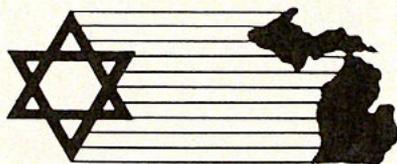


MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Official Publication of

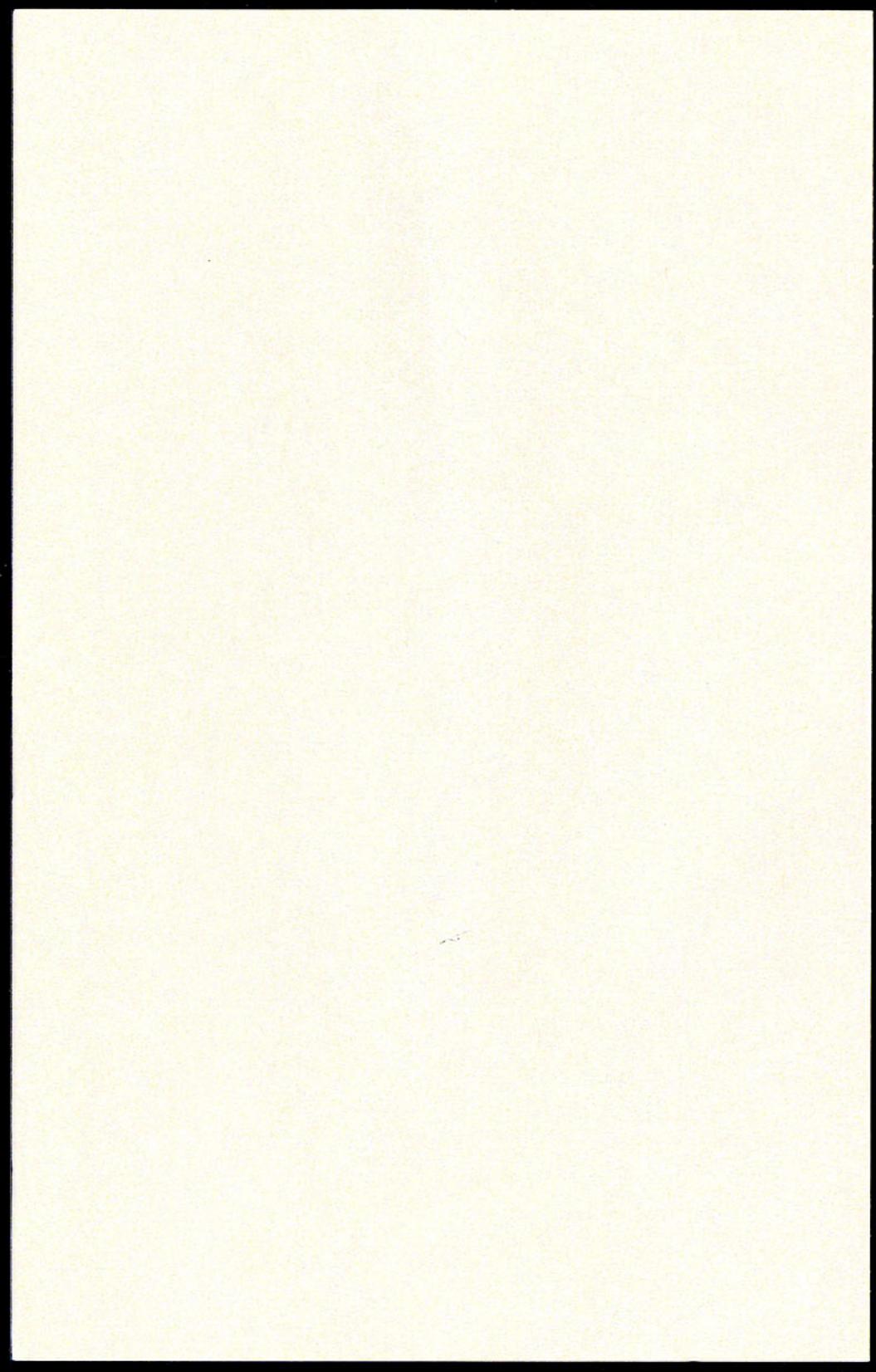
The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan



JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
MICHIGAN

Volume 27 Number 1

November 1987 —
Heshvan 5748



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

Volume 27

November 1987 - Heshvan 5748 No. 1

Helen Sachse Dushkin: Member of a Michigan Jewish Family	3
Saul Sugar and Helen Dushkin	
The Sites of Congregation Beth El. Site VI - The Woodward Avenue-Eliot Street Synagogue. 1903-1922	6
Irving I. Edgar	
Devera Steinberg Stocker 1899-1987	16
Naomi B. Floch	

EDITOR
Irving I. Edgar

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY is published semi-annually by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Correspondence concerning the contribution of articles, books for review, and all editorial matters, including distribution, should be sent to the editor, 1010 Burnham Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY is available on microform from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

Articles in this journal are indexed in *Historical Abstracts*, and in *America: History & Life*.

