

# Heritage Highlights

A Publication of the JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

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Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev 5775

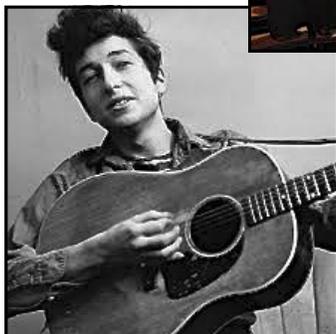
## Take a Journey With Us !

### Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt : *an experiment in cooperative living*



**EXHIBIT OPENING**  
October 26, 2014  
Details on back cover

Sharim V'Sharot:  
the holiday concert



**The Roosevelt  
String Band:**  
The music of  
Bob Dylan

**IN THE SHADOW  
OF THE RED FLAG:**  
The Illya Filshinsky Trio



**JEWIS  
In  
The  
Civil  
War**



**a musical  
parade**

**Maimonides:**



**In the Time  
of Islam**

**Exhibits, lectures, programs, music, history, and so much more !**

# Co-Presidents Message

As the newly elected Co-Presidents of the Board of the Jewish Heritage Museum, we would like to welcome all our members to a new season of exhibits, presentations, programs, and activities at the Museum. We appreciate the confidence placed in us to guide the Museum as it continues to highlight the history and heritage of our local Jewish communities. We want to recognize the contributions of four Founding members who left the Board in June at the end of their term limits: **Michael Berman, Helene Cohen, Jean Klerman, and Barbara Michaels**. Without the vision and persistence of these four stalwarts, and others who started the Museum with them, the Museum would not be where it is today! We also want to welcome the newest members of the Board, elected at the Annual Meeting in June: **Marjorie Kalman-Kutz, Vic Schioppo, Bob Silverman, and Phyllis Solomon**. We look forward to working with them, and benefitting from their ideas and energy. At its September meeting, the Board was able to seat one additional Board member to fill a vacancy, **Irwin Ostrega**, and welcome him to the Board as well.



L to R, Alice Berman, Tia Ziagos and Jeffrey Wolf

We are very pleased to announce that the Museum has hired its first employee, **Tia Ziagos** who will serve as Administrative Assistant. She will be at the Museum during regular open hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on two

Sundays each month. When you call the Museum, she will be glad to assist you with any questions or needs you may have. In addition, Tia holds a degree in Museum Studies, and has curated exhibits in other locations, so we will also benefit from her expertise in these areas. She is a welcome addition to the Museum family.

Don't miss the Museum's new exhibit, "Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt: An Experiment in Cooperative Living" due to open at the end of October. It is an in depth look at the many facets of the vision, personalities, politics, and circumstances that came together to create one of the most unique and iconic Jewish communities in New Jersey. You can read more about it, and about other programs and events in this issue of Heritage Highlights. Enjoy reading, and we look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Co-Presidents Alice Berman  
Jeffrey Wolf

## **Wanted Museum Docents (Guides) (Once a week or once or twice a month)**

Museum Hours: Sundays - 11 AM - 1 PM  
or 1 PM - 3 PM

Tuesdays or Thursdays 10 AM- 12:30 PM  
or 12:30 PM - 3 PM

Please call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or  
email us at [info@jhmomc.org](mailto:info@jhmomc.org)

## **Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth Country**

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The JHMOMC is a registered 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is handicapped accessible.

## Our New Exhibit

### Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt: An Experiment in Cooperative Living

The Museum is proud to present its new exhibit focusing on the history, personalities, challenges, and daily life in the experimental community called Jersey Homesteads, in the westernmost part of Monmouth County. The exhibit will be celebrated with a Gala Opening Reception on Sunday, October 26 from 2 to 5 PM, with refreshments and entertainment. Tickets are \$18 per person. The exhibit will be available for viewing during the Museum's regular hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 AM to 3 PM and Sundays 11 AM to 3 PM during the fall and winter months.

families, with all of its successes and failures, transformed into a thriving artist colony.



**Air View of Jersey Homesteads, late 1930s**

After the arrival of artist Ben Shahn, whose iconic fresco mural can still be seen in the Roosevelt Public School, (and also is reproduced and explored in our exhibit) artists of various media have found Jersey Homesteads, renamed Roosevelt to honor FDR after his death in 1945, to be a unique and inspiring community. Today, Roosevelt is a strong multi-cultural community, proud of its past, and moving toward the future.



**Molding hats in the millinery department of the cooperative garment factory at Jersey Homesteads, 1936**

The exhibit takes a chronological look at the development and establishment of this experimental 'live/work/farm' environment in New Jersey, which was the dream of Benjamin Brown (nee Lipshitz), a Ukrainian-Jewish immigrant. Under various Acts which were part of President Roosevelt's New Deal, funding was made available for subsistence homesteads which were intended to redistribute population out of industrial urban areas and into rural communities. Teaming up with Benjamin Brown, Jewish labor leaders in the "needle trades" in New York, saw the chance for workers to leave the teeming city tenements, own their own homes, build a new, better and more democratic life. Jersey Homesteads was intended to be not just a rural farming community, but a carefully balanced combination of farming, manufacturing, and self-sufficiency. Attend the Museum's new exhibit, and follow the ups and downs of the journey to Jersey Homesteads in the 1930s and the struggles of this complicated undertaking. Explore the town's carefully planned layout, and the unique Bauhaus construction techniques of the homes. Learn about some of the earliest residents, and then follow the story as this self-sustaining community of Jewish

