

# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



## United States Senate

My congratulations to you on your 30th Anniversary. I commend the Society for the work it has done in chronicling the life and times of the Jewish community in Michigan. . . continue to do so that all of us will be more aware of our past and our significant contributions to the state of Michigan.

*Carl Levin*



### JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION OF DETROIT. . .

Greetings on behalf of our officers and board on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the JHSofM. . . the work of the society has been of inestimable value. . . the organized Jewish community of Detroit is fortunate to have an active and involved group of "historiographers" who are passing on the proud story of Michigan Jewry to future generations.

*Mark E. Schlussel, president*



### AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. . .

Congratulations and best wishes. You have a long record of achievement. We trust your future activities will be as fruitful and beneficial to both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities as they have been in the past. We wish you every success in seeking to establish an Archive. . . if we can be of assistance please let us know.

*Bernard Wax, director*



### MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION. . .

In recognition of 30 years of service to the history of Michigan and its Jewish community we extend our warmest congratulation. The JHSofM is a leading advocate of the collection, preservation and distribution of materials accenting the vital role of the Jewish people in Michigan's development. . . we hope you will continue the tradition for many years to come.

*John B. Swainson, president*



### DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY — BURTON COLLECTION. . .

Heartfelt congratulations to JHSofM. . . we all greatly appreciate having MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY as a resource for area history, and we are proud to be the depository for the papers of the organization. Best wishes for many more decades of success collecting, preserving and publishing Michigan's Jewish history.

*(Mrs.) Noel Van Gorden, - chief, Burton Historical Collection*



### AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES. . .

Celebrating your 30th anniversary pleases me no end. American Jewish historiography is coming of age. . . and you people have helped it develop. . . today there are about 100 such historical and genealogical societies. Thank you very much for all you have done. We students in the field are very grateful.

*Jacob R. Marcus, director*



### DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. . .

Congratulations to the JHSM on its 30th Anniversary. Your historical society is to be especially commended for collecting and publishing the distinguished record of our Jewish citizens and their splendid contributions to the culture and conscience of the greater community and for enriching the lives of all of us.

*Michael W. R. Davis, exec. director*



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# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

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

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

Joshua 4:21

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**30TH ANNIVERSARY. . . 1959-1989.** Time certainly does fly by when you do something you truly enjoy. That's the story of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan and our group of supporters on this significant occasion.

It's also a good time to pause and pay our respects to the impressive list of names, men and women with vision, ideals and dreams who founded the J.H.S.M of M. back thirty years ago. (*The names are shown at the end of my message.*)

Briefly, the reason for our society's worthy existence, as spelled out in our by-laws, is threefold:

- (1) *The purpose of this Society shall be to foster the collection, preservation and publication of all materials on the history of the Jews in Michigan*
- (2) *to encourage all projects, celebrations and other activities which tend to spread authentic information concerning Michigan Jewish history*
- (3) *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 cooperate with other historical societies.*

In these past thirty years the J.H.S. of M. has been able to achieve many of our goals to help record for posterity the accomplishments etc. of our local state Jewish community. And, we're continuing to do the best we can with our limited funds and manpower, or I should also say "and womanpower."

Throughout the years linking all of our efforts together has been our journal, "MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY." This scholarly journal, documenting the history of the Jews in our state, has been highly regarded as an historical reference. It can be found in libraries, schools, and institutions.

I'm very happy with this, our 30th Anniversary "MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY" edition. In it are many articles I'm sure you will find interesting, enjoyable and new to you. The information about the many plaques J.H.S. of M. has helped erect, some referring back over 100 years, keeps on reminding the general public about their Jewish good neighbors, the Jews of Michigan who have lived here for so many generations.

We established the Michigan Jewish Genealogical Index in the summer of 1982. The file, composed of birth and death records of Jewish communities throughout Michigan, has been a tremendous help to those engaged in family research.

However, we are not content to just reflect on past glories. We eagerly look to the future. We're especially proud of our successful Jewish History QUIZ program which we originated and initiated last year. We look forward to another Walter and Lea Field Jewish History QUIZ this winter. It represents a closer relationship between our Society with its emphasis on history, and our youth who, in future years, will record the present time and shall call it "history."

