Sports Archive Presents
Awards to Greenberg, Big League Commissioners

On November 13, 2001, the Archive of American Jews in Sports, a division of the American Jewish Historical Society, will present its inaugural Hank Greenberg Sportsmanship Award at a dinner at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. Steve Greenberg, Hank Greenberg’s son, will accept the award in Hank’s memory. George Blumenthal, Leslie Pollack and Joel Press serve as co-chairs for the evening. This event was originally scheduled for September 13, 2001, but was rescheduled after the tragic events at the World Trade Center.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Hank Greenberg inspired generations of American Jews by his accomplishments on and off the baseball diamond. Greenberg symbolized Jewish pride in a difficult era and withstood anti-Semitic slurs from fans and opposing players. Greenberg is best known for his refusal to play in a crucial game on Yom Kippur during the close 1934 American League pennant race. In 1938, he slugged 58 home runs, coming closer than any player before Roger Maris to breaking Babe Ruth’s record. In his autobiography Greenberg wrote, “I came to feel that if I, as a Jew, hit a home run I was hitting one against Hitler.”

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Greenberg interrupted his career to volunteer for the armed forces and served in the Asian theater. On his return to baseball, he stepped back into the Detroit Tiger’s lineup and helped clinch the 1945 American League pennant with a homer on the final day of the season. Greenberg was a fierce competitor and a proud Jew who stood up for Jewish and human rights.

In addition, the Archive of American Jews in Sports will present Greenberg awards to four commissioners of major league sports: Gary Bettman of the National Hockey League; Don Garber of Major League Soccer; Allan H. "Bud" Selig of Major League Baseball; and Paul Tagliabue of the National Football League. Distinguished guests include Lenny Krayzelburg, Olympic gold medalist swimmer.

Sports have provided American Jewry with tremendous opportunities as players, owners, officials, managers and promoters and have also served as a training ground for Jewish immigrant spectators who learned American values from observing athletic events: the importance of rules, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play.

Proceeds of the Dinner will support the Archive’s efforts to collect and make available the documentary record of Jewish achievements in American sports and especially to expand the Archive’s website, www.jewsinsports.org, a resource for information on more than 3,000 Jewish athletes. The website is a joint effort of the American Jewish Historical Society and New York University’s Center for Advanced Technology.

If you would like to join in supporting the Archive of American Jews in Sports through donations of archival material or monetary gifts, please contact Michael Feldberg at 212-2949-6162 or feldberg@ajhs.org.

See related sport article page 4.
Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

For those of us at the American Jewish Historical Society, the events of September 11, 2001 have sharpened our focus as Americans, as Jews and as custodians of Jewish cultural and intellectual treasures. Fortunately, none of the Society's staff or collections in New York suffered injury in the attack on the World Trade Center, although we have had to reschedule the Dinner for our Archive of American Jews in Sports. We are aware, however, that beyond the tragic loss of the lives of so many of our friends and fellow citizens, several archival repositories in Lower Manahattan were damaged and at least one destroyed. We are taking instruction from events.

Security measures have been tightened at our facilities in New York and Waltham, but the World Trade Center attack demonstrates that no facility can be made completely safe from destruction. Accordingly, we at the Society will redouble our efforts to digitize and microform our archival documents, create high-quality images of our portraits, paintings and photographs and store our rare books in secure spaces that enhance their long-term survival.

Despite the uncertainties in the national economy, the Society must make increasing investments to secure the historical legacy of the Jewish people in America. We require your financial assistance, now more than ever. Please help us preserve the past for future generations.

With gratitude,

Kenneth J. Bialkin
President
Society Receives Major Grant from NFJC

The National Foundation for Jewish Culture has awarded AJHS a grant of $50,000 to assist with the management and preservation of the papers of the National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB). Founded in 1913 to promote “the religious, intellectual, physical and social well-being and development of Jews, especially young men and women, and to that end stimulate the organization in the United States of Jewish Centers and kindred societies,” the JWB became the national coordinating body for the network of Jewish community centers and Young Men’s and Young Women’s Hebrew Associations. When World War I broke out, the JWB also directed the activities of Jewish chaplains in the United States Armed Forces. JWB took a leading role in creating the USO, which continues to serve American military personnel around the world. Today, JWB is known as the Jewish Community Centers Association (JCCA).

