The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society takes great pleasure in inviting you to share our "Day of Remembrance" our "Day of Tribute" Sunday, October 29, 1995 at 3 p.m. as we dedicate the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Museum and the "Hall off Memories" in the Dan and Esther Gordman Center for Jewish Learning as we dedicate the Carl Frohm Archival Center in the Jewish Community Center as we present the first Shirley Epstein Berman Volunteer Award.

Annual Meeting - Tours - Sweets
all began the day I walked into a Miami, Florida hotel and was asked by a convention delegate to sit for "an oral history." It continued when my friend Ethelyn Kulakofsky Kaplan Simon said "why don't you do something to preserve the history of Nebraska Jews." It moved ahead after two years of meetings and planning with Oliver Pollak, Lois Friedman, Sivvy Roffman and Joey Simon.

And so, on October 15th, 1982 the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society was founded.

Now, thirteen years later we can be proud of so much! A growing membership across the state of Nebraska and the entire United States of over 800 families and individuals - the Carl Frohm Archival Center and its three extensions filled with artifacts and history going back to the late 1840's - the soon to be opened Henry and Dorothy Riekes permanent exhibit of the restored Kapulier Synagogue in the new Gordon Center - dozens of outstanding historical exhibits in the halls and gallery of the Jewish Community Center.

And so much more - our annual 16 page newsletter and historical journals which are outstanding additions to every Jewish home, the last Passover issue of the Jewish Press on "Remembering Jewish Life in Nebraska 1850 - 1950", and now work on the upcoming Passover issue of Part II - 1950- 1996. The newest request to the NJHS is to teach a semester's class to the UTTO High School of Jewish Studies and a class also at Temple Israel on the history of our Jewish community in Nebraska.

We have grown and will continue to grow as more and more of the Jewish population of Nebraska see and appreciate the unusual work our staff and volunteers are doing to preserve the history of our Nebraska (and Council Bluffs) Jewish families, businesses, synagogues, organizations, etc.

The generosity of many benefactors and life members, foundations, and trusts have helped us grow and flourish.

We are grateful to many and especially I am thankful to the first person who introduced me to an "oral history." As she told me "By ourselves we are each of us a book" - a book of history to be shared.

-May Arbitman Feilman

A Bit from Bernie...

As we prepare to celebrate the 13th Anniversary of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, I would like to recognize our founders; Mary Fellman who had the vision and the desire, and Oliver Pollak, who had the knowledge to make it a reality.

This past year has been filled with outstanding events for NJHS. At our annual meeting in October, 1994, we opened the "Visions of Yesterday" exhibit with many photos supplied by the "Visions" group, and we introduced Sharon Kirshenbaum, our new Archivist. The photos and documents of "South Omaha & Council Bluffs" showed the development of those communities from the late 1800’s through this century.

The "Veterans" exhibit was extensive partly due to the photos and artifacts that you loaned to us. These three exhibits were curated for us by Roger Reeves.

Archiving with Sharon

This has been a very exciting year for me! Not only did I start a new job but I have met lots of new people and have learned a lot about the history of the Nebraska Jews and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

This past year has given me the opportunity to be involved in many exciting exhibits such as Visions of Yester year, South Omaha and Council Bluffs, Jo Carroll's photo exhibit, Nate Marcus' handiwork, and the Veterans. I have just completed working on our latest exhibit titled "Our kids of the '50s & '60s." This exhibit will be on display in the gallery of the JCC until October 22nd. I urge all of you to come and look at it if you have not already done so.

The NJHS was also given the opportunity to remember Jewish life in Nebraska from 1850 - 1950 in the Jewish Press Passover Edition. This issue was so well received that we are going to continue telling the history from 1950 - 1996 in the 1996 Passover Edition. I urge all of you to bring in photos and stories that pertain to this time period.

All of the above projects would not have been possible without the photos, stories and memorabilia that we receive from you. It is crucial that you continue to bring in photos and stories in order for us to expand our archives. Tell your friends and family to bring in photos of their family history. All photos are stored in acid free containers and are preserved for our use as well as for future family members and historians. We would not be able to continue the vast number of projects without your support and I look forward to working with all of you in the future!

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Anonymous Gift for "Shul" Artifacts

The funding from an anonymous gift of $5,000 by a young Jewish family from Omaha is being used for the restoration of a number of artifacts in the new Riekes museum. Refurbished pews and cushions, shtenders, the menorah and stands for the crowns from Torahs at the Kapulier synagogue will be readied for exhibition because of this generous gift. The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is indeed grateful and very appreciative!

The planning, creation and design of the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum is taking place by a committee led by Robert Bodnar, Museum Designer and president of the Robert Bodnar Company. The committee also includes: Mary Fellman, Sharon Kirshenbaum, Ducky Milder, Oliver Pollak, Margo Riekes and Marty Shukert.

Bimah Endowed by Nogg Family

The restoration of the bimah in the restored Kapulier synagogue in the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum is being made possible by a sizable gift from Steve and Patty Nogg and family. The gift is in memory of Ernie "I-go" Nogg and is from his children and grandchildren. According to Bernie Janisch, NJHS president, "it is very exciting to know that a young family has willingly come forth with a generous gift to help us complete this unusual project of restoration."