We are also actively participating with the Wayne State University "Center for Jewish Studies" as well as the Hillel Foundation at W.S.U., and also our Jewish Welfare Federation, plus the "Jewish Experience for Families." We are planning a Symposium Exhibit entitled, "A History of Jews of Detroit." This will take place in March of 1991.

Our long range goals are even more exciting. An Endowment Committee has been formed and plans are being made to actively seek "angels." With these funds it is our plan to build and maintain a local Jewish ARCHIVE depository where all of the records of our Jewish organizations and establishments can be preserved and catalogued in an organized and controlled environment. Hopefully, with the cooperation of our Jewish Welfare Federation and the United Jewish Charities, some day there will be an exhibit hall where regular exhibits about documents in the Archives will be displayed to the public.

Admittedly, this ambitious project cannot be achieved in a few months but it must get started. We are making plans and working towards that goal. As the history of our religion and the Jewish pioneers of Michigan have shown us - nothing is impossible. So, let's get doing!

My thanks for all the wonderful cooperation I received from so many members - too numerous to mention. You made my first year in office a lot of fun and worth the effort we've all put into our "labor of our love project."

*ADELE STALLER,  
President*

\*1959 FOUNDING OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Pres. Allen A. Warsen, V.P. Irving I. Katz, Sec. Joseph Babicki, Treas. Richard Leland Emanuel Applebaum, Frank Barcus, Arthur Lang, Leonard W. Moss, Maxwell Nadis



WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE  
**ANNUAL BOOK FAIR - SUN. NOV. 12th**

*For over 20 years, our Society has participated each year in the ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FAIR at our Jewish Community Center. This year, Sunday, November 12, at 2:00 pm, we will sponsor and present in cooperation with the Jewish War Veterans.*

LOUIS G. REDSTONE

His autobiography "*From Israeli Pioneer to American Architect*" was just published by the Iowa State University Press. Redstone, a leading Detroit architect, artist and author, writes of his life beginning with birth in turn-of-the century Grodno, Russia. During W.W.I. he escaped from his Polish-occupied homeland to safety in Palestine and immigrated to the U.S. in 1923. This very interesting book is another milestone in a distinguished career which recently marked the 50th anniversary of his firm, Louis G. Redstone Associates, Inc.

## PROLOGUE:

*The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan constantly searches for more facts concerning our local Jewish heritage. Sometimes we get lucky, called "serendipity," and come across something unique as this autobiographical fin de siecle saga of Marian Blitz Heavenrich's youth. She wrote it for her children. We found it in the Leo M. Franklin Archives of Temple Beth El. These excerpts give us an interesting and important insight on how some of our pioneer families lived in Detroit during the mid-nineteenth century.*

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## "RECOLLECTIONS"

by

Marian Blitz Heavenrich

This is not a geneological record in logical sequence, but a hit and miss recording of data of interest concerning the *Blitz, Kaichen and Heavenrich families*, some of it gleaned from letters and papers in my possession, the rest handed down to me, mainly by my mother, from my early childhood, stored in memory throughout the years.

I entered the world as Marian Israella Blitz, August 29, 1879, the first born of Otilie Kaichen and Louis Blitz. I was delivered at 309 E. Congress St., the home purchased by my grandfather on arriving from Louisville, KY in 1864 to take up residence in Detroit to be near his two daughters: Pauline, Mrs. Isaac Rosenfield, and Fanny, Mrs. Joseph Steinfeld.

In passing, I must say that my middle name was a thorn in the flesh. It was inflicted by my very erudite aunt, Julia Kaichen Simpson, my mother's eldest sister, in memory of my grandfather Israel Blitz, who deceased two months before my birth.

Dr. Morse Stewart, the old family doctor who lived on E. Jefferson near Rivard, just two blocks from our residence, included my delivery in the annual fee of \$100 he was paid for medical service to the entire family. Sixteen months after my arrival Grace arrived on the scene, a beautiful blond child with big brown eyes; and in 1885 our only brother, Frank, was born among great rejoicing.

