

MICHIGAN
JEWISH
HISTORY

JULY, 1975

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Jewish
Historical
Society
of Michigan

MICHIGAN

JEWELRY

STORY

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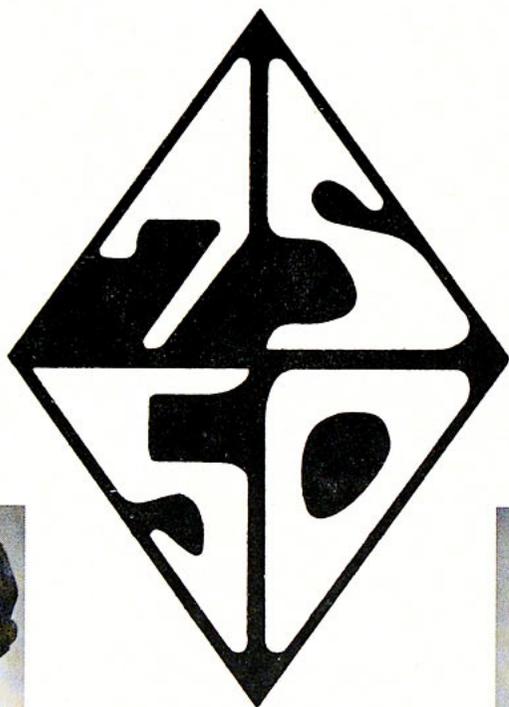
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*This issue of Michigan Jewish History is dedicated
to the
75th ANNIVERSARY of The
UNITED JEWISH CHARITIES
and the
50th ANNIVERSARY of the
JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION of DETROIT*

THE DETROIT UNITED JEWISH CHARITIES
JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION ANNIVERSARY
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MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

"When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come . . ."

—Joshua 4:21

Volume 15	July, 1975 — Tammuz, 5735	No. 2
<hr/>		
Editor's Foreward		3
BEGINNINGS OF DETROIT UNITED JEWISH CHARITIES . . .		5
By Irving I. Edgar		
BEGINNINGS OF DETROIT JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION		6
By Irving I. Edgar		
MY YEARS OF COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DETROIT JEWISH COMMUNITY: A PERSONAL AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR		9
By Leonard N. Simons		
THE HANNAH SCHLOSS OLD TIMERS		34
By Michael Greene		
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN UNVEILS COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE		40
By Dr. Abraham Rogoff		
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1974-75		43
By Dr. Abraham Rogoff		

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EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has devoted this issue of *Michigan Jewish History* mainly to the *Detroit United Jewish Charities* and the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation on the occasion of the attainment of the 75th Anniversary of the former organization and the 50th Anniversary of the latter one.*

We congratulate both intimately related organizations and the specific agencies of which they are composed; theirs is a record of great historical development and successful achievement. Through these many years of their existence, they have fulfilled, to the highest degree, the numerous and various needs of the Detroit Jewish Community; and they have helped, nurtured and developed a continuing sincere, inspired and dedicated leadership, of whom the community has always been justly proud.

It is especially appropriate that we publish in this issue of our magazine some of the "Personal Memoirs" of Leonard N. Simons, covering some of his "Years of Communal Activities in the Detroit Jewish Community"*², and involving so much of the history of the U.J.C.—J.W.F., the organizations to which this issue is dedicated. These "memoirs" actually, are a taped question and answer interview obtained by the U.J.C.—J.W.F. Anniversary Committee.

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan hopes to publish other such "Memoirs" in future issues of *Michigan Jewish History*; for here is first hand history in the best oral historical tradition; and the U.J.C.—J.W.F. Anniversary Planning Committee, chaired by Mrs. Phillip Marcuse and George M. Stutz, is to be highly commended for its Oral History project involving the taping interviews of many of the former leaders in our community who contributed so much to its development.

Irving I. Edgar, M.D.

*The Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation was organized, October 15th, 1926; so that its 50th year really begins in 1976. However, because of convenience of planning as well as of other factors both events are being celebrated together in the Detroit Community during the 1975-1976 period.

*See also Stutz, George M., "Fifty Years of Detroit Jewish Communal Activities: A Personal Biographical Memoir", *Michigan Jewish History* January, 1975. Vol. 15 No. 1. pp. 5-25.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
UNITED JEWISH CHARITIES
OF
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Beth El Relief Society
Hebrew Benevolent Association
Hebrew Ladies' Sewing Society
Self Help Circle
School for Immigrants
Boy's Self Help School
Self Help Kindergarten and Kitchen Garden.

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER, 1899.

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Detroit Tuesday Evg Nov 7-1899
In pursuance of a call issued by a Committee appointed by the Beth-El Hebrew Relief Society, to the various Jewish Philanthropic Organizations of this City, a meeting was held this evening in the lecture rooms of Temple Beth-El, with the following Societies represented.

- Ladies Sewing Society
- Jewish Relief Society
- Self Help Circle
- Beth-El Hebrew Relief Society

upon motion, Mr. Moskin Budget was elected Chairman, and Mr. Alfred Roth, Child, Secretary.

Dr. Franklin as Chairman of the Committee representing the Beth-El Hebrew Relief Society, reported that the following letter had been sent to all the Jewish Philanthropic Organizations of this City, and which had given birth to this evening's meeting.

- As a meeting of the Beth-El Hebrew Relief Society, the undersigned Com.
- mittee was appointed to secure the Co-operation of all other Jewish Philanthropic organizations in the City
- for the formation of a joint association by which all charitable and educational work now being done by our various Societies may be more expeditiously and less expensively accomplished.
- It may be said, that according to the plan of organization proposed

Reproduction of the first page of the minutes of the meeting organizing the United Jewish Charities



Joseph H. Wertheimer
First Superintendent of UJC 1900-1901



D. W. Simons
First President (1900-03) of U.J.C.

BEGINNINGS OF THE UNITED JEWISH CHARITIES

by Irving I. Edgar, M.D.

The *United Jewish Charities* was organized in Detroit, Michigan in 1899 to carry on charitable, cultural and educational activities among the Jewish people in the city. For this purpose the then existing organizations consisting of the Beth El Hebrew Relief Society, Hebrew Ladies' Sewing Society, Self-Help Circle, and Jewish Relief Society met on November 7, 1899 at Temple Beth El, then located at Washington Boulevard and Clifford Street. It was out of this meeting called by Rabbi Leo M. Franklin of Temple Beth El that the first cooperative Jewish philanthropic organization, the United Jewish Charities was developed.

The first headquarters of the new organization was at 379 Brush Street at Campbell Street, now the Southwest corner of Brush and East Montcalm Streets, in a house donated by Nathan S. Ginsburg, a trustee of the U.J.C.

Almost immediately the new organization began its work so that during the year 1900, the U.J.C.

- (1) opened a free dispensary, the forerunner of the North End Clinic and the present Shiffman Wing of Sinai Hospital.
- (2) gave its first support to Jewish education by granting permission to the Division Street Talmud Torah to use its meeting rooms on Sunday mornings.
- (3) made its first allocation to the Jewish House of Shelter.
- (4) brought in the Boys' Self Help School as an affiliate of the U.J.C.
- (5) became a member of the National Conference of Jewish Charities, now the National Conference of Jewish Communal Services.

The first Annual Meeting of the U.J.C. was held on October 26, 1900 and reports were presented by David W. Simons, President; Mrs. Sarah Berger, second vice-president and head of the Hebrew Ladies' Sewing Society; Mrs. Blanche H. Rothschild, trustee and president of the Self Help Circle; Rabbi Leo M. Franklin of the Employment Bureau; Dr. Louis J. Hirschman, physician; Jos. H. Wertheimer, superintendent, Abraham Benjamin, secretary, and Emanuel H. Van Baalan, treasurer.

at 4:00 P.M. in the U.J.C. offices, for the purpose of authorizing the incorporation of the Jewish Welfare Federation and the selection of a provisional Board of Governors and officers.

Those who attended this meeting consisted of the following: Messrs. Alexander, Friedberg, Duscoff, Franklin, Fuchs, Isaacs, Levin, Robinowitz, Stern, Welt, Waldman, Wineman, Zemon and Miss Edith Hevenrich. In addition, the meeting was also attended by Otto Wismer, Secretary of the Legal Aid Bureau. There were others invited who could not attend but those who did attend represented the following organizations: United Jewish Charities, Jewish Centers Association, Jewish Social Service Bureau, United Jewish Campaign, United Hebrew Schools, Hebrew Free Loan Association, Fresh Air Society, Detroit Service Group.

Mr. Henry Wineman presided, and Mr. Waldman acted as Secretary.

Mr. Waldman reviewed briefly the history of the efforts made for the establishment of a Federation: referred to a tentative set of by-laws, which had been submitted and which had served as a basis for negotiations and pointed out that in the light of more recent developments in the Jewish Community, these by-laws could advantageously be modified and simplified. There was considerable informal discussion, after which it was resolved on motion duly made and supported that the following articles of association be adopted:

"We, the undersigned, desired to become incorporated under the provisions of Act No. 84, of the Public Acts of Michigan for 1921, providing for the "organization, regulation and classification of domestic corporations," etc., do hereby make, execute and adopt the following articles of association, to-wit:

ARTICLE I

The name or title by which said corporation is to be known in law is, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit.

ARTICLE II

This corporation shall proceed under Section 2, Chapter 1, Part 1, of the above named act.

ARTICLE III

The purpose or purposes for which it is formed are as follows:

To raise and collect funds, acquire and hold property by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, and to distribute and apply the same or the use or income thereof directly and through other presently existing or subsequently established agencies for the advancement of the social and cultural welfare of the Jewish community and for the promotion of any other philanthropy and to bring about co-ordination and co-operation among Jewish welfare and relief organizations in Detroit.

On motion made and supported, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the incorporators:

"Whereas the incorporators named in the proposed Articles of Association of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit have this day in meeting approved said Articles of Association and directed the incorporation of said Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit in accordance therewith;

For the purpose of facilitating such incorporation, and in accordance with Act 84, Michigan Public Acts of 1921, Part 1, Chapter 2, Section 1, Paragraph Ninth.

IT IS RESOLVED AND DIRECTED that Henry Wineman, Esser Rabinowitz, and Milford Stern sign and acknowledge the Articles of Association of said proposed corporation as presented and submitted in this meeting, for themselves and for the remainder of the incorporators and members of said Jewish Federation of Detroit, and that a copy of this resolution duly certified by the Secretary of this meeting be attached to said Articles of Association."

On motion duly made and supported, it was resolved that those present, together with the members of the Detroit Service Group shall constitute the members of the Federation.

