



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

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV, No. 1

May, 1986

Omaha, Nebraska, 68154

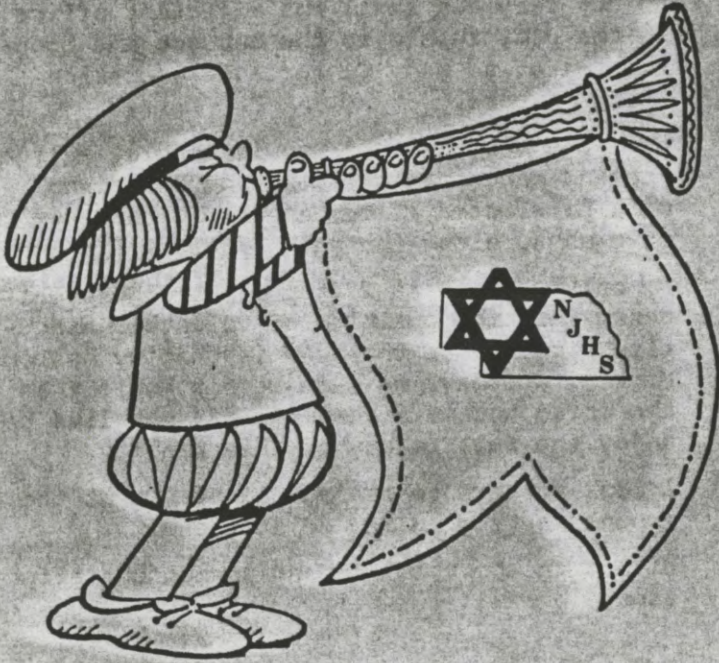
**Come to our Fourth Annual Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY**

**MAY 28, 1986**

**7:00 p.m. J.C.C.**

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION  
of board and officers



**Old Fashioned Watermelon Feed**

FIRST OMAHA SHOWING OF  
AUTHOR KENNETH LIBO'S  
30 minute documentary on  
"FRONTIER JEWS" with  
special section on Omaha



DRAWING FOR FREE  
NJHS MEMBERSHIP

# reflections of a "retiring" president

Journalists write "30" at the end of a story. Rabbis say "amen" at the end of a sermon. Outgoing presidents, however, say "old presidents never fade away, they just go on to other jobs!" And that's the way it is with me as I step down from the presidency of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society after three and a half years.

As co-founder and first president of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, I have had the opportunity and privilege to watch a dream develop into a strong reality. For this opportunity and wonderful experience, I am grateful to many, but particularly to Oliver Pollak, Lois Friedman, Sivy Roffman and Joie Simon for their initial and ongoing support.

I am ever grateful to those who have supported our activities with generous funding through personal gifts and through endowment funds.

And to the almost 600 individuals and families across America and even in Canada who have joined our ranks, from students to benefactors of the NJHS, we are proud of the love you have shown for the Nebraska which nurtured you and your families from the time the first Jews settled here in the mid-1880's.

Together we have accomplished much! Our twice a year Newsletter and annual Journal are full of fascinating information about Nebraska Jewish people and places. Our unique "Corridor of Jewish History" museum has brought to the Jewish Community Center visitors an opportunity to become acquainted with the history of the Jews of Nebraska. And very importantly, the attractive exhibits which hang on the walls of the JCC aid in teaching, explaining and enhancing the pride we all have in our people and in our state.

This year saw the hiring of our first full-time archivist who is bringing our fast growing files and records into order. We worked closely with the Federation Foundation Committee to make the closing of "Kapulier Shul" and the preservation of that synagogue's precious legacy a major event in the community.

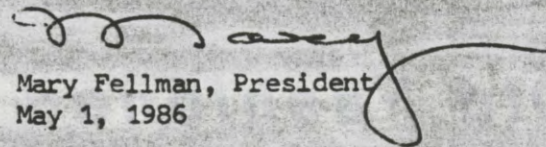
We reached out through the Jewish Press on many special occasions with stories and pictures of the past that were both a teaching and a joyful experience. And as the year comes to a close, we are preparing to move to our very own small but efficient office in the JCC, thanks to the support and cooperation of so many Center and Federation staff members.

With the new slate of knowledgeable, energetic and concerned officers and Board who will be elected at our annual meeting, we move ahead along the path of accomplishment.

My only sadness as I step out of the presidency into the position of volunteer Executive Director of the NJHS is that my husband Morrie, who gave me such strong support as the dream became a reality, did not live to enjoy the full beauty of this reality.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting on May 28 at the JCC.

With much appreciation and tremendous affection,



Mary Fellman, President  
May 1, 1986

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## ARCHIVIST OPHIRA BAHAR ON DUTY FOR NJHS...

The appointment of Ophira Bahar of Lincoln as archivist and historian for the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society was announced in January, 1986.

Funding for the position of archivist was made possible by a grant from the Carl Frohm Foundation with matching funds from the Livingston Foundation and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

Mrs. Bahar received her Master's degree in European and American history from the Univ. of Nebraska where she also received her BA in history. She has completed her course work toward a Ph.D. in history and political science.

As a full-time archivist, Mrs. Bahar will catalogue and accession all artifacts and materials in our files. She will also be involved in preparing materials for publication, research and exhibition.

Mrs. Bahar has served as an intern at the Nebr. State Historical Society where she presently spends one day a week working with the curators who are assisting the NJHS with its work.

An Israeli sabra, she received her teacher's certificate from Teacher's State College in Haifa, Israel after serving in the Israeli Air Force. She has taught in Israel, in parochial schools in the United States and was a teaching assistant in history at UNL.

