JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY of the
Upper Midwest



Shirley Vitoff, a Minnesota native who was interviewed during the research for volume 8 of the Upper Midwest Jewish History Journal, joyfully participated in JHSUM's annual meeting from her home on the East Coast.

Dear Friends

2020 has certainly been one for the history books – difficult at best, and tragic for too many.

We can only look forward to a time when we can gather without fear of spreading disease, in a less polarized climate, with greater economic security, and watching the effects of racism recede into the past.

At JHSUM we have done our best to adjust, shifting our programming to online and electronic delivery. As an unexpected benefit, our events now regularly include participation from people who would not be able to attend in-person programming.

For example, in the article on October's annual meeting, you'll see the smiling face of Shirley Vitoff. Shirley, a native Minnesotan, joined us from her East Coast home to share her perspective on contributing to the research that became JHSUM's journal. Her participation offered a unique blending of past and present in a way that would not have been feasible pre-pandemic.

Similarly, in November, JHSUM organized and co-hosted a panel discussion focusing on films dealing with white supremacy. (See page 5) Again, we reached a geographically diverse audience, which added to the richness of the discussion.

We will take this lesson into the future: Electronic content and online events are now part of our future strategy, even once in-person events restart.

As we look back at a year that had more than its share of challenges, we acknowledge the gifts and opportunities that have also emerged. We wish you good health as we enter 2021, and we thank you for your ongoing support of our work.

All the best,

Jamie Heilicher, Board President Robin J. Doroshow, Executive Director

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History crosses borders as well as generations

Zoom connects us remotely, brings our programming to a wider audience

ifficult times prompt new opportunities. For Minnesota native Shirley Vitoff, the opportunity was to participate via Zoom in October's celebratory event of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.

The event honored the publication of Volume 8 of the Upper Midwest Jewish History Journal: Setting the Stage: Jewish Theater in the Upper Midwest from its Origin to the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Shirley had been interviewed by authors Doris Rubenstein and Natalie Madgy during their research for the publication.

The annual meeting featured a panel discussion including Rubenstein, Madgy, Barbara Brooks of the Minnesota Jewish History Theater and several actors from the company. As part of the discussion, they welcomed Shirley, Zoom-ing from her home in New York.

"I had never done a Zoom meeting before," Shirley told us during a recent phone interview. "My son set it up for me, and there I was."

It was an opportunity that would likely not even have been considered were it not for the move to online events demanded by pandemic-driven isolation. Her participation brought a personal perspective to the importance and power of preserving, collecting and telling the stories of our history.

"I am who I am because of my experience growing up on the West side [of St. Paul] and because of theater," Shirley explained. "The whole process of participating [in the research] made me realize how important it is."

From 1946 to 1958, Shirley was an active participant in the community theater group, the Grotto Players, under the direction of Donald Singerman. The troupe produced work at the Jewish Education Center, which later became the St. Paul Jewish Community Center.



Shirley Vitoff with JHSUM's newest journal, *Setting the Stage.*

When she moved to New York in 1958, she brought Singerman's influence with her: Shirley founded, acted and directed in amateur theater in her new community on Long Island until she was in her 70s.

The opportunity to participate in the research for *Setting the Stage*, and then to be recognized for it at JHSUM's annual meeting, enabled Shirley to place her own life in a cultural context.

"When I was growing up on the West Side [of St. Paul]," she told us, "I was surrounded by my extended family — we all lived within blocks of each other. That was my world. When I went to school and learned 'history,' I thought it didn't apply to me — I thought it only applied to my schoolmates who weren't Jewish."

And right there is the power and importance of the work of JHSUM: It grounds us, gives our experiences broader context, and helps us understand who we are today. Even when we have to be at a distance.

2020 Highlights

A look back at the highlights of JHSUM's work in 2020

APRIL 2020

COVID-19 stories

JHSUM kicked off a process of documenting the impact of COVID-19 in the Upper Midwest, using an online video platform to collect personal stories. We asked members of our community to answer one or more of these questions:

- How has your life changed because of COVID-19?
- How has your religious practice changed during this time?
- What do you want future generations to know about this experience?

JHSUM's mission is to capture and document our community's history...even as it happens. This project is ongoing and we invite you to share your experience. Learn more at **jhsum.org**.