The bimah will include sections from the former Kapulier synagogue with four poster lights and a reading table on which to place the Torah. The back pew will also include the storage space as it did in the former 3rd and Cuming synagogue.

Riekes Gift Makes New Museum Possible

The Sunday October 29th opening of the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum in the Dan and Esther Gordman Center for Jewish Learning is a major milestone in the history of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

It is also a major milestone in the history of the Omaha Jewish community since it is the first major Jewish museum in Nebraska and was made possible by a gift of $100,000 by the Riekes.

Housed in the museum at present is the restored "Kapulier Synagogue" with ark, bimah, pews, menorah, window and shtenderts. There will also be a tribute to the "Riekes Shul on 19th Street."

It is with great gratitude, appreciation and thanks that the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, in fact the entire Jewish community of Nebraska, says a "warm thank you" to the Henry and Dorothy Riekes family. Their generosity, their vision, their sense of history has made the new permanent museum possible.

Goldsten Wall Also to be Dedicated October 29th

The Herbert Goldstein "Wall of Synagogue History" will occupy a major space in the new Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum.

Its completion will mark the next development in the museum according to NJHS president Bernie Janisch. "We envision bringing our viewing audience an artistic form of remembering each of the former and the latest Nebraska synagogues."

The Goldstein wall was made possible by a gift of $50,000 by the Goldstein Trust headed by Howard Kaslow. It will remember a man who in the early years funded the "Jewish Landmarks" exhibit which now hangs in the JCC Hall of History and also funded the creation of the synagogue in the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.

Further developments of the Goldstein Wall will be announced through the Jewish Press and NJHS publications.

"Hall of Memories Endowed by Three Kirshenbaum Families

The "Hall of Memories" of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society will also be dedicated on Sunday, October 29th during the dedication of the adjoining Henry and Dorothy Riekes Museum. The hall adjoins the museum in the Dan and Esther Gordman Center for Jewish Learning. Plans are for a variety of exhibits and artistic creations remembering the history of the Jews of Nebraska to be placed on its two walls.

The creation of this "Hall of Memories" has been made possible by an endowment from Joe and Audrey Kirshenbaum, Joe and Maxine Kirshenbaum and Kevee and Myrna Kirshenbaum. It honors and remembers their parents Abraham and Yetta Kirshenbaum, Meyer and Dora Kirshenbaum, Joseph and Gladys Samuelson, Sam and Rebecca Wolf and Sam and Gussie Zweiback.

Entry to the "Hall of Memories" can be made from the Jewish Community Center canteen area and the Gordman Center Health Services entry.
Congregation Shaare Zion was incorporated in the summer of 1926. Even though there already were two established synagogues within easy walking distance, B'nai Jacob at 24th and Nicholas, and Adas Yeshuron at 25th and Seward, the area had sufficient Jewish families to establish another shul. At first, the congregation had no regular home of its own, and, according to the Omaha Jewish Press, the "High Holy Days" services that year were conducted in the old Labor Lyceum at 22nd and Clark. Tickets were one dollar. Shortly afterwards, the shul located briefly in a vacant house at 1821 North 20th Street, next to M. Wintroub's junk yard.

About 1928, the shul moved down the street into a building at 1548 North 20th Street, previously occupied by the American Upholstering Company, two doors south of Soksin and Kosberg's butcher shop. It was to remain at this location for 11 years.

In 1939 the shul moved just around the block to 1552 North 19th Street, a two-story frame house owned by Samuel Riekes, founder of Riekes Container Corp. Mr. Riekes personally supervised the transfer of the ark. The shul occupied the entire first floor except for the kitchen. The women's section took the former dining room, which was separate and off to a side and served as a "mechitza."

The Shaare Zion was a classic example of the old time orthodox shul. By "orthodox" is meant a shul with a kosher "mechitza." There were ancient hard folding seats, probably from an old movie theater, splintered in various places from many years of hard use. The women's seats were better. They were regular church pews built on the spot by Mr. Glazer, the carpenter. In back, a permanent sukkah with a hinged roof was also used during the year as a storeroom.

This group of old time shul members created a very lively atmosphere. During the non-davening intervals, there were many heated discussions on various subjects, carried on in a concoction of Yiddish and broken English, delivered at breakneck speed. There was seldom a dull moment at Shaare Zion.

The dues were minimal and, as customary to bring in a little extra cash during those times, tickets were sold for "High Holy Days." Aliyahs were auctioned off in the typical song fashion.

Shortly after the move, perhaps because the shul was experiencing some financial difficulties or just a lack of interest by the members, Samuel Riekes slowly assumed full responsibility by taking care of all necessary expenses. He took this step possibly because he felt the shul was in danger of closing.

The shul began to be known unofficially as "The Riekes Shul", as well as "The Little Shul on 19th Street". After the passing of Mr. Riekes in 1947, the family continued this tradition throughout the shul's existence.

