

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of the *Upper Midwest* GENERATIONS

FALL 2017

JHSUM ANNUAL  
MEETING

October 22

Sabes JCC

St. Louis Park

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## Exploring South Dakota's Jewish history as part of my family's summer adventures

*Robin Doroshow, JHSUM Executive Director*

My family's vacation this past June was a combination of business and pleasure. Despite growing up in Minnesota, neither my husband nor I had done that quintessential American family vacation to the Badlands and Black Hills.

For ten days in June, our family, made our way through South Dakota, traveling from east to west, and then back again. We enjoyed visiting Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, swimming at Hot Springs and exploring Lead and the unexpected Jewish history of Deadwood.

We arranged the trip so that we could spend two Shabbats in South Dakota. On the first Friday night of our trip, we visited Mount Zion Congregation in Sioux Falls. While many in the congregation were enjoying summer travels as we were, the community welcomed us warmly, inviting me to light the Shabbat candles at the beginning of services. My family and I enjoyed learning about the long history of Mount Zion and its upcoming 95th anniversary in its current building.

Built in 1894 as a Lutheran church, Mount Zion purchased the building in

1924. Among Mount Zion's Torahs is the "Covered Wagon" Torah that was a gift from the Deadwood Jewish community in 1950. This Torah crossed the Atlantic before crossing half of the country and then the long prairie with one of the oldest Jewish families of Deadwood.

The congregation also has a Czech Torah which is on display but not used for ritual purposes. This Torah, which came from the Pinkas Synagogue in Prague, survived the Holocaust. It is on permanent loan to Mount Zion Congregation from the Memorial Scrolls Trust, a non-profit foundation responsible for 1,564 Torah scrolls that came to the Westminster Synagogue in London in 1964, via the Central Jewish Museum in Prague. Mount Zion's display of the Czech Torah is dedicated to the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust,

including 77,000 from Czechoslovakia. Members of Mount Zion Congregation contributed time and resources to preserve and care for this Torah scroll and they are recognized on the synagogue's website. The scroll was rededicated in a ceremony at Mount Zion in November of 1982.

*Continued on page 6*



5778 *L'Shana Tova!*  
Wishing you a happy  
and healthy New Year

Photo: Nathan & Theresa Berman Upper  
Midwest Jewish Archives, U of M Libraries:  
High Holidays at Beth El Synagogue, Penn Ave N





*Jamie Heilicher  
President  
Jewish Historical  
Society of the  
Upper Midwest*

## *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 aspirations, 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.*

## *Madalyn Braufman – WWII WAVE*

*Robin Doroshow*



*Photos: Nathan & Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, U of M Libraries. Above, Rose and Jack Gottlieb with children James and Maddy. Late 1920s, Berlin, ND. Right, Maddy in uniform, 1940s.*

Madalyn "Maddy" Gottlieb was working on a report on prostitution on Washington Avenue for the Minnesota Department of Health when she decided to join the Navy. It was World War II and both her brother and boyfriend were in the service. So, she finished her report and enlisted, choosing that branch because her brother was a Navy pilot.

*It was World War II and both her brother and boyfriend were in the service. So, she finished her report (on prostitution on Washington Ave for the MDH) and enlisted, choosing that branch because her brother was a Navy pilot.*

She was supposed to go to New York for three months of training, but due to critical needs, she was sent instead to Cedar Falls, Iowa for three weeks of training.

Maddy remembers that of 328 women training in Cedar Falls, she was one of five who were Jewish. To appease her mother who was not excited with her plans, Maddy chose to be stationed in Notre Dame, Indiana, because it was the closest location to Minnesota.

Born in Minneapolis in 1921 to Jack and Rose (Rosen) Gottlieb, the family lived in various small towns during Maddy's earliest years, where they, like many Jews in small towns, were shopkeepers. First the family lived in Nashua, Minnesota, a tiny town very close to the North Dakota border. From there they moved about 125 miles west to Berlin, North Dakota. Berlin is not too far from the Ashley-Wishek Jewish farming community. (See article: p. 10).

*Continued on page 8*





## Executive Director: CAJM

### Conference of American Jewish Museums...

Last March I had the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the Council of American Jewish Museums in Boston.

We had the opportunity to tour and learn about Anshe Vilna or the Vilna congregation, which was founded by immigrants from the Vilna area in the early 1890's. The cornerstone of the Vilna Shul located on Beacon Hill was laid in 1919. After many years of use, the building was abandoned and fell into disrepair.

Currently under restoration, the Vilna Shul now serves as a center for Jewish culture. [vilnashul.org/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilna\\_Shul](http://vilnashul.org/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilna_Shul)

On the second day of the conference, we travelled to the Yiddish Book Center on the campus of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts on the western side of the state.

Founded by Aaron Lansky in 1980, the center saves and preserves Yiddish books (there are a lot more out there than expected!) and provides educational programming.

[yiddishbookcenter.org/](http://yiddishbookcenter.org/)

We also heard from a number of interesting speakers, including Masha Gessen, Russian/American Jewish author and activist. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masha\\_Gessen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masha_Gessen)



CAJM conference attendees also got a preview of a Henryk Ross exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts. Ross, the official photographer of the Lodz Ghetto, risked his life by taking unauthorized photos of the ghetto and burying the film. Both Ross and his wife survived and the images were being seen for the first time at an American museum.

[mfa.org/exhibitions/memory-unearthed](http://mfa.org/exhibitions/memory-unearthed)



געוואַלט, ס'איז קאַלט

*Gevalt, s'iz kalt!*  
It's cold in there!







*We're expanding!*

Exciting news for the Archives – Andersen Library will undergo renovations to add a new reading room and exhibit space, completed by early 2018.

A new public space for scholars, students, and the community will be created on the ground floor and named the Maxine Houghton Wallin Special Collections Research Center. A generous \$1.5 million gift from the Wallin Foundation, announced earlier this year, will help fund both the Center as well as new secure storage vaults in the caverns beneath Andersen Library. The vaults will now house the Libraries' rare books and the James Ford Bell Library collection, which are currently housed in Wilson Library. For the first time, the Libraries' major special collections will be housed in one library. For more information, visit [z.umn.edu/wallin](http://z.umn.edu/wallin).