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**Children coming home from school, December, 1936**

**Don't miss this exhibit and a variety of related lectures and musical performances that will be offered at the Museum in the months ahead.**

**Exhibits Committee  
Alice Berman, Marc Diament, Vic Schioppo**

**Civil War Living Historians,  
Bruce and Mira Form  
present a Veterans Day Program  
*IMAGES OF THE PAST:  
JEWS IN THE CIVIL WAR***

On Sunday November 9, 2014, at 2 PM, the Jewish Heritage Museum is proud to present a special program in honor of Veterans Day. The program will feature

Civil War Living Historians and Researchers, Bruce and Mira Form. For over 20 years the Forms have been researching the contribution of Jews and the Jewish community to the Civil War. Mr. and Mrs. Form will enlighten the audience to the many roles played by Jews during the Civil War.



Dressed in period attire, Bruce and

Mira Form will deliver a presentation entitled, *Images of the Past: Jews in the Civil War*. Bruce will appear as Captain Myer Asch, native Philadelphian, who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry and Mira will portray Miss Rebecca Moss of Philadelphia, who was the Secretary of the Ladies Hebrew Association for the Relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.

Bruce and Mira Form are passionate about the roles that Jews played during the Civil War and have presented programs throughout the country on the subject. Bruce has written an article on the subject in each of the first two books published by the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association in its commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Please join us on Sunday afternoon, November 9, 2014, at 2 PM, for this special program honoring our veterans and the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Civil War. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5 for Museum members and \$7 for non-members. Students are free.

**- Rabbi Robert Fierstien  
Co-Chair, History Committee**

**Long Time Friend,  
David Brahinsky and the  
Roosevelt String Band**



**A monument in Cordoba, Spain, Maimonides' birthplace, honoring its famous resident. It resides in the courtyard of the only synagogue in the city that still stands since the 13th century, when Maimonides and his family fled the city because of anti-Semitism.**

On Sunday, October 19, 2014, The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County will host a two-part program featuring Dr. David Brahinsky, a longtime friend of the Museum. The charge of admission is \$15 for Museum members and \$18 for non-members, students are free.

At 1 PM, Dr. Brahinsky will present a lecture, **"Maimonides: In a World of Islam."** He will discuss the Jewish medieval philosopher, physician, and Talmudic scholar Moses (Rambam)

Maimonides who spent his entire life in a world governed by Islam. Yet, Maimonides was able to live, work, study, create, and thrive as one of the towering Jewish thinkers of all times. How did he do it? What was his secret? These questions and many others will be answered. Additionally, a question and answer period will follow the presentation.

At 2:30 PM, the Roosevelt String Band, featuring Dr. Brahinsky and his friends, will take the Hayloft Stage as they appear in a concert of songs written by iconic Jewish American musician, singer, songwriter, author, and artist, Bob Dylan (nee Robert Zimmerman). The



**Dr. David Brahinsky**

songs that Dylan penned include: "The Times They are a - Changing" and "Blowin' in the Wind." These songs became anthems for the counter-culture and anti-war movements of the 1960s. The band members include David Brahinsky on guitar and vocals, Guy DeRosas on harmonica, Phil McAuliffe on bass, Noemi Bolton on ukulele and banjo-uke, and Jen Sherry on vocals. They will perform some of Dylan's most popular and well-known songs such as: "Masters of War" as well as some songs that are less known, such as "Show Train." Pathos and one could say, prophesy can be appreciated in many of the songs. **- Barbara Michaels**

## Moses Maimonides



Moses Maimonides, philosopher, physician, astronomer, and the most influential Torah scholar of the Middle Ages and known to Jews simply as Rambam, an acronym for Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, was born in 1135 in Cordova, Spain, during the Golden Age of Spain. It was a time in which Jews and Christians lived together in harmony under Muslim rule. His

father was a physician and a judge in the rabbinical court and was Moses' most influential teacher. It is thought that he was a direct descendant of King David.

In 1148, a fanatical Islamic sect, the Almohads, captured Cordoba and residents were forced to either accept Islam, leave, or be executed. The family practiced Judaism secretly for eleven years while appearing to embrace Islam in public. During this time, Maimonides continued his Judaic and scientific studies. The family fled to Fez, Morocco, where they remained until 1165, Maimonides continuing with his rabbinical and medical training and also completing his significant *Commentary* on the Mishnah – a project which took him ten years to complete. Forced once again to leave their home, the family moved to Palestine and then to Fustat, a suburb of Cairo, Egypt. There, Jews were allowed to practice their religion without fear of persecution.

Maimonides' father died soon after that and his brother David agreed to become the sole supporter of the family so that Moses could continue his studies. David became a very successful jewelry merchant. Misfortune struck in the form of a storm in which the ship David was a passenger, with all the family's fortune, was destroyed. Thus, Maimonides was forced to begin to practice medicine in order to support his family.

