

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of the **Upper Midwest**
GENERATIONS

FALL 2016

IN THIS ISSUE:

SCRAP STORIES

FROM THE
PRESIDENT

STRATEGIC
PLANNING

WELCOME
OUR NEW
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

FROM THE
BERMAN
ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES
EXHIBIT AT
UofM: STICKS,
STRAWS & MUD

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING
FORWARD BY
LOOKING BACK

EXPLORE &
SHARE YOUR
FAMILY STORIES

*Please renew your
JHSUM membership
today with enclosed
envelope or online
at www.jhsum.org*

Beyond the Pale... to the Midwest



Peddlers to Processors
SCRAP 
STORIES
From the Upper Midwest

Linda Schloff, Director Emerita

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) recently introduced an ambitious project to document and publicize the role of Jews in the Upper Midwest's scrap business. Scrap, consisting of barrels, boxes, bottles,

cartons, used tires, rags and, of course metals were collected from farms and city alleys by the "Jew Junk Peddler" and then resold or re-purposed. Jews dominated the business in most areas of the country for over a century.

During this project members of the JHSUM combed archival deposits for accounts and photos, trolled the internet, interviewed people in the state, and collected artifacts.

Continued on page 6



Jamie Heilicher
President
Jewish Historical
Society of the
Upper Midwest

A Big Year:

We had a busy year culminating in the creation of our 7th Journal “Jewish Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest” edited by Linda Mack Schloff, and the creation of our Exhibit “Scrap Stories – Peddlers to Processors,” overseen by Myrna Orensten.

After 18 months of hard work, this fascinating story of Jewish immigration, integration, survival and ultimate success really came alive. The exhibit started at the Minneapolis JCC, moved to the St. Paul JCC and now partially resides at Sholom East. We

hope to continue to work with the digital images, video and interviews to recreate the exhibit online so it can live on.

Looking Forward:

We have hired a new Executive Director to help create more programming and help more organizations preserve their history. This position is funded for several years through the generosity of Sharon Steinfeldt and the Steinfeldt Foundation. Our five year plan includes a new office, new focus on education & interpretation, and hopefully additional

exhibits and displays throughout the community. **We still need your help!**

As we shift our goals and aspiration, we need your help to make this vision become a reality. Our members are our lifeblood to the community. They remind us that we need to celebrate our History in order to keep future generations engaged and proud to be a part of this great community. Your continued support is what keeps us going. *Please join us in realizing our mission! Keep our History Alive.*

Welcome to our new Executive Director: *We are ready to move history forward*



Robin J. Doroshow
Executive Director
Jewish Historical
Society of the
Upper Midwest

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is pleased to announce the selection of Robin Doroshow as its new executive director. The selection was made after an exhaustive search and selection process.

“We are confident that she is the best candidate to lead our next phase at JHSUM. She is dedicated to our mission of promoting the vitality and continuity of Jewish life through the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the Jewish cultural experience in the Upper Midwest,” Jamie Heilicher, Board President.

Doroshow brings a wealth of experience which will serve her in this new role. Robin earned a BA in Psychology and Judaic Studies from the University of Minnesota. She went on to earn her JD from William Mitchell College of Law – then continued

her academic advancement by completing coursework at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Harvard Law School and Georgetown University. Doroshow has worked in a variety of capacities including Development Director at Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis and in private practice of

law with Shulman, Gainsley and Walcott, PA and Doroshow and LeBow, PLLP. Since 2012, she’s had a number of pieces published in The American Jewish World, The Forward, The Daily Planet, and TC Jewfolk.

“...[Robin] is dedicated to our mission of promoting the vitality and continuity of Jewish life through the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the Jewish cultural experience in the Upper Midwest,” Jamie Heilicher

Originally from St. Paul, MN, Doroshow lives in Golden Valley with her husband, Rich Kronfeld, and two kids, Theo Kronfeld (14) and Raina Kronfeld (13) and dog, Ginger. In her spare time Robin enjoys reading, traveling, meditation, genealogy and spending time with family and friends.