## *A Campus Divided: Progressives, Anti-Communists, Racism and Anti-semitism at the University of MN, 1930-1942.*



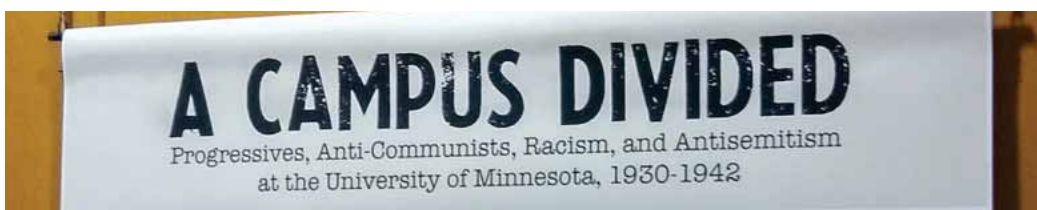
A new exhibit is being mounted in Andersen Library: *A Campus Divided: Progressives, Anti-Communists, Racism and Antisemitism at the University of Minnesota, 1930-1942*. Political battles raged at the University of Minnesota from the 1930s to the early 1940s between students and administrators. The campus was divided over issues, which included racial and economic equality, opposition to war, and student rights. Racism and antisemitism were part of campus life, and included racially segregated, publicly-financed student housing, and allowing the exclusion of Jewish students from off campus housing. "Reflections" on the exhibit will feature a panel of experts sharing their insights about the 1930s at the University, a time when racism

and antisemitism were sanctioned and political surveillance was a part of campus life. Due to the overwhelming interest, the talk is now closed, but we encourage you to visit the exhibit on the 2nd and 3rd floors of Anderson Hall. [continuum.umn.edu/exhibits/](http://continuum.umn.edu/exhibits/) Curated by Riv-Ellen Prell and Sarah Atwood.

***Exhibit runs thru November 30***

Elmer L. Andersen Library Gallery  
& Atrium, University of Minnesota  
222 21st Ave. S, Minneapolis  
**Hours:** Mon, Tues & Fri 8am - 4:30pm  
Wed & Thurs 8am - 7pm

Directions: [lib.umn.edu/pdf/AndersenDriving.pdf](http://lib.umn.edu/pdf/AndersenDriving.pdf)







# NATHAN & THERESA BERMAN UPPER MIDWEST JEWISH ARCHIVES

## Highlight on collection:

*This spring we received a new collection – the papers of John L. “Jack” Sinykin.*

Sinykin was a local entrepreneur who pioneered the use of guide dogs for the blind through La Salle Kennels and the non-profit Master Eye Foundation. He is credited for training the very first guide dog in the United States in 1926 for Senator Thomas D. Schall. Over his career he was said to have trained more than 3,000 dogs personally between the 1920s and 1980s. He also owned Cinderella Cosmetics in the 1930s, located on University Avenue in St. Paul. The papers we received include items from both of these endeavors: from fantastic photographs of his guide dog training to recipe cards for the cosmetics he made. For more information on the collection, visit [z.umn.edu/sinykin](http://z.umn.edu/sinykin).



*Offcopy*

Amount	Article	Cost	Total
1	3 lb. Stearic Acid	.83 lb.	.66
1	11 pts. 14oz. White Oil P-1	.49 gal.	.726
1	1 lb. Triethanolamine	.70 lb.	.70
1	1 lb. Carbital	.50 lb.	.50
22	pts. Ros. Distilled Water	.10 gal.	.877
3	1 1/4 oz. Perure Oil #117	15.635 lb.	.877
39	pts.		.877
	Heat both #1 and #2 to 90 degrees C.	overhead	3.848
	Add #1 to #2 slowly and stir constantly, only slow.	total	.768
	When cool, add #3. Should Fill 183 bottles.		4.617
	Cost per pt. --- \$ .118		
	(4oz.) Cost per 1000 bottles -- (\$29.50)		

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	Cost per pt. --- \$ .118		
	(4oz.) Cost per 1000 bottles -- (\$29.50)		



*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.*

## Visit...

The Upper Midwest Jewish Archives are open and available to any who are interested in viewing our unique materials. To learn more about our collections, visit our website at [lib.umn.edu/umja](http://lib.umn.edu/umja)

**LIBRARIES**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





# On the road with the new Director:

*Continued from page 1*



*Raina Kronfeld*

"It's a small world" moment occurred shortly after returning from South Dakota, when I had the pleasure of meeting Joyce Nauen at a gathering at Sholom East (see article p. 14). Joyce and her late



*L - R: Stephen Forstein, Rabbi; Dr. Peter Schotten, Temple President; Joyce Nauen, Chairperson*

husband, Hans, raised their family in Sioux Falls where they were active in Mount Zion congregation. Joyce, who moved to St. Paul earlier this year to be closer to three



of their four children, had traveled with Hans to London to personally retrieve the Czech Torah and deliver it to their Sioux Falls congregation.

The following Friday night found my family on the opposite side of the state in Rapid City. In contrast to Sioux Falls, which felt to me like a medium sized mid-western city, Rapid City and its environs felt like the West.

As we approached Synagogue of the Hills, we wondered if we got the directions wrong. We found ourselves on a residential street with houses that appeared to have been built in the 1950's or 60's. As we approached the end of the street, we saw that there was a building that looked like a converted house with a parking lot and a wooden sign announcing it to be the Synagogue of the Hills.

Its entry area leading to the sanctuary highlights various Jewish individuals associated with the Black Hills, including Solomon Star, who served as mayor of Deadwood from 1884-1898. Star, born in Bavaria in 1840, came to Ohio with his parents as a young child. He later moved to Montana where he served as personal secretary to the governor. He and his business partner, Seth Bullock, opened a hardware store, eventually settling in Deadwood in hopes of benefitting from the Black Hills Gold Rush. Star was involved in various businesses and partnered in the Deadwood Flouring Mill with another

Deadwood Jew, Harris Franklin, whose original family name was Finkelstein. The Franklin Hotel,



which once hosted American presidents and various celebrities, was built by the Harris Franklin family and opened in 1903. In addition to serving as Deadwood's mayor for more than a decade, Star also served on the Deadwood town council and as town postmaster. Subsequently, Star, who never married, was elected to the South

Dakota House of Representatives and State Senate, and served as Clerk of Courts for Lawrence County until his death in 1917. After an elaborate Deadwood funeral, Star was buried in a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis at his family's request.





