



BRINGING THE PAST FORWARD FOR 25 YEARS

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of the Upper Midwest



ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is completing our **25th year** promoting the vitality and continuity of Jewish culture in the Upper Midwest through preservation, interpretation and education. We continued our tradition of collaborating with other organizations to bring materials, programs and exhibits to a wide audience while making significant improvements to our archive facilities.

PRESERVATION

We greatly improved our Lyle Berman Archives facility at our Kaplan Family History Center. A National Endowment for the Humanities grant awarded JHSUM substantial funds to replace our entire collections shelving. We received a Minnesota Historical Society Preservation Assistance grant to purchase storage cabinetry housing our valuable Steinfeldt Photo Collection as they are digitized and retired from active handling. The Minnesota Art Conservation Center invited JHSUM to participate in a collections conservation audit, the results of which will align us with national standards for best archiving practices, further safeguarding the stories of Upper Midwest Jewish experiences for generations to come.

We enlarged our document collections with the acquisition of the personal archives of **Rabbi Moishe Sachs** including important materials on



Midwest support for Soviet Refusniks during the 1970s and 80s. It has been a very busy processing year as we completed archiving **Rabbi Stacy Offner's** papers, as well as materials from **Hillel**, the **George Kaplan Foundation** and **Hadassah**. A total of 68 donations of materials-- ranging from single pieces of paper to multiple boxes--were received in 2008-2009 and our tireless **volunteers, Judy Sherman and Marge Fink** handled each one of those items with great care. We continue to make our remarkable photo collection accessible to a wider audience through our partnership with web-based posting and sharing sites **Flickr.com** and **Minnesota Digital Library**, bringing our on-line collection to almost 600 items. Digitized documents were added for the first time

this year moving us closer to our goal of accessible collections for our audiences from anywhere in the world.

We moved forward on two important oral history projects. The **Jewish Lawyers and Judges Project** interviews were conducted by skilled volunteer **Helen Rubenstein**. We will be offering programming based on the interview findings in late spring 2010. We completed translation and transcription work on two separate collections of interviews with **Jewish residents of the former Soviet Union**, one concerning World War II veterans, the other documenting Soviet refugees who settled in the Twin Cities after the war.

We encouraged Upper Midwest Jewish organizations to establish guidelines for records retention and photo preservation and to submit them to JHSUM for safekeeping. We heard from far too many that they did not have the records to celebrate important anniversaries.

INTERPRETATION

We experienced steady use of our collections, locally and nationally. In Minneapolis and St Paul, **Sabes JCC, Jewish Family and Children's Services** and **United Jewish Fund and Council** requested materials featured in anniversary celebrations. The **Minnesota Jewish Theater Company** used the North and South Dakota collections for research and set design for *Chutzpah a Go Go*. JHSUM provided a post-production discussion on history and life in 19th century Midwestern Jewish agricultural settlements and introduced new audiences to our mission through engaging outreach programming. Photograph requests came from university and commercial presses exploring topics as diverse as Jewish food ways, **Eric Mendelsohn's** synagogue designs, and Jewish women in the post-war era.

We saw firsthand the results of our research efforts on behalf of *A Serious Man*, the latest **Coen Brothers** film, when **costume designer Mary Zophres** gave staff a special on set/behind the scenes tour of costume production trailers sporting



copies of JHSUM photos. She paid JHSUM high praise in stating that our photographs from the mid-1960s illustrating clothing and hair fashion as well as building interiors and exteriors gave the production an historically accurate look.

We continued our strong collaborative programming with three showings of *Refusnik*, a documentary on the events of the 1970s and 1980s leading to a relaxation of Soviet immigration laws targeting Russian Jews in partnership with the **Minnesota**

Jewish Film Festival. In St. Paul we worked with the West 7th Community Center to present *The Richie Boys*, a film about a group of German Jewish immigrants who formed a U.S. intelligence unit to fight the Nazis. We were at the **St Paul JCC** for the **Twin Cities Jewish Book Fair** sponsoring the author presentation for *The German Bride* and at the **Sabes JCC** co-hosting a lecture by **Jeffrey Gurock** on the relationship between the JCC movement and the rising and conflicted importance of sports in the mid-century American Jewish community.

We brought more than 40 guests to the North Side neighborhood of Minneapolis, joining with the **Minneapolis Historic Preservation Alliance**, to offer a new tour on synagogue architecture. Color-commentary was provided by former North Siders in the audience. JHSUM was generously given permanent exhibit space at the new **Shirley Chapman Sholom Home East**, which we quickly filled with a display of some of our interesting archival resources. **St Paul Talmud Torah** invited JHSUM to collaborate on curriculum using our George Kaplan materials to illustrate Jewish values.