While generous, the NFJC grant covers only a portion of the costs of doing the critical work of organizing and preserving the JWB collection. Currently, archivists Catherine Lea and Susan Earle and their supervisor, Dominic Grandinetti, are working to reorganize, preserve and catalog the collection, which is composed of more than 1,500 linear feet of material. Over the next two years, the Society needs to raise at least an equal amount of funding to assure that the history of this important organization is available to future generations.

If you have benefited from the activities of a Jewish community center or JY or been served by a Jewish military chaplain and want to preserve the history of these efforts, please consider contributing to AJHS and earmarking your gift for preserving the JWB collection. See the enclosed form.

Unique AJHS Army Talmud Exhibit Premieres in Norfolk, VA.

In May, 2001, the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia hosted the world premiere of a powerful exhibition, "A Particular Responsibility: The US Army and the Making of the Survivors' Talmud." The American Jewish Historical Society and the Tidewater Jewish Foundation collaborated to create the exhibit in memory of Leonard Strelitz of Virginia Beach, VA.

The story of the Survivors’ Talmud is a little-known chapter in American and Jewish history. When World War II ended, more than 100,000 Jewish survivors were herded into Displaced Persons (DP) Camps. While most non-Jewish DP’s were eventually repatriated to their homelands, Jewish DP’s had no homes to which they could safely return. While they wished to emigrate to the United States or Palestine, immigration quotas effectively closed the gates of both lands to Jews. In 1946, a group of European rabbi survivors and U. S. Army Jewish military chaplains requested of General Philip McNarney, commander of the U.S. Zone of Occupied Germany, that he help rebuild religious life for those Jews confined indefinitely to the DP camps. To start the rebuilding, the rabbis argued, the Army should print and distribute copies of the Talmud.

McNarney agreed to the rabbis’ request, but the Nazi scourge had so thoroughly decimated Jewish culture in Europe that no complete set of the Talmud could be found there. McNarney diverted scarce paper, imported two sets of the Talmud from America so that photo offset copies could be made and requisitioned a printing plant formerly used to publish Nazi propaganda. It took two years to finish, but in 1948 – for the first and only time in world history – a national government published an edition of the Talmud.

The exhibition next travels to the Boston area, where it will be featured in the opening of the new campus of Hebrew College in Newton, MA, in December 2001.

Additionally, AJHS is working with the US Army Chaplain’s Corps and the Army’s Center of Military History to travel the exhibition to the Pentagon, the Chaplain’s Training School and other military venues.

AJHS hopes to duplicate copies of the exhibition so that it may travel and be shown at several sites simultaneously. The cost to produce and travel an additional copy of the exhibition to 3 venues is $25,000. Please use the reply form on the insert to help with this effort. Donors of $15,000 or more will be listed as the sponsor of a duplicate exhibit. Donors of $1,000 or more will be listed as associate sponsors.

For further information, please contact Michael Feldberg, Ph.D., executive director of AJHS, at 212-294-6162 or feldberg@ajhs.org or use the response form (enclosed).
AJHS to Issue Historic Set of Jewish Players’ Baseball Cards

The American Jewish Historical Society will produce a limited-edition commemorative set of 140 baseball cards featuring every Jewish player (from Lipman Pike to Tony Cogan) who played major-league baseball from 1871-2001. The project is being done in conjunction with Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., a not-for profit Boston organization established “to document American Jews in America’s Game.” Each set will be boxed and include a booklet outlining the history of Jewish players in Major League Baseball from the 19th century to the present. Each card provides biographical and career data on the player.

In addition to such obvious stars as Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax, Moe Berg, Ken Holtzman, Shawn Green and Brad Ausmus, the series will include cards for such lesser-know players as Marv Rotblatt, Milt Galatzer and Cy Malis. For about 40 players, this series will mark the first time a baseball card has been issued with their image. Photos of 6 of these players were not available in any photographic archive and were obtained from descendants and university yearbooks by volunteer researchers, including AJHS director emeritus Bernard Wax. Text for some of the cards has been written by guest authors with personal or familial ties to the players. Most recognizable among the authors are playwright David Mamet, Bible scholars Everett Fox and Marc Brettler, Wellesley College historian Jerold Auerbach and Tufts University Provost Sol Gittleman.

Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc. has researched and designed the cards; AJHS will be responsible for producing and distributing them. AJHS hopes to have the sets available for opening day of the 2002 baseball season. In our next newsletter, we will announce their release date.

Chanukah Publication Date for “Chapters in American Jewish History”

In our last issue, AJHS announced that its popular weekly feature, “Chapters in American Jewish History,” which appears in the Forward, the Connecticut Jewish Ledger and various other English language, Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish newspapers in the United States, will be collected into a book. KTAV Publishers, which is producing the volume (now titled Blessings of Freedom: Chapters in American Jewish History), expects the hardbound and paperback versions to be available in time for Chanukah delivery. To order yours, see the response form.

AJHS Starts Jewish Counter Culture Collection

The American Jewish Historical Society is actively collecting documents and materials relating to the Jewish Counter Culture movement of the late 1960’s and 1970’s, when American Jewish college students undertook experiments in worship, publishing, political activism, community building and communal living that greatly affected how American Jews thought about and practiced Judaism. Included in the Jewish Counter Culture are the Havurah movement, publications such as Response Magazine and Davka, alternative Jewish newspapers, Jewish communal living on college campuses, Jewish feminism, Jewish political organizations, minyanim and The Jewish Catalog. Participants in these experiments became rabbis and leaders in virtually every movement and organization of American Jewish life.

The Society already holds the papers of rabbi Arthur Waskow; the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry; Jews for Urban Justice; Farbrangen; Tzedeck Tzedeck; Brcira; the New Jewish Agenda, and Kibbutz Micah. AJHS recently acquired the records of the Jewish Student Press Service. Now it seeks significantly more material.

Professors Riv-Ellen Prell of the University of Minnesota and Chava Weissler of Lehigh University, who have written books on minyanim, will serve as co-curators of the counterculture archives.

New Season of Public Programs: Lectures, Films, Concerts, Panels

November 3, 2001: The Uri Caine Ensemble will present The Sidewalks of New York: Tin Pan Alley American Premiere, performing popular music of New York in the early 1900s. Art D’Lugoff, founder of Greenwich Village’s famed Village Gate, will join Uri Caine for a dialogue on the music and its time after the concert.

November 5: 2001: “Arguing the World”, a documentary tracing the lives and ideas of Irving Howe, Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer and Irving Kristol from Marxist idealism, through the McCarthy era and the New Left of the 60s to the end of the century.

November 19, 2001: “Delta Jews,” a documentary exploring the history and challenges faced by Jews of Mississippi. A major focus is on how Jews raised in this segregationist society came to grips with the civil rights movement.

December 15, 2001: Annual “Chanukah in Concert” presented by the American Society for Jewish Music and AJHS. Includes two premiere performances of new works, the Ramaz School Chamber Choir and Isaiah Sheffer as host and storyteller.
**News from the Hadassah Archives**

The Hadassah Archives is pleased to announce that it received a grant from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture to process additional Henrietta Szold papers received in the twenty years since the original processing of the collection and publication of the finding aid. The papers of Hadassah's founder are the backbone of the collection and we look forward to creating improved researcher and staff access to the full Szold collection.

This past summer, with the help of Barnard intern Hila Ratzabi, the records of Junior Hadassah were arranged, listed and made available on our archives database. Junior Hadassah was a membership organization that, between 1916 and 1967 when it was merged with Young Judaea, functioned under the auspices of Hadassah. Young women, often working and living at home after graduation from high school and before marriage and often with mothers involved in Hadassah, became involved in their own Junior Hadassah chapters and fund raising projects.

A second summer intern, University of Massachusetts student Michelle Beller, contributed to research of the work done by Hadassah's Jewish Education Department from 1912 to the present. The research completed to date focuses on material generated by the national office of Hadassah. Eventually, the Archives will include programs and materials developed by individual chapters and regions. The Hadassah Archives thanks the F.E.G.S. program of Hillel for providing the support that made it possible for Ms. Beller's internship.