# South Dakota

Inside the comfortable sanctuary, we met synagogue president, Dr. Steven Benn, who has lived in Rapid City with his family for two decades. Also present were two older men whose grandparents had been South Dakota Jewish homesteaders. I hope to learn more



*Ann Haber Stanton*

about a man named Chaim next time I get to Rapid City, but I did get a chance to talk with Stan Adelstein, a member of the South Dakota Senate. Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Adelstein grew up in Rapid City and his grandmother was a homesteader in Interior, South Dakota. Interior is in the South Dakota Badlands, and they are called 'bad' for a reason – farming this dry and unyielding land couldn't have been easy in the early 1900's, but the fact that a widowed mother did so and managed to keep kosher at the same time is nothing short of amazing.

Synagogue of the Hills is also the home shul of Ann Haber Stanton. Ann was born in the Bronx and has lived for many years in Rapid City. She married a man from South Dakota and in the intervening years, raised a family and became known as the historian of Jewish Black Hills history. Her book, *Jewish Pio-*



## SIDNEY JACOBS:

**(Phoenix Building/Midnight Star, Deadwood)**

When New York stage actor and vaudevillian Sidney Jacobs met and fell in love with a Deadwood girl named Jennie (also Jacobs but of a different family) who was visiting her cousin in Kansas City, Missouri, it would be the beginning of another Jacobs family in Deadwood. Sidney almost immediately proposed marriage and Jennie agreed, but stipulated that Sidney must give up his life on the stage. Sidney complied with Jennie's wishes, but that outgoing part of Sidney's nature remained with him throughout his life.

Some Black Hills people remember when the New York Store was located in the building we now recognize as Kevin Costner's Midnight Star. That store was owned and operated by the family of Berthald (son of Sidney and Jennie) and Ruth Jacobs, both now deceased and buried on Mount Moriah. Bert's father was Sidney Jacobs, well known as a tailor and businessman. Sidney opened his first clothing store in 1901 and in time had seven other stores, eventually closing all but The Hub in Deadwood. Sidney Jacobs succeeded to the role of lay Rabbi to the Jewish community, a position left vacant by the death of Nathan Colman in 1906. In 1910 he was appointed by the Governor Byrne to represent South Dakota at the National Mining Congress. Sidney maintained his role as lay Rabbi until his death in 1934. Sidney and Jennie Jacobs are buried on Mount Moriah.

neers of the Black Hills Gold Rush, is published by Arcadia Publishing and the History Press. Ann lovingly cares for the library at Synagogue of the Hills and gave my family recommendations of what not to miss in terms of places of Jewish historical significance in the region. Ann



*L - R: Logan Hansman, Dr. David Aronson and Dr. Marilyn Aronson; Mount Zion congregants, Sioux Falls*

directed us to the Jewish section of Mount Moriah cemetery, just several yards up the hill from the graves of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. The largest monument is over the Franklin family graves, but a surprising number of Jewish graves are represented, many from the 1800's. Blanche Colman, who in

1911 was the first woman admitted to the South Dakota bar is buried in the Jewish section.

Both Mount Zion Congregation and Synagogue of the Hills welcomed my family warmly. Following Shabbat services in Sioux Falls, we joined congregants at the Starbucks down the street for Oneg Shabbat. In Rapid City, we retired to the social hall in the synagogue's basement for sweets and fresh fruit. During our visits this summer, both synagogues utilized lay leaders to lead Shabbat services. Each Fall, both synagogues welcome rabbinical students from the Reform seminary who fly into South Dakota a couple of times a month Fall through Spring. Both Mount Zion and Synagogue of the Hills have sustained vibrant Jewish congregational life and I hope to continue to remain in close contact with them through the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.

*Discover more on the Jewish history of the Dakotas at [archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/15](http://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/15)*



## A Profile Interview with Maddy Braufman

*continued from page 2*

From Berlin, North Dakota, the family made their way about 100 miles southwest to Hosmer, South Dakota, where they lived from 1930-36.

Of those years in Hosmer, where her parents owned a general store, Maddy recalls graduating the 8th grade as class valedictorian and having the honor of reading a poem at the Memorial Day celebration. She also remembers a cross burning in front of their store and a rabidly anti-Semitic Lutheran minister who would preach hatred of Jews in their community. Maddy fondly remembers how the few Jewish families living in various rural towns in the region would come together for holidays and to socialize.

Maddy began



high school in Aberdeen, the nearest town to Hosmer with a high school, and



graduated from North High in Minneapolis before attending the University of Minnesota where she studied to be a medical social worker.

As for the time that she spent serving our country as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), Maddy, who was in charge of the records department of the Midshipman's School, remembers that there was often so much work that the women had no time to return to their hotel rooms to sleep, so they would rest on a cot in the ladies room. She would try to identify Jewish boys coming through training to give them more attention. One boy she dated had broken his leg, so she was able to extend his time in Midshipman's school so he was later sent to Seattle rather than overseas.

Returning to the Twin Cities af-

ter two and half years of service, Maddy met and married Julius "Jules" Braufman. Actually, she had known Jules, whose family lived in Bowdle, South Dakota, just 18 miles from her family in Hosmer, back in the 1930's. While they had spent time together, Jules was six years her senior, and they didn't get to know one another well until Maddy's mother and Jules' aunt worked together at Thomas' Ready to Wear in the Twin Cities and arranged a meeting. Maddy and Jules were married in 1946 in St. Paul, where they raised their two daughters, Randi and Janie. Maddy also has two grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Jules, who passed away in 2007, was an accountant and Maddy was active in many community organizations. Maddy recalls joining B'nai Brith Women because Thelma Geller, the wife of Jules' boss was involved, and ultimately Maddy served on B'nai Brith's national board of directors. While she did not work as a medical social worker, Maddy used her education and energy to make life better for other people through her organizational work and personal relationships.

Today at 96 years of age, Maddy lives at Sholom West where she remains active and serves on the board of directors of Sharei Chesed Congregation in Hopkins.

