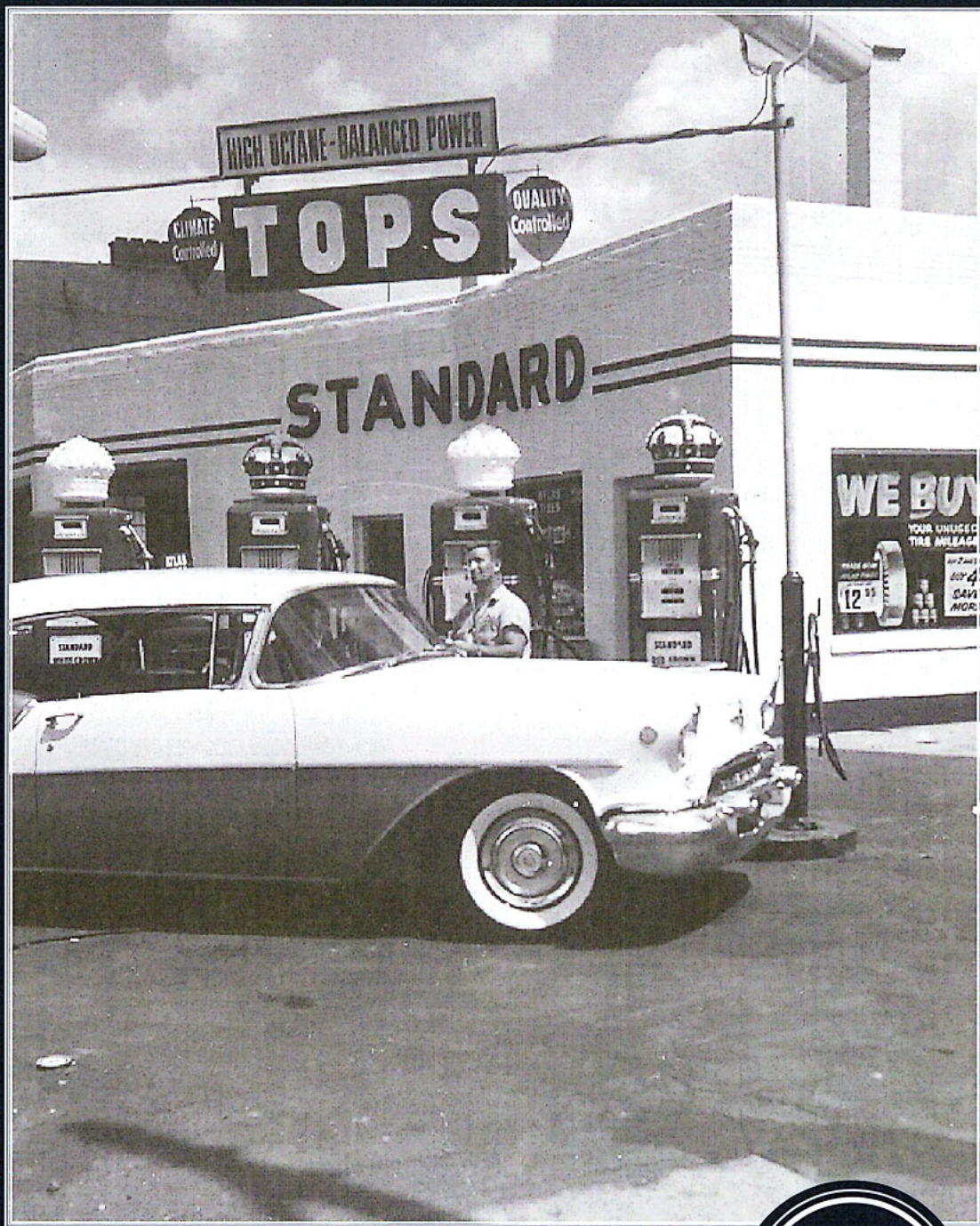


# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



VOLUME 53 | FALL 2013 | TISHREI 5774



THE MISSION OF THE  
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN  
IS TO EDUCATE, CELEBRATE AND PROMOTE  
AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE JEWS OF MICHIGAN TO OUR STATE,  
OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.





# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

*is dedicated to the memory of Sarah and Ralph Davidson  
and Bessie and Joseph Wetsman, the parents and grandparents  
of William Davidson, of blessed memory, and Dorothy Davidson Gerson.*

## EDITOR

Wendy Rose Bice

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Marilyn Krainen  
Debbie Szobel Logan  
Barbara Lewis

Designed by Laurie Blume, *BlumeDesign*

## MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

is published by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

6600 West Maple Rd.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
(248) 432-5517  
info@michjewishhistory.org  
www.michjewishhistory.org

Michigan Jewish History is available online,  
one year following publication, at  
www.michjewishhistory.org.

Articles in this journal are indexed in *Historical Abstracts* and in *America: History & Life*. No reproduction, electronic or otherwise, may be distributed without the express written permission of the director or president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

Copyright 2013 – The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan  
ISSN 0543-9833

## COVER PHOTO

*Located on Dexter at Waverly in Detroit, in the heart of the Jewish community,  
Sol & Zygie's Standard thrived. Long before "self-serve," customers pulled in  
to be waited on by station attendants and owners,  
such as on this day, when Zygie stands at the pump.*

# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

אשר ישאלון בניכם מחר את אבותם... יהושע ד:כא

When your children shall ask their parents in time to come...

Joshua 4:21

## THE JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Volume 53

Fall 2013

Tishrei 5774

### FEATURES

The Legacy of Meyer L. Prentis by Barbara Lewis.....	4-13
Memories of Sol & Zygie's and Other Jewish Gas Stations by Esther Allweiss Ingber .....	14-25
Hyman Louis "H.L." Goldman: Jewish Automobile Manufacturer and Community Builder by Dori Goldman .....	26-31
Max Sam Klein: The Innovative Entrepreneur Behind the Paint-By-Numbers Craze by Le Roy Barnett, Ph.D.....	32-36
The First Publicized Act of Social Exclusion Against a Jew by Robert Rockaway .....	37-40
Uneasy Years: Michigan Jewry In Depression and War, 1930-1945 by Kenneth Waltzer .....	41-51

### REMARKABLE JEWISH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS (SERIES):

Mischa Kottler: Distinguished Musician and Michigan Legend by Cynthia Korolov.....	52-57
Hanna Stiebel: At Home In Her Art by Marilyn Krainen.....	58-61

ARCHIVED TREASURES 2013: Preservation Detroit.....	62-65
--	-------

### CELEBRITIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Judith Levin Cantor is Inducted Into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame .....	66-67
A Rabbi Reflects on a Year of Interfaith Understanding.....	68-69
The Lasting Effect of the Jewish Presence in Hamtramck.....	70-71
University of Michigan Centennial Exhibit on Wallenberg Draws Large Crowds.....	72
The Birmingham Temple Celebrates 50 Years .....	73-75
Max M. Fisher's Papers Are Preserved .....	76
Hi Yo Silver! The Lone Ranger's Detroit Roots.....	77-79
An Overview of Melton in the Detroit Area.....	80-83
Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award, Eugene Applebaum.....	83
U of M Professor Deborah Dash Moore Receives 2012 National Jewish Book Award for History of NYC.....	84
A Homerun for Jerry Lewis, Director of the Detroit Tigers Fantasy Camps.....	84-86
Historical Society of Michigan Awards.....	87
Howard Lupovitch Appointed to Cohn Haddow.....	88

TIMELINE .....	89-91
----------------	-------

### BOOK REVIEW

Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews: Life On Both Sides of the Ocean by Irwin J. Cohen.....	92
---	----

### REFLECTIONS

Creative Expressions in Poetry and Memoir: The Jewish Experience in Michigan: Joy Gaines-Friedler.....	93
Ladies of the Charity by Arlene J. Frank.....	94
Traverse City Shabbat by Sharon Rocklin.....	95-96
"It's Official," The Other Passover Story by Susan Rogers .....	96-97

### JHSM

JHSM 2012 Volunteer of the Year.....	98
President's Message .....	99-103
JHSM Events .....	104-109
2013 Simons Award .....	110-111

### IN MEMORIAM

Nathaniel Broder.....	112-113
Dorothy Kaufman.....	114
Dr. Morris Mintz.....	115
Rabbi Irwin Groner.....	116-118
Arthur Rodecker.....	119-120
Sonny Eliot.....	121-122
Sid Bolkosky.....	123-124

CORRECTIONS.....	124
------------------	-----

JHSM OFFICERS AND BOARD .....	125
-------------------------------	-----

JHSM JOSHUA SOCIETY/DONATION INFORMATION.....	126-127
---	---------

THE A. ALFRED TAUBMAN HERITAGE COUNCIL (inside back cover)



# EDITOR'S LETTER

As editor, I – Wendy Rose Bice – am declaring this Editor's Letter an opportunity to boldly, loudly, and proudly congratulate the super-wonderful, absolutely marvelous team of editors, designers, and authors who put in countless hours, along with pounds of ink and reams of paper, to make *Michigan Jewish History* come to life. After more than a decade behind the pages, I have decided it is high time to bring this team to the forefront.

So, let's start at the front of the book and move to the back...so to speak.

Like our cover? For that, we can thank Laurie Blume. She's been *Michigan Jewish History's* designer since 2003. A decade ago, our cover was a black-and-white image with a bit of a faded – or, in graphic-design speak, feathered border. The feathering effect was Laurie's contribution. When we decided to give our book an update, Laurie helped direct those changes, and she continues to add new touches each year. Yet, what no one really sees – or, thinks about – is how, in the weeks before we send the book to the printer, Laurie spends hours in front of her twenty-inch Mac computer, carefully laying out the book's articles and photos. She makes sure the pages are even, the captions are in place, and she adds elements to make this journal more reader-friendly and beautiful.

Long before Laurie begins her work, though, our editorial team has been in the grip of their red pens. Meet Marilyn Krainen. Next to yours truly, she's clocked the most time behind these pages. In addition to her responsibilities as associate editor, Marilyn has a passion for history evidenced by articles she's written for the journal, including the history of the Mulias and Elias department store, published in 2010. Marilyn is what I like to call our "big picture" reader. Besides her keen eye for finding out-of-place commas and misspelled words, her knowledge of local Jewish history and institutional names and places is essential to ensure as much accuracy as possible. Just as important, Marilyn has the ability to read an article and find the logic and illogic in the construction of the piece, offering crucial changes that make the article more enjoyable.

Marilyn's work is made easier thanks to the efforts of our petite, spitfire of an editor, Debbie Logan. Debbie joined our team just two years ago, but her services have proved to be invaluable. Few people possess a talent for raw editing. Give Debbie a document and, a short time later, in beautiful cursive, comes a perfectly edited, marked-up copy. Think of Debbie as the micro-editor. She finds the small intricacies of a piece, identifying spelling errors and punctuation goof-ups as easily as a mechanic knows a carburetor from a camshaft. Sometimes I think of Debbie as a life-size living, breathing encyclopedia who instinctively knows all of those crazy rules that govern grammar. Thank goodness for people like Debbie.

New to our team is Barbara "Bobbie" Lewis. She is now lending her skills as a writer and communications professional to assist me in producing this fantastic publication. Our job is to take all that comes to us from a cadre of writers, both those who generously offer their services to us as well as those whom we beg to generously offer their services to us — and read it. We read these articles as if we know nothing, as if we were someone fifty years from now who lives in Wyoming and has never been to Michigan. We ask questions: Does the article make sense? What is missing? Are the questions raised by the article being answered? Is it right for our journal? Then we work with the writers to chase down the answers and to help find photographs.

Together, we are the team that puts together what is now in your hands. Most of us are volunteers and each of us is a critical part of the book...an essential chapter in our tale. Of course, none of this would come to be if it weren't for the protagonists of our tale, the authors of our articles.

I dedicate this journal to all those, both those who preceded us and those who will follow, who are devoted to preserving, sharing, and celebrating Michigan's grand Jewish history.

– Wendy Rose Bice

# FEATURED ARTICLE

## THE LEGACY OF MEYER L. PRENTIS

by BARBARA LEWIS

*Meyer L. Prentis (1886-1970) served as treasurer of General Motors Corporation from 1919 until 1951. For many years, he was the only Jewish high-level executive in the auto industry. Prentis was one of General Motors' financial architects as it grew to become the largest corporation in the United States. He was equally effective as a community philanthropist.*



**YOUNG** Meyer Prenskey was looking for something bigger and better than his accounting job at the Laclede Gas Light Company in St. Louis, a position he had held for seven years.

He had already turned down one offer from General Motors, a fledgling automobile manufacturer, to work instead in Clyde, Ohio (a small town between Toledo and Cleveland) for \$150 a month. Shortly afterward, he received a letter from C.A. Magee, his former supervisor at Laclede. The letter

changed his fortunes and introduced the automobile world and Detroit to a man who would come to be known as Meyer L. Prentis.

"I want to get our general books into as good shape as the Laclede books are in the shortest possible time, and you know exactly what to do and how to do it," wrote Magee, comptroller at General Motors in Detroit, in July of 1911. "What salary do you want?" Magee invited him to a meeting in Detroit at GM's expense.

By the end of his one-day visit, Prenskey agreed to move to Detroit to work as GM's chief accountant and auditor. Shortly afterward, GM reimbursed him \$24.10 for his trip. He would remain at GM for the next 40 years, rising to heights that remained inaccessible to Jews in the auto industry until only recently.



---



---

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Meyer Leon Prenskey was born on July 15, 1886, in Kovno, Lithuania, to Samuel and Bailey (Hannah) Prenskey. The family came to the United States sometime around 1893 and settled in St. Louis, where Meyer attended grammar and high school.<sup>ii</sup>

Samuel died when Meyer was fifteen, so Meyer worked during the day and attended night classes in "practical accounting" at the Jones Commercial College. His diploma, granted in 1904, states in part that the young man completed a "full course of double entry bookkeeping." Soon afterward, he went to work for Laclede, where a supervisor said in a letter of recommendation: "He is a most conscientious, hard-working, trustworthy young man, and his work has been exceptionally good. His accuracy in figures is very exceptional and the writer does no(t) hesitate to recommend him for any position in a clerical capacity."

Prentis's first home in Detroit was probably in a boardinghouse. His granddaughter, Patrice Morris Phillips, has a copy of a letter Prentis received from a Mrs. Herstein at 116 Garfield Avenue, sent in response to a newspaper ad, offering him a "nicely furnished room" in a "private Jewish home" with "all the very latest up to date improvements Vacuum Steam heat, electric lights and Bath with running hot water at all times."

General Motors has no record of Prentis's starting salary, but in 1914, the first year Americans were assessed a federal income tax, he paid \$68 in tax. GM itself, which was founded by William Durant in 1908 in Flint, was worth a bit more than \$70,317,000 at the end of 1910.

Prentis was promoted to comptroller in August 1917. Two years later, he was named treasurer of General Motors, a position he would hold until he retired in 1951. In 1922, Prentis – at this time still going by the name of Prenskey – received a salary increase to \$25,000 a year (by today's standards a modest compensation for a top auto executive, equating to about \$350,000 in 2013 dollars).

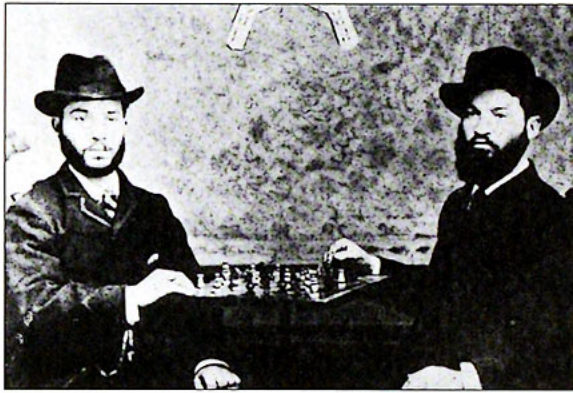
"His abilities must have been so phenomenal that the top executives at GM overlooked quite a bit," said his grandson Robert Morris, referring to Prentis's Jewish name and upbringing. "But I'm sure there was a lot of pressure on him in the years before he changed his name."

Prentis legally changed his name from Prenskey in 1923, keeping his first and middle names. It is speculated that he made the change in response to a suggestion from his employer. Although his family and Jewish friends called him "Meyer," to most of his professional colleagues he was known as "M.L."

Throughout his career, Prentis was the only Jewish high-level executive in the automotive industry. As Steven L. Slavin and Mary A. Pradt pointed out in a 1978 article in *Jewish Currents*, among the Big Three automakers combined, fewer than one percent of the salaried workforce were Jews, and most of those were technicians, engineers, and scientists – not managers.<sup>iii</sup>

## ANNA

In 1914, at age twenty-seven, Meyer married Anna Steinberg, a secretary in GM's financial department, in a ceremony at her parents' home. Rabbi A.M. Hershman from Congregation Shaarey Zedek officiated.



*Jacob Steinberg and his brother Julius*

Anna came from a prominent Jewish family. Her uncle, Julius Steinberg, settled in Traverse City in the late 1800s and developed a successful clothing store. In 1891, he built Steinberg's Grand Opera House in Traverse City on Front Street, the finest opera house north of Chicago. Julius's brother, Jacob, came to this country in 1892, landing in Detroit where his eight children, Anna being the youngest daughter, remained. Like his brother, Jacob opened a mercantile business in the Delray section of Detroit.

Anna and Meyer had four daughters, all now deceased: Helen (Mrs. Lawrence M.) Lande, Jewell (Mrs. Lester J.) Morris, Beverly (Mrs. Cyril) Wagner, and Barbara "Skippy" (Mrs. Marvin E.) Frenkel. Their descendants include eleven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

It was also in 1914 that Prentis acquired his first car. It was black, as most cars were at that time. In the late 1920s, tired of driving a succession of black cars, he asked the GM design staff to give him something more distinctive. They presented him with a bright orange Cadillac. "I really thought it was quite nice, but it was so unusual in those times that

I had to turn it in for a gray one after a few weeks," said Prentis in a profile that appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* in 1960. "Why, people would even whistle at me as I drove by."



*Meyer and Anna Prentis*

## GUIDING THE FINANCES OF GM

Prentis was General Motors' financial architect as it grew to become the largest corporation in the United States. He centralized accounting activities that had been in disarray before his arrival and he served as GM's representative in its relations with banks, becoming known to bankers across the United States and Canada. He originated and instituted new methods and practices to guide GM in its use of banking facilities.

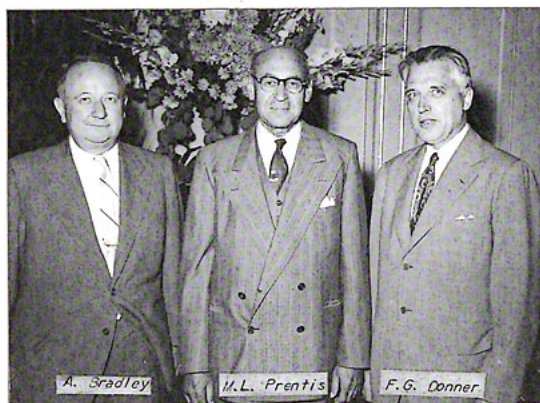
As one of three members of GM's Bank Relations Committee, Prentis set up an annual review of the condition of all the banks where GM had ac-



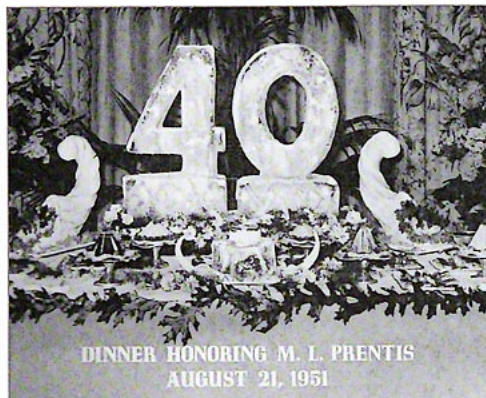
counts, ranking them on the basis of capital sufficiency and primary liquidity. He arranged for remittances from individual banks with excess funds to be made automatically to a central point where they were available for GM's corporate use.

Through the 1930s, when numerous banks collapsed and the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, and again during World War II, Prentis's management of GM's assets and finances helped shape the history of the behemoth corporation. In early 1933, with two large Detroit banks on the brink of failure, Michigan's legislature closed all the banks for several weeks, precipitating a national banking crisis. President Franklin Roosevelt, just after his inauguration on March 4, 1933, declared a bank holiday during which, all U.S. banks were closed for several days. Many credit GM's Michigan presence as instrumental in the state's recovery.

During the bank holiday, Roosevelt pushed the Emergency Banking Act through Congress; it enabled the more-stable banks to reopen and conduct business as usual, while those that were not in sound financial condition were authorized to handle deposits only. New banks were created, including the National Bank of Detroit (NBD). Alfred P. Sloan, president of GM, was instrumental in NBD's formation. General Motors made the first deposit in the new bank with a check for one million dollars on March 24, 1933. As GM treasurer, Prentis would have signed the check.



*Albert Bradley (GM chairman, 1956-1958)  
M.L. Prentis, Frederic G. Donner  
(GM chairman/CEO, 1958-1987)*



*In 1951, General Motors Corporation pulled together a few dozen of their top executives (all men) and honored Meyer Prentis on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of his tenure at GM.*

During World War II, Prentis guided GM in helping the U.S. war-production effort. GM arranged for one billion dollars in revolving war credit in October 1942. With 400 banks involved, it was the largest line of credit connected to the war-production program and secured Detroit's position as the "Arsenal of Democracy."

To support the war effort, Prentis set up an employee payroll-savings plan. Through this plan, employees purchased more than six million bonds totaling more than 200 million dollars. On October 10, 1943, Prentis delivered the millionth bond purchased by GM employees in Flint to Loren D. Crooks, a tool-room bench worker at the Buick Motor Division. GM employees were not only producing for a U.S. victory, he said at the time, they were also helping to pay for it through the purchase of savings bonds.

Prentis served on the boards of many GM affiliates, including the General Motors



Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) and General Motors Institute in Flint (now Kettering University), where he was on the board of regents from 1928 to 1951.

In addition to his meticulous record-keeping abilities, Prentis was also revered for his phenomenal memory. Both skills came in handy in 1958 when GM president Alfred P. Sloan asked him to edit Sloan's memoir, *My Years with General Motors*. Wrote Sloan in a letter, "I must be absolutely certain of the facts and going back so many years, I found my memory is not what it perhaps should be, and besides that there are many things I have to deal with that I never knew about in the first place." Ironically, Sloan mentioned Prentis only a few times, each very briefly, in his 444-page tome.

### GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Meyer Prentis became and remained a major figure in Detroit philanthropy, both in the Jewish community and in the community at large. Looking around metropolitan Detroit today, one sees numerous institutions bearing the Prentis family name: the Meyer and Anna Prentis Building at Wayne State University, the Meyer L. Prentis Cancer Center (part of the Karmanos Cancer Institute), the Woodward Avenue lobby of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Anna and Meyer Prentis Apartments for seniors in Oak Park, and the Prentis Religious School and Anna S. and Meyer L. Prentis Memorial Library at Temple Beth El. From 1971 to 1975, the erstwhile Jewish Home for the Aged ran a nursing home in Southfield called Prentis Manor. Other buildings bear the names of his children, including the Helen Vera Prentis Lande Building at Wayne State University.

He was active in the formation of the Jewish Welfare Federation (now the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit) in 1926 and was a member of its board of governors from 1927 to 1936, serving as treasurer in 1928 and 1929 and as vice president in 1930. He chaired various divisions and committees of the Allied Jewish Campaign throughout the 1930s and 1940s. He also served as a trustee of Temple Beth El for many years.

Prentis played a key role in the building of Detroit's first Jewish Community Center at Woodward and Holbrook. Judge Irving Lehman of the federal court in New York, who



*In 1985, the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Metropolitan Detroit was named in honor of Meyer L. Prentis. The building today is part of Detroit's Karmanos Cancer Institute.*



*The Prentis Building on the campus of Wayne State University was constructed in 1964 and currently houses the School of Business Administration. The three-story steel-frame structure was designed for the school by architect Minoru Yamasaki.*



had been consulted about the center, asked Prentis to chair the Jewish Recreational Council in 1929. In accepting, Prentis wrote, "The need for a 'Y' Centre for Detroit has been apparent to a good many of us for some years and we feel reasonably confident that now is a propitious time to undertake the preliminaries leading to the launching of the major project early next year." Efforts slowed when the Depression hit, but Prentis and his colleagues were able to raise the funds and secure a suitable building site. When the center opened in late 1933, Prentis served as its first president.



*Meyer and Anna Prentis left Chicago Blvd. and moved to Palmer Woods on Balmoral Drive. The house held many special memories for the Prentis parents, children, and grandchildren.*

He served on several national Jewish committees and campaigns, including the United Palestine Appeal and Palestine Emergency Fund. He was a longtime trustee of Temple Beth El.

In 1942, Prentis was invited by Philip Slomovitz to join the advisory committee for a new Jewish weekly, *The Jewish News*. He was also a founder of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University, which opened in 1955.

His Jewish philanthropic efforts may not have sat well with the reigning powers at General Motors, though. In the 1930s, Prentis's boss, GM president Sloan, supported the American Liberty League, a racist and anti-Semitic organization. Robert Morris says his grandfather told the family that GM asked him to spend less time on his Jewish community activities. When the family asked how he responded, he said, "I redoubled my efforts; I just kept quiet about them in the office." Morris says Prentis also refused to share a banquet table with Henry Ford, a well-known anti-Semite, on at least one occasion.

In the wider community, Prentis served for many years as a trustee and president of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, described on its website as "Michigan's oldest and most respected public policy research organization." He was a 32nd degree Mason



and a Shriner.

After retiring from GM in 1951, Prentis became even busier in community affairs, working from an office in Detroit's Fisher Building. He served on the executive committee of the United Foundation (now United Way for Southeastern Michigan) for many years. Starting in 1950, he headed the Torch Drive Goal Committee and in 1960, he helped lead the campaign to a record \$17,990,000.



*In a classic photo depicting the elegance of the era, the Prentis daughters enjoy an afternoon in their Palmer Woods backyard. Using their later married names, they are: (l to r) Jewell Morris, Barbara "Skippy" Frenkel, Helen Vera Lande, Beverly Wagner.*

### A FAMILY MAN WHO LOVED GOLF

In the years after they married, Meyer and Anna Prentis lived on Chicago Boulevard, in Detroit's Boston-Edison district. In 1930, they built a lovely 11,000-square-foot mansion at 1905 Balmoral Drive, in the new Palmer Woods subdivision.

Prentis turned down an opportunity for a promotion to GM vice president because it would have meant a move to New York, where GM was headquartered at the time. He didn't need any more money, he told his grandchildren, and his wife wanted to remain in Michigan to be close to her family.

The Prentis grandchildren remember "1905," as the family called the Balmoral home, as a wonderland with opulent fittings and numerous servants, including a gardener and a



chauffeur. There was a miniature golf course behind the house and a driving range in the attic. "He'd take me up there and we'd hit balls into a big net," recalled Robert Morris.

Prentis loved golf. Because of his prominent GM position, he was able to join the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, even though Jewish applicants were blacklisted. According to family lore, the club agreed to let him use the facilities for business purposes but asked him not to invite his Jewish friends onto the premises. He probably didn't spend much time on those links. Instead, Prentis's heart belonged to Franklin Hills Country Club, which opened in 1927.

In 1934, in the depths of the Depression, Franklin Hills was on the brink of defaulting on its mortgage. Prentis saved the club by taking over the debt. Originally, five members had agreed to buy the club and then resell it when the economy improved. When the other four backed out at the last minute, said Robert Morris, Prentis acted alone.

"I asked him why, and he said, 'I gave my word.' That's the kind of man he was," said Morris. "To buy the club, he had to sell a huge chunk of GM stock at a loss. Later, he sold the club back to the members for the same price he had paid, but of course by then GM's stock had gone up quite a bit. It was a huge sacrifice on his part."

The club commemorated Prentis's action by placing a plaque with a bas-relief portrait of him in the clubhouse lobby. The inscription reads, "In the face of great discouragement he preserved this club for the community."

Prentis joined golf clubs all over the country so he could play when he traveled on GM business. "I'm just a businessman's golfer," he once said. "If I'd been a good golfer, I would have been a lousy treasurer."

After retiring, he spent the winter months in Palm Beach, Florida, where he had a second home. Jews were not welcome at any of the golf clubs, so Prentis helped launch the Palm Beach Country Club in the 1950s.

Prentis found it hard to turn down any request for charity, said Robert Morris. In addition to being a major donor to the Allied Jewish Campaign, the Torch Drive, and other established charities, Prentis was generous to almost everyone who asked for help – even distant relatives he had never met.

He saved a 1943 letter from Mendel Pinkus, a liquor dealer in Dermott, Arkansas, which came with a check for \$150 in repayment for a loan Prentis had made him. "Had it not been for you I would not have been able to finish school," wrote Pinkus.

Nelson Lande remembers his grandfather as "very humble, not at all self-absorbed or narcissistic. He was very quiet, and he had immense dignity, but he had a twinkle in his eye." He drove Buicks, not Cadillacs, possibly because his son-in-law Lester Morris ran a Buick dealership but also because he didn't like calling attention to himself. "He never threw his weight around," said Robert Morris. "Whenever he had his car in the shop, he would come in and wait in line with everyone else."

He doted on his grandchildren, who called him "Pamp," and brought them lavish gifts when he traveled. Morris remembers receiving a huge drum from Africa, a mandolin from Italy, and a child-sized suit of armor from Spain.

Granddaughter Patrice Morris Phillips remembers his pet golden retrievers and his habit of rapid-firing arithmetic questions to the grandchildren ("What's four times twenty?"); he rewarded correct answers with a dollar bill.

Meyer Prentis died on July 15, 1970 – his eighty-fourth birthday – at his Palmer

Woods home, four months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. "He recognized that his prominent position in the business world imposed certain obligations upon him to help make his community a better place in which to live," said Temple Beth El's Rabbi Richard Hertz in his eulogy, noting that Prentis had chaired the search committee that brought him to the congregation in 1952. Prentis once told him, "I feel the community has been good to me and I in turn want to do more than my share."

Meyer Prentis's lessons of compassion, hard work, and philanthropy were carried forward by his children and grandchildren. Daughters Jewell and Beverly turned to philanthropy to keep the memory of their children alive after two of Prentis's grandsons, Wally Prentis Straus, fourteen, and Jimmy Prentis Morris, thirteen, were killed in a car-train accident at an unguarded crossing in October 1965. (Paul Shapiro, the husband of Prentis's granddaughter, Denise Lande Shapiro, was also killed.) Jewell, Beverly, and their families made significant contributions to the Jewish Community Center and other organizations. The JCC's Oak Park branch is named in memory of Jimmy Prentis Morris, and its recreation wing is named for Wally Prentis Straus.

"My grandfather Meyer Prentis had a strong influence on everyone who knew him and was a role model for charitable giving in the Jewish community and the non-Jewish community," said Patrice Morris Phillips. "Through his love for family he inspired his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to follow in his philanthropic footsteps."



**Barbara Lewis**, a writer and editor, worked for many years in communications for nonprofit organizations, including the Jewish Federation and Sinai Hospital. A Philadelphia native, she lives in Oak Park. She is a graduate of Antioch College and has master's degrees from Temple University and Central Michigan University.

## WORKS CITED

- Interviews with Patrice Morris Phillips, Robert Morris, Nelson Lande  
 Meyer L. Prentis papers in the Rabbi Leo Franklin Archives, Temple Beth El and the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit  
 Bennett, Darwin, Ex-GM official, "Prentis is dead," *Detroit News*, July 15, 1970  
 Bolkosky, Sidney M. *Harmony & Dissonance: Voices of Jewish Identity in Detroit, 1914-1967*  
 Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1991.  
 Black, Edwin, *Hitler's Carmaker*, Jewish Virtual Library, a division of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, copyright 2013, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/gm.html>  
 General Motors Corporation news releases:  
 October 17, 1942: The General Motors \$1,000,000,000 V-Loan Bank Credit  
 October 10, 1942: (no headline; release dealt with GM employee purchases of war bonds)



August 6, 1951: (no headline; release dealt with September 1 retirement of Meyer L. Prentis)

July 15, 1970: (no headline; release dealt with death of Meyer L. Prentis)

General Motors Corporation file biography, Meyer L. Prentis, July 1951

General Motors website, [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com)

Golden, Harry Jr., "UFW Worker Gives Talent – and Spirit," *Detroit Free Press*, April 11, 1960

Miller, Jason, "Op-Ed: Take that, Henry Ford! Car company goes from anti-Semitic founder to new Jewish COO," JTA, *The Global Jewish News Source*, December 4, 2012, [www.jta.org/2012/12/04/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-take-that-henry-ford-car-company-goes-from-anti-semitic-founder-to-new-jewish-coo#ixzz2UW8ESpJl](http://www.jta.org/2012/12/04/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-take-that-henry-ford-car-company-goes-from-anti-semitic-founder-to-new-jewish-coo#ixzz2UW8ESpJl)

Slavin, Stephen L., and Pradt, Mary A., Corporate Anti-Semitism: A Self-Perpetuating Pattern, *Jewish Currents*, February, 1979: 28-33

Sloan, Alfred P., Jr., *My Years With General Motors*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1964

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Mervyn Manning became the first Jewish officer at Ford when he became a vice president in 1977, according to a 2012 *Global Jewish News Source* article (<http://www.jta.org/2012/12/04/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-take-that-henry-ford-car-company-goes-from-anti-semitic-founder-to-new-jewish-coo#ixzz2UW8ESpJl>). In 2012, Mark Field was promoted to chief operating officer at Ford. Steve Girsky currently serves as GM vice chairman and chairman of the Opel supervisory board and from July 2012 until February 2013 served as interim president of GM Europe.

<sup>2</sup>There is some discrepancy regarding the date and age at which Meyer Prentis first came to the United States. Several sources indicate that he arrived at age two, including the *Detroit News* obituary. Other sources, including the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives at Temple Beth El, list the date as Sept. 18, 1893; age 7.

<sup>3</sup>In the October 1963 issue of *Rights*, a newsletter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a lengthy feature article further emphasizes the underutilization of Jews by Detroit's automobile industry. Quoting a 1961 *Fortune Magazine* article that describes the life of an auto executive, "of the 100-odd executives (vice presidents and higher) who are now at the top...none is a Jew..." *Rights* further state, "Today, two years after the article on one of America's major industries was written, there is still not a single Jew of vice-presidential rank."

