



Nebraska Jewish Historical Society
333 South 132nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, No. 2

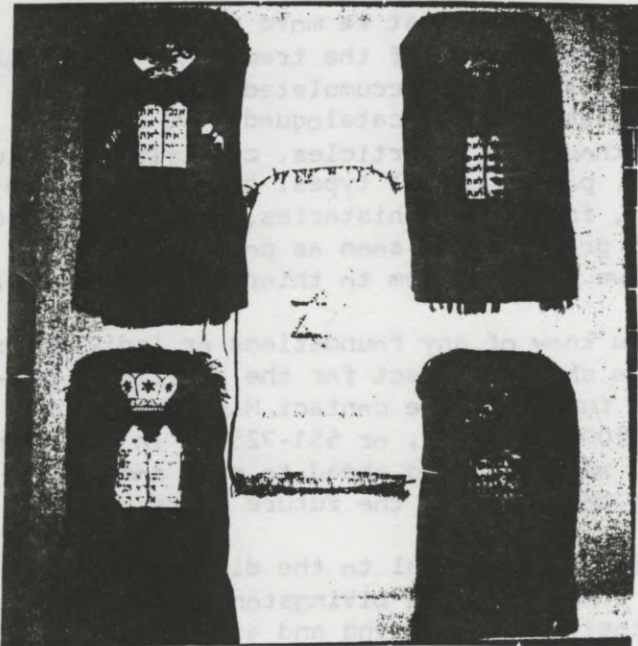
December, 1985

Omaha, Nebraska

"Kapulier Connection" Open

In honor of the Kapulier Synagogue which recently closed its doors at 30th and Cuming Streets, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society exhibit now hangs on the walls of the "Corridor of Jewish History" museum at the Jewish Community Center.

On display are many of the beautiful ark covers and Torah covers from the B'nai Jacob Anshe Sholom Synagogue and the Adas Yeshuron Synagogue which merged in 1951 to become B'nai Jacob Adas Yeshuron Synagogue.



Also on display are a variety of interesting artifacts from the synagogue including the "potcher" which was used to gain quiet when the congregation became too noisy, the president's gavel, old tefillin and tefillin bags, certificates of sale for seats, etc.

The exhibit is open during the hours the JCC is open and will be available for viewing until January 8. Come with your children and your families to see this unusual exhibit.

Youth Exhibit in January

On January 13, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society will open an exhibit of 100 years of Jewish youth in Nebraska and Council Bluffs.

Pictures of youth groups and graduation classes, nursery school classes and college fraternities and sororities, camp pictures and memorabilia from Round Table awards nights---these and many other memorabilia will be on display in the "Corridor of Jewish History" museum until April, 1986.



Who are they?



Anyone still having artifacts to submit for the exhibit is asked to contact the NJHS office immediately, 334-8200, Ext. 270. Curator for this exhibit and all past exhibits is Ducky Milder.

REFLECTIONS OF A PRESIDENT....

We come to the end of 1985 with much to be grateful for in this organization in which we all have a common purpose, that of preserving the history of the Jews of our state and Council Bluffs.

We are grateful for the support we have received from so many who understand the work we are involved in and assist us with financial aid and artifacts and memorabilia for our archives and exhibits.

We are grateful to the Jewish Community Center staff and board for the assistance they have given us since our founding. Without them, we would not have either office space or the "Corridor of Jewish History" museum.

We are grateful to the Federation Foundation Committee for understanding our desire to preserve the artifacts of the Kapulier Shul and working with us in every possible way to enable us to carry out this mammoth project.

We are grateful to so many board members for their "special" jobs - especially to Sivvy Roffman for editing our first journal and planning so many Jewish Press ads, to Joie Simon for her work on membership campaigns, to Ducky Milder for mounting our four beautiful exhibits in the "Corridor of Jewish History," to our wise treasurer Lois Friedman, and to all who have served in board positions that are the essence of our existence. Todah Rabah!

We are grateful to the Jewish Press staff who understand the job we are trying to do and support us with excellent space for our publicity and warm encouraging editorials.

We are grateful to all who have brought us through three years of growth and development. Without our members, the entire community and out-of-towners who were formerly of our community, it couldn't have been done.

Mary Fellman, President

FUNDS FOR ARCHIVIST POSITION GRANTED BY FROHM AND LIVINGSTON FOUNDATIONS

In answer to our request for funds for the hiring of an archivist-research librarian and a part-time secretary, we have been given a grant of \$10,000 a year for five years from the Carl Frohm Foundation and a grant of \$2,000 a year from the Milton and Corinne Livingston Foundation. The Frohm grant was given to us with the understanding we would seek matching funds. The Livingston grant is a part of the matching funds and we are continuing to seek the other \$8,000 for each of the five years.

However, the Frohm Foundation has agreed to allow us to complete the matching funds for the first year from our own treasury in order that we may move ahead with the hiring of an archivist.

Our Search Committee is in the process of interviewing for that position following the placement of an ad in the Jewish Press during the month of December. In addition to the full-time position of an archivist, we will also be seeking a part-time secretary.

The Board voted that we move ahead in this direction because of the tremendous amount of materials we have accumulated that needs to be accessioned and catalogued. We already have thousands of articles, certificates, pictures, papers of all types, clippings, scrapbooks, files, oral histories, etc. They need to be processed as soon as possible in order that we can use them to their best advantage.

If you know of any foundations or individuals we should contact for the additional matching funds, please contact Mary Fellman, 334-8200, Ext. 270, or 551-7257. In the meantime, we are moving ahead to make some of these contacts for the future years.

We are most grateful to the directors of the Carl Frohm and the Livingston Foundations for their understanding and assistance.

Thank you letters and a check for \$21.00 were received from the children of the Jewish Day School following their tour of the Kapulier shul before its closing. Some comments were: "I liked the balcony very much. I liked the fluffy kippas and the small Torahs. The "potcher" was clever. The ramp to the balcony was fun to run up."

FROM OUR MAIL BAG ABOUT THE KAPULIER SHUL.....

