

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



Detroit's Food Distribution Markets
Detroit Central High School
Jewish Women for Social Justice
Resorts of Berrien County
The Underground Railroad



Volume 45

Fall 2005, Tishrei 5766



**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
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Cover Photo:
EASTERN MARKET

1910s woman at stall (notice all of the Jewish items in the back of her stall)

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MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

אשר ישאלון בנכם מהר אח אבוהם... 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 45

Fall 2005

Tishrei 5766

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DETROIT'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION MARKETS

EASTERN MARKET, GRATIOT CENTRAL MARKET
AND THE JEWISH FAMILIES WHO HELPED SHAPE
THESE CENTERS OF COMMERCE



Researched and compiled by Diane Pomish

Assistance and editing provided by Gerald Cook and Wendy Rose Bice

In the early 1960s, I began to patronize Detroit's Eastern Market – a conglomerate of farmer's markets, on Russell Street east of I-75. I vividly recall the sense of excitement generated by the colorful displays, the hawkers at their stands urging you to purchase from them, the cross section of people selling everything from cheese to spices to baked goods and candy. Being at the Market offered an experience like no other.

I quickly learned that a large percentage of these shop- and stand owners were Jewish and that, while Eastern Market was the largest market area, there were many other Jewish-owned markets throughout the city. I sent out queries looking for first-hand accounts, and, like tossing a pebble into the water and watching the endless circles that develop, there seemed to be no end to the people whose lives and history had been involved with these markets. I received e-mails, hand-written letters and phone calls from original shop owners, their children and grandchildren from across the country.

As a result, my Eastern Market article expanded to include a number of food markets throughout the Detroit area. While this short collection of

HOT SUMMER DAY 1935
Brothers Barney and Sam Plotnik stand with their employees on a hot summer day in July 1935. They worked with their father, Abe, operating the Plotnik Fruit and Produce Company from 1927 until 1942.



stories and memories could not include them all, I encourage you to share your own stories with your family or the Jewish Historical Society.

How it Came to Be

Eastern Market was born of inevitable necessity. Markets such as these have existed throughout history. In the old world and the new, almost every town and village had a central marketplace where farmers, craftsmen and artisans brought their wares and produce to sell.

Detroit's first market developed along the shore of the Detroit River, at what would later become the foot of Woodward Avenue. Later, as the city grew, the market moved to the area near City Hall and then Cadillac Square, located at the center of the burgeoning town. By the late 1800s, the city was on the cusp of a boom with prime real estate in hot demand. Getting their burdened horses-drawn buggies to the market was proving increasingly difficult for farmers so they began to shift their focus to the other three established market areas: the newly established Eastern Market, the Chene-Ferry Market and the Western Market, located near the Michigan Central Railroad Station.

By the time that Eastern Market's first municipal market hall was being built in 1888, growing numbers of Eastern European Jewish immigrants had begun arriving to the city. For the most part, they landed with neither money nor work and did not speak English. Many started to earn a living in the food provision business.

Michigan and Ontario provided many food products during the growing months: apples, cherries, corn, maple syrup, fish, poultry, beef. Trains from the south and west brought other varieties of produce during the colder months. Entrepreneurs sold it all, while others opened bakeries and restaurants to service the business owners, suppliers and patrons.



1934

A swarm of people and trucks at the market. Over the years, the crowds have hardly diminished.

A Bushel of Memories

From the stalls and stands to the stores, many young Jewish entrepreneurs became involved in this service to the community and their businesses often continued into the next, or a third or fourth, generation. Still others, such as Ruth Firsten and Leonard Rachmiel, found their first jobs in the market and the lessons learned served them well.

Ruth Firsten's mother, Rose Kurlandky, became known among marketers as "Rosie the

Riveter." In the 1950s, Rose owned and operated a vegetable and fruit stand in Eastern Market to help support her family. "She was an exceptional woman," Ruth remembered. "Getting up at 3 a.m., going to the tracks to get produce to sell and then to the market. The stand was open until 8 p.m. in the summer. It was located across from Samuels Bros. Deli (Samuels Brothers Cafeteria), which had such wonderful food."

At age 13, in 1947, Leonard Rachmiel earned \$5 a day helping Mrs. Ida Goldfine at her tomato and yam stall in the Eastern Market. "Mrs. Goldfine was a very nice lady – old, I thought then – and a good business person," Rachmiel recalled. "She wanted everyone to get full measure, more than even weight, a bit more than they paid for. Above all, she wanted a satisfied customer who would return the following week. I learned a lot about the rules of commerce and business at Eastern Market that has served me well in life...giving full measure to your customer, fairness, customer satisfaction."

Samuels Brothers Cafeteria, an Eastern Market Institution

In 2000, the *Detroit Jewish News* published the obituary of Saul Wineman, a favorite radio and television voice in Detroit known as Paul Winter. Among Mr. Wineman's most treasured memories were those of his frequent boyhood jaunts to Russell Street and the Eastern Market, where he would pick up a pickle at Samuels Brothers Cafeteria, owned by Morris and Alex Samuels.



SAMUELS BROS. CAFETERIA

Like Wineman, so many Detroiters have memories that are tied to the tastes of the Market. And, no single restaurant stands out more than Samuels Brothers Cafeteria, whose owners never forgot that their best

customers were people like themselves: wrapped up in the food business every day and every night.

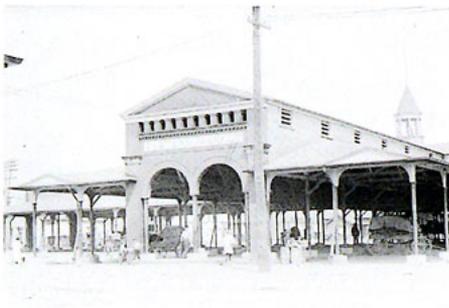
William Genser, who owned Batteries Manufacturing Company in the heart of Greektown, regularly lunched at the restaurant but also often treated his children to the experience. His daughter, Beverly Genser Gold, remembers Shirley, "the cashier at the end of the line who was able to calculate in her head (in less than five seconds) the total cost of the bill. I think the cost varied on a regular basis, but that was part of the atmosphere at Samuels."

Like kids in a candy shop, diners at this deli left with a satisfaction that lasted a lifetime. "My greatest joy was when I was 13 years old," recalled Irving Stein - whose father, Abraham, operated an open-air stand in the Market his entire life - "to be able to go to Samuels Brothers restaurant. I did this by selling empty boxes and bushel baskets earning enough money to buy a corned beef sandwich with french fries." After his father passed away in 1977, Stein kept the family stand until 1986, buying his produce from Randazzo Market on Gratiot Avenue.

"What a lunch they served," said Fred Gluckson, who spent many a lunch hour happily making the one-mile trek to the Market from his office at National Bank of Detroit. "Huge portions of kugel, latkes, knishes - meat or potato - and the world's freshest salads, only minutes off the produce truck."

Still Full of Vitality

The foundations laid nearly 100 years ago provided the financial means for many children and grandchildren to move on to other careers. Still vital, today's Eastern Market spans 3.5 square miles and is arguably the nation's largest outdoor market of its kind. Each weekend, thousands of shoppers flock to the stalls and shops to purchase fruits, vegetables, meats, spices, plants and more. Plans to expand the Market are under consideration.



MARKET 1910

This 1910 image of the main shed of the Eastern Market shows the timelessness of its design and function. The same building stands today.



MARKET 1980

This picture, taken in 1980, shows the classic chicken at its entryway.

DETROIT'S MARKETS

There were other notable market areas: the Broadway and Gratiot markets; the Western Market, which was consolidated into the Eastern Market in 1965; and the still-functioning Chene-Ferry Street Market.

One person responsible for today's resurgence of the Eastern Market is Alex Pollack, an urban architect and Detroit city planner. More than 30 years ago, he envisioned reinvigorating Eastern Market. The colorful images that adorn some of the sheds and decorative awnings were his inspiration.

The colors, sounds, smells and tastes of the Market are alive every day, but thanks to the many who responded to my query for Eastern Market memories, the vision of what the markets were like in a different era are much more vivid. Their reminiscences reflect the richness of the Market and its multi-ethnic experience. Bon appetit! Enjoy!

-Diane Pomish

Abe, Barney and Steven Plotnik Arnold Collens

The market was an amazing, intricate – and yet simple – system of trade and commerce. In vivid detail, Barney Plotnik – son of Abe who ran the Plotnik Fruit and Produce Company of Detroit – described the fantastic operation of this bustling center. Barney, who began working for his father in 1929, met his wife, Shirley Siden, in 1936 while she was eating alone at Samuels Brothers Cafeteria. They married two years later. Their son, Steven, and nephew, Arnold Collens, also worked in the family's Eastern Market business on Saturdays.

A typical day for Barney included waking up at 1 a.m. on Fridays, 3 a.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays, then driving to the Detroit Union Produce Terminal at West Fort and Green streets to take part in the morning auction. The produce arrived directly by the Pere Marquette, Pennsylvania and Wabash railroads and indirectly by all other roads entering Detroit.¹ In 1940, 29,364 train carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables, representing 79 various commodities, arrived in Detroit. That year, 3,540 train cars of oranges were shipped to Detroit for breakfast juice.

In 1910, at age 27, Abe Plotnik began buying fruit from the produce



NEWSPAPER 1940



ABE PLOTNIK

Abe Plotnik is pictured in 1940 standing by his fruit stand, organized, as he demanded, in the most precise fashion. (Photo courtesy of Arnold Collens.)



BARNEY 1980

Barney Plotnik worked for Harry Becker and operated stand No. 289 at the Eastern Market. He is pictured here in 1980 at the produce terminal.

auction for the company he and his wife Rosa founded: Plotnik Fruit and Produce Company of Detroit. After buyers like Abe inspected the produce, they went to the sales auditorium to purchase the merchandise sold by an auctioneer. With lightning speed, \$6,000 worth of cherries could be sold in merely three minutes. After purchasing, Abe would inspect his produce before loading it onto his truck. Less than two hours later, it would be on sale in a grocery store.

Abe closed the business in 1942 and Barney went to work at the Detroit Produce Terminal for Harry Becker, known as "the tomato and celery king" (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 42, 2002).

At age 11, Steven joined his father at the stand. Each Friday, he would wake at 1 a.m. to prepare for the busiest day. The father-son team sold oranges, lemons and grapefruit, but during the holiday season they sold Red Delicious apples, tangerines, nuts, fruit baskets and sweet potatoes. "It didn't matter how much we bought," Steven said. "We always sold out early. We could sell easily 700 to 800 cases in six or seven hours."

As a teenager, Arnold Collens, the son of Shirley Plotnik's sister, Dorothy Siden, began working Saturdays with his uncle. "Our first responsibility on arriving at the shed on Winder Street was to get around the boxer dog that guarded the door and liked to nip at our ankles." The teenage boys would grab the cart, bags and boxes from "the shed," then push the cart to the produce stand to await the arrival of the truck from the terminal. "We would unload cartons of oranges, grapefruit and lemons as quickly as possible. Precise rows, five cartons high, always meeting Barney's demands that the lines were straight and the labels were pointing in the same direction."

The boys worked hard all day, stocking and selling, and very often listening to Barney sing out, "Lemons as sweet as my mother-in-law." They also found time for fun. "We would socialize with other teens we knew from school who were working at their family stands, roast sweet

potatoes in the warming fire, walk the market to see what the farmers had brought in, rest at Samuels Brothers, or go to the Broadway Market to buy custard donuts for 10 cents."

Albert Adelman

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in the Bronx, Albert, now 94, arrived in Detroit at the age of 18 and immediately began working in the food business. He came to collect on a debt owed to his father, who was in the herring business. When Albert arrived, around 1930, the Eastern Market was in its heyday. Seeing an opportunity to follow in his father's footsteps, the young businessman developed Marine Foods. The memories shared here were recorded by Barney and Shirley Plotnik's granddaughter, Jenny Domino, for a paper she wrote in 1998 while attending Michigan State University. It's titled: "From Model Ts to Fresh Produce: Growing Up in Detroit."

"The business was at 1352 Division West at Wilkins, near the railroad crossing, and later at 1362 Napoleon Street. It was a food processing business pioneering creamed herring, Pep-E Brand Herring...(it also processed) olives, shrimp cocktail and other appetizers. The business grew and shipped to a large area in the Midwest with a processing plant in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

"Samuels Brothers Cafeteria opened for breakfast at 4 a.m. to feed the farmers and merchants who did business in the area, and closed at 3 p.m. One day, while in there for lunch, I asked the brothers if they knew anyone who could be my secretary. They sent over their sister, Eve, who I hired. She became my wife and retired as my secretary.

"My son, Joel Adelman, having graduated and accepted into the University of Michigan Law School, decided to stay in the family business. In 1965, an offer was made to purchase the business. We accepted, I retired and Joel went into law school."

William Berman

William Berman was an enterprising wholesaler who owned and operated one of several fruit and produce stores in the Western Market located near Michigan Central Station at Michigan Avenue and 14th Street. The business mainly sold fresh produce to small independent grocers and restaurants. Everything was sold by the crate, William's son, Marvin, recalled.

"Produce was bought from the farmers and from the railroad terminal in Southwest Detroit. Trainloads of produce came in from across the country. On Sundays, my father visited farms in Ontario, placing orders for the following week.

"My father, William, left for the market each morning, well before dawn. Business for the day was usually done by early afternoon, when deliveries were completed, however, he remained there until 5 or 6 p.m. Owners such as my father seemed to be completely absorbed in the business. Up at

4 a.m., home late afternoon, eat and sleep and back to the market.

"My brother Gerald and I worked at the market each summer. I was aware of the high energy, lots of camaraderie. The atmosphere was lively: noisy, lots of wheeling and dealing, very colorful. There were no restaurants or specialty stores in the Western Market.

When my brother and I worked there, Dad told us to be there by 6 a.m. or not bother to come. My mother also worked as our bookkeeper and managed the office."

Marty Rafal

One of the Eastern Market's most enduring shops, Rafal Spice Company, is a second-generation family-owned business. Marty began his Eastern Market career in a wholesale produce store under the tutelage of Jack and Al Prinstein and Willie Reder. Rafal Spice still boasts the heavy planked wooden door that led into one of Detroit's first refrigerated rooms.

"I came to Detroit in 1949 from Norfolk, Virginia to work in my wife's family business, Prinstein and Radar Produce Company at 2521 Russell Street. The store had no central heating. The only heat came from a big 50-gallon drum into which everything that could burn was thrown in to produce heat.

"Next door was a chicken store, run by Phil Minkowitz and his mother. Next to this was Bob Lux, the first person to ship okra from Texas. On the other side of Riopelle was R. Hirt, the biggest supplier of southern greens (collard, mustard, kale) before he became a cheese and import specialist.

"In 1960, after they [the Prinstein and Reder family members] all retired or went on to other endeavors, I took over the building and started Rafal Spice Company. My son, Donald, is still running the business."

Manus and Rifka Shapiro

This memoir, submitted by Herb Shapiro, typifies the enterprising experience of many hopefuls in the food provisions industry.

"I was only five when my grandparents, Manus and Rifka, decided it was a good idea to open a stall [in the Eastern Market]. Manus had never driven a truck and my father helped him pick one out and buy it. On the first trip, my father drove while showing Manus how to work the gears and drive the unwieldy stake truck. They took me along, although I don't remember why. They drove into the country before sunup and collected fresh vegetables from what I assume was farmers and bumped along to the market to set up their stall so they'd be ready when the sun came up. About halfway through the day, my father decided that Grandpa could drive the truck to his home and we proceeded home by streetcar.... After the summer was over, they gave up the stall and sold the truck."

Joseph Shewach

Few Eastern Market entrepreneurs entered the businesses without family support. It was typical to find an entire multi-generational family involved together in a business or assisting one another in several. Barbara Shewach Zweig recalled her father's experience in the Eastern Market.

"My father, Joseph Shewach, had a grocery store on 1345 Division Street in Eastern Market. His brothers, Harry and Henry, were also part of the business. It was called Shewach Brothers Wholesale Grocers. I remember the telephone number, Temple-35840. I loved visiting the store as a youngster, particularly when they were selling candy at the cash-and-carry register....

"There was a large chute, attached to a slide, for sending goods from the second floor to the first. I enjoyed a short ride on it when my Dad could spare a moment away from the business. When we last visited Division Street, the store had become an art gallery, but the chute was still there.

"My father and uncles were in business from 1929 until 1955 when they moved the business to Intervale Ave. Another uncle, Henry Goldfarb, had a fruit stand right in the heart of the Market called Cadillac Square Fruit Co."

Edward Sklar

Across the street from the bustling Eastern Market was the Gratiot Central Market, a large enclosed building that was an extension of the Eastern Market. Helene Sklar Lublin remembered her teenage years working side by side with her father and uncle.

"The Gratiot Market consisted of many stalls, individually owned, selling everything from canned goods, nuts and rice, in bulk, to fresh vegetables, dairy products, meats and baked goods. My uncle, Sam Posner, owned the grocery department from the 1930s until about 1943 at which time my father, Edward Sklar, bought it and ran it until the mid-'60s, at which time the market was destroyed by fire. Losing the business was a devastating blow to my father. He died a few years later.

"During my teen years, I worked on Saturdays. We were especially busy around Thanksgiving and Christmas. The work was hard, standing on one's feet all day, starting at 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. I'd take a streetcar and a bus home, take a shower, get dressed and go out with my boyfriend, Danny Lublin – my husband of 55 years."

Ben Snider

This memoir from Ben Snider's son, Larry, evokes the wonderful flavors, colors, sights and sounds of, in this case, the Gratiot Central Market.

"My father had a sausage stand in Gratiot Central Market. I started cutting hot dogs to put them on a tray when I was 10 years old. By the time I was 13, I took the bus on Saturdays to go downtown, switched to



GRATIOT CENTRAL MARKET
The Gratiot Central Market as it stood in 1910.

a streetcar down Vernor Road and got off at the Gratiot Market. I would push my way through the crowd to get to my father's stand.

"I worked on Saturdays and vacations for many years...Lunch in the market consisted of getting a roll for 5 cents, coming back to my father's place for a slice of salami, getting some mustard at the hot dog stand and taking the sandwich to a table, watching all the butchers come in for a drink. You knew the butchers had at least one finger missing.

"I recall a man coming to my father's place for help in making out a bank deposit slip. I do not remember how many checks he had, but they totaled close to \$10,000. I assume these were rent collections. I was shocked. Where else would you meet someone like that? Not at Mumford [High School].

"I recall meeting one of the owners of the Gratiot Market after I had moved to Chicago. The market had just burned. He told me that if I came to Detroit to head up the rebuilding, he would put a picture of my father out in front. It was very tempting, but I knew I could no longer get a roll for 5 cents so I stayed in Chicago."



THE RELISH SHOP

Morris and Bessie Teitel at their Relish Shop in the Gratiot Central Market sometime in the 1930s. (Photo courtesy of Gerald Cook)

**Morris and Bessie Teitel
Oscar and Jeanette Cook**

Three generations of Teitels worked to preserve another Gratiot Market icon, The Relish Shop. The shop began after Morris Teitel, who immigrated to this country in 1911, borrowed money from a cousin in 1927 to open the stand. He quickly enlisted the help of his wife, Bessie, and later his children and grandchildren. Told by his grandson, Gerald Cook, the story of The Relish Shop reminds us of how some things change and some stay the same. "Zedie" is Yiddish for grandfather; "Bubbe" is grandmother.

