

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delaware Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware Form Strategic Partnership to Create Center for Jewish History on North Market Street

Wilmington, DE – Dr. David W. Young, Executive Director of the Delaware Historical Society (DHS), Dr. Gerald Resnick, and Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher, Co-Presidents of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) and leaders from both organizations met on Sunday to launch a transformational endeavor that will bring the collection of the JHSD to its own building and for the first time provide a dedicated space for researchers to meet and study.

The *Campaign for the Coxe House* will fund renovations to a historic building in order to make it suitable to store important objects and archival material. A three-story brick building located on Market Street within Willingtown Square, the Coxe House was completed in 1801 by Thomas Coxe as housing for his daughters. The houses were located originally on East Sixth Street and were moved to Market Street in 1976. Both historical societies are collaborating on the *Campaign for the Coxe House* to raise the funds to move this initiative forward.

For 45 years, the JHSD has been collecting and preserving the stories of the Jewish community, creating a collective legacy for future generations. Thanks to a longstanding partnership with DHS, JHSD, with the assistance of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is building on that legacy by increasing physical access to the collections and transforming the Coxe House into a proactive center for education on Jewish heritage in Delaware and the nation.

“One of our primary goals is to bring the multifaceted history of the Jewish community in Delaware to the attention of more people and encourage researchers and community members to use and help build our archives. The Coxe House will provide ample space for an office and a reading room for researchers and group discussions.” said attorney Howard G. Kristol, a trustee who sits on the boards of both DHS and JHSD.

Mrs. Toni Young, former president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and author of *Becoming American, Remaining Jewish: The Story of Wilmington; Delaware's First Jewish Community, 1879-1924* is the Honorary Chair of the Campaign. To support the Campaign for the Coxe House, you may make a donation online at coxehouse.org.

About the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

Since its founding in 1974 the Jewish Historical Society has strived to fulfill its purpose of acquiring, preserving, and publishing material pertaining to the history of Jewish settlement and Jewish life in the State of Delaware.

Jews have lived in Delaware from the earliest days of Dutch settlement in the 17-century, but Jewish life did not begin to flourish until the second half of the 19th-century. Delaware was the last of the original 13 states to have an organized Jewish community. With the establishment in 1879 of the first Jewish organization, the Moses Montefiore Society, Jewish life began to take on

a more permanent and established nature and evolved into our present-day community. The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware has documented this history and, with the necessary support, will do so for years to come. For more information call (302) 655-6232, email jhsdel@yahoo.com, or visit jhds.org.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society (DHS) is a nonprofit organization that preserves, promotes, and shares Delaware's history in a welcoming environment to educate, inspire, and empower people and communities. DHS owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit dehistory.org.

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