MAY 2020

Save your family's history with Kate and TC Jewfolk

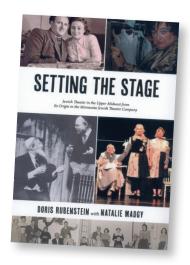
Kate Dietrick, archivist for the Berman Jewish Archives, and Susan Weinberg, president & treasurer of the MN Jewish Genealogical Society, presented a program on using the archives and other approaches to collecting and preserving family history. Dietrick focused on helping participants understand what to expect when visiting the archives and how to plan an efficient and productive visit. Weinberg shared her experience as a user of both the MN Historical Society and the Jewish Archives, describing the treasures she discovered on individuals and the broader Jewish community while researching her book, We Spoke Jewish.

This program was co-hosted by The Minnesota Jewish Genealogical Society, the Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives and TC Jewfolk.

JULY 2020

New JHSUM journal released*

Setting the Stage: Jewish Theater in the Upper Midwest from its Origin to the Minnesota Jewish Theater Company, was published in July 2020 as Volume 8 in the Upper Midwest Jewish Journal. It tells the story of both Jewish theater and Jews in theater in Minnesota.



Midwest Book Award winners with JHSUM connections

The Midwest Independent Publishing Association announced the silver and gold medalists in the 30th Annual Midwest Book Awards competition. Two books with readings sponsored by JHSUM received awards:

 Still, co-authored by longtime St. Louis Park residents
 Kenneth and Rebecca Bender (father and daughter), was



the Gold Medal Midwest Book Award Winner in the Religion/ Philosophy category. (North Dakota State University Press 2019).

• The Question is "Why?", authored by Eric Steven Zimmer, a biography about Stanford M. Adelstein, received a Silver Medal in the biography category for the Midwest Book Awards. (Vantage Point Press 2019).

Remote volunteer opportunities

JHSUM started a new initiative to conduct oral histories online using a platform called "TheirStory." If you are interested and would like to help with remote interviews, please contact history@jhsum.org.

OCTOBER 2020

Annual meeting featured new journal

JHSUM's annual meeting on October 18 celebrated the publication of Volume 8 of our journal, Setting the Stage: Jewish Theater in the Upper Midwest from its Origin to the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Authors Doris Rubenstein and Natalie Madgy were joined by panelists Barbara Brooks and actors from Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company to discuss the unique history of

Jewish theater in the region. See feature on page 3 for more information.

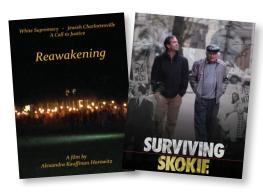
NOVEMBER 2020

Surgical Renaissance in the Heartland, with Dr. Henry Buchwald*

Henry Buchwald spoke at a virtual event with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest on Sunday, October 25 on his new book, Surgical Renaissance in the Heartland: A Memoir of the Wangensteen Era, published by the University of Minnesota Press. Dr. Buchwald, a Holocaust survivor, discussed his book and gave his personal perspective on emigrating to Minnesota. The event was co-sponsored by the Twin Cities Maimonides Society.

"It Happened Right Here — The Dakotas" video release

November saw the release of a new JHSUM video "It Happened Right Here — The Dakotas." This film highlights the Jewish history of the Dakotas. View it now at www.jhsum.org/videos.



Surviving Skokie and Reawakening panel discussion*

Joining with CHAIM (Children of Holocaust Survivors Association in Minnesota), Jewish Community



NEW JHSUM WEBSITE

The newly redesigned jhsum.org is live

Visit today to view our newest collection of mini-documentaries, visit the store, and learn about past and upcoming JHSUM events.

Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas and World Without Genocide, JHSUM co-sponsored a panel discussion with filmmakers Blair Gershkow (Surviving Skokie) and Alexandra Horowitz (Reawakening), among other participants. These films explore anti-Semitism, genocide, and white supremacy in typical American communities of Skokie, Illinois and Charlottesville, North Carolina.

Successful Give to the Max day

JHSUM successfully met our fundraising goal thanks to a double match from The Heilicher Family Foundation for Give to the Max Day. These unrestricted funds will support our program and mission.

*Event can be viewed on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/JHSUMchannel

Join the flow of history with JHSUM

Your generosity and commitment to JHSUM allow us to fulfill our mission: to promote the vitality and continuity of Jewish culture in the Upper Midwest through preservation, interpretation and education.

Deepen your connection with the flow of history by making a contribution. Consider these options:

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Memberships supplement other donations, grants and endowment earnings, to support our annual operating and programming budget.

Make a donation. Any amount supports valuable programs in our community.

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Extend your legacy with planned giving. Include a gift to JHSUM in your estate to express your passion for history as part of your legacy. You'll also be leading by example, for others to give back.

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To learn more, contact JHSUM

history@jhsum.org 952-381-3360 jhsum.org/donate

JHSUM makes every effort to properly acknowledge each of our donors. If we have misspelled or omitted your name, please let us know, by calling 952-381-3360. We will correct it in future publications.