In the Congress Street home where I spent the first ten years of my life, my grandmother had the large front bedroom. Although I was scarcely seven when she died, I can recall every detail of my daily morning visit to her. She was usually seated by the front window with the sun streaming in on her, immaculately gowned in black silk with gold jewelry. She was a beautiful woman with very fine features, silver hair parted in the center and drawn down in a knot at the back of her neck. She had



*Marian Israella Blitz  
at age twenty one*

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naturally colored rosy cheeks and deep blue eyes. Usually, at that hour, her own personal maid would bring in a glass of wine and some French bread buttered with sweet butter, and she always gave me a sip of the wine and a piece of the bread and butter. Her smile was something I shall never forget.

Our grandmother was born in the year 1810 in Bensheim, Germany, the daughter of a wealthy miller in that town. She was the belle of the town, and had at a young age a romance resulting in an engagement to a young man who, unfortunately, died before they could marry. Thereafter she had vowed never to marry, but she visited in Frankfort some years later and met our grandfather, Israel Blitz, who was five years her junior, having been born in the suburb of Frankfort called Roedelheim, in 1815, the son of Simon Blitz who was born sometime during the late eighteenth century. She fell in love with him and they were married, and my grandfather moved to Bensheim, where they lived until he decided to emigrate to the United States ten years later, when he had acquired a family of six children, of which our father was the fifth.

I have in my possession a letter which our great grandfather, Bacharach, sent to our grandfather, Israel Blitz, to Frankfort, to welcome him as a future son-in-law when he got the news of the engagement of his daughter. Also, I have a bill that was rendered to this great-grandfather for the trousseau of his daughter Betty, showing that he really had means, because the bill itemized the fine hand linen, the real laces, all the luxuries that were only possible at that time for people of considerable wealth.

When they came to America, they came on a sailing ship. It took six weeks to get to New York. They brought with them very fine oil paintings, their silk quilts, most of the possessions that they had enjoyed in their more luxurious living in Germany. They went directly to Louisville, KY, where my grandmother's brother had preceded them. He had Americanized his name from Bacharach to Bakrow, and evidently there were other members of the Blitz family who came there too, because my father had first cousins there who bore the same family names that he and his brother had. My father would tell us how they were Northern sympathizers during the Civil War, and how he remembered helping his father carry huge kettles of hot soup to the trenches for the Union forces.

My father had three sisters, Fanny, Pauline and Bertha, and one brother, Samuel, who married my mother's sister Martha, who was just one year my mother's senior. The sixth child (youngest) died and had to be buried at sea. That was always evidently a great sorrow to our grandmother. Samuel was very blond, blue-eyed, ruddy-cheeked handsome man and didn't resemble my father in any way, father having dark brown eyes and black hair, also very handsome but entirely dissimilar in appearance. The daughters were also handsome. Aunt Bertha married Hyman Frank of Pittsburgh, the son of William Frank, who was a manufacturer of window glass. Hyman Frank was a genius, very clever, an inventor, but seemed to lack practical application for his invention.

One of the things that brought our grandfather to Detroit was Hyman Frank's project to establish a window glass factory in the suburb of Detroit then called Delray. Uncle Hyman had invented a process for making window glass by machinery, a very intricate and costly thing, which cost about \$60,000 to install in the factory that they did establish. My grandfather and Joseph Steinfeld, who had considerable money and had come from a small town in Indiana to Detroit,

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furnished the capital (Steinfeld providing most of it), and Hyman Frank put in his invention as his share. The firm was called “Steinfeld, Frank & Blitz.” When it was established, our father was at the U. of Michigan, where he took a law course and was graduated as a lawyer with the class of 1872. While he was there, he was one of the charter members of the famous Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, Kent chapter.

After my father was graduated and came back to Detroit, he found the firm of “Steinfeld, Frank & Blitz” not flourishing, losing a great deal of money, so he made a study of the situation, remaining out at Delray and staying with the foreman of the factory for six months. He decided the best thing to do was to scrap all this expensive machinery and put in the old fashioned methods of making glass, which he proceeded to do. Before he could do that, my grandfather formed the firm of “Israel Blitz & Son,” buying out Hyman Frank, and Joseph Steinfeld left his money in as a special partner. At that time, it was reduced to about \$40,000 on which he was paid 10% but he was not active. The business was really run from that time on by my father.

