



Roots & Routes



PLANTING HISTORY IN JEWISH WASHINGTON



**WHATEVER ROOTS YOU HAVE,
WHATEVER ROUTES
YOU HAVE TAKEN.**



For nearly 175 years, Jewish people have made the wise decision to plant their family roots in Washington state. Behind each route traveled, a personal and often powerful story begs to be told.

Perchance your roots date back to the early immigrants who came to the Washington from the *jüdischen Gemeinden* of Central Europe, the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe or the *juderías* of the Ottoman Empire. Or perhaps your family arrived here as refugees, escaping the perils of Nazi or Soviet rule. Or maybe your route to Washington was more recent – inspired by a promising career move or simply a burning desire to cultivate a new life in the upper reaches of the American west coast.

Whatever roots you have, whatever routes you have taken, you and your family possess a cherished history that needs to be shared for current and future generations to appreciate and absorb.

Since incorporating in 1980, the **Washington State Jewish Historical Society** has considered it our mitzvah to preserve and present – and foster awareness and appreciation of – the experiences, diverse culture and significant contributions of Jews in our state. Over time, we have collected a bounty of community treasures and stored them for safekeeping through our **Washington State Jewish Archives**.

Those archives are best known for their digitized oral history and photograph collections that anyone around the globe can access through our valued partner in this venture for more than five decades: **Special Collections at the University of Washington Libraries**. (View the collection at: <https://content.lib.washington.edu/jhpweb>.)

To complement the collection already available through Special Collections, WSJHS is now building one of our own. Allow us to introduce the **Washington Jewish Memory Archive**.

"As long as Jewish individuals, families and communities in Washington state make history every day, the archives that preserve our history need to surge ahead and grow," WSJHS Executive Director **Lisa Kranseler** says.

With support from the **Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle**, WSJHS approached the State Legislature in 2022 to request funding for a new archival management system that would support a digital repository for materials we recently have produced or obtained – and would in the future. We are especially grateful to **Rep. Tana Senn** of Mercer Island, head of the Legislature's Jewish Caucus, who was successful in placing a targeted appropriation in the state budget for this project.

The Washington Jewish Memory Archive will allow us to expand and augment the **Washington Jewish Museum**, our online resource that curates episodes of Jewish history into compelling stories. The new archive also will enhance the diverse and innovative exhibits, programs and products we present each year. Though the new and existing archives will be separate for the time being, WSJHS hopes to link them in a significant way in the future.

The Washington Jewish Memory Archive will carry our roots forward along exciting new routes of possibilities.



"The University of Washington Libraries congratulate WSJHS on the launch of its new digital community archive. We wish you every success in your mission to create another online collection to preserve the stories and history of Washington's Jewish communities."

— **Paul J. Constantine**, Associate Dean for Distinctive Collections, UW Libraries

ROOTS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE JEWISH ARCHIVES



In the 1960s, **Richard Berner**, founder and chief of the UW Archives and Manuscripts Division, invited five ethnic communities in Seattle to avail themselves of library resources by depositing their historical records within the university's collection. Volunteers within the Jewish community – organized through **Elsa Levinson**, then-president of the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation – jumped into action by forming a committee to plant the seeds for documenting Jewish history in Washington.

"Then, we started, we sort of plunged in," recalled **Meta Buttnick**, one of the pioneers. Buttnick's recollection is part of history – her own oral history, recorded in 1984 and placed in the Washington State Jewish Archives for posterity. In doing her part, Buttnick sat down with longtime members of the Jewish community, flipped on her cassette recorder and interviewed them to elicit their stories and those they heard second-hand at the feet of their elders.

Buttnick and others made up a dedicated cadre of early volunteers, including **Jeanette Schrieber, Adina Russack, Olga Butler, Ann Nieder, Mildred Rosenbaum, Lilly De Jaen, Judith Adler, Reva Twersky, and Doris Stiefel**. They reached out to synagogues, organizations and individuals to acquire their papers and photos for the archives, patiently piecing together 100 years of history that otherwise might have been lost. "It took a lot of footwork," De Jaen recalls. "We weren't so sophisticated and we didn't have a degree in this kind of work."

