

# Nizkor

## Let us Remember

Summer / Fall 2014

נִזְקָר



WSJHS

Washington State Jewish Historical Society

### Family reunion inspires learning about early Seattle rabbi

By Stuart Grover



Rabbi Simon Glazer, ca. 1918  
Photo courtesy of Stuart Grover

Kansas City, Mo. Strong and resolute, he had argued constantly with Bikur Cholim's board, mostly over money.

My curiosity piqued by this enigmatic figure, I embarked upon a search of Grandfather's history, accompanied by my brother, Warren. We visited other sites of his pulpits, including Dallas, Des Moines, Iowa, and Toledo, Ohio, as well as his birthplace in Lithuania. Five years ago, we decided to invite others of Rabbi Glazer's descendants into our search, organizing a reunion in Montreal so his five living grandchildren and other family members could gather.

Between 1907 and 1918, Grandfather presided over Montreal's Orthodox congregations as a self-appointed chief rabbi. He

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### History to come alive at fundraising gala

By Paula Podemski

When you enter the Museum of History & Industry on the evening of Sept. 7 for the first-ever WSJHS gala, don't be surprised if someone steps up to you and introduces himself or herself as a Jewish merchant who arrived in America some 100 years ago.

Dressed in period costumes and using props including a vintage pushcart from La Bohème courtesy of the Seattle Opera, actors from the Seattle Jewish Theater Company will be portraying actual Jewish merchants who came to Washington state to improve the lives of their families and helped build what we now enjoy as our vibrant Jewish community. The merchants will engage guests in conversation, tell their personal stories and share their dreams as new immigrants to America.

The gala builds off the new WSJHS exhibit, *Shalom! Open for Business: Tales of Jewish Merchants in Washington State*, which opened at MOHAI last month and runs through January 2015.

"This will be a very special

(continue on page 6)



## Letter from the Executive Director

By Lisa Kranseler

Summertime and the living is easy. Well, not always. I knew it would not be an easy summer with our exhibit opening at MOHAI at the end of July, as well as planning for our first ever gala to celebrate the exhibit on Sept. 7. I planned to work hard this summer and I knew all involved on the team would be working many hours as well.

Little did I know just how tough it would be. My mother became very sick, was hospitalized and is recovering thanks to rehabilitation at the wonderful Kline Galland Home. But her life changed overnight and therefore my brothers' lives and my life have also changed.

Sometimes a dramatic change causes a person to reflect on what one still wants to accomplish. What has become important to me is to leave a family legacy. I would like to come up with a way for all of us to be remembered through the Washington State Jewish Archives. I would love future generations to find information on their great great grandmother, Lisa – her work, her passions, her story.

Over the coming months, your WSJHS will work on developing a plan for collecting stories of immigration and migration to Washington state. We will explore bringing some of our oral histories into the limelight through technology, such as our blog, website, social media and possibly also a film or an app for a mobile phone or tablet. This is important work and I want everyone to know that your donation to the WSJHS is a gift that keeps giving and giving because you are funding our work to preserve your history, and the history of your loved ones and community.

I do hope to see you at our special "Night at MOHAI" on Sept. 7.



## Letter from the President

By Albert Israel

What a year 2014 already has become! We have our Jewish merchants exhibit now showing at the Museum of History & Industry, as well as our fabulous gala there on Sept. 7. Please consider attending both.

I want to use this space to share with you another milestone of 2014 – the much-anticipated publication of our gem of a book, *Distant Replay! Washington's Jewish Sports Heroes*. The brainchild of Ralph Maimon, and edited and produced by Stephen Sadis, this book chronicles 180 Jewish athletes, broadcasters, team owners and other Jewish sports heroes, sharing stories of triumph, success and the embrace of the American Dream.