....."In addition to the thanks of the children of the Jewish Day School, I'd like to add my own. The experience was very moving for me. Ed and I would like to help save such a large part of Omaha's history. Please accept this check and we hope it helps."
Lori Stan Sachs, Jewish Day School and Community Teacher

....."Although I've lived in Illinois for 30 years, my roots and heart are still in Omaha where I grew up. I hope this donation will help to preserve those memories of my past for our future generations." Shalom, Adelle (Chasanov) Wolf

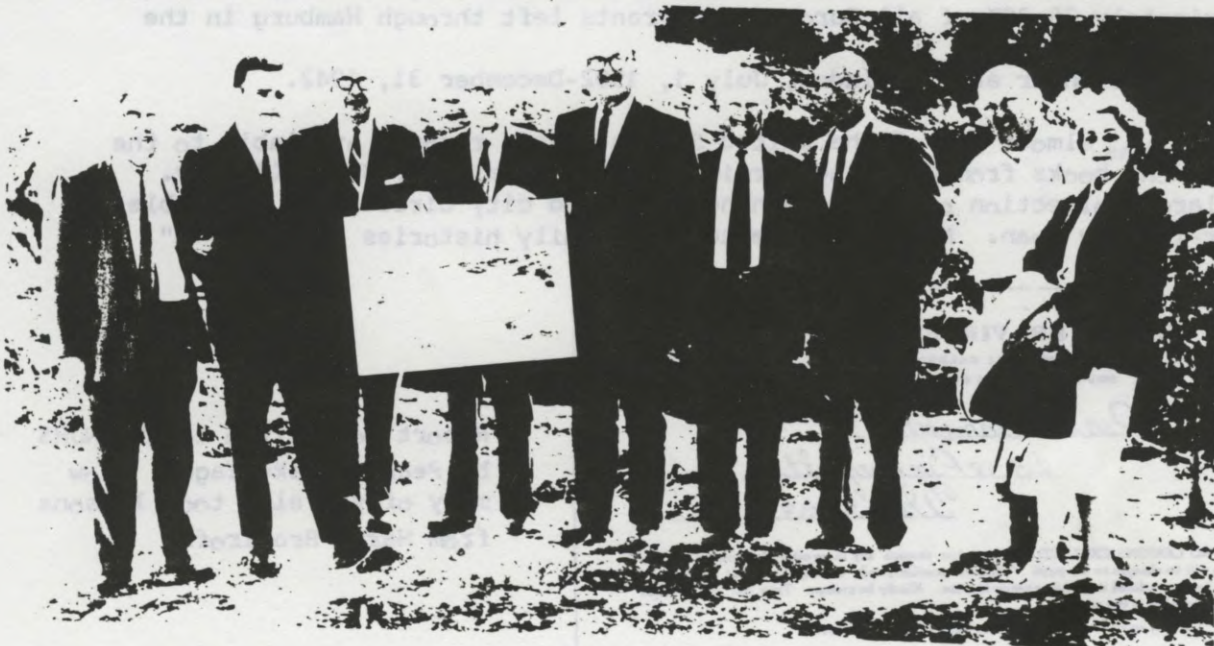
....."The Jewish Press of November 1, 1985, re: the closure of the 'Kapulier Shul' brought back many fond memories. Living on 22nd and Cumings where my parents owned a combination furniture and hardware store (new and used), we spent our holidays in the Shul. My father, Harry Bachman, was one of its members, morning and night, and, of course, during the holidays. On a trip to Omaha in 1980, I was shocked to see how the area had changed. One could stand on Cumings Street and look clear across to Kellom School. So many buildings were gone, but where we lived and had the store - the building was there, but completely changed. I am enclosing a check and trust that it will be helpful in your plans." Anne Bachman Ellis, 18929 Longfellow Ave., Lake Oswego, Oregon

....."I certainly have fond memories of this wonderful old synagogue and want to make a contribution in memory of my grandfather, Joseph Adler. Good luck with your project! Thank you so much!" Frances Malcom Falk (former Omahan)

....."Please use this check for the preservation fund, and thank you for the memories! I remember going to the shul as a child. I was able to lead Don to my 'bobbie's' seat (by a window so she wouldn't be hot). For Don it was a look into a Jewish past he was unfamiliar with." Ilene Sacks Klein and Don, Omaha

....."My father was a Saturday morning 'regular' at the Shul. I know he would be saddened by its closing but happy and proud that its contents will live on forever."
Nancy Roffman Smith

....."Please find enclosed check for the first old time members of the 'Kapulier Shul.' Sarah Ringle was the first organizer to help for the Chevra Tillim group. She also helped raise funds for the small building on Pleasant Hill Cemetery, also the Jewish Funeral Home. They were the first group to start the synagogue, the oldest members. After they were deceased, Louis J. and I kept our memberships for over twenty-five years. Dorothy C. Ringle, Omaha



Shown here at Camp Esther K. Newman on the grounds of Lake Jennie Newman are left to right: Paul Veret, Alex Weinstein, Ed Brodkey, Henry Newman, Elmer Gross, Jule Newman, Ernie Nogg, Sherman Poska, and Kalah Franklin.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS...

Dr. Steven M. Denenberg has returned to Omaha to open his office for the practice of facial plastic surgery. The son of Norman and Eunice Denenberg, Steve has studied at Harvard, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Des Moines Veterans Administration Medical Center, Stanford and the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Richard Slutzky has been named director of development for the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City. Richard, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Ben Slutzky, received his law degree from Emory University and practiced law in Kansas City for several years before joining the Federation.

Arnold Kimmel has been appointed Hospital Executive Director of the Medical Center of Tarzana, California. Kimmel, the son of former Omahans Charles and Sophie Kimmel, spent eight years, 1971-1979, with the University of Nebraska Hospital and Clinics in Omaha.

