

Jews Synagogue in Charleston

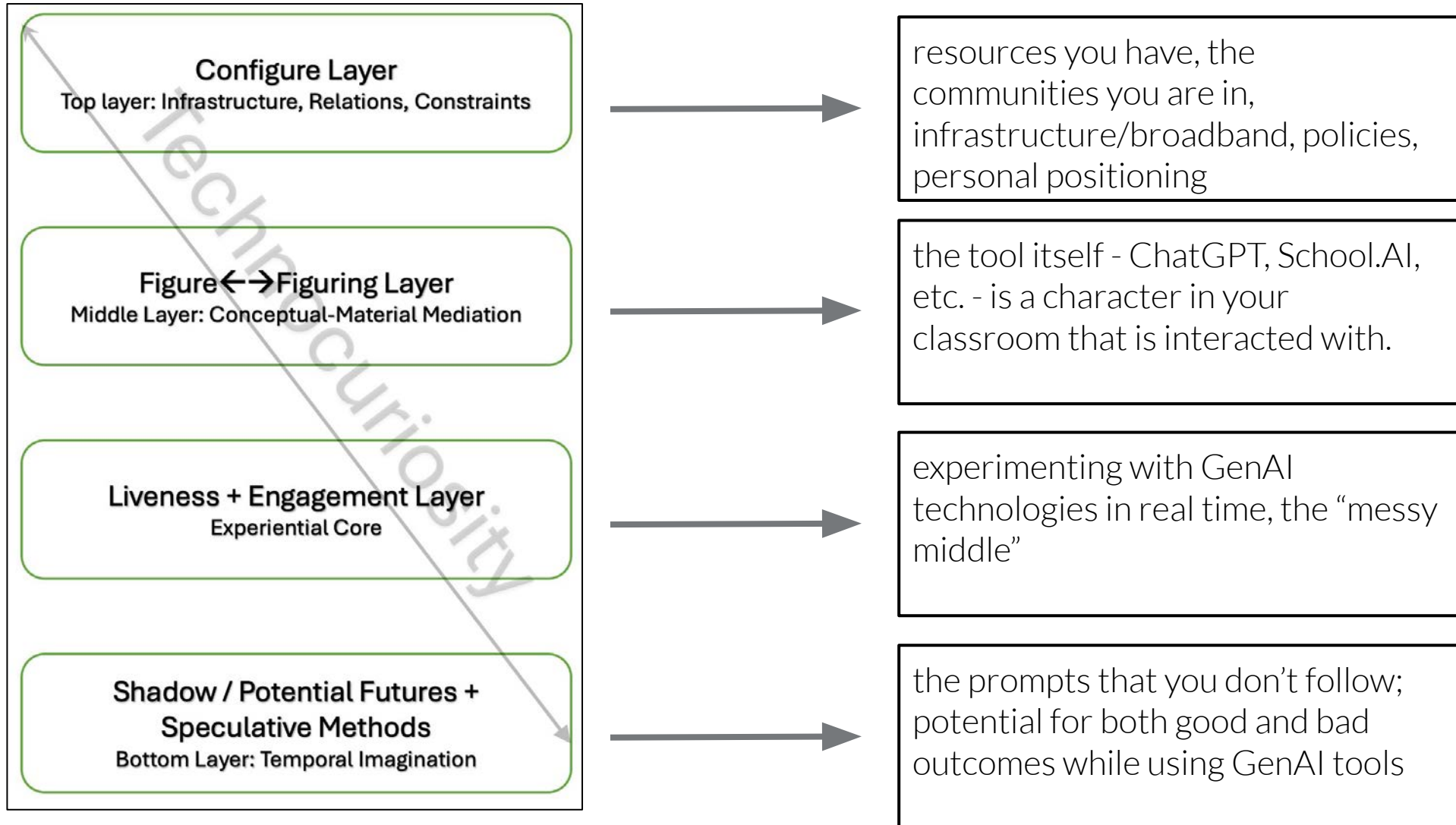
Technocurious Inquiry: Exploring Jewish Life in Florida through The Southern Jewish Weekly