*Many thanks to Patrice Morris Phillips for the use of these family photographs.*

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

1863

**A group of benevolent ladies band together to form the first Jewish charitable organization in Detroit. The Detroit Ladies' Society for the Support of Hebrew Widows and Orphans is founded by Fanny Heineman, Rosalie Frankel, Betty Butzel, Fanny Lambert, and Caroline Friedman.**

# FEATURED ARTICLE

## MEMORIES OF SOL & ZYGIE'S AND OTHER JEWISH GAS STATIONS

by ESTHER ALLWEISS INGBER

*The gas-station business was a way for hardworking dealers to build a solid, middle-class life. This was particularly true in the earlier part of the twentieth century for Jewish men, who hadn't the opportunity to join large corporate businesses or become professionals. Called filling stations in their early years, gas stations became a source of upward mobility for these entrepreneurs and their families. This article focuses on Jewish owners of full-service gas stations, primarily from the late 1940s through the early 1980s. The cutoff coincides with the proliferation of gas-only stations with convenience marts, as vehicle repair became a specialization elsewhere.*

### PREFACE

SOL & Zygie's was the name of several gas stations operated by my dad Zyga "Zygie" H. Allweiss, now eighty-six, and his older brother Salek "Sol" Allweiss, who died in 1984. The brothers were born in the small village of Jaslany, about ten miles northwest of Mielec, which is east and a little north of Krakow near the Wistula River. As teenagers during World War II, they lost everyone in their immediate family to the Shoah: parents Jacob (a horse trader) and Esther Heller Allweiss, and seven siblings named Sarah, Loeser, Gittel, Mendel, Rachel, Fishel, and little sister Frimcha. Dad always said that he and Sol replaced the family's nine children with their own five girls and four boys. I am the eldest of four daughters and then a son born to Dad and my mother, the former Irma Burg of Bronx, New York. My siblings are Irene, Janice, Betsy (now Elizabeth), and Michael. Uncle Sol married Frieda Schiller, a native of Poland, and they had my cousins Jack, Ben, Tammy (now Ilana), and Phil.

The gas-station business put food on the table for our two families. And it was the same for others I found who grew up in local Jewish gas station families. In the course of researching this article, I learned that some of our fathers had been friendly competitors. If their children's experience was anything like mine, their dads were always able to get them into a well-maintained used car. When I went to Wayne State University in the late sixties, I got free fill-ups of that era's cheap gas for two years, and then Dad gave me a generous ten-gallon-a-week allowance. The cars and the gas sure helped! Since my parents moved directly from Detroit to West Bloomfield in 1973, I wasn't aware that



Oak Park and parts of Southfield had Jewish-run gas stations at nearly every major intersection. Jewish dealers also bought from Jews who owned auto-parts-supply businesses — such as Leonard Bensky's Grand Schaefer North, later relocated to Berkley — but that's another story.

Let's revisit Sol & Zygie's and a few other special names in the gas-station business.

## SOL & ZYGIE'S

When Salek "Sol" and Zyga "Zygie" Allweiss sailed to New York City on an orphans' transport in November 1947, their already-settled Aunt Beila (Allweiss) Greenberg arranged for a prosperous *landsman* from their village to fetch them in his shiny new Lincoln Town Car.

It was nighttime and Zygie, who'd never really come upon automobiles cruising the city streets, asked the driver, "Is there a war going on here?" Charlie, the driver, assured the boys that they were safe, that these were just the taillights of cars.

Within a month, Zygie and Sol were in Detroit, seeking opportunities in the booming auto industry. Through ORT, a Jewish non-profit that provides technology and job-skills education, the brothers learned the trade of welding and basic car mechanics. Several years later, at Sol's suggestion, they decided to go into business for themselves. Citrin-Kolb Oil Company, representing Standard Oil in Detroit, leased the Allweisses a gasoline/car-repair station in Detroit in 1952.



Sol (left) and Zygie at their station in 1954 (in the background are Zygie's wife Irma and their children). Sol (holding his niece, Esther) and Zygie, circa 1950.

Sol's 1952 certificate from the Chevrolet mechanic training course.



Sol & Zygie's Standard was located on Dexter at Waverly in Detroit. Zygie took on the role of business manager while Sol became the gifted lead mechanic. The station was busy enough to employ three mechanics who serviced cars on either a morning or night shift. There was also Willie, an African-American gas pumper, who learned to speak a little Yiddish and Hebrew to keep up with the clientele, and his sister Edna, who sometimes babysat the boss's kids.

Around 1958 or '59, the brothers relocated to a Standard Oil station near the University of Detroit, on Six Mile Road at Stoepel (now an empty lot). Boasting a crew of six mechanics and four gas pumpers, "we sold 150,000 gallons of gas a month without advertising," said Zygie.

In 1959, the Citrin management team asked the brothers to purchase only Standard-owned Atlas brand auto parts and accessories. Zygie refused. He wanted to be able to buy elsewhere for a better profit margin. Unable to resolve their differences, the brothers switched their allegiance to Mobil Oil.

After the 1967 Detroit riots, the brothers relocated and opened Sol & Zygie's Mobil Servicenter on Ten Mile Road at Greenfield in Southfield. Their Jewish customer base was happy to have them nearby again. The new station, three times larger than the old one, offered two shifts of mechanics.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

Although girls didn't or couldn't work at gas stations back then, Zygie let his daughters work with him. The eldest, Esther, did some office work, recording credit-card numbers and sending Jewish New Year cards. Her sister Janice "Jann" Young, four years younger, became a member of the first team of all-girl gas pumpers when she was fifteen. "The customers were always marveling, like we were some kind of curiosity," said Jann. She worked with Shelley Spinner, Sherry Spector, and Sue Greenblatt.

"It was always super busy at Ten and Greenfield," Jann recalled. "When cars pulled up, Dad said to us, 'Don't let them sit there — go right out.' Most of the time, one of us would start the gas pumping and the other would wash the windows. Some people wanted every window washed. They made you go back and get the streaks, if there



*Zygie at Six Mile Road*



*The new station at Ten Mile Road and Greenfield offered longer hours, from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, except for closing at 6 p.m. on Sundays.*





*These were the days when station owners not only sent holiday cards to their customers but gave away small gifts: printed matchbook covers, calendars, and other trinkets often bearing catchy or corny slogans. A favorite of the brothers was "If your car gives you troubles and aches/ Come to Sol & Zygie's Mobil/They've got what it takes."*

Working in a gas station was a first job for neighborhood boys like fifteen-year-old Mike Davis, who later married Jann. He started as a gas pumper in 1967, along with his pals David Kolb and the late Mark Mann. Now a certified mechanic, Mike said he was "always determined to learn more." He recalled the time he volunteered to fill in for a tow-truck driver. "I didn't know how to drive a stick shift, but I winged it, towing back a car that had no spare."

During the 1973 nationwide oil embargo, a time when OPEC, an international organization of oil producers, was limiting production and causing gas shortages everywhere, Sol & Zygie's had more gas to sell than any other Mobil in the tri-county area. The station accommodated the endlessly long line of cars waiting down Ten Mile Road and also on Greenfield. Zygie explained that the Mobil Oil Company showed the brothers favor, choosing not to ration their supply because they "sold 180,000 gallons a month, so what they gave us was only ten percent less than in the year before."

Former employees agree that the partners were good bosses but had very different temperaments. Zygie, a blue-eyed blond, was thought to be the calmer of the two, but both were sweet and kind. The darker-haired brother was the kind of uncle – and family friend – who would lovingly pinch children's cheeks. Both men were gardeners, taking great pride in their bounty with friendly competitions over who had better vegetables and flowers. Sol later raised Polish chickens in his West Bloomfield backyard.

#### PARTNERS SEPARATE BUT LEAVE A PROUD LEGACY OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

After a long, twenty-two-year partnership, the brothers split in 1975. Sol initially stayed at Ten and Greenfield, but later opened Sol's Complete Car Care on Greenfield at Eleven Mile Road in Berkley. Sol's youngest son, Phil and his wife Kat, are co-presidents of the business. Phil remembers being a clean-up boy at Sol & Zygie's when he was nine and pumping gas at eleven. Sol's eldest son, Jack, also worked at and sometimes managed the station.

Henry Bienenstock, who began as a gas

were any. People were very particular, but friendly, too.

"I really liked going out there to pump gas with a rag in my pocket, wearing my blue jeans, getting my hands dirty," Jann continued. "I enjoyed doing a job that was traditionally a man's, checking the tires and all the fluids."

Working in a gas station was a first job for neighborhood boys like fifteen-



*Zygie, identified for many years by his generous mutton chops, would often meet his gas-station "kids" for breakfast, usually at Spiffy's, the little coffee shop next door. "He would take out the most expensive bill, and make everyone pick a bill to pay...maybe not your own. It was fun," recalled his daughter Shelly.*



pumper in high school and then became a mechanic, is now the manager. He's been with the company twenty-seven years. He remembers the customer service of which the two Allweiss brothers were proud. The "gas jockey" provided a near-forgotten level of full service, not only filling the car with gas, but washing windows while chatting with the customers. Bienenstock said this was a way to help maintain car care and steer customers to the station's more-lucrative repair business. It wasn't done with any ill intent. "You're a quart low, sir. We could do an oil change for you," was part of the job.

Zygie had two more Mobil stations in Southfield: Ten Mile Road and Lahser, and Thirteen Mile Road and Southfield. Zygie later founded Prime Auto and Truck Repair in Troy with his silent partner and friend, the late Leonard Efros. The repair shop was in the Crooks-Maple area. At age sixty-five, Zygie sold the business on a land contract and retired. The successor is Jake's Automotive.

## A FEW OTHER SPECIAL PEOPLE IN THE GAS-STATION BUSINESS

### STERNBERG'S SERVICE

In 1945, the mechanically inclined Moe Sternberg opened a Hi-Speed gas station at Linwood and Monterey in Detroit, with one premium and two regular gas pumps. Pure Oil Company bought Hi-Speed, and Pure was replaced later by Union 76. In 1954, Moe opened Sternberg's Service, on the corner of Nine Mile Road and Scotia.

Mark Sternberg, who took over from his dad and now owns Eagle Towing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, remembers working alongside his father. "Oil companies proved difficult to deal with, so we decided to turn the business into a towing company," Mark said. Moe bought tow trucks in 1963 and 1968 and, after the station got its AAA towing contract around 1975, they became "the top AAA station in our area for ten years running." Trucks went out where needed, but primarily serviced the communities of Oak Park, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Berkley, and Southfield.

Mark remembers his father's great customer service. "People would routinely come in and say to Dad, 'Would you take a minute and look at my car?' He'd stop what he was doing to go replace a fuse or put somebody's (license) plates on."

Mort Meisner, who spent much of his childhood in the Nine Mile Road and Scotia area of Oak Park, recalls Sternberg's wondrous soda-pop machine with the best selection of Faygo pop. "Actually, it was a chest with rows of pop that cost ten cents a bottle," said Mort. He also remembers Benny, the station's famous German shepherd, a former Leader Dog who played nicely with the children and was a frequent visitor to the nearby elementary school.

### MORRIE SCHWARTZ

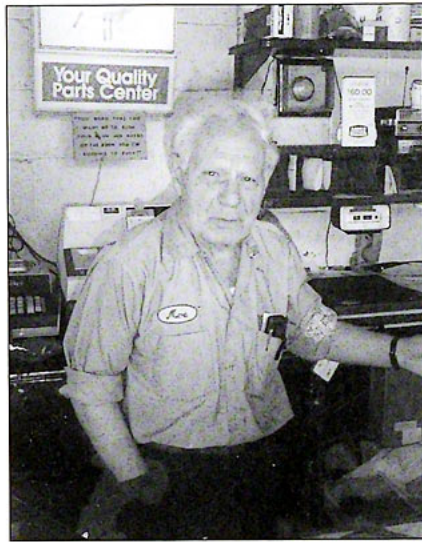
Morris "Morrie" Schwartz, now seventy-six, learned to do auto repairs in his native Montreal. An uncle in Detroit suggested he move here for better automotive opportunities. "And he was right," said Morrie. "Stu Evans Lincoln-Mercury brought me here from Canada in 1963. I was a mechanic and shop foreman."

On his way to work in Garden City, Morrie would pass a gas station on Southfield Road at Ten Mile Road. He eventually began working there on weekends, repairing car air-conditioning systems. When the owner wanted to retire, Morrie bought the busi-





*A young entrepreneur at his station on Linwood and Monterey in Detroit, which began as a two-bay garage and repair shop. Moe Sternberg was a highly decorated serviceman in the Army Air Corps.*



*In the early days of Oak Park's development, Sternberg's was a fixture on the corner of Nine Mile Road and Scotia. Moe Sternberg passed away in 1998.*

ness. Morrie's Sunoco became a fixture for the next thirty-two years; nearby WXYZ-TV always had its vehicles serviced there. When Morrie suffered a heart attack in 2006, he closed the business.

"The business served me well," recalled Morrie, who sometimes put in fourteen-hour days. "We didn't have much room for cars, so we would park the overflow at the shopping center across Southfield Road. I enjoyed meeting the people, entertaining the people, being warm to the customer, and at the same time, the customer being warm to you." Morrie considered but didn't join his friend Sol Allweiss's repair shop in Berkley, but later worked part-time for Ernie Fischer at Southfield Muffler & Brake on Greenfield Road.

### **IZZY AND JOE LIEBOWITZ AND EXTENDED FAMILY**

Russian-born Izzy Liebowitz and his brother-in-law Harold Shapiro came from Pennsylvania to Detroit in 1947 to lease a Standard station from Citrin-Kolb Oil Company at Woodward and Woodland, according to Izzy's son, Glenn Liebowitz. Across the street, the partners also had a collision shop, Webwood Collision.

In the 1950s, the family leased another Standard station in Detroit from Citrin and named it Glendale and Hamilton Standard because of its location. The partners were Izzy, Harold, and Izzy's brother, Joe Liebowitz.

In 1965 or 1966, Harold's brother-in-law Billy Roy retired from the army and Harold and Izzy set him up in another Citrin station at Ten Mile and Coolidge in Oak Park. It was Standard Oil until the brand changed to Total in 1971. That business was sold in the 1970s.

Around the same time, Izzy had grown tired of running a business in a rough part of

the city and decided to leave his partners to lease his own (non-Citrin Kolb) gas station called Nine Mile and Telegraph Total. He ran it from 1970 to 1977. It was a family business and all four of Izzy's sons pitched in. As Glenn recalled, "At age eleven, we could go to work and earn two dollars plus lunch." He later graduated to driving a truck. "My dream to grow up and drive a tow truck was realized at my dad's station."

### MIKE SHEAR

Brian Shear said his dad Meyer "Mike" was "a fabulous mechanic." Mike, a decorated World War II veteran, enjoyed robust sales at his first Standard gas station, located at the Citrin-Kolb headquarters on Linwood, north of Oakman Boulevard in Detroit. When the company took back the station, Mike opened a new one at Joy Road and Linwood.

In 1956, Mike opened Mike's Speedway 79. The station, located at Nine Mile Road and Majestic in Oak Park, became his best-known location and remained in operation until 1980. After Marathon Oil purchased Speedway 79, the business changed its name to Mike's Marathon. He later opened a Mobil station at Nine Mile and Pinecrest in Oak Park, which he ran with Steve Jackson, a friend of his son. After about two years, they turned the station into a car wash.

Mike's wife Betty, now eighty-nine, recalled Mike's favorable response to a request from the Oak Park School District to mentor and employ some of its students. When Mike died in 2005, many of the former students, by then in their forties, shared how much Mike's mentorship had meant to them. Betty remembered a trip to the Rose Bowl game in California, a bonus from Marathon Oil for having the top battery sales in the U.S. Another reward trip took them to the Indy 500. After Mike retired from his stations, he worked at Abe Krispin's Mobil station at Nine Mile Road and Coolidge in Oak Park.

### TED AND JACK ALLEN

Born in Chicago, Ted Allen worked in gas stations during high school. In the late 1940s, following his military service, he opened a Sunoco gas station at Linwood and Oakman Boulevard in Detroit. Around 1960, he also ran a Shell station for a short time at Northend and Coolidge in Oak Park.

Ted and his older brother Jack Allen were best known for their Eight Mile-Schaefer



*Woodland Service opened in 1947.*



*Later in their career, the Liebowitz brothers also owned (not leased) a Pure/Union 76 station at Nine Mile Road and Beech Daly in Southfield.*



Sunoco, situated at the northwest corner of Eight Mile Road and Coolidge in Oak Park. "They would answer the phone 'Schaefer 8,'" said Ted's daughter Elayne (Allen) Moss. Ted retired in 1982 and passed away in 2008. Jack died in 1986.

### **MORRIE SCHLUSSEL AND EMERY GRAY**

When kids riding their bikes around Oak Park found themselves with a flat tire, they knew they could go to Morrie's Pure Service on Parklawn at Nine Mile Road and get it fixed for free.

Partners Morris "Morrie" Schlüssel and Emery Gray were equally kind to adults. "My father had an account there," recalled Eric Kamen. "He would just sign his name and settle up at the end of the month."

Barbara Schlüssel Kranitz said her dad, born in Austria-Hungary, came to the U.S. at age eleven. He and partner Morrie Rosenzweig had a Sinclair gas station in Detroit, Sam's Super Service on Collingwood at Dexter, during the 1950s. Morrie Schlüssel was the sole proprietor of Linwood-Tyler Shell at that same intersection from 1956 until 1961. Then, joined by Emery Gray, he operated a Pure station in Oak Park. By 1970, the Pure Oil brand was phased out and its service stations and auto/truck stops were rebranded as Union 76.

In 1972, Morrie left the Union 76 gas station to Emery and entered the muffler business in partnership with Al Gamer and Louie Vinegar. Seven years later, following surgery on his spinal cord and related complications, Morrie became a quadriplegic. He continued to work and he re-purchased his old gas station at Parklawn and Nine Mile from Emery in 1980. Morrie turned it into Mighty Mo's Muffler Shop, which he sold four years later. Morrie died in 1992.

Emery Gray, born Imre Goldstein in Hungary, entered the U.S. in 1949. Before his partnership with Morrie Schlüssel, Emery operated two gas stations in Detroit: a Sinclair on Fenkell at Schaefer, and then a Sinclair, later named Arco, on Seven Mile Road at Stansbury. Son Robert Gray said that Emery, who died in 1987, retired from gas stations after selling the Union 76 back to Morrie. In 1980, Emery and a partner, Mike Adler, opened a Southfield-based bump shop called E&M Auto Clinic. It was on Eight Mile Road, west of Telegraph. Robert said his father "used to love buying and selling used cars, and we spent many a Sunday making calls and going to see cars."

### **MILT GORELICK AND MOE CAPLAN**

"They were business partners, brothers-in-law, and next-door neighbors for close to forty years," recalled Elaine (Caplan) Blumenfeld, the daughter of Moe Caplan. Moe's move from Detroit to Oak Park in 1954 coincided with that of his business partner, Milt Gorelick.

In 1952, mechanic Milt and front-of-the-house man Moe leased a Citrin Oil Company station on Eight Mile at Ward in Detroit. They named it Milt's Standard Servicenter. Milt earlier had a station on Twelfth Street in Detroit; later, when Citrin sold to Total, they ran Amoco brand stations at Nine Mile Road and Coolidge and, for a short time, at Eleven Mile Road and Greenfield.

Working seven days a week, the partners "went above and beyond in servicing their clientele," Elaine said. "I remember snowstorms where my dad would be working sixteen-



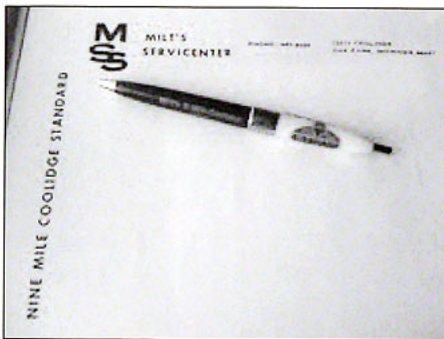
*Morrie's trademark fat cigar, not always lit, was always stuck in his mouth while he was pumping gas. Sheryl Goldstein Young posted, "He never took it out, even when he talked."*

Photo courtesy of Barbara Kranitz

Road. Pamela (Marx) Migliore did bookkeeping for her father's business. Today, Pam and her brother Darrell own the full-service BP station in Franklin and are partners in Darrell's Firestone in Farmington. Their brother Jerry is a Meade Lexus service manager in Southfield. Irving, who clearly taught his children the value of hard work, died in 2008. His wife Eleanor is now eighty-five.

#### AND ALSO . . .

**Mechanic Morris Savine** and his eldest brother, **Louis Savine**, operated Savine's Marathon Service at the corner of Nine Mile Road and Greenfield in Oak Park. They previously had a gas station at Dexter and Chicago in Detroit. Dena (Savine) Loughlin, Morris's granddaughter, said Morris "was very generous. He would let kids from high school use his hoist, and he'd teach them how to change their oil. He had a bunch of graduation pictures from kids who he had helped." The brothers gave up their Marathon lease and retired in the late 1970s.



*Milt and Moe took pride in their business and standard of service, often using the slogan "Get to know Milt and Moe."*

hour days.... There was never a complaint. There were also stories of letting people pay off bills as they could. It was an era of trust and compassion," she said.

#### IRVING MARX AND FAMILY

Irving Marx was a native Detroit and Navy man who, in 1953, opened his first full-service gas/car repair business, an Amoco (later renamed Total), at Eleven Mile Road and Greenfield in Oak Park. Shortly after, Irving took another Amoco (Total) at Twelve Mile Road and Southfield in Southfield. Additional locations included Northwestern Highway at Middlebelt, Twelve Mile Road at Middlebelt, Twelve Mile Road at Halsted (now a carwash/mart), Twelve Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road, and Ten Mile Road at Orchard Lake

**Isaac Tennenhouse's** Sinclair service station was in Detroit at 5428 Chene, at Frederick street. Renamed Tennenhouse Brake Service in the 1960s, it operated from the 1930s until the mid-1970s. Isaac's brother Benjamin Tennenhouse also had a gas station at 4870 Jos. Campau in Detroit.

**Fred and Max Abramson** sold Texaco and later Sinclair gasoline at Abramson Service, on the corner of Rivard and Wilkens near Eastern Market. The I-75 freeway was built right through the station property.



**Al Feldman** had Al's Gas on Linwood and Buena Vista in Detroit. In the late 1950s, Jules Greenwald leased Jules Standard, a service station on the southeast corner of Seven Mile Road and Wyoming.

**Galison's Super Service** sold Pure brand gas in Lincoln Park at the corner of White and Dix. Owner Hyman Galison left prior to the oil shortage of the 1970s.

**Ike and Sol User's** Sunoco station was on Telegraph at Swanson in Southfield.

**Susan Sugarman's** mom got enough free china from the Standard Oil station (not a Citrin dealer) on the southwest corner of Nine Mile Road and Coolidge to garner a service for twelve.

**Cy's Citgo**, Ten Mile Road at Coolidge in Oak Park, was torn down during the I-696 freeway construction.

"What is lost when the person waiting on you doesn't know your name?" lamented a small-gas-station owner in a 2006 *Newsweek* essay. The Detroit-area Jewish owners who ran these gas stations in Detroit, Oak Park, and Southfield were definitely old school when it came to caring about their customers. It's no wonder many metro Detroiters remember these dealers so fondly.



By 1975, Irving and his sons Darrell and Jerry were helping him run "most of the Shell stations in Farmington Hills." Pictured here are (l to r) Darrell, Irving, and Jerry Marx at the Twelve Mile Road and Orchard Lake Shell station.



Remember when gas was just over a dollar a gallon? Here's proof: In 1982, at the Irving Marx Shell station at Twelve Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.



Pamela Irving's daughter, Pamela Migliore, works during a 1982 station promotion.



## THE CITRIN OIL COMPANY

In 1920, at age sixteen, Jacob "Jake" Citrin immigrated to Detroit when his family left the Polish/Russian *Kiupeshev shtetl*. That same year, after an unsuccessful attempt to get a job at Henry Ford's auto plant, which paid a handsome five dollars a day, Jake found work pumping gas with his father Barney. They worked together at a one-pump, tarpaper shack gas station on the corner of Linwood and Pingree, a rutty dirt road located on the outer fringes of the city.

A pretty girl by the name of Matilda Beiner, a native New Yorker born to parents from the same *shtetl* as Jake's family, had her eye on the handsome young Jake and regularly brought him food to eat during the long nights when he'd stay at the station to keep it open. Her jaunts proved worthwhile — they were married just a few years later.

Jake began to offer oil changes, but since there was no garage or automatic hoist, he had to slide under the car to release the old oil, a job that was most challenging during Detroit's cold and icy winters. Through hard work and a devoted customer following, Jake Citrin eventually became the owner of that station, and later added more gas stations to the business. He often proudly reflected on the perseverance he demonstrated under myriad difficult circumstances. When the city closed Linwood to pave it, for example, Jake didn't lose a single customer or gallon of sales. His loyal patrons chose to re-route themselves by using a rather difficult alley entrance.

Later in his life, as his business grew, Jake became known as Jack or Jacob to his friends and business associates. He acquired gas stations all over the city and leased them mostly to other Jewish immigrants. At that time, in the early 1930s, he was selling Standard Oil products. When a competitor oil company offered him a volume discount, Standard Oil matched the offer — and Jake Citrin became a wholesale distributor with his business partner, Nathan Kolb. Citrin-Kolb Oil Company existed until 1956, when Jake bought out his partner and renamed the business the Citrin Oil Company.

Over the following five decades, Jacob Citrin and his sons Martin, Toby, and Robert developed the business to become one of the nation's largest gasoline distributors. They were constantly innovating, with the first large, double-bottomed gasoline trucks on Detroit streets, the first computerization of a wholesale gasoline business, and innovative service-station designs. Jacob, and later Martin, had a knack for selecting service-station sites with great future potential as the suburbs began to develop. Many African-American dealers, following the pattern of earlier Jewish dealers, found an opportunity to start their own businesses by leasing a Citrin Oil gasoline station.

Parallel with his business career, Jacob Citrin became a Jewish-community leader. He was a charter member of Temple Israel, later becoming its president. He served as treasurer of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit and was a board member of Sinai Hospital. When Jacob Citrin died in 1966, the Citrin Oil Company was led by his sons.

In 1970, following an abrupt cancellation notice from their Standard Oil Company supplier, the Citrins sold their business to Total Petroleum. At that time, there were over 125 Citrin-supplied gasoline stations. A year later, the Citrins left the business. Martin died in 1988. Toby, an attorney, is on the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Robert, also an attorney, is in business, residing in Birmingham, Michigan.

-Toby Citrin





**Esther Allweiss Ingber** is a communications professional whose career includes positions with the *Detroit Free Press*, *The Detroit News*, *Detroit Jewish News*, and Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. She holds a journalism degree from Wayne State University. The owner of Good Writing Made Better, she currently is director of Ameinu Detroit and is a contributing writer and columnist.

## REFERENCES

### INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

#### Primary sources:

Zyga H. Allweiss  
Janice (Allweiss) Young  
Phil Allweiss  
Henry Bienenstock  
Elaine (Caplan) Blumenfeld  
Toby Citrin  
Mike Howard Davis  
Ken Fireman  
Paul Fried  
Gerry Gorelick  
Robert Gray  
Muriel (Herman) Kushner  
Marian Krzyzowski  
Benny Holtzman  
Glenn Liebowitz  
Dena (Savine) Loughlin  
Elayne (Allen) Moss  
Barbara (Schlüssel) Kranitz  
Gary Schwartz  
Morrie Schwartz  
Brian Shear  
Shelley Spinner  
Mark Sternberg  
Len Tennenhouse

#### Secondary sources:

Jack Allweiss  
Alex Bensky  
Sharon (Fried) Berkovic  
Elwin Greenwald  
Fran Klarin  
Mort Meisner  
Gigi (Galison) Sharp  
Betty Shear  
Susan Sugarman

#### Assistance, including Facebook posters:

Marcia Abramson  
Lynn Brooks Dils  
Ilene Dunn  
David Goldis  
Sheryl Goldstein Young  
Ron Hamburger  
Eric Kamin  
Neil Kapera  
Sharon (Landau) Levine  
Linda Zelle Phillips  
Ruth Rosenberg  
Nathan Schiff  
Aviva (Schiff) Phillips  
Elyse Smith Schubiner  
Sherman Sokolov  
Gordy Stein  
Bruce Swaab  
Chuck Weisman

### INTERNET

Robert V. Droz, Standard Oil, 1941, <http://www.us-highways.com/sohist1941.htm>  
(also pages for pre-1911, 1911, 1961 and today)  
"Traveling Michigan and Gassing up Before Self-Serve," March 20, 2004, <http://home.comcast.net/~steelbeard1/flinn032004.htm>

### BOOKS

Sidney Bolkosky, *Harmony & Dissonance: Voices of Jewish Identity in Detroit, 1914-1967* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1991).

Phillip Applebaum, *The Fishers: A Family Portrait* (Detroit: Harlo Press, 1982).

#### Articles

"Life Didn't Pass Me By, It Stopped in for Gas" by John De Costanza, *Newsweek*, March 20, 2006.

"French Firm Invades U.S." by Hugh McCann of *The New York Times*, May 16, 1971.

"Car guy" retiring but not hanging up his tools" by Pat Murphy, *Southfield Eccentric*, Feb. 12, 2006.

"Jobbers, Or a Brief History of Time" by Robert S. Bassman; Counsel to Bassman, Mitchell & Alfano and Legal Counsel to Petroleum Marketers Association of America. Summer 2011; PMAA Journal.

# FEATURED ARTICLE

## HYMAN LOUIS "H.L." GOLDMAN JEWISH AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURER AND COMMUNITY BUILDER

by DORI GOLDMAN

*In the early 1900s, many enterprising Jewish individuals and families living in Detroit ventured into various aspects of the motor-car business during its infancy. Familiar names like Abraham Srere, Sidney Allen, and Max Fisher were among the Jewish entrepreneurs who were integral to the development of the auto parts and supply industry and other ancillary firms complementing the production and operation of cars and trucks.<sup>i</sup> Yet few took the plunge into actually manufacturing automobiles. Hyman Louis Goldman, who preferred to be called H.L., was one of just a handful of exceptions in Detroit.*

THE eldest of five surviving siblings, H.L. was born in March 1858 in Kaunas, Lithuania, to Joshua Heshel "Harris" Yopkovitch and Hannah "Anna" Freiberg (or Fheiberg) Yopkovitch. While little is known about his early life in the Pale of Settlement, at age twenty-two H.L. married Ethel Ruth "Hattie" Goldman on July 16, 1880, in Naistadt, Poland,<sup>ii</sup> which – like Lithuania at that time – was part of the larger Russian Empire. In the same year as their marriage, the newlyweds (now known as Hyman Louis and Ethel Ruth Goldman, rather than Yopkovitch) made their way across the Atlantic and headed west to settle in Detroit.

### H.L. BUILDS FORTUNE IN DETROIT

The population of the city in 1880 was 116,000, while the Jewish community consisted of 665 people.<sup>iii</sup> Like so many other Jewish and non-Jewish residents who came to Detroit with limited means and a great idea, H.L. learned that a little capital, a lot of ambition, and a tremendous amount of hard work were key to financial stability and reward. Working briefly as a junk peddler, H.L. founded the Riverside Machinery Company in 1882,<sup>iv</sup> just two years after his arrival in America. Shortly thereafter, he established the Riverside Scrap Iron and Metal Company at the intersection of St. Aubin and Atwater Streets on the Detroit River. Despite substantial competition in the scrap trade, H.L.'s business acumen and energetic nature assured the success of his new enterprise. He





*H.L. Goldman began his career as a junk peddler and soon got into the scrap-metal business. Eventually, around 1903, H.L. and his three sons founded the Crescent Motor Company. Photo courtesy Louis Stern.*

**The MARVEL**  
**Automobile Roadster**



Price, \$500

**The Greatest Value on the Market**  
**A Car of Superior Merit**  
**Gives Most Satisfactory Service**  
WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS

---

**Marvel Motor Car Co.**  
**284-290 Rivard St., DETROIT, MICH.**

*Advertisement for the Marvel Automobile, one of the cars produced by H.L. Goldman's Crescent Motor Company, circa 1908.*

became affluent in less than ten years in Detroit.

H.L.'s growing wealth was invested in creating a comfortable life for Ethel and their six children, born between 1882 and 1894: Louis, Abe, Harry, Anna, Dora, and Ray. As his sons matured, the foundation he had laid for their future by expanding and creating even more business ventures provided Louis, Abe, and Harry opportunities to work in, learn about, and ultimately run their own company.

Over the years, Ethel and H.L. built at least three large, well-appointed homes (with live-in servant quarters), all of which were within walking distance of the Orthodox synagogue, Shaarey Zedek, located on Winder Street in Detroit. Two of the residences were on Adelaide Street — the first at 363 near present-day Division and Brush, and the other at 111,<sup>9</sup> closer to Woodward Avenue; the third home was at 13 Elizabeth Street, now part of the land on which Comerica Park was constructed almost a century later.

#### PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ARRIVE IN DETROIT

In 1888, H.L. arranged for and funded the transatlantic passage of his parents and four siblings, Samuel, Alexander, Sarah, and David, all of whom had also changed their surname from Yopkovitch to Goldman. His prosperity made it possible for them to escape the mounting hardships of life in the Czarist Russian Empire and settle in Detroit. According to extended family members, once they arrived, H.L. rented a large home for them and provided employment in one of his many enterprises for his twenty-five-year-old brother Sam. Within two years, Sam had scrimped and saved part of the



funds needed to move with his wife Bessie to Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, planning to start their family and open a department store. Sam's dream was realized when H.L. "loaned" him the rest of the money.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTER

H.L.'s financial largesse also ensured that he was in a position to meet needs in the community. His initial focus was on the ever-increasing number of Jewish immigrants who, like his own family, had arrived in Detroit after fleeing from pogroms and difficult lives in Eastern Europe. Through personal donations and active participation in fundraising (via Shaarey Zedek), H.L. was among those who underwrote the basic necessities for new Jewish residents: food, clothing, shelter and health care. H.L.'s expanding business realm was also a ready resource to employ recently arrived immigrants.

Sustenance for the Jewish body, mind, and soul were also important to H.L. In addition to assisting early on with the organization and underwriting of team and individual sports activities for Jewish youth at Shaarey Zedek, H.L. was concerned about Jewish education. Many Talmud Torahs in Detroit existed, most in conjunction with the various synagogues. But the quality and extent of each school's curriculum and funding was uneven. Concerned that all Jewish children receive a full and proper Jewish education, H.L. joined with a group of like-minded Jewish community leaders to create the United Hebrew Schools (UHS) in 1919. Active on the Board, H.L. served as an officer of the UHS, including the role of board secretary,<sup>vi</sup> and was a proud participant in the groundbreak-



*H.L. instilled the virtue and importance of community building and philanthropy in his children, pictured here with their father in this family photograph. Photo courtesy of Louis Stern.*



ing ceremony for the Philadelphia-Byron Branch of UHS on August 31, 1923, in Detroit.<sup>vii</sup>

Throughout the years, H.L. and his family were extensively involved in many of the Jewish organizations that were instituted in response to the mounting needs of the Detroit Jewish community. When United Jewish Charities, the forerunner of today's Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, came into being in 1899, the Goldmans were part of it. H.L. instilled in his children the virtue and importance of community building and philanthropy that continued with his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his great-great-grandchildren to this day. H.L. was active as well in Pisgah Lodge of B'nai B'rith – the first such chapter in Detroit, established in 1857, a year before he was born in Lithuania. He was also a supporter of the Jewish Women's Club and a member of the Zionist Association. In Detroit's business world, H.L. joined the board of commerce, and in the general community, his membership in the Benevolent Order of the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows<sup>viii</sup> furthered his connection with Detroit's non-sectarian civic, social, and charitable groups.