On motion duly made and supported, the following provisional Board of Governors was elected:

David A. Brown, Fred M. Butzel, Rabbi Leo Franklin, William Friedman, Bernard Ginsburg, Nathan M. Gross, Rabbi A. M. Hershtman, Judge Harry Keidan, Juian Krolik, D. W. Simons, Milford Stern, Samuel Summerfield and Henry Wineman.

It was resolved to request the following organizations to designate one member of their Board to serve on the Board of Governors:

United Hebrew Schools, United Jewish Charities, Jewish Social Service Bureau, Jewish Centers Association, Fresh Air Society and Hebrew Free Loan Association.

On motion duly made and supported, one ballot was cast electing the following provisional officers:

Henry Wineman, *President* Samuel Summerfield, *Vice President*
William Friedman, *Vice President* D. W. Simons, *Treasurer*
Morris D. Waldman, *Secretary-Director* Fred M. Butzel, *Chairman*
of the Executive Committee.



Leonard N. Simons

My Years of Communal Activities in the Detroit Jewish Community:

Some Personal Memoirs.

By Leonard N. Simons

I Autobiographical Sketch

You have asked me for a 5-minute biographical sketch of my life—so here it is.

I was born in Youngstown, Ohio on July 24, 1904; the same date on which I celebrate my birthday is also the birthday of the City of Detroit—except that it was born in 1701.

I was a 2¾ lb. premature baby at birth. I was impatient to get things going even then. After living in Chicago as a child, we moved to Detroit when I was 12 years old. For a while I lived with my maternal grandparents. I was bar mitzvah at old Shaarey Zedek at Willis and Brush Streets, went to the Irving Elementary School, then to Central High School, graduating in June 1921.

Because the family couldn't afford to send me to college, I secured a job at an advertising agency as a combination office boy and assistant artist at the age of 17.

After 7½ years at this agency, Larry Michelson, who also worked for the same agency, joined me in starting the Simons-Michelson Co. advertising agency in January 1929. We're still in business and go to work every day. We're still partners and friends. In fact, during all the 55 or 56 years we've known each other, we've never had an argument of any kind. That's an accomplishment that gives me utmost satisfaction.

My dear wife, Harriette, and I recently celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. That, too, is something great to brag about, especially in these days when divorces are breaking up 1 out of every 3 marriages.

I have 2 married, wonderful daughters and they've given me 5

*This is a taped question and answer interview of Leonard N. Simons, taken on March 15, 1975 by Mrs. Mary Baroff, as part of the Oral History Project of the U.J.C.—J.W.F. Planning Committee, for the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Jewish Charities of Detroit and the 50th Anniversary of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation. The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan thanks the Committee and Leonard Simons for their permission to publish it.

grandchildren, who are real good kids. These young people make my life a thrilling daily experience.

My business career of over a half century, with a most understanding partner, and a tolerant wife, both of whom encouraged me in my extra-curricular activities, made it possible for me to try to help so many people and causes, and to spend so much time away from my business and my home, working on matters that mean so much to me. As I think back—these were, and are, the most exciting and most rewarding series of challenges and responsibilities a person can have, to keep life interesting and from ever getting boring.

On so many occasions, I've been the principal speaker, or Master of Ceremonies, or the one who introduces the person being honored, that I've developed what I like to call the "Simons format." It combines some seriousness with a certain amount of humor, or nonsense. I do this because I've found that if you can make people smile or laugh, they'll listen more carefully to what you have to say, and you'll get your message across to them.

My hobbies are travel—everywhere, to see how other people live. My wife and I have been overseas over 20 times, including 2 Study Missions to Israel, a trip to Russia, several times to the Orient, including one trip around the world.

I enjoy golf and was president of Franklin Hills Country Club back in 1952-53. My great hobby is book collecting. On my 50th birthday, I gave Wayne State University Library over 2000 books on the history of Detroit and Michigan. All the books were rebound in leather with gold stamping down the spine. Recently, I gave my Judaica book collection—over 2000 books—to Brandeis University Library. Now I'm working on my 3rd collection—a rare Judaica book collection—with all books published prior to 1900; some dating back to the 1600's and 1700's, all rebound in leather with old world style bindings. So far, I've collected about 600 books and they're all going to Temple Beth El's new library.

Because of my interest in books, I've met and become friendly with many of the authors. This has added another enjoyable facet to my life's experiences, because my favorite hobby is *people*.

Last December, I was asked by the editors of *Who's Who in America* to give them a statement of those principles, ideas, goals, and standards of conduct that helped me live my kind of life. I wrote:

"Since I was a youngster these thoughts have been my personal credo. I have always believed—

*that there is much more to life than "begin,
beget, and be gone"—*

that the most important words in the dictionary

are Love, Respect, and Generosity—
that if I should ever do well in business, I
 should never forget to share because a shroud
 has no pockets—
that essential to happiness is something to do—
 someone to love—something to hope for—
that life's greatest satisfaction comes from
 realizing your own capabilities as fully as
 possible, for the benefit of others—
that there is a difference between putting your
 nose into other people's business and putting
 your heart into other people's problems—
that schools of higher learning should be assisted
 because the salvation of the world lies in the
 education of young men and women—
 AND, if I had a chance to "do it all over again"—
 I would try to do the very same things because
 I believe in them."

You might be interested to hear that my wife has already picked out the epitaph for my gravestone. It will read—"Here lies LNS—gone to another meeting."

* * *

II The Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation

I don't honestly remember when I first started being active in the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit. I think it was in 1936. I remember being in meetings with Kurt Peiser who was the Federation director during the years 1932 through 1936.

I seem to remember Abe Srere being the chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign. Isidore Sobeloff came in 1937, and I worked in various campaigns in subsequent years, all of which were headed by Fred Butzel. When the war came around and there were no Allied Jewish Campaigns in '43, '44, and '45, I worked on the big civic campaign which was called the War Chest. We discontinued our campaigns since the War Chest took care of us.

I remember well 1946—the year that Nate Shapero was the Campaign chairman. Sam Rubiner and I had gone over to convince him to take the chairmanship and told him we would do most of the work for him if he would just take the chairmanship. He finally agreed. Sam used to work for Cunningham Drug, Nate was the head of Cunningham Drug, and our office

handled the advertising for Cunningham Drug. It so happened that Nate Shapero went to work with enthusiasm, as he usually does on any job he tackles, and we didn't have to do the work for him . . . but we did help him. I remember our goal was \$2,000,000 for the Campaign. All the letters that went out over Shapero's signature closed with the expression, "Thanks 2 Million," instead of the customary, "Thanks a Million."

In 1947 I remember being in Sobeloff's office when the Federation office was in a building on Lafayette and what is now Washington Boulevard. This was before they moved to their present location. We were trying to decide whom we could get to be the next chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign. The people we had approached already had turned us down. I remember very well Fred Butzel saying, "Keep this in mind—even though I have already been chairman, if no one else will accept, you can always have me. I will serve as chairman of the next campaign, or any future campaigns, or in any capacity the Federation can ever use me."

I think that attitude expressed by Fred Butzel made one of the strongest impacts on my mind regarding service to the Jewish community, above all the things I had ever seen, heard, or read about the subject. Fred probably never knew this, but he was unquestionably the most important influence on my attitude toward serving as a volunteer on so many causes, both Jewish and non-Jewish, for the past 35 or 40 years or so.

During the early years, I worked primarily in the so-called Arts and Crafts division because the advertising agencies were in that division. I worked myself up to the point where I was chairman of Arts and Crafts Division—and then in 1949, I was the vice-chairman of the entire Allied Jewish Campaign under Louis Berry. If my notes are correct, I was also vice-president of the Jewish Welfare Federation during the years of 1947, '48, and '49 under Julian Krolik who was the president.

Sobeloff, who came in 1937, was the new director, and from the beginning I am frank to admit, he and I didn't hit it off particularly well. That doesn't necessarily mean he wasn't a nice man, or a capable person, because he was both of these things. But as long as there was this clash of personalities between us, I knew I would not be very happy as president working with him. So I let it be known that I did not want to be president, if any committee was considering me.

In 1948 I worked very hard on the Allied Jewish Campaign when Morrey Aronsson was chairman, and I think that at that time, the State of Israel had just been established. Under his chairmanship, Detroit raised about \$6,000,000, which remained the peak amount the Detroit Jewish community had ever raised in an Allied Jewish Campaign from that date until this record was finally equalled in 1967. At no time during the 19

years in between, did we equal the amount of money we raised under Morrey Aronsson's chairmanship; and in 1948 we had almost 31,000 individual pledges. To this day we have never equaled this number. I think we have about 24 or 25,000 such pledges today.

From that time on, I served in some capacity in every Campaign each year, but I didn't take a position of leadership again until 1956, when I became a pre-campaign chairman under the chairmanship of Johnny Lurie. In 1956 I went on my first Study Mission to Israel. In fact, after a very exciting 10 days or so during which I met and listened to all the Israeli leaders, including Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, etc., the day we left Israel for home and stopped off in Rome to pick up passengers on our flight, I bumped into the president of the Chrysler Motor Car Co., a man named Tex Colbert.

Tex was a friend of mine. He asked me where I had been and I told him. He had been in Rome for an automobile fashion show and told me that while there he had been visited by several Arab leaders who had asked him to intercede for them with the United States government because the Israeli people were such a war-like group. I, of course, told him that they were all wrong, that I had spent all this time in Israel listening to these speeches by the Israeli leaders in which they reiterated how all they wanted was just to be able to live in peace with the Arabs and the world.

I showed the Chrysler president copies of all the talks which had been duplicated and given to us. We spent the whole night on the plane talking about how all Israel wanted, was to be able to live in peace with their neighbors. When we reached New York, about 5 o'clock in the morning and were getting off the plane, the newsboys were yelling "Israel invades Egypt." Tex Colbert looked at me—I looked at him. I shrugged my shoulders and continued walking down off the plane. Then I met my wife and daughter who had stayed up practically all night waiting for my arrival. She greeted me by saying, "I know you are a tough guy, but I never thought that you could go over to Israel and in 10 days start a war."

While I was in New York, all the Detroit papers phoned me and asked for a statement of what I saw, etc. My reply was that, "all I can say is that I would have made a terrible spy for Uncle Sam because I didn't see anything at all in Israel which would lead me to believe that war was imminent."

In 1956, and again in 1957, I was a pre-campaign co-chairman. In 1958, and also in 1959, I was a co-chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign.

In 1961 I was the chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign Cash Collection Committee. And, in 1963 I was given the Jewish Welfare Federation's Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award.

