



"Caring for L'dor V'dor"

Today's Presentation

- Introduction
- Why are photographs important?
- Different types of photographs
- "Family secrets" and how to search for clues
- The do's and don'ts of photo preservation
- To digitize or not to digitize?
- But Facebook!
- Resources
- Questions
- Workshop / Show and Tell

Mission Statement

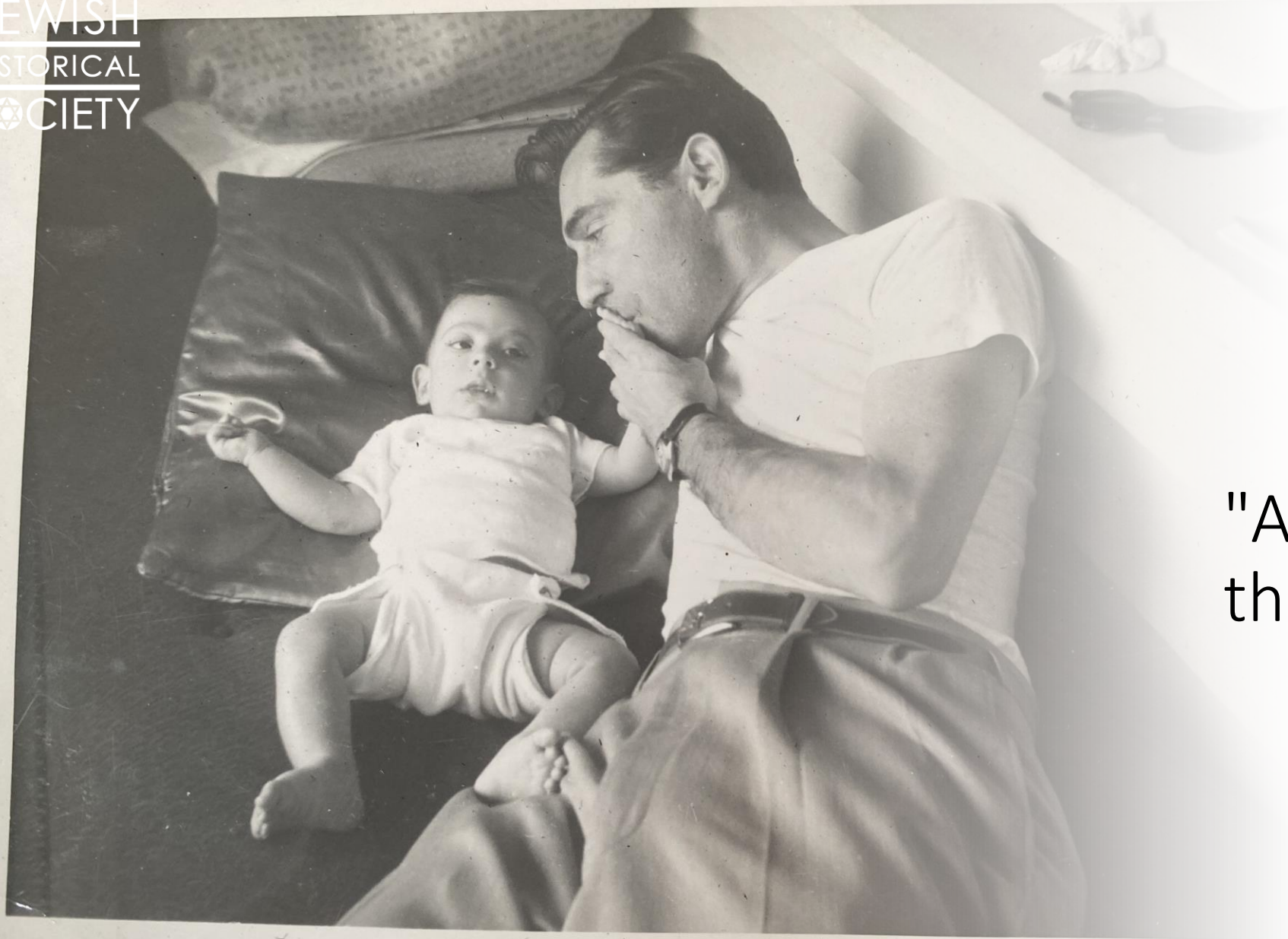
"The Washington State Jewish Historical Society's mission is to preserve and present the history of Jewish life in Washington state. The Society fosters awareness and appreciation of the experiences, the diverse culture, and the significant contributions of Jews, past and present."

