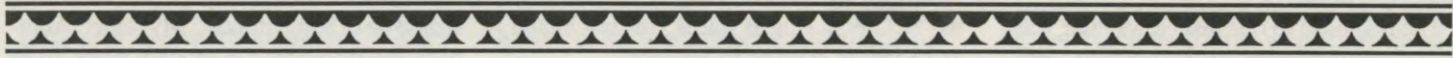
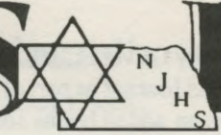


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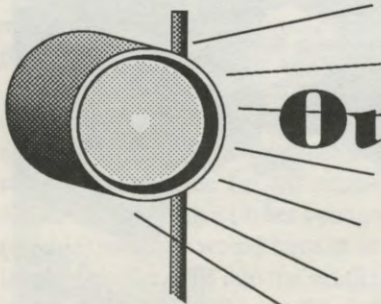
# NEWS LETTER



Vol. VII, No. 1

January, 1989

333 S. 132nd St. • Omaha, NE



## Our Spotlight is on 1989!

“Flanagan and Monsky, Men of Vision” Exhibit Opening in February at Boys Town and at the Jewish Community Center



Opening of Permanent Exhibit on “Jewish Youth in Nebraska” at JCC



Corridor of Jewish History Exhibit Honoring Omaha and Lincoln B’nai B’rith’s 100th Anniversaries



Special Edition of “Memories of Jewish Midwest” featuring 100 years of B’nai B’rith in Omaha.



Spring issue of “Memories of Jewish Midwest”



Planning for 1990 American Jewish Historical Society Conference in Omaha



## THE SHOFEK MAGAZINE



Abe Babior, the first Aleph Godol of the Omaha Chapter No. 1, shakes hands with Irving Chudacoff, the present Aleph Godol

Tenth Anniversary Edition

Aleph Zadik Aleph of the B’nai B’rith

MAY, 1954

April and May Overland

## Lines from Lois

Happy 1989! Happy New Year greetings from the Board of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

The response to our last Newsletter was overwhelming and we are indebted to Mary Fellman for it as well as this present NEWSLETTER AND OUR PAST ONES.

Our "Memories of J.L. Brandeis & Sons" exhibit was well received and many thanks are due Ducky Milder & Suzie Singer who mounted it; as well as the Alan & Marcia Baer Foundation for funding it and all those who helped gather all of the historical material. The lovely reception that evening was chaired by Genevieve Bornstein, Sally Malashock and Fran Milder. Many former Brandeis employees attended and it was a warm homecoming for so many of them.

Oliver Pollak, Louise Abrahamson, Mary Fellman, Ophira Bahar, and I have been working with the Boys Town counterparts in preparation of the Father Flanagan-Henry Monsky "Men of Vision" Exhibit to open at Boys Town in February. It is a thoughtful and moving tribute to these two outstanding men. It will be ready along with the Journal of the history of the Omaha B'nai B'rith commissioned by the Henry Monsky

Lodge and written by Oliver Pollak. All of you will receive this Journal as part of your membership. It is an added bonus for this year. An exhibit will be displayed in our "Corridor of Jewish History" Museum at the JCC honoring B'nai B'rith in Omaha and Lincoln starting in January.

Our regular annual "Memories" Journal is being prepared and will be coming your way in the spring.

We welcome our many new members who have recently joined through the efforts of our membership V.P. Esther Canar. We have added a large number to our list. We urge you and all of our sustaining members to remember us when you are cleaning out your drawers disposing of old pictures and momentos or sadly breaking up a house or an apartment of a loved one. We will cherish your contributions to us and keep them well preserved.

We appreciated hearing from you so keep those letters coming. Remember, too, we have gift memberships for anyone you may want to remember as well as donation cards in Honor of, for the Recovery of, or In Memory of those you wish to remember.

Again best wishes to all of you for Healthy and Prosperous Year!

*Lois Friedman, President*

## From our Mailbag...

"I noted with interest in your recent newsletter of the upcoming Monsky-Flanagan exhibit. Perhaps the following would be of some import. My father, Abraham Weinstein, had a grocery store, from about 1914 until 1929, at 2567 Dodge St.



Father Flanagan started his "Home for Boys" in a red brick building at 25th and Dodge, with just a few boys. At that time he was struggling to feed and clothe his boys. On many occasions, Father Flanagan would ask my father for groceries on credit with only his word. In this small way my father always took pride in contributing to the beginning of a worthwhile charity and to the ultimate success of Boys Town. I suspect from what he told me that were times when groceries were a direct donation. As a further bit of history, I was the first and only orthodontist at Boys Town from 1948 to 1953. Helen and I always obtain a warm glow in reading both the Jewish Press and your Newsletter, our very best, Sam Weinstein, 23 Mallard Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

## Youth Council News

*Bits and Pieces from the Youth Council News published on February 26, 1948 with Martin Faier as editor of a staff including Paul Saltzman, Martin Lehr, Harvey Cooper, Thelma Goldstein, Audrey Greenberg, Joanne Levy.*

...Justin Horwich was elected Ro-Noh Prexy...Larry Roffman and Martin Faier were general co-chairmen of the AZA Combelt Regional Association summer tournament...Tikvas Ami initiated Retha and Letha Zalkin, Betty Ann Poska and Arlene Spiegel...Leading the AZA 7 scorers for the Council Bluffs team was Jerry Passer while Kevve Kirshenbaum led AZA 100 after holding Bob Malashock, the Pi Tau Pi's high scorer, to only three points...Bernie Magid was the "honored profile" for all of his activities and involvements...Margie Brodkey was elected president of the U.T.'s and named Barbara Blacker, Sally Marer and Nancy Hiller to a special committee to plan their

Stage Night Skit. Jean Levinson was chairman of the annual Palestinian Program (before there was an Israel) and Paul Alperson was chairman of a town meeting style panel discussion on "Racial and Religious Intolerances in Omaha Public Schools". AND THERE'S MORE! IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS ISSUE OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS STOP IN AT THE NJHS OFFICE AT THE JCC.