I can't seem to remember a year when I wasn't involved in Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation activities in some capacity or another. I know for several years, I was associate chairman of the Federation's Committee on Capital Needs. I think that was 1959 or so. I remember around 1949/50, I was vice president of the Detroit Service Group. I have been on the Federation Board of Governors for many years and I have served on the boards of many of the Federation beneficiary agencies.

I was the publicity chairman for the 60th anniversary of the United Jewish Charities, 15 years ago, and I helped design and write a brochure which won an award for the U.J.C. I think it was from the Council of Welfare Federation and Funds.

One of my big disappointments at Federation, was not being able to secure Sobeloff's approval to create a history of the United Jewish Charities and the Jewish Welfare Federation, from the very beginning, up to the year 1959. I had spent a lot of time on the project with the American Jewish Archives and some great Jewish historians. I had the approval of Wayne State University's President Hilberry that the Wayne State University Press would be willing to publish the history of Detroit Jewry, as I had outlined. I had planned an anthology with various authors writing about the different agencies of Federation, people who would do research on their assignment. Then, when it was all written, we would get some professional help editing and re-casting the various stories, all of which would have been put into book form. I never could get an okay to go ahead, so we let 15 years of valuable time and remembrances by people of the community who are no longer with us, disappear, to a great extent, from the records.

I think what the U.J.C.—J.W.F. Anniversary history committee is doing right now, taping the remembrances of some of the town's old-timers, is wonderful. I am confident that at long last, we will have a pretty good direct record of the history of our local Jewish community, thanks to Mrs. Philip Marcuse, (Barbara), and George Stutz who are chairing the main planning committee. As president of the Detroit Historical Commission, and a member of the boards of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, I commend them and their committee on what they are doing to preserve our local history for future generations of our people.

I could not, in good conscience, conclude any statement about the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, without saying a few words about my good friend, Bill Avrunin, with whom I have had nothing but the most pleasant relationship, ever since he became the Executive Director of our Federation. It's pretty hard for anyone to have an argument with Bill.

When someone like me can make that statement, you can be sure it's true. I have a reputation for being willing to argue with anyone at the drop of a hat. I have a low boiling point, and have not been able to control it too well throughout my life, because I'm an impatient person. I know my faults, and this one, I have always had great difficulty in controlling, to a certain extent. On the other hand, I have been in business with my partner, Larry Michelson, for 46 years. Prior to that, we worked for the same advertising agency for 17½ yrs., and I knew him even as a youngster. In all sincerity, I proudly tell you, that in all this time, about 55 years or more, we have yet to have our first argument on any matter. And I'm still married, after 46 years, to the same woman. So I don't know if that proves anything, except that my partner and my wife are wonderful people.



Wm. Avrunin

To get back to Bill Avrunin, he gets things done, using calm persuasion and patience. He reminds me of the story of the man who could tell you to go to hell in such a nice way, that you looked forward to the occasion.

Bill Avrunin has helped Detroit become what I believe is the outstanding Jewish community in America, bar none—from the standpoint of fund-raising and from the standpoint of being able to surround himself with the very best young leadership brains in our local Jewish community. I take my hat off to him. I only wish that I had had the opportunity of working closer with him earlier in my career. I might have had an even more interesting bit of reminiscing to share with you today.

The Jewish Home for Aged

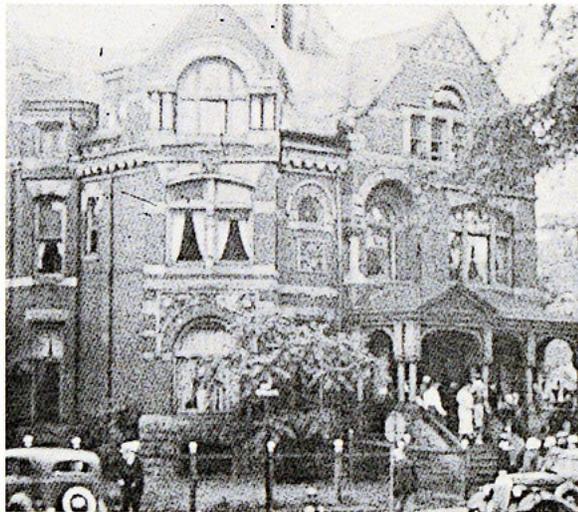
III

I first became interested in what I like to call the Old Folks Home way back in early 1937. My father-in-law, Max Lieberman, was secretary at the time, and he influenced me in serving on its board. I remember my first meeting in the new building on Petoskey—it was only partially completed then. The *Home's* minutes reflect that the board met with Kurt Peiser who was then Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Federation—and I was there. We moved the residents to the *Home* on Petoskey and dedicated it in June of 1937. I remember that sweet person, Jacob Levin, was then President. Myron Keys was Chairman of the Board. Dr. Otto Hirsch was the Home's Superintendent and I remember him as being a very difficult person to handle.

Things really did not start to run smoothly until Ira Sonnenblick came in and took over as Director, I think that was in 1947. He has just retired but is still with us on a consultant basis. I take my hat off to him because, in my opinion, he was the greatest director any old folks home could have.

We now have a young man as Director who was trained by Ira. His name is Charles Wolfe. We think he has great potential.

In reminiscing, I go back to the 1937 meeting in the almost completed Petoskey building. The main purpose of the meeting was to decide if we were willing to take a gift from Mrs. Aaron DeRoy of \$100,000, payable over about 10 years. In return for this, we were to name the new building the "Aaron DeRoy Home for the Aged." We met with Kurt Peiser because we wanted his advice, to confirm what we had pretty much already decided in our minds, that we should not take the gift. So we turned the offer down and the money went instead to the Jewish Community Center which was being established on Woodward Avenue at Holbrook Street.



Jewish Home for Aged on Brush and Edmund Place

I have been on the Board for almost 40 years. At one point I was a vice-president. I was chairman of the *Home's* executive committee for about 5 years; and in addition, of course, I did a lot of work helping them with publicity, etc. As I think back to the days when we were going to put up the second building, the one that is now called Borman Hall. I was supposed to be the chairman of the new building fund campaign. Here again, I turned the title over to another person, this time to Harry Barnett. I became his co-chairman, or vice-chairman, of the building fund. However, I did the work of the chairman because Harry, while always a nice guy, didn't seem to like to go out and ask people for money. I raised the bulk of the money by pestering any Jew in town who had any money. I went over to see Al and Tom Borman. I started the conversation by saying I had a great *muhtseeah* for them. If they gave me a quarter of a million dollars,

I would see if I could get the board of the Home to approve naming the new building, which was supposed to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of two and a half million dollars, "Borman Hall." They gave me the money and always kidded me in front of various groups about the big *muhtseeah** I gave them by taking a quarter of a million dollars of their money away to put a sign on a building.

I remember when we dedicated Borman Hall, that Rabbi Adler was the principal speaker that Sunday morning. I had been out of the country and had returned the day before the dedication. I was immediately told that it was up to me to introduce Rabbi Adler at the dedication. I replied, "but I just came back from overseas and have had no time to prepare anything. You don't introduce a fine man like Rabbi Adler with an extemporaneous or an unprepared introduction." They said, "Don't worry, you can do it, say anything you want to." That didn't sit well with me. So I went down to my office that same day, it being Saturday we were closed. I searched through my old files and came up with an introduction of Rabbi Adler I had given him the *previous* year at a Federation meeting. I changed the first sentence and then gave him the identical introduction. This took about 5 minutes so you can see there was a lot of wording in it. When the dedication was over, Rabbi Adler came to me with tears in his eyes to tell me it was the most beautiful introduction he had ever received in all the years he had been introduced. I didn't have the heart to tell him I had given him the identical introduction the year before. In other words, he hadn't remembered anything I had said the year before.

When the new Borman Hall was opened, the members of the board got together and voted to name the garden area where the old folks sit in nice weather to relax and sun themselves, the Leonard Simons Garden. But I renamed it "The Garden of Yidden," which everybody thought was very humorous.

When we were ready to give up the Petoskey site, they had to find another location for a second building because Borman Hall by itself was not large enough to accommodate all the people we wanted to take care of. So we started talking about a new building, and they were talking \$8 million or \$10 million. I decided it would take too long and be too difficult to raise that kind of money, so I went exploring and came up with the idea of trying to buy the Southfield Nursing Home. I put in a long distance call to the man who owned the Southfield Nursing Home and asked him whether he would consider selling it. He said he would, and I went before the Board and told them what I had done They agreed to buy the SNH for somewhere around \$1,000,000, and to spend another \$150,000 or so to fix it up, because it didn't need much fixing. After all

*Yiddish for "bargain".

it was a relatively new building and had been used as a similar type of home. Then I went to the Meyer Prentis family and talked to them about the idea of naming this new building the Meyer L. Prentis Manor in memory of their father, and Mrs. Prentis' husband. They agreed to give me ¼ million dollars, and that's how we handled that proposition. The next step will probably be a home out on Maple and Drake alongside the new Jewish Community Center when that is finished.

Actually, the best place for a home for the aged is next to a set-up like the Jewish Community Center. Old people like to see life and action. They can go over to the Center and hear concerts, lectures, watch the kids swim and play basketball, so many things that go on at a JCC which would make life so much more meaningful to an older person, even if they could watch without participating, although in many instances they can participate.

Some of the people who worked with me who come to my mind, in addition to those already mentioned are: Sidney Allen who was a tower of strength; the Fleischman brothers, Edward and Arthur; Jack Lefton; Milton Mahler; Morey Aronsson; Isadore Winkleman; Ben Kramer; Herman Mathias; Al Sklar; Ben Welling; Joe Kukes; Alan Schwartz; Sylvan Rapaport; Dan LeVine; Dave Miro; Dave Zack—and so many other wonderful dedicated people who gave generously of their time and effort.

In "the olden days," there was a little friction between the Home and the Federation, because the old-timers wanted to keep their autonomy. They were willing to be a beneficial agency of Federation, but didn't want to give up their right to make individual decisions without any interference from any Federation professional or the Federation Board. Over the years, as new buildings went up, the new buildings were owned by the United Jewish Charities which had put up some of the money for the buildings. The rest usually came from public contributions or capital funds in the Home's treasury. I think it is only a question of time before the Jewish Home for the Aged will be a wholly owned subsidiary of the United Jewish Charities, and I think that's the right way it should go. The Home should be a responsibility of the general Jewish community and not of some small group of men and women.

* * *

You asked me about my involvement in the project that became known as Federation Apartments. Without being immodest, I think I was the one who initiated this idea in Detroit about 1956. I had recently returned from a trip to Europe, during which I visited countries like Denmark and Sweden. I saw many apartment buildings the community had put up for the elderly citizens, which they could rent for a very low monthly figure. Each of these buildings had a central dining room where the people could eat their meals for very little money. There was a nurse in every building, to give them

simple medical care day and night and also physicians who made regular calls on each of the apartments to make sure the people were all right.