Their labors that laid the foundation occurred during a time before the advent of the internet. There were no shortcuts via websites, email or home computers; just a lot of manila folders, vehicle mileage and individual drive. "These women have been the heroes," says **Howard Droker**, WSJHS' first staff archivist. "There is no Jewish archives without them."

"We were thrilled to advocate with WSJHS at the Legislature to ensure that Washington's Jewish community stories, history, heritage and lived experiences are preserved for future generations."

— Aliza Mossman, Advocacy Associate, The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

With **Molly Cone** and **Jacqueline Williams**, Droker authored the book *Family of Strangers*, the only comprehensive historical account of Jewish communities and people in Washington. "Our book is largely based on what these women collected," he adds.

Since the project began, the WSJHS **Jewish Archives Committee** (recently renamed the Jewish Archives and Research Committee) has nurtured the collections from infancy to maturity. Some of the pioneer women volunteers stayed active for decades, and several men joined their ranks over the years, such as **Steve Adler**, **Eugene Normand**, **Dr. Eric Offenbacher**, and **Ernest Stiefel**.

The archives committee has long worked in tandem with UW Special Collections and the WSJHS archivist – a crucial part-time staff position that has received training and logistical support from the UW. Committee Co-chair **Nancy Blase** praises the longtime partnership with UW, paying special tribute to **Karyl Winn**, who was curator of manuscripts for several decades and earned a reputation for being a caring and motivated conduit between UW and the staff archivist and committee. "UW Special Collections played a critical role," Blase says. "You couldn't even pay money for what we have gotten out of that relationship."

In addition to the digitized oral histories and photographs, the UW maintains a collection of manuscripts, which are organized, stored in acid-free folders, and made accessible for researchers to view on request. Committee Co-Chair **Sandy Barnes** has her favorite treasure: a box of materials from Rabbi Samuel Koch, an early leader of Temple De Hirsch. "There is a big scrapbook in there from when he was a young man," Barnes says. "It contains newspaper articles, his sermons, programs, pictures ... you just get a great idea of him and what was important to him."



"It was particularly gratifying to secure state funding for this new digital Jewish archive, helping preserve the considerable contributions, traditions and stories of the Jewish people in Washington state,"

—Tana Senn, Member, Washington State House of Representatives

WASHINGTON JEWISH MEMORY ARCHIVE "YOUR STORY MATTERS!"

Work already has begun – from the ground up – on our new Washington Jewish Memory Archive. WSJHS staff have been busy cataloguing the 18-year-plus backlog of historical narratives and materials currently in our possession – community jewels that have been in storage and therefore out of the public eye, some for longer than a decade.

For example, WSJHS presented a popular exhibit around the state in 2008 featuring hand-drawn family trees – artistic genealogies of more than 70 Jewish families in Washington. The boards, wrapped in plastic and packed away in a closet for years, soon will be available for online viewing through photographs that our staff are taking with the intention to post them in the new archive. In 2009, WSJHS presented "Dolls of Democracy and Diversity," a stunning collection of 42 three-dimensional handmade models of historical figures that B'nai B'rith Women had created for teaching tolerance to schoolchildren. Like the family trees, the dolls have been taken out of storage just long enough to photograph them for inclusion in the new archive.

"I won't sugarcoat it: Cataloguing is tedious, time consuming, often complicated, and full of twists and turns," WSJHS Communications and Exhibit Curator **Kayla Boland** says. "But with patience, curiosity and an eye for detail, the process is rewarding."

Byte4Byte, a program that supports organizations that uplift narratives of historically marginalized communities, has given WSJHS a grant for technical support, cloud storage and access to **Permanent.org**, the platform on which the Washington Jewish Memory Archive will be built. The platform's sophisticated use of keywords, cross-referencing and search mechanisms will allow users to piece together individual stories within the new archive into a flowing history. "History is not linear," WSJHS Contract Archivist and Project Manager **Marissa Hiller** says. "In fact, it's fascinating to see how everything is connected."

For example, an oral history interview with Richard McCann, a protégé of renowned Jewish architect B. Marcus Priteca, reveals him to be the chief designer of Longacres Park, the Renton horseracing track owned and operated by two Seattle Jewish families, Gottstein and Alhadeff. The interview also traces Priteca's route to Washington state by means of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which took place in Seattle in 1909.