Scott Richards, son of the late David Richards of Omaha and Mrs. Monte Bergman of Kansas City, MO, recently appeared in the Jewish Theater of New England play, "Dreyfus in Rehearsal," in Boston at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center (former Omaha Ed Sidman). His many Boston area stage credits include over 600 performances of Shear Madness, Table Settings. He has had principal roles in Warner Brothers productions and has appeared in numerous regional and national commercials. He is a board member of Screen Actors Guild in New England and holds an M.F.A. in acting from Brandeis University.

IF YOU KNOW OF THE DOINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF OTHER THIRD AND FOURTH OR MORE GENERATION FORMER NEBRASKANS, PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU WITH PICTURES AND DETAILS.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILY HISTORIES...

The Los Angeles Genealogical Library (Mormon or LDS Library) has many indexes to birth, marriage, and death records from various communities. Of particular interest are the following: California deaths index, 1940-1983; California marriages index, 1960-1981; New York births index, 1880-1966; Cook County (Chicago) death index, 1871-1933.

It also has several collections of passenger lists and passenger list indexes which are very important to the Jewish genealogist. They are:

- a. Hamburg Passenger Lists - Indirect indexes, 1850-1934; Direct indexes, 1850-1934; Indirect passenger lists, 1850-1934; Direct passenger lists, 1850-1934. Approximately 25-30% of all European emigrants left through Hamburg in the years between 1880 and 1914.
- b. New York passenger arrival index, July 1, 1902-December 31, 1942.

The library has almost all of the United States census records available to the public: Telephone books from U.S. and foreign cities. Catalog of Sutro Library. Sutro has a large collection of old telephone books and city directories available through inter-library loan. Maps and gazetteers. Family histories and "How to" books.

HARRY BRAVIROFF PIANO STUDIO

SUITE 14 BALDRIGE BUILDING

20th AND FARNAM STS. ATLANTIC 1182

Report of Pearl Dansky
2528 Finkney St
Web 3022

NO LESSONS EXCUSED. Lessons lost through any cause other than protracted sickness will be charged to the pupil. Whenever possible, pupils desiring lessons at other hours will be accommodated if sufficient notice is given. Kindly be prompt. Time lost by tardiness is accountable to the pupil.

"The best way to learn a science is to begin with a regular system."

Report card given to the NJHS by Pearl Dansky Yager. How many of you also took lessons from Harry Braviroff?

OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION

TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS TO

THE KAPULIER SHUL "P AND R" FUND

Lori and Ed Sachs
Harold, Rita, Amy and Larry Novak
Arthur and Ruth Goldstein
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Dimond---in memory of Joseph and Anna Adler, Hyman Adler
Rose L. Konecky, Marjorie Avner-- in memory of parents, Jake and Emma Kaplan, brother
Harry Kaplan
Mr. and Mrs. George Lerman---in memory of Nathan Lerman
Don and Ilene Klein
Mary Fellman---in memory of Max and Dora Arbitman, Jacob Freed
Dorothy G. Ringle---in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ringle, Mr. Louis Ringle, Mr.
Phil Ringle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yousem, Dr. and Mrs. Morris
Monheit, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Zernovsky
Corporal and Mrs. Cohen---in memory of Samuel Cohen
Lois and Lloyd Friedman---in memory of Samuel Friedman
Mr. and Mrs. Yale Halperin
Phillip Ratner---in memory of Harry Ratner
George J. Weise---in memory of Esther and Hyman Weise
William Poster---in memory of Sam and Hannah Poster
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cooper-- in honor of Joshua and Alex's heritage
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Oruch---in memory of Vivian Oruch and Robert Rimmerman
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Fedman---in honor of grandson, Brian Joseph
Rosaline and Sam Epstein---in memory of Abraham Baum
Gloria Friedman---in memory of parents, Fannie and Sam Friedman
Connie L. Adler---in memory of parents, Jashua Hessel, Chasa Hashava
Jacque Dolgoff---in memory of Harry Dolgoff, Dobe Gorbaty Dolgoff
Mrs. Ann Bachman Ellis---in memory of Harry Bachman
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Falk---in memory of grandfather, Joseph Adler
Nancy Roffman Smith---in memory of father, Selwyn Z. Roffman
Joy and Paul Grossman
Louise Sherman
Jerold and Sheila Rosen
Arthur and Ann Grossman
Esther and Stuart Simon
Corporal Cohen and Gertrude---in memory of Bill Grodinsky
David and Jeanne Dvorkin
Helga and Phil Patterson
Sophie Katz---in memory of Harry and Fannie Cooperman
Senior Hadassah of Sioux City---in honor of Mary Fellman
Sol and Lee Jane Parsow
Alex and Mary Sue Grossman
Cynthia and Charles Schneider
Howard and Gloria Kaslow
Mrs. Max Breslow---in memory of Max Breslow
Irvin Green
Sylvia Parilman
Adelle Chasanov Wolf
Sharon and Dan Cipperley---in memory of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Y. Faier
Children of the Jewish Day School
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Warren
Ann Kaiman
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Klutznick
Jacob Adler---in memory of Joseph and Ann Adler
Mike and Carol Katzman
Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Simon
Mr. Benny Abrams
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Goldstein
Joe and Audrey Kirshenbaum

To any of our members who would like to make a contribution to this fund, please send your check to Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, 333 South 132nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68154. All monies received will be used for the preservation and restoration of Kapulier Shul artifacts in a replica of the synagogue when that is created.

NEBRASKA - COUNCIL BLUFFS JEWISH
WORLD WAR I VETERANS

The names listed below have been called in, sent in or found in research. If you know of any members of the Jewish community of Nebraska or Council Bluffs who served in World War I and whose names are not listed below, please send them to our NJHS office. All names will be listed on a plaque to be presented to the Jewish Federation of Omaha in 1986.

