

THANK YOU!

A Record Of Our Time Telling Your Story In The Time of Coronavirus wsjhs.org/haggadah

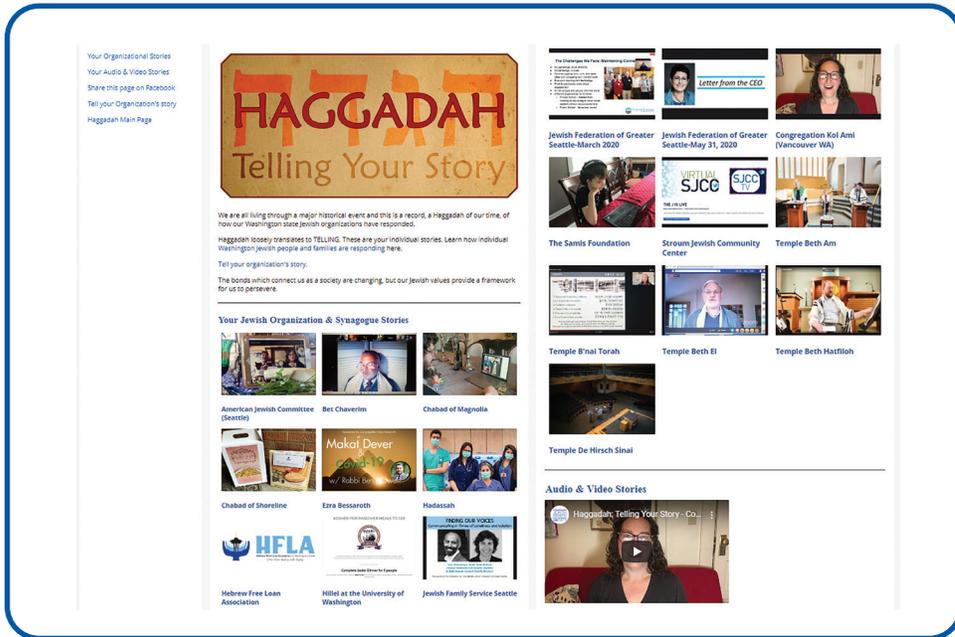


The stories featured in our **Haggadah** digital exhibit in the Washington Jewish Museum are now preserved for your grandchildren and great grandchildren to understand the many facets of living through the pandemic.

Whether it be stories of students struggling to keep up with their studies, cut short in their education, or medical workers describing their new reality of caring for patients, you have helped save these. You have also generously provided support for documenting the work of the many Jewish organizations and synagogues around the state that have all pivoted in their work to address the needs of the community during this time.

“The pandemic hit just as I was changing from clinical practice to full time cancer research. This has afforded me the opportunity to see the incredible job everyone has been doing in both areas,” writes Dr. Henry Kaplan. “Multiple institutions have banded together to get the studies done as quickly as possible. The community has donated material and money to help us to do this. All of this has truly been a total community effort.”

This exhibit is our living history. On a recent June 2020 call with Executive Directors of Jewish museums around the country, the WSJHS was one of five institutions applauded for our documentation of current history.



Composite screen capture of the Haggadah page for Organization, Business, and synagogue stories.

INSIDE: READ MORE ABOUT YOUR GENEROSITY

Preservation Around The State

Is Happening Because of You

Oral History Collection Comes To Life

All With Your Help!



You Contributed to Preservation Around the State

You Brought a Voice Previously Unheard to the Community

Above: Scotty's women's wear store front in the 1950s
Below: Scotty's 1st logo, 1941 (L) and revised logo, 1956 (R)



History Comes Alive For Me The Value of An Archive

By: Dennis Goldstein, WSJHS Board President

My Maternal Grandfather, Saul S. Freeman, born in New York City in the 1890's. He moved to Spokane in the 20's where he operated his accounting office in downtown. He died when I was 3 years old, so I only know about him from the family stories told to me, along with a few pictures kept in "that box" in the closet we all have. Granted, these are wonderful stories and pictures, but they only paint a partial portrait of my Grandfather.

Fast forward to 3 months ago, I'm on the phone with a Client's son (yes, I too am a CPA, funny how that happened) discussing his father's financial matters, and he tells me he is living in Lewiston, Idaho. I said that is interesting, I heard a story that my Grandfather operated a Women's clothing store there in addition to his practice sometime in the 1940's. I knew this from my Mom, of course, but it was reinforced when my good friend Joe Greengard told me that he knew of the store and

had dealings with it himself. I asked my new Lewiston contact, "how would I find out about that?" as my mom only has vague memories now 80 years later. He said he knows someone that is a local historian and he will get back to me.

After a few phone calls with this person, I hit the jackpot! Not only do I now have another wonderful piece of my family's history coming to life, but there is more, he had a store in Moscow Idaho and in Pullman, Washington too. I am on the hunt now!