"My most vivid memories of Zedie are from the market. At home, he was quiet, but at The Relish Shop he was clearly in charge. I loved to watch him relate to the other shopkeepers, who clearly respected him. Zedie taught me to make change, how to avoid being cheated by scam artists, how to keep myself looking clean and neat, and how to make each customer feel their business was important to us (and it was!). He could speak fluently to the many Polish customers...I can still say prune jam in Polish (*povidla*).

"My grandmother, Bubbie Bess, and many other relatives worked at the shop. My grandmother recounted how, during World War II, the shop was so busy they could not even take a bathroom break. After the war, my father, Oscar Cook, went to work for my grandfather. Dad soon developed a wholesale business of his own, selling to restaurants, while still assisting my grandfather in the retail business.

"I started working in the market in junior high school, in the 1950s, and continued through my college graduation in 1964. Sometimes I would

have to take three buses to get there from Oak Park, because I hated getting up as early as my dad. Zedie showed me uses for slow times – washing the jars out front, filling the rotating porcelain trays in the refrigerated showcases. We sold smoked fish, pickled fish, salt mackerel, potato salad, coleslaw, all kinds of pickles, sauerkraut, jams, jellies, peanut butter and one I never tasted... pickled pigs' feet.

"The market was a little like the United Nations. The storekeepers and customers came from many different countries. But, they were also like family. When business was slow, you could hear good-natured bantering from one stand to the next.

"My Zedie worked at the market for 35 years. In January 1962, he returned to his beloved Relish Shop after his heart attack. He agreed to cut the workday short, turned down offers to be accompanied to his car and then died in the Stroh's Brewery parking lot where he parked.

"Dad continued at the market until the first fire, which occurred in the mid-1960s. He moved The Relish Shop's wholesale business to Mittleman's Pickle Warehouse at St. Aubin and Farnsworth."



RETURNING TO MARKET

Returning to the Gratiot Central Market where the Relish Shop once stood are Oscar and Jeanette Teitel Cook, the daughter and son-in-law of the shop's original owners, Morris and Bessie
(Photo courtesy of Gerald Cook)



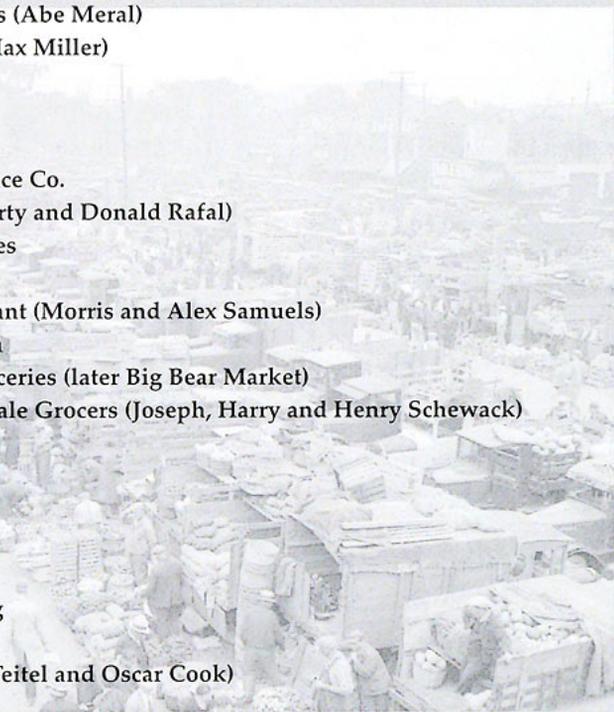
DIANE POMISH *moved to Detroit from Windsor, Ontario during her last year of high school and graduated from Central High School. She then went to Wayne State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Guidance and Counseling, becoming a teacher and counselor in various of school districts for 38 years.*

(Endnotes)

¹ Walton, Mort. "Here's How Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Are Rushed from the Growing Centers to Defense Workers' Tables in Detroit: A Picture Story." The Detroit Free Press, July 13, 1941 Sunday Graphics Section Pg 4 & 5.

Some of the Jewish-Owned Businesses in the Eastern and Western Market Areas

Alexander Provisions (Eric, Willie and Alfred Alexander)
American Fish Company (Rabinowitz)
Berman, William
Busy Bee Hardware (Richard Berkowitz)
Cadillac Square Fruit Co. (Henry Goldfarb)
Chicago Meat Packing (Eric, Willie and Alfred Alexander)
Eastern Poultry
Embassy Foods (Fred Wise and Barry Eisenberg)
Feldman Brothers
Gerber's Restaurant
Ginsberg Bros.
Gratiot Central Market (Don Ross and Razumna)
Gunsberg Beef Packing (Joseph and Julius Gunsberg)
Gunsberg Corned Beef
Kaplan Wholesale Food Services (Sol Kaplan)
Joseph M. Kaye Co. (Albert and Joel Adelman and Stuart Siegel)
Lampert, Max and Sophie
Lipson Delicatessens (Phil Lipson and Ben Imber)
Lipson Supermarkets (Phil Lipson)
Marine Foods (Albert Adelman)
Meral Wholesale Groceries (Abe Meral)
Miller Brothers Poultry (Max Miller)
Mr. Meat
Plotnick's Produce
Posner, Sam
Prinstein and Reder Produce Co.
Rafal Spice Company (Marty and Donald Rafal)
Reder Fruits and Vegetables
Salasneck Brothers Fish
Samuels Brothers Restaurant (Morris and Alex Samuels)
Shapiro, Manus and Rivka
Shayowitz Wholesale Groceries (later Big Bear Market)
Shewach Brothers Wholesale Grocers (Joseph, Harry and Henry Schewack)
Singer Poultry
Sklar, Edward
Snider, Ben
Standard Poultry
State Wholesale
Stein, Abraham and Irving
Supreme Distribution
The Relish Shop (Morris Teitel and Oscar Cook)



DETROIT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

PART 2

OUTSTANDING JEWISH GRADUATES



By Edie Resnick

In Michigan Jewish History, Vol. 44, Edie (Feinberg) Resnick recounted the extraordinary history and people of Detroit's Central High School. In this second and final installment, Resnick discusses some notable graduates and their accomplishments.

When I began this project nearly two years ago, I had no idea how complex and fascinating it would become. While researching the history of Central High School was relatively easy and indisputable, the second part of my charge – to list the outstanding Jewish graduates who went on to receive honor, success or notoriety in Michigan, the country and the world - proved to be a much grander, very humbling task. Trying to list all those who became exceptional in some large or small way is impossible. Their names would fill a very large volume.

Central High School graduates have gone onto all walks of life, from doctors and lawyers, businessmen and rabbis, judges and artists to scientists, philanthropists, philosophers, athletes and even crooks. I was fortunate to interview many alumni, and through their recollections and my research, I've been able to assemble a random sampling.

What was it that made Central High School such a marvel? Several interesting themes run through the records and the interviews: friendships, community, healthy competition and caring, concerned faculty members. And there was the character of the students themselves: a passionate desire to learn, to be honorable and to contribute to the world. I hope you will enjoy reading about these few I have mentioned and will treasure the memory of those whom I have inadvertently missed.



CENTRAL BIDDLE HOUSE
*The home of Central High
School from 1893-1896.*

In the Beginning

Few of us are aware of the origins of Central High School. Dating back to 1858, when classes were held in a single room, Central is considered the oldest existing high school west of the Appalachian Mountains and the first public-supported high school in Detroit and Michigan. In the beginning, the Miami Avenue School was hardly glamorous. Students sat at desks handed down from other schools, worn and adorned with ink blots and scratches. The children's playground consisted of nothing more than wooden planks. Kids ran along the street holding jumping competitions from the edge of the plank sidewalk and into the mud.

In 1863, the school had outgrown its quarters and was relocated to a vacant space in the former State Capitol Building on the corner of Griswold and State streets. The school was renamed the Capital Union School. In 1871, the earliest evidence of Jewish names appears in school records: **Conrad Moehلمان**, who became a professor of Hebrew at the University of Rochester in New York; **Joseph M. Weiss**, later an attorney, circuit court commissioner and state senator; and **Charles C. Simons**, who became a Michigan state senator and chief justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

By the 1880s, the Jewish presence had continued to grow, evidenced in names like **David E. Heineman**, (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 12) 1883 class president, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan and became an attorney, state legislator, president of the Detroit Common Council and city controller. He also designed the City of Detroit's flag.

Henry M. Butzel, an attorney who sat on the Michigan Supreme Court for 20 years, graduated in 1881. Butzel was also president of the Detroit Bar Association. A cousin of Henry, **Leo Butzel**, was an 1888 graduate who became a lawyer and joined a firm which later became Butzel and Long. Leo represented many of the automobile companies before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fred M. Butzel (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vols. 32, 33, 38, 39) has been called the "Dean of Detroit Jewry." He attended Central High School when it was temporarily housed in the Biddle House Hotel in the late 1890s. An attorney, he espoused Zionism and was affiliated with many Jewish organizations. He was a driving force behind the founding of the Jewish Welfare Federation and chaired its executive committee and Allied Jewish Campaign.

In 1894, construction began for the new home of the Detroit High School. The building opened in 1896 and was officially named Central High School. Old Central, the massive brick structure located on Cass Avenue, was Detroit's first advanced educational facility and still stands on the campus of Wayne State University.

Many others throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s started businesses and became active in the Jewish community. **Israel H. Himelhoch** founded Himelhoch's clothing store with his father, Wolf, in 1907. He married **Rose**

Phillips (Central 1903), an elementary school teacher who helped develop the Maybee School and went on to become assistant superintendent in charge of elementary instruction. In 1934, Rose became vice president in charge of personnel in the store and a patron of the arts and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Names like **Allen, Jacob, Gershenson, Levey, Nederlander, Siegel** and **Sloman** also appear in the era's school records.

With names and accomplishments too numerous to list individually, the following timeline provides a flavor of the great accomplishments of the 20th Century Central High School graduates.

- 1901** **Solomon Fishbaine** (later Spenser S. Fishbaine) completed grade 10A. He later became an English teacher at Central, started the school's Jewish debating club called the Webster Society and was the sponsor of the award-winning school paper, *The Central Student*.
- 1904** **Howard Alvin Bloom**, class treasurer, was the first Jew elected to class office. **Henrietta Fine** and **Abbie Levy** were also "English course" grads. At that time, post-grads could specialize in Latin, Classical, Latin-Scientific, Modern Language, English and Commercial courses.
- 1905** The Alumni Association established a scholarship fund to be awarded annually to six people who would be given a loan of up to \$250 and were required to take out a \$1,000 life insurance policy. The loan had to be repaid at the rate of 4 percent beginning one year after graduation. Central had a mandolin club but no playing field or gymnasium. The school's newly formed basketball team rented gym privileges from the Detroit Athletic Club.
- 1907** **Samuel M. Levin** taught history, became a department head then left for Wayne University, where he became the first local Jewish college professor. He taught economics and was chair of the department for more than 40 years.
- 1912** Graduates included **Helen Wattles**, who returned to the school to teach geometry. Although **Seymour Simons** graduated from the University of Michigan in engineering, he became known as a popular songwriter and musician.
- 1913** Boys and girls were separated into eight different "houses," forerunners of what later became study halls. The honor roll, established one year earlier, included the name of **Jeanne Bressler**.

DETROIT'S CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- 1916** Joseph Himelhoch graduated. Ezra Lipkin wrote the words to the Central High class song for the year; Kurt Aronheim wrote the music. For the first time, the *Centralite* yearbook included plays, poems and jokes. The volume was dedicated to the assistant principal because he was "just, devoted, loyal and true." Inside the book, an Overland car was advertised at \$615. Ruth Oppenheim, Charles Rubiner and Morris Witus were among the graduates.
- 1917** Abraham Victor Elconin, Eli Harelik, Israel Pearlman, Simon Shetzer, William Wachs and Louis Weitzman were members of the Webster Society debating club. Shetzer made the honor roll.
- 1918** Robert S. Drews, later a psychiatrist, and Samuel Cashwan (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 43), who would become a well-known sculptor, were among the June graduates. Central had teams in track, basketball and football.
- 1919** The *Centralite* featured many advertisements. Men's suits ranged from \$20 to \$65. Advertisements for ice and ice cream and autos "finished as you desire" filled the back pages following students' poems and short stories along with the graduating class' "last will and testament." Ruben Aptekar was on the honor roll.
- 1920** Royal Oppenheim graduated. His yearbook motto was "strive to do what's right." Oppenheim later became a lawyer, then director of Machpelah Cemetery, founded by his father.
- 1921** The 100th graduating class (January) from what is known cumulatively as Central High School included Jacob J. Rosenthal,

DRAPER, KENNETH
B. T. C.
House of Representatives
Student
Committee of Committees
House of Liberty
Junior College, U. of M.

DREWS, ROBERT S.
House of Liberty
Chairman Music Committee
Orchestra (2-7)
Band (7)
Junior College, Law



1918 GRADS

GROSSMAN, HENRIETTA
House 111
Chas. Briggs School, Laurium,
Mich.
Detroit Teacher's College
"Calm, and unruffled as a summer
sea."

GROSSMAN, HARRY
House of Liberty
Capron School
House Football
House Track
House Basketball
Reserve Basketball
Varsity Basketball
Webster Debating Club
Publicity Manager *Centralite*
Pres. 12A in 165
J. C. and U. of M.
"Always murmuring like a babbling
brook."



1922 GRADS

Abe Schmier, Leonard N. Simons and Aaron Weiswasser. Simons co-founded the advertising agency now known as SMZ Advertising. When he died in 1995 at the age of 91, Simons was credited with being a co-founder of the Michigan Cancer Foundation, Wayne State University Press, Jewish Community Archives of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Detroit Historical Commission. Simons was among the founders of Sinai Hospital, chaired the Jewish Home for Aged, the March of Dimes and the Jewish National Fund, and served as president of Temple Beth El and Franklin Hills Country Club.



1926 NATURE CLUB

- 1925** **Peter Shifrin** graduated that June. It was the last June class to graduate from old Central on Cass Avenue. He became an orthopedic surgeon and helped create the Lifelinks Program, dedicated to helping Jewish patients and their families cope with all aspects of terminal illness. **Sidney Shevitz** and **Evelyn Granat** made the honor roll.
- 1926** The new Central High School opened on Tuxedo Ave. without Principal David McKenzie who remained at old Central to become dean of the City College. **Lillian Kanter** and **Dina Berkovitz** appeared on the honor roll.
- 1927** Jewish names appear on team rosters and in clubs with greater frequency. The six members of the debate team included **Bessye Sachs**, along with five non-Jews and two alternates, **Nathan Shur** and **Irving Rosenthal**. Many Jewish girls joined the Forum Debating Society. **Gertrude Cohen** was the sergeant-at-arms of the co-ed Science Club. William Redfield Stocking, the new principal, instructed the January graduating class to carry forth "the Central spirit ...a quality equal to sincerity, service, and loyalty." Membership in the alumni association numbered more than 8,000.
- 1928** The 113th graduating class elected **Maurice Glasier** as president and **Hannah Ferman** as vice president. It was the first class to sponsor an all-school dance. Six out of seven members of the debate team were Jewish. The team took second prize in the city championship.

Graduate **Melvin Calvin** graduated from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, received a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Minnesota, studied for a few years in England, then began his academic career at the University of California at Berkeley. The recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees, Calvin received the 1961 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research on photosynthesis in plants.

For the fifth year in a row, *The Central Student*, a small biweekly newspaper, received a variety of national honors. Faculty sponsor Spenser S. Fishbaine was the director of publications. The 40th Alumni Ball opened with a grand march led by **Mamie Shulman**, the youngest graduate, and **Jared Finney**, age 87, the oldest living alumnus. A cheerleading team was organized with five young men including **Donald Hirschfield**, **Melvin Marwil** and **Paul Salomon**.

1929 "Loyalty and Light" became the official school song. Names that were to become familiar to the community appeared as graduates: **Saul Dunitz**, **Sam Frankel**, **George Lapides**, **Melvin Marwil** and **Saul Robins**. Honor roll listings and leaders in the Detroit Advancement Test included many Jewish names such as **Cohen**, **Goldberg**, **Katz**, **Shatzen**, **Segal**, **Trunsky** and **Weissman**. A handicrafts class was established "to create appreciation of the art of handicraft and carry it into home and personal adornment." There were girls' riflery and archery teams and a Societas Classica which sponsored a Roman banquet in the school lunchroom.

1930 At the January commencement, Rabbi Leon Fram of Temple Beth El spoke to the first class to have spent four years in the new building. Among the 162 graduates were **Phil Lachman**, **Julius Lemberg** and **Ben Stamell**, a class officer.

1931 As winner of the all-city model airplane contest, **Emanuel Feinberg**, president of the Model Airplane Club, won a trip to Washington, D.C., where he met President Herbert Hoover. **Leslie Schmier** was on the debate team, and **Isadore Frankel** played baseball, football and golf, and swam for Central. Among the 600 graduates were **Norman Drachler**, (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 37) who later became Detroit's superintendent of schools, and **Sidney Hiller**, founder of the Shopping Center Markets. A review of the year stated, "We realized our duty was to carry on and make Central more worthy because we had been here... Teachers taught us the meaning of *carpe diem*."

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

- 1932** At the height of the Great Depression, students evidenced a great deal of maturity in their appearance. Male students wore white shirts and ties to school, and girls wore silk hose and dresses with longer skirts. The yearbook, however, was filled with silly jokes and cartoons not reflective of the seriousness of the time.
- 1933** Graduate **George D. Barahal** later earned a doctorate from Stanford University, was a professor at Wayne State University for 34 years and became a well-known psychotherapist.
- 1937** This seemed to be a year of transition as it was the last time that the majority of students at Central were non-Jews. The names of graduates **Allen Berlin**, **Arthur Blumberg**, **Leslie Colburn** and **Joseph Orley** ultimately became familiar in insurance, medicine and construction. Later, **Jerome P. Horowitz's** research led to the development of the drug AZT. Horowitz felt that his fellow Central alumni were outstanding individuals, saying, "Their effect was to influence me to do something with my life."
- 1938** After Principal Joseph Corns died in late June 1937, Thomas J. Gunn became his replacement. The school had both varsity and intramural debating teams and an intramural athletic organization for boys. **Hyman Dorfman**, **Herbert Keidan** and **Burton Slatkin** graduated. Years later, **Charles Kaufman** sat on the Wayne County Circuit Court. Over a 30-year period, the judge received national and international recognition for several of his rulings.
- 1939** Jewish students joined badminton, radio and bowling clubs. **Marvin Schlossberg** later would adopt the name Sonny Elliot and become one of Detroit's most famous TV weathermen. **Bertha Robinson** would become Central's first female principal in 1956. **Jay Kogan** went on to M.I.T., and returned home to become a prominent land and mall developer. **Myron (Michael) Dann** became senior vice president of programming for CBS, a position he held longer than any of his predecessors.



1939 JANUARY GRADS

Betty Klein, Ethel Ann Kretzmer, Robert Leach

1940 An outstanding graduate of this year was **William Davidson**, later the CEO of Guardian Glass. Davidson, considered one of the community's most prominent philanthropists, also owns the Detroit Pistons, Tampa Bay Lightning and Detroit Shock teams. Among his classmates were **Irving Holtzman**, **Harold Kaufman** and **Sam Petok**.

