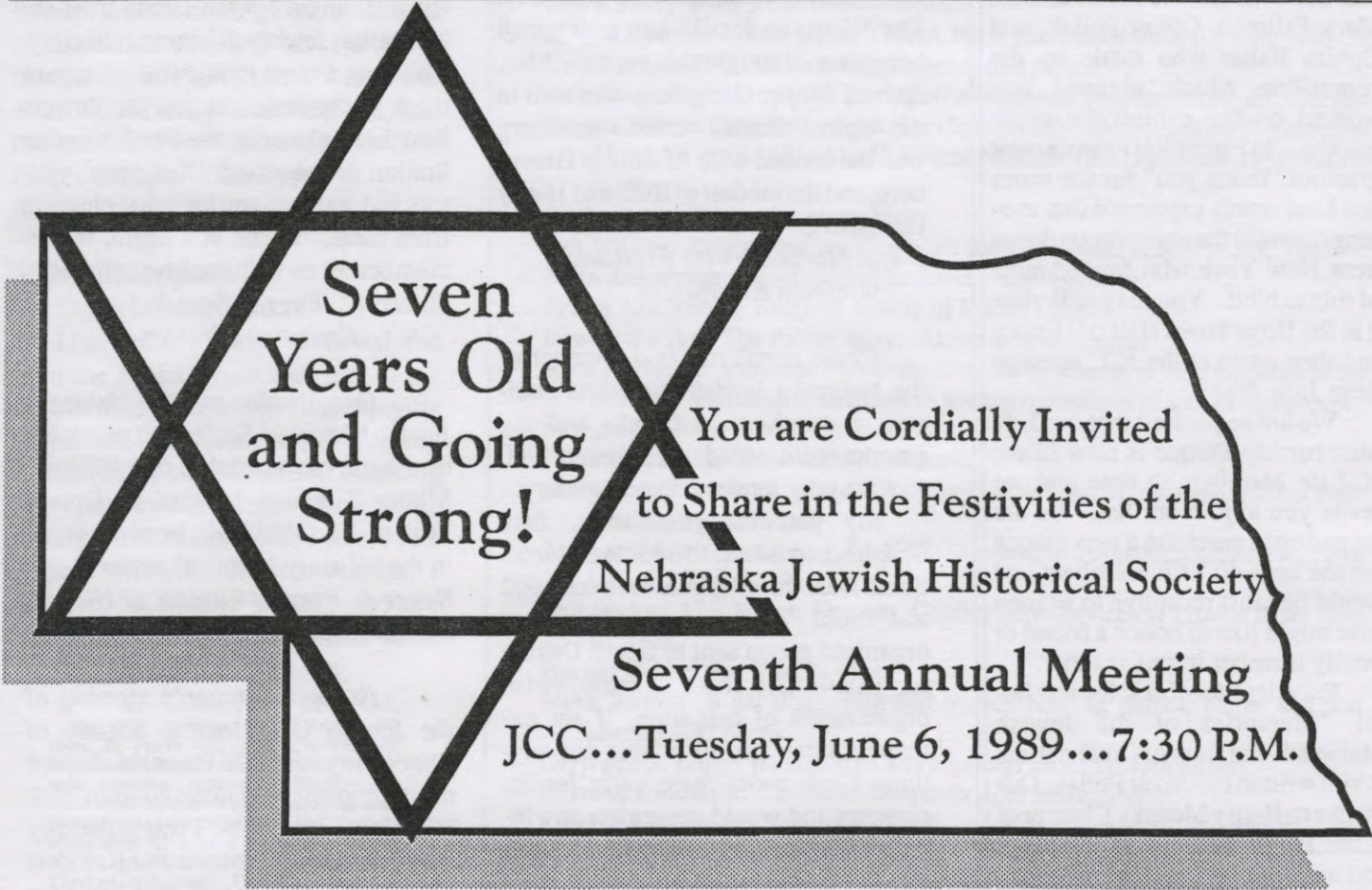


# NEWS LETTER

Vol. VII, No.2

May, 1989

333 S. 132nd St. • Omaha, NE



Seven  
Years Old  
and Going  
Strong!

You are Cordially Invited  
to Share in the Festivities of the  
Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

Seventh Annual Meeting  
JCC...Tuesday, June 6, 1989...7:30 P.M.

## Highlighting

- *Gallery Opening of the Father Flanagan and Henry Monsky "Men of Vision" Exhibit*
- *"Corridor of Jewish History" Museum Opening of "Kulakofsky Family - Central Market" Reunion Exhibit*
- *Historical view of early Omaha exhibit on loan by Kutak Rock Campbell and the Western Heritage Museum*
- *Election of 1989-90 officers and board members*
- *A "Reception of Rejoicing" for members and friends*

See details on inside center spread!

## Lines from Lois

It finally happened! The stirring Father Flanagan-Henry Monksy "Men of Vision" Exhibit opened February 9th at Boys Town Hall of History followed by a beautiful reception!

