

Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

Vol. VIII, No. I

March, 1990

333 S. 132nd St. • Omaha, NE

We are proud to host the
1990 National Conference

American Jewish Historical Society



*Harry Yanow, Dave Nefsky, Joe Rosenberg
in front of Nefsky Store
1341 "O" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, about 1887*

“The
Midwestern
Jewish
Experience”

May 17-21, 1990

Omaha, Nebraska

And invite you to join us for activities at the
Marriott Hotel – Jewish Community Center -
Beth El - Beth Israel - Temple Israel.

–More Details on Page 3–

Lines from Lois

Can it be 1990 already? Greetings to all from the Board of the NJHS. We are very excited these days with our plans for the upcoming American Jewish Historical Society Conference to be held here in Omaha in May. Ilene Klein, our local chairman, and her most capable committee chairs are hard at work to have a wonderful hospitable conference. We will have delegates from all over the United States and we urge any of you in the Omaha area or outstate as well as anywhere else in the country to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to learn— to meet— to compare our NJHS with those around the country. Information in this Newsletter gives you details and there will be more forthcoming soon.

Our Youth Exhibit, "L'Dor, V'Dor" from Generation to Generation opened in August and we have received raves. Sally Malashock is in the process of identifying the pictures and Shirlee Jensen and Esther Simon will make up our book of names of the people in each picture. We are indebted to Patti Seger for her beautiful display and to the National Council of Jewish Women for funding this project. It is a permanent exhibit at the JCC adjacent to the NCJW "Our Story" exhibit.

The Journal is now in your hands and our thanks to Mary Fellman and Oliver Pollak for editing it. Additional thanks to Mary for this Newsletter.

Presently we are exhibiting the 60th Anniversary of the Beth El Synagogue in our Museum Corridor and invite you to view it. Our Flanagan-Monsky Exhibit was at the Western Heritage Museum for four months and will be back with us at the JCC in May. We continue to collect, identify and file all the materials you send us and appreciate your support both in dollars and additions to our archives. Reserve the week end of May 18, 19, and 20th and we hope to see you then.

Lois Friedman
President

Introducing Our Chairmen of "The Midwestern Jewish Experience" Conference...

We are delighted to have Ilene Klein in the position of over-all general local chairman of the American Jewish Historical Society Conference in Omaha, May 17th to 21st... and to have as her assistants Jody Malashock, Catering;



Lois Friedman & Ms. Klein

Sally Malashock, Decorations; Jerry Freeman, Transportation; Louise Abrahamson and Miriam Simon, Registration; Jean Ann Krupinsky, Publicity; Bert Lewis and Susy Silverman, Hospitality; Mary Fellman and Oliver Pollak, Program chairmen and advisors.



Sally & Jody Malaschock

"There is Nothing Like the Game"

according to B.B. Women bowlers...

Think back to February of 1954 when the Omaha B'nai B'rith Women Bowlers hosted the Sixth Annual Bowling tournament of Women's District Grand Lodge No. 6... and the program was written, produced and directed by Maxine Sloan, Libby Sachs, and the participants were Lottie Block, Evelyn Hoberman, Eudice Canar, Rae Wintroub, Doris Koom, Ellabelle Schloff, Evelyn Hoberman, Sonia Forbes, Ethel Cohen, Audrey Kirshenbaum and others front and back stage were Liberty Faier, Dorothy Isack, Sue Greenberg, Helen Shukert, Ann Schulman and Merriam Cooperman! Gertie Zevitz was president of the Omaha BB bowling Association and Ida Sacks was general chairman of the tournament. Those were the days my friends!

**Watch your mail and the Jewish Press for
complete conference details and
Registration - Reservation Blanks**

Conference Highlights

Friday, May 18

- Opening session, 2 p.m. at Marriott
- Shabbat dinner and speaker, Beth El
- Guest speaker, Temple Israel Services
- And Workshops!

Saturday, May 19

- Kiddush and luncheon Beth Israel, guest speaker, panel discussion
- Community reception Jewish Community Center, 9 p.m.

Sunday, May 20

- Bus tour of Omaha with NJHS guides (and box lunch)
- Holocaust seminar and workshops
- Gala banquet with nationally known author William Novak as guest speaker.

Monday, May 21 (until noon)

- Oral History Workshop with William Novak and others.



William Novak

We are honored to have as our banquet and conference guest one of America's renowned authors William Novak, who has collaborated on many best sellers.

*Historical Workshops throughout
the conference are
OPEN TO ALL.
at no charge.*

**The Story of Milton Mayer, *By Adele Mayer Hornstein*
"Dapper still at the age of 92, delivered lumber at age of 8!"**

My father was born in a tiny village about 25 kilometers from Kovno, in Lithuania. He was one of six children - there were three boys and three girls. Dad was next to the eldest child. At the age of 8 years he was helping his father deliver lumber which was cut in the forest. My grandfather depended on my father for daily help. No matter what the weather conditions were they worked seven days a week. Dad says that his mother kept a very clean house in spite of the dirt floors. She cooked very simple meals - such as lots of potatoes, black bread and chicken once in awhile.

The years went by and dad was getting old enough now to dream of what he wanted to do with his life. He could not see staying in his village - there were no opportunities to earn money. He dreamed of coming to America and seeking his fortune. Dad's aunt and uncle lived in New York City. Dad approached his parents with his strong desire to live in America. Since he was only 16 years old his mother did all she could to talk him out of this foolish idea. However, he persisted and made up his mind to book passage on a ship which took him three weeks on the sea. Since he had very little money, he went in steerage - the worst part of the ship. His determination kept him content and excited.