# Don't Throw Away Your Past!

Our collection of artifacts and materials includes the following subjects and names among many others. If you have information through articles, pictures, booklets, etc. on these subjects, please share them with the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

Economic Life: Businesses, etc. (Newman Groceries, Norfolk Iron & Metal, Pioneer Locksmith)

Yiddish Cultural Committee

Aleph Zadek Aleph

Industrial Removal Office, Immigration

Political and Civic Leaders

Jewish Community of Lincoln

Cemeteries and Burial Societies

Religious Congregations: Kapulier Shul, Beth El, Beth Hamedrosh Hagadol, Beth Israel, B'nai Israel, B'nai Jacob, B'nai Jeshurun, Chevra B'nai Israel, Temple Israel, Tifereth Israel

Genealogy (Family History): Horwich, Kendis, Silverman, Kulakofsky, Margolin, Mervish, Riekes, Risman (Joseph), Shulman (Ned) family, Singer family, Stine family (Lincoln)

Biographies: Rose Blumkin, Dave Breslow, Dan Cohen, Mary Davidson, Esther Duboff, Louis Finkelstein, Fleishman family, Fox/Abrams, Morris Fox, Herman and Rebecca Ginsburg, George and Belle Goldstone, Sam Greenberg, Joseph Haykin, Leo I. Meyerson, Dr. Daniel Miller, Noe Clotilde, Olga Jacobow, Norma Novak, Polsky family, H. A. and Rose Resnick, Toulin family

Jewish Free Loan Society

Jewish Cultural Committee

Jewish Day School

B'nai B'rith

Omaha Hebrew Club

Jewish Community Center

Israel

Senior Citizens

Social Welfare Agencies

Women's Clubs and Organizations

Zionist Organizations

Jewish Federation of Omaha

Workmen's Loan Association

Documents: Certificates, Passports, Marriage Certificates (Ketuba)

Individuals: Nate Grossman, Herb Goldston, Sadie Kohn (and family members), Leonard Herman, Henry Monsky, Nathan and Ann Brodsky, Nate and Rose Ferer, Fox/Abrams family, Harry Dvosin, Philip Hirsh, Max Kushner, S. Arthur Lazarowitz, Carl Lewis, Lewis and Ella Rentfrow, Slutzky, Harry and Lillian Yaffee, Nathan S. Yaffee, Harry Trustin

LAST CALL FOR NAMES OF WORLD WAR I VETS.....  
THE LIST IS BEING PREPARED IN ITS FINAL STATE.  
SEND ADDITIONAL NAMES NOW TO NJHS OFFICE.

WE ARE CONTINUING OUR SEARCH FOR PICTURES,  
DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS ABOUT EARLY NEBRASKA  
BUSINESS AND JEWISH POLITICAL FIGURES. PLEASE  
LET US HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION

THE NJHS HAS MANY PROJECTS THAT NEED FUNDING.  
THINK OF US WHEN YOU MAKE OUT YOUR WILL OR  
ARE LOOKING FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS!

## When Old Friends Get Together 1953



Everything worked out in fine shape for a group of Sigma Delta Tau alumnae on Tuesday when they were entertained by Mrs. Joel Markell and Mrs. Arthur Hill at the home of Mrs. Hill. Miss Jean Israel, house mother at the Sigma Delta Tau house, has been giving some consideration to the matter of retiring at the end of the school year. Then, too, there were numerous of the alumnae, all who were members of the sorority at about the same time, were in town—So, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Markell had the happy idea of a reunion which also was attended by members of the very young generation.

In the picture are: seated on the sofa from left to right: Mrs. Marvin Feld and daughter, Cindy; Miss Jean Israel, Robin Markell, Mrs. Arthur Hill and her daughter, Martha; Mrs. Joel Markell, Mrs. Milton Lipsman

and son Jeffrey, Bettendorf, Ia.; and Mrs. Stuart Goldberg.

Seated on the floor, left to right, are Mrs. Fred Alpert of Chicago; Linda Goldberg and Mrs. Byron Krane.

Also attending the party, but

not in the picture, were Mrs. Simon Kominsky and her daughter, Marcia; Mrs. Robert Cohen, and the two young Cohens, Barbara and Murray, and Mrs. Leonard Bessman and her son, Jimmy, of Milwaukee.

... of  
... like the  
above that came from our  
archives.

MORE LETTERS FROM THE NJHS MAILBAG...

From Steve Sloan, Omaha..."I thought you might find this clipping about my father interesting...Lee Sloan, 46 at his death, was a man who, according to Wally Provost who wrote the article in the World Herald, 'he could be found escorting a heavyweight through the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican in Rome, proudly showing a letter from his son at the Sorbonne in Paris, reminiscing about his own days as a kid newspaper hawker in Milwaukee, soliciting a celebrity autograph for his daughter, singing songs in French at a piano bar'." Our thanks to Steve and our hopes that many others will send clippings from your collections about former Omahans.

From Alison E. Stanley, Newport Beach, CA..."Please note that my great uncle, Davis Yousem, a former Omahan, was a veteran of World War I. Thank you for adding his name to the plaque that will be presented to the Jewish Federation this year."

From Rini Gonsler, Omaha..."I want to thank you so very much for awarding me first-place in the Historical Society's essay contest. I originally requested the copy of my 6th grade paper to motivate my son to enter, but later felt compelled to come to terms with my feelings about Grandma's death. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so! Nearly half of my winnings went to the Jewish Day School in the form of books in my Grandma's memory and honor. The remainder went to a packet of suntanning sessions and for Purim gelt for my 'yingeles.' Grandma would have approved of both! Thanks again."  
RINI GONSHER WAS WINNER OF THE FIRST PRIZE IN THE MORRIS C. FELLMAN ESSAY CONTEST, ADULT DIVISION.