The NJHS is so grateful to: Barb Lonnergan, Joan Flinspach, Tom Gregory, Tom Lynch of Boys Town and our own Louise Abrahamson, Mary Fellman, Oliver Pollak, and Ophira Bahar who made up the committee which planned and worked on the exhibit for many months...to Father Val Peters a most gracious "thank you" for the warm and kind words expressed that evening... and to the anonymous donor from New York who funded most of this exhibit. You may still view it at the Boys Town Hall of History and then again at the JCC opening there June 6th!

We are so pleased that our Life Membership Plaque is now filled; 40 Life Members to date and we invite you to join our list. We are preparing to purchase a new plaque for the next 40 Life Members and would be most receptive to anyone who might like to honor a friend or family member in this manner.

Excellent feedback for our latest "Memories of the Jewish Midwest"—the story of Omaha B'nai B'rith written by Oliver Pollak. Our thanks to Henry Monksy Chapter of B'nai B'rith for funding this work and we are very proud of Oliver and the fine job he did in writing and compiling this history. We are indebted to Mary Fellman for editing and preparing the current and past publications of our newsletter, and our continuous gratitude to our Foundation Supporters.

We are most appreciative to all of you who continue to send us materials and memorabilia.

And lastly we ask you to join our Membership team in helping us recruit new members for our Society. The furtherance of our work depends on you.

See You June 6th!

Lois Friedman, President

## From our Mailbag...

The story in your most recent publication entitled "Phillips Department Store & Sam Greenberg" was inaccurate. Phillip Greenberg was married to Bertha Wiesman Greenberg, and she was the mother of Sam Greenberg. She was born April 18, 1885; Sam was born March 26, 1908. Bertha Wiesman Greenberg died September 7, 1910, and is buried at Golden Hill Cemetery. The Wiesman family has maintained her grave through the years. Also, Samuel Meyer Greenberg was born in the United States. Celia Greenberg was the second wife of Phillip Greenberg, and the mother of Ruth and Henry Greenberg.

*David Marshall, Vice President  
Wiesman Enterprises.*

Please enroll me as a member of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. I was born in Omaha and my grandparents settled there around 1900 so I am very interested in its history.

My paternal grandfather, Jake Shapiro, homesteaded in or near Huron, South Dakota, sometime between 1902 and 1908. He was a member of an organized group sent to South Dakota from Sioux City, Iowa, by some Jewish organization of that time. I am extremely interested in finding out anything I can about these early Jewish pioneers and would appreciate any information you have or any sources you could refer me to for research.

*Sincerely, Harriet Nathanson,  
Rockville, MD*

...I am enclosing memorabilia of clippings and photos of activities regarding the early days of the AZA. I hope this will be helpful to you in your interesting work.

I joined the AZA in my Senior year at Central High School. I then joined in 1928 the Omaha Lodge of B'nai B'rith (now Henry Monksy Lodge). My wife Fern and I now belong to B'nai B'rith organizations in Los Angeles. Several years ago we joined an organization called BBYO Alumni Association, which helps members of the BBYO.

My wife and I and former Omahans attended the 50th anniversary of the AZA in 1974, here in Los Angeles. I enjoy being a member of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. My best wishes and continued success in your good work. *Sincerely, Morris Falk*

...We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the beautiful bouquet sent to the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home from the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. This was a most thoughtful gesture to think of our residents and the flowers have been placed at the North Nursing Station as requested. Residents, visitors and staff are getting great pleasure from them. Thank you again, for remembering us with the lovely flowers. *Sincerely, Eugene Brandt,  
Executive Director*

...Our thanks to the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society on providing us the use of material in our "History Minutes" Junior League of Omaha Project. The NJHS will be given credit in the "History Minutes" series... *Roger L. Reeves, Curator of History,  
Douglas County Historical Society.*

...At this afternoon's meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, my friend Jo Fraenkel showed me the copy of your latest bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 1, Jan. 1989. I was especially interested to learn that Arthur Brandeis had made a family tree that you now have on exhibit. Fannie Teweles Brandeis was a half-sister of my Great-grandmother Emma Teweles Marcus. I would appreciate your sending me a copy of the tree.

*Sincerely, Alice Marcus Solovy*

## Another Feather in our Cap!

The American Jewish Historical Society Quarterly Publication "American Jewish History" carried the story of Omaha's Jewish Loan Associations, 1911-1979 in their September 1988 issue...and copies of this publication have been made available to us by Oliver Pollak, author. Let us know if you would like to have a copy.

