Heritage Highlights

The Newsletter of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

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Michael Berman - President
Jean Klerman - Director
Sid Marshall - Editor
Jeff Wolf - Design Editor

Message from the President

I can't help but be enthusiastic following our magnificent open house event on August 21st. Board members who were there to greet our more than 250 guests could finally step back and savor the sight of a community coming together to enjoy the museum. Those of us who have watched the transition of a rustic, turn of the century, barn hayloft, into a wonderful museum and performance space know well the challenges that needed to be overcome and equally recognize the challenges that lie ahead.

Officers and special JHMOMC guest at the August 21st Open House event: (L to R) Elaine Ruda, Secretary; Caryl Sills, History Chair; Michael Berman, President; Monmouth County Freeholder, Barbara J. McMorrow; Jean Klerman, Director; Barbara Michaels, Public Relations Officer.
Photograph by Milton Edelman

From the Museum's collection of menorahs and scales of early 20th century Jewish farms of the Freehold area on loan from Nardie Hochberg.
Photograph by Allan Goldberg

Newcomers to the board and our family of museum members can take pride too in what has become a magical beginning to our premier season and its ambitious schedule of programs, exhibits, and events. We are all part of the JHMOMC story. But, it will take the continuing hard work, support and participation of all to keep that story moving forward.

Of particular interest in the near future are our very special upcoming exhibit, *Jacob Landau; Humanist and Visionary*, in September and October; the Zimel Resnick program scheduled in October; and our first theatrical

(Continued on Page 4)

Heritage Highlights

Jacob Landau Exhibit (September 16th through October 26th)

Beginning Tuesday, September 16, 2008 and continuing through Sunday, October 26, 2008, the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is privileged to host its first major exhibit titled, "Jacob Landau: Humanist and Visionary". Featuring the extraordinary work of prominent Roosevelt artist, the late Jacob Landau (1917- 2001), the exhibit is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Jewish Heritage Museum and the Jacob Landau Institute.

Landau's work is included in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, The Philadelphia Museum, and many other eminent museums. The Jewish Heritage Museum's exhibit will feature 23 Landau works in various mediums, including woodcut, watercolor, pen and ink, lithograph, and gouache. Several pieces will be available for purchase.

The museum and the Landau exhibit will be open to the public, without charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM to 3PM, and Sundays from 11AM to 3PM. (Please note museum closings on Tuesday, September 30th; Thursday, October 9; and Tuesday, October 14th and 21st).

This unique Landau collection will be launched at a limited attendance, preview Gala, Sunday, September 14th. The scheduled Gala program includes an exhibit viewing; a one-hour presentation on Landau's *Holocaust Suite* by Dr. David Herrstrom, President of the Landau Institute; a musical presentation by David Brahinsky and Friends, of Roosevelt; and light refreshments. (For further information and Gala reservations, please contact Jean Klerman, Director, at 732-252-6990.)

-- Dr. Joel Stern and Beverly Stern

Coming Soon... The Theatrical Event of the Fall Season

In November, the JHMOMC presents

"*The Immigrant*"

A play by Mark Harelik, *The Immigrant* depicts over thirty years in the life of an Eastern-European Jewish immigrant couple. This poignant saga of their assimilation into a small Texas town without a single Jewish family, is a tribute to their courage, grit, and ability to hold on to the essence of their Jewishness in the ambience of a new and different world.

The family is befriended by a Christian banker and his devout wife. From there the tale progresses to an only-in-America conclusion.

Six weekend performances are scheduled between November 2nd and November 26th. Details will be forthcoming in mailings, on the museum website, and in local media.

The Levi Solomon Water Tank

Is all historic property destined for a shopping center?

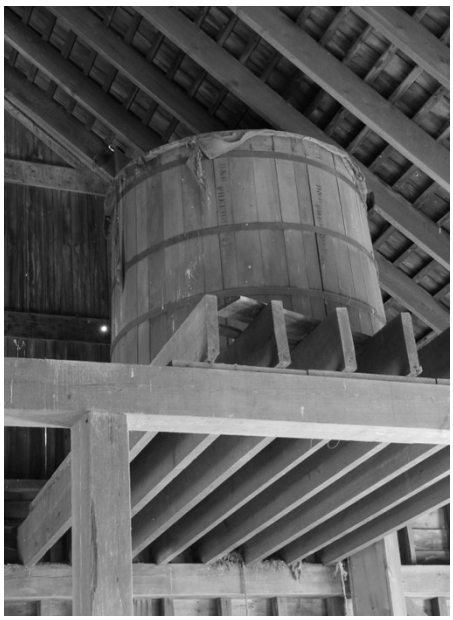
The Levi Solomon barn, now home of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, is located in the Mounts Corner shopping development in Freehold, NJ. Originally part of a Jewish colonial era farm, the barn was expanded over time. A water tank was added in the mid-nineteenth century to provide water pressure for hydrating the animals and possibly for human use. It is unlikely that it had anything to do with a mikveh.

The wooden tank remains in the renovated barn building. Six feet tall and six feet in diameter, the tank has a maximum capacity of a thirteen hundred gallons. When filled, it weighed more than five tons. Supported by heavy wooden beams, it is located approximately ten feet above the barn's newly built second floor where the museum is now housed.

Whether the tank was fed by roof collection, or by well water pumped by windmill to the tank's hayloft location, remains to be discovered.