OMAHA VETERANS

L. Abraham
Al J. Abramson
Arthur Ackerman
Louis Albert
Hyman Alpersen
Ben Altman
Walter M. Ash
Harry I. Belmont
Joseph Bernstein
Harry Z. Bernstein
Herman Blumenthal
Charles Berger
Leslie Burkenroad
Max Chasen
Abe Cohen
George Cohen
Herman Cohen
Samuel Cohen
Mayer Cohn
Mike Colton
Jacob Crouse
Morton Degen
Harry Dvosin
William Engel
Dave Epstein
John D. Faier
John Arthur Farber
David Philip Feder
Maurice Frank
Harry A. Frankel
Joseph Freed
S. Freedman
Max Fried
Arthur V. Friedman
H.B. Frosh
Hyman Gerber
Harry Gerstein
Himi Gerstein
Hyman Gilinsky
George Goldberg
Morris Goldberg
Herbert Goldsten
Phil Goldstone
Morris Goldware
Irvin Goodman
Abraham Greenberg
J.J. Greenberg
Abraham Greenspan
Sam Greenstone
Arthur Cohn
Jack Bramson
Hyman (Herman) Silverman
Solomon Graetz

Abe Gross
Nathan Grossman
Philip Grossman
Abraham Handleman
Ed Harris
Ruben Harris
H.S. Herschman
Frederick Heyn
Morton Hiller
Ben Hirschfield
Morris Hornstein
Herman Horwich
Cecil Izenstatt
Archie Jacobs
Herman Jacobsen
S. Jacobsen
Marcus Joffee
R.L. Katleman
Frank Katz
Meyer Katzman
A.J. Kohlberg
Herman Kraft
Barney Kully
Louis Kutler
Sol Lagman
Alex Lashinsky
Harry Lehman
Philip Lehman
Aaron Levine
Morris Levy
Carl A. Lewis
Joe Lorkis
Meyer Linda
Morris Linsman
Jack Lipsey
Morzton Lipsey
J.M. Malashock
Israel Marcus
Harry Marer
Morris Marer
Robert Marer
Herman Marowitz
Julian Meyer
Arthur Meyerson
William Milder
Ben Miller
Mayer Monsky
Phil Monsky
Max Moskovitz
Milton Moskovitz
Mike Muskin

Albert Newman
Henry Newman
Jule Newman
Nathan Nogg
Harry Sol Novitsky
Hymie Novitsky
Harry Parker
Polack
Morris Potash
Minnie Rabinowitz
Joe Radinowski
Samuel Rice
Ed Robinson
Henry Robinson
Roy Roffman
Max Rosen
Joe Rosenberg
Joe Rosenbloom
Max M. Rosenblum
Harry Rosenthal
J.L. Rothschild
Arthur N. Rubin
D. Segelman
Fred Seger
Twin brother of Fred Seger
Morris J. Sherman
Morris Schlaifer
Melvin Schlessinger
Aaron Shafer
Jake Shrago
Morris Silverman
J.L. Simon
Dave Singer
Emil Singer
Morris Singer
Morris Slosburg
Henry Solig
Louis Sogolow
Horace Stein
Ben Stern
Izzie Stiss
John Swartz
Harry Trustin
Max Wasserman
A.L. Weinstein
Harry Weinberg
Samuel Wiesman
A.L. Wohlner
Paul Wohlner
J. Ziegler
Harry O. Slutzky

LINCOLN VETERANS

Saul B. Arenson
I.L. Bogen
Hyman G. Bricker
Lewis E. Cohan
Max Ellinger
Nathan J. Gold
Samuel A. Greenstone
Nathan J. Grossman
Edward J. Kushner
Adam Labovitz
Charles Labovitz
M.G. Lehman
Max Markovitz
Max Mozer
Charles C. Nefsky
Lew Polsky
Maurice Polsky
Samuel B. Poska
John Sanlovich
Louis K. Shostak
Joseph Simon
Samuel Simon
Samuel S. Soklyn
Sidney Soklyn
William Soklyn
I.H. Steinberg
Billy Wolff
Maurice Zukoff Henry Weisgurt

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA VETERANS

Marvin Adler
Abe Bear
Harry Bromberg
Sam Bubb
Frank Cohen
Harry Cohen
Dave Cherniss
Ike Feblovitz
Ben Gershun
Gilinsky
Oscar Greenberg
Herman Krause
Louis Katelman
Louis Passer
Nate Richards
Sam Saltzman
Ben Seldin
Saul Suvalsky
Ben Telpner
Philip Trachtenberg
Morris Wohlner

Society Helps Trace Jewish History

Day by day, week by week, letters arrive at the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Mass., requesting research assistance.

Dr. Nathan Kaganoff, Society librarian, and his staff analyze the inquiries, research the data and respond carefully, quickly and thoroughly. The inquiries come from scholars preparing academic papers, from family members searching for records of early immigrants, and from organizations seeking material for exhibits, books, and magazines.

In 1984-85, these requests for historical information and photographs totalled almost 1,000 letters. They ranged from details about Mordecai Meyers (a soldier in the Revolutionary War and, later,

mayor of Schenectady, N.Y.), to photographs and data for an exhibit about Jews in the U.S. armed forces. Requests for a recipe for preparing *matzoh* for a church seder are interspersed with pleas for data on an uncle who arrived in Topeka, Kansas, in the early part of the century under the aegis of the Industrial Removal Office, an organization which placed immigrants into the interior sections of the country.

Others need information about agricultural settlers in New Jersey who were aided by the Baron deHirsch fund or about Jewish dentists in World War II. Many individuals write seeking to confirm at least one Jewish ancestor. There is a great deal of interest in the Holocaust on the part of Americans and Euro-

peans, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Dr. Kaganoff, an invaluable resource to those requesting help, has been the Society's librarian for 23 years, beginning while the Society was still located in New York. Its library/headquarters building was completed in 1988 adjacent to Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Dr. "K," as he is often known, is familiar with the collections of the library and archives of the Society and has extensive knowledge of the holdings of other collections in the United States, if referral is necessary. In addition, he is an ordained rabbi with a Ph.D. in American Jewish history from Tufts American University.

from the
Kansas City
Jewish
Chronicle

Visit the "Corridor of Jewish History" Museum. Guided tours are available for groups upon request.