My other point for sharing this, is our own *Washington State Jewish Historical Society*. This is what we do, capture voices, stories, photos, interviews, and with your help, get them to our Archives, so the next person that wants to do some sleuthing about their family, the material will be there. My Grandfather was just going down the road of his life, as we all do, but for me, he was making my family history!

Billy Sturman ran Billy's Men's and Boy's Western Wear store on Hewitt Avenue for nearly 70 years. He was also instrumental in establishing Temple Beth Or in Everett, Snohomish County's Jewish synagogue.

Billy's voice was captured in the Oral History Collection at the Washington State Jewish Archives but was unheard for the past 35 years. You brought this voice forward – you allowed us all to hear Billy's voice curated with his story of hardship and family struggles. You saved his voice for future generations.



Billy in his store.

On December 31, 2019, the Everett Herald listed their top twelve stories about the people, places, and things that made for a memorable year. The story of Everett icon Billy Sturman featured in the Washington Jewish Museum was one of the top twelve stories. This was possible because of You, along with the support of Billy's son, Mel and his wife, Leena Sturman.

And it all started with YOU – when we needed support for the digital museum, you were there. When we needed the technology to make this possible, you were there too. You saved many lives in the process of being there. You make these stories possible!

SHEMA

Hear 'Washington

Long Lost Voices are Heard Because of Your Generosity!

We have almost 500 oral histories and each year we add to our collection. These oral histories are a window to our past, the present, and Washington's future. And they are preserved at the Washington State Jewish Archives, the foremost collection of Jewish oral histories in the State of Washington, which is housed at the University of Washington.

When we examine those oral histories—how they came together, and all the amazing stories they contain, it is an incredible gift of community generosity in your time, energy, resources, funding and engagement.

In the 1960s, the Archives and Manuscripts Division of the Libraries of the University of Washington invited four Seattle area ethnic communities - Jewish, Japanese, Scandinavian and African Americans - to build their archives at the Libraries. This led to the creation of the Washington State Jewish Archives, which continues to grow, with collections of records, manuscripts, photos and oral histories – thanks to you!

This year, with your support, the historical society is taking this time, in the middle of the coronavirus, to cull the wonderful stories found in our

oral histories and to launch a multi-year initiative called *Shema: Hear O' Washington*. This initiative will bring the voices of our past to life and offer our entire community access to these priceless treasures from our history.

With your help and support, we will be unlocking these beautiful voices, and then beginning to gather materials to curate digital exhibits in the Washington Jewish Museum, our digital museum platform.

“The voices we have in this Oral History Collection are true gems,” says Executive Director, Lisa Kranseler. It's such a joyful job listening to these bits of history, because you can actually hear about Seattle and our state's Jewish history being formed. But even more than this, you can hear about some of our institutions. You can hear the stories and voices of the people who immigrated to Washington in the late 1800s and established businesses that are still around today, like Ben Bridge Jewelers and others that are still very much remembered, as well as the voices of people who founded and helped to found organizations like the Seattle Symphony and Costco as well as the Supersonics and Seahawks.”

One of the voices in the collection is that of Zollie Volchok, who arrived in

Seattle in 1946 and managed the John Danz Theaters. Eventually he became President of Northwest Releasing, and played a big part in the Seattle World's Fair, where he was responsible for much of the entertainment that was presented during that landmark event.

In his interview from 2000, Zollie discusses his role in the World's Fair - “we would call in to book pop entertainment, mainly, perhaps a year before the Fair started. We wanted some top stuff for the World's Fair and we used every building we could probably get... the Opera House, the Arena and the Coliseum. It was very successful and our part of it was very successful. Yes. A lot of work. A lot of interest.”

Offering a few more words about the archives is Lisa Kranseler, “this is the history of our entire state, not just Jewish Washington. We have collected voices from various communities around the state. We will begin unlocking these voices and we truly need the help of the whole community.”

Thanks for making this possible - let's continue to unlock our voices together!

Join us virtually on 9/13/20 at wsjhs.org/2020 to listen: Shema!

HELP NOW!

Save a Life 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 allow a community interview, oral history, or photograph to be saved.

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 photo:



Your gift ensures that photos and documents are saved, scanned, curated, and available to you and the community.



Above: Sydney was on a student trip, hiking in the hills of the Israeli desert before her trip was cut short by coronavirus.

Left: Sadie celebrating her bat mitzvah in May from her family's backyard during the time of coronavirus.

Their stories are just two of the growing collection in the Washington Jewish Museum program Haggadah (see story on pg. 1)



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

My Gift to Save a Life

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

\$90 \$180* \$360 \$720 \$_____

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



Name: _____

Check enclosed (payable to Washington State Jewish Historical Society)

Address: _____

Credit card (input your information below)

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You can give securely and quickly online at wsjhs.org/donate