After completing the cataloguing phase of the new archive project, WSJHS plans to reach out to Jewish communities across the state, including synagogues and community organizations, to encourage them to share their collections in the Washington Jewish Memory Archive. Families will have an opportunity to open their own individual portals and add memories to them over time. Those memories can be captured in sparkling detail through our new state-of-the-art digital scanner, which also will allow communities and families to keep their original photos and documents in their own possession.

"We will be taking a community approach to the archive," Hiller says. "We want everyone to know: 'Your story matters!'"

—story by Stuart Eskenazi

**Remembering our parents
Sharkey and Bella Israel.**

Here is a photo of them from February 1957,
one month before they were married.
Who knew our parents were once so young?

David Israel and Albert Israel





*Eddie and Henry Fisher at
Kitty Brand cat food factory*

The Kitty Brand cat food cannery at 6535 6th Av So, Seattle, moved to this new location from the Eastside in the early 1950s. It was built in the 50s and sold in the early 70s.

The Fishers were originally canning meatballs, pet foods and some other human foods. They moved to pet food only in the new facility. There was originally a dog and cat line of food which eventually became the cat line of Kitty Brand cat food. Eddie took canning and food processing classes at Oregon State which gave him the ability to fix the “iron chink” (a canning machine) and allowed him to join his father in the business.

Funny thing is Eddie dislikes cats and, ironically, his wife, Babs, and son, Eric, are very allergic to cats!





The Fisher Family

New to Bellevue, Yarrow Point –1966
Grandparents Henry and Rose Fisher and
Toto and Harry “Cap’t” Schwartz with Babs and Eddie
and their two boys, Eric and Rodney



Eddie with his three sons: Eric, Craig and Rodney.

Babs and Eddie’s grandchildren--the children of
Eric, Rodney and Lauren, Craig and Kim.



Cherish your friends! (Sheraton Hotel, November 2001) When Bob and Carole Goldberg came to Seattle in 1962, they created a family with local Seattleites from the Jewish Community, including the Fishers, Sprincins, Shindells, Sterns, Silbermans, and Winstons. We began many traditions, including High-Holy-Days with brisket and chopped-liver, Passover with gefilte-fish and Matzo-ball soup, and Hanukkah with potato latkes! We hope to leave a legacy to our children to carry on these traditions.



Carole Goldberg cooking with Jordi Goldberg hoping she will carry on the tradition of making gefilte fish for the Passover seder, which started with Carole's mother and Jordi's grandmother, Blanche Shindell.



The Kranseler Family

The Kranseler Family - Making History in Washington state since 1995. Celebrating simchas and holidays and hanging out together creating memories.