He reached the peak of his reputation as a physician when he was appointed to the court of Sultan Saladin. He believed that medicine was a sacred calling and wrote fifteen known medical treatises. In his writings he described many conditions such as asthma, diabetes, hepatitis, and pneumonia. He recognized the connection between mental and physical health as well as the significance of ecological and environmental factors in preventing and treating illness. He was also chosen by the Jewish community to be Nagid –

their spiritual leader and spokesman – at the Sultan's court.

During this time, he wrote his first *magnum opus* – the *Mishneh Torah* - his codification of oral Jewish Law from biblical times to the twelfth century. Maimonides' intention was to provide a complete statement of the *Oral Law* so that the person who studied the *Written Torah* and the *Mishneh Torah* would need

no other book. The work was in simple Hebrew, which made it readily accessible to students and laymen. His philosophical magnum opus was his *Guide for the Perplexed*, which he wrote in Arabic as answers to a series of questions posed to him by a disciple who was trying to reconcile his ideas about science and faith. It was translated into many languages and scholastic scholars of the Middle Ages quoted extensively from it.

The last years of Maimonides' life were devoted to the practice of medicine, adding to and revising his written works, and serving as the Chief Rabbi of Egypt, and spiritual leader of far flung Jewish communities. He died in December, 1204 and was mourned by Jews and Muslims alike.

- Barbara Michaels



*Guide for the Perplexed*  
written and illuminated in Catalonia in the  
years 1347-1348

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# Working On The Railroad: Jewish Trainmen with Monmouth Connections

## Harold Kendler, Train Conductor



Courtesy Harry Hamburg-NY Daily News, Aug 1, 1981.

Railroad conductor Harold Kendler and his wife, trainman, Betty McBride Kendler, celebrated their retirement in July 31, 1981, with over 100 friends and commuters aboard Conrail's New York to South Amboy local. It was noted that the event marked a first in railroad history in which a husband and wife, working the same train, retired at the same time. Harold Kendler, who was Jewish, met his wife while both were employed in passenger train service. Each was involved in union activities during their combined total of 78 years with the railroad.

Upon retirement, the Kendlers moved from New Brunswick to Middletown. Harold was a member of Red Bank Elks Lodge 233. He died in 1992 at the age of 72.

## Milton Siegfried and the Blue Comet

Known for its distinctive color, *The Blue Comet* was one of the most luxurious and legendary trains in New Jersey history. From 1929 to 1941, it operated from Jersey City to Atlantic City, entering Monmouth County on the same line used today by NJ Transit's North Jersey Coast Line. Once it reached Red Bank, it switched over to a separate seashore track.

For its pre-inaugural publicity run at Red Bank on Feb. 17, 1929, Milton A. Siegfried of Red Bank, one of the best known engineers of the shore division of the Central Railroad, contacted the *Daily Register* and radio station WJBL to invite the public to inspect the train at its Red Bank stop. His invitation on behalf of the railroad was credited with swelling the attendance at the station that Saturday morning.



Blue Comet at Red Bank, February 17, 1929

Milton Siegfried was a member of a prominent local Jewish family. His father, Simon Siegfried, was a supervisor at his friend Sigmund Eisner's factory in Red Bank. His brother, Frank Siegfried, owned Siegfried Hardware in Atlantic Highlands and in his later years told me that though Milton always wanted to be a locomotive engineer, he first took a lot of comments from other railroad employees about being Jewish and working on the railroad. In time they began to respect him. When the Blue Comet began running late, the Central RR asked Milton to be the engineer for a while to improve the train's on time performance.



Milton Siegfried, center, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left  
"The Coupler" Central RR NJ employee newsletter, Aug 1949

Milton was also active in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers as the local chairman of the Union. When the Union was merged into the United Transportation Union, Milton was the United Transportation Union's representative to the NJ Legislature until his passing in the early 1960s. He was followed in this position by Harold Kendler.

- Joel Rosenbaum

## Wanted: Old Photos for New Book!

The Jewish Heritage Museum is seeking old images (such as the above "Jews in Railroading" submitted by Joel Rosenbaum) for its upcoming book *The Pictorial History of the Jews of Monmouth County*. If you have any such photos or documents illustrating the Jewish experience in greater Monmouth, please call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or email the pictures directly to the history committee at [info@jhmomc.org](mailto:info@jhmomc.org).

# Helen Barth

## A Jersey Homesteads Pioneer remembers

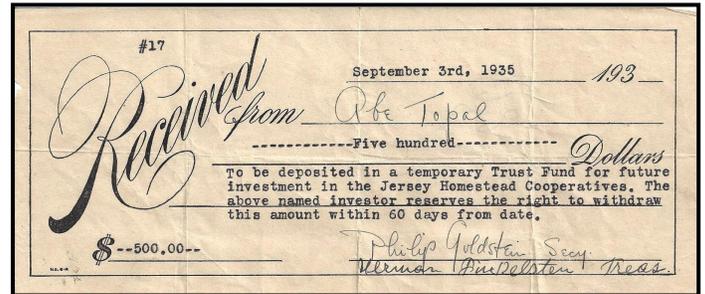
### **The early days**

Helen Barth, at the tender age of 3 ½, may not have felt like a pioneer when she first came to Jersey Homesteads in 1936 with her family, but more than three quarters of a century later, she has certainly earned that moniker. She describes her family and others who joined in the exodus from the sweltering heat and congested streets of depression era New York City to settle in Jersey Homesteads as, "true pioneers, like settlers to the west, going to something new and unknown to them." Her family's history was not unlike so many that had come before and so many that would come after, looking for a better life, freedom from oppression, and searching for a better place to raise children.



together the \$500 required to make a deposit on a yet to be built home in the unfinished town.