"We build bridges with communities by sharing the stories of our collective histories and serving as an educational resource."





- The Society is in the early stages of building our foundation for a digital archive that will tell the history of Jewish people and communities in Washington state.
- We hope to offer more community-based workshops similar to this one in the future. Sign up to be on our mailing list or follow us on Social Media for more information.



"A picture says a
thousand words."

Different Types of Photos



- **Daguerreotype (1839 - ca. 1860)**
- **Ambrotype (1851 – 1880's)**
- **Tintype (1858 – 1910's)**
- **Crayon Portraits (1840 – 1915)**
- **Albumen Prints (1850 – ca. 1890)**
- **Gelatin Silver Prints (1871 – present)**
- **Nitrocellulose Film (1889 – 1939)**
- **Safety Film (1934 – present)**
- **Polaroid (1937 – 2009)**
- **Polyester (1965 to present)**
- **Digital (1991 – present)**



Family Secrets

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Look for Clues!

1. Check for written clues.
2. Analyze the fashion and hairstyles.
3. Consider uniforms and medals.
4. Look at the background and other objects.
5. Don't forget to ask!
6. Look at the format.
7. Check the support of the photograph.
8. Observe the color tone of the image.
9. Examine the surface characteristics.
10. Look for signs of deterioration.





Do's and Don'ts of Photo Preservation

- DO consider moving photographs out of an attic, basement or garage. Photos are highly susceptible to heat, light and humidity.
- DO consider keep scrapbooks in a paper box, photographs in plastic sleeves or archival envelopes if they are fragile or damaged. No, a shoebox does not count as a bonafide storage method.
- DO include information about the photograph, use an index card or by writing on the back of the photograph with a number 2 pencil.
- DO consider digitizing photographs that may be fragile or rare.
- DON'T use paper clips, rubber bands, or other mechanical fasteners to mark or organize prints.
- DON'T use self-adhesive tape, sticky notes, glue, or other adhesives on photographs.
- DON'T panic.

To Digitize or Not to Digitize

Pros

- Digitized photographs are easy to access and easy to shared. Many copies can be made without damaging the original.
- In case of national disasters (fire, floods, earthquakes), there is a copy.
- A digitized photo takes up very little physical space.
- Photoshop or AI software can easily make alterations or corrections if there is significant damage.

Cons

- "We don't know what form digital photography is going to take in 100 years, or whether our grandchildren are going to access our hard drives or cloud accounts."
- Technology can quickly become obsolete. Does anyone remember VHS, laser discs, and reel-to-reel tapes? No, what about microfilm?
- There are significant differences between a digital image and a physical object. Sometimes that doesn't always translate to digital.



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Curtis Studios

Los Angeles - Pasadena



Moon Photo Lab
www.moonphoto.com

Resources

B & H archival photo supplies & photo boxes
<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/archival-photo-sleeves-pages/ci/728>

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/archival-photo-storage-boxes/ci/922>

Gaylord Archival plastic sleeves & photo boxes
<https://www.gaylord.com/c/Archival-Envelopes-Sleeves-and-Protectors>

<https://www.gaylord.com/c/Art-Photo-Print-Boxes>

Amazon archival Photo Sleeves -
<https://www.amazon.com/archival-photo-sleeves/s?k=archival+photo+sleeves>

<https://www.amazon.com/Storage-Presentation-Boxes/b?ie=UTF8&node=3444131>

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Resources



Panda Lab
www.pandalab.com

Lisa Duncan (local art conservator located in West Seattle)
Lisaduncanllc.com

Photographic Center Northwest
Pcnw.org

Annie's Art and Frame Shop
Annies-art-frame.myshopify.com



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Questions?

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