Lisa, Kenny, Julie, Andrew and Daniel Kranseler



Bar Mitzvah of Daniel J. Kranseler June 2010



Kranselers circa 2013

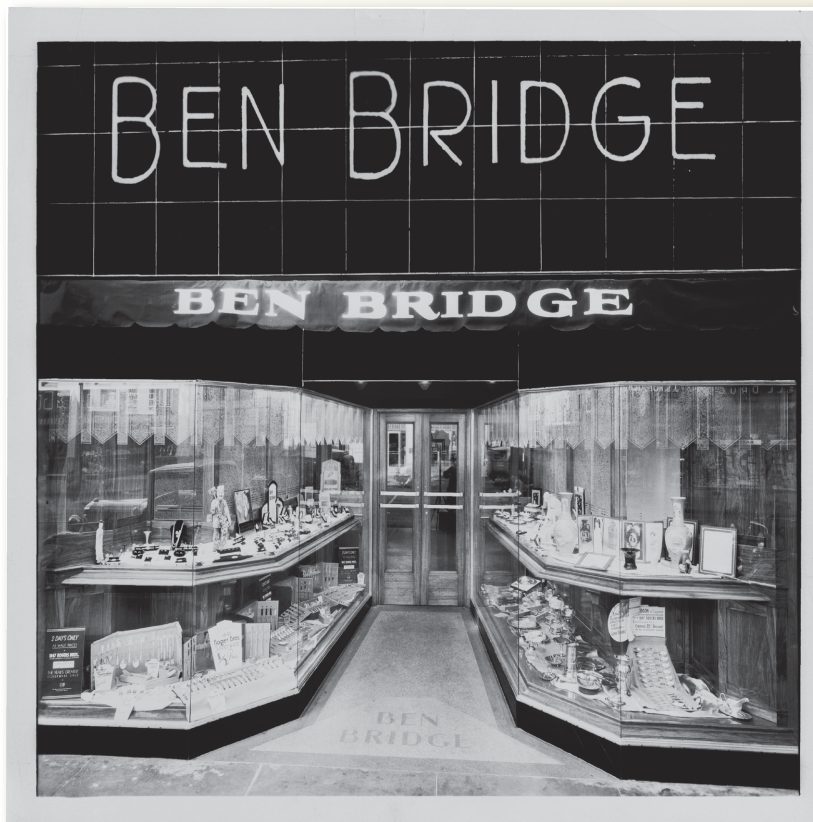




Coronet Toy Manufacturing Co. Inc 1121 Post St Seattle.

The factory was started by Mac Sprincin in 1945. 1947 "Coronet Toy" was patented. Mac started just after the War to make sleeping bags. That never happened. So, he made stuffed animals instead and was the only factory west of the Mississippi until the mid 1950's, when competition popped up in Southern California. Harris joined his father working in the factory from 1962-1973.

Estelle & Harris Sprincin



For 111 years Ben Bridge Jeweler has been a fixture in Downtown Seattle supporting the city and community. This Spring we are continuing our 5 generation presence by opening our Flagship store at 5th and Pine.

Jon and Bobbe Bridge





WEDDING OF CINDY WALDBAUM & GARY STRATINER-1983

Surrounded by our parents, Kenneth & Susan Waldbaum and Joyce & Philip Stratiner; grandparents, Helene (Waldbaum) & Mac Sprincin, Rose & Sidney Golub, Zara & Abe Tarshis (missing Fannie & Ire Stratiner).

We would not be who we are without those that came before us.
 Vacationing with our children & grandchildren December 2022.
 Kyle, Matthew, Maya, Finley & Josie, Koltin, Marisa, Ethan & Jason.



**Celebrating the Bat Mitzvah
of Jodeen Arensberg
March 21, 1981 Temple De
Hirsch Sinai - Seattle**

Dick & Dianne Arensberg





DAVID & REINA FERRERA



DORA & ASHER COHEN



OUR FAMILY ROOTS

“ A person without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots. ”

Louis and Raye Cohen (Deceased)
Raymond, Diane, Robin and Lori Cohen
Dale and Marsha Cohen



**Baruch and Bessie Ostroff and Family,
in Seattle, about 1947.**

**Gerry and Sandra Ostroff
Dick and Marilyn Brody**

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

We moved to Kirkland in 2017 and discovered a lovely Jewish community. Our growing family loves to visit the great PNW!

Tammy Cohen & Barry Silverstein



Family portrait: Heritage Park 2022



My grandmother, Claudia Cantu,
in the early 1940's.
Many thanks to the WSJHS, and may
her memories always be a blessing.

Marissa Hiller



Yaakov and Kadun Altaras never left
Tekirdag, Turkey, but in the early 1900's,
several of their 7 children found their way
to Seattle.

**The Altaras Family is grateful to them
for establishing new family roots in
Washington State!**

**Dr. Hyman and Annette Cohen
celebrating their 50th anniversary (1992)
in Hawaii with children
and grandchildren**

Lynn Cohen Wartnik and Tony Wartnik



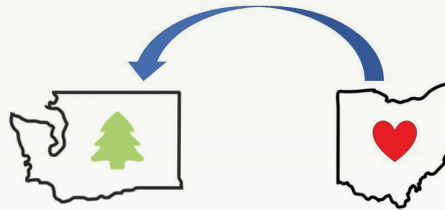


To celebrating our first Passover Seder and to learning more about Washington state's incredible Jewish history!

Kayla Boland & Keelan Walsh



From Buckeye Trees to Evergreens



Mottaz - Burnette Family



We salute Jewish history!
In loving memory of
Dave and Beth Alhadeff.

**Ty, Emily, Bina, Saadia,
Sivan and Raziel Alhadeff**



**Siblings Joe Eskenazi,
Anita Agoado, Ambel Fisse,
Rae Cohen, Albert Eskenazi**
and their families gathered every
Sunday – without fail – for dinner,
poker and mahjong.

