

## Meet Kayla! NEWEST MEMBER OF THE WSJHS TEAM



We are pleased to introduce Kayla Boland (left) our newest 2022 staff member!

Kayla (she/her) grew up in the south sound. She joined us as a contractor in January to curate our new digital exhibit, “The Life of Pamela Waechter: Joie de Vivre.” She became full-time in June as our Communications and Exhibit Curator! She loves finding great stories for social media and enjoys writing more than anything.

*Your support makes it possible to welcome new staff members to the WSJHS. Thank you!*

Kayla at Tacoma’s Point Defiance Park.



## Your Fall 2022 Donor Impact Report

### You Are Making An Investment In Our Future! ALL ABOUT OUR NEW ARCHIVAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

FOR THE LAST 16 YEARS, the Washington State Jewish Historical Society has been creating – collecting stories and photos, curating, publishing and exhibiting– with your help. And because of you, the Washington Jewish Museum was birthed just over three years ago and already hosts nearly 40 exhibits and counting. With all of the incredible materials that we have taken in, our collections need a more permanent home. This home was formally the Washington State Jewish Archives at the University of Washington Special Collections Libraries, but they are out of physical and digital space and are in a moratorium period for the foreseeable future to accession new materials.



**Left & center:** Volunteer extraordinaire Laurie Levine takes a look at a wedding dress in our collection.

**Right:** Archivist Marissa and Executive Director Lisa take a trip to Tacoma for a meeting regarding our state funding.

#### TO THE RESCUE: STATE FUNDING

After much work this past Legislative Session and with the help of the Government Affairs Department at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and with state Representative Tana Senn spearheading the budget proviso, we were granted state funding for this project. We spoke to many of our state’s senators and representatives and they all adored the idea of supporting the WSJHS working on a new archival management system, a repository for our amazing collections – jewels of the community provided to the society but not yet formally accessioned.

While you may not hear from the WSJHS with as many programs this year, you should know that your support means the world to us as we undertake the monumental task of building this new system from the ground up.

With the help of contractors, staff, and volunteers, this project will be made possible and will be shared with all of you. Thank you, in advance, for continuing to fund the Historical Society – your generosity is unmatched and has made our work in stewarding and preserving our state’s Jewish treasures possible.

We cannot wait to share our progress with all of you!

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 13, 2022	Wednesday, September 14, 2022	Wednesday, October 26, 2022
<b>FAMILY OF STRANGERS BOOK EVENT</b> <b>FREE</b> Stuart Eskenazi & Emily Alhadeff talk about our new book at <i>Third Place Books</i> in Seward Park at <b>7:00 PM</b> with an audience Q&A session and book signing. <i>Muriel’s Kosher Eatery</i> has a special menu & hours from <b>5-8 PM</b> . Bring your copy or get one at the store!	<b>WALLENBERG LECTURE</b> <b>\$10-\$15</b> Join the <i>National Nordic Museum</i> for the 27th Annual Raoul Wallenberg Lecture, honoring the memory of the Swedish diplomat who intervened to save thousands of Jews from deportation to Nazi concentration camps. This year’s special guest speaker is Morten Kjærum, Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. <b>6-8 PM</b>	<b>HISTORY HAPPY HOUR: YOU ARE THE ARCHIVIST</b> <b>\$5-\$10</b> Learn best practices to take care of your precious family artifacts with our Archivist, Marissa, at this virtual event. <b>7:00 PM (PT)</b>  <a href="https://wsjhs.org/events">wsjhs.org/events</a>

Details subject to change. Please visit [wsjhs.org/events](https://wsjhs.org/events) or our social media pages for up-to-date information.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!

Your tax deductible contribution will enable us not only to fulfill our mission, but to retain staff and contractors while we do so!

### Become A Member

See all membership levels at [wsjhs.org/membership](https://wsjhs.org/membership)

- \$180 Chai
- \$250 Historian
- \$500 Curator
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Visionary

Scan the QR code below with your smart phone’s camera to become a member online!



We also offer a monthly membership program. For just \$36, \$50, or \$118 per month, you can support the WSJHS on a continuous basis!

