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# HERITAGE

Fall 2005

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**CHANUKAH AMERICAN STYLE**

**BOSTON OPENS  
350TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT**

**FROM THE ARCHIVES:  
NEW YORK SECTION, NCJW**

**NEW JEWISH BASEBALL DISCOVERIES**

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

We have just completed one of the most exciting seasons in the Historical Society's proud history. In September, we co-hosted the National Dinner marking the close of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Jewish settlement in America. In this issue of *Heritage*, we have printed some of the Dinner's proceedings, featuring President George W. Bush's address to the American Jewish community. Also in September, we closed our monumental exhibition in New York on the American Jewish experience from 1654 to the present and opened a second such exhibition in Boston. And, we presented Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York, with our distinguished Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award. Then, like you, we took some time to look back during the holidays and reflect on the year. Now, recharged, we look forward to Chanukah and the calendar year ahead.

2006 will be an ambitious year for AJHS. This month, we are producing our second set of cards memorializing American Jews who have played major league baseball, as well as some Jewish baseball pioneers such as broadcaster Mel Allen and female stars. We've also discovered some players who are Jewish who were not included in the original set, such as Hall of Fame player-manager Lou Boudreau.

In January 2006, we will close the Boston exhibition and open *'Cradled in Judea'*: Jewish Orphanages in New York City, 1860 - 1960, at the Center for Jewish History in New York. We will continue our series of lectures and programs; continue to serve scholars by making archival collections and books available to them; expand our websites; answer thousands of reference questions for students and adults; publish our scholarly journal; support our prestigious Academic Council; and continue to publish books and this magazine.

Our mission is to assure that America does not take the contributions of its Jewish citizens for granted and that we, and especially our children and grandchildren, can know about and appreciate the efforts and the excellence of those Jews who came before us.

Let me take this opportunity to thank those of you who have provided the financial support to allow the Society to perform its good work. If you are not yet a supporter, please become one today.

Sincerely,

Sidney Lapidus

## HERITAGE

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# “Cradled in Judea”



KINDERGARTEN AT THE HOA, C. 1920, HYMAN BOGEN PAPERS, AJHS

Are you a “graduate” of a Hebrew orphan asylum Jewish orphanage in New York or the descendant of someone who was? Do you know anyone whose life includes that experience? If so, you won’t want to miss the Society’s next exhibition. If not, read on anyway – the story of American Jewish orphanages is little known and highly interesting.

Continuing to make its archives come alive, in January 2006 the AJHS will open an exhibition on a forgotten aspect of American Jewish philanthropy: the orphanages that served the needs of dependent Jewish children for more than a century. Today, these facilities – and Jewish family and children’s services in general – are available to individuals of every faith and ethnicity. However, before the 1950s, Jewish orphanages served a range of needy Jewish children. In addition to parentless orphans, they provided group homes for children whose parents were too sick or too poor to care for them. On numerous occasions, impoverished parents brought their children to these orphanages, hoping that their offspring would get a better start in life than they could afford to provide.

## Jewish Orphanages in New York, 1860 – 1960

These Jewish children – referred to by historian Hyman Bogen as “the luckiest orphans” – received substantial nutrition, secure housing, sturdy clothing, discipline, health care, public school education, athletic opportunities, preparation for adult life skills and training in Judaism. What they almost never got was the warmth and individual attention that comes to children in a family home. Nor did they get exposure to any form of Judaism other than Reform. Despite these limitations and the disadvantages of poverty from which they started, many of the orphanage graduates went on to highly productive careers and started stable families of their own.


The nineteenth-century philanthropists, educators, rabbis and child care workers who established and maintained these Jewish orphanages



HOA BAND MEMBER, C. 1915, HYMAN BOGEN PAPERS, AJHS

were moved by complex ideals. When the first Jewish orphanages were created in the 1860s, government agencies rarely provided social services, so Jewish philanthropies had to meet the needs of their most vulnerable members or risk losing them to the streets or to Christian missionaries. Starting in the 1880s, the massive influx of Yiddish-speaking immigrants into the United States had the effect of disrupting many families. The German-Jewish leadership elites of New York City tried their best to create “ideal homes” for the children of their less fortunate co-religionists – in their phrase, to cradle them in Judea. However, until 1903 they discouraged orphanage residents from speaking Yiddish and it was not until 1914 that kosher food was made widely available in the orphanages.

The American Jewish Historical Society is privileged to care for the archives of several Jewish orphanages, including the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Home for Hebrew Infants, Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society of New York, Hebrew Infant Asylum of New York City, Hebrew National Orphan Home, Hartman Homecrest Records, the Pride of Judea, the records of the Seligman Solomon Society and the papers of Hyman Bogen. The exhibition, curated by the Society’s archival staff, draws from these collections.

The exhibition runs until June 2006. To arrange for a group visit to the exhibition, please contact Cathy Krugman at [ckrugman@ajhs.cjh.org](mailto:ckrugman@ajhs.cjh.org) or at 212 294-6164. 



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# The Angel of Ellis Island

In 1907, the New York Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) hired Celia Greenstone as assistant immigrant arrival agent at Ellis Island. The New York Section of NCJW worried that thousands of single Jewish women might be “misled into immoral lives, and other girls [will be] subjected to great dangers because of the lack of some directing and protecting agency at Ellis Island.” The New York Section appointed pioneer social worker Bessie Meirowitz as their first Ellis Island agent. When her work load became excessive, Greenstone became her assistant.

Although only 20, Greenstone was well qualified. At age thirteen, Celia’s father left her in charge of the family cigarette factory in Bialystock, Russian Poland, while he traveled on business. In his absence, Greenstone dealt with suppliers, customers and corrupt state officials. The idealistic Greenstone avidly read Karl Marx, joined a utopian socialist-Zionist movement and even unionized her father’s cigarette factory workers. She marched in socialist demonstrations that the czarist police brutally suppressed. In 1905, the family business failed and pogroms swept Bialystock, so the Greenstones emigrated to New York.

On arrival, Celia Greenstone spent hours each day at the Astor Library devouring books in English, Hebrew, German, Russian and Yiddish. The head of the library’s Hebrew Department asked Greenstone to serve as his volunteer assistant. After a few months, Greenstone asked for money to defray the cost of her lunch and travel and the librarian berated her for ingratitude. Greenstone protested to the head librarian, who promised her paid employment. A few months later, he referred Greenstone to become a translator for Jacob Schiff, the famous banker and

philanthropist. Impressed with Greenstone’s facility with languages, Schiff’s wife commended her to the New York Section of NCJW, which hired Greenstone to assist at Ellis Island.

Greenstone worked six long days a week for months on end, ushering single women, mothers and children through the Ellis Island process. Greenstone was moved by the those women who, rejected by the health inspectors, were scheduled for deportation back to the poverty and pogroms of eastern Europe. Greenstone intervened on behalf of several frightened young girls who the inspectors labeled as “retarded” when unable to answer questions posed to them in English. She helped girls traveling alone to locate their families in other parts of the country, or to obtain work and respectable lodgings. Greenstone tended to women detained on the island while overcoming temporary health problems, or awaiting deportation, and arranged for kosher food to be delivered to inmates of the island hospital. She also established Shabbat and holiday services.


In 1912, NCJW promoted Greenstone to head agent on Ellis



CELIA GREENSTONE, AJHS

Island. Her responsibilities included conducting weekly follow-up meetings at the Educational Alliance in Manhattan with women she had helped through Ellis Island to assure that they were learning English, receiving support and searching for work. Greenstone visited the Jewish inmates of the Bedford Reformatory for Girls. In 1914, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society asked Greenstone to travel to Riga, in Russian Latvia, to inspect a new facility to house Jewish emigrants awaiting passage to America.

World War I dramatically cut into European immigration to America. Whereas 878,000 immigrants landed at Ellis Island in 1914, only 28,000 arrived in 1918. The need for Greenstone’s services at Ellis Island had come to an end by 1916.

In 1962, looking back on her years helping Ellis Island’s Jewish immigrants, Greenstone explained that she hoped “to show the immigrants that in all the hard sorrows of their lives, they did not stand alone, and that they did not have to succumb. [I wanted] to show them that if one person misused or betrayed them, another would not.” 

# FROM OUR ARCHIVES

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, NEW YORK SECTION



AJHS ARCHIVES

At first, the New York Section focused on helping newly arrived immigrants at Ellis Island and opening community settlement houses for Jews and non-Jews in neighborhoods like the Lower East Side. Over time, the Section moved into new areas of


In 1893, Hannah G. Solomon founded the first encompassing American Jewish women's organization, the National Council of Jewish Women. As the story of Celia Greenstone on page 4 indicates, from the very first the New York Section of NCJW was the key chapter of NCJW, perhaps because in the 1890s New York City had by far the nation's largest population of vulnerable Jews.

concern, providing day-care and establishing day camps, opening a center for seniors, assisting delinquents on parole, visiting the sick, and educating the disabled.

