



# JHSD

## JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

### Happy Passover Chag Sameach

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dr. David Wilk, President

Welcome to JHSD's 50th Anniversary year. We are excited about the great support for our wonderful events so far, and we are just getting warmed up...

Our 50th Anniversary team led by Diane Wolf, Laurie Blum-Max, Gail Pietrzyk, and our incredible team members, Allen Rosso and Alex May, have developed an amazing series of presentations, exhibits, traveling themes, film screenings, and events. These events have built even stronger partnerships with our local synagogues, Delaware Historical Society, Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107C, Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover, JCC, Jewish Federation of Delaware, the Jewish War Veterans of Delaware, JHSD member and donors, and many others.

The events so far this year have included:

World War II: Voices of Service — February 5th at DHS. See article on P. 5.

Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover — February 23rd at DHS. See article on p. 4.

Private Screening of *Six Triple Eight* — March 15th at HCS #107C (Kevin Hymel — Arlington National Cemetery Historian and Technical Advisor to Tyler Perry on the Film) — the best part of this event was the surprise connection between our "Dear Mollye" story and Tyler Perry's film and its emotional Jewish connection. See article on p. 4.

All of these events had a special energy and were quite moving to all who attended. We hope you won't miss out on any more of these unique offerings in the future which our team has worked so hard to create for our community's benefit.

Upcoming events and special programs between now and the end of Q3 2025 include:

- Sunday, April 6th — JHSD Annual Meeting at the Siegel J featuring Dr. Roger Horowitz.
- Thursday, June 29th — Seaside Jewish Community with Chazz Salkin on "Uncovering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Protecting Israel: Irving Shapiro  
and the  
Arab Boycott  
of the 1970s**



**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION**  
**ROGER HOROWITZ,**  
DIRECTOR,  
CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF BUSINESS,  
TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY,  
HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 6, 2025**

#### JHSD ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 6

Dr. Roger Horowitz will explore the role of DuPont company CEO Irving Shapiro in spearheading efforts in the mid-1970s to cripple the Arab League boycott of Israel. His position as chair of the Business Roundtable and relationships with prominent business executives and leaders of America's Jewish community allowed him to forge a consensus behind legislation passed by Congress in 1977 that fatally damaged the boycott.

Roger Horowitz is Director of the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library and Professor of History at the University of Delaware. His recent book *Kosher USA: How Coke became kosher and other tales of modern food* received the National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies, the Dorothy Rosenberg award on the Jewish Diaspora from the American Historical Association, and was named an Outstanding Academic Book by *Choice* magazine. He also is the treasurer of the Business History Conference, a trustee of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, and a member of the executive council of the American Jewish Historical Society.

JHSD's Annual Meeting will be held at the Siegel Jewish Community Center on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2 PM. A brief business meeting will precede Dr. Horowitz's presentation, and we will conclude with refreshments and socializing.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE**  
DELAWARE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY AT THE COXE HOUSE

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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 © 2025, JHSD and the authors. Story ideas and submissions welcome—contact the editor to discuss.

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JHSDel/>  
Website <https://jhsdelaware.org>

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED**

the Jewish History of Laurel" and Exhibits in Rehoboth Beach.

- In planning — a "JCC Pool Party and Social" for either late August or early September.

In closing, it is such a gift to have the privilege of presenting great programming for all to enjoy while also building new partnerships with our community at large. But it takes all of us to really optimize the impact and future possibilities of these collaborations and experiential memories together.

Thank you all again for being so generous to JHSD. Please continue to support our efforts by "showing up" and joining in on the "once in a lifetime" joy that comes from sharing special moments together as a society united in creating value and positive impact for others. We can't wait to see where all our efforts will lead at a time when shared flourishing and inclusive prosperity have never been more important.

**SPRING 2025 — 2**

**HANUKKAH HAPPY HOUR — A NEW SPIN ON AN OLD TRADITION**

Laurie Blum Max

Hanukkah Happy Hour, an event sponsored by both JHSD and the JCC L'Dor V'Dor Committee, was held on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at the Siegel JCC. It was a great turnout to launch our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of celebrations and connect with old and new friends during the Hanukkah festival. Bookmarks outlining the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events planned for 2025 were distributed.