When I brought this idea back to Detroit the reaction of Sobeloff was that he wasn't interested because this problem didn't exist in Detroit. He said that there weren't enough poor people in our town to make something like this feasible; and I couldn't sell anybody the idea, even though I kept harping on it year after year. Finally some publicity started to seep into Detroit from other communities, and Detroit learned that this type of apartment was being put up in several of the larger Jewish communities and that the trend was going in that direction. So during Hy Safran's presidency, I was appointed chairman of a committee to explore the feasibility of doing the same thing in Detroit. I had a committee of about 20 people, and many of us made trips around the country. I went to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Cleveland, to see what they were doing, and brought back the report that we should move ahead with an apartment of this kind. It was very much in demand, there was a need for it, and others were doing it, and it made sense to our community.

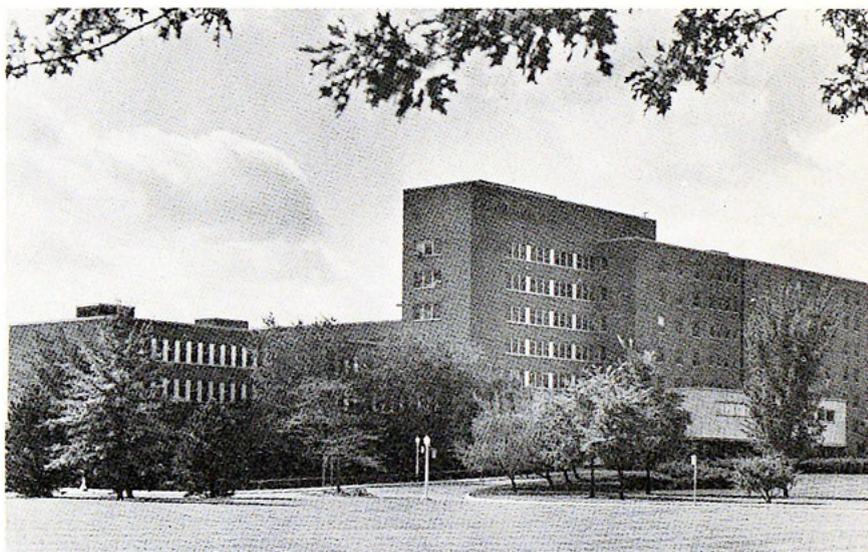
The building was finally erected and I was asked if I wanted to be the president of the new Federation Apartment project. But I said, no, I had done my part and I was satisfied now that it was erected.

I did try to convince them to start a second apartment building immediately because the government would put up, I believe, 100% of the money and we would have a 50-year mortgage. So far, nothing has been done. I would love to see a second apartment built somewhere on the grounds of the new Maple Road and Drake location because a building for old people located close to the new Jewish Community Center would be the perfect spot for the second Federation Apartments.

IV

Sinai Hospital of Detroit

My earliest recollection of being involved in what has become Sinai Hospital was an invitation to attend a meeting at Max Osnos' house, with Dr. Harry Saltzstein and some others. It was in the summer of 1941. We also met at Maurice Aronsson's home. A group of us were convinced that Detroit was ready for a hospital under Jewish auspices, because the young Jewish doctors were not easily able to get on the staffs of the other general hospitals. There was still discrimination. And for that reason, more than anything else, we wanted a Jewish-sponsored hospital. The Federation had rejected this idea for a long time, but finally we had a big meeting at the Statler Hotel in one of the ballrooms, and I remember Fred Butzel getting up and saying that while he had opposed this idea for many years, he had now come to the conclusion that we were right, and that we should have a Jewish hospital.



Sinai Hospital of Detroit

So, in my book, you can thank Dr. Harry Saltzstein that we have this hospital; his persistency of purpose—or call it stubbornness—kept the idea alive. When Max Osnos' father died, I think he left \$100,000 in his will to be given to a Jewish hospital, if there was going to be one in Detroit . . . if not, the money was to go elsewhere. We all got together and started raising money. There were also a couple of other Jewish hospital groups that had had the same idea, but hadn't gotten off the ground. They merged their efforts with ours. We obtained some money from a non-sectarian civic drive. When we put it all together, we had enough to get started.

The first set of plans that were drawn by Albert Kahn's office were sent out for bids. The price came back for more money than we had, so we had to redesign the hospital to try to bring it down to the price we could afford. By the time they finished the new set of plans, increased costs of building brought the revised plans in at the same price as the original set of plans for a larger hospital. This time there wasn't anything else we could do but go ahead.

In the early days we had a lot of active leadership, in addition to the men whose names I have already mentioned: Irwin Cohn, Nate Shapero, Abe Srere, Charlie Agree, Israel Davidson, Lou Berry, Joe Holtzman; and most certainly we can't forget the great contribution of time and effort of Sidney Allen. There was Max Fisher, Max Zivian, Lou Tabashnik . . . Oh, so many wonderful men jumped in with both feet to do the best job they could. And it has been a great job, because today, after a little over 20

years, Sinai of Detroit is recognized as one of the very finest hospitals in this part of the country.

From the very beginning, I was named Chairman of the Designations Committee, which meant it was my job to try to raise money by selling certain designated areas in the hospital. In fact, just the other day, I secured a gift from the Fishman family of a little over \$100,000 to name our Rehabilitation Center in honor of Nathan Fishman—in connection with his 80th birthday.

I have served on a great many subcommittees and eventually became one of the vice-presidents and served for about 3 years in this capacity.

Some of the other names that come to mind on the Hospital Board, who did yeoman work, are Milton Maddin, the current president, "Chick" Schafer, Harvey Goldman, Sol Eisenberg, Erwin Simon, George Stutz, Abe Shiffman, Sidney Karbal. There are probably others but unfortunately I can't seem to remember them at the moment.

I am still on the Executive Board and go to meetings whenever they are called. And I am still Chairman of the Designations Committee. I was also very active as one of the chairmen of the recent fund-raising campaign to build the hospital addition.

There was a lot of trouble when we were ready to open the hospital. Certain Orthodox groups in Detroit insisted it be a kosher hospital; and most of us felt that that was out of order. We felt it should be a non-sectarian hospital under our sponsorship as the Jewish contribution to the health care of our community. We planned to have a kosher kitchen but *all* the food would not be exclusively cooked in a kosher manner. We had many meetings with Orthodox rabbis, but could not agree. There was a big neon sign on the front of the hospital with the individual letters . . . S-I-N-A-I Hospital. So what do you think happened? The first day we opened and turned on the neon sign—all the letters lit up except the A and I. It came out S-I-N Hospital. The Orthodox rabbis were convinced that God was trying to tell our hospital board something, for not having a kosher hospital!

In my estimation, the outstanding reason for Sinai's enviable reputation today as a quality hospital is its Executive Director, Dr. Julien Priver. We are truly blessed that Dr. Priver has been guiding Sinai's destiny since it was first started. His intelligent understanding, imagination, planning, and supervision have carried our hospital to our aspired heights of excellence.

* * *

V

Involvement In Synagogue Affairs

I would say that I am very much involved, and have been for a very long

time. As I reached the teens, the families of most of my friends belonged to Temple Beth El . . . so I joined the Young People's Society of Temple Beth El . . . giving me the opportunity to attend parties, etc. with my friends. Occasionally I would hear Dr. Leo Franklin talk and was very impressed.

After I married in 1930, I ran into a siege of illness, and this, combined with the depression, made membership in a synagogue something very far from my mind. One day, in the late 1930's (1938), my wife and I decided that we should join a congregation. We decided on Temple Beth El because most of the young married couples who were our friends also belonged to TBE. It's as simple as that.

The first time I took an active part in the synagogue's affairs was when it was putting on a campaign to burn its mortgage. My partner, Larry Michelson, and I handled all the publicity. We also did a lot of fund-raising; and the mortgage was burned.

A little later on, I received a call from Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer, saying he wanted to come to my office to talk with me. He asked me to become vice-president of the Temple's Men's Club because, he said, he needed some help in that direction. I did not want to become involved in the Men's Club on a regular basis, so I said I would not become an officer. I suggested that Leon Wayburn, who worked for us, be given the job, and Larry and I would help, behind the scenes, without any title. Again, I am pleased to report, we brought the membership of the Men's Club up to a new high. We also put on some interesting social affairs that created much interest.

The next thing I knew, I was on the board of the Temple itself, and soon became vice-president. I got this title by default, because Sidney Allen wouldn't take it. It so happened I didn't want it either at that time, because I was president of Franklin Hills Country Club. This meant I would be president of both Beth El and Franklin Hills at the same time. It was too big an assignment to try to satisfy so many Jewish families. However, with Rabbi Glazer at my side, he convinced me I could handle it. Unfortunately, Rabbi Glazer died just a few months before I became president of Beth El.

David Wilkus, who was president, decided to take a trip around the world which he had previously planned. So, I immediately became president pro tem . . . which meant that I had the primary responsibility of getting a group together to pick a successor to Rabbi Glazer.

Up to that point my relationships with Rabbi Leo Franklin and Dr. Glazer gave me some of the most enjoyable moments in my life. I was learning a lot; I had a lot of happy experiences. The Assistant Rabbi that Glazer had chosen before he died was a young man just graduating from

Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Minard Klein. He, too, was a wonderful association for me. In fact, even though Rabbi Klein is no longer at Beth El, we have maintained a close friendship during all these years.

One of the very first things I did after becoming president, was to reinstitute the ceremony of Bar Mitzvah, after a lapse of about 50 years at Beth El. The majority of our members wanted it . . . I had no sons, so it wasn't something personal to me. If the members wanted the ritual of Bar Mitzvah—they should have it—and they got it.

During the course of my activities, I became a member of the board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I was a national vice-president of the Combined Campaign—the fund-raising organization for Reform Judaism. I actively support the American Jewish Archives and the Hebrew Union College Society of Bibliophiles and the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

The late Rabbi Nelson Glueck, who was president of the HUC-JIR, wanted me to serve on its Board, but I turned it down. I knew I wouldn't have the time to go to Cincinnati once a month. I suggested Max Fisher and for several years, Max was on the college board. When he left, I suggested they appoint Maxwell Jospay, and I think he is still on their Board. In 1964, I was given an Honorary Doctorate by the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

Before Dr. Glazer died, he suggested that we start thinking about moving further north where our members were beginning to move. After he died, Rabbi Hertz didn't want to move. He thought we should stay where we were. We argued about this point for many years, and I insisted that we had to move. I had purchased a 22½ acre site at 9½ Mile Rd. and Northwestern, for the Temple, for about \$150,000 while I was vice president. The rabbi thought it was too far out. That's why he didn't want to move. Finally, when he agreed that the time had come for the congregation to move, the Northwestern Hwy. location was not out far enough. So the Temple sold the site for approximately \$1 million dollars. I wish I had been smart enough to buy the land for myself.