It was about 1874 or 1875 when this reorganization took place, and our grandfather died abroad where he had gone for his health, to take the baths. He died in the home in which he was born in Frankfort, Germany, so that my father then was left alone in the business, and he eventually paid off Uncle Joe Steinfeld in full, reorganized again, and changed the firm’s name to “Louis Blitz & Co.”

My father had brought over Belgian glass workers who settled near the factory. He had houses constructed for them, and there must have been fifty or sixty Belgian families living in that neighborhood. The business flourished, but about 1881 there was a very disastrous fire. They tried very hard to bring the fire engines from Detroit, having no fire engines in that vicinity, and they had to come down by boat because the roads were so bad, so unpaved and muddy. By the time the fire engines, and the steamer that was bringing them, got to the docks in Delray on the Rouge, the factory had burned to the ground. Unfortunately, the bookkeeper who had charge of the insurance and all financial details, had neglected to renew the insurance which had lapsed the day before, so that my father was left with nothing but the property, and had to borrow the money to put up a brick structure, which was very modern for those days and much bigger than the original factory.

The business continued to flourish for many years, and until 1893, which was the height of a depression within my memory, our father carried on, although it was a terrific burden for him to both manufacture in Delray, which was five miles from the City Hall but was a separate municipality, and also have his large warehouse and retail business in Detroit, which at that time was at the corner of Jefferson Ave. and Wayne St. Shortly after the depression, our father decided to give up the manufacturing end. He had always purchased the plate glass, importing it from Belgium. He made just the American window glass, but it was no longer profitable to do it; he could buy it almost as cheaply as he could manufacture it.

He continued his jobbing business, which improved somewhat, but his health was affected. It was too much of a burden for him physically to have so much responsibility, and when the Pittsburgh Plate Glass people decided to come into

## “RECOLLECTIONS”

Detroit at the turn of the century, when the automobile business was still in its infancy but gave such great promise - Detroit for the first time was starting to boom - they made him an offer to buy him out. He had been a customer of theirs for his imported glass and they thought very highly of him. They told him they didn't want to come in and be a competitor, but they were determined to get the business. They offered him 100¢ on the dollar for his stock, everything that he had, and so around the late nineties, I think it must have been about 1899, he decided that he would accept the offer. I remember that he came home and showed us a check for \$135,000 which he had received that day for the stock he had on hand.

My father decided to engage again in business, and he opened an office in the Union Trust building which was then new, the best office building in the city, and engaged in what he called investment banking, dealing only in securities that he himself had investigated and could recommend, and he became very successful in this field. Previously he had had considerable banking experience because, while in the glass business, he had been invited to become a vice-president of the old German-American Bank by the Kanters, who were his intimate friends, and he built up a very fine reputation for honor and business ability, so that he was doing extremely well in this business up until the time he died in 1905 at the age of 54. He also was an agent for some of the big factories in Detroit such as the Solvoy Process, from which he always made good commissions, so that his earnings were even better than they had been in the latter years in the glass business.

Our relatives, the Rosenfields, had a large home on the corner of Congress St. and Russell, about a half a block east of our home. We saw very little of the Rosenfield children. Our aunt was a darling, but the ten children evidently were too much for her to manage, and they grew up like Topsy. Our father disapproved of the type of bringing up they were receiving, so we were not permitted to see much of these cousins for fear we might emulate their free-and-easy ways. Aunt Pauline was a darling and they were a happy-go-lucky family that led a carefree life. They moved to New York and one of the daughters married William Zeckendorf, and their son is the famed promoter and real estate wizard. Our aunt Fanny Steinfeld, on the contrary, brought up her twelve children with a firm hand, and inculcated in them all the cardinal virtues. Both the Rosenfields and the Steinfelds moved to New York while I was still a young woman. The Steinfeld sons achieved great financial success, and showered their mother and sisters with every luxury.

Most of our neighbors on Congress St. were high middle-class in a social sense, but solid people, especially those of German extraction: the Webers, the Rolshovens, the Breisachers. The three Weber girls were our best friends. The Webers had the finest home in the block.



*Marian Blitz  
at age six*

## “RECOLLECTIONS”

Their daughters were Delia, Julia and Aline. When Christmas came, we hung up our stockings, but envied the Weber girls and their beautiful tree which we were invited to gaze at annually.