He arrived in New York and was greeted warmly by his aunt and uncle. Dad lived with them in a tenement off of Hester Street. It was the year 1914 and the war had started. Dad's uncle was a peddler selling blankets, curtains and other dry goods items. He took dad along every day to teach him the trade. He was also learning the new worldly ways. He attended night school to study English. Every morning he would get up very early and help his uncle carry the valises to each tenement where his uncle already had steady customers. The customers paid for their merchandise by the week until it was all paid for. Dad learned quickly and he became a good salesman. His uncle paid him by the week and dad saved his money so he

could start out on his own.

My father soon discovered fashionable men's clothes. He was earning a fair wage after awhile and spent much of his money on clothes. Old photos attest to how "dapper" he always was and still is at the age of 92 years. He was truly handsome.

Dad's life was going well and he met young men and girls at friends' homes. A friend introduced him to Bertha Garboff - my mother. They were married in 1917 after a short courtship. My mother had a good job. She made ladies hats and was paid by the piece. She was a beautiful young woman. They struggled together to make a decent living. Late in 1918 they decided that New York was too hectic and expensive. Dad's aunt Leah Gershter lived in Omaha, so dad wrote to her and she thought it was wise to make the trip.

Dad found a store on North 24th between Hamilton and Charles Street. There were living quarters in the back. The living quarters consisted of one large room which served as the living room, dining room, and kitchen. There was a sink in the room, a curtain was strung up at one end and divided into the so called bedrooms, one for my parents, and one for me. When my brother came along we both shared the same area.

These were happy years. My dad opened the store on a "shoe string". He carried ladies, men's, and some children's clothes. My mother ran the store while dad went out to peddle dry goods in south Omaha. The packing houses were very active and the people were very honest. The name of Mayer became a household word and business was thriving. Our neighbors were Himelblooms Bakery, Adlers Deli, dear Mr. and Mrs. Max Crouse, and Shukert's Meat Market. All these wonderful people I remember as a child.

In 1929 dad needed to expand so he moved to 16th

and Capitol Avenue. He rented one store and after a few years again needed more room, so he rented another store next to the original one.

Business was booming and he hired men to peddle dry goods in South Omaha and North Omaha. There were collectors to collect payments - going from customer to customer. He worked very hard and put in long hours. In those years the store was open until 9:00 o'clock every night but Sundays. His slogan was "Buy Now and Pay Later."

In 1933 dad wanted to visit his family in Kovno. My mother was ill and could not make the trip. Dad spent about a month with his family, parents and two sisters, one sister, the oldest, had gone to Israel several years before dad came to visit. He wrote to us that conditions in his village and in Warsaw were very serious. The Nazis were everywhere with their propaganda. He begged his family to come to the United States - they refused to leave their home. That was the last time he saw them. They were taken by the Germans. One cousin of dad's escaped and lives in Haifa. He is up in years.

The years have been good to dad, until recently. He is 92 years old and in poor health.

Every once in awhile someone will meet him and say, "I used to trade in your store". Tears come to his eyes and he smiles and tries to remember those happy days gone by.



Milton Mayer and son Stanley.

NJHS Acquisitions February 1989 - January 1990

Rachel and Carl Rosenberg: Framed Holocaust picture

Jake Adler: Two 8x10 Bnai Brith bowling photos, AZA clipping

Gerald and Pearl Gross: document: Omaha Workmen's Loan Assn. One share sold to Mr. Osoff. Document: Cong. Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, sold two seats to Jake Gross and family 5.10.1915

Don Polsky: Polsky family genealogical essay.

Marlene Parilman: Cornbelt Region minutes BBG 1959-60

Norman C Wohlner: Naturalization papers: Mordichai Yosselson and family; school record of Willie Yosselson, Kellom school; Jerusalem, 5th cen. print.

Ben Kutler: BB scrapbook, documents and clippings.

Mrs. Nathan Fine: photos of Fine and Holzman families, Nebraska Clothing and Jr. Hadassah Convention 1929

Sam Rosenstein: A set of letters V mail (WWII)

Shirley Kirshenbaum: Photo groundbreaking ceremony for Council Bluffs synagogue.

Rev. Alex Katz: Beth El programs, congratulatory notes for special celebration (to Rev. Katz) Shochet Knives, Mohel knife, iron bars to sharpen knives, Yartzeit books: Beth El

Sam Shyken: Two photos Junior Hadassah 1935, 1937

Burt Lewis: Bnai Jacob-Adas Yeshurun minutes 9-24-52 regarding consolidation of the two congregations.

Feinberg family: Assorted awards and plaques

Mandel Simon: Two photos of J. Sherman grocery 30 & Pinkney

Ralph M. Katz: Holocaust photos from Dachau 1945

Lorraine Silverman: Plaque from Beth El

Sam Meyerson: Business papers, JNF letters

Louise Abrahamson: Photos Beth El confirmation 1935; Nogg Bros. bowling group 1954

Jack Pill - Calif.: Copies of family papers

Harold Siporin: Family and business photos; clippings regarding Sheldon Siporin injured in traffic accident.

Iz Lewis: Photos from father's store

Marcia Kushner: Memorabilia from High school, college sorority, congratulations for election as president of Mortar Board, photos, clippings and letters.