334-8200, Ext. 270

Although we seem to be concentrating our attention on the Jews who settled and lived in Omaha and Lincoln, we are truly interested in the history of the Jews who settled in all the communities of Nebraska. We are herewith reprinting excerpts from the story of the Jews of Adams County, Hastings, Nebraska, written a few years ago by Max Prostok and David Rosenberg of Hastings. We hope it stimulates many of you to write about the history or experiences of Jews in other Nebraska small cities and towns.

"Although there is no official record of the first arrival of Jewish people in Adams County, Nebraska, it is known that several Jews were engaged in the fur buying and trapping in the territory in the late 1860's. These Jews came from Omaha, Lincoln and Kansas City. In addition, many Jews traveled the territory and county selling their wares from wagons or from packs on their backs. In order to keep their religious belief, these Jews formed a spiritual community which has endured to the present day.

In 1886, the Jews in Adams County and Hastings formed their first official religious congregation, known as Mt. Sinai Hebrew Congregation of Hastings, Nebraska. At this time, the Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association was also organized with the southeast corner of Parkview Cemetery used as the site of the newly formed Jewish Cemetery. Records and markers show however that several Jews were buried in the cemetery in the 1890's located on East 12th Street at the city limits in Hastings, Nebraska. Membership in both the congregation and cemetery association came from many Adams County and other Nebraska communities such as Hastings, Harvard, Sutton, Holdrege, McCook, Kearney, Grand Island, Central City, Aurora, Blue Hill, Red Cloud and Ainsworth. In 1886, the Jews purchased some five acres of land for the site of Mt. Sinai Cemetery from the Hastings Cemetery Association (Parkview).

During the period of 1880's to 1890's, Jewish population in Adams County varied due to business failures and depressions, but again records show that some 100 Jews lived within the county. The 1890's to 1900's show an influx of Jewish people into the City of Hastings and Adams County due to the fact that many Jews were coming into the United States from Europe at the time.

A prominent Hastings citizen during this period was Mark Levy, a Hastings Jewish merchant in the ladies ready-to-wear and other business interests.

With the advent of World War I in 1914 and the need by the national government and industry for scrap metal, a number of Jewish businessmen came to Hastings and established scrap yards. Some names in this field included N. Nathan, Gabriel Rosenberg, Joseph Braverman, Sol Zveitel, Herman Zuber and Louis Kully. Hastings Second Street retailers in this period were Mark Levy, Phil Pizer and David M. Rosenberg, a brother of Gabriel.

In 1920, a young World War I Jewish Navy War veteran opened a surplus army-navy goods store on Hastings Avenue in Hastings, intending to stay just one year. This man, Ben J. Sherman, served in most civic capacities and was an outstanding Chamber of Commerce president.

Through the years, religious services were held in many rented halls and members' homes. Among the rented halls which served as temporary synagogues and temples were the old GAR Hall on West Second St. in Hastings which is now the second floor of the C.D. Hoff Cleaners building and the I.O.O.F. Hall on Lincoln Avenue between Second and Third Streets.

In 1931, because of the depression and a lower Jewish population, the sacred scrolls and prayer books of the Mt. Sinai Hebrew Congregation of Hastings were delivered to Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Lincoln, Nebr. to be held in trust until such time as they might be needed for the Hastings Jewish people and as of this date, these sacred articles still reside in the new Tifereth Israel Synagogue building in Lincoln and still are used in daily prayers as a silent tribute to past generations of Jews who lived in Adams County and the City of Hastings. Since World War II, with better means of transportation such as rail, bus, highway and air, most Jews in Hastings are official members of the larger Jewish synagogues in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebr. Yet special services are still held from time to time in members' homes in Hastings.

Our warm thanks to charter member Philip Klutznick who spoke so eloquently at our annual meeting in June and who continues to keep in touch with us in so many gratifying ways. Our thanks also to new friend Irving Reinglass who contributed so much time and energy to taking down the arks and bimah at the Kapulier shul as a favor to the NJHS.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

.....Suggestions for exhibits in our "Corridor of Jewish History" Museum.

#####

RUFFLED SHIRTS AND BEAVER PELTS:

(taken from a story on Jewish Traders and American Indians by Arlene B. Hirschfelder in the January, 1985 issue of the children's magazine "Shofar")

"What do Asser Levy, Joseph Simon, and John Jacob Hays have in common? These three Jewish men made their living exchanging goods with American Indians also known as Native Americans. We call these men Indian Traders. There were dozens of other Jews who were Indian traders in our country and in Canada from the 1650's through the 1870's. They carried supplies directly to far-away Indian villages or they met Indians at trading posts. Although the relationship between Jewish traders and Indians lasted over 200 years, traders and Indians left very few records. The following story, however, gives a clue: Julius Meyer traded with Indians in Nebraska in the 1870's. The Indians trusted Meyer so much that they adopted him into the tribe. That was how Indians honored (and continue to this day to honor) special people."

Our thanks to the Lloyd Friedman family for the General Electric tape recorder which was given to our Oral History Committee in memory of the late Samuel Friedman.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WHO HAVE BECOME LIFE MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Paul and Margie Alperson
- Mary Fellman
- Harry and Edith Freed
- Kenneth and Sandy Freed
- Sophie Freeman
- Art and Ruth Goldstein
- Herbert Goldsten
- William Grodinsky, deceased
- Gary and Rose Gross
- Philip and Ethel Klutznick
- Joe and Audrey Kirshenbaum
- Louis and Dorothy Lipp
- Jeanne Lipsey Rosenblum
- Hubert and Ramelle Monsky
- Morton and Elaine Richards
- Henry and Dorothy Riekes
- Irvin and Phyllis Sherman
- Charles and Cynthia Schneider
- Ben and Anna Wiesman

Life membership in the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society may be obtained by a contribution of \$500 or more. The names of all Life Members will be inscribed on a plaque which will be placed in the "Corridor of Jewish History" museum at the Jewish Community Center in 1986.

