



JHSD

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

Shana Tova

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dr. David Wilk, President

All of us at the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) wish you and your loved ones a "Shana Tova" as we welcome the New Year of 5785.

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD). Established in 1974 to collect, preserve, and share materials that tell the story of the Delaware Jewish community, JHSD's core mission has been preserving and understanding our past, so we help ensure a strong and healthy future for the Jewish community and our neighbors. JHSD's rich collections and archives have focused on curating resources relating to synagogues, Jewish organizations, Jewish-owned businesses, and Jewish families and individuals. JHSD's collection is our gift and legacy for future generations.

We approach our 50th Anniversary year at a time when being Jewish has taken on a whole new perspective. The High Holidays are often a time for reflection, so at this unprecedented time in our Jewish and world history, we invite you to join our efforts in the community and create future value for the next 50 years that somehow leads to less hate, greater acceptance, and tolerance.

Interestingly, creating future value together begins with understanding and learning from our history mixed with current events. This combination provides great context for finding ways to serve others through a central theme in Judaism of "Tzedakah."

As we commemorate our 50th Anniversary, we respectfully offer the following questions:

- As we approach the High Holidays, do the frightening current events happening around the world call upon us to "rise above prior actions" with our extended community?
- Is it more critical than ever for JHSD (and all our partner agencies) to find new pathways to enhancing education, tolerance, inclusion, and civility for Jewish and all people?

If you answered yes to the above questions, please join in our mission. By building on the historical inspiration of the lives and courage of the Jewish people, and engaging in deeper collaboration with our community partners, we can deliver innovation, infrastructure, and inclusion.

Let us partner together "for the greater good" in ways that optimize the lives of future generations!

Happy and Healthy New Year!

IT'S OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Diane Wolf & Laurie Blum-Max,
50th Planning Committee co-chairs

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) was incorporated in 1975. We hope you will join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary at programs and activities planned for the coming year.

We have had the benefit of assistance with planning and collaboration from the L'Dor V' Dor Committee, Siegel Jewish Community Center (JCC), Congregation Beth Sholom, Seaside Jewish Community, and the Delaware Historical Society. We are especially appreciative of support from the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation.

Here is a list of programs and activities (with dates if known):

JHSD 50th Kickoff and Hanukkah Happy Hour on Saturday, December 28, 2024, 6:30–8:30 PM, at the Siegel JCC, Wilmington.

ArtSpace Display—From Y to J: Jewish Recreation in Delaware, March–April 2025 at the Siegel JCC, Wilmington.

ArtSpace Display Reception on Sunday, March 16, 2025, 2–4 PM, at the Siegel JCC, Wilmington.

"Traveling Trunk"—Symbols of Jewish Life during Jewish American Heritage Month, May 2025.

This is an educational program in which artifacts of Jewish life and documents are available to educators for middle school students.

Programs in each Delaware county with speakers and exhibits.

An Interactive map of 20th century Jewish Wilmington businesses and landmarks.

Jewish Veterans Event on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at the Siegel JCC, Wilmington.

Hanukkah Happy Hour & 50th Wrap-up Party on Sunday, December 14, 2025, 6:30–8:30 PM at the Siegel JCC, Wilmington.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

DELAWARE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY AT THE COXE HOUSE

OFFICERS

David Wilk, President
Dr. Harriet Ainbinder,
Vice President
Robin Kauffman Saran,
Vice President
Peter Zoll, Vice President
Hon. Donald Parsons,
Treasurer
Michael Lundy, Secretary

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Diane Wolf

BOARD MEMBERS

Laurie Kneitel Blum-Max
Hon. Robert Coonin
Dr. Roger Horowitz
Ronald Riebman
Charles Salkin
Dr. Janice Selekman
Dr. Mark Wagman
Dr. Polly Zavadivker

STAFF

Gail Pietrzyk, Archivist

Newsletter Editor and Designer: Gail M. Pietrzyk
The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, a non-profit corporation, publishes this newsletter twice a year. All contents © 2024, JHSD and the authors. 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>

A NEW LOOK!