### A gift subscription is presented...

Am enclosing \$10.00 for an individual membership to be sent to my Aunt as a Birthday gift. Gertrude Long, 4543 Morella Av., North Hollywood, California 91607. My aunt was formerly Gertrude Simon of the Simon family in Co. Bluffs, Iowa. They owned the Central Market in late 1890 and early 1900. The Simon members were Max, L'aw, Jake, Ed, Rebecca, Frances, Leanna and Gertrude. I am a member of the NJHS & enjoy it. I lived in Omaha from 1904 until I married in 1928. Our family (The Friedens) lost our home and our business in the 1913 Easter tornado. *Thank you.*

*Barfin Freiden Blaugrund*

### A gift subscription is acknowledged...

I have received my first newsletter from the NJHS which was sent to me for a birthday gift which I am enjoying very much. I am going to celebrate my 90th birthday on March 24. Reading your publication brings back some nostalgic memories which I would like to share with you, and your readers. I was born in Omaha in 1899 and my family moved to Council Bluffs when

#### FRIENDS FILL CHAPEL AT SIMON'S FUNERAL

Funeral services for Edward Simon, 35 years old, vice president of the Simon Brothers company, wholesale grocers, who died Wednesday afternoon at the Wise Memorial hospital from septicemia of the throat, were held at 9:30 o'clock this morning at the F. J. Stack funeral home, Thirty-third and Farnam streets, under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith lodge.

The services were attended by nearly 300 persons who filled the funeral parlors to the doors, many being forced to remain on the outside.

Rabbi Frederick Cohn, who officiated, reviewed Mr. Simon's life, calling attention to the ever ready willingness of Mr. Simon to aid anyone calling on him for help, and of his force in upbuilding the community. Private services at the home were conducted by Rabbi Morris Taxon. Burial was in the Jewish cemetery.

I was 2 years old. My mother and father whose name was Boruch Simon came to America in 1882 by way of Ellis Island and arrived in Omaha as my parents had relatives living there. There were 8 children in the family and we lived in a house with 5 bedrooms and 1

## Acquisitions Jan. 1989 to April 1989

- Mildred M. Frankel:** Material related to Council Bluffs Synagogue, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith, Business.; photographs
- Lillian and Charles Guss:** Rayim scrapbook 1953-56, AZA Certificate 1929. Certificates: Omaha Workmen's Loan Assoc. Photo: Independent Workmen's Loan Assoc
- Janet Berek:** B'nai B'rith material
- Cynthia Schneider:** Correspondence from Independent Workmen's Assoc.
- Ben Kutler:** B'nai B'rith correspondence.
- Evelyn Kaiman Cohn:** photo YMHA 1915; photo Bnai Brith Bowling 1949-50
- Bess Becker:** B'nai B'rith correspondence and photos
- Ann Blank Sogolow:** photo: paying off mortgage of Bnai Israel 18th and Chicago
- Peggy Chasen:** Citizenship paper, Sam Spiegel 1904; (Masters of the Royal Secret 32 AASR class 1931; Abe E. Krasne Masonic rites certificate 1931) family photos
- Sadie Kohn:** Personal memorabilia.
- Jan Wayne:** Recipes and cooking hints used in summer school at JCC 1943
- Nena Ackerman:** Biography of husband Frank Ackerman
- Frank Ackerman:** Essay on history of Jewish Omaha
- Donald Polsky:** The Polsky story: Akron Beacon Journal
- Rose Roffman:** Hadassah certificate donated by friends of Abe Roffman in his memory; Memorial established in his name purchase of special equipment
- Marshall Kushner:** AZA memorabilia, ZBT Clipping
- Ethel Edgar:** Hadassah and JNF material
- Jerry Freeman:** Book: American Jews in WWII vol. II, containing list of Neb. Jewish Veterans
- Anne and Art Grossman:** AZA 1931-32 award, two trophies (Omaha Ping Pong League Champions)
- Phil Becker, Manhattan Kansas:** Confirmation services at Temple Israel June 10, 1894
- Harold Grossman:** Family photo
- Steve Riekes:** B'nai B'rith men and women bowling photos; Father and Son banquet JCC photo
- Gertrude S. Long:** photographs and clippings about Edward Simon.
- Herman Goldstein:** Goldstein-Chapman store memorabilia
- Ethelyn Kulokofsky Simon:** Kulokofsky family photographs and papers

bath located at 602 Washington Ave., in Council Bluffs. (The house is still there and still occupied). My father owned and operated a grocery store on 6th and Broadway, across the street from the Council Bluffs post office. 3 of my brothers worked in the store, but the 4th, whose name was Edward Simon, attended Drake University and graduated as a lawyer. The enclosed newspaper clipping tells the story of his short lived life. You may note the date on the World-Herald (January 18, 1922). I went to school in Council Bluffs and after graduating high school moved back to Omaha in 1919. In 1930 I moved to Los Angeles and have lived here ever since. Your publication brings

back some very nostalgic memories for me. I remember shopping at Brandeis Store, Father Flanagan's Boys Town, Peony Park, and the wonderful springs at Elmwood Park where we would go on a hot summer's night to try and keep cool. I will be waiting for your next edition to be sent as I enjoy it very much. I hope my newsletter will be of interest to your readers.