* of blessed memory

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You can permanently honor or memorialize family members or friends by making a donation in their memory. Your minimum gift of \$1,000 will create a legacy to ensure you and your family members will be a light for future generations.

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in memory of Dr. Leonard Schloff

In memory of Al Brenn

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Erwin and Arlis Grossman Family Philanthropic Fund

David Harris

In honor of JHSUM staff—past and present

Robert and Nancy Hartman

The Heilicher Foundation

Phyllis Heilicher

Joe Ingber

In memory of Mischa Penn

In memory of Sherman Kaminsky

Jerome and Judith Ingber

In honor of the founders of the Minneapolis JCC prior to renaming as Sabes JCC.

In memory of Dr. Leonard Schloff

In memory of Phil Greenberg

In memory of Al Milgrom

Jay Isenberg and Lynda Monick-Isenberg

JHSUM Staff and Board

In honor of Don and Rhoda Mains being St. Paul Jewish Federation 2020 Community Campaign Chairs

In honor of Bonnie Resnick and Alan Milavetz being St. Paul Jewish Federation 2020 Community Campaign Chairs

Wishing a speedy recovery to Ann Haber Stanton

In honor of Phil and Phyllis Garon's 50th wedding anniversary

In honor of Howard and Bea Kampf's 50th wedding anniversary

In memory of Dianne Siegel

Wishing Mazal Tov to Judy Halper on becoming president of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

Wishing Mazal Tov to Riv-Ellen Prell on receiving the 2020 Lee Max Friedman medal from the American Jewish Historical Society

Wishing Mazal Tov to Ron Rabinovitz on the publication of Always Jackie

In honor of Dorothy Papermaster's 100th birthday

In honor of Shirleymae Lane's 95th birthday

In honor of Iris Tzafrir

In honor of Ellen Kennedy

In honor of Ken Engel

In honor of Blair Gershkow

In honor of Alexandra Horowitz

In honor of Allan Caplan

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Dr. Stanley and Jeanne Kagin

Daniel Kaiser

Jeremy and Dr. Hope Kalin

Bob and Jennifer Kaplan

Steven Kaplan

Nancy Karasov

Jane Kerr

Mitchel Kirshbaum

Drs. Paul and Hannah Kirschenfeld

In memory of Henry and Lena Parasol

Steven Kloner

In memory of Sam and Doreen Kloner

Melodee Kornacker: Micah Fund of The Columbus Foundation

Rich Kronfeld and Robin Doroshow and Family

In memory of Dr. Leonard Schloff

In memory of Erv Grossman

In memory of Al Brenn

In memory of Dianne Siegel In memory of Bill Ritzen

In honor of Mike and Bonnie Bernath's 50th wedding anniversary

In memory of Charles Marks

In honor of Debbie and Joe Pobiel's 30th wedding anniversary

In honor of Rabbi Danny and Henni Ettedgui's 35th wedding anniversary

In honor of Chuck Bernath and Jeanne Pais' 40th wedding anniversary

Wishing a speedy recovery to Shep Harris

Wishing a speedy recovery to Jordana Green

In honor of Jill and Lee Prohofsky's 20th wedding anniversary

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Martin and Judy Kuretsky

> In memory of Nuchara Blinn

Anita Kunin

Andy and Betsy Landherr

In honor of Robin Doroshow and Rich Kronfeld

Joey and Jerry Laurie

In memory of Bud Herman

In honor of the special anniversary of Sandy and Shel Olkon In memory of Denny Bloom

Daniel Levin

Frank and Carol Lerman

Sheldon and Delores Levin

Harriet Levy

Jeffrey Levy

Steve and Sheila Lieberman

Carol Liege

Dr. Paul Light

Dr. Reuben Lubka and Gail Freedman

In honor of Robin Doroshow and Rich Kronfeld and family

Pete and Beatrice Magee

Donald and Rhoda Mains

Carl Markus and Terry Nolan

Gary Masler

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Minneapolis Jewish Federation

Mount Zion Temple

Deborah Newman

Richard and Joan Newmark

Judge Allen and Marcia Oleisky

Dr. Charles and Marjorie Ostrov

In memory of Erv Grossman

In memory of Dr. Leonard Schloff

Larry and Barbara Parks

Ben and Vicki Pieser

In honor of Kate Dietrick

Norm and Dorothy Pink

James and Nancy Proman

Dr. Beryl Radin

Andrew Rapoport

In memory of Sandy Abramson

Gary and Susan Rappaport (Family Charitable Fund)