Stories begin at the turn of the 20th century, when our community even dominated some sports, and continue through more recent times. Did you know the coxswain on the 1936 eight-man crew team that won gold in front of Hitler was a community member? Or that one of our valued community members was a Spokane boxing promoter at age 14? Or that one community member along with his brother and son played in multiple state high school basketball championship games? And the list goes on like one never would imagine.

We officially launched the book in July and, if we have copies left over later in the year, likely will have another event to celebrate this work closer to Hanukkah time – because the book makes for a perfect gift! To purchase now, go to [www.wsjhs.org](http://www.wsjhs.org) or call us at 206-774-2277.

# Treasure from the Jewish Archives

By Nancy Blase and Arlene Cohen

Have you ever found a treasure within a treasure? While researching the Eastern Washington settlement of Marcus, the only town in Washington named after a Jewish immigrant, we actually found one treasure within another!

The town's story began in 1862, when immigrant Marcus Oppenheimer settled on the Columbia River near the Canadian border and opened a store. First supplying goods to miners traveling north to Canada, he and his two brothers, Joseph and Samuel, later expanded their business to include steamboats, freight lines and flour milling. The little town was christened Fort Marcus, in honor of Oppenheimer.

The oldest town in Stevens County, it also is quite extraordinary for another reason. With the building of the Grand Coulee Dam in the 1930s, Lake Roosevelt was created, submerging the original Fort Marcus townsite. The town was relocated to adjacent higher ground and renamed Marcus. It still exists today with a population of 183, according to the 2010 Census.

The Jewish Archives have some wonderful photos of Marcus Oppenheimer, his family and the town. The collection also includes a handwritten three-page document describing Marcus as a ghost town, and an 1861 logbook of merchandise sold at the Oppenheimer store.

Inside the logbook's cover, we discovered the treasure within a treasure – a letter conveying the gift of the logbook. The writer was C.E. Evy, secretary of the Lincoln and Adams County Pioneer and Historical Association, who penned it on association stationery.

*"I got the book from the Marcus Oppenheimer Estate at Marcus, Wash., October 1st, 1901, after his death. He was one of the First Merchants and Fur Traders of that section. Fort Marcus, W.T. <Washington Territory> was named after him. Also the present Town Two miles North of the Old Ft. grounds. Have had it in my Possession 15 years and Present it to the Historical Department of the UW <University of Washington> for the good it May do future students of Washington History when Salt was worth 50 cents per pound."*

March 31, 1916  
Davenport, Wash.

Perhaps you have something in your attic, basement or scrapbook connected to the history of the Washington Jews? Please consider donating your treasures to the Jewish Archives. And we encourage you to use the collections – there are surprise treasures to be found!

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>.

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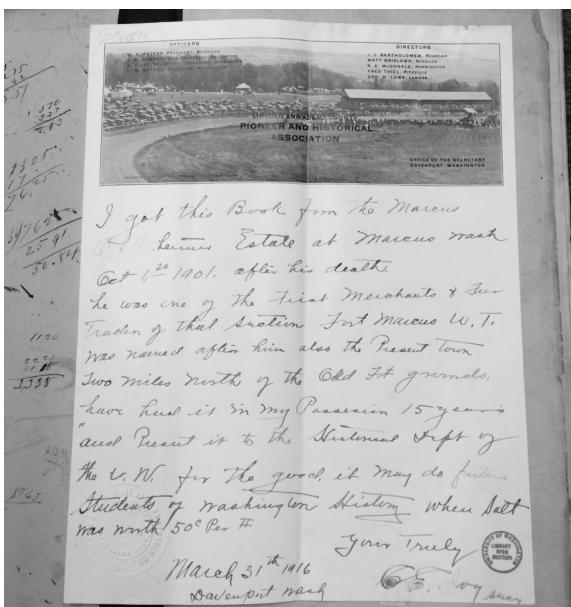
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Grandchildren Mark Glazer, Marcia Leonard, Warren Grover, Stephanie Ettelson and Stuart Grover in front of the ark at Congregation Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath.  
Photo courtesy of Stuart Grover.

