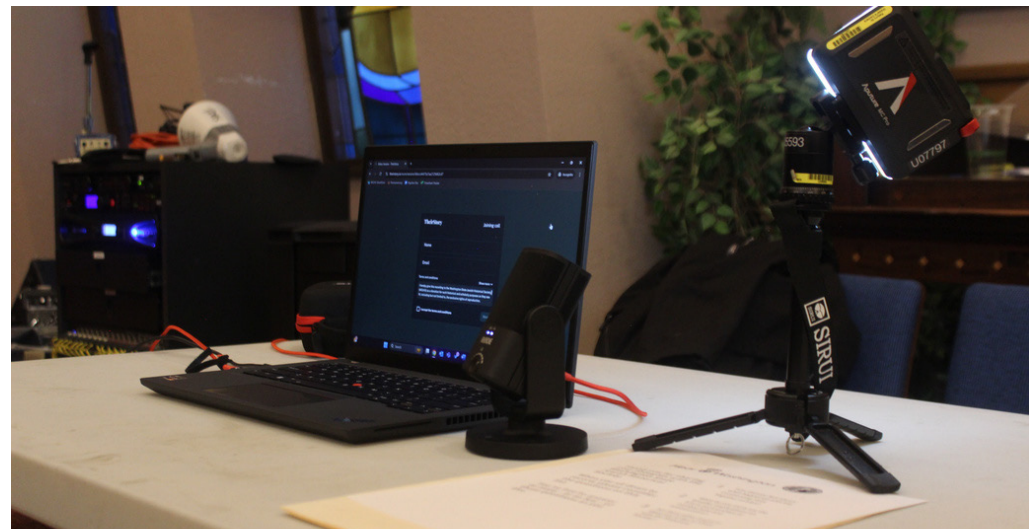


# Hear O'Washington

## Oral History Program Updates

As previously announced in July, the WSJHS is the proud recipient of a grant from the State of Washington to completely revamp our 55-year-old Oral History Program. In 2020 we launched Hear O'Washington, a multi-year initiative to preserve the past and present of Jewish Washington through recorded oral histories. This newly awarded funding from the State enables us to enhance the collection, storage, and accessibility of Jewish personal narratives in Washington.

We are currently in the midst of some exciting projects for Hear O'Washington, including working with a talented design firm to redesign our website as well as restructuring and facilitating a new Oral History Volunteer Program. Stay tuned for additional information on how to get involved with the Hear O'Washington Oral History Program, and make sure you are signed up for our eblasts to receive all updates on Hear O'Washington! <https://tinyurl.com/wsjhssignup>



## LOOKING BACK ON 2024 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025



After closing out 2024 and starting a brand-new year, the Washington State Jewish Historical Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, members, and the wider community. This year has brought its share of challenges, but your unwavering support, engagement, and participation have been a beacon of hope and inspiration for us all.

**Your** generosity has fueled our mission to preserve and celebrate the rich history of Washington's Jewish community. Whether through attending events, sharing family stories, or contributing financially, **your involvement has made a tangible impact.** You've helped us expand our archival collections, host meaningful programs, and create opportunities to connect with our shared heritage.

In a year that tested our resilience, we've been reminded of the strength that comes from working together. The stories we safeguard are a testament to generations who faced adversity with courage and vision—just as we do today.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue growing and innovating with our Oral History Program which builds upon the foundation **you have helped create.** Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Together, we will ensure that our history continues to inspire future generations.

Thanks to some of our grantors:

- Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Testamentary Trust
- Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Trust Fund
- Altabet Memorial Fund
- Loeb Family Charitable Foundation
- Rita and Herbert Rosen Family Foundation
- Tacoma Jewish Community Fund



## Begin 2025 with a mitzvah, become a member today!

Your dedication to WSJHS is important, and we appreciate you! You are receiving this newsletter because you support the preservation of Jewish history.

As a 501(c)(3), the WSJHS budget is based on grants and contributions from donors like you! In fact, most of our budget is funded by individual and family donors. Much of our work, including exhibits and oral histories, are online and offered free of charge, but our collection and preservation expenses continue to rise based on professional storage and platform costs. We have not raised our suggested membership rate in over 12 years but are suggesting a raise for 2025.



Scan here to donate

### You are needed more than ever!

Use the enclosed envelope to mail your contribution or use the QR code to donate online. When making your selection, **please consider a monthly donation.** Some of our members have indicated it is easier for them to make manageable monthly donations.

We want to connect with our members in 2025. You may be asked to take a survey, or one of us may reach out to you over the phone or email to hear your ideas. We need to know what is important to you, and why you support this critical work. **You're a big part of the success of WSJHS, your support saves the history of Jewish Washington!**



## Meet our Staff!



### Lisa Kranseler

After 19 years as Executive Director of the WSJHS, Lisa is moving to a part-time role. She'll focus on development, strategic planning, and special projects that will continue to shape the organization's future.

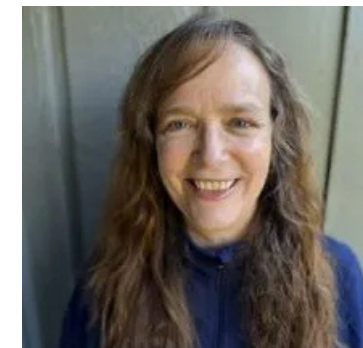
Her leadership has been instrumental in preserving and sharing the rich history of Washington's Jewish community, and her ongoing contributions will ensure the Society's legacy remains vibrant and impactful for generations to come.

With the terrific staffing team we have in place, this will be a seamless transition for the community. You can all count on having Lisa around to share her historical knowledge and assure the sustainability of the Society.



### Hannah Peters

Originally joining the team as Operations Manager, Hannah, now Deputy Director, will work side-by-side with Lisa to ensure a smooth transition. She holds a Human Services degree from Western Washington University and has spent her career working at nonprofits in Seattle, focusing on direct service, program design, and leadership.



### Sara Mottaz

Sara joined WSJHS in 2018 to assist with our 50th Anniversary celebration, remaining until June 2023 before a 6-month sabbatical. Now returning as Development Coordinator, she focuses on donor engagement, grant management, and events, fostering connections with both longtime Washington families and newcomers like herself.



### Sha'Niya Black

Sha'Niya, a Criminal Justice graduate from the University of Washington, has transitioned into the role of Digital Curator and Programs Coordinator. Driven by civil rights and social justice, she joined our team in 2023 as an intern enriching the Confronting Hate Together exhibit with her expertise in modern history, diversity, and research.



### Ruth Kodish-Eskind

Ruth, raised in a Reconstructionist Jewish community in Philadelphia, values cultural preservation. After moving to the Northwest in 2008, she explored community arts, carpentry, and music before discovering a passion for archives and museums. Ruth holds a History degree from Evergreen State College and trains in oral history.