Fifty years! JHSD is marking this momentous anniversary with a refreshed logo.

Our new logo uses Delaware's colors of blue and gold, rather than the state's outline, to illustrate our connection with the First State. We wanted to retain the shape of the Ten Commandment tablets from the 1975 logo, but the updated version might also suggest an open book.

We hope you will visit soon and see what stories our open books contain about Jewish Delaware.

FALL 2024 — 2

OCTOBER 7 AND DELAWARE FAMILIES

For many Delaware families, the events of October 7, 2023, were intensely personal. The Delaware Jewish community has many ties with the State of Israel. Many Delaware families have children and grandchildren there. While headlines and news reports have tried to come to grips with the events unfolding there, we wanted to remember the hopes and memories of those for whom the choice to make Aliyah and live in Israel was a cherished dream.

At a time when many college campuses witnessed protests, JHSD was able to offer a student at University of Delaware a moving experience—greater understanding and empathy. We are deeply grateful to the families who agreed to be interviewed by this year's Chaiken intern, Rebecca Volk, about the choices of their family members to live in Israel.

Howard and Judith Zucker have a grandson, Jacob, who became a paratrooper for the Israeli army. We hope for his continued safety throughout his service.

Jordan and Sharon Rosen shared that, despite the present dangers in Israel, their children and grandchildren are, fortunately, safe despite the present dangers.

JHSD and the entire Delaware Jewish community hopes they will remain safe and soon know peace.

Rebecca also interviewed Rabbi David Geffen on June 16, 2024. Rabbi Geffen, from his home in Jerusalem, spoke of his early visits to Israel and the experiences that moved him and his family to make Aliyah in the 1970s.

As Rebecca expressed during her presentation at our Annual Meeting on May 3, "...despite various perspectives and beliefs in Zionism, the current dangers, the polarizing tension, and the constant anxiety concerning family safety, there is still strong support and passion for the Jewish state." The oral history interviews may be found at <https://jhsdelaware.org/oral-history>.

JHSD values the relationships with the internship programs at University of Delaware and Villanova University. The opportunity to work with students as they discover the stories of Jewish Delaware is rewarding for all. ¹

¹ Disclaimer: An earlier version of this article indicated that the Zucker's grandson had been a hostage. We are deeply regret this error and the concern it caused to family and friends.



MILTON AND HATTIE KUTZ FOUNDATION

JHSD is grateful for support from the Jewish Federation of Delaware, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation and Delaware Humanities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS' REMEMBRANCE EVENT

NOVEMBER 10 AT 1 PM
SIEGEL JCC AUDITORIUM

JHSD is planning its second Veterans' Remembrance Event at the Siegel JCC for Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 1 PM. The warm reception the event received last year encouraged us to plan for a program in the J's auditorium. Allen Rosso will speak about the letters of WWII GIs to "Dear Mollye." You may have seen the "Delaware Jews in American Wars" program and "Remembering Jewish Delaware's Greatest Generation" and thought there was no more to learn from the "Dear Mollye" letters. With the in-depth research and knowledge which Allen brings to the collection, you will discover stories you never knew and learn how these letters can speak to a new generation.

Research on Delaware Jewish veterans continues and JHSD hopes to discover more stories about Jewish Delawareans who served during the Korean War, Vietnam, and later conflicts. Please contact JHSD if you have stories to share.

Join us on November 10 as we honor and thank all who have served. Streaming will be available.

JHSD 50TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF AND HANUKKAH HAPPY HOUR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

6:30–8:30 PM, AT THE SIEGEL JCC

Save the date for this exciting event to start the year-long celebration of the founding of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware.