Left to right: 50th Anniversary co-chair, Laurie Blum Max, JHSD V-P, Harriet Ainbinder, and Past-president and 50th Anniversary co-chair, Diane Wolf, at the Hanukkah Happy Hour on December 28, 2024.



Candle lighting in the ArtSpace.

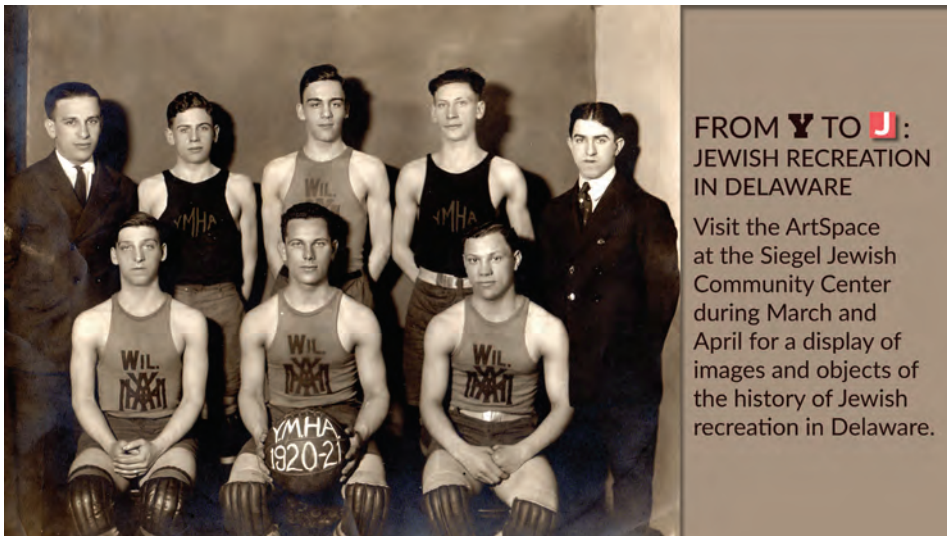


Participants were asked to B.Y.O.M. (Bring Your Own Menorah) and the prayers were led by Rabbi Peter Grumbacher in the ArtSpace area. Food and drink were enjoyed by all!



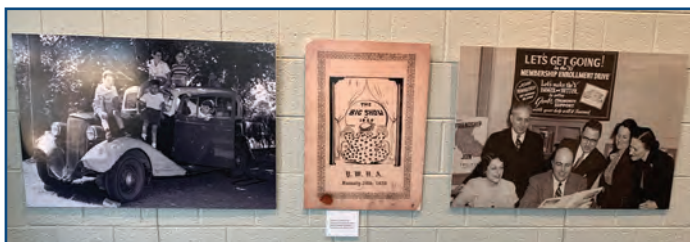
# CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF JEWISH RECREATION IN DELAWARE

Diane Wolf



As part of our 50th anniversary activities, the JHSD has mounted an exhibit of images and artifacts documenting the history of recreation within the Jewish community. You can see the exhibit in the Siegel JCC ArtSpace during March and April. We celebrated the exhibit with a reception in the ArtSpace on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

and newspaper articles continued to call the organization the YMHA. With the exception of the Adas Kodesch Center years, the YMHA (YM-YWHA) was identified as the Y or the Center until the new building opened, even though the name was legally changed to the Jewish Community Center in 1954.



*Jewish Living Delaware* has published—in print and online—a written history beginning in 1902 with the incorporation of the Young Men's Hebrew Association (Y) and ending in 1970 with opening of the Siegel Jewish Community Center building in 1970. A second article bringing the history up to date will be published later in the year.

For both the exhibit and the articles, the term recreation has been used broadly to cover socializing, sports, the arts, camping, and informal education. The locations described include the Y, the Adas Kodesch Center, the campsite at the Sellers Estate, the Brandywine Country Club, and the J.

