The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) recently introduced an ambitious project to document and publicize the role of Jews in the Upper Midwest’s scrap business. Scrap, consisting of barrels, boxes, bottles, cartons, used tires, rags and, of course metals were collected from farms and city alleys by the “Jew Junk Peddler” and then resold or re-purposed. Jews dominated the business in most areas of the country for over a century.

During this project members of the JHSUM combed archival deposits for accounts and photos, trolled the internet, interviewed people in the state, and collected artifacts.

Continued on page 6
A Big Year:
We had a busy year culminating in the creation of our 7th Journal “Jewish Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest” edited by Linda Mack Schloff, and the creation of our Exhibit “Scrap Stories – Peddlers to Processors,” overseen by Myrna Orensten.

After 18 months of hard work, this fascinating story of Jewish immigration, integration, survival and ultimate success really came alive. The exhibit started at the Minneapolis JCC, moved to the St. Paul JCC and now partially resides at Sholom East. We hope to continue to work with the digital images, video and interviews to recreate the exhibit online so it can live on.

Looking Forward:
We have hired a new Executive Director to help create more programing and help more organizations preserve their history. This position is funded for several years through the generosity of Sharon Steinfeldt and the Steinfeldt Foundation. Our five year plan includes a new office, new focus on education & interpretation, and hopefully additional exhibits and displays throughout the community.

We still need your help!
As we shift our goals and aspiration, we need your help to make this vision become a reality. Our members are our lifeblood to the community. They remind us that we need to celebrate our History in order to keep future generations engaged and proud to be a part of this great community. Your continued support is what keeps us going. Please join us in realizing our mission! Keep our History Alive.

Welcome to our new Executive Director:
We are ready to move history forward

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is pleased to announce the selection of Robin Doroshow as its new executive director. The selection was made after an exhaustive search and selection process.

“We are confident that she is the best candidate to lead our next phase at JHSUM. She is dedicated to our mission of promoting the vitality and continuity of Jewish life through the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the Jewish cultural experience in the Upper Midwest,” Jamie Heilicher, Board President.

Doroshow brings a wealth of experience which will serve her in this new role. Robin earned a BA in Psychology and Judaic Studies from the University of Minnesota. She went on to earn her JD from William Mitchell College of Law – then continued her academic advancement by completing coursework at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Harvard Law School and Georgetown University. Doroshow has worked in a variety of capacities including Development Director at Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis and in private practice of law with Shulman, Gainsley and Walcott, PA and Doroshow and LeBow, PLLP. Since 2012, she’s had a number of pieces published in The American Jewish World, The Forward, The Daily Planet, and TC Jewfolk.

Originally from St. Paul, MN, Doroshow lives in Golden Valley with her husband, Rich Kronfeld, and two kids, Theo Kronfeld (14) and Raina Kronfeld (13) and dog, Ginger. In her spare time Robin enjoys reading, traveling, meditation, genealogy and spending time with family and friends.

“…[Robin] is dedicated to our mission of promoting the vitality and continuity of Jewish life through the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the Jewish cultural experience in the Upper Midwest,” Jamie Heilicher

Robin J. Doroshow
Executive Director
Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest
On October 17th a University of Minnesota Libraries exhibit featuring materials from the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives opened in our exhibit gallery on the first floor of Andersen Library. The lure of land and a new, prosperous life brought many immigrants to the far reaches of the Upper Midwest territories. This exhibit explores not only the universal perils of frontier homesteading, but the challenges of doing so as a religious and cultural minority, which ultimately shaped the successes and failures of these Jewish pioneers.

The exhibit runs through January 27, 2017 and can be viewed at the Elmer L. Andersen Library building. For more information on the archives, please visit our website at lib.umn.edu/umja or contact Archivist, Kate Dietrick at 612-625-0192.

Exhibit runs through January 27, 2017...

Don’t miss it!

Elmer L. Andersen Library
Gallery and Atrium
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S,
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Hours:
8:30 am - 4:30pm
Monday, Tuesday & Friday,
8:30am - 7pm
Wednesday & Thursday.

Directions:
www.lib.umn.edu/pdf/
AndersenDriving.pdf
Ever since JHSUM donated the archives to the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota, we have been busy! Our collections continue to grow thanks to donors from around the country and more and more researchers come to view our collections, now more accessible than ever.

Highlight on collections:

Rabbi Bernard Raskas papers
This collection of 40 boxes has recently been reorganized and inventoried for better findability by our researchers and consists of the professional papers of Rabbi Raskas during his tenure at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul. Filled with correspondence, sermons, and teaching documents, the collection is rich with interesting materials.

Highlights include:
- the sermon Rabbi Raskas gave after the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King,
- a three-page “letter to the future” written in 1976 to be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 1996 detailing what the writer thought life at Temple of Aaron would be like in future; and
- the various correspondence Rabbi Raskas had during Walter Mondale’s term as Vice President as well as Mondale’s run and eventual defeat for presidency in 1984.

