

# Generations:



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FALL 2019



## 35th anniversary celebration a resounding success

“Optimism is just as contagious as fear,” master of ceremonies Dean Phillips told the enthusiastic crowd of 450 people gathered in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University of Minnesota campus to celebrate the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest’s 35th anniversary. His words reflected the hopeful nature of the event itself—the largest JHSUM has ever done—marking a major milestone for the organization.

“There is a story to be told. *Our story.* And it happened right here.” These words were part of the opening of the historical society’s new video, and they set the stage for the event, instilling a sense of pride for local Jewish history. Interspersing historic photos with interviews of key people in JHSUM’s history, the video depicted a moving story of Jews in the Upper Midwest and how the historical society came to be.



**To view JHSUM's video, "It happened right here" visit [www.jhsum.org](http://www.jhsum.org)**

One such key person is board member Sharron Steinfeldt who reminded the audience of the importance of continuing to preserve Jewish history. "History is being made every moment in many parts of our community. Please continue to share your pictures and written materials that will tell your story." As an original founder and major donor, she was honored for her highly important contributions to the legacy of the historical society along with JHSUM's first Director of Collections, Exhibits and Publications Dr. Linda Mack Schloff, first Executive

Director Katherine Tane, and on behalf of the Theresa and Nathan Berman family, their granddaughters, Julie Berman and Jaye Snyder.

**"History is being made every moment in many parts of our community."**

It was the generosity of Theresa and Nathan Berman which led to the formation of the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives bearing their name—one of the largest collections of Jewish immigration

history in the United States. The archives are housed in the underground caverns at Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota. The formal gifting of the archives to the University in 2012 was a key moment in JHSUM's history, allowing its riches to be preserved in underground vaults for perpetuity.

JHSUM honorees and 140 other VIP attendees toured the caverns and viewed select contents from the archives prior to the gala event. This pre-gala event offered VIPs the chance to meet master



## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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of ceremonies Dean Phillips and keynote speaker Ari Shapiro as well as make new connections with each other.

Indeed “connected” is how one of the audience members said that they felt after the main event was over. Others described feeling “inspired” and “invigorated.”

### The task of bringing stories to life is not done

Reflecting on the event, Board President Jamie Heilicher said the entire event exceeded his expectations. “[Phillips] and [Shapiro] both did a fantastic job of

showing the importance of immigration by connecting immigration of the past to immigration of today. They had great chemistry together to make the entire night feel like we were all one big family!”

Heilicher says that his goal for JHSUM is to keep collecting material “to make the stories come alive.” “In order to do that,” he says, “we need to find long-term funding through endowments and community support.” As part of the JHUSM community, please consider making a contribution to ensure 35 more years to come!



## MC and Keynote connect local roots with lessons of immigration today

**"You have to know the past to understand the present."**

Carl Sagan's famous sentiment, quoted at JHSUM's anniversary event, certainly captured the perspectives of both keynote speaker Ari Shapiro and master of ceremonies Dean Phillips, both of whom shared stories from their contemporary involvement with immigration issues and their connection to their regional Jewish roots.

*All Things Considered* cohost Ari Shapiro shared a series of vivid and fast-past stories of his work as a reporter documenting immigration around the world. He set the stage by telling the audience that we are currently experiencing the "largest global migration crisis since World War II" and, at 70 million, the world's displaced population is at an all time high. Yet, through covering stories around the world, Shapiro has found that "the experience of migrants is the same." He went on to say, "it's so easy for us to think of those people as 'those people'...but I think it's valuable to broaden that conversation."

Connecting back to Judaism, Shapiro quoted Ben Rawlence, "Our myths and

religions are steeped in the lore of exile, and yet we fail to treat the living examples of that condition as fully human." He cited the example of Passover where, "in every generation, each person is obligated to see themselves as having personally left slavery in Egypt." Here Shapiro affirmed the importance of listening to people's stories and developing empathy. "That act of viewing the experiences of someone else as though it is happening to you, seeing the world from the eyes of another, from a perspective outside of your own, to me it is a revolutionary act and it is something that Judaism commands us to do."

**"Our myths and religions are steeped in the lore of exile, and yet we fail to treat the living examples of that condition as fully human."**



**To view JHSUM's video, "It hap**

Jewish values were certainly part of Shapiro's upbringing in Fargo, where his family kept kosher and attended two different synagogues. Though they moved to Portland, Oregon when he was eight, it was not before Shapiro, who is a regular guest singer with the band Pink Martini, got a start on his singing career. "One of the earliest photographs of my Jewish life is me standing at the bima and singing Adon Olam and shaking the banister as though it might come off."