Copyright 1987 by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

6600 West Maple Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48033

OFFICERS

Evelyn Noveck	President
Bette Schein	Vice President
Adele W. Staller	Vice President
Benno Levi	Treasurer
Gertrude Edgar	Corresponding Secretary
Esther Klein	Recording Secretary
Lee & Helen Waldbott	Financial Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Aisen	George Goldstone	Oscar Schwartz
Sarah Bell	Philip Handleman	H. Saul Sugar
Sidney Bolkosky	Alan Kandel	Irwin Shaw
Cynthia Brody	Ida Levine	Harriet Sidon
Judy Cantor	Lenore Miller	Betty Starkman
Carol Fineman	Harold Norris	

ADVISORY BOARD

Walter L. Field	Reuben Levine	Leonard N. Simons
Morris Friedman	Abraham Satosky	George Stutz

PAST PRESIDENTS

Allen A. Warsen*	1959-61
Irving I. Katz*	1961-63
Emanuel Applebaum	1963-64
Irving I. Edgar	1964-73
Abraham S. Rogoff	1973-75
Henry Green*	1975-77
Doris P. Easton	1977-79
Jeffrey N. Borin	1979-81
Phillip Applebaum	1981-83
Bette A. Roth	1983-84
Stanley N. Meretsky	1984-86

*deceased

HELEN SACHSE DUSHKIN: Member of a Michigan family

by Saul Sugar and Helen Dushkin

This brief history of a Jewish family with early Michigan connections lends some insight into the life style of early Jewish settlers.

Helen Dushkin's father, Eli Sachse, who died in 1961 at the age of 94, was born in Tukums, Courland, which was then under Russian rule. Courland became part of the Latvian republic in November 1918. Eli came to the United States in the 1880's at the urging of his uncle, Moses Sachs (father of Bluma, Eddie, Benny and Sol* of Detroit and Sam, now deceased, of Los Angeles). He landed in Baltimore where he was met by his uncle and together they went directly to Escanaba in the Upper Peninsula where there were a few Jewish families. Since there was no Torah in Escanaba, they ordered one from New York.

Eli and his uncle began buying furs from trappers (many of whom were Indians) and farmers. They sold the pelts to buyers for fur dealers in St. Louis and New York. In 1890 the two men parted company, and Eli Sachse went to Bay City where there was a large Jewish population. The father of the late Dr. Aaron Carlstein had settled there many years before, coming from the Ukraine which was then part of Poland. He had prospered and owned a department store. Mr. Carlstein kept writing "home" about his success and the wonders of America, offering his former neighbors credit on merchandise for peddling if they came to this country. In those days the farmers generally depended on catalogues for their purchases. The Jewish peddlers provided a service by bringing the merchandise to their doors. The farmers were kind and offered food and lodging to the peddlers. Except for kosher salami which they carried with them, their diet mainly consisted of baked potatoes and eggs. The peddlers were paid in butter, eggs, fowl and vegetables which they then sold to stores. In the beginning, the peddlers walked from town to town with packs on their backs until they could afford to buy a horse and wagon. Many of them later started their own business.

Hyman Koffman, Eli Sachse's future father-in-law, responded to Carlstein's call and came to Bay City from Lechritz, a small town in the Ukraine, where he had been in the wood-cutting business. He opened a grocery store and Eli worked for him. Eli and Helen's mother, Fannie Koffman, were married in Bay City in 1894. They moved to Worth, a lumber camp which no longer exists, in Aranac County where Eli opened a general store. The family lived upstairs and Helen was born there in 1896. She remembers the tall, quiet Indians who bought lard out of a huge barrel after dipping the tail of an animal into the lard to taste it. Many French-speaking people also patronized the store. Helen's parents became friendly with them and when the Sachses moved back to Bay City they were often visited by their former customers. Eli Sachse was the postmaster at Worth. Incoming mail was usually caught on a hook while swinging from the moving train. Outgoing mail was placed in the same bag and raised with a pulley so the returning train could pick it up.