as well as a mikvah and funerary establishment. Julie gave an engaging presentation on how all this came to be, giving credit to our grandfather for his contribution to these communal institutions. We then stopped at Temple De Hirsch Sinai to revel in the majesty of its sanctuary. Our cousin, Mark Glazer, son of eminent reform Rabbi B. Benedict (Babe) Glazer who served in Pittsburgh and Detroit during the first half of the last century, enjoyed seeing Seattle's largest reform synagogue. In the afternoon, we toured the old Bikur Cholim and then listened to presentations about our grandfather that summarized his life and accomplishments.

The biggest revelation of the reunion, however, came via Paul Azous, a local history scholar who has published his dissertation on Grandfather's key role in passing a joint resolution in Congress in 1922 that endorsed Palestine as the Jewish homeland. We bought Azous' book through Amazon for our entire group and excitedly discovered that our grandfather worked with Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann and others to lobby American politicians and convince them to adopt what Azous labels "The American Balfour Declaration" (the U.S. version of Britain's 1917 statement of the Jews' spiritual and moral right to Palestine). Using archival materials that provided an almost day-by-day chronicle of Grandfather's activities, Azous traced the yearlong process that culminated with Grandfather's persuasive two-hour meeting with President Warren Harding, who ultimately agreed to support his position.

The lasting memory from our reunion, however, will be the discovery that Grandfather had played such an important role in establishing Jewish communal institutions in Seattle and America.

established the kashrut system, a Talmud Torah, and a mikvah. Perhaps a precursor to his time in Seattle, his tenure in Montreal was contentious, marked by conflicts over control of the lucrative kashrut system and various labor disputes. We benefited from the research of Ira Robinson, a historian who wrote a book about Montreal's rabbis, with a lengthy chapter on Grandfather.

We decided that Seattle deserved a reunion as well, especially after additional research. Doris Stiefel, historian of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, connected me to new resources. Eli Genauer, whose grandfather served on the Bikur Cholim board contemporaneously to Grandfather, provided valuable insight into the congregation's early history. Julie Greene, outreach director at Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath, helped set up a visit and tour of her synagogue. And the Seattle Parks Department was excited to host us at the old synagogue building, which the city now operates as the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute.

The 17 of us who attended the Seattle reunion enjoyed using the WSJHS CD, *Jewish Seattle, Yesterday and Today: A Guided Audio Driving Tour*. On June 20, we stopped first at the new Bikur Cholim, where we marveled at a campus with multiple congregations in proximity,

# **Merchants exhibit opens with blasts from past**

By Stuart Eskenazi

At its essence, *Shalom! Open for Business* is about immigrants. And in that way, the story is universal.

The new WSJHS exhibit featuring tales of Jewish merchants opened last month at Seattle's Museum of History & Industry. During its six-month run, the exhibit will give many people their first glimpse into the state's vibrant and diverse Jewish community. The exhibit was curated around the hope that museum visitors – no matter their religious or cultural backgrounds – would be able to see themselves and their families in the merchant tales that are told.

*Shalom! Open for Business* is a collection of vignettes, photos and artifacts intended to give visitors a flavor of our people, culture and community. Displayed within a 1,000-square-foot gallery, the exhibit is not a definitive history of Jewish merchants in Washington, which would have taken up all of MOHAI and then some.

The exhibit is laid out thematically, starting with stories about early merchants such as Schwabacher Brothers and Samuel Mosler's New York Bakery, and concluding with a tale of four generations of Brotman family businesses, including Costco. In between, merchant tales are presented that underline our community values of hard work, enterprise and family.

Stories span the entire state, with special attention paid to six businesses that have existed for more than 100 years. Two displays, one about Sephardic Jews at Pike Place Market and the other about Seattle's original Jewish neighborhood (dubbed Kosher Canyon for the purposes of the exhibit), are enhanced with videos.