Faye Unger: Photos of childhood friends

Marie Christian: Assorted photos of the Livingston family

Ann Katzman: JP clippings, Hadassah magazines, Jerusalem Post album 1978, all material related to Israel

Dr. Stanley Malashock: 8x10 photo Beth El confirmation class 1940

Vera Tepperman: Bnai Israel Synagogue C/B Golden Jubilee Banquet program 1954

...And many more items brought in by board members and officers.

ARE THERE BITS AND PIECES OF LOCAL JEWISH HISTORY STORED IN YOUR ATTIC?

We know there must be countless shoeboxes, trunks, cardboard boxes and drawers crammed with memorabilia! Please read the following guidelines to see if you have the kinds of documents and items the NJHS is seeking. Then, call us or bring your items in.

ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is constantly seeking materials relating to the settlement, history, and experiences of Jews in Nebraska and Council Bluffs.

1. Photographs: Individuals and locations must be identified and dated or of clear Jewish and/or historical significance.
2. Newspapers: Significant clippings only (dated and identified)
3. Personal documents/papers:
 - Correspondence (if descriptive of Jewish or secular life or if significant historically)
 - Scrapbooks Anything related to family, Jewish community activities, etc.
 - Birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, diplomas, wills, naturalization papers, etc.
 - Family trees/histories/genealogical materials
 - Personal histories and reminiscences (written or recorded)
4. Business papers
5. Organization and institutional records: minute books, scrap-books, yearbooks, constitutions, membership lists, correspondence, cemetery records, financial records, clippings, etc.

Call us at 334-8200, Ext. 277 or bring or send your material to our office at the JCC.

FROM THE NJHS MAILBAG...

Enclosed are copies of my father's Citizenship Certificate dated March 16, 1908 and his Certificate of Elections dated May 7, 1912. Also enclosed are copies of telegrams dated 7-2-1902 sent to my parents congratulating them on their marriage, and copies of newspaper articles on my father's death in November 1933, one article from the SIOUX CITY JOURNAL and one article from the Randolph, Nebraska newspaper.

My father, Phillip Pill, was born in Trisek, Lithuania on March 17, 1873. He came to the United States in 1895. He left Europe from Hamburg, Germany and entered the United States at Baltimore, MD. He traveled to Randolph, Nebraska and opened a general merchandise store.

He married Rosa Cohn on July 2, 1902. They had seven children, Rose, Beatrice, Anna (they were born in Randolph) and Jack, Cecil, Gisela and I. The family moved to Sioux City, Iowa about 1912 so that the family could grow up with Jewish friends and acquaintances. I remember my mother telling me that my father traveled twelve miles once a week to a nearby town (I don't remember the name) to buy kosher meat.

My father died in 1933 in Sioux City at age 60. My mother died in 1951 in Sioux City at age 70.

There are now four surviving children, all living in Los Angeles. They are Rose 85, Gisela 71, Jack (Irving) 69 and Cecil 67.

I hope you will find this information interesting and of some value.

Sincerely, Jack Pill

We have just received the new member packet and were quite impressed by the publications. They brought back many memories to both of us. My wife Shirley's maiden name is Bloom. She was born in Omaha and graduated from Central High School. Two brothers (Will and Harold) still live in Omaha. A sister Helen Roginsky lives in Las Vegas and another brother Milton lives in Phoenix.

The back cover of the May 1989 Newsletter had a picture from the Father

Son Banquet, JCC 1940 with a request for help in identifying the men pictured. We believe the man in the front row, third from the left is my wife's father Sam Bloom. We wonder if this has been confirmed. (ed. note: yes)

Sam Bloom was born September 13, 1884 in Tsebile, Latvia, (Russia). His parents were Zav Wolfe Bloom and Hannah Holman. He came to this country in 1906. He married Lena Diamond January 9, 1910 at the Gentleman's Hall, 24th and Lake. His brother Nathan served as 'host'. He became a citizen August 9, 1921. At the time they lived at 1722 N 28th. Lena was the daughter of Morris Diamond and Sadie Fried. She was born in 1891 (three days after Purim) near Riga, Latvia. She came to this country about 1908. She had three brothers who settled in Omaha, Harry, Abraham and Will. Abraham Diamond was well known in the area since in addition to operating a kosher butcher shop, he was a well respected mohel. We have copies of the Bloom's wedding invitation and marriage license if you would like photocopies.

We were thinking of visiting the area next year and annual convention if that were possible. We are also members of the Washington Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

Again, our congratulations on your outstanding publications.

Norman Rosenzweig

On behalf of Henry Monsky Lodge and ourselves, we wish to thank you again for your participation in the recent Centennial Celebration of B'nai B'rith memorabilia. We thank you and the Society for this effort.

Steve Riekes and Al Abramson

Thanks to you the November 6, 1989 Self-Help Festival was a great success! On behalf of the Administration on Aging and the Long-Term Care Coalition I would like to thank you for your expertise and contribution as an exhibitor. The exhibits were nicely done and very educational. We appreciate

your professionalism in staffing your exhibit. Thank you for helping in providing this wonderful resource for the geriatric/caregiving community.

*Debbie Rudolph, Coordinator
Geriatric Self-Help Center Creighton
Center for Healthy Aging*

On behalf of the members and audiences of the Lincoln Community Playhouse's recently closed production of THE IMMIGRANT, I extend our thanks to you and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society for your assistance.

(The opening night of the play, on Oct. 11, attracted about 250 people from the Lincoln Jewish Federation and the general community. A reception in the exhibit room preceded the show and groups gathered around the photos recognizing friends and relatives of many years ago.)

