



JHSD

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DIANE WOLF

THE POWER OF ONE PERSON'S DRIVE TO PRESERVE HISTORY

I was in Israel with family members last year and was very impressed with the tour of the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv. We asked a lot of questions of the young soldier/guide and she took us to see the many books of photos documenting the early history of the Palmach. You can see some of these 30,000 photos at: <https://palmach.org.il/en/archive/galleries/>

This archive exists due to the efforts of Dita Perach Farah, the Palmach's first female pilot. She traveled throughout Israel collecting photos from Palmach fighters and their families. She asked people to identify the people photographed in the pictures and to write about the history of the photos. Ms. Perach Farah created albums of all the photos and kept them in her home on Kibbutz Beit Hashita. Later the albums were transferred to the Palmach Museum. During the organization of the collection, hundreds of photographs of Palmach martyrs were discovered that had not been identified before.

While many people contributed to the organization and research of the collection, it was Dita Perach Farah's commitment and hours of work that created it and brought it to life.

Most of us will not have an opportunity to make such a dramatic contribution to preserving historical records. But I hope we can all help preserve the history of our families and community institutions.

JHSD was founded for this reason; let us help you explore and tell the stories of your family and community.

Happy Passover ✨ Chag Sameach

CLIMB ABOARD FOR THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION



THE SELLERS ESTATE, THEN AND NOW

GUEST SPEAKER, EMILY COLLOPY MA HISTORY '24, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Learn about the history of the Sellers Estate, remember summers at Camp JCC, and learn about how the property has continued to be part of special summer memories for so many Delaware residents.

TEMPLE BETH EL
301 POSSUM PARK ROAD
NEWARK, DE 19711

Refreshments will be served following the program.

Open to the public | Free Admission | Streaming link available

Seating is limited. Reservations are recommended.

VISIT [JHSDelaware.org](https://jhsdelaware.org) OR CALL 302 655-6232

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
2:00 TO 4:00 PM



Emily Collopy will be the guest speaker for the JHSD Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2024. Emily, a graduate student at University of Delaware and 2023 Community Engagement Summer Intern at JHSD, will share her research about the Sellers Estate. Learn about the history of the Sellers Estate, remember summers at Camp JCC, and learn about how the property has a special place in the memories of so many Delawareans.

PREPARING FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

JHSD was founded in December 1974 and incorporated in January 1975. We invite you to join us in preparing for our celebratory year, 2025.

Plans are in progress and we would like to involve more community members, especially those in Kent and Sussex Counties. Most planning sessions will be conducted online.

For more information, email Diane Wolf at president@jhsdelaware.org or our archivist, Gail Pietrzyk, at info@jhsdelaware.org or contact us by phone at 302-655-6232.

We look forward to hearing from you!

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

DELAWARE CENTER for JEWISH HISTORY at the COXE HOUSE

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Story ideas and submissions welcome—contact the editor to discuss.

General information: 302-655-6232, info@jhsdelaware.org

JHSD IS ONLINE!



Facebook

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



Website

<https://jhsdelaware.org>



Thank you for supporting us during Do More 24 Delaware! This year's event raised more than \$2.3 million in 24 hours for 537 Delaware nonprofits from more than 20,000 individuals. Next year's event will be March 6-7, 2025. Mark your calendars! See <https://www.domore24delaware.org> for more information.

We thank our major funding partners, Jewish Federation of Delaware and Delaware Humanities, for their continued support.



JHSD HONORS JWV

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, JHSD sponsored an event at the JCC to honor Delaware's Jewish veterans and rededicate the memorial honoring those who served in the military.

The Jewish War Veterans organization was founded in 1896 by a group of 63 Jewish veterans from the Civil War after a series of anti-Semitic comments about the lack of Jewish service in the Civil War. Since then, JWV has been working hard to be the voice of American Jewry in the veteran community.

The Department of Delaware posts were founded in the 1940s and honored three of Delaware's fallen heroes, Harry Fineman (Post 525), Arthur Blatman, and Nathan Balick.

In 2018, JHSD Co-Presidents Rabbi Peter Grumbacher and Gerry Resnick met with JWV President Len Markowitz and Michael Ruderman to discuss the transfer of JWV assets to JHSD to provide for preservation of JWV records in the face of declining membership. The Delaware chapters were dissolved in 2019.

In 2021, JHSD began efforts to update the list of deceased Jewish veterans with the intention of holding a small event at the JCC to recognize Henry Galperin, z"l, and Dr. Ralph Tomases, z"l, who were both instrumental in the creation of the memorial in 2007.

After years of effort, a dedicated group of volunteers completed its research and planned the event.

JHSD was surprised and honored to find greater than expected interest and turn-out for the rededication event. About 50 people attended the event and some expressed an interest in making this an annual commemoration. Plans for a Veterans recognition event in 2024 are already underway. Visit the JWV Memorial at the Siegel JCC and the webpage of Deceased Jewish veterans at <https://jhsdelaware.org/veterans>.