*Thank you to the Minneapolis Jewish Federation for allocating funding to continue to support our mission.*

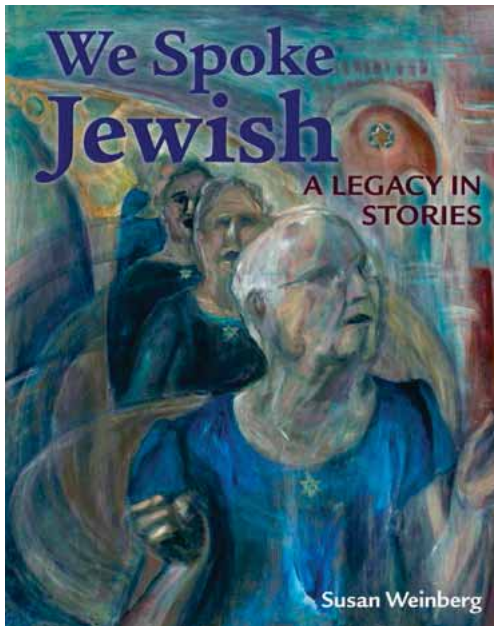




# GENEALOGY - Research & Results

## *We Spoke Jewish: A Legacy in Stories*

Susan Weinberg



The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest has entered into a new project with long-time volunteer Susan Weinberg. The original partnership began in 2011 when Susan embarked on an interview project with Sholom residents. The JHSUM acted as an advisor to Susan on oral history protocol, supporting her effort to complete seventeen interviews as part of the *Jewish Identity and Legacy Project*. Susan then developed artwork on the stories of the residents and has shared story, video and artwork in the broader community. The interviews are housed in the Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives. As Susan presented in the community, she realized the importance of making these stories available more broadly and began to work on a book that wraps together both oral history and artwork on the three groups of Jewish immigrants from the 20th century.

With the support of the JHSUM, she will be publishing that book in October titled, *We Spoke Jewish: A Legacy in Stories*. The book explores the stories of those who grew up in early Jewish immigrant communities, Holocaust survivors who immigrated after the war and immigrants from the former Soviet Union who came in the latter part of the 20th century. Together they speak the Jewish of language, memory and culture, all elements that help to form and perpetuate Jewish identity. We are especially pleased that the Minnesota Historical Society lent their support to this project with a grant to JHSUM from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the State of Minnesota.

In conjunction with the book, Susan will be speaking at a number of events, details of which can be found at [wespokejewish.com](http://wespokejewish.com). We invite you to hear her speak and view some of the artwork at the JHSUM Annual Meeting on October 22nd.

*Susan Weinberg will speak and share some of her artwork at the  
October 22  
JHSUM Annual Meeting*

Susan will also be co-presenting a class on Jewish genealogy through Adath Jeshurun from October through April. Topics include search engines, documents, Holocaust records, finding European records and telling your story. Further information and the link to register can be found at [adathjeshurun.org/classes](http://adathjeshurun.org/classes)



## Online Resources

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

[JHSUM.org](http://JHSUM.org)

[lib.umn.edu/umja](http://lib.umn.edu/umja)

[mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org)

[placeography.org](http://placeography.org)

[reflections.mndigital.org](http://reflections.mndigital.org)

[ironrangerresearchcenter.org](http://ironrangerresearchcenter.org)

[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

(this is free at many libraries)

[jewishgen.org](http://jewishgen.org)

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

[new.findagrave.com](http://new.findagrave.com)

[ellisland.org](http://ellisland.org)

[chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

[archives.gov](http://archives.gov)

[Jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://Jewishvirtuallibrary.org)

[uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov)

[litvaksig.org](http://litvaksig.org)

[rtrfoundation.org](http://rtrfoundation.org)

[historyapolis.com](http://historyapolis.com)

If you are beginning your search you may want to reference [Genealogy Research](#), an excellent guide from the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives.



## Ashley Jewish Homesteaders Cemetery Rededication



*Directly from the dedication plaques:*

On November 17, 2015, the United States Department of the Interior officially named this site to the National Register of Historic Places. From the 1880s through the 1930s, 1200 Jewish farmers lived on over 250 homesteads in North Dakota-the fourth largest number of Jewish homesteaders in any state. Here, among the swaying Dakota prairie grasses and under the infinite sky, the largest Jewish agricultural settlement in North or South Dakota thrived. The Beth Itzchock (House of Isaac) Cemetery, the final resting place for at least 28 Jewish immigrants, is the only permanent physical reminder of this community.

Over 400 Russian and Romanian Jewish homesteaders escaped persecution due to their faith (including the prohibition against Jews owning land for farming) and pogroms (organized mass killings of Jews endorsed by the Czarist regime) and settled on around 85 farms in McIntosh County beginning in 1905. After clearing rocks and boulders, growing wheat and flax, raising cattle and chickens, and selling cream from their sod houses, most were successful enough to own their land after the requisite five years under the Homestead Act or to purchase it sooner.

*With appreciation for the generous contributions and guidance of: The Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, the descendants of the Jewish homesteaders, the citizens of Ashley, North Dakota, those who have cared for and restored this cemetery, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.*

Unlike most of their Jewish brethren who remained on or near the East Coast in big cities, these first-time farmers boarded trains to “The Great Northwest,” staking their claims 20 years after McIntosh County was opened for homesteading. They settled in the stony, hilly area called “*Judenberg*” (Jewish hills) by their welcoming German-Russian neighbors. In addition to their inexperience, the Jewish farmers faced drought, prairie fires, early frosts, blizzards, the Spanish Flu Pandemic, and the Great Depression. Nevertheless, with hard work and God’s blessings, this stony ground bore fruit. The Ashley/Wishek Jewish community retained its religious identity far from any major Jewish population center, as evidenced by this traditional cemetery. They were a nationally registered Jewish congregation in 1907, before they owned a central building for worship or had a formally trained rabbi. They traveled on horseback to each other’s sod houses and barns for a “*minyan*” (the 10-man quorum for certain prayers), and celebrated Jewish weddings outside on the prairie under the “*chuppah*” (wedding canopy) with sponge cake, homemade wine, and dancing to washtub drums and spirited violins. The homesteader family names of the proud Americans interred here include Auerbach, Becker, Bender, Berman, Bloom, Dorfman, Ewart, Filler, Friedman, Goldstone, Grossman, Jampolsky, Ourach, Parkansky, Raich, Reuben, Schlasinger, Silverleib, Smilowitz, and Weil. May God bless and protect you. May God deal kindly and graciously with you. May God bestow favor upon you and grant you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

It was proclaimed “*North Dakota Jewish Homesteaders’ Day*” by Governor Burgum which recognized North Dakota’s rich Jewish past. The day honored 1,200 Jewish farmers who settled on 250 homesteads across North Dakota. Two beautiful memorial boulders were unveiled with plaques telling the history of the Jewish homesteaders. Many descendants of those buried at the Ashley Jewish Homesteader Cemetery were in attendance and spoke during the rededication.

