



# JHSD

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DIANE WOLF

### LEAVING A LEGACY

We were surprised and grateful to receive a very generous bequest from the estate of a former member of the Delaware Jewish community. The JHSD Board has asked me to tell you of the bequest and why such gifts can help insure the future of our Society.

We all have the power to leave a legacy that carries on the stories of those who came before us. Legacy gifts are not just for the wealthy; a legacy gift can be made by anyone for any amount. A planned gift continues into posterity and helps to ensure that our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to learn the history of their family and that of Jewish Delaware.

If you have already included a legacy gift for the JHSD in your will or estate plans, we thank you. If you would like information about planned giving please email me at [president@jhsdelaware.org](mailto:president@jhsdelaware.org). If I do not know the answer to your questions I will find the answers for you.

The Board joins me in thanking you for considering this way to support the JHSD.

### ANNUAL MEETING 2023

We are planning to hold our Annual Meeting in person this year! Please hold the date: Sunday, April 30th at the Siegel JCC from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Our speaker will be Polly Zavadvker, PhD, Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies, and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Delaware. As in the past, we will hold a brief business meeting followed by Dr. Zavadvker's presentation, and we will conclude with refreshments and socializing. The Board, Archivist Gail Pietrzyk, and I look forward to greeting you in person.

## DO MORE 24 DELAWARE MARCH 2-3, 2023

JHSD will be participating in DoMore 24 Delaware, an annual fundraising day. Our goal is to attract 30 new members, so this would be a great time to join.



Do More 24 Delaware, powered by Spur Impact and United Way of Delaware, is the state's biggest day of charitable giving. By donating between 6 p.m. on March 2 and 6 p.m. on March 3, your gift will go further than any other day of the year thanks to matching gifts, incentives, and prizes from generous sponsors.

Visit [domore24delaware.org](http://domore24delaware.org) to find JHSD and mark your calendars to donate March 2-3!

## JHSD ON <sup>the</sup> 302

We were pleased and a bit nervous when Jaccii Farris, host of MeTV's regional community interest talk show on WDPN, invited us to appear on TV. She wanted a program to tell the story of Hanukkah for area viewers. Fortunately, we got some terrific talent to help and the whole effort turned out to be a lot of fun.

The program was taped in the light-filled atrium at Congregation Beth Shalom. Rabbi Nick Renner spoke about the meaning of the Hanukkah holiday. Phyllis Aerenson shared her beautiful dreidel collection. Some of her delightful musicbox dreidels were used in promo ads on MeTV! The final segment featured JHSD archivist, Gail Pietrzyk, talking about the history of the Jewish Community in Delaware and how JHSD is working to preserve it.

The program aired on Saturday, December 17, 2022 and was rebroadcast on Sunday, December 18th. But you can still watch the show online at <https://youtu.be/KIZCny1v5U8>.



PHYLLIS AERENSON SHARES HER DREIDEL COLLECTION WITH THE 302 HOST, JACCI FARRIS.

## JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

DELAWARE CENTER for JEWISH HISTORY at the COXE HOUSE

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General information: 302-655-6232, [info@jhsdelaware.org](mailto:info@jhsdelaware.org)

### JHSD IS ONLINE!



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JHSDel/>



Website <https://jhsdelaware.org>

## DELAWARE JEWISH WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Dr. Françoise (Simcha) Ouzan, a Senior Research Associate at the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center, Tel Aviv University, is currently conducting research on American Jewish soldiers during World War II, with a focus on their motivations, war experiences, transformations of identities, and encounters with antisemitism in the ranks of the army.

Dr. Ouzan has authored five books and co-edited four volumes related to Jewish Americans, the Second World War, and its aftermath. Her next book on American Jewish service members during World War II is forthcoming with Indiana University Press in 2023.



JAIME LEVY FROM JHSD COLLECTIONS

Dr. Ouzan has contacted JHSD help with her research. She is seeking correspondence of Jewish women who served in the military during WWII. Our “Dear Mollye” collection has some correspondence and our oral history collection was also useful, but we suspect that our members could provide even more help with this research. If your family collection includes letters, diaries, or other reminiscences of women service members, please contact the archivist at JHSD at 302 655-6232 or [info@jhsdelaware.org](mailto:info@jhsdelaware.org).

### WELCOME CHAIKEN INTERNS

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is pleased to welcome two student interns from the University of Delaware, Hope Kabura and Shay Bloom. Hope and Shay will be working on oral history this semester and interviewing members of the Delaware Jewish community.

Hope Kabura is an International Relations major with a concentration in Diplomacy and World Order. She brings an impressive academic record and skillset to the project. Hope will graduate with the class of 2025.



HOPE KABURA, '25



SHAY BLOOM, '23

Shira (Shay) Bloom is a senior majoring in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in Jewish Studies. She developed an interest in history working at the Lexington Historical Society in Massachusetts.