1941 With war raging in Europe, students helped organize The Minutemen to help sell savings bonds. The yearbook stated that Central High School was "an institution which has done so much to further the aims and purposes of democracy." Later that year, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, many of the graduates' ambitions and dreams were put on hold as young men went to war. When they returned from service, **Victor J. Baum** became a lawyer, then a Circuit Court judge; **Saul Wineman** became known as radio personality **Paul Winter** and **David Mondry** established a thriving business and reputation as a philanthropist, as did **Graham Orley**. Professor **Bernard Rosenberg** taught philosophy and was an editor of *Dissent* magazine. **Ben Marks** became mayor of the Detroit suburb of Farmington Hills and also served on the city's Building Board of Appeals, the Charter Commission and the City Council.

1942 **Harriet Waratt (Berg)**, (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 40, 2000) a June graduate, later founded the Renaissance Dance Company and the Madame Cadillac Dance Theater. Today, she lectures on dance at Wayne State University, the University of Michigan and Marygrove College. Going to Central, she said, was the best thing that ever happened to her. Teachers Sam Milan and Birger Bakke took a personal interest in her, and Spenser Fishbaine motivated her. Harriet married Central graduate **Irving Berg**, a sculptor and inspiring teacher of the arts at Camp Tamarack.

After World War II, numerous graduates became successful in business as entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers and teachers. Many graduates went onto receive doctorates. **Art Danto** became an artist, a professor of philosophy at Columbia University and a celebrated art critic for *The New York Times*. **Murray Seidler** taught political science at Wayne State University and wrote a book about Norman Thomas, a close family friend. **Mel Ravitz** taught at Wayne State University and later became a member, then president, of the Detroit Common Council. Federal District Court Judge **Avern Cohn** recalled how students, their parents and teachers all knew that education was essential to success and fostered those aspirations in their devotion to study. His teachers prepared him for life, he said,

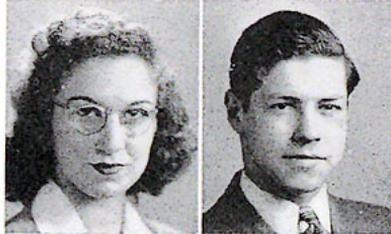
and he hopes that they - and Louis Panush in particular - would "be proud of me." **Ruth Elconin (Bornstein)** went on to teach in the Detroit schools and work in administration before she retired. She recalled Central as a "safe place" where she received an excellent preparation for college that was both stimulating and challenging. Other outstanding graduates included Elliot Luby, a psychiatrist and director of the Lafayette Clinic; **Charlotte Waterstone (Rothstein)**, mayor of Oak Park, Michigan, and **Henry Geller**, a television "Quiz Kid" and later scientist.

Medal, Ruth

Whittier Hall; Commercial; Speakers' Bureau; Quill and Scroll, Secretary, Vice-President; Civilian Defense Council; Central Student, Co-Feature Editor, Blue Staff; Publicity Committee

Meer, Edward M.

Whittier Hall; College Prep.; Reserve Football; Varsity Football; "C" Club; Centralite Supersalesman; Social Committee

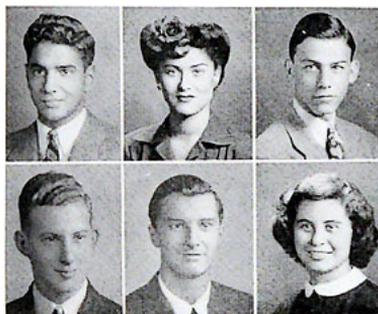


1943 GRADS

1943 A statement on the opening page of the *Centralite* was dedicated to young men in service and encouraged the student body to "Give to the limit for the life which it knows and loves. This is worth fighting for." Advertisements at the back of the book included one from Michigan Bell: "Girls, you would like this kind of war work." Among the graduates were **Seymour "Mickey" Tuchow**, known today as Michael Tolan, movie and TV actor, and **Warren Coville**, a photographer who found success with Guardian Photo. Coville and his wife, Margot, are noted for their charitable deeds. The Jewish Federation Apartments on the Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Campus in West Bloomfield, Michigan is named for **Edward Meer** and his wife, **Norma** (Central Class of '44). **Joann Freeman** became a concert pianist, **Jack Gorback** a well known local photographer and **Melvin Rosenhaus** a builder and supporter of Jewish causes. Another graduate who became an outstanding supporter of the arts and sciences was **Gilbert Silverman**, who married **Lila Smith**, Class of '51.

1944 Many of this year's graduates went on to make outstanding contributions to the arts. **Esther Masserman (Broner)**, became well known for her writings about liberalizing the lives of Jewish women. In 1976, she teamed up with prominent feminists Bella Abzug, Phyllis Chester and Gloria Steinem -- "The Seder Sisters" -- to organize a women's seder, which took place annually for more than 20 years. Broner's works are in the archives of Brandeis University.

Norman Wexler, known for his intelligence and quirkiness, hit the big time as a writer of screenplays in Hollywood: "Joe," "Serpico" and "Saturday Night Fever," to name a few. **Joyce Katz (Feuring)** became a successful actress in New York. **James "Jimmy" Lipton**, a noted writer, producer, playwright and lyricist, is host of "Inside the Actors Studio" on television. He serves as dean of the master's degree program between New York City's New School for Social Research and the Actors Studio.



1944 GRADS

(top) Edwin Liebman,
Marvel Liederman, James Lipton.
(bottom) Irving Maggin, Melvin
Marcus, Shirley Marks.

Leon Jaroff joined Time, Inc. in 1951. He reported for *Life Magazine*, then became bureau chief and senior editor of *Time*, writing all of the cover stories on U.S. space exploration and moon landings. Jaroff also was the founding editor of *Discover* magazine. Today, he is semi-retired, still writing about science and medicine. **Lawrence Rosenthal's** musical compositions have won him several Academy Award nominations. One of his works was played at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Leonard Bernstein. **Joel Feinberg**, a highly regarded philosopher, wrote a four-volume set on the government's justification for setting limits on individual freedom. **Seth Kantor**, who left school in his senior year to join the service, became a well-known author on the Civil War.

Morton Zieve (pg. 78) received a master's degree in theater from Stanford University, with a minor in music. A writer and composer, he went on to become chairman of SMZ Advertising. Zieve credited Central High with giving him the basic approach for learning and study. "It set the tone for everything that I do, my competitiveness, my interest in the world, in theater and in government," he said.

1945

The death of President Roosevelt and the toll of war were reflected in the somber faces of many graduates. Boys' and girls' clubs placed yearbook ads listing their members who died overseas. Group pictures included members who had enlisted and were in the uniform of different branches of service. People whose names would become familiar to the Jewish community after the war included **Arnold Faudman**, **Herman Frankel**, **Milton Goldrath**, **Joseph Nederlander**, **Harvey Schatz** and **Norman Wachler**. Others

of note: **Stuart Hertzberg**, an attorney and Michigan delegate-at-large to six national Democratic conventions; **Judith Laikin (Elkin)**, a professor of history at the University of Michigan and a specialist on Latin American Jewry; and **Judith Levin (Cantor)**, historian, archivist and past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Cantor wrote "Jews in Michigan," a historical overview of early Jewish leadership and settlement in Michigan. Miss Bridge, her study hall counselor, encouraged her. "I felt she wanted me to succeed and expected it of me. I didn't want to let her down."

1946 Club LaSalle, the students' "nightclub," was very popular. Admission cost 75 cents and soft drinks were extra. **Ted Sachs** would become a nationally known labor lawyer, **Milton Superstine** an orthodontist and **Eleanor Lipkin** and her brother Seymour concert pianists. **Burton Shifman** would be a judge in Oak Park, **Thomas Klein** a senior economist with the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and **Sherwood Colburn** insurance commissioner for the State of Michigan. Among the class of 1946 was a young man who went on to become a rabbi and the founder of the Humanistic Judaism movement in 1963. **Sherwin Wine**, who was a member of the Central High speakers' bureau and performed in the school play, later received his bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy from the University of Michigan and attended Hebrew Union College, the Reform movement's rabbinical school. He also served as an army chaplain in the Korean War.



1946 BAND

- 1947** The ROTC and the school paper won awards. A new club, the Council on Jewish Affairs, was started to promote discussion and better understanding of Jewish issues among Christians and Jews. **Herbert Aronsson, Zelda Cohen (Robinson), Harvey Kleiman, Bert Sandweiss** and **Neil Schechter** all graduated. Robinson served as president of the Michigan Association of School Boards and was instrumental in the development of the Holocaust curriculum for the Southfield Public Schools which is now used in 30 states and seven foreign countries.
- 1948** Central now had 2,600 students. **Shirley Rose (Iden)** was editor of the Centralite in her senior year and later became a local journalist. **William M. Wetsman** was the January class vice president. **Dennis J. Kovan** became a veterinarian; **Eugene Mondry, Ronald Trunsky, Herbert Tyner** and **Allen Zemmol** went on to successful careers. **Jerome Bronson** became a lawyer and judge. **Jack A. Robinson** founded Perry Drugs, a large drug store chain. He and his wife, **Aviva Freedman** (class of '51), own a premier private art collection and have donated glass pieces to the Detroit Institute of Arts.
- 1949** The Unity Forum, a civil rights organization with 111 members, ran under the sponsorship of Mrs. Freda Paperno. Spenser Fishbaine retired after a long and illustrious tenure. **Sander M. Levin**, class president, was active in sports, the student council and the student newspaper. Small wonder that he later became a U.S. Congressman.
- 1950** Central's ROTC ranked number 1 in Detroit. Girls' field hockey came to an end when the coach was transferred to another school. **Donald F. Silver** and **Robert Gans** went on to medical schools. **Marion Sanders** received a doctorate in special education, wrote several books on learning disabilities and became a well-known consultant. **Kenneth Jay Lane** became an internationally recognized costume jewelry designer. **Florine Grossberg (Mark Ross)**, (pg. 62) then a cheerleader and participant in the Spring Follies, became known as Florine Mark, the weight-loss maven who helped make Weight Watchers a household name. She serves on numerous community boards and has contributed to women's health and cultural causes in her desire to give back to the community. **Arlene Fineman (Victor)** (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 44) became politically active and served as national president of Women Against Nuclear Defense. Her memory is perpetuated with annual awards given to those who promote peace.

1951 Possibly the best known of this year's graduates was **Eli Broad**, recognized for the company he built, KB Homes, then the company he chaired, AIG SunAmerica, Inc. Through his innovative Broad Foundation, he funds scholarships to Michigan State University for worthy Detroit high school graduates deemed "the best and the brightest." The Eli Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University reflects his philosophy. Broad stresses the positive influence and the "good, wholesome experience" he experienced attending Central. Some other graduates that year were **Irving Nusbaum**, later owner and TV spokesperson for New York Carpet World; **Carmi Slomovitz** of *The Detroit Jewish News*; **Aviva Freedman (Robinson)**, painter and patron of the arts; **Henry Baskin** and **Robert Zeff**, prominent attorneys.

1952 T.J. Gunn retired as principal, and **Sally Kornwise** became the first female to be elected as student council president. **Carl Levin** played varsity tennis, was a member of the Sportsmanship Council and was January class treasurer. Today, Levin is the highly esteemed senior U.S. Senator from the state of Michigan. His classmates included **Robert Sosnick**, later a builder and developer, and **Herbert Kaufer**, who would become an orthopedist and editor of the *National Bone and Joint Journal* of the American Medical Association. **Arthur Vander** became a renowned specialist in renal physiology who has written 23 books on related subjects.

1953 Longtime teachers Rene Muller and Helen Converse retired. Graduate **Jack Faxon** became a teacher, the youngest delegate to a Michigan Constitutional Convention, a state senator, an occasional ballet performer and founder of the International School in Farmington Hills, Michigan.



ROVIN, Benita M.: Lincoln Hall; College Prep.; Senior Play; Sportsmanship Council; Vice-President; Student Council; Centralite Art Editor; Science Club; Art Committee
 RUBENSTEIN, Seymour: Lincoln Hall; General, Varsity Football, "C" Club
 RUBEN, David Harold: Lincoln Hall; Commercial
 RUBIN, Rhoda Day: Lincoln Hall; General

1953 GRADS

1954 An active and spirited **David Hermelin** kept busy as a school cheerleader, sat on the Sportsmanship Council and was in the senior play. Hermelin became a successful businessman who devoted himself to the Jewish community and innumerable charities. The staunch Democrat was named U.S. ambassador to Norway before his untimely death in 2000.

1955 Eugene Applebaum went on to become a successful pharmacist and established Arbor Drugs, a large pharmacy chain. The pharmacy school at Wayne State University is named for him.

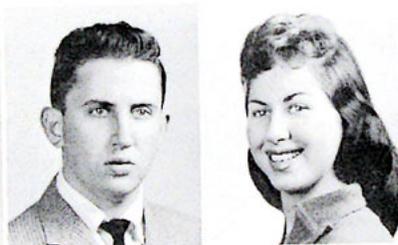
1956 Robert Naftaly was editor of the *Centralite*, a member of the student council, in the class play, on the boys' swim team and in the French club. His career led him to become chief operating officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and president and CEO of PPOM, an independent operating subsidiary of BCBS. He also was Michigan's budget director and president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

FRANKEL, Ruth: Emerson Hall; Commercial
 FREEDMAN, Stuart: Emerson Hall; College
 Prep., Finance Committee
 GARVIN, Howard L.: Emerson Hall; College
 Prep., Science Club
 GERENRAICH, Jerome: Emerson Hall; Col-
 lege Prep., Science Club
 GLADSTONE, Laura: Emerson Hall; Collee



1956 GRADS FRANKEL AND FREEDMAN

1958 The year the school celebrated its 100th anniversary, the officers and leaders of the language clubs, the science club and drama group and editors of both the yearbook and the school paper were all Jewish. Beverly Schwartz (Stone) edited a book documenting the history of the school. Of one of her teachers, she said, "He made me feel that I could be anything I wanted to be." She went on to become assistant superintendent of Rochester (Mich.) public schools.



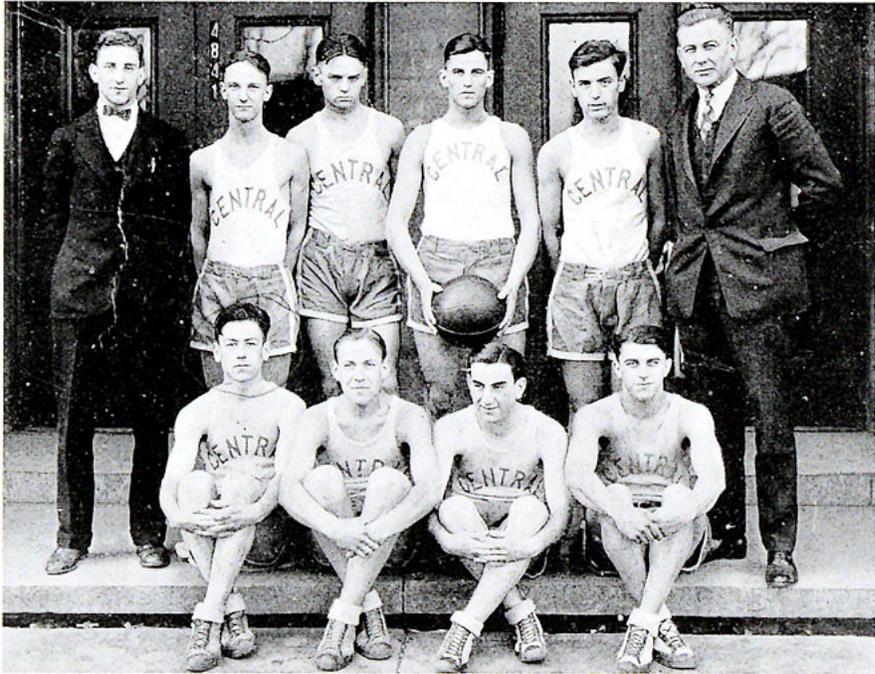
RUTH FAIR
 Emerson Hall, Commercial
 TOBI LOU FAIEN
 Emerson Hall, College Prep.; Treasurer
 of Senior Class, Vice-Pres. of Student
 Council, Spanish Club, Sportsmanship
 Council, G.A.A., Citizenship Awards
 JERRY FARBER
 Emerson Hall, College Prep
 ARLENE FELDMAN
 Emerson Hall, Commercial; Senior Play

1958 GRADS FARBER AND FELDMAN

Between the years 1958 and 1961, the Jewish population of the school dropped rapidly as the Jewish community moved north to the suburbs. Over the following four decades, Central High School fell into disrepair. With a student population of around 1,200, its once elegant hallways and classrooms had become dirty and dreary. Until recently. A multimillion-

dollar renovation is under way with a new student body hoping to carry on an old tradition. One Jewish teacher, David Wayntraub, remains. He has been teaching English there for more than 20 years.

A small but growing group of alumni is actively sponsoring events and raising funds for scholarships to help Central graduates further their education and meet the challenges of the 21st Century.



1926 BASKETBALL TEAM

This team of players was the first to play in the new Central High School gymnasium in the latter part of the 1926 school year. Players included (by last name only): Leipham, Gussin, Lawson, Barfknecht, Kaufman, Katz, Kaplan, Eastland, Roeder, Harrick, Schwartz, King, Smith and Seltzer.



**1944 GRAD
EDIE (FEINBURG) RESNICK
YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

EDIE RESNICK is an active member and volunteer of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. She is retired from her career as an educational consultant. In 2005, the JHS of Michigan awarded Resnick the Leonard N. Simons History Award for her leadership in preserving the records of Central High School.

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Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Sharon Alterman, archivist

Central High School Archives, Ola Lebedovych, librarian

Interviewees

Harriet W. Berg

Dr. Ruth Bornstein

Eli Broad

Judith Levin Cantor

Irwin J. Cohen

The Honorable Avern Cohn

Dr. Jerome Horowitz

Leon Jaroff

Dr. Alvin Michaels

Dr. Murray Seidler

Beverly Schwartz Stone

Dr. Mel J. Ravitz

Jack A. Robinson

Anthony T. Womack, Principal, Central High School

Morton Zieve

JEWISH WOMEN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



By Marj Jackson Levin

WOMEN'S LIBBER! BRA BURNER! FEMINIST!

I was called all of these names, but the last is the one I answer to.

Patricia Burnett and I founded the National Organization for Women (NOW), Michigan Chapter in 1969. It is one of the most exciting and rewarding endeavors in which I have ever been involved. While we never burned our bras or trashed men, we and our sisters were instrumental in helping equalize the status of women in our society, and in Michigan in particular.

Although women of all faiths joined Patricia (who is not Jewish) and me, a predominant number of local Jewish women spearheaded our cause. Joan Israel, Harriet Alpern, Jacqui Steingold, Allyn Ravitz, Marcia Federbush, among others, became leaders in our efforts to help correct the inequities that existed 30 years ago.