*Sincerely, Gertrude Simon Long.*

P.S. I have a few old pictures of my childhood and youth but really do not want to part with the originals. If you are interested in them as photocopies I will be happy to send them to you.

**Remember the NJHS in your will.**

## Excerpts from "Remembering Growing Up In Omaha"

by David Wohlner of Far Rockaway, NY

My parents, first cousins - Yail (Joel) Wolochansky and Bashe (Bessie) Brodetsky, were born in Starobin, in the Minsk area of Russia in 1876 and 1879, respectively. They were married in 1899. I heard that my father had had to serve in the Russian army and that he had been a "Yeshiva Bocher" in his youth, - a religious student.

Dad came to America about 1904 or 1905, leaving my mother and my two older sisters, Sarah and Minnie, behind until he could send for them. His Americanized name became Harry Wohlner. His customers later called him "Pete". After trying New York City, he came to Omaha where he had an uncle and aunt. He started peddling with a horse and wagon. He was able to send for the rest of the family in 1906.

I was born on April 21, 1907 in a small house on North 18th Street, which was pointed out to me as a boy, but of which I have no recollections. My first memories were of a home on a boulevard on 19th Street, in which I lived until I was six and a half years old. My younger sister, Sylvia, was born there in July 1910. I recall how the street's gas lamps were turned on at twilight by a youth who used a long pole to snuff out the lamps. Also in those days drivers used to stop along the sides of the boulevard at dusk to go to the front of their cars to turn on their lights.

One vivid recollection was of the tornado of Easter Sunday 1913. It did much damage and killed many people in Omaha, some only a few blocks from us. There was martial law afterwards for a time. Our house was on the verge of the devastated area and was somewhat damaged. My sister Minnie's classroom in the school a block away was destroyed. Neighbors nearby had a trying time holding their doors fast against a rain of bricks from a nearby apartment house. It was a very frightening experience for all.

In the fall of 1913 we moved to North Omaha, where my father opened a grocery and meat market and adjoining feed store. He catered to the same

people he had peddled groceries to. It was a lower class neighborhood of laborers and market gardeners. Some of the latter required credit for a year until they sold their crops. Deliveries were made by a young fellow driving a horse (or mule) and wagon.

Around the age of seven I began receiving religious instruction at home from a visiting Hebrew teacher. When I became somewhat older, I was enrolled in a Chedar and traveled about four or five miles via two trolleys to the afternoon Hebrew school.

In the summer of 1914 my Mother came into a few hundred dollars from a street car accident and used it to travel East with me and my younger sister, Sylvia, to visit her sister, Aunt Pauline and Uncle Ben, who had moved from Omaha to Schenectady.

After visiting in Schenectady for a while, we took the Hudson Dayline boat to New York. I was impressed by the bridge opening for us outside Albany. Later I wrote about that for the Sunday Junior page of the Omaha Bee and was awarded the second prize - a book about Black Beauty.

About that time, at the end of August, I heard Jewish newsboys in that area shouting in Yiddish "Milhoma" (War). World War I had begun.

After World War I, my grandfathers (widowers) were able to leave Russia and came to live with us. Incidentally, after my parents settled in America, all of my father's four brothers and one sister came to Omaha at various times. Also three of my mother's sisters came here. Practically everyone upon arrival stayed for a while with us.

I started Omaha Central High School at 13. I was younger than most of my classmates and conditioned by my grade school experience to be mostly a loner. I made friends but it was difficult to socialize because of living some five miles from school and from their neighborhoods. I enrolled in the compulsory Cadet Corps (2 years) and went to two annual ten day summer camps.

One of the senior class "officers" who drilled my regiment was Henry Fonda.

In the fall of 1923 I learned (by myself) to drive my father's 1919 Model T Ford which he wasn't using much anymore. If it started when I cranked it in the morning, I used it to go to High School. If it was obstreperous and wouldn't start, I used the trolley again.

When I was in my sophomore year at the University of Nebraska. I was asked to join Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity which had recently pledged a chapter at Nebraska. Belonging to the fraternity was a good educational experience in the social graces and getting along with people.

My last two years at Nebraska were highlighted by being elected to the Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship fraternity, being active in the Commercial Club and receiving the Delta Sigma Pi award for coming out first in the graduating Business Administration Senior Class. I was also somewhat more involved socially.

My mother wanted me to go on to Law School, however, my thoughts were on striking out elsewhere. I was intrigued by what my dentist had told me about how he had traveled to New York City without cost during vacations from Creighton Dental College.

Accordingly, about the middle of July I went down to the stock yards in South Omaha. I arranged with a Commission Agent for transportation via caboose to New York, presumably in charge of two cars of cattle he was shipping East. My mother made me some sandwiches and gave me a cloth money belt to hold the \$100 I took out of my savings account. Off I went that evening on the several days trek to New York, involving many stops at freight stations and changes in the composition of the freight train and its crew.