In a uniquely personal moment, Shapiro acknowledged just how meaningful it was for him to be making a speech on the University of Minnesota campus. Before moving to Fargo, his parents had met in 1969 at a folk dancing class at the U of M and his brother was born at the U of M hospital. "It feels like a homecoming



**Join the Kaplans in investing in our future!**

Community members Elliot and Eloise Kaplan were so inspired by our 35th anniversary celebration that they have created a wonderful matching grant opportunity.

They will match every gift between \$100 and \$1,000 made before Dec. 31, 2019, up to \$100,000.

Join them today in honoring our past and investing in our future. Reference "Kaplan Match" to ensure your gift goes further.

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for me...to be honest, every speech I give I say it's so nice to be here, but today I actually sincerely mean it."

**Their struggle was our struggle**  
Congressman Dean Phillips also acknowledged his personal connection when he spoke passionately about his great-grandmother Rose Phillips who, during the two years leading up to her death at age 103, told Phillips stories about her and her husband's lives growing up as Jewish immigrants in North Minneapolis and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Phillips noted that, despite moving upward economically, neither of his grandparents "traveled outside the United States of America in their entire lifetimes...for fear that they would not be allowed to return." Phillips went on to connect his family's history to the present day where "millions of people

are getting into their beds at this very moment, in this very country, with the very same fears and insecurities."

As the descendants of Jewish immigrants, Phillips said that we can respect "the struggles and injustices facing far too many immigrant families living in the same neighborhoods and, in some cases, the very same houses in which our predecessors began their lives in America over a century ago." Phillips expressed his gratitude to JHSUM "for collecting, preserving and sharing the stories of my foremothers and forefathers, and thousands of others around the region." As Phillips saw it, not only does preserving the past help us better understand the present, but it helps us and future generations to "better appreciate the many blessings that we enjoy today."

## JHSUM 2019 Annual Meeting *Becoming Brookview...And Beyond: Jim Crow and the Jews in the Twin Cities*

November 3, 12–2 p.m.

### Brookview Golf Club

Put the date on your calendar: The annual meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest will be held at the newly remodeled Brookview Community Center in Golden Valley. Local attorney and community member Marshall Tanick will present on the Jewish history of the Brookview Golf Club, following introductory remarks by Golden Valley mayor, Shep Harris. *A light lunch will be served. No cost, but RSVPs are requested to history@jhsum.org or 952-381-3360.*

## Book launch celebration: *Still* by Rebecca Bender

On June 3, we celebrated the launch of the book *Still*, by Rebecca Bender, a history of five generations coming from Odessa and living as American Jews in the Upper Midwest. *Still* won an Independent Press Award.



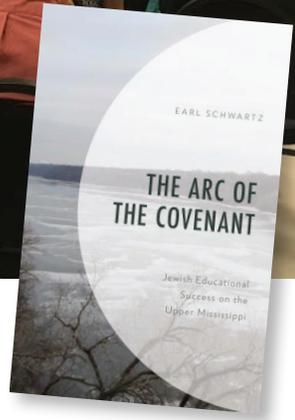
## Canadian Jewish Experience exhibit

JHSUM was pleased to join with other local Jewish organizations in sponsoring the opening event of the Canadian Jewish Experience exhibit at the Sabes JCC on July 1. Counsel General of Canada, Ariel Delouya, spoke to those gathered. Co-sponsors included JCRC, St. Paul JCC, Sabes JCC and Consulate of Canada.



## Book launch event: *The Arc of the Covenant* by Earl Schwartz

On Sept. 24, Professor Earl Schwartz read from and discussed his recently published book, *The Arc of the Covenant: Jewish Educational Success on the Upper Mississippi*, at the St. Paul JCC. The book studies the social, cultural and political factors that contributed to exceptional Jewish educational success in St. Paul, Minnesota in the latter half of the twentieth century. A native of North Minneapolis, Schwartz is a professor in the department of religion at Hamline University in St. Paul.



## Scholff Endowment Award

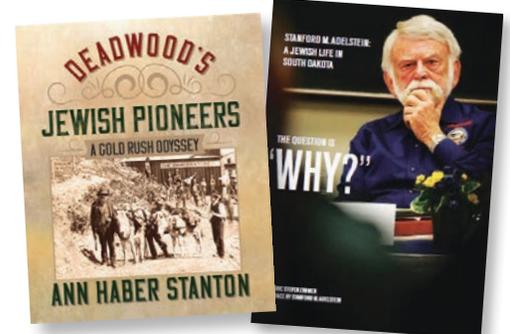
On July 11, Steven Green presented on the research he conducted in July at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives as the recipient of this year's Schloff Award. The award grants funds to a student or scholar to assist with costs associated with travel to the University of Minnesota to use the Archives. Green used the opportunity to expand his research examining the intertwining relationships between United States Jewish history, food and foodways, and Midwestern history.