One of the interesting items learned during preparation of the exhibit and article is how the name of the YMHA became the JCC. In June 1922, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) was established as an organization, and theoretically the YMHA became extinct. Various documents

## DO MORE 24 DELAWARE

JHSD participated in the 2025 Do More 24 Campaign organized by Spur Impact. Do More 24 Delaware is a 24 hour day of giving designed to help non profits raise more money and engage new donors. This year's campaign ran from March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to March 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. JHSD has participated in this fund-raising program since 2021 and raised \$1,026 this year, nearly matching the \$1,118 raised in 2024. The final totals will be released soon.

The organizers encourage grant makers and business sponsors to contribute to matching funds and other incentives to help make the contributions of donors have even greater impact for the non-profit's mission.

Thanks to Spur Impact and the United Way of Delaware for their energetic efforts to help support the state's non-profit organizations. And many thanks to our generous donors.



## THE SCREENING OF THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

Allen Rosso

On Saturday, March 15, the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and the Hockessin Colored School #107C hosted a special screening of the Tyler Perry film *The Six Triple Eight* (2024).



*James 'Sonny' Knott, a former student at 107C, welcomed attendees to the event.*

The screening was held at the restored school, which was built in 1920 as a one-room schoolhouse to serve black children, who were not permitted to attend school with white children. It played a monumental role in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which desegregated schools nationwide. In 2020, Hockessin 107C reopened as a National Park and Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Equity. The venue provided the perfect backdrop for a film highlighting the racism and sexism of the segregated United States military during World War II.

We were joined by Kevin Hymel, who provided anecdotes from his conversations with WAC Corporal Lena Derriecott Bell King, who served the 6888 Battalion, and his work with Tyler Perry

on creating the film and answered questions from the audience. Hymel is a historian at Arlington National Cemetery who has written extensively for *WWII Magazine* and is the author of three books on General George S. Patton. His article "Fighting a Two-Front War,"<sup>1</sup> based on oral history interviews he conducted with Ms. Derriecott King, brought the story of the Six Triple Eight to Perry's attention and led to Hymel serving as a technical advisor on the film.



*Kevin Hymel*

The JHSD looks forward to further collaborations with the Hockessin Colored School 107C and other organizations across the state of Delaware as we continue to share stories that underscore the importance of history's interconnectivity and enhance our understanding of the ways our past impacts our present and shapes our future.

If you are interested in helping preserve historical memory, please email us at [info@JHSDelaware.org](mailto:info@JHSDelaware.org) to learn more about creating service member profiles for the Dear Mollye Collection and participating in The Library of Congress Oral History Project.

1 Hymel, Kevin M. "WAC Corporal Lena Derriecott and the 6888th Central Postal Battalion" *World War II History* 18, no. 2 (February 2019): 22.

Hymel, Kevin M. "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion." *The Army Historical Foundation*. Accessed March 22, 2025. <https://armyhistory.org/6888th-central-postal-directory-battalion/>.

## BETH SHOLOM VISITS EXHIBIT IN FEBRUARY

Members of Congregation Beth Sholom arrived at the Delaware History Museum on Sunday, February 23, 2025, to visit the Delaware Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House and the World War II: Voices of Service exhibit at Old Town Hall. Our Dover guests filled the Kristol Reading Room at the JHSD for a brief presentation by Allen Rosso, who has curated the exhibit display and the online web exhibit. JHSD is grateful for the special Sunday opening of the Delaware History Museum to accommodate members of the Jewish community from all parts of Delaware. Congregation Beth Sholom's travel expenses were covered by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

We look forward to upcoming visits to Seaside Jewish Community on June 29 and Beth Sholom on October 19, 2025.



*Members of Congregation Beth Sholom at the Delaware Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House.*



## WORLD WAR II: VOICES OF SERVICE

Gail Pietrzyk and Allen Rosso

JHSD and the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) co-hosted World War II: Voices of Service, a traveling exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI) in February 2025.

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, the traveling exhibition provides an overview of the important events on the battlefield and the home front.

