

# HAPPENINGS

## *Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, Inc.*

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Winter 2017–5777  
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*Located on the Campus of Southern Connecticut State University, 270 Fitch Street, New Haven*

### Forbes Named JHS President

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven has elected Robert Pierce Forbes as its new president. Forbes succeeds Albert Harary, who had served as president *for* the last three years.

Forbes has lived in New Haven since 1987, when he came to *pursue* a Ph.D. at Yale *University*. He and his wife, Joanne Foodim, M.D., have been members of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for more than 20 years. Their children, Rachel, 26, and David, 25, are graduates of Ezra Academy.

Forbes has taught history at the University of Connecticut, Wesleyan, Rutgers, and *Yale*, and served as the founding associate *director* of Yale's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition *from* 1998 to 2006. He specializes in U.S. history *from* the Revolution to the Civil *War*, focusing on the impact of slavery on the *development* of American institutions.

Forbes is the author of “The Missouri Compromise and it’s aftermath: Slavery and the Meaning of America,” and his most recent published *work* is “We Here Highly Resolve: The End of Compromise and the return of Revolutionary Time,” in the anthology “Conceived in Liberty: Perspectives on Lincoln at Gettysburg.”



Forbes's first *priority* as president of the Jewish Historical Society is to build membership. In this 40<sup>th</sup> *anniversary* year, he has pledged to enroll 40 new members under 40 years old.

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### Recent Happenings

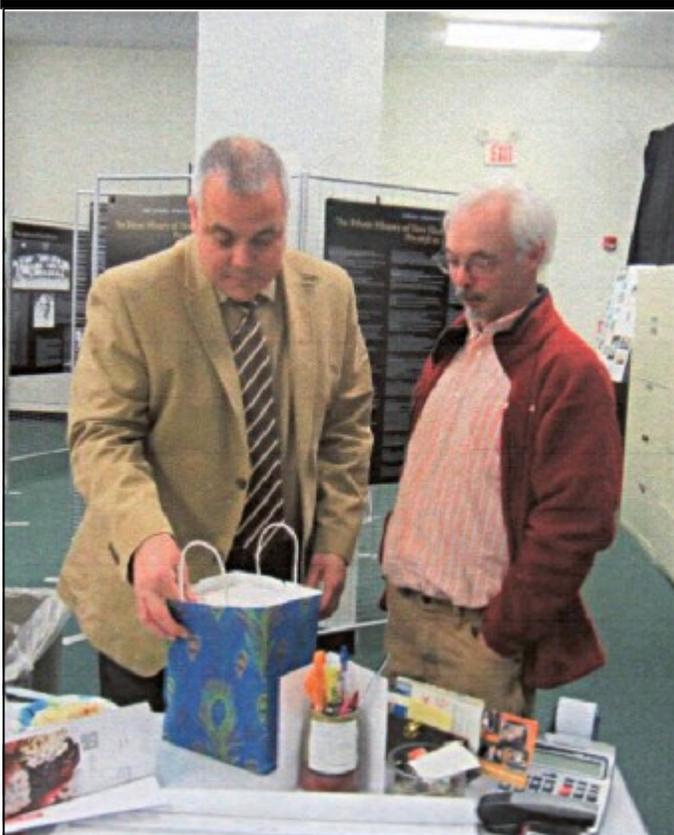
On Thursday, **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**, The Jewish Historical Society partnered with the JCC in sponsoring, during Jewish Book Month, a review of “The Inventor’s Dilemma”, a biography written by David Gerber on the life of his Father, H. Joseph Gerber, detailing his brilliant career as inventor and business magnate.

In 1940, Joseph and his Mother escaped Nazi Austria immigrating to the United States, (his Father perished in the Holocaust). He enrolled at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and while learning English and holding down a part and fulltime jobs, was able to devise and later patent

the Gerber Variable Scale called the greatest engineering tool since the slide ruler.

He went on to pioneer important developments in an amazing range of industries –from computer aided design (CAD), apparel (Gerber Cutter) for cutting tall stacks of cloth accurately and quickly, shoe making, printing, and the evolution of his company to a global supplier of intelligent manufacturing systems. In his early invention of the Gerber Scale he made use of a

*(Continued on page 3)*



Jewish Historical Society President Rob Forbes presenting Connecticut State University President Joe Bertolino with our complete set of books “Jews in New Haven”

## Meet the President

On Monday night, November 7<sup>th</sup>, the new President of Southern Connecticut State University, Dr. Joseph Bertolino paid a visit to the Ethnic Heritage Center.

