

# Butchers, Babushkas, and Consumer Activism

The 1902  
Kosher Meat Boycott



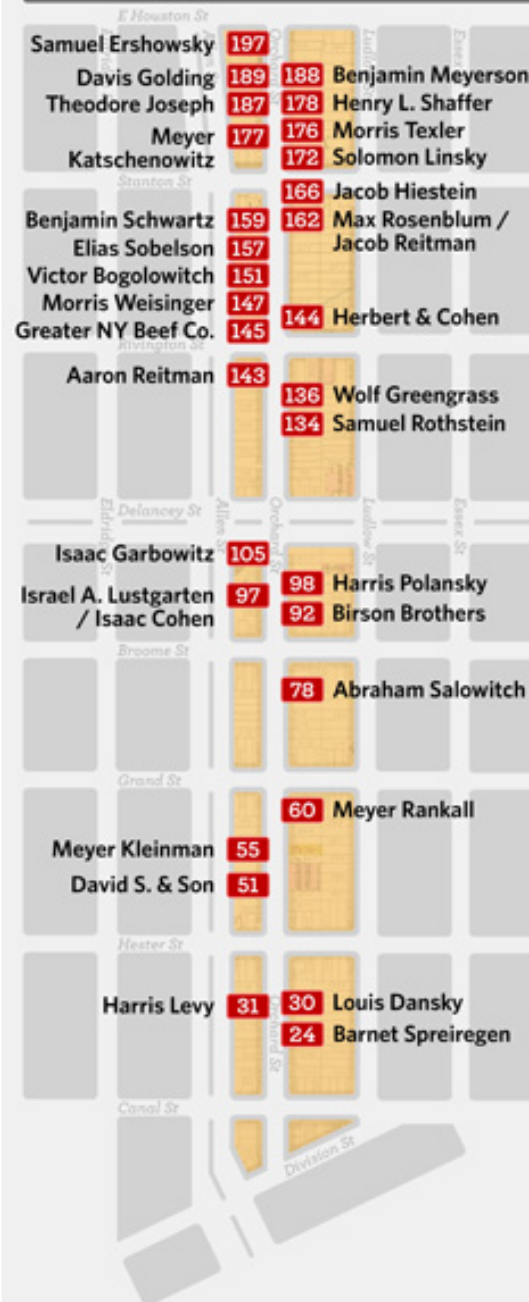
**SHARING  
STORIES  
INSPIRING  
CHANGE**

# BIG IDEAS

From Living the Legacy: Jews and the Labor Movement  
Lesson 1: [Bread and Roses—Defining Basic Needs](#)

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

## Kosher Butcher Stores on Orchard Street, 1900s



Map graphic from  
the Lower East  
Side Tenement  
Museum



Listening to a Boycott Appeal.

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!