THE IMMIGRANT played to an audience of over 2,500 during its three-week run, and we received a number of very positive comments about the Gallery Theatre display which you helped to create.

The opportunity to create theatre is



Ophira Bahar in front of exhibit.

always exciting, but that excitement is enhanced when we have an opportunity to inform our audiences as well as entertain them. Thank you again for being a part of our production effort.

*Rod McCullough, (to Ophira Bahar)
Lincoln Community Playhouse*

Who was at your Class Reunion? and who is in your Yearbook?

The Central High class of 1949 had its forty year reunion in August of 1989 with Peicy Alperson, Mort Glass, and Arnold Stern serving as members of the Reunion Committee. A few details about some out-of-town members of the class you probably know are as follows:

Floyd H. Abrams, married to Jane Beber Abramson and living in Chicago; Phil Alberts, Owner/President, Gynecology and Gyn. Laser Surgery, Emanuel Hospital and living in Portland, Oregon; Ephraim Axelrod, Physician, living with wife Deloris and three children in Highland Park, IL; Adelle Ruth Chasanov, married to

Robert Wolf and living in Olympia Fields, IL.

Harry L. Freeman, American Express Executive Vice President and living with wife Lucille in Chevy Chase, MD; Elinor Haykin, Novelist and University Writer in Residence and Professor of English, living with husband Peter Welt in Opelika, Alabama and in Spain; Martin Nearenberg and wife Natalie living in Overland Park, KS and owner of Fashions at Large; Harold Oberman, Professor of Pathology and Co-Director of clinical Laboratories. He and wife Marylew have three children and live in Ann Arbor, MI.

Rita Swarts and husband Ralph P. Cooper living in Dallas, TX. She has received Woman of the Year award from the Dallas Chapter of AMC Cancer Research Center. Bob Zlotky living in Dallas, Texas also with wife Shirley. He manages Texas Instruments, Inc. AND THERE WERE MANY MORE!

PLEASE SHARE WITH US THE BOOKS OR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CLASS REUNIONS COMING UP THIS SUMMER BECAUSE WE WANT TO ADD THE NAMES OF OUT-OF-TOWNERS TO OUR GIANT ADDRESS BOOK. THANKS!



**All Dressed up for a
Costume Party - - in 1939**

(left) Louis and Honey Kulakofsky

(right) Harold and Lillian Farber



New Home Addition – NEW EXHIBIT!

We're looking forward to the new addition to the Blumkin Home for the aged and are already planning for a major exhibit there of the "History of Jewish Homes for the Aged in Omaha." We will be including pictures of all the residents since the First Home was first started in 1912 by the Chevra B'nai Israel auxiliary which became known as the Daughters of Israel Aid Society.

If you have pictures of any of the residents of any of the Jewish Homes for the Aged or persons associated with the building and leadership, please let us hear from you. This will be a historical project and we can't do it without your help!

"A Taste of Youth" from our New B



ZBT New Years Eve Party 1948

First Row - Joanne Levy, Lois Gerelick, Susie Jacobs, Molline Cassman
Second Row - Jerry Freeman, Justin Horwich, Bert Hene, Ducky Milder, Lamar Garon, Richie Rosenblatt

Thank you!

We App

The new permanent result of tremendous part of Chairman Mol committee of Evy Katz Goldman, Ducky Mi Amy Friedman, Eunio Lee Friedman, Joyce Caryl Greenberg, and

The accomplishment Youth Exhibit came funding of a grant National Council of J junction with the eff Historical Society. W appreciative and gra Jewish community of

The reception the opening of the You capable hands of our Ophira Bahar, ar Rosenblum, office ass responsible for th Kulakofsky and Beth we are most thankful

AZA Sweetheart Dance 1950

First Row - Joanne Jacobs, Myra Abramson, Sally Solomon, Marti Simonds, Delores Siegel
Second Row - Berniece Wintroub, Maxine Abrams, Dan Fogel, Maurice Lipton



Religious School, Lincoln, Ne 1960

Back Row - Shirley Schaffer, Bruce Sinton, Sari Marx, Stanley Feuerberg, Debbie Neiden
Front Row - Gail Lotman, Pauline Sweet, Bobby Soshnik, Jim Keller



AZA Basketball Champs. 1948

First Row - Wayne Siegel, Joe Kirshenbaum, Jerry Berman, Arley Bondarin
Second Row - Al Clayman, Sol Rosinsky, __, Ed Belgrade, Jack Stiss

Permanent Exhibit "L'Dor V'Dor"

Thank You! Appreciate!

Youth Exhibit was the hours and effort on the fine Cassman and her Mary Fellman, Myra Linder, Jerry Freeman, the Denenberg, Thama Cohen, Suzie Singer, Harriet Singer.

Gift of this wonderful exhibit because of the \$5,000 from the Jewish Women in concert of the Nebraska State, of the NJHS, are helpful as is the entire Nebraska.

On the night of the formal exhibit was in the NJHS staff members activist, and Dotty associate. They were also in the hanging of the Beth El exhibits for which

Hadassah Dancers 1981

*First Row - Julie Gutnik, Lindsey Weinberg, Ann Silverman, Dana Erman, Annie Kotok
Second Row - Andy Friedlander, Nicole Lerner, Sarah Kohl*



*Phi Beta Epsilon - Creighton U 1927
First Row - __, Lagman, Phil Klutznick, Irv Stalmaster, Jack Marer, Leon Fellman, Wm. Stalmaster
Second Row - __, Harry Levinson, Leo Fried, Abe Fellman, Sal Michnick, Sam Shyken*



Left to Right - Lois Friedman, NJHS President; Patti O. Seger, Joe Seger, Linda Novak, President of the National Council of Jewish Women. This group was seen at the opening of the permanent exhibit "L'Dor V'Dor - From Generation to Generation." Patti was responsible for Photographic Reproduction and Design.