From Jackie McGlade, Boystown Museum Curator..."Your beautiful and thoughtful bouquet graced our welcoming table on opening day. It is so nice to have such a gracious and kind 'neighbor'."

From Sara Steinau Marrow, Van Nuys, CA..."I have much material about my great uncle, Emanuel Steinau, including his birth certificate from Hochstatten, Germany; military record of service in the Civil War, Adams County, Nebraska; and write-ups telling of his purchase of the first lot in Hastings, Nebraska, where a store was built in 1872. In Hastings, he was a member of the Masonic Order, GAR, City Treasurer for a short while, member of the Bachelor's Club, and the Hastings Free Religious Society."

From Bernice Diamond Katskee, Lincoln..."I was surprised that you had found my picture in an old Cornhusker, Class of '24. You probably saw Lou Somberg's picture there, also, and Max Shostaks's and Maxine Frosh. I don't know if you are aware of the government program for students in college during World War I. Our brother, Harry, 1900-1958, was in the Student's Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) at the University and graduated in 1921. Have enjoyed the reports in the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society's publications. I am hoping that the Diamond sisters will be able to recount our experiences in growing up in McCook, Nebraska, some day!"

WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING...

Judge Irving Hill, class of 1936 at the University of Nebraska, received the Alumni Achievement Award during the 1986 Half Century Club Reunion sponsored by the UNL Alumni Association. Hill is chief judge emeritus of the U.S. District Court, Central Division of California and has been a part of the California court system since 1961 when he was appointed to the state's Superior Court.

Fraternity brother in Sigma Alpha Mu of Hill is David Goldware saluted recently by the ADL of B'nai B'rith in Riverside, California, for his "unselfish devotion to the community." David is a partner in the Goldware and Taylor Insurance Service, has been honored by numerous civic organizations and has been named Man of the Year for both the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts of America Inland Area of Southern California.

FROM NJHS ARCHIVES...

A STORY ABOUT LINCOLN

by the late Gertie Davidson

In May of 1911, our Sisterhood was started by Mrs. Labovitz who had come from Chicago to make her home in Lincoln. She had belonged to a Sisterhood in Chicago and felt we should have one here. She invited a few ladies to her home and the Sisterhood became a reality.

I was married in June, 1911, and joined the Sisterhood in September. Our group was small and we couldn't do much about raising money as the synagogue we were in didn't have a kitchen. It was located at 12th and "J" which is now a part of the University campus. Our dues were 25 cents a month.

In May, 1913, we moved into the new synagogue at 18th and "L". We had a nice kitchen, but only one small gas stove. We had pledged \$1,200 to pay for the windows in the synagogue, so we began to have dinners and raffles and bazaars to raise money. We would serve from 75 to 100 people and we couldn't get our cooking done on the one stove. So, we would get our chickens ready Saturday night in the roasters and Mrs. I. Finkelstein, who was always on our committee and whose husband had a bakery, offered to roast the chickens in the bakery oven. They were always delicious.

I want to mention that our stove was connected very close to the wall and it had to be lit on that side. We had an awful time with burned hands. In later years, Sarah Polick was married to Charles Poska and joined the Sisterhood and our committee. She had small hands and by wrapping a towel around her hand, she could light the oven without burning herself. So, she became our official lighter.

When Lincoln General Hospital was being built, Mrs. Sonia Greenstone suggested that we furnish a room which would cost \$600. She undertook the project and collected 10 cents a week from those who pledged. When the hospital was finished, she had the money ready. As I remember, it was a four bed ward and has a plaque on the door, the "Daughters of Israel" which was our name then.

We became a Conservative synagogue in 1925.

NEW GALVESTON RECORDS AVAILABLE...

The National Archives in Washington, D.C. now has additional passenger arrival records on microfilms for the port of Galveston. The two name indexes are for 1896-September 1906 (M1357) and October 1906-1951 (M1358). Passenger lists of vessels arriving at Galveston date from 1896 to 1948 (M1359).

Know someone who is not a member? Ask your friends and relatives from Newark to join NJHS! Every old member sign up a new member!

NEBRASKA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Members Since January, 1986

Jean L. Abramson	Esther Kunik
Jacob Adler	Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kwiatek
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Altsuler	Rev. Mendel and Mrs. Landsman
Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Bahar	Mrs. Harry Lieberman
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Belzer	Mrs. Rose Marer
Ms. Dorothy Blacker	Dr. Irving Mittleman
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Bleicher	Mr. and Mrs. Alan Muskin
Jack E. Brown	Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Nachman
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burstein	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nogg
David M. Cohen	Dr. Maurice Pepper
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cohn	Gary and Linda Perlman
Mr. Pennie Davis	Judy Goldner Poll
Judy Friedman Feiertag	Maxine White Polsky
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Feld	Mr. and Mrs. William Poster
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Feldman	Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Raskin
Gordon Fellman	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rifkin
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Franklin	Dr. and Mrs. Edward E. Rosenbaum
Mr. Sam Fried	Sondra T. Rosenblatt
Gloria Friedman	Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rubin
Sharon Frank Goldman	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sacks
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goldware	Mr. and Mrs. Milton Saylan
Diana Hahn	Steve A. Sloan
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Hechtman	Martin Sneider
Beth Crandell Jaburg	Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stern
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Josephson	Mr. Joel Stern
Ann Kaiman	Henry H. Swartz
Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Kasin	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vann
Fern Katleman	Dr. and Mrs. Robert Waldman
Dr. and Mrs. Harold Kay	Mr. Calvin Weinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kirshenbaum	Lilyan R. Weiskopf
Mr. Abraham Krantz	Mike Yousem
Michael Kulakofsky	Mrs. H. Z. Zorinsky
Milton Abrahams	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kutler
Matlee Yadin	

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MY THOUGHTS ON THE HOLOCAUST IN 1986

By Janet Ickowicz, Survivor

The Holocaust is not less a tragedy now in 1986 than it was in the years 1939 to 1945. The facts remain the same, they are outrageous, cruel deeds, which words cannot express, and left as a consequence six million victims, innocent people and children, who perished in K-z camps.