**Society Begins Processing of AAEJ and Graenum Berger Papers**

This past summer, a grant from Edith and Henry Everett made it possible for archival intern Jessica Weglein to begin processing the Society's more than 100 linear feet of archival material related to the American Association for Ethiopian Jewry (AAEJ). Ms. Weglein has begun by arranging and organizing the papers of the late Graenum Berger, the outspoken American first president of the maverick organization. Founded in 1974, AAEJ first brought international attention to the plight of Ethiopia's Jews and agitated for Israel to take action on behalf of this imperiled minority. The Association's efforts culminated in Operation Solomon, the 1991 airlift that brought 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Berger's rich collection of correspondence, reports, memos, speeches and clippings document the AAEJ's vigorous lobbying activities in America and Israel and provide rare insight into the activist group's often-embattled relationships with other Jewish organizations. Berger's papers also contain significant research material related to the publication of his 1978 book, *Black Jews in America*.

The Society recently acquired four feet of archival material from Nathan Shapiro, who served as the AAEJ's third president from 1982-1993. Shapiro’s papers are a welcome addition to the Society’s growing collection of materials related to the American movement to rescue Ethiopian Jewry. The Society also thanks Emma Berger, Graenum Berger’s widow, for her donation earlier this year of the last of her husband’s papers. In May 2002 at its New York headquarters, the Society will host a symposium on the history of the Ethiopian Jewry movement.

Please use the response form if you would like to support the conference or help complete the archival processing of the AAEJ Collection.

**Photograph by Graeneum Berger from “The Falashas”. Group of Ethiopian Cohanim in front of their synagogue. 1970.**
AJHS Contributes Materials to UJC On-Line “FedWeb” Library

The United Jewish Communities, America’s largest Jewish philanthropic organization and central address for the support for Jewish culture in America and Israel, has invited the American Jewish Historical Society to create an ongoing partnership. According to the arrangement, AJHS supplies UJC (the successor organization to the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal) with historical information and images for use in UJC’s unique internet initiative. Titled “FedWeb,” the program provides a “skeleton” for websites sponsored by dozens of Jewish federations around the United States. Through its content sharing capacity, UJC’s FedWeb offers these local federation websites materials and images drawn from UJC’s extensive library of news stories, feature articles and images. Currently, more than 40 federations are engaged in the program.

The first element AJHS supplied to FedWeb is the Society’s highly popular “Chapters in American Jewish History,” which can be found both on www.ujc.org, and many of the other FedWeb sites, as well as on AJHS’s own site, www.ajhs.org. Recently, AJHS provided UJC with images from the AJHS collection of American Jewish postcards. UJC animated these cards and made them available to send as e-cards, that is, messages that the visitor to the UJC site can forward to friends or relatives over the Internet. Please visit the UJC site to view these cards and send them to others.

After viewing the cards on-line, if you would like to order a box of 18 note cards and envelopes for sending by conventional mail, please contact AJHS/Waltham at 781-891-8110, e-mail us at ajhs@ajhs.org to place an order or use the response form in this issue.

Richard Cohen and Jewish Public Relations: A Look Behind the Scenes

Richard Cohen, a remarkable public relations advocate for the Jewish community, passed away in 1994. His firm, Richard Cohen Associates, founded in a 1979 partnership with his wife Aphrodite Clamar-Cohen, spoke publicly at one time or another for many of the most important national Jewish organizations in the United States: the American Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the American Zionist Movement, among many others. Taken together, the firm’s press releases and position papers, usually issued in the name of the organizations that retained their services, document the stances that these major Jewish agencies took on important public issues such as America-Israel relations, the Arab boycott, terrorism, human and civil rights, Soviet Jewry and other issues central to American Jewish life.

The challenge to AJHS staff was how to best arrange and index the approximately 16,000 documents in the collection. Society intern Jason Schechter and associate archivist Adina Wachman sorted through the material, copied the news clippings onto acid-free paper, removed staples and re-housed the papers into acid-free boxes and folders. They then created a reference guide that will help researchers easily find what they are looking for. The guide will be available on the AJHS website, searchable by keyword.