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### Addendum

*This completes the first part of my Autobiography. If and when I should get around to it, the second part would be entitled "Making it in New York"*

Above inspired by reading "How to Write the Story of Your Life" by Frank P. Thomas, a gift from Grace, my daughter.

## Introducing the "Century of History Research Endowment"...

...a new fund with an impressive new certificate which can be used by our members and friends to remember the happy and sad occasions. This fund will begin at \$100 and will be used for conducting research into many of the areas of history of the Jews of Nebraska. Remember this newly created "CENTURY OF HISTORY RESEARCH ENDOWMENT" when you wish to give that special and on-going gift of remembrance.

First Contribution in honor of 30th wedding anniversary of Sandra and Kenneth Freed by their children, Geoff, June and Stacy Freed

### 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 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

## Second Life Member Plaque soon to be placed on exhibit

Mazeltov to us and to all those individuals, couples and foundations who by virtue of their gift of at least \$500 have become life members of the NJHS and whose names are on our first plaque. We are now beginning to add names for the second plaque and invite you to consider becoming a life member. We also hope that someone will wish to consider donating the new plaque as a memorial to a dear one or in honor of a celebration as did the friends of Lois and Lloyd Friedman for whom there is a special emblem on our first plaque. At this time we also apologize to Anna and Ben Wiesman, two of our earliest Life members, for inadvertently omitting their names from the total list which was printed in the last issue of this Newsletter. Since that publication the following have become Life Members. We welcome them and thank them!

Frances and Lou Blumkin  
Selma and Robert Cohen  
Sally and Dr. Edward Malashock  
Ethelyn and Laurence Simon

### Our Continued Thanks to:

The Carl Frohm Memorial Foundation, the Alan and Marcia Baer Foundation, and the Livingston Foundation for their continued and ongoing support of the work we are doing to archive and gather the history of the Jews of Nebraska. We are very grateful!

### Donations December 1988 through March 1989

**In Honor of:** Max & Phyllis Bittner, Dr. Paul Shyken, Bar Mitzvah of David Luttbeg, Anniversaries: Ann & Sam Katzman, Jerry & Pearl Gross-50th. Birthday of: Mary Fellman. Birth of Ashley Marer, Great Granddaughter of Norma & Stan Silverman.

**Recovery of:** Mollie Delman, Temette Smeerin, Annette Fettman

**In Memory of:** Arthur Alpert, Leon Fellman, Betty Studna, Bessie Silverman, Edward E. Brodkey, Anne Taxman, Sam Bornstein, Herb Tepperman, Dorothy Liberman, Ruth B. Nogg.

*The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is pleased to welcome the following patrons and new members:*

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### New Members:

Nena & Frank Ackerman  
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Sandra Blum  
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# Grand Opening of Flanagan and Monsky "Men of Vision"



Henry Monsky and his mother Betsy

In 1917, discouraged by his often-futile efforts to change the lives of homeless, jobless men, a young Catholic priest was determined to open a home for boys, wayward or abandoned, who were still capable of being loved, educated, and influenced. Father Edward J. Flanagan had the blessing of his bishop but no funds with which to begin his mission. A friend loaned him \$90 so he could pay the first month's rent on a house in downtown Omaha. The friend asked only that his identity remain a secret.



Father Flanagan and Henry Monsky

BOYS TOWN  
Boys Town, Nebraska 68010

Dear Lois and Mary,

I want to thank the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society so very much for its magnificent gift of \$5,000 to the Father Flanagan - Henry Monsky exhibit brochure and opening. Your personal time and commitment in realizing this project have also been invaluable and so appreciated by my staff.

As you are well aware, Boys Town has always been blessed with many marvelous friends from the Jewish community, starting with Henry Monsky on the very day of our founding. We see this exhibit as a way to honor and thank all of these special people.

I am greatly looking forward to the opening of the exhibit and the chance to thank you personally for your participation and generosity in seeing this project through to its successful and exciting completion. May God bless you both and the Society in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Father Val J. Peter, JCD, STD  
Executive Director

Their common interests fostered a profound bond of friendship between the men that was to last more than 30 years. Monsky served as a board member and attorney for Father Flanagan's Boys' Home and was Flanagan's personal attorney. He helped to spearhead fund-raising campaigns several times as the Home expanded to take in more boys. "[Henry] has never failed us," Flanagan once told a friend. "Never once was he too busy to help Boys Town. He has been an inspiration to me in my work."



Granddaughter Fran Grossman-Coren at Boys Town Exhibit with Henry Monsky's great grandchildren



Commencement Exercises at Boys Town

The two men most likely met sometime around 1914. Flanagan was a young assistant pastor who was also running a hotel to shelter homeless men. Monsky had earned a law degree from Omaha's Creighton University and had opened a law practice. Both men were deeply concerned with the juvenile justice system and could have met on a bench in some Omaha courtroom pleading the case of a troubled young boy.