Kevin and Nancy Rhein

Barbara Ritzen

In memory of Bill Ritzen

Elaine Robashkin

Aron and Ellen Rolnitzky

Doris Rose

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Thomas and Gwynn Rosen

Alexander and Margot Rosenstein Donor Advised Fund

Jerry and Audrae Rosenzweig

In memory of Esther, William and Harold Rosenzweig

Russ and Karen Rubin

Dr. Laurence and Susanne Savett

In honor of Linda Schloff

Myrnalee Schaeffer

Dr. Linda Schloff

In memory of Erwin Grossman

In memory of Al Brenn

In memory of Lauren Malmon

Charles and Yvonne Selcer

Sandy and Debbie Selnick

In honor of Robin Doroshow's birthday

Albert Shane

In memory of Wolf and Alta Fenick

Dianne Siegel

In honor of Ellen Ziskin

Sheldon and Melissa Cohen Silberman

Neal and Jill Singer

Michael and Vicki Siskin

David Smith

Dr. James and Joanne Smith

Richard and Judith Speigel

The Spiller L'Chaim Fund

In honor of Myrna Orensten

St. Paul Jewish Federation

The Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Foundation

Sharron Steinfeldt

In memory of Dr. Leonard Schloff

In memory of Al Brenn

In memory of Nina Wernick

In memory of Louis Bud Harris

In memory of Paul Kunin

In memory of Justin Swiller

In memory of Jim and Sandy Segal

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Elaine Steinman

Wishing a speedy recovery to Lloyd

Amy Stephan

Steve and Harriet Swartz

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Mike and Sandy Swirnoff

In honor of Susan Diamond

Marshall Tannick and Cathy Gorlin

In honor of Steve Hunegs

In honor of Rabbi David Locketz

In honor of Dr. Thomas Davis

Sully and Heidi Tarshish

Ethan and Julie Tarshish

In memory of Phil Greenberg

Mark and Amanda Tempel

Bill and Sharon Torodor

In honor of Sandi and Dave Marrinson's anniversary

Alexander and Marni Tselos

Jeff and Stacie Usem

Kenneth Vitoff

In honor and memory of Rita J. Girven (Gransberg)

Michael and Erin Waldman

Dr. David and Mary Ann Wark

Drs. Robert and Joyce Warshawsky

Richard Weil and Lindsay Nauen

Alan and Gloria Weinblatt

Irwin Weisman

In memory of Margery P. Weisman

Gordon and Delores Wine

In honor of Shirley Mae Lane

Barry Wolfish and Randi Winston

William and Raleigh Wolpert

Dora Zaidenweber

Bobby Zelle and Rabbi Debra Rappaport

Harvey Zuckman and Phil Oxman

Donations directed to digitization of American Jewish World at the Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives:

Kenneth and Tracey Agranoff

Trina Porte

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES | 2020

REVENUES

Community Allocations	\$10,631.00
General Contributions	\$123,197.00
Operating Grants	\$25,000.00
Membership	13,539.00
Earned Income	\$1,594.00
Restricted Grants	\$20,000.00
Endowment Income	\$38,191.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$232,152.00

\$34,827.00
\$13,131.00
\$6,555.00
\$180,568.00
\$2,129.00
\$237,210.00
\$(5,058.00

BALANCE SHEET | 2020

ASSETS

Cash and Equivalent	\$88,458.00
Endowments	\$544,524.00
Equipment	\$1,629.00
Inventories	\$22,001.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$656,612.00

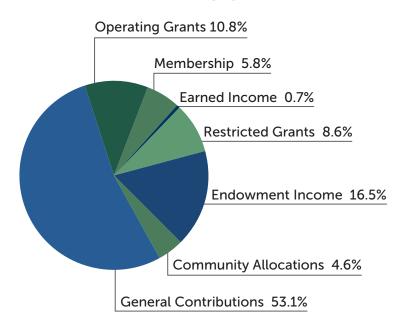
LIABILITIES

Payables

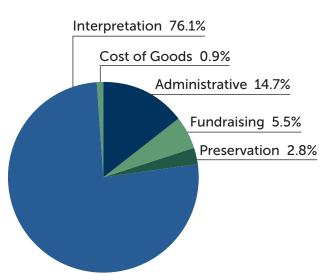
EQUITY

Endowment Contributions	\$373,015.00
Retained Earnings	\$288,655.00
Net Income	\$(5,058.00)
TOTAL EQUITY	\$656,612.00
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$656,612.00

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



Eloise and Elliot Kaplan Family Jewish History Center Jay and Rose Phillips Building | Barry Family Campus 4330 S. Cedar Lake Road | Minneapolis, MN 55416

www.jhsum.org

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of the Upper Midwest