The new Temple Beth El is now located at 14 Mile Rd. and Telegraph and is part of the current trend in religion of having an "edifice complex." So far, Beth El has spent about \$8 million dollars and they're not through spending. They now find themselves in financial difficulty. This is the same story you hear from most synagogues that build new homes these days.

In addition to Beth El, I have been a courtesy member of Temple Israel from the day it started, around 25 years ago. In fact, I handled the advertising and publicity when it was just getting started. I am also a member of Temple Emanu-El in Oak Park, and I am an honorary member of Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor. As a past president of TBE, I am

on its Board of Governors for the rest of my life.

I'd like to mention that after "battling" in a nice way, for about 20 years, to have the local Reform congregations actively promote and sell Israel Bonds, with no success . . . I finally was able to get them to do this, starting about 6 years ago. Now there is an annual dinner; All the local Reform temples participate jointly. Some Reform Jew in town is honored at the dinner. I was the person so honored at the first dinner. These annual Bond dinners have sold many, many millions of dollars worth of Israeli Bonds.

I will close my comments about my involvement in synagogue affairs, by saying a few very complimentary remarks about Irving I. Katz, the executive secretary of Temple Beth El. We have had a beautiful working relationship for over 35 years. He has taught me a lot and, I think, I have taught him some things about how to run a synagogue in a business-like way.

Irving and I also collaborated on a book published by the Wayne State University Press, called *The Beth El Story*. It was the 100-year history of Beth El. The bulk of the cost was underwritten by the Leonard N. Simons Fund of Temple Beth El. This fund had approximately \$20,000 in it through contributions made by my friends in honor of my 50th birthday. My wife told them she knew that contributions to charities would make me much happier than receiving a lot of presents.

I also worked with Irving Katz on a booklet called "The Jewish Soldier from Michigan in the Civil War" . . . and the two of us helped Dr. Harry Saltzstein, publish a booklet on "Sinai Hospital and the North End Clinic"; "Reminiscences of the History of the Jewish Hospital Movement in Detroit." Irving is the unofficial Jewish Historiographer for Michigan, and is a fabulous person.

Next to our faith in God . . . I think the history of the Jewish people has done more than anything else to keep the Jewish community in existence for these many thousands of years. I wonder if that is one of the reasons why I am so interested in history per se.

So—you ask—am I involved in synagogue affairs? What do you think?

VI

Some of My Thoughts on the Current Trend in the Jewish Community

Well, as I think about some of the current trends that I see in the Jewish community—several important thoughts run through my mind.

The first one—and I know it is not peculiar to Detroit alone, but rather is true of every large city in America—is that the American Jew is becoming more and more assimilated and less and less interested in Judaism. So, I wonder what this will mean, exactly, to Jewish survival.

It seems to me, that identifying yourself with the word, "Jew," today, means giving money or working for Jewish charitable projects, with most of the money going overseas to try to help the Jews in Israel. Now, of course, that isn't all bad, but on the other hand, it's not all good either, when you consider the reactions.

The trend to assimilation, which I will discuss first, is not something brand new. It has been going on for a long time, except that in previous days, to a much lesser degree. Today, assimilation is creating a gigantic increase in the number of intermarriages with one out of every three Jews marrying out of the faith. Synagogue membership reflects this trend because today only 47% of all the Jews in America belong to a congregation.

Marrying someone who is not a Jew does not mean, necessarily, that the Jewish person is lost to the Jewish community. But, in a great many instances it does. In the early days of this century, you found a few Jewish boys marrying gentile girls and very rarely Jewish girls marrying gentile boys. Today, both Jewish boys and girls are inter-marrying in vast numbers. What all this means to the future of the Jewish people as a community remains to be seen. Some Jewish scholars who expressed their opinions on this subject in books, articles, and before audiences, feel that it is only a question of a relatively short time before there will no longer be a Jewish community.

This has been said and predicted many times before for various reasons, but whether it will come true this time—who knows? I'd hate to see that happen because Judaism is an excellent, believable, comfort-giving religion based on Divine commandments—which, if followed by Jews and others, will make this world a better place for all of us.

So, how do we strive to reverse these trends and continue our fight for survival? For one thing—we know we cannot stop people from intermarrying. Our history, as told to us in the Jewish Bible, is full of instances where Jews intermarried—and this began with the Father of our religion—Moses, himself. There was King David, King Solomon, The Story of Ruth and many others. But, the Jewish partner in all these mixed marriages was so deeply and strongly attached to his religion, that the result was a gain, rather than the loss of a person to Judaism. We must keep our religion in existence so that it can continue to be influential in our life styles and, hopefully, in the morals and ethics of the world in general.

We can try to reverse the current trend of a declining interest in Judaism by a recognition of the importance of *both* the religious as well as the secular priorities in Jewish life.

I think a step in the right direction would be the merged efforts of Federation's lay leaders and professional staff with our synagogue lay

leaders and rabbinical staffs, to create unity in our community, rather than competition. And, no matter how softly you say it—there is great competition today for the money, time, ideas, status symbols, or what have you, between the Federation and the synagogues.

Now don't misunderstand. I'm not critical of Federation for becoming such an all-important factor in doing its job of trying to organize our community. I'm quite proud of Federation in nearly all instances. In fact, when I first became active in the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, I was convinced that its basic idea of a Federated community, interested in the problems of the *total* community, was the right way to go. Its plan was to put every Jewish cause in its true perspective. Through the Federation planning and budget process, Federation related one agency to another with full regard for relative needs. I am still convinced.

In addition, we had synagogues that were financially healthy and strong because of large congregational memberships, and we had some truly great rabbis. But today, our synagogues are having serious, vital problems.

If Federation is concerned with the *total* community's problems, as I've always believed they are, then the Federation professionals and lay leaders must be re-educated to the priority importance of our religious identification through synagogue support. We must constantly strive for a better understanding than we now have of the *equal* importance of synagogue survival, as well as of Federation survival. There must be sympathy toward each other's problems and efforts, cooperation at every level. Because, if for no other reason, Federation and its future is only as strong and secure as our religion and its synagogues are strong and secure.

Most synagogue members channel practically all their charitable funds through the Allied Jewish Campaign. The non-affiliated Jew does the same thing. A great many Jews are trying to justify their lack of interest in giving money to synagogues (or, for that matter, in belonging to a synagogue) satisfying themselves that they are "good Jews," by giving money to Federation each year. This is a "pocket-book" kind of Judaism which is quite shallow. This type of thinking readily explains why the synagogues are not being supported adequately.

Something is basically wrong with this kind of a situation. The lopsided interest in favor of non-religious Jewish problems and affairs, is creating what I consider to be a trend toward a community of secular Jews. The present apathy and neglect of our synagogues has weakened the importance of our religion. The long-range result of this trend can mean the end of Judaism, and going down with it—the end of Federations and their agencies.

I find it difficult to understand how our people can believe that philanthropy is the major and possibly the only way to express our "Jewishness." Detroit will raise the fantastic sum of over \$20,000,000 in a year. At the same time, most of our synagogues are in great financial difficulties. They do not take in enough money to pay their annual *operating* expenses. The congregations go deeper and deeper in debt each year. Some even go broke and out of existence.

Most of our synagogues are in trouble because of money matters . . . because their membership is torn between deciding which is more important—the Federation money problems or the synagogue money problems.

Federation and congregations . . . today—they are vital to each other. One is only as strong as the other . . . they are as "husband and wife."

I believe Judaism will survive by the quality of our loyalties. Even those who call themselves Jewish atheists or agnostics, cannot but acknowledge that their destiny is molded by the Jewish Bible . . . a moral code which to this day retains its relevance everywhere.

* * *

The next item I want to mention is the beginning of a trend to concern ourselves with the fact that we have Jewish *neighbors* who are poor, and who need some kind of financial help. Federation Apartment is a step in that direction. When we first announced that we'd accept applications for the apartments that would be available (and remember, your income had to be *below* a certain level)—we had over 2000 people apply who would qualify for the limited number of 160 apartments. That proves something—doesn't it?

But, the people that I'm talking about, are the truly poor Jewish people in our midst . . . really poor—with incomes at, or below, poverty level. Based on the national average, there could very well be as many as 5% to 10% of our total Detroit Jewish population in the "poverty level" classification. I'm not sure of the number, but it's well known that there are a great many poor people who need food and clothing, health care and a decent place to live, at a price they can pay. I hope Federation will get into this matter with sufficient force to find out *how many* poor Jews we have in our community. Then let's see what we can do to make the lives of the poor Jews in our community comfortable.

I understand that the Jewish Children and Family Service started, a few weeks ago, to explore the problems of some of our local poor. This is good news and a step in the right direction. I've talked to Federation about this problem for several years, so naturally it's very satisfying to me to hear that a Federation agency is checking this out. Maybe now we'll know just how many are in need, and how much we have to do to help our poor Jewish neighbors.

If Detroit can raise millions for Jewish causes all over the world, we can find money to take care of our poor people. Charity begins at home . . . so I've always been taught.

And finally, no comments of mine—or any Jewish person—on current trends, could end without including some remarks on the State of Israel.

For over 25 years we have constantly been aware of the fact that wherever we are—whatever we are—Israel's fate is our fate. And that if the unthinkable were to happen and, God forbid, Israel were to go under—it would be the greatest disaster to organized Judaism . . . the greatest tragedy to Jewish life that has ever happened in the course of our millennial history.

It will affect all of us. All of us must continue to try to do everything in our power to protect Israeli Jews from danger and peril, because our interests are involved . . . our very being is involved. We must make sure that Israel can survive and persevere.

The current trend of American and world Jewry to give of its financial resources to Israel, in ever-increasing amounts, year after year, in outbursts of generosity never before equalled, makes this Jew's heart swell with pride.

I anticipate continuing to try to help the Jews in Israel so long as I live. But I realize that I must have room in my heart to help my fellow Jews over here, also. And, last but certainly not least, to help my religion remain strong and alive.