NOW invades DAC — by the front door

DAC
Detroit NOW
members invaded the
Detroit Athletic Club
in 1975 to demonstrate
against the club's
all-male policy.
(Photo courtesy of
the Detroit News,
Walter P. Reuther
Library)



Lobby of DAC, long a hallowed men-only sanctuary, was suddenly crowded with NOW members

The women of Michigan NOW led the nation in the establishment of women's crisis centers, the foundation of the first women's studies association, Title IX complaints against high schools and a major university, and the first sexual assault legislation which did not require proof the woman had resisted her attacker. We visited television stations and print media outlets to point out the limited employment of women as news anchors and the overwhelming representation of women in advertisements as either domestically challenged or as sex objects. Remember when the want ads were listed under male and female? Today, we take the greater equalization of male and female positions in our society for granted. Thirty years ago, our demands were seen as radical.

The First Wave

Historians have dubbed our efforts the Second Wave of Feminism. The first wave began in the mid-1800s and carried on through the early 20th Century as American women campaigned for the right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment, in 1920, was due to the vigilant work of feminists like Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony. Because most of the Jewish population at the time consisted of newly landed immigrants, there were few Jewish women leaders in this effort. Two notable exceptions were Ernestine Rose, who appealed in the late 1840s to the Michigan Legislature about women's right to vote and is credited with the adoption of Wyoming's suffrage legislation in 1869; and Regene Freund Cohane, who celebrated the 19th Amendment with other Michigan suffragettes.

Several Jewish women became involved in Michigan's early labor movement. Matilda Robbins, whose real name was Tatania Rabinowitz, was prominent in the Industrial Workers of the World. Dorothy Rogin Kraus moved to Detroit in 1936 and headed the UAW Women's Auxiliary in Flint. She also organized the strike kitchen during the Flint General Motors sit-down strike of 1936-37. Myra Wolfgang, vice president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Union, became a strong voice on behalf of her members.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the Second Wave of Feminism spread across our country. Many Jewish women became identified with this powerful movement. Three years after the Civil Rights Act passed in 1964, granting women equal rights with men, Betty Friedan and Muriel Fox of New York, and six other feminists founded the National Organization for Women. Writer Gloria Steinem soon joined the movement, started *Ms. Magazine* and became a popular national lecturer. Friedan's voice was perhaps the strongest, and her book, "The Feminine Mystique," published in 1962, addressed women of all social classes. I vividly recall her stop in Detroit to promote her cause. If women wanted to ensure a balance of power in their lives, Friedan emphasized, they had to become economically independent. Her advice to married women: "Don't give up your careers." Betty Friedan



1977 MARCH

In 1977, NOW held its conference in Detroit. Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan attended and participated in a march that drew nearly 1,000 marchers. (Photo by Patricia Beck, courtesy of Walter P. Ruether Library)

gave voice to the vague feelings and undefined complaints of millions of women.

Of course, NOW wasn't the only feminist organization, although it is the only one still in existence. Some women joined the Women's Liberation Coalition in Detroit. Others were not aligned with a formal group but became important activists. Among them was Marge Piercy, born in Detroit and renowned for her feminist poetry and essays. Esther Broner, teacher, writer, lecturer and Jewish feminist, wrote the script for the first women's seder, which was conducted in Haifa in 1975. The National Council of Jewish Women was also an early advocate of feminist issues.

The Second Wave

Many women discovered they had the power to effect change through activism during the anti-Vietnam War movement of the late 1960s. Many felt that we had been led into a war because of misguided power decisions. We viewed Lyndon Johnson's refusal to withdraw troops because he didn't want to go down in history as the first American president to "lose" a war,

as a national travesty. Thousands of women and other activists marched in Washington D.C. during Nixon's inauguration to protest the continuing war.

In 1969, Patricia Burnett suggested we launch a NOW chapter in the Detroit area. After calling every friend we could think of, we held our first meeting at the Scarab Club in Detroit. Close to 70 women attended.

Friedan instructed us to select a board of 10 women and establish a corporation. Patricia and I were hardly experts, so we contacted a lawyer friend, Walter Goldsmith, to help us incorporate. He did, as a pro-bono

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Friedan followers

Detroit feminists map strategy—NOW

By BARBARA HITSKY
News Staff Writer

Detroit's feminists—those women who won't demonstrate in the streets or burn their bras in their quest for equality with men—are off to a rousing start.

At an officers' organizational meeting yesterday in the Scarab Club, the 40 women mapped their strategy for recruiting at least 1,000 members throughout the state to urge repeal of Michigan's abortion laws and to establish day care centers for those mothers who want to put their talents to work.

TO ATTAIN these goals, the women are forming a local chapter of NOW (National Organization of Women) which was founded two years ago by Betty Friedan, author of "The Feminine Mystique."

"We're definitely not a militant group," said Mrs. Patricia Burnett, president of local NOW. "If you want to pocket or burn your bra, you'd better join a more radical women's organization, like the Women's Liberation Movement. We love men and by gaining equal rights within the existing structure, we think we'll make men happier."

MRS. BURNETT, a portrait painter with a studio in the Scarab Club, assembled a rather impressive list of women for her first organizational meeting—ranging from 14 Merrill/Palmer students to career women and housewives. Virtually all of them attended in suits or tailored dresses, as Mrs. Burnett said that even a pasteurist might identify them with the more radical feminist groups.

Members of the local NOW executive board, chosen yesterday, include Mrs. Vida L. Anderson, Eastern Michigan University representative; Mrs. Lou Winston, of the Michigan Coordinating Committee for Abortion Law Reform; Mrs. Mary Ann Beattie, of the Wayne County Legal Aid Neighborhood Service; Mrs. Madge Berman, Mrs. Betty Prevoti and Miss Mary Ann Fulmer, immediate past president of the Michigan Women's Lawyers Association of Michigan.

ALSO PRESENT were Oakland County 4th District Judge Alice Gilbert, Mrs. Joyce Mitchell, president of the Detroit League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Mary Ball, executive secretary of the Detroit Cultural Center.

A telegram of support from State Senator



LOOKING OVER some of the letters from persons wanting to push for women's rights are (left) NOW President Mrs. Patricia Burnett and Mrs. Marjorie Levin, vice-president of the new group.

N. Lorraine Beebe, Dearborn Republican, was read during the meeting. Mrs. Beebe has long been active in abortion law reform and shocked male members of the legislature this summer with a personal story of her own abortion.

Mrs. Burnett, who was out of town during the holiday season, said she was elated by the volume of mail received from interested persons after a News story on the founding of NOW was published two weeks ago.

"MARJORIE LEVIN, our vice-president, and I will contact each person by letter or phone this week," Mrs. Burnett said. "And we're planning a mass meeting for both men and women on Feb. 20."

The Feb. 20 meeting will be held at noon in the Scarab Club, located behind the Detroit Institute of Arts, at 217 Farnsworth. Luncheon will be served at \$2 per person, but if women do not want to attend for lunch, they may come for the meeting at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Burnett said. Luncheon reservations may be sent to her in care of the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth.

Mrs. Burnett, a vivacious brunette, was particularly enthusiastic about a letter received from Louis Gold, of Oak Park, who said he would convert his small house into a day care center for women who had no place to send their preschoolers while they worked.

"I HAVEN'T met him, but he's got to be a darling," she said. "He's definitely going to be our first male member—the first of many, we hope."

During the luncheon, Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Levin outlined the goals of NOW and how the local chapter wants to carry them out.

"What we are is a movement that will liberalize the second-class citizen of the United States—the woman," Mrs. Burnett said. "Since the 1950's, women have been going backward, locked into homes, forced out of careers."

"WE'RE TRYING to reach the great, silent majority of women who are shy, timid, afraid to speak out," Mrs. Burnett said. "We have nothing against those women who are fulfilled by a home and children. It's just the ones who are unhappy we're trying to help."

In her first "on top" speech, Mrs. Burnett cited statistics to prove discrimination in job hiring and training.

"Only 1 percent of our judges are women, and only 4 percent of our lawyers and 7 percent of our doctors," she declared. "Compare that with Russia—where 70 percent of the physicians are women."

AS WELL as abortion reform, day care centers are a major concern of the NOW group.

"We want them for upper and middle class as well as ADC mothers," Mrs. Burnett said. "And I feel too many children are spoiled whose mothers remain with them all day—in some cases mother and child can be the death of each other."

"MAYBE BECAUSE we won't pocket our activities sound dull to some of you," Mrs. Burnett said. "But it's not going to be! We'll bring a nice surface calm but underneath we're going to fight like hell to break through that solid curtain of prejudice that exists."

DETROIT NEWS

kindness. "Walter," I assured him, "we'll call you when we bring our first class-action suit against a company for discriminating against women." When we did bring a class action suit against Michigan Bell for inequality in job salaries, we hired a woman lawyer. Goldsmith loved what we did and was always proud that he helped launch our efforts.

Freedom of choice was the issue that most galvanized the women's activist movement, and it took until the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision for abortion to become legal in all states. Also high on our agenda was the election of more women to public office. In 1970, the U.S. had one woman senator and 10 congresswomen. In 2004, there were 14 women senators and 65 women representatives.

As our chapter grew, our influence spread. I hosted the television show, "A Woman's Place" on the Detroit PBS affiliate. Among the many prominent feminists interviewed were Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, Shirley MacLaine and hosts of local activists. I wrote articles on women's issues, one of which, on spouse abuse, was published in *McCall's Magazine*. Most of the material was gathered from our NOW chapter's consciousness-raising sessions guided by Gerry Barrons and Mary Jo Smith.

Making the World a Better Place

Along with the abortion issue and the Vietnam War, mid-century feminists brought other concerns into play. Harriet Alpern recalled how Judaism was the main factor in her involvement. "In Judaism you are commanded to do your part in making the world a better place," said Alpern who found the women's movement was where she could make a difference. She participated in several media actions, including negotiations with the local ABC affiliate to comply with FCC regulations. As a result, the station agreed to consider placing more women both on the screen and behind the cameras. She also produced two programs: "What Are Big Girls Made Of?" and "What's Wrong With Wrinkles?," which delved into the stereotypical portrayals of women in consumer advertising: younger women depicted as either domestically challenged or as sex objects and older women portrayed as physically compromised.

Joan Israel, who succeeded Burnett as Michigan NOW president, also joined our nascent board. She said her initial awareness of sex discrimination occurred in benign social situations. Her first husband often was queried about his work by friends while Israel sat by, routinely ignored. "I was a director of an outpatient socialization program for psychotic patients. No one asked me about what I did. It was like you were there, but you were invisible. I didn't know what to do with that feeling, but it was there."



JOAN ISRAEL

Israel agreed to attend that first NOW gathering primarily because it was around the corner from the Merrill Palmer Institute, where she worked. "I heard Patricia and Marj talk about NOW, and that was a click moment," she said. "Since I had done my master's on childcare plans for hospitalized psychotic women, I said, 'I'll do child care,' and that's how I got into the movement."

As chair of the NOW Michigan Childcare Committee, Israel worked with 10 other "magnificent" women. Together they planned four child care

conferences. "We helped pass legislation which still affects childcare in this state," said Israel. The child care committee conducted research, went to newspapers and visited companies such as Blue Cross Blue Shield talking about the need for universal, quality child care.

Jacqui Steingold took a different route to feminism. After earning a degree in social work, she left her job for a seven-month tour of West Africa. A single parent of a biracial son, Joel, Steingold's career path included launching Continuing Education for Girls, a program for pregnant teenagers, a position with the Juvenile Court of Wayne County and a term as executive director of the Metropolitan Detroit YWCA. She is now an adjunct professor of sociology at Wayne State University.

"I believe the civil rights movement led to the second wave of feminism," said Steingold. "It was a natural progression for me. You see a black man heading up the movement (civil rights) and you think it's all right, but after a while you begin to feel minimized, that your contribution will be left to sealing envelopes and typing and things like that."

Steingold began attending NOW meetings. "We talked about our experiences, and our anger and resentment started to crystallize. Eventually, women asked each other, 'Well, what are we going to do about it?' In a sense I left the civil rights movement to go into the women's movement. I saw them as inextricably entwined."

Steingold served as NOW president between 1982 and 1984. Currently, she serves as vice president of the NOW state organization. As a woman who personally experienced two illegal and dangerous abortions, the issue of choice became one of her major concerns. Another area that drew her wrath was women's credit. "Hard to believe a divorced woman couldn't get credit in her own name at the time," she recalled.

A powerhouse for change, Marcia Federbush of Ann Arbor, was instrumental in helping equalize opportunities for girls in school. Federbush was drawn into the movement because she felt that Jewish families placed girls in an inferior position. "First-born sons are treated like kings," said Marcia. "I always felt things weren't fair."

Federbush's life changed in 1970 when the *Ann Arbor News* showcased a home that the high school boys had built. "All the neighboring mayors, superintendents, city councils and school boards were 'oohing' and 'aahing' over this wonderful house," she said. "And the director of vocational education made the comment that I guess changed my life: 'Maybe someday the girls can do the interior design.'"

Federbush wanted to build a house, too. She wrote the *Ann Arbor News* pointing out that since women were responsible for fixing up houses, they ought to be able to build them. "Girls couldn't take auto mechanics, wood shop, metal work, even architectural drawing," recalled Federbush. She formed a committee that brought Title VII - a federal law making sexual discrimination in employment illegal - to the school board's attention,

reasoning that educational opportunities for males and females should be equal. A year later, the Ann Arbor school district opened all classes to girls and home economics classes to boys.

Equalizing athletic programs for girls in the Ann Arbor school district became Federbush's most important effort. She challenged the district to honor Title IX, a federal law forbidding discrimination in public-funded education. At the time, funds for boys' athletic programs far exceeded that for the girls, and no interscholastic athletic program for girls existed in Ann Arbor schools.

Impressed with her arguments, the Michigan High School Athletic Association invited Federbush to rewrite its handbook. Much of what she recommended has been instituted throughout the state. "There's still a discrepancy about their seasonal programs," said Federbush, who holds that boys' programs are run during the optimum season. "But at least women and men can now coach teams other than just their own sex."

Allyn Ravitz moved to Detroit in 1965 after her husband graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. When Ravitz applied for a scholarship to study law there, the university declined her application because she was married and her husband had a degree. Years later, she realized how sexist the decision was. Ravitz enrolled in the University of Detroit School of Law and became pregnant with her first child.

An inexcusable lack of day-care options led her to the Women's Liberation Coalition of Michigan. Then, after earning her law degree in 1972, Ravitz became legal counsel for Metropolitan Detroit NOW and a dynamo on behalf of women's rights.

In 1974, she helped form the first all-women's credit union in the country, the Feminist Federal Credit Union. Within one year, the credit union had issued more than a third of \$1 million in loans to women. At the same time, Ravitz and others were trying to pass legislation to change Michigan's credit laws. It took more than a year, but the group demonstrated through the experience of the Feminist Credit Union that women were a better credit risk than men, particularly in repayment of loans. Ravitz also helped change the Fair Housing Act so women would not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, age, or because they were mothers with children. Her pro-bono legislative and legal efforts reached far and wide.

Ravitz represented Faye Nale against the Ford Motor Co. in the first sexual harassment jury trial in the country. She also won a claim for consortium, which meant a wife or husband could claim money for loss of companionship because of what the spouse went through. Ravitz represented hundreds of female steel workers who, at the time, had to leave their jobs because they were pregnant. "They also lost their health benefits. We had people sleeping in cars, with no income coming in," said Ravitz.

One of Ravitz's most exciting endeavors was organizing a fund raiser

to help defend Inez Garcia and JoAnn Little. Little was raped by her sheriff jailer, and when he came back to rape her again, she stabbed him to death. Garcia killed her estranged husband after he raped her. Both women were being tried for murder. "Gloria Steinem spoke, Lily Tomlin was there and Florence Ballard sang Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman" a cappella," recalled Ravitz. "It just sent chills. And then we held a big conference on violence against women." Both Garcia and Little were acquitted.

The Third Wave

The 1970s were exciting times for Michigan feminists. But like all movements, the pendulum seems to be swinging in the opposite direction. Today, feminists view the current conservative presidential administration, U.S. Congress and Michigan Legislature with alarm. And, once again, the abortion issue is reuniting veteran feminists around the country.

"During the '70s," said Ravitz, "we had federal and local courts ready to accept social change and incorporate it into the fabric of their opinions. It was so incredible getting those laws passed: credit laws, housing laws, sexual harassment and retaliation...getting tough meaty laws passed that did some good."



A sampling of activist buttons dating from the 1970s.

Ravitz, who continues to lecture law students, finds that the young women of the 21st Century believe the gains the early feminists made are going to be around forever. The right-wing conservative movement is scaring many veteran feminists, which is why they're re-establishing chapters around the country. These passionate pioneers want to ensure that the more egalitarian world their daughters and granddaughters inherited stays that way.



WOMEN 2000

In 2000, veteran feminists gathered in New York once again. Pictured are (left to right) Harriet Alpern, Marcia Cron, Marj Levin, Joan Israel. (Photo courtesy of Marj Levin)



MARJ JACKSON LEVIN is a retired Detroit Free Press reporter and columnist. She has been writing for local and national publications for 30 years. Some of her fiction work has appeared in *McCall's*, *Seventeen*, *Cosmopolitan*, *True Story* and *Scholastic* magazines. Levin is currently working on the production of a documentary profiling the Second Wave of Feminism.

HOME FOR THE SUMMER:

BERRIEN COUNTY'S JEWISH RESORTS



By Elaine Thomopoulos, Ph.D.

Coming to Michigan for the Fresh, Healthy, Country Air

Since the turn of the 20th Century, Chicagoans have traveled by train, steamer or car to Berrien County, Michigan to enjoy the fresh, healthy country air, cool breezes off Lake Michigan and the camaraderie of family and friends. They have long claimed the western shore of Lake Michigan, as well as the inland lakes, rivers and countryside, as their summer home.

For Jewish vacationers from about 1900 to 1950, the choice of where to stay was limited, as many areas blatantly discriminated against people of color and certain religions. Still, the need to escape the oppressive summer heat, dirt, dangers and diseases of the city lured Jewish residents to Berrien County.



Some of the Jewish vacationers traveled to St. Joseph or Benton Harbor via luxurious steamer ships, which took only a few hours from Chicago. They stayed at hotels such as the Whitcomb in St. Joseph (which offered mineral baths), or traveled by horse-drawn wagon, riverboat or interurban electric streetcar to countryside resorts.

Their days were spent swimming, boating and fishing on the many beaches and rivers. They enjoyed the twinkling amusement parks of the House of David in Benton Township and Silver Beach in St. Joseph. The fresh fruit of Michigan's "Fruit Belt" was delicious, as were the three daily home-cooked meals served at American Plan resorts. Parents relaxed while their children romped and played in the fresh air without adult supervision

or a planned schedule. Often, mothers came with their children as soon as school let out, returning home just in time for school to start again. Fathers would join the family on weekends, or for a week or two.

Although Chicago residents sought to escape epidemics by coming to Michigan, not all succeeded. A *Herald News-Palladium* article of August 10, 1909 reported that more than 100 resort guests were quarantined under armed guard at the Lord's Resort - an Orinoco Township resort which catered to Jewish guests - after township authorities discovered a child suffering from smallpox. The headlines screamed, "State Troops May Come if Necessary to Establish Rigid Small Pox Quarantine." More than 100 vacationers were vaccinated.