Amy Allen
David Hicks

Agenda

- Technocuriosity
- TPS Resources:
 - Chronicling America
 - Free to Use/Reuse
- The QFT (Question Formulation Technique)
- Pairing the QFT with GenAI
- Adding in Sources from Chronicling America
- Searching with GenAI

Technocuriosity



Chronicling America

- Long-running Library of Congress initiative that provides free, searchable access to historic U.S. newspapers published between 1777 and 1963.
- Created in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities through the National Digital Newspaper Program
- Includes millions of pages from newspapers in multiple languages, including English, Yiddish, German, Spanish, and others...
- Widely used in historical research and teaching to examine everyday life, political debates, migration, labor, race, religion, and the circulation of ideas through popular media.

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NEWSPAPER

The Southern Jewish Weekly (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1939-1992

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About The Southern Jewish Weekly (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1939-1992

The *Southern Jewish Weekly* began publication in 1939 when editor Isadore Moscovitz, a University of Florida Journalism graduate, merged the *Florida Jewish News* and the *Jewish Citizen* to create a new newspaper that would be "an independent weekly serving American citizens of Jewish faith." The *Weekly* considered itself the "oldest and most widely circulated Jewish publication in this territory."

Pensacola was home to the first known Jewish community in Florida in 1763 after the Treaty of Paris was signed. Once England acquired Florida, non-Catholics were allowed to freely settle in the colony. The Jewish community in Florida began to flourish in the late 1850s as they began to establish organizations that would meet their educational, social, and health-related needs. The Jacksonville Hebrew Cemetery was the first Jewish institution to be established in the state in 1857. By 1900, there were six established congregations across the state in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Key West, Ocala, and Tampa. The community continued to grow, and by 1928, approximately 10,000 Jews lived in Florida, with approximately 10% of the community residing in Jacksonville. As of 2020, over 600,000 Jews are living in Florida, making up 3% of the overall state's population.

The *Southern Jewish Weekly* was a member of the Religious News Service, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the American Jewish Press

[Show More](#)

About this Newspaper

Title
The Southern Jewish Weekly (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1939-1992

Summary
The Southern Jewish Weekly (sn78000090) began publication in 1939 when editor Isadore Moscovitz (a University of Florida Journalism graduate) merged the Florida Jewish News (sn 95047205) and the Jewish Citizen (sn 95047204) to create a new newspaper that would be "an independent weekly serving American citizens of Jewish faith". The Weekly considered itself the "oldest and most widely circulated Jewish publication in this territory." The paper was a member of the Religious News Service, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the American Jewish Press Club, and the Independent Jewish Press Service. It was published in Jacksonville once a week, with every issue typically being eight pages. In October 1943, Moscovitz published an announcement noting a change in publication frequency due to World War II. The Weekly became the Southern Jewish Monthly, publishing a single issue every third Friday of the month. During this time Moscovitz served in the war, leaving his wife Ethel Moscovitz to manage the paper and serve as its editor in the interim. The paper continued as a monthly until January 1947 when Moscovitz returned to the United States and resumed the paper's weekly publication schedule. The Southern Jewish Weekly was "opposed to communism, fascism, and Nazism and is dedicated to the ideals of American democracy". It reported on WWII, and the..."

Availability
[View All Front Pages »](#)
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Part of
[The Southern Jewish Weekly \(Jacksonville, Fla.\) 1939 to 1992 \(762\)](#)
[Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries \(158,768\)](#)
[Library of Congress Online Catalog \(1,711,798\)](#)

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- Access the collections here: <https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/>

Free to Use and Reuse: Jewish American Heritage

Selected portraits, events, and sites represent the historical experiences and achievements of Jewish Americans from the 18th to the 20th century. A formal celebration of Jewish American heritage occurs each year in the United States in May. Unless otherwise noted, the images are from the Prints & Photographs Division.

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"Food will win the war. You came here seeking freedom, now you must help to preserve it." World War I poster by Charles Chambers, in Yiddish, 1917.



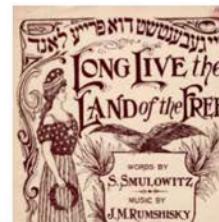
Labor parade, New York City. Sashes read "Abolish Child Slavery" in English and Yiddish. Photo by Bain News Service, 1909.