*Photos courtesy of Bismarck Tribune, Nancy Bender-Kelner and Rowena Hartman*



*Group photo by Caroline Grueskin, Bismarck Tribune reporter*



# Shvitzing it out on the Prairie

## North Dakota Jewish History Exhibit

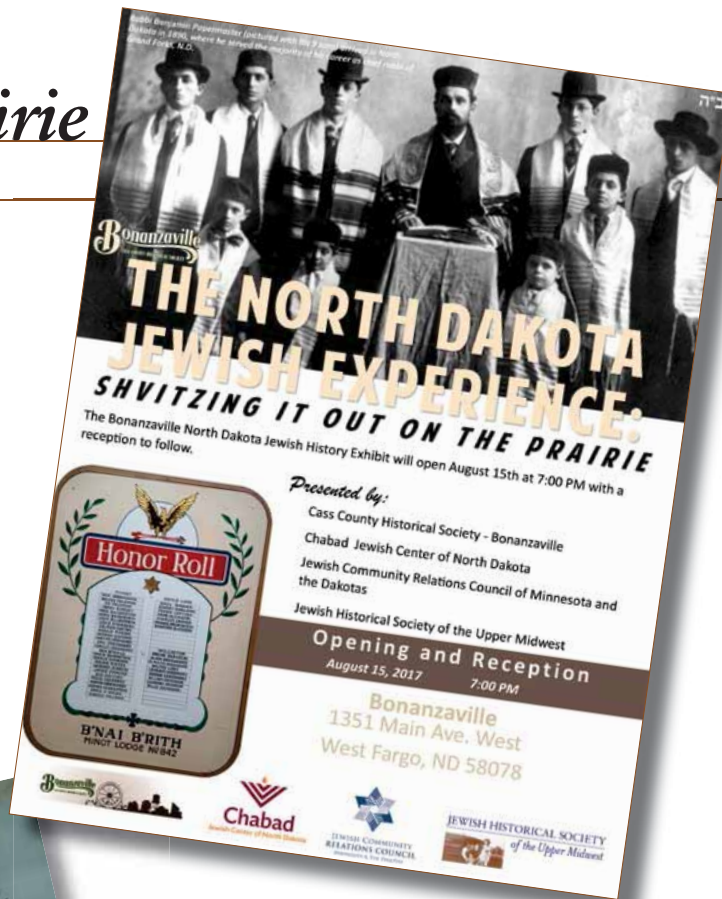
Robin Doroshow

On August 15, a new exhibit opened at Bonanzaville-Cass County Historical Society in Fargo about the history of Jews in North Dakota. The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is a co-sponsor of this exhibit along with the Jewish Community Relations Council of MN and the Dakotas and Chabad of North Dakota.



The opening was attended by at least 100 people, with literally, standing room only. Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor of Fargo made remarks, as did staffers from various ND politicians' offices. Of particular interest was the attendance of Amy Long on behalf of Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Amy is the granddaughter of the late Judge Myron Bright, long time member of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals whose oral history was taken for JHSUM's Jewish Lawyer project several years ago and can accessed from the UMJA website at [cdm16022.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/jhs/id/872](http://cdm16022.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/jhs/id/872).

The exhibit highlights Jewish owned businesses, Jewish homesteaders, and synagogue and communal life. Featured in the exhibit is the story of Rabbi Benjamin Papermaster, the Kovno rabbi sent to North Dakota in 1890, shortly after it was admitted as the 39th state.



In late August, Minneapolis, Shirley Mae Lane, a granddaughter of Rabbi Papermaster, along with two of her adult children, traveled to Fargo to see the exhibit, and then went on to Grand Forks to see where she had lived as a child. See more on Rabbi Papermaster and his family on p. 12.



"Shvitzing it out on the Prairie" is a rich and varied exhibit that will be on display through at least August of 2018.

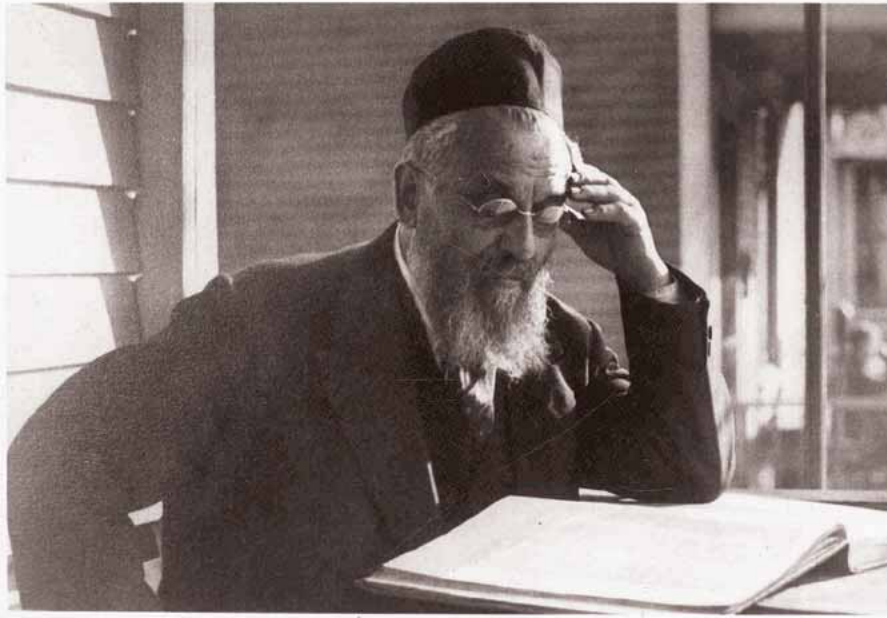
If you can, consider taking a leisurely drive to Fargo to see this wonderful exhibit. Hours can be found on the Bonanzaville website at: [bonanzaville.org](http://bonanzaville.org)





# Brooklyn Rabbi Explores

Robin Doroshow



*Photo: Nathan & Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, U of M Libraries. Rabbi Benjamin Papermaster*

*So, what was a nice Chabad Rabbi doing roaming the backroads of North Dakota this past summer?*

For Rabbi Shalom Orenstein, his time spent recently in North Dakota was a homecoming of sorts. While he wasn't born or raised there, nor were his parents, his paternal grandmother, Shirley Mae Orenstein Lane, was a child of the North Dakota prairie.

