

# THANK YOU!

## THE “HO’W” AND THE WHY The New Oral History Methodology Includes YOU



The Historical Society was founded with the motivation to preserve the voice of the Jewish people in our state. Stories have been recorded for over 50 years by the Jewish Archives Committee, who have worked tirelessly. With changing times and digital technologies even more exasperated by the Coronavirus,

YOU have supported the birth of the *Hear O'Washington Committee* or the *HO'W Committee*.

Whether it be stories of long-time Jewish Washingtonians or newcomers, or those in between, you are helping us to get these important stories preserved. With your help, you have funded

and supported work on creating a new oral history methodology that we just revealed at our Annual Meeting in December 2020. We have a formal process and protocol that is both efficient, as well as straightforward. Many of you have been patiently waiting and making many suggestions of people that should be interviewed. Thank you!

With your continued support, we will do this and more. You may now sign up to be an interviewer, transcriber or volunteer to help with the lists of people who should be interviewed. There are two kinds of interviews – one is the more traditional biographical interview and the other is a topical interview on a specific subject that will be used to gain perspective on a relevant issue of history or used as part of a digital museum exhibit. Either way, we are hoping that with your passion for history, we can join together to truly document the voices in our community and provide a legacy for our future generations



Screen capture of attendees to the WSJHS virtual Annual Meeting 2020 Dec. 2, 2020 listening to a HO'W Committee interview conducted by Committee chair Jeremy Ehrlich with Rabbi Will Berkovitz recorded on Nov. 19, 2020

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# You Contributed to Better Cultural Understanding within our Community

## Collaborations with the National Nordic Museum and the Ethnic Heritage Council

The WSJHS has long been a supporter of the Nordic Museum's Raoul Wallenberg Program. The event was founded years ago by past Senator, Ken Jacobsen, who is also a former WSJHS Board member.

The WSJHS collaborates with museums and historical societies around the state and, this year, converting to a virtual program was a necessity. We all heard from speaker Siavosh Derakhti, founder of *Young People Against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia* - on the new way for young people to be involved and active in the worldwide initiative against hatred in any form.

We definitely look forward to future collaborations where we can all gather at the beautiful National Nordic Museum.

The WSJHS was invited to participate in the Nordic's first Genealogy Conference with a keynote panel presentation with WSJHS Executive Director, Lisa Kranseler, together with the Wing Luke Museum's Oral History Manager, Mikayla Woodward. The discussion was about the importance of conducting oral histories, current best practices, and what we have learned

and can do better in the future. This experience further helped pave the way for Ryan Donaldson, the WSJHS Archivist and Collections Strategy



Samuel Goldfarb with members of the Sephardic Bikur Holim boys choir in 1943 or 1944. Goldfarb wrote the melody for *The Dreidel Song* and will be the focus of a future WJM digital exhibit.

Manager, to work on a new protocol for conducting our own oral histories. It is very rewarding to learn that the WSJHS is one among other Washington state ethnic groups that are working on preserving important voices as legacies

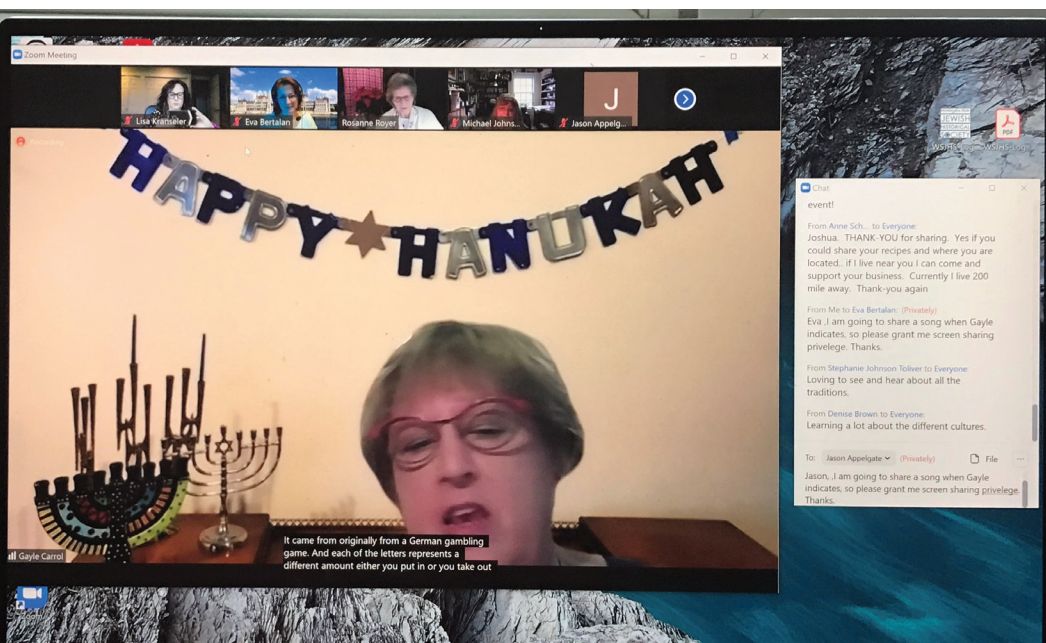
for our future.