In 1909, a fire destroyed the Sachse's general store and living quarters and the family moved to Bay City. By that time Helen's grandparents, the Koffmans, had moved to Kawkawlin, five miles away. At first the Sachses

settled on the east side of Bay City where most of the Jews lived. Later they moved to the west side, across the bridge, on Litchfield Street near Midland, where Eli had a hide and fur shop. Their house was one of a row of similar houses that were built on land which sloped back toward the railroad tracks before reaching the Saginaw River. There were slips below the railroad tracks where Great Lakes boats were docked for repairs and stored for the winter. The river was dredged yearly. (In nearby Kawkawlin men cut blocks of ice which they covered with sawdust and stored until summer.) There was a bridge which swung open. Helen used to stand on the open bridge and watch the boats pass by.

The Sachse's house was heated by a stove in the sitting room. There was a kitchen stove for cooking and baking. An isinglass window revealed the flames on the hard coals. There was a well in the back yard and a pump in the kitchen sink. Helen used to clean the kerosene lamps every day until gas lights were installed.

In the early 1900's there were pogroms in Russia and Jews in America began to send for their relatives. Helen's maternal grandfather, the oldest of ten children, brought his aged father and his siblings over one by one. Helen's great-grandfather is buried in Beth Olam Cemetery. The Koffman family all settled in Michigan. The youngest brother, Elmer, was a peddler. One night, while sleeping in the attic of a friendly farmer, he was awakened by the light of a lantern and saw the farmer coming up the stairs with an axe in his hand. He lay paralyzed with fear, thinking that America was like Russia and the farmer had come to kill him until he realized that the man had come to hack a chunk of meat from the side of beef hanging at the other end of the huge attic.

Eli Sachse sent for his sister and brother-in-law, Tova and Moses Fivenson, their family and some cousins. They came from Latvia after being stranded in Liverpool for six months during World War I. The Fivensons and their children, Sarah, Arthur, Oscar, Fivus and David, all settled in various parts of Northern Michigan. Members of the family are still living in Cadillac, Alpena and Traverse City.

Helen was thirteen when the family moved to Detroit. They bought a home on Warren Avenue and Eli went into the slipper manufacturing business. Mr. and Mrs. Sachse helped to establish the Jewish Old Folks Home. It was located in a large home between Woodward and John R near Winder Street. Later it was moved to Petoskey and the Sachses were active in building a Baby Day nursery on the same plot of ground.

Before leaving Bay City Eli Sachse had been president of the synagogue. When the family moved to Detroit they joined Shaarey Zedek synagogue where the elder Koffmans were already members.

Helen attended Cass School which later became Cass High School and then went to the old Central High. Among her classmates were Celia Grossman, Zelda Smith, Lazarus Davidow and Herman Augushevitz.

Helen's future in-laws, Morris and Ella Dushkin, first settled in Philadelphia when they came from Europe. Mr. Dushkin worked as a cigar maker. Subsequently they moved to Chicago and then to Mt. Clemens where Mr. Dushkin sought relief from rheumatism and opened a rooming house. Later they moved to Detroit. When Helen's family, including brothers Arthur, Ernest and Kolmon, moved to Warren Avenue they lived next door to the Dushkins and their son Max. Helen and Max were married

by Rabbi Hershman of Shaarey Zedek after she graduated from high school. Golda Brown was her attendant. She was the daughter of Israel Brown of Brown Brothers Coal and Ice Company who later built the first supermarket in Detroit. Helen and Max first lived on Warren Avenue, then on Euclid and finally settled on Virginia Park where they lived for several years. Many prominent Jewish families lived there, including the Ralph Davidsons, Morse Saulsons, Lou Savage, the Reinheimers, Wetsmans, Satovskys, Loewenbergs and Friedbergs.

Max Dushkin worked in a hat store and then manufactured slippers with his father-in-law on Larned Street. Later he had a furniture store and then opened **U. S. Bedding** which manufactured mattresses. Eventually his brother-in-law, Kolmon Sachse, entered the growing business. Max revolutionized the mattress business by keeping costs down and wholesaling mattresses for \$2.00 a piece. He employed many needy people, including several former convicts. During that time he had dealings with a Mrs. Lacy, the aunt of Judge Lacy who gave the city the property for the zoo. Because Max was such an honorable and ethical man Mrs. Lacy gave him, as a gift, the deed to a house he had bought from her and was still making payments on.