Today's New York Section continues to help women, children and families of all ethnic and religious backgrounds through programs on early childhood education, pregnancy loss counseling and the Jewish Women's Resource Center. The New York Section supports reproductive rights for women, family and work needs, rights for the hungry and homeless and protection for Israel.

Recently, the New York Section donated its records from 1895 to 2004 to

the American Jewish Historical Society, including administrative and financial records, correspondence, photographs, publications, and scrapbooks reflecting the religious, social and advocacy services of the New York Section and its National Office.

Processed with the generous support of the New York Section, the collection is open to researchers in the Reading Room of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Please contact Lyn Slome, Director of Library and Archives, at [lslome@ajhs.cjh.org](mailto:lslome@ajhs.cjh.org) if you wish to conduct research in the collection. 



AJHS ARCHIVES



AJHS ARCHIVES

# 350th Anniversary

## Draws to a Close at Presidential Dinner

The year-long celebration of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America came to a rousing conclusion at a National Dinner in Washington, DC jointly sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society, the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Celebrate 350, an umbrella organization that coordinated the anniversary year activities of Jewish organizations across the United States.

The audience of more than 1000 at the recently restored National Building Museum heard an address by President George W. Bush, who followed the tradition established by former presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Grover Cleveland, who offered congratulations to American Jewry at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary dinner in 1905, and Dwight D. Eisenhower, who spoke at the tercentenary dinner in 1954. On behalf of the American people, Mr. Bush accepted the official commemorative gold medal minted for the celebration. Robert Rifkind, co-chair of the Dinner, announced that the organizers were donating \$50,000 of the dinner proceeds to Hurricane Katrina relief.

The audience included Jewish cadets from West Point and Jewish midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy; ambassadors, consuls and officials from 25 nations; members of the United States Congress and other public officials; and leaders of virtually every major American Jewish organization. The Naval Academy Women's Chorus and composer Marvin Hamlisch provided the evening's musical entertainment.

A centerpiece of the evening was the presentation of the AJHS's Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award to former New York mayor Ed Koch. For a related story on the award, please turn to page 13.





**INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT  
GEORGE W. BUSH  
ROBERT S. RIFKIND  
CHAIR OF CELEBRATE 350:**

We who discovered our spiritual destiny in our exodus from slavery to freedom take this occasion to reconnect ourselves, Mr. President, to the values of freedom, of equal justice under law, of religious liberty and respect for human diversity that have enabled us to flourish in America.

Tonight you continue, Mr. President, a tradition that President Theodore Roosevelt started in addressing our community on the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary a century ago and President Eisenhower continued at the Tercentenary in 1954. With great respect, therefore, I have the privilege of presenting you two things – first the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary commemorative gold medal and, secondly, this audience, which represents an American Jewish community grown from 23 refugees to many millions of productive citizens, all committed to sustaining a thriving democracy.

Thank you, Mr. President. ❄️



**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH**

I am honored to accept this medal commemorating three and a half centuries of Jewish life in America. I consider it a high honor to have been invited to celebrate with you.

Back in 1790, the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, wrote to congratulate George Washington on his election as the country’s first President. In his reply, President Washington thanked the congregation and pledged to defend vigorously the principle of religious liberty for all. He said, the United States “gives to bigotry no sanction; to persecution no assistance,” and he expressed his hope that the “stock of Abraham” would thrive in America.

In the centuries that followed, the stock of Abraham has thrived here like nowhere else. We are a better and stronger and freer nation because so many Jews from countries all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. ...

The story of the Jewish people in America is a story of America itself. The Pilgrims considered this nation a new Israel, a refuge from persecution in Europe. Early Americans named many of their cities after places in Hebrew Scripture: Bethel and New Canaan, Shiloh and Salem. And when the first Jews arrived here, the children of Israel saw America as the land of promise, a golden land where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty.

When the first Jewish settlers came to our shores 350 years ago, they were not immediately welcomed. Yet, from the onset, the Jews who arrived here demonstrated a deep commitment to their new land. An immigrant named Asser Levy volunteered to serve in the New Amsterdam Citizens Guard, which, unfortunately, had a policy of refusing to admit Jews. That didn’t bother Levy. He was determined, like many others who have followed him, to break down the barriers of discrimination. Within two years, he took his rightful spot alongside his fellow citizens in the Guard. He was the first of many Jewish Americans who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States. ...

Jewish Americans have made countless contributions to our land. The prophet, Jeremiah, once called out to his nation, “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf.” For 350 years, American Jews have heeded these words, and you’ve prayed and worked for peace and freedom in America. Freedom to worship is why Jews came to America three-and-a-half centuries ago; it’s why the Jews settled in Israel over five decades ago.

Our two nations [Israel and America] have a great deal in common. We were both founded by immigrants escaping religious persecution in other lands. We both have built vibrant democracies. Both our countries are

founded on certain basic beliefs: that there is an Almighty God who watches over the affairs of men and values every life. These ties have made us natural allies, and these ties will never be broken.

Earlier today, I met in New York with Prime Minister Sharon. ... Once again, I expressed this nation's commitment to defending the security and well-being of Israel. I also assured him that I will not waver when it comes to spreading freedom around the world. I understand this, that freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is an Almighty God's gift to each man and woman and child in this world. Religious freedom is a foundation of fundamental human and civil rights. And when the United States promotes religious freedom, it is promoting the spread of democracy. And when we promote the spread of democracy, we are promoting the cause of peace.

Religious freedom is more than the freedom to practice one's faith. It is also the obligation to respect the faith of others. So to stand for religious freedom, we must expose and confront the ancient hatred of anti-Semitism, wherever it is found. When we find anti-Semitism at home, we will confront it. When we find anti-Semitism abroad, we will condemn it. And we condemn the desecration of synagogues in Gaza that followed Israel's withdrawal.

Under America's system of religious freedom, church and state are separate. Still, we have learned that faith is not solely a private matter. Men and women throughout our history have acted on the words of Scripture and they have made America a better, more hopeful place. When Rabbi Abraham Heschel marched with Martin Luther King, we saw modern-day prophets calling on America to honor its promises. We must allow people of faith to act on their convictions without facing discrimination. ...

I want to thank you for your patriotism. I want to thank you for compas-

sion. I want to thank you for your love for the United States of America. All of America is grateful to the Jewish people for the treasures you have given us over the past 350 years. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country. ❁



### KENNETH J. BIALKIN

Ladies and gentlemen:

We just heard the President of the United States speak of the remarkable history of the establishment of the Jewish community in North America. We are especially grateful that President Bush met with us at this crucial time in our history while he and the country confront and mourn the tragedy of Katrina and New Orleans. In the President's busy day today, earlier, he addressed the United Nations. As he mentioned to you, he met with the Prime Minister of Israel. Earlier tonight he visited a historic synagogue in Washington. We appreciate the importance his presence here today signals. ❁



### BISHOP JAMES CHANE, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, DC

From the first landing of Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam in 1654, who came to a new land seeking refuge, freedom from persecution and a new life, the Jewish community in America has exemplified the unique relationship between freedom and Jewish continuity.

As a Christian, I honor the dedication of the American Jewish community for its steadfast commitment to freedom, opportunity, religious liberty, equality and pluralism....all hallmarks of America, and the solid building blocks that define the gift of Judaism to the world.

Our Holy Books are different in some ways and yet so connected in so many others. In our Holy Texts we learn that we all have a common father in Abraham. And it is Abraham who reminds us that our brother and sisterhood should not be divisible because of our separate faith traditions, but rather we must always remember our common roots and the one creator, God, who unites us as one human family defined by the common bonds of mutual respect for one another and the shared valued of working for the good of the commonwealth.

May this great celebration tonight be pleasing to God and remind us all of the great gift of life, the indomitable will and perseverance of the human spirit and the gift of the Jewish people to the inter-faith community and the global community. ❁



**THEODORE CARDINAL  
MCCARRICK,  
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP,  
WASHINGTON, DC**

What a blessed day it was 350 years ago when the Jewish people came to the United States. What an extraordinary blessing they have been to our country! What a gift! God sent them here and those that followed them have all brought three great gifts: the gift of faith, the gift of family and the gift of philanthropy. All those things have been so important for America.