## Jim Crow of the North screening and discussion

JHSUM co-sponsored a showing of Jim Crow of the North followed by a panel discussion at the Sabes JCC on July 23. Other sponsoring organizations included NCJW, JCA and JCRC. Historian Laura Weber represented JHSUM on a discussion panel following the screening.

## Celebration of the South Dakota experience

Two books covering the South Dakota Jewish experience were jointly celebrated in an event on Sept. 9 at the Sabes JCC. Ann Haber Stanton, known as South Dakota's Jewish historian, presented on her book, *Deadwood's Jewish Pioneers: A Gold Rush Odyssey*. She was joined by Senator Stanford Adelstein, whose life as a Jewish public servant is the subject of Dr. Eric Zimmer's book, *The Question of "Why"?* Fans of Upper Midwest Jewish history enjoyed an evening of readings, Q&A and book signing.





**JHSUM President  
Jamie Heilicher**

A big **Thank You** to all our supporters for a fantastic 35th Anniversary Celebration. Not only did we put on a great event that fit our mission but raised some money to help with future projects and experienced the joy of coming together around our community history.

We have many more events planned for the year, large and small, which will continue to tell the stories of our Jewish experiences. Through acting on our mission, we capture the stories that enrich our lives, strengthen our community and lay the foundation for educating future generations.

**Keep history going strong!**

Our organization doesn't exist without you: our members. Your continued support enables us to preserve the physical pieces of history, capture stories, interpret, share and grow. By doing so, we reach out to future generations, to keep them engaged and proud to be a part of this great community.

**Please join us in realizing our mission—make your donation or renew your membership today.**

# Historic Duluth synagogue lost to fire



Adas Israel Congregation in Duluth, MN, circa 1900s

*Courtesy of Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries*

**W**e are saddened to learn of the loss of this historic synagogue to fire on Sept. 9, 2019, and send strength to its congregants. Known as the 3rd Street Shul, Adas Israel was the last remaining Orthodox synagogue in Duluth. While its membership had shrunk to fewer than 100 individuals in recent years, Jews from around the globe have written and shared many memories of this congregation and how it touched their lives.

JHSUM is fortunate to have been contacted by Zack Ellis, founder of *TheirStory*. Zack has generously offered to open *TheirStory* to individuals and groups who would like to record and share their Adas Israel stories free of charge for a period of six months. From Nov. 1, 2019 through Apr. 30, 2020, you are invited to record your story as it relates to Adas Israel, and *TheirStory* will complete all editing. To participate, please contact JHSUM at **history@jhsun.org** or 952-381-3360. Once recorded, the story will be saved and shared with Adas Israel congregation, as well as the Nathan and Theresa Upper Midwest Jewish Archives. Additionally, you will be able to download and save a copy of your recording, all free of charge during this six month time period.



**TheirStory** is a website dedicated to helping people and communities to reflect on, document, and share the stories that help to shape who they are. You can record audiovisual stories either individually, or you can record live video conversations between two or more people (think FaceTime, but recorded). You can read more about how a trip to the Anne Frank House inspired *TheirStory*'s Founder, Zack Ellis, to create *TheirStory* at [www.theirstory.io/about-us](http://www.theirstory.io/about-us).

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**Executive Director  
Robin Doroshow**

**JHSUM's stewardship of  
our community's history  
began 35 years ago.**

**Contribute to the next  
chapter in our history!**

Contact us at  
[history@jhsum.org](mailto:history@jhsum.org) or  
952-381-3360 to learn how  
you can contribute.

Thanks to all who attended our 35th Anniversary celebration. Deepest appreciation to my board and volunteers who made the event a wonderful success. Between the enthusiastic crowd, the thought-provoking keynote, our incredible master of ceremonies, and the great love everyone showed for our organization, the evening couldn't have been better. Not to mention the delicious desserts, at the VIP event, donated by Danny and Elana Schwartzman of Common Roots Café!

During our anniversary celebration, many of you had a chance to tour the Nathan & Theresa Upper Midwest Jewish Archives. I personally encourage each of you to consider what might be in your basement or attic. Please contact JHSUM, or Archivist Kate Dietrick at [diet0134@umn.edu](mailto:diet0134@umn.edu) or at 612-625-0192 for more information about how to donate, or to access the archives for your own research.

I hope to see you at our annual meeting on Nov. 3 (see p.6), as well as at the other programs and events we sponsor throughout the year.

*Shana Tovah—wishing all a healthy and peaceful 5780.*

**SHANA TOVA!**  
Wishing you a happy and  
healthy New Year!



**Willard Fineberg blowing the  
shofar at Mount Zion Temple,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 1956.**

*Courtesy of Upper Midwest Jewish Archives,  
University of Minnesota Libraries*