World War II permeated every aspect of American life and resulted in a large migration of people within the United States. Individuals and families relocated to industrial centers for good-paying war jobs and out of a sense of patriotic duty. Many industrial centers became "boom towns," growing at phenomenal rates. Workers from around the nation had to intermingle with each other and overcome differences to meet war demands, forever changing the cultural landscape of the United States.

Contributions by a city to the World War II home front war effort include defense manufacturing, such as ships, aircraft, uniforms, and equipment; production of food and consumer items for Armed Forces and home consumption; volunteer participation; and civil defense preparedness.

The World War II Heritage Cities program was established by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 to recognize the historic importance of the United States' domestic involvement in World War II and to ensure the continued preservation of a defining period in American history. This year's additions follow the inaugural designation of Wilmington, North Carolina, in September 2020.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, NAMED WWII HERITAGE CITY

On January 3, 2024, Wilmington's Mayor Mike Purzycki and the City's Land Use and Planning (LU&P) Director, Jeff Starkey, announced that the city has been designated as an "American World War II Heritage City" for 2023 by the National Park Service. The Service's American World War II Heritage City Program (AWWIHC) honors the contributions of local towns, cities, and counties, as well as commemorates the stories of the men, women, and children whose bravery and sacrifices helped shape the U.S. home front during World War II and still impact our country today.

JHSD archivist, Gail Pietrzyk, met with Delaware Historical Society staff and Wilmington's Historic Preservation Planner Debra Martin in January to discuss how the city and its cultural institutions can work together to promote the story of the Jewish community's role in WWII. Allen Russo's application for the summer internship with JHSD is a perfect match.

SUMMER INTERN TO STUDY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN WWII

JHSD welcomes Allen Russo, a summer internship student from the Lepage Center, Villanova University. The Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest is now in its fourth year of a summer internship program that offers students interested in the field of history professional work opportunities in settings and organizations that support history in the public interest. This will be the first year that JHSD has participated in the Lepage Internship program.

Allen Russo is a student at Villanova University pursuing an MA in History and has already earned an MA in World War II Studies from Arizona State University.

The Jewish community has long valued the story of Mollye Sklut and our treasured "Dear Mollye" collection. We know that the collection offers so many research possibilities to tell the story of the homefront efforts of Delaware's Jewish community. It will be a pleasure to have a researcher with Allen's knowledge and understanding of the period explore the stories of the men and women from Delaware who served during WWII and the homefront efforts to support their families and friends. This research, in conjunction with Lowell Silverman's excellent research on *Delaware's World War II Fallen*, promises to offer an important approach to understanding the impact of the war on the community.

WELCOME OUR CHAIKEN INTERN

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is pleased to have Rebecca Volk, a student intern from the University of Delaware, working on oral history this semester and interviewing members of the Delaware Jewish community.

Rebecca worked with JHSD as a Stewart Intern in the summer of 2022 and again as a Jewish Studies interin in 2023. It is a pleasure to see her enthusiasm and interest and her growth as a scholar and researcher.

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 Zavadivker, 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, under the leadership of Dr. Janice Selekman.

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

HAGGADOT AT JHSD

The JHSD archival collections contain many haggadot. Here's a sample of our collections.

You can read about Rabbi David Geffen's *American Heritage Haggadah* in the April 2022 issue of *Jewish Living Delaware*.

The Maxwell House Haggadah is an English-Hebrew Passover Haggadah introduced by the Maxwell House company as a marketing promotion in 1932 and printed continuously since that time. Examples from the Rabbi David Geffen Collection date from 1935 through 1965. Domino Sugar also produced a Haggadah.

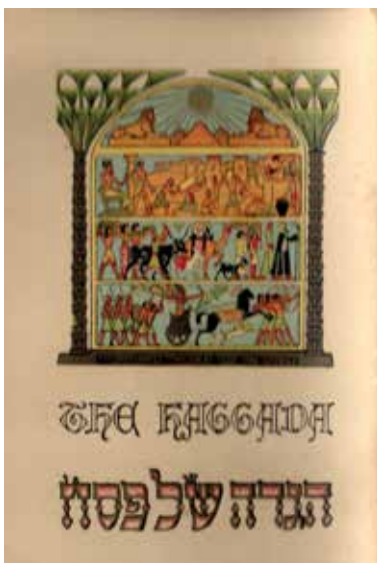


Passover Haggadah with Music, c. 1912, from the Geffen collection, above.