Time and time again the Jewish leadership has come to the aid of this country, in good times and in bad and have made a difference in the history of America. It is important for us always to remember the gifts of faith. I hope you never lose your Jewishness. The president said it earlier, and I say it again as a Christian. Secondly, I hope you never lose your gift of family, that sense of family, of belonging that has been so powerful in keeping the Jewish people together in the world, and especially in our own country. And third, that gift of philanthropy. I know of no other people who have been so generous with their resources to help others, to help their own and to help others, and I hope you will never lose that. I say that as one who has been the beneficiary often of that philanthropy.

Lastly, I want to talk about our new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. He had a wonderful visit to the Jewish synagogue in Cologne in Germany that

had been destroyed on Kristallnacht, in 1938, and was rebuilt in 1959. He mentioned [there] that it was the fortieth anniversary of the great document of the second Vatican Council, a document called *Nostra Aetate*. The Holy Father said in the 40 years that had passed since that conciliar document much progress has been made toward better and closer relations between Jews and Christians. The document deplores feelings of hatred, persecution and demonstrations of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews at whatever time and by whomever. God created us all in his image, the Holy Father said, and thus honored us with a transcendent dignity that each of us shares. The Pope went on to say that so much has happened to insure that the terrible horror of the past will never happen again. And then he added, finally our gaze should not only be directed at the past but should also look forward to the tasks that await us today and tomorrow. Our rich common heritage and our fraternal and more trusting relations call upon us to work together on the practical level for the defense and promotion of human rights and the sacredness of human life, for family values, for social justice and for peace in the world.

I conclude as did the Holy Father with the words of Psalm 29 which expresses both a wish and a prayer: May the Lord give strength to his people. May He bless the people with peace. May he hear our prayers and bless our future. God bless you all. Thank you. ❁

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### LYNN SCHUSTERMAN

For 350 years America has been a nurturing home, not just a haven for Jews, protected by the same inalienable fundamental rights afforded all Americans. Jewish life in our great nation has flourished in unprecedented ways. American Jewry has never been stronger, safer or more secure. We enjoy success in almost every field of endeavor. The social barriers to entry for so many of our ancestors confronted are virtually nonexistent, and as a result we have been able to contribute significantly to America. It is no accident of history that Jewry has thrived in America. In the words of Justice

Louis Brandeis, “Jews are by reason of their tradition and their character perfectly fitted for the attainment of American ideals.”

To be good Americans we must be better Jews. We must also, as God promised to Abraham, be as numerous as the stars in the heaven. American Jewry must continue to grow in size and in vibrancy if we wish to continue contributing to our community and fulfilling our biblical injunction of Tikkun Olam. Our community must celebrate its growing diversity by embracing all who may look to Judaism as their path to personal meaning and fulfillment.

Our congregations, our schools, our institutions must become more welcoming to those Jews we have yet to engage. We have to go to those non-traditional families seeking places in Jewish life to the rapidly increasing number of Jews of color and all those willing to raise their children in a Jewish home. We live in an era when all Jews are Jews by choice. Our community and in turn our nation can benefit from these new sources of vitality and strength. Together we must con-

tinue to demonstrate what makes Judaism so special, to highlight its timeless relevance, to interpret its transcendent message of hope.

We particularly need to inspire and invest in our young people, insuring that Judaism will enrich their lives so that they may enrich the world. Among the young people at your table are student leaders in Jewish teen and campus organizations – Israel activists, Jewish cadets from West Point and Jewish midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy. I would like to take a moment for each of them to please stand. Please talk with them, encourage them, but most importantly mentor them. They are our future. They are already infusing our community with creative forms of Jewish engagement. The expressive energy that they and their peers are unleashing today will impact American Jewish life in a positive way for generations to come, and they will make sure that we are here for the four hundredth celebration of American Jews. ❁



PRESIDENT BUSH GREETING ANN BIALKIN AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.



**INVOCATION**  
**RABBI DR. GARY P. ZOLA**

On this night of historic commemoration, all of us here assembled should be mindful of our courageous forebears who carried their lanterns of light along the dense pathways of generations past. As they moved toward the unknown, as they faced unfamiliar challenges, as they built their homes, earned their livelihoods, and raised their families, they carried a lantern in their hands and in their hearts to guide them through the inscrutable future. The lamps our ancestors carried have always been fueled by faith, by courage, and by hope.

Eternal Source of Past, Present and Future! At this special hour of commemoration and recognition, as we gather together to commemorate 350 years of Jewish life in America, may the noble lessons of the past inspire us anew to face the daunting challenges of our own era with a vision made clearer by the light of faith, of courage, and of hope — eternal truths that have always illuminated our way.

Yet even as we gratefully acknowledge the numberless gifts and blessings that have been laid in our cradles as a birthright, even as we fete this, our great nation and pay tribute to the generations of men and women upon whose shoulders we now stand, we are all especially mindful this evening of the terrible devastation that has befallen thousands upon thousands of our

fellow citizens in the Gulf Coast region. Our rejoicing is tempered by the dimensions of their loss. Let each of us resolve to lend a hand so that this nation, in a full spirit of caring and compassion, will yet give new meaning to the immortal words of this evening's poet laureate: "Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I [will yet] lift my lamp" in faith, courage, and hope.

In a spirit of deeply felt gratitude for this land of opportunity, and in reverent appreciation for our Constitution

that has pledged liberty and justice to all, and in the hope that peace and security may yet descend on us and all humankind, we invoke now a contemporary rendering of the prayerful sentiments that the father of this nation conferred upon all of us two hundred and fifteen years ago: "May the Eternal One scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all — in our several vocations — useful here, and in due time . . . everlastingly happy."

Amen.



L > R: FRED S. ZEIDMAN, CHAIR, U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, WASH DC;  
SID LAPIDUS, PRESIDENT, AJHS; PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



**RABBI AVIS MILLER,  
CONGREGATION ADAS ISRAEL,  
WASHINGTON DC**

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank you for the blessing of having reached this moment, celebrating 350 years of Jewish life that has flourished in this United States of America. Our tradition teaches us to pray for the welfare of the place in which we live and so we do this evening as we proclaim with sincerity, how fortunate we are to live in this time and in this place, how good is our fortune, how pleasant our lot, how beautiful our heritage.

Most of us here on this evening of celebration come from those huddled masses yearning to breathe free. This land opened its golden door and welcomed us. America has been good to us and good for us, and we have been good for this country as well, as individuals and as a Jewish community, giving freely of our resources and energy, our talents and our ideals.

We acknowledge, God, our gratitude for the ancient Biblical ideals of liberty and justice that inspired the founders of our country. May we appreciate the different blessings of spirit that have made this country strong, among them the contributions of American Jews; for the courage of its pioneers; for the enterprise that built its cities; for the vision of its artists; for the heroism of its fighters for freedom and equality. May we continue to work with all of our fellow Americans of whatever race or creed, national origin or political preference


to build together the dream that is America.

May we continue to strive for a world of peace where nations shall not lift up sword against nation, a world of freedom where people everywhere can have a voice in determining their own welfare and their own fate. May we appreciate the rich abundance of field and forest, the beauty of the mountains and the waters and the clear blue skies, and may we use wisely and well these resources that you have given us and as we work toward Tikkun Olam, completing and perfecting the world of your creation.

May we also continue to build the dream here at home engaging wholeheartedly in Tikkun America, working toward a nation of opportunity for all people whatever their color or religion, whatever their ethnicity or gender, so that others may flourish here as we have. May we American Jews never forget where we came from or lose sight of where we are going.

The challenges that still await us or accustom us to the blight of poverty and disease, hunger and homelessness

that have become so apparent, so painfully apparent in recent days. May this season of repentance and return prompt us to reflect on whether the values of our country accord with reality, acknowledging that though we are not all guilty of injustice and indifference, we are all responsible for our own choices of action or inaction. May we choose to be active partners in creating a society in which every child has a chance to live and to learn and to love, a land in which the elderly and the infirm are safe and cared for, cities in which no one need go to bed in fear of violence or storm or terror. May we choose as individuals and as a community committed to justice to build an America in which every person can have a home, and a hope for the future.

We are not ourselves gifted with prophecy, and we cannot know what the next 350 years or even the next 50 years will bring for our people in this land, but this we do know. We can use your teachings, God of us all, to be a part of shaping the kind of United States of America that will be worthy of your blessing. 



**PRESIDENT BUSH AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.**

# Koch Receives AJHS 2005 Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award



DAVID P. SOLOMON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AJHS; FORMER NYC MAYOR EDWARD I. KOCH; KENNETH J. BIALKIN, CHAIRMAN AJHS; SIDNEY LAPIDUS PRESIDENT, AJHS

At the National Dinner on September 14, 2005 celebrating 350 years of Jewish settlement in the United States, the American Jewish Historical Society presented its prestigious Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award to Edward I. Koch. The former mayor of New York joins an elite group of individuals who have received this prestigious award, including Beverly Sills, Mortimer Zuckerman, Sylvia Hassenfeld, Henry Kissinger, Sanford I. Weill and Felix Rohatyn, among others.