Saranne Gitnick, NJHS for 1989-1990

#### OFFICERS:

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V.P. Membership  
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Dues Secretary (A)  
Dues Secretary (L)  
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#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Bobbie Epstein  
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# "Exhibit and Kulakofsky family reunion exhibit June 6



Four Generations of Kulakofsky Family taken 1901-02, Michael Kulakofsky emigrated to the United States in 1889

Right to left:

Back Row - Golda Shapero Kulakofsky, Michael Kulakofsky, Israel Kulakofsky  
 Front Row - Basha Kulakofsky, Eliezer Gershon Kulakofsky, Sarah Brodsky Kulakofsky with her baby "udice on her lap.



Children of Michael and Golda Kulakofsky shown  
 Left to Right - Louis Kulakofsky, Rose Kulakofsky Saks, Joseph Kulakofsky, J. Harry Kulakofsky, not shown Israel Kulakofsky and Hannah Kulakofsky Cohen



"This is Your Life" Sadie Kulakofsky evening, Dec. 1956  
 M.C. Rebecca Wolf, Sadie and Harry Kulakofsky with grandchildren Sarah, Debbie and Judy Smith and Charlie Kaplan



Early Central market meat department (William Kutler, butcher, second from left) and 16th and Harney Central market section

ating Committee  
 the following slate of the

- Lois Friedman
- Oliver Pollak
- Leonard Goldstein
- Shirley Berman
- Rocky Stern
- Jerry Freeman
- Audrey Cohen
- Rita Novak
- Lois (Ducky) Milder
- Mary Fellman
- Oliver Pollak
- Saranne Gitnick

Bernie Jonisch  
 Sally Malashock

**MEMBERS:**

- F r Canar
- N. n Simon

**MEMBERS:**

- Sharon Cipperley
- Caryl Greenberg
- Suzie Singer

The exhibit of the history of the Kulakofsky family and the Central Market will include photographs, newspaper articles, certificates as well as a family tree as prepared by some of the great grandchildren of this early pioneer Omaha family. Members of the Kulakofsky family from across the country will gather in Omaha in June for a family reunion.

# A Wife's - Eye View of a Native Ex-Omahan

By Nena Ackerman

Since I learned of the Jewish Historical Society and its archives of present and past Omahans. I felt that I should etch into the record what happened to my husband Frank R. Ackerman who edited the Jewish Press for several years starting in 1930, and left for World War II in 1943.

He fulfilled his promise of his youth in Omaha, where he was born. This October he will be 80 — and we are also observing our 60th wedding anniversary.

Seeking accuracy, I looked up some age-tinted newspapers. I have in front of me the issue of the Omaha World-Herald featuring a picture of Frank with a story on how he had graduated from Central High with every grade an "A."

And I now have in front of me a years-later copy of the Omaha World-Herald - also containing a photo of Frank...relating how he was the only one in the Creighton University law class of 1931 to graduate "cum laude." But, the most important article in the newspapers I am reviewing relates how in his sophomore year he had broken the scholastic record of Creighton with a startling average of 96.6.

And here is another picture - this time in the Jewish Press - relating how he, founder of the Sam Beber Century #100 of the A.Z.A., had been elected its first president - and was chosen to be a delegate to the national conclave in Pittsburgh. There, though a newcomer, he was elected an international officer. This followed by three years his founding of Psi Mu, which he served as its first president.

To work his way through college, Frank tackled two jobs simultaneously: World Herald reporter and assistant at the Omaha library, later supplanted by becoming editor of the Jewish Press. Despite school and work, he found time to hold varied offices in the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, served on the Creighton debate and oratory teams, edited the school year book, was sports editor of the weekly paper, was on the freshman basketball team, and was runner-up in the Creighton handball tournament. In addition, he captained and was high scorer of the Psi Mu cage team which was the winner in the Industrial League, captained a track team that won the state junior track tourney, and earned a gold medal for winning a boxing tournament.

But — time passes...and I am now back to a later edition of the Omaha World-Herald. I am now looking at a photo of Frank, telling how World War II had broken out and Frank had been named Chairman of the War, Price and Rationing Board in South Omaha - the youngest (at 32) to be named to this important post in the country. The World-Herald used him as their chief interpreter of the regulations flowing out of Washington, and the OPA region head publicly wrote that Frank's Board was the best-run in the region and advised other board chairmen to visit the South Omaha board to learn how best to run such a project. He was presented with a citation from then-president Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Frank R. Ackerman

In the meantime, in 1934 Frank had left the practice of law to become a partner with David Blacker to buy the South Omaha Sun - and then, later, they started the Dundee News. Through the early years, Frank continued to edit the Jewish Press. He headed the South Omaha Merchants Association, was Chairman of the South Omaha Housing Project, a founder and executive secretary of Kiwanis, Chairman of the Recreation Center, Chairman of the Board of the USO, head of the Victory Scrap Drive, all while serving as Editor of the South Omaha Sun. When Frank enlisted in the army in 1943, he was the president of the Vaad H'oehr, the then seven Orthodox synagogues in Omaha.