H.L.'s considerable immersion in aiding so many aspects of the Detroit Jewish community surely did not interfere with his path as a business leader. And, being successful in the scrap-metal business did not deter him from other ventures in the same area. In 1890, he partnered with Hyman W. Freedman to found another scrap-metal enterprise, the Goldman-Freedman Company at 278 Hastings Street in Detroit.<sup>ix</sup> H.L., fascinated with shipping and marine motors, launched the Strelinger Marine Engine Company in 1900.<sup>x</sup> In 1910, H.L. and L. Levine joined together to found the Riverside and Levine Wrecking Company at 402 Union Street in Port Huron.<sup>xi</sup> Even in his later years, he continued to expand his business horizons. When H.L. purchased property in Port Huron in July 1920 for his bid of \$212,000, the transaction was such a major property acquisition, it received coverage by the *Detroit Free Press*. "The bid was remarkably low," editorialized the *Free Press*, "for the purchase by Hyman Goldman of 1,500 feet of river frontage, [with] complete equipment of up-to-date tools and machinery, steel buildings and a 500 foot dry dock with two railroad cranes."<sup>xii</sup>

#### FROM MOTORS AND MACHINES TO AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURE

H.L.'s ownership of marine-motor, machinery, and scrap-metal businesses were excellent experience for him to join Henry Ford, Ransom Olds, and others in Detroit to manufacture automobiles. Around 1903, along with his three sons, H.L. created the Crescent Motor Company by purchasing the assets of both the Reliance Motor Company and the Marvel Motor Company, initially setting up their plant at Champlain (now East Lafayette) and Meldrum,<sup>xiii</sup> just south and east of the Mt. Elliot Cemetery and a few blocks north of Jefferson on Detroit's near east side. The Benham Motor Company was later bought by H.L. and incorporated into the Goldman family's automotive enterprise.

With Charles Wain, formerly the head mechanic for Henry Ford, on board as the superintendent,<sup>xiv</sup> the Crescent Motor Company produced two motor-car models: the Marvel, a two-cylinder roadster with the engine hidden up front under a hood, and the Benham. Both were "marked for early fame and the distinction of being exhibited at the early automobile shows at the old Light Guard Armory,"<sup>xv</sup> which at the time was located at East Congress and Brush Street in downtown Detroit.



*Crescent Motors turned out a few models, including the Reliance, manufactured primarily as a touring car, with a covered top and entrance from the rear of the vehicle.*

Photo courtesy of Beverly Goldman Day.

The chief “auto tester” of the Crescent cars was H.L.’s son Abe; Belle Isle was the site of his testing grounds. Using a unique system he developed on his own, Abe would park the car to be tested at the foot of Belle Isle and await the arrival of “the famous old steamer Tashmoo to emerge from Lake St. Clair”<sup>xvi</sup> to enter the Detroit River. When the steamer was even with Abe’s car, Abe would “engage the throttle and race the steamer the full length of Belle Isle. If the car did not collapse and finished ahead of the steamer, Abe chalked up a big win.”<sup>xvii</sup>

Abe sometimes received a summons from the police for speeding. He was clocked going twenty miles an hour, but the speed limit on Belle Isle at that time was only fifteen!

The sporty Marvel sold for \$800, and based on the production of five cars per month, it was the most-popular Crescent vehicle. Production of the Crescent’s Reliance model, manufactured primarily as a touring car —with a covered top and entrance from the rear of the vehicle —averaged only two per month.

William Durant, who started in the motor-car business in 1886 in Flint, Michigan, and eventually purchased and combined the assets of many early auto manufacturers to incorporate the behemoth General Motors Corporation, acquired the Crescent Motor Company in 1908 from H.L. Goldman, along with sixteen other firms.<sup>xviii</sup> The engine from the “Goldman” Marvel was said to be used in early Durant trucks.

## A GRAND LEGACY

Shortly after the founding of Machpelah Cemetery on Woodward Avenue in Ferndale, Michigan, in 1910, H.L. purchased a large part of Section D for the Goldman plot. A modified obelisk inscribed with the Goldman name stands at the center of the plot with the backdrop of a majestic tree.<sup>xix</sup> When his parents died in 1915 and 1916, and also his wife Ethel Ruth in 1916, H.L.’s earlier planning and pragmatism ensured that his family would be together in death as they were in life. Hyman Louis “H.L.” (Yopkovitch) Goldman died at the age of seventy-three on August 6, 1931, in Detroit. He was buried beside his beloved wife in the Goldman plot at Machpelah Cemetery.

The legacy of H.L. Goldman lives on through his extended family in metropolitan Detroit and across the country, with continuing commitment to building community and creating new ventures.





**Dori Goldman** is the great-grandniece of H.L. Goldman. Dori served as editor and co-publisher of the South Dade Jewish News, assistant director of the South Dade JCC, and executive director of the Goldstein Hebrew Academy and Beth David Congregation – all in Miami. She also served as development director of The Florida Shakespeare Theatre at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables and executive director of the Seminole Theatre in Homestead. Dori's passion for genealogy, Jewish history, and the arts is surpassed only by her love for her two children.

With gratitude to H.L. Goldman's great-grandson Louis Stern of Oak Park, Michigan, and great-granddaughter Beverly Jean Day of Phoenix, Arizona, for sharing their insights and photographs and special thanks for guidance and inspiration to Sharon Alterman, Leonard M. Simons Jewish Community Archives of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Judith Levin Cantor, Congregation Shaarey Zedek Archives, Southfield, Michigan; Jan Durecki, Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives, Temple Beth El, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; National Automotive History Collection, Rose & Robert Skillman Branch, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan; and Heather Moore, Buick Gallery, Sloan Museum, Flint, Michigan.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup>Jews in Michigan, Judith Levin Cantor, 2001, Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, Michigan, p.280, 281.

<sup>ii</sup>*Detroit Free Press*, "Couple Married Again, Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Goldman Had Silver Wedding" July 17, 1905, p.5.

<sup>iii</sup>Echoes of Detroit's Jewish Community: A History, Irwin J. Cohen, 2002, Boreal Press, Inc., Haslett, Michigan, p.23.

<sup>iv</sup>The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922, Volume 4; edited by Clarence Monroe Burton, William Stocking, Gordon K. Miller, 1922, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois.

<sup>v</sup>United States Federal Census, 1900 & 1910.

<sup>vi</sup>The Jewish Community Blue Book of Detroit, 1923 Edition, The Jewish Chronicle Publishing Company, Detroit, Michigan, p.97.

<sup>vii</sup>Harmony and Dissonance: Voices of Jewish Identity in Detroit, 1915-1947, Sidney Bolkosky, 1991, United Jewish Charities, published by Wayne State University Press, Detroit, Michigan, p. ii.

<sup>viii</sup>Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives, Temple Beth El, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

<sup>ix</sup>Detroit, Michigan Directory, 1890.

<sup>x</sup>Smithsonian Institution Library, Trade Literature Collection, Washington, DC, and Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives, Temple Beth El, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

<sup>xi</sup>Detroit, Michigan Directory, 1910.

<sup>xii</sup>*Detroit Free Press*, "Detroiter Acquires Port Huron Drydock," July 20, 1920, p.10.

<sup>xiii</sup>*The Detroit Jewish News* (partial reprint of an earlier *Detroit News* article), "More Jewish Contributions to the Automobile Industry," November 14, 1975, p.64.

<sup>xiv</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>xv</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>xvi</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>xvii</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>xviii</sup>*The Flint Journal*, "They Built Flint: Men and Women of Vision Pioneer to Make City," Frank M. Rodolf, July 25, 1957.

<sup>xix</sup>Machpelah Cemetery Association website: [machpelahcemetery.org](http://machpelahcemetery.org); as well as the Irwin I. Cohn Michigan Jewish Cemetery Index website at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit: [jewishdetroit.org/community-guide/jewish-cemeteryindex](http://jewishdetroit.org/community-guide/jewish-cemeteryindex).

---

---

**FEATURED  
ARTICLE****MAX SAM KLEIN:  
THE INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR  
BEHIND THE PAINT-BY-NUMBERS CRAZE**

by LE ROY BARNETT, PH.D

*Talented Michigander Max Sam Klein was largely responsible for the paint-by-numbers craze that swept the country (even much of the planet) in the early 1950s, due largely to his gifts for inventiveness, entrepreneurship and marketing savvy. Having made a fortune in the hobby-craft business, he left the industry in 1956 and entered the world of injection-molded plastics. There, with at least five patents in his name, he successfully marketed the LeBeau line of supplies to hospitals, hotels, and restaurants; the Sealette brand of houseware products; and Plantivator receptacles for flowers and decorative plants. While many of the products he produced have become collectors' items, it is paint-by-numbers — the 1950s cultural phenomenon he helped create — that will be forever attached to the name of Max Sam Klein.*

**BORN** in Chicago on August 14, 1917, to Hungarian immigrants Henry and Bertha Klein, Max and his family moved to Detroit in the early 1920s. After he graduated from Northwestern High School, Max operated an automotive-repair garage while attending college part-time. He eventually earned a degree in chemical engineering from the Detroit Institute of Technology.

In 1938, Max married fellow Detroiter Amy Fried in Toledo (her parents owned the Motor City's Hudson Laundry Company on Cortland Avenue). Not long after, the groom opened a small firm that specialized in the production of lacquer thinner. When World War II made it difficult to obtain essential raw materials for the business, Max went to work in the research division of General Motors where, among other things, he edited technical manuals.

With the end of global hostilities, in 1946 Max bought the Palmer Show Card Paint Company, a Detroit concern founded fourteen years earlier. This firm carried poster colors, finger paints, and similar products which were sold to schools, commercial-sign painters, and artist-supply houses. Among Palmer's specialties were paints for mannequin manufacturers and ice paints to decorate skating rinks, the playing surfaces of hockey arenas, and the performing stages of ice shows.

Not long after purchasing Palmer, Max became heavily involved in painting and selling plaster figurines. At one time he had about eighty employees working in shifts around





*Because the family could not afford to belong to a congregation, Klein did not have a traditional Jewish education. Later, after his mother's death, Klein studied Hebrew with a rabbi in New York.*

the clock, making these items that were marketed through retail outlets such as Woolworth and Kresge. This line of work led to the development of do-it-yourself kits, where fine plaster casts of Li'l Abner and similar popular characters were packaged for people to finish decorating at home. Each set came with a figurine, appropriate quantities and colors of paint, and instructions on where to apply the various hues in order to achieve the desired effect.

#### GENESIS OF THE PAINT-BY-NUMBERS IDEA

The Palmer Company's next innovation came around 1950 when Max, in collaboration with employee Dan Robbins, envisioned a two-dimensional version of the good-selling figurines. Rather than have customers paint the face of a miniature statue one color, hair another, and shirt still another, they conceived the idea of printing lines on canvas, with numbers showing which pigment to use.



The men in essence created a picture jig-saw puzzle on canvas, with guide lines on the canvas forming many irregular enclosures, each bearing a number within its border. Each number corresponded to a specific color of paint. When the appropriate oil-based tints were applied to the designated numbered voids, an impressionistic picture emerged that — according to the Palmer advertising literature — made “every man a Rembrandt.”

In-house artist Robbins produced six works to launch the paint-by-numbers idea, and the kits were first marketed at Detroit-area Kresge stores under the brand name of Craft Master. Due in part to initial manufacturing problems, early sales of Palmer's fill-in-the-blanks experiment were not encouraging. A breakthrough came in 1951 when Klein convinced Macy's in New York City to carry his line of do-it-yourself masterpieces. The exposure received from the Macy's account, plus some clever advertising, resulted in skyrocketing sales — not just in the Big Apple, but around the country.

Within little more than a year after the Macy's debut, Craft Master sold fifteen million paint-by-number kits. To keep up with demand, Klein employed sixty artists who continuously created new scenes, most falling into the categories of still lifes, landscapes and figure studies. Another 800 employees turned out 50,000 paint-by-number sets per day, and they still sometimes had trouble meeting demand.

The paint-by-number fad was not confined to America, as people all over the world got caught up in the pastime. Before long, Klein had manufacturing plants and offices in Detroit and Oak Park, Michigan, and in Tiffin, Ohio; Patterson, New Jersey; and Strathroy,



*Courtesy of Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.*



Ontario, along with distribution warehouses in the United States, Europe, Mexico, South America, Australia, and Japan.

Klein's craze didn't go unnoticed by would-be competitors. By 1955, thirty-five firms had entered the paint-by-number field. In 1956, Klein concluded that under these crowded conditions, no enterprise could make a go of it, and he sold his interests in the paint-and-craft industry.

#### AFTER PAINT-BY-NUMBER, OTHER ENTERPRISES

At the height of the baby boom, Klein followed other pursuits, primarily in injection-molded products. He created the Max Klein Company and established a plastics venture in Baraboo, Wisconsin, operating under the name of Klein Industries. This enterprise made household products such as ice-cube trays, butter dishes, refrigerator bowls, waste baskets, sewing boxes, desk organizers, laundry hampers, and diaper pails.

The Wisconsin concern also generated an array of plastic goods for restaurants while another line focused on the horticultural market. All told, about 300 different items were manufactured by Klein and distributed through department stores, mass merchandisers, and major retail chains across the country and overseas. Klein built this business into one of the top five such enterprises in America, managing its affairs from the corporate design, engineering, and headquarters facilities in Detroit and vicinity. In 1981, Klein sold his company to a conglomerate based in the United Kingdom, but ran the company from his Ferndale office. Eventually, with the help of well-known Detroit architect Harvey Ferrero, he constructed the Max Klein Office Building at 26000 West Twelve Mile Road in Southfield. Completed in 1984, the structure won many awards and received much attention for its unusual design.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE MAN AND HIS LEGACY

Max Klein was a member of Beth Achim Synagogue in Southfield. As a tribute to his parents, he funded the Klein Chapel. He also studied Hebrew privately with a rabbi, an opportunity denied him in youth as his family did not have the financial means to provide him with a traditional Jewish education.

Though Klein was blessed with good health for most of his life, in his early seventies he was diagnosed with colon cancer. In 1993, at the age of seventy-seven, Max



*Max Klein was a member of the Ahavas Achim synagogue, which after several mergers became a part of Adat Shalom. The Klein Chapel, named in memory of his parents, remains in use today at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, Michigan.*

Klein passed away.

Max Klein's story does not conclude with his passing. Two years after his death, his daughter, Jacquelyn Schiffman, donated his collection of scrapbooks, memorabilia, and artifacts to the Smithsonian Institution. These materials formed the basis for a 2001 exhibit at the National Museum of American History called "Paint by Number: Accounting for Taste in the 1950s." A book was published for the occasion: William L. Bird's *Paint By Number: The How-To Craze That Swept the Nation*.

Max would be delighted to know that the artistic phenomenon he helped create and launch was recognized by our nation's greatest repository of American history. He also would be honored to learn that many of the plastic wares he produced years ago are now collectors' items. We should be proud that the man who created this legacy made Michigan his home.

*The author wishes to thank the following for their contributions to this article:*

Nancy L. Beets, Southfield Historical Society

Wendy Rose Bice, director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

Arthur Horwitz, Editor of the *Detroit Jewish News*

Amy Klein, widow of Max Sam Klein

Dan Robbins, the artist who worked with Max to prepare the first Craft Master offerings and author of the marvelous 1997 book, *Whatever Happened to Paint-by-Numbers?*

Jacquelyn Schiffman, daughter of Max and Amy Klein.

Marian Ferrero, business associate



**Le Roy Barnett** has bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in geography from Michigan State University and a master's in library science from Western Michigan University. For twenty-five years he served as the head of reference at the State Archives of Michigan. He also served as contributing editor to both Michigan History Magazine and Chronicle Magazine for a decade and is the author of 190 monographs and articles, most relating to Michigan history. Barnett is now retired.

*The above image was taken in front of the author's house just outside Wacousta, Michigan. The patriotic drape, which is actually a flag mounted on a porch pillar, is prompted by his nearly four years of active duty with the Army Security Agency.*

#### ENDNOTE

<sup>1</sup>An entire article devoted to the building appeared on pages 39-44 in the May/June issue of "Inland Architect."



---



---

# FEATURED ARTICLE

## THE FIRST PUBLICIZED ACT OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION AGAINST A JEW

by ROBERT ROCKAWAY

*After the Civil War, a significant number of Americans, many of whom were first- or second-generation immigrants, achieved financial success and the social recognition that reflected their hard-won economic status. These newly successful people clamored for admission into the prestigious clubs of the day and, for them, social climbing stopped being a simple expectation and instead became a bona-fide social problem. Economically successful Jews entered more prominently than other ethnic groups into the struggle for status. The first widely publicized act of social discrimination against a Jew in Detroit occurred in March 1893, when an elite club rejected a prominent German Jewish businessman, bringing the polarizing accusation of anti-Semitism to the forefront.*

SOME “upper-crust” Americans thought that Jews displayed all the vices of the *nouveau riche* — tasteless ostentation, a lack of manners, pushiness, crudeness, and a lack of culture. To protect their gains against the newly rich and to separate themselves from these upstarts, America’s old wealth sought to tighten the loose, indistinct lines of class. They did this by establishing nonmonetary standards for social acceptance. Successful candidates had to display knowledge of formalized etiquette, be listed in social registers and blue books, and be members of elite social clubs.

Excluding Jews from those clubs became a means of protecting their own standing and stabilizing the social order. Consequently, elite social clubs in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities instituted methods such as the blackball to keep Jews out.<sup>i</sup>

Detroit was not immune to this trend. Despite having a foreign-born population of forty percent by 1880, late-nineteenth-century Detroit remained largely an Anglo-Saxon-Protestant stronghold that kept ethnic entrance into the city’s social elite to a minimum. Consequently, the exclusion of wealthy Jews from Detroit’s social sphere was virtually complete.<sup>ii</sup>

Detroit’s most-exclusive metropolitan clubs until World War I were the Yondotega Club, the Detroit Club, and the Detroit Athletic Club (DAC). Of these, the DAC was the most prominent and exclusive. Founded in 1887, the DAC’s original purpose was to field amateur athletic teams. In 1913, the club was reorganized to cater more generally to the city’s business executives. The DAC of the earlier phase listed eight Jews on its 1893 roster of 767 members. Among them were the Butzels, Heavenriches, and Heinemans,

all prominent, wealthy Jewish families. With the club's reorganization in 1913, only one Jew, David E. Heineman, a politician and designer of the City of Detroit's flag, remained a member. Seven years later, no Jew appeared on the DAC's membership roster, despite the fact that the club's membership had increased fourfold since 1893. By then, Jews were unable to penetrate the city's more exclusive social enclaves. For all intents and purposes, Detroit's social elite remained gentile.<sup>iii</sup>

### SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION COMES TO LIGHT

The first explicit and widely publicized act of social discrimination against a Jew in Detroit occurred in March 1893, when the DAC rejected Herman Freund, a prominent German-Jewish businessman. The incident became a cause célèbre and brought the issue of anti-Semitism to public attention. Although his son Jacob was a member, Freund's friends forewarned him that he would be blackballed because of anti-Jewish prejudice existing within the club.<sup>iv</sup>

After his rejection, Freund asked the club's president, F. K. Stearns, whether his religion had been the reason for his rejection. Stearns replied evasively, "It may, or may not. I do not feel at liberty to express an opinion. I regret being drawn into this controversy, as I have no fault to find with you personally."<sup>v</sup>

An investigation by some of Detroit's Jewish leaders led them to conclude that religious prejudice had indeed been the reason for the exclusion. A number of the DAC's directors admitted as much to the investigators. And former DAC board members told Freund that "several members of the board had an aversion to having Israelites accepted as members."<sup>vi</sup>

These disclosures prompted the *Detroit Evening News* to print an editorial entitled, "Why is the Jew Hated?" The *News* hoped that the discussion would be "a calm one, as becomes scientists, not heated and vindictive after the manner of Christian controversy." The newspaper requested that Rabbi Louis Grossman, spiritual leader of Temple Beth El (1884-1898), "address himself to the task."<sup>vii</sup> Grossman replied that in his eight years in Detroit the various religious denominations had excellent relations with one another and had avoided sectarian conflict. He felt that "the alleged prejudice against the Jews is much exaggerated" and that "prejudice is the inevitable companion of the crude and the rude." He concluded by requesting "in the interest of good will which ought to prevail, do not propose a discussion of the Jews."<sup>viii</sup>

Not to be dissuaded, the *News* accused the rabbi of wanting to "drop the whole subject." The paper argued that "If the world would only drop it, nothing would be more agreeable." The problem, as they saw it, was that "the world will not drop it." It was therefore impossible to suppress discussion of such "a universal phenomena." The *News* concluded by again asking, "What is the nature of the anti-Semitic bacillus?"<sup>ix</sup>

The next respondent was a local Protestant clergyman, the Reverend Plantz. Prefacing his remarks by saying he personally had no sympathy for religious prejudice, he launched an attack on the Jews, accusing them of bigotry and blaming them for the anti-Semitism. "The prejudice against the Jew is certainly equaled by the Jews' prejudice against the Gentile," he said. Indeed, the literature of the Jews was "full of words of intolerance." If the Jew would associate more with non-Jews, "forget that he is a Jew in



the national sense," and forego that "exclusiveness which often borders on race bigotry, much of the prejudice that exists against him would soon pass away." Then, contradicting himself, he claimed that it was the Jew's "craftiness," his "success as a schemer," his thirst "to get the best of the bargain," and his "unscrupulousness" in financial transactions that had created anti-Semitism in the United States and Europe.<sup>x</sup>

The *News* concurred with part of Plantz's analysis by also fixing the blame for anti-Semitism on the Jews. "There is absolutely no prejudice against the Hebrew in this or any other country which they themselves have not invited but made mandatory on the rest of the world," it editorialized. The Jews' refusal to mix with other people carried an "imputation against all Gentile blood which Gentiles must meet in some way."<sup>xi</sup> Rabbi Grossman expressed shock at these assertions and asked sadly what had happened to Detroit, "our good old staid town of peaceable people?"<sup>xii</sup>

The *News* answered his query by saying that "the Jew in this city was to a great extent an ostracized person. He was looked upon with suspicion and there was anything but brotherly feeling for him."<sup>xiii</sup> The *News* conveniently forgot that the whole episode began when a Jew, Herman Freund, sought to "mix" with Gentiles by joining the Detroit Athletic Club.

#### EFFECT OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

This negative attitude toward Detroit's Jews occurred when the United States was undergoing an economic depression. The depression lasted from 1893 until 1897 and had a devastating effect on Detroit's working class. Contemporary and later estimates placed the number of jobless at 25,000 men, approximately thirty-three percent of the male labor force in 1894.<sup>xiv</sup> The depression provoked severe social and class tensions, especially during 1893 and 1894. Despite the fact that the city's Jewish working class suffered along with everyone else, the age-old distrust of Jews as economic exploiters and "Shylocks" caused them to be viewed with hostility.

Even after the public exposure of the DAC's discriminatory practices, their policies continued well into the twentieth century. In 1907, Jacob Mazur, a Jewish member of the DAC (supposedly because of his strong basketball skills), resigned after the club rejected an applicant solely for being Jewish. Prominent Detroit attorney Fred Butzel declined an invitation to dine with President Woodrow Wilson at the DAC "because the luncheon was given on the premises of a club that does not accept Jews as members."<sup>xv</sup> And architect Albert Kahn, who had designed and overseen the construction of the club's building, refused to attend the luncheon honoring its completion because of the club's discriminatory policies. In 1914, Louis Brandeis visited Detroit after assuming the chairmanship of the newly reorganized American Zionist movement. When he learned of the restrictive policies of the DAC, he wrote his brother that "anti-Semitism seems to have reached its American pinnacle here."<sup>xvi</sup>

When we look back at that earlier era, we might view it as a portent of the more-radical and dangerous climate that made Detroit the center for American anti-Semitism. Henry Ford, during the 1920s, conducted a libelous anti-Semitic campaign in his *Dear-born Independent* newspaper. In the 1930s, the city was home to the violent anti-Semitic Black Legion and the anti-Semitic Catholic radio priest Father Charles Coughlin.

Despite their hard work and success, Detroit's Jews were victims of educational, economic, and social discrimination before, during, and after World War II.



**Robert Rockaway** is a professor emeritus at Tel Aviv University. He has written a history of the Jews of Detroit to 1914, a book about Eastern-European Jewish immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century, and a book about American-Jewish gangsters.

## SOURCES

- Holli, Melvin. *Reform in Detroit*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.
- Marger, Martin. "The Force of Ethnicity: A Study of Urban Elites." *Journal of University Studies*. Ethnic Monograph Series 10 (Winter 1974).
- Rockaway, Robert. *The Jews of Detroit: From the Beginning, 1762-1914*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1986.
- Rockaway, Robert. "Anti-Semitism in an American City: Detroit, 1850-1914." *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* 64 (September 1974).
- Rockaway, Robert. "Louis Brandeis on Detroit." *Michigan Jewish History*. July 1977.
- Detroit Evening News*, March 23, 1893; March 25, 1893; April 3, 1893; April 5, 1893; April 7, 1893; April 20, 1893; April 27, 1893.
- Detroit Courier*, May 19, 1906.
- Jewish American*, October 4, 1907.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup>The blackball is a form of secret ballot to exclude someone from a gentleman's club. White balls and black balls are provided to club members to place in a box. A white ball signifies support, while a black ball signifies opposition. See John Higham, "Social Discrimination Against Jews, 1830-1930," in *Send These to Me: Jews and Other Immigrants in Urban America*, ed. John Higham (New York, 1975), pp. 144-151, for examples of social discrimination against Jews.

<sup>ii</sup>Martin Marger, "The Force of Ethnicity: A Study of Urban Elites," *Journal of University Studies*. Ethnic Monograph Series 10 (Winter 1974), pp. 1-108. The exclusion of Jews from the city's elite social clubs led Detroit's German-Jewish elite to found the Phoenix Social Club in 1872. This club came to be seen as the leading Jewish social organization and one of the most-prominent social clubs in Detroit.

<sup>iii</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 82-89.

<sup>iv</sup>Freund's son became a member before 1893, at a time when there was less overt anti-Jewish sentiment among DAC's board members. Freund's rejection from DAC membership made the front page of the *Detroit Evening News*. See the *Detroit Evening News*, March 23, 1893, p. 1.

<sup>v</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, March 25, 1893, p. 4.

<sup>vi</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>vii</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 3, 1893, p. 4. This debate appeared on the newspaper's editorial page, and continued on this page from March 1893 through April 1893.

<sup>viii</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 5, 1893, p. 4.

<sup>ix</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 7, 1893, p. 4. The use of the term "bacillus," whether intentional or not, reflects a racist attitude that became increasingly common and linked Jews with infections and disease.

<sup>x</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 7, 1893, p. 4.

<sup>xi</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 20, 1893, p. 4.

<sup>xii</sup>*Detroit Evening News*, April 27, 1893, p. 4.

<sup>xiii</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>xiv</sup>Melvin Holli, *Reform in Detroit* (New York, 1969), pp. 10-21.

<sup>xv</sup>*Jewish American* (Detroit), October 4, 1907.

<sup>xvi</sup>Robert Rockaway, "Louis Brandeis on Detroit," *Michigan Jewish History* (July 1977).



---

---

## FEATURED ARTICLE

# UNEASY YEARS: MICHIGAN JEWRY IN DEPRESSION AND WAR, 1930-1945

by KENNETH WALTZER

*This article presents the findings of a study and presentation done at Michigan State University during 2002-03, titled "Uneasy Years: Michigan Jewry During the Depression and War Years." The objective of the study and exhibition mounted at the MSU Museum was to find answers to questions about how Michigan's Jews were regarded during the years 1930 through 1945, living in various locales across Michigan, how they felt as ethnic Americans, and how they responded to events at home and abroad during those difficult years.*

IN 1946, the poet Philip Levine, who, in 2011 was named Poet Laureate of the United States, stood in a doorway on Delancey Street in New York City in the rain. The eighteen-year-old Detroit Central High School graduate still had change from the twenty-dollar traveler's check he had cashed down the street in a nearby dairy restaurant, the memory of the encounter fresh in his mind. As he had turned the check over to the man behind the counter, the amazed proprietor proclaimed to others in the store, nodding at the young Levine, "They got Jews in Detroit?!"

Yes, there were Jews in Detroit — and throughout the state of Michigan — in the 1930s and 1940s; yet, these were uneasy years for these Jews. Following World War I, as the prosperous 1920s unfolded, some of Michigan's Jews found a way of life that far exceeded the general economic level during the immigrant stage of settlement, which began in the 1880s and ran until its closing with the 1924 anti-immigration act of Congress.

In formulating the 2002-03 award-winning exhibition "The Uneasy Years," sponsored by the Michigan Council on the Humanities with assistance from the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and held at the Michigan State University Museum, my colleague Kirsten Fermaglich and I worked from many local histories and local archives. The exhibit documented Jewish settlement, social and cultural life, and action by individuals and families who made prominent contributions in their communities. We also gathered

and received some extremely interesting family photographs—fishing and skiing in the Upper Peninsula, gatherings with friends in Detroit, protests on Detroit city streets. We were thrilled with pictures of special Jewish ritual occasions, including bar mitzvahs, graduations, and weddings.

We explored how, in these uneasy years, Jews were pictured in the mind of Michigan and America. This was a confusing period, where positive and negative views of the



The Marx brothers (from top), Chico, Harpo, Groucho, and Zeppo, achieved great prominence in Hollywood. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.

Jews coexisted in open, uneasy relationships. Philo-Semitism and anti-Semitism affected the lives of Michigan Jewry in complicated ways. On one hand, there was clearly growing acceptance of Jews. After all, the major slugging star for the hometown Detroit Tigers was a Jewish baseball player, “Hammering” Hank Greenberg, the American League MVP in 1935 and again in 1940. Greenberg joined mastery of the major American sport with traditional Jewish observance — by insisting on his ability to attend synagogue for the Jewish holy days.<sup>i</sup> Many Jews were prominent in the movies —the Marx brothers, Edward G. Robinson, Sylvia Sydney, and later in the decade, Lauren Bacall and Hedy Lamarr. Jews were part of the spectacle of America in its gilded pleasure palaces. On the other hand, there was at the same time growing hyper-accusation and increasing hostility toward Jews in America, especially focused in the state of Michigan.

## HOMELAND

Michigan’s Jews were concentrated in Detroit, particularly in a large, secondary-area of settlement around Dexter and 12th Street. In 1940, about 81,400 Jews lived in Detroit, comprising five percent of the city’s population. Jews were also spread throughout the state, clustered in smaller numbers in numerous micro-communities in towns that were nearly everywhere. Synagogues dotted the state’s urban landscapes, including cities in the outer parts of the Lower Peninsula and into the Upper Peninsula. Jewish department and clothing stores, like Grossman’s in Muskegon, Gartner’s in Hancock, and Himelhoch’s, Winkelman’s, Siegel’s, and Keidan’s in Detroit seemed to be ubiquitous fixtures of Michigan life throughout the state.<sup>ii</sup>

Yet, during the Depression 1930s, Jewish communities that had been thriving during the decade before now faced increasingly hard times. Jewish prospects were sharply dimmed by the diminished economic activity that spread outward from the closed auto and steel factories in the southeast part of the state, and from the many shut-down supplier operations. Paths of mobility, which narrowed for most young people in the





Considered a Detroit Jewish landmark, Boesky's Delicatessen stood on the corner of 12th Street and Hazelwood.



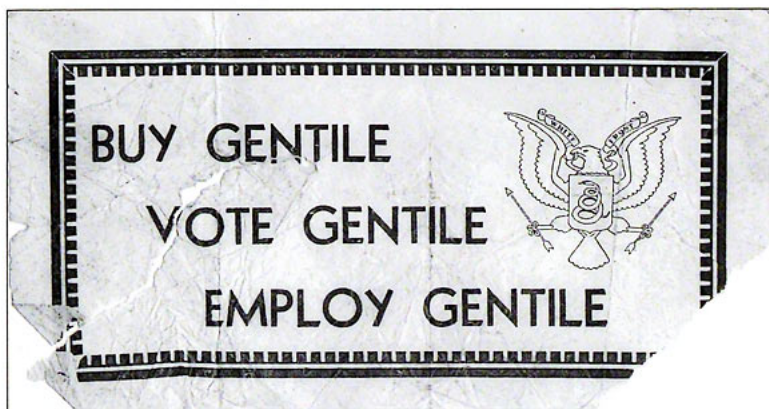
(Left) Gartner's Department Store, Hancock, Michigan. Courtesy of Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collection. (Right) In 1907, Wolf Himelhoch opened the B. Himelhoch store on Woodward in Detroit; it remained a city fixture until it closed in 1979.

state, were especially challenging for the upcoming children of the recent immigrants who could barely find steady work or establish stable footholds. In the early 1930s, records show, that Jewish welfare-spending rose in Detroit and Jewish joblessness became a growing preoccupation of community agencies. Jewish voting habits swung sharply toward the Democratic Party in these years as Jews became firmly integrated in the great New Deal coalition led after 1932 by Franklin Roosevelt in Washington D.C. and by Michigan's governor and former Detroit mayor Frank Murphy, who both believed in activist government to get the economy going again.

Additionally, Jews continued confronting behavior and attitudes that reminded them that they were aliens and strangers toward whom many other Americans felt ambivalence or hostility. Jewish applicants seeking work confronted a blatantly discriminatory labor market. Many jobs were clearly marked for Christians only, with Jews barred from applying. Minutes of the Jewish Community Council in Detroit, which was organized



and began meeting in 1937, showed high pre-occupation by its active members with discriminatory labor market activities carried out by Detroit firms. Hudson's department store openly featured signs regarding employment in sales: "Hebrews Need Not Apply." In fact, this kind of discrimination was one of the reasons that many Jewish men chose to change their names to be less "Jewish" sounding, a trend that rose in the late 1930s and early 1940s. An honors thesis written by Joshua Krut at the University of Michigan in 1995, looking back at the late 1930s in Detroit, characterized Jewish relations with non-Jews in the city as shaped by a "strained tolerance, rather than acceptance."<sup>iii</sup>



*Blatant discrimination was not uncommon in these uneasy years as exemplified by this poster from the late 1930s. Courtesy of The Walter P. Reuther Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University.*

Just as Jews were openly barred from some jobs, so too were they barred from residence and home ownership in Dearborn and Grosse Pointe, to name two metropolitan Detroit communities. A 1958 survey of suburban-Detroit real estate personnel revealed that fifty-six percent still discriminated against Jews in "varying degrees." Many Michigan lake front resorts boastfully advertised that they were free from Hebrew patronage.

### TAKING A STAND

It was also during the later 1930s that progressive elements in Michigan Jewry crucially helped to build up new industrial unionism in the by then reviving mass-production industries – however, not without great conflict or considerable controversy. These were the years of the sit-down strikes in Flint and Lansing and the spread of similar radical labor actions in many towns. In Flint, Jewish retailers extended credit to the sit-downers in an act of local solidarity, Jewish-owned Letson Bakery supplied sit-downers and pickets with free bread and doughnuts; and a Jewish doctor treated strikers who were injured in clashes with the local police.

This was also the time when the Jews became the target of Father Charles Coughlin's malicious false accusations from his pulpit at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak. According to Coughlin, Jews were in cahoots with the New Deal stranglehold on America and were the main spirit behind the rise of alien Communist influence in the



country.<sup>iv</sup> But it wasn't just Coughlin who voiced such ugly vitriol. Jews were the objects of hateful spite and violence from the Black Legion in the mid-1930s, formerly connected with the Ku Klux Klan, and also from the Christian Silvershirts at the decade's end.