In presenting the award to Koch, Society president Sidney Lapidus described him as “a man of courage, honesty and forthright speech.” After becoming a decorated infantryman in World War II, Koch began his political career in the 1960s by challenging – and defeating – Carmine DeSapio, the powerful boss of Tammany Hall, for district leader in Greenwich Village. In 1968 Koch was elected to the New York City Council and, a year later, to Congress. Despite the city’s crushing bankruptcy and spiritual malaise, he decided to run for mayor in 1977 and was

elected. He said at his inauguration, in words that would prove more than prophetic, “We have been shaken by troubles that would have destroyed any other city. But we are not any other city. We are the city of New York and New York in adversity towers above any other city in the world.”

By 1990, when Koch finished his three terms in office, he had restored the city’s credit, persuaded city employees to trade the short term benefits of wage increases for the long term benefits of a balanced budget,

and lifted the spirits of all New Yorkers.

Since that time, while practicing law in New York, Koch has remained a public figure as a columnist, book author, lecturer and television personality. Koch regularly speaks out against terror, in support of Israel, and in favor of national security, religious and racial tolerance and human rights. Most recently, at the invitation of the president, Koch has led an American delegation to an international conference in Europe to address the problem of worldwide anti-Semitism – both to analyze and condemn its current revival, and to plot its future defeat.

In accepting the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award, Koch said, “We, the Jewish community, treasure our status as U.S. citizens. We thank those who through the centuries created and protected this country. We bless its elected officials for their positive impact on our lives, and we thank God for having brought us to its shores either by birth or immigration.” [ajhs](#)

# It's *your* heritage...

## Join the American Jewish Historical Society.

The American Jewish Historical Society is the world's leading institution for communicating the history of the Jewish people in the United States. This is so important because the Society's critical mission is not duplicated by any other organization.

For more than a century, this institution has served educators, students, rabbis, researchers, genealogists, filmmakers, curators and audiences – Jewish and non-Jewish alike, bringing forth the richness of the remarkable Jewish experience in this great nation.

Now more than ever, as we celebrate 350 years of Jewish life in America, support from friends and members like you can make a difference.

Without your commitment, the stories we tell and the documents we preserve will be lost to future generations.

What does your personal gift make possible?

### Research and Scholarship

> AJHS makes available millions of unique documents from which researchers write the history of the



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CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN NY – 1827

American Jewish experience.

- > AJHS sponsors the AJHS Academic Council, the only professional organization in the field. Its scholarly conferences are critical to developing new scholarship and ideas in American Jewish history.
- > AJHS provides fellowships to young scholars aspiring to academic careers.
- > AJHS publishes *American Jewish History*, the most respected scholarly journal in the field.

### Public Knowledge and Understanding

- > AJHS produces museum exhibitions, lectures, concerts, film series and popular cultural events that actively reinforce Jewish identity and pride, while conveying the record of American Jewish accomplishment to people of all backgrounds.
- > Recent exhibits include our partnership with the Library of Congress on "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish History in America," the largest exhibition on this subject ever assembled.
- > AJHS has created the Archive of American Jews in Sports, the first full-scale archival effort of its type in





ISAAC MEYER WISE

the United States. AJHS published a wildly popular set of cards of every Jew who played major league baseball from 1872 to the present.

- > AJHS produces two heavily visited websites enjoyed by teachers, students, rabbis, newspaper editors and the general public: [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org) and [www.jewsinsports.org](http://www.jewsinsports.org).
- > AJHS's Project ADAJE has begun digitization of all American Jewish periodicals from the 1840s to the present, offering free access to a wealth of historical resources. The AJHS journal, *American Jewish History*, and its predecessor titles from 1893 through 1979 are currently available on-line at [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org).

### Your support keeps our history alive

Tomorrow's history lessons will be written and understood because, today, you helped advance the mission of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Current initiatives that are enhanced through your generosity include:


- > Collecting the personal papers of leading figures in the Jewish counterculture movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which contributed so much to renewing American Judaism.

**AJHS is a 501(c)3 organization – all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

- > Acquiring and preserving the records of the American Soviet Jewry movement, including the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry.
- > Saving the records of the Ethiopian Jewry movement and those of the American Jewish Congress, the Council of Jewish Federations, the National Jewish Welfare Board, and hundreds of organizations, synagogues, movements and initiatives that have shaped American Jewish life.

Your support directly enables us to continue our important work. Whether in business and finance, politics, education, science, arts, human rights, sports, entertainment to the everyday activities of family life – AJHS has ensured that the record from 1654 to the present is kept, that the stories are told, and our shared history is not forgotten.

Please join us now or give the gift of membership with a tax-deductible donation and receive the benefits of membership. Call 1-866-740-8013, visit our website [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org) or use the enclosed membership form to make sure you continue to be a part of the legacy.

To explore other instruments of giving including naming AJHS as a beneficiary in your will and joining our Haym Salomon Society please call, in confidence, Cathy Krugman in our Development Department at (212) 294-6164. 



BILHAH AGIBAL FRANKS 1696 – 1756

# Chanukah American Style

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, celebrates the victory in 164 B. C. E. of armed Jewish rebels led by Judah the Maccabee over the army of the Syrian despot, Antiochus IV. Today, Jews around the world mark Chanukah not as an observance commanded by Scripture but one that is traditional – and popular.

For the millions of Jewish immigrants who came to America at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, Chanukah in the New World took on conflicted meanings. Chanukah's proximity to Christmas posed – and continues to pose – particular challenges for many Jews. By the time of massive Jewish immigration in the 1880's, Christmas had already become America's premiere season for gift giving. For many Americans in the 1870s and 80s, general feelings of "good cheer" had already replaced the religious basis for Christmas. The holiday was rapidly becoming a national, rather than purely Christian, celebration focused on secular consumerism, rather than religious observance.

For those Jewish immigrants who felt pressure to shed their European ways, exchanging gifts with neighbors at Christmas time signaled their adaptation to their new home. In 1904, the *Forward* quoted Jewish Christmas shoppers who asked, in Yiddish, "Who says we haven't Americanized?" The paper observed, "The purchase of Christmas gifts is one of the first things that proves one is no longer a greenhorn."

Not everyone found this comforting. Henrietta Szold wrote in the *Jewish Messenger* in 1879, "Why need we adopt

the Christmas tree, ridiculously baptized a Chanukah bush? Have we not the Menorah, connected so closely with the visions of the prophets and the allegories of the Bible?" Writing in *The Menorah Journal* in 1890, Rabbi Kaufman Kohler asked, "How can the Jew, without losing self-respect, partake in the joy and festive mirth of Christmas? Can he without self-surrender, without entailing insult and disgrace upon his faith and race, plant the Christmas tree in his household?"

Rabbi Kohler admitted, nonetheless, that Chanukah as then celebrated could not hold a candle (so to speak) to Christmas. Kohler said of the comparison, "How humble and insignificant does one appear by the side of the other." Jewish homemaking advisor Esther Jane Ruskay lamented in 1902 that Christmas's focus on family celebrations, gift giving, decorations and Santa Claus "gives a zest to life that all the Chanukah hymns, backed by all the Sunday-school teaching and half-hearted ministerial [rabbinic] chiding, must forever fail to give."

Historian Joshua Plaut notes that in response to the pervasive influence of Christmas, "Some Jewish families in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Hot Springs, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Toledo staged their own celebrations



STATUE OF LIBERTY MENORAH, AJHS

on the night of December 24. Incorporating both Christmas and Chanukah symbols, regardless if Chanukah fell earlier or later on the calendar, they decorated Christmas trees, exchanged gifts, and hung wreaths on the doors of their homes and stockings on the fireplace." Plaut quotes a report in Chicago's *Jewish Advance* on December 27, 1878 about Chanukah at Temple Sinai in that city:

The fine Temple was crowded with grown people and children. The Chanukah Tree was brilliantly illuminated with wax candles. The services commenced with the singing of the first stanza of the Chanukah hymn by the Sabbath-school children.