#### INSIDE: READ MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

##### In the Archives

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##### Family of Strangers Book Launch

Inside our successful 2022 gala  
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If you prefer to mail your contribution, please use the paper insert inside this newsletter.

## Q&A WITH OUR NEW ARCHIVIST, MARISSA HILLER



### About Marissa:

I'm the Archivist and project manager for the WSJHS's new archival management system. I also collect hats, and I am very excited to give you a sneak peek behind the scenes, and talk about our new collection policy.

### Q: What is a collection policy?

**A:** A collection policy, as defined by the Association of American Museums, “**outlines the scope of a museum’s collection, and explains how a museum cares for and makes collections available to the public.**” It is also “a set of policies, which address various aspects of collection management.”

This includes:

- Establishing the scope and categories of collections (as well as criteria for acceptance)
- Governance and acquisitions
- Collections documentation and records, including inventory
- Access and use of collections
- Deaccessioning and disposal

### Q: Why does it need to be updated?

**A:** Funny you should ask. The last time the WSJHS collection policy was updated was 2009! Many things have changed in the past 13 years: **museums have pivoted from physical exhibitions to digital, the advance of technology has allowed sharing across many different platforms, and there has also been a stronger focus on community archives and collections.** The WSJHS mission statement was also changed last year; part of that change involves taking a much closer look at the items in our collection which support the mission.

It's also important to note that there is no one size fits all for a Collection Policy. It's a living document that will be continually updated as the needs of the organization change.

### Q: Why are we doing this?

**A:** The WSJHS is building a **foundation on which we can continue to lay the groundwork for our digital museum.** Our collection policy is an integral part of this.

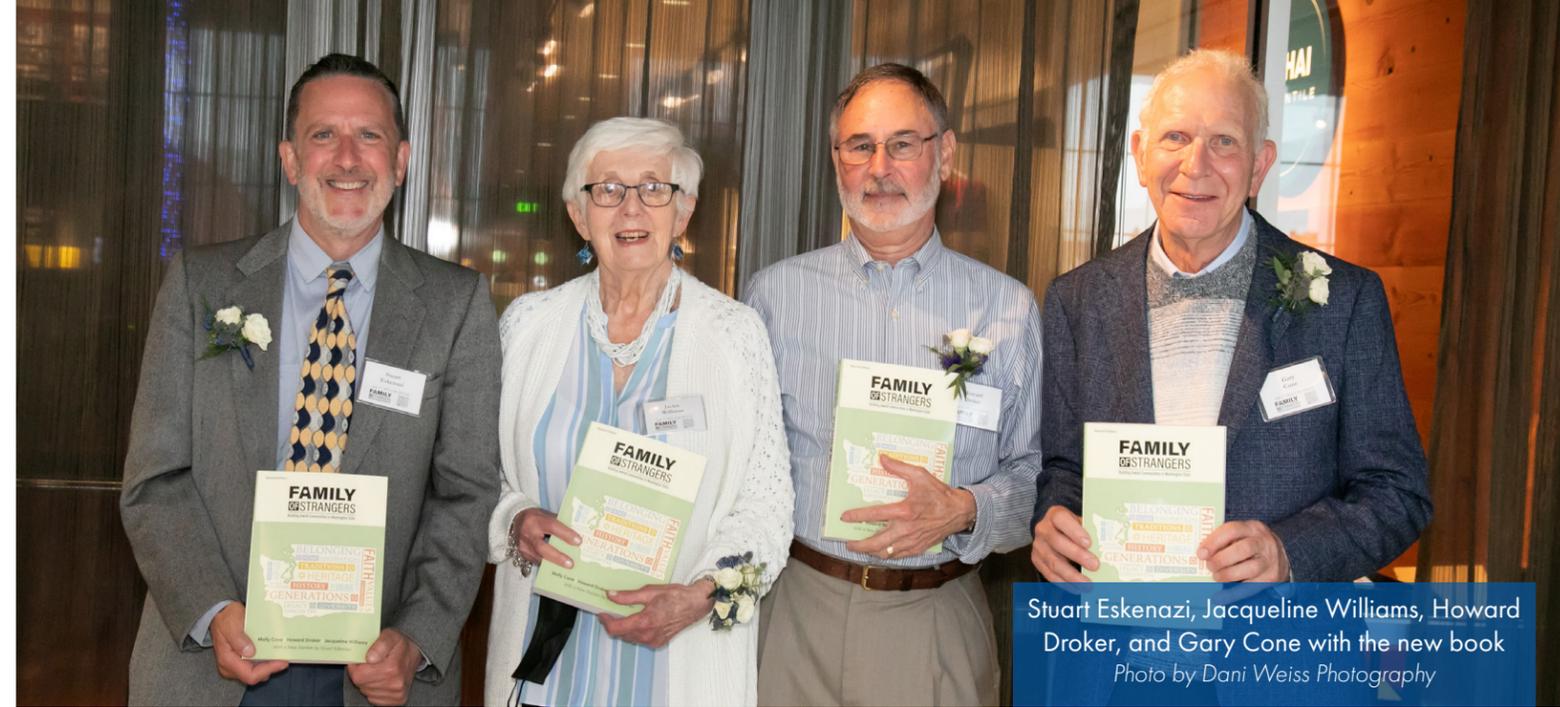
**Q:** I have trouble understanding museum terminology. Is there a way of simplifying this for the general public?