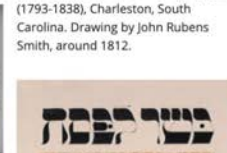
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Synagogue (1793-1838), Charleston, South Carolina. Drawing by John Rubens Smith, around 1812.



Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner. Photo by Michael Geissinger, 1988.



Kosher for Passover. Goodman's



Hank Greenberg (far right) on the All Star baseball team, Griffith Stadium, Washington, DC. Photo by Harris & Ewing, 1937.



Kosher for Passover. Goodman's



National Hanukkah Menorah in Lafayette Park across from the White House, Washington, D.C. Photo by Warren Leffler, 1979.



"Die Fire Korbunes" (The Fire Victims). Sheet music cover for an elegy about the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire, New York City, 1911. (Music Division)



Harry Houdini, magician and escape artist. Photo by J.F. Blote, 1903. Rare Book & Special Collections Division.



Committee for Jewish-Black relations. Photo by Bernard Gotfryd, 1983.



"Die Fire Korbunes" (The Fire Victims). Sheet music cover for an elegy about the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire, New York City, 1911. (Music Division)



Ruth Bader Ginsburg testifies at the congressional hearing for her Supreme Court nomination. Photo by R. Michael Jenkins, 1993.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg testifies at the congressional hearing for her Supreme Court nomination. Photo by R. Michael Jenkins, 1993.



Harry Houdini, magician and escape artist. Photo by J.F. Blote, 1903. Rare Book & Special Collections Division.

The QFT, on one slide...

1) Question Focus (May be a primary source)

2) Produce Your Questions

- ✓ Follow the rules
- ✓ Number your questions

3) Improve Your Questions

- ✓ Categorize questions as Closed or Open-ended
- ✓ Change questions from one type to another

4) Strategize

- ✓ Prioritize your questions
- ✓ Action plan or discuss next steps
- ✓ Share

5) Reflect

1. Ask as many questions as you can
2. Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer
3. Record *exactly* as stated
4. Change statements into questions

Closed-Ended:

Answered with “yes,”
“no” or one word

Open-Ended: Require
longer explanation

The Big Idea Behind Pairing QFT+ChatGPT

- QFT helps students learn how to ask better questions, not just answer them.
- ChatGPT acts like an extra “student” that generates questions instantly.
- Putting student questions next to AI questions makes thinking visible.
- Teachers can use AI to surface patterns, gaps, and assumptions in questions.
- The focus stays on judgment and improvement, not on getting answers.

Now let's try

1. Q-Focus: Jewish Immigrants in Florida

SS.1.CG.2.3 Recognize ways citizens can demonstrate patriotism.

SS.4.A.6.2 Summarize contributions that immigrant groups made to Florida.

SS.912.HE.2.4 Describe how Jewish immigration was perceived and restricted by various nations from 1933 to 1939.

SS.912.S.4.10 Distinguish the degree of assimilation that ethnic, cultural and social groups achieve with the United States culture.



שפייו וועט געווינען דיא קריעג!
איהר קומט אהער צו געפינען פרייהייט.
יעצט מוזט איהר העלפען זיא צו בעשיצען
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לאזט קיין זאך ניט גיין אין ניוועץ



יונימער סטייטס שפייו פערואלמונג.

Now let's try

2. Produce Questions

Rules for producing questions:

- Ask as many questions as you can.
- Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.
- Write down every question exactly as it's stated.
- Change any statements into questions.



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יוניטעד סטייטס שפייו פערואלמונג.

Now let's see what Chatty
Geeps can do



שפייז וועט געווינען דיא קריעג!

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יוניטעד סטייטס שפייז פערזאאלטונג.

Now let's try

About this Item

Title

[Food will win the war - You came here seeking freedom, now you must help to preserve it - Wheat is needed for the allies - waste nothing] / C. E. Chambers.

Summary

Poster showing immigrants arriving in New York harbor, with Statue of Liberty beneath a rainbow.