For more information on this collection, visit z.umn.edu/raskas.

To help continue the support the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries, consider a financial donation: z.umn.edu/umjagive.”

A few new acquisitions we’ve received in the past year include:

- St. Paul JCC -- further additions to their materials, growing the collection to well over 60 boxes; now the collection includes materials regarding the St. Paul JCC Symphony, the oldest classical music community ensemble in the country.
- Talmud Torah of St. Paul -- administrative files and scrapbooks, but mostly thousands of photographs, dating from the 1960s to the present.

Quick stats:

53 researchers came to our reading room to research using Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in the past year.

Some of the places where researchers came from:
- Northern California
- Upstate New York
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Creighton University
- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- Saint Thomas University
- and more.

What they have been researching:
- Synagogues (Gedaliah Leib Congregation, Mount Zion Temple);
- the St. Paul Jewish Community Center symphony;
- North and South Dakota Jewish settlers and the Industrial Removal Office;
- St. Paul Jewish newsboys;
- the history of Hillel at the University of Minnesota;
- Upper Midwest Holocaust survivors; scrap businesses;
- Iron Range Jews

Kate Deitrick, Archivist, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives
Synagogues in Minnesota
In 1856, a group of German Jews established the first synagogue in St. Paul, two years before Minnesota would receive statehood. As the population of Minnesota grew, more Jewish families immigrated to the Upper Midwest and established places of worship. These synagogues changed locations often, opened and closed, merged and broke away. This project aims to map the locations of synagogues and their corresponding cemeteries throughout Minnesota. To explore this map, visit z.umn.edu/synagoguemap.

If you see something that is incorrect or needs an update, please let us know.

Near Northside Minneapolis Map
This map, created circa 1960 by Clarence Miller in partnership with the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, is part of the collection of the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota. The map illustrates an area of North Minneapolis, where many Jewish immigrant families lived, as it was during the 1920s. In this project we are attempting to pin information found online-from photos to oral histories -to locations illustrated on the map in order to better understand a neighborhood that has passed into memory. To explore this map, visit z.umn.edu/umjamap.

Temple Israel -- four ledger books documenting the early years of the congregation -- two from the Montefiore Cemetery Association, dating between 1884 and 1952, and two of Shaarai Tov (as Temple Israel was then known) from 1893 to 1923. Due to generous funds from Temple Israel, we were also able to digitize the four books in their entirety -- they can all be viewed at http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/taxonomy/term/911.
Peddlers to Processors: Scrap Stories

Continued from page 1

The Society also sponsored public programs consisting of round table discussions by people who have or had worked in the business. Finally, I interviewed a select number of people for their stories. We wish we could have interviewed many more, but time and money constraints prevented this.

I edited the Spring 2016 issue of the Society’s journal. Titled Jewish Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest, the journal charts the rise of what was called the “Jew Junk Peddler,” first to a valuable ally collecting needed scrap materials during the Second World War and then to being on the front lines of the Green Revolution. It makes for great reading, and who knows, you may find your own family story there. Issues are still available by contacting Julie Tarshish, JTarshish@jhsum.org or ordering online at www.jhsum.org

Board member Myrna Orensten, a graphic design artist whose family has been in the scrap business for four generations not only created a stunning exhibit, she helped with research. The exhibit was shown in its entirety this last spring at the Sabes JCC. Portions of it have traveled to the St. Paul JCC and Sholom East.

The oral histories and printed materials collected will be stored at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, located at the University of Minnesota. The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is the only organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the valuable history of Jews in this region of the country and making it available to scholars, students, and future generations of Jews. Thank you for your continued support in this valuable undertaking.
“The exhibit, Peddlers to Processors: Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest was a visual wonderland, filled showcasing the incredible living history of local families who miraculously turned scraps into sustaining and thriving livelihoods. This incredible exhibit and informative related events brought the community together through shared stories, memories, & revived history.”

Robyn Awend
Director of Visual Arts
Tychman Shapiro Gallery
Sabes Jewish Community Center

The Scrap Stories initiative is partially funded by the Eloise & Elliot Kaplan Foundation and Sharon & Oren Steinfeldt Family Foundation

Historical photos, articles & additional elements provided by:
- The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest
- MN Historical Society
- www.Garon.us - Allan Garon and Karen Entous
- UMD Kathryn A. Martin Library
- H.S. Kaplan Peddler Cart, Brass & Scrap – Kaplan Family
- ISRI - Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- individuals and families, historical newspapers, Library of Congress, Google, company websites, local Historical Societies, Ancestry.com, Government agencies and other resources.

If you have a story, photos, articles to share please contact JHSUM.org, history@jhsum.org - 952-381-3360

From the Pale to the Midwest - many Jewish immigrants started in scrap.
The journey of researching scrap became a labor of love, discovery and personal transformation — with a newly found appreciation for history, immigrant life and real American dreams.