EDUCATION

We mounted a panel discussion for 30 Introduction to Judaism students at **St Olaf College**. Panel members included David Harris of **Rimon**, Vic Rosenthal of **Jewish Community Action** and Dr. Linda Mack

Schloff, historian. Our interns, **Andrea Bergman and Siri Matra**, have provided invaluable support for transcription, database entry and archival processing activities. Their work is deeply appreciated. This year we had 138 reference requests, ranging from accounts of Jewish cattle ranchers to information on a "freedom from religion" suit filed in 1922 by a Virginia, Minnesota Jewish butcher to a search for minutes from the 1955 Rochester Minnesota B'nai Brith Chapter. Our scanning services have been widely used: we have sent 123 scans to users across the country interested in our materials.

The economic difficulties brought on earlier this year have forced many of us to face hardship and summon resilience. At the occasion of JHSUM's 25-

year anniversary, we can look to our collections for stories and images of Jewish people, families and institutions navigating hardships by building and strengthening community. We are grateful for our founders' foresight and energy for bringing these materials together as the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. Their work along with that of all of our members, supporters, collaborating partners and staff continues to keep the past at the heart of the present.

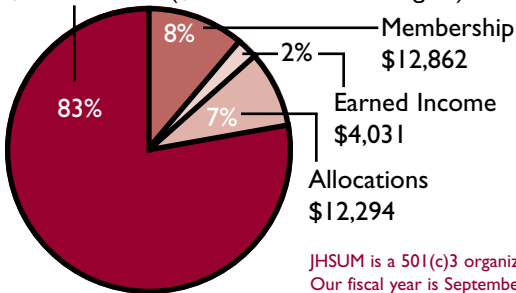
Katherine Tane *Executive Director*
 Jamie Heilicher *President*
 Susan Hoffman *Archivist*
 Julie Tarshish *Member Resources Coordinator*

Total Revenue \$169,967

Revenue does NOT include investment losses of \$9,434

Contributions

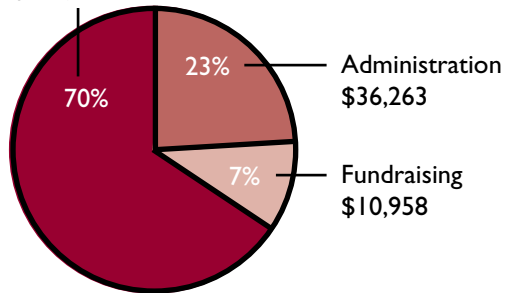
\$140,780 83% (\$54,000 in restricted gifts)



JHSUM is a 501(c)3 organization.
Our fiscal year is September through August.
This report prepared with projected year end figures.
Please refer to our form 990 for final figures. Go to www.guidestar.org

Total Expenses \$154,987

Programming (Preservation, Interpretation and Education)
\$107,766



JHSUM's President and Board of Directors are glad to put this demanding year behind them. In late fall, recognizing challenging financial circumstances, leadership took preemptive measures to safeguard JHSUM's next 25 years. Difficult but prudent decisions were made to reduce expenses and curtail programming while preserving JHSUM's ability to collect, protect and tell the stories of Jewish life ensuring that our community's history from the 1840's to the present is not forgotten. With a lot of support from members and friends JHSUM continues as one of America's best local Jewish historical societies.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS

The Jewish Historical Society is very grateful for the generosity, dedication and determination of all those who have created named funds, established endowments and provided grants. Without these generous gifts of support over the last 25 years, our work, bringing the past forward, would not be possible. Gifts can be made through cash, appreciated stock, Israel bonds, savings or retirement accounts, life insurance or bequests.

NAMED FUNDS

- Elmer L. and Eleanor Andersen Publications Fund
- Nathan and Theresa Berman Publications Fund
- Harvey and Marilyn Chiat Oral History Fund
- Annetta Lucille Gilbertstadt Membership Fund
- Phyllis and Daniel Heilicher Made in Minnesota Fund
- Dutch and Naomi Berman Kastenbaum Oral History Fund
- Latz Political Archive Fund
- Dr. Milton and Etta Fay Orkin Media and Programming Fund
- Silberman Family Exhibits Fund
- Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Family Photography Fund
- Helen and Leo Wolk Special Projects Fund

GRANTS

- National Endowment for the Humanities and Minnesota Historical Society in support of archival shelving and storage replacement

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

- Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives Fund
- Dr. Moses and Bernice Cowl Gordon Journal Publication Fund
- Dr. Linda Mack Schloff Research Award Endowment Fund
- Freda and Frank Schochet Media Fund
- Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Face the Future Matching Gift Fund
- T.W.I.G. Collections Access Fund
- Jewish Historical Society Life Member Fund
- Jewish Historical Society L'Dor Va'Dor Fund
- Jewish Historical Society Face the Future Fund

JHSUM is a partner agency of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul

For 25 years, JHSUM has been gathering and presenting the stories of the Jewish people of the Upper Midwest. Everyone is an important part of the story. The Society encourages individuals to donate personal stories, documents, photographs and artifacts to its collections. JHSUM collections are housed in two prominent locations: The Eloise and Elliot Kaplan Family Jewish History Center in Minneapolis and the Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in the Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota.