The Topal family, including Helen's older brother George, moved to the town in 1936, although many of the planned homes had still not been built and the factory, farm and retail stores, all integral parts of the agro-industrial cooperative design for the town, were not yet completed. Once finished, they were underfunded, understaffed, and ultimately would fail to thrive. The house Helen's family moved into what was one of a second group of homes completed, as the town continued to grow.



**Abe Topal's original deposit receipt dated Sept. 3, 1935**

The electricity did not work and the roads were paved with mud not gold or asphalt. A local army barracks served as an early synagogue. Although the dream of a self sufficient cooperative community would ultimately fail, the community, for many of the early settlers, including the Topal family, would provide them with a foundation that would shape and sustain their family and forge relationships that would last a lifetime.

### **Growing up in Roosevelt**

By 1940, the town of Jersey Homesteads transformed from a governmentally subsidized experiment and dream of Benjamin Brown to a town that by 1945 would change its name to Roosevelt (in honor of Franklin D. Roosevelt who had died earlier in the year). But for those who brought their own dreams to the new town, many decided they would stay and try to make a go of it. Helen remembers her father and so many others in the "needle trades" found work not far from Roosevelt in other towns and were able to commute by sharing rides, thus allowing them to stay in Roosevelt and raise their families. For them, the dream would continue, but would forever be changed from their original idea of what life would be like in their town.

The relationships made during those early years would last a lifetime for many. Helen remembered that not long after her family moved to Roosevelt, her father took her to meet a neighbor's daughter on Farm

**Article Continues on Next Page**



**Helen's Father Abe in uniform**

Helen's father, Abe Topal, came from Poland with his family and joined the United States Army in his late teens, to get his citizenship. Helen's mother, Martha Silverman, came from Pinsk, now part of Belarus, and had lived under German occupation before coming to America. Helen's father was in the "needle trades;" she could not recall how her father picked up this skill, but remembered her mother also sewed. Helen's parents had been introduced by family members and once married, settled in the Bronx. Abe Topal saw an ad in the *Jewish Daily Forward* while working in New York City and was able to scrape



**Helen's Mother Martha**



**Martha's family from Pinsk**



Bauhaus inspired home 1937



Helen Topal



Kitchen 1937



Artist: Johnathon Shahn



Roosevelt Memorial dedicated in 1962

she graduated, she attended Allentown High School where Roosevelt students were bused. She said the bus schedule and distance from Roosevelt "limited your ability to participate" in before school or after school programs, clubs, and activities. Even so, Helen was the editor of the school yearbook and played intramural basketball. She also experienced, as she describes it, "a tremendous amount of anti-Semitism."

### ***The 1950s and 60s into the 70s***

Although not without challenges and limitations, Roosevelt was a unique and special place to grow up. Helen's memories are mostly positive and warm. "I loved living here; when I grew up here it was a community of one." Family trips to New York City, the Bronx Zoo, and museums were not uncommon. Family ties to the city were strong for the Topal family, but Roosevelt, with all its quirks, remained their home.



Roosevelt Public School built in 1937

Lane named Shirley Alef, so she could have a friend to play with. Their friendship lasted more than seven decades and they still talk on the phone, almost daily.

Helen remembers Yiddish being spoken at home by her parents, but when speaking to their children they spoke English. Yiddish could be heard in the streets of Roosevelt and many Yiddish newspapers were shared by residents to stay informed about world events and what was going on in New York City, from where so many residents had re-located. The immigrant Jews that made up most of the population of the town in the early days, were passionate and opinionated. Organizations and affiliations were commonplace and meetings were held on many evenings in the town's school, which also served as a kind of community center (which was part of the original plan for the town). Some of these meetings ended in arguments and or heated disagreements, but Helen remembers that the community still remained connected and most of these passionate outbursts were quickly forgotten and bruised relationships usually mended.

The Roosevelt School was built in 1937 and included grade levels from kindergarten through eighth grade (now K through sixth). Helen was a good student and remembers her education fondly. The class sizes were small and intimate with a lot of attention given to each student. The curriculum included art and music, reflecting the lively arts and cultural dynamic that, later on, would help define post depression era Roosevelt. She participated in extracurricular activities and clubs enjoying her elementary and middle school years. Once

Helen met her husband Leon in 1949 while waiting with her best friend Shirley Alef, at what was then well known as the hitching corner (Route 571 and Homestead Lane). The hitching corner was a place where folks congregated to catch a ride from Roosevelt into town (usually Hightstown) or as a place to meet and jump in a car and drive somewhere to hang out together. In 1949, hitching a ride in rural central Jersey was common place and relatively safe. Leon grew up in Hightstown and that chance meeting, at the hitching corner, would shape the rest of their lives.

