

On April 18th & 19th, the Center of Global & International Studies and the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas, will host the 2024 Jews in the Americas Conference.

This interdisciplinary conference will bring together scholars from a variety of fields, including history, religion, sociology, politics, anthropology, literature, and the arts, to explore the rich and diverse experiences of Jews in the Americas.

The conference was organized by the Center of Global and International Studies & the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas.

This event was made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors and partners at the University of Kansas and the local and regional community of Northeast Kansas.

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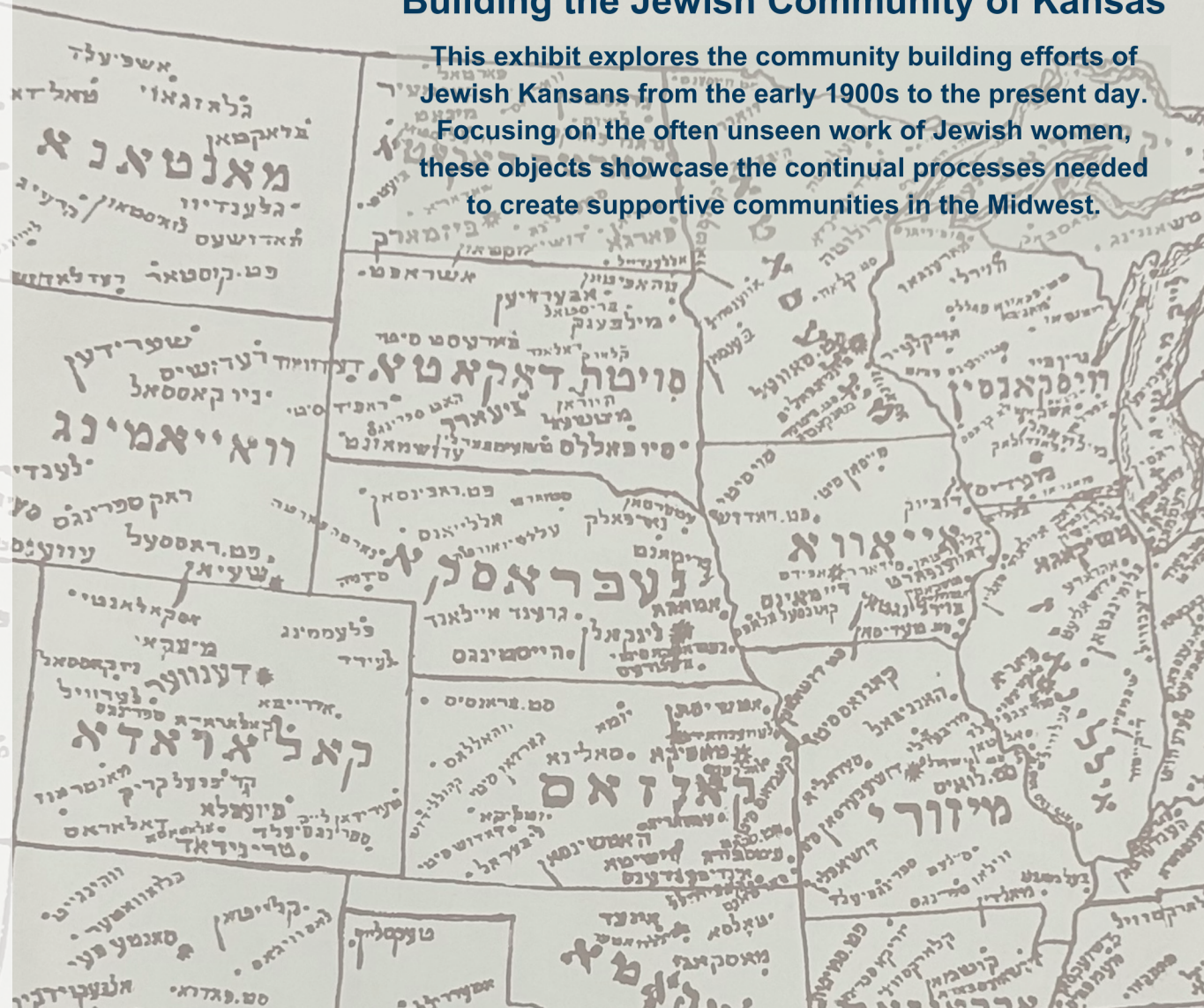
KU Hillel
Dr. David Katzman and Sharyn Brooks Katzman
The Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation
The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

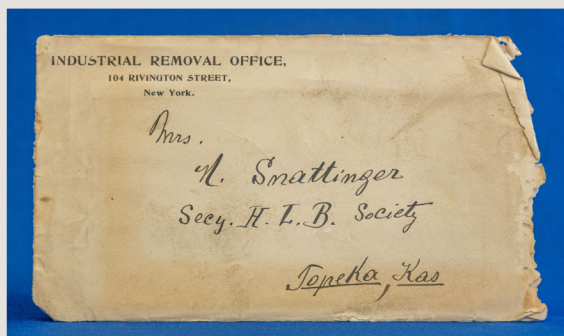
We thank you.

HOMEMAKING

Building the Jewish Community of Kansas

This exhibit explores the community building efforts of Jewish Kansans from the early 1900s to the present day. Focusing on the often unseen work of Jewish women, these objects showcase the continual processes needed to create supportive communities in the Midwest.





Industrial Removal Office, circa 1900
 Courtesy of Dr. David Katzman and Sharyn Brooks Katzman



The Industrial Removal Office (IRO) was dedicated to placing Jewish immigrants in Midwestern towns. In Topeka, the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society worked with the IRO to find jobs and help settle new immigrants. Consignee records, letters, and maps helped refugees and host communities navigate these transitions.



FAMILY RECORD		Age		Sex		Occupation		Address		Date	
James	Married	22	M								
Shirley	Single	22	F								

Industrial Removal Office, circa 1900
 Courtesy of Dr. David Katzman and Sharyn Brooks Katzman



Photographer unknown, date unknown
 Printed reproductions
 Courtesy of the Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation (LJCC)

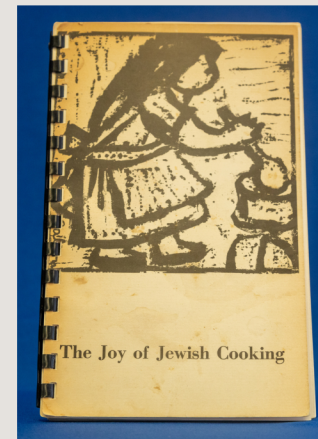
Though Jewish people have been present in Lawrence since the 1850s, no formal congregation existed until after World War II. The cemetery, B'nai Israel, was one of the first Jewish cemeteries in Kansas. Today, it is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The LJCC owns and maintains the B'nai Israel Cemetery in Eudora, KS.

The Memorial to Six Million Martyrs was one of the first Holocaust memorial sites in the United States. The monument was commissioned and funded by an organization of Holocaust survivors who were located in Kansas City. The overtly Jewish motifs in the monument design resist the erasure of Jewish cultural identity in the public memory of the Holocaust.



Photographer unknown, circa 1963
 Printed reproductions
 Courtesy of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

In 1969, nineteen Jewish women prepared cookbook to preserve and share their family recipes. They ran into some difficulties when writing down specific directions. Many of the measurements were originally based on gut feeling, rather than exact instructions.



Jewish Community Women, 1969
 Courtesy of Dr. David Katzman and Sharyn Brooks Katzman