When the staff explored the records, they were struck by the diversity of clients and (often controversial) issues that the firm managed. Clients included the International conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy, the film Schindler’s List and the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and public relations work for Edward Kennedy’s presidential primary campaign in 1980, Gary Hart’s primary campaign in 1984 and Walter Mondale’s 1984 presidential campaign.

AJHS is grateful to Aphrodite Clamar-Cohen for choosing AJHS to hold and preserve these records. As she wrote to us, “Thanks for taking care of our (and our clients) history—I cannot tell you how pleased I am that our papers have found such a good home.”

Jewish New Year’s postcard from the AJHS collection, available from AJHS in Waltham, MA.
Beyond Words: AJHS to Publish Limited Edition of Miklos Adler's Holocaust Woodcuts

In 1999, the American Jewish Historical Society issued a highly acclaimed, limited-edition books, *A Survivors' Haggadah*, which contained a facsimile of the Haggadah published by the United States Army in 1946 to help Jews living in the Displaced Persons camps in the Munich area of Germany celebrate the first Seder after the Nazi defeat. [See the related story on page 2 describing the Society's current exhibition on the role of the US Army in publishing a Survivors' Talmud.] Integral to the *Survivors' Haggadah* were several woodcuts by Miklos Adler, a Hungarian concentration camp survivor who was one of the first artists to try to depict the nature of Nazi barbarity in images rather than words.

Adler created a complete Holocaust narrative in sixteen powerful woodcuts, explained only by single-line captions. Now, for the first time since their creation in late 1945, the AJHS has gathered the series together in a portfolio titled *Beyond Words*, with an accompanying essay by Saul Touster, professor emeritus at Brandeis University and editor of the Society's edition of *A Survivors' Haggadah*. This limited edition of the woodcuts and essay will appear in 600 sets only, each one numbered and autographed by Professor Touster. The cost of the portfolio is $250, although members of AJHS receive a $25 discount. Based on sales of the *Survivors' Haggadah*, these sets will not last long. Please see the enclosed form to reserve yours.

Cover of Beyond Words.

Books and Artifacts Recently Added to the American Jewish Historical Society Library Collection

Support from our members and donors has allowed us to add more than 200 recently published books to keep the Society’s library current. These volumes will now be available to researchers for generations to come. If you would like to support this effort, please send your contributions to the Society specifying that you want the funds to be used to acquire books for the research collection.

Additionally the following items were recently donated to the AJHS museum collections:

103 Postcards of various styles, many on Jewish themes, early 20th century. Gift of Arline V. Ekman and Rosalind Ekman Ladd in memory of their parents, Sonia B. Nathan Ekman.


From the 1920s through 1970s, Hannah London Siegel located, identified and documented hundreds of early American Jewish portraits, miniatures, and silhouettes. Her three published books of her findings virtually created a new field of knowledge and scholarship. The American Jewish Historical Society owns London’s research and personal papers.

Circumcision Dress of Abraham H. Abelow (b. Ware MA, March 26, 1910). Hand and machine stitching, hand silk embroidery, on silk gauze. Gift of Shirley A. Levine. This handsome garment, in nearly perfect condition, is a rare survival of a hand-made religious clothing from the early twentieth-century immigrant period.

Photographs (black and white) of Synagogues in the Boston, Massachusetts Area. Gift of Steven Kellerman, 1980s. Throughout the 1980s, Steven Kellerman photographed over 140 buildings that are, or were, once sites of synagogues in the greater Boston, Massachusetts area.


When Harry Gorberg (1878-1950) and Gertrude Fine Gorberg (1884-1956) emigrated to America from Russia about 1905, they brought an assemblage of bedding, Gertrude's hand-embroidered textiles, and treasured objects, including their samovar currently on display in the AJHS exhibition in New York, Seeing Ourselves.

This handsome garment, in nearly perfect condition, is a rare survival of a hand-made religious clothing from the early twentieth-century immigrant period.