Towards the end of 2020, thanks to your support of the society, the WSJHS was asked by the Ethnic Heritage Council to participate in a "Roundtable Discussion on Winter Celebrations" featuring many other ethnic communities. The WSJHS provided a presentation by long-time educator and former WSJHS Board member, Gayle Carrol, on the history of Chanukah and shared the WSJHS connection with the holiday with our own community's legacy - Samuel Goldfarb, composer of the dreidel song. Through the Roundtable we learned about various winter celebrations from the Philippines, Norway, Hungary, Uzbek, and Afghanistan and had a cooking demo on Kwanza. This was a special collaborative effort and thanks to the Ethnic Heritage Council for this important inclusion as a step toward cultural understanding.

The WSJHS works with many museums and historical societies and is open to more collaborations around the state - if you have any ideas, please do let us know.

**And it all started with YOU** - when we needed support for these programs, you joined us as members. You make this important community participation and multi-cultural learning and understanding possible!

A picture taken of the laptop screen during the WSJHS presentation on Chanukah by Gayle Carrol during the Ethnic Heritage Council's Roundtable Discussion on Winter Celebrations event on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020







Ike Azose in 2012.  
Photo provided by Ike Azose

## Ike Azose

### The Man, The Hazzan, The Legend

It seems that nearly everyone in the community has heard of Ike Azose and now, if you have not, you can learn all about this amazing 90-year-old. We have been fortunate to work with Ike on several projects in the past and received his tremendous input drawing on his incredible sense of history.

This time it was to celebrate Ike, himself. With the sponsorship of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, along with your donations, we built a multimedia digital exhibit about Ike and his lifetime legacy.

Building the *Washington Jewish Museum* (WJM) is a critical part of our work and you have continued to believe in our work. The work can be painfully slow at times, due to editing, receiving and editing photos, audio, and video, sizing, fact finding and fact checking, writing the narrative and loading all the material in the correct timeline within the digital museum. However, the result is rewarding, and you have helped along every stage of the process.

Everyone who has worked with Ike Azose knows that he is an incredible force. Ike is detail-oriented in the right way, and passionate about preserving the legacy of the community - which

is part of his own legacy. Ike and his family participated in the making of this digital exhibit, with help from WSJHS Archivist, Ryan Donaldson, and volunteer, Jennie Diaz.

The WSJHS produced a very well received video to highlight the digital exhibit for the Ezra Bessaroth tribute to Ike on his 90th birthday and many people contacted the office to let us know how appreciative they were for this work. But we truly could not do this without all of you.

You are encouraged to view the Ike Azose digital exhibit at [WashingtonJewishMuseum.org](http://WashingtonJewishMuseum.org). You

will learn about the many facets of Ike's life; his family, education, military and Boeing careers, as well as his work as a Hazzan. You will love "hearing" from Ike, in his own voice and you will love hearing Ike's beautiful singing voice.

The WSJHS can produce your digital exhibit, your organization's exhibits, and short videos displaying these treasures that will remain for future generations in the WJM. Book an appointment now to discuss your family legacy using the "Schedule A Meeting" link at: [WashingtonJewishMuseum.org](http://WashingtonJewishMuseum.org).

"The exhibits that have been created so far have been true treasures," says Executive Director Lisa Kranseler, "it is with your support, that the historical society is taking this time, in the middle of the coronavirus, to continue to curate the wonderful stories found in our oral histories and to work with the Hear O'Washington Committee on creating new tidbits of updated and relevant information to go into these new digital exhibits."



A portrait of Ike Azose in his Air Force uniform inscribed with a note to his parents c.1950s.

Photo provided by Ike Azose

# HELP NOW!

You can save  
a story for just  
\$3 per day

The lives and memories  
of our people need to  
be preserved... and  
we're losing valuable  
memories each day!  
But you can help.

It costs an average of just \$3 per day to preserve our stories and heritage. Your gift will make it possible to save an oral history with a photograph.

It costs so little to help in historic preservation – will you please provide at least one month of support for a saved memory?

Yes! Use my gift to save a story:



Your gift ensures that stories, in the Narrator's own words, are saved and available to you and the community.



**Top:** Steve Bunin hosted the first WSJHS virtual gala event fundraiser, *Shema: Hear O'Washington* held on Sept. 13, 2020.

**Bottom:** A screen shot of just a few of the more than one hundred participants who joined the live streamed *WSJHS Annual Meeting 2020* held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020.



Cut and return with your gift to 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Thank you!

## My Gift to Save a Story

Yes! I want to preserve the stories of our Jewish Community!

\$90  \$180\*  \$360  \$720  \$\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Most people donate at this amount and above.*



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