It cannot be minimized that Michigan was Father Coughlin's stomping ground during these years. He had a massive following and he regularly mobilized huge crowds at mass meetings that were held at the Michigan State Fair grounds in Detroit. Detroit was also the home of Henry Ford who, in 1938, received one of the highest awards possible from Adolf Hitler and the Nazi German government — the Grand Cross of the German Eagle — and who boldly and openly accepted the award. The bad publicity surrounding his receipt of the award drove Henry Ford to appeal to his neighbor, Reform Rabbi Leo Franklin of Temple Beth El. Ford expressed his profound sympathies for Germany's Jews and argued that his award did not at all mean he supported Nazism or favored anti-Jewish persecution. Ford's case amounted to downright deception, and that truly understates the case. Michigan's Jewish community emphatically boycotted Ford's auto company, steering clear of buying Ford products in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, and well into the 1950s.

All this while, Michigan's Jews watched, with heightening anxiety, the march of Nazism and fascism across the European continent and the growing refugee crisis that was expanding abroad.

### ALLEGED JEWISH SILENCE

There is a canard that says that American Jews, including those in Michigan, did nothing during these years to protest or assist or lend a hand amidst the growing crisis of European Jewry. The view is that Jews were preoccupied with their own narrow interests focused on moving up and ahead in America. Some have charged that, bent totally on assimilating and integrating in America, they were cowed by the rising American anti-Semitism like that represented by Coughlin and were unable or unwilling to act forthrightly or courageously on behalf of their brethren abroad. Further, goes the charge, they did little to aid refugees before the war, and, most important, they did little during the global war to protest or act on behalf of rescue action to save a remnant of Europe's Jews. They were not their brothers' keepers, it is claimed; they failed even to try.

But this charge is and was erroneous. American and Michigan Jews reacted strongly and caringly in response to the rise of Nazism in Europe. American Jews sent money to Europe before the war, and later, when they learned about (what we now call) the Holocaust, they joined in active protest to bring pressure to bear on the Roosevelt administration to engage in rescue action. The opening panel for the "Uneasy Years" exhibit



*Father Charles Coughlin of the Shrine of the Little Flower broadcast a national weekly radio show that he used as an extension of his pulpit.*



states: "Michigan's Jews did not avoid the challenges raised by Nazism and anti-Semitism, but engaged with several issues and took action themselves. Such action ranged from increased aid to Jews facing persecution abroad; to personal efforts to bring refugees to the U.S.; to active support for Roosevelt's call to arms; and extensive participation in the war effort."



*This cartoon, published in Life Magazine, March 6, 1939, captures the anti-Jewish feelings that coincided with distrust of liberalism, labor organizations, Roosevelt's New Deal, and the inclusion of Jews in public life. Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were criticized for being influenced by Jews, and some called Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal a "Jew" Deal. Courtesy Lois and Daniel Fermaglich.*

By the 1930s, Detroit Jewry was well organized as a community. Early in the decade, the Allied Jewish Campaign appeals focused on meeting the growing needs of Jews in Michigan. By the late 1930s, Jewish giving throughout the state focused increasingly on meeting the heightened needs of Jews abroad. From 1932 through 1940, as fundraising shifted from local interests to supporting the rescue and survival of Jews abroad, the Allied Jewish Campaign fundraising goal rose from \$165,000 to \$925,000, an increase of 520 percent; and the share of funds that were being sent abroad increased by decade's end to nearly sixty percent.

The appeals made in these campaigns expressed a broad community consensus. "Their Fate Lies in Your Hands," the 1940 poster said. The accompanying text emphasized the responsibilities of Jews in America to help their brethren abroad. The posters were closely reproduced in the *Detroit Jewish Chronicle*, the major Detroit newspapers, and in numerous congregational bulletins and newsletters. Jews also raised money to build up the Jewish community in Palestine, as Zionist sentiment was especially strong in the state.

All this was before confirmation had been received about the atrocities in Europe. Disturbing news was distributed in late November and early December 1942, after a delegation of Jewish leaders went to the White House and met with President Roos-



*Allied Jewish Campaign posters in 1932 and 1938 show a visible evolution in the theme of Jewish fundraising. The focus on taking care of the needy at home shifts to supporting the rescue and survival of Jews abroad.*





*Jews in Detroit and elsewhere sent aid and clothing to the Polish Jewish ghettos in early 1940. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University.*

evelt about the crisis abroad. Soon after, on December 17, the United Nations issued a declaration that identified the Nazi extermination policy and promised justice when the war was ended. Initially, Jewish leaders who met with the President had sought his reassurance that he cared. They asked him for words acknowledging the great injustice that was taking place. Subsequently, when little beyond initial words was forthcoming from the American government, they began demanding more, asking for deeds. A gathering at Detroit's Cass Tech High School on February 28, 1943,

addressed by Mayor Edward Jeffries, was one of the first wartime protest meetings in the country, calling on the Roosevelt administration for rescue action.

A day later, on March 1, a massive gathering at Madison Square Garden in New York, attended by 75,000 people, put forth an agenda of policy actions aimed at rescue. Ultimately, during March and April, there were forty such meetings and gatherings around the country, which took place under the auspices of the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewry. These meetings were the products of local coalition work with liberal and labor elements and called for redoubled efforts in the anti-Nazi war, and also for special efforts aimed at rescue. Unless something additional was done, there would be no Jews left in Europe when the war was won. At the same time, Jewish organizations created an agenda of possible rescue actions – negotiations, immigration aid and rescue havens, and food aid — that they ultimately sent to the Allied nations that were meeting in Bermuda.

But the Roosevelt administration, challenged by the demands of a two-front global war and eager not to make the war into a “Jewish” war, ignored all of these rallies and pressures. The Roosevelt administration was hemmed in by the manner in which it was prosecuting the war. The Allied forces were firmly committed to all-out war and to unconditional victory over the Axis. This state of affairs blocked any diplomatic efforts through intermediaries, like specific Axis allies or the Vatican, to approach Hitler and attempt to negotiate the release of the Jews. The Grand Alliance was also prosecuting the war by enforcing a blockade on sending money, food, or goods to Europe. This embargo blocked any efforts to send money or food to the remnant of Jews still alive in Nazi territory. By spring 1943, when the news became widely known in the community, it was too late to save most European Jews; the largest numbers had already been killed by shootings along and behind the advancing German front in 1941 in Galicia, the Ukraine, and Belarus, and then in massive deportation operations from Slovakia, France, and the populous Nazi ghettos in Poland to the killing camps during the peak year of destruction, 1942.



Internal State Department memoranda at this time referred derisively to the upsurge of public pressure for rescue action in the United States and in Britain, and State Department personnel like Breckinridge Long determined that American diplomacy simply would not respond. Soon after, the designed-to-do-nothing Bermuda conference met and completed its work in secret, and purported to be the administration's effort to save the persecuted in Europe; however, the conference embraced little action and few Jews at all on the continent were saved. After the catastrophe of Bermuda, Jews throughout Michigan began holding memorial meetings in their synagogues, shaped by feelings of helplessness and of mourning.

It is not that Michigan Jews failed to help or to protest. Michigan Jews faced the same challenges that American Jews faced nationally — they were seeking the American dream and they affixed their hopes and aspirations to American freedom and the building of a brand new New Deal America. But they were also Jews with deep feelings for other Jews, as many were still connected by ties of family and also of fraternity and identity with Jews in Europe. They simply could not turn a blind eye or give a cold shoulder. They did what they could, privately and collectively.

In addition to raising money and sending it abroad, many Jews in Michigan, acting independently and privately in the years leading up to the war, had tried to assist family members with visa applications to enter the United States. American immigration laws were restrictive dating back to the 1920s, and were administered with an even greater spirit of restriction. The U.S. government claimed concern that newcomers might become public charges. Even alien children were viewed with suspicion, as they would grow up to be adults and would then compete for limited jobs and introduce more Jews into the national body. Legislation introduced in 1939 to bring 20,000 children to the United States — none of working age, 10,000 annually for two years — was strongly supported by Jewish organizations, including organizations in Michigan, but was unable to get out of committee in the Congress.

In a little-known reality, about one thousand unaccompanied German Jewish refugee adolescents were permitted by the Roosevelt administration to come to the United States under regular immigration quotas. These children were distributed around the country by Jewish social-work agencies, so as not to draw too much attention and also to spread the burden. Some twenty-seven of these youths came to Detroit. Among them were Henry Garfinkel (Garfield) and his brother Arnold (Goldenhaar), who attended Detroit Central High School and served with distinction during the war. Benno



*Benno Levi (left), his sister Ruth, and brother Arnold were among some 1,000 unaccompanied German Jewish refugee adolescents who came to the U.S. under regular immigration quotas.*





*Protest in Detroit, 1938.*

Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University.

Levi was one of these youths as well. After his Detroit Central High School graduation, he served in the army and was honored with Silver and Bronze Stars.<sup>9</sup> Some Jews in Michigan responded quietly to the growing crisis of European Jewry by sponsoring and foster-parenting pioneer refugee youths.

### OPEN PROTEST

The Jewish community began open protests against Nazism in the late 1930s, populating street marches against Hitler, supporting the anti-Nazi boycott led by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee, and in 1939-40, helping to galvanize support for Preparedness and Defense of Democracy in the 1940 election (President Roosevelt's re-election). They were part of the broad liberal coalition that thrilled to Roosevelt's efforts in 1940-41 to prepare a reluctant belligerent for war, with such actions as Lend-Lease aid to the Allies and, when war finally came, they purchased war bonds and volunteered for the war effort by enlisting in the U.S. armed forces. Young Jewish men from Michigan served in the armed forces in numbers that went far beyond their proportion in the population. They were in the army and the marines and the army air corps in large numbers. Young men and boys from Michigan Jewry were involved at Guadalcanal, Guam, and Okinawa; they hit the beaches at Anzio in Italy and in Normandy in France; and a huge number of Jewish youths from Detroit and especially from Detroit Central High School were caught in the terrible Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Many Michigan Jews were in the final march of American forces from the Rhine across Germany and some were present at the liberation of the concentration camps. These young men fought as Americans, and also as Jews, carrying special prayer books and accompanied by their own Jewish chaplains.



Central High School graduates from 1942 and 1943 made up an extraordinarily high proportion of the more than 250 Michigan Jews who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. Among these were basketball star "Little Joe" Bale, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross, and Raymond Zussman, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Both of these men were killed in action.



## THE TEMPLE BULLETIN

Vol. XIV No. 37  
Detroit, Michigan, Thursday, May 16, 1940

### SABBATH EVE SERVICES

Friday, May 17, at 8 o'clock

## "If Hitler Wins"

will be the subject of the sermon by

### RABBI LEON FRAM

With this sermon Rabbi Fram resumes his series on  
The Peace That Shall Follow This War

### MUSIC

by the Temple Choir  
George Galvani, Director and Cantoral Soloist  
Jason Tickton, Organist

### A SOCIAL HOUR

Under the sponsorship of the Temple Sisterhood follows the Services

### FRIDAY NIGHT IS TEMPLE NIGHT

### SABBATH MORNING SERVICES

On Sabbath Mornina, May 18, Dr. Leo M. Franklin will speak on the  
subject: "ON THE HEIGHTS". Services begin at 11 o'clock and last one  
hour.



## The Bulletin of Temple Beth El

Woodward at Gladstone  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DR. B. BENEDICT GLAZER, M. A.; Ph. D., RABBI  
Rabbi Herschel Lyman, B. A.; M. H. L., Minister of Religious Education  
Dr. Leo M. Franklin, D. D.; LL. D., Rabbi Emeritus  
Irving I. Katz, B. A.; B. E. A., Executive Secretary

### SABBATH EVE SERVICES

Friday, December 11, 8:15 o'clock

### DR. GLAZER

will speak on

### JEWES UNDER THE NAZI TERROR

Have we come to the "End of the Beginning" of Jewish suffering  
and degradation in Europe and Africa?

Musical Program  
Julius Chavira, Director  
Jason Tickton, Organist

A Social Hour under  
auspices of Sisterhood  
will follow the Service

\*\*\*

### CHILDREN'S MONTHLY SABBATH MORNING SERVICES

11 to 12 o'clock

Participants: Kenneth Adler, Joan Field, William Rothman

### RABBI LYMON

will preach

### JEWES UNDER THE NAZI TERROR

The first piece of good news that has come to World Jewry since 1933 has  
been the occupation of French North Africa by American troops. Following  
this conquest, President Roosevelt immediately ordered the emancipation of  
North African Jewry from the Nuremberg Laws and the release of Jewish  
prisoners from the slave camps of the Sahara Desert.

In his lecture this Friday night, Dr. Glazer will discuss the implications  
of this and other hopeful manifestations that help relieve to some extent the  
deep mourning that has enshrouded the household of Israel since the Nazis  
have initiated their policy of mass extermination of the Jews of Europe.

Vol. XVII

Thursday, December 10, 1942

No. 15

FRIDAY NIGHT IS TEMPLE NIGHT



## A POSTWAR PERSPECTIVE

Looking back from our perspective of the postwar and more on these uneasy years in Michigan Jewish history, we find ample evidence that Michigan Jews should not feel guilty or shamed, as those who continue to spread the canard and to beat up interpretively on Jews from this era would assume. They had fought mightily against Hitler and the Axis nations in these challenging years; they had mobilized and also fought against the stereotypical claims made by some Michiganders against Jews as equal citizens and as people. They had fought for a vision of America that was inclusive and tolerant, far more liberal than America actually was at this time, and they had fought bitterly and committedly against an enemy abroad that represented the absolute negation of that vision. They had continued to believe in the promise of immigration a generation after Americans had pretty much closed the doors to newcomers; they had also joined with others in Michigan to create a more equal America with new labor rights and civil rights extended to all.

During these years, Michigan Jews had deepened their stake in becoming integrated and included in Michigan and America; and their experiences had promoted and bolstered an outlook of political liberalism and commitment to pluralism, equal opportunity, and what we today call diversity. In the years to follow, Jewish energies and dollars, the liberalism of the community, and the efforts of outstanding Jewish individuals would continue to help promote the making of an improved and more inclusive Michigan and a better America.



**Kenneth Waltzer** is a professor of history in the James Madison College and director of the Jewish Studies Program at Michigan State University. He is co-author of the American Identity Explorer: Immigration and Migration CD-ROM (McMillan, 1997, 2002), has authored numerous scholarly journal articles, including on the history of East European Jewish Detroit, and is currently completing a study tentatively titled "Telling the

Story: The Rescue of Children and Youths at Buchenwald." He recently served as historical consultant in the making of "Kinderblock 66," a film about child rescue at Buchenwald. This article is a revision of his 2012 lecture, sponsored by the Kalamazoo Museum in connection with the showing of the award-winning exhibit, "Uneasy Years: Jews in Michigan During the Depression and War Years."

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Bolkosky, Sidney: *Harmony and Dissonance*, WSU Press, 1991, p. 163-4.

<sup>2</sup>Cantor, Judith Levin: *Jews in Michigan*, MSU Press, 2001, pp. 26, 37, 16.

<sup>3</sup>Krut, J, *Michigan Jewish History*, vol. 36, 1995-96, pp 9-22.

<sup>4</sup>Jewish Community Archives, Reuther Library, Coughlin file: Report of Jewish Community Council.

<sup>5</sup>Michigan Jewish History, Vol. 33, Winter 1992, "Detroit Jews in the Armed Forces: 1941-1945." Matthew Schwartz, pp. 18-21.

# Remarkable JEWISH MUSICIANS & ARTISTS

## MISCHA KOTTLER: DISTINGUISHED MUSICIAN AND MICHIGAN LEGEND

by CYNTHIA KOROLOV

*If ever a name were synonymous with music in the Detroit area, it would arguably be that of Mischa Kottler. Performer, teacher, and broadcaster, Mischa Kottler brought music into the lives and homes of metro Detroiters for much of the twentieth century. He remained a popular soloist well into his nineties.*



**BORN** Mikhail Salyagin in Kiev, Ukraine, around the turn of the century, Mischa began to study piano at the age of five, taught by his maternal uncle, Boris Nakhutin, an instructor at the Kiev School of Music. Young Mischa was accepted into the Kiev Conservatory at age seven, and had already completed a multi-city European performance tour by the time he was ten.



---

In 1913, Mischa, along with his mother, grandmother, and brother, left Kiev for the United States. His father had died, and his mother brought the family to Chicago where she married a man named Kottler. Both Mischa and his brother Joseph took their stepfather's name, and the parents encouraged the boys to continue their music studies. Their stepfather, an avid baseball fan, took the boys to a Cubs game within days of their arrival in Chicago. It was immediate fascination for both boys; but, while Mischa became a life-long Cubs fan and continued with his music, Joseph abandoned music for the game. He eventually became a semi-professional pitcher for a team in Evanston, Illinois. Mischa delightfully recalled that his brother's team once played, and beat, the Cubs.

Through his studies and performances in Chicago, the teenaged Mischa Kottler was introduced to Leopold Auer, a prominent violin teacher and performer whose students included Jascha Heifetz and Efrem Zimbalist. Kottler joined Auer on tours as his accompanist, but Auer felt that Kottler was better suited to concert performances. In 1919, unbeknown to Kottler, Auer arranged for the seventeen-year-old to play for Sergei Rachmaninoff in the New York City hotel where the Russian composer was staying. The young pianist played Rachmaninoff's own Piano Concerto No. 2. Hearing the piece, Rachmaninoff advised Kottler to return to Europe for advanced study, which he did, two years later. Kottler went first to Paris to study with Alfred Cortot and Lazar Levy. When Cortot left for an extended concert tour, Kottler moved on to Vienna to continue his studies.

In the years following World War I, Vienna became Europe's musical jewel. The great musicians of the time came there to perform, and Mischa Kottler immersed himself in the city's musical culture — studying, practicing, and attending concerts. He studied with Paul Weingartner and Emil von Sauer, and through von Sauer, became part of a direct link to Beethoven: Von Sauer had studied with Franz Liszt, Liszt had been a pupil of Carl Czerny, and Czerny had been taught by Beethoven himself.

Vienna gave Mischa Kottler more than just music and culture, though. It was there in 1922 that he met another Kiev-born pianist, Malvina Kudermann. Mischa and "Malinka" were married in Vienna in 1926. In 1929, his studies completed and his reputation as a concert pianist firmly rooted in concert halls throughout Vienna and other European cities, Mischa Kottler returned to the United States with his bride beside him.

### DETROIT BECOMES HOME

The Kottlers' return coincided with the beginning of the Great Depression. Concert piano performances proved not to be a sufficient means of support for the young couple. Kottler picked up work playing in theater orchestras, jazz bands, and cafes, as did many other young musicians of the time. It was through one of these jobs that Kottler met band leader and pianist Jean Goldkette, who encouraged him to come to Detroit. The Kottlers heeded the advice and discovered a city rich in music. Mischa and Malinka made Detroit their home. They ultimately purchased a home at 853 West Chicago Boulevard, in the Boston-Edison district of Detroit, where they lived from the 1940s to the 1960s.



In the spring of the following year, Goldkette was preparing to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Kottler was coaching and advising him. During this time Kottler met DSO conductor Ossip Gabrilowitsch who offered Kottler an audition. Curious to hear what the young violinist had to offer, Gabrilowitsch requested Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto. The piece was unknown to Kottler but he performed anyway and Gabrilowitsch liked what he heard. Kottler made his debut with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on January 30, 1932, in an all-Tchaikovsky program conducted by Victor Kolar. He learned to play and performed the Piano Concerto No. 1. Kottler was very nervous and claimed not to have played very well, but this performance with the DSO led to contacts that would take him in a slightly different musical direction.



*Mischa Kottler in 1935, a few years after arriving in Detroit and three years after his 1932 Detroit Symphony Orchestra debut.*

Soon after, DSO principal violist Valbert Coffey asked Kottler to join him at Detroit radio station WWJ, where Coffey was the music director. The musicians formed a two-piano team called Arno and Woodenodo for radio broadcast performances, until Coffey resigned in 1933 and Kottler was asked to take over as music director. This was the era of live broadcasts and studio orchestras, and Kottler kept busy managing several musical programs every day. In addition to overseeing the studio orchestra, he performed piano solos under the name of George Arno, he directed Spanish-flair music as Don Del Rio, and he performed chamber music under his own name.

Chamber music concerts featuring prominent Detroit musicians — including several from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra — were broadcast nationwide by NBC. DSO concertmasters Ilya Schkolnik, Josef Gingold,

and Mischa Mischakoff, as well as DSO principal cellist Georges Miquelle, were among those whose performances were heard from coast to coast.

Beginning with the 1959-60 concert season, DSO concerts were recorded for re-broadcast on WWJ ten days after the concert. Starting the following season, they were rebroadcast the Sunday following the concert. Kottler was still WWJ's music director at this time, and he oversaw the broadcast of these recorded concerts as well as the live radio performances. Kottler continued as WWJ's music director until 1967, but even after his retirement he continued to handle the DSO concert broadcasts until they were dropped from programming at the conclusion of the 1975-76 concert season.


In addition to his WWJ post, in 1952 Kottler joined the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as assistant principal pianist. He became principal pianist at the beginning of the 1952-53 concert season and he held this position until the end of the 1969-70 season. Besides playing all piano parts in the DSO's orchestral music, he also performed solos on eighteen different occasions including summer concerts at Meadow Brook Music Festi-



val in Rochester Hills, family concerts, and classical subscription concerts. He performed his favorite piece, the Tchaikovsky "Piano Concerto No. 1" (his 1952 DSO debut piece) two additional times. There were also solos of piano concerti by Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, as well as Beethoven's "Triple Concerto," and sonatas by DSO music director Paul Paray. Six of these eighteen solo performances were presented after Kottler resigned his post as principal pianist in 1970. In January 1988, for his final DSO performance, an eighty-five-year-old Kottler gave his second-ever performance in Detroit's Orchestra Hall. He played Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2." At that time, Orchestra Hall's massive restoration project was nearly completed.

### POPULAR SOLOIST

Beyond the DSO and his broadcasting career, Mischa Kottler led an active performing life. He concertized extensively both locally and abroad and performed regularly at the Jewish Community Center. During the 1950s and 1960s, he was a frequent soloist with the Center Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Julius Chajes. In 1974, he performed with the Center Symphony Orchestra for a concert in honor of Israel's In-

Sixth Concert	29th Season
<i>The Jewish Community Center</i>	
presents	
<i>The Center Symphony Orchestra</i>	
JULIUS CHAJES, Conductor	
Soloist: MISCHA KOTTLER, Pianist	
	
Tuesday May 13, 1969 8:30 p.m. Aaron DeRoy Auditorium	
M. Kottler	
PROGRAM	
Prelude, Passacaglia and Fugue .....	Kauder
for Strings in D	
Symphony No. 40 in G Minor .....	Mozart
Allegro molto	
Andante	
Menuetto: Allegretto	
Allegro assai	
Intermission	
Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor .....	Chopin
Allegro maestoso	
Romanze: Larghetto	
Rondo: Vivace	
Steinway Piano	
Tickets: \$2.50	Center Members: \$2.00

5th Concert	34th Season
<i>The Jewish Community Center</i>	
presents	
<i>The</i>	
<i>Center Symphony Orchestra</i>	
JULIUS CHAJES, Conductor	
Soloist: MISCHA KOTTLER, Pianist	
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1974 • 3:30 P.M. Aaron DeRoy Theatre	
PROGRAM	
<i>In Honor of Israel's Independence Day</i>	
Star Spangled Banner	
Hatikvah - - - -	arr. Julius Chajes
Fanfare to Israel - - - -	Ben Haim
Symphony No. 3, Op. 55 (Eroica) -	Beethoven
Allegro con brio - Adagio assai	
Scherzo - Allegro vivace - Finale: Allegro molto	
— INTERMISSION —	
Piano Concerto No. 5, Op. 73	
(The Emperor) - - - -	Beethoven
Allegro - Adagio unpoco mosso - Rondo	
Steinway Piano	
Admission: \$2.50	Members: \$2.00    Students: \$1.00





*Mischa Kottler performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 1968.*

dependence Day. In 1962, he performed in a concert that both celebrated Congregation Shaarey Zedek's centennial and observed National Jewish Music Month. The concert featured music by Jewish composers, with pieces by Bernstein, Bloch, and Mendelssohn. Kottler was the soloist on Bloch's "Concerto Grosso," and Detroit native Joseph Silverstein was the soloist for the Mendelssohn "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra." The concert, held at Detroit's Ford Auditorium, also included members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

His busy solo-performance schedule included concerts for the Cranbrook Music Guild and the Capuchin Charity Guild. He gave concerts with the Women's Symphony Orchestra and the Wayne State University Orchestra, along with myriad solo recital concerts and duo recital concerts with DSO principal cellist Georges Miquelle. Kottler remained a popular soloist well into his nineties.

In all his years of performing and touring, Kottler never had the chance to revisit Vienna. It would have been too painful for Malinka, who had lost most of her family in the camps during World War II. Eventually, in 1989, when the DSO played its first-ever concert in Vienna, Kottler went to the city that was once his home. He heard his orchestra perform, but the experience was bittersweet because "his Malinka," who had passed away in the early 1980s, could not be there with him. Kottler found Vienna much the same in some respects, but quite different in others. He easily located places he had frequented in the 1920s, and found the music-based culture of the city to be the same. Yet, perhaps because it was the depth of winter, he found the city to be a bit depressing. After enjoying the DSO performance, Kottler flew home to Detroit, to his work and his students.

### BELOVED TEACHER

As an adjunct professor at Wayne State University in Detroit from 1967 through 1973, Kottler taught piano to both undergraduate and graduate students. He enjoyed



teaching and was a popular professor, but was said to be a demanding instructor. He helped shape the musical careers of hundreds of students, often working from a music studio in his home, inspiring his students to love the instrument as much as he did.

Although he did not encourage concert careers for his students, because of the grueling travel schedule and resultant lack of home-life, several went on to perform professionally and some won prestigious awards. Ruth Meckler Laredo and Seymour Lipkin have had decades-long careers as concert pianists and have performed with the DSO on several occasions. Laredo is a three-time Grammy nominee, and Lipkin won the Rachmaninoff competition. Cynthia Raim was in elementary school when she first performed with the DSO in 1962. She continues to play and record professionally and is a Clara Haskil Award winner.

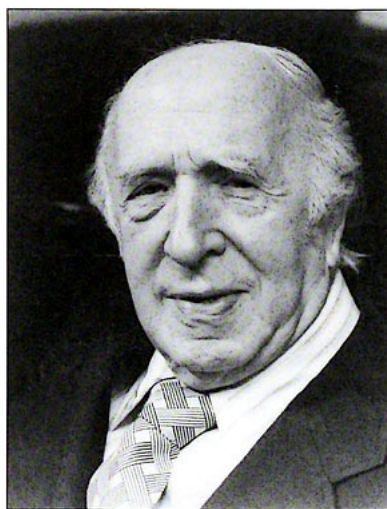
While not all his students chose music careers, many did and became music teachers, composers, and conductors. Wherever their careers took them, Kottler recalled them fondly, and his music studio was adorned with pictures of his former pupils.

A six-decade career in music does not go unnoticed by the community. Kottler was given the Distinguished Faculty Service Award by the Wayne State Board of Governors in 1976 and received the Michigan Arts Award as an art patron in 1979. The Steinway Society of Michigan presented Kottler with its Lifetime Achievement award in 1992. A charter member of the Pro Musica Society of Detroit, Kottler continued to influence the musical character of the region. When the society celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in tandem with Kottler's eighty-fifth birthday, the celebration included a recital by Kottler at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Mischa Kottler's life ended in June 1994, fourteen years after he had lost his beloved Malinka.

Mischa Kottler spent his life immersed in music – playing, broadcasting, and teaching—and in doing so he brought music into the hearts and lives of the people who heard him, worked with him, or studied with him. Those who heard Kottler will remember the quiet man with the mighty power to inspire his fans to lose themselves in the beauty of his music.

– Photos courtesy of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Archives.



Mischa Kottler



**Cynthia Korolov** holds a bachelor of arts with honors in history and a master of arts in history with a certificate in archival administration, both from Wayne State University. She is assisting Detroit Symphony Orchestra Historian Paul Ganson with research for his forthcoming book on the long and rich history of the DSO. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and has worked in the archival profession for nineteen years.

# Remarkable JEWISH MUSICIANS & ARTISTS

## HANNA STIEBEL: AT HOME IN HER ART

by MARILYN KRAINEN

*This is the story of Hanna Stiebel, the extraordinarily gifted Israeli artist who came to Michigan to study sculpture at the prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills and ultimately gained acclaim and admiration for the grand, soaring outdoor sculptures she created — many of which grace beautiful public landscapes within and beyond Michigan.*

While most biographies of the late sculptor Hanna Stiebel (nee Nosovsky) reference her birthplace as Israel, she was actually born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1923 and came with her family to Israel when she was two years old. In mind, spirit, and heart, Stiebel thought of herself as a born-and-bred Israeli, even proclaiming Israel as her birthplace. Throughout her life, even as her passion to continually pursue and refine her artistic

techniques took her to other lands, she felt a strong spiritual pull toward her homeland Israel. But it was in Michigan, at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, where she found her true artistic home.

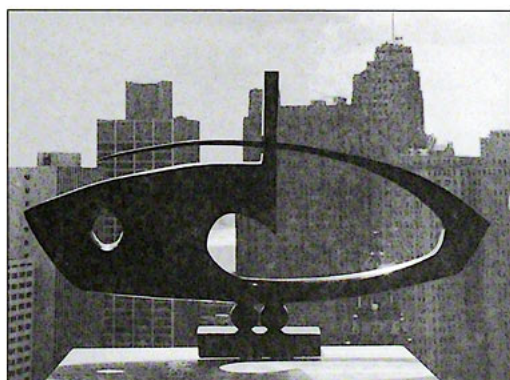
Young Hanna was blessed with a keen intellect and a multitude of gifts — creative, musical, scientific — all blended with a strong sense of self-awareness and determination. In physical appearance she was diminutive and delicate, which belied her strength and physicality. She had a dancer's grace; she studied music and dance — art forms that were available to her and culturally accepted in Israel.

All the while, she was aware of another aspect of her nature: her fascination with science, mathematics, and physics. When she danced she could feel — and analyze — these elements at work within her rhythmic dance movements and postures. Because of this awareness, she was drawn to the study of sculpture, an art form she believed would allow her to synthesize

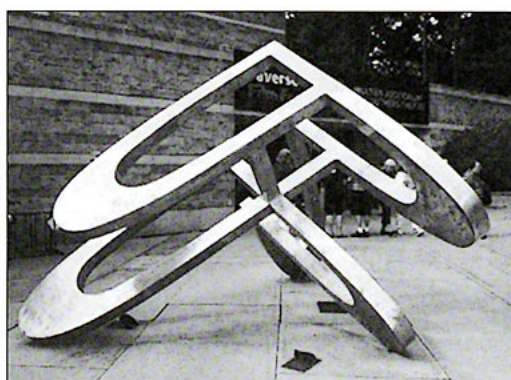


"Tuning Fork," with sculptor Hanna Stiebel at Interlochen Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan. Date unknown.





*Some of Stiebel's smaller works include this sculpture sitting in a window, overlooking the Detroit skyline, in the offices of Blue Cross Blue Shield (work name and date unknown).*



*"Equilibrium." Polished aluminum, 1991. Dennon Museum Center, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, Michigan. Permanent part of Dennon's art collection.*

music, movement, and physics into a permanent work of art.

At the time, however, the political and cultural climate in Israel was not conducive to accepting of sculpture as an art discipline. The aspiring artist recognized that sculpture was "...a luxury in the face of war" and sublimated her artistic aspirations. She taught physical education, choir music, and dancing in Tel Aviv, and earned an undergraduate degree from Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she studied physics, mathematics, and chemistry. In the early 1940s she married Ariel Stiebel, an electronics engineer who shared his wife's love of music, art, and science. The couple had two children, Michelle and Alexander.

In the 1950s, Stiebel came to New York to study dancing, becoming a member of Martha Graham's dance troupe. It wasn't long before Graham recognized the repressed sculptor trying to break through the dancer's form. She encouraged Stiebel to study sculpture at the New School for Social Research in New York — a prestigious interdisciplinary educational institution that would allow Stiebel to merge her interests in both science and sculpture. "It is true," Stiebel said in an interview, "that I always had to feel the dance structurally and it took Miss Graham's keen eye to realize what I was doing every time I froze in a position to figure out what was happening relating to balance and shape. I felt this movement should stay forever and only in sculpture can you capture movement in a static position." Grateful for Graham's encouragement, Stiebel spent a year at the New School, studying with sculptor Manolo Pasqual.

During this time, Ariel and their two young children came to visit from Ramat Hasharon, their home in Israel. Stiebel's daughter, Michelle Stephens of Bloomfield Hills, recounts that over the ensuing years the family made several such back-and-forth visits before ultimately making the decision to settle in Michigan.

## CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART

When Stiebel's introduction to sculpting spurred her to learn more, she enrolled in the Cranbrook Academy of Art, earning a bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1962 and her master's degree in fine arts in 1963. In the summer of 1963, Stiebel traveled to Florence,



Italy, to learn the techniques of bronze casting. She greatly benefited from working in a foundry environment and discovered that she loved the challenges of working with metal — an affinity that would, over the years, become her passion and her signature. She created five sculptures while in Italy. They were all shipped to Cranbrook for her pre-graduation sculpture show. Of these sculptures she said, "I did all my own casting. If you know everything that happens to your work, you understand the spirit of it better."

She later enrolled in post-graduate studies at Wayne State University, in what was then the Society of Arts and Crafts — now CCS, College for Creative Studies. Before and after her Cranbrook years, Stiebel held several positions involving teaching and music. Shortly after she first came to Michigan, she was music director for the United Hebrew Schools and also led a traveling folk-dance group at Wayne State University. From the late 1960s through the early '70s, Stiebel taught art classes at Roeper City and Country School in Bloomfield Hills and served as director of Roeper's art department for two years. Eventually, as sculpting consumed more and more of her energy and emotion, she found she needed to relinquish her other activities so that she could conserve and channel her creativity.

For three decades, beginning with her debut in the 1960s, Hanna Stiebel's career and reputation as a sculptor flourished and she received many public and private commissions. She became known for her grand-scale metal outdoor sculptures, done primarily in bronze and aluminum, and all created for the precise environment that would become their home. "I work with metals," she said, "because I like the idea of starting with nothing. Metal doesn't have the limitations of stone or wood.... Before I begin to work with



*Hanna and Ariel Stiebel celebrate the 1981 unveiling of one of Stiebel's most notable works, "Rhythms and Vibrations," on the grounds of Oakland University/ Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester, Michigan.*



*"Hard-edge, Soft-edge." Installed in Harmonie Park, downtown Detroit, 1973.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELLE STEPHENS



a new metal, I study it intensely. Each metal has a life of its own. I like to create a rapport with it. I like to know how it behaves."

For years she created her art amid a colony of other artists, many of them Jewish, in the once-vibrant and eclectic environment that was Pontiac. Leaders of gallery tours often made arrangements to bring groups of students to Stiebel's studio to watch her work and to listen to the stories behind the sculptures she created. (She later worked in another studio in Auburn Hills.) The petite, articulate woman never failed to leave an indelible impression on her visitors as she moved gracefully about her workspace — which had the unlovely ambience of a garage, replete with all manner of drills and welding and grinding equipment.