During the early forties, it was often necessary to get an extra person on weekdays to make a minyan. By the late forties, the necessity included Shabbos as well. There were still enough Jewish people residing in the immediate vicinity to make this a not too difficult job.

By the mid 1950's the neighborhood had changed and it became increasingly difficult to get together a minyan on Shabbos and Yom Toy. The shul closed just before Rosh Hashanah in 1958. After closing, the shul remained in limbo for a while, and then the furnishings were moved. In the intervening years, the house has been demolished and there remains today only an empty lot where once stood Shaare Zion, the "Riekes Shul."

There will be a tribute to the Riekes Synagogue in the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum which opens on October 29th in the Dan and Esther Gordman Center for Jewish Learning.
Archival Center Renamed to Honor Carl Frohm

The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society takes great pride in announcing the naming of its Archival Center and its extensions in honor of the Carl Frohm Trust in recognition of ten years of major financial support by that Foundation.

In addition to an annual gift for operating costs the Frohm Foundation has also supported other projects of the NJHS.

According to Dean Frankel, administrator of the Frohm Foundation with Frohm's nephews Larry and Harold Mann, the work of the Historical Society merits the impact of support from a foundation created by Carl Frohm who believed in the strengthening of the Omaha Jewish community.

Frohm came to Omaha in 1928, was in business for many years, and died a bachelor in 1976. The funding from this trust has assisted many Jewish programs for all ages and for a number of special causes.

The Carl Frohm Archival Center is housed in the Jewish Community Center and will now have four sections on the first floor and lower level of the Jewish Community Center.

The dedication of the Carl Frohm Archival Center of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society will take place Sunday, October 29th following the 3 p.m. opening ceremonies of the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum in the Dan and Esther Gordman Center for Jewish Learning.

Carl Frohm

In the archives of the NJHS are:

Location #1:

- Photographs
- Biographies
- Synagogue Histories
- Histories of Fraternal Orders and B'nai B'rith
- Biographies of Rabbis and Cantors, Histories of Henry Monsky and Harry Trustin
- Documents
- Youth, Sports
- Press, Publishing and Printing
- Holocaust history and interviews of survivors
- JCC, Jewish Cultural Arts Council, Bureau of Jewish Education, Talmud Torah, Friedel Jewish Academy, Jewish Federation of Omaha, ADL-CRC
- Senior Citizens
- Women's Organizations
- Youth Organizations
- Armed Services - World Wars
- Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings
- Arts and Artists
- Authors
- Cemeteries
- Civic Life
- Education - General and Jewish
- Entertainment
- Immigration
- Holiday Observances
- "Our Story" Transcripts
- Israel
- Nebraska Jews
- Jews of Iowa
- Jewish Communities in U.S.
- Genealogy
- Politics
- Zionist Organizations
- Law, Lawyers and Judges
- Government
- Physicians and Dentists
- Life Style

Location #2:

- Framed photos and documents
- Materials from previous exhibits
- Family albums and memorabilia
- Fraternity (ZBT) photos
- Business memorabilia
- Misc. books
- Books to be buried
- Plaques and trophies
- Prayer books to be buried
- Antique items
- Religious articles
- Wedding dresses from the early 1900's
- Steamer trunk
- Empty picture frames
- Videos, taped interviews, typed oral histories, records of

Location #3:

- Travelling display boards
- Materials from "Women in Business" exhibit
- Empty frames and mounting boxes
- Pictures from Veterans exhibit
- Mannequins
- Framed artwork
- Dedication plaques
- Uniforms

"5"
Spring Trip to Washington, D.C.

Is anyone interested in a spring trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Holocaust Museum and other national monuments and attractions? If so, call Sharon Kirshenbaum at 334-6442.

Tours of Jewish Omaha

Tours of Jewish Omaha are now being scheduled for the remainder of 1995 and 1996. The two-hour tour focuses on the history of Jewish Omaha and includes such historical sites as former synagogues, cemeteries and old and new Jewish landmark buildings.

For information or to schedule a tour, call Sharon Kirshenbaum at 334-6442.

Exhibit Ideas

The NJHS has access to the Gallery at the Jewish Community Center in February and August 1996. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for exhibits we would love to hear them. Call Sharon Kirshenbaum at 334-6442 to discuss and plan the next exhibits.

Passover Issue of Jewish Press 1996

The NJHS will be continuing to tell the history of the Jews of Nebraska in the next Passover issue of the Jewish Press. The last issue covered the time period of 1850-1950 and for the upcoming issue we will start at 1950 and go to the present. Please bring in your photos and stories of Jewish life that pertain to this time period. Call Sharon Kirshenbaum at 334-6442 if you have any questions.

IVJHS has gone "Back to School"

What a delightful surprise this early fall when our Historical Society was asked to teach a class of United Talmud Torah High School of Jewish Studies about the history of the Jews of Nebraska!

What a delightful phone call when our Historical Society was asked to take a class of the Temple Israel High School on a tour of Jewish Omaha on October 22nd!

And we are doing both with a number of qualified, informed, excited teachers!

The course includes discovering family trees, learning about the various NJHS exhibits at the JCC, collecting publications and NJHS journals, hearing about "Family trees" and how to do one, learning how to do "oral histories", learning about the history of the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Press, and much more.