Born in Grand Forks in 1925, Shirley Mae Epstein spent her first 18 years in North Dakota. Her father, Alex Epstein, was born in Sarles, North Dakota to Samuel Epstein and his wife, immigrants from Eastern Europe. Sarles is located in the northeastern part of North Dakota near to both Minnesota and Canada's borders. In 2010, Sarles was home to 28 people and its Jewish presence a distant memory. Shirley Mae, now a resident of Knollwood

Place in St. Louis Park, moved with her parents from Grand Forks to Minot and then Devils

*In 1890, Benjamin received a summons from ...the Chief Rabbi of Kovno and was asked to go to America to serve a community as rabbi, cantor, schochet and mohel. ...eventually serving the Jewish community of North Dakota...for approximately 45 years.*

Lake, before leaving the state to attend college.

It is on her mother's side, Zelda Papermaster Epstein, that the major *yichus* (distinguished lineage) can be found. With no disrespect to Epstein clan who certainly showed a great deal of fortitude in forging a life in the wilderness of Dakota Territory, the story of Rabbi Benjamin Papermaster is the stuff of legend.

Born in the village of Anolova

near Kovno, Lithuania around 1860, Benjamin Papermaster was the seventh of nine children born to Nissen and Etel Papiermeister. His father had studied at the famed Slobodker Yeshiva in Kovno. Benjamin studied with his learned father and then attended the Kovno Yeshiva. In 1880 he married Ethel Sudarsky, with whom he had four sons. In 1890, Benjamin received a summons from the Rabbi Yitzchok Elchanan, the Chief Rabbi of Kovno and was asked to go to America to serve a community as rabbi, cantor, *schochet* (ritual slaughterer) and *mohel* (ritual circumciser). More directive than request, Rabbi Papermaster soon set sail for the United States. He landed for a short time in Fargo, eventually serving the Jewish community of North Dakota from his home in Grand Forks for approximately 45 years.

Zelda Papermaster, was born in Grand Forks in 1900, the seventh of eleven children to the rabbi Benjamin and Chaya (Levanton) Papermaster. (The four oldest boys were born in Lithuania to Rabbi Papermaster and his first wife, Ethel, who passed away shortly after Rabbi was dispatched to North Dakota. Rabbi Papermaster and his sister-in-law, Chaya, also known as Anna, married in Grand Forks in 1892).

Back to Rabbi Shalom Orenstein. Rabbi Orenstein received his *smicha* (rabbinical ordination) earlier this year from the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva in Brooklyn. His rabbinical training took him

# North Dakota Roots

to Israel where he studied and volunteered for a year. Eager to spend some time learning about the Jewish community that his great-great grandfather served and the rich Jewish history of the region, he was in contact with old

*...Rabbi Orenstein spent time at the Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota, where he mined volumes of information on individuals and communities who made up Jewish North Dakota. These included his own illustrious family, as well as Jewish peddlers, small business owners and the homesteaders who tamed the harsh earth. His work enriched the exhibit currently on display at Bonanzaville – Cass County Historical Society entitled: The North Dakota Jewish Experience: Shvitzing It Out on the Prairie*

family friend and former neighbor, Rabbi Yonah Grossman, leader of the Chabad Jewish Center of North Dakota based in Fargo.

Rabbi Orenstein is the eighth of eleven children. His father, Gershon Orenstein, is one of Shirley Mae's five children. Gershon, like his great-grandfather, Rabbi Benjamin Papermaster, has a beautiful voice and has served as a cantor on many occasions from the time he was a young boy growing up in St. Louis Park.

During his Midwest sojourn, Rabbi Orenstein spent time at the Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota, where he mined volumes of information

on individuals and communities who made up Jewish North Dakota. These included his own illustrious family, as well as Jewish peddlers, small business owners and the homesteaders who tamed the harsh earth. His work enriched the exhibit currently on display at Bonanzaville – Cass County Historical Society entitled: *The North Dakota Jewish Experience: Shvitzing It Out on the Prairie*.

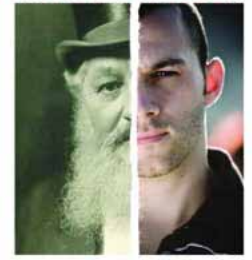
Additionally, during his time in North Dakota, Rabbi Orenstein, as part of the "Roving Rabbis tour" visited various North Dakota and Minnesota communities, delivering matzah and leading a Seder in Grand Forks. He also did research regarding the location of a Jewish cemetery that may have existed near the Painted Woods farming community close to the city of Devils Lake. Now back in Brooklyn, Rabbi Orenstein is considering joining the military where he would use his rabbinical education serving as a chaplain. He also recently became engaged.

Speaking with his grandmother, Shirley Mae Lane, by phone, she couldn't believe her grandson is all grown up. Pride was evident in her voice. His great-great grandfather would be *kvelling*.

*Photo: Minot Daily News, Rabbi Shalom Orenstein at his great-grandfather's grave*



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[www.jhsum.org](http://www.jhsum.org)

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of \$5,000 to  
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*"I want to  
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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 make it interactive.



## Twin Cities: St. Paul

### *JHSUM acquires Hillcrest Golf Club collection*

*Robin Doroshow*



Hillcrest Country Club, located at McKnight Road and Larpenteur Avenue in St. Paul's northeastern corner, was established in 1921, and became a "Jewish" country club in the mid-1940's.

Returning to Minnesota after the Second World War and beginning families of their own, young Jewish businessmen found that local country clubs would not admit Jews and established their own club to golf, play tennis, swim and socialize at 2200 Larpenteur Avenue. Almost seventy years later in 2011, Hillcrest was sold to the Steamfitters Pipefitters Local 455 and will close as a country club this coming October.

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is excited to have acquired various artifacts reflecting the rich history of this St. Paul institution and we look forward to sharing Hillcrest's stories with the greater community.

Linda and Barry Gersick arrived in St. Paul in the late 1970's and joined the country club. Barry served as Hillcrest's president and the couple and their children have enjoyed activities and socializing there these past 39 years.

Ron Zamansky grew up in St. Paul and remembers taking the 14A or

14B bus to Hillcrest as a teenager. He fondly recalled Junior Days, when the teens would spend the day playing golf and tennis, swimming; the evening ending with a dance. He also remembered local kids driving past the (original) eighteenth hole and shouting anti-Semitic epithets as the Jewish kids golfed.