We are beginning our search for information about early Jewish businesses along with pictures, artifacts, contracts, leases, and whatever else you may have to share with us. Also we want material on old-time Omaha, Lincoln and Council Bluffs families, from all over the state also. THINK OF THE NJHS BEFORE YOU THROW AWAY YOUR HISTORY. IN FACT, DON'T THROW IT, SEND IT OUR WAY.

.....This letter from Earl Kaplan was given to us by Louis Lipp: "Dear Louis, Just finished reading your Recollections of the Jews of South Omaha. A flood of memories of my childhood came back. Names like Mark Lorig, who sold me my engagement ring; Tobin Drugs, Alex Sadofsky, where I worked while going to school at Omaha U., (as well as for Louis Greenberg who was his competitor). You mentioned my father, Jacob Kaplan. In the 1920's, he gave up the junk business and built a garage on 25th and Q Streets. During the depression, he gave up the garage business and we moved to Salina, Kansas, where he worked in the junk business owned by my uncles, the Hills, of Lincoln. We came back to Omaha about 1934 and he resumed the junk business at 25th and Q Streets. I studied as a chemist and left Omaha for Joliet, Illinois, to work for duPont, then American Cyanamid and, after 40 years, retired and now live in Metuchen, NJ. Of course, I remember going to Cheder at 25th and J. My classmates included Nathan Corenman, Harry Bernstein, Nate Kraft, Alex Lipsman, Celia Lipsman, Eileen Zevitz, Charlotte Sachs, Gertrude Canar, and there were more. I can remember the whole gang walking to a north Omaha shul. I also believe there was a chicken and egg store on 25th and Q run by the Lipsman family, also a bakery run by the Shermans. We later moved to 22nd and I Streets and our neighbors were Harry Dworsky and the Kazlowskys."



Abe Abrams stands in the center and towards the back of photo flanked on both sides by his grocery clerks.

Photo circa 1924



.....From Elaine Clearfield: "It was a real thrill to receive the paperback bound booklet containing my story of my dad's store - The Milwaukee Delicatessen. I have nothing but positive thoughts about its publication - your cover is most attractive too, but what happened to the picture of the Delicatessen interior with my dad and several of his clerks and customers?" Dear Elaine, Here is the picture which should have been included in the story. Hope you and our readers enjoy seeing it here.

A 96 year old former resident of Omaha writes about her remembrances...

Robert H. Alter, president of Cabletelevision Advertising Bureau, wrote the following letter to Robert Goldstein who sent it on to his mother and father, Art and Ruth Goldstein, who passed it on to the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society along with the article from which we quote:

Dear Bob,

In an interesting conversation with your father recently, he remembered a great uncle of mine, H.A. Resnick, who lived in Omaha and was in the oil and coal business. He passed away but his wife, my Aunt Rose, lives in Los Angeles and, at the age of 96, is still remarkably bright, interesting, well read and rightfully vain about her appearance. We suggested she write her "memoirs" and she responded with the attached. The brother who wouldn't let her go to Omaha at first because "Indians were running around the streets," was my grandfather.

Excerpts from Mrs. Resnick:

After H.A. (her husband) lost his job in New York, we left for Omaha (about 1914). Omaha had a lot of packing houses. The work was very hard. H.A.'s job was to put the skin in salt water and then to take it out and clean off the hair and dirt. It was bad for the skin even with gloves, it was no protection. We moved in with his parents and I became pregnant. Today, a 10 year old child knows more than I did. There was no money to buy any clothes for the baby. Max was born in December. It was the coldest winter Omaha ever had. We didn't had a toilet in the house. It was a short block from the house and it was bitter cold. And so we became parents. We both didn't know how to raise a child. There was no other place to go for work but then a miracle happened. Ford was building a factory and they paid \$5 a day. H.A. started working. It was better then the work before. Every three months they came to see if you are saving a little. You are supposed to save as much as you can so the time the people didn't have any work they had a little money for food. After working for some time, H.A. came and said a man that is going to California wanted to sell his business. Sacks he used to sell, old sacks to factories. He also had an old house. The house was a very old and large place. It had a small potbelly stove, but we managed. H.A. worked very hard. He used to get up in the middle of the night and go to an empty lot to shake the sacks from cement and when they were clean he used to get a better price. When Max was 2 years and 7 months old, Grace was born. It was sure hard on me. We didn't eat the right food...Little by little the business improved and we began to save a little money. Than, H.A. met a man that wanted to sell his business, oil and coal. We sold the sack business and started something new again. I liked Omaha, the people were friendly. Summertime, when it was hot, we never locked the doors. We never had any trouble. We also liked to go to the park. Sunday everybody used to take a basket. They had some stoves and we used to make coffee, cook corn just before dinner and fried chicken and there were always two or three families that were eating together. The only incident that happened that I can't forget and it put a black mark on the town was one summer when Grace was about 2 years old. We didn't have any telephone but people came and told us that a colored boy, 22 or 23 years old, raped a white woman. They arrested him but they didn't even ask him anything. In the evening, a mob broke in and stormed the jail. They hanged him up on a lamp post and then just cut him up for a souvenir. I just can't believe it. People that are so nice to each other to do such things. On the next day, I went to see the place. I just couldn't believe that it was true. A lot of people from my street went. It was terrible. The place was covered with blood. They couldn't wash it off. I left the place with such pain in my heart. It is so many years since it happened but I can't forget it. The trouble is that people are still killing each other."

The conclusion of the 34-page handwritten article is "after reading this over, I started to think. I will never bring the past back and there isn't very much time left for me. So, instead of thinking about the past, I will start thinking about the future and start to enjoy every day. To reach and be interested in what is going on in the world. I feel that I am old in the body but I don't have to be old in my mind and spirit. Well, this is the end of my story."

A BIT OF THIS AND A BIT OF THAT ABOUT HISTORICAL MATTERS...

Preliminary arrangements have been made to hold the Sixth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 13 through Thursday, July 17, 1986. Mormon leadership assured the organization of the availability of their experts as speakers on whatever topics are of interest. For further details, contact Rabbi Malcolm Stern, 300 E. 71st Street, #5-R, New York, NY 10021.