At the close of the semester in early January, 1996 three prizes will be awarded from the Morris C. Feliman Memorial Fund for (1) the best essay about grandparents (2) the best video or computer offering on family history (3) the best display or poster board story of family history. The winners will also receive the gift of a one year membership in the NJHS.

Comments from some of the students about the class have been:

"I hope to learn more about my family's history to pass on to future generations."
"I would like to learn where things are in the Jewish community."
"Whatever you teach me, I shall learn."
"I would like to learn exactly how my family arrived here."
"I plan to get ideas of how to make my future family generations know our past and also the Jewish faith and religion will know their past which will keep us strong."

Our kids of the '50s and '60s

Our latest exhibit "Our kids of the '50s and '60s" is on display in the gallery of the JCC until October 22nd. The exhibit includes photos of the people born during these two decades. The types of photos displayed are: baby, consecration, nursery school, bar/bat mitzvah, confirmation, graduation and weddings. Please stop by and enjoy this wonderful exhibit. We are sure that you will recognize many photos.

This exhibit also includes photographs taken by the late Donald Swartz who died on May 18th, 1994 after a long illness. Don's first job was as a commercial photographer when he won first prize in a World-Herald contest. He taught photography at the College of St. Mary where he also made a mural of photographs for the college. Some of his photographs of lovely scenes of Omaha are still hanging in the First National Bank at 16th and Farnam and he photographed aeroplanes that are now on display in the parking lot of the Omaha Airport. We hope you enjoy these unusual photographs by the late Omaha artist Donald Swartz.

NJHS Donation cards are available at $5.00 minimum. Morris C. Feliman Memorial Fund cards are available at $3.00 minimum. Contact Dottie Rosenblum at 334-6441 or send your check and information to NJHS, 333 So. 132nd St. Omaha, NE 68154

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A reunion of the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Hyman and Sarah Osoff was held in Omaha this summer with fifty five family members in attendance. The matriarch of the family is 99 year old Sarah Brick Osoff who now resides at Montclair Village. She will be 100 years old November 30th.

The original family name was Osofsky which became Osoff in America and Assaf in Israel. One of the Israeli cousins bearing that name was in attendance.

Sarah Osoff was a sister of the late Molly Lipsey, Meyer and Sam Lipsey. Her brother Morris and sister Rose Ziegman reside in Omaha.

In addition to four daughters the family includes 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

During his many years in Omaha Hyman Osoff owned and operated Osoff's Hardware Store originally at 16th and Davenport. The store moved to 44th and Dodge. He died in 1968.

Osoff "Mispocha" Reunion

Osoff Family Reunion
Family Photograph
(June 30, July 1 &2, 1995)

Front row. L to r:
Alex Cooper, Joshua Cooper, Caroline Gross, Allison Gross, Sarah Brick Osoff, Matthew Quicksilver, Laura Quicksilver behind Matthew, Josh Levy

Second row. L to r:
Zachary Spooner, Sarah Spooner, Michael Green, Andrew Gross, Julie Gross, Rivka Assaf (from Israel), Roselle Osoff Pizer, Liz Pizer Quicksilver, Jasmin Pizer in arms of Patricia, Patricia Hare Pizer, Jane Rice Levy, Wendy Rice

Third row. L to r:
Cheryl Milder Cooper, Frances Osoff Milder, Gayle Milder Spooner, Pearl Osoff Gross, Andy Gross Green, Lindy Green, Marvin Pizer, Sandy Chooljian, Don Rice

Back row. L to r:
Ron Cooper, Jerry Milder, Harlan Milder, Jerry Gross, Doug Green, Peter Green, Try Green, Erin Casey Green, Marjie Jarcho Gross, Bob Gross, John Pizer, Billy Quicksilver, Matthew Levy on shoulders of Hal, Hal Levy, Jim Rice, Tom Rice

Not in picture: Jim Spooner, Jeanne Archer Rice, Dana Rice

Deceased: Hyman David Osoff, Evelyn Osoff Rice

In these days of more and more "50th wedding anniversary", "family reunions" and "100th birthday" celebrations we welcome pictures of these events for future publications and exhibits of the N.J.H.S. Let us hear from you and please include the names of everyone in the picture. Of course we will return all pictures upon request but would appreciate having one for our archives.
Ten Years after the Closing of the "Kapulier" Synagogue

In the very early days of the Omaha Jewish community, very small groups of Jews met in private homes as simple minyanim. They did not require a Rabbi, only a minyan, and therefore, many groups were formed both for convenience of location or any other reason that pleased those who "davened" twice a day.

Among the many orthodox congregations that formed, one was incorporated in 1906. Originally named B'nai Jacob Anshe Sholem, it is more familiarly referred to as the "Kapulier Shul" because that was the name of the village in Russia from which most of the founding members had come.

The group which formed bought a church on 24th and Nicholas and remodeled it for their own needs. In 1909, the members walked together from their former quarters at 22nd and Cuming to their new shul with Rabbi Henry Grodinsky leading the parade and boys of the congregation carrying the books, torahs and flags. This congregation also purchased a cemetery tract at Pleasant Hill.