Fortunately, the healing power of time helped to mitigate the pain and made the life for us endurable. We restored our capability for building a new life in a new country, which we willingly accepted and learned to love. We raised our families and counted our blessings.

But the memories remained. We will never forget what happened. We can't forget our Dear Ones. Our thoughts, our conversations through all the past years reflected the tragic happenings of the Holocaust. How could we forget?

In my opinion, there does not exist a comparable tragedy.

The motto, "never again," is an appropriate one for us to accept and defend.

Now, I am looking forward to Yom HaShoa 1986. In this special day, when the community gathers for prayers and El Mole Rachman is recited the names of Auschwitz, Treblinka and all others are mentioned, they bring tears to our eyes. The emotions are released, they run deep, but what follows is a feeling of relief.

Hopefully, Yom HaShoah will continue over and over, always, as a reminder of the perished victims, never to be forgotten.

Yes, it is uncomprehensible, how could it happen, but it did. The barbaric acts of the Holocaust, as told by survivors and liberators, are not a fabrication of our imagination, not an ugly fantasy, as so many are trying to convince the world.

To our sorrow and regret, it did happen, it is the truth.

Holocaust Memorial Exhibit Now in "Corridor of Jewish History" Museum at Jewish Community Center.



Pen Drawing from book on Holocaust from Miriam Grossman.

**THE HOLOCAUST and POLSKA'S SURVIVORS**

ENTRIES IN "MY GRANDMOTHER/MY GRANDFATHER" ESSAY CONTEST

By Ethel Levinson Edgar...

This is a true story about my father's parents who lived in a small Lithuanian town called Skaduchesede.

They owned a large plot of ground, about a block long. Their house, built like a duplex, was located on the street in the village - next down the slope was a vegetable garden and below was grandfather's workshop, where he made carriages for the "prizim" - the wealthy land owners.

I well remember the large room which served as living room, and dining room and was often used for weddings.

When I was old enough, about 4 years old, it served as the school room for little girls who all sat around the big table and learned to read and write Yiddish.

My parents were given part of the house for their living quarters, but Mamma, who came from a large town must have found life there rather dull. Duvink was certainly much more interesting to live in. She decided to open up a small store in the front room, where she sold candy, nuts and other such items.

As I understood it, Sunday was the busiest day of the week, since the parents who came to attend church and get drunk, also came in to buy goodies.

It was on a Sunday that five young men came into the store to buy candy. They were already drunk - made lots of noise and helped themselves to nuts and candy. My grandmother, hearing the commotion, came in the store and started to yell at them to get out.

One of the fellows hit her on the head and blood started to flow from the open wound.

My mother became frantic and called loudly for someone to go and get grandfather. One of the younger brothers of my father ran down the hill to get grandpa.

When he arrived soon after and saw the blood flowing down grandmother's face, he became frantic.

He was a large, strong man. Without hesitating for one minute, he picked up a three-pound weight in his right hand, then quickly took hold of one of the young men by the collar with his other hand, and hit him on the head with the weight and threw him out the door.

One by one, he hit each man on the head with the weight and threw him out until all were gone. Then, they closed the front door.

I saw all this from the door that led into our living quarters, but hardly understood the implications. But, my grandparents did, and were worried that it might start a pogrom.

Nothing happened, but it did make them think it was time to leave.

By this time, my father was already in the U.S. trying to get established. So, four years after his arrival in the U.S., we followed and, a year later, the grandparents and younger brothers and one sister came to the U.S.

Grandpa & Grandma Katz after arrival in U.S.A.



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By Lena Grossman...

I was not fortunate enough to know my grandparents. In fact, I was named for my two grandmothers.

My mother, God bless her soul, has told me the following story about her mother.

Her mother, Ghita, was married to a very fine, loving man for ten years. She had a baby every year, but the child didn't live to see the second baby born. So it went on for ten years, and they remained childless.

So, as it happens in small towns in Lithuania, they went to the rabbi to ask his advise.

Just at that time, a man by the name of Shames lost his wife, leaving him with a newly born babe and four older children.

The rabbi told the couple that they were not suited for one another and they must get a divorce immediately.

Then, he turned to my grandmother and said, "After the divorce, you must marry Mr. Shames immediately." The Lord wants you to be the mother of his children and He will bless you with your own child.

So it happened just that way. A year later my mother was born.

In trying to figure out just when this happened, I arrived at my mother's age if she were alive today. She was 73 when she died in 1932, that would make her 126 now, so her mother was married to Mr. Shames 127 years ago. Evidently, they didn't know about the blood factor in those days. Everything was decided by the Rabbi.



## "I REMEMBER ZAYDA"

A Story About My Grandfather, Joseph Kirshenbaum

By Paul Shyken

My story begins in May of about 1886. The location is Volena Gabernia, a small town in Russia where Joseph Kirshenbaum was born to Rosa and Akiva Kirshenbaum, the first of four sons, but not the eldest since there were also three daughters. He was reared in this small community and, in about 1905, married Rachel Mittleman.