"They were a wonderful couple," said Michelle Stephens about her parents. Like his wife, Ariel Stiebel had many artistic facets. Besides being an engineer and scientist, he also played the piano and was devoted to his wife's artistic strivings. Stephens recalls that her father often accompanied Stiebel on the piano as she taught vocal music and dance. He also used his engineering skills to secure a brass ball that kept disappearing from a commissioned sculpture at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. The couple led a rich social and cultural life together; their friends included members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and other musicians and artists affiliated with Meadow Brook.

At the time of Hanna Stiebel's death in 2005, the Stiebel family all lived in the same subdivision in Bloomfield Hills. Ariel donated one of her sculptures (a personal favorite of Michelle's) to St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac. Ariel died in 2010. Stephens currently is preparing a presentation for the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on her mother's life and art.

### SOURCES CITED

- Curriculum vitae* of Hanna Stiebel excerpted from book "Contemporary American Women Sculptors"; Virginia Watson-Jones, Oryx Press, Phoenix, 1986.
- Newspaper articles and photos from the Cranbrook Academy of Art Library, dating from 1963, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
- O&E Newspapers, July 17, 1986. "Many skills coalesce in Stiebel's art." By Corinne Abatt.
- Eccentric Newspapers, May 18, 1972. "Dancer turns to sculpture (her first love and luxury)." Patricia Beach Smith.
- The *Michigan Woman Magazine*. Profile of Hanna Stiebel. July/August 1986.
- The President's Club Newsletter, Oakland University Foundation; Vol. 9, No. 2 Summer 1981.
- Courtesy of Jacqueline A. Leow, Assistant to the Director, Registrar; Oakland University Art Gallery (formerly the Meadow Brook Art Gallery), Rochester, Michigan.

### WEB LINKS

- Meadow Brook Invitational. <http://library.oakland.edu/information/departments/archives/art/invitational.pdf>
- Dennos Museum Center: Stiebel Outdoor sculpture "Equilibrium."  
<http://www.dennosmuseum.org/exhibitions/outdoor/equilibrium>

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Thank you to the following for their assistance: Robbie Terman, Archivist, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Jacqueline A. Leow, Assistant to the Director and Registrar, Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester, Michigan; and Michelle Stephens, daughter of Hanna Stiebel.*

# ARCHIVED TREASURES

2013

## PRESERVATION DETROIT LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

PRESERVATION Detroit, the city's oldest and largest historic preservation organization, was founded in 1975 as a Wayne State University student organization. As the organization grew, it became active in working on local, state, and national historic designations. In the process, Preservation Detroit staff and volunteers researched the stories of Detroit's neighborhoods, buildings, and architects and developed a small but rich collection. Over the subsequent decades, materials have been added reflecting the focus of the group's activities, whether for tour preparation, advocacy in support of specific structures or communities, or educational workshops.

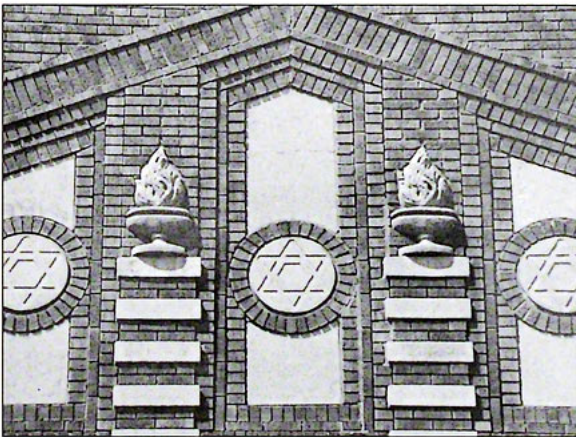
The library contains several hundred books, ranging from broad preservation-related primers to a deep collection of local history and authors, particularly in automotive history. The archives, while only one hundred cubic feet, contain subject files that provide ready access to the architects, buildings, and neighborhoods that uniquely define Detroit. Materials include newspaper clippings, original Preservation Detroit researcher reports, slides, photographs, ephemera, and more than fifty blueprints and architectural drawings.

The most notable files related to local Jewish history include those on architects Albert Kahn and Charles Agree, and extensive files on the history and development of the East Ferry Avenue Historic District. The area north of Forest Avenue, including Ferry Avenue, became a vital center of Detroit's Jewish Community from about 1915 through the early 1940s.

Among the various Jewish institutions found here during that time were the B'nai Israel and Mogen Abraham synagogues, the United Hebrew Schools Kirby Center, and the B'nai B'rith Community House. Rabbi Judah L. Levin of Shaarey Zedek lived on Ferry Street, and the Young Israel movement in Detroit had its roots in this neighborhood.

# ARCHIVED TREASURES





### KIRBY CENTER

Architectural detail, United Hebrew Schools Kirby Center. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation recently announced a one-million-dollar loan for the conversion of this historic building into lofts. The United Hebrew Schools Kirby Center, opened in 1923 at Kirby and St. Antoine, held meetings, dances, concerts, elections, and seminars in its classrooms, library, and auditorium. Studies included Hebrew language and literature and Talmud classes.



### SLIDE COLLECTION

Slides from Preservation Detroit's collection documenting B'nai Israel, Beth Abraham, Mogen Abraham, and United Hebrew Schools.

### UNITED HEBREW SCHOOLS

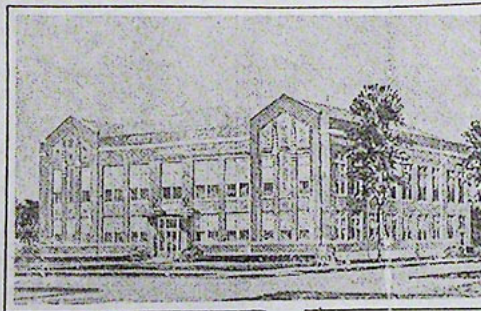
Copy of newspaper clipping from the *Detroit Jewish Chronicle*, 1924; article about addition to United Hebrew Schools.

## DETROIT JEWISH CHRONICLE

THE ONLY JEWISH NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN MICHIGAN

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1924

NEWEST ADDITION TO UNITED HEBREW SCHOOLS AND THREE OTHER BUILDINGS COMPRISING DETROIT'S JEWISH EDUCATIONAL CIRCUIT

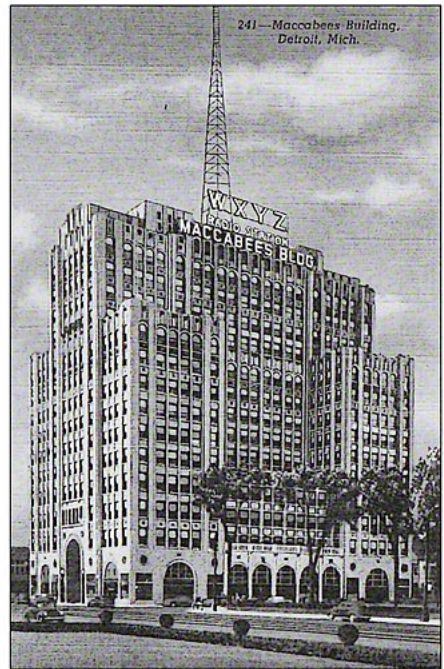






### FERRY SEED COMPANY

Ferry Seed Company Catalog from the 1940s. The East Ferry Street neighborhood was developed from land that was originally the Ferry Seed Company. In 1886, D.M. Ferry subdivided the street to house Detroit's industrial titans. The first Jewish residents took root around 1914 and by the 1920s most of the homes were Jewish owned or occupied. A decade later, most had moved from the area.



### MACCABEES BUILDING

Postcard of Maccabees Building, 5057 Woodward Avenue, Albert Kahn, architect. Built in 1927 for the Knights of the Maccabees, founders of an insurance company, it has served as headquarters of radio and TV station WXYZ, Detroit's public radio station WDET, and Detroit Public Schools. It's now owned by Wayne State University.



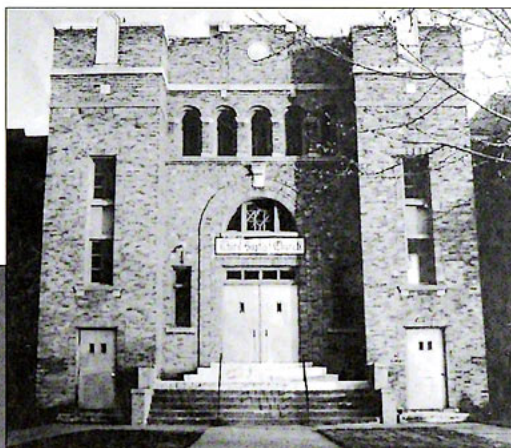
### S.S. KRESGE HEADQUARTERS

S.S. Kresge Headquarters on Cass Park, 1928. This was the second headquarters building Albert Kahn designed for Kresge. The first, on Grand Circus Park, is now known as the Kales Building and dates from 1912. This building, with room for 1,200 workers, shows heavy art deco influences melded with more classical ornamentation. *The Lone Ranger* radio show originated from this building. See related article, page 77.



**B'NAI ISRAEL**

Moses' tablets adorn the cornices of the old B'nai Israel building. The congregation remained in this Ferry Street location for around a decade, leaving in 1933. This is the building as it stood in the 1990s, owned by Third Baptist Church.



**ALBERT KAHN  
ARCHITECTURE**  
Albert Kahn designed the William Livingstone Lighthouse on Belle Isle in 1929, the only marble lighthouse in the country.

ARCHIVED  
TREASURES



# CELEBRITIES & *Celebrations*

## JUDITH LEVIN CANTOR IS INDUCTED INTO THE MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

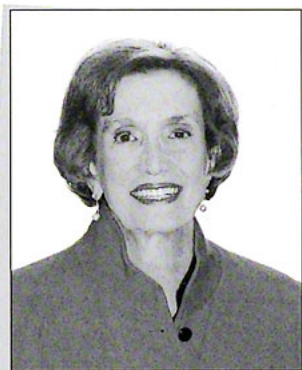
**In** October 2013, JHSM's friend, former president, and endowment chair, Judith Levin Cantor, will join the ranks of Florine Mark, Aretha Franklin, Millie Jeffrey, Betty Ford, and Gilda Radner when she is inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing.

Cantor is considered the guardian of history for Michigan's Jewish community. Her induction into the Hall of Fame recognizes her vigilance as a historian, author, teacher, and archivist in fostering the gathering and telling of our history. For more than three decades, Cantor has been one of the strongest motivating forces behind the growth of the JHSM. Before her current role as the endowment chair, Cantor served as JHSM president and as editor of this Journal, *Michigan Jewish History*. "Sometime in 1989," recalled Cantor, "Leonard Simon said he would edit the thirtieth edition of MJH with my help, if I would take over for Volume 31." She did and remained editor until 1999, at which time Aimee Ergas assumed the role. Even today, Cantor remains an active member of the Journal editorial committee, often editing articles, submitting story ideas, and sharing thoughts on publication improvements.

One of Cantor's proudest achievements was her role as co-curator of the Michigan panel of "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America," the blockbuster JHSM exhibit held at the Detroit Historical Museum in 2009. She also helped create JHSM's award-winning Youth Tour program and remains a lookout for updated tour, event and program ideas. She is, at age eighty-five, as active today as she was when she first began working with the organization.

Sharing Michigan's history – particularly its Jewish history – is at Judy's very core. She is the author of "Jews in Michigan," published by MSU Press and recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan as one of the best Michigan history books of the year. Judy has served on committees and boards of the Detroit Historical Society, Preservation Wayne, the Historical Society of Michigan, and the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame. She has been the archivist for Southfield's Congregation Shaarey Zedek for many years and has been a key contributor to several historic anniversary celebrations there. In everything she does, Judy seeks to ensure that the history of our community is taught not only to Jewish young people, but to all students and





*Judith Levin Cantor*

adults throughout the state. She recognizes that a positive awareness of the Jewish contributions to our state can convey valuable lessons to people of all denominations and backgrounds.

Cantor will join several other important Jewish women who are part of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, located at the Michigan Women's Museum in Lansing. Among them are Ida Lippman, considered a pioneering advocate in criminal justice, who used her influence to help other women retain their rights; Edna Ferber, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and playwright with a penchant for developing strong, successful female characters; and Lana Pollack, who began her political career as a school-board member and became a state senator — the only woman senator for most of the 1980s — and a respected environmental advocate.

This isn't Judy's first honor. She has been lauded by the American Jewish Historical Society (Medal of Honor, 2009); American Jewish Committee (Cyrus Adler Award, jointly with her husband Bernard, 2002); the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan (Leonard N. Simons History Award, 1998); and the State of Michigan (First Lady of Michigan Award, 1987).

Cantor's tireless energy and selfless passion inspire others to volunteer, to support historical projects, and to gain further education and important credentials in the history and archival fields. It is widely agreed that Judy is the embodiment of our "historical memory," our respected link with other ethnic and secular communities, and the resource person for so many facts, stories, and interpretations of our history within Michigan and the United States.

In addition to **Judy Cantor**, other 2013 inductees to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame are: **Elizabeth W. Bauer** of Birmingham, for her advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities; **Paula Diane Cunningham** of Lansing, the first female president of Lansing Community College; **Joan Jackson Johnson** of Lansing, an advocate for the poor, homeless, and mentally ill through her position as the director of Human Relations and Community Services for the City of Lansing; **Gladys Holdeman McKenney** of Rochester, a women's rights advocate and educator; **Marina von Neumann Whitman** of Ann Arbor, the highest-ranking female auto executive in 1985 and the first woman on the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Also being honored are **The Con-Con Eleven**, the eleven women of the 147 delegates at the 1961-1962 Michigan Constitutional Convention, the only time women participated in the writing of Michigan's constitution; **Elizabeth "Bessie" Eaglesfield** (1853-1940) of Benton Harbor, who was Grand Rapids' first practicing female attorney and one of the first female steamship captains on Lake Michigan; and **Harriet Quimby** (1875-1912) of Arcadia, the first woman to become a licensed pilot — and, in 1912, the first woman to fly across the English Channel.



## A RABBI REFLECTS ON A YEAR OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

**Thirteen** years ago, my wife and I moved to Grand Rapids from Broward County, Florida. We transplanted ourselves from one of the most densely populated Jewish communities in the nation to a city with only several thousand Jews. As I interviewed for the position of rabbi of Temple Emanuel, committee members briefed me on this city's deep Reformed Christian roots. I was advised that this city by the river was particularly conservative; and, although our congregation was founded in 1857 and is the fifth oldest Reform congregation in America, many Grand Rapidianians had never before met a Jew.

I eagerly accepted the challenge. I'm a third generation Yankee from southern New Hampshire, and the community in which I grew up was not exactly diverse. With the exception of a handful of Jewish students and one African-American student, the schools I attended were completely white and Christian. I understood exactly what it felt like to live in a place where the synagogue was the primary center for Jewish activity.

Temple Emanuel has a long history of reaching out to churches and schools in the community, and inviting them to come for tours and Shabbat services. The idea had always been to demystify what we did at our congregation and to extend a hand of friendship to those who might never otherwise have the chance to meet other Jews. As rabbi, I became a frequent guest at area schools, speaking to middle-school, high-school and college students about Judaism. I began getting requests from teachers and professors to host their students at temple; and so, over the years, with the help of other dedicated volunteers from our congregation, thousands of students from communities in and around Grand Rapids found their way to our congregation. To this day, when we open the building to interested churches for scheduled tour nights, far more guests fill our seats than do our own members.

As a congregation, we strive to make our guests feel welcome and we are rewarded with inquiries as to what other events these community members could attend. We began holding Passover *seders* for members of the non-Jewish community, teaching them how we celebrate the holiday and filling our sanctuary and social space to capacity

### Year of Interfaith Understanding

We are blessed in west Michigan to enjoy the visionary work of Sylvia and Dick Kaufman, founders of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University. The work of the institute is to foster education, conversation, and acceptance among members of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities. Once every three years a daylong conference is held featuring a scholar from each faith. Diane and Brent Slay, after attending the 2006 program, decided to convene a group of fifty persons from all religious traditions at their home for further discussion. Author and former Catholic priest James Carroll was not only the guest of honor, but the impetus for some heartfelt discussions among participants.

This event prompted six couples — my wife Susan and me, another Jewish couple,



two Christian couples, and two Muslim couples — to begin a bimonthly dinner and dialogue program that continues until this day. Our goals were simple. We wanted to learn about each other's faiths, to explore our religious differences, and to better understand each other in the comfort of each other's homes. Although those goals have largely been met, we continue to meet and share meals together, always choosing a topic of discussion that helps us see the perspective of someone else. Some evenings have been contentious, but the friendships fostered have been worth a few of the more uncomfortable moments.

In the summer of 2011, I was delighted to be asked by Grand Valley State University to serve on the steering committee for a remarkable idea: a "Year of Interfaith Understanding" for 2012. As the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approached, our goal was to figure out how people in our growing, ever-more-diverse population might learn from and better understand each other. With members of every religious tradition in our city seated around the table, the steering committee argued back and forth about how we should go about educating each other. With a generous donation from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, religious institutions, community theaters, museums, and universities were invited to apply for grants to hold educational programs. Groups and institutions that received grants were forbidden from proselytizing. The idea was for each of us to teach and to extend hands of friendship and fellowship to others.

Mayor George Heartwell kicked off the Year of Interfaith Understanding on January 5, 2012, and our city offered hundreds of events of all sizes for interested persons. Temple Emanuel held a free community concert featuring the contemporary San Diego group "Soul Aviv," along with one of our annual outreach seders. As rabbi, I was a frequent guest on the lecture circuit, speaking at numerous venues. A highlight of the year was a special public-television segment about what we were doing in Grand Rapids. All the interviews were taped at Temple Emanuel. In all, we estimate that some 30,000 people from the greater Grand Rapids area attended some event related to our special year in our city. Wow!

As a result of the Year of Interfaith Understanding, I have had the pleasure of befriending persons whom I otherwise never would have met. I am very proud of what our city did in 2012, and I am very proud that our congregation was a part of it. Far more work certainly needs to be done to break down the barriers that separate all of us, but here in Grand Rapids we are well on our way.

The Mishnah tells us that it is not our job to complete the task, but that we have an obligation to do something while we are here. We here in River City, on the west side of Michigan, have taken these words to heart. We have done many somethings that have brought diverse populations together. I hope that this is just the beginning, and I also hope that many other communities will find the inspiration to do the same.

*Rabbi Michael Schadick is the rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids.*

## THE LASTING EFFECT OF THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN HAMTRAMCK

**For** most of the twentieth century, living in Hamtramck was synonymous with being Polish—and Catholic.

Hamtramck is a small enclave, a mere 2.1 square miles, completely surrounded by the city of Detroit. From a dusty farming village of 3,500 people in 1910 it grew to a major industrial city of 56,000 by 1930. The phenomenal growth—a rate of fifty times the national average, according to a special 1915 U.S. census—was fueled by immigrants who came to the Dodge Main auto plant, which would become one of the largest factories in the world.

Almost all these immigrants were Poles, and they imprinted the city with their culture, religion, and the lasting impression that Hamtramck was an extension of Poland. But Hamtramck was never all Polish or Catholic. At its peak, about 83 percent of the residents were Poles. The rest were Ukrainians, African-Americans, Russians, Egyptians, and others; but they were largely overshadowed by the Poles, and so were the Jews.

There are no figures available on the number of Jewish residents in Hamtramck, but Jews played a vital role in the creation of modern Hamtramck. The story of Hamtramck's Jewish population goes back to, at least, the middle of the nineteenth century, when the Beth Olem Cemetery was established. Covering just a half acre, it is Hamtramck's only cemetery. Appropriately, Beth Olem Cemetery is now tied to the city's automotive past through its location on the grounds of the General Motors Hamtramck-Detroit Assembly Plant. The cemetery is open to the public only two days each year, during the Jewish high holidays.

By the early twentieth century there was one synagogue in Hamtramck, on the city's South End. Shortly afterward, almost mysteriously, Hamtramck's Jewish residential population vanished. The city's 1947 yearbook, printed to commemorate Hamtramck's twenty-fifth anniversary as a city (previously it had been a township and a village), makes reference to the "exodus" of 1925, but gives no reason for the population shift.

Yet the Jews never really left Hamtramck. Long after they moved their homes, many continued to own and operate stores and businesses in the city, mostly along Jos. Campau, the city's main shopping strip. By the 1940s, Jos. Campau was one of the most popular shopping districts in southeast Michigan, second only to downtown Detroit.

Hamtramck's Jewish business people were an integral part of the community. They included folks like Dave Stober, who owned Dave Stober Clothes; Ira Brawer, who owned Brawer's Five and Dime; Dr. Rosensweet and Dr. Goldberg, who were optometrists; and Jack Iden and Irv Fink, who owned the Pure Food food markets. These men became local legends, not only because of their business acumen, but also for their dedication to the community.

For example, Max Rosenbaum, who owned the iconic Max's Jewelry, donated funds to send poor Hamtramck kids to summer camp. During World War II, he singled out soldiers for recognition in *The Hamtramck Citizen* newspaper and he gave war bonds to



his employees. Dave Stober served the community in several capacities, including as a member of the local Rotary Club.

Though they no longer live in Hamtramck, many Jewish store owners have maintained their connection, even after most of the businesses have changed hands. In an astounding show of generosity and community spirit, two prominent Jewish families (who have asked to remain anonymous) recently donated a superb, two-story building to serve as the new Hamtramck Historical Museum.

The structure, which covers some 7,500 square feet on two floors, once housed Wisper and Schwartz, Hamtramck's first department store. In later years it served as a furniture establishment, as a barber school, and most recently as a dollar store. Operated by the Friends of Historical Hamtramck, the 501-c-3 fundraising arm of the Hamtramck Historical Commission, the museum is slated to open this year.

Hamtramck today is one of the most diverse cities in Michigan. Its current population of about 24,000 includes fewer than fifteen percent of Polish descent. Bangladeshis, Arabs, and persons from dozens of countries around the world now call Hamtramck home. A great challenge of the new museum will be to connect with this diverse population and demonstrate that the institution is not exclusively Polish, but belongs to and represents every group that is or ever was a part of the city.

Hamtramck's Jewish population, particularly those store owners, made an indelible mark on the city. They will be remembered in the new museum through displays and commemorations of the wonderful things they did for Hamtramck—and for the fact that without them there would be no new Hamtramck Historical Museum, which, fittingly, is located in the heart of the city's shopping district.

For information visit [www.hamtramckhistory.org](http://www.hamtramckhistory.org) or contact [hamtramckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramckhistory@gmail.com).

- Greg Kowalski is chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission.



*Jos. Campau, in the 1940s. When this photograph was taken, around seventy percent of the avenue's businesses were Jewish owned.*



*Max Rosenbaum poses in 1943 with a group of campers from Hamtramck. He provided the funding for them to attend the program.*



## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT ON WALLENBERG DRAWS LARGE CROWDS

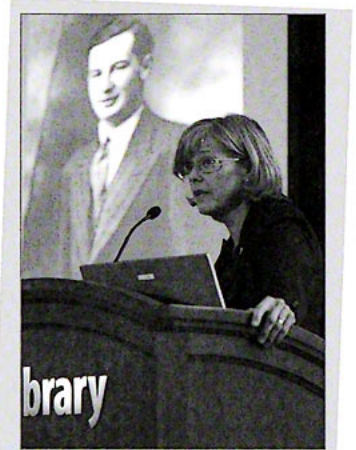
**The** Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was a sponsor of the University of Michigan's Wallenberg Centennial Project, which marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of hero Raoul Wallenberg. Swedish native Wallenberg, a UM graduate, used his business, personal, and political skills and connections to save the lives of more than 230,000 Budapest Jews during the Holocaust.

The featured exhibit, *To Me There's No Other Choice—Raoul Wallenberg 1912-2012*, opened on January 30, 2013, when nearly 600 people gathered in the ballroom of the Michigan Union on the UM campus. High-school and university students, community leaders, and UM faculty, alumni, and donors joined members of JHSM to hear distinguished speakers that included Swedish ambassador to the United States Jonas Hafström, University of Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman, and Wallenberg biographer Ingrid Carlberg. Perhaps most moving was a videotaped greeting from Wallenberg's sister, Nina Lagergren.

Drawing more than 6,000 visitors, the exhibit included a display on life at UM during Wallenberg's time as a student in the early 1930s. By connecting history with memory, the exhibit demonstrated to students that Wallenberg was much like them as he worked on his degree and eagerly anticipated his life after college. Archival photos of Wallenberg, the campus, and the Ann Arbor community were featured along with remarkable digital facsimiles — secured from the Arkitekturmuseet in Stockholm — of the architectural drawings that Wallenberg made while a UM student.

The Wallenberg exhibit was, according to the director of the Michigan Union, the most successful presentation in recent years. Wallenberg biographer Carlberg said that of the many centennial events she had attended, she found UM's the most meaningful. Wallenberg's sister and her family expressed a similar sentiment after their remote viewing of the opening ceremony.

Exhibit visitors filled twenty-five guest-book pages with glowing comments and moving stories. On February 13, one woman wrote: "I'm a student here at U-M and I just found out about Raoul Wallenberg today. Through his story, I've found out that there is hope for someone like me to do great things for good in this world—someone who is different and yet a normal college student. This exhibition might have just sparked a whole new direction in my life." - *Judie Lax*



*Ingrid Carlberg, Swedish author of a recent prize-winning biography of Wallenberg, speaks during the annual Wallenberg lecture at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. The program was held in the University of Michigan's University Library on February 4, 2013.*

Photo by Peter Smith.



## THE BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS

**The** parking lot was the last straw.

The Birmingham Temple, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2013, might not exist if the board of directors of Temple Beth El had not decided to pave Beth El's parking lot in 1963. The repaved parking lot meant that the congregation was staying in Detroit, not moving to the suburbs. As a result, several members – tired of making the trek from Southfield, Oak Park, and points north to Woodward and Gladstone in Detroit – decided to explore alternatives. For some of these members, that meant a new temple.

The organization was not to be a radical departure from the status quo, nor did its members plan to abandon traditional Reform Judaism. What they sought was a smaller, more personal institution in a suburban setting; an institution where members would feel free to ask questions and seek answers. No one expected the new temple to experiment with ritual or philosophy, but it did, and the result was Humanistic Judaism.

Fifty years after their founding, the Birmingham Temple and Humanistic Judaism offer thousands of Jews the opportunity to celebrate their attachment to a cultural and historic Judaism and to maintain a Jewish identity in which the existence of a supreme being is irrelevant. With the assistance of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, which grew from the Birmingham Temple's need to connect with other Humanistic Jews, congregations, and communities throughout the United States and abroad, members are connected to a tradition that they might otherwise abandon.

### Early Dilemmas

The Birmingham Temple's beginnings can be traced to August 1963, when Suzanne Velick received a phone call. Dick Laurie, a member of Temple Beth El, told Velick he was considering forming a new temple. Velick suggested they call Rabbi Sherwin Wine, who at the time was at Temple Beth El in Windsor, Ontario. Wine had previously served as advisor to the Detroit Beth El's Young Married group.

Velick invited Rabbi Wine to a meeting to discuss the potential for creating a new temple. They were joined on August 21, 1963, by about fifteen couples at the Oak Park home of Lois and Dick Laurie. Eight of the couples were committed to forming a new temple. A week later, those eight met again: Sue and Harry Velick, Stuart and Doreen Velick, Bunny and Merrill Miller, Steve and Elaine Fish, Gil and Baily Franklin, Joel and Lisa Hepner, Marge and Bill Sandy, and Ted and Mary Ann Simon. Rabbi Wine also attended.

All wanted something fresh – a new suburban Reform temple where everything would be subject to inquiry or question. Ideology was not initially discussed. The differences they sought were primarily in location and size. The eight families wanted a small congregation in which all members could participate.

Rabbi Wine suggested that a geographic name would best identify the group. Because they anticipated that their new congregation would someday move to the Bir-



*Rabbi Wine (far right) joins congregants as they break ground for the Birmingham Temple.*

mingham area, they chose "The Birmingham Temple." The first service took place on Sunday, September 15, 1963, at Eagle Elementary School in West Bloomfield. The Union Prayer Book was used, with standard Reform prayers including theistic language. Lisa Hepner, the first Birmingham Temple music director, rehearsed a choir. About eighty people attended. The group planned to hold services each Sunday with Rabbi Wine as leader. Sunday services were necessary at the time because Wine remained committed to his congregation in Windsor, but he soon notified Windsor Temple Beth El that he would leave at the end of June 1964 to lead the new Birmingham Temple.

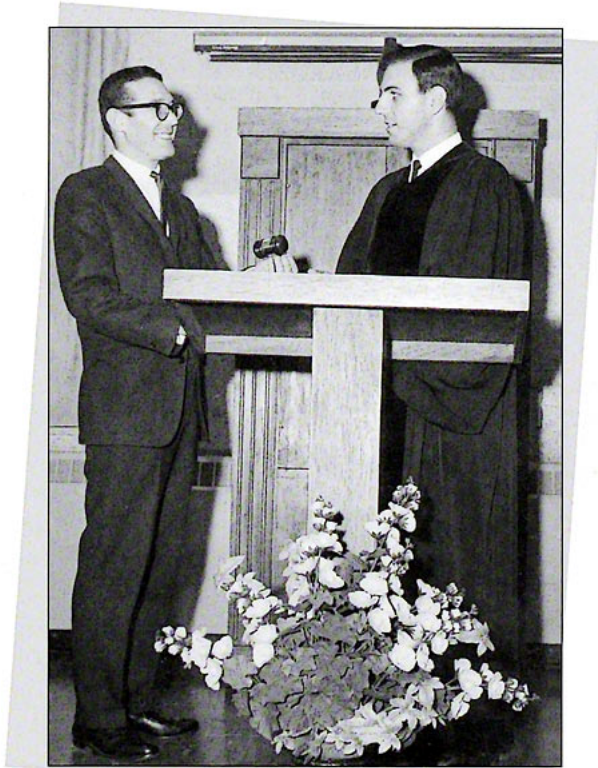
### **Evolution from Mainstream**

The group quickly exceeded its initial goal of thirty-five members and, by November, temple leadership held congregational meetings to elect officers and adopt a constitution. Harry Velick became the Birmingham Temple's first president, alongside four officers and sixteen trustees. By the end of 1963, the Birmingham Temple had its own rabbi, around forty members, \$1,134 in the bank, and a commitment to a future. While no one could foresee what the future would bring, they knew that this new organization would go on to make a significant contribution to the Jewish community.

Although it would be seven more years before the congregation would build and dedicate its Humanistic temple home in Farmington Hills, less than a year after its founding, the Birmingham Temple had evolved from a mainstream Reform congregation to something that no one had seen before: a secular Jewish society inside the structure of a traditional Jewish congregation.

This change was not without consequences. Ahead lay a year of controversy and of challenge; of members who could not tolerate community criticism and members who could. Those who could not accept so dramatic a departure from the norm left the congregation but were replaced by others who liked what they saw. Those who stayed





*Rabbi Sherwin Wine, left, installs Harry Velick as the first president of the Birmingham Temple in 1963.*

endured controversy and crisis, and — in many cases — the criticism of family, friends, and strangers. Though it was difficult, the members remained loyal to an ideal.

The founders of the Birmingham Temple demonstrated that one could consider, modify, and revise without fear; that one could, indeed must, continue to learn; that there were no absolutes. These early members were pioneers who were not afraid to try new ideas.

In the fifty years since their beginning, the temple and its congregation have achieved many milestones. The Society for Humanistic Judaism was founded in 1969 and the temple's building, on Twelve Mile Road in Farmington Hills, was dedicated in 1971. In 1985, Rabbi Wine and the Birmingham Temple founded the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism as the seminary for Humanistic Judaism. Rabbi Wine continued to serve as rabbi until 2007, when he was killed in an auto accident while vacationing in Morocco. He was succeeded by Tamara Kolton, the first rabbi to be ordained by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. After Kolton resigned in 2012, the temple mounted a national search and, in July 2013, initiated Rabbi Jeffrey L. Falick of Miami, Florida. - *Mark H. Cousens*

*This article is based on excerpts from the forthcoming The Birmingham Temple and the Creation of Humanistic Judaism by Mark H. Cousens, to be published by the Society for Humanistic Judaism. All rights are reserved.*

## MAX M. FISHER'S PAPERS ARE PRESERVED

**With** support from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the papers of Max M. Fisher are being archivally processed at the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University. Archivist Aimee Ergas, former director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, is processing the collection, which was gathered and transported to the library in July 2012.

Max Fisher's status as one of the most important American Jews, as a national and international figure in politics and diplomacy, and as one of the most prominent Detroiters in history, makes his papers a significant archival collection. Included are documents and correspondence from his many businesses—among them Marathon and Aurora Oil, United Brands, and Sotheby's. It reflects his role as an influential political figure in the Republican party and advisor to Republican presidents and policy-makers from the 1960s until his death in 2005.

Fisher served as an unofficial diplomat for both the U.S. and Israeli governments, playing a key role in many critical decisions about Middle East peace and politics. Within the Jewish community—locally, nationally, and internationally—Fisher was the “dean” of American Jewry during the second half of the twentieth century. He served as founding chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel and as president of the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal, as well as chair of the United Israel Appeal.

The collection also reflects a private man who reached out to help an enormous number of individuals in life-changing ways. He generously funded individual doctors and scientists doing medical research in the U.S. and Israel, and he helped people in need with medical bills. He was publicly instrumental in the movement to help Jews leave the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, and behind the scenes he provided contacts and help to those trying to bring relatives to Israel or America. His philanthropy extended to entrepreneurs who appealed to him for start-up funds and to students, from high school through graduate school, who needed tuition or recommendations.

Fisher's collection reflects an unparalleled life of service, philanthropy, and commitment to Israel, to the Jewish community, and to anyone in need. The archives will be a historical goldmine for anyone interested in twentieth-century politics and diplomacy. It is hoped that the collection will open to researchers in 2014. -Aimee Ergas



*Max Fisher with Henry Kissinger, probably in the 1970s. While Kissinger served in the Nixon and Ford administrations in the 1960s and 1970s as the public face of U.S. diplomacy and policy regarding Israel, Fisher worked behind the scenes as advisor and "man on the ground" to the White House. The two men continued their relationship as friends and consultants for the rest of Fisher's life. Actual inscription below photo: "To Max Fisher, with the affection and admiration of his friend, Henry A. Kissinger." Max M. Fisher Papers, Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.*



## HI YO SILVER! THE LONE RANGER'S DETROIT ROOTS



Lone Ranger and Tonto

In July 2013, Walt Disney Pictures released Jerry Bruckheimer's production of *The Lone Ranger*. The much-feted film featured some of Hollywood's most prestigious actors, including Johnny Depp as Tonto and Helena Bonham Carter as Red. Behind the lens, though, *The Lone Ranger* has deep Michigan roots, from the film's producer to the very first airing of the radio program that launched the iconic hero.