"No Jews or Dogs"

Many places did not rent cottages to Jews or allow them to buy property. Sometimes resort brochures stated, "No undesirable people," while at other times the ads would be more blunt: "Gentiles Only." Worse yet were the signs: "No Jews or Dogs." Many resort communities along Lake Michigan's coast had covenants against renting or selling to Jews.

In one instance, the executive committee of a property owners' association sent members a letter, dated May 8, 1929, stating there had been an "unwritten law" restricting property owners and renters to "Gentiles Only." The authors of the letter expressed concern with the number of Jewish people who applied for rental of cottages. "Although there are some admirable people who are members of this race," the letter read, "it is still an established fact that after their entry in any neighborhood, property values decline and the peaceful good fellowship that we have always enjoyed will be destroyed."

Union Pier and Lakeside

Starting in the early part of the century and continuing until the 1950s, Jews from Chicago traveled to resorts, rented cottages and second homes in Union Pier and some areas in Lakeside. Chicagoans Leo and Bell Gottlieb operated a Jewish resort in Lakeside called Gottlieb's Grove. According to their nephew, Seymour Zaban, they rented about 27 housekeeping cottages from the late 1920s to the early 1950s. Most of their guests arrived after school ended in late June and stayed through Labor Day.

Dr. Louis Gordon built the Gordon Beach Inn in Union Pier in response to discrimination he suffered in Lakeside while a guest at Rush's Cottages. Here they erected fences along the beach and some hotel owners posted signs, "No Jews, No Dogs." Also, merchants were pressured not to deliver food and other provisions to Jewish residents. To escape this oppressive environment, Dr. Gordon and several other Jewish businessmen contracted to purchase an apple orchard with plans to develop it as the Gordon Beach subdivision. Although the other investors ultimately dropped out of the

venture, Dr. Gordon subdivided the land and constructed the Gordon Beach Inn in two stages, in 1925 and 1929.

Other Union Pier resorts also welcomed Jewish guests. They included the Lakeview Hotel (run by Hy and Anita Fiekowsky), Paradise Villa (run by Joe Kahn), Edgewater Villa, the Zboril resorts and cottages rented out by Ruby Kahn. Some offered rental cottages only, while others served three



KARONSKY'S HOTEL

Karonsky's Hotel, operated by Louis and Sarah Karonsky, was the only kosher hotel in Union Pier. The hotel is now known as the Inn at Union Pier and the mezuzah can still be found on the front doorpost. (Photo courtesy of Bill and Joyce Jann)

full meals a day. Leonard Zboril, Sr. said that his mother, a Czechoslovakian-born Chicagoan, learned Jewish cuisine from her guests. Two synagogues were established on Lakeshore Road in Union Pier, and Jewish proprietors opened several kosher meat markets and delis.

Karonsky's Hotel, which Louis and Sarah Karonsky purchased in the 1920s, was the only kosher resort in Union Pier. Many referred to the hotel by its Yiddish name, *Scheine Vista*, Beautiful View. The hotel has since been remodeled and is known as the Union Pier Inn. The inn's Web page gives this description of life at the resort: "One can just imagine the clatter of china, the slamming of the screen doors on a summer night and friends and family playing pinochle into the wee hours. Karonsky's offered 39 tiny rooms with iron beds and dressers (some refurbished and still in use at The Inn) that shared only six bathrooms and an outdoor shower!"

Many Jewish vacationers explored the area first by staying at the resorts or renting cottages, then buying their own retreats somewhere near or on Lake Michigan. By the late 1950s, the Jewish community had stopped coming to Union Pier, and by the 1960s, most of them had sold their cottages.



MANLEY'S VACATIONERS

Vacationers pose with their children, circa 1910, during the early years of the Manley's Myrtle Banks Resort on the St. Joseph River. Several generations of families came year after year from 1908 to the 1950s. (Photo courtesy Jane Granzow Miles)

The Manley Resort on the St. Joseph River

Although Dr. Gordon and other Jews faced prejudice from hostile neighbors, there were non-Jews, like the Zborils of Union Pier and the Manleys of St. Joseph, who warmly welcomed them. Jane Granzow Miles recalled how her grandparents, Elizabeth Jane Gray Manley and Edwin H. Manley, started their business, Myrtle Banks Resort, on Langley Avenue, bordering the St. Joseph River, circa 1908. "Someone in town who was staying at one of the hotels stopped in one of the grocery stores and asked the owner if he knew any place that was quiet and where he could get a good meal, especially a good piece of pie. The grocer thought, 'I think Mrs. Manley on Langley Ave.' He knocked on the door and asked if it was possible if there was an extra room. He had a good home-cooked meal and he liked it out here." Manley's first guests were Jewish who, on their return home, told their friends about the Manley's resort and hospitality.

The Manleys served three hearty meals, six days a week, with breakfast on Sunday. Breakfast included eggs of any style, cereal and sometimes bacon. Pancakes were served four or five times a week, especially when the men arrived on the weekends.

Miles reminisced about the women at the resort: "They went through my mother's pregnancy with her, and when I was born, they gave me

gifts...When I was 11 or 12, I got a dog. I remember that the guests insisted that we sing 'Happy Birthday' to the dog, Suzie. It was a tight, friendly group." The Manley Resort served four generations. It closed in 1954 "because guests started going to Florida instead," said Miles.

What did the guests do for fun? Miles recalled, "There were never any planned activities...In the early days, they swam in the river. It was clean then. There were several boats to use. They played baseball, croquet, whatever games were popular. They went to Silver Beach, to the movies, the House of David, to town to shop. Sometimes some of the men would go fishing. They played cards, read and just plain relaxed. I can remember there was always a game of Monopoly going on, on one of the screened-in porches. And woe to the little kid who messed up the game as it usually went on for several days. The little kids played Hide and Seek, Statue, Kick the Can. There was a big sand pile under the huge chestnut tree in the front. This was the coolest place on a hot day. After lunch, most of the guests would head for Jean Klock Park for the afternoon.

"During the War, many used to ride the city bus to the Whitcomb and ride to the beach on the Whitcomb's horse-drawn wagon. The women loved to play mah-jongg. I can still see their red fingernails moving the pieces and hear the soft click of those ivory tiles as they bumped together. This game was so foreign to me with the strange writing on the tiles. I found it quite fascinating...There was always the Sunday afternoon cruise on (the boat) the *City of Grand Rapids*. Some kids went to the summer recreation programs at Kiwanis Park."



CATHERINE GRANZOW

Guests of the Manley Resort insisted that Catherine Granzow, owner of the resort, pose with the men for this photo, circa 1948. Men typically would travel from Chicago to join their families on Friday evenings. (Courtesy Jane Granzow Miles)



1946

These guests of the Manley Resort in St. Joseph all came from Chicago. During the war years, guests often got together and put on talent shows using the front porch as the stage. Donations would be collected from the audience and given to the Red Cross. (Courtesy Jane Granzow Miles)

Michiana

Until the Supreme Court ruled against restrictive covenants in 1948, many communities used them to avoid the sale of land or homes to African Americans or Jews. Michiana, which bordered Indiana, attracted Jewish residents because, unlike other communities up and down the coast of Lake Michigan, the Long Beach Development Company did not prohibit the sale of land to Jews. The Long Beach Development Company began subdividing and building on 600 acres (which included acreage in both Indiana and Michigan) in the 1920s. Chicagoans eager to escape the city heat and congestion paid \$1,000 for a lot with a summer cottage. They relished the opportunity to enjoy the cool waters of Lake Michigan, the balmy breezes and the wooded seclusion.

Benton Harbor and Sodus

Another Jewish resort community became established on Fair Avenue in Benton Harbor, in a neighborhood where full-time Jewish residents and farmers lived. The neighborhood had two synagogues: Ohava Sholom, established in 1911 on Seeley Street and Highland Avenue, and Temple Beth-El, which in 1934 began using an eight-room house at 284 Fair Avenue as a meeting place.

One of the first resorts in this area was Zelensky's Ravinia Springs, on property measuring approximately 300 feet by 500 feet. It had a dining hall, bowling alley and a theater with stage and scenery. An August 18, 1909 article in the *Daily Palladium* (formerly the *News-Palladium*) described a fund raising event held at the resort: "Jew and Gentile opened their purse at the benefit entertainment at Zelinsky's resort last evening, and when the evening's program was over a fund of \$1,000 had been raised for the benefit of the Marks Nathan Jewish Orphan Home of Chicago... In the big

amusement hall a program was rendered by members of the home, orphan children, ranging in ages from 6 to 12 years...A child of six, Doran Omansky, moved the big audience to tears when she sang, 'Which Way Did Mama Go?' Long before the child had finished her song a downpour of money began to flood the stage. In the words the sweet-faced singer rendered, the audience recognized a pathetic appeal for the home which was sheltering the tot, and Jew and Gentile rivaled one another in showering the little one with money."

The 1930 *Polk's Directory* lists the following hotels and resorts on Fair Avenue in east Benton Harbor: Cohen's Hotel and Restaurant, 104 Fair; Grossman's Resort, 130 Fair (owner Max Grossman); David Block Summer Resort (Esther Weinhouse), 148 Fair; Weise Summer Resort, 222 Fair (Abraham Weise); Roseland Farm Resort, 225 Fair; Fairview Resort (Halbert Cohen), 260 Fair; Barnett's Resort, 296 S. Fair; and Crystal Resort (Samuel Blackman), 346 Fair. At 204 Fair Avenue was the Premier Mineral Baths Annex, and down the street sat Rabbi Max Grossman's kosher meat market.

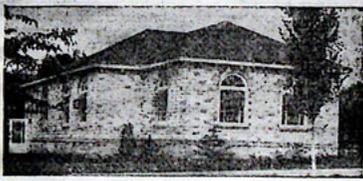
By 1940, the only Jewish-owned resorts listed were: Block's, Cohen's and Grossman's, and in 1947, only the Deluxe Hotel and Restaurant remained. In the 1930s and '40s, according to longtime residents Joseph Marcus and Seymour Zaban, the Schwartz family operated another American Plan resort, Flo-Ruth Farm, on Euclid near Territorial in Benton Harbor. Other farms, such as those owned by the Fishler, Zaban, Marcus, Rosenbaum and Tobiansky families, also took in boarders to supplement their income. Marcus remembered that the eight children in his family used to give up their beds for the summer guests. He and his siblings slept in the barn, which they thought was fun.

The Shapiros (Harry and Rachael Shapiro and Harry's brother, Wolf) established the Shapiro Resort on the St. Joseph River in Sodus, probably with the assistance of the Jewish Agricultural Society, established in the late 19th Century to encourage Jewish farming. The 12½-acre resort served the Jewish community of Chicago from the early 1920s to 1950. The family welcomed boarders into their 10-room home and expanded the resort by building cabins. Noah Shapiro remembers that each of the home's 10 rooms would be converted into bedrooms during the summers, with the family sleeping on the porch. Rachael Shapiro, cooking on a wood stove, served the 50 to 70 guests traditional Eastern European Jewish cuisine. As children, Noah and his sister Betty helped in the kitchen and waited tables.

Mary's City of David in Benton Township

A religious Christian community, Mary's City of David, welcomed Jewish resort guests beginning in 1930 and continuing until the mid-1960s. Benjamin and Mary Purnell founded the House of David in 1903. It gained renown throughout the nation because of its amusement park, traveling

BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN



די טוט אזוי גליק וקרובי,
פארבריינגט אן אנטוועקסטן וועג
ווארטישאן - אין
מער'ס
מיט און ריווייד רעזארט
פענשאן דארפאר, מיטגען
כשר'ע וועדעקעמענטען, גענוסע און גיט
ספאקע שפייז, יונגל און רוב אויס'ן פליגן,
מסענע רעגיס.
מאדערנע קאמפערטיעס
מיטו כהן פירונג צום בעסטע



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ADVERTISEMENT
MARY'S CITY OF DAVID
*(Courtesy Mary's City of David
Museum Archival Collections,
Benton Harbor, Michigan)*

baseball teams, excellent bands and orchestras - and the long hair and beards of its male members. Following the death of Benjamin, the group split in two. The group led by Mary Purnell took the name Mary's City of David to differentiate it from the other group.

Mary's resort, located along Eastman and East Britain avenues, grew from five log cabins in 1933 to about 200 rooms in the 1950s. According to Ron Taylor, historian of Mary's City of David, the resort offered comfort and affordable rates in a warm, courteous and welcoming atmosphere. By the mid-1930s, practically all of the guests were Jewish. Many of them were Romanian immigrants from the Gates of Heaven Congregation in Chicago which was also known as the Roumanian Congregation.



CABIN #3
*Beginning with a handful of log cabins built during the Great Depression,
Mary's City of David grew to encompass about 200 rooms.
Residents from the Chicago area filled the resort.*
(Courtesy Mary's City of David Museum Archival Collections, Benton Harbor)

They followed the Orthodox tradition which required a kosher kitchen. Since Mary's City of David only served vegetarian foods in its restaurant, this accommodated the dietary needs of the Orthodox guests. And since most of the cottages had no cooking facilities, the restaurant became the resort's hub. Some days, card games, socializing and newspaper reading went on for hours. Guests spent long days at the lake beaches, shopping, or enjoying the rides and entertainment at the House of David amusement park next door. They also frequented the many local bathhouses, like the Whitcomb.

With the cooperation and financial support of the Jewish community, the Gates of Prayer Synagogue was built in 1937 on the grounds of Mary's City of David. In addition, a home for the rabbi, Dr. Harris L. Goldstein, was built. Both buildings were dedicated on July 4, 1938. The synagogue served the community for several decades. In 1976, the two remaining families turned over the synagogue keys to the trustees of the City of David. More recently, the beautiful Gates of Prayer Synagogue was restored and became the focus of a reunion tour during the summer of 2005.

Paw Paw Lake

Another place that attracted Jewish guests was Paw Paw Lake, which bordered Coloma and Watervliet. Jews, along with their Swedish neighbors, built cottages at the Lakepoint area of Paw Paw Lake. A popular Jewish-owned resort in this area was the Ravine Resort, operated by widow Rebecca Mayer and her two daughters, Bertha and Jennie. They ran it from 1902 until the late 1920s, when they sold it to a Jewish businessman. One of the seven buildings, the Fun House, had a piano. The room became the entertainment center where guests frequently enjoyed sing-alongs and skits.

Camps for Jewish Children

Throughout the 1930s and '40s, children from Chicago enjoyed the pleasures of camping along the cool waters of Lake Michigan. In New Buffalo, Workmen's Circle established a Labor Zionist camp, *Tel Chai*. In Union Pier, there was Camp Adas. The Chicago Board of Jewish Education established two camps on Lake Chapin in Berrien Springs: Camp Avodah, a work camp for boys who spent hours helping on local farms, and Camp Sharon for boys and girls, focusing on the study of Hebrew language and literature. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lieberman and then their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William DuBow of North Bernard Street in Chicago, ran Camp Achim for Boys and Camp Zahavo for Girls at Paw Paw Lake. None of the camps exist today.

The End of the Resort Era

Because Jews faced discrimination in many of the communities of Berrien County, they clustered in areas that welcomed them. There, they

enjoyed the beaches, country living and the warm companionship of friends and neighbors. By the 1960s, however, they stopped coming. Why did this idyllic lifestyle end? There are many probable reasons: Gas rationing during World War II made travel more difficult, and, once restrictive covenants were ruled illegal in 1948, more rental and purchase options became available. By the 1950s, many people had moved to the suburbs, installed air conditioning in their homes and no longer felt the compelling need to get away from the city. Improved transportation by car and jet plane lured people elsewhere, and the increasing numbers of working mothers meant they could no longer spend whole summers with their children at resorts or family cottages.

Today, many of the children and grandchildren of those who came to Michigan in the '40s, '50s and '60s are rediscovering Southwestern Michigan, remembering the wonderful times they had as children. However, unlike the Jews at the beginning of the century who suffered discrimination and clustered together in ethnic enclaves, today's Jews have the freedom to live and vacation wherever they choose.



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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD:

LITTLE KNOWN JEWISH CONNECTIONS



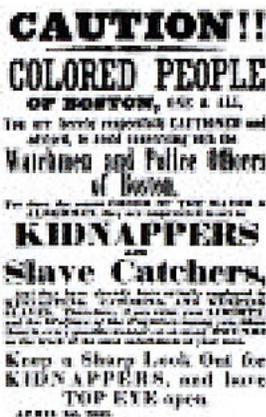
By Stacie Narlock and Holly Teasdale

The history of the Underground Railroad, the secret network of safe houses for escaped Southern slaves, was cloaked in secrecy and is heavily romanticized. It reminds us that there are people who will go to all lengths, who will risk their lives for others and who will fight for freedom no matter the cost. These are ideals most of us hold dear, in fact, the very ideals upon which this country was founded.

"Emancipation from every kind of bondage is my principle. I go for the recognition of human rights, without distinction of sect, party, sex or color".¹ These are the words of Ernestine Rose, a Jewish social activist, born in Poland, who embraced the American ideal of liberty and freedom for all.

Due to the clandestine nature of the Underground Railroad and the passage of the controversial Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 (which mandated that runaway slaves be returned, regardless of where they were arrested or captured, and that the testimony of fugitives in any trial growing out of their arrest could not be admitted), there is little original documentation of those who were involved. Many active abolitionists who participated in aiding slaves burned or destroyed their records, fearing for the safety of their families. Many had volumes that included slave names, their owners and the newly freed persons' names.²

Between 1492 and 1865, Jews were relatively few in the Americas but were as involved proportionately in the abolitionist movement as were people with other ethnic and religious affiliations. Between 1654, when Jews first settled in America, and the Revolutionary War in 1776, there were only about 1,300 Jews in this country.³ The large influx of German-Jewish immigrants did not occur until the 1850s.



Ads such as this were a common method used by slave owners and law enforcement to find runaway slaves. (From Passages to Freedom²⁶ edited by David W. Blight Smithsonian Books, Washington D.C. 2004)

Pro-Slavery vs Anti-Slavery

Jews were involved on both sides of the slavery struggle. Rabbis in the North were ardent abolitionists and were willing to speak their minds in a variety of formats, including abolitionist papers, speeches, sermons and pamphlets. Like-minded rabbis in the South were restrained from speaking out against slavery by their cultural surroundings.

In Southern states, some Jews were slaveholders and did not believe in abolition. Others were silent and, like many new immigrant groups, chose to remain neutral due to their own fears of being discriminated against. Other factors kept Jewish involvement to a minimum, including the fact that few Jews lived in states associated with slavery. At the time, the bulk of Jewish settlement was in larger towns, far removed from slave-holding plantations.⁴

The issue of slavery eventually divided Americans irrespective of their religion, race, or geographic region.