**A warm and hearty "thank-you" to Pearl and Jerry Gross for their gift of a video sound camera in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. We have already used it on several occasions and will continue to record the activities of today that will become the history of tomorrow. Our thanks again and our best to you Pearl and Jerry for many more happy years together.**

## “Out of the Mouth of Babe”

written by grand-daughter

*Recently Carolyn Abramson received an assignment to do an interview for one of her classes in gerontology. She chose to interview her grandmother Babe (Bertha) Newman Dobrofsky and we quote some lines from her paper:*

“She was the seventh child in a family of eight children. They only had one bathroom in their home for ten people. She would take her bath with her younger sister (Sophie) and they would have to sit cross-legged in order to fit into the small bathtub in their South Omaha home. The family car was a Cadillac that had side curtains instead of windows. Her father had to build a bench in the car so that the entire family could ride at the same time. She remembered going to Elmwood Park to get drinking water from the spring. Babe met her future husband, Leon Dobrofsky, on a blind date in Sioux City, Iowa which was on Labor Day. He was the first bald man she ever dated but something clicked because they had a whirlwind courtship. When he called the newspaper regarding the engagement announcement the woman informed him that “Babe” was a nickname and could not be used. He had to place a long distance call to Omaha to find

### **She remembered going to Elmwood Park to get drinking water from the spring**

out her real name!” The story about Carolyn’s grandmother takes her through her married years and during her most recent experiences living at the Livingston Manor. In concluding the paper Carolyn thanked her professor because she learned so much about her grandmother—memories, feelings and concerns. We suggest that many out there might want to do an interview with their grandparents also. ☆

## “Shlomo”

by Nancy Coren

An interesting format was used by Nancy Chesnin Coren of Lincoln in writing the history of her grandfather, Samuel Chesnin (Shlomo) who lived from May 1, 1889 to June 19, 1971. She chose to write her grandfather’s history in the form of letters from him to his brothers and sisters who had already left their home in Borisov, Lithuania. In so doing she described their family life, education, his learning of a trade, involvement in the socialist political movement and his arrest in 1904 and sentencing to life imprisonment on an island in Siberia even though he was only 14 years old. We quote from one letter: Tomorrow I am leaving Siberia. I have decided to escape from this island. I do not think that I could possibly survive a winter here with



light clothing and little food. Tomorrow I will purchase a ticket for the boat which will take me to the Trans-Siberian Railroad in Kirkutsk. I have exchanged clothes with one of the sons in the Siberian family who took me in. I will use the rope to tie myself into the trees at night so that I am out of the way of the wolves who attack, kill and eat humans.” The next letter begins with the exclamation “I made it! It took me nearly six months to reach Borisov, but I am home once again.” Shlomo came to America in December of 1904 at the age of 15, worked cleaning fish in a market on Fulton Street in New York City’s lower east side, brought his older brother Herschel to the United States. ☆

## Family trees and the descendants of...

Recently we have received several very complete family stories that are very special and precious to those who are involved and especially important to us as we develop a larger genealogical section of family histories. One given to us last summer was “The Descendants of Joseph and Anna Harris” and was presented at a reunion of those descendants held in Omaha, Nebraska,

### **family stories are very special and precious to us...**

June 5,6,7 1987 at the Regency West Hotel. It was compiled by Norman Harris (Yale is his middle name) who used to live in Omaha and now resides in San Diego with his wife Bernice (who was Silverman). Another one we just received recently is that of the Rosenbaum, Rosen, Roseman family and their many cousins which was compiled by former Omaha Harvey Leon, former North Platte resident Michael Hirschfeld and another cousin, Michal Gerver. A third one is the history of the Nefsky family of Lincoln and we will include that one in the next issue of our “Memories of the Jewish Midwest” Journal....



Another family tree which is promised to the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is that of the Kulakofsky family which is now being worked on with a great number of oral histories of the first cousins and will be published and distributed when that family holds a reunion in Omaha this summer.

All of these family histories are available to you for the reading... just stop in our office at the JCC and ask to see them. Who knows, you may find family you never knew you had and you may discover a great deal more about your family than you ever dreamt. Its ramifications are many and oh, the joy of learning about your ancestors, their history and how your family has grown. ☆

## Moving? Cleaning? Don't toss it! Your "Trash" could be our Treasure!

Help add to our expanding collection of historical memorabilia and artifacts! The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society archives collects letters, photos, postcards, diaries, keepsakes, newspaper clippings, documents, records, memorabilia, organization material, programs, diplomas, deeds, minutes, chronicles, scrolls, journals, bulletins, plaques, playbills, tributes, posters, passports, immigration and immunization papers, boarding passes, marriage contracts

and ceremonial art. You name it — we want it! And if, unfortunately, there is a death in your family and you don't know what to do with pictures, papers and memorabilia, feel free to call on us for assistance.

Check also to see if you, your relatives or friends have anything similar to those items listed and would consider donating or lending them to the NJHS. Today's trash may be yesterday's history.

### Acquisitions of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society June 1988 - Dec. 1988

**Leo Hill:** Tifereth Israel Bulletin Oct. 1, 1926

**Ann Margolin:** Invitation to Dr. and Mrs Margolin 50th Wedding Anniversary.

**Lou Lipp & Murray Newman:** Additions and corrections to Newman genealogy.

**Dorothy Kooper:** 8X10 photo of Robert Kooper, grocers group photo and assorted family photos.

**Sylvia Brodkey:** 1961 concert invitation to Jewish music-Joslyn Art Museum, photos and clippings.

**Harold Epstein:** BB Lodge 688 membership roster 1959, eighth Father and Son Banquet 1958.

**Shirley Grant:** Omaha High School Register 1909-1910; clipping: SDT Follies skit 1940; photographs: 1937 SDT House, Lincoln; assorted photos 1937-38

**Ernie Priesman:** Photo from concert at Blumkin Home; letters of appreciation from clients who engaged Mr. Priesman as a musician at weddings and Bar/Bat Mitvahs.