Let us hear from you if you can help us identify any of the missing names.

When you are at the JCC be sure to visit our "Corridor of Jewish History" exhibit honoring Beth El Synagogue on its 60th anniversary.



Two Volumes of Poetry by an 82 year old Omahan, Sam Freed.

The late Sam Freed, who came to the United States in 1912 from Minsk, was a co-owner of the former Spaulding Grocery for 44 years, a board member of Beth Israel synagogue, founder and organizer of the Beth El Sunday morning breakfast group. All those years he dreamt of the day when he would retire and be able to indulge in making some of his creative ideas come true. In 1977 he published his first book of "My Poems" and on Father's Day, 1981, his second book of poetry was presented to him by

his daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and Max Bittner and their son David. Both books are part of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society archives and many of the poems were printed in the Jewish Press during his lifetime when he also began painting in oils and acrylic and sang in the Older Adult Choral group at the JCC. We reprint for your pleasure his poems on "Yom Kippur Day" which he spent at the Kapulier synagogue and Beth Israel, and on the holiday of Passover. Freed died at 82 in 1981.

YOM KIPPUR DAY

I got up on Yom Kippur morning that day,
And to the synagogue I went right away.
(Of course I did not have a thing to eat)
I hurried on to get my regular seat.

Our services began with only the few who were there.
Did not take long before a single seat was not to be found
anywhere.

It was remarkable to see each one with a book in hand.
With prayer and song, all the same like grains of sand.

And when the ark opened on their feet all stood up
one-hundred per cent.

With prayer on their lips to repent.

Asking the almighty to forgive
while the gates of heaven were open to receive.

Our prayers were well composed by the great men of ours
To worship to the one who has all the powers.

We must learn to keep in touch with Him every day
To be recognized by Him all the way.

Our investment with Him is safe and sound,
And we can call on Him all year round.

He can be as close as our next door neighbor.

You must invest more and show that He is in your favor.

He is willing to help all

Not just on an emergency call.

We prayed all day until pitch dark.

It ended with the shofar blowing,

And the closing of the ark.

PASSOVER

We look forward each year

For weeks and weeks

to the Passover Holiday,

almost as happily as a bride and groom

Prepare for their happy wedding day.

Families and friends invite each other

To celebrate to Seder, with matzos and wine.

To read the Haggadah with melodies and dine,

To remind us that we were once enslaved

with hard work and sweat,

With abuse and threat.

The Almighty sent down plagues

One by one, until the count of ten.

The Pharaoh softened his heart and gave orders to free
the Jews then.

The Pharaoh was convinced that the Jewish God must
have had a finger in it,

And so he accepted his defeat.

The world of today knows about the

Jews crossing a dry road through the middle of the
Red Sea

No one yet has found the same place with its
bottom dry.

And it may never happen again for anyone to try.

Try "doing" your own Oral History on a tape recorder!
Just sit and talk! You'll be amazed at how much history
about yourself and your family you can do without
effort. It's better than "putting off" until you can sit with
someone and do your own "oral history". And your
children will be ever grateful!

Excerpts about...

Two Council Bluffs Business Men as Profiled by Zeph Telpner in the Midwest Business Journal.

Harold Bernstein, who grew up in Council Bluffs and helped to create a large share of its business history, is the owner and general manager of Peoples True Value Hardware Store. The name "Peoples" represents a business that has continued for 132 years. The original Peoples Store opened in 1857. The store filed for bankruptcy in 1907 and 19-year-old Louis Bernstein, his brother and his relatives, the two Krasne brothers, bought it. Lou started the grocery department and the others opened the men's and women's clothing, shoes and dry goods departments.

In 1922 Lou left the grocery department to expand the hardware department. More family members joined the growing business and in 1929 the partners completed a new building to accommodate the diversified talents of all the family members. Eventually, the store became a full line department

store that stocked almost everything a customer could want. It specialized in customer service, fair prices and participation in community affairs. Before urban renewal and the Midlands mall replaced the Peoples Store and most of the downtown business district, it was the leading department store in the city. Always ahead of its time, it even displayed Honda automobiles in its show windows.

Harold earned a degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska and entered the Army Air Corps in 1943. After his discharge in 1946, he joined his father in the hardware department. He said his father had obtained a True Value franchise and had started selling major appliances as early as 1928 or 1930.

Urban renewal took the Peoples Store in 1973. Except for Harold and his cousin Leslie Krasne, most of the

partners retired. Leslie started a Peoples Clothing Store, but died at 51. Harold opened Peoples True Value in 1974.

Harold lives in Omaha with his wife Millie. Their son John is an attorney in Denver and their daughter Kay is a buyer for the 200 Berman's The Leather Expert stores.

Harold serves on the board of directors of the Council Bluffs First Federal Savings and Loan Association. He is a member of the Council Bluffs Noon Rotary and previously was active in the Chamber of Commerce.

W.W. II!

World War II Veterans and families...we are still working hard on gathering pertinent information and your pictures. Keep them coming! Contact 334-8200, Ext. 277 for further information.