According to Jenna Joselit, it was not until the 1920s, when legislation severely curtailed Jewish immigration, that Chanukah really "began to come into its own as a Jewish domestic occasion and an exercise in consumption." Merchandisers to Jews began advertising their wares as ideal Chanukah

gifts. *Der Tog* carried an ad in Yiddish for Hudson automobiles, which were proclaimed “A Chanukah Present for the Entire Family – The Greatest Bargain (metsiah) in the World.” Colgate promoted toiletries as Chanukah gifts, and food purveyors such as Loft’s and Barton’s candies marketed chocolates wrapped in gold foil to simulate Chanukah gelt. Aunt Jemima flour proclaimed itself “the best flour for latkes,” and the *Hadassah Newsletter* advised that “mah-jong sets make appreciated Chanukah gifts.” Plaut quotes the 1931 how-to classic, *What Every Jewish Woman Should Know*, as offering the following advice:

It is a time hallowed Jewish custom to distribute gifts in honor of the Hanukkah festival. If ever lavishness in gifts is appropriate, it is

on Hanukkah. Jewish children should be showered with gifts, Hanukkah gifts, as a perhaps primitive but most effective means of making them immune against envy of the Christian children and their Christmas.

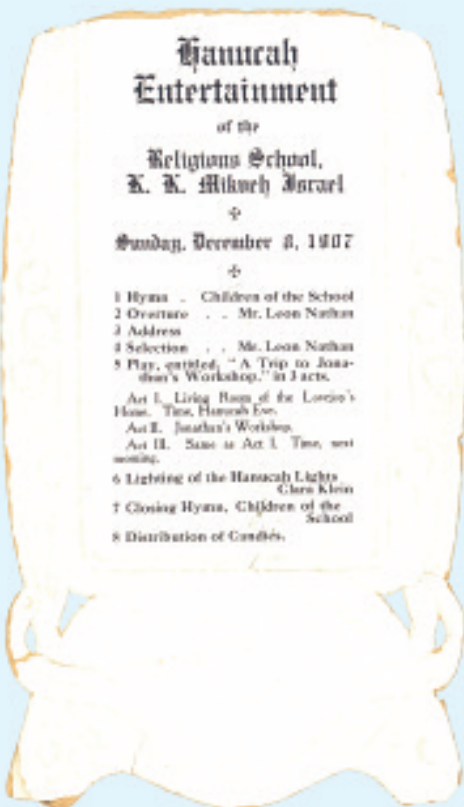
With the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, Chanukah took on a new, or rather, renewed meaning. The valor and success of Israeli military forces helped restore the image of the Jew as fighter. Zionists proudly identified the Haganah, Irgun and other Jewish fighting forces as descendants of the Maccabim. After the Six Day War in 1967, Loft’s Chocolates issued a Chanukah board game called “Valor Against Oppression” that featured General Moshe Dayan. Not to be outdone, Barton’s produced what Joselit

calls “an Israelized version of Monopoly whose board featured a map of Israel, miniature Israeli flags [and] menorahs.” Plaut cites sociologist Marshal Sklare’s research in the 1950s and ’60s on second- and third-generation Jews as establishing that, “Instead of alienating the Jew from the general culture, Hanukkah helps to situate him as a participant in that culture. Hanukkah, in short, becomes for some the Jewish Christmas.” Plaut observes, “Ironically, by elevating Chanukah as a Jewish alternative to Christmas, American Jews had invented their own holiday tradition through a Christmas mirror.”

Despite the shifts in the meaning of Chanukah over time, the holiday remains a “December dilemma” for many American Jews. For younger Jewish children, December still offers the omnipresent lures of Santa Claus. Nonetheless, Chanukah seems to grow in popularity as the observance of traditional Jewish ritual becomes more widespread. In 1951, a California Jewish woman offered advice that, while implicitly acknowledging the parallels between Chanukah and Christmas, still makes sense today.

Let this be our guiding principle:

Keeping within the framework of our own tradition, using a color scheme of blue and silver and yellow and gold, let us adorn our homes inside and out as beautifully as we can for Chanukah, enlarging upon the old-time Feast of Lights. AJ HS



“MERRY HANNUCAH” PROGRAM CARD, 1907  
K. K. Mikveh Israel (Philadelphia) Collection, AJHS



#### FURTHER READING:

Joshua Eli Plaut, “The Xmas Mirror” *Reform Judaism*, volume 33, no. 2.

Jenna Wiseman Joselit, “‘Oy to the World’: The Plenty and Promise of Jewish Life in U.S.” *Forward*, December 7, 2001.

# An Opportunity for Planned Giving... Invest in AJHS: It's Your Heritage.

- > The future of AJHS depends on the forethought and generosity of its members and friends today.
- > You will have the opportunity to link your name in perpetuity to those ideals and goals with which you strongly identify.
- > Planned Giving is a thoughtful way of realizing significant financial benefits while making more generous charitable gifts than you ever thought possible.

Your planned gift to AJHS will ensure the organization's financial well-being and enable it to continue its critical mission of preserving our past for future generations.

There are several creative giving options to help donors raise their own philanthropic sights. These may offer significant tax savings, income, and other advantages to you and your family.

## THE WAYS OF GIVING

### Gifts of Cash and Securities Convenient With Attractive Benefits

A gift by check is the most common and convenient way to enhance the financial health of the American Jewish Historical Society.

A gift of appreciated securities (such as stocks, mutual funds, and bonds) can provide important tax benefits. For example, an outright gift of long-term appreciated stocks avoids capital gains taxes and, in most cases, provides a charitable income tax deduction.

### Bequests Made Through Your Will: A Simple Statement

A bequest can serve as a lasting tribute to a person's life and to the work of the American Jewish Historical Society. Often a simple statement in your will is all that is required. A donor can leave a bequest in the form of cash, securities, or real property. Each would be exempt from federal and state inheritance taxes.

There are several types of bequest that one may consider ie. specific, general, residuary. Any of these can be made contingent upon the circumstances defined in your will.

Sample language will be provided at your request.

### The Haym Solomon Society

The Haym Solomon Society has been established to honor those members and friends who remember AJHS with a planned gift. The Commitment of these friends helps assure that AJHS's legacy will continue for generations to come.



AVAILABLE AT: [WWW.NATURESPIRITSGIFTS.COM](http://WWW.NATURESPIRITSGIFTS.COM)

If you have already made provisions for a planned gift to AJHS, kindly notify us so that we may thank you and add your name to The Haym Solomon Society Honor Roll.

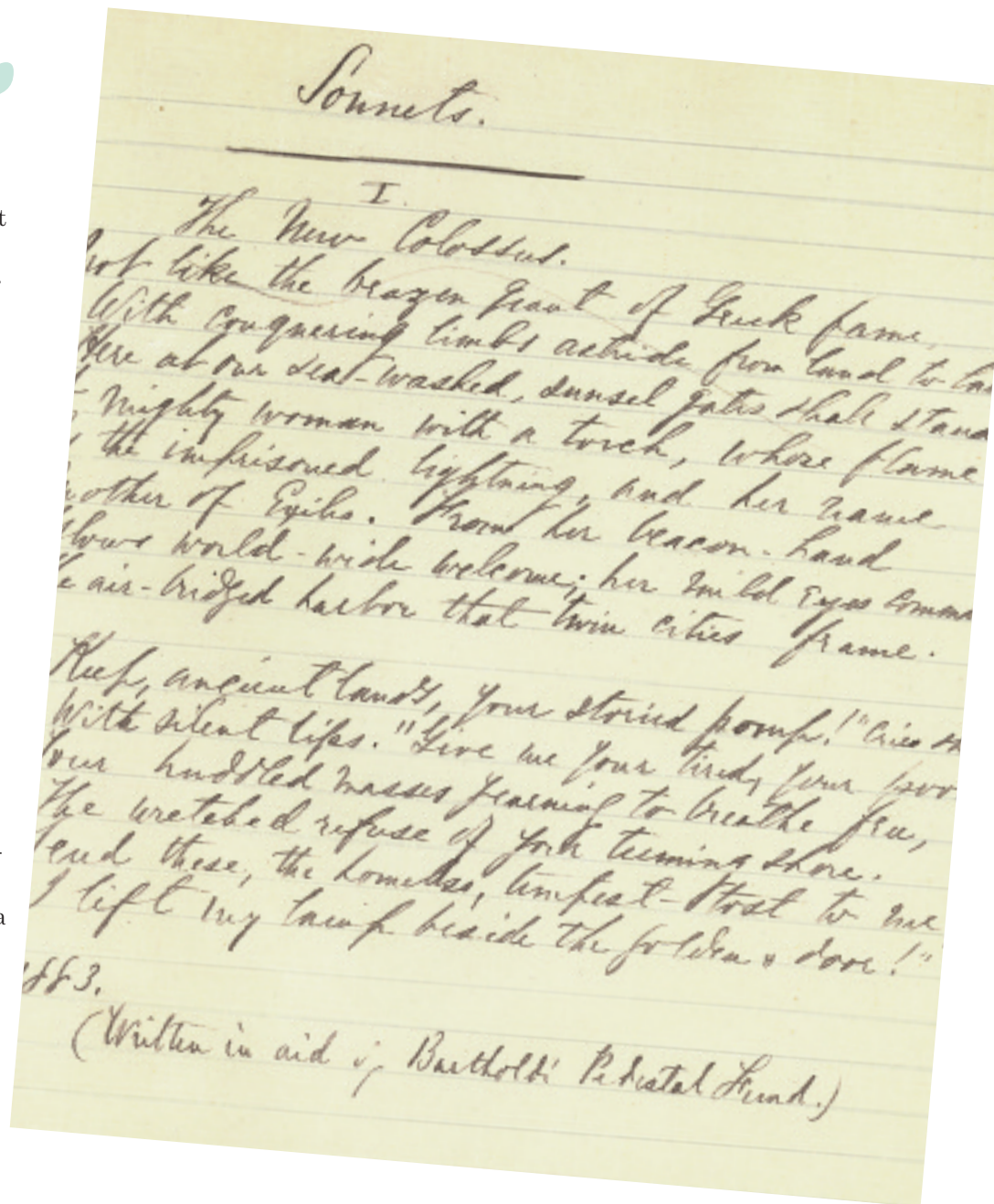
The American Jewish Historical Society has an ambitious vision for its second century. Members and friends have the opportunity to ensure that this vision becomes a reality. We invite you to become partners with us. When you leave your legacy, we can continue to leave ours!