VII

How the Combining of my Jewish & General Community Activities Have Served to Strengthen and Improve Communications Between People of Different Groups

Well, for one thing, in many of the activities in the general community in which I have become involved, I find they have practically no Jews taking an active interest. For instance, the Detroit Historical Society—it has over 3,000 members, many of whom are Jews. But, when you come down to taking an active interest, or coming to meetings or coming to exhibits, etc., practically no Jew that I can recognize, is involved. I don't think that is right. I think this holds true of many general community activities, where Jews feel that if they give money, that is enough. Well, it isn't. You have to give of yourself, and your time also, and then the people in the general community who are not Jewish come to realize what kind of people the Jews really are. We don't have horns and tails . . . as some of them think. We are the same as other people. I think that through my efforts in the general community, that I have strengthened and improved communication between the Jew and non-Jew to a certain degree. I think

that this is necessary to permit the Jew to be accepted by the non-Jew as a fellow citizen in the community who is entitled to equal consideration on every level, including employment and friendship. I don't think that America can continue indefinitely with its old sense of values and segregation between Jew and gentile, or white and black. I think it is only a question of time, and I don't know how soon it is going to happen . . . but the day will surely come when all people in America will be accepted at face value. They will hold jobs in any organization, in any capacity, depending upon their ability, common sense, and personality. This is the way it has to be; the Jewish Bible says world peace will come through our teaching God's divine moral ethical Commandments to mankind. That is what the Jewish People were Chosen to do.

VIII

My Feelings About my Most Important Contribution to the Jewish Community

I'd say that my most important contribution is that I have always been willing to accept positions of leadership in any projects that interested me, Jewish or non-Jewish . . . that I have tried to set an example for my contemporaries as well as the younger people, as to how a person who wants to be a good citizen can be of service to others . . . and I have combined *enthusiasm* with *consistency* over a period of 40 years plus.

If I were to describe in two words what I consider to be my most important contribution to the Jewish Community—I'd say "enthusiasm" and "consistency."

* * *

As I think back over the years. I remember some of the experiences I had soliciting the men in our community who later on became our top leaders. I don't know how much credit—if any—I can take for helping to motivate them, but I think I did accomplish something with each of these 3 men I am going to talk about, even though they might not be ready to acknowledge it. I think, in the early years—I showed them by example, and by encouraging them, that they should become active. This might have had some effect on them.

It was in the early days of the post-depression years that I became quite friendly with Max Fisher who was just beginning to make money in the oil business, working for his father. I never had any trouble getting money out of him for nearly any cause for which I was soliciting. I can picture in my mind's eye a certain evening in front of his home when I put on a particularly strong pitch for him to become a solicitor for some Jewish cause, and also to give me some money for the cause. He gave me

the money I wanted and then remarked, "You know, Leonard, I couldn't solicit people as you do for all the money in the world. It's just not part of my makeup (or words to that effect). However, I want you to know that as long as you are willing to give your time and effort to work on these causes, you can always come to me and I will give you money." Little did he realize that in the not too distant future he would become one of the greatest solicitors in the world for Jewish causes. Maybe some of my reasoning and enthusiasm for fund-raising rubbed off on him—at least I hope so.

I remember, and I am sure Hy Safran remembers, this because he mentions it every so often, the first time my partner and I went in to solicit Hy and his brother, Dave. They were little printers and we were giving them some jobs from our advertising agency. We felt that because we were a customer of theirs we could probably get a little bigger contribution out of them than they had previously given. They were two very young boys whose father, a printer, had died and left them his little shop. I remember Hy asking me how much money we expected them to give. When I said \$500, he turned pale and almost fell off his chair. This is a true story because he tells it himself. But, he was a good sport—they gave us their pledge for \$500. After that we had his name for solicitation every year for a long time. Little by little Hy became very active in campaigns and Federation affairs. Their business prospered. Soon they were able to give much more than we could. Eventually he became the president of the Jewish Welfare Federation and was a fine one, indeed.

I can't swear for sure, but I think I had a little influence in Hy's move up to a position of leadership in Jewish affairs.

Another very important name is Paul Zuckerman. He has been our client for probably 40 years and we have been very good friends. In the early days Paul didn't have very much money because his business was just getting started. But I used to talk to him a lot about Federation, Jewish affairs, taking him with me to meetings, the philosophy of giving money for worthy projects, etc., and little by little, I believe, I talked him into making bigger pledges each year. It was not difficult because of his big heart. Each year he has been giving more and more, until today he is probably the second largest giver to the A.J.C. in Detroit. He is probably the number one giver of time, so far as Israeli and Jewish causes are concerned. He is certainly one of our most distinguished Jews in the entire world today.

I believe that if Paul would think back about the part that I played in the early days of his life, he would admit that I showed him how to "do it my way." He did it "my way"—and then did it a whole lot better than I ever did.

I could name many more who I'm sure would admit that they felt the weight of some of my influence in the past, and who today have accomplished a great deal of good on behalf of our fellow Jews. But these are three especially important names, and I honestly believe that I contributed something to help motivate them to do some of the things they did—and are doing. I hope they will forgive me for getting a vicarious thrill out of being a little part of their successful efforts to be of service to their fellow men.

IX

The Groups with which I Am Now Active— and the Projects in which I Am Now Involved

You have to sort of combine them. If I were to make a list of all the groups and projects in which I am involved, you would think there was something psychologically wrong with me. And you might be right. I will mention some of them that I work on. Some of the others I have already mentioned. Actually I have slowed down a lot and I try to pick my spots. People come to me for advice and I am glad to try to help, but I stay away from as many meetings as I can.

I remain constantly interested in the welfare of the various synagogues in town. In fact, right now I am trying to effect a merger between Temple Beth El and some other Reform temple, to help strengthen their financial picture.

I have been on the Detroit Historical Commission for about 30 years . . . and I am its president. One of my Commission projects right now is the reconstruction of Detroit's Fort Wayne, which was built around the Civil War period. This is a very large undertaking and will call for an investment of a minimum of 3 or 4 million dollars to fix up the old buildings and reconstruct the area into a beautiful historical monument park.

I serve the Detroit Round Table of Catholics, Jews & Protestants, a division of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, as its perennial fund-raising Dinner Planning Chairman. I have always felt that every little step in the right direction is something worthwhile. And, the right direction in this instance, is the eventual peaceful co-existence in America between all people of various faiths.

I was one of the funders—and am still active on the board and Executive Committee of Sinai Hospital. I am also on the board and Executive Committee of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

I am working hard at collecting my Judaica rare book collection for Temple Beth El's new library.

I am still on the board of the Michigan Cancer Foundation. I was the one who originally headed a campaign in 1945 to raise $\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars to buy their first site on the corner of Hancock and John R. Then recently I helped them complete the new building which is on John R. also, but it goes the entire block from Hancock all the way down to Warren. The new building cost about \$6 million. I secured $\frac{1}{2}$ million from the family of the late Meyer Prentis . . . and \$100,000 from General Motors in Meyer's memory. Today this building is called the Meyer L. Prentis Cancer Center. Recently the library in the building was dedicated as the Leonard N. Simons Cancer Research Library. It was created by a gift in honor of my 70th birthday by my friend, Nate Shapero.

I work on the United Negro College Fund. I was Campaign Chairman back in 1957 for Michigan. In recent years I have continued to serve as one of the vice-chairmen. I happen to believe that the future welfare of our country depends on how well-educated our young men and women are. And this, of course, includes black people as well as white people. I like to remind my Jewish friends that our Bible tells us that Moses, the founder of the Jewish religion, was married to a Cushite woman. In some dictionaries they call her Ethiopian. Cush in Hebrew means "black." So the founder of our religion was married to a black woman. Our Bible also tells us, "Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me?"

* * *

I am on the board of the American Jewish Historical Society. I am active in the annual Jewish National Fund dinner honoring some Detroiters. Incidentally, there is a forest in Israel that carries my name. I am involved in many projects at Wayne State University. There are six buildings on the campus for which I was responsible, in having them named after some person in our local Jewish community. I am still very interested in the Wayne State University Press Board of Advisors, of which I was the founder about 20 years ago. In fact, there are so many things in connection with Wayne State University in which I have been involved over the years that they gave me an honorary doctorate—an LL. D.—in 1957.

For many years—I have had a close relationship with the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. They gave me an honorary degree in 1964.

I could go on and list many other organizations that I still help when they need me, such as the United Foundation, the Jewish War Veterans, and incidentally, they made me an honorary member back in 1952. I was also made an honorary member of Zeta Beta Tau, the ZBT Jewish Fraternity at the University of Michigan chapter. I was given the Israel Prime Minister's medal for my efforts in selling Israel bonds. I still help

them when I can. I am on the board of the Hundred Club of Detroit. We help take care of the financial problems of the widows of firemen and policemen killed in action.

From time to time I concern myself in the affairs of the B'nai B'rith Hillel organization, both in Detroit and in Ann Arbor. They elected me president of the Hillel building at the University of Michigan, because I spearheaded a successful drive to raise enough money to burn its mortgage.

There are more names I could mention, but I think you've heard enough.

* * *

A few years ago the Pope gave me a Papal Blessing because of some of the help I had given the Catholics in our town, such as being a lay board member of Marygrove College. Is is a beautifully illuminated parchment scroll with my name hand lettered on it. I was proud to get it, naturally, because it is not given to many Jews. One of my friends looked at it and said—"You help the Catholics, you help the Protestants, you help the Jews . . . what are you doing, Leonard, playing religion across the board?" I replied—"That's right. When I die I want to make sure I go to heaven." And he said—"With your mazel—when you get to heaven—God will be an Arab."

* * *



Michael Greene
*Former President of Hannah Schloss
Old Timers.*

The Hannah Schloss Old Timers

by Michael Greene

Much has been written about the Hannah Schloss Memorial Building* and its important place as the first duly built center of activities of the Detroit United Jewish Charities and of the then general Jewish community. It shall be my purpose to deal historically, only with the organization known as "The Hannah Schloss Old Timers." As the name itself implies, it is derived from the fact that most, if not all of its members, in their earlier years, were active in the various clubs that met in this Hannah Schloss Buliding for all their many and varied activities. These members are indeed "Old Timers" in the true literal sense of the words. How did the development of this organization come about?

To begin with, we were probably among the earliest beneficiaries of the United Jewish Charities, being the members of the fourteen male clubs known by various names, who through their own officers, planned their own programs and dealt directly with the building management for their rights and responsibilities. This may have been the Detroit Jewish Communities' early answer to juvenile delinquency at the time.

Membership among the boys' clubs ranged from those of ages eleven to seventeen; and their activities ranged anywhere from those of the Philomathic Debating Society, of Boy Scout Troop #23 to the several involved in their beloved game of basketball. Actually, the following clubs met on a regular basis in the Hannah Schloss Building with assigned time of meet-

*This building was dedicated in 1903 on East High Street at Hastings Street, now a part of Detroit's Network of Expressways.