JHSUM OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009 - 2010 NOMINATION SLATE

Two-Year Term

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Deborah Slatkin
Alexander (Sasha) Rodnyansky
Joel Mirviss, *Treasurer*
Norman Pink, *V.P. of Administration*

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Barbara Frank
Lisa Heilicher, *V.P. of Finance*
Miriam Kieffer
Rabbi Jonathan Perlman

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Erwin Grossman, *V.P. of Communications*

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Bea Premack (South Dakota)
Joanne Sher (Duluth)

Friends of B'nai Abraham Rep.

Margie Ostrov

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Etta Fay Orkin
Idell Silberman*
Sharron Steinfeldt
Katherine Tane
William Wolpert

*of Blessed Memory

JHSUM LIFE MEMBERS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2009 *Life members have chosen a \$1,000 level of support.*

Carolyn Abramson+	Michael and Linda Fiterman	Stanley and Jeanne Kagin	George and Edith Nadler+	Dr. Leighton and Dianne Siegel
Kenneth and Tracey Agranoff	Miles* and Shirley Fiterman	Howard* and Zelia Kahn	Joseph A. Numero Foundation	Edward and Idell* Silberman+
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Bradley and Erica Berman	Louis and Dianne Goldenberg	Erwin and Miriam Kelen	Jeremy Pierotti and Kathryn Klibanoff	James Steinfeldt
Lyle and Janice Berman+	Norman and Judie Goldetsky	Robert and Tasya Kelen	Jon and Diane Rappaport	Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt+
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Robert Beugen	Maurice and May Goldman	Gary and Marion Klein	Robert and Audrey Rees	Jeffrey and Katherine Tane
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Philip and Jane Brooks	Dean and Marilyn Greenberg	Paul and Beverly Kunin	Thomas and Gwynn Rosen	Ruth S. Usem
Martin and Esther Capp+	Jeanne Schibel Gross	Robert* and Shirleymae Lane	Victor* and Roanne Rosenblum	Irving and Teresa Victor
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Ben* and Bernice Fiterman	Lynn and Gloria Johnson	Edith Marofsky	Susan Sell	<i>* of Blessed Memory</i>
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	Al J. and Helen* Kagin	Marshall and Marlene Miller	Edward E. Siegel* and Audra Keller	

L'DOR VA'DOR: Recalling Our Ancestors—Remembering Our Lives ENDOWMENT FUND as of August 31, 2009

Jack and Bessie (Margolis) Abrams	Harold and Annetta Lucille (Pierce) Gilberstadt	Daniel Heilicher	Rabbi Albert and Frances Minda Family+	Freda (Cohen) Schochet
Ruth Abry	Isadore and Sarah Gilberstadt	Menachem and Dora (Markus) Heilicher	Arthur Naftalin	Herman Lewis and Rebecca (Pomerantz) Schochet
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Sidney and June Barrows	Alfred and Helen (Wolk) Goldberg	Sam and Fannie (Shapiro Buble) Katz	Stanley Perlman	Fanny Shapiro+
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Carl and Yetta Chalfen	Richard "Rick" Gordon	Stuart E. Kloner	Harry and Dr. Miriam (Freund) Rosenthal+	Maurice and Mitzi Spiegel+
Shirley Dworsky	Leonard R. and Jean Feinberg Gordon	Robert S. "Bob" Lane	Mandy and Esther Ruder	Mrs. Arthur Stillman+
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Bonnie Dickerman Filerman	Leo and Lillian Gross+	Mrs. Ruth Lipschultz+	Ida Sanders+	Isadore and Minnie Swatez
Kobrin and Joseph Hyman Filerman	Leland and Mary Gottstein	David and Leone Marcus	Frank and Helen Schaffer	Alex and Mollie Tankenoff
Allen and Ruth Freidson	Mrs. Jules "Etta" Gurstel+	Joy M. Marcus	Herbert and Leah Schaffer	Dr. Benedict and Dorothy Trach & Family
	Amos and Celia Heilicher+	Judge Hiram Z. Mendow+	Louis and Dr. Lydia Schaffer	David and Mulvien Trach
				Pauline (Wilensky) and David Ziskin

L'DOR VA'DOR Endowment Funds are tax-deductible legacy gifts of \$1,000 or more held in perpetuity to honor or memorialize individuals or families. Interest earned on the principal provides a steady source of income to support JHSUM's programs and operations.