The Suvalsky family has been in business in Council Bluffs for 65 years. Saul Suvalsky and his sons, Selwin and Marvin, operate Master Furniture and Appliance Co. in downtown Council Bluffs. This is a business where family and key employees have worked together for many years.

The business began in 1924 when Saul and Frieda were married. They were grocers then, and operated the White Front Market. Saul had back surgery in 1944 and his physicians told him to get out of the grocery business. After 20 years as grocers, Saul and Frieda started over.

They considered many possibilities, and finally chose the small appliance business. Appliances were scarce in 1944, and out-moded, but Saul thought they would be the "wave of the future". When World War II ended, the United States geared its former war

machine to peace. New appliances were invented. Pop-up toasters replaced the old hand-operated toasters. Electric frying pans, waffle irons, new lamps and vacuum cleaners were in demand. The Suvalskys called the new business Master Appliance Shop.

Business was good. Television sets became popular, and business was better. Competition arose. Small appliances were sold by drug, grocery and discount stores. The company added household furniture in 1950 and changed its name to Master Furniture and Appliance Co. Now the company sells only major appliances, lamps and household furniture.

Saul and Frieda worked together in the new business, with Saul still managing operations and Frieda managing the office and public relations.

Selwin came into the business when his father was ill. He had studied in college to be an aeronautical engineer,

but he gave up that career when the family needed him. Marvin received a degree in business administration before he joined the family business.

Recipes Anyone?

Joan Nathan, the author of a number of Jewish cookbooks, including the recently issued THE JEWISH HOLIDAY KITCHEN, is compiling information for a new cookbook on the social history of Jewish food in the United States. She seeks interesting historical anecdotes about food and local communities and families, as well as family recipes. In addition, she is interested in any old cookbooks that are for sale. Ms. Nathan may be contacted at 4221 Lenore Lane, NW, Washington, DC 20008 (202) 966-8769.

Donations

(Since May 1989 Newsletter)

In Honor of: Mary Fellman Receiving the Volunteer Bureau Award; Phyllis Glazer's Bat Mitzvah, Bev Gilinsky's Bat Mitzvah; Kenneth Freed; David Kulakofsky's Bar Mitzvah; Ethelyn Simon;

Anniversary of: Annie & Harry Allen; Nancy & Sheldon Rips

Marriage of: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Fellman

New Grandchildren of: Bob & Ellie Gordman; Barbara & Warner Frohman.

Birthdays of: Betty Fellman, Rev. Arthur Gendler, Rose Milder, Sara Saltzman, Ceila Schwartz, Lawrence Simon

In Memory of: Sylvia Pollack, Herbert Tepperman, David Weinberg, Meyer Ruback, Anne Schulman, Zelda Stalmaster Janie Hiller Lawson, Mollye Wohlner, Fanny chasen, Irene Selo, Edith Lorkis, Louis Freidman, Nettie Katzman, Gorgina Bogdanoff, Rose Kaplan, Elsie Eisenberg, Abe Epstein, Joe Belmont, Ruth Venger Seldin, Iz Lewis, Malvina Greenspan, Fanny Denenberg, Celia Grossman, Sidney Sneider, Betty Hill, Gertrude Mozer, Ted Gershun, Sadye Glass, Ann Faier Fisher, Lil Jonisch Steiner, Harriet Bernstein Wasserman, Sonia Zorinsky, Gerald Cohn, Mary Tatle Kubby, Ruth Feldman Kirshenbaum

Send Your Donation to **NJHS FUNDS**

Call our office or send a check for \$5.00 for each regular card or \$3.00 for each Morris C. Fellman Memorial Fund Card.

You're Invited to Attend the International Conference on the



April 22-23, 1990 Dana College Blair, Nebraska with guest presenters Rabbi Bent Melchior, Chief Rabbi of Denmark, Copenhagen, Dr. Leo Goldberger, editor of *The Rescue of the Danish Jews: Moral Courage Under Stress*, Paul Hammerich, member of the Prime Minister's advisory group on the future, Copenhagen, Denmark, and other persons of note. For a brochure with details and reservation forms please contact Dana College "Rescue" Conference, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska 68008, or call 402-426-7215.

THIS WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS. MAKE UP A CAR POOL!

Does your business have a collection of photographs, possibly even an arrangement that tells the history of its founding?



A new addition to the corporate offices of Richman Gordman Stores, Inc. is "The Wall of History" which depicts the 75 year history of that business and highlights the continuing leadership of Dan Gordman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the company. The beautiful exhibit includes sixty painstakingly-selected pictures, including large pictures of the first building, traces the history of the company through its associates, its expansion years, the development of the 1/2 Price Stores chain and includes the newest stores.

Let us know if you have such a display or even a collection of pictures and memorabilia about your business. We'd like to add that information to our files, and will be happy to publicize pictures and information in our next newsletter or journal.

Know anything about Jewish farmers?

Dr. J. Sanford Rikoon of the University of Missouri - Columbia, is researching the topic of families that lived on farms in the Midwest or Great Plains region to write a book about the overlooked chapter in Jewish-American history. He would like to hear from any individual who either lived on a farm or whose parents or grandparents became farmers, even if only for a few years. Contact him at Dept. of Rural Sociology, Sociology Bldg. Room 108, University of Missouri, Columbus, Mo. 65211; (314) 882-1861.

Ackerman Honored in L. A.

