Butchers, Babushkas, and Consumer Activism

The 1902 Kosher Meat Boycott

WOMEN RESUME RIOTS AGAINST MEAT SHOPS

Brooklyn Police Take Twenty-two Prisoners in Street Fight.

LOWER EAST SIDE DISTURBED

Business Places Attacked, Customers Assaulted, and Meat Thrown Away in the Borough of the Bronx.

> SHARING STORIES INSPIRING CHANGE

BIG IDEAS

From Living the Legacy: Jews and the Labor Movement Lesson 1: <u>Bread and Roses—Defining Basic Needs</u>

WORK	LEISURE	NEED	WANT
PLEASURE	FUN	JOY	LABOR
CULTURE	PLAY	LIVING	WAGES
MONEY	SUSTENANCE	CHOICE	EDUCATION
FRESH AIR	DRUDGERY	BEAUTY	OPPRESSION
RIGHTS	RESPECT	DIGNITY	FREE TIME

Kosher Butcher Stores on Orchard Street, 1900s Samuel Ershowsky 197 Davis Golding 189 188 Benjamin Meyerson 178 Henry L. Shaffer Theodore Joseph 187 176 Morris Texler Meyer 177 172 Solomon Linsky Katschenowitz 166 Jacob Hiestein Max Rosenblum / Benjamin Schwartz 159 Jacob Reitman Elias Sobelson 157 Victor Bogolowitch 151 Morris Weisinger 147 144 Herbert & Cohen Greater NY Beef Co. 145 Aaron Reitman 143 136 Wolf Greengrass 134 Samuel Rothstein Isaac Garbowitz 105 98 Harris Polansky Israel A. Lustgarten 97 / Isaac Cohen 92 Birson Brothers 78 Abraham Salowitch 60 Meyer Rankall Meyer Kleinman 55 David S. & Son 51 Harris Levy 31 30 Louis Dansky 24 Barnet Spreiregen

Map graphic from the Lower East Side Tenement Museum



Courtesy of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum



Courtesy of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.
Gates say "Basar Kasher Trust" or Kosher Meat Trust.
Caption reads: "Die macht fun froyen" or The power of women

Dr. Annie Polland

Vice President, Education
Lower East Side Tenement Museum

"On the Lower East Side, women would often prepare a stew made with potatoes, meats, and vegetables, and beans. And because *Sabbath* laws prohibit the kindling of fire or turning on and off an oven, what women would do was make their pots with the stew, send it to the bakeries. And the bakeries, the neighborhood bakeries, would keep their ovens on overnight, on low. So that way, you could have a warm meal on Saturday (they would just sent their kids to pick up the *cholent* pot, the stew pot), and, but they would not be violating the *Sabbath* laws.

"For this boycott, what the leaders of the boycott did was advise the women to check the stew pots of their neighbors, and if they smelled meat, or saw meat, they were told to call those women "scabs." A scab was the worst name you could call someone in that generation, a scab was someone who was a strike breaker, again. And in this time of labor protest and unions, there really was nothing worse you could call someone."



QUESTIONS?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does this story connect to the themes or values you teach about in your communities?
- Where might you include this story in your teaching?
- What particular details or ideas do you think would excite your students?

TAKEAWAYS

- What inspired you, personally?
- What is something you are taking away with you, either for your teaching or in your personal life?

MORE INFORMATION

- Information about upcoming programs and resources from the webinars can be found at:
 - http://jwa.org/teach/profdev
- We invite each of you to apply to for the Natalia
 Twersky Educator Award. For more information visit:
 http://jwa.org/twersky
- And, as always, we love to hear from you! http://jwa.org/contact/Education

Thanks for coming!