When other small congregations began disappearing, the Kapulier Shul remained strong. In 1948, the little shul was slated to be demolished to make room for the new Kellom School. Members began making plans to save their synagogue and a new site was selected in hopes that the building could be moved.

The move itself necessitated having the building sliced off just below the first floor and placing it on giant jacks. The trouble came when overhead tree branches and wires had to be removed as the 40 foot structure blocked the street at 23rd and Cuming for most of the winter. Ultimately, the deed was done and the little Kapulier Shul was in its new location at 30th and Cuming with services resuming on May 27, 1949.

In 1951, B'nai Jacob and Adas Yeshuron united their congregations. Adas Yeshuron had been located in a brick building on 25th and Seward Streets. Their first joint religious service was held on September 1, 1951. Adas Yeshuron had a membership of 79 families and had existed in Omaha for 32 years but their building was sold because the congregation no longer resided in that area. Their membership automatically transferred to B'nai Jacob.

Unfortunately by 1971 the congregation had begun to diminish in number to the point where the threat of closing became imminent. Many of the faithful moved from the area making it difficult to gather a minyan. Two women became instrumental in trying to save the shul for a second time. Mr. Bill Grodinsky, whose father had been the rabbi, and Mr. Jake Wine managed to breathe enough life into the Kapulier Shul to keep it open for Shabbat, Sunday and Holiday Services.

As the synagogue closed its doors for the last time on October 20th, 1985 the memories cannot be forgotten. Its unique design with a central bimah and the balcony where the women sat is the last of its kind in Omaha. But the history and spirit will live on as the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Historical Museum opens on October 29th with a restored Kapulier Synagogue.

Kapulier Shul - 30th & Cuming

-sw.
Kapulier shul

Upper Picture: Jacob Adler carrying Torah out
Lower Picture: Tallit hanging at back of synagogue

A Cela Blank looking at synagogue books

Looking down from the balcony of the synagogue
Let me introduce myself and my grandmother at first. I am Dmitri Bobrovski from Minsk, Republic of Belarus. I am working now as a teacher for International Counselor Exchange Program in California. My grandmother Rachel Daiczik (1911) and her sister Faina Daiczik (1909) who is living in Minsk with our family. My grandmother wants to find our relatives in Omega who left Belarus 1915-1917. Our family had been correspondent with them until political situation in our country became dangerous for us (about 1940-50).

Father of my grandmother Girsh Daiczik (1877-1941) died during WW II in 1941, but his brother Joseph Daiczik (1868) and his sister Hjyana had gone to USA in 1915 and change the name to Joseph Daitch.

His sister Hjyana, his two daughters and he were living in Omaha. Hjyana used to send letter and parcel to Vitebsk, Belarus. They found my family after WW II through Red Cross and had been correspondent with our family until 50th and they were sending letter to Kamennaja street, Minsk, Belarus.

Dmitri Bobrovski
12528-A South Truro Ave.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(707) 895-2613

Information about the late Joe and Lena Dayton family, their daughters Ida Whitebook and Betty, is being forwarded to Mr. Bobrovak by Mary Fellman, a family friend, in response to their request.

Congratulations on a wonderful, illuminating Passover issue!

Adeline Specter Sneider
13951 SW 66th St. #201A
Miami, FL 33183

I graduated from Tech High School. My husband's relatives were some Kirshenbaums. Doctor's Ed and Bill Rosenbaum were his cousins. Pacey Shkyen's grandmother was a Mittleman.

I am looking forward to being listed in your Omaha archives.

Bernice Falk Mittleman
G-3100 Miller Rd. 20A
Flint, MI 48507

I want to thank the considerate person who sent me the journal and pamphlet about "Memories of 24th Street" at the request of my cousins, Sally and Bernie Jonisch. Your kindness is typical of Omaha people!

I read it all with such memories - it was like reliving my youth! How I wish I had sent in a story about the Star Store, but I just didn't realize what you were going to do.

All of us former Omahans who live out here, that I know, get the material you send out, and enjoy it thoroughly. You people are doing a great job.

Thank you again, whoever you are!

Jeanette Levinson

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the Passover issue of the Jewish Press. What a wonderful roundup of Nebraska Jewish history! I will save it and look forward to more stones of our pioneering families.

Margie Montague

I suggest you contact my cousin Lazar Kaplan in Omaha for additional information on the early history in Omaha. I remember when Mr. Israel used to come to the Kaplan house to teach both Lazar and his brother Howard their Hebrew lessons.

I remember well when Lester Lapidus and Mike Freeman came to Lincoln with some others to start AZA Chapter 2 with Sam Beber. I also remember in 1925 playing basketball for Lincoln High School against Phil Gerelick and Omaha Central.

Harold Shapiro

Thank you ever so much for your help in gathering the information on Tillie Olsen. Our instructor and our class in "Modern Jewish Heroines" were most grateful.

How nice to learn about heroes from ones own home town.

