

Your Support is Always Welcome!

☐\$50

☐\$100

☐\$150

☐\$250

☐\$500

☐Other

Check enclosed to WSJHS or charge the following account ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Three digit CCV# on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

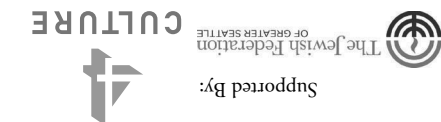
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Washington State Jewish Historical Society Publications (available through WSJHS office)

- ☐ Distant Replay! Washington's Jewish Sports Heroes (\$36, plus \$6 shipping)
- ☐ Yesterday's Mavens, Today's Foodies: Traditions in Northwest Jewish Kitchens (\$36, plus \$6 shipping)
- ☐ Family of Strangers: Building a Jewish Community in Washington State (\$36, plus \$6 postage/handling)
- ☐ Book and Videos: The Way We Were: Jewish Youth Organizations of the 1940s and 1950s (\$10 to \$18)
- ☐ Jewish Seattle, Yesterday and Today: A Guided Audio Driving Tour (\$18) CD
- ☐ The Jewish Experience in Washington State: A Chronology 1853-2005 (\$18)
- ☐ The Musical Legacy of Samuel E. Goldfarb Concert & Celebration (\$18)CD; (\$25)DVD
- ☐ The Way We Were: Our Village Seattle - Memories of Jackson St., Yesler Way, & Cherry St. from 1920 to 1950 (\$5)
- ☐ Video: A Coat of Many Colors - A History of Washington State's Early Jewish Community (\$18)

History of the WSJHS

Since its inception in 1980, the WSJHS has been engaged in preserving the history of Jewish communities in Washington State. The origins of the WSJHS go back to 1968, when the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, motivated by a desire to know more about the history of the local Jewish community, formed the Jewish Archives Committee in cooperation with the Manuscripts Section of the University of Washington Libraries. The Archives contain records, correspondence, memories, diaries, photographs and more than 400 oral histories. The WSJHS has also been active in presenting exhibits and displays, producing slide shows and videos, collecting heirlooms and artifacts for a planned Jewish Museum, conducting tours of Jewish landmarks in Seattle, and presenting programs on Washington State Jewish history and workshops for oral history interviewers. Visit our website at [www.wsjhs.org](http://www.wsjhs.org).



Non Profit  
Organization  
PAID  
US Postage  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 12637

Washington State Jewish Historical Society  
2031 Third Ave · Seattle WA 98121  
WSJHS

# Nizkor Let us Remember

Winter 2015

נִזְכוֹר



WSJHS

Washington State Jewish Historical Society

## Friends' history sewn into birthday quilt

By Ruth Sassoon

Sometime in the late 1940s, Ruth Sulman invited a group of friends, young mothers all, over for lunch. After that, the original eight, Ruth Sulman (Stan), Sylvia Adler (Larry), Bettie Breslin (Howard), Lorraine Cohn (Merle), Esther Fallick (Abe), Helen Lavinthal (Lou), Evie Lewis (Paul) and Rita Rosen (Herb), joined by Helen's sister Grace Cole (Phil), got together every month for lunch and to celebrate their birthdays. They called it "The Monthly" or "The Birthday Club."



Sylvia Adler Menard and Lorraine Cohn  
Photo taken by: Regina Friedland

Today, Lorraine Cohn and Sylvia Adler Menard live in the same senior residence in Bellevue and enjoy reminiscing about the birthday club. Ruthie, Esther, Evie and Sylvia knew each other from their days at Garfield High School in Seattle. Lorraine, Grace, Rita and Helen were from Canada and, says Sylvia, married "boys we grew up with." Bettie was from Sedro-Woolley, where there were few Jewish people, and came to live with Sylvia's family in Seattle, the Krafts.

The ladies took turns hosting the lunches. They thought about

having a gourmet food club or a sewing club, but mostly they just met to have time away from their kids and their husbands and to enjoy one another's company. Sometimes, the person whose birthday it was chose to have lunch in a restaurant. Once they even went to Canlis, and another time to Harrison Hot Springs. There was one memorable picnic where they invited all the families.

(continue on page 4)

## Share the story of how you got here

By Emily K. Alhadeff

What's your story? The WSJHS is embarking on the "Year of the Journey."