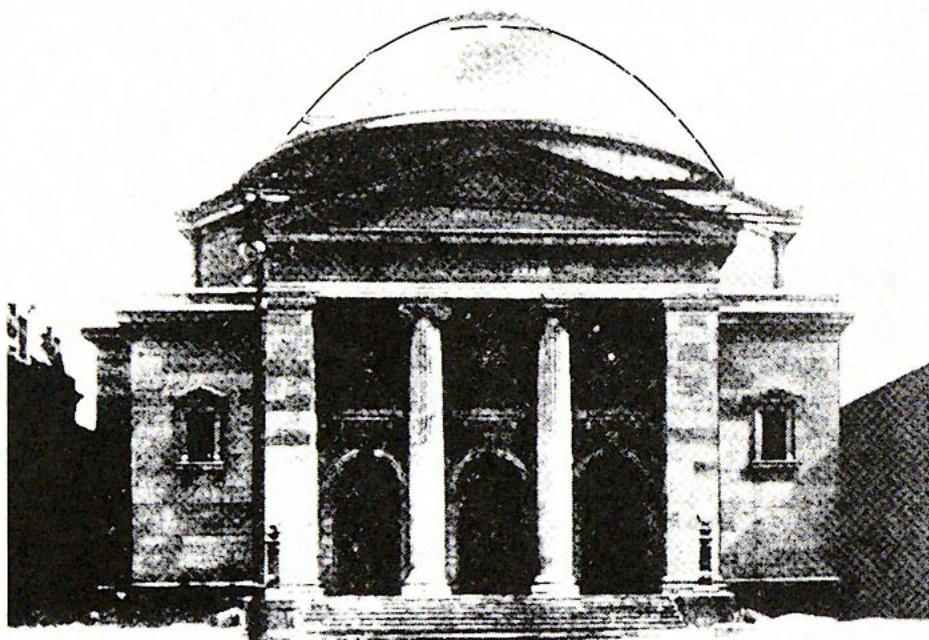
After several years the mattress business was sold and Max and Kolman pursued different aspects of the real estate investment business. Eventually Max came out of semi-retirement and became a buyer for the United States Government, negotiating such projects as setting up a complete electrical system for the government of Turkey. Kolmon Sachse established the Posture Mattress Company which is now run by his son, Charles.

Max Dushkin died peacefully at the age of eighty-seven. Helen moved from their house on Vasser Drive to an apartment in Oak Park where she currently resides.

While Max was working Helen was busy raising their children, Myron, Sonia and Fay, and was also active in the community. She was an outside correspondent for the Detroit News for several years, writing social and club events. She also functioned in the same capacity for the *Jewish Chronicle*. Later she participated in Market Research, supervising Gallup polls, etc. Helen served as President of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress and was on the National Board. She was also active in Hadassah where she served as Recording Secretary, Vice-President, Education Chairman, Youth Group Chairman, and Tourism Chairman, a position which she held for seventeen years. In addition, she was active in the Council of Jewish Women, Women's Auxiliary of United Hebrew Schools, the Torch Fund, Speakers Bureau, League of Women Voters and served as Worthy Matron of *Eastern Star*. Helen participated in a book review series which evolved into the annual **Book Fair** at the Jewish Community Center. Her most recent book review was given in the fall of 1986 when she was 90 years old. Currently she is working on a review of Robert St. John's book, *David Ben Gurion*, to be given in November 1987.

Helen's son, Myron, was an officer during the Second World War and the Korean War. He and his family live in California. Her daughters, Sonia Jacobs Stross and Fay Isaackson, live in Southfield.

*Sol of Detroit is the only one remaining of the five children of Moses Sachse.



Temple Beth El on Woodward near Eliot, 1903-1922

EARLY SITES AND BEGINNINGS OF CONGREGATION BETH EL, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

By Irving I. Edgar

Editor's Note: This is the sixth of a series of articles written by the author for MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY dealing with the eight sites where Temple Beth El, Michigan's first Jewish congregation, had made its spiritual home. The author, Irving I. Edgar, M.A., M.D., has long been engaged in the private practice of psychiatry in the metropolitan Detroit area; is a past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and a past editor of this journal.

Site VI*

The Woodward Avenue — Eliot
Street Site — 1903 - 1922.