Born in Detroit in 1943 and a Mumford High School graduate, Jerome Leon "Jerry" Bruckheimer began his production career in the 1980s. His long list of box-office hits includes *Flashdance*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Top Gun*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. His success continued in tele-

vision with the long-running *CSI: New York* and *CSI: Miami* series and *The Amazing Race*. With nearly fifty movies to his credit, the Jewish kid from Detroit who went to Hollywood to seek fame and fortune, and found both, is considered one of the movie industry's most-successful producers.

Bruckheimer is not the only Jewish-Detroit link to *The Lone Ranger*, though. Detroiters first heard *The Lone Ranger* on local radio in 1933 when Detroit was still in the throes of the Great Depression, with close to forty percent of the city's work force idle. There was a serious fiscal crisis; the city cut the salaries of its employees and reduced welfare payments.

For those lucky enough to have auto-industry jobs, average weekly earnings fell from \$35.14 in 1928 to \$20 in 1932. Mortgages were lost; banks were closing. The city of Detroit ran out of money, too, paying their employees in scrip. This was also the era of Prohibition and the infamous Purple Gang, a handful of Jewish mobsters who controlled much of the illegal activity on Detroit's west side.

Throughout this period, movies provided an escape, and theaters offered two films for the price of one to lure customers. Yet many Detroiters couldn't afford to go to the movies, so they stayed home and listened to the radio instead.

Detroit's entertainment-industry pioneer was George W. Trendle, who controlled numerous downtown theaters including the Adams, Broadway Capitol, Michigan, Palms State, United Artists, and the elegant Fisher Theater. In 1929, Trendle purchased radio station WGHP and convinced the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy to grant him the military-controlled station call letters WXYZ. He wanted to use the slogan "the last word in radio" and he needed "WXYZ" to make it work. At the time, WGHP/WXYZ was an affiliate of Columbia Broadcasting System, and CBS furnished hours of programming.



Trendle felt he could be more profitable by going independent and coming up with his own programming. Of course, there were the usual bands and singers, but Trendle wanted to create something different for listeners. He wanted heroes who would appeal to all ages. He wanted action. He wanted drama.

For weeks, he and station director Jim Jewell tossed around ideas in Trendle's office in the Madison Theater Building in Detroit (now known as M@dison and home to Bedrock Management, a Dan Gilbert company). They settled on a Texas Ranger - the Lone Ranger - who had survived an ambush. They then decided to give the Ranger a Native-American companion, Tonto, who would lovingly refer to his masked companion as Kemo Sabe, a term meaning "trusted friend."

Scriptwriting went to Fran Striker of Buffalo, New York. Striker had to follow a few rules: The Lone Ranger never killed anyone, and he shot silver bullets only to disarm outlaws whom he then turned over to the proper authorities to face justice. The first to be the voice of the hero was Detroit George Stenuis, who had local acting experience with the Bonstelle Players. Stenuis held the job only briefly. He moved to Hollywood, changed his name to George Seaton, worked on Marx brothers films, and gained fame as a writer-director and producer. Later Seaton would win Academy Awards for *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Country Girl*.

Before his Hollywood fame, Stenuis enjoyed local fame. He was a familiar friend to Detroit Orthodox Jews as a "Shabbos goy," working for synagogues to take care of the lights and heat and other work that religious Jews were forbidden to do on the Sabbath. Stenuis picked up so many Jewish customs that he later invited the Marx brothers to his Hollywood home for a Passover seder.

Meanwhile, back at the studio, *The Lone Ranger* was heard in Michigan three times a week. Earle W. Graser took over as the voice of the masked man. The only radio voice of Tonto was John Todd, a Detroit with Shakespearean acting experience. The popularity of the show grew, evidenced by large crowds at public events and continued listener interest.

Curious about the actual size of the listening audience in Michigan, Trendle devised a marketing scheme. To the first three hundred listeners who wrote in, he offered a free



*The radio crew performs*



Lone Ranger popgun. Bags of mail poured in and 24,905 letters were counted. Trendle photographed the piles of mail with Detroit Mayor Frank Couzens. Confident he was onto something larger than just a one-town show, Trendle began promoting *The Lone Ranger* program to potential sponsors. Stations in Chicago, New York, and Cincinnati began carrying *The Lone Ranger*.

In 1940, in the days when Hank Greenberg was baseball's greatest player, Detroit's three-times-weekly *The Lone Ranger* was more popular than ever. Surveys indicated that sixty-three percent of the listening audience was made up of adults who raptly listened to the deep authoritative, vibrant voice of Earle W. Graser. On March 31, 1941, at the height of the radio career of the masked man, Graser turned 32. A few weeks later, a drowsy Graser fell asleep at the wheel and was killed. One of America's most-popular radio voices was silenced. National publications from the *New York Times* to the *Los Angeles Times* carried obituaries and editorials. *Time* magazine called the Lone Ranger "the most adored character ever to be created on the U.S. air."

Needing to come up with a new voice quickly, Trendle and his team examined the merits of the station's many staff announcers. Mike Wallace was considered, as his voice was deep and he sounded much older than his age, and was doing a good job narrating *The Green Hornet*. (This was the same Jewish Mike Wallace who would be going strong six decades later on CBS's television news program *60 Minutes*.) However Wallace, unlike Graser, had never had training as an actor.

The job went to Brace Beemer, who at the time was narrating *The Lone Ranger* and doing the lead on *Challenge of the Yukon*. To help transition to Beemer's voice, the team decided that the masked man would be wounded and when the situation called for him to speak, it would be in a whisper during the next few programs.

Beemer was joined by several Jewish cast members including Harvey Goldstein and Rube Weiss, who played various good-guy and bad-guy roles. A fellow by the name of Marvin Eliot Schlossberg, who returned to Detroit in 1946 and later became known as Sonny Eliot, once played a bad guy on the program.

Trendle soon foresaw the opportunity of television and began planning for the show's transition to the screen. Clayton Moore, 35, got the role. After 2,956 radio episodes, *The Lone Ranger* did its last live broadcast from the WXYZ studios on East Jefferson on September 3, 1954. Brace Beemer went on to become the voice of Sergeant Preston of the Yukon during its last live broadcast seasons. John Todd, the only radio voice of Tonto, died in 1957 at the age of eighty.

Many Detroit oldsters have fond memories of hearing and seeing the Lone Ranger and Tonto on radio and television. John Klein of Oak Park can boast of a special memory: He was raised in Brooklyn in a house that formerly belonged to Jay Silverheels, who played Tonto on television. While the radio and television voices are no longer with us, they live on in CDs and DVDs. *The Lone Ranger* remains one of the most-popular programs, and now Jerry Bruckheimer has brought the story to a new generation around the world. — *Irwin Cohen*

## AN OVERVIEW OF MELTON IN THE DETROIT AREA

**The** Melton School of Metropolitan Detroit received the prestigious Florence Melton Award for excellence and leadership at a January 2013 awards ceremony in Israel. "The Melton School of the Detroit Federation, Alliance for Jewish Education is a model school, demonstrating the highest levels of professionalism and leadership, raising the bar for all of our schools worldwide and for the whole Melton organization," said Judy Mars Kupchan, chief executive officer of the international school.

Back in Michigan, the award was presented to Douglas Bloom, president of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and to representatives of Detroit Melton by Kupchan and Melton School International chairman of the board Gordon Zacks, son of school founder Florence Melton, at the tenth annual Melton graduation on June 13 in West Bloomfield. The award will be displayed in the conference suites at the Max M. Fisher Federation Building in Bloomfield Hills.

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Education (formerly known as The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School) is the world's largest pluralistic adult Jewish-education network. Founded in 1986 at the initiative of Florence Zacks Melton, a community activist and long-time supporter of Jewish education, the Melton School initially opened with three pilot sites in North America. Melton's international headquarters are at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with a national office for North America in Northbrook, Illinois. The Melton School is a social franchise with an international network of community-based schools offering adults the opportunity to acquire Jewish literacy in an open learning environment.

### **Melton, the First Time Around**

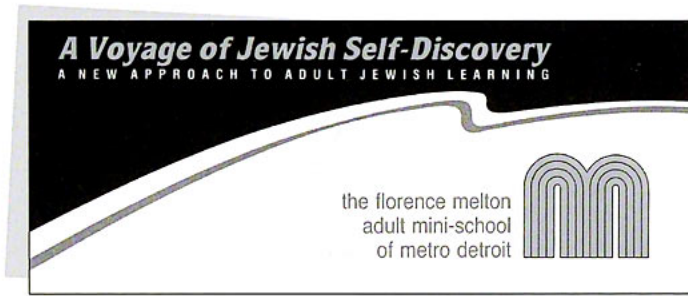
Melton was first offered in the Detroit area in the fall of 1994 as part of the Agency for Jewish Education's Midrasha Center for Adult Jewish Learning. Working with several community partners, the two-year school opened with more than seventy-five students.

According to Nancy Kaplan, then director of the Midrasha and site coordinator for Melton, the plan was to continue with the Year 2 class for the first cohort of students and to offer a new Year 1 cohort in the fall of 1995. However, that spring, Howard Gelberd, director of the Agency for Jewish Education (AJE), cancelled plans for the new Year 1 cohort. He agreed to allow the first cohort of students to finish their second year of the Melton curriculum. The first Melton Mini-School in the Detroit area closed in the spring of 1996 after only two years.

### **Reenvisioning Adult Education**

In 1998, Rabbi Judah Isaacs took over as director of AJE. At the time, AJE offered Hebrew classes and a few Judaic studies courses. Isaacs believed that the key to successful Jewish education was to never stop studying.





Isaacs, along with community rabbis, educators, and lay leaders, began to explore ways to engage adults in study. The result was SAJE (Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment), created in partnership with the Jewish Community Center, in which local rabbis and educators taught annual four-week courses.

After two years of successful SAJE classes, members of the Jewish learning community began searching for more. According to Isaacs, "At AJE we understood we needed to respond. There were two options available, Meah and Melton. (Meah, which means "one hundred" in Hebrew, was developed by Hebrew College in Boston and provides one hundred hours of instruction over two years.) After evaluating each program, it was decided that the Melton program would be best suited for our community."

### **Melton Resurfaces**

In the fall of 2001, Melton was reintroduced to the Detroit Jewish community. The Mini-School, sponsored by AJE and the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, was administered by Aviva Panush, director, and Judy Leder, assistant director. That first year, more than one hundred students registered for the Year I Melton class. According to Isaacs, "As amazed as we were that there was such an overwhelming response to the first year of classes, we were even more amazed when the next year we had one hundred new students for the Year I class!"

On June 1, 2003, the Agency for Jewish Education became a department of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and its name was changed to Alliance for Jewish Education (Alliance), with Isaacs as its director. Panush continued as Melton director until 2005, when she was succeeded by Rebecca Starr. Starr was followed by Judy Silberg Loebl in 2007. Marion Bronstein became the Melton administrator in 2003. Jeffrey Lashday replaced Isaacs in 2010 as director of the Alliance. In 2011, as the program grew, Gail Greenberg was added as assistant director of Detroit Melton.

### **Graduate and Scholars Courses**

"Graduate" classes were created locally to meet the needs of enthusiastic Melton students who had completed the two-year program. As student Bonnie Tucker stated in 2007, "Now that I've been bitten by the bug, I don't want to stop learning." The longest consecutively running Melton graduate class, "Torah Line by Line" with Dr. Mitch Parker, has met for eight years, with new graduates joining annually.

The Melton franchise also recognized the need for additional courses beyond the two-year curriculum. The Melton faculty at Hebrew University created The Rachel Waserman Scholars Curriculum, offering topics ranging from intensive text-based Torah

study to a comparative Judaism class and a ten-week curriculum on Israeli literature. These classes, along with original course offerings, are available through Detroit's Melton program.

### **Wandering Seminars for the Wondering Jew**

For several years Detroit Melton offered weekend retreats for Meltonians eager for more learning. These two-night seminars were organized by Melton instructor Parker and featured visiting Judaic scholars. As attendance dwindled, the decision was made to concentrate on International Melton's Israel Seminars. Although several Detroiters took advantage of the program, it was decided that Detroit needed its own Melton trip to Israel.

In October 2012, Loebel escorted a group of Detroiters on an exclusive "Scholar's Mission to Israel Melton-Style." This was the first time a local Melton program had arranged a single-community trip to Israel. The itinerary was tailor-made for Detroiters and featured a visit to the Detroit Federation's partnership region in central Galil. A second trip, highlighting biblical sites, is planned for spring of 2014.

### **Melton for Parents**

Addressing the need for Jewish education for parents, Melton PEP (Parent Education Program) was created, based on the Melton core curriculum, but with a parenting component. In Detroit, PEP was first held at Adat Shalom Synagogue in the fall of 2004. Since then, Melton PEP has been hosted by Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Temple Beth El, and Hillel Day School. PEP has proved to be very successful in Detroit, with close to one hundred parents of young children graduating from the two-year program.

Although PEP continues to thrive in Detroit, it was not as popular elsewhere. As of spring 2013, Detroit Melton was the only site continuing to offer Melton PEP. In the fall of 2013 Detroit Melton will offer its seventh cohort of PEP students at the Max M. Fisher Federation Building in Bloomfield Hills.

Melton sought to create an alternative to PEP, with the initial research and development for the international curriculum funded by The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation. The pilot of the new curriculum, "Foundations of Jewish Family Living," was first offered to Melton franchises in 2009. Advertised as a precursor to the Melton School, Foundations is a twenty-week Jewish values curriculum for parents of young children two-to-eight years of age.

With a vibrant Melton PEP in Detroit, the Alliance for Jewish Education chose not to offer Foundations as part of their Melton offerings. However, in the winter of 2013, upon hearing the praises of the foundation's curriculum from other Melton sites, AJE submitted a proposal to the Hermelin Davidson Center for Congregation Excellence Committee to pilot Foundations at one temple, to run on Sunday mornings concurrent with the religious school. The Committee not only accepted the proposal but increased the funding to include up to ten congregations for the fall of 2013.

### **The Future**

On the premise that no one should be denied the opportunity to attend Melton classes because of the cost, the Detroit Friends of Melton (formerly Melton Alumni As-



sociation of Metropolitan Detroit) was established in 2006 to provide scholarships to students unable to pay the full tuition. In 2012, the Susan R. Robin Memorial Scholarship was created to give additional financial assistance to deserving students.

In the last ten years, more than one thousand adults from metropolitan Detroit have graduated from the two-year Melton School. For the 2013-14 school year, Melton plans to offer the two-year Melton program, Melton PEP, Foundations, and a new Scholars Curriculum course on Kabbalah. The Alliance for Jewish Education is also exploring new ways to bring young adults to Melton by reaching out to those in their twenties and thirties through Federation's NEXT-Gen Detroit branch.

- Judy Silberg Loebel, Federation's Alliance for Jewish Education



## 2013 FRED M. BUTZEL MEMORIAL AWARD EUGENE APPLEBAUM

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan salutes Eugene Applebaum on his receiving the 2013 Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award, the highest honor given by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

Eugene Applebaum is a man with a big heart, whose personal philosophy is firmly rooted in the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). His generosity and compassion, combined with his keen business acumen, make for an awesome combination, and Mr. Applebaum has achieved awesome results.

His belief in and generous support of JHSM jump-started other major contributions to our Heritage Society Endowment Fund, the total of which helps us to thrive and contributes to ensuring our future. But nurturing our own vital-but-small organization is only a small fraction of his broad vision. Applebaum builds community.

In Israel, in Michigan, and in our local Jewish community, the Applebaum name is evident. He has given generously to Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, the Jewish Community Center West Bloomfield Campus, Wayne State University's School of Pharmacy, Beaumont Hospital, Karmanos Cancer Institute, and the Fresh Air Society, to name just a few of the many organizations that he and his wife Marcia proudly support. Seeing this family's name on these significant plaques brings a surge of pride to us all.

A Detroit born and bred, Eugene is an alumnus of Winterhalter Elementary School, Central High School, and Wayne State University. He and Marcia have been married fifty-two years and are the parents of Pamela and Lisa.

On the occasion of Applebaum's recognition with the Butzel Award, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan sends a hearty mazel tov and warmest affection to this wonderful man.

May he go from strength to strength.

---

## U OF M PROFESSOR DEBORAH DASH MOORE RECEIVES 2012 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD FOR HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY

---

**City of Promises: A History of Jews in New York**, edited by Deborah Dash Moore, University of Michigan professor of history and director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, won the 2012 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award. Given annually by the National Jewish Book Council, the Everett award recognizes the year's best book of Jewish non-fiction.

The committee lauded *City of Promises* as an unparalleled and essential study of one of the most-significant Jewish communities in the modern world—and the largest in Jewish history. Moore served as general editor for the three-volume set, which includes visual essays by art historian Diana L. Linden and begins with an essay on the first Jews' arrival in New Amsterdam in 1654. The second volume, *Emerging Metropolis*, chronicles the metamorphosis of New York into a "Jewish city," and the third volume, *Jews in Gotham*, highlights the neighborhood as a cornerstone of New York Jewish life.

The award, said Moore, "recognizes the importance of collaboration in writing history." The National Jewish Book Awards program began in 1950 when the Jewish Book Council presented awards to authors of Jewish books at its annual meeting. Past literary winners include Chaim Grade, Deborah Lipstadt, Bernard Malamud, Michael Oren, Chaim Potok, Philip Roth, and Elie Wiesel.

---

## A HOME RUN FOR JERRY LEWIS – DIRECTOR OF THE DETROIT TIGERS FANTASY CAMP

---

**The** renowned Detroit Tigers Fantasy Camp began nearly thirty years ago on a brisk morning in 1982, when a baseball fan named Jerry Lewis (not the comedian/actor) read an article in the *Detroit Sporting News* about the first fantasy camp of the Chicago Cubs. Lewis became infatuated with the idea and began work to establish a fantasy camp of his own, eventually partnering with the Detroit Tigers.

A little more than a year later, in January 1984, Lewis and former Tigers catcher Jim Price developed a partnership and launched the first Detroit baseball fantasy camp in Lakeland, Florida. The camp was targeted to baseball's most dedicated fans, who would want to spend part of the spring-training season playing ball with and against some of the team's greatest former players. Fantasy Camp participants stayed in the same hotel as the professional ballplayers, wore identical uniforms, dressed in the clubhouse, and reminisced with their favorite stars at nightly social events. For that first session, Price tapped his close friend, baseball hall-of-famer Al Kaline, to create a reunion of the 1968 World Series championship team.





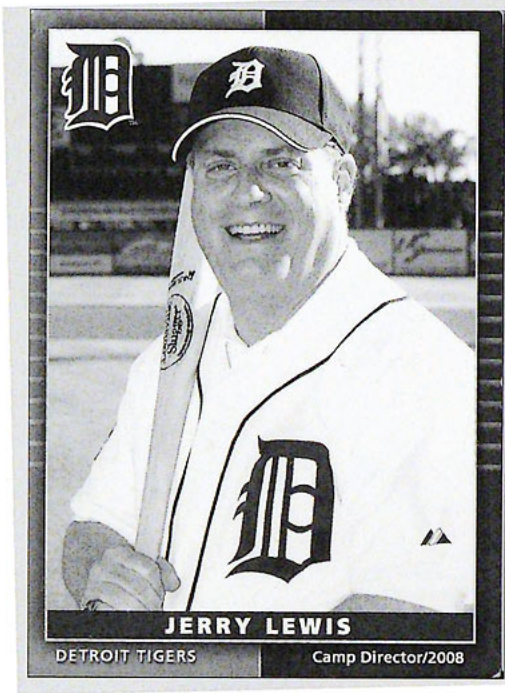
In January 2014, Lewis will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of his fantasy camps. Each year, he eagerly awaits the beginning of the fifteen-week camp season, which attracts about 200 campers. His favorite moment is the thrill of watching the campers' reactions when they see their uniforms hanging in the Detroit Tigers' locker room. Each session begins with Lewis and Price introducing the former Tigers who are in attendance. Over the years, Alan Trammell, Al Kaline, Willie Horton, Mickey Lolich, and Lou Whitaker have visited. Lewis boasts that almost all of the players on the 1968 and 1984 World Series championship teams have participated in the camp.

Billy Rogell (1930-39) and Virgil Trucks (1941-52, 56) have both attended the fantasy camp and charmed campers with stories of their experiences and interactions with legendary Jewish ball player Hank Greenberg. Lewis says that many of his campers trace their love for baseball back to Greenberg and cite the tales their fathers or grandfathers told them; legends that cemented their lifelong passion for America's pastime. A life-sized poster of Hank Greenberg, a gift from Virgil Trucks, decorates Lewis's Comerica Park office in Detroit. Former Detroit Tigers catcher Joe Ginsberg was a coach at the camp for many years.

For the camp's first fifteen years, Lewis ran the program without any formal affiliation with the Detroit Tigers. A formal partnership came in 1999. There have been many proud moments in his career, but one of Lewis's greatest honors was when Ernie Harwell, the legendary "voice of the Detroit Tigers," wrote an article about the camp program. One summer afternoon, Harwell phoned Lewis and invited him to lunch for an interview. "Lewis Makes Camp Fun" became one of Harwell's favorite pieces. Toward the end of his sports-broadcasting career, Harwell compiled a book of his favorite articles and included the story on Lewis. A copy of that article is one of Lewis's most-cherished possessions.



The friendships his campers form, says Lewis, are what make the program so successful. Loyalty to the program is also a part of its success; more than thirty-five percent of camp participants return for another session. According to Lewis's records, ten participants, several of whom are Jewish, have attended the camp twenty times or more.



The Detroit Tigers Fantasy Camp gives everyday baseball fans, age twenty and older, an opportunity to "be" a Detroit Tiger for a week, a weekend, or even a day. Lewis's team has run more than fifty weeks of camps since the program's inception. An abbreviated version of the Lakeland Fantasy Camp takes place at Comerica Park during the summer months. To simulate a true game experience, friends and family are invited to watch and partake in the fun. Lewis also developed a one-day camp that gives fans an opportunity to hit against former Tigers pitcher Dave Rozema. Lewis describes the camps as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" that can be had more than once.

Jerry Lewis, who once dreamed of playing professional baseball, grew up on Detroit's northwest side, attending Mumford High School and then Wayne State University. He spent twenty-five years as a clothing manufacturer, the last twelve of which overlapped the early years of his dream job—the creation of the Detroit-based fantasy camps. Since 1997, his sole business concern has been promoting and directing the Detroit Tigers Fantasy Camp. He frequently supports Jewish organizations such as the Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation with donations such as a session of batting practice.

Jerry Lewis's dream has created an opportunity for adults who love baseball to swing with the best in the game. By helping others pursue their dreams, Lewis says, he has been able to fulfill his own. - Dayna Rose Elconin

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

### 1883

**Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann appears in Detroit's city directory as a physician. Dr. Kauffmann is considered the first Jewish physician to have graduated from the Michigan College of Medicine and to establish a long-term Detroit practice.**



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARDS



*Peggy and Mort Finkelstein (left) receive the State History Award from Sharon Carlson.*

**The** Historical Society of Michigan presented its 2012 State History Awards, the highest recognition by the state's official historical society, at the 138th Annual Meeting and State History Conference held September 28-30, 2012, in Monroe. Among those honored for their outstanding contributions to the appreciation and understanding of Michigan history were JHSM's good friends James and Annette McConnell, and Grand Rapids' Temple Emanuel Archives.

The McConnells were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes men and women who have dedicated themselves to preserving Michigan's history over a significant length of time. The McConnells are publishers of the Michigan Council for Historical Education's monthly e-notes and quarterly newsletter, which highlight history-related events and activities in the state. They have also planned, promoted, and led hundreds of history tours, trips, conferences, workshops, classes, seminars, and lectures throughout Michigan, the Midwest, and Canada. In the summer of 2012, James joined JHSM docents to help narrate a Detroit River cruise focusing on Civil War history.

The society's Institution Award was given to Temple Emanuel Archives. Founded in 1857, Temple Emanuel—the oldest Jewish congregation in Grand Rapids—has had a long interest in preserving its history. In 1954, June Horowitz and Lena Warsaw wrote a centennial history of the temple and later organized boxes of minutes, photos, clippings, and other ephemera that the organization had accumulated over the years. The Peg and Mort Finkelstein Archives grew out of these early efforts, as the Finkelsteins shared the vision and provided generous financial support to preserve these materials.

The Mort Finkelstein Family Archival Fund was established in 2002 and the archives now lists more than thirty-five categories of materials to be collected and preserved. Volunteers to date have scanned and documented nearly 5,000 documents. This impressive collection and its associated activities provide a valuable historical resource for the entire community.

## HOWARD LUpOVITCH NAMED DIRECTOR OF COHN-HADDOW CENTER



Howard Lupovitch has been appointed director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University. He succeeds Professor David Weinberg and assumed his new position in June 2013. Lupovitch previously served as director of the Pulver Family Chair in Jewish Studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine and the Waks Family Chair of Jewish History at Western Ontario University in London, Ontario.

The Cohn-Haddow Center, one of metro Detroit's best resources for Jewish scholarship, was created in 1988 as a joint venture between Wayne State University and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit/United Jewish Foundation. The center sponsors lectures, symposia, and cultural events. Cohn-Haddow's involvement in the Detroit Jewish community helps make Wayne State University one of the nation's leaders in university-community relations. Lupovitch plans to continue to offer meaningful programs and educational opportunities that will foster the Cohn-Haddow Center's success and increase its commitment to community outreach.

Lupovitch, whose family has Detroit roots dating back more than a century, grew up in Michigan, graduated from the University of Michigan, and earned his Ph.D in history from Columbia University. He is a specialist in the history of the Jews of Hungary and the Hapsburg Empire and in the urban Jewish experience. He possesses a keen expertise in Detroit Jewish history and his enthusiastic approach to outreach and connection is infectious; his popular FedEd classes — the adult education division of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit — are sell-outs each year.

Lupovich has published numerous journal articles and two books: *Jews and Judaism in World History* (Routledge Press, 2009) and *Jews at the Crossroads: Tradition and Accommodation during the Golden Age of the Hungarian Nobility, 1729-1878* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2007). He is nearing completion of a book covering the history of the Jews of Budapest.



---

---

# TIMELINE

A timeline of significant dates  
in Michigan Jewish history  
mentioned in this year's journal.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1882 | H.L. Goldman founds the Riverside Machinery Company two years after his arrival in America. Shortly thereafter, he establishes the Riverside Scrap Iron and Metal Company at St. Aubin and Atwater streets on the Detroit River.  |
| 1893 | The first widely publicized act of social discrimination against a Jew in Detroit occurs in March 1893, when the elite Detroit Athletic Club rejected Herman Freund, a prominent German-Jewish businessman.   |
| 1903 | H.L. Goldman and his three sons create the Crescent Motor Company by purchasing the assets of both the Reliance Motor Company and the Marvel Motor Company. The firm later incorporates the Benham Motor Company which, along with sixteen others, is bought by General Motors in 1908. |
| 1910 | Hamtramck's population is 3,500. By 1930, the population is 56,000.   |
| 1910 | Machpelah Cemetery on Woodward Avenue in Ferndale is founded.   |
| 1911 | Meyer L. Prensky (later Prentis) lands a job at the fledging General Motors in Detroit.   |
| 1919 | H.L. Goldman and other community leaders join to form United Hebrew Schools.  |
| 1919 | Meyer Prensky is named treasurer of General Motors Corporation, a position he will hold until 1951. In 1923, he legally changes his name to Meyer Prentis.  |
| 1929 | Virtuoso pianist Mischa Kottler settles in Detroit.   |
| 1930 | Meyer and Anna Prentis build an 11,000-square-foot home on Balmoral Drive in Detroit's Palmer Woods.  |

# TIMELINE

- 1933 *The Lone Ranger* radio program makes its radio debut, in Detroit.
- 1934 Meyer Prentis rescues Franklin Hills Country Club from bank default.
- 1935 "Hammering" Hank Greenberg is named the American League's Most Valuable Player; he wins the honor again in 1940.
- 1937 The Jewish Community Council is organized in Detroit.
- 1940 About 81,400 Jews live in Detroit, comprising about five percent of the population.
- 1940 The Allied Jewish Campaign's annual goal is \$925,000, a 525-percent increase over 1932.
- 1942 A delegation of Jewish leaders travels to the White House to meet with President Franklin D. Roosevelt about the crisis in Europe.
- 1943 GM's employees support the war-bond effort. The millionth bond purchased by a GM employee is delivered by Meyer Prentis to a tool-bench worker at GM's Buick plant in Flint.
- 1950 The Palmer Show Card Paint Company, owned by Max Sam Klein, produces the first paint-by-numbers sets, marketing them with the slogan, "Every man a Rembrandt."
- 1954 After 2,956 episodes, *The Lone Ranger* radio program comes to a close.
- 1958 A survey of suburban-Detroit real-estate personnel reveals that fifty-six percent of them discriminate against Jews in varying degrees.
- 1963 The Birmingham Temple is founded with Rabbi Sherwin Wine at its helm.
- 1967 Brothers Salek "Sol" and Zyga "Zygie" Allweiss open Sol & Zygie's Mobil Servicer on Ten Mile Road at Greenfield in Southfield.
- 1970 On his eighty-fourth birthday, Meyer L. Prentis passes away at his home in Palmer Woods.



# TIMELINE

- 1975 Preservation Wayne, now Preservation Detroit, is founded as a Wayne State University student organization.
- 1976 Pianist Mischa Kottler receives the Distinguished Faculty Service Award from the Wayne State University board of governors.
- 1982 The Detroit Tigers Baseball Fantasy Camp, the brainchild of Detroiter Jerry Lewis, makes its debut in Lakeland, Florida. The program continues to this day.
- 1984 The Max Klein Office Building at 26000 West Twelve Mile Road in Southfield, designed by Detroit architect Harvey Ferrero, is constructed. The unusual design wins many awards.
- 1988 The Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University is founded. The center is now under the direction of Howard Lupovitch.
- 1994 The Melton School of Metropolitan Detroit conducts its first classes.
- 1994 Pianist Mischa Kottler passes away.
- 2001 The National Museum of American History mounts an exhibit called "Paint by Number: Accounting for Taste in the 1950s," using memorabilia from Max Sam Klein, who died in 1993.
- 2012 The papers of Max M. Fisher are transported to the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University to be archivally processed for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

1903

**The National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section raises dues to one dollar (in 1891, dues were ten cents) to support the Ida E. Ginsberg Scholarship Fund. By 1922, the fund has benefitted eighty-four girls.**



# BOOK REVIEW

## **Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews: Life On Both Sides of the Ocean**

By Irwin J. Cohen  
Boreal Press, 2013

Someone recently asked me when I spent my first summer at Camp Tamarack. I couldn't immediately recall the year, but I remembered that the Tigers were battling it out against the Baltimore Orioles for the pennant and that the Orioles won. Ah – it was 1983, the year before the Tigers won the World Series.

It's not uncommon to measure our time in terms of America's pastime. In *Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews: Life on Both Sides of the Ocean*, Irwin J. Cohen puts baseball into a historical context as he focuses on Jewish baseball players alongside events that have shaped our Jewish lives.

Concerned that young people don't know enough Jewish history, Cohen brilliantly provides what could fairly be called a Jewish baseball almanac and history book rolled into one. Rather than simply recounting the accomplishments and challenges of Jewish baseball players, Cohen describes what was happening in the Jewish world when these athletes played. In his chapter on the 1970s, for example: "...as Ken Holtzman was racking up a good season for the Chicago Cubs (17-11, 3.38 ERA), world attention was focused on Jordan Yasser Arafat's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked four international airplanes."

Without Cohen's weaving Major League Baseball's milestones into the chronicle of the Jewish people, how many of us would realize that the 1980 All-Star Game occurred around the same time that an Arab terrorist's grenade in Antwerp killed a Jewish youth and wounded sixteen? Cohen poetically moves from 2005 rocket attacks in Israel's Gaza Strip to baseball player Adam Greenberg feeling as if he'd been hit by a rocket when the first pitch he saw in a major-league game hit him in the head and ended his career. (Postscript: Greenberg returned for one at-bat in September 2012.)

Cohen also doesn't shy away from discussing anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment. He recalls that several Jewish players in the early twentieth century changed their last names to avoid antagonism. And when Cohen was working for the Detroit Tigers organization in 1991 during the height of the Gulf War crisis, Tigers president and COO Bo Schembechler said to Cohen, "You are going to get us into a war," as if Cohen represented Jews or Israel. While it doesn't put the late Schembechler in a good light, Cohen uses it to demonstrate that anti-Israel remarks like that are anti-Jewish.

Just when you think you're reading a book about the Holocaust or Israeli history, a wonderful anecdote about a Jewish baseball player appears. That is the magic of Irwin Cohen's masterful writing: He shows us that baseball is part of Jewish history, and that Jewish history is more than just a footnote in the history of baseball.

- Rabbi Jason Miller



CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS  
IN POETRY AND MEMOIR:  
THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MICHIGAN

# Reflections

*Our* *Creative Expressions* section continues to offer a space for our readers and for creative writers to share their personal experiences and perceptions. We thank all those who have contributed and invite others to share their creative thoughts on being Jewish in Michigan.

This issue features one poem and two short essays. Arlene Frank's poem evokes strong memories of our mothers and grandmothers who spent so many days and hours collecting pennies, nickels and dimes for various organizations. Reading her prose, one can clearly envision those little tin-cans that were omnipresent in homes everywhere. It is a sweet poem, with a poignant message.

Sharon Rocklin takes us Up North for Shabbat where we meet her eight-year-old daughter who is struck in apparent horror at the thought of lighting the Shabbat candles in front of a congregation of near strangers. The fun twist at the end ensures that all is well with the Rocklin family's adventure. The story certainly warrants a fun chuckle.

While sharing the thoughts of various iconic Michigan landmarks, writer Susan Rogers writes of her childhood seders spent with family at her aunt and uncle's homes, first in Detroit and then in Southfield. Their family traditions and escapades are ones that we can all appreciate, except perhaps their little twist on Elijah's visit.

We hope you enjoy these creative selections. Please don't be shy...send us your submissions (preferably by email). Send them directly to Joy Gaines-Friedler at [caboti@yahoo.com](mailto:caboti@yahoo.com) or Wendy Bice at [wrbice@michjewishhistory.org](mailto:wrbice@michjewishhistory.org) or mail them to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, attention: Journal Editor; 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322. Be sure to include your contact information, including your email address and phone number in your submission. All submissions must contain reflections or memories of Jewish life in Michigan.

With gratitude,

Joy Gaines-Friedler, Editor, *Creative Expressions*

# Reflections

## Ladies of the Charity

by Arlene J. Frank

You sold coupon books  
collected white elephants  
dropped pennies in the pushke  
*clink, clink*  
while I stood on tiptoe, peered into  
the can, waited days till it overflowed  
till it was whisked out of our house  
replaced with a new one, light  
as air, empty, calling out to be full-filled.

You met in basements, dens,  
living rooms with plastic-covered sofas,  
coffee and rugelakh. There were matters to discuss.

I snuck down late in the evening  
let the smell of coffee connect me  
snatched a sweet, I snuck down  
to hear my future in your voices.