**Lisa Eskenazi-Rindler &
Stuart Eskenazi,**
sister and brother

1939 West Coast AZA Basketball Champs



*Nathan Ross, Harry Kraft, Stan Sulman, Jack Meyers, Arnold Sadick,
Phil Stratiner, Mike Ovadia, Leonard Drebin, Bernard Krems,
Herman Gorlick, Howard Breslin, Bob Chernoff, Leo Levine (coach)*

**Judy Ross, Neil Ross and Lisbeth Davis,
Bobbi Chamberlin and Dr. Donald Shifrin**



Celebrating and learning about
the legacy our grandparents,
Sylvia and Mel Oseran, left for us.

**The Miller Siblings,
Michael, Cora, and Sam**



Aaron Alhadeff and Emily Warshal
in first grade at JDS (1982)



Aaron, Emily, Max and Charlie Alhadeff
at the Grand Canyon (spring 2023)



1960 Citizenship Card issued by the Canadian Government for my mother-in-law after her arrival to Canada from Jerusalem, Palestine.

Submitted by
Jacquelyn Roitman-Estrin,
WSJHS Board Member.



The Berkman Family
on a hike at Snoqualmie Falls!
2019

Angel Family
Establishing roots in the central district
in the 1930's



Avner and Susan (Azose) Angel
and family, 1947

From left to right:
Leon, Sylvia, Avner, Dick, Susan,
Sema, Esther, Isaac, Louise

We honor those who came before us who provided us
with the foundation for rich and happy lives.



Betty Policar Alhadeff
& Samuel J. Alhadeff

Tillie Menashe Cohen
& Leon 'Cookie' Cohen

Thank you WSJHS for preserving our histories.



*Doreen & Joseph Alhadeff
Loren & Joelle Alhadeff – Sophia, Norah & Leo
Mitchell Alhadeff & Jessica Wald – Sidney*

Doreen Cohen Alhadeff & Joseph S. Alhadeff & Family





Herman Schocken, 1870 to 1957
*Dedicated to aiding Jewish Refugees,
President of the German Jewish Club of Washington*



Hilda Schocken Mann, Ruth Hamlet Schocken,
Theodore Schocken, Herman Schocken,
Henry Schocken, Hans Mann, Rose Cramer,
children Chai Mann and Janet Mann

The Schocken Family



CHANUKAH 2022

The growing Bayley family.
So happy we chose Seattle to finally settle
and become part of this Jewish Community.
Lots of options to welcome us.

Thank you WSJHS for documenting all this!





**From our roots to many branches. Thank you to the WSJHS
for preserving our family's stories and memories.**

Mimi Rosen at four months (c. 1978) pictured with Nana Rita
Feuerberg Rosen (born in Austria 1921) and Papa Herbert
Irving Rosen (born Seattle, WA in 1922)
on her first visit to Palm Springs.



The expanded Rosen and Goldberg Family
celebrating Thanksgiving on Whidbey Island (2022)



Marty's parents Edward and Sadie Brashem,
Joan's parents Jennie and Ben Flaks with Joan
and their 5 children in 1965.



Marty and Joan Brashem celebrating with their
5 children, their children-in-law and their
10 grandchildren in 2009.

The Brashem Family



*1950: Wedding of Ernest and Doris Stiefel
(at Hillel, University of Washington)*



2023: Wedding of Miriam Stiefel and Sam Finkleman

**L'dor V'dor
The Stiefel Family is
proud and thankful
for its roots that
now extend to four
generations in
Washington State.**





Lucy and Herb Pruzan with sons Adam, Alan, and Aaron on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary, July 2018.

We appreciate how the WSJHS keeps us aware of our Community's past so we do not forget.