It's going to be an exciting semester and we are delighted with the support and encouragement JHSD has received from the staff and faculty of the University of Delaware: Polly Zavadvker, Assistant Professor of History, Director of the Jewish Studies Program; Lois Stoehr, Internship Coordinator, Arts & Humanities, Student Success Center; and Roger Horowitz, Director, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library. The Chaiken internship program is coordinated with the Jewish Studies Program and supported by the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation.

JHSD's oral history collection owes an enormous debt to the tireless efforts of Yetta Chaiken, z"l, who recorded so many of the interviews conducted in the 1980s and '90s. Preserving and continuing her legacy is an honor.

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

GAIL PIETRZYK

Time really does fly! I can hardly believe that it's been twenty years since I first came to JHSD.

When I arrived in 2003, JHSD was planning for the celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America and preparing the exhibit "Half a Chance: Stories of Jewish Delawareans," presented at the Delaware History Museum from September 9 through December 31, 2004. A great deal of planning and research went into that exhibit and it offered a wonderful introduction to many of the remarkable stories the Delaware Jewish community has to tell.

So much has happened in the intervening years and there are many more stories and memories to share. The 50th anniversary of JHSD is fast approaching and we hope you will join with us to help record the stories, capture the memories and share the treasure that is Delaware's Jewish history.

I love going out into the community to share information about JHSD and our collections. I was honored to speak at Congregation Beth Shalom on Yom Kippur, at Beth Emeth during Sukkot, and at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in January. I always enjoy meeting people who are interested in the history of Delaware's Jewish community and want to help us preserve it and make it more accessible.

Whether you come to our home, the Delaware Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House, or invite us to visit your home, JHSD is eager to work with you and for you in preserving your history.

## THANK YOU ALEX

In January we said goodbye to project archivist, Alex May, who spent more than a year working with us on various projects. Alex first came to JHSD as a volunteer in the fall of 2021 and was hired in July 2022 as a project archivist to process records accessioned from the JCC. He accomplished a lot in a short period of time and it was a pleasure to work with him. We were sad to see him leave, but are pleased to hear he is now working at Winterthur Museum. We wish him the best in this new opportunity and in his career.

## THANKS TO OUR GRANTORS IN 2022

Jewish Federation of Delaware  
Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation  
Pollyanna Foundation

Funding in 2022 was also provided from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Delaware Humanities as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 30: SAVE THE DATE



POLLY ZAVADIVKER, PH.D.,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF HISTORY AND JEWISH  
STUDIES

JHSD's Annual Meeting speaker will be Polly Zavadviker, Director of the Jewish Studies Program at UD. For several years, JHSD has valued the enthusiastic support and cooperation Polly Zavadviker has provided in helping us to coordinate with student internship programs at UD. In the fall 2022 semester, Dr. Zavadviker offered a European history course, "Ukraine and Russia: The Road to War." A recent article in *The Review*, the University's independent student newspaper, described the impact of the class on the students.<sup>1</sup> The presentation is sure to be an event worth attending.

<sup>1</sup> Tabitha Reeves, "History course on Ukraine sparks students' emotional and intellectual interest," *The Review*, February 8, 2023. <https://udreview.com/history-course-on-ukraine-sparks-students-emotional-and-intellectual-interest/>

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

We thank the following community organizations for their financial support in 2022:

Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth  
Congregation Beth Emeth  
The Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation, Inc.  
Hadassah Mid-Atlantic Area  
The Isador and Ida Schutzman Fund  
University of Delaware Hillel at The Kristol Center for Jewish Life

A full list of contributors (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023) will appear in our summer newsletter.

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

JHSD is happy to receive tribute gifts. Please think of us when you want to honor the accomplishments or memory of a loved one or friend.

## WAYS TO GIVE

By check payable to Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (coupon on next page)  
Online through DEGives.org:  
Membership and general fund:  
<https://www.degives.org/orgs/jewish-historical-society-of-delaware>  
JHSD Endowment Fund:  
<https://www.degives.org/fundraisers/JHSD-Coxe-House>  
Please contact us to discuss other payment methods.



# JHSD

JEWISH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

515 NORTH MARKET STREET  
WILMINGTON, DE 19801



I want to help preserve the link between the past, present and future of the Jewish community in Delaware by becoming a member of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD).

**Regular household:** \$36.00 or  
**Senior household:** \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(all members age 65 or older)

A household membership covers all in the household and confers one vote at the JHSD annual meeting.

**I would like to add the following donation to become a contributing member:**

**Member Pillar of Society (minimum \$1,000)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Benefactor (minimum \$500)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Patron (minimum \$250)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Sponsor (minimum \$100)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Other amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(every contribution is deeply appreciated)

**TOTAL: MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTIONS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of people in your regular or senior household:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(for internal purposes, does not affect dues amount).

**Students: JHSD offers complimentary, non-voting membership to full-time students under age 25.**

Please indicate your school and class here:

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Class (year): \_\_\_\_\_

**COXE HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER DONATION (NON-MEMBER)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

Please make check payable to Jewish Historical Society of Delaware.

Your contribution is fully tax-deductible under IRS guidelines.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Please acknowledge my/our household as follows in publications \_\_\_\_\_ :

Please do not publicize my contribution.