"... About two hours later, I was in front of a huge four-funnel Russian steamship, ready to leave for Marseilles, France. I had a yearning for travel, which I still do, went home, changed my underclothes and wore two sets, one on top of the other. My mother had two lira under the paper in the shelf, which she was saving for rent money. I took them and started towards the docks. I had a brother in the Turkish army and a brother in America. I made up my mind to come to America and France was my first stopover."

This is how Jack Azose (1901-1987) began his journey from Eskisehir, Turkey, to America in 1919, as he described it in an oral history that is part of the Washington State Jewish Archives. Just a teenager, Jack made good on his threats to run away from home, and managed to sneak onto a ship headed to France as a stowaway. After a series of lucky breaks, Jack eventually landed in Seattle, where he raised a family. His son, Isaac Azose, is Hazzan Emeritus

(continue on page 6)



## Letter from the Executive Director

By Lisa Kranseler

It is tradition to reflect on the past year and look toward the future at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As we look toward a new year on the secular calendar, I find myself reflecting again – this time about all of the things the WSJHS has achieved in 2014 and all that is to come in 2015.

Most recently, the WSJHS Annual Meeting was held. We honored Nancy Blase with the WSJHS Meta Buttnick Award for her dedication and tireless work on the Jewish Archives committee and *Nizkor*. We cannot thank Nancy enough for the immeasurable time and work she has put in maintaining our history. We also looked toward the

future by welcoming in eight new board members who are all talented and motivated. I am confident that our organization is going to flourish in the coming year with all of the positivity and passion of our board members.

In September, the WSJHS Inaugural Gala, *A Night at MOHAI*, raised nearly \$100,000. I am humbled by the generosity of the gala attendees. The 2014 gala was our first large fundraiser and it illustrates how much we have grown over the past few years.

We have had a busy and outstanding year. Our landmark exhibit, *Shalom! Open for Business* has been on display at MOHAI since July and will continue its run until Jan. 20, 2015. We also published our latest book, *Distant Replay!* As I look toward the immigration and migration project and others slated for the coming year, I am certain we can exceed the high standards we have set in the past year.

On behalf of the WSJHS board of directors and staff, I wish you a very happy 2015!



## Letter from the President

By Albert Israel

With 2014 coming to a close, I can't help but applaud our director, board and volunteers for a fabulous year. In this letter, however, allow me to look forward to 2015.

From the inspiration of board member Doris Stiefel and others, our valued volunteer Emily Alhadeff is heading a most interesting and compelling project. We all have intended to interview our parents and grandparents in regards to their migration and immigration to Washington state. Some of us got around to it, and some of us didn't. Now, the WSJHS is going to take the reins on your behalf. Our project for 2015 will focus on immigration and migration.

In regards to **immigration**, did you know that during World War II, many European Jews escaped to China? What was life like there? How did they then choose their ultimate destination of Washington state? We also will chronicle other interesting European, South American and Asian immigration stories.

Our mission does not stop there. Thanks to the encouragement of board member Joel Migdal, we also are exploring and searching for stories of **migration** to Washington state. Were you an early business pioneer? Did you work on the original Microsoft Windows project? How did you decide to come to Washington state? Did you take a Rabbinic position here? What was your motivation? Did you work on a secret Boeing project in the 60s?

How will these stories ultimately be used? Will we publish another book? Will we create poster boards and programs? Will we create an online or electronic display of these stories? All are fabulous options, and our ultimate goal has yet to be determined. Of course, we always want your input.

## Tributes

### IN HONOR OF:

Nancy Blase, Meta Buttnick Award Honoree  
Steve and Judy Adler  
Robyn and Sherwin Alpert  
Bet Chaverim Sisterhood  
Steve and Arlene Cohen  
Lilly De Jaen  
Stuart Eskenazi  
Chuck Goldstein  
Albert Israel  
Lisa and Kenny Kranseler  
Ruth Sassoon  
Betsy and Jason Schneier  
Annette Siegel  
Doris Stiefel  
Dave and Marcie Stone  
Neil and Denise Weinstein  
Betty Ann Wolf  
WSJHS Board of Directors  
Lilly De Jaen on her special birthday  
Doris Stiefel  
Dennis Goldstein on his special birthday  
Terry and Mark Brashem  
Friends of Dennis Goldstein – Robin, Bob, Arlen, Ted, Netta, Irv, Howie, Barby, Howie, and Ellen  
Nick and Michele Keller  
Cindy and Gary Stratiner  
Sol Halfon on his birthday  
Albert Cordova  
Gerry and Sandy Ostroff on their anniversary  
Dick and Marilyn Brody  
Betsy and Jason Schneier on the marriage of their daughter, Amanda  
Lisa and Kenny Kranseler  
The WSJHS Board of Directors