Warren Ackerman, former Omahan and graduate of the University of Nebraska where he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau, was honored recently by the City Council of Beverly Hills for his outstanding contributions to the community. He received a "Citizen of Honor" resolution in recognition of his service to the Chamber of Commerce, the

Visitors Bureau and the Beverly Hills Civil Service Commission. In the past three decades, Warren has received many other honors including the first Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" award and the first David Orgell award. He is shown here with a group of his Omaha ZBT fraternity brothers from who have maintained a close friendship over the years.



From left to right are Bud Slosburg, Lloyd Friedman, Lloyd Maller, Ackerman, and Jerome Milder.

The Book of Ages.

Omaha-born Howard P. Chudacoff, professor of history at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, is the author of a new book called "How Old Are You" with a subtitle: Age Consciousness in American Culture! A Sun-Up Interview" in a recent issue of the Omaha World Herald included details about many other books Howard has written, including a text on American history "people and a Nation". It is used in numerous colleges and universities around the country including the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

When Chudacoff attended Central High School he wrote a humor column for the "Register" later attended the University of Chicago where he earned his doctorate, and has been at Brown University for 20 years, including three

as chairman of the department. He has served the Western History Museum as a consultant. His wife, Nancy, is a Providence Attorney.

Hungarian Research is going on about Budapest Jewish Community.

Professor Carmela Patrias of the University of British Columbia is preparing a project on the development of the Jewish community of Budapest, and she would be very grateful to receive information about individuals or families who migrated to or lived in the Hungarian capital between 1840 - 1914. If you have anything to contribute, please write to Professor Patrias at the Dept. of History, 1297-1873 East Hall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver V6T 1W5, Canada.

Just thought you'd like to know some of the "behind-the-scene" details of research...

Recently both the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society and the Omaha Public Library received letters from Marian Skedgell of Rozbury, Connecticut seeking information about her father William Castleman who lived in Omaha from 1892 to 1910. She was also searching for information about the date of her paternal grandfather Jacob Castleman. That letter set both of our offices in motion and thanks to Bob Flood, of the Omaha Public Library Historical division, we have come up with many details and are still working to complete the story. We have stories from the Jewish Bulletin (which preceded the Jewish Press and was founded by William Castleman) as well as marriage records, city directory information, names of relatives who might know some details etc. It has been an interesting experience and before we are through we hope to jointly be able to answer Mrs. Skedgell with the details she desires. Next problem anyone? We're always ready to do the researching to get you the details...

"*Liberty Unlimited*" took over the Joslyn State in December, 1951 and the Hadassah Medical Organization and Youth Services produced a glorious musical based on Irving Berlin's "Miss Liberty", produced by Mrs. Max Canar, Mrs. Seymour Katz with Mrs. A. C. Fellman as musical director and conducting the Hadassah Choral Group. (That's the way their names are listed in the program) The soloists were Julia Edgar and Margaret Belman, the cast included Shirley Fogel, Babe Bordy, Ruth Forbes, Anna Jane Katelman, Barbara Malashock and Lois Friedman. and there were many more...Sally Rosen, Ronnie Dienstfrey, Lorraine Silverman, Min Rimmerman, Esther Rosen, Mickey Katzman, Rose Riekes, Babe Nogg, Reva Wigodsky, Rose Rosenbaum, Rose Gross, Rose Fellman. And the list goes on and on...

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We are continuing our search for pictures and stories of "Doctors and Lawyers"! Bring them in!

These articles about Omaha were written by Nathan Bernstien in 1909 for the Reform Advocate which was published in Chicago. The Jewish doctors of Omaha are for the most part well known. Although comparatively few in number they are well represented on the staffs of the various medical institutions and hospitals. In training and educational qualifications they compare most favorably with the medical profession of this or any other city. Being as yet comparatively young men they still have time to show even greater progress, than as yet attained.

Millard Langfeld, M.D.—Although born in the western town of Glasgow, Missouri, in 1873, Dr. Millard Langfeld received his early dedication in the public schools of Baltimore, MD, except such part as was given by private tutors. In 1893 he received his A.B. degree from the Johns Hopkins University. From the medical college of the same institution he graduated as physician in 1898. Soon thereafter he was called to Omaha by the John A Creighton Medical College to become professor of Bacteriology and Clinical Medicine. Dr. Langfeld is bacteriologist of the City Board of Health and visiting physician to the St. Joseph's and the Douglas County hospitals. He is also on the staff of the Nebraska State Institute for the Deaf. Besides publications in medical journals Dr. Langfeld is the author of "Infectious and Parasitic Diseases," a book which was published by P. Blakiston, Son & Co., in 1897, and which has received much favorable notice.

Charles S. Elgutter—Among the attorneys of Omaha Charles S. Elgutter holds a well deserved place as a scholarly gentleman. He is the son of one of Omaha's Jewish pioneers, Morris Elgutter, whose career has already been noted in these pages. Following in the footsteps of his father, Mr Elgutter has taken a prominent and active part in all matters pertaining to Judaism in this community. He has served Congregation Israel on its board of

trustees and for the past four years has been secretary of that organization. He was a member of the building committee which has just finished the new temple. He was among the organizers of the Wise Memorial hospital and has been one of its trustees for the past three years. Mr. Elgutter has been twice elected president of Nebraska Lodge, No. 354 I.O.B.B. As a public spirited citizen he has served the city of Omaha as a member of the school board and was one of the directors and attorneys of the association which built the Omaha Auditorium. For four years he was a member and president of the Board of Commissioners of Insanity of Douglas County, Nebraska. Mr. Elgutter is a graduate of Harvard University and prominent and enthusiastic member of the Harvard Club of Omaha.