Zamansky also commented on the very successful Evans Scholars program hosted by Hillcrest. Evans Scholars is a non-profit organization that provides college scholarships to caddies. Now an attorney, Zamansky



*Linda Gersick and Ron Zamansky, on the (original) eighteenth hole*

is occasionally approached on the streets of downtown Minneapolis by former Evans Scholars whose golf caddying days at Hillcrest resulted in successful college experiences and professional careers.

*The Hillcrest collection was acquired in early September and JHSUM is excited to delve into this historical collection and find ways to bring it to today's communities.*

### *St. Paul Jewish History Project*



The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is in the early stages of considering a comprehensive history project on Jewish St. Paul.

On August 9 at Sholom West campus and on August 18 at Sholom East campus, JHSUM and Sholom hosted afternoon sessions for community members to come together to reminisce and discuss their memories of life in St. Paul. Many elders living on the Sholom campuses were born to immigrants in these early Jewish neighborhoods.

We look forward to talking with many current and former St. Paulites as we pursue this project. Please contact us with your thoughts at [history@jhsum.org](mailto:history@jhsum.org) or leave a message at 952-381-3360.



# Minneapolis

## North Side Mpls Jewish Tours

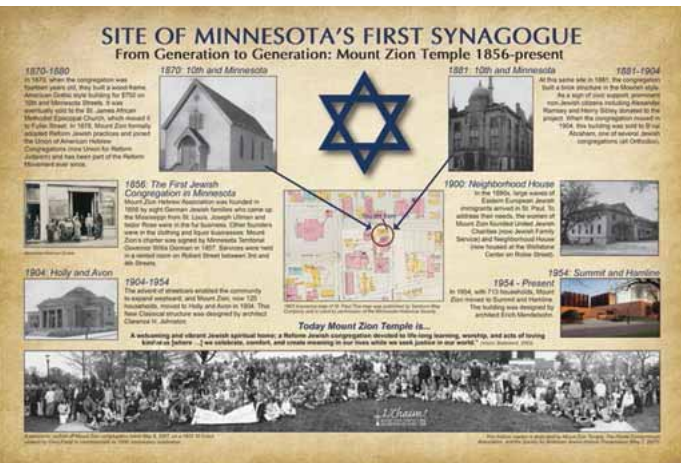
### NORTH SIDE TOUR TRAINING

Sunday, October 29, 10 - 11:30 am

Homewood Studios

2400 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Would you like to learn how to lead tours of the old Jewish North Side? Please join us for a volunteer training and led by Earl Schwartz and Richard Woldorsky, both natives of North Mpls. We will have a light breakfast for participants. Please RSVP to [history@jhsum.org](mailto:history@jhsum.org) or 952-381-3360.



## MN's Oldest synagogue, Mount Zion Temple Dedication event

On May 7, 2017, Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, the state's oldest synagogue, dedicated a plaque at the site of its first building which was located at 10th and Minnesota Streets in downtown St. Paul. Mount Zion was founded by German Jews in 1856, two years before Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd state of the union.

[startribune.com/celebrating-160-years-of-jewish-life-in-minnesota/421571443/](http://startribune.com/celebrating-160-years-of-jewish-life-in-minnesota/421571443/)



Senator Al Franken, downtown St. Paul at the dedication ceremony



The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest has long provided tours of the Jewish North Side of Minneapolis. In the last 8 months, JHSUM has been approached by three different groups interested in engaging us to lead tours of Jewish North Side sites.

Last April 30, Larry Latz, father of Shir Tikvah senior rabbi, Michael Adam Latz, and a native of the North Side, led Shir Tikvah's 8th grade Sunday School class on a tour of the old neighborhood. The children and the parents accompanying the class learned a lot that day and got a flavor of a bygone era.

Cary Shaich leads these women gathering to celebrate their 75th birthdays on a North Side tour. All grew up in the North Minneapolis Jewish Community.

*L-R Eileen Silver, Cary Shaich, Sharon Tapper, Babe Wartnick, Marlene Kupetz, Marlene Sobek and Phyllis Abrams.*





*Genealogist Susan Weinberg suggests:*

# 10

## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK THE ELDERS IN YOUR FAMILY.

The starting point of any genealogy search is oral history.

Many genealogists are envious of those who can recall interviewing their grandparent for a grade-school project.

Even if some of the people you would like to interview would require a time machine, their stories may have been shared with others.

### 1. Who are family members named for?

Naming patterns can reveal quite a bit in your genealogy search. Ashkenazic Jews are often named for deceased grandparents or great-grandparents so knowing this information will give you clues for your family tree.

### 2. What were their surnames in Europe?

Many immigrants changed their names when they came to America. You can spend a lot of time searching for an incorrect name.

### 3. Where was family from?

Records will often say the nearest large town, but oral history will reveal the small shtetl they may really have come from.

### 4. When did family immigrate?

Immigration records after 1906 tell us their nearest relative in Europe and who they were going to in the US. Records before that date are much more limited. If they came earlier, but other family members came after 1906, the later records may provide information with greater value.

### 5. Where did family enter the US?

Over 70% of immigrants came into New York, but they might also have come through Boston or Philadelphia and those headed to the Upper Midwest may have come through Canada or Galveston, Texas.

### 6. When and why did family go to the Upper Midwest?

If they went to New York did they stay there for a while? Did they already have family outside of New York or were they the first to venture into the Upper Midwest?

### 7. Where is family buried? Are there any who are buried out of the area?

Tombstones are important sources of genealogy information. They may tell you their father's name and their Hebrew name. In areas like New York, they may also tell you what European town they came from as they may be buried in a section with others from that town.

### 8. Are there any letters from grandparents?

Now here is the time machine I referenced above. After fruitlessly searching for my grandfather's immigration record, my mother remembered that he had written in a letter to her that he had changed his name because it was too hard to spell and pronounce. She produced his letter from her file on family history. Letters may give you valuable facts and a flavor for their personality and values.

### 9. Do you know of family who died in the Holocaust? Or who survived?

Holocaust sites such as Yad Vashem are important genealogy sources as well as a way to honor and remember family. Testimony might be filed on family members already and looking at the names of who filed it may connect you to family you didn't know existed.

### 10. What do you remember about your grandparents?

Our memories build on the shoulders of those who came before us. Suppose you are interviewing your grandparents about their grandparents. That is five generations of history!