So much for what happened in Omaha. His most important achievements occurred AFTER he left Omaha.

First, his war record. He wound up as a technician 4th class. Though he was accepted for officers training in the judge advocate division, he decided to stay with his reconnaissance unit. I have in front of me his discharge papers. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government. He suffered a 20% combat injury, but rejected a pension when he returned home. His records includes a Bronze Star, for taking a German town single-handed...plus combat battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He was also in a unit of ten men who first liberated the death-camp of Dachau. He was awarded a certificate as a liberator by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington.

After the war, we settled in the Los Angeles area. When Frank retired in 1972, he had owned and published three trade magazines, as well as a national supply directory for the garment manufacturers. The magazines were in the display and apparel fields. Meantime, he was President of the San Gabriel Valley Zionist District, headed the United Jewish Appeal in Pasadena for seven years, and was the first president of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Conservative Congregations.

This last reference is to a plaque dedicating the Pasadena Jewish Temple-Center to him for having built a new, commanding structure, after the temple faced suit for bankruptcy.

And the Foothill Jewish Temple and Center in Arcadia also has a plaque dedicating the place to Frank. He served as president of both temples.

When Frank retired from business in 1972, he founded a unique Jewish religious temple, AM EMET - and has served as its sole Rabbi since its inception - and is still its Rabbi.

And, as though my octogenarian husband did not have enough to occupy his calendar, he spends endless hours counselling, without pay.

But I can best sum up his activities by commenting that a native-born Omaha Jewish lad made good on the perpetual-motion promise of his Omaha youth.



# For Your Information

## Remember the old time attic?

Do you wish you had some place to store all of your memorabilia and there's just no room at your house? Well, relax, enjoy...pass your materials, photographs, certificates, and other "precious" items on to the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society! No, we don't have an attic either but we do have storage space and we will take tender loving care of any and all items and articles you pass on to us. And in the meantime others in our Jewish community of Nebraska will have the opportunity to also at some time enjoy sharing your family memorabilia. Call us at 334-8200, Ext. 277 or come on over to our office at the JCC, 333 So. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68154.

### Ilene Klein Named Chairman of American Jewish Historical Society Convention Planning Committee in Omaha May 17-21, 1990

We are proud to announce that Ilene Klein, a recognized leader in Omaha Jewish life for most of her adult life and a descendant of some of Omaha's first Jewish pioneer families, will head the planning committee for the AJHS annual convention we are honored to host. Keep watching our newsletters and publicity releases for more details as we draw closer to the convention dates!



We continue to look for the pictures of Nebraska Jewish doctors and lawyers for an upcoming exhibit. Shown here is a picture of Dr. Morris Margolin, who died in 1976. He was a well known physician and Jewish Community leader. Let us hear from you.

### Oliver and Karen off to L.A.

The Pollaks will be attending the annual convention of the American Jewish Historical Society in Los Angeles on May 18-22. If you are interested in also attending please call The Southern California Jewish Historical Society 213-852-1234, Ext. 2116

*Ask guests at a family gathering to write a paragraph on a 3" x 5" index card describing the oldest relative they can remember. You'll have a family history in moments! (our thanks to Mature Outlook, November/December issue, 1988)*



1962 Youth Council Stage Night

From left to right: Howard Hahn, Youth Council president; Kathy Adler and Barry Goldware, Stage Night co-chairmen.

### Youth Exhibit Is Coming Along...

Patty O'Connor Seger who did such a magnificent job of preparing the "Our Story" exhibit is now working on preparing the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society - National Council of Jewish Women exhibit on "Jewish Youth" of Nebraska. We look forward to its completion very shortly...

**We need names and addresses of  
former Nebraskans for our  
Giant Address Book!  
Share with us!**



*Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary Past Presidents 1952*  
*Ft. Row - Charlotte Beldner, Ann Margolin*  
*Bk. Row - Rose Abrams, Esther Rosen, Bebe Marcus*

*Front Row - Second from left Ethel Katz Levenson*  
*Edgar. Please help us identify others. 1917*  
*Zionist group*



*Youth Council Chairmen, Steve Lewis and Becki Mauer. 1965*



### **Blackstone Hotel**

302 South Thirty-sixth Street

The Blackstone Hotel, Omaha's most prestigious hotel following its construction in 1916, was built by the Bakers Realty Investment Company. Charles Schimmel purchased the building in 1920 and made the Blackstone a "symbol of elegance" for Omahans for half a century. Under Schimmel, the hotel published its own magazine, *The Black Stonian*, and maintained its own Pierce Arrow limousine which met visiting dignitaries arriving by train. The pastry shop and various dining rooms, especially the Orleans Room, were famous for fine food. The hotel represents a fine example of the Second Renaissance Revival style.