“STICKS, STRAW & MUD:”

Jewish Settlers in the Upper Midwest

On October 17th a University of Minnesota Libraries exhibit featuring materials from the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives



The exhibit runs through January 27, 2017 and can be viewed at the Elmer L. Andersen Library building.

For more information on the archives, please visit our website at lib.umn.edu/umja or contact



opened in our exhibit gallery on the first floor of Andersen Library. The lure of land and a new, prosperous life brought many immigrants; to the far reaches of the Upper Midwest territories. This exhibit explores not only the universal perils of frontier homesteading, but the challenges of doing so as a religious and cultural minority, which ultimately shaped the successes and failures of these Jewish pioneers.

Exhibit runs through January 27, 2017...

Don't miss it!

Elmer L. Andersen Library
Gallery and Atrium
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S,
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Hours:

8:30 am - 4:30pm
Monday, Tuesday & Friday,
8:30am - 7pm
Wednesday & Thursday.

Directions:
www.lib.umn.edu/pdf/AndersenDriving.pdf

Archivist, Kate Dietrick
at 612-625-0192.





Quick stats:

53 researchers came to our reading room to research using Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in the past year.

Some of the places where researchers came from:

Northern California
Upstate New York
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Creighton University
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
Saint Thomas University
and more.

What they have been researching:

Synagogues (Gedaliah Leib Congregation, Mount Zion Temple); the St. Paul Jewish Community Center symphony; North and South Dakota Jewish settlers and the Industrial Removal Office; St. Paul Jewish newsboys; the history of Hillel at the University of Minnesota; Upper Midwest Holocaust survivors; scrap businesses; Iron Range Jews

Ever since JHSUM donated the archives to the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota, we have been busy! Our collections continue to grow thanks to donors from around the country and more and more researchers come to view our collections, now more accessible than ever.

Highlight on collections:

Rabbi Bernard Raskas papers

This collection of 40 boxes has recently been reorganized and inventoried for better find-ability by our researchers and consists of the professional papers of Rabbi Raskas during his tenure at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul. Filled with correspondence, sermons, and teaching documents, the collection is rich with interesting materials.

Highlights include: the sermon Rabbi Raskas gave after the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King,



whom Raskas had the privilege of meeting; a three-page "letter to the future" written in 1976 to be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 1996 detailing what the writer thought life at Temple of Aaron would be like in future; and the various correspondence Rabbi Raskas had during

Walter Mondale's term as Vice President as well as Mondale's run and eventual defeat for presidency in 1984. For more information on this collection, visit z.umn.edu/raskas.

To help continue the support the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries, consider a financial donation: z.umn.edu/umjagive.

A few new acquisitions we've received in the past year include:

St. Paul JCC -- further additions to their materials, growing the collection to well over 60 boxes; now the collection includes materials regarding the St. Paul JCC Symphony, the oldest classical music community ensemble in the country.

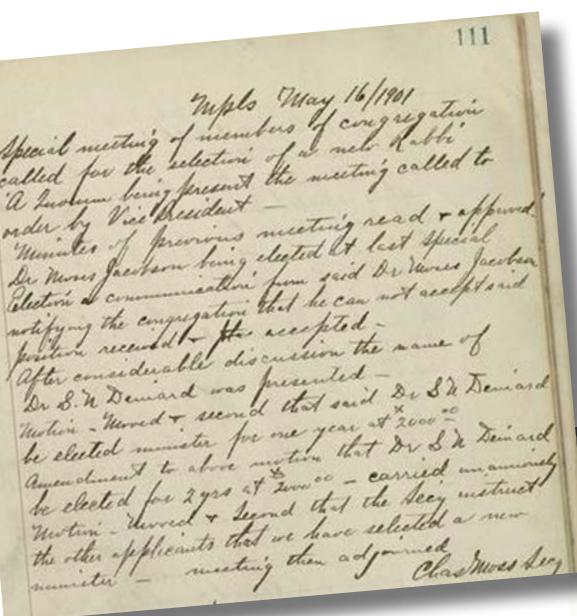
Talmud Torah of St. Paul -- administrative files and scrapbooks, but mostly thousands of photographs, dating from the 1960s to the present.