Please send us newspaper clippings of former Nebraskans living in your communities so we can keep up on the happenings of this segment of our community.

We need your help to obtain new members. If you want to give a gift, think of the NJHS. If you have a friend or relative who formerly lived in Nebraska, suggest the NJHS to them as a way to be a part of our work. And, if you really want to be of some ongoing assistance, send us the names and addresses of as many former Nebraskans as you have in your own personal address book. Josephine Rubnitz Fraenkelsent in more than a dozen names recently, and we have obtained names also from a number of "reunion" classes that have met in Omaha. How about the rest of you helping us fill our "GIANT ADDRESS BOOK" with names of former Nebraskans and residents of Council Bluffs, Iowa?

We welcome receipt of any archive material you may have dealing with Jews and Jewish life in Nebraska and Council Bluffs. We will return whatever you wish after we have been able to make copies.

There's still a couple of weeks left before the final deadline on the "Morris C. Fellman Memorial Essay Contest" on "My Grandmother/My Grandfather." Since everybody had or has grandparents, it is hard to believe that there might not be hundreds of entries from all ages of people. Share your stories and your memories, even if your grandparents never lived in Nebraska. This contest is for adults too, not just for children, so get busy, write a story or two and send it in before January 1, 1986. The prizes are nice, the publicity will be pleasant, and most importantly, you will be adding to our archives.

The Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society will be hosting the 1986 National Convention of the American Jewish Historical Society, May 18-19, 1986 at the Denver Marriott City Center. Put this on your calendar and if you are interested, contact us.

To our Omaha, Lincoln and Council Bluffs members:

When guests come to visit you from out of town and you are looking for "something special" to show them, remember the beautiful Jewish Community Center in Omaha with its only Jewish museum in the state of Nebraska, its exhibits in the halls of the lobbies, its art exhibits in the gallery, its marvelous Jewish Federation library. The Omaha Jewish Community Center is truly a Jewish museum and we hope you take advantage of the opportunity to visit it with your children and your guests.

.....From Peter H. Bridge, Chief: "We deeply appreciate your kindness in sending the Journal of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society to the Library of Congress."

FROM OUR MAIL BAG ON VARIOUS AREAS OF OUR NJHS WORK.....

.....From Anna and Ben Wiesman: "It is a pleasure for us to send in this check for a lifetime membership in the NJHS. With our sons, we saw all of your exhibits at the JCC. All of us enjoyed them very much and we learned a lot about our community. Our sincere thanks to the Society for making these exhibits possible. We are looking forward to future ones."

From Alison E. Stanley, Ph.D.: "In a recent issue of Dorot, the Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society, I read that you were seeking information about early Jewish settlers in Nebraska and Iowa. My great grandfather, Joseph Yousem, settled in Omaha around 1890 and worked as a tailor. He lived on the land that has since become the University of Nebraska Medical School. His wife and my great grandmother, Molly Monheit Yousem, came to Omaha with her brother, Morris (Moritz) Monheit, around the same time. Moritz Monheit was a well-known beautician and chiropodist. The descendants of Joseph and Molly Yousem also lived in Omaha until recently. That is, my grandparents, Julius and Blanche Abrahamson were born, reared and died in Omaha."

From Loell Jorgensen, Director, May Museum in Fremont, Nebr.: "Congratulations on the opening of the 'Corridor of Jewish History.' I look forward to viewing your latest exhibits. If we can be of any aid to you whatsoever in the future, please let us know."

From Tiffany (Tippi) Magid in response to a request by the NJHS to high school graduates for their pictures and bio's "for the future": "What a fantastic idea to add to the love and unity of our community. I was only too happy to comply. Thanks for asking!"

From Sue Goldhammer Schrieber: "It was with a great deal of interest that I saw my grandfather's name on your list of World War I veterans from Lincoln. My grandfather, Dr. Louis I(ssac) Bogen as he was known, was called into service in the Medical Corps near the very end of the war since he had a wife and family by then. Dr. Bogen's wife was the former Jennie Dena Logasa, the daughter of Michael Logasa of Omaha. He had a large family but the only ones with whom I am familiar were my grandmother, her sister Hannah Logasa of Omaha, and two younger brothers, Samuel and Charles. Charles was an **artist** whose works are supposed to be in the permanent collection of the **Joslyn Museum**. Hannah was a prolific author of bibliographies of books for young people. I have the old typewriter on which she wrote them. My mother, Ida Ruth Bogen Goldhammer, was the first pledge of the Sigma Delta Tau Sorority at the University of Nebraska. Her younger brother, Paul Logasa Bogen, was an instructor in the radio-television department at NU and later an officer in the U.S. Army. Incidentally, my grandfather's career as a doctor took him to the small outstate communities of Farnam where my mother was born and Ashton where she graduated from high school."

From Lylyan Rosenblatt Merritt: "In a recent issue of the Jewish Press, I was interested to read about your Historical Society and feel sure that all Omahans will be happy to see your organization develop. Please add the name of my brother-in-law, Archie Jacobs, a former Omahan who served overseas in World War I to the list you are compiling. He is 92 years of age and resides at a convalescent hospital in Santa Monica. Also, Joe Rosenberg (deceased), a son of the Sol Rosenberg family, served overseas in World War I. Inasmuch as both my husband (Julius Merritt, M.D.) and I are former Omahans, we are happy to be able to join your organization."

From Ann Friedman: "Enclosed, find only snapshot I could find. My husband, Art, acted as a messenger, walking in deep mud and cold for many miles to outposts of our troops (Best, France). Most of the time, he had to sleep on the ground wrapped in newspapers in freezing weather. I believe Joe Polack's father was in the same battalion. He enlisted at 18 at Fort Omaha in the Balloon Corps and went up to test weather temperatures. He made headlines in the World Herald, "Yank Writes Home" asking for fudge!"

.....From Joseph Levine, Executive Secretary, Indiana Jewish Historical Society:
Congratulations to you and all who are responsible for your publication. I found it very interesting and hope that your members will react favorably to this publication. Send us your future volumes."