A few years later, a son and daughter were born. As was common at that time, disease was prevalent and treatment was less than effective. The son died, but the daughter, Bessie, my mother, recovered. Conditions in Russia were difficult, so Zayda decided to leave for America. With the help of his brother, Max, who had already left, he journeyed to New York.

America, the land of opportunity, was also a place where one had to work long and hard. Arriving in New York, Zayda got a job sorting rags. However, he was not happy there, and so he left for Omaha where his wife Rachel's uncle, Morris Mittleman lived. In Omaha, he worked for Rachel's uncle, Morris Mittleman, in Morris's junk yard. He saved enough money and, as quickly as possible, sent for his wife and daughter.

Rachel and my mother, Bessie, arrived in New York and were met by Max and Becky Kirshenbaum, Zayda's brother and sister-in-law. Max and Becky put them on the train to Omaha, and subsequently, they arrived here. Zayda worked hard and was now happy. His brother and sister-in-law, Max and Becky Kirshenbaum decided to move to Omaha, too. Both Max and Zayda worked long and hard, and together, they saved enough money to bring their other two brothers, Meyer and Abraham and their wives and children and also their father, Akiva Kirshenbaum, to Omaha.

Zayda decided to strike out on his own and became a junk peddler with a horse and wagon. He also hauled freight as a means of earning a livelihood. A few years after arriving in Omaha, Joseph and Rachel had another child, a daughter Rebecca.

In about 1920, Zayda and Harry Mittleman, my grandmother's cousin, opened a men's clothing store in South Omaha on the corner of 24th and "N" Streets. Business was good, but misfortune struck. One night, burglars cut a hole in the roof of the building and stole the merchandise. There was no insurance and the business closed because of lack of money to continue. Zayda went back to peddling junk and hauling cartage. He worked hard and saved his money.

In 1928, he bought out Sherman Mercantile Co. from his good friend, Nate Sherman who would later go on to found Midas Muffler Company in Chicago. Zayda changed the name of his business to Joseph Kirshenbaum Kosher Products. His location was at 1502 Cuming Street.

Entry in the Morris C. Fellman Memorial Essay  
Contest, Adult Division, "My Grandmother/My Grandfather"

Zayda worked as hard as ever, and though his was a one-man operation, he did earn a decent living. He was a distributor for several companies, some of which included Sinai Kosher Sausage Corp., Best Kosher Sausage, Aron Streit Matzo Co., I. Rokeach and Sons, Standard Oil (candles), Planters Peanut Oil, Morton Salt, H. C. Knoke Co. (buck wheat groats), Emes Kosher Products, Jos. Vidotsky and Son (barrel herring), Independent Candy Co. (Joyua halvah), Consolidated Tea Co. (swee Touch nee tea), Hudson Tea and Spice Co., Delca Herring, Fulton Smoked Fish Co., Vita Herring, and later, B. Manishevitz Co.

In about 1949, he sold his building at 1502 Cuming Street and moved to 114 South 13th Street. There he continued his business. This location was near the police station, and it was not at all uncommon to see a policeman walk into the warehouse and help himself to a cold hot dog from the barrel. The building location was one where derelicts frequently would be found on the large stoop in front of the building. Zayda would always give them something to eat and never called the police to have them moved. In all the years he was at that location, he was the only business in the area not burglarized. I think his kindness toward the unfortunate who were around the area accounted for this fact.

I remember the 13th Street location with the small coal stove to heat the office (the stove that came out of the Adath Yeshurun Synagogue basement when they converted to oil or gas). There was the big walk-in cooler with the smoked meats and fish, the corner with the sacks of Kasha and its familiar odor, the area where the cases of matzo were stacked to the ceiling, the shelves with the spices and tea that had a fragrance of their own, and of course, the barrels of herring, the aroma of which was unforgettable.

In about 1956, Zayda moved his warehouse once more, this time to 213 North 26th Street. This was the final location of his business. I have often thought that he was ahead of his time when it came to choosing good locations. His first warehouse later became the office of Tip Top Products, the second the site of the new Northwestern Bell Building, and the last location the site of the new InterNorth Building.

Zayda was a man of deep religious conviction. He was Orthodox and, of course, Shomer Shabbos. He was one of the founders of the Kiplier Synagogue on 25th and Seward Streets and, for many years, was the treasurer of the congregation. He was one of the original group that purchased the ground for Mount Sinai Cemetary on 78th and Crown Point, and he was the organization's treasurer for over thirty-five years. For him, each day began with attendance at morning services at the synagogue. Needless to say, his business was always closed for the Sabbath and Holidays.

As I think back to my childhood, I realize how fortunate I was to know Zayda. We were very close, and he was my best friend as well as my Zayda. We often went to

Entry in the World's C. Follow Memorial Essay  
Contact: Adult Division, "My Grandmotherly Grandfather"

the park to play; it was my first movie to which he took me; it was he who surprised me with my bicycle on my seventh birthday. I can remember spending many Shabbos days with my grandparents. My brother and I would sit on Zayda's knees during the Shabbos meal and sing Zmirot together. I can close my eyes and still almost hear him sing the words to his favorite song, Yom Zeh M'chubod. I would frequently walk with Zayda to the synagogue on Shabbos, a distance of about thirty blocks. On occasion, as a small child, I would get up early to go to the synagogue with Zayda on a weekday morning. I remember my mother getting me ready in the early hours of the morning because services began at 6:30 a.m. After services, there was always served kichel and herring and a glazel schnapps, though I only had the herring and kichel. The men would sit around the tables and exchange stories and discuss synagogue affairs, sometimes heatedly.