*Kate Deitrick, Archivist,
Upper Midwest Jewish Archives*





NATHAN & THERESA BERMAN UPPER MIDWEST JEWISH ARCHIVES

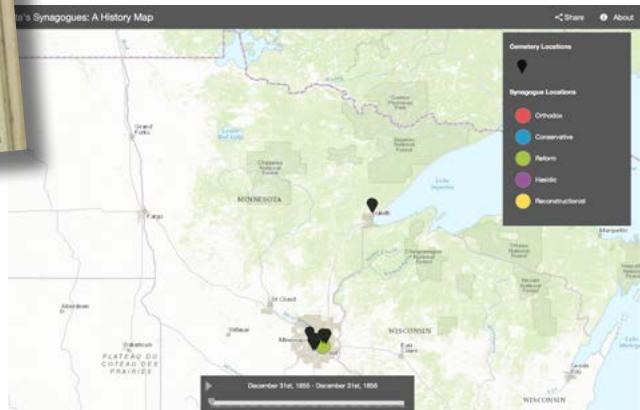


Temple Israel -- four ledger books documenting the early years of the congregation -- two from the Montefiore Cemetery Association, dating between 1884 and 1952, and two of Shaarai Tov (as Temple Israel was then known) from 1893 to 1923.

Due to generous funds from Temple Israel, we were also able to digitize the four books in their entirety -- they can all be viewed at <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/taxonomy/term/911>.

Synagogues in Minnesota

In 1856, a group of German Jews established the first synagogue in St. Paul, two years before Minnesota would receive statehood. As the population of Minnesota grew, more Jewish families immigrated to the Upper Midwest and established



places of worship. These synagogues changed locations often, opened and closed, merged and broke away. This project aims to map the locations of synagogues and their corresponding cemeteries throughout Minnesota. To explore this map, visit z.umn.edu/synagoguemap.

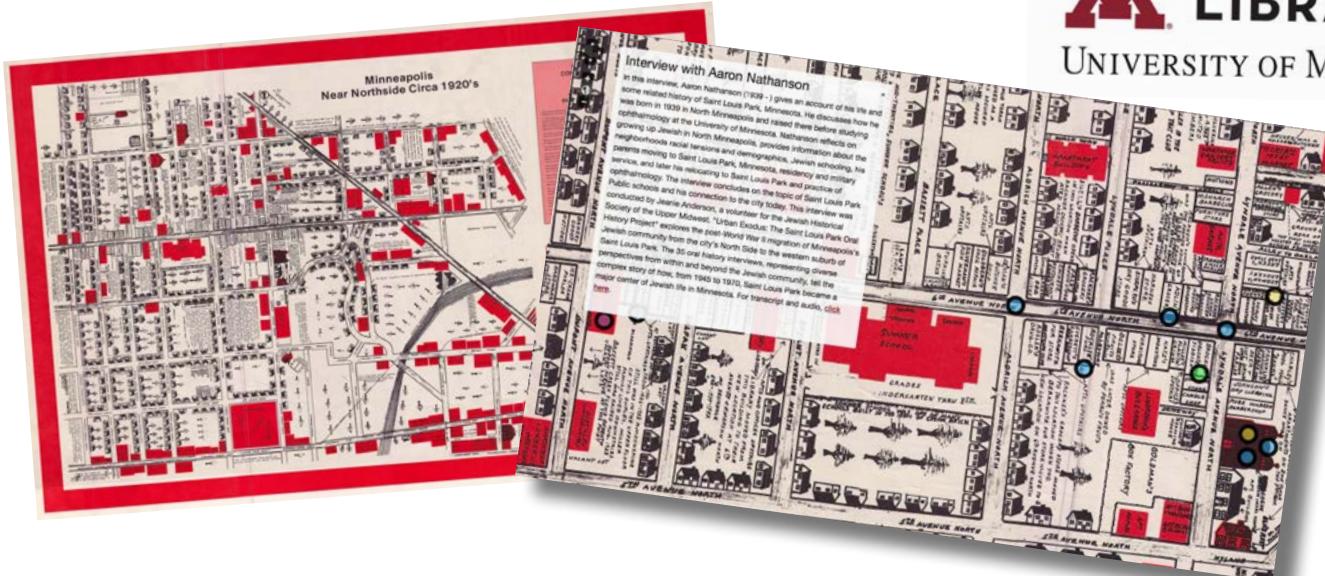
If you see something that is incorrect or needs an update, please let us know.