Isador Ziegler—of the Jewish attorneys in Omaha, perhaps none is better and more favorably known than Isador Ziegler. Mr. Ziegler, besides doing a good business in his chosen profession, is president of the McKinley club, an association made up for the most part of the young republican element in Omaha and vicinity. He was born in St. Louis, Mo, April 30, 1876. Shortly afterwards his family moved to Ravenswood, West VA, where they remained about five years and then moved to Huntington in the same state. It was here that Mr. Ziegler acquired a considerable portion of his elementary education, and that he graduated from the high school in 1891. Then his parents sent him for some training to the McCohoes Latin School at Peterson, VA, where he spent a year getting himself prepared to enter Harvard University. In the academic department of Harvard he spent three years and then went to Ann Arbor to attend the law

school of the University of Michigan. After three years of close application Mr. Ziegler graduated in 1899, and in the fall 1900 took the bar examination at Springfield, Illinois. After practicing law and Danville, Ill, for about three months, Mr. Ziegler came to Omaha in March, 1901, where he became associated with General John C. Cowin in the practice of the law. Mr. Ziegler has always shown a healthy interest in matters Jewish. He has been connected with the Wise Memorial Hospital as a member of the board of directors, and is much interested in the affairs of Congregation Israel.

Chas Rosewater, M.D.—The youngest son of a large family, Dr. Charles Rosewater was born in Cleveland, OH. His medical education began in his native city, was given that polished finish which the medical profession seems to require, by study in Vienna and Prague. Besides this he also studied at Wurzburg, Bavaria, where he graduated in 1870. He began practicing in the city of his birth, going abroad again shortly afterward for special study to Vienna and Prague. Returning he studied for a while in New York, after which he came to Omaha in 1886, where he has enjoyed a lucrative practice ever since. Dr. Rosewater holds the chair of Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics in John A. Creighton Medical College and is secretary of the U.S. Board of Examining Surgeons for pension. He is connected with the Wise Memorial Hospital, the Douglas County and Omaha General Hospitals. He specializes in surgery, gynecology and obstetrics. He is a member of national, state and local medical societies in whose deliberations he takes an active part.



Dr. Isaac Sterhill of Council Bluffs with band leader Mitch Miller.

The story of Nebraska's and Council Bluffs Jewry will be shown in New Exhibit in JCC "Hall of History"

We need your help!



Council Bluffs Graduation 1944
 First Row - __, Phylis Wohlner, __, __,
 Ethel Gordon
 Second Row - __, Elinor Passer, __,
 Esther Sacks, Buddy Bear



Faye and Hyman Polsky

We need your memorabilia!



Mrs. Sylvia Jacobs, Columbus



Confirmation Class of Lincoln B'nai Jeshurun 1949
 Eleanor Nefsky, Sandi Lehman, Gail Katskee Wishnow,
 Shirley Rosenberg Rachman.

We need your pictures!

We Welcome New Members, Life and Patron Members

Patrons 1990

Joel Cherniss
 Sylvia & Jerome Cohn
 Don & Ann Goldstein
 Paul & Joy Grossman
 Kevee & Myrna Kirshenbaum
 Mrs. Louis Kulakofsky
 Sheldon & Marcia Kushner
 Murray & Sharon Newman
 Paul & Betty Lu Saltzman
 Beryl Weiner
 Donald & Janis Yale

New Members Since May 1989 Newsletter

M/M Arthur Adler
 M/M Lawrence Albert
 Sharon & Barry Allen
 Judge & Mrs. Ansel Chapman
 Rita & Ralph Cooper
 Lyn Kraus Cowan
 Jacque Dolgoff
 Valva Feldman
 Tom Fellman
 Jeff Ferber
 Mrs. Howard Friedman
 Pearl Giventer
 Joye Harris
 Michael & Ellen Hornstein
 M/M Richard Katzman
 Donald Kohn
 Helen Brown Kraus
 M/M Jerry Krupinsky
 Leonard & Anita Kulakofsky
 Herb & Esther Meiches
 Lee & Phylis Nerenberg
 M/M Herbert Nebell
 Annette (Ricklin) & Sig Oettinger
 Norman & Shirley Rosenzweig
 M/M Raymond Schapiro

Sylvia Shapiro
 Sarah Shrago
 James & Susan Silverman
 Norman Simon
 Mary Smith
 Tfereth Israel Synagogue Library
 Bob & Sibby Wolfson
 Lucille Zelinsky
 Rose & I.B. Ziegman

Our Ongoing thanks to...

the Phillip T. Schragger and Teri L. Schragger Supporting Foundation, the Marcia and Alan Baer Foundation, the Milton S. and Corinne N. Livingston Foundation, the Carl Frohm Foundation and Cynthia Schneider for their understanding and support of Nebraska Jewish Historical Society projects and exhibits. We could not do it without you and we work hard to measure up to your expectations of us!

New Life Members

Roz & Ike Friedman
 Saranne & Jerry Gitnick
 Esther Greenberg Kunik
 Esther & Stuart Simon



The second plaque for the names of our life members has been donated in honor of Ethelyn & Lawrence Simon by Esther Kaplan. The first plaque, complete with the names of 40 life members was presented in honor of Lloyd and Lois Friedman.

Life membership in the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is \$500.00. For further details contact our office.

Nebraska Jewish Historical Society 333 South 132nd Street • Omaha, NE 68154 1990 Gift Membership

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