The need for a larger building to house the religious, educational and social activities of Temple Beth El manifested itself at least ten to twelve years before the new Woodward Avenue - Eliot Street Synagogue was actually built. Thus even before Rabbi Franklin came to Detroit, Temple Beth El, as early as April, 1890, during Rabbi Grossman's spiritual leadership, appointed a committee to locate a new Site for itself;¹ in January, 1893, the sum of \$3100, as previously mentioned, was voted for such a new Temple Site.² Later, when Rabbi Franklin became the spiritual leader of Beth El (1898), he soon thereafter began "to stir and awaken the congregation to the necessity of a new and commodious school and place of worship."³ He emphasized many times, that the

"membership occupies every pew in the Temple - (so that) some have come to us who have no place assigned, and scores of new families are but waiting the completion of our new Temple, to affiliate with us. Modestly we say it - never was the membership so numerous as now and never in the history of the congregation were the members more harmonious in their mutual relations or more zealous in their religious interests."⁴

Rabbi Franklin further writes,⁵ in summarizing the status of his congregation in 1900 - "as (of it being) at a highest level in all areas of achievement;" and that,

"Again Temple Beth El has outgrown its place of worship and its school and with commendable generosity our members have voted to erect at once, new and commodious quarters in which to worship and teach children. Almost twelve thousand (\$12,000) was subscribed on the spot (at a special meeting October 10, 1900) and since the meeting, that amount has grown steadily (so) that work upon the building will begin as soon as a desirable site is provided."⁶

And so they set about considering the location of such a new Site for the congregation. Many, many heated discussions took place as they considered all sides to this question. Thus a portion of the membership argued that it was inadvisable for a Jewish congregation to build its Temple on the most prominent avenue in the city (Woodward Avenue) because "the Jew must

THE JEWISH AMERICAN.

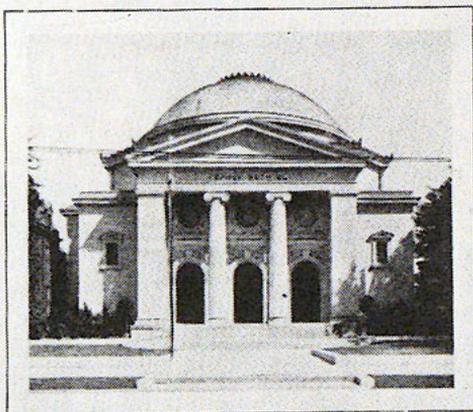
"Let all the Ends Thou Aim at be Thy Country's, Thy God's and Thine's."

VOL. 11, NO. 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1903

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

DEDICATION NUMBER



TEMPLE BETH EL.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

.. SEPTEMBER 18th. 1903 ..

Cover page of *The Jewish American* magazine of September 18, 1903 which was entirely dedicated to Temple *Beth El*. Site VI

remain in the background and not obtrude his religious institutions on the eyes of the people."⁷ Such expressed feelings are indeed a most emphatic commentary on the true inner insecurity still present within the Jewish consciousness of these Beth El members at the time.

Finally, April 3, 1901, "the magnificent Site on the east side of Woodward Avenue between Erskine and Eliot Streets, was purchased for the sum of \$17,500;"⁸ and the congregation set about in earnest to work for the direct and concerted fulfillment of building their new Temple on this location. They sold their Washington Avenue Temple for \$40,000, to the Young Woman's Christian Association on May 20, 1901. Pooling all their resources, and recognizing the general favorable financial outlook, the congregation voted "a building committee of twenty-two, with an executive sub-committee of seven" to whom they "entrusted the building of an appropriate Temple and Sabbath School building"⁹ On this committee was Albert Kahn, the well-known architect, and he was officially appointed as the architect to make all the plans for the building of the edifice they had projected for the congregation's new Temple.

On November 21, 1901, ground breaking ceremonies took place at the new site; and on April 23, 1902, impressive cornerstone-laying exercises occurred at this Woodward Avenue - Eliot Street location. The building progressed steadily, so that on January 24, 1903, the first actual service was held in the new temple, the last service in the old Washington Avenue Temple having been held December 26, 1902. The first session of the Religious School was held in the new building January 25, 1903.

Then on September 18th and 19th, 1903, "the magnificent new Temple now completed, was dedicated with appropriate exercises;"¹⁰ which included fine organ music, choir and solo singing, the ceremony of lighting the perpetual light, speeches by Samuel Heavenrich and Louis Blitz, the president of the congregation at the time, the main address by Rabbi Leo M. Franklin, the Dedication address by Dr. Emil G. Hirsch of Chicago, and other appropriate doings - all on Friday evening, September 18th, 1903. The ceremonies were further continued on Saturday, the 19th of September, 1903 - all on a high level, appropriate to such an occasion, and included sermons by Rev. Louis Grossman and Rabbi Moses J. Gries, of the Cleveland Temple, in addition to the regular Sabbath services.