Near Northside Minneapolis Map

This map, created circa 1960 by Clarence Miller in partnership with the Phyllis Wheatley

Community Center, is part of the collection of the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota. The map illustrates an area of North Minneapolis, where many Jewish immigrant families lived, as it was during the 1920s. In this project we are attempting to pin information found online—from photos to oral histories—to locations illustrated on the map in order to better understand a neighborhood that has passed into memory. To explore this map, visit: z.umn.edu/umjamap

M LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Peddlers to Processors: Scrap Stories

Continued from page 1

The Society also sponsored public programs consisting of round table discussions by people who have or had worked in the business. Finally, I interviewed a select number of people for their stories. We wish we could have interviewed many more, but time and money constraints prevented this.

I edited the Spring 2016 issue of the Society's journal. Titled *Jewish Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest*, the journal charts the rise of what was called the "Jew Junk Peddler," first to a valuable ally collecting needed scrap materials during the Second World War and then to being on the front lines of the Green Revolution. It makes for great reading, and who knows, you may find your own family story there. Issues are

still available by contacting Julie Tarshish, JTarshish@jhsum.org or ordering online at www.jhsum.org

Board member Myrna Orensten, a graphic design artist whose family has been in the scrap business for four generations not only created a stunning exhibit, she helped with research. The exhibit was shown in its entirety this last spring at the Sabes JCC. Portions of it have traveled to the St. Paul JCC and Sholom East.

The oral histories and printed materials collected will be stored at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, located

at the University of Minnesota.

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest is the only organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the valuable history of Jews in this region of the country and making it available to scholars, students, and future generations of Jews. Thank you for your continued support in this valuable undertaking.



From the Pale to the Midwest - many Jewish immigrants started in scrap.

"The exhibit, Peddlers to Processors: Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest was a visual wonderland, filled showcasing the incredible living history of local families who miraculously turned scraps into sustaining and thriving livelihoods. This incredible exhibit and informative related events brought the community together through shared stories, memories, & revived history."

Robyn Awend
Director of Visual Arts
Tychman Shapiro Gallery
Sabes Jewish
Community Center



An immigrant story

David and Dora Walonick overcame great odds to build a life in Minnesota

By DEAN B. KANER

My maternal grandparents immigrated to America in the early part of the 20th century. Like so many other Jewish immigrants, they sought freedom from persecution and an opportunity for a better life.

My grandfather, David Nahaman Walonick, was born in 1892 in Elaky, Russia. He came alone to America in 1915 at the age of 23, leaving behind two sisters and a brother. An escape plan for David was imperative, as Jewish boys ages 12-25 were conscripted into the Russian Army for a compulsory 25-year service.

1915 to 1922. In 1923, he moved to Worthington, another small town of 4,500 in the southwest corner of the state, so he could expand his business.



The Scrap Stories initiative is partially funded by the Eloise & Elliot Kaplan Foundation and Sharon & Oren Steinfeldt Family Foundation

Historical photos, articles & additional elements provided by:

- The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest
- MN Historical Society
- www.Garon.us - Allan Garon and Karen Entous
- UMD Kathryn A. Martin Library
- H.S. Kaplan Peddler Cart, Brass & Scrap – Kaplan Family
- ISRI - Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- individuals and families, historical newspapers, Library of Congress, Google, company websites, local Historical Societies, Ancestry.com, Government agencies and other resources.