### IN MEMORY OF:

Marsha Arnold  
Dick and Marilyn Brody  
Alfred Baruch  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Sol Birulin  
Beth Cordova  
Rebecca Burstein  
Paul Burstein and Florence Katz Burstein  
Madeline Caplan  
Ann Nieder  
Ruth Sassoon  
Marilyn and Don Sidel  
The WSJHS Board of Directors

### IN MEMORY OF: (continued)

Elaine Dann  
Marilyn and Don Sidel  
Dick Galanti  
Lisa and Kenny Kranseler  
Stephen Sadis  
Ruth Sassoon  
Betsy and Jason Schneier  
Craig and Sheila Sternberg  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
George Grashin  
Dennis Goldstein and Robin Rogel-Goldstein  
Danny Greenberg  
Julie and Jeff Morris  
Art Siegal  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Ernest R. Stiefel  
Rabbi Sharon Stiefel  
Rhoda Sussman Lewis  
Joanne and Bernie Arfin  
Doris Stiefel  
Alan Sussman  
Michael Nieder  
Madeline Caplan  
Lila and Joe Greengard  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Lillian Radinsky  
Janice Kaplan-Klein  
Herman Sarkowsky  
The WSJHS Board of Directors

### WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Sol Birulin  
Madeline Caplan  
Michael Nieder  
Rita Rosen  
Herman Sarkowsky  
Art Siegal  
Marian Zak

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Rochelle Adatto-Baumgarten  
Paul and Tamar Azous  
Congregation Beth Hatikvah  
The Jewish Day School  
Ellen Kampel  
Jerry and Mauricia Spring  
Adam Stein  
Michael and Dafna Tarlowe

### TODAH RABAH:

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous grants and contributions in support of the work done by the WSJHS: Becky Benaroya  
Herman z"l & Faye Sarkowsky  
The Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Trust Fund  
All of our generous donors at the WSJHS Inaugural Gala

We offer a special thank you to those who have generously supported the WSJHS in the production of our newest exhibit, *Shalom! Open For Business*: The Rita and Herbert Rosen Family Foundation  
Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle  
Martin Selig  
4Culture  
Loeb Family Charitable Foundations  
Sterling Realty Organization  
Microsoft Corp.

The WSJHS also wishes to thank the following individuals for their work and creative contributions to the exhibit: Stuart Eskenazi, Exhibit Curator and Writer  
Lisa Kranseler, Project Manager and Exhibit Liaison  
Robin Goldstein, Technology Consultant and App Developer  
Leonard Garfield and the MOHAI staff  
Exhibit Design and Production  
Jessica Hyde, Administrative Assistant  
Joanne Shellan, Artist  
William Hyde Filmmaker  
Stephen Sadis, Filmmaker  
Emily McCartan, Artifacts Acquisition

Thanks also to those who offered support and guidance: Howard Droker  
Linda Bookey  
Carol Starin  
Marilyn Brody  
Melinda Van Wingen  
The WSJHS Board of Directors

## Contact the WSJHS

Lisa Kranseler  
Executive Director  
lisak@wsjhs.org  
206.774.2277

Jessica Hyde  
Administrative Assistant  
assistant@wsjhs.org  
206.774.2277

Stuart Eskenazi  
Nizkor Editor  
stuart@semessaging.com  
206.617.1298

Elizabeth Russell  
Archivist  
archivist@wsjhs.org  
206.543.1895

(Immigration continued from page 1)

of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, and one of the central figures in Sephardic Seattle life.

Where did you come from? How did you or your family get to Washington state? More important, what was the journey? Why did you leave, and what did you hope to obtain once you got here? Were you escaping persecution? Seeking a better life? Chasing love? Following a dream? Looking for a job?