Names

Chambers, Charles Edward, approximately 1883-1941, artist

Created / Published

N[ew] Y[ork] : Rusling Wood, Litho., [1917]



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יוניטעד סטייטס שפייז פערזארגען.

Now let's try

3. Improve Questions

Label each as Open-Ended or Closed-Ended

Choose a few to practice changing:

- Closed → Open
- Open → Closed



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יוניטעד סטייטס שפייו פערואלמונג.

Now let's try

4. Prioritize Questions

Ask students to choose their top 3 questions (or another number) that:

- Are most important
- Spark their curiosity
- They'd like to investigate further

Imagine you are a historian. What are your best questions that lead you to want to inquire more?



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Now let's see what Chatty Geeps can do

How can Chatty Geeps help students understand which ones are the better questions?

How else is it helpful to incorporate GenAI tools into an activity like this?



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יונייטעד סטייטס שפייו פערזארגען.

The Big Idea Behind Pairing QFT+ChatGPT

- Students can create questions on their own, then compare them with Chatty Geeps.
- Turning it into a challenge (“Can we beat Chatty Geeps?”) boosts engagement.
- Comparing questions shows what makes a question strong or weak.
- The activity highlights why human judgment still matters.
- Teachers can model questioning and guide revision in real time.
- Students become more confident and intentional questioners over time.

Pairing w/ resources from Chronicling America

- Based on the type of questions students generated, where would you go with this? As a teacher, you might already be thinking about what they might generate.
 - Examples:
 - Immigrants
 - Why did Jews come to America in the first place?
 - How does war impact immigration?
 - Where did Jews end up living in America?
 - Prejudices
 - What issues were Jews facing (in and out of America)?
 - Why Wheat?
 - Does this have anything to do with Ukrainian Jews? (Ukraine used to be called the bread basket of Europe)
 - Assimilation/Patriotism
 - What does it mean to be American?
- What are the next sources you might use that 1) value student questions or 2) align with the content we need to cover?
- How can we find answers to the questions we generated?
 - Chronicling America!!!

Searching the Library of Congress

- Chatty Geeps can also help you find additional sources by helping you plan searches
 - I'm wanting to explore the questions below in a Floridian Jewish Newspaper called The Southern Jewish Weekly (Jacksonville, FL). What would be some good search terms to use to find out about Jewish life, how they lived, pogroms, communities, reasons why they came to America, etc?
 - The newspapers are from 1939 to the 1960s. Are there any terms that we should be aware of based on that time frame?
 - We are using the Chronicling America database. Can you suggest some boolean searches, and how do I deal with boolean errors? Also any other suggestions about how to search these newspapers?

Some sample Boolean searches tailored to your questions and the 1939–1960s timeframe:

For immigration and refugees:

- "Jewish refugees" AND Europe
- "displaced persons" OR DPs AND Jews
- (immigration OR refugees) AND (quota OR restrictions)
- "admission of refugees" AND Congress

For persecution, war, and violence:

- (Nazi OR Hitler) AND Jews
- "persecution of Jews" OR "Jewish persecution"
- "anti-Jewish" AND (riots OR violence)
- (Europe AND war) AND Jews

For antisemitism and prejudice in the U.S.:

- (antisemitism OR prejudice) AND Jews
- "restricted hotels" OR "restricted neighborhoods"
- (quotas AND universities) OR "college quotas"

For assimilation, patriotism, and American identity:

- (Americanism OR patriotism) AND Jews
- "good citizenship" AND Jewish
- "loyal Americans" AND Jews
- (Jewish AND servicemen) OR "Jewish soldiers"

Sources we found in LOC's Chronicling America

STATE INTEREST IN NEAR EAST RELIEF

Senator Park Trammell Taking Active Part in the Work in This Section.
(Special to The Journal.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 12.—The great interest which is being manifested in Near East Relief work throughout the state is being augmented by the fact that Senator Trammell is sending out a Christmas letter to every automobile owner in the state; the letter reads as follows:

"We are still thinking in terms of giving at this time. The children of America are joyously looking forward to the coming holidays, while far across the sea, in the oldest Christian nation in the world—Armenia—comes the cry, not for toys, but for bread. They want just enough to take away the stinging pangs of hunger.