Harriet Root

According to a phone call from Dorothy Altman Solomon and her brother Martin Altman from St. Louis they are looking for information about their grandfather Henry Altman who settled in Omaha after the Civil War. He was a Hebrew teacher. His wife was named Mollie. His son Sam was born in Omaha in 1888 and moved to St. Louis as a young man.

Dorothy can be contacted at the St. Louis Jewish Light, 314-432-3353, No. 12 Millstone Campus, St. Louis, Mo. 63146.
Hope these names arrive on time for the next newsletter. This is my Grandma Fan's description of the Levinson family.

Howard Greenberg

Excerpts from a letter from Betty R. Hiller about the Hiller family:

Henry Hiller immigrated to the U.S. in 1870 and came directly to Red Oak, Iowa. I'm not sure if he came from New York or through Galveston, as many Midwestern settlers did. Henry married Rosa Riegelman from Des Moines, whose mother was a Sheurman. They married in 1875 or 1876 and Louis was born in 1880. There followed Minna, Florence and Morton. I believe that Florence and Morton were born in Omaha, as Henry and Rosa moved to Omaha in 1885. When Louis was born in Red Oak, a rabbi had to come from Chicago to circumcise him.

Henry went into the wholesale liquor business. When Louis was old enough, he went into his father's business. By that time, the Hiller Liquor Co. was supplying customers and clients throughout the Midwest and Louis was travelling the territory. The business was in downtown Omaha and the original Buffett grocery store was next door.

The family lived on 38th Street between Farnam and Harney. All of the children went to Omaha Central High School. Richard remembered marking the tennis court for Morton to play with Lester Burkenroad. When the grownups had finished, he could then play.

Eventually, Minna went to Wellesley, Florence went to Emma Willard and Morton went to Harvard. Morton served in WW I in France as a supply officer as he spoke French. Minna married Lester Kirschbraun. Florence married Selwyn Jacobs from St. Louis. Louis married Zerlina Dryfoos.

The Louis Hiller's married in 1910 and lived on 37th Street just north of Dodge. Louis was working in Newport News, Virginia during the war and he must have gone into Rotary International in 1920. He was president of the Omaha chapter in the 20s, started the Better Business Bureau about that time or a little later. He was an Ak-Sar-Ben councillor, he was on the Omaha School Board, a founder of Highland Country Club, served on the Temple board in many capacities for many years.

With the Prohibition Act, the Hillers were put out of business by the government. Louis went into the automobile financing business. The first of these was Universal Finance.

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Ms. Kirshenbaum, you are an excellent researcher and fast. I thank you for your kindness and time.

-Georgia Westfall

I want to compliment you, Louise, and all the others who have obviously worked so hard to create the magnificent display I saw at the JCC and the archives described in your newsletters and journal.

Shirley & Jeff Lipsey
4700 Via Zurbaran
Tuscon, AZ 85715

We would like to hear from you with comments, suggestions, compliments, even criticism! And please send us information and photos of your families!

Please write us at:
The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society
333 South 132nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
**Gifts to Veterans**

Nebraska and Council Bluffs Jewish Veterans of World War II are invited to receive a gift copy of the recent Nebraska Jewish Historical Society Journal on "Remembering World War II."

The journals are being made available in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. In addition to stories from a number of veterans, the journal also includes the names of those Jewish Nebraskans who died in World War II, and excerpts from many Jewish Press columns about those who were in uniform.

The gift copies may be picked up in the business office and the Archival Center during regular office hours. Out-of-town Nebraskans are asked to include $1.50 to cover postage and handling.

Copies of the journal are also available for non-veterans. The cost is $3.00 for NJHS members and $5.00 for non-members.

"...but you're different"

**A Memoir by Elaine Abrams Clearfield**

Elaine is a long time member of NJHS and wrote the book about growing up Jewish in Lincoln, NE. in the 1920's and 1930's. It is a glimpse into the lives of a family that managed to keep traditions alive in the face of numerous challenges, including anti-Semitism, in the social and political context of that time.

All proceeds will benefit the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith. Copies may be ordered from Elaine Clearfield, 310 South Jersey Street, Denver, CO. 80224 for $25 each. (Make checks payable to Anti-Defamation League).

**Shirley Epstein Berman Award for Volunteers**

The first Shirley Epstein Berman Memorial award for outstanding volunteer services by a member of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society will be presented Sunday, October 29th at the 13th annual meeting at 3 p.m. in the Gordman Center Commons room.

Shirley died this year after a long bout with Hodgkins disease and cancer. She was a lifetime Omahan who devoted many hours of volunteer service to a number of Jewish and community organizations.

She was a charter member and officer of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, a many year volunteer of the American Cancer Society, President and officer of the Beth Israel Sisterhood and member of the synagogue board, and active in the programs of the Girl Scouts in Omaha.

Her parents were Sam and Rose Epstein, early active members in the Omaha Jewish community. Shirley was a graduate of the University of Nebraska where she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority.

According to her many friends, co-workers, children and grandchildren "Shirley was a woman of great strength, loving and sensitive to the needs of many. She is sorely missed by all who loved and respected her. Shirley was a woman, mother and friend who was always thinking of others."