Lucy and Herb Pruzan & Family



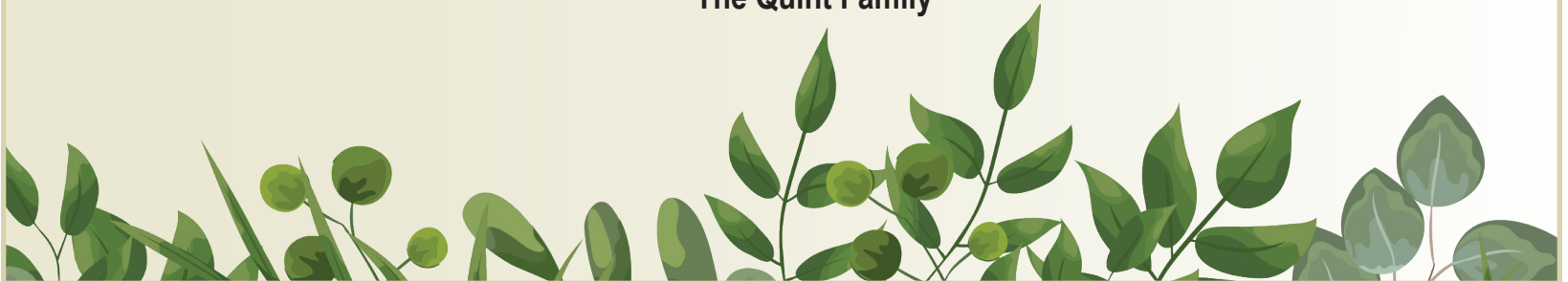
Sarah and Joseph Golombeck



Esther and Dick Quint

Thank you for being Pioneers in our Community and role models
for our entire family. 5 Generations, and counting...

The Quint Family





Samuel Israel in Jerusalem, Israel 1973

The Samis Foundation supports access for Jewish youth in Washington State to high-quality intensive and immersive Jewish educational experiences and fulfills Samuel Israel's philanthropic goals of supporting the State of Israel and worldwide disaster relief.



The roots of Harold and Mildred.....were already firmly planted in North America prior to their births, in Montreal and in the Dakotas. It was their sense of adventure that brought them to Seattle after their marriage, where they each blazed pioneering paths: Dr. Harold as very first pediatric dentist in private practice, and Mildred as educator and Co Founder of this society. They also inspired two new generations to set down roots here, and we look forward to many more! Mazel Tov, WSJHS!

In loving memory, Jason Schneier, MD and Betsy R. Schneier (WSJHS Past President); Amanda, Ariel, Adam, David, Mika, Nadav, Elia and Leo





In 1985 Ronnie and Toni get married merging the longtime Seattle families Rogers/Waldbaum with the Solomon Calvo klan. The family continues to grow with Solomon and his partner Kyl, Shayna, and Gabriel. Looking forward to watching our families grow in Washington.

Ron & Toni Waldbaum



Sturman family for over a 100 years in the Pacific Northwest, began in Everett as the “Everett Shoe Hospital” by Joseph and Elka Sturman, later as “Billy’s Clothing, Shoes and Western Wear” by William and Mary Sturman, and as “Sam’s Clothing Store” by Sam and Esther Sturman, and later by Larry and Rochelle Sturman, and as “Jack’s Mens Wear” by Jack and Shirley (Sturman) Baker. The family has increased in the Northwest with multiple generations, many occupations and activities.

We are indebted to the WSJHS for preserving this history for future generations.





Our families left Europe in the early 1900's in search of better lives and settled in Washington State. Six generations and over a century later, their legacy is carried on by their great great grandchildren.

Robin Rogel-Goldstein & Dennis Goldstein
Briana & Jeff Roberts
Seth Goldstein & Melanie Bulliman



We appreciate growing our family in Washington and honor our roots from our beloved parents, Stan & Berthe Habib.

Cathy and David Habib





*Steve's great-grandmother on a
bench marked "Jews forbidden." Berlin 1939*



Nance and Steve at an ADL event

We are rooted in a tradition of resisting oppression, paving a route
of inspiring Upstanders using the lessons of Jewish history.

