JHSUM

Year in Review 2005-2006

HIS STORY. HER STORY. OUR STORY. YOUR STORY.
Our new tag line—His Story. Her Story. Our Story. Your Story—speaks clearly to what we do. JHSUM captures stories that make up our collective Jewish Midwest history. This year our storytelling and collecting took us out into the field, the classroom and lecture hall, and up to the threshold of our digital future.

Collaborations were the cornerstone of this year’s activities. We helped students and teachers from the Minneapolis Talmud Torah and St. Paul’s Beth Jacob synagogue put their “hands on” history this spring during visits to Jewish cemeteries. Students made rubbings from eroding headstones and recorded information that will be entered in an international Jewish cemetery information database. The St. Paul portion of the project was supported by a grant from the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul.

We continued our successful partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society with A Minnesota Testimony: Historians, Artists and Survivors Discuss the Holocaust. MHS asked us to help create Minnesota-themed programs to augment two exhibits from the United States Holocaust Museum. We worked with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Center for Holocaust Studies to jointly plan and deliver a six-part lecture series.

We also made important progress preparing our archives to be more fully Web accessible. Staff members attended intensive trainings at the University of Minnesota and at the National Archives in Washington, DC, on digital archive standards and collection processing. The skills acquired will enable us to begin putting our finding aids, photos and documents onto the Web.

Other notable events, programs and exhibits included:

- The on-going and highly successful collaboration with The Friends of B’nai Abraham Synagogue, a statewide group of volunteers overseeing the acquisition and creative use of an historic Iron Range synagogue.
- Photography exhibits and special programs with the Sheltering Home Chronicles, a project which explores the historical and current plight of homeless youth using the lens of the former Jewish Sheltering Home for Children (currently Avenues for Homeless Youth) on the North Side of Minneapolis.
- Our World War II oral history project, documenting the experiences of Jewish soldiers in WWII.
- Workshops on genealogy and planning family oral history projects.
- Completion of an informative and engaging K-12 curriculum project focusing on Midwest Jewish history, portions of which debuted during “History Hijinks” week at the Sabes JCC summer camp. We are grateful to Eloise and Elliot Kaplan for funding this initiative.
- A highly acclaimed Mt. Zion congregational bicycle tour of historically Jewish sites in St. Paul with commentary by Director of Collections, Exhibits and Publications Linda Schloff.
- Research assistance to staff visiting from the Texas History Museum on Jewish immigrants who entered the United States via the port of Galveston, Texas before settling in the Midwest.
- The 150 Years of Chutzpah Contest, in which members of the community identified the Minnesota Jews who have made significant contributions locally and nationally over the state’s 150 year history.

Our outreach, programs, and fundraising efforts have been exceptionally effective this year. In the coming year, we turn our energy and vision towards placing a portion of our collection on the Web, completing our WWII research and publication, and re-releasing on DVD our sell-out video, We Knew Who We Were: Memories of the Minneapolis Jewish North Side. We thank our members, board members and volunteers for making this year at JHSUM a story worth sharing.

Katherine Tane, Executive Director
Linda Schloff, Director of Collections, Exhibits and Publications
Susan Hoffman, Archivist
Julie Tarshish, Membership Coordinator

JHSUM MISSION

The purpose of the Society is to promote the vitality and continuity of Jewish culture in the Upper Midwest through preservation, interpretation and education.
THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS

JHSUM is grateful to those who have established endowments, created named funds, and provided grants. Their gifts make it possible to collect and share regional Jewish history.

JHSUM Named Funds
Elmer L. and Eleanor Andersen Publications Fund
Bank Family Fund
Nathan and Theresa Berman Publications Fund
Harvey and Marilyn Chiat Oral History Fund
Dena Dworsky Fund
Friends of B’nai Abraham Synagogue Restoration Fund
Phyllis and Daniel Heilicher Made in Minnesota Fund
Jewish Historical Society Exhibits and Programming Fund
Jewish Sheltering Home for Children Chronicles Fund
Eloise and Elliot Kaplan 350th Anniversary Curriculum Fund
Dutch and Naomi Berman Kastenbaum Oral History Fund
Latz Political Archive Fund
Northside Projects Fund
Numero Steinfeldt Foundation Fund

Dr. Milton and Etta Fay Orkin Videography Fund
Silberman Family Exhibits Fund
Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Family Photography Fund
Helen and Leo Wolk Special Projects Fund

Jewish Historical Society Endowment Funds
Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives Endowment
Dr. Moses and Bernice Cowl Gordon Journal Publication Endowment Fund
Jewish Historical Society Life Members Endowment Fund
Jewish Historical Society L’DOR VA’DOR Endowment Fund

United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul Grants
Archivist Training
Twin Cities Cemetery Project
World War II Jewish Soviet Soldiers Oral History Project

JHSUM operates with a balanced budget. Our programs and fundraising efforts have all reached new heights this year, and the charts above highlight our major sources of revenue and expenses. We continue to look for additional sources of funding to ensure that the stories of our vibrant Upper Midwest Jewish community are preserved and retold.

The JHSUM is a beneficiary of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGH AN ENDOWMENT OR NAMED FUND. PLEASE CONTACT KATHERINE TANE AT 952-381-3363 OR KTANE@JHSUM.ORG TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.