And so in this very auspicious way, began the next successful period of twenty years of development at this new Site VI location of Detroit Temple Beth El.

And much was accomplished during these twenty years.

To begin with, there was the immediate need for money, which amounted to close to \$130,000. Most of this money was raised, as already noted previously; with the remainder of a \$25,000 mortgage at the time of the dedication. In addition, the Woman's Auxiliary Association which had been organized on November 26, 1901, soon set about raising money for equipment and furnishings of the new building. They organized a Grand Fair at the Light Infantry Armory the week of November 16, 1903, "at which the sum of upwards of thirteen thousand dollars was realized."¹¹ "A splendid window was (also) given by the Young Peoples Societies of The Temple"¹². As Rabbi Franklin put it, "The completed building represented. . . one of the most beautiful church edifices in America," hav-



INTERIOR VIEWS OF TEMPLE BETH EL

The Woodward Avenue-Eliot Street
 Site VI of Congregation
 Beth El 1903 - 1922.

ing virtually become the model to which other congregations have made their plans. . .

It is a building that stands at once a monument to the genius of the architect (Albert Kahn) and to the enthusiasm and the loyalty of the members of the congregation who built it."¹³

Indeed, for many many years, the Site VI Temple building was considered (possibly even to this day) as one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in Michigan and possibly in the entire United States. Rabbi Franklin gave much credit to the then president of the congregation Louis Blitz and vice-president Samuel Heavenrich, for the fulfillment of the final building of the new Temple.

Rabbi Franklin now set about organizing his congregation to fulfill many new ideas he developed for the future. Aside from promoting the Woman's Auxiliary Association already mentioned, he helped organize The Temple Alumni Association, out of which grew the Young People's Society of Temple Beth El. A Girls' Glee Club of the Temple was established, which later became the Girls' Glee Club of the Temple Beth El. There were other activities instituted, all towards "making the synagogue the center of Jewish life of the community."¹⁴ "Under the auspices of the Young Peoples Society, two winter courses of lectures by prominent men have been held."¹⁵ The Temple was also used as the auditorium where the then **Detroit String Quartet** gave its concerts for a number of seasons, and also where, for at least two successive seasons, a series of free Sunday afternoon (sacred) concerts were given under the direction of Boris L. Ganapol, then director of music of the Temple.

In addition, during this period, Beth El hosted the Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, 6/29/03 - 7/4/03. Sunday morning services, in addition to Saturday morning services, were instituted and begun January, 1904.

The pew system of seating was abolished, and the congregation initiated the unassigned seating system, which was an innovation among temples in the United States (September 8, 1903).

At this time also, Kindergarten and High School Departments were added to the Religious School; and on January 1, 1905, the new gymnasium was dedicated, which served many purposes for the congregation in addition to its athletic functioning.

Dr. Leo M. Franklin inaugurated a temple course of lectures bringing to Detroit outstanding rabbis and lecturers (9/15/04).

A special Celebration was held in honor of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of the Jews in the United States (November 26, 1905).

On April 21, 1906, a Citizens Mass Meeting was held in the Temple on behalf of the San Francisco earthquake victims.

Additionally, Rabbi Franklin instituted exchange of pulpits with out-of-town rabbis (April 1905). Memorial Shelves and Alcoves were inaugurated in the Temple Library (April 1906). In 1907 - June 8, Rabbi Franklin preached the baccalaureate sermon at the Hebrew Union College and the following month (July 15, 1907), he was elected president of the Hebrew Union College Alumni Association. The same year, August 23, 1907, Rabbi Leo Franklin participated in the installation ceremonies of Dr. Abraham Her-



Rabbi Leo M. Franklin
in 1919
at the Woodward-
Eliot Street
Synagogue.

shman as rabbi of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, a post he was to hold many, many years with great distinction.

Other activities during this period included the Celebration (January 24, 1909), of the Tenth Anniversary of Dr. Franklin's ministry in Detroit and the writing and publication of *A History of Congregation Beth El, Detroit, Michigan, 1900 - 1910*.

On July 17 - 24, 1910, the **Jewish Chautauqua Society** held its Fourteenth Annual Convention at the Temple; and on October 23 - 24, there was held the Sixtieth anniversary celebration of the Temple whose membership had now reached 422 members.

In 1912 during this period at Site VI, there was held the first annual service for the students of the University of Michigan, which continued for many years. In this same year, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations created a Joint Commission on Religious Work in Universities with Rabbi Franklin as the first chairman.