(On Shabbos in the synagogue, I can still remember Zayda's friend, Mr. Ben Lindenbaum, pounding his stendel (lectern) and in a loud, booming voice shout "Veiber Schveig still," and there was Mr. Rochman who loved to pinch the cheeks of the children. Occasionally, I would get to place the crowns on the torch on Shabbos.)

It was always a treat to go with Zayda in his red truck to call on customers. I remember going to North 24th Street and stopping at Shukerts Meat Market. Then there was Forbes Bakery and Delicatessen, where the aroma from the baked goods was mouth watering. Next, was Joe Adler's Delicatessen. The aroma of the fermenting pickles greeted each one as they approached the door. There was Diamond's Meat Market and Omaha Kosher Meat Market. Other stops were Ruback's grocery, Rubinow's grocery, Belgers grocery, and a frequent stop to visit Zayda's good friend, Mr. Hyman Guss at his Chicago Furniture Store.

Over the years, I remember other merchants that were on the route. Some of these included Central Market, Lippetts Grocery, Handy Dandy Grocery, Peter Pan Market, Plotkin Bros., United Provision, Sol Martin, Park Avenue Grocery, Harry's Restaurant, Country Club Grocery, Louis Sommer, Dundee Dell, Roffman's Finer Foods and Roffman's Delicatessen, I. W. Rosenblatt, Leo Weitz, Lehman Grocery, Ben Perelman Grocery, Keith Peltz Grocery, Nate Gimple's Grand Central Market, Bakers, Hashell's Meat Market, and A. Kirshenbaum Grocery.

Zayda was a man of great integrity. Rarely did his customers ever check the weights of the merchandise or the count of cases delivered. I remember once making a delivery by myself and asking the butcher to check the scale weight. He said, "If your grandfather was your teacher, I don't have to check what you say." Once, we were together in a store and a lady saw my grandfather and came up and hugged him. She told me that if it had not been for my grandfather, her family would not have been able to have food for Passover one year. My grandfather blushed and told her not to talk about it. I

**The office of the Nebraska Jewish  
Historical Society is located at the  
JCC. We welcome your visits and  
your phone calls.  
334-8200 Ext. 270**

remember being told about a poor woman who sold candles to earn money. My grandmother bought her Shabbos candles from her. Interestingly, my grandfather was the supplier of candles to the woman.

I remember the many people who would come to the warehouse and ask for money. Zayda gave to all of them. Once, I asked him how he knew that they really were in need of the money. His reply was that he did not know, but for the sake of the one who was in need, it was necessary to give to all. (Zayda gave to those who were less fortunate. Many times he gave to people in need of food. He never talked about, and would never discuss it.)

(Friday afternoons were always short because Zayda had to get home for Shabbos. There was the stop at the market to buy fruits and vegetables. Then, it was home to prepare. My grandmother had been cooking since morning, and the house always smelled so good. The gletl, a tin, was covering the burners on the gas stove and the tea pot had its brew. Money was deposited in the pishka and things were readied for the Sabbath.)

(In 1957, my grandmother Rachel died. I remember my grandfather talking with the rabbi before the funeral. I'll never forget his words. He said of her, "She was just like she was at home." I knew what he meant. The values that she grew up with before coming to America, her religious convictions and ideals, never changed in the new land. She was as she was.)

Early on a Friday morning in September, 1970, Zayda started out on his morning walk to the synagogue as he had done every day for the previous twelve or so years. But this day, he did not get there. He was struck by a car and died a few hours later.

The years have gone by but my memories of Zayda are as fresh as they were when he was alive. (I frequently think of him and all that he taught me.) I treasure the memories of the wonderful times we had together. His values and strong belief in his Jewish heritage were very dear to him. Today, as I watch my children and nieces and nephew listen to their Zayda and see the look in their eyes every Friday night as he recites the Kiddush, I find a sense of satisfaction knowing Zayda's values are being passed on to another generation and have yet a chance to live on.



Joe Kirshenbaum and his truck

FROM FAR AND NEAR  
FROM FORMER NEBRASKANS WE HEAR...

Former Nebraskan.....Bonnie Haykin Pike is the author of the very successful play, "Three Brass Monkeys" which is drawing large audiences in Atlanta where Bonnie and her family live. The play is about a grass-roots type person (a psychologist's patient), her experiences, why she became mentally ill and how she began to heal. Groups involved in the prevention of child abuse and domestic violence have sponsored performances and mental health workers hope to use it as a teaching tool.

Playwright

Former Nebraskan.....Elly Haykin Welt, Bonnie's sister, is the author of a novel about the war in Berlin in the 1940's and the war in one man's soul as he comes to terms with his survival twenty years later. Elly began writing this novel, "Berlin Wild," in Iowa City, Iowa, where the American sections of the book are set. She now lives in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and Key West, Florida. Elly is also the author of a novel, "Joanna Reddinghood," and is planning a third book. Both Elly and Bonnie are the daughters of Pauline Nogg Haykin and the late Harry Haykin.

Author

Former Nebraskan.....Marvin A. Breslow, 1956 graduate of the University of Nebraska, is the Editor of "The Political Writings of John Knox, The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women" which was recently published by Folger Books. He is a member of the history faculty at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Editor

Former Nebraskans.....Philip M. Klutznick, Rabbi David H. Wice and Rabbi David A. Goldstein came together in Philadelphia last November when Goldstein received the community award from the Israel Histadrut Campaign at a testimonial dinner. The three first crossed paths in Omaha during the 1930's when Goldstein and Wice, both recent graduates of rabbinical schools, took pulpits in the Conservative and Reform synagogues. Klutznick, then only 19, became the secretary at Goldstein's synagogue, Beth El. Goldstein and Wice, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1947, both stayed in touch with Klutznick over the years. The proceeds from the Histadrut dinner were used to establish the Rabbi David A. and Rose Goldstein Perpetual Scholarship Fund for the Amal Education System in Israel.