The first meeting of JHSD was called to order on December 16, 1974, by Hon. Charles K. Keil, who was elected as president. The board comprised three vice-presidents, Harry Bluestone, Bill Frank, and Rabbi David Geffen. Marga Kamm was named secretary, and Sol Polotsky became treasurer. The board members were Hon. Bernard Balick, Hilda Codor, Syd Kneitel, Paula Lehrer, Richard D. Levin, Ellen Meyer, Lillian S. Robertson, Harvey Rubenstein, Dr. Ralph Tomases, Jodi Drooz Yoffee, and Toni Young.

JHSD was incorporated on January 6, 1975. Help us celebrate our birthday.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

As part of our celebrations of the JHSD's 50th anniversary, we are planning an online cookbook. Please send in a few of your family recipes with a brief description of your family's favorite foods. Please send the recipes to jhsd50@jhsdelaware.org. Thank you!

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN DOVER

NOVEMBER 24 AT 2 PM
BETH SHOLOM DOVER

The Jewish community in central Delaware doesn't get the attention it deserves, and JHSD hopes to do more to connect with the Jewish residents in Dover. Archivist Gail Pietrzyk visited Congregation Beth Sholom briefly in August to make plans for a return visit on Sunday, November 24, 2024.

Members of the Dover community have expressed interest in conducting oral history interviews and JHSD is eager to help. The presentation will be held at Beth Sholom at 2 PM.



Debbie Weiner, Stu Handler, and Gwen Stubbolo, President of the Congregation, welcomed JHSD archivist to Beth Sholom on August 7.

HELP US CELEBRATE THE JHSD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Laurie Blum-Max and Diane Wolf, Co-chairs

We're planning a year of celebrations and hope to involve you in creating great experiences in 2025. There are a variety of ways to help including:

- designing and setting up displays;
- crafting an interactive map and tour of former Jewish locations in downtown Wilmington;
- preparing a traveling trunk of Jewish materials to be sent to schools;
- reviewing photos for historic displays;
- editing recipes for an online cookbook;
- engaging teens with celebrations;
- planning and presenting refreshments for events.

We welcome volunteers to assist us with continued planning, promoting, and realizing programs. To volunteer, please email: jhsd50@jhsdelaware.org or call (302) 655-6232.

EXPLORING THE "DEAR MOLLYE" COLLECTION

Allen Rosso

This summer, thanks to the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and the Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest at Villanova University, I had the opportunity to explore the "Dear Mollye" collection. The collection features the letters written by nearly 350 Jewish service members to Mollye Sklut, secretary of the Wilmington YM-YWCA, as a result of correspondence she maintained with them throughout World War II.

Handling the envelopes and v-mails and exploring the messages contained within is akin to a journey into the life of another. The letters contain stories of major world events and mundane daily occurrences. They discuss grueling training, the horror of the front lines, and concern for loved ones at home. They share moments of deep reflection on the state of the world and the human condition, as well as lighthearted moments filled with pranks, athletic competitions, and the fun of USO dances. They express the warm feelings experienced when welcomed into the homes of Jewish families far from home and dissolution and anger at the death and destruction caused by virulent antisemitism. They brim with the joy, heartbreak, confusion, sacrifice, and love that define the human experience. The letters provide a window into the past, allowing us to peer beyond mere abstract dates, places, and events and into the personal experiences of these extraordinary men and women. Their writings make World War II, from the perspective of the Jewish population of Wilmington, Delaware, available to the world.

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the war's conclusion, it is more crucial than ever that these stories are heard, seen, and felt with the heart. That is the ultimate aim of the essential research the JHSD and the team of volunteers conduct. By exploring these letters, mining primary sources for additional facts and details, and connecting with friends and loved ones, we seek to create a complete personal profile for every service member included in this collection and many more who served but who did not correspond with Mollye or whose letters did not survive. These profiles are currently being created on the JHSD Wiki page and will become a repository of memory for families and a valuable resource for historians of the war, Wilmington, and Jewish life.

In the coming months, we will host volunteer work sessions at the Coxe House, hold an interactive discussion on November 10th in honor

of Veterans' Day, and prepare a grant application to create a World War II curriculum for high school students and adult learners based on the Society's World War II collections.