Beginning in 1903 and for the following five years, Dr. Julian Morgenstern delivered a series of lectures on the Bible, lectures that were very well attended at the time.

In 1914, Rabbi Franklin established the Student Congregation at the University of Michigan, which was the forerunner of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations; and during this year also, the Temple was host to the Silver Jubilee Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

During the 1905 year, the congregation acquired a Beth El Section in Woodmere Cemetery which was dedicated November 19, 1916. The Sisterhood organized a Red Cross Unit which became the largest congregational unit in Detroit during World War I.

During 1917, the Religious School was divided into Primary, Intermediate, Junior High, High School and Normal School Departments. During this year also, Rabbi Samuel S. Mayerberg, a graduate of the 1917 class of the Hebrew Union College, was engaged as the first full-time assistant rabbi. In 1917 it was reported by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations that Detroit's Beth El was the third largest Reform Congregation in the Country.

In 1918, Boy Scout Troop No. 76 was organized at Beth El, the first Jewish Troop in Detroit. In the summer of 1919, Rabbi Franklin was elected president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and on December 17, 1918, the Men's Club of Temple Beth El was founded, with Walter S. Heavenrich as its first president. This men's club has continued to the present day.

In 1920, the congregation held its First Congregational Seder. This practice has also continued to the present day. In 1921, Rabbi Berkovitz succeeded Rabbi Mayerberg as assistant rabbi. On September 20, 1921, there were cornerstone laying ceremonies held at Woodward Avenue and Gladstone St., which became the seventh Site of Temple Beth El, an imposing Temple building with Albert Kahn again as architect and builder.

In summarizing the Site VI period of Temple Beth El, it can be truthfully said that it was a period of great success in the onward development of Temple Beth El of Detroit.

Notes and References

Site VI

Woodward Avenue at Eliot Street 1903 - 1922

1. Katz, *The Beth El Story*, p. 92.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 93.
3. Franklin, Leo M., *A History of Congregation Beth El 1850 - 1900.*
op. cit., p. 52.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
6. *Ibid.*
7. Franklin, Leo M., *A History of Congregation Beth El 1900 - 1910.*
p. 20.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 21.
9. *Ibid.*
The building committee consisted of the following: The Board, the Rabbi, Simon Cohen, Sigmund Hofman, Albert Kahn (the later well-known and internationally famous architect), Sigmund Rothschild, Siegmund Simon, B. Wurzberger and E. H. Van Baalen. The Executive Sub-Committee consisted of Louis Blitz, Chairman, Samuel Heavenrich, Henry M. Butzel, Julius Freud, Leo M. Franklin, Alfred F. Rothschild, Seligman Schloss and Adolph Sloman.
10. *op. cit.*, p. 22.
11. *op. cit.*, p. 26.
12. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*, p. 31.
15. *Ibid.*, p. 32.

We respectfully wish to inform our membership that they can benefit the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan by means of bequests from wills, trust funds, insurance policies, endowments, foundation donations, and outright gifts.

*For further information, please contact our president, Evelyn Noveck
7325 Silver Leaf Lane
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48033
661-1642*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Categories of membership (per person)

Regular...\$15 Contributing...\$20 Sustaining...\$30 Life...\$150

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for annual dues.

Please make check payable to: **The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan**

Name _____

Address _____

State/Zip _____ Telephone _____

Mail this form and your check to:

Lee & Helen Waldbott
31082 Huntley Square West, #314
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

I am interested in:

Journal
Genealogical Index
Fundraising
Historical Marker Promotion
Newsletter

Your membership is deductible within legal limits. MICS 2013

DEVERA STEINBERG STOCKER
1899 - 1987



Devera Steinberg
Stocker

DEVERA STEINBERG STOCKER

1899 - 1987

It was in the late afternoon of May 5, 1987 - the day was ending and the last rays of sunlight flickered upon the hills; there passed from this life to the unknown beyond, one known to many of us and respected by all of us.

The pollution of the air, rivers, and streams; the exhaustion of natural resources; the uncontrolled population growth were all matters of great concern to this environmentalist.

Feeding the hungry and starving children, not only in our own country, but all over the globe, was something to which she paid much attention.

The appearance of the KKK and their like caused her many sleepless nights. What wouldn't she have done to help the Indians and their problems, their reservations and the injustices done them? And, as a Jewess, love for the Land of Israel played an important part in her activities. For many years she was an ardent worker in the Hashomir Hatzair, a Kibbutz oriented Zionist Group.