**Don Nogg:** Photo: Council Bluffs YMCA first class 1913; Photo: Council Bluffs Grocers award to Mr. and Mrs. Nogg; 1951 roster: Jewish Philanthropies; Photo: Presentation of Station wagon to Dr. Sher Home.

**Lee Jane Parsow:** 1967 Ediar BBG Booklet; clippings: Hanukka 1935; A.Z.A. Bar Mitzvah 1936

**Marilyn Dvorkin Warren:** Omaha Central High 30th Reunion book.

**Bruce Lewis:** Genealogical trees related to Lewis family.

**Shirley Greenberger:** Beth El confirmation class

**Shirley Berman:** Beth Israel dedication ceremonies 1951; souvenir Journal honoring Cantor Moshe Kusevitsky 1956; souvenir Journal honoring Harry S. Truman. 1957

**Dr. Sam Weinstein:** Photo of Abraham Weinstein at his store 2567 Dodge; Photo of Dr. Sam Weinstein.

**Arnold J. Stern:** Four medals: 1944 AAU Novice Junior; 1949 Youth Council-Silver wrestling; 1948 2nd JCC Youth Council - Bronze Basketball; 1949 Youth Council All Star Team - Bronze Basketball.

**Rose Press Fine:** Family documents: Joseph Press naturalization paper, Joseph Press and Ida Jacobs marriage license; Ketubah.

**Bess Brodkey:** Five photographs taken at the wedding of Sophie Spar and Harry Laff 7/10/27; clippings relating to Sorority dance and education PHI BETA SIGMA

**Sam Zweiback:** Copies of photographs: 1922 Kellom School graduation, Fred Zweiback and Lyndon Johnson 1960, 1957 President Truman and Carole Frank Widman, Beth Israel certificate of merit to Sam Zweiback 1957; 1918 Kaplan and Zweiback family photos.

**Phyllis and Stuart Fried:** 20 X 24 framed photograph of Max Venger.

**Abe Gendler:** Ornate Israel's Declaration of Independence in Hebrew and English.

**Miriam Simon:** Metal and plastic signs for Senator Neil Simon.

**Kathy Elliott:** Brandeis glass and credit card.

**R.P. Baron:** Two certificates Knights of Zion; one certificate of Jewish Colonial Trust. (issued to William Frieden)

**Monet Wintroub:** 1905 Hebrew school photo.

**Stanley Mitchell:** Personal USY correspondence 1974-1980.

**Rachel Bleicher:** AZA Golden Anniversary Dinner 1974; clippings; BB program 1953.

**Billie Trachtenbarg:** Parents' marriage certificate, photograph of J.B. Zimman, clipping.

**Reva Oruch:** Ticket for High Holydays service 1944 cong. Shaare Zion.

**Ruth Raskin:** (Seldin): JP clipping about Council Bluffs High School graduates 1938; C/B Hanukka program Talmud Torah 1927, 1928.

**Saul M. Graetz:** Six Tech High School Quadrants 1924-27; Brandeis store sales Book 1910; photocopy of birth certificate: Leon Graetz 12/19/1882

**Sylvia Ross:** 1924 Temple Israel confirmation class.

**Dr. Dan Miller:** Clipping 1926 Talmud Torah classes; photo 1925 Beth Israel;

**Shirley Grossman Caldwell:** Interview with parents Nate and Celia Grossman.

**Selma Bernstein:** Lincoln chapter Hadassah material.

**Sidney Klopfer:** 1910 map of Palestine printed in Yiddish; New Year voyage greeting card in Yiddish.

**James Hedgepeth:** Twenty photographs taken at liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp, one clipping.

**Arthur Schwartz:** Photo with Governor Crosby proclaiming AZA Day, May 1954 (on 30th anniversary)

**Ruth Goldstein:** Jewish prayer book for Army and Navy of the U.S. 1917, given to Katie Goldstein by Mr. Wolfson.

**Sam Greenberg:** Philips Dept. Store and family memorabilia.

**Celia Grossman:** Govt. Life Insurance Policy issued for Nate Grossman in 1927

**Jean M. Jirak:** Siegal-Truehaft families documents.

**From DuBoff Estate:** Plaque presented to Harry DuBoff in appreciation from Beth El, 1956-58, plaque presented to Esther DuBoff by Temple Israel, 1970.

**George & Jackie Sacks:** Ten Commandments Plaque from South Omaha synagogue at 25th and J St.

**Sam Kohn:** Photo Album containing B'nai B'rith Photographs

## Past, Present and future AJHS National Conferences and pertinent information



Delegates to the American Jewish Historical Society's National Conference in May, 1988 included Oliver and Karen Pollak who joined with 150 out-of-town delegates and visitors to visit the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, attended Jewish history workshops (as you can see Oliver here practically in the front row)... saw

displays of early Jewish businesses in Rhode Island, learned a great deal from other delegates and boasted a bit about the accomplishments of our own NJHS... The next conference is in Los Angeles in May and if you are interested in attending and going with our own delegates to learn more of the history of

that part of the country and hear some excellent lecturers and share in learning sessions let us hear from you for more details... And THE CONFERENCE IN 1990 will be in Omaha! We do not know the exact dates yet or many of the details but we will keep you posted and hope you will all be a part of the activities and the hospitality. More later!!

**Just a reminder** that Rabbi Frederick Cohn of Temple Israel was a Director, possibly at its founding of Boys Town. I'm delighted to see that Omaha will host the American Jewish Historical Society two years hence. I will plan to attend. Ralph Colton, Chicago, IL (son of Rabbi Frederick Cohn).

### Start the New Year With a gift of Membership for yourself or another Nebraskan

Show someone special that you care ... about them and about their heritage! Give the gift of a membership in the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. With each Gift Membership, we will send copies of "Memories of the Jewish Midwest" Journals, the current Newsletter and a card from you.