The exhibit is adapted from a previous WSJHS exhibit, *Who's Minding the Store?* About 125 stories developed for that comprehensive exhibit have been updated and – along with corresponding photos – may be browsed through an interactive app that is accessed in the gallery via two kiosks. The app, developed through the support of Microsoft, also can be downloaded for free by visiting the Windows App Store at [apps.microsoft.com](http://apps.microsoft.com). The app will run only on a Surface tablet or a personal computer running Windows 8 or higher.

An original painting by Kirkland artist Joanne Shellan is displayed at the exhibit entrance, offering a visual *Shalom!* to visitors. The artist graciously has donated the piece, making it available for sale after the show closes. All proceeds will benefit the WSJHS. Please call the WSJHS at 206-774-2277 for more information.

Shellan's painting is a collage of some of the historic images included in the show, fashioned around the likenesses of two people featured in an old family photo of Queen City Market Florist – merchant Samuel "Frenchy" Nahmias and his daughter, Margie Angel.

At a July 27 opening reception for *Shalom!* that MOHAI hosted for its members, Mrs. Angel – still spry at age 90 – surprised everyone by attending, accompanied by her very proud grandson. A MOHAI member,

## ***Shalom! Open for Business: Tales of Jewish Merchants in Washington State***

Museum of History & Industry, 860 Terry Ave. N., Seattle

**Now showing through Jan. 20, 2015**

*Special related events at MOHAI:*

### **History Café: In the Land of Rain and Salmon**

Thursday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m., free

See the smash WSJHS performance by Book-It Repertory Theatre.

### **Family Day**

Sunday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Explore Jewish celebrations, traditions and holidays at this all-ages event.

Enjoy demonstrations, hands-on activities, crafts, music and more.

she recognized herself on the reception invitation, which featured an image of Shellan's painting. Mrs. Angel instantly became the hit of the party, enjoying her newfound celebrity.

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evening," says Lisa Kranseler, WSJHS executive director. "It is a truly unique approach for a gala and is more like a celebration of this wonderful exhibit for the entire community around the state. I wanted history to come alive and knew that the terrific Seattle Jewish Theater Company, led by founder and artistic director Art Feinglass, could make this magic happen."

Actors are preparing their roles carefully. They will be portraying Jewish immigrants from the late-1800s to the 1930s who came from areas as disparate as Germany, Russia, Turkey, Rhodes and Poland.

As chair of the event, I sat down with Feinglass to chat about bringing these characters to life.

**PP:** When Lisa came to you about the idea to have actors from your theater company portray real historical figures, what did you think?

**AF:** I thought it was a perfect fit because the mission of the Seattle Jewish Theater Company is to bring classic and contemporary Jewish theater to Seattle. I've created similar historical programs in New York and they are always a hit. Like the Tenement Museum in New York City, Colonial Williamsburg and performances by Civil War re-enactors, bringing history to life with actors is a very rewarding experience for everyone involved.

**PP:** Bringing history to life is the theme of the gala. Can you give me a sneak peek and tell me about the merchants we will be seeing on Sept. 7?

**AF:** As with any performance, I want to keep the element of surprise but I can tell you that we will have a dozen actors at MOHAI that night. They'll be presenting a wide range of inspiring men and women who came to Washington and overcame many hardships to build successful lives and businesses and become part of the local Jewish community.

**PP:** Sounds fascinating! This is a great opportunity to have a firsthand experience and learn about state Jewish history.

**AF:** Yes, there are many inspirational and interesting merchant tales that make up the *Shalom! Open for Business* exhibit and I've adapted that material to create the scripts the actors will use at the event.

**PP:** Sounds like a lot of preparation. How much rehearsal is going into this?

**AF:** We have a number of rehearsals scheduled in which the actors will hone their performances to bring out the elements of drama and humor in their characters' stories. Guests at the gala are going to really enjoy meeting history face to face.