### **J.L. Brandeis and Sons Store Building**

200 South Sixteenth Street

The J.L. Brandeis and Sons Store Building was the flagship of the Brandeis store operation founded by Jonas L. Brandeis, who came to Omaha in 1818. Under Brandeis' leadership and that of his family after his death in 1903, the business became one of the largest department store operations in the region. The original eight-story building, completed in 1906, was designed by architect John Latenser, Sr., in the Second Renaissance Revival style. A two-story addition in 1921 made the building its present ten stories.

## **Historic Places Included in**

# **"The National Register for Nebraska"**

*published by courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society*

### **Rosewater School**

3764 South Thirteenth Street

The two-story brick structure was built in 1910 and is a simple yet well-designed example of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The school was named for Edward Rosewater, a Czech immigrant who founded *The Omaha Daily Bee* in 1871. He was elected to the Nebraska House of Representatives in 1870 and in 1871 sponsored legislation which established a single Omaha school district and an elected board of education.

### **Brandeis-Millard House**

500 South Thirty-eight Street

The Brandeis-Millard House, designed by architect Albert Kahn of Detroit, is an early and fine example of the Jacobethan Revival style. Built in 1904 for Arthur and Zerlina Brandeis, the house was purchased in 1909 by Jessie H. Millard as a residence for herself and her father, Senator Joseph H. Millard. Senator Millard was involved in the development of Omaha, serving as president of the Omaha National Bank, mayor of Omaha in 1871, and U.S. senator, 1901-7.

### **Temple of Congregation B'nai Jeshuran (South Street Temple)**

Twentieth and South Street, Lincoln

The South Street Temple exemplifies the early twentieth century eclectic architecture of temple building types and incorporates Byzantine and Moorish design elements in its ornamentation and general massing. The large brick structure, designed by Lincoln architects Davis and Wilson and built in 1923-24, features a prominent central octagonally-shaped dome which rises above the roof line. It continues in use as a synagogue.

### **Tifereth Israel Synagogue**

344 South Eighteenth Street, Lincoln

The former Tifereth Israel Synagogue is a fine example of Neo-Classicism as seen in small-scaled synagogue architecture in the early twentieth century. The building is easily recognizable as a Jewish house of worship by the prominent Star of David on the front facade. The Tifereth Israel Synagogue was dedicated on May 25, 1913, and served the Orthodox Jewish congregation until the late 1950's when a new synagogue was built. The building has been remodeled for apartments units.

# World War II Veterans



*Lt. Col. Michael Cohen*



*Lt. Com. Arthur E. Hill of Lincoln*



*Major Sam Morgan and parents Toby and Joe Morgan*



*Wave Apprentice Lorrain Greenspan*



*Wave Apprentice Miriam Dansky*

## Attention Jewish World War II Vets and/or Your Families

The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society  
is compiling our list of all veterans of World War II from Nebraska.

Please fill out the form below and mail to:  
NJHS - 333 So. 132nd St., Omaha, NE 68154

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rank When Entered Service \_\_\_\_\_

Rank When Discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years Served \_\_\_\_\_

Did You Serve Overseas? \_\_\_\_\_

What Theater of War?

\_\_\_\_\_ Europe \_\_\_\_\_ So. Pacific \_\_\_\_\_ Africa \_\_\_\_\_ Asia \_\_\_\_\_ CBI

Did You Receive Any Medals, Awards, Honors? \_\_\_\_\_

Please Elaborate \_\_\_\_\_

If A Member Of Your Family Is Deceased Please Indicate \_\_\_\_\_

Died In Service \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Death \_\_\_\_\_

We Will Appreciate Any Pictures, Awards, Artifacts, Written Material

Please put identification on all materials.  
(We will return items if you so request after exhibiting.)

# Father Son Banquet, JCC 1940



We need your help in identifying these men who helped served dinner. Sophie Neveleff is the woman in this picture. No. 5,6,7 and 8 in the back row, (L. to R.) are Art Goldstein, Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, Max Fromkin and Paul Goldstein.

### A note about Dues that are Due!

A very few of our members have not yet paid their 1989 dues and we are looking forward to hearing from you this month. Not only are we hoping for your immediate response to this appeal but to all of our members we suggest that you consider giving a gift to a dear one from Nebraska or someone who would enjoy a membership as a birthday or "happy occasion" celebration. WE WANT TO REACH 1,000 members by May, 1990. PASS THE WORD, SHARE OUR JOY, AND PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHECKS!

**Nebraska Jewish Historical Society**  
 333 South 132nd Street • Omaha, NE 68154  
 1989 Gift Membership

Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your 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

Tell your Nebraska Jewish Friends about the NJHS

NJHS  
 333 S. 132nd Street  
 Omaha, NE 68154

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