## Around the U.S. in the Headlines...

Amy Brodkey, who is now assistant professor of psychiatry at the Medical College of Pennsylvania-Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute and was quoted recently in the Omaha World Herald in a syndicated (across the U.S.) article in the Philadelphia Daily News about "healthy and unhealthy shopping experiences which can develop into a serious problem". Amy is the daughter of Don and Gertrude Brodkey, a graduate of Radcliffe-Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School... Marti Epstein, a founder of Boston's New Music group "Underground Composers" and a member of the music collective "Composers in Red Sneakers". She recently completed a rare second composer's fellowship at Tanglewood and was interviewed by the Boston Review near M.I.T. where she works as a part-time library assistant while completing her doctoral dissertation at Boston University. In the story Marti remembers conducting the junior choir and singing in the adult choir at Beth El, studying composition with one of the professors at the University of Nebraska, attending the University of Iowa music school, and composing music for orchestra. Marti is the daughter of Tuffy and Helen Epstein.

## Donations June — November 1988

### Make Your Contribution Through NJHS

Donor Cards and Morris C. Fellman Memorial Cards are the way to go when you want to make a contribution in honor of, in memory of, or to remember someone special. It's easy—just call Dorothy Kaplan 330-0747 or call the NJHS office (or send a check to the office, 333 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68154). The minimum on the Donor Cards is \$5.00 each and the minimum on the Fellman Memorial Cards is \$3.00 each. Ask about our special price for a group of the cards so you can send them out yourself. Your purchase of these cards and your remembrance of someone special helps us maintain many projects, preserve and publish material dealing with the life of Jews in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

- IN HONOR OF:** Bar Mitzvah of: Aaron Pollak, Brian Cipperley, Jesse Zimmerman Cantor & Annette Fettman's Recognition by Beth Israel Fran & Steven Rod & family - New Home Wedding of Richard & Lori Stern Birthday of: Mrs. Rubin Marcus, Ruth Rice, Lois Friedman, Sylvia Ross, Jennie Rosenblatt, Jeff Newman, Abe Rosenthal, Jesse Zimmerman, Al Lavin, Rose Marer Birth of: Daughter to Mark & Jill Belmont, Grandson of Mary Fellman (Samuel Morris), Daughter to Rabbi Morris Allen & Dr. Phyllis Gorin Anniversary of: Merriam & Harold Cooperman, Dorothy & Marvin Kaplan, Jerry & Pearl Gross, Rita & Harold Novak, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Fellman, Dave & Esther Rice, Susan & Ron Budwig, Joan & Norman Rips
- RECOVERY OF:** Susan Drazen, Gila Drazen, Dr. Abe Fellman, Charlie Fellman, Buddy Goldstein, Rosie Gross, Ann Katzman, Vincent Marshall, Mollie Delman, Sivia Roffman, Jennie Rosenblatt
- IN MEMORY OF:** Mary Kay Kaiman, Nathan Novak, Elise Bernstein, Sam Saltzman, Sam Ban, Frances Ruback, Evvie Rice, Bertha Batt, Shirley Meyerson, Ida Stein, David Krivosha, Ben Shrier, Sam Greenberg, Elinor Whitman
- SPECIAL DONATIONS:** Mary Fellman, Ida Potash

## Philips Department Store & Sam Greenberg

Exactly one month before Sam Greenberg died following injuries from an automobile accident, he remembered The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society with "Philips" Memorabilia. We honor him and remember him with affection and respect by sharing some of those items with you on this page.



1905 Original Store 10th and Howard  
Philip Greenberg, Albert, Ruth, and Clyde Krasne



Sam Greenberg  
King of AK•SAR•BEN

## GREENBERG BUILT REPUTATION ON SERVICE

A year before South Omaha was even an idea in its founders' minds, Philip Greenberg, a man who was to establish one of South Omaha's most popular department stores that still bears his name today, was born in Braila, Romania.

A journeyman bookbinder, Greenberg found a job in London binding histories of the reign of Queen Victoria and rose to steward in the guild.

In 1906, he came to Omaha to attend the wedding of a second cousin. He had intended to go on to South America, but ran out of money and found a job with A. I. Root Inc., a print shop at 1210-12 Howard St.

In 1907, he went into business with Abe Kadleman at 506 S. 10th St., in a novelty and tobacco shop.

In 1908, Greenberg returned to Braila and married Celia Marcus. Their son, Samuel Meyer Greenberg, was born there March 26, 1909.

Greenberg returned to Omaha in 1910 and opened a grocery store at 511 S. 10th St. A daughter, Ruth, was born and son Henry came along Jan. 30, 1915—the year South Omaha merged with Omaha.

On June 14—Flag Day—1916, the Greenbergs opened a little dry goods store at 4935 S. 24th St., which evolved into the Philips Department Store of today at the same location.

"Dad was proud of becoming an American citizen and always displayed the American flag at home and in the store," said Sam Greenberg. "He always stressed the importance of being a good citizen to his employees, too."

Greenberg showed his American spirit in the winter of 1921 by extending life-saving credit to packinghouse workers on strike. He

cultivated a phenomenal memory for faces and names, which further pleased his customers.

Those customers didn't forget Greenberg after a fire on Christmas Eve 1938 destroyed the store's records and credit accounts, said Sam Greenberg. Each customer came by the Greenberg home at 26th and B streets and told him how much they owed, Greenberg said.

"The only thing funny about that fire was the way the firemen broke through the front window liquor display and started drinking the liquor, when the fire was in the back of the store," said Greenberg.

Since he hated the term "Fire Sale," Greenberg held a "Water Sale" at a location on 25th Street, where he stayed for six months while the 24th Street building was repaired, said Sam Greenberg.

Philip's first truck was a 1920 model T Ford used for delivering groceries by Howard "Hoppy" Dennis. The grocery department was discontinued after complaints about the "frightful speed" of the delivery trucks, but later restored (without delivery) and continues today.

Greenberg built his reputation on service to the customer. He also never missed an opportunity to provide a bargain.