It began with a simple question at a JHSUM board meeting at the end of 2013... “what history project should we do next?” I piped up with a comment about exploring ‘Jews in the scrap business’ because it seemed that everyone in the business was Jewish whether from small towns, or big cities... they all seemed related and interconnected.

Once I began researching; finding incredible documents, peddlers lists going back to the 1800s and speaking with scrap people... the topics multiplied and discoveries kept amazing me!

Growing up in the 60s-70s, I met many other Jewish kids at Herzl Camp and USY whose family had also been in the scrap business for generations. Yet I had not thought deeply of how they (my grandfather included) started in this field, why so many were related and what they had to go through, to emmigrate, learn the language, to succeed in this country, build their businesses, communities and keep their traditions.

Nor did I think much about where they came from and understand the challenges they faced let alone grasp the real impact... [environmentally - globally] and value of the industry they built. This experience opened my eyes and blew my mind. So many more topics, stories and questions have piqued my curiosity (especially with the ‘immigration’ topics today) and hunger to continue to learn and share the stories so they are not lost.

Please know it is not too late to share your stories and participate in JHSUM’s Scrap Stories.

Let us know if you have a Jewish history project you want to explore in the Upper Midwest.

by Myrna Orensten
From Novelized Diary to an Illustrated Family History...

David Blumenfeld’s A Continent of Glory took place in September at the Sholom Home Shaller Campus in St. Paul. David’s great-grandson Frederick Hertz presented the amazing story of David Blumenfeld’s novelized “Diary,” with all the twists and turns on the way to its present form, its disappearance and rediscovery, the research across continents to verify its contents, and the new connections with distant relatives across the world. His talk explored the question of “truth” in understanding family history nearly a century after the Diary was written.

Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of St. Paul in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest and the MN Jewish Genealogical Society.

Susan Weinberg presented Capturing the Stories: Jewish Immigrants of the 20th Century, a presentation she gave to the IAJGS at their annual conference in Seattle held earlier this year. This presentation is based on the Jewish Identity and Legacy Project, an arts/interview project with elders within Sholom Home, a Jewish elder facility in the Twin Cities. Most of the residents interviewed were in their 90s and spanned three groups; those who grew up in early immigrant communities, those who were survivors and those who were immigrants from the former Soviet Union. These three groups represented the three strands of immigrants who came to the Twin Cities in the 1900s and explores their experience. This presentation makes use of short video clips and artwork based on stories to understand the experience of immigrants from varied backgrounds that compose Jewish communities within the United States. Through story it explores the legacy that these immigrants bring to their communities.

Online Resources

The following websites are links to help you research your connections and explore the archives or your family history.

- www.JHSUM.org
- www.lib.umn.edu/umja
- www.mhs.org
- www.placeography.org
- www.reflections.mndigital.org
- www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org
- www.ancestry.com (this is free at many libraries)
- www.jewishgen.org
- www.familysearch.org
- www.findagrave.org
- www.ellisisland.org
- www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
- www.libertyellisfoundation.org
- www.archives.gov
- www.Jewishvirtuallibrary.org
- www.uscis.gov
- www.litvaksg.org
- www.rtrfoundation.org
- www.historyapolis.com

These are just a few and the journey can be very exciting, there are also people available within the organizations who will assist in your search.
Thank you!

Ameriprise Financial
Anonymous
Howard Ansel
Julie Baum
Ralph Birnberg
In Memory of
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Allyson Brooks
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Ardis Wexler
Norma Wilensky
In Memory of
Phillip Wilensky
Frank Wilensky

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore, Send these,
the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

by Emma Lazarus, New York City, 1883
Keeping our history alive

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Leo & Helen* Wolp
Honey & Larry Zelle
The Ziskin Family

Steinfeldt Foundation History Challenge Grant
of $5,000 to raise $10,000

“I want to help make your gift go further and keep our history alive…”
Sharon Steinfeldt, Steinfeldt Foundation

The success of our ‘Scrap Stories’ initiative, discovering the common connections of our families and communities, is ready for the next phase. Now your donation will make even more impact and help us bring the history online and interactive.

Individual Funds
Silberman Operating Fund
Schloff Research Fund
Gordon Journal Fund
Steinfeldt Face the Future Fund
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Latz Political Archives Fund
Heilicher Jewish Business Fund
“I want to help make your gift go further and keep our history alive…”

Sharon Steinfeldt,
Sharon & Oren Steinfeldt Foundation

In order to fund the next phase of our ‘Scrap Stories’ project to preserve and share the robust interconnected history of immigrants Jews of the Upper Midwest and the generations who followed. The Steinfeldt Foundation has set up a Challenge Grant of $5,000 to raise $10,000.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of the Upper Midwest

Eloise and Elliot Kaplan Family Jewish History Center
Jay and Rose Phillips Building
Barry Family Campus
4330 S. Cedar Lake Road
Minneapolis, MN 55416

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