The water tank itself was manufactured by the US Wind Engine and Pump Company, the windmill company that started the industry in 1856. The 1854 patent holder, Daniel Halladay, came from Ellington, Connecticut to Illinois to meet local business investors, and according to Robert Popeck, a collector of windmill industry memorabilia, Halladay ended up building the first factory in Batavia, Illinois. Popeck, who works for the city of Batavia, owns two windmills, and has a metal tank from US Wind Engine under one of his mills. He has seen a wooden home tank but was unable to retrieve it. Another industrial wood tank fifteen feet high and twenty-seven feet in diameter is still located in a building in Batavia, a city that boasts sixteen restored windmills.

Wooden tanks such as the Museum's are very rare. To complete the Museum's research, the property must be searched for a water well and



Levi Solomon water tank in the Jewish Heritage Museum

the base of the windmill. The current owner of the Mounts Corner center has indicated that nothing additional was found with the water tank: no gauge, no windmill, and no artifacts inside the tank. The only remaining remnant was the downspout leading from the bottom of the tank to the first floor of the barn.

The Museum's tank has stenciling that reads, "US Wind Engine & Pump Co., Batavia, Ill." The windmill company moved to Batavia in 1863, making the tank's earliest date that year. The horizontal straps and rods that keep the tank's vertical wood slats in place are significant components of the tank and the connectors that hold each piece are specific to the windmill company.

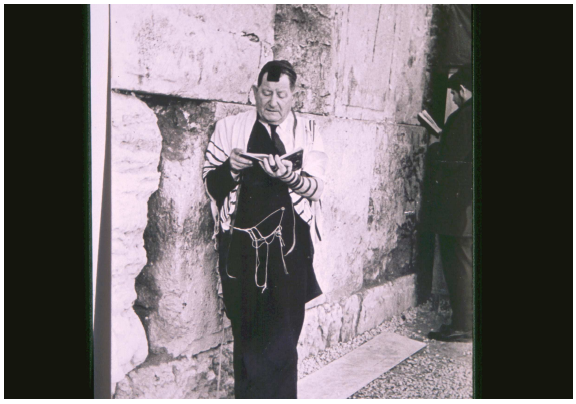
It may only be coincidence that the Jewish Heritage Museum's barn and water tank and the windmill factory in Batavia, are both in shopping centers. On the other hand, perhaps water pressure is our common thread and tie to history.

I'll drink to that.

- Michael Steinhorn
  Historian, Museum VP

Heritage Highlights

THE EXCITING STORY OF ZIMEL RESNICK AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



Zimel Resnick Praying at the Western Wall

On Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 2:00 PM, the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County will present a program, *The Exciting Story of Zimel Resnick and the Establishment of the State of Israel* at the newly opened museum in the Mount's Corner Shopping Center at the intersection of County Route 537 and Wemrock Road in Freehold Township. This program, was originally presented at the Ruth Hyman Jewish Center in Deal last spring, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. It was enjoyed by more than 150 people who gathered to hear family members present a comprehensive story of Zimel Resnick (1896-1971) a man from Asbury Park who was "larger than life" and who devoted his entire life to assisting the Jewish people and aiding in the establishment of State of Israel.

Speakers will include Mr. Resnick's grandson, David Rosenblatt, nieces, Karen Stern Slobodin and Pearl Stern Kessler, and nephews, Joel Stern and Jules Resnick. The program will include a slide show moderated and produced by Beverly Peril Stern.

The museum presentation is free and open to the public. For information, call the museum at 732-252-6990 or access the museum web site: www.jhmomc.org

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Message from the President (Continued from page 1)

View of the Jewish Heritage Museum in the restored Levi Solomon barn in Freehold and some of the more than 250 people who attended the museum's initial Open House event, August 21st.

Photograph by Milton Edelman

performance, Mark Harelik's, *The Immigrant,* premiering on the Hay Loft stage in November. Your support of these programs is crucial to the success and ongoing development of exhibits and programs yet to come.

My special thanks to the Board of Trustees for their hard work and commitment to a vision that now has become a reality. Sincere thanks also to all of our new members and contributors for their belief in and enthusiastic support of the Jewish Heritage Museum project.

The New Year will bring fresh challenges, exciting opportunities, and new beginnings. I personally wish you all a heartfelt *L'Shana Tova* -- a Happy and Healthy new year.

- Michael Berman

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Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

Fall 2008 – Best wishes for 5769

Calendar of Events and Openings

(For details, see inside articles)

Sept 14 (Sunday) – Jacob Landau Gala

Sept 16 – Oct 26 (Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays) Jacob Landau Exhibit

Oct 19 (Sunday) – "Zimel Resnick & Israel's 60th Anniversary" Program

Nov 2 –Nov 29 –"The Immigrant" – A Drama - Sunday afternoon & Saturday evening performances

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Starting in September, the Jewish Heritage Museum will be open to the public free of charge on Sundays 11:00 am – 3:00 pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm except for the following closings:

Sundays	Tuesdays	Thursdays
Sept. 14	Sept. 9	Sept. 11
	Sept. 30	Oct. 9
	Oct. 14	Nov. 27
	Oct. 21	

For group visits or openings by appointment, please call Director Jean Klerman at 732-252-6990.

PLEASE JOIN US BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Please mail this membership application with your check to JHMOMC, P.O. Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728

_____	Individual	$18	_____	Supporter	$50
_____	Family	$36	_____	Patron	$100
_____	Institutional	$36	_____	Benefactor	$250
_____	Senior (65+)	$15	_____	Donor	$500
_____	Student	$15	_____	Founder	$1000

Name____

Address____

Tel # ___________________________ E-Mail______________________

_____I would like to send a gift membership_____ I am interested in volunteering

Please contact me by _____mail, ____ telephone, ____e-mail

X- -

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

PO Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728
www.Jhmomc.org.

JHMOMC Officers

President	Michael Berman
Vice President	Michael Steinhorn
Treasurer	Marjorie Kalman-Kutz
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