Such was the person - Devera Steinberg Stocker. Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1899; at the age of three years, together with the family, she moved to Traverse City, Michigan. Here, Devera attended elementary as well at high school. Upon graduation from high school, she enrolled as a student at the University of Michigan, where she met with much success in her academic pursuits. She was also chosen as a member of the U. of M. debating team.

Upon her marriage to Dr. Harry Stocker, whom she met at Ann Arbor, she moved to Detroit. Here she remained until the very end of her life - a life that was filled with the various activities of an educator, a social worker, and an active member of many Jewish organizations in the community.

In spite of the great range of her many projects, her interest in Jewish life in Traverse City never waned. She has left for us many legacies not only of the early Jewish settlers in Traverse City, but also of many Jewish communities from the late 1890's to the 1940's in much of northern Michigan.

Our own, Michigan Jewish Historical Society benefitted from her interest and ability from 1959, the year of its inception, to the present time.

We thank God for having given a being with a noble heart and a great mind to us. She gave of herself toward the welfare of her fellowmen, Jew and non-Jew alike. We continue to be grateful to God for our pleasant association with her. She will always be for us an example of all that is good.

Naomi B. Floch

1987 Tributes

Doris & Robert Easton In honor of Alan Kandel's special birthday

Adele & Mara Staller In honor of Alan Kandel's special birthday

Robert Easton In memory of your mother Stella Fenton

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Richard Ellman

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Esther Gross

Irving & Gertrude Edgar In honor of the 50th birthday of Burt Gold

Robert and Doris Easton In memory of Devera Stocker

Dr. & Mrs. Oscar D. Schwartz In memory of Devera Stocker

Sarah Bell In memory of Devera Stocker

Dr. & Mrs. Irving Edgar In memory of Joseph Jackier

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Rose Sinaberg

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Bessie Katz

Jean & Herb Epstein In honor of the 75th birthday of Gertrude Edgar

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Ruth Gordon

Harold & Evelyn Noveck Get well wishes to Anna W. Chapin

Harold & Evelyn Noveck Get well wishes to Abraham Raimi

Evelyn Noveck In memory of Mrs. Manuel Levitsky

Gertrude & Irving Edgar In memory of Sophie Sislin —
mother of Evelyn Noveck

Wilma & Saul Sugar In memory of Sophie Sislin

Sarah Bell In memory of Sophie Sislin

Adele & Mara Staller In memory of Sophie Sislin

Norma & Bernard Goldman In memory of Abraham Edelstein

Harriet & Franklin Siden In memory of Sophie Sislin

Norma & Bernard Goldman In memory of Sophie Sislin

Adele & Mara Staller In honor of Gertrude Edgar's 75th birthday

Harold & Evelyn Noveck In honor of Gertrude Edgar's 75th birthday

TRIBUTE FUND

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SENDER'S NAME _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to Jewish Historical Society of Michigan
and mail to the Tribute Chairman:

Adele W. Staller
27056 Fairfax
Southfield, Michigan 48076

contributions are tax deductible

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was organized on June 1, 1959, for the following main purposes:

1. To promote the study and research of Michigan Jewish history by encouraging all efforts to create a wider interest on the part of Michigan Jews in the growth and development of their many respective communities.
2. To foster the collection, preservation and publication of materials on the history of the Jews of Michigan, to which purposes the society publishes *Michigan Jewish History*, a semi-annual journal, and has established the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library as a permanent archive-depository for Michigan Jewish historical source material.
3. To encourage all projects, celebrations and other activities which tend to spread authentic information concerning Michigan Jewish history, such as the erection by the Society in conjunction with the Michigan Historical Commission, of the historical marker commemorating Michigan's first Jewish settler, at the restored Fort Michilimackinac.
4. To cooperate with national Jewish historical societies as well as with other state and regional Jewish historical groups.



Membership is open to all who have an interest in Michigan Jewish history and in supporting the goals of the organization. Income of the Society is derived entirely from the annual dues and is used for publishing the journal and related projects.



Members of the Society are invited and encouraged to submit articles, pictures, or reminiscences for future issues of the journal. Such items need not be lengthy, but should relate to the Detroit or Michigan historical scene.

Categories of membership in the Society include Life Member (\$100), Sustaining (\$25), Contributing (\$15), Regular (\$10). Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to Cynthia Brody, Membership Chairman, 20990 Constitution Road, Southfield, Michigan 48076; (313) 352-6501.