If you wish to become a volunteer researcher or want more information about upcoming events, please contact Gail Pietrzyk at info@jhsdelaware.org. Remote and in-person opportunities are available.

Although my internship with the JHSD has officially ended, I plan to continue supporting efforts to enhance these collections, make them available to the public, and use them as educational tools. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Gail for her support, guidance, and mentorship and thank all of you for allowing me to be a part of this important work and this exciting journey.

JHSD HONORS WWII VETERANS

Bob Coonin

Eighty years after WWII, it is time to bring to life the Jewish GIs whose correspondence with Mollye Sklut was memorialized in the "Dear Mollye" letters.

In a letter written to Mollye on November 4, 1944, Jack Coonin, my father, told Mollye that those who were killed in action deserved more than just a name on a wall plaque. The same can be said for those who did return. They walked the same streets we walk, belonged to the same synagogues, grew families, built businesses, fostered social connections, and built this community.

The Wiki database that is being built by JHSD about these heroes will include any information that can be ascertained about them. Our research will be ongoing. The information we learn is enlightening, thought-provoking, and at times humorous. The database, once operational, will be available for all to access.

We at JHSD welcome volunteers who are interested in joining us in this volunteer mitzvah to honor their memory.

Visit <https://jhsdelaware.org/wiki>.



(Left to right) Volunteers David Schutzman, Andy Davidson, Bob Coonin, and Ron Rieberman attended a workshop day with Allen Rosso on Sunday, September 8, at the JHSD. Many volunteers are also contributing remotely to the JHSD Wiki. Visit jhsdelaware.org to learn more.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS: NOVEMBER 2019–JULY 2023

With your help, the Coxe House on Willingtown Square has become the Delaware Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House. Thanks to all who contributed to these campaigns, we met and exceeded our ambitious goals! After a final reconciliation of our records, we can report donations totaling \$313,603.20 for the Coxe House Renovation Fund and \$201,526.76 for the Minyan Endowment Campaign, for a grand total of \$515,129.96 collected.

Special thanks to JHSD “Minyanaires” for their inspiring generosity. Minyanaires are donors whose combined support for both campaigns equals or exceeds \$15,000.

Below, please find the names of all our donors to these campaigns. We have compiled one list from both campaigns to avoid repetition—so many of you made multiple contributions.

MINYANAIRE

Phyllis & Norman N. Aerenson
Hon. Bernard Balick
Rabbi David Geffen
Barry & Reiko Kayne
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kristol
Howard & Shelley Kristol

Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation
Ellen & Alan Levin
Marilyn & Richard Levin
Richard A. Levine
Bob & Ellen Meyer
Donald & Ethel Parsons

Pincus Family Fund of the
Jewish Fund for the Future
Dr. Gerald & Ellen Resnick
Jerry & Sandye Turnauer
Diane Wolf & Lew Bennett
Toni Young

