



From Michael Meckler, President

One of my favorite comedy albums from the 1960s is *You Don't Have To Be Jewish*. One of the tracks on the album is titled "The Reading of the Will" and involves a lawyer reading the last will and testament to the deceased man's family. "To my brother-in-law Louie," the lawyer reads, "who never worked a day in his life; who always smoked the best cigars – mine; who said I would never remember him in my will: Hello, Louie!"

At least Louie got mentioned in the will, but most of the time, Jewish organizations like the Columbus Jewish Historical Society – which do far more for the community than Louie ever did – end up forgotten when individuals plan their estates. This is doubly tragic, for not only would a bequest help CJHS further its mission of preserving the history of our community, but commemoration of the bequest also ensures that an individual is remembered in his or her hometown long after the family has moved away.

So the Society is pleased to be partnering with the Columbus Jewish Foundation in their Create a Jewish Legacy program, which you'll be hearing more about in the coming year. The Foundation is seeking to raise awareness of the role of estate planning in charitable giving. And estate planning is not just for retirees. Even young families should plan for the future and consider whether they can use estate planning to help the organizations they already volunteer for and support.

CJHS would not be able to operate without the generosity of those who remembered the Society in their estates. If you'd like more information on the Society's

involvement in the Foundation's Create a Jewish Legacy program, please contact the CJHS office.



Legacy 2010 Update

Legacy 2010 opens in less than 100 days! It's hard to believe but it is almost time to present the largest exhibit ever undertaken by CJHS. April 12 is the opening night for the two Legacy exhibits, the CJHS produced "170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio" and the traveling exhibit "From the Mountains to the Prairie: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America". The CJHS portions will focus on the early years of Jewish settlement in our area from 1840-1910. If you have any information, photos or artifacts from that period please let us know and become a part of the exhibit!

Artifacts and photos are being loaned or donated by community members. We are busy cataloging everything and determining the placement in the exhibit. Our panels which document the beginnings of the Jewish presence in Central Ohio from 1840-1900 are coming together rapidly.

Since the last newsletter we have added another lecture. "Discovering Ohio's Jewish Communities" will be presented by Prof. Lee Shai Weissbach of the University of Louisville on April 26. Prof. Weissbach will discuss the settlement of various towns both large and small throughout the state as well as their fates. This lecture is brought to Legacy 2010 by the OSU Melton Center. We hope you will be able to join us for this talk.

Thanks also to the Melton Center at OSU for setting up an internship program. We now have five wonderful interns working on artifact identification and dating, children's

programming, digital stories and various research topics. These students are a tremendous help and the Melton Center would like to continue this as a regular opportunity.

Our fundraising efforts have come along nicely but we could still use your help. A donation of \$1,000 will purchase an exhibit panel, but we will also be thrilled with smaller donations! Contact us for further information.

Mark your calendars for Legacy 2010 from April 12 to June 4. There is a detailed calendar on the back of this newsletter. Be sure to check on the progress via the website or Facebook. We will keep updating both as events unfold. See you soon!

Archives News

The archives staff has been busy reviewing the collection for materials pertinent to Legacy 2010. We have found photographs and references to old Columbus families that will be used to develop our exhibit panels. People who are donating items and photographs for use with the project are permitting us to scan the photos for our archives. While we won't have the originals we will have the historical images for access by future generations.

Scanning is becoming a big part of the archives and will become an even bigger part when we have completed Legacy 2010. We are running out of room and the digitization of the materials is our only current solution.

We were invited to place an exhibit at the Columbus Historical Society in December. We developed a small exhibit of early Jewish grocery stores.

The exhibit will be on display through mid-February. Exhibits advertising Legacy 2010 are being put up in our display cases at the Jewish Community Center and Agudas Achim.

Oral History Committee News

Members of the Oral History Committee continue to interview people in the Columbus Jewish community who have contributed to our fascinating narrative. Each story is unique and contributes to creating the larger historical picture. Honey Abramson, our main transcriber, has identified names of residents of Creekside and Wexner Heritage Village that we will begin setting up schedules to interview. Please contact Helena Schlam at 267-9516 or e-mail her at helenaschlam@aol.com if you would like to work on this initiative.

The Oral History Committee is also beginning to work on "Our Story Corps" project for Legacy 2010. We will be modeling ourselves after the NPR radio program, but with a new twist. We will be encouraging people to bring in a Jewish family treasure and share its story in a short five-minute recording for the Historical Society. Please begin thinking about what special item you might have that would add a personal "snapshot story" to our archives from your family lore. For example, Judy Oppenheimer and her sister Margie Hollander have silver candlesticks and an embroidered Matza Cover that were brought over from Russia by their family at the end of the 19th century. We have arranged with Torah Academy's Film/Video Class to make a short video of their fascinating stories for us to use as a promotional teaser for Legacy 2010.