A dozen Seattle Jewish Theater Company actors will bring history to life at MOHAI on Sept. 7, portraying Jewish merchants who are featured in the *Shalom! Open for Business* exhibit.

Left to right: Jeff Novack as Fred Bergman of Bergman's Luggage; Susan King as Anna Blom of Anna Blom's Book Shop; Carol Sage Silverstein as Anna Hahn of Miller & Hahn Men's Wear; and Jaclyn Lavine as Raye Alhadoff, who worked with her family at Sam's Bakery.

## A Night At MOHAI, Bring history to life!

September 7 • 6 to 9:30 p.m. • 860 Terry Ave. N., Seattle

This private gala at the Museum of History & Industry will support the work of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society.

- Roam the entire museum
- View our exhibit, *Shalom! Open for Business*
- Enjoy a fabulous kosher dinner
- Participate in a live auction
- Interact with merchants from Washington's past, portrayed by members of the Seattle Jewish Theater Company
- Join us in honoring Ken Weinberg with our first-ever Making History Award!

**BREAKING NEWS: As of Aug. 1, the gala has SOLD OUT! Thank you!**

**For those already attending, VIP cocktail reception ticket upgrade STILL AVAILABLE for an extra \$180.**

**VIP ticketholders will attend an intimate reception at 5:15 p.m. hosted by MOHAI Executive Director Leonard Garfield, followed by a private tour of the exhibit by Exhibit Curator Stuart Eskenazi.**

**Purchase VIP upgrade at: [wsjhsgala.brownpapertickets.com](http://wsjhsgala.brownpapertickets.com), or call the WSJHS at 206-774-2277.**

To those who missed out: We look forward to seeing you at next year's gala!

# Tributes

## IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg's new job  
The Kransele Family  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Rabbi Jim Mirel's Retirement  
Linda Bookey  
The Kransele Family  
Betsy and Jason Schneier  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Jackie Williams' birthday  
Barb Rait

## IN MEMORY OF:

Samuel Behar  
Nancy and Jim Corning  
Andre Hruby and Jessica Hyde  
Kelly Milliken and William Hyde  
Gary Donion  
Julie and Jeff Morris  
Danny Greenberg  
Julie and Jeff Morris

## IN MEMORY OF:(continued)

Lucille Hurst  
Jonathan Hurst  
Lillian Radinsky  
Janice Kaplan-Klein  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Geraldine and Leo Sokol  
Diane Baer  
Shari Stern  
The WSJHS Board of Directors  
Ernest Stiefel  
Alan Sussman  
Elsie Ruth Weiner  
Jerald D. Weiner

## A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Cindy Coopersmith  
Betsy and Jason Schneier  
The WSJHS Board of Directors

## WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

George Grashin  
Rhoda Sussman Lewis  
Lillian Radinsky  
Shari Stern

We apologize to the Borish family for the misprint in the Winter Nizkor. We mourn the loss of Dr. Robert A. Borish and send our condolences to the family.

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Larry and Marcia Asher  
David Chivo  
David and Mariann Drucker  
Al and Lana Finegold  
Stuart Grover  
Jimmy Rogers  
Eddie Sherman

## TODAH RABAH

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous grants and contributions in support of the work done by the WSJHS:  
Rachel and Nissim Altabet Memorial Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

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 Foundation  
Martin Selig  
Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle  
4Culture  
Loeb Family Charitable Foundation  
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 Kransele, Project Manager and Exhibit Liaison  
Robin Goldstein, Technology Consultant and App Developer  
Leonard Garfield and the MOHAI staff, Exhibit Design and Production  
Jessica Hyde, Adminstrative Assistant  
Joanne Shellan, Artist  
William Hyde, Filmmaker  
Stephen Sadis, Filmmaker  
Emily McCartan, Artifacts Acquisition

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

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### 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).

CULTURE



The Jewish Federation  
of GREATER SEATTLE

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