# Telling the stories

*Robin Doroshow*

*You may have heard of StoryCorps, the non-profit organization that collects, shares and preserves the stories of everyday people to build connections between people and build a more just and compassionate world. In addition to reminding one another of shared humanity, StoryCorps is creating an archive for future generations.*

Storycorps mobile recording booth is being brought to the Twin Cities in conjunction with Minnesota Public Radio. From September 7- October 6, 2017, the booth, an airstream trailer converter to a recording studio, will be located downtown, at 90 W 4th St, St Paul, MN 55102, in front of St. Paul's George Latimer Central Public Library.

Appointments are required for pairs of people to come spend an hour in the mobile studio and talk about anything and everything. Each pair can choose one person to do the interviewing and the other to be interviewed or they can switch roles during the course of the interview. Interviews can be conducted in any language.

Interviewees can choose to allow StoryCorps to consider sharing their story on its podcast, which you may have heard on NPR. The chances of having your story

chosen are low as StoryCorps broadcast only about 1% of the stories they record. Interviewees can also choose to keep the interview entirely private for personal use only. Many people choose to allow StoryCorps to archive their recordings for future generations.

Participants will be asked for a \$25 donation at the time of their recording session. If you choose to participate, please consider sharing your recording with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest and the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives to become part of our collections too.

To learn more about StoryCorps, see their website at: [storycorps.org/](http://storycorps.org/)

To schedule an appointment while StoryCorps mobile booth is in St. Paul, see this link: [staging.storycorps.org/stops/mobile-stop-twin-cities-mn/](http://staging.storycorps.org/stops/mobile-stop-twin-cities-mn/)



*StoryCorps mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.*

***September 7  
through  
October 6***

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recording booth is  
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MN Public Radio.  
in front of downtown  
St. Paul's George Latimer  
Central Public Library  
90 W 4th St  
St Paul, MN 55102***





## MN Hillel celebrates 77 years on Campus

After 77 years on campus, Minnesota Hillel is set to unveil a new permanent history display:

On September 19, 2017 Minnesota Hillel will celebrate the start of its 77th year on campus by unveiling a beautiful new history display in the lobby of their 1521

University Ave SE building. The display will feature photos from decades past and present, historical information, and listings of Hillel's leadership from 1940 through today. The Hillel building is open from 9 am - 8 pm daily for viewing.

**Minnesota  
Hillel**

[www.mnhillel.org](http://www.mnhillel.org)

[facebook.com/MinnesotaHillel](https://facebook.com/MinnesotaHillel)

*Photo: Nathan & Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, U of M Libraries - Ribbon cutting at the first Hillel House, 1944. From the turn of the century through the early 1940s, Jewish student organizations did not have a permanent place to meet. Hillel was constructed with support from the national B'nai Brith organization and the Twin Cities Jewish community.*

## L'Shana Tova - 100 years ago...

*"Minot Congregation going to  
Taschlich\* year 5668 (1917)  
Minot North Dakota"*

Yiddish translated by Rabbi Yonah Grossman, Director | Chabad Jewish Center of North Dakota

*\*Taschlich is the ceremony on  
Rosh Hashana where we symbolically  
"cast away" our sins into the water.*

*Photo: Berman Upper Midwest  
Jewish Archives, U of M Libraries - Taschlich Service in Minot,  
ND 1917.*





# Brush with fame...

## Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschels' daughter

Robin Doroshow



On May 11, Dr. Susannah Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies and Chair of the Jewish Studies program at Dartmouth College was in the Twin Cities presenting her lecture entitled: "No Religion Is An Island: The Interfaith Legacy of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel" at the College of St. Catherine's in St. Paul.

Knowing that her illustrious father, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, had been a visiting professor in the Twin Cities many years ago, I reached out to her prior to her visit and she agreed to meet with me.

I must say I was a bit star struck at the prospect of spending time with Rabbi Heschel's daughter; the woman who started the custom of including an orange on the Seder plate as a way to recognize marginalized Jews, particularly women and LGBT people.

Dr. Heschel allowed me to test out tech skills and we recorded our interview, which JHSUM intends to use as part of our upcoming series of podcasts. Watch for more information on JHSUM podcasts later this year.

We took a drive around St. Paul, passing Horace Mann elementary school in Highland Park where Dr. Heschel spent a year as

*Dr. Heschel allowed me to test out my tech skills and we recorded our interview, which JHSUM intends to use as part of our upcoming series of podcasts.*

a student. She remembered telling her classmates that her previous school in Manhattan, had its playground was on the building's roof. She felt like she had landed in Minnesota from another planet! We passed Cecil's delicatessen and she remembered eating her first marshmallow there because they carried kosher for Passover marshmallows. She had fond memories of her time in Minnesota, and for this executive director, it made my day, if not my entire month!



## JHSUM Annual Meeting

Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest Annual Meeting.

**Sunday, October 22, 1pm  
Meeting & Presentation  
1:15pm sharp!**

**Sabes JCC**

**4330 S. Cedar Lake Road  
Mpls MN 55416**

Join us for an exciting and informative afternoon as we unveil the new art book *We Spoke Jewish* by author, artist and genealogist, Susan Weinberg published in conjunction with JHSUM. Her accompanying presentation will share her process of researching, creating and storytelling. This event will also include genealogy resources, information about The Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives and an opportunity to record your story.

*We Spoke Jewish* will be available for purchase and signing at event. Makes a great Hanukkah present!

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to [history@jhsum.org](mailto:history@jhsum.org) or 952-381-3360.

*Keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail.*

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
of the Upper Midwest



## *Exciting Changes Coming to JHSUM*

*JHSUM is excited to share that we've been busy working behind the scenes to improve our online services.*

*Soon researchers will be able to search our new artifact database from the comfort of their homes. This will increase our efficiency and assist researchers all over the world.*

*A new [JHSUM.org](http://JHSUM.org) is underway as well. Be on the lookout for our new and improved website coming soon which will be dynamic and showcase our unique photo collection.*

*Special thank you to the Matthew and Linda Gilfix Family Technology Designated Fund for selecting JHSUM as a recipient of their funding. Their support will enable JHSUM to update our website, databases and make many more needed changes. Thank you!*

## 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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*"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

Peddlers to Processors  
**SCRAP  
STORIES**  
from the Upper Midwest