On April 30, 1925, Philips Store observed Baby Day as part of National Baby Week by setting up a clinic conducted by city health officer Dr. A. S. Pinto and his assistant doctors and nurses.

After the babies were weighed, measured and examined, free souvenirs, including a photograph, were given each mother.

Greenberg also seized the opportunity to push such bargains as brooms for 29 cents, dolls for 99 cents and shoes for \$2. Some 27 baby buggies were also mobilized for sale

September 29, 1982

Sun Newspapers

Page 15-C



Philip Greenberg

along the curb in front of the store.

Greenberg's generosity was also renowned. One of his hobbies was donating flagpoles to increase patriotism for the United States.

He was one of the founders of the South Omaha Merchants Association and of the South Omaha Hebrew School at 25th and G Streets.

He retired in 1946 and moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he died in 1968. A full-page obituary appeared in the Oct. 3, 1968 South Omaha Sun. He is buried at Beth El Cemetery at 84th and L streets.

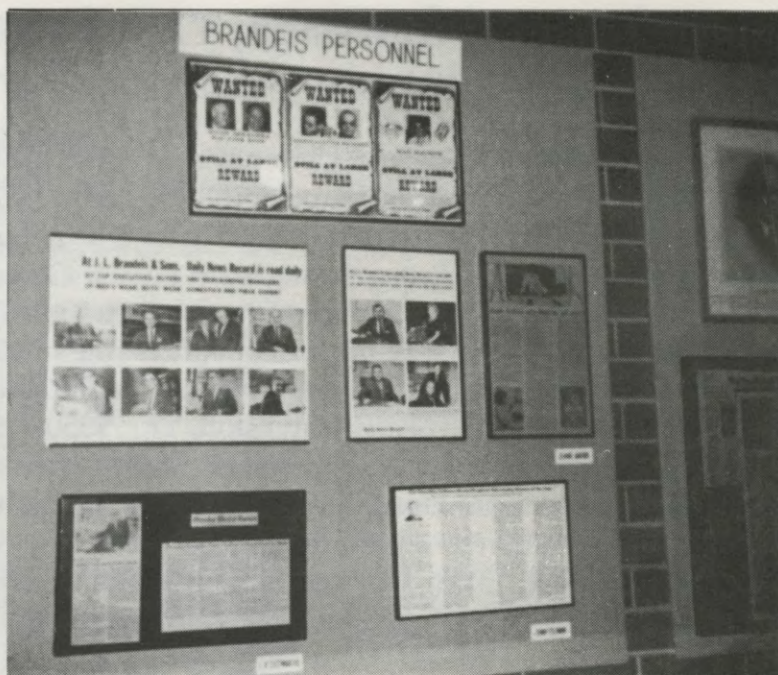
"Phillips Department Store was the first store in South Omaha to get air conditioning," said Sam Greenberg, who retired from the business that Henry Greenberg manages today. "In many ways, Philip was ahead of his time, but he cherished the ideal of pride and honesty in the operation of his business."

## “Memories of J.L. Brandeis and Sons”

Exhibit a Major Success!

Hundreds of friends and former employees of the J.L. Brandeis and Sons stores have viewed the exhibit which covered the walls of our “Corridor of Jewish History” museum for the past several months. Shown here are pictures of the three sons of Jonas L. Brandeis, founder, and pictures of some of the displays in the museum, both on the walls and in the cases. Hopefully when the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society has a permanent museum this exhibit will again be on display, thanks to the E. John Brandeis Fund which was established by the Alan and Marcia Baer Foundation.

Jonas L. Brandeis was born in Prague in 1836. According to Nathan Bernstein who wrote the story of Brandeis in “The Reform Advocate” in May, 1908, he was taught to be a tanner. Not finding in Austria the scope for the development of his talents, he came to New York at the age of 19. He soon afterwards located in the wilds of Wisconsin at Manitowoc, started trading with the Indians and was the first white man to buy furs from them. He and his wife, Fannie Teweles of Milwaukee, moved to Omaha in 1884 and at 1207 Farnam started a wholesale notion business. And so the history of Brandeis store begins. Included in the exhibit in addition to the story of the Brandeis family, pictures of many of the employees and memorabilia from the stores many events is a family tree compiled by a grandson of Arthur Brandeis, son of Jonas and grandfather of Alan Baer.



The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society thanks Ducky Milder and Suzie Singer for the excellence of their “hanging” of the Brandeis exhibit... thanks to Genevieve Bornstein, Sally Malashock and Fran Milder for the beauty of the reception in the JCC gallery and thanks to all who shared in the beauty of the “grand opening” evening.

## Ellis Island and Galveston, TX are two ports of entry for immigrants to America

Recently Marty Lehr received a letter from a friend, Joe L. Williams, of the Wisenberg Insurance Company in Houston which he passed on for us to reprint and make available to you. The letter included a list of immigrants who came through the port of Galveston in the summer of 1910 and were interviewed upon their arrival. There are a number of them from Omaha, Lincoln and some Iowa communities. The transcripts of those interviews can be obtained from the Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy, Galveston, TX, 77550-2296. We will ask for a copy of each for the Historical Society archives and we encourage you to write also if any of the following names are your relatives. Shown here is a picture of Jacob Freed, one of the immigrants interviewed, taken four years after his arrival in Omaha. He is the grandfather of Mary Fellman, Annie Allen and Phyllis Bittner.



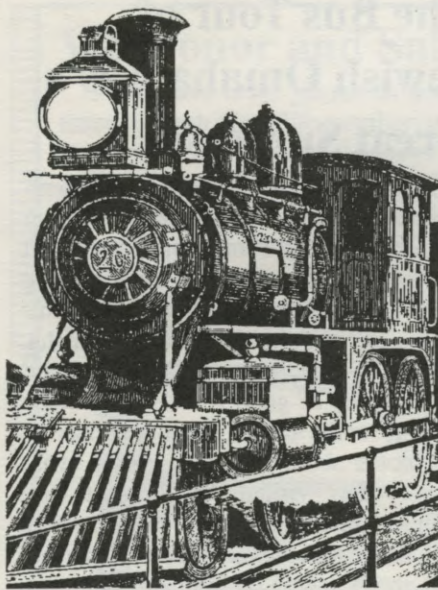
### Did Your Family Come to America Through Ellis Island?