The Standard Haggadah, Hyman E. Goldin translator, 1943, below



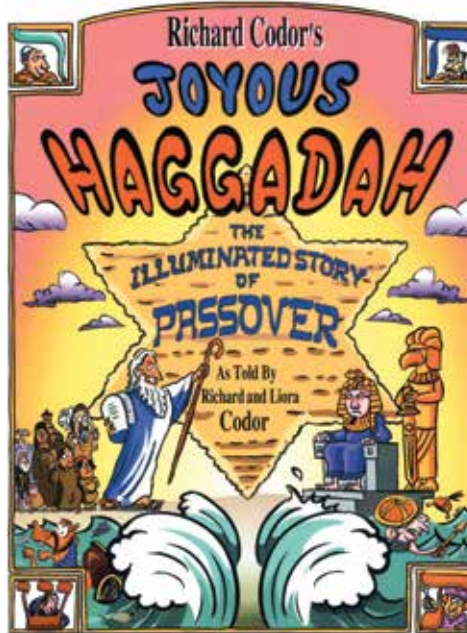
The Haggada, Tel-Aviv, 1967. Compliments of the Dan Hotels, Israel. From the Geffen collection, below.



SPRING 2024 — 4



Haggadah Latalmid, Saadyah Maximon, translator, 1958. From the Geffen collection, above.



Delaware native, Richard Codor, produced this delightful illustrated Haggadah in 2008. We are pleased to include it with other cartoons, illustrations, and publications by Codor at JHSD.



ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

GAIL PIETRZYK

JHSD has been working for years to develop its relationships with area universities and their internship programs. Our first summer intern, Rachel Bohney, arrived in 2018 and worked on a narrative of the history of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth congregation based on JHSD records. We next ventured into collecting oral histories and welcomed Dalia Handelman in 2019. Dalia returned in 2020 along with Mary Rose Fay, who worked with our collection of early oral history recordings. In 2022 Rebecca Volk and Connor Simpler joined us for summer internship projects. Emily Collopy and Rebecca Volk were our 2023 interns. Our internship alumni list keeps growing!

It is rewarding and exciting to have these students come to learn and research at JHSD and especially so when we have students who return to us and continue to pursue an interest in Delaware's Jewish history.

The support and encouragement of the University of Delaware's College of Arts & Sciences Student Success Center has been invaluable. Lois Stoehr has worked tirelessly with JHSD to ensure that the interns placed with us have a positive and rewarding experience. JHSD works best with students who show initiative and like to follow a research lead. While some intern placements have not been a perfect match, JHSD has had some real stand-out success stories.

We are excited to participate this year with the Lepage Center; Allen Russo's proposed project about the Jewish community's homefront efforts during WWII is timely and promises to be rewarding. We hope to share more about Allen's research in the next issue of the JHSD newsletter.

It can sometimes feel that things happen slowly at JHSD. It took us years to complete the work of updating the list of deceased Jewish veterans for the memorial at the JCC. Some of the work we have started may appear to be stalled. But appearances can be deceiving. JHSD shares information about our collections on a daily basis with local and distant researchers. We are constantly seeking out opportunities to connect with programs like these interships. It may take years to find the right combination of interest, support, and opportunities, but we're persistent and patient.

Documenting the history of Jewish Delaware has been our mission for nearly fifty years and our investment in and commitment to the task grows stronger with each passing year. We hope you will join us on this journey and share your stories, explore your interests and help us to expand our opportunities. Come make history with us.

A full list of contributors (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024) will appear in our summer newsletter.

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

In memory of Danna Miller Levy: The Blackwood Family,
Ruth and Jerry Chariton, Betty Diznoff, Lynne P. Ellick, Paula Gordon,
Stacy Madison, Greg Mand, Bob and Ellen Meyer, Sandra Michel,
Eta Nahapetian, Ellen Goode, Frances Galvin, Kate Latham, and
Gail Pietrzyk
In memory of Roger M. Levy: Richard Levine, Gail Pietrzyk
In memory of Winnie Silver: Paula Gordon
In memory of Rabbi Edward Zerin: Gail Pietrzyk
In honor of William and Mary Feinberg, Dr. Howard and Judith Wilk,
Roger Pernick: David Wilk
In celebration of Helen C. Gordon's 97th birthday: Paula Gordon

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 p. 6)
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.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS 2023–24

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
Bernard & Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center
Congregation Beth Emeth
Congregation Beth Shalom
Hadassah Wilmington Delaware Chapter

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Isador & Ida Schutzman Fund
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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).

Household membership covers all members of the household and confers one vote at JHSD's annual meeting.

Regular household: \$50.00

Senior household: \$36.00 (all members age 65 or older)

Contributing member

(amounts listed below include household membership at either level):

Sponsor (\$100-\$249) \$ _____

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Pillar of Society (\$1,000+) \$ _____

Number of people in your regular or senior household: _____
(for JHSD grantseeking and reporting purposes)

Other donation amount :
(every contribution is deeply appreciated) \$ _____

JHSD Endowment Fund: \$ _____

- I am interested in volunteer opportunities.
- Add me to your mailing list (for those not able to donate now but who would like to stay in touch through mailings and

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

- Please do not publicize my contribution.
- Please acknowledge me/our household as follows in publications:

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