COXE HOUSE RENOVATION FUND & MINYAN ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN DONORS

Harriet Ainbinder	Maura Golin	Michelle & David Margules	Dianne & Jeffrey Seidel
Chris & Regina Alonzo	Steve Gonzer	Mrs. Elaine Markell, z"l	Dr. Janice Selekmán on behalf of the Frank & Yetta Chaiken Foundation
Anonymous Donors	Paula S. Gordon & Helen C. Gordon	Dan Martin	Michelle & Russell Silberglied
Ruth S. Balick, z"l	Suzy & Rabbi Peter Grumbacher	Matthia McCracken	Chick & Sherry Simmons
Philip & Diane Berger	Jill S. & James R. Hammerschmidt	Judy F. Melman	Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Sindler
Karen Jacobs & Jack Blumenfeld	Ivy Harlev	Janet Meyerson	Diane R. Sklut
Marsha & Dr. Howard Borin	Tina & Henry Heiman	Barbara L. Miller	Gilbert J. Sloan, z"l
Marianne Budin	Douglas Herrmann	Dr. Elinor Miller	Dr. Edward & Anita Sobel
The Frank & Yetta Chaiken Foundation, Inc.	Stephen & Susan Herrmann	Hedy Mintz	Richard Stat
Eddi Chaikin	Mrs. Beatrice Hirshout	The Nemser Family Fund at Schwab Charitable	Frances A. Stein, z"l
H. Ronald Cohen	Roger Horowitz	Leslie Newman & Bill Wolff	Dr. Howard & Deborah Stromwasser
Eileen T. Conner, z"l	Diane Isaacs	Suzanne Z. Paul	Michael & Connie Sugarman
Bob & Sally Coonin	Lawrence H. & Susan Tigani Isaacs	Gail M. Pietrzyk	Esther Timmeney & Paul Timmeney, z"l
Herbert Cooper	Francia Isakoff	Andrew Pizor	Mark & Sylvia Wagman
Jay & Georgia Cooperson	Jack & Marion Jacobs	Drs. Richard & Irene Plotzker	Lawrence Wainer
Ms. Beth Dickhaus & Mr. Darrin Sacks	Ann Jaffe, z"l	Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee	Marilyn Weiler, z"l
Dr. Steven Dombchik & Rhoda Dombchik, z"l	Linda Jaffe	Mara Raskin	Dr. & Mrs. Henry L. Weiner
Eric M. Doroshow & Aida Wasserstein	Mark & Ruth Tomases Joffe	Ernest Reiver & Barbara Reiver	Ginger Weiss & Barry Schlecker
Miriam & Steven Edell	Dayle & Michael Joseph	Jay Resnick & Judy Sarubin	Stuart Widom
Dr. Lanny & Micki Edelsohn, Edelsohn Family Trust	Richard Julie	Marcy Resnick	David Wilk
Mrs. Lynne P. Ellick	Daniel & Mary Klein	Celina G. & Ronald S. Riebman	Roberta & Mel Woloshin
John & Lena Elzufon	Frances & Steven Klein	Rabbi Yair Robinson	Barbara Yalisove, z"l
Robin Karol-Eng & Jerald Eng	Shirley P. Klein	Dr. Leonard & Margaret Rosenbaum	H. Alan Young
Alan & Peggy Lubin Evantash	Eileen Knox	Ernest Ross	Rabbi Edward Zerin, z"l
Paul & Gloria Fine	Larry & Janet Koch	David & Marianne Sacks	Robert & Robin Silver Zink
Shirley Fisch	Karen & Herb Konowitz	Charles & Susan Salkin	Peter Zoll
Dr. Arnold & Yetta Freedman	Connie Kreshtool, z"l	Michele Sands	Dr. & Mrs. Howard Zucker, Judith & Howard Zucker
Joel Friedlander & Julie Sandler	Mr. & Mrs. James Lehr	Bruce & Robin Kauffman Saran	Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Fund for the Future
Cedric Fuchs & Family	Lisa & Marty Lessner	Elaine Schmerling & Dr. Warren Butt	Larry & Joyce Zutz
Joseph Goldberg & Dory Zatuchni	Lynne & Jeff Lew	Barbara H. Schoenberg	
Sharon & George Golden	Paul & Rhonda Lukoff	David L. & Leah Gordon Schutzman	
	Michael Lundy		
	Martin & Shelly Mand		
	Richard & Marcy Margolin		
	Scott Margolin		
	Steven & Heather Margolin		

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE THANKS OUR MEMBERS AND GENERAL FUND DONORS OVER THE PAST YEAR (JULY 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024)

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS (UP TO \$100)