Helen and Leon were married in 1951 at Beth El Synagogue in Hightstown, which was built by Leon's father. From his father, Leon learned how to build things and work with his hands. He later headed up the architectural laboratory at Princeton University where, as Helen put it, Leon taught architectural and design students steeped in theory and principles how to

**Article Continues on Next Page**



Leon Barth and Helen Topal



Leon and Helen's wedding, 1951

actually build something and put their knowledge to work in the "real world." After they married, they moved to Princeton and then Yardville, but Helen and Leon didn't want their children, as she put it, "to experience being one of the only Jewish families in town" and with this in mind, Roosevelt once again became Helen's home. They raised their children Larry, Jeff, and Jerrie in the town that Helen first called home in 1936. They purchased a house that was very



The Barth family home in Roosevelt as it appears today

much like the home in which Helen grew up. The owner was one of the original settlers of the town and he had not made any changes to the house since it was built. Leon rebuilt, redesigned, and re-imagined the house over the next decades utilizing his considerable design and carpentry talents.

The 1960s were a turbulent time for the country and the town of Roosevelt reflected those times. Helen remembers that the decade in Roosevelt was very much "defined by the times." The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. elicited gatherings and vigils that were more spontaneous than organized. The Vietnam War



Helen Barth photographed in her home, 2014

years ignited rallies and concerts. She remembers loving many of the protest songs of the era and the passion that town residents had for so many causes and issues. She remembers how important the vote was and politically aware so many of her friends and family were. She says that these "socially relevant seeds were planted early on" in Roosevelt's history and many of the children of those early Jewish settlers

to the town continued to drive change and socially relevant causes as they matured. The issues may have changed, but the passion remained very much a part of the town's character.

### Later Years



A hand hewn shelf,

The 1970s, 80s, and into the millennium brought further change to the town of Roosevelt. The architectural integrity of the town would change as new construction and renovations to early

homes became more commonplace. The demographics would change with new families and new dreams coming to the community. Helen and Leon's children left the small town in which they grew up to start their own journeys into adulthood, but their connection to Roosevelt remains strong.



A replica of a mid-century inspired rope chair

After their chance meeting at the hitching corner sixty-two years earlier, Leon passed away after an extended illness in 2011. The family home, where Helen still lives, is the gathering place for the family to share stories of the past and hopes for the future. The Barth home is



Six string guitar

decorated with many artworks from Roosevelt's arts community, family photos, and many of Leon's woodworking projects, which clearly qualify as works of art. Leon's inspired woodworking includes a hand crafted dulcimer, a hand hewn shelf, a replica of a mid century inspired rope chair, and an acoustic six string guitar.

Helen is a pragmatic and grounded person, stating that "change happens; if you don't change you get left behind." She is not happy about all the changes that have come to Roosevelt, but the town is still here and so is she. She says proudly that "I choose to live here; I have a strong tie to the town, I am happy to still be here and I am really proud of my heritage." Her memories and footprints in those early muddy streets of Jersey Homesteads are firmly imprinted on the stories she tells and her memories are as colorful and dynamic as the history of the town she still calls home.



Dulcimer

**Historian  
Michael Ticktin  
to Give a Presentation  
on the History and Architecture  
of Roosevelt, NJ**

Michael Ticktin is the town historian of Roosevelt, NJ. It is an historic district listed on the state and national historic registers. Roosevelt Borough, originally called Jersey Homesteads, is a slice of 1930s Americana settled by Jewish people. Mr. Ticktin will give a presentation about the history and architecture of Roosevelt on Sunday Dec. 7, at 2 PM. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members.



**Roosevelt resident Michael Ticktin presents a history of Roosevelt to Monika Markgraf, research director of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation in Germany**

Michael Ticktin, a New York City native and a graduate of Princeton, moved to Roosevelt in 1972. Although Roosevelt is known for its Bauhaus style of houses, Michael doesn't live in one. He designed his own house.

Michael felt right at home when visiting Dessau, Germany. He was there to present a book about the history of Roosevelt. In Dessau he saw the same flat roofed boxy houses that are so characteristic of his hometown of Roosevelt. The Bauhaus style flourished in Germany during the 1920s and early 1930s.



**House at Jersey Homesteads, 1937**

It is interesting how the Bauhaus design came to be used in a tiny town in New Jersey. Roosevelt, Jersey Homesteads, represented the convergence of three movements: Benjamin Brown's vision of a co-operative community of Jewish garment workers and farmers; the town design and the English Garden City movement; and the building design principles developed by the Bauhaus style. Learn all about this at Mr. Ticktin's presentation.

**- Julie Warshawsky**

**The JHMOMC's Speakers Bureau**



**Dr. Nathan Reiss, President, Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey, welcomed by Jean Klerman of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County at Dr. Reiss' talk on "The History of the Sephardic Jews of Central New Jersey" presented at the Museum the evening of July 15. This was the second in a new series of free Speakers Bureau exchanges between the two organizations.**

The presentations of the Museum's Speakers Bureau keep gaining in popularity and demand for our speakers continues to grow as our list of available programs increases. We have been presenting a selection of PowerPoint slide-shows and DVDs to synagogues, historical societies, clubs, and other organizations in the Greater Monmouth County area. We invite your organization to take advantage of one of these painstakingly researched and carefully crafted community service presentations by booking one of the following programs:

- **Journey to Monmouth: From the Iberian Peninsula(Spain and Portugal) to the New World (45-60 minutes)**
- **The Story of the Jews of Monmouth County: In Town, At the Shore, and on the Farm (30 minutes)**
- **18th Century Monmouth County Jews: Colonial and Revolutionary Times (30 minutes)**
- **The Jewish Newport on the Jersey Shore: The History of the German Jews of Monmouth County" (45-60 minutes)**
- **Louise Nevelson: Grand Dame of American Sculpture" (45 minutes)**
- **The Land Was Theirs: Jewish Farmers in the Garden State (55 minutes) at the Museum only**
- **Faces of Genius: Jewish American Nobel Prize Laureates in Science and Medicine (75 minutes)**

***Please contact the Speaker's Bureau through the Administrative Assistant at 732-252-6990***



## The Jewish Scene at Bell Labs and AT&T

*This is the third in a series of articles, highlighting the contributions of Jewish scientists and engineers who worked at the Bell Telephone and AT&T Laboratories during their golden years.*

### Simon Zelingher, Vice President, AT&T Laboratories

The skills that Simon Zelingher developed to meet the challenges he faced growing up in Communist Romania ultimately led to an illustrious career at AT&T. Born in 1946 to Holocaust survivors, he dreamed of leaving Romania but, as the eldest child, he became responsible for his family when his father was imprisoned by the Communist regime



AT&T Laboratories,  
Laurel Avenue, Middletown, NJ

for six and a half years, simply for being a Jew. The family came to the United States in 1973. After receiving a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Iassy, Romania, he received an M.S. in Control Systems from Polytechnic Institute of New York (PINY, now NYU).

Simon Zelingher joined AT&T Bell Labs in 1984, immediately after the divestiture of Bell Labs, as a member of the Technical Staff. In 2000, with the spinoff of the equipment development business, the former Western Electric/Network Systems, which became Lucent, Bell Labs was also restructured. The organizations responsible for the AT&T Network and Services development were consolidated to create the AT&T Labs, part of the newly established AT&T Corporation. Later on, in 2007, AT&T was merged into one of the former Baby Bell companies, SBC, and AT&T Labs took on additional responsibilities in the consumer business and mobile communication services areas.

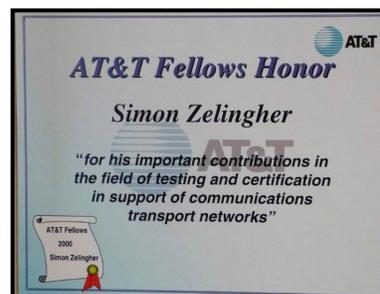


Simon Zelingher in his lab

Over the years, Zelingher's responsibilities grew significantly as he became a top expert and development manager in Network Technologies, Services, and Systems. In the mid 1990s, he led a team of engineers and scientists who were

responsible for the development and introduction of a unique control network capable of automatically detecting and quickly restoring service around failed fiber optic cables, reducing the outage down times from hours and days to minutes and, eventually, sub minutes. In 2000, in recognition of his contributions, leadership, and vision, Simon received the AT&T Fellows Award: the highest technical recognition bestowed on anyone on the technical staff at AT&T.

In 2002, Zelingher became the Vice President of Global Optical Internet Protocol (IP) and Data Network, Technology and Service Development, thereby heading an organization of over 600 scientists, engineers, and project managers. As Vice President, he played the lead role in the planning, design, development, and introduction of the brand



new AT&T Global IP Network. This Network, aka the AT&T Backbone, which was completed in 2010, has a global footprint and uses state-of-the-art Optical/Fiber Optics

and IP Routing Technologies. The AT&T Backbone was recognized in the industry and by many experts as the premier network of its kind, setting new and highest standards for performance, cost effectiveness, and inherent flexibility to accommodate future evolution.

Zelingher holds seventeen patents, mostly implemented in the AT&T Global Network. Although he retired from AT&T in 2012, a recent 2014 article in *Light Reading*, an industry magazine, provided the following comment: "In October 2006, at Light Reading's Optical Expo Conference in Dallas, renowned AT&T Labs Vice President (now retired) Simon Zelingher, made a passionate case for the need for 100G transport, predicting 'We will need 100 Gbits by the end of the decade.' Despite heavy skepticism, Zelingher's prediction proved amazingly accurate. The first commercial 100G cards were shipped at the end of 2009 setting the 100G migration in motion."

Zelingher (who is now an active volunteer with the Jewish Heritage Museum as well as other Jewish organizations) and his family live in Marlboro.



**November 30, 2014 2:00PM**



**Sharim v'Sharot: People of Song  
Makes a Return Visit to the Hayloft Stage**



The Jewish Heritage Museum welcomes a return visit from Sharim v'Sharot on December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2 PM!

Chanukah, The Festival of Lights, is one of Judaism's most beloved celebrations of freedom, tradition, faith, and identity. In every generation, Jewish people have expressed their love for Chanukah in distinct musical styles, various languages, as well as energetic and lilting melodies.

Sharim v'Sharot: People of Song, a unique choral ensemble based in central New Jersey, will present a treat for the ears and songs for the soul. Let Sharim v'Sharot, conducted by its renowned Musical Director, Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman, warm your hearts with Chanukah songs of our people! With harmonized songs in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Italian, French, and Ladino, both accompanied and a cappella, old and new, this afternoon of song will enrich your Chanukah celebrations. Enjoy a unique concert that is not to be missed!