Northern Jews

In the North, Solomon Bush was the first Jew to join the Quaker Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery in Philadelphia, in 1787.⁵

Rabbi Bernard Felsenthal of Chicago was a strong Zionist and abolitionist. According to Felsenthal, "Jews were the heart and soul of the anti-slavery movement." He further stated, "If anyone, it is the Jew above all others who should have the most burning and irreconcilable hatred for that particular institution of the South."⁶

Many rabbis remained silent, or advised those in the South who believed slavery was wrong to move to the North. Isaac Mayer Wise was opposed to the Civil War but endorsed the Dred Scott decision, which declared no slave or descendant of a slave ever had been - or could be - a U.S. citizen. However, for the most part, Wise was quiet on the subject of slavery.⁷

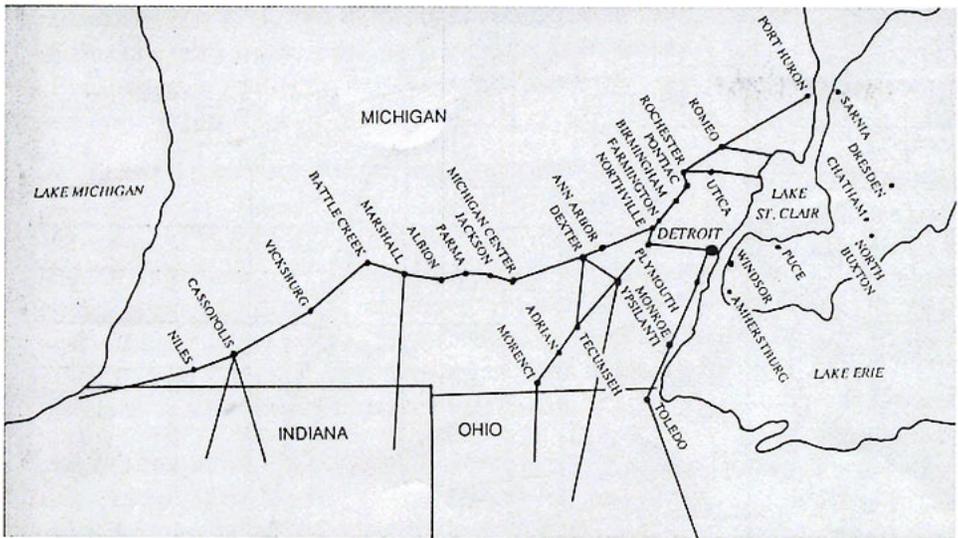
Wise, one of the early leaders of emerging organized Jewry, noted that while the abolitionists were anti-slavery, they did not regard the black man as an equal of the white man. And, abolitionists, in his view, were frequently rabidly anti-Semitic.⁸

It was the Northern Jewish point of view that if the wrong of slavery was not corrected, then it could be Jews who would be enslaved next. From the Southern Jewish perspective, the North wished to exert its power over the people of the South and subject Jews to slavery, or worse, under the abolitionists.

Rabbi Einhorn and Rabbi Raphall

Other prominent rabbis were lined up on both sides of the issue. Rabbi David Einhorn of Baltimore bitterly opposed slavery, while Rabbi Morris Raphall of New York not only sanctioned it but found biblical precedents for it.⁹

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



This map tracks the various routes taken along the Underground Railroad leading into Detroit and Canada. If the Detroit route was being closely watched, the escapee's route was shifted north where they were ultimately piloted across the St. Clair River. (Map courtesy of the Shelby Township Historical Committee)

In 1860, Rabbi Raphall published "The Bible View of Slavery," a pamphlet condoning slavery and putting forth the theory that Adam and Eve had slaves.¹⁰

Rabbi Einhorn, who came to Baltimore as rabbi for the Har-Sinai Verein Congregation in 1855, failed to understand Raphall's arguments on several points: He wondered, how can a Jew pray to be released from Egyptian bondage and view slavery as an institution without vices? And how could Adam and Eve have held slaves?¹¹

Considered an outstanding abolitionist and a pioneer of Reform Judaism, Einhorn was outspoken in both religion and politics. His abolitionist leanings were based on his belief that slavery was inhumane, and he utilized his congregational newspaper, *Sinai*, published from 1856-1861, to openly criticize Raphall.¹² As early as 1856, Einhorn referred to slavery as *desem kebschaden der Union* (this cancer of the Union). He saw no acceptance of Jews or any minority group as long as slavery was practiced in this land.¹³

In the 1850s and 1860s, Baltimore was a meeting ground for both slavery and anti-slavery advocates. Maryland, a slave state before the Civil War, had become a free state, but its citizens remained bitterly divided between the Union and Confederacy. Einhorn considered it his mission as a Jew "to defend Judaism against the slanders of slavery," emphatically stating, "The Jews should be anti-slavery because they know what it was like to be slaves in Pharaoh's time".¹⁴

Anti-Slavery in the West

In 1855, a *New York Tribune* editorial urged freedom-loving Americans to "hurry out to Kansas to help save the state from the curse of slavery." August Bondi responded immediately. Bondi emigrated from Vienna in 1848 and moved to Kansas, where he helped establish the Free State Movement in 1855. He joined with two other Jews there, Theodore Weiner from Poland and Jacob Benjamin from Bohemia, who established a trading post in Ossawatomie. Their abolitionist sentiments soon brought pro-slavery terrorists upon them. Their cabin was burned, their livestock stolen and their trading post destroyed in the presence of Federal troops who stood silently by.

Bondi, Weiner and Benjamin joined a local abolitionist to defend their rights and to help rid Kansas of the horror of slavery. They then joined the Kansas Regulars under the leadership of John Brown.

Bondi relocated to Kentucky in 1860 and soon converted his home into an Underground Railroad station. He later wrote in his biography, "As a Jew I am obliged to protect institutions that guarantee freedom for all faiths."¹⁵

Edward Kanter, first secretary of Detroit's Temple Beth El, Moses Solomons and Myer Ostrander were among the Michigan Jews who signed petitions in 1854 in opposition to the introduction of slavery into Kansas and Nebraska.

Pro-Slavery Jews

Judah P. Benjamin, the first Jew to hold a cabinet level office in American government and who also served as Confederate secretary of war and secretary of state under President Jefferson Davis, was a pro-slavery advocate who owned 140 slaves. Some historians refer to him as the brains of the Confederacy. He recommended to Robert E. Lee and other Confederate military leaders that the best way to win the war was to emancipate and arm any slave who volunteered to fight for the Confederacy. However, this proposal was rejected; the South preferred to go down with slavery intact. Benjamin, who moved to England after the war and became a prominent barrister, was buried in Paris and burned all of his personal papers before his death.¹⁶

The Jews of the South were not divided into clear-cut pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups. Many were too afraid to speak out against it. Despite open prejudice and discrimination against them, there were Southern Jews who did risk their own and their families' safety to help deliver slaves to freedom. Joseph and Isaac Friedman, Judah Touro and Lazarus Straus are but a few who are known.¹⁷



JUDAH P. BENJAMIN

The Last Stop on the Railroad

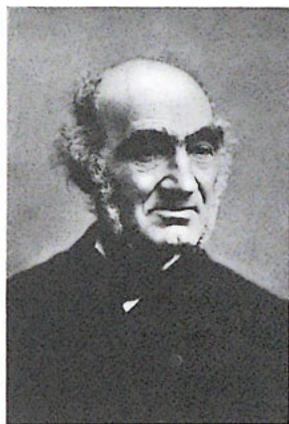
In Michigan, there was a stronger anti-slavery tradition. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided that slavery should not exist in the Northwest Territory, of which Michigan was a part.¹⁸ On April 26, 1837, the year Michigan became a state, the Detroit Anti-Slavery Society was organized. Article 2 of the principles stated, "The object of this society shall be the entire abolition of slavery in the United States of America and the elevation of our colored brethren to their proper rank as men."¹⁹

To aid runaway slaves, a Refugee Home Society was organized in Detroit and led by the active members of the Liberty Association, a political organization that sought to promote the election of anti-slavery candidates. The society bought a large parcel of land in Sandwich, Ontario and helped settle nearly 50 families. Its operations covered the period from 1854 to 1872.²⁰

The Temple Beth El Connection

In spite of the loss of historical records, clear documentation exists on the work of Michigan Jewish abolitionists Rabbi Leibman Adler, Emil Heineman and Mark Sloman.

Rabbi Adler, Temple Beth El's second rabbi, who presided from 1854 to 1861, was an ardent abolitionist. From his pulpit, he often delivered fiery anti-slavery sermons that articulated his abhorrence of slavery and his love of freedom. Adler left Temple Beth El to become the rabbi at *Kehilath Anshe Mayriv*, or Congregation Men of the West in Chicago.²¹



LEIBMAN ADLER

RABBI LEIBMAN ADLER



MARK SLOMAN

Emil Heineman, who served as a trustee and president of the Beth El Relief Society, was a clothier in business with Magnus and Martin Butzel, brothers of his wife, Fanny. He furnished military uniforms to Michigan troops at the outbreak of the Civil War and donated clothing to fugitives passing through on their way to Canada and freedom.²²

Born in Germany, Mark Sloman arrived in Detroit in 1850 after living in New York, Indiana and Ypsilanti, Michigan. In 1878, he started M. Sloman and Company and became one of the most successful rare fur dealers in the Midwest. A founding member of Temple Beth El and a member of philanthropic and fraternal organizations, he was also active in the

operation of the Underground Railroad, assisting fugitive slaves in their flight to Canada.²³

Today, along Detroit's downtown riverfront, is an international monument to the Underground Railroad, erected during Detroit's 300th birthday celebration in 2001. The monument was created by African-American sculptor Ed Dwight and depicts five African-Americans looking across the Detroit River toward Canada. Shown pointing the way across the river to Canada is George DeBaptiste, who was considered the general manager of Detroit's Underground Railroad.²⁴ The other four people in the sculpture symbolize the 40,000 fugitive slaves who escaped through those waters. Various sources estimate that 20,000 to 50,000 fugitives were living in the free Northern states and Canada before the end of the Civil War.²⁵

Michigan and Detroit were the final stops on the dangerous journey made by fugitive slaves seeking haven. Despite the scarcity of documentary evidence about the Underground Railroad, there is still representative history of the many Jewish abolitionists who took a strong stand for and played an active role in helping slaves achieve that freedom.



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HOLLY TEASDALE, C.A., previously served as archivist at the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives of Temple Beth El. Currently, Teasdale is Director of the Lyon Township Public Library

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ARCHIVED TREASURES

Bob Benyas Collection

Leonard M. Simons
Detroit Jewish Community Archives

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

His career spans more than five decades, the photographs he has shot number in the thousands. Bob Benyas - with his camera in hand - is as recognizable among Detroit Jewish community leaders as some of the people he has photographed, including Golda Meir and Eleanor Roosevelt. The recipient of numerous awards for his service to the community and his talent, Benyas began studying photography while serving with the Army Air Force in World War II. He then attended Chicago's Institute of Design to study further and returned to Detroit to launch a freelance business. In 1951, Benyas was tapped by the Jewish Welfare Federation and the rest is history. Although officially retired, Benyas still directs a cadre of younger peers chronicling the comings and goings of Detroit's Jewish community. In addition to the hundreds of photographs already preserved and archived at the Leonard M. Simons Detroit Jewish Community Archives, Benyas donated his entire collection of negatives to the archives in 2004. *Michigan Jewish History* is pleased to present a peek at some of Bob's glorious work.

RALLY,
June 1967
*The Jewish
community
came together to
support Israel
at the start of the
Six-Day war.*





DANCERS, July 1958
A couple enjoys a dance at an Older Adult Picnic held at the Jewish Community Center on Broadstreet in Detroit.

Photo Archive



CAMP NORTHWESTERN, Date Unknown
Daycampers enjoy a quiet moment together at the Jewish Community Center on Woodward



PROTESTORS, November 1986
Pictured are two women participating in a protest against the Russian government restrictions on emigration.



FRESH AIR SOCIETY, Summer 1961
Anna Chapin, president of the Sheruth League, addresses a crowd at the dedication of the Sheruth Village at Camp Tamarack. Seated behind her are Edith Heavenrich, Max Fisher and Milton Maddin.

Celebrities & Celebrations

350 Years of Jewish Life in America Wraps Up and Leaves a Lasting Legacy



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 ~ 2004

“350 Years of Jewish Life in America: 1654-2004” is certainly worth celebrating - and the Michigan Coalition of more than 50 organizations, administered by

the American Jewish Committee in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, commemorated this special anniversary in memorable fashion.

With activities for both young and old; programs across the state, including a number of them at Michigan’s four leading universities; and events that were musical, theatrical and scholarly, the 2004-2005 celebration made a lasting impression.

The youth tours, “Settlers to Citizens: A 21st Century Tour of Historic Jewish Detroit,” drew more than 1,000 young people and are continuing strong. The gala 350th reception and Detroit Symphony Orchestra Pops concert featuring Broadway’s Jewish composers attracted an audience of over 700 guests to the Max M. Fisher Music Center. The Michigan Jewish Timeline, a colorful poster in celebration of the 350th published by *The Jewish News*, was distributed to thousands of subscribers and to numerous schools.

In the fall of 2004, Brandeis University Prof. Jonathan Sarna spoke at the annual Jewish Book Fair about his book, “American Judaism,” a talk which continues to be rebroadcast nationally on C-Span. At the Jewish Community Center’s Shalom Street, an interactive exhibit on 350 Years of Jews in America engaged thousands of young people, while an essay contest sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit evoked interesting entries from older youth.

The historical celebration will culminate sometime in the coming months with an enduring legacy for future generations: a historic marker—already approved by the Michigan Historical Commission and soon to be approved by the City of Detroit—will be erected in Hart Plaza at the Detroit River.

On one side of the marker will be the story of the first known Jewish resident of Detroit, Chapman Abraham. The fur trader arrived in 1761 by voyageur canoe, established a business and resided in the Detroit fort for 20 years. The other side will tell of Michigan Jews who fought in the Civil

War. It will state that of 151 Michigan Jewish families who lived in both the Upper and Lower peninsulas, 181 Jewish men and boys enlisted in the Union Army, an unusually high percentage of participation.

Submitted early in 2004, the application for a marker to the Michigan Historical Commission took more than a year to win approval, based on careful study of the primary historical documentation. The Leo M. Franklin Archives of Temple Beth El and the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati gave invaluable assistance to locate the papers needed for the approval process. It will be a proud achievement when this historic marker is dedicated.

The 350th commemorations over the past year serve as a reminder to honor the United States' unique guarantees of religious freedom and liberty and what these blessings have meant to the Jewish people. It also has given us a chance to acknowledge the many ways the Jewish people have contributed to our country.

Truly, this was not just a year to remember 350 years of Jewish history or to leave a tangible legacy to the community, but also to look forward to a challenging and flourishing future for Jewish people in America.

*-Judy Levin Cantor, chair
Michigan Coalition for the 350th Celebration*



EVENING AT THE MAX

Peter Cummings, Honorary Chair of the 350th DSO Concert stands with Penny Blumenstein, Arthur Weiss and Judy Cantor, Chairperson of the Michigan Coalition for the 350th Celebration, at the gala 350th reception and concert at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. Not pictured are Avern Cohen, Honorary Chair, Michigan Coalition for the 350th Celebration and Erica Peresman, Chair of the 350th DSO Concert.

Central High School's Records **Preserved Forever**

Edith Resnick's notable articles about the history of Detroit Central High School, which appear in this and last year's volumes of *Michigan Jewish History*, were based on archival material that Resnick rescued from rapidly deteriorating conditions. This material has now been transferred to the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University. A reception to celebrate this transfer and the duplication of records to make them accessible to researchers and the public was held at the Reuther Library on October 28, 2004.

While researching her articles, Resnick discovered most of Central's historically significant papers moldering in a cabinet in an obscure corner of the library of the current school building, which was undergoing extensive renovation. Recognizing the value these papers held for not just the school but also the city, Resnick alerted the archivists at Wayne State's Reuther Library. WSU's current "Old Main" building, one of the focal points of the campus, is a former home of Detroit Central High School. Through the combined efforts of the Alumni Association of Central High School and the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, those materials, including newspapers and yearbooks, are now preserved.

Many Central High School alumni attended the October reception, including Mel Ravitz, former president of the Detroit Common Council, and Stephanie Rutledge, president of the Central Alumni Association. The principal of Central High School, Anthony Womack, and vice principal, Lynn Barrett, were present, as were several officers of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Officials from Wayne State University included Jack Kay, interim dean of the School of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, and Mike Smith, director of the Reuther Library. In recognition of her rescue and preservation efforts, Resnick was awarded the Jewish Historical Society's 2005 Leonard Simons History Award for the Preservation and Dissemination of Michigan Jewish History.

Michigan Women's Hall of Fame **Inducts Florine Mark Ross**

Florine Mark Ross, one of Michigan's most generous philanthropists and successful women entrepreneurs was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

As Florine Mark began her successful weight loss and motivational business in 1966 after losing 50 pounds with the newly conceived Weight

Watchers Company in New York City. She brought the Weight Watchers concept back to Detroit, where her first meeting was attended by 30 people. Eventually, that number grew into more than 100,000 members in 13 states, Canada and Mexico.

Mark has devoted her career to not only helping men, women and children improve their lives, but she is also deeply committed to improving the lives of others worldwide. She and her daughter, Lisa Lis, are involved in Seeds of Peace, a program that brings together teenagers in countries of conflict, such as Arabs and Israelis, to foster goodwill and teach conflict resolution toward ending the cycle of hate and violence.



Mark is also an active leader with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, March of Dimes and Children's Hospital of Michigan. She is a member of the Governor's Economic Council Advisory Board and, in 2004, published her first book, "Talk to the Mirror: Feel Great About Yourself Each and Every Day," an empowering guide for women.

Mark joins other prominent Jewish trailblazers in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame: Gilda Radner (1992) one of the nation's most beloved comedians; Ida Lippman (2003, *Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 44), a pioneer for women in the criminal justice field and system; Flora Hammel (1994), who studied with Dr. Fernand Lamaze in Paris, then returned to Detroit and began teaching Lamaze classes; and Josephine Stern Weiner (2001), who devoted nearly 70 years to community service, successfully establishing programs to help women achieve independence and to assure children of a secure future. Weiner served as president of the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section (1942-1944) and its national organization (1967-1971). She also was instrumental in establishing Orchards Children's Services (1962) and Women in Community Services (1965), of which she served as president (1975-1977).

Clara Raven was inducted in 1987. A retired U.S. Army Colonel, Raven became deputy chief medical examiner of Wayne County in 1958. Among the first five women physicians commissioned during World War II, she researched hepatitis infections in servicemen in Europe, then, during the Korean War, she aided in the research of hepatitis and epidemic hemorrhagic fever in Korea. As Wayne County deputy chief medical examiner, she spent more than 20 years researching the cause of crib deaths, or sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

- Wendy Rose Bice

Metro Detroit Businessman Rescues Historic Israeli Photos for Future Generations

**“The Forgotten Photographs:
The Work of Paul Goldman from 1943-1961,
From the Collection of Spencer M. Partrich”**



BEN-GURION

*Prime Minister and Defense Minister David Ben-Gurion
performing a headstand, Herzliyah Beach, 20 September 1957*

A collection of more than 100 photographs taken by Paul Goldman, a freelance photographer who used his camera to document Israel's emergence as a state was on display in February and March at the Jewish Community Center.

The Janice Charach Epstein Gallery, located on the Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Campus in West Bloomfield mounted the exhibit of rescued photos that depicts Israel's struggle for existence and its continuing development as reported in Israeli newspapers and

international news services from 1943-1961.

The Forgotten Photographs: The Work of Paul Goldman from 1943-1961 was the vision of Spencer M. Partrich, an art collector and Farmington Hills-based real estate developer, who set out to save this rare photographic collection that documents a turning point in Jewish history.

"These evocative images have been hidden away for much too long," said Partrich. "Their emotional pull is strong, just as it must have been when some originally ran in newspapers."