**Pollak Story on "Workmen" in Quarterly Magazine**

A major story by Oliver B. Pollak about "The Workmen's Circle and Labor Lyceum in Omaha, 1907 - 1977" appeared in the spring issue of the Nebraska State Historical Society quarterly magazine "Nebraska History."

The story traces the Workmen's Circle from its charter on December 18, 1907 with about twenty five members through its many activities and programs for more than 70 years.

Shown here is a picture of a joint gathering of Omaha and Lincoln Workmen's Circle members sometime in the 1930's.

The story includes details of the Labor Lyceum building on 31st and Cuming Streets, the Workmen's Circle Dramatic Club organized April 17, 1957, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Jewish Labor Committee.

Copies of the article are available "on loan" from the Carl Frohm Archival Center at the JCC.

Vera Tepperman - Framed Hadassah certificate and article about UJA award

Sandy Brophy - Photo of Sandy and Les Sol Yaffe - Sketch made during WW II

Reva Oruch - 3 Prayer Books from her father from Litzvish Shul

Maurice Meiches - Story of early days in Russia/Poland

Muriel Fried - Various photos

Maxine Kirshenbaum - Various photos

Older Adult Groups - Photo albums, scrapbooks and trophies

Joe Kirshenbaum - Ketuba of Sam Wolf and Rebecca Azorin, family photos

Marcy Gallner - B'nai Brith Charter 1899

Ann Belmont - Photo of Bela Mittleman Shrago

Karen Fus - WW II ration books and receipts

Iw Yaffe - Photo of Iry on UNL basketball team 1938-39

Irene Mirowitz - AZA clippings and booklets from Sioux City

Steve Rosenblatt - Photo of 1926 JCC Baseball Team, clippings of AZA 1 basketball team 1934

Dr. Abe Faier - Various photos and clippings

Mr. and Mrs. Marlon Somberg - Central High School 0 Book 1948, JCC 1926 Dedication Book

Bucky Greenberg - BBYO Sweetheart Dance and Beau Dance books

Moe Steinberg - Paul Steinberg's pictures, sports clippings and correspondence

Yale Halperin - B'nai Abraham Cemetery Association Records

Frieda Kizelman - B'nai Brith Women Proceedings and Newsletters

Marsha Kushner - Videotape of State Holocaust Commemoration 1994

Fay Katleman - Technical High School Quadrants, various books

Sid Weisman - Photo of 1931 Webster School 3rd grade

Morris Katelman Family - Family photos and clippings

Harold Grossman - Tifereth Israel correspondence

Eden Ostravich - Family photo

Rocky Stern - Memorabilia from Central High and ZBT at UNL, ketubah and wedding invitation

Beverly Franklin- Hadassah Yearbooks 1961-1988

Charlotte Kopp - Hadassah cookbook, family photo

Edward Rosenbaum - Photo of Edward and William Rosenbaum in WW II, correspondence

Lois & Norman Wine - Minute book from Congregation B'nai Sholom 1926-1975, WWI Permission slip, correspondence

Phyllis Bittner - SDT photos

Abraham Faier - Certificate of Continuous Membership from American Legion

Harry Noodell - Plaque and memorabilia

Dave Dvorin - Photo of B'nai Brith Bowling

Tippi Magid - Photo of Max Magid in his grocery store

Joan Marshall - Clippings

Doris Nachman - Photos

Frieda Kizelman - Article from Jewish Press about Kapulier Shul

Phyllis Bittner - Jewish National Fund Certificate, ByLaws - Tikvas Ami

Harriet & Sherm Sperling - Certification Council Bluffs 1940

Gendler Family - Family photos, Central High Yearbook, various certificates

Ed Malashock - Family photos and photos of Aleph Daled Fraternity

Norman Wohiner - 2 Family Photos

Maxine Kirshenbaum - Photos from dedication of Rose Blumkin Home

Caroline Kulesh - Certificate of Confirmation and photo

Carole Widman - Various programs and correspondence

Sandy Kohll - Ration books, family photos, plaques

Family of Ruth and Joe Rice - Photo album, certificates, programs and family photos

Lois & Lloyd Friedman - ZBT items

Edie Wolf - Various tapes and record album tapings of meetings and speeches

Sol Graetz - AZA Songbook

Bert Lewis - Photo of JCC Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Barbara Chandler - Photo of 1974 Beth Israel Talmud Torah Graduation

Lester Waxman - Flags and stands from Jewish War Veterans
Join Our Life Members in NJHS!

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MNIENTBER DEAR ONES WINDFIEFUIS WITH DONATIONS TO NJHS FUNDS

Make sure your contributions are through NM-IS! Donor cards and Moms C. Fellman Memorial Fund cards are the way to go when you want to make a contribution in honor of; in memory of; or to remember an event or someone special. It's easy, just call the NJHS office at 334-6441. Your purchase of these cards helps us maintain many projects, preserve and publish material that has to do with the life of Jews in Nebraska and Council Bluffs.

DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF: Dustin Friedman-Bar Mitzvah, Rachel Riekes-Bar Mitzvah, Ken Saltzman-Academic Achievement

NEW HOME: Phyllis & Max Bittner

THANK YOU TO: Lucille & Harold Brodkey


BIRTHDAY OF: Rose Marer, Sara Saltzman, Louise Abrahamson, Bernie Jomsch, Mary Fellman, Ruthie Nogg, Ben Simonns

RECOVERY OF: Norman Abrahamson, Lloyd Friedman, Irvin Sherman, Maxine Frank (K.C.), Jan Harris, Karen Pollak, Betty Fellman, Lillian Hurwitz, Shirley Berman, Doris Koom, Justin Manvitliz, Dee Fox, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Warner Frohman, Rose Marer

YAHTZEIT OF: Lou Fellman


We invite you to join our Patron Members

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In Memory of our Treasured Members

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Abe Gendler
Freeda Gendler
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Sid Wintroub
Emanuel Wishnow

May their memory be a blessing to all who were dear to them.
An Open Letter about Endowments, Wills, Bequests, Foundations

Since the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society received its first major gift almost thirteen years ago to prepare our first exhibit we have been the recipient of support for our historical projects from a number of trusts, foundations, and individuals.

Because of the generosity and support of a number of benefactors in the amounts from $1,000 to $100,000 we have been privileged to grow, to publish, to exhibit, to develop. And we are very grateful to all who have believed in our endeavors.

We now are continuing to grow in many directions as you can tell from the newsletter stories and from publicity about our work in the Jewish Press.

We ask you to consider putting the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society in your will or bequest. We ask you who have foundations or trusts to endow one of our many projects. We ask that you consider giving the NJHS a share or two of stock.

Whatever your decisions we want you all, very reader of this newsletter, to know how grateful we are for your past support - as we look forward to your future sharing with us.

Louise Abrahamson.......391-6771
Lois Friedman **.....556-8053
Mary Felmayer...393-3144
Bernie Jonisch.....334-8733

We are Grateful to our Benefactors mounts from $1,000 to $100,000

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(All contributions to NJHS are tax deductible and payable over a five year period)
* All benefactors are also Life Members

Welcome to our New Members Since 9/94

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friends and family about NJHS!

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I

the subject at hand relates to the happenings of 50 years ago, I have something to contribute. It has to do with Chapter One in the lives of the Leonard Lewis family.

To be completely specific, I must turn back the pages of many calendars, to May 13, 1945. It was a Sunday, and it also happened to be Mother's Day. Other memories of the day include the fact that it was cloudy and threatening to rain. And it was my wedding day.

It was still wartime, but the newspapers and radio announcers were making sure we all knew the end was getting closer. My Leonard was as near as the state of Kansas, a soldier in the United States Army, who was beginning to be anxious to become a civilian again.

Two of his brothers were also in the armed forces, as was my only brother. On this May 13, they were all in Omaha, for "the wedding". The family event which was to take precedence over everything else, including war!

I can't really remember details of the early part of the day - I don't even remember if I had appropriate gifts for my Mom and my almost Mother-in-law. I do recall gathering all of the bridal clothes and being driven to the Fontenelle Hotel, where the ceremony was to take place. The hotel also provided a nice room for the ladies to use for dressing; at that point we discovered I had forgotten my shoes. How fortunate my brother was present to dash back home and retrieve the white satin pumps.

When the important moment of that auspicious day arrived, Leonard and I were under a traditional chupah, held up by wooden poles in each of the four corners. My brother, one of Leonard's brothers, my Uncle and another male relative provided the support for the not-so-elegant chupah; they stood calmly, even when thunder made it hard to hear the Rabbi. The rain which had threatened all day, waited until 1:00 to turn into a very noisy storm. Sound effects notwithstanding, it didn't dampen our festivities.

The rest of the wedding went as scheduled, complete with reception, many guests milling around offering kisses, hugs and mazeltovs galore. The words "many guests" are easily reported... today, fifty years later, a heart-breaking number of them are no longer around. But oh how lucky we were to have our parents escort us each down that aisle.

And what an extra joy it was to have three of my four grandparents present. (The fourth was still living, but in a distant state.) I remember many things about that special day, but maybe what I remember most are faces. Faces of people very dear to me, for whom that day as special too.

Fifty years - imagine! This past spring we celebrated our good fortune, grateful for our blessings. We had a brief weekend in which to surround ourselves with the family we created. They are truly our blessings and we are proud of each of them.

We sat around a table, Leonard and I with our children and their mates and suddenly I knew why the Sheheheyanau had been recited through the ages.

Yes, 1945 was a very significant year for us. I've learned many things since that time, including how very fast fifty years can slip by.

How About Coming to Omaha?

A recent visitor to Omaha, for a class reunion, suggested NJHS plan a "Coming Back to Omaha" weekend in 1996-97 for all former Omahans! What a great idea! What do you think? When should we have it? Let us hear from you! Write to us at NJHS, 333 So. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68154 with ideas, suggestions and comments! And plan on coming whenever it happens!

Again our appreciation and thanks to Bernice Falk Mittleman, Adele Hornstein and son, Michael Hornstein for their multimedia computer and monitor they so generously gave to our Carl Frohm Archival Center.
It is in constant use!