Rachel Allen	John & Lena Elzufon	Mr. & Mrs. James Lehr	Denise L. Schwartz
Philip & Diane Berger	Phyllis E. Feibus	Lawrence Levine	Chick & Sherry Simmons
Hugh Bleemer	Deborah & Robert Feinson	Greg Mand	Diane R. Sklut
Karen Jacobs & Jack Blumenfeld	Dr. Arnold & Yetta Freedman	Dan Martin	Victor Sloan MD & Sandra Gong
Gene & Jane Castellano	Andrew Glassman	Laurie Kneitel Blum-Max & Bert	Dr. Edward & Anita Sobel
Ruth & Jerry Chariton	Steven Goldstein	Max	Dr. Howard & Deborah
Donna M. Cohen	Maura Golin	Anne & Bastian Parsons	Stromwasser
Betty Diznoff	Suzy & Rabbi Peter Grumbacher	Donald & Ethel Parsons	Mark & Sylvia Wagman
Dr. Steven A. Dombchik	Stephen & Susan Herrmann	Gail M. Pietrzyk	Mark Weinberg
Eric M. Doroshow & Aida	Shirley P. Klein	Ernest Reiver & Barbara Reiver	Barbara Yalisove, z"l
Waserstein	Karen & Herb Konowitz	Rabbi Yair Robinson	Robert & Robin Silver Zink

SPONSOR LEVEL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS (\$100–\$249)

Harriet Ainbinder	Zelda L. Gordon	Lisa & Marty Lessner	Leonard Togman
Laura & Steve Balick	Tina & Henry Heiman	Stacy Madison	Judy & Bill Topkis
Blackwood Family	Lawrence H. & Susan Tigani Isaacs	Martin & Shelly Mand	Ginger Weiss & Barry Schlecker
Eddi Chaikin	Ann Jaffe, z"l	Bob & Ellen Meyer	David Wilk
Herbert Cooper	Rebecca Jaffe	Leslie Newman & Bill Wolff	Roberta & Mel Woloshin
Mrs. Lynne P. Ellick	Dayle & Michael Joseph	Andrew Pizor	Dr. & Mrs. Howard Zucker
Sharon & George Golden	Daniel & Mary Klein	Michele Sands	
Paula S. Gordon & Helen C. Gordon	Frances & Steven Klein	Glenn & Laurie Selber Silverstein	
	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kristol	Esther Timmeney	

PATRON LEVEL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS (\$250–\$499)

Helane Becker & Scott Brunner	Steve Gonzer	Dr. Gerald & Ellen Resnick	David L. & Leah Gordon Schutzman
H. Ronald Cohen	Marilyn & Richard Levin	Celina G. & Ronald S. Riebman	Lawrence Wainer
Frances Galvin, Ellen Goode, Kate Latham & Eta Nahapetian	The Nemser Family Fund at Schwab Charitable	Charles & Susan Salkin	
		Bruce & Robin Kauffman Saran	

BENEFACTOR LEVEL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS (\$500–\$999)

Bob & Sally Coonin	Howard & Shelley Kristol	Richard A. Levine	Sandra Michel
--------------------	--------------------------	-------------------	---------------

PILLAR OF SOCIETY LEVEL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS (\$1,000 AND ABOVE)

Phyllis & Norman N. Aerenson	Michael Lundy & Beverly	Barbara L. Miller	Toni Young
Hon. Bernard Balick	Tanenhaus	Diane Wolf & Lew Bennett	Peter Zoll

DONORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND SINCE AUGUST 1, 2023

Ruth Tomases Joffe	Michele Sands
--------------------	---------------

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK IN 2023–2024

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth	Delaware Historical Society	Bernard & Ruth Siegel Jewish	University of Delaware E. Lyman
Congregation Beth Emeth, Rabbi Yair Robinson Discretionary Fund	Hadassah Wilmington Delaware Chapter	Community Center	Stewart Summer Internship Program
Congregation Beth Shalom		University of Delaware Jewish Studies Program	

GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

The Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation, Inc.	Isador and Ida Schutzman Fund of the Jewish	Martin B. and Barbara E. Yalisove Philanthropic
Delaware Humanities	Fund for the Future	Fund of the Jewish Fund for the Future
Jewish Federation of Delaware	Spur Impact Association/DEGives.org	Sharon Bob Young, Ph.D., and H Alan Young
Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation	United Way of Delaware	Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Jewish Federation of Delaware Jewish Fund for the Future	Fidelity Charitable Schwab Charitable	U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
--	--	----------------------------

Individuals requesting anonymity have been omitted from these lists. We are deeply grateful to all our donors for their generosity. We respect donor requests to remain anonymous and understand that these decisions might change over time. If you do not see your name and would like to be recognized, or vice-versa, please contact us at treasurer@jhsdelaware.org to make a correction (the same applies to your recognition name).