To explore other instruments of giving including naming AJHS as a beneficiary in your will and joining our Haym Solomon Society please call, in confidence, Cathy Krugman in our Development Department at **(212) 294-6164**. 

# EMMA LAZARUS SONNET "THE NEW COLOSSUS"

The stirring words of "The New Colossus" are almost as familiar to most Americans as the national anthem. These words were penned in November 1883 by American Jewish poet Emma Lazarus, in her ode to the Statue of Liberty. Today her sonnet is considered one of the classic documents of American history. In 1976, the original handwritten version of the sonnet traveled across the nation as part of our Bicentennial celebration.

Now, you can own your own copy of Lazarus's stirring poem in her own hand. After Emma Lazarus died tragically at age 38, her family donated her personal notebook of handwritten poems to the American Jewish Historical Society. The Society has now produced a limited edition of framed facsimiles of Lazarus's masterpiece. You can purchase one from the Society for your home or office or for a school or library in your community.



16" x 20" matted  
and framed \$125  
plus \$5 shipping

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740-8013, or visit our online  
gift shop at [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org)

# AJHS Opens Exhibition in Boston




As the celebration of the 350th anniversary of American Jewish life drew to a close at a National Dinner in Washington, DC (see story on pages x-y), the American Jewish Historical Society's Wyner Center extended the commemoration until January 27, 2006 when it opened its version of a former Library of Congress exhibition, "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of American Jewish Life", at the Moakley United States Courthouse in Boston, MA. Using facsimiles of original objects so that they could be displayed in a non-museum, high-traffic public venue, the Society is able to make this major exhibition to thousands of Bostonians who would otherwise not have an opportunity to be a part of the 350th anniversary celebration.

Attendance to date has been substantial. In addition to tour groups organized by Jewish schools, synagogues, Hadassah chapters and others, the courthouse is regularly visited by local public school classes from around the greater Boston area. Most of the public school visitors are not Jewish and many are immigrants or members of minority groups, and the exhibition contains sections on immigration, discrimination, legal rights and the Jewish justices of the Supreme Court that make it relevant to their own experience.

As the courthouse is closed on Sundays and evenings, the Society has had to raise funds to cover the security costs of five "Open Sundays" between September 2005 and the end of January 2006. Generous donors have made it possible for Jewish Sunday schools and other tour groups to attend on these Open Sundays. Additionally, the exhibition has drawn crowds to the courthouse for a "Lunchtime Lecture Series" featuring academics Jonathan Sarna, Karla Goldman, Ann Braude, David Starr, Michael Feldberg and Steven Whitfield.

To enrich the viewing experience for school groups, the Society engaged Facing History and Ourselves, the noted Holocaust educational organization, to develop a teacher's curriculum packet.

To learn more about the exhibition, please go to [www.ajhsboston.org](http://www.ajhsboston.org). For information about the possibility of bringing the exhibition to your community after it closes in Boston, please contact Michael Feldberg, AJHS Director of Research, at [feldberg@ajhs.org](mailto:feldberg@ajhs.org) or 617-559-8883. 

# SUPPORT AJHS & Receive an Award-Winning Jewish Music Collection on 50 CDs

The Milken Archive of American Jewish Music is an unparalleled collection – 50 superbly recorded CDs of Jewish music created in America over the past 350 years. This abundant and remarkably diverse repertoire reflects the history, evolution and variety of the Jewish experience in America.

Honored at the 2005 Grammy Awards and winner of the 2004 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for liner notes excellence, the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music is making Jewish and musical history! Features about the Milken Archive have appeared on PBS and National Public Radio, in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Jerusalem Post* and hundreds of other national and international publications.

See reviews and awards at [www.milkenarchive.org](http://www.milkenarchive.org)



## SUPPORT AJHS

Become an AJHS member and receive a **music gift** from the Milken Archive.

3 membership levels:

**Sustaining Member.** With a \$100 contribution receive 1 American Jewish Music sampler CD with our thanks.

**350th Anniversary Member.** With a \$350 contribution receive 25 American Jewish Music CDs with our thanks.

**Sponsor Member.** With a \$500 contribution receive all 50 American Jewish Music CDs with our thanks.

**Become a member.** Here's how:


- Call toll-free, at **1 866 740-8013** Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 5 PM,
- Visit [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org), or
- Fill out and mail the enclosed membership envelope.

“Performances are top notch” – *Fanfare*

Contribute to the American Jewish Historical Society, and you will discover the joy of American Jewish music in this unique 50-CD collection, including: world-premiere recordings of rare Jewish works by Leonard Bernstein and Kurt Weill's stupendous Jewish epic *The Eternal Road*; cantorial and choral music for prayer and meditation; favorite American Yiddish stage songs like “Bay Mir Bistu Sheyn” in all-new recordings; festive music for Hanukkah, Passover, and the High Holy Days; klezmer concertos; and Jewish symphonies by world-famous composers.

All recordings are new and performed by internationally famous artists including cantors [Alberto Mizrahi](#) and [Benzion Miller](#); conductors [Gerard Schwarz](#), [Yoel Levi](#), and [Sir Neville Marriner](#); the [Academy of St. Martin in the Fields](#), the [Royal Liverpool Philharmonic](#), and the [Seattle Symphony](#) orchestras; Yiddish star [Bruce Adler](#), klezmer-clarinetist [David Krakauer](#), the

Broadway stars [Tovah Feldshuh](#) and [Theodore Bikel](#), the [Vienna Choir Boys](#), the [Juilliard Quartet](#), jazz legend [Dave Brubeck](#), and many others. More than 250 artists and ensembles are featured in over 500 new recordings of American Jewish music, including hundreds of world premieres. The 50 CDs are accompanied by comprehensive liner notes and essays by award-winning author Neil W. Levin.

This 50-CD treasury of American Jewish Music is an exclusive premium for contributors of \$500 to the American Jewish Historical Society. See page 14 for details. Your support of Jewish culture in America is deeply appreciated. 



**MILKEN ARCHIVE**  
American Jewish Music



# Jewish Women Headline New Set of Baseball Cards

Just in time for Chanukah, the American Jewish Historical Society and the nonprofit Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc. are issuing a supplementary set of baseball cards to update and complete the first edition of cards of Jewish major league baseball players that it created in 2004. Containing 55 cards describing the accomplishments of recent players such as Kevin Youkilis and Adam Stern of the Red Sox, Hall of Fame broadcaster Mel Allen and several old-timers who were inadvertently omitted, such as Jose Bautista and Hall of Fame player-manager Lou Boudreau, the new set is the perfect complement and update to the 2003 limited edition, which contains cards for 142 players who appeared in major league games between 1872 and 2003.



This year's edition contains cards for four Jewish women who played in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), made famous by the film "A League of Their Own." Of course, today these players would be in a "women's" league, not one with the name "girls" in the title. One of the most versatile and talented Jewish professional athletes in the AAGPBL was Gertrude "Tiby" Eisen, whose photograph in her Grand Rapids, Michigan team uniform graces the cover of this issue. Born in Los Angeles in 1922, Eisen was a star of the AAGPBL. One of as many as four Jewish women in the league, Eisen was its only Jewish star player.

