

Hannah Greenebaum Solomon

Hannah's Life

Born on January, 14, 1858, Hannah Greenebaum Solomon of Chicago was part of the group of social activists that included, among her friends and peers, Jane Addams and Susan B. Anthony. It was in 1893 that Hannah G. Solomon was appointed a member of the Women's Committee for the World's Parliament of Religions held in connection with the Chicago World's Fair. Although discouraged by the Jewish men of the day from taking an active role in the event, she decided that Jewish women throughout the country should be at the Parliament of Religions so she invited them herself. Hannah Solomon arranged a Jewish Women's congress out of which grew the National Council of Jewish Women with Mrs. Solomon serving as its first president.

From these beginning efforts grew larger ones that demonstrated Hannah Solomon's concern for social reform. She exerted considerable influence in the fields of service to child labor and welfare, women's rights, immigration, slum clearance, public health, food and drug regulations, federal anti-lynching laws, white slavery and Jewish affairs.



Mrs. Hannah G. Solomon's breadth of vision and uniting effort have made her influence felt in all fields where men and women work to create a better social order.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

It was through her extraordinary leadership that penny lunch stations in schools were established, and probation officers were placed in municipal courts for delinquent children.

In 1903 the U.S. government asked Hannah Solomon's assistance in preventing the white slavery exploitation and sweat-shop labor that were the lot of many young women arriving alone and penniless in America. Hannah Solomon, through NCJW, created a Port and Dock program in the major immigration centers of the U.S. to meet and care for young women.

This dynamic woman was active on the state and local levels, as well, in Illinois and Chicago. She was founder of the Chicago Juvenile Court, established the Associated Charities of Chicago, and was President of the Illinois Industrial School for Girls, on which Jane Addams served as a Board member.

Mrs. Hannah G. Solomon's kind heart and generous helpfulness endeared her to multitudes of people.

– **Dwight H. Green**, Governor
State of Illinois

Hannah Solomon was a friend of and worked very closely with Jane Addams in establishing Hull House, one of the first social settlement houses in the country.

As her horizons widened and she became a national figure, Hannah Solomon served as treasurer of the Board of the Council of Women in the United States. With Susan B. Anthony, she was its delegate to the International Council of Women in Berlin in 1904. She was Chairwoman of the Nominating Committee of this convention and, through her knowledge of French and German, acted as interpreter for Miss Anthony.

Mrs. Solomon's papers, along with her autobiography *Fabric of Life*, have been accepted by the Library of Congress and are found in the manuscript division.

Through her long and extraordinarily useful life, Mrs. Solomon exerted a splendid influence in the fields of service to foreign-born social welfare, international relations and peace, contemporary Jewish affairs, and enactment of beneficial social legislation.

– **Herbert H. Lehman**, Director
U.S. Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation

Sheaf of Leaves, a compilation of Hannah Solomon's articles, speeches, and papers reflects the depth and diversity of her interests. Hannah Solomon is also featured in the book, *The Jewish Woman in America*.

Her profound intellectuality, her belief that women should share with men the responsibility of creating a better social order and a better world, left a deep impression on America.

The Achievements of Hannah Greenebaum Solomon

The record of Hannah G. Solomon's life is written in terms of unselfish service. I am sure that millions of her fellow citizens will mourn her passing.

– George N. Shuster, President

Hunter College

International Achievements and Recognition

- She advocated support of the League of Nations programs for improving world levels of health and nutrition.
- Served with Susan B. Anthony as a delegate to the convention of the International Council of Women in Berlin.

National Achievements and Recognition

- Appointed a member of the Women's Committee for the World's Parliament of Religions
- Founded the National Council of Jewish Women
- Spoke at Sinai Temple, becoming the first Jewish woman to speak from any Jewish pulpit
- Established program to help immigrant young women obtain housing and jobs in major U.S. ports
- Established nationwide program of probation officers in municipal courts for delinquent children
- Established penny lunch stations in schools throughout the United States.
- Leader in a successful fight against child labor in the United States
- Treasurer of the Council of Women in the United States
- Published *Sheaf of Life*, a compilation of articles, speeches and papers, and her autobiography *Fabric of Life*
- Featured in the book *The Jewish Woman in America*
- Featured prominently in the National Museum of American History's major exhibition "Parlor to Politics: Women and Reform in the Progressive Era" to open in 1991

Illinois Achievements and Recognition

- Helped to create the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs
- Elected president of the Illinois Industrial School for Girls
- Founder of the Chicago Juvenile Court
- Established the Associated Charities of Chicago