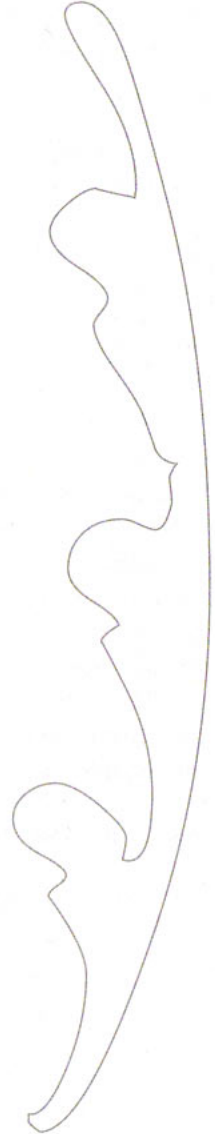
The money traveled far, to children in the pictures  
of letters you received and recited, sad children,  
sick children, children like me. And not.

You competed with other ladies  
in other basements and dens  
and rumpus rooms, I imagine,  
with knotty-pine paneling,  
around card tables, ping pong tables,  
around coffee tables of carved mahogany.

I can still hear your voices of assurance  
hear the *clink, clink*  
filling the blue pushke.  
Pennies overflowing.

**Arlene Frank**

is a life-long  
Detroiter and  
now lives  
downtown in  
Lafayette Park.  
She is the program  
coordinator of the  
Womencenter at  
Oakland Community  
College. Arlene uses  
a virtual pushke to  
support charities.





---

---

# Reflections

---

---

## TRAVERSE CITY SHABBAT

---

BY SHARON ROCKLIN

*My* father's family have lived in Traverse City since 1940. My parents, siblings, and I have been making the trek "Up North" since long before there have been freeways, fashionable restaurants, or Holiday Inns along the way. In addition to the expected rustic diversions, our trips usually included a visit to the little white-frame synagogue in the heart of the city, Temple Beth El. It is now the oldest Jewish house of worship in continuous use in the state of Michigan. With permanent seating for about sixty people in the sanctuary, it has evolved from an initially Orthodox congregation to accommodating the eclectic styles of worship preferred not only by those who come from the immediate and surrounding areas, but by visiting tourists as well.

Through the years the membership has fluctuated greatly. I remember, as a child, attending services where there might have been fewer than fifteen people in attendance, and nine of them were relatives. The children of the few Jewish families who lived in Traverse City at that time were usually sent down-state when they went to college. Not many of them ever came back to be permanent, year-round residents. The continuity of the little congregation was seriously threatened.

By the time my husband and I were bringing our own children to visit the north country, a few new people had settled in the area and had been warmly embraced by TC's old guard. When we showed up for Friday evening Sabbath service, even as visitors we were fussed over like visiting dignitaries. We had to arrive at the temple early so my aunt could bustle around, being certain the whole family was introduced to everyone, and proudly informing them that all three of our children were students at a Hebrew day school. Even though the actual membership numbers had barely increased, there was an air of optimism that was enhanced by the presence of our young family.

The ritual of blessing and lighting of the Sabbath candles that began the service was an honor that rotated among the women. One time, as a guest, the privilege was offered to me. I thought for a moment about how poignant the concept of *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, was for these people and I declined. Instead, I suggested that my eight-year-old daughter, Marla, light the candles. The idea was accepted with delight, but politely tempered with concern about the ability of so young a child to recite the Hebrew benediction properly. I assured everyone that, by virtue of her education, her comfort with the language exceeded my own. In addition, never being one to shirk attention, she expressed her own enthusiasm and willingness. So, it was settled, and we took our seats in the small sanctuary.

The visiting rabbi led Marla to the little table that had been set up in front of the congregation. It was covered with a white cloth and white candlesticks in a pair of antique silver candle holders, gleaming from their most recent polishing. A pack of matches had been placed next to them. My family sat down in the front row. The rabbi took his position on the bimah, opened his book, smiled at Marla, and said softly, "Go ahead, light the candles." An expectant hush fell over

---

---



# Reflections

the room and all eyes were on our daughter.

Marla stood rigidly in front of the table. She alternated worried glances between us and the objects before her. The rabbi's smile was becoming strained. A soft murmur could be heard around us. My husband leaned forward and whispered encouragingly, "You know this blessing, sweetie. Light the candles." Tears began to form in her eyes, but she still did nothing. The rabbi cleared his throat and people shuffled in their seats. My aunt poked me and hissed, "Are you sure she can do this?"

By this time I was beginning to have my own doubts. Marla, clearly upset, resolutely stood her ground. I leaned forward. "What's the matter?" I asked, hoping my tone of voice did not betray my growing agitation. A conflict of prohibition versus expectation played across her face as she fought back tears. She leaned toward me and whispered, "I'm not allowed to play with matches."

Dad stepped up and came to the rescue. He lit the candles and Marla performed the rest of the ritual without hesitation and recited the blessing in flawless Hebrew. An enthusiastic and relieved chorus of "Amen!" concluded the ceremony, and services were underway.

— Sharon Rocklin, is a wife and mother of three adult children. She especially enjoys re-learning about the world through the eyes of her six grandchildren. Sharon's aunt and uncle settled in Traverse City in the early 1940s and her cousins still live in the area.

## "IT'S OFFICIAL" THE OTHER PASSOVER STORY

BY SUSAN ROGERS

*In* homes around the world the Four Questions are perhaps the most iconic part of the Passover story. In my Aunt Adele and Uncle Hy's home the utterance (in none too soft a voice) was, "It's official." This meant that somebody had spilled some wine, thereby signifying the official start of Passover. Probably, it was my brother Fred who was blamed.

Passover meant I would show up at my aunt and uncle's home, first on Pennington in Detroit and then on Brooks Lane in Southfield, with my annual Passover cold, flaming red nose in tow. Being the youngest meant that I could get away with being "a little crabby" as my mother would announce to all when my whining and complaining would begin. To this day I am still surprised that my cousin Sharon did not pelt me with our Bubbie's *Pesadicha* bagels, as I got away with what seemed everything, and she and Fred got away with, well, nothing.

The reading of the Haggadah at our seder could not exactly be described as inclusion. Uncle Hy would sit at the head of the table and mumble the entire Haggadah by himself (at a speed that would make Evelyn Wood envious), except for the Four Questions. Don't think that Uncle



Hy's reading at a clip faster than Seabiscuit could race had anything to do with the seder winding down in a shorter amount of time. We had no idea what Uncle Hy was mumbling, other than the occasional "Amen," but, for sure, it seemed like it took a very long time.

Meanwhile, keeping under the radar of Uncle Hy (nobody wanted to be given a look from him), the kids would talk, laugh, and kick one another under the table. We would busy ourselves by periodically reaching for the ever-present brilliant blue bottle of made-in-Detroit seltzer water. The bubbling water would cascade in our throats and nostrils as we tried hard not to laugh at the sensation it created. Again, I would usually be exempt from blame having been cast as blameless, because "Suzi is just a little bit tired!"

Mom and Aunt Adele shared their own traditions at the table and often in unison, when they would turn to Bubbie and insist, "Ma. Sha." This "chant" would be repeated throughout the evening in none-too-soft voices.

I still wonder why I wasn't scarred for life when one year, when the door was opened for Elijah, in walked a friend of our family covered in a white sheet. We knew she didn't have a mean bone in her body. After that, I admit a part of me always felt just a bit of trepidation around her.

Despite the fact that the word seder means "order," the seders I experienced growing up may not have been the most orderly. In fact, they could be described as chaotic, and that's being generous, but I would not have traded them for anything. Judaism and tradition have always gone hand-in-hand in my life. Anticipating high holy days services at Beth Abraham with my parents and relatives (yes, Uncle Hy would read the Siddur as he did the Haggadah) and attending classes at United Hebrew School and stopping at Greene's Hamburgers afterward were part of the rich tradition of Judaism for my family.

Traditions are not learned from a book; they are created out of love and hopefulness. Using my mother's recipe for making latkes, reciting the Hamotzi over the bread while my daughter, would do a little dance, vacationing in South Haven and now sharing in the joy of my great-nieces and nephews' b'nai mitzvah are the Judaism I love. My connection to the Michigan Jewish community is due to family, friends, experiences, and of course, the stories – stories passed along with love and hopefulness.

*– Susan Rogers is a school social worker and the director of Parare Counseling and Consulting, PLC, and has taught in the graduate program of the School of Social Work at Wayne State University. Susan's work focuses on people with autism-spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities, and mental-health challenges. An avid bicyclist, Susan has ridden in events for Best Buddies International and in the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Wish-a-Mile ride, among others.*

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

1973

**On May 18, a State of Michigan Historical Marker commemorating Detroit's first Jewish cemetery is erected at the historic Lafayette Cemetery.**



## 2013 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### MARC D. MANSON

In 1999, a group of JHSM volunteers began gathering yearbooks from Michigan high schools that Jewish children attended. The volunteers wisely saw that yearbooks are historical treasures that should be collected and protected. Between the stately hardbound covers, yearbooks chronicle the names and activities of nearly every student. Photographs show us the fashions of the day; advertisements remind us of the price of a suit. As a historical society, we realized that saving these treasures enables future generations to study their ancestors and learn a bit about who they were in their younger days.

Among the first to dig into the books – and begin the quest to acquire more – was Marc Manson. Simply put, the JHSM Yearbook Collection would not exist without the devotion and passion of this tireless volunteer. Manson has personally invested an endless number of hours and energy into acquiring yearbooks from just about everyone and anyone. Thanks also to a dedicated corps of volunteers, the world-class collection now numbers more than 2,000 yearbooks. The oldest book, from Detroit Central High School, is dated 1904. Manson and his team are now in the process of cataloguing every book and making the collection available through JHSM's website. In 2013, Manson created a Yearbook Collection browsing library at the Zekelman Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

Manson likes to remind people that "the years we spend in high school are the most important and memorable years of our lives. The friends we make last forever.... And it is because of our high school yearbooks that we remain seventeen forever."

Beyond yearbooks, Manson devours local history, lending his expertise to other organizations including the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan, the Holocaust Memorial Center, JARC and the Friendship Circle.



*JHSM president Jerry Cook stands with Marc Manson, 2013 JHSM Volunteer of the Year.*



# JHSM

## 2013 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### GERALD S. COOK

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to report on the achievements of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan (JHSM) during the past year. Thirty-nine different events in twelve months were listed in the booklet we distributed during our excellent annual meeting, held in May at the Detroit Historical Museum. Many were 'sell-out' tours and lectures.

#### Highlights of our programming

- We focused considerable resources and energy on improvements to our Settlers to Citizens Youth Tours, provided as a complimentary community service to more than 500 Jewish religious-school students. Working in cooperation with the Michigan Board of Jewish Educators, our revised tours received many accolades. We also ran free tours for high-school and college students.
- JHSM utilized a grant from the Jewish Women's Foundation to conduct research in preparation for a new tour and booklet on *Michigan Jewish Women Who Made a Difference*.
- JHSM introduced a new service for Jewish senior citizens, Virtual Tours of Historic Jewish Detroit. With inspiration and funding from the David Horodoker Society, these



In August 2013, President Jerry Cook led an expansive tour of Detroit for JOIN summer interns. The Jeanette and Oscar Cook Jewish Occupational Internship Program (JOIN), under the aegis of JOIN, and others, offers summer internships to up to two dozen college students in Jewish non-profit social-service agencies in the Detroit area. Pictured here is Jerry Cook welcoming students to the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, one of the many stops on the tour. Photo by Rachel Ellentuck.





*In March 2013, JSHM and Temple Israel hosted some 150 students and adults on a tour of historic Jewish Detroit. The group is pictured here in front of Temple Israel's first building on Manderson Avenue in northwest Detroit.*



*Bitter March winds didn't stop Chapman Abraham (JSHM volunteer Al Saperstein) from greeting students from five different religious schools and sharing his tale of coming to Michigan by canoe in 1761 from Montreal.*



*Religious-school students are given a private tour of the Belle Isle Aquarium, thanks to Jennifer Boardman (center). Boardman serves on the JSHM Board of Directors and is also the co-chair of the Aquarium Committee for the Belle Isle Conservancy. Youth tour chairperson Ruth Goldstein (left) and JSHM director Wendy Rose Bice (right) helped lead the March tour.*

programs, provided at senior residences without charge, employ the talents of JSHM volunteers who show and narrate a slide show that replicates our historic Detroit bus tours. This program is in its infancy and we are looking to expand upon it in the coming months.



- Several new tours were developed and offered for the first time, including our highly successful tours of Jewish Windsor and northwest Detroit (by bicycle as well as by bus). JHSM continued to conduct our public Settlers to Citizens bus tour, as well as many custom-designed tours for families and groups.
- Two other tremendously successful events were the illustrated presentations on businesses owned by Jewish families on Chene Street in Detroit and on Jews who worked for and with Motown Records.
- Collaborating with Jewish and community organizations remained an important aspect of our work. This year we worked closely with the Detroit Historical Museum, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Jewish Community Center, and several churches whose buildings were formerly synagogues. We also sponsored or participated in programs in Ann Arbor, Flint, and Houghton.
- We attracted many new people – Jews and non-Jews – to our lectures and tours, and welcomed many of them as new JHSM members.



*In April 2013 JHSM had the honor of creating a tailor-made tour of historic Jewish Detroit for students from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Alliance for Jewish Education FedEd class, "From Dexter-Davison to Orchard Lake Road." The group stepped back in time visiting many sites, including a stop at Central High School.*

- JHSM published this superb journal, to inform readers now and continue to educate people in the future, online and in research libraries.
- Our monthly *News and Events*, sent by email, highlighted programming throughout the year; if you do not receive that newsletter, please provide your email address to our office.

### **Recognition of Staff and Volunteers**

We could not have achieved such a successful year of programming without our staff, officers, board, committee chairs, volunteers, and partnering organizations. Thank you! My predecessor and dear friend Arnie Collens and our former director Aimee Ergas laid the foundation for this year's activities. In July 2012, Wendy Rose Bice assumed



the position of director, and in November Elizabeth Kannon became our administrative assistant. Together, they have done exemplary work, especially considering these are part-time positions. I also commend Wendy as editor of this journal, *Michigan Jewish History*, associate editors Marilyn Krainen, Debbie Logan, and Bobbie Lewis, along with the other volunteers on our editorial staff, and the authors.

I express sincere gratitude to our generous donors, who provided funds that sustained our programming: the benefactors and patrons of specific programs and events, the Heritage Council members whose gifts helped to build our endowment fund, those who made tribute and memorial donations, and our loyal members. I also wish to extend a special thank-you to A. Alfred Taubman, who five years ago challenged JHSM to raise funds by offering matching grants. We met and exceeded that challenge each year,



*JHSM board of directors member Carol Weisfeld and volunteer Harriet Berg, founder of Detroit's Festival Dancers, participated in the Detroit Historical Society's Storytellers Festival in July 2013. Berg, using dance as a story-telling medium, highlighted the story of Jewish settlement in Michigan while Weisfeld helped families learn more through activities and story sharing.*

thanks to the generosity of our donors and members. In January, we received Mr. Taubman's final payment to our endowment fund. This year, we also received a substantial endowment contribution from the estate of the late William Davidson, supplementing the support he provided during his lifetime. Eugene Applebaum, the recipient of the prestigious 2013 Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Butzel Award, continues his generous support of JHSM, as do the Nancy and James Grosfeld and Madeleine and Mandell Berman families.

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

1923

**The United Hebrew Schools, founded in 1920 as a result of a merger of the Division and Wilkins Streets Talmud Torahs, has a student population of 2,550. The majority are "of American birth and from homes of Orthodox and Conservative families."**



### In Conclusion

JHSM belongs to you, our members. I hope you approve of how we are carrying out our mission to "educate, celebrate, and promote awareness of the contributions of the Jews of Michigan...." I encourage you to communicate with me and with members of the board and our staff to share your ideas. If you can help us meet the increased demand for our services through volunteer work or with funding, please let us know. Every hour of volunteer service and every gift is important. You can also help ensure the future of JHSM by providing for JHSM in your estate plans and, in doing so, become an acknowledged member of our Joshua Society.

On a personal note, I thank Judy Cantor for encouraging me to become active with this organization. I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to the directors of JHSM for twice electing me president, and my wonderful wife Barbara for her advice and assistance. I have made many new friends, learned much, and derived great satisfaction from this society.



*In March 2013, JHSM launched a new tour, An Insider's Look at the Detroit Historical Museum, in partnership with the Detroit Historical Society. The tour, which focused on the many Jewish history makers profiled within the recently renovated museum, included a walk through the Leonard N. Simons Streets of Old Detroit (named for one of the founders of the JHSM), explorations of two new exhibits, Detroit: Arsenal of Democracy and The Kid Rock Music Lab, and a visit to the updated Doorway To Freedom – Detroit and the Underground Railroad. Detroit Historical Society docent, Dr. Andy Wilson, stands in front of a display showcasing the fabulous 1950s and 1960s.*



The June 2013 bus tour of historic Jewish Windsor falls into the category of one of JHSM's most successful tours to date. Three busloads of members, guests, and friends – from Canada and the U.S. – came together to explore our next-door neighbor, Windsor. Windsor and Detroit have enjoyed a unique relationship that dates back to the moment Windsor's first Jewish settler, Moses David, came from Montreal to the fur-trading post of Sandwich in 1790. He spent time on both sides of the river and in the more-than 200 years since, the neighboring communities have shared a close, international bond.



*Shaar Hashomayim (Gate of the Heavens) opened its doors in 1930, when Windsor's Jewish population numbered 2,500. Ever since, this beautiful religious home, modeled after the Shaar in Montreal, has served the community faithfully as a community center, school, and meeting place. Bus docents, part of the Windsor-Detroit team who organized the tour, stand on the steps of this still-in-use synagogue. (l to r:) Fred Katzman, Ruthe Goldstein, Sarah Shklov, Mike Kasky, Herb Brudner, Stan Meretsky. Other members of the planning team included Art and Maddie Weingarden, Marcie Katzman, Lorraine Victor, Sandi Malowitz, Milton Dzodin, Wendy Rose Bice, and Harvey Kessler, director of Windsor's Jewish Community Center.*

*The women's balcony of the Shaar Hashomayim sanctuary offers a close-up view of the beautiful stained-glass windows.*





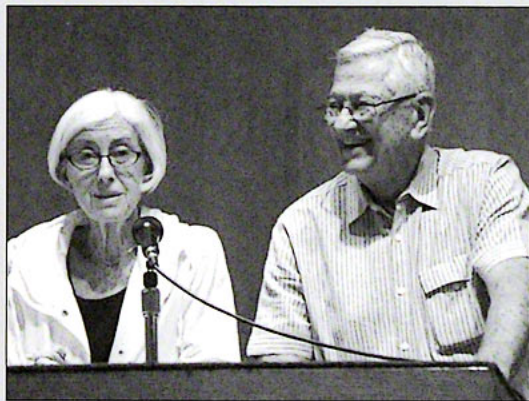


## TOUR OF HISTORIC JEWISH WINDSOR

Photos courtesy of  
Arnold Collens and Jim Grey

*"Dedicated to our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice for God and country. Balfour Branch No. 503 Royal Canadian Legion 1970 - 1975"*

Maddie and Arthur Weingarden (below), members of Windsor's Congregation Beth El, narrate a history of the synagogue and congregation that were established in 1959 when many Jewish families sought an alternative to Orthodox Judaism. At first, congregants gathered in the home of Milton and Betty Kovinsky on Ouellette Avenue (now site of Windsor's Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital), then purchased a building farther up the street. The present-day building, located in the area known as South Windsor, was dedicated in 1962.



At left, Peggy and Dennis Frank (left) are pictured with Terry and Martin Hollander at the gravesite of Moses David, Windsor's first Jewish resident.



## JCYCLE 3

The third J-Cycle event, held on August 18, 2013, broke all J-Cycle records. More than 200 riders registered, close to fifty volunteers lent a hand, the sun shone, the temperatures were comfortable, and, in a true measure of success, nearly every ounce of food was eaten (and what was left was donated). Most importantly, the route – which traveled fourteen miles through Northwest Detroit – highlights the contributions of Jewish volunteers and institutions, past and present, have been and continue to be involved in the area's cultural, educational and philanthropic programs and services. The four presenting organizations, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit, Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, and Hillel Metro Detroit, have created a fruitful partnership that is committed to presenting these annual bicycle tours (geared toward cyclists of all abilities) and celebrating Detroit's Jewish heritage.

*Docent Barbara Cook stands at the foot of a small pool in the backyard of the home of Jackie Fishman Raines and Roy Raines, a Jewish couple who recently left the suburbs to make this Palmer Woods home their residence. The garden's design is the work of Jeff Klein, founder of Classic Landscape in Detroit, and Detroit Farm & Garden, one of the stops featured on J-Cycle 2 in 2012. Photograph by Tor Schwayder.*



*Sarah and Laurie Blume at Mumford High School which was rebuilt in 2012.*



Hannan Lis (left), a J-Cycle sponsor and participant and Tor Schwyder, volunteer, have both been involved in the community education event since its beginning in 2011.



Sometimes called the Segregation Wall or the Birwood Wall, this six-foot-high concrete wall was erected in 1940 as a barrier to separate an existing low-income residential area from new homes to be built for whites. The wall remains standing as a reminder of the struggle for equal rights.



Docents Risha Ring (left) and Carol Lipsitt stand at the entryway of the former Ahavas Achim synagogue, now the Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ. Founded in 1912, this would have been the third building for the congregation. The building was sold in 1970.



A group of riders returns to Palmer Park after the 14-mile J-Cycle tour and ride.



## JHSM ANNUAL MEETING

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was held on May 7, 2013, at the Detroit Historical Museum. More than 200 people attended the affair which featured private tours of the museum, dinner along the Streets of Old Detroit, and keynote speaker Josh Linkner, CEO and managing partner of Detroit Venture Partners, one of the companies that complete the Bedrock Management portfolio of entrepreneur Dan Gilbert.



*One of the highlights of JHSM's annual meeting is the presentation of the Leonard N. Simons Award.*

*This year, the prestigious honor went to Irwin Cohen, author and historian. Joining him in the celebration were members of his family including (l to r): Moshe Cohen, Burton and Sharon Cohen, Dini (Cohen) Peterson, Ephraim Singal, Shani (Cohen) Singal, and Mendy Cohen.*



*Micheal Maddin (left) and Eugene Driker enjoy food and conversation along the Streets of Old Detroit.*



*Fred and Marilyn Krainen enjoy a moment together before the meeting.*





Those who attended the annual meeting were treated to a team of speakers.  
 Top row (l to r): Robert Bury, CEO Detroit Historical Society; Marc Manson; Gary Torgow; Rob Kaplow.  
 Middle row (l to r): Andy Levin, Josh Linkner, Irwin Cohen; Jerry Cook and Mary Lou Zieve.



Nine JHSM past presidents attended this year's event. Top row: Jeffrey Borin, current JHSM president Gerald Cook, Ellen Cole, Stanley Meretsky. Center row: Robert Kaplow, Joan Braun, Arnold Collens. Front row: James Grey, Adele Staller, Judy Cantor.



---

# JHSM 2013

---

## LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD

---

### IRWIN J. COHEN

---

In May 2013 the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan presented the prestigious Leonard N. Simons History Award to native Detroiters Irwin J. Cohen. Cohen, known nationally as a leading author, columnist, and baseball-history lecturer, is also deeply revered for his knowledge of Detroit history, particularly Detroit's Jewish history. The author of ten books, including the indispensable *Echoes of Detroit's Jewish Communities: A History*, Cohen is one of only a handful of writers who interviewed legendary Jewish baseball hero Hank Greenberg.

Cohen grew up in the 12th Street and Dexter areas of Detroit and later in north-west Detroit. He calls upon his childhood memories and life experiences in his research and documentation of Detroit's history, generously sharing his vast knowledge. He's considered an expert in tracing the stories of many long-forgotten Jewish landmarks, including some of the city's oldest *shuls*, in which he attended daily services while growing up.

Cohen had the blessing of being able to combine his baseball passion with his business career when he spent nine years as director of group sales for the Detroit Tigers. He was the only Jewish employee in their history who never worked on the Jewish Sabbath or holidays. During that time, in 1984, the Detroit Tigers won the World Series, and Cohen has the prominent ring to prove it. Having served as president of Congregation Mogen Abraham in Yeshiva Beth Yehudah in Southfield, Cohen confidently claims that he is likely the only synagogue president to wear this prestigious ornament.

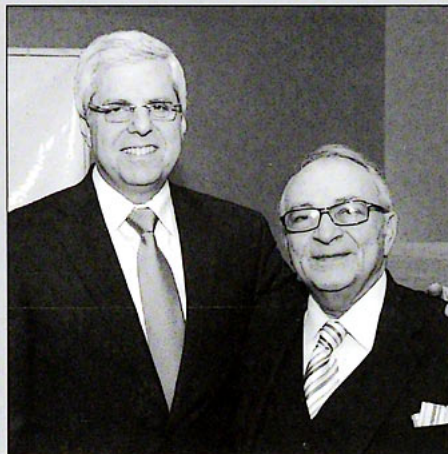
The Leonard N. Simons History Award, presented annually by JHSM, recognizes the efforts of one individual who has made outstanding contributions to the community and furthers JHSM's mission to educate, celebrate, and promote awareness of the contributions of the Jews of Michigan to our state, our nation and the world. JHSM's work ensures that future generations will know their heritage and history. It is named in honor of Leonard Simons who founded the advertising agency Simons Michelson Zieve in 1929. Simons was an active leader with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and had a deep passion for the preservation of Jewish and community history. His desire to ensure that the Jewish community of Detroit would retain a sense of pride in knowing who they are and where they came from was influential in the establishment of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan and the Jewish Community Archives, named in his memory.



Cohen's most recent book, *Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews*, released in 2013, traces Jewish history from the post-Civil War era to the present and intertwines the lives of Jewish baseball players. Irwin and his wife Davida's daughter, Chani Goldfein of blessed memory, has seven children, all of whom have graduated from or are attending the Yeshiva Beth Yehudah.



(l to r) 2013 Leonard N. Simons History Award recipient Irwin Cohen stands with his friend and co-presenter of the award Gary Torgow. Joining are Mary Lou Zieve, daughter of Leonard Simons, and JHSM president Jerry Cook.



Gary Torgow and Irwin Cohen at the Annual Meeting.

## LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD RECIPIENTS

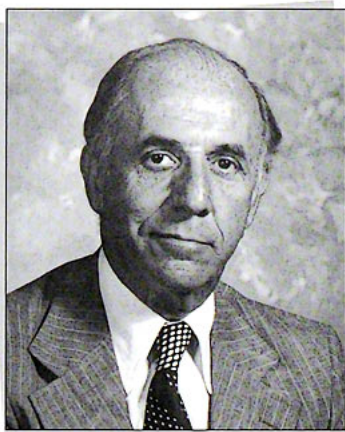
- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>1991</b> Philip Slomovitz                  | <b>2003</b> Matilda Brandwine  |
| <b>1992</b> Avern L. Cohn                     | <b>2004</b> Susie Citrin       |
| <b>1993</b> George M. Stutz                   | <b>2005</b> Edith L. Resnick   |
| <b>1994</b> Irwin Shaw                        | <b>2006</b> Gerald S. Cook     |
| <b>1995</b> Emma Lazaroff Schaver             | <b>2007</b> Sharon L. Alterman |
| <b>1996</b> Leslie S. Hough & Philip P. Mason | <b>2008</b> George M. Zeltzer  |
| <b>1997</b> Mary Lou Simons Zieve             | <b>2009</b> Mandell L. Berman  |
| <b>1998</b> Judith Levin Cantor               | <b>2010</b> James D. Grey      |
| <b>1999</b> Michael W. Maddin                 | <b>2011</b> Charlotte Dubin    |
| <b>2000</b> Alan D. Kandel                    | <b>2012</b> Michael O. Smith   |
| <b>2001</b> Sidney M. Bolkosky                | <b>2013</b> Irwin J. Cohen     |
| <b>2002</b> Adele W. Staller                  |                                |



# IN MEMORIAM

NATHANIEL BRODER

1927 – 2013



Nathaniel “Brewster” Broder liked to begin every morning with a trip to Starbucks, even though he didn’t drink coffee.

He was there to say hello to friends – the ones he already knew and the ones he might make. He loved people, and there was nothing better than a good *schmooze*. Next, he would head off to work and to lunch with “his different gangs,” according to his wife Ruth, and finally to the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, where he’d exercise on the treadmill for about an hour, doing his best to stay healthy after facing more than his share of illnesses.

After he was diagnosed with cancer, “he finally figured out that he wasn’t going to beat this one,” Ruth said.

Brewster Broder died in April 2013 at the age of eighty-five. He left behind not only family but hundreds of friends and many more who benefitted from his kindness and support for groups including the JCC (where he served as president from 1970 to 1973), the Jewish Federation, the USO, and the United Way.

“By the time I moved to Detroit as executive director in 2005, Brewster was already a permanent JCC fixture,” said JCC executive director Mark A. Lit. “He greeted me almost daily for the last eight years, always with a smile and positive thought and encouragement. His counsel was always welcome, and his ability to size up a problem and provide helpful advice was truly appreciated. I will miss his great smile, and his warm handshake, and knowing that he was such a supporter and such a friend.”



Broder and his two brothers were born in Detroit to Hy and Celia Broder. Hy was in the coffee business and gave generously of his time and money, including serving as JCC president from 1944 to 1947. His wife, Celia Meyers Broder, was active in Hadassah and at Sinai Hospital, serving as the Sinai Guild's first president. Hy and Celia were warm but formal people who always held family Shabbat dinners, which often included a visit from the boys' uncle Henry Meyers or cousin Jacob Keidan, both of whom also served as JCC presidents — Henry from 1937 to 1941, and Jacob from 1955 to 1958.

The nickname "Brewster" came from Celia's book club or sewing-circle friends — no one could ever remember which — in honor of Brewster Street in the heart of Detroit's Jewish neighborhood. "They just liked the sound of 'Brewster Broder,'" Ruth recalled, though her husband's name went on to cause some confusion. He was known in person and on important documents variously as Bruce, Brewster, Nathaniel, and N.B.

After college and then service in the army during the Korean War, Brewster went to work in the family coffee business. He often vacationed with his parents and siblings in Charlevoix, the family always bringing along kosher meat, since none was available Up North. While there he met his future bride, Ruth Kahn.

Ruth and Brewster had four sons. Brewster built a successful business in real estate, and then took on a second career selling life insurance. The family settled in Pleasant Ridge, then West Bloomfield. Their home was always a gathering place for their extended family and many friends. Brewster, who could never stay angry, also had a great sense of humor but "he couldn't tell a joke — he would always mangle it," said Ruth. They were members of Temple Israel and visited Israel on several occasions.

As Brewster's health began to fail, he would often apologize for being sick or needing help, though no one minded helping this man who had been so good to others. Even his barber helped out; he came to the house to give his friend a haircut. A man of many interests, Brewster liked baseball, ballet, and the symphony. He loved his family, his community, and the state of Israel, but mostly, said Ruth, he enjoyed his friends.

Brewster Broder is survived by his wife Ruth, three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. — *Elizabeth Applebaum*

## HISTORICAL TIDBIT

1923

**The first Jewish federal judge in Michigan, Charles Simons, is appointed by President Harding. Simons began his long career in public service with his election to the state senate in 1903, then served as a Wayne County circuit court commissioner. In 1929, President Hoover appoints Judge Simons to the U.S. Court of Appeals.**



## DOROTHY KAUFMAN

### 1925 – 2012



Dorothy “Dottie” Kaufman’s volunteer activities were many and varied. As a devoted member of the Sinai Guild, Kaufman provided countless hours of service to patients at Detroit’s Sinai Hospital. She helped develop the hospital’s mobile library and she established the docent-training program for the Holocaust Memorial Center at its original location in West Bloomfield. In Kaufman’s nomination for the Eight Over Eighty Award, which she received in 2008 in recognition of her deep commitment to her community, Esther Mintz said that “Dottie Kaufman epitomizes the concept of *Tikkun Olam*.”

She was born on October 28, 1925, in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, graduated from Pennsylvania State University, then went on to work as a journalist for the *Pittsburgh Press*. In 1949, Dottie married Harold Kaufman and moved to Detroit. Her volunteer activities began almost immediately as she joined the National Council of Jewish Women. She became editor of *The Bulletin* and held that position for five years.

NCJW was dedicated to filling the community’s unmet needs, and in 1973, Kaufman helped establish the first kosher Meals on Wheels program. As its chair, Kaufman discovered that many of the program’s clients were handicapped and frustrated over lack of access to public venues. Always an innovator, Kaufman proposed — and spent two years developing — a 400-page “Greater Detroit Access Guide,” which was published in 1984. For her efforts, Kaufman was honored with the Kenny Michigan Rehabilitation Association Award for distinguished service to the disabled, and with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan’s Heart of Gold Award.

In 1990, Kaufman enrolled in the archival-administration program at the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University so she could gain the skills necessary to organize NCJW’s vast collection of papers. She excelled as a student. Kaufman utilized her training to organize many other important archival collections, including those belonging to Sinai Hospital and Jewish Federation Apartments. She was a member of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Archives Committee, and her skills and friendship were cherished during the many years she spent as an archives volunteer. In addition, this dynamo loved crossword puzzles; in fact, she wrote them.

Dottie Kaufman devoted her life to her family and her many friends. She leaves a legacy of community service along with the gifts of her generous heart and keen mind. Dottie is survived by daughters Lauren Botney and Donna (Richard) Weiss and four grandchildren. — Sharon Alterman



## DR. MORRIS J. MINTZ

### 1911 – 2012



Dr. Morris Joseph Mintz was a true American success story. Born in Lodz, Poland, to Norman and Anna (Fisher) Mintz, Dr. Mintz, one of the founding physicians of the former Sinai Hospital in Detroit and a decorated war veteran, died in November 2012 at the age of 101.

Morris began his career at age fifteen, when he gave shaves and haircuts at his father's business, Norman's Beauty Salon, on Dexter at Fullerton in Detroit. He also assisted his mother, the camp cook at the Fresh Air Society camp (now Camp Tamarack). He graduated *summa cum laude* from Northern High School in June 1927, then attended City College of Detroit (later Wayne State University) and enrolled at the University of Michigan Medical School, graduating in 1935.

In 1942, five years after marrying his sweetheart, Ginger Bessie Evans, Dr. Mintz enlisted in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant, was promoted to captain, and later received a Purple Heart for his service in Europe. After the war, Dr. Mintz returned to Detroit, passed the ophthalmology boards in 1951, and opened a practice on Livernois near Six Mile Road.

In 1960, Dr. Mintz and two colleagues founded Michigan's first Low Vision Clinic, a model for the country. In 1971, Dr. Mintz and his team created the electronic magnifier, which enables partly sighted people to read and write. Dr. Mintz served as first director of the renamed Vision Rehabilitation Institute and continued weekly visits there after retiring in 1986.

Marjorie Levine remembers her father as an early advocate of a holistic approach to medicine. "Dad had a stack of classical and Yiddish records and thought playing them in the office had a calming effect on patients," Levine said. Her father showed compassion by keeping charges low for less-affluent patients. He was also "significantly ahead of the times for putting up a 'Do Not Smoke' sign in his waiting room during the 1950s."