The young Eisen was an outstanding athlete in her native Los Angeles and started playing semi-pro softball at age 14. In 1940, at age 18, Eisen's all-around ability led her to try her hand at women's professional football. California investors started a short-lived women's professional football league and Eisen played fullback for one of the two Los Angeles teams. When the city council passed an ordinance that banned females from playing tackle football within the confines of Los Angeles, the teams traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico, where, according to Eisen, they "filled the stadium."

Before she joined the All-American Baseball League, Eisen applied for a job at the Bank of America in Los Angeles, which sponsored a women's softball team. The salary for women at the bank was about \$60 per month. "You'd work for the bank," Eisen recalled, "then play for the team. I had my interview, but never heard from them." Eisen later found out why. "My girlfriend, who played on the team, told me they didn't hire me because I was

Jewish – but she didn't tell me that until twenty years later because she didn't want to hurt my feelings."

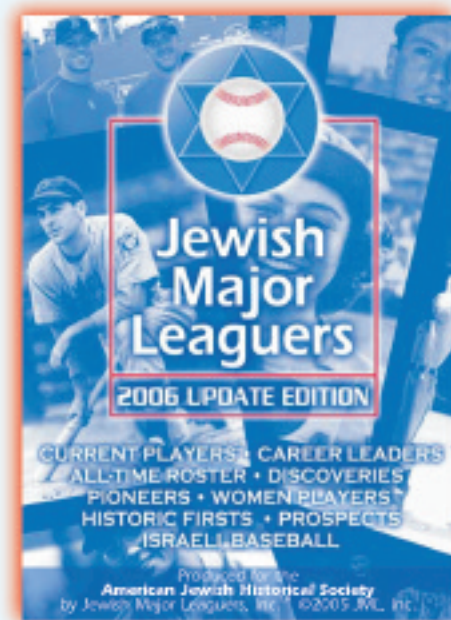
When the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was formed in 1943, Eisen won a spot on the Milwaukee team, which moved the next year to Grand Rapids. Eisen's best season was in 1946, when she led the AAGPBL in triples, stole 128 bases and made the all-star team.

Eisen's family was ambivalent about the career choice their "nice Jewish girl" had made, although she ultimately won their respect. "We played a big charity game in Chicago for a Jewish hospital," Eisen recalled in an interview with historian David Spaner. "My name and picture were in every Jewish newspaper. My uncle, who had said, 'You shouldn't be playing baseball – you'll get a bad reputation, a bad name,' was in the stands ... bursting with pride that I was there."

During her professional baseball career, Eisen could recall only one instance in which her religion became an issue:

When I was playing for Fort Wayne, I was in the outfield and thought there were three outs. There were only two, but I was coming in from the outfield. The manager Bill Wambsgans [the first man in major league history to complete an unassisted triple play] was waving, 'Go back, go back.' And he turned to one of the players sitting on the bench and said, 'I never heard of a Jew that couldn't count.'

When Eisen retired from professional baseball 1952, she became a star for the Orange Lionettes softball team and led them to a world championship.



In 1993, she helped establish the women's exhibit at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Eisen told David Spaner, "We're trying to record this so we have our place in history. It's important to keep our baseball league in the limelight. It gets pushed into the background ... [just as] women have been pushed into the background forever. If they knew more about our league, perhaps in the future some women will say, 'Hey, maybe we can do it again.'"

A footnote: In the movie "A League of Their Own," Madonna, who now (controversially) identifies herself as a Jew, played the character of Faye Dancer. In 1947, the real-life Faye Dancer was traded for another player, none other than Tiby Eisen.

These cards are only available for purchase through the American Jewish Historical Society. To obtain the latest set of cards or one of the few remaining sets of the first edition, please turn to page 28. [AJHS](#)

# 350 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA (1654 – 2004)

## OFFICIAL MEDAL

**B**ronze Replica of the Gold Medal Presented to President George W. Bush on behalf of the American people, Mr. Bush accepted the official commemorative gold medal minted for the celebration at the recent dinner in Washington marking the end of the year of celebration. We have only fifty available. Orders will be filled while stock lasts.

Issued on the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam (New York). Features the words of George Washington, including the famous statement that “A Government which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance.” Magnificent design by Dana Krinsky. Comes in pouch with certificate of authenticity.



**3" 8 oz. Medal \$100**  
plus \$5 shipping



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## COMMEMORATIVE POSTER



**W**ith unique images drawn from the extensive archives of the American Jewish Historical Society, this beautiful timeline poster (with text by Professor Pamela Nadell) will entertain and educate. From the first settlement in 1654 to the nomination of Joe Lieberman for Vice President of the United States, you will find fascinating incidents and developments that made the American Jewish experience. A must for every home, school and library. 24" x 36".

**24" x 36" rolled in a tube \$20**  
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# EXCLUSIVE POSTER REPRODUCTIONS FROM THE ORIGINALS IN OUR ARCHIVES



MOLLY PICON –AY QUE MUCHACHA!, 1932  
AUTHOR: HARRY KALMANOWICH  
MUSIC: JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY  
PLACE: TEATRO EXCELSIOR, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
CAST: JACOB KALICH, MOLLY PICON  
PRINTED BY: SISTO Y LEMME, BUENOS AIRES  
STONE LITHOGRAPHY IN BLUE, RED, YELLOW, AND BLACK.



THE RABBI'S FAMILY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1921  
AUTHOR: JOSEPH LATEINER  
MUSIC: JOSEPH BRODY  
PLACE: THE PEOPLES THEATRE, BOWERY AND SPRING STREET, NY, NY  
N.Y. CAST: BERTHA GERSTEN, SAMUEL GOLDENBERG, LUDWIG SATZ, NETTIE TOBIAS AND AN "ALL STAR CAST"  
DIRECTOR: MAX ROSENTHAL.  
PRINTED BY BERKSHIRE POSTER CO., NY, NY  
STONE LITHOGRAPHY IN YELLOW, RED, BLUE, GREEN AND BLACK.



U.S. WAR BONDS POSTER  
AJHS COLLECTION  
DONATED BY SID LAPIDUS

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THE LUNATIC JANUARY 18TH, 1922  
AUTHOR: HARRY KALMANOWITZ  
PLACE: PEOPLES THEATRE, BOWERY AND SPRING STREET, NY, NY  
CAST: BERTHA GERSTEN, SIDNEY HART, LUDWIG SATZ, JACOB WEXLER  
PRODUCER: MAX ROSENTHAL  
PRINTED BY BERKSHIRE POSTER CO., NY, NY  
STONE LITHOGRAPHY IN GREEN, RED, BLUE, YELLOW AND BLACK.

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# ORIGINAL TITLES FROM OUR BOOKSTORE



### JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICA:

An Historical Encyclopedia 2 volumes. Edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore. Sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society. Winner of the American Library Association's prestigious Dartmouth Medal Award "for the creation of reference works of outstanding quality and significance." Winner of the Jewish Book Council's National Jewish Book Award for Women's Studies and the Barbara Dobkin Honorary Award.

Join us as a member and get this book as our gift. See membership form for details.

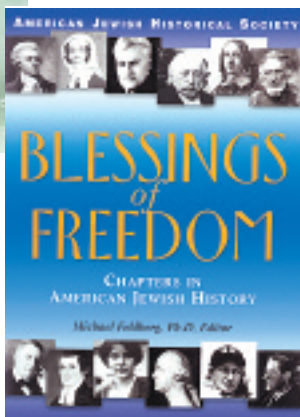
**HARDCOVER \$200**



### FACING THE NEW WORLD: JEWISH PORTRAITS IN COLONIAL AND FEDERAL AMERICA

This beautifully printed art book was originally published in conjunction with the exhibition, "Facing the New World: Jewish Portraits in Colonial and Federal America" presented at the Jewish Museum in New York in 1997 and the Maryland Jewish Historical Society in Baltimore in 1998. Edited by Richard Brilliant, with an essay by Ellen Smith, this book contains numerous color images in color and black and white.

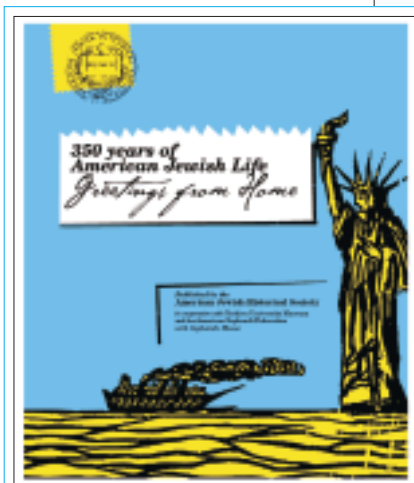
**Paperback \$20**



### BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM

Blessings of Freedom is a collection of vignettes and episodes that, taken together, outline the overriding directions and tendencies of the much larger tapestry that comprises the American Jewish experience. Starting in 1997, the American Jewish Historical Society published a weekly feature entitled "Chapters in American Jewish History" in the English-language Forward and other newspapers. This volume comprises 120 of the best columns, organized according to subject and period. Each chapter is a window through which the reader gets an interesting and illuminating glimpse at an important and often colorful aspect of the American Jewish story. Biographical information is given for those interested in learning more about the field.