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Gail Pietrzyk

The study of history is an undertaking one pursues because it helps us to make sense of the world, to understand our past and the people who built the institutions that shape our lives. It's not, usually, a course of study that leads to a wide range of career opportunities. Although the diversity of options is actually quite surprising. Everything has history. So historians might cover anything from the history of aerospace to the history of zoology.

I have been fortunate to spend much of my career with the history of the Delaware Jewish community, which is also quite diverse. There's a good measure of business history—the Jewish community has a great entrepreneurial spark, lots of family history, military history, some political history, history of science, social history, and more.

The JHSD collections include materials about the institutions and congregations and the people who built them—stories of courage, compassion, vision, and perseverance. Many of the personal papers offer examples of dedication and imagination and include family photos and sometimes home movies.

But there's something special about the moments when people talk or write about their own lives and attempt to come to terms with the world in which they live. The "Dear Mollye" letters and our oral history collection offer such thoughtful reflections. Making these collections more accessible to visitors offers new possibilities.

It has been a pleasure to work with Allen Rosso this summer and benefit from his knowledge and insight as he explores the "Dear Mollye" letters. And it was equally rewarding to welcome Alex May back from a project archivist position at Winterthur. Alex first came to JHSD as a volunteer in fall 2021 and was hired in July 2022 as a project archivist to process records accessioned from the JCC. He has resumed that work with allocation funding from the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Indeed, JHSD has a great A-team with Allen and Alex each working on significant collections documenting the 20th century Delaware Jewish community and Rebecca Volk collecting oral histories today. They are not TV superheroes or the starting lineup of a sports team, but dedicated, thoughtful historians bringing meaning, order, and understanding to our past. That sure seems like a superpower to me. Thank you, Allen, Alex, and Rebecca. You are heroes!

WORLD WAR II: VOICES OF SERVICE

In February 2025, JHSD and the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) will jointly host *World War II: Voices of Service*, a traveling exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI).

World War II: Voices of Service explores major events of the war through the photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans. From the attack on Pearl Harbor through the GI Bill, this traveling exhibition provides an overview of the important events on the battlefield and the home front.

The exhibition commemorates WWII veterans and service members through the discovery and sharing of their stories, reminding viewers that it was individual Americans from all walks of life whose service and sacrifice led to Allied victory.

The Delaware cultural heritage collections at the Delaware Historical Society and Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, JHSD, and the Hockessin Colored School #107C offer many remarkable resources for exploring the issues and material in *World War II: Voices of Service* from a local perspective, using the stories of Delawareans during the war. The exhibit will be displayed at the Delaware Historical Society from February 3–28, 2025, and special programming will highlight Delaware collections of wartime correspondence from our collections: DHS's "[An American Family In World War II: The Minker Family Letters](#)," JHSD's "[Dear Mollye](#)" collection, and stories of service from the African American community.

Contact us at info@jhsdelaware.org to get on the mailing list and learn more about this exhibit.



World War II: Voices of Service, a new travelling exhibit created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, will be on display at DHS from February 3–28, 2025.

JHSD/DHS AWARDED NSGP GRANT

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) has awarded a grant to JHSD/DHS under the Non-Profit Security Grant program (NSGP). Funds will be used to upgrade security for the Delaware Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House.



515 NORTH MARKET ST
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) \$ _____

Patron (\$250-\$499) \$ _____

Benefactor (\$500-\$999) \$ _____

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 newsletters).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please acknowledge my/our household as follows in publications: _____

Please do not publicize my contribution.

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