Partrich acquired nearly 40,000 of Goldman's negatives after being introduced to the photographer's daughter, Medina Goldman Ortsman, in 2001. "We felt fortunate to have rescued the negatives," Partrich recalled, "and wanted to learn as much as we could about the man behind the shutter. We had a sense from the start that this was something important to preserve, including the oral history that only Paul Goldman's family can share."

Now, nearly 20 years after his death, Paul Goldman's story is now being readied for Israeli television while his images are on tour internationally. "Paul Goldman: Press Photographer, 1943-1961" opened in September 2004 at a gallery of Eretz Israel Museum in suburban Tel Aviv. A 146-page catalog in English and Hebrew accompanied the exhibit. The Detroit area exhibit was the U.S. debut of this impressive collection. For more information, visit www.paulgoldmanphotographs.com.



David Rubinger, (left) assistant curator and former Time Magazine photographer and hosts Myrna and Spencer Partrich of Bloomfield Hills stand with Curator and Newsweek photographer emeritus Shlomo Arad.

Seferim/Books

Hudson's: Detroit's Legendary Department Store

by Michael Hause and Marianne Weldon

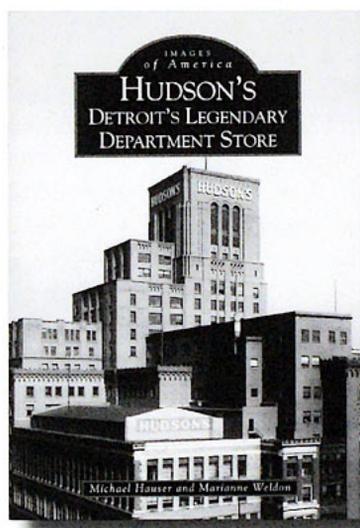
Images of America Series, Arcadia Publishing, 2004, 128 pp.

Detroiters can take a trip down memory lane looking through this photographic history of J.L. Hudson's Department Store in downtown Detroit.

In more than 100 pages of images taken from the 1920s through the 1990s, former Hudson's shoppers can revisit the imposing edifice on Woodward Avenue, from the monumental 25-story tower to the small architectural details, like the glazed terra cotta shells and flowers on the exterior and the art deco-style brass drinking fountains.

This collection of images shows a world that has disappeared. Inside the grand department store there was the Children's Barbershop, where each child could watch a circus show on a miniature stage in front of the barber chair. Free typing lessons were offered to help sell typewriters, and there was a circulating library where shoppers could borrow books. Photos of the window and in-department displays reveal a mid-20th Century American consumerism that seems quaint and naive today. And how many people remember the Orange Punch Department, where more than 30,000 gallons of punch were consumed each month?

Many of the images in this volume are from the collection of Davis Hillmer, who photographed the store from the late 1920s through the mid-1960s. Many have not been seen publicly before and were provided by the Detroit Historical Museum. They include images of shoppers -- ladies in hats and gloves, '60s teens in bellbottoms -- and employees, like the switchboard operators and elevator hostesses. Celebrities back then marketed fashions as they do now - Esther Williams modeled swimwear and Gloria Swanson promoted her own designs. There's a wonderful shot



of the sidewalk ice cream parlor, with people sitting outdoors eating their sundaes as shoppers stroll by on Woodward Avenue. Hard to imagine now.

The short introduction and extended captions in this book reveal many facts and details of Hudson's history in Detroit, but the authors let the photos speak volumes. Pictures of a display of 1940s Motor City chic, an elaborate arrangement in a 1930s window for Vita-Ray Irradiated Cleansing Cream, an image of the Refrigerator Show of 1948 and snowy scenes of Santaland from many years will lead viewers, depending on their age, to wax nostalgic or shake their heads in wonder.

For many Detroiters, downtown Hudson's really was the "shopping experience" that marketers try to recreate today. Hudson's was part of the community in its sponsorship of the Freedom Festival Fireworks and the Thanksgiving Day Parade. During World War II, Hudson's was in the midst of the war effort, with recruiters inside the store, bond drives, rallies and celebrations. More than one generation made special trips to the big store in December and attended special events in the 12th floor auditorium.

Yes, Virginia, Detroit did once have a busy downtown street life. This book could make you wish it still did.

-Aimee Ergas

*Of No Interest to the Nation;
A Jewish Family in France,
1925-1945 A Memoir*

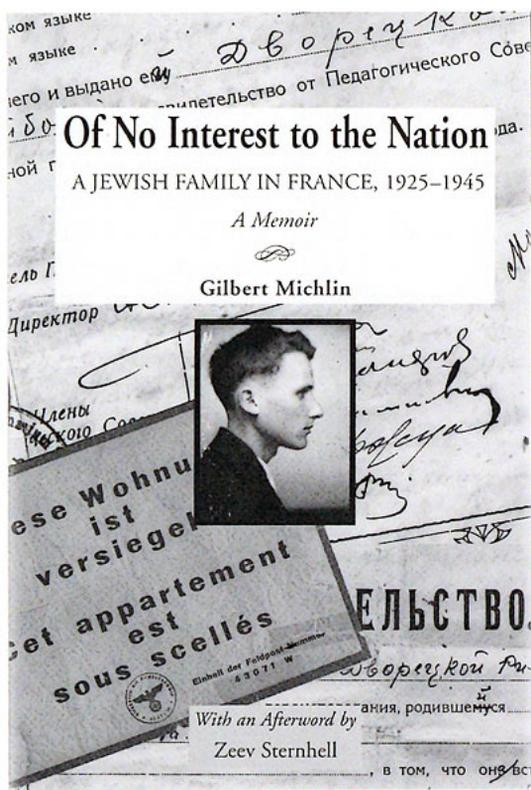
by Gilbert Michlin, Translated by Leon Lewis

Wayne State University Press, 2004, 160 pp.

Written words and voices of Holocaust survivors continue to shed light on our knowledge of the genocide of the 20th Century which took the lives of six million Jews and other victims.

Gilbert Michlin's memoir, "Of No Interest to the Nation: A Jewish Family in France, 1925 - 1945," is the story of remarkable survival, a bitter indictment of the Vichy government of World War II France and of the anti-Semitism of a mass of French people.

If life were fair, Michlin would have been born in Detroit surrounded by his adoring parents and extended family. Instead, the tragedy of the three Michlins began even before Gilbert was born.



Moshe Michlin, newly married to Riwke, made plans to take his bride and immigrate to America, where he had a brother in Detroit. After two years of red tape, Moishe left Antwerp, planning to send for Riwke once he was settled and employed.

At Ellis Island, Moshe was examined, interviewed and, accused of having gonorrhea, summarily deported back to Poland. Although he had no symptoms – nor ever developed any – he had no recourse and no right to appeal. Even the intervention of his American relatives could not help. Moshe was forced to return home.

The couple continued to seek a way to leave the poverty, hunger and anti-Semitism of Poland. They considered Palestine, where Riwka's sister lived on a *kibbutz*, but rejected the idea after hearing of the difficulties facing Jewish pioneers. Ultimately, they chose France because the Michlins, like other hopeful émigrés, wholeheartedly believed that "it was possible to be as happy as God." In 1933, they moved to Paris where, in only a few years, their lives would be turned around.

Nine months after their arrival in Paris, the Michlins' only son, Gilbert, was born. Moshe went to city hall to register the boy as a Frenchman. The Michlins spoke Yiddish in their home, noted Yom Kippur and Passover but lived a secular life, striving to blend into the culture and be accepted as French.

In 1933, Moshe and Riwka applied for naturalization papers. Six years later, their application was flatly refused. A statement signed by a police commissioner read, "The present request is of no interest to the nation." Moshe was rejected once more.

Gilbert, meanwhile, enjoyed his Parisian childhood. Friends, school and the attention and love of his parents gave him a sense of belonging in the only city and nation he knew. Michlin's memoir, "Of No Interest to the Nation," is based upon his recollections. His prose is understated, yet gripping. Looking back on experiences more than 50 years past, his

writing is incisive, well researched and powerful.

"While my father taught me to swim and ride a bike, my mother taught me to read and, with matches, to count," he wrote. His father doted on him, spending every Sunday, his only day off from his factory work, with his son.

Although Gilbert was usually at the top of his class, his father encouraged him to attend a technical school to learn a trade that would ensure he could always earn a living. Gilbert's intellectual and academic gifts could have taken him further, but he heeded his father's advice and studied to become a toolmaker.

The advice saved Gilbert's life.

After the German occupation of France, the Michlin family, one by one, became victims of the Nazi genocide. Only Gilbert would survive what he described as his "descent to hell."

In 1941, Moshe lost his factory job and went to the Ardennes Forest area with other laborers to become lumberjacks. The family never heard from him again. Half a century later, Gilbert learned that his father had been deported to the Drancy transit camp and was murdered at Auschwitz.

Without Moshe, Gilbert and his mother struggled to survive, which became easier when Gilbert graduated from the trade school and went to work. But in 1944, there was a large roundup of Parisian Jews. Gilbert and Riwka were among them. At Auschwitz, Gilbert watched as his mother was pushed onto a truck, destined for the gas chamber.

As the Germans tattooed a number on his arm, the 19-year-old felt more than alone, he felt a loss of identity. Hunger, thirst, beatings, forced marches and other vile forms of degradation occurred. He witnessed the slaughter of his fellow prisoners. The skills his father encouraged him to learn in the trade school sent him from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Bobrek, Gleiwitz, Buchenwald and Schwerin where he helped build a factory, then was enslaved to manufacture whatever his captors dictated.

Gilbert survived, and in May 1945, when the first Russian soldiers were spotted, freedom became a reality.

He returned to Paris, to his previous job and the apartment that had been his before being deported. But, it wasn't the same. Gilbert left Paris to join his father's family in Detroit, where he earned a mathematical engineering degree and began a successful career with IBM.

Gilbert Michlin's story gives us valuable testimony about life in Europe during the years before and during the Holocaust. For the author, the journey brought him the truth of his father's death and became the compelling reason to write the memoir. "I shall never forget that I, and my parents who lost their lives because of it, were of no interest to the nation."

-Shirlee Rose Iden

Art In the Stations: The Detroit People Mover

by Irene Walt with photography by Balthazar Korab

Wayne State University Press, 2004, 74 pp.

“Detroit,” Irene Walt said, “gave something beautiful” to her family. So she gave something back.

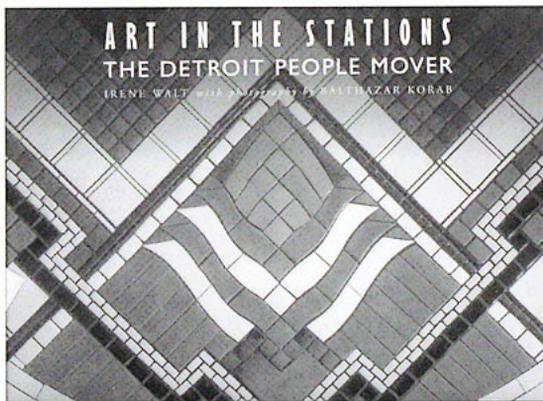
The Walts arrived in Detroit in 1961 from South Africa. Walts’ husband, the late Dr. Alexander Walt, became chief of surgery at Detroit Receiving Hospital. In return for the warm welcome the Walts received here, Irene dedicated her

life to bringing beauty to Detroit’s public places. For these efforts, she was named 1987 Michiganiaan of the Year and won the 2003 ArtServe Michigan Governor’s Civic Leader Award.

This book, written by Irene Walt and other members of the Book Collaborative, details the Art in the Stations project which brought mosaics, sculpture and paintings to Detroit’s elevated transit system (The People Mover) and celebrates the artworks with gorgeous illustrations by photographer Balthazar Korab.

In 1984, Walt realized that the functional stations that had been planned could be graced with vibrant art. Her lobbying resulted in Mayor Coleman Young appointing her to head the volunteer Downtown Detroit People Mover Art Commission to select artists, raise funds and commission works of art to enhance the 13 People Mover stations. Walt writes, “We laughed, we cried, we agreed to disagree, and yet we were able to make compromises. We never forgot our objective – to provide public art that would inspire all people.”

Another goal was to have art that was relevant to the city. Ten of the artists are from Michigan; Detroit’s Pewabic Pottery created the tiles for five of the projects; and artworks like the automobiles in the Cobo Hall station mosaic clearly tie this art to the local area. Happily, Pewabic tiles created for Stroh Brewery in the 1930s found a place in two of the stations and commissions for new tiles helped Pewabic become a working art pottery again.



Most of the book is dedicated to describing and illustrating individual artworks. It documents the aims of the artists and the techniques they employed in creating art in a variety of media: tile, Venetian glass, bronze, neon and enamel paint.

As former DIA Director Sam Sachs says in the foreword, "The People Mover stations contain a model for the nation of what a public art project can and should be." This beautiful book, like the art it describes and illustrates, is sure to increase the pride metro Detroiters feel for their city. And the pride they have in citizens like Irene Walt, whose inspiration, energy, persistence and enthusiasm made this impressive addition to Detroit's visual landscape possible.

-Wendy Evans, adjunct faculty, Wayne State University Department of Humanities and Department of Art

Huck's Raft

by Steven Mintz

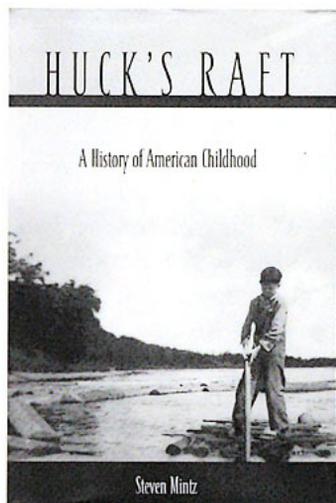
The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004, 445 pp.

Most parents today would agree: Children are growing up too fast. The blissful innocence baby boomer children enjoyed is virtually nonexistent in today's fast-paced, high-pressure, sound-bite society.

Author Steven Mintz largely debunks that theory in this highly-acclaimed history of childhood, "Huck's Raft." Mintz, who grew up in Detroit, persuasively exposes the many myths of American childhood from the Puritan era until today. Using vivid detail and factual examples, Mintz delves into the realities of children's lives, examining the roles children have played as workers, soldiers, pioneers, inspirations, burdens, consumers and citizens. He also traces the evolution of adult ideas about child rearing and their responsibilities toward them.

Mintz calls upon the bucolic setting of Hannibal, the small Mississippi riverfront town that was the setting for Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," as the metaphor to demonstrate the conflicted images of American childhood.

Historically, childhood has been depicted as a time of freedom, a time



of exploration and wild adventure; a time when kids whitewashed picket fences, as in "Tom Sawyer." Yet, Twain's real-life Hannibal, as Mintz explains "is anything but a haven of stability and security. It was a place where a quarter of the children died before their first birthday." And we often forget the underside to these great novels: Huck's father, Pap, was an abusive drunkard, for example.

From the Puritans who believed babies were born in sin to Victorian parents who saw their offspring as pure and angelic, Mintz traces popular culture and the experts who pontificated on how best to raise children. He tells of the "child-savers" of the early 1800s who experimented with new strategies to care for indigent and delinquent children. Child-savers are credited with establishing charity and Sunday schools, orphan asylums and reformatories, according to Mintz. Their work, while often controversial, remains consequential today.

The awful realities of slave children – torn from their families and burdened with responsibilities at a young age – are so well detailed it is hard to remain focused while reading the accounts Mintz shares. And, he spares no detail in exploring life during the Depression for both children of means and those who lived in poverty.

School integration, sex education, child poverty, World War II, rock n' roll, books, movies and toys are all topics explored by Mintz in this well-written, comprehensive book. He examines how, as the needs of the society have changed, lawmakers and public officials have changed their focus on behalf of children: outlawing child labor, establishing safe playgrounds and schools, developing a separate juvenile justice system and providing children with fundamental rights to due process and freedom of expression.

He ends the book as he began, by exploring the many contradictions faced by children today. In one sense, the children of the 21st Century have much more freedom than their predecessors. They enjoy more autonomy than ever in leisure activities, grooming, socializing and spending. But they are preyed upon by the media with tricks of persuasion and sexual innuendo, and at much younger ages, face adult decisions. Today's youth are under extreme pressure to excel academically which has made school a far less stimulating place. That pressure often manifests itself in violent school episodes and eating disorders.

Mintz concludes by reminding us that Huck Finn's childhood was anything but ideal: Finn was poor, abused and beaten by his drunken father. But he did have one thing lacked by too many today: the opportunity to "undertake odysseys of self-discovery."

"Huck's Raft" received tremendous reviews for this first-time author whose family remains in the Detroit area. Mintz is the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History at the University of Houston.

- *Wendy Rose Bice*

In Memoriam

MAX M. FISHER

1908-2005



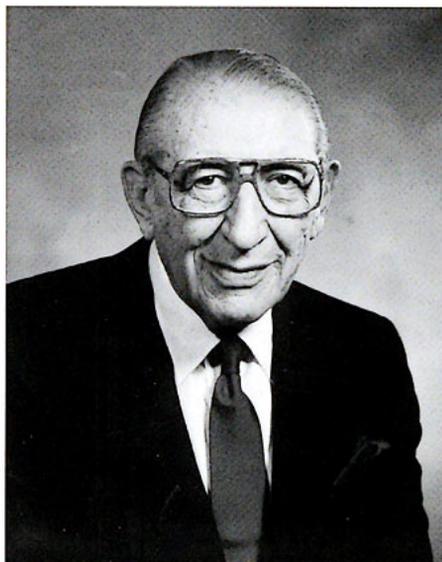
It is with profound sadness that Michigan Jewish History remembers Max M. Fisher. Mr. Fisher's passion for and support of so many worthwhile organizations is a cherished treasure that will be missed by many, including this organization. In 2004, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan awarded the first-ever Lifetime Achievement award to Mr. Fisher for his consistent support of this publication and its parent organization. The following memoir was written by Peter Golden, biographer of Max Fisher.

Lately, I have been wondering what Max would make of all the accolades that followed in the wake of his passing.

This is, I suspect, an occupational hazard of biographers. I had finished writing "Quiet Diplomat: The Biography of Max M. Fisher" in 1991, and here I was, 14 years later, still finding myself, on occasion, trying to re-enter the mind of my subject.

The words of praise echoed from every corner of Fisher's life. Former President Gerald Ford referred to him in *The Detroit Free Press* as "an outstanding citizen and dear friend," and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick told the paper that a century from now "Max's legacy will live on. . . [in] our great city." Senator Trent Lott took time to remember Fisher on the floor of the U.S. Senate, describing him as a statesman and patriot. At a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stated that Israel had "lost a true friend."

The comments from the organized American Jewish community were equally impressive. Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told the



Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I dubbed [Max] the dean of the community, and he certainly was until his last day." In the same article, Howard Rieger, president and CEO of the United Jewish Communities, said that Fisher was a "visionary who dominated American Jewish philanthropy for half a century." And the veteran Jewish leader, Shoshana Cardin, summed up Fisher's broad accomplishments for JTA by observing, "There is no one who [can] take his place."

Most touching were the words of Fisher's son, Phillip, who told the *Detroit Jewish News* that in the last three years of his father's life, Max "was more emotional. . . He was vocalizing his love for [his family], where before, you knew he loved you, he just didn't say it to you."