**Paperback \$35**



### 'GREETINGS FROM HOME': 350 YEARS OF AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE.

This beautiful catalog accompanies the Society's current exhibition. Edited by Michael Feldberg, this heavily illustrated volume contains essays by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Hasia Diner and Stephen H. Jaffe. A wonderful "short course" in American Jewish history.

**Paperback \$24**



### THE JEWISH JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT REVISITED: BRANDEIS TO FORTAS

Of the thirty-nine Justices who sat on the United States Supreme Court between 1916 and 1969, five were Jewish: Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur J. Goldberg, and Abe Fortas. With a Preface by Justice Stephen G. Breyer and Introduction by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, The Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court devotes a chapter to each of these Jewish Justices. Jennifer M. Lowe, ed. Published by the Supreme Court Historical Society and the American Jewish Historical Society, 1994.

**Paperback \$20**

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online gift shop at [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org)

To order use the back of our membership form, call 1 866 740-8013,  
or visit [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org)

\$5 shipping per order

# THE FIRST COMPLETE SET OF CARDS EVER FOR JEWISH MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS

The first set of cards for EVERY KNOWN Jewish Major League Baseball player, from the 1870s to 2003! In conjunction with Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., the American Jewish Historical Society created this limited edition card set for all 142 players. For more than forty of these men, this is their first and only card. Complete with photos and statistic cards, including Hall of Fame players Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg, future Hall of Famer Shawn Green, All-Stars Al Rosen and Ken Holtzman and old-timers like Andy Cohen, Moe Berg and Harry "The Horse" Danning, this set is truly one of a kind. Jewish Major Leaguers is a limited edition, boxed set.

Developed with the encouragement and cooperation of Major League Baseball, the Players Association and the Alumni Players Association, the Society, in cooperation with Fleer produced only a small, one-time printing in 2003 for our members. Our final limited supply is available while they last. Our Limited gold edition is illustrated to the left. You can choose to buy them or receive selected items as membership gifts. Details are on our membership page. They make perfect life cycle gifts for your friends and family.



Join us as a member and get cards as our gift. See membership form for details.

**Complete basic collectible set**  
**\$100**

**Limited silver edition (1,500 numbered) with silver foil details.**  
**\$200**

**Limited gold edition (500 numbered) with gold foil details. Very Limited quantities**  
**\$500**

**Get new 2006 update set for free if you purchase any of these sets before December 31st.**  
**\$5 shipping additional.**

**To order use the back of our membership form, call 1 866 740-8013, or visit [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org)**  
**\$5 shipping**

# JEWISH MAJOR LEAGUER BASEBALL CARDS 2006 UPDATE EDITION

Features New Players,  
Discoveries, Women from the  
AAGPBL Israeli National Team,  
Selig, Miller, Fehr, Pioneers, More

The 2006 Update Edition of Jewish Major Leaguers baseball cards features Jewish players who debuted in 2005, newly discovered old time players, players from the women's league of the 1940's, pioneers on and off the field, and many more.

This 55-card set is a follow-up to the hit 142 card original series of 2003.

There are 13 cards in the set to recognize the Jewish Major Leaguers from 2005, believed to be the most to ever appear in one season in history. These players include Shawn Green, Brad Ausmus, Mike Lieberthal, Al Levine, Scott Schoeneweis, Jason Marquis, Gabe Kapler, John Grabow, Kevin Youkilis, Adam Stern, Craig Breslow, Adam Greenberg, and Scott Feldman. The set also includes "newly discovered" Jewish players of the past, including Hall of Famer Lou Boudreau (whose mother was Jewish), Jose Bautista, Lefty Weinert, Jacob Atz,

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get cards as our gift. See  
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\$5 shipping per order

Bob Davis, and Jacob Livingston. A card features a team photo of the Israeli National Team.

Four women who played in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) have cards of their own - Thelma "Tiby" Eisen, Anita Foss, Blanche Schachter and Margaret Wigiser. (The tale of this league was told in Penny Marshall's film, "A League of their Own").

The new set, handsomely packaged in a clear plastic box and available online at [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org), toll free at 1 866 740 8013 sells for \$36 plus shipping and handling.

Complete basic  
collectible set  
**\$36**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2005 – JANUARY 2006

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### CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

15 West 16th St, New York, NY

Monday 11 AM – 7 PM; Tuesday – Thursday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Friday 11 AM – 3 PM; Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM free

### EXHIBITION

#### American Jewish Lives 1654 to the Present

Until December 31, 2005

How to be both Jewish and American? For 350 years, American Jews have been answering this question in diverse, resourceful and highly individual ways. The profiles in this exhibition offer a glimpse at ways to define the balance between American and Jewish devised by nine American Jews from the colonial era through the late twentieth century. For these women and men, an awareness of the freedoms and opportunities that America afforded then coincided with a sense of connection to their fellow Jews at home and elsewhere in the world.

### JEWES & JUSTICE SERIES

#### Law's Empire and the Sea of the Talmud: Ronald Dworkin on Jewish Law and Interpretation

Wednesday, December 7, 7pm

Professor Dworkin will, for the first time, address the application of his theories on justice and the nature of legal interpretation to Jewish law. **\$12**

**\$6 for students, seniors and AJHS members**

*Made possible through the generous support of  
The David Berg Foundation.*

### AMERICAN MASTERS:

#### Jewish-American Classical Composers of the 20th Century

Monday, December 12, 7:30pm

Phoenix Chamber Ensemble will perform music of George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and other composers in its second concert in this series. **\$10**

**\$5 students, seniors and AJHS members**

### A HANUKKAH CONCERT

Featuring Dick Hyman and Isaiah Sheffer

Sunday, December 18, 3pm

**\$12**

**\$6 students, seniors, AJHS & ASJM members**

### JEWISH MUSIC FORUM

Friday, January 20, 10am

"The Tradition Continues on the Lower East Side: Experimental Music and the American Jewish Imaginary in 1990s New York City"  
Tamar Barzel, Wellesley College  
Respondent: Jonathan Freedman, University of Michigan **Free admission**  
*Presented by the American Jewish Historical Society and the American Society of Jewish Music*

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### MOAKLEY UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Northern Avenue, Boston, MA

Monday – Friday, 8 am – 6 pm

*plus occasional evenings and Sundays*

### EXHIBITION

#### "Haven to Home: 350 Years of American Jewish Life"

Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM,  
except on government holidays

On Sunday, December 11, 2005 and Sunday, January 22, 2006 the exhibition will be available for viewing between 10:00am and 3:00pm. Docent guided tours will be given at 1:00pm and 2:00pm and will last approximately 1 hour. If you are interested in scheduling a group tour please call 617-559-8882 or email [rwalchak@ajhs.hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:rwalchak@ajhs.hebrewcollege.edu).

*Presented by the*

*American Jewish Historical Society*

*617-559-8880 info@ajhsboston.org*

Lectures in conjunction with the exhibition

#### "AN OLD FAITH IN THE NEW WORLD: 350 YEARS OF AMERICAN JUDAISM"

December 7th, 2005 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Jonathan D. Sarna, Ph.D.

Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun

Professor of American Jewish History,

Brandeis University

#### "THE AMERICAN JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE 1936 NAZI OLYMPICS"

January 11th, 2006 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Michael Feldberg, Ph.D.

Director of Research,

American Jewish Historical Society

### IN HONOR OF

#### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

January 19th, 2006

Please call 617-559-8880 or visit [www.ajhs-boston.org](http://www.ajhs-boston.org) as details become available.

*Presented by the American Jewish Historical Society and Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, in partnership with other community organizations*

#### "THE HISTORIC ROLE OF JEWS IN AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC"

January 27th, 2006 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Stephen J Whitfield, Ph.D.

Professor of American Civilization,

Brandeis University

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### MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1154 Boylston Street, Boston

### BOOK RECEPTION & LECTURE

#### "THE JEWS OF BOSTON"

December 13, 2005, 5:00 PM

The American Jewish Historical Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society present Jonathan D. Sarna, Ellen Smith and Scott-Martin Kosofsky discussing their book.

**Free admission, but reservations required.**

**Call 617 646-0560.**

BRAND NEW JEWISH BASEBALL CARDS  
IN TIME FOR CHANUKAH.  
SEE PAGE 28 FOR DETAILS.

# American Jews in America's Game



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