National  
Jewish  
Leaders

Incidentally, the award to Rabbi Goldstein was presented by Rabbi Wice. The featured speaker of the evening was Klutznick!

Former Nebraskan.....Dr. Ron Wolfson, Fingerhut Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Judaism at Los Angeles and Director of the Clejan Educational Resources Center for the University, is the author of a 250 page text for "The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder," which is anticipated to be the first in a series of courses on Jewish observance and practices in the home.

Jewish  
Educator

Former Nebraskan.....Daniel L. Grossman, formerly an assistant to Warren Buffett, is a partner of Tukman Capital Management, an investment firm in Marin County, California. Recent articles in Fortune magazine and the New York Times have discussed the company's policy of a "limited stock portfolio." The small five year old investment advisory firm manages \$205 million in assets for 20 pension funds. Total return on the firm's equity portfolios was 67.2% over the past two years, according to CDA Investment Technologies, Inc. of Silver Springs, Maryland.

Investment  
Advisor

A SMATTERING OF LETTERS FROM THE NJHS MAILBAG...

From Norman Denenberg via a letter he received from "Aunt Annie"..."Your Uncle Samuel Brown is not listed among the Omaha Jewish men who served in World War I. He served from the beginning to past the end, was private secretary to three Generals, Wood, Wright, and Winn." (His name and many others have been added to the list which will soon appear in the Jewish Press again will all the corrections.)

From Julia W. Kramer (Mrs. Fred), Chicago, IL..."I thought you might be interested in some of the enclosed material on the descendants of my husband's great grandfather, Simon Kraemer, a school teacher and author from Bavaria. Two of his children went to Nebraska after living and working in Chicago. Carl Kramer and his brother, Gabriel, founded a chain of stores in Nebraska, and Carl eventually settled in Columbus where his record of community service was astounding! Carl's son, Harold, was instrumental in setting up the public power system in Nebraska."

From Bess Horwich Rothenberg, Omaha..."In going over the list of servicemen from the first World War, I found the following missing: Nathan Kramer and Moses Kramer. They were both residents of Oakland, Nebraska, where their fathers were in the clothing and dry goods business and were the first Jewish young men to enlist in the Army. I am also enclosing a picture of the Supercraft Garment Company at 1220 Farnam Street, owned by Sam Kaplan. I was Mr. Kaplan's secretary. Mr. Kaplan was owner of the Omaha Hat Factory before going into the wholesale ready-to-wear."



Supercraft Garment Company, 1220 Farnam Street. Owner Sam Kaplan. Front desk, Bess Horwich Rothenberg. Rear desk, Helen Shapiro Wagner, Standing, Alice Malacy and Morris Turitz. Taken in 1930

EXCERPTS FROM "JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN NEBRASKA" written by Ella Fleishman Auerbach in 1929  
 A copy of this book is available in the Jewish Federation Library and also in the  
 Nebraska Jewish Historical Society office. Also available for your reading pleasure in  
 the Library and in our office is Carole Gendler's "History of the Jews in Omaha."

"The first Jewish physician to practice in Nebraska was Dr. Carl Ernst Louis Golding, who came to Plattsmouth in 1858, combining ministrations to the sick, for which there was little demand, with Indian trading. Dr. Golding was born in Germany, receiving his medical education in Konigsberg and afterwards practiced in Stettin. He set sail for New York in 1850, took a trip to California in the wake of the '49'ers, and eventually located in Plattsmouth in 1856. He combined the practice of medicine with general mercantile business until 1888, when he retired. A son, Dr. D. C. Golding, born in Plattsmouth in 1870 and educated first in the Plattsmouth schools and then graduated from Jefferson College, Philadelphia in 1890, served as head physician and surgeon of the Connecticut Soldiers Home and Hospital in 1890-91.

The elder Dr. Golding was a cousin of Solomon Altschuler, pioneer settler of Madison, Nebraska.

The next early physician was Dr. Alexander Bear of Richmond, Virginia, who settled in Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1869. He was elected to the legislature from there in 1875, mayor of Norfolk in 1888, vice president of a Norfolk Bank, and the first president of the Elkhorn Valley Medical Society.

The first physician to practice in Omaha (the third in Nebraska) was the late Dr. Oscar Hoffman, who became associated with Drs. Mercer and Galbraith, and with the founding of Wise Memorial Hospital in 1899, became chief of staff.

Dr. Charles Rosewater, youngest brother of Edward Rosewater, was the fourth physician of Jewish birth to practice in Nebraska. He held the chair of Emeritus professor of obstetrics in Creighton Medical College, and was secretary of the U.S. Board of Examining Surgeons for pensions. In 1893, he married Clara Schlesinger, daughter of Ferdinand Schlesinger, pioneer Omahan. She taught in the local schools and, afterwards, distinguished herself as an able clubwoman."

**Are You Planning A Trip?**

**Visit a Jewish Museum**

...Or One Which Has Jewish Exhibits!

