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible under applicable IRS guidelines.

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☐ Please do not publish my name as a member.



### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME**

The JHSD Oral History Project conducts interviews documenting the Jewish community in Delaware.

Interviewing a community leader or chatting with a family member about their life and experiences can be a most

rewarding and enjoyable way to get involved and explore the history of Delaware's Jewish community.

Please contact the JHSD to learn more about the oral history project and other ways you can share in preserving the history of the Delaware Jewish community.

### **VISIT US ON FACEBOOK.**

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is now on Facebook. Visit us, like us, and please share posts from us and with us. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/JHSDel/>



# **JHSD**

JEWISH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

505 NORTH MARKET STREET  
WILMINGTON, DE 19801