

JHSUM FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Give Voice to History

FOR NOW, FOR THE FUTURE



Plitman family Seder in Minneapolis, MN 1917.

When your child asks you, "What does this mean?"

—Exodus 13:14

So begins Moses in his words to the Israelites as they left Egypt. He goes on to tell them the story that was to unfold, anticipating the retelling before it had even occurred. In doing so he shaped a story that has become a powerful narrative for the Jewish people.

Storytelling itself is central to Jewish tradition and it is central to Jewish identity.

Whether it's telling the next generation the story of the Exodus or the story of our Jewish community, "storytelling" is how we keep our identity and culture alive. The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) gathers, preserves and tells the stories of our community. We give them context and meaning to enable future generations to build on the rich history of those who came before.

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) is embarking on a campaign that will assure our ability to continue to tell the stories of the past and present well into the future.

We are indeed already endowed with a rich heritage in our community, and we seek to honor that history. To do so requires a commitment of people and resources to carry it forward. To this end we are seeking long-term funding to make that possible.

JHSUM exists at the juncture of past, present and future.

We capture the stories of the past, but we also realize that the history of tomorrow is happening today and we anticipate its retelling. One of our current projects is to record stories as the pandemic forces many changes in our society. We are involving Jewish clergy and leaders in speaking to the changes of our time in the face of this extraordinary disruption.

JHSUM gives voice to history by ...

ORAL HISTORIES

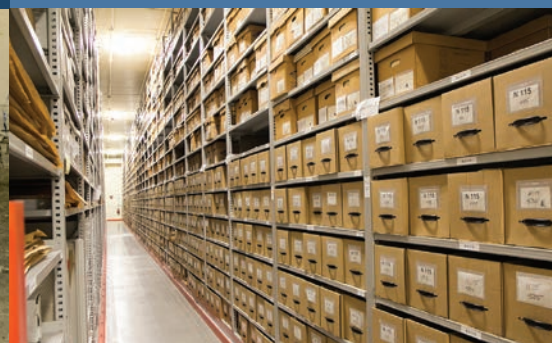
Throughout the life of JHSUM, oral history has been a key foundation of our projects as we seek to capture the stories of our community before they are lost to history. Most recently we recorded interviews from the St. Paul Jewish community, exploring the rich community life in what were once predominantly Jewish neighborhoods. Limited by Covid imposed restrictions, we responded by embracing new technology to remotely record oral histories and enlisted volunteers to continue these efforts.

PHOTO COLLECTIONS

Photographs allow us to step back to familiar places in an earlier time, walking in the footsteps of our ancestors. For many years JHSUM collected photographs that represent the history of the Jewish community. These now reside at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives (UMJA) and many are available online. JHSUM partners with the UMJA, drawing upon the Steinfeldt Photography collection to incorporate imagery into our exhibitions, publications and videos.

RESEARCH & ARCHIVES

With the archives housed at the Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, JHSUM continues a close partnership, annually funding a researcher's visit to the archives through the Linda Mack Schloff Research Award and facilitating ongoing contributions of archival materials as well as funds to digitize and increase accessibility. Oral histories are housed at the archives to assure access for the future.



We create a living dialogue between past and present, bringing new understanding to present events through the lens of history.

Enlivening history through story, we make it accessible by connecting it to the world in which we live today. History informs our today even as time allows us to bring new perspective and understanding to our history.

JHSUM is a partner to organizations throughout the Upper Midwest community, leveraging our expertise and experience.

Partners in the Jewish community have included JCRC of MN/Dakotas, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, Minnesota JCC, Rimón and many synagogues. Shared issues and history also connect us to organizations in the broader community such as the Northside Achievement Zone, Mapping Prejudice project and the Minneapolis Urban League.

The Give Voice to History Campaign is firmly grounded in the past, with its eyes towards the future.

Since 1984 JHSUM has been the only organization in the Upper Midwest dedicated to preserving and sharing these unique stories of nearly 200 years of Jewish history. As we grew, so did the physical collection of artifacts and oral histories. In 2012 this collection was gifted to the University of Minnesota as part of the Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives. With the archival collection permanently and safely housed, JHSUM is focusing its efforts on 'giving voice to history,' engaging the next generation in the stories that have shaped our community as we document today's stories for future generations.

*Your support will help ensure
yesterday and today
are preserved for tomorrow.*

collecting and telling our stories.

JOURNALS, ARTICLES & DOCUMENTARIES

Telling stories takes many forms often targeted to different audiences. JHSUM publishes a journal every two years that explores a historical topic in greater depth. Whether it's the many Jews who built businesses out of scrap or the role of the Jewish community in creating Minnesota theater, this exploration highlights an area in which our ancestors played a significant role in our community. Topics of interest are explored in our newsletter and website offering a wealth of information. We've also expanded our storytelling in a series of video documentaries.



DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

In 2018 we opened the Steinfeldt Gallery at the Minnesota JCC in St Paul, a space designed for exhibitions using both print and video imagery. We also have exhibition cases at the Minnesota JCC - Sabes Center in Minneapolis, Sholom East, Sumner Library and Adath Jeshurun. In 2016 we made use of the Tychman Shapiro Gallery at the Sabes Center for our exhibition on "Scrap Stories," including an authentic old scrap wagon within the gallery.



PRESENTATIONS, PANELS & TOURS

Often storytelling happens face to face. We bring knowledgeable people together with the community to share our history; through trained volunteers guiding tours of the former North Side Jewish community, or an exhibition and discussion on the history of Jews in North Dakota. On occasion we bring in speakers for a significant event. For our 35th Anniversary in 2019 we hosted NPR's Ari Shapiro and Congressman Dean Phillips, each with deep Upper Midwest roots.



Giving Voice to History

Throughout our history, we have relied on membership support and grants for funding. Our organization was created out of the generosity and support of forward-looking individuals who recognized the value of safeguarding our stories.

We invite you to join us in preserving and telling the everchanging and diverse history of our community.

We are a small, lean organization that accomplishes a great deal for this community by focusing efforts and leveraging through partnerships. None of this happens without our committed and talented staff.

Please support us and donate to ensure yesterday and today are preserved for tomorrow.

As we look towards the future we need to assure our continuity by securing ongoing funding for our staff, our most foundational component. With this stable base, we can continue secure funding projects on an individual basis.



Our community has been bequeathed a rich endowment of history.

Keeping it alive requires the resources to "give it voice."

www.jhsum.org



Photos courtesy of Nathan & Theresa Berman
Upper Midwest Jewish Archives

JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY *of the*
Upper Midwest

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

952-381-3360