Sam Sturman (seventh from the right, behind man lying down) stands with passengers of a ship traveling from Poland to South America, ca. 1918. Sturman settled in Brazil before joining his family in Everett.  
UW Libraries, Special Collections Division | JEW1080

“Immigration and Migration” is the WSJHS topic for the coming year. Over the course of 2015, we will be collecting stories about journeys to Washington from every segment of the community. Young, old, past, present – we want to know how and why you got here. Ultimately, the stories will become part of our collection and transformed into a cutting-edge digital storytelling project.

Join us at one of our story collection events this winter! At these events, we’ll hear from a panel of speakers with fascinating journey stories of their own. We then will invite the community to share their stories with our videographer. Interested? Email [info@wsjhs.org](mailto:info@wsjhs.org) with your name and a brief synopsis of the story you want to tell. Everyone is invited to any or all events, but please RSVP to reserve a time slot with our videographer.

We happily are accepting volunteers for this project. Please be in touch if you want to help organize any part of this project or if you have recommendations for stories we should include and people we should reach out to.

### Story Collection Events:

- Jan. 11 at 1 p.m., Sephardic Bikur Holim in Seattle, featuring a panel of exciting Sephardic journey stories.
- Feb. 15 (time to be determined), Temple B’nai Torah in Bellevue, featuring interesting journeys from around the world.
- Spring date coming soon at Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle, featuring stories from Holocaust survivors and refugees.

## Treasure from the Jewish Archives

By Nancy Blase and Arlene Cohen

So you thought you had a really bad day at work? Maybe. But have you ever gotten locked in a refrigerator and robbed? A Feb. 25, 1925, newspaper article describes the frightening experience of Isaac Kracower, father of the young woman with a gleam in her eye who is the subject of this intriguing 1920 photo from the Washington State Jewish Archives.



Bella Kracower Secord  
ca. 1919-1920  
UW Libraries, Special Collections Division | JEW0011

Bella Kracower Secord (1893-1983), was one of the first Jewish women pharmacists in our state, graduating from the University of Washington in 1920. On the reverse side of the photo, a handwritten note says: “Pretending to do something at the chemistry laboratory, with love, Bella.”

Bemused by photo, caption and that captive gleam in her eye, we satisfied our curiosity about this woman and her family story through the folders and boxes of papers, mementos and other photos stored in the Jewish Archives.

Our research uncovered her father’s original citizenship papers, filed on Sept. 10, 1895, in Houston. Born in Romania, Isaac arrived in New York in 1888. His Puget Sound Shipyard job application from 1942 provided a succinct chronology: In 1890, he owned a produce business in Houston, and 10 years later, he and his brother ran Kracower Brothers Gents Furnishing Store in Seattle. The Gold Rush beckoned and in 1905, they opened Kracower Brothers General Store in Nome,

Alaska. Several years later, the family returned to Seattle, where Bella lived the rest of her life.

We found a family portrait, taken in Nome, showing young Bella, her sister Rose, mother Yetta and aunt Rebecca all bundled in fur coats. An elegant “Brides Book” lists Bella’s wedding guests, gifts and describes the event. A guestbook kept over many years and a scrapbook of souvenirs and pictures Bella collected when she was in school all lend richness to her story.

And, not to forget the robbery story, the newspaper headline read: “Thugs lock 2 victims in ice box. Store proprietor and brother lose \$529. Spend 5 hours behind a refrigerator door.” According to the article, “I and J Krakower kept their money in the cigar box cash register which was taken from their store on 711 First Ave. Their cries for help failed, but finally after 5 hours someone came into the store, heard the pounding and rescued them.”

And they thought Alaska was cold!

Note to Readers: The Washington State Jewish Archives, administered jointly by the Washington State Jewish Historical Society and University of Washington Libraries, include organizational records, personal papers, memoirs, correspondence, photographs, films, and recorded oral interviews with members of Jewish communities throughout the state. For more information on the archives, please visit <http://guides.lib.washington.edu/jewish>.