We hope you will let us know about the stories of family memorabilia that you can contribute to "Our Story Corps."

CJHS is now on Facebook!

Become a Facebook Fan

Click the link on our home page:

<http://www.columbusjewishhistoricalsociety.org>



THE COLUMBUS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Genealogy Update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we several members of the genealogy steering committee have been working to help make the Legacy Exhibit a success. For myself, that work has included stepping up my ongoing efforts to interest more of my relatives in the genealogy and history of the Gurevitz family in Columbus and beyond.

That work is a wonderful example of how family history and the history of any community become interwoven. Members of the Gurevitz family began immigrating to Columbus from the Borisov region of Minsk gubernia in the early 20th century, and for a long time, the Gurevitz family in Columbus was very large. My great-great uncle Herschel Gurevitz was one of the earliest members of the family to settle in Columbus. A photo of him and his children and grandchildren is included in *Jews and Judaism in a Midwestern Community: Columbus, Ohio, 1840-1975*, written by Professor Marc Lee Raphael, then of the Ohio State University in Columbus.

After having succumbed to curiosity about social networking websites, I finally accepted an invitation to become someone's friend on Facebook. Then I decided to use it to locate additional relatives and expand my contacts with additional Gurevitz family relatives, some of whom were children of relatives in my own generation. In fact, many of the last names in addition to Gurevitz names were already in my database. About the same time, I decided to get some of these relatives more interested in the Gurevitz family history by inviting their involvement in the Legacy Exhibit.

The responses to my overtures have been heartwarming. First, several "next generation" Gurevitz family Facebook contacts

forwarded the information on the Legacy Exhibit to their parents, and vice versa, generating donations sufficient to sponsor both a panel and one digital story for Legacy – so far. Second, relatives have contributed information about their individual families for the genealogy database and have asked for more information on the family. Last and best of all, a few clusters of relatives who live outside of Columbus want to visit Columbus during the Legacy Exhibit and to have one or more Gurevitz family mini-reunions!

For additional information about the Legacy Exhibit, please refer to the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Membership Update

New Members since 9/01/09

Judy Korn Oppenheimer

New Patrons since 9/01/09

Dr. & Mrs. Mark Hollander

Donations since 9/01/09

In Memory of Helena Schlam's mother
by Renee Levine

In Honor of Jerome and Marjorie Gross
by Steve and Georgianna Soltis

In Honor of Marti Goorey's 75th birthday
by Jodi Rogoff and Michael Rogoff

In Memory of Ben Mandelkorn
by Cynthia Hurley

In Memory of Evelyn Nyman
by Cynthia Hurley

In Memory of Eleanor Yenkin
by Cynthia Hurley

Welcome New Benefactors

Beatrice and Alan Weiler

In Memoriam

Bea Cohen
Leah Corcoran
Irvin Dworkin
Herbert Grossman
Cyril Rich
Harry Topolosky
Ben Seiferas
Mike Young

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*Legacy 2010: 170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio
Calendar*

April 12 (Mon) 7:00- 9:00 PM Opening Night Talk and Reception

April 13 (Tues) 12:00- 2:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi Horowitz

Founder of American Jewish Legacy

April 26 (Mon) Lecture by Prof. Lee Shai Weissbach

“Discovering Ohio’s Jewish Communities”

May 1 (Sat) 8:00 PM Opening of Gallery Players Production of *The Immigrant*

runs through May 16

May 5 (Wed) 7:00 PM Sewn Together: American Jews and the Garment Industry

Gabriel Goldstein Lecture

May 11 (Tues) 6:00 PM "Food, Glorious Food": Deli Dinner and a Concert

7:30 PM concert begins

May 16 (Sun) 1:00 PM *The Immigrant* pre-play lunch

2:30 PM *The Immigrant* Talk Back panel following the play

May 19-20 Shavuot; JCC closed

May 23 (Sun) Children’s Day at JCC

May 23 (Sun) 5:30 PM *Frisco Kid* Dinner and a movie

7:00- 9:15 PM Movie with introduction by Prof. Matt Goldish

May 31 (Mon) Memorial Day Lecture and Program to Mark Exhibit’s Final Week

2:00 PM Michael Meckler, “History of the Bagel in Columbus”

June 4 (Fri) Exhibit Closes

Office Hours

The Society’s offices are open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. The archives are also available Tuesdays through Thursdays BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. If you need to visit the archives, please contact the Society by telephone or e-mail to make arrangements.

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