**A:** Yes! Another thing currently in the works is the development of a glossary for more commonly used archive and museum terminology. Keep an eye on our emails and social media accounts to find out when this is available to explore!

Your support has allowed us to welcome Marissa to the WSJHS. Thank you!

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Join Marissa on **Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM (PT)** for a virtual History Happy Hour called “You Are The Archivist.” You will learn best practices for the care of your precious family artifacts! \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members. *(Details subject to change. See [givebutter.com/hhh](https://givebutter.com/hhh) or our social media pages for up-to-date information.)*



Stuart Eskenazi, Jacqueline Williams, Howard Droker, and Gary Cone with the new book  
Photo by Dani Weiss Photography

## Family of Strangers: Building Jewish Communities in Washington State 2nd Edition Release

**THE BOOK**—Meet the newest title for your personal library! The second edition of Family of Strangers: Building Jewish Communities in Washington State was released with great enthusiasm at our annual gala on June 1st. First published in 2003, the new book contains the original text by Molly Cone z”l, Howard Droker, and Jacqueline Williams—plus a thought-provoking Epilogue in the new section by Stuart Eskenazi which highlights more recent history. Tacoma historian Deborah Freedman wrote a new Introduction and Sandy Glass designed the eye-catching cover.

Book publication is an enormous effort for any organization. As a nonprofit, we relied on grants and donors like you to make this “Bible of Jewish history in Washington state” (as our Director, Lisa, calls it) a reality. Without your support, it would have remained an idea. **But now, because of you, this one-of-a-kind book now exists in the physical world for people across the globe to enjoy.** Whether it is used in

scholarly pursuits or read quietly on your favorite reading chair for leisure, we feel confident that you will be just as proud of the second edition of Family of Strangers as we are. **Purchase your copy at [wsjhs.to/fos-book](https://wsjhs.to/fos-book) or by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone’s camera:**



**THE GALA**—After two years of virtual galas, it was incredible to gather in person to celebrate this special publication. Toward the end of the evening, gala co-chairs Judy de Jonge, Michele Rosen, and Mimi Rosen made a surprise announcement: for the week following the event, they would

match donations up to \$30,000! Our supporters took advantage of this generous opportunity—by the end of the event and the surprise matching offer, **the total raised for the WSJHS was an astounding \$417,751.22!**

We hope that when you hold it in your hands, you see and feel the direct impact of your support. **Thank you for giving the world the opportunity to learn about the rich and diverse history of Jewish life in Washington state.**



Michele Rosen, Judy de Jonge, and Mimi Rosen just after their surprise matching offer at the June 1st gala.

Photo by Dani Weiss Photography