### Officers

Albert Israel  
*President*

Linda Elman  
*Secretary*

Dennis Goldstein  
*Treasurer*

Doris Stiefel  
*Historian*

Craig Sternberg  
*Past President*

### Board

Paul Azous  
Tamar Boden  
Linda Bookey  
Paul Burstein  
Scott Cline  
Jackie Fisher Cohn  
Art Feinglass  
Robin Goldstein  
Ken Jacobsen  
Michele Keller  
Joel Migdal  
Laura Miller  
Julie Mirel  
Paula Podemski  
Clint Rogel  
Michele Rosen  
Stephen Sadis  
Brad Spear  
Adam Stein  
Lynn Wartnik

### Emeritus

Lilly De Jaen  
Leatrice Gutmann  
Sol Halfon  
Larry Kleinberg  
Herbert Lipman  
Ann Nieder  
Eugene Normand  
Betsy Schneier

Volume XXXIII  
Issue III

Nizkor is published  
three times a year  
by the Washington  
State Jewish  
Historical Society

(Quilt continued from page 1)

The ladies came from very different backgrounds. Some were affiliated with synagogues and active in Jewish organizations, and some had only minimal connections. The key was, they had fun together. They ate and drank wine and talked about everything, even taboo subjects, and they laughed a lot.

Sylvia went back to school when her children were grown up. While at the University of Washington, she worked as an assistant kindergarten teacher. Around 1993, when it was her turn to host a birthday lunch, she remembered a class project to make self-portraits and thought, "If kindergartners can do that, why not grown women?"

When her lunch guests came in, they were greeted with piles of sewing and art supplies and told to create pictures of themselves on pieces of cloth. Lorraine says they reacted "kicking and screaming," but then were up to the challenge. Some used paint, while others favored pastels. Hair was depicted through curly gold thread or yarn, or a piece of felt. Features were drawn or embroidered, or both. Sylvia's daughter-in-law, Judith Adler, "a talented craftsperson," sewed the portraits into a quilt, which then was presented to Ruth Sulman at her 75th birthday party.



The birthday quilt self-portraits, from left to right:  
top row, Evelyn Lewis, Rita Rosen, Grace Cole;  
middle row, Sylvia Adler Menard, Ruth Sulman, Esther Fallick;  
bottom row, Helen Lavinthal, Bettie Breslin, Lorraine Cohn.

Lorraine Cohn is an artist who taught art for many years. Two of her paintings that include the quilt, with photos in place of the self-portraits, hang on Sylvia's walls.

Each decade, the members marveled that the birthday club was still going on. It started falling apart when Grace Cole died in January 2003. Grace's Feb. 1, 2003, obituary in the Seattle Times said: "One of her greatest pleasures was being a member of 'The Birthday Club' for 58 years and her eight remaining sisters will miss her."

That sentiment has been echoed in obituaries of other club members that passed. Bettie Breslin died in 2004, Evelyn Lewis in 2010, and Esther Fallick and Helen Lavinthal in 2013. Rita Rosen passed away Dec. 7, 2014. Her daughter-in-law, Michele Rosen, said Rita wore a necklace every day that had pictures of all the ladies in the birthday club.

Sylvia Adler Menard, who received the quilt from Ruth Sulman, generously deeded it to the WSJHS, and it is now part of our permanent collection.

## Gala brings out the heart of WSJHS

*A Night at MOHAI*, the inaugural gala of the WSJHS on Sept. 7, raised nearly \$100,000 for the society. The gala honored Ken Weinberg, retired CEO of Jewish Family Service, with our first-ever "Making History" award, and celebrated the opening of our exhibit, *Shalom! Open for Business: Tales of Jewish Merchants in Washington State*. The exhibit continues its run at MOHAI through Jan. 20, 2015. Don't miss it!



Ina Willner and Carolee Danz



Becky Benaroya and Seattle Jewish Theater Company actor  
Adrien Gamache (portraying merchant John Calderon)



Allan Boden, Lynn Wartnik, Tony Wartnik, Tamar Boden,  
Lisa Kranseler, Julie Mirel and Paula Podemski



Ken Kranseler, John Schwabacher,  
Joanne Shellan and Robin Goldstein



Michele Rosen



Ken Weinberg and State Sen. David Frockt

## Survey

Within this issue of *Nizkor*, you will find a one-page insert that is a survey on how much you read *Nizkor*, which features you enjoy and rely on the most, and how you receive most of your information about the WSJHS. We respectfully request that you reply to this survey, which is part of our ongoing efforts to improve *Nizkor* and all WSJHS communications. You may either return the survey to us by mail or, if you prefer, respond to it online by going to: [www.wsjhs.org/nizkorsurvey.php](http://www.wsjhs.org/nizkorsurvey.php).

Thank you!  
Your *Nizkor* editorial committee