On hand to welcome him were the Board Members and Representatives from the five Ethnic Groups which make up the Ethnic Heritage Center. Representing the Jewish Historical Society were Dr. Robert Forbes, President, past Presidents Rhoda Samuel and Albert Harary with Marvin Bargar the Archivist.

Valerie Bertrand gave a history of the Ethnic Center and a listing of the past exhibits. She spoke of future plans and President Bertolino said he would try to help us with our future plans.

Excellent Italian deserts were served by Laura Parisi, President of the Italian Historical Society and the Italian-American Historical Society Members as a warm welcoming to Dr. Bertolino.

Southern Connecticut State University President Joe Bertolino with Jewish Historical Society past Presidents Albert Harary and Rhoda Samuel



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## Marian has Retired

Marian Ottaviano, the longtime Administrative Assistant, Office Manager and Chief Cook and Bottle Washer of 20 years at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven has retired.

Marian started her career after her retirement from Bayer in 1996 when the Society had its offices in the Jewish Home for Aged located on Davenport Avenue. It is here that Marian had her training by Miriam Schwartz for the position which held many caps. Miriam Schwartz, herself, was an original founder of the Society which began in 1976 by Harvey N. Ladin.

The Society was growing and needed more space to continue with its development as a world-wide recognized historical society. It expanded on to the campus of Southern Connecticut State University at the request of the late President Michael Adanti. The first location was on Wintergreen Avenue in the Wintergreen Building and then it relocated again to its present location at 270 Fitch Street in the Ethnic Heritage Center. The Ethnic Heritage Center is also the home for the Irish Historical Society, The Italian



Historical Society, the African-American Historical and the Ukrainian Historical Society.

Life being what it is, Marian was the “everywoman” as the job required her to be. She was a steady presence while answering the phones, welcoming guests into the Center, maintaining the everyday and legal correspondence, doing the accounting required for this operation and assisting in the planning of the various events held by the Society. To add more to her plate, Marian was the Editor of the Jewish Historical Society newsletter “Happenings”.

She has many friends and is admired by those who know her very well. In that vein of thought, Marian has all the time now to pursue her hearts’ desire for many more years to come. Marian loves to bicycle and to hike. Her other entertainment is attending plays, musicals, lectures, and movies and she is an avid reader of many varieties of literature. Marian is always busy and she likes it that way.

So in due course, we all wish Marian the **very** best because she is the best of the best.

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*(Continued Recent Happenings from page 1)*

piece of elastic from the waistband of a pair of pajamas – those pajamas, a present from his father.

A lively question and answer period followed the talk and the book is very worthwhile reading. The book can be borrowed from the JHS Library.

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At Congregation Beth-el Keser Israel, on **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, The Jewish Historical Society of New Haven and the BEKI Sisterhood co-sponsored a talk by Dr. Joshua Sandman, Professor of Political Science, at the University of New Haven. Dr. Sandman’s talk was titled “Analyzing the 2016 Presidential Election”.

Although Dr. Sandman and his wife voted for Clinton, he felt that Trump would win the election.

Trump spoke about jobs that had been exported off-shore and the need to bring jobs back to America. This is what people in the battleground states (Ohio, Mich, Pa, NC) wanted to hear. These are that states that Clinton lost.

Clinton thought that Trump was so obnoxious that no one would vote for him. Dr. Sandman also explained that the Democratic Party had gone away from the workingman and the middle class over the last 50 years. There were independent candidates, many Millennials, college educated people and African-Americans who did not bother to vote that siphoned off votes from Clinton.

Dr. Sandman handed out a reading list that named books that told about the U.S. political system over the past 50 years. It was a very enthusiastic audience that enjoyed Dr. Sandman’s talk.