Sharim v'Sharot, founded in 2000, appeared at The Museum in 2011 with its founding Director, Dr. Grossman, who returns again to share music from the choir's extensive repertoire. Dr. Grossman is recognized for her contribution to the art of Jewish Choral Music, having served for twenty-two years as Conductor and Musical Director of New York City's Rottenberg Chorale and Chamber Singers. She is a renowned lecturer and scholar-in-residence in the music of the Jewish people. A review in the *Times* stated: "Dr. Grossman, who has an extended background in choral conducting has molded . . . (her ensemble) into a disciplined, ideally balanced unit. Most impressive was the sheer joy of singing that came across in all sections of the program."

Come and enjoy a musical celebration of Hanukkah! Bring your love of music, bring your voices, and bring your family!

Music throughout the ages . . . and for all ages! Tickets are \$15 for members, \$18 for non-members, and students are free.

The Oasis Players will return to The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County on November 30, 2014 at 2 PM. The program, "A Musical Parade," will take the audience through a century of music celebrating composers, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, and Richard Rodgers. The cabaret salutes the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Broadway's *Hello Dolly*, *Funny Girl*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. The finale of this exciting program will recognize contemporary Tony Award composers, Jason Robert Brown and Adam Guettel. We hope you will join us in welcoming these most talented performers. The event is produced and directed by Robert Weinstein. Tickets are \$18 members, \$20 non-members. Bring a canned good for the local food bank and receive a \$3 discount on admission.

**- Phyllis Solomon**



**Attention all members  
of the Museum:**

Please keep the Museum informed of address changes, phone number changes, and email changes. We have to keep current information in our database. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**- Helene Cohen, Membership Chair**

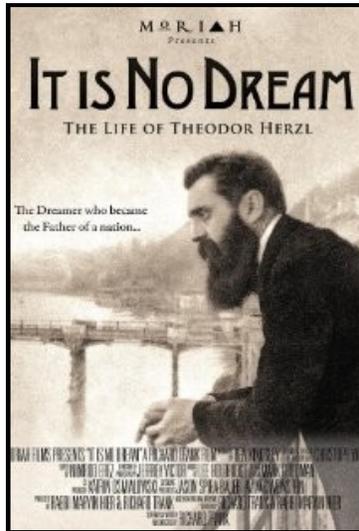
**- Alice Berman**

# IT IS NO DREAM

## The Life of Theodor Herzl

Thursday, December 25, 2014 1 PM  
Free of Charge

*It Is No Dream* explores the life and times of Theodor Herzl, father of the modern state of Israel. Narrated by Academy Award winner, Sir Ben Kingsley and starring Academy Award winner Christoph Waltz as the voice of Theodor Herzl, the film examines how Herzl, a well known journalist and playwright, an assimilated, Budapest born Jew, horrified by the Dreyfus trial in Paris and the anti-Semitism he saw spreading across Europe, took upon himself the task of attempting to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine against all odds. Over the span of eight years, Herzl organized and led a worldwide political movement that within fifty years led to the establishment of the state of Israel. The film follows Herzl as he meets with kings, prime ministers, Ambassadors, a Sultan, a Pope, and government ministers from Constantinople to St. Petersburg, from Paris to Berlin, from Vienna to Vilna in his quest to build a Jewish nation.



The Druin Education Fund of The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presented a children's program

## MAKE YOUR OWN

### SHOFAR

on September 7, 2014. The children crafted a beautiful Shofar from a genuine ram's horn under the direction of Rabbi Shmuly and Rabbi Levi. Check your email for information on our children's Hanukkah event in early December.



Shaping the mouthpiece of the Shofar

### Field Trip to Roosevelt, NJ Sunday, November 16, 2014

In conjunction with its upcoming exhibit, *Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt: An Experiment in Cooperative Living*, The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is pleased to invite interested participants to join in a **field trip to Roosevelt (originally name Jersey Homesteads) on Sunday, November 16, 2014**. Roosevelt is listed with the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places. Attendees are to meet in the lobby of the Roosevelt Public School. At 11 AM, Allan Mallach will lead a discussion about Ben Shahn's Jersey Homesteads mural. Artists' studios will be open at 12 PM for viewing and purchasing of art, if you so choose. Our tour will include Jonathan Shahn's sculpture of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr., and a visit to the Roosevelt Borough Cemetery. The trip is free, but reservations are required. It promises to be an enriching experience of one of Monmouth County's little-known, Jewish historical sites. **Join us!** - **Grace Toy**



Drilling through the mouthpiece to make it hollow



Wishing you a  
Happy and Healthy  
New Year

From the Board of Trustees,  
and Volunteers of  
The Jewish Heritage Museum  
of Monmouth County

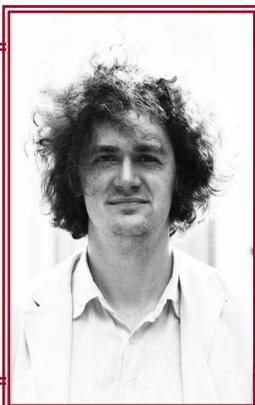
The Illya Filshinsky Trio

# IN THE SHADOW OF THE RED FLAG

Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014 2 PM



Katha Zinn / violin



Illya Filshinsky / piano



Amanda Gookin / cello

## Join us

for an eclectic mix of classical music, film, and world music, performed by the internationally recognized Illya Filshinsky Trio. The Trio features Illya Filshinsky on piano, Katha Zinn on violin, and Amanda Gookin on cello.