There are 110,000 children in the 229 Near East orphanages in Armenia and Syria, committed to the sacred care of the American people. These children would die by thousands if American relief were discontinued. There are as many more outside the gates of these orphanages starving to death and dying of disease while they clamor for admission. The orphanages are already overcrowded.

"You can feed one of these orphans, whose father was murdered and whose mother was carried away to a Turkish harem merely because the Armenians have for 1,000 years refused to renounce Christ and all that He stood for and become Mohammedans, for only five dollars (\$5.00) a month.

60 Anti-Alien Bills Now Being Considered By Congress

WASHINGTON—Most of the more than 60 anti-alien bills now being considered by Congress are termed "thoroughly un-American" in an article by Seymour S. Guthman in the forthcoming February issue of "The National Jewish Monthly," published by B'nai B'rith.

These bills, Mr. Guthman points out, provide severe penalties—including indefinite imprisonment in a kind of concentration camp—for very vague offenses. Some of the bills seek to force all aliens to be registered, to carry identification cards, to be fingerprinted. Of the 3,500,000 non-

naturalized persons in this country, many are Jews.

After paying a tribute to the millions of immigrants who, during the last 150 years, have built this country out of a wilderness, Mr. Guthman declares:

"The Supreme Court of the United States has declared that aliens are entitled to the protection of the guarantees under the Constitution, the same as American citizens, so long as they deport themselves in a law-abiding fashion. Democracy cannot be saved by taking it away from the people."

THE SOUTHERN JEWISH WEEKLY
Combining
The Florida Jewish News and The Jewish Citizen
AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY SERVING AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JEWISH FAITH
THE OLDEST AND MOST WIDELY CIRCULATED JEWISH PUBLICATION IN THIS TERRITORY
No. 16 — No. 37
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1941
\$2.00 a Year

Week In Review by MILTON BROWN, J.T.A.

THE NEAR EAST AND PALESTINE
A decisive event of the week in the Jewish world was the conclusion of an armistice in Syria between the French forces and the Free French. The event is important inasmuch as it removes the potential British peril to Palestine which can now breathe easier, with circles greeted with jubilation by the development, not failing to point out however, that the Nazis march in the world large still unchecked, the victory in Syria constitutes but a relief, which Palestine must take advantage of to intensify her preparations for future eventualities. In fact, in fact, at the same time was not spared attack from other Axis member Italy, Haifa was subjected again to Italian attack during the week. With the immediate menace of the Zionist aim with respect to Palestine after the war. Speaking before a convention of the English Zionists in Boston, Dr. Weizmann declared that it is an imperative necessity that before the war becomes a civil commotion, the Jewish sovereignty, equality and unity among the nations of the world.

Italian Publisher Donates To Charity



The Greater New York Fund, represented by Arch Mandel (right) receives a check for \$1,500 from Generoso Pope (center) New York publisher of Italian language newspapers, Il Progresso Italo-Americano and Corriere D'America. On the left is Henry Epstein, another director of the Fund which supports the various hospitals, charities, etc., of America's largest city.

Nazis Admit Execution Of Jews in Bialystok

JEWISH DOCTORS MOBILIZED

STOCKHOLM, (JTA)—The Berlin radio in a broadcast admitted the mass-execution of Jews in Bialystok and the burning of synagogues there immediately after the occupation of that city by German troops.

It was learned here today also that the Nazi authorities in occupied Poland issued an order to all Jewish doctors and medical students to report at once to German military quarters for assignment to military hospitals overcrowded with German soldiers and officers wounded on the Russian front. The mobilization of Jewish doctors for work in German military hospitals will greatly affect Jewish health conditions in the ghettos where typhus is reported to be raging.

The correspondent of the Swedish liberal newspaper Dagens Nyheter who just returned to Berlin from a visit to Warsaw, writes from Berlin that an average of a hundred typhus cases monthly have been registered in the Warsaw ghetto during the last months. Describing the starvation which he observed among the Jews in the ghetto, the correspondent states that the German official who took him around the ghetto explained to him sarcastically that the ghetto is not being supplied with sufficient food "because the Jews are on a slimming diet." The correspondent describes general conditions of life in the ghetto as utterly miserable. "There are no parks, no gardens, no playgrounds in all of the ghetto territory. Everything is bought and sold there on the street pavements. Even drinking water is sold. A glass of water costs ten groschen," the Swedish correspondent states in his report.