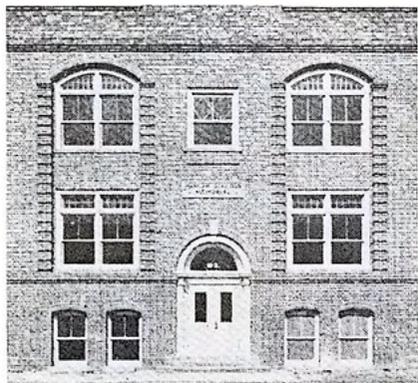
I am much indebted to Irving I. Katz, Secretary of Temple Beth El for much of the background material and also to Abe Kastenbaum for his records.



Seligman
Schloss

ings: The Adriatic Club, Boy Scout Troop #23, Homer T. Layne Club, Institute Club, Kinx Club, Lincoln Club, Orion Club, Philomathic Debating Society, The Riptons, The Detroit Midgets, The Trysquares, Seniors and Juniors, Washington Progressive Club and the Y.M.H.A.

It is of interest to note that for all these clubs except two, the game of basketball was the chief activity. Of course one need not explain the Philomathic Debating Society, for it was out of this society that there developed so many of the fine attorneys, judges and orators amongst our ranks. The one club left unexplained was the Kinx Club. They were neither athletes nor debaters, but were party givers and social climbers. So much for these early beginnings, the period 1903—1923.



*Hannah Schloss Building
a memorial to his wife*

The Hannah Schloss Building has now disappeared and so have the mentioned Clubs. However, the Washington Progressive Club did continue to meet in many homes and various other places on a regular basis for a time, especially on George Washington's birthdays. But these meetings continued only till 1934 when these too ended.

Similarly the Philomathic Debating Society continued to exist and prosper, and met regularly every Sunday at the Division Street Talmud Torah until sometime in the 1950's. Thus also did Boy Scout, Troop #23, continue, to function strongly in its activities for some-

time. Indeed at a reunion held in 1928, at which occasion the beloved Fred M. Butzel was the Guest of Honor, the former members decided to organize an Alumni Association with Alfred A. Klunover as chairman. Reunions continued to be held annually for a time until they subsequently became part of the "Hannah Schloss Old Timers."

The Old Hannah Schloss Building became Trinity Hospital and continued as a hospital until High Street ceased to exist, as a result of the urban renewal demolition at that time.

Now the movement changed as neighborhoods changed; and soon all the activities became centered in the then New Aaron DeRoy Building at Holbrook and Woodward Streets; then all these clubs moved to a building at Davison and Petoskey Streets for a short time, and finally we moved

to our large and beautiful location presently at Curtis and Meyers Streets.

In 1954 the American Jewish Tercentenary Year was widely observed by both American Jewry in particular, and by the American people as a whole. In every conceivable way, the dramatic story of the Jewish people in America, covering three hundred years of immigration, integration and accomplishment was evaluated and praised. Detroit's Jewish community commemorated this historic occasion with a year long program of outstanding events, under the able chairmanship of Philip Slomovitz, editor and publisher of *The Jewish News*, aided by a committee of 300 other prominent individuals of Metropolitan Detroit.

The year 1954 also happened to be the Centennial of the founding of the Y.M.H.A. and the Jewish Center Movement in the United States.

It was in this atmosphere of two important historical events, widely publicized, that Irwin Shaw, Director of the Detroit Jewish Center, felt that the time had come to issue a call for a meeting to organize the formation of a group to be known as the "Hannah Schloss Old Timers." He voiced his idea to Saul Gordon and indicated that a meeting room and a special reception would be provided for the group, at which time they could discuss the details of the formation of such an organization.

Accordingly, the following alumni from the boys clubs of the old Hannah Schloss Memorial Building remained after the Annual meeting of the Jewish Community Center, held on June 3, 1954, at the Dexter Davison branch of the Center, for a special reception given in their honor, by the Center: Harold Applebaum, Charles Ball, Isadore Ball, Samuel G. Bank, Henry H. Crane, Sam Curtis, Dr. Robert Drews, Meyer Epstein, Albert Foreman, Ben Glassier, Nathaniel H. Goldstick, Saul Gordon, Michael Greene, Alfred Klunover, Dr. Edward Koslow, Samuel Levine, Harry K. Mendelson, Barney Newman, Gus D. Newman, Peter Pliscow, Sam Raskin, Samuel H. Rubiner, Saul Saulson, Abe Schmier, Ben P. Waterstone, Reuben Weiner and Hy Keidan.

Irwin Shaw addressed the group and stated that the meeting had been arranged by the Center in response to numerous requests from individual "Old Timers" who had expressed interest in meeting with some of their old friends from the Hannah Schloss period. He indicated that the Center would be willing to sponsor such an organization if there was a real interest in it by the "Old Timers."

Gus D. Newman, who had addressed the "Old Timers" at the meeting, acted as Chairman at the reception. Mr. Newman recalled some of his early experiences; and Hy Keidan emphasized the responsibility of the "Old Timers" who had benefited from the community, for seeing to it that the present generation should also be served by community resources. Alfred Klunover described the reunion of Boy Scout Troop #23, and others

reminisced about old times. Some of the men present had not seen each other for twenty years or more.

As these men talked over the days gone by, the enthusiasm increased. It became apparent that there was a genuine desire for a real old-fashioned get together—"A reunion on a large scale."

To effect such a reunion, it was agreed that a steering committee be set up to formulate plans for the reunion, as well as for a permanent "Old Timers" organization. By acclamation, Sam Raskin was chosen as Chairman, with Hy Keidan, Al Klunover, Gus Newman and Saul Gordon as the others members. Mr. Raskin asked everyone present to contact every "Old Timer" he could find. The requirement for eligibility as an "Old Timer," as promulgated by the committee, was that "any male who participated in any of the activities, clubs, teams and related organizations of the Old Hannah Schloss Memorial Building be considered an "Old Timer."

— First Official Reunion —

The first official reunion of the "Old Timers" was held on Wednesday evening, October 27, 1954 in the auditorium of the Dexter-Davison branch of the Jewish Community Center, and was attended by 80 persons. It was decided at this reunion to form a permanent organization and to name it the "Hannah Schloss Old Timers." Samuel Raskin was elected President.

— Administration of Samuel Raskin —

The first Board of Directors consisted of Irwin I. Cohn, Dr. Robert Drews, Maxwell Freeman, Nathaniel Goldstick, Saul Gordon, Hy Keidan, Barney Keywell, Al Klunover, Gus D. Newman, Joe Newman, Samuel Snitz and Samuel Sternberg.

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors on November 23, 1954, Gus D. Newman was elected vice-president, Irwin I. Cohn—Treasurer and Abraham Kastenbaum—Secretary (Kastenbaum was an associate Director of the Jewish Community Center), and he was elected an honorary member of the Hannah Schloss Old Timers in order to be eligible to serve as Secretary. Abe was a most valuable aid in our early life, giving generously of his time.

On January 5, 1955, a general membership meeting was held in the auditorium of the Esther Berman Memorial Building of the United Hebrew Schools, at which time the Association's By-Laws were adopted.

At the membership meeting on April 20, 1955, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that the Hannah Schloss Old Timers perpetuate the memory of Fred M. Butzel by carrying on one of his many activities as part of their present program: namely, to act as advisors and counselors to the Jewish Youth of Detroit who are in need of such guidance, consultation and assistance."

On January 19, 1956, the Annual Installation Meeting was held at the Dexter-Davison branch of the Jewish Community Center with Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Henry M. Butzel as the guest speaker. At the meeting on October 25, 1956, the membership decided to sponsor basketball teams in the Bidy basketball league within the program of the Jewish Community. These teams adopted the names of the various clubs. There were in all, ten teams. Medals and awards were to be given to the various age groups. A victory dinner was held for all the members of all clubs.

The first dinner dance of the membership was held at Holiday Manor, January 19, 1957. The committee in charge consisted of: Mike Greene, Edward Schlusell and Johnny Lebow.

At a meeting held April 24, 1957, a resolution was made and adopted, that in addition to the annual contribution of at least \$1,000.00 to the Jewish Center, we also make contributions to the Allied Jewish Campaign. The resolution passed unanimously.

Subsequent to the presidency of Samuel Raskin, the following member have served as presidents: Irwin I. Cohn, Harry Slavin, Abe A. Schmier, Michael Green, Edward I. Schlusel, Harry T. Madison, Harry L. Pliskow, Barney Barnett, Dr. Arthur Gilbert and Alfred A. Klunover.

It remains our constant effort to support the Jewish Agencies to the best of our ability and to place back into the community the joy and privileges that were given to us in our youth.

In Room 315 of the Jewish Center, at Curtis and Meyers Streets, one will find on display all sorts of trophies, medals, pictures, awards, including an award of a bat and ball made famous by the great Tyrus Raymond Cobb. These were earned by our members during their active years in athletic competition.

Within the confines of our Memorial Room, we have a permanent plaque with the names of deceased members inscribed there on numbering, at this time several hundred. In further recognition of their memory we hold annual memorial services, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These services are conducted by various Rabbis and Cantors of our community.

In conclusion—one might gather from the foregoing that the name of the game is "Nostalgia"—and this is certainly correct. For all of us, every one represents a part of our lives that we cherish, and will hold onto for as long as we can.

OFFICERS

Samuel Raskin	- -	President
Gus D. Newman	- -	Vice-President
Irwin I. Cohn	- -	Treasurer
Abraham Kastenbaum	- -	Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two Years - Jan. 1, 1956

One Year - Jan. 1, 1957

Dr. Hebert S. Dress
Hy A. Keiden
Barney Keywell
Al Klunover
Joe Newman
Morrey Robinson

Nathaniel Goldstick
Saul Gordon
Jacob Mazer
Samuel Snitz
Abe Srere
Samuel Sternberg

FIRST
ANNUAL
INSTALLATION
DINNER MEETING

7:00 P.M.
JANUARY 19, 1956

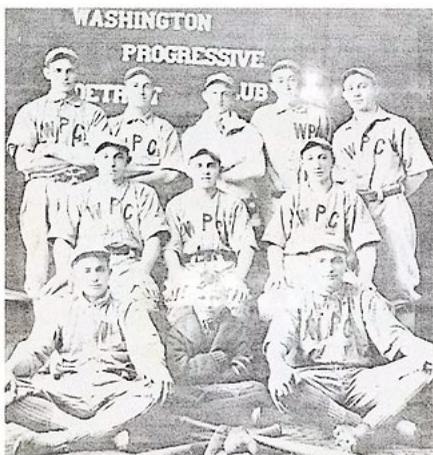
Front page of program of First Installation
Dinner Meeting



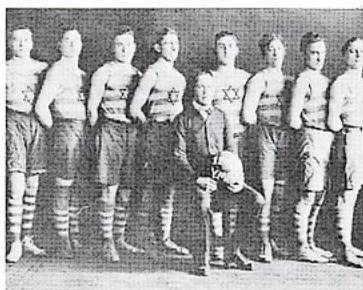
Fred M. Butzel
President, 1912-16



Boy Scout Troop 23—
Jewish Institute



The Washington Progressive Club
Top Row: Joe Newman, Ruby Weiner,
S. J. Rosenberg "Coach," Bill Abramson, —?
Second Row: Lou Schwartz,—Bernstein, —?
Bottom Row: Dave Freedman, Babe Weiner,
"Mascot," Meyer Waterstone.