The Delaware Historical Society and Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, JHSD, and Delaware's World War II Fallen created additional exhibit panels and shared artifacts, oral histories, and documentary films from our collections to explore the issues addressed in the GLI World War II: Voices of Service from a local perspective, using the stories of Jewish American and African-American Delawareans during the war. The exhibit was displayed at the Delaware Historical Society's Old Town Hall from February 3–28, 2025.

The JHSD exhibit drew from our treasured the "Dear Mollye" Collection to view the war on an intimate scale through the letters and artifacts of seven service members who corresponded with Mollye Sklut; Artie Blatman, Lou Brown, Jack Coonin, Sid Feldman, Sam Gellar, Joe Lichtenbaum, and Ralph Tomasas. Special thanks is extended to the families of Lou Brown and Ralph Tomasas who donated and loaned personal items for use in the exhibit.

A web-exhibit with expanded material is available at <https://jhsdelaware.org/voices-of-service/cover/>. From the web-exhibit visitors will find "*Mollye's Album*" with links to a growing collection of biographical material and photographs about Delaware's Jewish WWII service members. This information provides a great resource for genealogists and family historians. Contact JHSD to become a volunteer and help us provide the stories for all Jewish veterans. See our article in the *Fall 2024 newsletter* for more information about the project.

Visitors are also encouraged to explore the *Delaware's World War II Fallen* website created by Lowell Silverman. Lowell has conducted extensive



Top: Banners at the entrance to the exhibit. Bottom: "Dear Mollye" artifacts, letters, and photographs on display.

research and created in-depth profiles on 21% of the 754 Delawareans who lost their lives in combat.

This exhibit would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Allen Rosso, a graduate student from Villanova University. Allen came to JHSD as a summer intern in 2024 through the Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest. His insight and appreciation of our "Dear Mollye" collection has been an inspiration.

JHSD has applied to the American WWII Heritage Cities Grant Program administered by The National WWII Museum for support to help digitize the "Dear Mollye" Collection. Over 14,000 images would be scanned, cataloged, and indexed offering a remarkable resource for understanding the WWII Home Front heritage of Delaware's Jewish community.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## IT'S OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Diane Wolf & Laurie Blum-Max, 50th planning 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.

**April 6, 2025** Siegel JCC, Wilmington

**JHSD Annual Meeting & 50th Anniversary Exhibit** including a business meeting, a presentation by Roger Horowitz, Ph.D., displays of Delaware Jewish history, and refreshments.

**June 29, 2025** Seaside Jewish Community, Rehoboth

**Sussex County Event** "Uncovering the Jewish History of Laurel," a presentation by Chazz Salkin, displays of Delaware Jewish history, and refreshments.

**October 19, 2025** Congregation Beth Sholom, Dover

**Kent County Event** with presentation by Laura Levitt, Ph.D., displays of Delaware Jewish history, and refreshments.

**November 9, 2025** Siegel JCC, Wilmington

**Jewish War Veterans Event**

**December 14, 2025** Siegel JCC, Wilmington

**Hanukkah Happy Hour & Wrap Up Event**

## JHSD SPONSORS

The JHSD gratefully thanks the sponsors of 50th anniversary events:

The Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation

Phyllis and Norman Aerenson

Bernard Balick

Laurie Blum-Max and Bert Max

Sharon Bob and H. Alan Young

Roger Horowitz

Howard and Shelley Kristol

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Michael Lundy and Beverly Tanenhaus

Don and Ethel Parsons

Kate and Bob Pincus

Bruce and Robin Saran

Diane Wolf and Lew Bennett

Toni Young

Our generous Sponsors have enabled us to keep anniversary events free or very low cost.

## JWV NATHAN BALICK POST IS BACK

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America Nathan Balick Post 747 held a meeting on March 9, 2025, for the installation of officers. Adam Fox will be serving as Post Commander, Seth Walter as Vice Commander, and Josh Chichote as

Quartermaster. JHSD is honored to be recognized for its support in reviving a Jewish War Veterans Post in the State of Delaware.

Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) was founded in 1896 by Jewish veterans of the Civil War. The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is the premier voice for Jewish uniformed service members and veterans in the United States. The JWV affirms that Jewish men and women serve honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States of America during peacetime and war. The JWV defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, combats anti-Semitism, and supports the State of Israel.

For more information about joining Nathan Balick JWV Post 747 (Delaware), contact Post Commander Adam Fox at [afoxusa@gmail.com](mailto:afoxusa@gmail.com).



Left to right: Delaware State Rep. Melanie Ross Levin, Vice Commander Seth Walter, Commander Adam Fox, Delaware State Sen. Laura V. Sturgeon



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Gail M. Pietrzyk

Just watch these seeds grow! JHSD has been working with internship programs with the University of Delaware since 2018 and with Villanova University's Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest since 2024. It's always exciting to meet the students who apply to work with JHSD each year. It was more difficult than usual this year because there were so many talented students applying.

We are looking forward to learning which students will spend the summer at JHSD. The final decisions won't be made until after this newsletter is in your mailbox, but I can assure our members that we will have some exciting reports and projects from these young scholars. There are several internship programs at UD, and some programs offer the students an opportunity to present their research with a slide-show presentation or a poster exhibit. I hope JHSD members will come out and support these interns at the August showcase.

JHSD interns also conduct oral history interviews with members of the Jewish community through a program sponsored by the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation. We are proud to have the opportunity to help continue the legacy of Yetta Chaiken, who interviewed so many Jewish Delawareans in her lifetime.

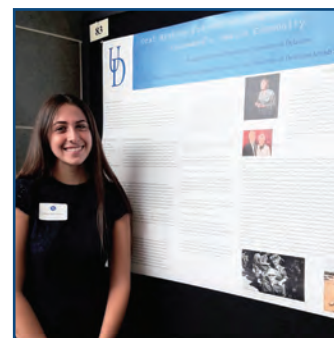
Following the progress of JHSD's interns is so rewarding. Take a look at the accomplishments of our interns.

Bloom, Shay and Anuani, Hope K. "Three Generations of Trailblazers," *Jewish Living Delaware*. Vol. 2, No. 10, October 2023, pp. 38-39. <https://digitaleditions.walsworth.com/publication/?i=803922&p=40>

Collopy, Emily. "Bearing Witness: A JHSD Interns Visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum." *Jewish Living Delaware*, Vol. 2, No. 8, August 2023, pp. 10-11. <https://digitaleditions.walsworth.com/publication/?i=797229&p=12>

Fay, Mary Rose. "Highlights of the Oral History Collection." Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. <https://jhsdelaware.org/collections/Oral%20History/exhibit/>

Rosso, Allen. "Dear Mollye Voices of Service." Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. <https://jhsdelaware.org/voices-of-service/cover/voices-of-service/>



Top row, left: Rachel Bonney was our first intern in 2018. Right: Dalia Handelman conducted oral history interviews in 2019 and 2020. Dalia is currently a Development Associate in the Lawyers Division at UJA-Federation of New York.

Center row, left: Mary Rose Fay worked with our oral history recordings in 2021. Right: Hope Anuani and Shay Bloom conducted oral history interviews in 2022 with the generous support of the Chaiken Foundation.

Bottom Row, left: Emily Collopy, left, was an intern in the Summer of 2023 and the guest speaker for our Annual Meeting in 2024. Rebecca Volk, right, was a summer intern in 2022 and 2023, and a Chaiken intern in the Spring semester of 2024. Rebecca now serves on the board of the Holocaust Education Committee. Right: Allen Rosso, a graduate student at Villanova University and intern through the Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest, 2024-Present, is working with the "Dear Mollye" Collection.

We will be welcoming our 2025 internship students in June. It's sure to be an exciting summer. I hope that many of our members will have an opportunity to meet these amazing students.



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

**Number of people in your regular or senior household:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(for JHSD grant seeking and reporting purposes)

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

**JHSD Endowment Fund:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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)

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Please do not publicize my contribution.

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