Ellis Island was the major federal immigration facility in America. Between 1892 and 1954 seventeen million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island. Today more than 40 percent, or over 100 million of all living Americans can trace their roots to an ancestor who came through Ellis Island. The new Ellis Island Immigration Museum, currently planned to open to the public in 1992, will be located in the 200,000 square foot Main Building. It was there, in various rooms of the building, where new arrivals, many fearful of rejection, were processed and inspected and ultimately granted permission to enter the country.

The Ellis Island Restoration Commission, a private non-profit group, is planning a Family History Center to be located next to the Great Hall in the Main Building on Ellis Island. This project will be a computerized information data bank on the millions who came through Ellis Island. Each name search will yield 15 types of information including the date of arrival, the passenger ship used, country of origin, port of embarkation, occupation, level of literacy, intended destination in the U.S., race, physical characteristics, the amount of money brought into the U.S., accompanying family members and any relatives listed as already living in the U.S. Further information can be obtained from the Ellis Island Restoration Commission, P.O. Box 60, Short Hills, NJ 07078 or by calling 212-264-4451. We'll try to keep you posted on this project also as we receive more information.

Name Of Immigrant	Age	Previous Residence	File No. for all is 52961/11
Burnstein, Wolf	28	Rodomishla, Kiev Gov.	All to Omaha unless otherwise indicated
Chalick, Sam	18	Warsaw	
Etting, Chaim	23	Mogulof	
Fich, Lieb	27	Carminka, Polosk	
Freed, Jacob	39	Puchowitz, Minsk	
Freedman, Juda	35	Moisin, Minsk	
Furman, Issaac	24	Davidzotvdik, Minsk	
Goldberg, Moische	18	Kunsk, Radom	
Greenhaus, Chaje (female)	18	Minsk	Lincoln, NE
Holodez, Salman (Golt, Ben)	17	Zlobin, Molowa	
Kaufman, Wolf	43	Nathal, Volina	Des Moines, IA
Koltan, Beier (Fabricant, Boris)	18	Simylaich, Gradno	Lincoln, NE
Lawrinowich, Meyer	23	Bilma	
Leichtman, Wolf	33	Pinak, Minsk	Sioux City, IA
Lenczuk, Aron	38	Turiff	Sioux City, IA
Lipkin, Schevil	27	Iletz	
Lipofsky, Meyer	38		
Marnewitz, Hersch Leiver	18	Onviche Chenenova	
Mardenberg, Jossel	16	Bessarabia, Russia	
Mardenberg, Srul	43	Bessarabia, Russia	
Milman, Joseph	31	Kiev Region	
Pekler, Rubin		Kiev Region	Burlington, IA
Rekant, Solomon (Rothschild, Sol)	26	Antapol, Grotinu	Des Moines, IA
Rinsky, Joseph	18	Kunsk, Radomisk	
Rozinsky, Moses	30	Unettchy, Cheneyova	
Rosensky, Abraham	44	Oniyiche, Cheneyova	
Rosensky, Shifra	19		
Schapiro, Joseph	26	Leber	Burlington, IA
Shapria, Chaim	32	Rubla or Davidgorodok, Minsk	
Sherman, Gersch	17	Sheloma, Volina	Sioux City, IA
Spivack, Mottel	37	Hordekoff, Kiev	Des Moines, IA





## Were there Jewish children on the Orphan trains?

Nebraskans gave homes to 3,442 orphan train riders between 1854 and 1910, according to the 1910 annual report of the New York Children's Aid Society. The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America is seeking information about these orphans, their descendants and families that took them in. In Nebraska, an orphan register has been maintained for several years by Mrs. Eloise Thomsen, 5843 Grant St., Omaha, NE 68104, and additional information on Nebraska orphans is welcome. Eventually, the Thomsen register will be deposited at The Nebraska Historical Society but if there is information about any Jewish children we will retain it also in the NJHS archives. Let us hear from you.

Our continued **thanks and gratitude** to

- the Alan and Marcia Baer Foundation
- the Carl Frohm Foundation
- the Milton and Corinne Livingston Foundation

for their ongoing financial support and understanding of our work and our needs! We welcome the inquiries of any other Foundations about support of the unique and important work of The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

## Doctors and Lawyers, Lawyers and Doctors

We need pictures, stories and memorabilia! We continue to gather pictures and stories and a variety of other items of memorabilia about Jewish doctors and lawyers in the state of Nebraska for our exhibit in the "Corridor of Jewish History" sometime this spring. If you had or have a doctor or lawyer in your family please send us their story, some pictures such as the one shown here, any diplomas, certificates, artifacts that relate to their professions and their lives. Let us hear from you.



Lawyer Ernest Wintroub presents a medallion to Dr. Abe Greenberg. We do not know the time or place of the presentation nor the nature of the award and would like to hear from you if you do. We also welcome pictures and stories, artifacts, certificates and other memorabilia about other Nebraska doctors and lawyers for our upcoming display.

### Come See the NJHS Office!

Members of the community and The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society are always welcome at the NJHS office at the Jewish Community Center. Please drop in and visit and be sure to see all of our exhibits!

### Let's make it "1,000" by 1990!

When you are finished reading this newsletter — and it is newsy — please share it with someone from Nebraska who is not a member and urge them to join! We would like to make it 1,000" by 1990! We are already one of the largest Jewish historical societies in the country. Help us reach our goal!