The Trio's inspired program will include works by Russian composers Alfred Schnittke and Dmitri Shostakovich, as well as works by Astor Piazzola (*Le Grand Tango*), Jerry Bock, and John Williams (*Prologue from Fiddler on the Roof* and the *theme from Schindler's List*).

### Tickets:

**\$20 members. \$25 non-members**  
**\$15 students**

This program is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County



**Don't miss this magnificent trio  
in performance at The JHMOMC this Fall!**

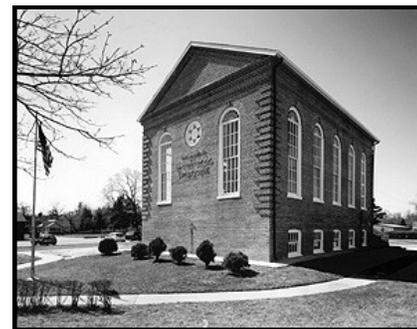
## Upcoming Events at the JHMOMC

*Genealogy Exhibit Opening*  
*Alan Mallach Piano Recital*  
*Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre*

*Further information to follow*

### Bus Trip To The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage in South Jersey

The JHMOMC is making plans for a spring 2015 bus or car-pool trip to the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine, in response to an invitation extended by its



Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine

Executive Director, Jane B. Stark, when she presented a program on "*The First Jewish Agricultural Colonies in Southern New Jersey*," to our museum membership this past June. She described the late 19th century European "back to the soil" movement that resulted in the establishment of several Jewish agricultural colonies in the United States. The most successful of these were in southern New Jersey, starting with the Alliance colony near Vineland in 1882. The Sam Azeez Museum displays the story of these colonies from the late 19th century to the present.

If you are interested in joining us on such a bus or car-pool trip to visit the Sam Azeez Museum and surrounding areas of Jewish interest, please contact the history committee of The JHMOMC by phone, 732-252-6990, or by email, [info@jhmomc.org](mailto:info@jhmomc.org), and let us know if a Sunday or mid-week date would be preferred.

**- Jean Klerman**

# JHMOMC Calendar of Events

## Fall 2014 Programs

Sunday	October 19	1 PM 2:30 PM	Maimonides Lecture by David Brahinsky Roosevelt String Band \$15 members, \$18 non-members, students free
Sunday	October 26	2 PM	Opening Reception for Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt Exhibit \$18 per person, \$72 Exhibit Sponsor (includes two tickets to Opening Reception)
Sunday	November 2	2 PM	In the Shadow of the Red Flag by The Illya Filshinsky Trio \$20 members, \$25 non-members, \$15 students
Saturday	November 8	7:30 PM	Donor Appreciation Reception by invitation only
Sunday	November 9	2 PM	Images of the Past: Jews in the Civil War by Bruce and Mira Form \$5 members, \$7 non-members, students free
Sunday	November 16	11 AM	Field Trip to Roosevelt, NJ Talk by Allen Mallach, Visit to Artists' Studios Free of Charge
Sunday	November 16	2 PM	Cecilian Club Concert \$10 Tickets may be purchased at the door
Sunday	November 30	2 PM	A Musical Parade by the Oasis Players \$18 members, \$20 non-members Bring a canned good for local food bank and receive a \$3 discount on tickets purchased at the Museum
Sunday	December 7	2 PM	Discussion on the History and Architecture of Roosevelt, NJ by Roosevelt Historian, Michael Ticktin \$5 members, \$7 non-members
Sunday	December 14	2 PM	Holiday Concert by Sharim v'Sharot: People of Song \$15 members, \$18 non-members, students free
Thursday	December 25	1 PM	Film: <i>It Is No Dream</i> , free of charge

### Exhibits

Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt: *An experiment in cooperative living*  
opens October 26 to the public

JHMOMC Permanent Timeline Exhibit

*Journey to Monmouth - 1600 to 1800*

Currently featuring *Battle of Monmouth* and *Jewstown* display

For tickets to any of our events, please call the Museum at 732-252-6990  
or visit our website at [www.jhmomc.org](http://www.jhmomc.org)  
(Tickets will be held at the Museum and are non-refundable.)



Jewish Heritage Museum  
Of Monmouth County  
P.O. Box 7078,  
Freehold, NJ 07728

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artwork: Ben Shahn - Jersey Homesteads Mural

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County  
proudly invites you to  
attend the

## Gala Opening Reception of our New Exhibit!

*Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt: An Experiment in Cooperative Living*

Sunday, October 26, 2014

2 PM - 5 PM

Wine and hors d'oeuvres, Music by guitar virtuoso Jerry Topinka

\$18 per person

\$72 Exhibit sponsor (includes two tickets to the Gala and recognition at the Opening)

RSVP: 732-252-6990 (Tues. and Thurs. 10 AM-3 PM) Credit cards accepted.

Checks can be mailed to JHMOMC, PO Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728