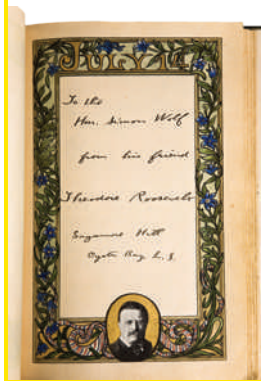




# Closer Inspection



These **commemorative books** were given to Jewish leader Simon Wolf by his daughter Florence Gotthold to mark his 70th birthday in 1906. Each page is hand-illustrated by Gotthold. The books feature notes from such figures as Mark Twain and President Theodore Roosevelt.



A **felt banner** made during World War II honors Jewish Lions Club members who fought in the war. Formed by D.C. teen boys in 1937 and incorporated in 1941, the club met every Sunday.



As each member went off to war, a **star** was sewn on the banner. "To our good fortune, all 25 came back from the service," says original member Louis Kornhauser, now 92. After the club's last reunion three years ago, members donated the banner to the society.



A former camper donated this 1950s **bracelet** from Camp Louise in Cascade, Md. The camp has offered generations of Jewish girls a summer camp experience since its founding in 1922. "That really resonates with people," Turman says.



From 1898 to 1954, this brass **ner tamid** ("eternal light") hung in the sanctuary at Washington Hebrew Congregation, formerly at 816 Eighth St. NW. An inscription honors businessman Henry King Jr., who helped raise money to build the synagogue.



## A slice of D.C. Jewish life

Society's collection highlights local history

BY KRIS CORONADO

In the past 30 years, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington has been acquiring artifacts from residents and groups with the mission of preserving the area's Jewish history. The society houses hundreds of objects, photos and documents with the aim of giving a personal perspective on the evolution of Jewish life in Washington. "Individual objects and stories take on greater meaning when they're put into the larger context of our collection,"

says archivist Wendy Turman.

Although the collection is not on display — despite its name, the society's historical synagogue, now called the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum, hosts special events and seminars and does not permanently house exhibits — many items can be seen online ([jhsgw.org](http://jhsgw.org)) or by appointment (202-789-0900; 701 Third St. NW).

Here, Turman gives us a glimpse of Jewish history through the donated belongings of Washingtonians.



Residents wore **buttons** supporting Soviet Jews, many of whom were trying to emigrate from the Soviet Union, in the late '80s. In addition to participating in a rally on Dec. 6, 1987, many local Jews took part in a vigil in front of the Soviet Union embassy from 1970 to 1991.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN C. TANKERSLEY