## We Discovered in our Files...

The program of Second Annual Purim Promenade of IZFA, the international Zionist Federation of America party held at the Fontenelle Ballroom on March 27, 1948 with a dance committee headed by Jerry Swengil assisted by Eunice Feldman, Phyllis Freed, Alyce Bezman with Richard Wintroub as Master of Ceremonies... ads in the book are from the Chez Patee (remember?)... Cowboy's Liquor Market... Nathan Steinberg & Co.... Shukert's Kosher Market... and dozens of others whose names you would readily recognize. Patrons were Mrs. M.F. Levenson, Mr. & Mrs. Moses Bercovici, Mr. Ephraim Marks, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Rice and Mr. & Mrs. John Farber... Memories, Memories!

## "Golden Spike" Days of 1939



And Sammy Wolk, who lived then at 347 N. 35th Street, is shown standing in front of the doorway of Sam Swartz' jewelry store which was next to the Omaha Theatre between 15th and 16th and Douglas. Shown standing in the doorway is Al Swartz.



**When was this picture taken?**

**Who remembers?**

Shown from left to right are Sam Katzman, Sadye Kulakofsky, and Sam Rice. It took place at an Israel Bond affair we believe but need more details. Call us.



**Who remembers when & where?**

Dancers in a Hadassah program are shown here and while we know the "who" we don't know the other details. Let us hear from you! Shown from left to right are Babe Bordy, Lois Friedman, Anna Jane Katelman, Shirley Fogel Greenberg, Barbara Fox Malashock, Audrey Wolf Kirshenbaum, Ruth Forbes.

## The Bus Tour of Jewish Omaha was a Great Success!

On a warm Tuesday morning in September two bus loads of members of the Beth El, Beth Israel and Temple Sisterhoods left their points of departure for the beginning of a two hour bus tour of a number of points of interest of Jewish history in Omaha. Along with enjoying a breakfast snack and the company of good friends the women heard about the history and some personalized notes about our three major synagogues, they visited the Pleasant Hill, Temple Israel and Golden Hill cemetery sites, drove past the old Kappulia Shul and the Labor Lyceum on 30th and Cumings, saw the 24th street area where a number of Jewish businesses used to be and where many Jewish people lived in the early 1920's and 30's including the still standing building of the Adath Yeshurun synagogue on 25th and Seward. They saw the Jewish Funeral Home, the location of the first Jewish Community Center, the former home of Temple Israel on Park Avenue and along with all this sightseeing heard the story of these and many other historical sites. It was a great morning with Marilyn Warren and Mary Fellman as tour guides and hopefully it will be done again in 1989. Let the NJHS know if you are interested in such a tour — a great one to take your children on also.

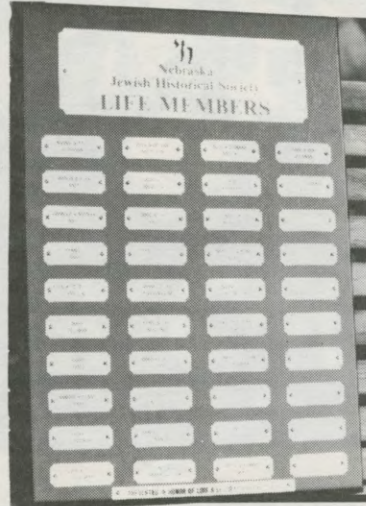
## Annette Riklin?

Does the name of "Annette Riklin" mean anything to you?

It does to a number of young ladies who were part of the "Garden Ballet" in the Fifth Annual Dance Revue at the Knights of Columbus Auditorium on May 25, 1931! Names you'll recognize are Bernice Friedel who was "The Butterfly"...Frances Rubenstein, Betty Rosenblatt who were in the "Rose Ballet"...Temette Wright, Peggy Friedman and Louise Nathan in another act, Bellhops Gloria and Lois Novitsky...and Artie Kulakofsky in "Stepping Along" and Marilyn Adler as "Ruby". Those days may be gone forever, but the memories linger on...in the archives of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. Come one in and we'll show you the program! Incidentally, Annette Riklin was the dance teacher, and one of note!

## We Honor and Salute our Life Members...

Shown here is the plaque on which the names of each of our life members is listed. It hangs in the "Hall of History" of the Jewish Community Center outside the office of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society Office and was given to the NJHS by friends of Lois and Lloyd Friedman in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary. The funding created by the \$500 of each of



these life members helps to sustain and foster the work of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society...the archiving, collecting, cataloguing and preparing for research and display the many photographs, stories, certificates, articles and a variety of other memorabilia. We urge you to consider becoming a life member when you next pay your dues. We thank those who have already endorsed our efforts by their gifts of \$500 and we welcome those who join this list in the coming year.

**Margie & Paul Alperson**  
**Marcia & Alan Baer**  
**Frances & Norman Batt**  
**Pennie Z Davis**  
**Etta & Harold (Bae) Epstein**  
**Mary Fellman**  
**Harry Freed**  
**Sandra & Kenneth Freed**  
**Sophie Freeman**  
**Lois & Lloyd Friedman**  
**Ruth & Arthur Goldstein**  
**Shirley & Leonard Goldstein**  
**Herbert Goldsten**  
**Rose & Gary Gross**  
**Pearl & Gerald Gross**  
**Audrey & Joe Kirshenbaum**  
**Ethel & Philip Klutznick**  
**Dorothy & Louis Lipp**  
**Stan Lipsey**  
**Helen & Leo Meyerson**  
**Ramelle & Hubert Monsky**  
**NCJW Omaha Section**  
**Ruth & Bernard Raskin**  
**Elaine Richards**  
**Morton Richards**  
**Dorothy & Henry Riekes**  
**Jeanne Lipsey Rosenblum**  
**Cynthia & Charles Schneider**  
**Phyllis & Irvin Sherman**  
**Stanley & Norma Silverman**  
**Eleanor & Stanley Slosburg**  
**Mickey Sturm**  
**Joodi & Norman Veitzer**  
**Ruth & Bernard White**  
**Adelle (Chasanov) Wolf**