Henry Ford Challenged To Renounce Nazis

New York (JPS)—Henry Ford, motor-car manufacturer who has dabbled in anti-Semitism in the past and then publicly repudiated it, is called upon to renounce the Nazis who continue to make widespread use of his scurrilous anti-Semitic material in a pamphlet issued here by the Friends of Democracy.

Robert E. Sherwood, playwright who has been known to prepare material for some of the President's addresses, contributes the challenging prefatory statement which appeals to Ford's "patriotism and better judgment."

Henry Ford is asked to "choose" between the Nazis and America. He "must know that he is being used by Fascist groups all over the world," the pamphlet charges. Sherwood calls on Ford to do these things to prove his sincerity: (1) Stop the further publication and circulation of pamphlets and books containing copies of extracts from the Dearborn Independent articles.—A list of the disseminators of the publications is given and includes the American Nationalist Confederation, St. Albans, W. Va., the Arjan Book Store, Los Angeles, various South American, French and German concerns and also the Britons' Publishing Society in London;

(2) Stop the further publication and circulation of pamphlets and books quoting Mr. Ford's endorsement of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" or quoting other anti-Semitic statements of Mr. Ford which presumably no longer represent Mr. Ford's true beliefs; (3) Mr. Ford must make periodic statements to the press, giving the fullest publicity to the action

the propaganda offensive against Russia has begun a new emphasis on the anti-Jewish note. Bolshevism was pictured by the Gobelshs as a tool of the Jews seeking world domination.

A war film exhibited by the Germans in Berlin to a group of foreign press correspondents showed many scenes of the bounding of Jews by the Nazi forces invading Russian territory. The captions of the film indicate the Jewish

Jews Must Show Zionist Flags

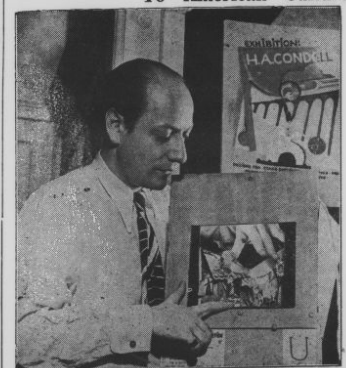
London (JPS)—Zionist flags must adorn every house occupied by Jews in Lemberg, Bialystok, Brest Litovsk and other cities now in Nazi hands, so that the Nazis may know where to find the Jews when they want them for their purposes. All Jews must also wear yellow badges.

Jews in the ghetto of various Polish cities are not allowed to move from one apartment to another. They are forbidden long visits with friends unless they have special permits.

Jewish Army Chaplains Will Speak On Air

"The Army and Religion" will be discussed by three Army chaplains on active duty in a special broadcast on the "Message of Israel" hour over NBC's Blue Network on July 26th and August 2nd. It was announced today by Dr. David de Sola Pool, chairman of the Committee on Religious Activities of the Jewish Welfare Board.

Refugee Artist Contributes To American Culture



NEW YORK—How the National Refugee Service helps talented foreign artists contribute to American culture. H.A. Conde is dramatically demonstrated in an exhibition of stage designs and model scenery currently displayed at Friendship House in New York City.

cause these stages which he worked were very small, he experimented with projected settings against the rear wall of the theater and created new color and dimensional effects with great success.

This fall Mr. Conde will teach his art at the New York City Y. M. H. A. and is becoming well known in the theater world. He has several fall assignments—for his novel "streamlined" projected scenery.

Mr. Conde is shown in the accompanying picture with one of his favorite sets.