CITY DIRECTORIES - SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT EARLY JEWISH SETTLERS

A considerable amount of information on early, and even not-so-early, Jewish settlers can be gleaned from the old Omaha city directories.

For example, the directory for 1870 tells us that Morris Abrahams was a poultry dealer who lived on California Street between 22nd and 23rd. Morris Abrahams was the great-grandfather of Omaha attorney, Milton Abrahams. Morris came to Omaha from Posen (now Germany, then Poland) by way of Nashville in about 1867. Morris's son, Max, is listed in the 1874-75 directory as a dealer in rags and junk at 11th and Douglas. Morris by then had set up shop as a shoemaker and he lived in his shop at 12th and Douglas.

Some other brief items from city directories: S. Altschuler was a dealer in second hand goods in 1874. In 1870, Philip Gottheimer was a pawnbroker at 12th and Farnam. He would later operate the Omaha Shirt Factory. Bernard Gladstone was in the ladies' furnishings business in 1872, while Samuel Gladstone held the position of city bill poster (his responsibility was to post official notices). A. H. Gladstone, who had previously been in the hoop skirt business, by 1872 had started a grocery store on 13th Street between Dodge and Douglas. The Gladstone Grocery would remain in business for many years.

Jacob Klein, who would become active in the organization of some of the Orthodox congregations, is listed in 1879 as a peddler residing at 1204 N. 12th. That year also represents the initial listing for Solomon Kalish, a "merchant tailor," who lived and worked at 1507 Douglas. And, in 1880-81, Jacob Kendis (listed as Condis) is first entered as rag peddler. Kendis, too, would become active in synagogue organization.

Abraham Bramson, who was probably the city's first shochet and who also served the Orthodox congregations as "shamas," first appears in the city directory in 1883 as "Bromson." The following year, still listed as Bromson, he is listed as "pastor" of the Russian Jewish "church." In 1885, listed correctly as Bramson, he is called a "minister."

Bramson lived for several years in the neighborhood of 10th and Dodge, and by 1887, had opened a kosher butcher shop. By 1890, he had moved his shop and residence to 1405 S. 13th Street, where the Lithuanian Jews were beginning to congregate and where, in 1897, their synagogue would be located.

FROM OUR MAIL BAG.....

From Pauline Carp Cowdery:

"I came across this paper written by my youngest daughter, Tenley, in 1975. She was twelve years old at that time. The paper includes stories about Mrs. Friedman, the baker's wife, and also about Ilse Kuttner. Perhaps this offering of the thought and consciousness of a twelve year old Jewish girl from Omaha will be considered of value to the historical society. Tenley has graduated from Tulane University and is currently a resident of Emeryville, California, near Berkley, where she is in business for herself."

We quote from Tenley's paper on Adolf Hitler:

"What does a person really know about prison camps? A person who has not lived in one probably does not know the facts. The writer interviewed a Jewish lady who had lived in Poland at the time of World War II. She had a twelve year old brother and a thirteen year old sister. Hitler ordered them to prison camps. Mrs. **Friedman and her brother** and sister were sent to the Auschwitz prison camp. Mrs. Friedman told me of how she watched her brother being thrown down in a hole with others and being shot at by soldiers. He died. Her sister and she are still living but with awful memories. They have indelibly printed numbers on their left arms. Now she is a wife, mother and owns Friedman's Jewish Bakery with her husband. She does not like to talk about her years in the prison camp. But, some people living during that time hid, instead of going to the prison camps. Ilse Kuttner is a Jewish woman who lived like Anne Frank. She made it through the war that way. She traveled from house to house hiding until the war was over. The people were good to her. Today, she is a widow and lives in Omaha."

HOLOCAUST MATERIAL BEING SOUGHT FOR
"CORRIDOR OF JEWISH HISTORY" EXHIBIT

Plans are being made for an exhibit on Holocaust survivors from Nebraska and Council Bluffs to be displayed in conjunction with Yom Hashoa, the Day of Remembrance of the Six Million. If you have any pictures, memorabilia, information to share with the NJHS, contact us immediately.

MEMORIES... by Morris Maline

By now, every reader of this newspaper should be aware of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

This dynamic organization, hardly beyond the toddler stage in growth, already has demonstrated remarkable achievement.

Suddenly, exhibit after exhibit has appeared and the community has been amazed to see what can be done with historical information, old photographs, and other memorabilia.

Then, out of the blue so to speak, there is a museum situated in the corridor connecting the Jewish Community Center with the Livingston Plaza Apartments.

Newsletters, flyers, a journal, contests, one after another in a succession of activity that one can only marvel at...

Rather than rest on its laurels, the Society has undertaken a massive new project.

With the sale of the Kapulier shul building on Cuming street, the question arose:

What will happen to the religious artifacts and what, if anything, can be preserved for future generations?

Luckily for the Jewish population here the Society was already galloping at a fast clip and the answer was lightning fast --

"Let's save what we can and someday recreate the old shul in a condensed version so that the essence of the Jewish life experienced there can be preserved for future generations."

The Jewish Federation of Omaha approved the concept and the Society speedily organized an open house, engaged carpenters, and secured storage space.

The only question that remains is who's going to pay the bill.

At this moment, the cost of the operation is somewhat clouded. The Society knows only that it does not have enough money in its treasury to pay the cost.

Consequently, the Society is undertaking a fund drive asking the Jewish community to respond generously for a cause that touches the Jewish heart.

"We are proceeding with the job. We have faith that our community will respond to this worthwhile effort," Mary Fellman, president of the NJHS, told the Jewish Press.

There is no doubt that the 300 or so members of the community who attended the dramatic closing ceremony of the shul will contribute. They were touched with an undefinable need to preserve what they were experiencing.

For those who were not there, we can only say that the opportunity to preserve the memory of a longstanding shul with an active congregational life is one that should be supported.

Memories are forever.

(Jewish Press; November 8, 1985)