During his early years of practice, Dr. Mintz volunteered at Detroit's North End Clinic, the forerunner of Sinai Hospital. He later became a consulting ophthalmologist to the Michigan Commission for the Blind and a board member of the Greater Detroit Society for the Blind. He served as president of the Maimonides Medical Society, which raises funds for medical scholarships. In 2010 he was honored for being the oldest living graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Mintz is survived by his two daughters and sons-in-law and by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. — Esther Allweiss Ingber



## RABBI IRWIN GRONER

### 1931 – 2012



When Temple Israel in West Bloomfield decided to open the first Reform *mikvah* (ritual bath) in 1995, Rabbi Harold Loss invited Rabbi Irwin Groner of Shaarey Zedek, a Conservative congregation in Southfield, to view progress of the construction. Rabbi Groner, ever a bridge-builder, asked that the *mikvah* be built so a Conservative rabbi would feel at ease joining in a conversion ceremony there with a Reform colleague. Rabbi Loss assured his longtime friend that the *mikvah* would meet that lofty standard, and together they sought a local Orthodox rabbi to also bless the *mikvah*.

Rabbi Loss reflected upon this interaction in a *Michigan Jewish History* article: "I recall this moment as an example of the way Rabbi Groner looked after our community and all its members," he said.

A profound thinker with international influence, a rabbinic authority who came from an extended family of rabbis, Rabbi Groner died Dec. 30, 2012. He was eighty-one.

The fabric of Jewish life in metro Detroit was changed for the better by his fifty-three years of rabbinic calling, working on behalf of what was good for the Jews, his congregation and the community.

#### From The Heart

Abundant in *mentshlichkeit*, Rabbi Groner brought people together through the content of his argument and his willingness to listen. Whether speaking from prepared text or with humor intermixed with "Gronerisms," he had a knack for invoking eloquence to bring audiences into the moment and he thrived on bringing Jews together to find common ground. His spiritual spurs were cut alongside a generation of Conservative rabbis where respect for intelligence, morality, and integrity was the most valuable currency.

While Rabbi Groner was fun loving, there is no question that, after his family, what he loved most was being a rabbi. He moved sensitively amid tears of mourning and smiles of joy. He could spin a disarming one-liner, share gentle encouragement, or counsel on a deeply personal level. He didn't back away from nagging ethical and secular concerns and vigorously stood up for *Am Yisrael* — the Jewish people and their embattled homeland,



the State of Israel.

He was a rabbi to whom congregants and the community alike turned to in difficult times. We sought his wisdom, his honesty, kindness, and compassion. We trusted his judgment and admired his insight. In eulogizing his mentor, Shaarey Zedek Rabbi Joseph H. Krakoff declared: "We say *Shalom Rav*, goodbye Rabbi, to a man who was extremely real and all-embracing — who naturally felt other people's pain and joy as if it were his very own, and who never tired of helping people to accept, to cope, and to grow."

### Moving Forward

Groner was born Oct. 27, 1931, in Chicago. He graduated from the University of Chicago and was ordained at Hebrew Theological College of Chicago. He came to Congregation Shaarey Zedek as a young assistant rabbi in 1959, arriving in Southfield from a small Little Rock synagogue shaken by Arkansas' civil-rights unrest — which in turn created a climate for anti-Semitism — during Orville Faubus's infamous governorship.

In the days and weeks following the Shabbat morning shooting of the revered Rabbi Morris Adler in 1966, Rabbi Groner steeled himself for a reckoning that would have consumed a lesser leader. Amid collective and individual trauma among congregants, witnesses to the shooting, and the larger community, Rabbi Groner kept Shaarey Zedek on a path of growth and leadership. In 1978, Rabbi Groner was named rabbi for life at Shaarey Zedek.

As Parkinson's disease slowly robbed him of stamina and robustness, his visits to hospitals to comfort ill congregants became prohibitively taxing. But his mind remained sharp and his purpose didn't waver, even after a mild stroke in 1999. He was named rabbi emeritus of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in 2003, a move that necessitated that younger Conservative rabbis step forward to lessen the workload of a rabbinic giant who, as Rabbi Krakoff put it, "taught us all how to live confidently as Jews and as human beings created in God's image."

In October 2006, Shaarey Zedek celebrated their beloved rabbi's seventy-fifth birthday. From the *bimah*, Rabbi Groner's son David, a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, reflected on his formative years by saying to his father, "You instilled in us the principles that helped us all navigate through the journey of life.... You taught us charity and compassion in our dealings with others. You encouraged us to have the integrity and moral courage to do what's right.... All the while, you, by your example, demonstrated these virtues. You unequivocally embody the words father, mentor, teacher, and rabbi."

### Ties That Bind

Rabbi Groner brought distinction to Shaarey Zedek and Jewish Detroit in his many leadership roles, both local and national. From 1972-1976, he co-chaired the National Youth Commission of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. In 1982, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York awarded him an honorary doctorate for esteemed contributions to the Conservative movement and the Jewish people. In 1984, Governor James Blanchard appointed Rabbi Groner as the first clergy member of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission. He chaired the governing board of *Etz Chayim: Torah and Commentary*, the 2001 volume produced for the Conservative movement by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Publication Society. Rabbi Groner also served as vice president



of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit and on the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit board of governors.

Rabbi Groner rose from a generation of Conservative rabbis equally knowledgeable about Judaism and the world around them. His also was a generation of spiritual leaders who gravitated toward serving as the moral conscience of their congregations and communities – and being ahead of the popular curve on civil rights, the Vietnam War, Jewish assimilation, and interfaith relations.

It was family that gave Rabbi Groner's orbit a special energy. He is survived by his wife, Leypsa; his son and daughter-in-law, Judge David Groner and Judge Amy Hathaway; and his son Dr. Joel Groner. He was the father of the late Debbie Groner. – *Robert Sklar is former editor and now contributing editor of the Detroit Jewish News.*

## HISTORICAL TIDBITS

1953

**After years of struggling to overcome biases and raise funds, the Detroit community achieves its dream of a Jewish hospital. Sinai Hospital opens its doors in 1953. Julius Priver, M.D., is the first executive director, serving from 1952 to 1979, and Harry Saltzstein, M.D., is the first chief of staff.**

**Saginaw native and life-long resident Max Heavenrich passes away. Making a career in real estate, retail, and banking, Heavenrich became director of Second National Bank in Saginaw and remained an active local philanthropist and community leader, deeply involved in youth activities. Eight years after his death, the community honored Mr. Heavenrich's contributions by dedicating a school in his honor. Heavenrich Elementary School is located on Perkins Street in Saginaw.**

2003

**In Detroit, the 135,000-square-foot Max M. Fisher Music Center opens its doors, creating a world-class music center.**

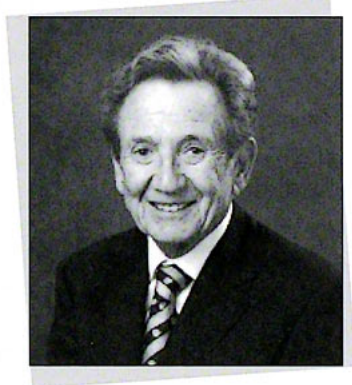
**The renovation includes an update to Orchestra Hall, the acoustically perfect music hall originally built in 1919 under the direction of then DSO leader, Ossip Gabrilowitsch.**

**Emma Lazaroff Schaver passes away at age 97. Schaver made her mark internationally as an opera singer performing with Leonard Bernstein and other orchestras throughout the world. Her music and papers were donated in 2011 to the Reuther Library at Wayne State University.**



## ARTHUR RODECKER

### 1926 – 2012



Some individuals – although few in number – are born into lives of opportunity and responsibility. Some run from that responsibility, while others embrace it with a sense of mission, and in the process become a blessing to those around them. Arthur Rodecker was born into fortune but indeed became a blessing to his congregation, Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, and to this community.

Arthur Rodecker was born in Detroit in 1926, the youngest child of Alvin and Catherine. Arthur's paternal great-great-grandfather, Reuben M. Rodacher (the name was changed by Reuben's children to Rodecker), was one of the founders of B'nai B'rith.

After graduating from high school, Rodecker went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business from Michigan State University. During World War II, he served in the U. S. Navy and then, in 1950, became an investment broker. Dubbed "Artie" by his friends, he founded his brokerage firm Rodecker & Company in 1976, then RAC Advisors, Inc., in 1979 and he co-founded investment counseling firm, DeRoy & Devereaux Private Investment Counsel, Inc. in 2002. He was a member of the NASD for twenty-eight years and was an allied member of the New York Stock Exchange. He also served as a board member of Comerica Bank's Ambassador Funds and Munder Funds. Michigan State University's Broad College of Business presented Rodecker with a lifetime achievement award in 1996.

It was Rodecker's business acumen, noticed at an early age by his great-aunt Helen, that led to his work with the Helen L. DeRoy Foundation soon after its inception in 1946. He served as president of the foundation (which had become the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation in 1976) from 1998 to 2012.

In the 1950s, as his career was gathering steam, he was introduced to the lovely Joan Summers. After a first date at Detroit's London Chop House, the couple saw each other steadily and were wed in 1955. They had a loving and devoted marriage that lasted for forty-two years, until Joan's death in 1997. In 1999, Artie married Suzy Dones who brought much happiness into his life. She passed away eight years later in 2007.

Although his business and philanthropic interests were paramount, Artie had a variety of other passions. He loved his daughter and grandchildren and was a superb golfer



who played at least three times a week. He gave of his time and talent for the Rose Hill Foundation and the Birmingham Community House. He contributed to Covenant House, a residential facility for at-risk youth. He served for twenty-six years as a board member of the Providence Hospital Foundation, and in 1993, was awarded the Providence Health Foundation Order of Charity Award in recognition of his continued support and exemplary philanthropic efforts on behalf of the hospital and community.

Arthur was a study in contrasts. He could be stern yet charming. His temper was overshadowed by his great sense of humor and heart of gold. He had strong opinions but admired those who could stand on their own two feet and work hard to attain their goals. He drew others to him with his smile and his love of a good time.

In his eulogy, Rabbi Daniel Syme of Temple Beth El said Arthur Rodecker passed from this world with a divine kiss, a "Bneshika," which means a death in Jewish tradition reserved for those who have made a difference in the world.

Arthur Rodecker is survived by his daughter Julie and four grandchildren.

### **DeRoy Testamentary Foundation**

*Helen and Aaron DeRoy were both from Pennsylvania. In the early 1900s, Aaron opened a Studebaker dealership, becoming the first Jewish auto-dealership owner. The couple came to Detroit in 1923, where Aaron opened a dealership and eventually other branches in the area. DeRoy, who gave generously to the community, served as chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign in 1931, 1932 and 1933. After his death in 1935, his wife Helen took over the Aaron DeRoy Motor Car Company, carrying on the business with great financial acumen.*

*Helen was also a philanthropic soul. She knitted slippers and blankets for local hospitals and sent some overseas before WWII; she also adopted several eastern European families to help them get safe passage to the U.S. After her husband's death, she donated funds in his memory to the Jewish Community Center, creating a lasting legacy. When she passed away in 1977, the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation was founded, as per her will, and her nephew, Arthur Rodecker, took over the helm.*

*Since its founding, the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation has provided funding for thousands of projects that improve the quality of life and promote the well-being of individuals, primarily in the greater metropolitan Detroit community. Grants are given in the areas of human services, mainly programs that benefit the elderly, youth, and disadvantaged, and those who are physically, developmentally, or emotionally challenged. Other areas of focus are health care, education, and arts and culture.*

*Among the many organizations supported by the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation are the Helen L. DeRoy Residence Hall at Wayne State University, the main sanctuary of Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Music Hall, Michigan Opera Theatre, Interlochen's Center for Film Studies, Multicultural Business Programs at Michigan State University, Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network, and the Detroit Zoo, a tradition that began in 1928 when Aaron DeRoy purchased the first two giraffes for the zoo. Today, the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation is under the guardianship of Arthur's daughter, Julie Rodecker Holly.*



## MARVIN ELIOT SCHLOSSBERG: DETROIT'S BELOVED SONNY ELIOT 1920 – 2012

When Sonny Eliot died in November 2012 at age ninety-one, the community lost a Jewish icon of local radio and television. Most remember him as the comedic weatherman on Detroit's WWJ-AM and the radio station's television counterpart, WWJ-TV (now WDIV), but there was much more to the man who was respected and beloved by so many.

Born Marvin Eliot Schlossberg on December 5, 1920, he was the youngest of seven children in his family on Hastings Street in Detroit. Fascinated by the performing arts, young Marvin would hang out at a local theater watching his older brother rehearse with an area big band. He graduated from Central High School in 1939 and attended Wayne State University. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Schlossberg enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was called into active service in March 1942.

Schlossberg became a bomber pilot, flying B-24s, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He was shot down on a mission over Germany and became a prisoner of war, remaining in captivity for eighteen months before being liberated by Russian forces. It was during this time that he found his comic side; keeping his fellow detainees in good spirits by telling stories and jokes and planning plays.

After the war, Schlossberg spent time in Paris and then New York City. Upon his return to Detroit in 1946, he legally changed his name to Sonny Eliot —“Sonny” was his mother's nickname for him. He re-enrolled at Wayne State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in communications. One of his instructors, Fran Striker, happened to be the head writer for the popular radio program *The Lone Ranger*. Striker purchased one of Eliot's scripts for the show and suggested he audition for a new communication medium called television. Excited about the idea, Eliot went to the WWJ studios in Detroit and was hired, beginning a television career that lasted more than sixty years.

WWJ-TV debuted on June 3, 1947, with a five-day-a-week schedule. At the time, only 2,000 Detroit households had TV sets. Like many early television pioneers, Sonny wore many hats. He was the voice of a puppet on a kids' program, a duffer in need of lessons on a golf program, and he donned animal suits for a circus program. He hosted a charades-like game called *Shadow Stumpers*, a five-minute history program called *Eliot's Almanac*, and a trivia-quiz program called *Hit a Homer*. When station owners learned they could sell advertisements on their newscasts' weather reports, they made Sonny the lead weathercaster — and weather forecasting took a different twist.

Until then, weather had been delivered in a serious, lecture-like way, but Sonny infused his personality into the reports. He injected quippy one-liners, comical remarks, and rhymes. He gave nicknames to his colleagues, such as





sportscaster Don “Howdy Doody” Kremer, or anchor “Lady Jane” Bower. He made people smile and laugh despite bad-weather forecasts.

Beyond the station, he would often spend time at the popular Lindell AC, a Detroit bar owned by his pal Jimmy Butsicaris, which served as a hangout for major-league baseball players. The ballplayers loved Sonny, his jokes, and his “cornball” personality. He would keep them laughing until the wee hours of the morning. He also befriended many city leaders; his attorney was former Detroit mayor Jerome B. Cavanaugh.

In many ways, Sonny was a paradox. On the air he was silly, ironic, and corny. He knew a million jokes, many of them unfit to print. In person, though, he was an avid reader, with a particular interest in history. He spoke French and German and understood spoken Spanish. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In the 1970s he published “Sonny Sez,” in collaboration with cartoonist Draper Hill. The book contains 100 one-minute stories that “concerned the strange, the humorous, and the useless.”

By the late 1970s, Sonny’s type of humor was considered out-of-sync with WDIV’s owners, Post-Newsweek. He joined WJBK-TV. Four years later, station-owners claiming he appealed mostly to older viewers, let him go. It was an insult that didn’t sit well with his many fans. After that, he hosted movies on the local PBS affiliate and worked a desk job in the *Detroit News* marketing department, a position he hated. Eliot continued to work in radio on WWJ-AM, doing weather and features, until he was well into his eighties. His final broadcast was in September 2010.



Sonny was honored with a “Best Weathercaster” Emmy, a Screen Actors Guild award, the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, and he was inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame.

JHSM advisory board member Mary Lou Zieve fondly recalled Sonny as her first real friend in the broadcasting business. Zieve was twenty-two and had been hired to voice a beer commercial. Sonny supported and encouraged her. “Sonny was the dearest, sweetest man,” she said.

Jack Lessenberry, columnist and broadcaster, said that Sonny Eliot “invented” live TV and called him the most-recognized media personality in Detroit for half a century. He remembered the many times Sonny served as grand marshal of the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day Parade and recalled Sonny’s lifetime interest in piloting and aviation. The two once flew in a C-47 to a U.S. Air Force museum in Ohio.

Jane Bower, the WWJ anchor who worked with Sonny for so many years, said, “He was immensely talented at his craft and was endlessly kind to the people who were fortunate enough to work with him and call him a friend.” Sonny Eliot was truly a Detroit original and will be remembered as a legend.

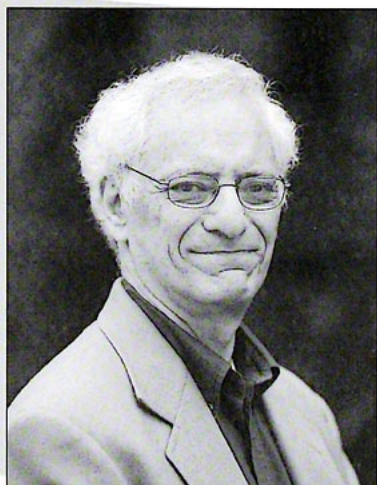
Sonny is survived by his wife, Annette, to whom he was devoted.

-Edie Resnick



## SID BOLKOSKY

### 1944 – 2013



Sidney M. Bolkosky, William E. Stirton Professor in Social Sciences, professor of history, and founder and director of the Voice/Vision Holocaust Oral History Archive at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, passed away in June 2013.

Born in Rochester, New York, in 1944, Bolkosky was an only child. His father immigrated from Brest-Litovsk and his mother from the Ukraine. Bolkosky was intellectually inquisitive from an early age, a natural curiosity nurtured by a nearby aunt and uncle who bought him books and magazines. In addition to reading, Sid also developed a deep love for music, learning to play the piano and later the vibes.

Bolkosky earned a bachelor's degree in history and literature from the University of Rochester in 1965 and master's degree in history from Wayne State University in 1966. It was during his studies there that Sid first became interested in the Holocaust, an interest he carried with him to the State University of New York at Binghamton, where in 1973 he earned his Ph.D. in history. His doctoral dissertation, which focused on Jewish self-image in Germany during the Weimar period, was published in 1975 as *The Distorted Image: German Jewish Perceptions of Germans and Germany, 1918-1935*.

Returning to the Detroit area in 1972, he joined the UM-Dearborn faculty as assistant professor of European intellectual history. He was promoted to associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1984. He also served as director of the honors program from 1983 to 1986 and 1990 to 2012. During his time at UM-Dearborn, he authored or co-authored several influential books, including the highly regarded local history book, sponsored by the Jewish Welfare Federation, *Harmony and Dissonance: Voices of Jewish Identity in Detroit, 1914-1967* (1991). He also authored *Searching for Meaning in the Holocaust* (2002) and co-authored the award-winning, *Holocaust Curriculum: Life Unworthy of Life*, still in use today in classrooms throughout the country. Bolkosky's books were joined by numerous journal articles, book reviews, and scholarly presentations.

He won numerous awards for his teaching, research, and community service, among



them the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Teaching Award (1975), the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Faculty Research Award (1995) and the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Service Award (2002). He was honored in 1986 by the Michigan Children of Holocaust Survivors for his promotion of Holocaust studies and received JHSM's prestigious Leonard N. Simon History Award in 2001.

In 1980, Bolkosky was asked by the Committee for Holocaust Education and the Sharit Ha-Platah to begin interviewing local Holocaust survivors. His approach to interviewing, honed during his dissertation work, combined his keen intellectual enquiry and knowledge of the Holocaust with empathy and an attentive ear. It was apparent that Bolkosky was interested not only in the survivors' experiences as survivors, but in their perspectives as human beings. In the interviews, it is evident that he heard every word and weighed his responses carefully; his questions were probing without being clinical or obtrusive. Bolkosky got to know those he interviewed and often conducted more than one interview with an individual survivor. Empathy, understanding and careful listening were the hallmarks of his methodology, which created a unique collection of more than three hundred oral history interviews known as the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive. Bolkosky served as director of the archive until his death.

Bolkosky is survived by his wife, Lori, whom he met in pre-school and his children, Miriam and Gabriel, in whom he instilled his love for music. He is also survived by two grandchildren.

Bolkosky touched many people throughout his life and career. He taught thousands of students and interviewed hundreds of Holocaust survivors. He was a pioneer in Holocaust research and education, and his many contributions will stand among the best in the field of Holocaust studies and intellectual history. He will be missed by his many students, colleagues and friends, and by the Detroit Jewish community that he so passionately cared about and chronicled.

- *Jamie L. Wraight, Ph.D., Curator and Historian, The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive*

## CORRECTIONS

*In 2012 writer Susan Brohman presented our readers with a fascinating profile of Chaplain Allan Marshall Blustein. Upon publication, we realized that we had misspelled Susan's last name in the by-line. A verbal apology was made, but we feel we owe Susan Brohman this formal apology and thanks for being one of Michigan Jewish History's contributors.*

*Michael Kasky, JHSM's 2012 Volunteer of the Year offered this correction to his biography: After he and his wife Jackie graduated law school, Jackie continued her career with the City of Detroit by serving as a Detroit police department legal advisor. She completed her thirty-five year career with the city when she retired as a supervising assistant corporation counsel.*

*We apologize for an omission in the Memoriam of Rabbi Jonathan Plaut. His rabbinic services were called upon by several smaller congregations throughout the state of Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. One of the communities who welcomed Rabbi Plaut to their pulpit was the Grosse Pointe Jewish Council.*



# JHSM OFFICERS AND BOARD

## 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

Gerald S. Cook, *President*  
 Arnold Collens, *Immediate Past President*  
 Jennifer Boardman, *Vice President*  
 Jules Goldman, *Treasurer*  
 Margery J. Jablin, *Secretary*  
 Michael Kasky, *Vice President*  
 Michael M. Maddin, *Vice President*

### DIRECTORS

Lois Freeman  
 Ruthe Goldstein  
 Neil Gorosh  
 Myrle Leland  
 Andy Levin  
 Marc D. Manson  
 Sheri Schiff  
 Harriet F. Siden  
 Carol Weisfeld

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Ellen S. Cole  
 Robert D. Kaplow  
 Joan R. Braun  
 James D. Grey  
 Judith Levin Cantor  
 Gilbert Borman  
 Adele W. Staller  
 Evelyn Noveck  
 Stanley N. Meretsky  
 Bette A. Roth Young  
 Phillip Applebaum  
 Jeffrey N. Borin  
 Doris P. Easton  
 Dr. Henry Green\*  
 Dr. Abraham S. Rogoff\*  
 Dr. Irving I. Edgar\*  
 Emanuel Applebaum  
 Irving I. Katz\*  
 Allen A. Warsen\*

*\*of blessed memory*

### ADVISORY BOARD

Sharon L. Alterman  
 Laurie Blume  
 Cynthia I. Brody  
 Harvey S. Bronstein  
 Denise Brown  
 Ann J. Conrad  
 Charles Domstein  
 Charlotte M. Dubin  
 Jan Durecki  
 Jacqueline Elkus  
 Joy Gaines-Friedler  
 Dr. Zvi Gitelman  
 Dr. Paul Goodman  
 Joel E. Jacob  
 Nicole Jahr  
 Marilyn Krainen  
 Richard Leland  
 Benno Levi  
 Hannan Lis  
 Susan Low  
 Allan Nachman  
 Susan Pappas  
 Edie Resnick  
 Dulcie Rosenfeld  
 Michele J. Saulson  
 Suzanne Shifman  
 Sid Simon  
 Janice Sobel  
 Pam Sofferin  
 Dr. Gershon Weiner  
 Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz  
 Mary Lou Zieve

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Wendy Rose Bice, *Director*  
 Elizabeth Kannon, *Administrative Assist.*  
 Aimee Ergas, *Research Director*





# THE JOSHUA SOCIETY

"WHEN YOUR CHILDREN SHALL ASK THEIR  
FATHERS IN TIME TO COME..." *Joshua 4:21*

**A legacy society that ensures our work for future generations.  
Your will can keep our story alive from generation to generation!**

**L'Dor V'Dor**

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

Bernard and Judith Levin Cantor, Charlotte Dubin, Norma Goldman, Stanley Meretsky

*The Joshua Society gratefully recognizes and honors as Charter Members those who this year make a bequest in their will to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.\* By performing this mitzvah, your bequest for the future will be matched at this time by the A. Alfred Taubman Challenge Fund. All bequests to the JHSM in your estate will be credited for membership at the appropriate level in the JHSM Heritage Council.*

**\_\_\_ Please enroll me as a Charter Member of the Joshua Society.**

I am making a testamentary bequest in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, a Michigan non-profit corporation,  
in my will to be part of the JHSM Heritage Council Endowment or  
(specific purpose) \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Minimum \$1000)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN PROFOUNDLY APPRECIATES  
YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE JHSM OFFICE.

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan  
6600 West Maple Rd.  
West Bloomfield MI 48322-3003  
(248) 432-5517

[info@michjewishhistory.org](mailto:info@michjewishhistory.org)



# DONATION INFORMATION

## WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE OUR JOURNEY...

**The Heritage Council Endowment Foundation** seeks to ensure the future of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan through large gifts and bequests. The Guardian's name will appear as the endower of the journal. Trustees, Chancellors, Deans, Fellows and Collectors become life members. The Heritage Council will continue to be listed in Michigan Jewish History, which circulates to members, libraries and universities around the world.

*All donations are matched by the A. Alfred Taubman Challenge Grant*

### I hereby join the Heritage Council at the following level:

- \$100,000 Guardian of the Heritage Council
- \$ 25,000 Trustee of the Heritage Council
- \$ 10,000 Chancellor of the Heritage Council
- \$ 5,000 Dean of the Heritage Council
- \$ 1,000 Fellow
- \$ 500 Collector



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I am pledging a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid over \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- I am making a testamentary bequest to the Society in my will and will forward documentation.
- Please contact me regarding the Heritage Council.

*The Society profoundly appreciates the support of the Heritage Council.*

### MEMBERSHIP

Support the ongoing work of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Categories of membership include: \$36 Individual/Family; \$72 Scribe; \$180 Chronicler. Tribute Cards will be sent upon request for contributions received (minimum \$18).

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

6600 West Maple Rd.

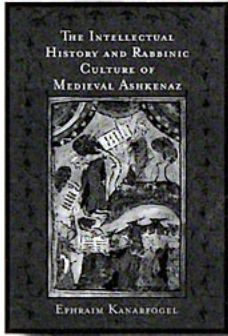
West Bloomfield MI 48322-3003

(248) 432-5517

**info@michjewishhistory.org**



new from **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS**



### The Intellectual History and Rabbinic Culture of Medieval Ashkenaz

Ephraim Kanarfogel  
6 x 9, 600 Pages, \$59.95 Cloth

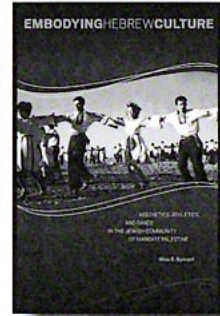
**WINNER OF THE 2013 GOLDSTEIN-GOREN PRIZE FOR BEST BOOK IN JEWISH THOUGHT**

*"This magnificent new study establishes Ephraim Kanarfogel as one of his generation's leading authorities on the rabbinic culture of medieval Jewry in northern Europe."* —MARC SAPERSTEIN

### Embodying Hebrew Culture Aesthetics, Athletics, and Dance in the Jewish Community of Mandate Palestine

Nina S. Spiegel  
6 x 9, 256 Pages, 47 Illustrations, \$39.95 Cloth

*"Spiegel provides a clear, concise and comprehensive guide to that fascinating period of ferment and ingenuity."* —YARON PELEG



### Paths to Middle-Class Mobility among Second-Generation Moroccan Immigrant Women in Israel

Beverly Mizrahi  
6 x 9, 216 Pages, \$44.95 Cloth

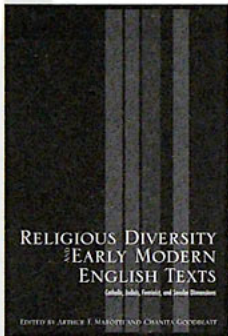
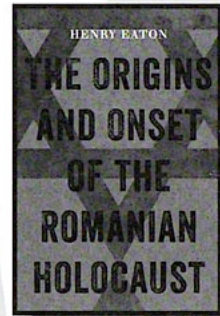
*"Well anchored in research literature where gender, immigration, and mobility intersect, Beverly Mizrahi provides us with an insightful grasp of second-generation Moroccan Jewish women in Israel."*

—HARVEY E. GOLDBERG

### The Origins and Onset of the Romanian Holocaust

Henry Eaton  
6 x 9, 224 Pages, 7 Illustrations, \$29.95 Paperback

*"A valuable addition to the literature in English on the Holocaust in Romania."* —DENNIS DELETANT



### Religious Diversity and Early Modern English Texts

Catholic, Judaic, Feminist, and Secular Dimensions  
Edited by Arthur F. Marotti and Chanita Goodblatt  
6 x 9, 376 Pages, 15 Illustrations, \$54.95 cloth

*"This exciting collection brings together work on areas of early modern English religious culture too often considered marginal or of secondary importance."* — SUSANNAH BRIETZ MONTA

**All titles also available as ebooks!**



**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

**WSUPRESS.WAYNE.EDU  
(800) 978-7323**



# THE A. ALFRED TAUBMAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

An endowment fund to ensure the future of the  
Jewish Historical Society of Michigan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
(As of August 28, 2013)

## GUARDIAN - \$100,000+

The Eugene Applebaum Family Foundation  
William Davidson Foundation  
Guardian Industries Corp.—  
William M. Davidson, Chairman,  
of blessed memory  
A. Alfred Taubman

## TRUSTEES - \$25,000+

Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman  
Foundation  
Barbara and Gerald Cook  
Max M. Fisher Jewish Community  
Foundation  
Stephen, Nancy and Sam Grand  
James and Nancy Grosfeld Foundation

## CHANCELLORS - \$10,000+

Natalie and Manny Charach  
DeRoy Testamentary Foundation  
Benard L. Maas Foundation  
Meyer and Anna Prentis  
Family Foundation—Trustees:  
Denise L. Brown, Ronald P. Frankel,  
Marvin Frenkel, Dale P. Frenkel,  
Cindy P. Frenkel, Nelson P. Lande,  
Ricki Farber Zitner, Maradith Frenkel,  
Warren Frenkel, Max Frenkel

## DEANS - \$5,000+

Louis C. and Edith B. Blumberg  
Foundation—Alene and Graham Landau  
Rhea and Robert Brody  
Judith and Bernard Cantor  
Lois P. and Hon. Avern Cohn  
Stanley and Judith Frankel Foundation  
Rita and John Haddow  
Hermelin Family Support Foundation—  
Doreen Hermelin  
Mark-Lis Philanthropic Fund—  
Lisa and Hannan Lis, Florine Mark,  
David Mark, Jeff Mark, Richard Mark  
Marcia and Marc D. Manson  
Ann and Rudolph Newman  
Morris and Emma Schaver Foundation—  
Dr. Isaac Schaver  
Phyllis and Stephen Strome

## FELLOWS - 1,000+

Mary and Jonathan Aaron  
Norman Allan  
Harriet and Dr. Bryce Alpern  
Herbert A. Aronson  
Sylvia Babcock  
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation  
Renah and Dr. Max Bardenstein  
Harriet and Irving Berg  
Barbara and Harold Berry  
Marlene and Paul Borman  
James Bramson and Amy Potozkin  
Ellen and Michael Cole  
Dorothy and Arnold Collens

Joseph Colten  
Ann and David L. Conrad  
Betty and Marvin I. Danto  
Gretchen and Ethan Davidson  
Detroit Central High School  
Class of January 1952  
Aimee Ergas and Tor Shwayder  
Robert M. Feldman  
Dede and Oscar Feldman  
Lea and Walter Field  
Jean and Samuel Frankel  
Lois and Harvey Freeman  
Ralph Gerson  
Norma and Dr. Bernard Goldman  
Barbara & Dr. Paul Goodman  
Goodwill Printing Company  
Neal L. Grossman and Estelle Wallace  
Doreen N. Hermelin Trust  
Eleanor and Lawrence Jackier  
M. Jacob and Sons  
Joan and Dr. Robert Jampel  
Kaufman Memorial Trust  
Stephen M. Modell Philanthropic Fund  
Jewell P. Morris Family Philanthropic Fund  
Patrice and Dr. Eric Phillips  
Sally and Graham Orley  
Esther & Seymour Padnos Fund  
of the Community Foundation  
of the Holland/Zeeland Area  
Prentis Family Support Foundation  
Edith and Donn Resnick  
Aviva and Jack A. Robinson  
Dulcie and Norman Rosenfeld  
Fritzi Roth  
Michele and Eli Saulson  
Marjorie and Saul Saulson  
Bette and Herbert O. Schein  
Sandra Seligman  
Elaine and Michael Serling  
Suzanne and Burton Shifman  
Harriet Siden  
Debra C. Silver  
Leonard N. Simons  
Etta Solway  
Harvey Strosberg  
Mary and George N. Stutz  
Karen J. and Marshall Weingarden  
Melba and Sidney Winer  
Beryl and Isadore Winkelman  
Michelle and Michael Zeid  
Mary Lou and Morton Zieve

## COLLECTORS - \$500+

Gloria and Gerald Abrams  
Sharon and Michael Alterman  
Helen S. August  
Shirley and Robert Benyas  
Ruth Sugar Beresh  
Jule Berman  
Wendy Rose and Gary M. Bice  
Barbara and Douglas Bloom  
Richard C. Blumenstein

Matilda J. Brandwine  
Susan and Robert M. Citrin  
Joann and Dr. Charles Clayman  
Lauren & Marvin C. Daitch  
Lucille and Hiram Dorfman  
Elaine C. and Eugene Driker  
Helgard and Irwin Field  
Jean and Dr. Sidney Fine  
Marjorie and Max Fisher  
Rozanne and Judge Bernard Friedman  
Ruth and James D. Grey  
Joel Jacob  
Rodney Jewett  
Carol and Alan Kandel  
Fern S. Katz  
Dorothy and Harold Kaufman  
Rose Kaye  
Seth A. Korelitz  
Susan and Rabbi Joseph Krakoff  
Myrle and Richard Leland  
Rita and Dr. Stanley Levy  
Donna and Michael Maddin  
Gloria and Edward Meer  
Stanley Meretsky  
Shirley and Morris Mersky  
Professor Harold Norris  
Claire and Gordon Prussian  
Rosalie and Abraham Raimi  
Joni and Neil Satovsky  
Marianne and Alan E. Schwartz  
Dr. Oscar Schwartz  
Roz Sell  
Esther and Dr. Peter Shifrin  
Erwin S. and Marjorie Hecht Simon  
Mariette and Sidney Simon  
Sydelle and Dr. Sheldon Sonkin  
Robert S. Steinberg Estate  
Gerald Sukenic  
Arlene and Steven Victor  
Jennie and Dr. Gershon Weiner  
Elizabeth Weiss  
Milton and Lois Zussman

## JOSHUA SOCIETY LEGACY FUND (2011-2012)

Judy & Bernard Cantor  
Charlotte Dubin  
Dr. H. Harvey Gass\*  
Norma Goldman\*  
Stanley Meretsky  
Debra C. Silver

## \*Of Blessed Memory

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan makes every attempt to account accurately for all financial contributions. If your name does not appear above or is incorrect, we apologize and ask that you contact our office to correct the error.





THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

6600 West Maple Rd.

West Bloomfield MI 48322-3003

(248) 432-5517

[www.michjewishhistory.org](http://www.michjewishhistory.org)