Nance and Steve Adler



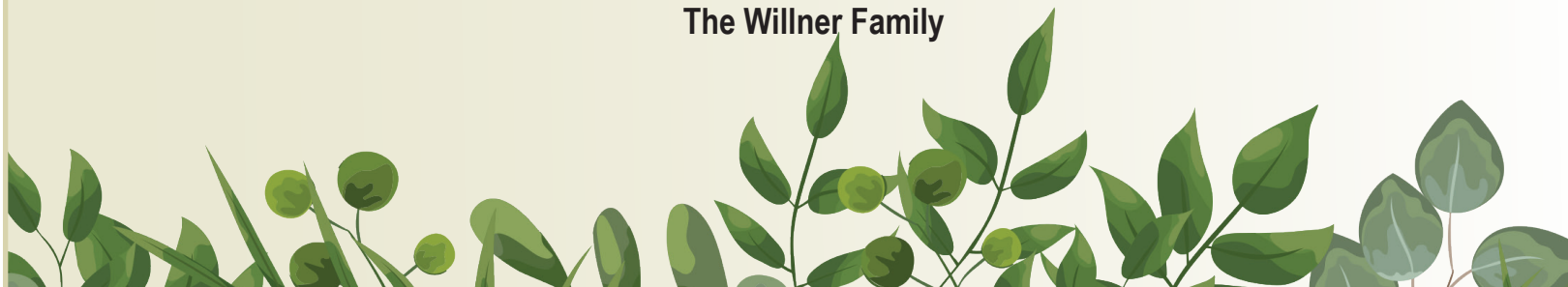
Morris with Son Bernie 1920



Julia, Richard, Morris and Bernie 1927

Elder brother Bernard's passing motivated Morris and Julia (Epstein) Willner with Richard, our father, in-tow, to leave their 1917 *greenhorn* beginnings at The Western Junk Co., Tacoma, to found a chain of Willner's Department Stores throughout Seattle from 1930-1975.

The Willner Family





And so it began.
Judy Rosen wed
Krijn de Jonge, October 21, 1978.

Jewish Archives & Research Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 460 oral histories and more than 3,700 digitized photographs are accessible through the Digital Collection of the Washington State Jewish Archives at the University of Washington. Take a look online – a relative or friend may have contributed. Listen to their voice. Look for a photo.

A BRIEF TIMELINE

In 1968, the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Seattle, responded to a request from Richard Berner, curator for the University of Washington Libraries Archives and Manuscripts Division, to document the history of Washington's Jewish communities.

By 1976, with the help of volunteers, the collection had grown to "...historical records of 11 organizations and 50 individuals, as well as tape-recorded interviews with some 80 long-time residents."

Jeanette Schrieber, one of the early Jewish Archives Project chairs, along with Karyl Winn, curator of the University of Washington Libraries Manuscripts Collection, were early collectors and interviewers for the archives. Over the years, more than 60 volunteers have continued adding materials to the collection.

The Jewish Archives and Research Committee looks forward to contributing to the new Washington Jewish Memory Archive.

WSJHS salutes the current members of the Jewish Archives and Research Committee for extending the legacy and keeping our history alive!

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Nancy Blase, Co-chair | • John Hirschel |
| • Sandy Barnes, Co-chair | • Bunny Rogers |
| • Esther Caplan | • Ruth Sassoon |
| • Arlene Cohen | • Doris Stiefel |
| • Lilly De Jaen | • Ron Waldbaum |
| • Marissa Hiller | • Susan Weingarten |



Jeanette Schrieber (left), Karyl Winn (right) – 1981

From the Washington State Jewish Archives at the
University of Washington Libraries Special Collections.

OUR GRATITUDE & THANKS

The Washington State Jewish Historical Society would like to thank the following:

- All of our generous donors and supports, grantors, board, staff, volunteers and contractors, with special thanks to our contract archivist, Marissa Hiller.
- Representative Tana Senn, the Jewish Caucus and all the state legislators who supported the WSJHS with state funding in 2022-2023.
- Washington State Historical Society.
- Story writer Stuart Eskenazi, graphic designer Dale Cohen and Roots liaison Tammy Cohen.
- And most of all our Community – YOU – for your participation in our work.

Funding sources include (but not limited to):

4Culture

Byte4Byte

Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Testamentary Trust

Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Trust Fund

Rita & Herbert Rosen Family Foundation

Isaac N. Alhadeff Foundation

Loeb Family Charitable Foundation

Tacoma Jewish Community Fund







PLANTING HISTORY IN JEWISH WASHINGTON

*Every day, you make history happen. We are your partner in preservation.
Join us – Participate-Volunteer-Donate to our critical work in planting
and growing Washington State Jewish history.*

Washington State
JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

WSJHS Main Website: wsjhs.org
Washington Jewish Memory Archive: wsjhs.org/archive


WASHINGTON
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