No doubt, Max Martin Fisher was fortunate in many ways. He was blessed with great success in business, philanthropy and politics. He left behind a large, loving family—his wife, Marjorie, his son, Phillip, and daughters Mary, Jane Sherman, Julie Fisher Cummings and Marjorie; two sisters, 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Yet, he was especially fortunate because he had heard these sorts of laudatory statements while he was alive, at the countless rounds of events where he was honored for his work.

Fisher was always slightly surprised and deeply touched by them, but not for long. He was too anxious to get on with his projects. He was a man in constant pursuit of facts and results, not praise.

He was particularly fond of numbers. So let's start there. Max Fisher was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 15, 1908, to Molly and William, Russian immigrants; and he died at his home in Franklin, Mi., on March 3, 2005.

He lived for more than 96 years, and his life touched every decade of the 20th Century. At times, while writing "Quiet Diplomat," I had to remind myself just how much of modern history Fisher had seen, and thus, to put the long arc of his life in perspective, I kept another date in mind: June 10, 1930, the day he graduated from Ohio State University in Columbus (where, 63 years later, the Max M. Fisher College of Business was founded).

At that graduation, Dayton native Orville Wright was awarded an honorary degree. Already 27 years had passed since Orville had become the first person to pilot a powered aircraft, which he and his brother, Wilbur, had invented.

On that sunny spring day, Fisher was just 21 years old and planned to go to Cleveland, where he had been offered a job at the headquarters of Richman Brothers, a clothing company he had worked for while attending OSU.

Climbing into his 1916 Model T Ford, Fisher decided to visit his parents and three sisters. His father had relocated the family from the small town of Salem, Ohio, to Detroit, and recently purchased an oil reclaiming plant.

That plant provided Fisher with a start in the oil business. By 1933, with two other men, he founded Aurora Gasoline, which became one of

the largest independent oil companies in the Midwest. In 1959 Aurora was sold to Marathon Oil Company, and Fisher had the time and money to devote to his twin passions of philanthropy and politics.

Yet in 1983, more than a half-century after he had driven off toward his shining future, Fisher was still wondering why he had switched his destination. When he asked the question aloud at an award ceremony in his honor given by Detroit's Harvard Business Club, a young man stood up and said, "If you'd gone to Cleveland instead of Detroit, you would be getting this award in Cleveland."

Fisher was flattered by the comment, but by 1983 he knew too much history to believe it. He knew that an individual moves forward in a jagged line, from the known into the unknown. Yet, when a person's life is explored by a biographer, it is understood with a hindsight so perfect it distorts the reality of the past, how someone - in this case, Max Fisher - forged ahead, accommodating circumstances that were generally beyond his control.

And so, briefly, let me try and re-chart some of his course and perhaps illuminate his mindset as he became what U.S. Senator Carl Levin characterized for *The Detroit Free Press* as a "giant of a man [who] had a giant impact on Michigan and on America."

* * *

Once, I was talking to Max about his career at Aurora, and he said, "I had over a thousand people working for me. You know how many of their children went to college?"

I had no idea, and Max didn't tell me, but that wasn't his point. Even remembering the roots of his financial success, his focus was on the lives he had helped to change for the better.

His charitable impulse had been nurtured by his mother, Molly. Even back in Salem, Ohio, when the family had little money to spare, Molly made sure that a few coins were put into the blue and white box of the Jewish National Fund. When he had first come to Detroit and was earning almost nothing, Fisher managed to come up with a \$5 gift to the Jewish Welfare Federation.

After selling his company to Marathon, he had far more to give, and he gave it to so many different causes that it would be impossible to list them. He also contributed and raised money to help Richard Nixon in his 1960 try for the White House. John Kennedy won, but by the early 1960s Fisher was searching for a way into politics.

George Romney, the former head of General Motors, provided the path. Romney, a moderate Republican, wanted to become the governor of Michigan. Romney adviser Arthur Elliot went looking for a fund raiser. He found Max Fisher.

By then, Fisher had raised enormous sums of money for local charitable groups and for national Jewish philanthropic organizations, and he had

learned that his generation of Jews who had been successful, mainly from modest beginnings as the children of Eastern European immigrants, were willing to write large checks to pursue worthy goals. He used this knowledge to help Romney.

Arthur Elliot recalled that he saw Fisher raise \$100,000 in a half hour. "I was stunned," said Elliot. "You have to remember this was 1962, when a \$100 contribution to a politician was considered significant. . . . I had never seen. . . these kind of results. It was revolutionary."

Three years after Romney, Fisher spotted a way to translate his skill as a philanthropist into a new position on the national political stage.

As chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Fisher visited former President Dwight Eisenhower and asked him to speak to the UJA on the 20th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. In the course of their conversation, Eisenhower revealed that he regretted forcing Israel out of the Sinai after the 1956 Arab-Israeli War.

"Max," Eisenhower said. "If I'd had a Jewish advisor working for me, I doubt I would have handled the situation the same way."

Right then and there, Fisher decided he wanted that job, and he would get it three years later. First, however, he would have to become even more visible as that rarest of birds—a Jewish Republican. Second, he would have to figure out which candidate to support for the presidency in 1968. He focused on Richard Nixon, raising funds for him within the organized American Jewish community.

When Nixon won, Fisher made a move which would stand as the key to much of his later success in politics.

Nixon offered Fisher an ambassadorship and a Cabinet post, both of which Fisher turned down. Nixon wasn't surprised. He later said that Max was too smart to trade access to the Oval Office for a little status. And access is what Fisher wanted: the access accorded that type of adviser Eisenhower had mentioned.

Nearly everything Fisher accomplished as a quiet diplomat between Washington and Jerusalem stems from this decision. His ability to talk privately with presidents from Nixon to George W. Bush, and with Israeli prime ministers from Golda Meir to Ariel Sharon, was sealed on the day he refused an official position.

Again, the issues he became involved in—the resupply of armaments Israelis during the Yom Kippur War, healing the rift between the United States and Israel in 1975, helping to free Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry—would not have been possible had Fisher been better known.

As President Gerald Ford said about him: "Max never called a press conference."

Which again brings us back to what Fisher would have thought about the accolades that have appeared since his death.

I believe he would have been pleased and wary. Pleased for the obvious

reasons, and wary because too much attention to an individual can dull his desire to keep his shoulder to the wheel.

Fisher didn't want his day to end—he said so on numerous occasions—because he was sure that there was much more he could do to make the world around him a gentler place.

And Fisher was right. Still, he was blessed to be here for 96 years, and more important, we were blessed to have him.

- Peter Golden is currently working on a history of the American role in the rescue of Soviet Jewry.

CHARLES MEYER

1926-2005



He was a teacher, writer, historian, researcher and collector. Charles Meyers was many people in one, said his wife of 57 years, Miriam Meyers. "But first came his family and then the Indian people."

Born September 28, 1926 in Cleveland, Ohio, Meyers was the first of three sons born to Myer and Katherine Meyers. Myer was Jewish; Katherine was part Ottawa Indian. The bond young Charles developed with the Native American side of his heritage became one of the strongest influences in his life.

Helping Indian youth and supporting Native American families became Meyers' mission, a mission to which he gave endless time and effort for as long as his health allowed. After a long illness, he passed away at age 78 on February 7, 2005.

Family, friends and Native Americans filled the Ira Kaufman Chapel at Meyers' service. Dr. Philip Mason, distinguished professor of history at Wayne State University, delivered an illuminating eulogy honoring his friend of more than 40 years. He told the story of the man he fondly called "Charles" and of the accomplishments that made him a person of depth and value. "There is no way to count how many Indian youth he sat with, helping them fill out college applications. He always had time for mentoring and for revealing his understanding of the hardships and inequities that his Indian brothers faced."

As a youth, Meyers was trained as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force; later, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he transferred to the U.S. Navy



Air Force and saw action in the South Pacific. He met his wife, Miriam, in 1947 at a Hillel House event. The two married – after Meyers formally converted to Judaism in 1948. Although raised Jewish, Charles' mother, Katherine, had been refused a conversion by the rabbinate years earlier.

Meyers went on to become an expert on and an avid collector of Native American and American maps, paintings, stoneware and ceramics. "Charles found a Revolutionary War map. He knew it was the real thing, genuine and important," recalled Mason. When he offered the priceless map to the National Library of Congress, the piece was "immediately confiscated" with neither remuneration nor credit for the finder. It was a great disappointment to Meyers, who long sought recognition for a lifetime of work. Now, posthumously, that recognition is likely to come.

Meyers spent many of his last years working on a book, "Company K, Michigan Sharpshooters." Written with co-author Roger Winthrop, the book details the story of an Indian Civil War unit and is expected to be published soon.

He spent his adult years working with the Native American community, devoting much of his time to Michigan State University's Native American Institute setting up centers for Native American youth and families. In earlier years, Meyers taught elementary school in Centerline, Michigan and Sunday school at Temple Beth El where he fostered a close relationship with historian and former Temple Beth El administrator, Irving Katz.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam, his son, Perr, and daughters, Rachelle (Micala Wirth) and Anne. Meyers had five grandchildren, and was survived by two brothers and his stepmother.

-Shirlee Rose Iden

MORT ZIEVE

1927-2005



The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has lost one of its staunchest friends with the passing of Morton I. Zieve, and the community has lost one of its most creative individuals.

A partner in the Troy, Michigan-based advertising agency Simons Michelson Zieve Inc., Zieve helped design and produce some of the JHS's most effective and outstanding promotions. Most recently, he gave us the wonderful red, white and blue invitation "350 Years is Worth Celebrating!" for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's All-American Broadway Pops Concert at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. Our current membership brochure was designed by his office. And, there was much more.

IN MEMORIAM

What was so memorable about working with Mort was his quiet, warm generosity, peppered with his humor, his creative approach and his steadfast support our organization and its projects. While businesslike, he always made our association a pleasure!

Each year, Mary Lou, his wife of 47 years, spearheads the search for the recipient of the JHS's prestigious Leonard N. Simons History Award, named for her father. Mort and Mary Lou always attended the presentations together. In 1997, Zieve and his lifelong friend Rudy Simons performed their own upbeat musical revue during the luncheon. Some years ago, he created a fascinating program, reviewing the history of Jews in the film industry. He took much pride in the work he contributed to the Jewish Historical Society and always sought to advance it further.

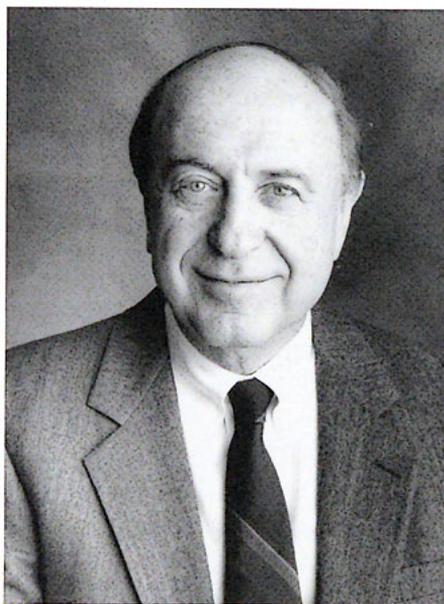
Born in Detroit, Zieve attended Detroit's Central High School and graduated in 1944. He earned a bachelor's degree in theater from Wayne State University and a master's in production from Stanford University. He joined the Simons Michelson Co. advertising agency in 1961, and in 1977 he and his partner Jim Michelson bought the firm and renamed it Simons Michelson Zieve, Inc. Advertising. The agency is today known as SMZ Advertising.

Zieve had a keen sense of the significance of local history. He and JHS contributor Edith Resnick headed the Central High School reunions held in 2004. The event attracted more than 700 alumni.

In the '44 *Centralite* yearbook, Mort appears in a photo of the Radio Club, which spawned more than a half-dozen professionals in acting, television and film production, and writing. As a high school student, he became active in the Philomathic Debating Society and later organized its historic reunion. (*Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 31, 1990).

The Detroit City Council passed an official resolution on the death of Morton Zieve, noting his strong support of Detroit and its cultural institutions. He passionately devoted himself to the Detroit Opera Theatre, Detroit Historical Society, American Jewish Committee, Detroit's 300th birthday celebration and the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. While he is missed, he will be long remembered in the annals of Michigan Jewish history.

- Judy Cantor



MATILDA "TILLIE" BRANDWINE

1915-2005



Mention Tillie Brandwine in a crowd and someone is likely to gush. The much beloved volunteer, activist and philanthropist accomplished much in her 90 years.

Brandwine become passionately involved in the creation of a database chronicling all local Jews buried in both Jewish and non-Jewish cemeteries. Her wish was to ensure that Jewish families could easily locate their long-deceased ancestors. She help develop and spearheaded the Cemetery Index project with a robust team of volunteers who trekked miles through cemeteries writing down names from deteriorating headstones so that no one would be forgotten. Today, the database includes more than 64,000 names that can be accessed through the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Web site: www.thisisfederation.org. In 2003, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan honored her with the Leonard N. Simons History Award for her work.

The Cemetery Index was just one of the many causes and groups Brandwine became involved with during her lifetime. In 1989, she was honored with the prestigious Fred M. Butzel Award for Distinguished Community Service by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. The honor was based, in part, for her work with Hadassah. She was a former president and Allied Jewish Campaign chairman of the Federation Women's Division, served on the Federation's executive committee, chaired its culture and education division and was the first woman to serve on the Federation's budget committee.

As president of Jewish Federation Apartments, Brandwine helped organize the Jewish Family Services' nursing home visitation program and she was the founding president of Friends of Hillel Day School.

Devoted to her beloved family, Brandwine faithfully traveled every Thanksgiving to her son's home in the Pocono Mountains where all 17 family members would gather. Brandwine always made the pies.

Described as a "renaissance lady who was well read and knowledgeable," Brandwine is survived by her three children and their spouses, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the beloved wife of the late Morris Brandwine and the dear sister of the late Max Biber.

Editor's Letter

In preparing for the mailing of this volume of *Michigan Jewish History*, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan reviewed its membership roster to determine how far and wide the journal travels. The results were not all that surprising: the neatly bound blue book you now hold is sent to libraries, archives and educational facilities across the country and is mailed to hundreds of homes throughout the U.S. and Canada. Sort of.

The truth is that the vast majority of Journal home deliveries are to zip codes beginning with either 48, 33 or 32 – Michigan and Florida. Notably absent are zip codes beginning with 49: Western and Northern Michigan, to be specific.

At first, we thought we have only ourselves to blame for not working harder to reach the Jewish communities outside of metropolitan Detroit. Then we realized that we have. In issues past-- this one included—we've covered towns, people and topics not specific to the Detroit area. JHS has also hosted and co-hosted numerous events around the state. So why then is our membership so vastly skewed to Oakland County?

The obvious reason is this is where the majority of the population resides. However, according to Alan Gale of the Jewish Community Council, there are 15,000 Michigan Jews outside of the tri-county area.

The second reason we are not reaching this group—and others that live in our own neighborhoods—is simply because we are not asking. If you are at all familiar with fund raising or volunteer recruitment, you know that the single biggest reason people do not volunteer is because they were never asked.

So, I am asking. I am asking each of you to connect a friend or a family member to our beautiful Jewish community in a different way: through the eyes of historians who are chronicling the story of the Jews of Michigan and the gifts they have left behind. The Journal is a wonderful, affordable and enriching Hanukkah gift or token of appreciation and friendship.

So many devoted individuals pour their heart and soul, ideas and time into the production of this Journal and into the many JHS historic tours, programs and events. Our work is that labor of love we only wish more could enjoy. With your help, that wish can come true.

I hope you enjoy this 45th volume of *Michigan Jewish History*. As always, I extend a heartfelt thank you to the editorial committee and authors who volunteer their time and talents to this publication. I also wish to extend a belated thank you to a young man who assisted with last year's Journal, Adam Gardin. His name was mistakenly omitted from our editorial team. A good year, a healthy year!

-Wendy Rose Bice

To order one or more issues of Michigan Jewish History give the gift of a Jewish Historical Society membership to friends and family. Memberships begin at \$36 and include the Journal. For more information, see page 85 or contact the JHS of Michigan, 248-432-5600 ext. 2517.

President's Report

Once again, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan had a fabulous year, thanks in large part to our active volunteers and directors.

JHS was an active participant in the Celebrate 350 Coalition, providing wonderful events for the Jewish community. Some of the events we sponsored or co-sponsored included a speech by Berl Falbaum, discussing his book "Remembering Shanghai: Jews Who Escaped to Shanghai From Nazi Europe," a tour of Detroit's Eastern Market, a presentation of the Harris Collection of Judaica at the University of Michigan's Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, and, of course, our highly successful joint annual meeting with the American Jewish Committee.

Again this year, we presented our youth tours, "Settlers to Citizens: The Jews of Detroit and Michigan, 1761-Today," to numerous school groups. This bus tour through Detroit highlights the heritage of the Jewish community since its beginnings on the banks of the Detroit River and showcases the contributions of Jews to the Detroit area. We received initial funding for these tours from the Max M. Fisher Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. We are pleased that we have been able to secure additional funding for the 2005-2006 year from Steven and Nancy Grand and the Chaim, Fannie, Louis, Benjamin and Anne Florence Kaufman Memorial Trust.

The tours, clearly one of our most important and successful programs, require additional funding to support their continuation. Please feel free to contact me or Judy Cantor, or leave a message with the JHS office to discuss funding and naming opportunities.

I'm pleased to report the Jewish Historical Society is strong with over 600 members, impressive programming and a promising future. Although my term as president has come to a close, I look forward to continuing my work with the organization.

I wish to extend a special thank you to all of the members of the board of directors and officers for their loyal assistance. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Lois, for her patience and assistance in helping me participate as president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. It has been an enjoyable experience.

-Robert Kaplow

BERL FALBAUM

Jews of Shanghai author, Berl Falbaum, discussed and autographed his book, "Shanghai Remembered: Stories of Jews Who Escaped to Shanghai From Nazi Europe" at the Holocaust Memorial Center in June, 2005. Falbaum's parents fled from Europe to Shanghai. (photo courtesy of Jim Grey)





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ANNUAL MEETING
Annual Meeting of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives incoming president, Charlotte Dubin (left), gets a hug from outgoing president Susie Citrin. Standing by their side is archivist, Sharon Alterman and Joel Jacobs. (photo courtesy of Jim Grey)



RECEIVING THE SIMONS AWARD
Edie Resnick (left) gratefully accepts the Leonard N. Simons History Award from Mary Lou Zieve at the Jewish Historical Society's Annual Meeting in June, 2005. Resnick was cited for her efforts in creating the permanent preservation of Detroit's Central High School's records. (photo courtesy of Jim Grey)



EASTERN MARKET TOUR
The Jewish Historical Society sponsored a tour of Eastern Market in May, 2005. Among those attending were (l to r): Adelle Staller, Linda Yellin (tour organizer) and Merle Leland. (photo courtesy of Jim Grey)

Donation/Information

We invite you to share our journey...

The Heritage Council, an endowment society, seeks to insure 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.

I hereby join the Heritage Council at the following level:

- \$100,000 Guardian of the Heritage Council
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- 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; \$20 Institutions/Organizations; \$100 Corporate/Foundations; \$360 Life Member.

Tribute Cards will be sent upon request for contributions received (minimum \$10) to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one.

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