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Donations**

Jews in New Haven Vol X  
By Barry & Hyla Vine

Archives - (Grand Avenue)  
By Mr. Al Proto

**New Membership**

Nancy Feldman  
(Life Time Member)

**Ladin Archives**

Goldie Taub  
Joel Wasserman  
Norman Waaks  
James Salato

**Special Birthdays**

Elizabeth Brochin  
By James Salato

Anita Beloff  
By Marvin & Mitzi Bargar

**Speedy Recovery**

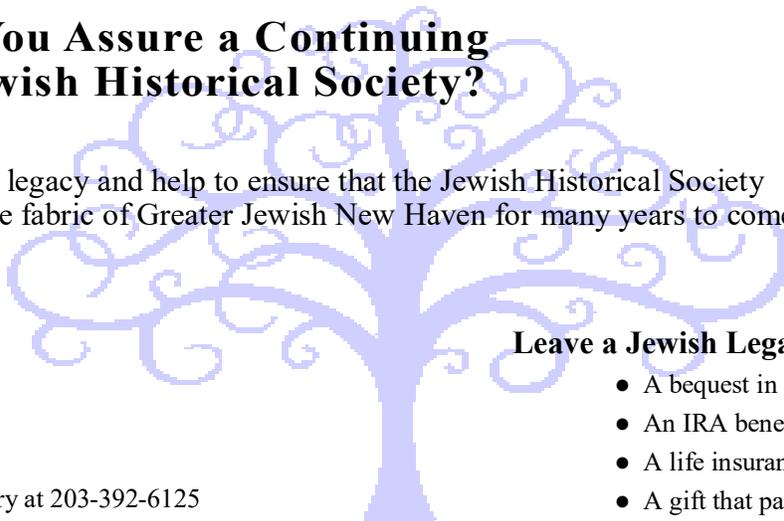
Susan Honeyman  
By Albert Harary

**~ ~ In Memory of Barry Herman ~ ~**

David Fischer	Werner Hirsch
Sally & Arthur Horwitz	Phyllis Medvedow
Stuart & Joan Margolis	Harold Miller
Lydia Rutkowski	Robert Schreck

**How Will You Assure a Continuing  
Vibrant Jewish Historical Society?**

Commit to leave a legacy and help to ensure that the Jewish Historical Society will be a part of the fabric of Greater Jewish New Haven for many years to come.



Contact Albert Harary at 203-392-6125

**Leave a Jewish Legacy for JHS with...**

- A bequest in your will
- An IRA beneficiary designation
- A life insurance policy
- A gift that pays an income for life

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***The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven  
Invites Friends and Family to JOIN NOW...WHY?***

**Help Preserve** the rich history, culture, and traditions of  
Greater New Haven's Jewish Community.

**Enjoy** year-round programs of cultural and social activities.

**Catch Up** with old friends and meet new ones.

**NEW Membership Application**

Individual      \$36

Family            \$54

Life                \$250

Life Family      \$350

Legacy Heritage Circle - (call the office for details)

**Membership will be valid until June 2017!**

**Please Support**

**The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven  
and Consider Donating to JHS Funds**

- |                                                                   |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey & Eleanor Ladin Memorial Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Arthur Chiel |
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*Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible within the Provisions of Federal Tax Laws.*

Checks payable to:      Jewish Historical Society,  
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***Thank you***



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## The Jewish Historical Society Board of Directors Social Gathering

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Board Member Phyllis Medvedow opened her home in Milford for the Annual Summer Social Gathering of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society. Each Board Member brought a mouthwatering entrée, so consequently, there was food aplenty. The mood was light with pleasant conversation and there was even a round of joke-telling to add to the merriment.

The only business which was discussed was toward the end of the evening. It was given by the new Society President Dr. Robert Forbes. He spoke about his proposals and strategies for a brighter future concerning the Society. His vision is not only to keep our organization active with different events and projects but to especially keep it increasing with new and talented members.

As the evening came to a close, everyone left with a good feeling regarding those plans and attainable expectations involving the Society's future. Therefore, in closing, all guests with a full tummy and clutching a "Doggie Bag", deemed the gathering a great success!

### ***New Mystery Photo - Who is this man?***

Answer in the next Happenings issue.

Can't wait, or if you know, call 203-392-6125 with your answer.

First caller to correctly identify this picture will receive a complimentary copy of *Jews in New Haven, Volume IX*.



Answer to last issue's *Mystery Photo*: **Harry Berman**