**UNITED STATES**

- Judaica Museum, Temple Beth Israel
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Judah L. Magnes Mem. Museum Berkeley, California
- Skirball Museum of Hebrew Union College Los Angeles, California
- Jewish Arts Community of the Bay American Jewish Congress San Francisco, California
- Hartford Jewish Comm. Ctr. West Hartford, Connecticut
- Spartus Museum of Judaica Chicago, Illinois
- Beth El Synagogue Chizuk Amuno Synagogue Baltimore, Maryland
- The Jewish Center for the Arts Zionist House Boston, Massachusetts

- Semitic Museum, Harvard Univ. Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Jewish Museum New York, New York
- Yeshiva University Museum New York, New York
- Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion New York, New York
- Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, New York
- Judaica Museum Hebrew Home for the Aged Bronx, New York
- Philadelphia Museum of Art Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Boehm Gallery Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Nat'l Museum of Am. Jewish History Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Kneseth Israel Jewish Museum Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Museum of Judaica Beth Yeshurun Synagogue Houston, Texas
- B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum Washington, D.C.
- Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum Washington, D.C.
- CANADA
- Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Winnipeg, Canada
- National Museum of Congress Montreal, Canada
- ISRAEL
- Bar-David Institute Kibbutz Bar'am
- Mishkan Le'omanut Kibbutz Ein Harod
- Museum of Ethnology and Folklore Archives Haifa

- Mane-Katz House Panorama Road, Haifa
- Wolfson Museum Jerusalem
- Israel Museum Jerusalem
- Courtyard of the Old Yishuv Jerusalem (Old City)
- The Ticho House Jerusalem
- Ha'aretz Museum Tel Aviv
- Beth Hatelulsoth Tel Aviv
- EUROPE
- Amsterdam University & Cith Library Amsterdam, Holland
- CURACAO
- Jewish Cultural Historical Museum Curacao

WHAT'S NEW.....or WHAT'S OLD?

Lot's of things, and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society would like to have them...letters, photos, scrap-books, 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 and marriage contracts.

Please help us expand our collection of the history of the past, not only for today, but for all the tomorrows.

Check through your own memorabilia. Ask other family members and friends to look in their basement, attic or closets. Each contribution from you to the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society helps us fill in a small gap of what has happened in the past and helps us expand our information bank for the future. JUST REMEMBER, DON'T THROW ANYTHING OF THE ABOVE TYPES AWAY...GIVE IT TO OUR ARCHIVES!

SECOND PLACE WINNER, CHILDREN'S DIVISION  
MORRIS C. FELLMAN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

GILA'S GRANDPARENTS

My grandparents are nice. When I go to see them, I hug and kiss them. I love them very much. They are also my mother's parents. My grandmother's Hebrew name is SHONA MINNA. When we go to Sheboygan, I hate it when we leave. My grandfather's Hebrew name is AVRAHAM ELIEZER.

by Gila Drazen

Our Thanks to the following Patrons for their support - July 1, 1985 to April, 1986.  
(Contributions of \$100 for Membership)

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SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SUMMER SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, July 13-18, 1986. Write to Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 1134, Teaneck, New Jersey, 07666 for more details. In their new four story genealogical library they have passenger lists, censuses, U.S. Vital records, European records, American synagogue records, books and manuscripts ---a great place for you to visit even if you do not attend the conference.

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FROM OUR OWN NEBRASKA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES by Ophira Bahar

Mrs. Lillian Stoller Weinstein donated a family picture from her hometown near Minsky, dating back to 1907, in which her little brother is riding a bike. The bike's pedals and handles were made from giant wooden thread spools put on by Mrs. Weinstein's father.



From Jeannette Sherman Milder, Los Angeles, CA..."Omaha was my home for fifty-eight years - I have fond memories of growing up in Omaha and raising my four children there.

When I was young (many years ago), I remember the Jewish societies that my mother was an active member of. They had family picnics at Hanscom Park, also dances at the Hanscom Park Pavilion. Picnics at Hibler's Park on West Leavenworth Street, I think it was 42nd Street - that was way out west in those days. Picnics at Krug Park. The societies would have a Ball at the old auditorium - the music playing and all the little kids (me included) running around like wild Indians. I remember my mother baking cakes for the Ball and standing there making corn beef sandwiches and selling them to raise money for the Club. I can't remember the name of the Club. I remember the summer, open street cars. This is really going back quite a few years, but all good memories.

My parents, Ida and Julius Sherman, were early settlers in Omaha. They came to America from Russia in 1884. They first homesteaded in Devils Lake, North Dakota, and moved to Omaha in about 1885. My father was the first mirror manufacturer in Omaha.

My grandparents, Rebecca and Abraham Sherman, also came to Omaha in about 1885. My grandmother Rebecca's picture is on the cover of "Our Story."

On July 4, 1983, we had a Sherman Family Reunion in Omaha. They came from all over the U.S.A. There were 93 there. They were all the children, grandchildren and great and great, great grandchildren of Ida and Julius Sherman.

I am a member of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogy Society. I am trying to trace my ancestors from Russia.

Keep up the good work."

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Former Omahan and husband honored in Kansas City

Beth Kulakofsky Smith and her husband Edward A. Smith, long active in many phases of Kansas City communal work, were honored recently by the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy with the Civic Service Award. Beth now holds a faculty appointment as adjunct professor of public affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Business and Public Administration.

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MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

On the first anniversary of our "Corridor of Jewish History" museum NJHS issued a lovely pamphlet through the Jewish Press of Omaha. If you want a copy please let us hear from you.

NEBRASKA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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IN TRIBUTE TO BENNETT HORNSTEIN

We mourn the loss of our new Board member, Bennett Hornstein as we recognize the potential he would have added to our work. His strength and determination to live gave strength to those who knew and loved him. He is missed and remembered along with all who were "pioneers," each in their own way.