If you have a story, photos, articles to share please contact JHSUM.org.history@jhsum.org - 952-381-3360





by Myrna Orensten

The journey of researching scrap became a labor of love, discovery and personal transformation - with a newly found appreciation for history, immigrant life and real American dreams.

It began with a simple question at a JHSUM board meeting at the end of 2013... "what history project should we do next?" I piped up with a comment about exploring 'Jews in the scrap business' because it seemed that everyone in the business was Jewish whether from small towns, or big cities... they all seemed related and interconnected.

Once I began researching; finding incredible documents, peddlers lists going back to the 1800s and speaking with scrap people... the topics multiplied and discoveries kept amazing me!

Growing up in the 60s-70s, I met many other Jewish kids at Herzl Camp and USY whose family had also been in the

scrap business for generations. Yet I had not thought deeply of how they (my grandfather included) started in this field, why so many were related and what they had to go through, to emmigrate, learn the language, to succeed in this country, build their businesses, communities and keep their traditions.

Nor did I think much about where they came from and understand the challenges they faced let alone grasp the real impact... [environmentally - globally] and value of the

industry they built. This experience opened my eyes and blew my mind. So many more topics, stories and questions have piqued my curiosity (especially with the 'immigration' topics today) and hunger to continue to learn and share the stories so they are not lost.

Please know it is not too late to share your stories and participate in JHSUM's Scrap Stories.

Let us know if you have a Jewish history project you want to explore in the Upper Midwest.



The Kaplan boys, from left, Bob, Reuben and Harold, gather around a barrel of brass that has been part of the family business, Kaplan's Metals Reduction Co. in St. Paul, almost since its beginning in 1915. Founder Hyman Kaplan advised: "As long as you've got this brass, you'll never be broke."

GENEALOGY - Research & Results

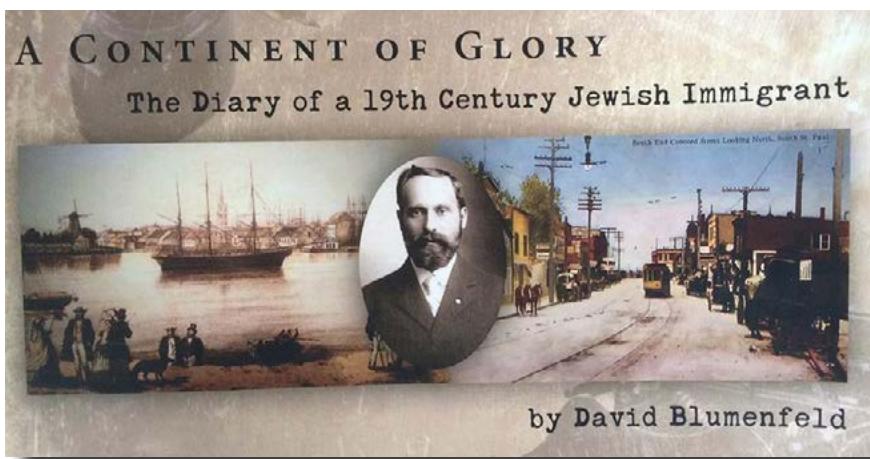
From Novelized Diary to an Illustrated Family History...

David Blumenfeld's *A Continent of Glory* took place in September at the Sholom Home Shaller Campus in St. Paul.

David's great-grandson Frederick Hertz presented the amazing story of David Blumenfeld's novelized "Diary," with all the twists and turns on the way to its present form, its disappearance and rediscovery, the research across

continents to verify its contents, and the new connections with distant relatives across the world. His talk explored the question of "truth" in understanding family history nearly a century after the Diary was written.

Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of St. Paul in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest and the MN Jewish Genealogical Society.