1913 Basketball Team at Y.M.H.A.
Left to right: Hy Keiden, Sam Raskin,
Dave Block, Al Foreman, Lou Miller,
Dave Curtis, Morey Robinson,
Gus Newman, Captain.

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan Unveils Commemorative Plaque

by Dr. Abraham Rogoff



**Unveiling of the Plaque in the Foyer of the Bonstelle Theater
of Wayne State University, May 25, 1975.**

**Left to right: Dr. Henry Green, Abraham Satovsky, Dr.
Abraham Rogoff, Dr. Henry V. Baum, Dr. Jay W. Allen**

On May 25, 1975, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the Bonstelle Theatre of Wayne State University, denoting that this beautiful building, designed by the famous architect, Albert Kahn, was built by Temple Beth El of Detroit and occupied as a temple from 1903-1922.

Present at this unveiling were:

Dr. A. S. Rogoff, President, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, Mr. Allan Warsen, Founder and Honorary President, J.H.S.M., Dr. I. Edgar, Past-president and Editor of *Michigan Jewish History*, Dr. Henry Green, Vice-president, J.H.S.M., Mr. Walter Field, Treasurer, J.H.S.M., Mrs. Bernard Panush, Financial secretary, J.H.S.M., Mrs. I. Edgar, Corresponding Secretary, J.H.S.M., Mr. Abe Satovsky, Mr. Bernard Panush and Mrs. A. S. Rogoff, Members of the Board of the J.H.S.M., Mr. Paul Pentocost, Information services, W.S.U.

During the presentation, Dr. Rogoff made these remarks:

Dear Dr. Baum, Mr. Jay Allen, Mr. Canvasser,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

As president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, I welcome you to this important event.

The J.H.S.M. was founded 16 years ago. It's founder is Mr. Allen Warsen. *One* of the purposes of the J.H.S.M. is to memorialize historic personalities, events and institutions to which the Jews of Michigan have made a substantial contribution. Thus, in 1964, through our efforts, an historical marker was erected on the grounds of the restored Fort Michilimackinac at Mackinac City, commemorating the first Jewish settler in Michigan—Exekiel Solomun.

In 1972, as a result of the hard and persistent work of Mr. Allen Warsen, the Common Council and the Mayor of the City of Detroit, by resolution and proclamation, recognized the contributions to the City and State of the late David E. Heineman. Mr. Heineman served as a member and President of the Common Council of the City of Detroit and in various capacities on other civic, educational, cultural, historical, political and social commissions and organizations. He was also a member of the State legislature. Last, but by no means least, he designed the Detroit flag which the Common Council, in 1948, accepted as the official flag of the City of Detroit. The stained glass replica of that flag was incorporated in the decorations of the old City Hall. Through the efforts of Mr. Warsen and the J.H.S.M., the Common Council and Mayor Gribbs agreed to have the stained glass window portraying the flag of Detroit preserved and placed in the window above the entrance of the Detroit Historical Museum.

After much research and effort by Dr. I. Edgar, a marker will be appropriately placed at a selected site of the first Jewish house of worship in Detroit.

Today, we are here to memorialize another religious, cultural and historic Jewish institution—the old Temple Beth El. At a board meeting of the J.H.S.M., on March 27, 1974, Mr. Warsen offered a resolution

which was passed by the Board to the effect that our Society communicate with the President of Wayne State University suggesting our desire that a plaque be placed at the Bonstelle Theatre establishing the fact that this beautiful structure was originally built and occupied by Temple Beth El. I'm most happy to report that our suggestion was enthusiastically received by Dr. Gullan, President of Wayne State University. His office gave us full co-operation, for which we are most grateful. Today, Dr. Baum is with us to represent Dr. Gullan and Wayne State University. Mr. Jay W. Allen, President and Mr. Robert N. Canvasser, honorary president, representing Temple Beth El.

I shall now ask Mr. Warsen to make the presentation. The following were the remarks made by Mr. Warsen.

This is the second time that I have the privilege to present a monument on behalf of the Michigan Jewish Historical Society. The first time, I presented the Ezekiel Solomon monument at Fort Michilimackinac to the state of Michigan in 1964. Ezekiel Solomon, as we know, was the first known Michigan Jew. It is unfortunate that we don't have a monument in memory of Detroit's first Jew, Chapman Abraham.

We must remember that congregation Beth El is as old as the Detroit Jewish Community. This year marks their 125th anniversary.

I would like to call your attention that our nation gained its independence only 86 years prior to the founding of the Detroit Jewish Community; and Michigan became a state 13 years before the establishment of our community.

In this connection, I must note that the history of Detroit Jewry is closely linked with the history of Detroit, the state of Michigan and our country.

I must also note that this beautiful structure, with its splendid cupola, formerly Temple Beth El, designed by Albert Kahn, is symbolic of religion, art and education.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure and I am greatly honored to present this impressive historic marker on behalf of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan to Wayne State University, my alma mater.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1974-75

June 8, 1975

June 8, 1975

Dr. Abraham Rogoff

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with much pleasure that I welcome you most sincerely to this, the 16th annual meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

We have changed the place and time of this annual meeting hoping to make it more convenient for more of our members to attend. I am very pleased to see that it was a good decision. This is the best attendance we have had in several years. We are most anxious to have our members share in the plans and activities of our organization.

I want to introduce, as a special guest, Mrs. Alice C. Dalligan, Chief, Burton Historical Collection.

For the benefit of those who have not attended previous meetings, I should like to review the purposes of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, as stated in our constitution: To wit "The purposes of this Society shall be to foster the collection, preservation and publication of materials on the history of the Jews in Michigan; to encourage all projects, celebrations, and other activities which tend to spread authentic information concerning Michigan Jewish History; to foster all efforts to create a wider interest on the part of Michigan Jews in the growth and development of their respective Jewish communities; and to memorialize historic personalities, events and institutions in Detroit and Michigan to which the Jews of Michigan have made a substantial contribution. The most recent event in the latter objective was accomplished only two weeks ago. An impressive bronze plaque was unveiled in the lobby of the Bonstelle Theatre, now a part of Wayne State University, denoting the fact that the original beautiful building was built and occupied by Temple Beth El. Wayne State University and Temple Beth El participated with us in this ceremony. The president of Temple Beth El, Mr. J. W. Allan was so impressed that he became a life member of our organization.

For the preservation of the materials on the history of the Jews in Michigan, we have established an archives repository in the Burton Historical Collection housed in the Detroit Public Library. During the year, we added a great amount of old records and materials given to us by Temple Beth El as well as all the records from the Turover Society in Delray and the records of Congregation Beth Shumel, the Schul of Rabbi Robinovits which was located on Dexter and Buena Vista.

At the suggestion and under the leadership of our treasurer, Mr. Walter Field, a History Study Group was initiated to meet on Saturday afternoon every two weeks. The name of the Study Group is Jewish

History Dialogue. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Dr. Edgar is trying very hard to obtain oral history in the form of memoir tapes of older citizens as well as to increase interest among young Jews on college campuses in regard to Jewish History. Essay contests with a nominal prize from the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan is being considered among college students. There is a lot to be done in this field. We definitely need young members.

Arrangements have been made by Mrs. S. Friedman and Mr. Panush for the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan to participate this year in the Jewish Book Fair with a special program.

At the suggestion of Mr. Walter Field, a life membership classification in the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was established with \$100.00 dues. Mr. Field became the first member.

During the year, we responded as a Jewish organization to requests by the Jewish Community Council to voice our protest as in the case of General Brown's slanderous statements about American Jews and our concern about the fate of certain Jews in the Soviet Union. These letters were addressed to our Michigan Senators, to Secretary of Defense Schlesinger, Secretary of State Kissinger, the Russian Ambassador Dobrynin and the Russian Foreign Minister Gromyko. All except Dobrynin and Gromyko responded sympathetically.

Our semi-annual magazine under the able editorship of Dr. I. Edgar and associate editor, Irving Katz continues to be an outstanding publication, much to the credit of our organization.

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan conceived and founded by a few people, such as Mr. Allen A. Warsen and others concerned about Michigan Jewish History, soon found an active response in the Jewish Community, so that now we constitute an important organizational part of the total Jewish Community.

As unfinished business, I want to mention two items: 1: Cataloguing the material in our archives. Our material is lying in boxes and has to be catalogued. For that we need volunteers. Mrs. Dalligan, I'm sure will direct and help us do the job. 2: We need to develop a project to participate in the Jewish Community celebration of the Bi-Centennial.

It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as your president these last two years, and I thank you very much for your trust and confidence.

In conclusion, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the other officers and the Board of Directors of our organization, all of whom were very helpful and co-operative. I want to thank especially Mr. Warsen for his many suggestions, Dr. I. Edgar and I. Katz, not only for their Editorship of our magazine, which I mentioned before, but for all the guidance

and advice they gave me whenever I turned to them; to our Vice President, Dr. Henry Green, who continues diligently to cover the Jewish Communities in the State of Michigan. He is on the way to a much deserved promotion. This is not a political plug. I am thankful to our treasurer, Mr. Walter Field, who in addition to taking care of our money, is resourceful of constructive and practical new ideas. My thanks to Mrs. Anna Panush who has done a marvelous job as financial secretary for the last five years. This is a hard job. She did it well and we reluctantly accede to her request to be relieved. Thank you, Mrs. Panush.

Our recording secretary, the reliable and efficient Mrs. Easton, is willing to continue in her job. So is our corresponding secretary, Mrs. Edgar. I am very happy and appreciative of that. Thank you both very much.

Last but not least, I want to express my appreciation to one more hard worker. She does not have any official position, but she has been very helpful throughout the year with telephone calls and many other chores, but then, I would expect that of her. She is only the President's wife.

To the members of the board:

Rabbi Leon Fram

Mr. and Mrs. M. Friedman

Louis LaMed

Reuben Levine

Bernard Panush

Abraham Satovsky

Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Schwartz

Dr. Lee F. Weinstock

Leo Chalk.

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your loyal interest and co-operation. Thank you one and all.

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

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

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

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

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

Material can be sent to the Editor, 1036 David Whitney Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