## New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Polsky  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Friedman  
 Norman & Helene Krivosha  
 Harriet Bernstein Wasserman  
 Paul & Phyllis Rifkin  
 Dennis & Lisa Lewis  
 Iz Weiner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Gilinsky  
 Dee Fox  
 Janis & Donald Yale  
 Jeanette & Al Nepomnick  
 Mrs. Sylvia Schwarz  
 Gloria (Novitsky) Rosenblum  
 Harold Siporin  
 Beryl Weiner (Patron)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiller  
 Mrs. Max Blaugrund (Baylia Freiden)  
 Phyllis & Stuart Fried  
 Marsha Pond  
 Bonnie & Marty Colton  
 June & Dick Segal  
 Mr. & Mrs. Morris Babendure  
 Mrs. Clotilde Noe  
 Elizabeth Shrier  
 Enid Pollack  
 Jerome & Barbara Cohen  
 Mrs. Louise Lotman  
 Norma L. Novak  
 Thomas & Deborah Platt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Morris Lipp  
 Shirlee A. Jensen  
 Dr. Mark Kutler  
 M. Z. Lewis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Marer  
 Doris Raduziner Marks  
 Edith Noddle  
 Milton & Maxine Simons  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Goldberg  
 Joseph S. Goldware  
 Ruth Paperny Luttbeg  
 Mrs. Louis Kulakofsky  
 Kathleen Meyerson  
 Mrs. Nathan Fine  
 Marlene Levinson  
 Mrs. Horace L. Rosenblum  
 Marge & Danny Fogel  
 Elaine Frank Potts  
 Sam & Rose Cohen

## Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

333 South 132nd Street • Omaha, NE 68154

### 1989 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Benefactor ..... \$1,000
- Life Member ..... 500
- Business ..... 250
- Patron ..... 100
- Sponsor ..... 50
- Organization ..... 30
- Donor ..... 25
- Family ..... 15
- Individual or Student ..... 10

# B'nai B'rith in Omaha Celebrates 100th Anniversary February 5th!

Just about 100 years ago the first chapter of B'nai B'rith was founded in Omaha (a few years later the Lincoln chapter was founded also). The celebration of this event will take place at a gala banquet at Peony Park on February 5th to which you are all invited to attend. Publicity and information about the time and costs will be in the Jewish Press and in the mail to you. In the meantime The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society continues its search for photo-

graphs of individuals and chapters, teams and special events, certificates, awards, etc.... 'cause we're preparing an exhibit. A special edition of our journal "Memories of the Jewish Midwest" will be mailed to you and you will have an opportunity to view the exciting unusual exhibit prepared by Boys Town and The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society on "Flanagan and Monsky: Men of Vision". The community is invited to share in this gala celebration!



## HODI Chapter B'NAI B'RITH Girls 1955

**Back Row, L-R:** Linda Passer (CB), Jolene Friedman Thompson (CB), Marilyn Dvorkin Warren, Rozanne Siporin, Patsy Greenfield, Maxine Zweiback Kirshenbaum, Sandra Fellman Stein, Toby Raznick Forbes, Kay Markovitz, Joan Marx Bernstein, Lynne Singer Asher, Judy Freed Kendall, Carole Gomberg, Myra Cohn (CB), Berdine Green Clumpus, Lois Moskowitz Wine.

**Second Row:** Sandra Matters, Barbara Bernstein, Harriet Breslow Cohn, Elaine Selo (CB), Miriam Katz, Laurie Oruch Elewitz, Judy Kutler, Bonnie Spiegel, Anny Weintraub (dec.), Florence Shrago Rose, Connie Nichols, Roberta Grossman, Georgianne Mezzey Steinberg (CB), Serena Dwoskin, Susie Baron, Harriett Epstein.

**Front Row:** Mrs. Morris (Dolly) Kutler (advisor), Ina Margolin Weiner, Shirley Siff, Elaine Falken Oruch, Joyce Canar Schwartz, Carole Frank Widman, Phyllis Freedman, Rita Peltz Thompson, Diane Singer Kaiman, Madalyn Miroff, Eileen Epstein Siegal (dec), Mrs. Paul (Grayce) Sacks (dec)(advisor).

### 1988 Statistics:

Jolene Thompson, Mrs. Alan Thompson, Texas  
 Marilyn Warren, Mrs. Martin L. Warren, Omaha  
 Patsy Greenfield, daughter of Dan Greenfield, Omaha  
 Maxine Kirshenbaum, Mrs. Joe Kirshenbaum, Omaha  
 Sandra Stein sister-in-law of Art Stein, Omaha  
 Toby Forbes, Mrs. Marshall Forbes, Milwaukee  
 Joan Bernstein, Mrs. Terry Bernstein, Omaha  
 Lynne Asher, address in 1958 CHS Reunion book  
 Judy Freed Kendall  
 Berdine Clumpus, Mrs. Marvin Clumpus, Littleton, Colorado  
 Lois Wine, Mrs. Norm Wine, Omaha  
 Barbara Bernstein, Denver  
 Harriett Cohn, Mrs. Arvin Cohn, California  
 Laurie Elewitz, Mrs. Gordon Elewitz, Texas

Judy Kutler, daughter of Morris Kutler, mother of David Spiegel  
 Bonnie Spiegel, daughter of Dick Spiegel  
 Florence Rose, Sister of Leon Shrago  
 Roberta Grossman, daughter of Art Grossman  
 Susie Baron, daughter of Mrs. Arnold Baron  
 Harriett Epstein, sister of Dr. Gary Epstein  
 Mrs. Morris Kutler, Omaha  
 Ina Weiner, Mrs. Dick Weiner, Omaha  
 Elaine Oruch, Mrs. Jack Oruch, Texas  
 Joyce Schwartz, Mrs. Ben Schwartz, Des Moines  
 Carole Widman, Mrs. Stan Widman, Omaha  
 Phyllis Freedman, daughter of Hershel Freedman  
 Rita Thompson, Mrs. Tom Thompson, Chicago  
 Diane Kaiman, sister-in-law of Ben Kaiman, Omaha  
 Madalyn Miroff, relative of Helen Shukert

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