MN Jewish Genealogical Society

Susan Weinberg presented *Capturing the Stories: Jewish Immigrants of the 20th Century*, a presentation she gave to the IAJGS at their annual conference in Seattle held earlier this year. This presentation is based on the Jewish Identity and Legacy Project, an arts/interview project with elders within Sholom Home, a Jewish elder facility in the Twin Cities. Most of the residents interviewed were in their 90s and spanned three groups; those who grew up in early immigrant communities, those who were survivors and

those who were immigrants from the former Soviet Union. These three groups represented the three strands of immigrants who came to the Twin Cities in the 1900s and explores their experience. This presentation makes use of short video clips and artwork based on stories to understand the experience of immigrants from varied backgrounds that compose Jewish communities within the United States. Through story it explores the legacy that these immigrants bring to their communities.



Online Resources

The following websites are links to help you research your connections and explore the archives or your family history.

- www.JHSUM.org
- www.lib.umn.edu/umja
- www.mhs.org
- www.placeography.org
- www.reflections.mndigital.org
- www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org
- www.ancestry.com
(this is free at many libraries)
- www.jewishgen.org
- www.familysearch.org
- www.findagrave.org
- www.ellisisland.org
- www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
- www.libertyellisfoundation.org
- www.archives.gov
- www.Jewishvirtuallibrary.org
- www.uscis.gov
- www.litvaksig.org
- www.rtrfoundation.org
- www.historyapolis.com

These are just a few and the journey can be very exciting, there are also people available within the organizations who will assist in your search.

Thank you!

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Ameriprise Financial | Heidi Gilbert | Jay Isenberg | Naomi & Joel Oxman | Joanne & David Sher | William Sternberg |
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| Renee and Jim Gainsley | <i>In Memory of</i> | Beatrice Magee | Anniversary | Helen Rosen | Irwin Weisman |
| <i>In Honor of Adam Glick</i> | Marcia Hinitz | Candace Margulies | <i>In Memory of</i> | Gail Greenberg Siegel | <i>In Memory of</i> Margery Weisman |
| Gary Gardner | <i>In Memory of</i> | Aaron Mark | Howard Gelb | Irving Victor | Ardis Wexler |
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| | Jerome Ingber | Marie Wolpert | Claire Fink | Carl Birnberg | |
| | <i>In Memory of Ruth</i> | Phillip Snyder | Sid Applebaum | Don Rutman | |
| | Brin's Yahrzeit | Lindsey Nauen & Richard Weil | Walter Schwarz | Marvin Sternberg | |
| | | Marcia & Allen Oleisky | Betty Sher | | |
| | | Myrna Orensten | <i>In Honor of</i> | | |
| | | <i>In Memory of</i> | Idele Weinberg | | |
| | | Oren Steinfeldt | | | |
| | | Alan Levey | | | |
| | | Marjorie & Charles Ostrov | | | |

*“Give me your
tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore, Send these,
the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

Keeping our history alive

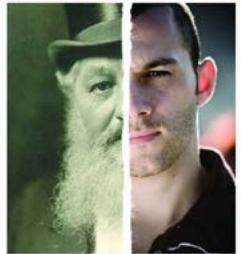
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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of the Upper Midwest

Face the Future with Your Past



www.jhsum.org

Where generations connect
to get the whole story.

Steinfeldt Foundation History Challenge Grant of \$5,000 to raise \$10,000

*“I want to help
make your gift
go further and
keep our history
alive...”*

Sharon Steinfeldt,
Steinfeldt Foundation

The success of our ‘Scrap Stories’ initiative, discovering the common connections of our families and communities, is ready for the next phase. Now your donation will make even more impact and help us bring the history online and interactive.

Individual Funds

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
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*“I want to help
make your gift go
further and keep
our history alive...”*

Sharon Steinfeldt,

Sharon & Oren Steinfeldt Foundation

In order to fund the next phase of our 'Scrap Stories' project to preserve and share the robust interconnected history of immigrants Jews of the Upper Midwest and the generations who followed. The Steinfeldt Foundation has set up a Challenge Grant of \$5,000 to raise \$10,000.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of the Upper Midwest



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