Jewish Calendar Join a Synagogue or Temple Attend Its Services 5701 — 1941

Rosh Chodesh Ab.	July 25
Fest. of Ab.	Aug. 2
Rosh Chodesh Elul.	Aug. 24
First Day New Year.	Sept. 22
Fest. of Gedaliah.	Sept. 24
Yom Kippur.	Oct. 7
First Day of Tabernacle (Succoth).	Oct. 6
Hoshanah-Rabbah.	Oct. 12
Sh'mini-Atzeret.	Oct. 13
Sinchas Torah.	Oct. 14

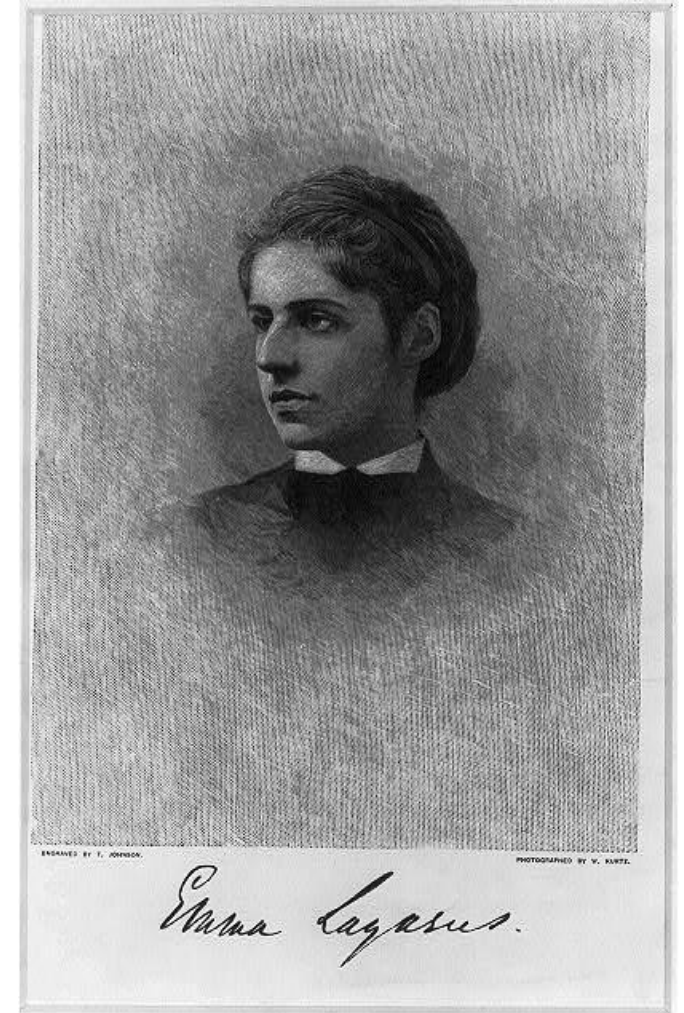
*Observed previous day as well. All holidays begin at sundown of day preceding that in New York City.

Next Steps: Setting up further inquiry

- Looking at the sources, can Chatty Geeps help us plan an IDM?
 - It can help create a compelling question to anchor the inquiry
 - It can help create supporting questions
 - It provide guidance on how to use the sources with the supporting questions
- Ask Chatty Geeps a question like “Imagine this is the hook for a lesson about Jewish Americans. What might be some next steps I could take as a teacher of 8th grade students if I have only about 20 minutes of class left?”

Pairing w/ other sources from the collection

- Look at the image. How would you connect this with the original image?
- Here's how Chatty Geeps connected:
 - *The connection comes through the Statue of Liberty. Lazarus's sonnet, "The New Colossus," provides the moral language that underwrites the promise visualized in the immigration poster. The Yiddish poster shows what Lazarus's words imagine: the tired, the poor, the huddled masses arriving at America's edge. But the pairing also reveals a tension. Lazarus's poem is now national scripture, yet her Jewish identity is often softened or omitted in popular memory, while the immigrants in the poster are marked precisely by their Jewish difference. Together, the images illustrate two strategies of belonging available to Jews in America. One is collective arrival and mutual aid, grounded in ethnic community and spoken in Yiddish. The other is cultural translation, where Jewish experience becomes legible and acceptable through elite literary contribution and universalist language.*
- Using our own discernment, does this make sense or not? Is this helpful? How?
- Based on these two photos together, what would be a good historical question?





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