When I was seven years old, I was very unhappy because I was not permitted to attend the public school with other neighborhood children. This was because my father feared I would be too exposed to illness. Each morning I borrowed a book, and when the school bells rang I would walk with the other children to school, pretend to go in one door, come out the other door and walk home, a crestfallen child. My father bought a large blackboard, which was hung on the dining room wall, and two little desks for Grace and myself, and engaged a visiting governess who arrived every morning at half-past-eight to instruct us.

In the fall, father took Grace and myself to the Liggett School, interviewed Miss Ella Liggett, and placed us there as day students. We were both put into the fourth grade after this year of private instruction. As we had to take two streetcars, I always was the guardian of Grace, who seemed much younger than I because she had been quite ill as a child. When she was four, she had an attack of scarlet fever followed by an attack of rheumatic fever that left her with a valvular heart, so that for quite a few years she had to be safeguarded in every way. We had to take two old horse-drawn streetcars to get to the school, which was at the corner of Cass and Stimson Place. We would walk up to Jefferson, which was two long blocks up Rivard, take the streetcar there, and then transfer at the corner of Woodward and Jefferson to get to Stimson Place. Our neighbors thought that we were making a trip out of the world, and that it showed a great deal of courage to go alone and use two streetcars. We continued our education at the Liggett School right through until the time that we were ready for college. Elle Liggett was an outstanding educator, one of the finest in the country. We were very privileged to have been under her aegis.

When I was ten, father sold the house. The neighborhood was declining to a certain extent, and we moved temporarily to a very fine new apartment building on Jefferson Ave., near the corner of Hastings. Our apartment was in the newly constructed Blodgett Terrace, a series of connected handsome houses, each one containing two flats. We had the end house and were on the second floor. There were no kitchens in any of the flats, because there was a very large dining room and kitchen attached to this series of houses, where all the people who had apartment took their meals. These were the first flats to appear on exclusive Jefferson Ave., and they were unique.

In September 1890, we moved to a large home which my father had rented for \$75 a month, at 25 Bagg St., now Temple. It was the first house off Woodward, and on the corner was a very large empty lot, so that we could look right across Woodward Ave., diagonally facing the old Heavenrich home at the corner of Woodward and Alfred. (Our quarters were very spacious.) There were four bedrooms on the second floor and two on the third floor. One of the second floor bedrooms was reserved for mother's sisters, who took turns in being "permanent" guests, and who helped to regulate our conduct, in fact our entire lives. My father, always the courteous Southern gentleman, treated them with the finest type hospitality. One room on the third floor was occupied by uncle Charlie (Kaichen) part of the time. The two maids occupied the other.

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A new life began for me. For the first time I had a group of Jewish friends, girls and boys. Up to that time I know only Caroline and Edith Heavenrich, who also attended the Liggett School. Fred Butzel was my first male visitor, but Louis Hirschman and Joe Krolik and other soon followed, coming only on a Saturday afternoon to play croquet in our back yard. Naturally, living in such close proximity to the Samuel Heavenrich family, I made daily visits, where I was made to feel very much at home. My first intimacy was with Edith, two years my junior, but being mature for my age I wanted to acquire Carrie, as she was then called, as my very best friend, although three years my senior. It was two years before I accomplished this feat, but from the time I arrived at thirteen we were inseparable. My parents encouraged this close association, because they admired Caroline in every way and wished me to pattern my conduct accordingly. She was to them the perfect demosel, sans peur sans reproche.

The first important social event of my early teens was the invitation I received from the Alfred Rothschilds, Carrie's elder sister and brother-in-law, to a surprise celebration of Carrie's sixteenth birthday. Except for the yearly attendance at the Children's Ball at the Phoenix Club, this was my first evening party. My parents were visiting in New York, and Aunt Hilda, who was in charge, gave reluctant consent. Except for myself, the girls were either sixteen or seventeen, and the boys for the most part older. I had promised to be home on the stroke of ten, but I couldn't tear myself away until the party broke up at eleven o'clock. I was escorted the three blocks up Woodward by a six-footer named Sidney Mendelsohn, and was hanging on to his arm as I approached our house, when I glimpsed Aunt Hilda in the second floor window, wringing her hands and dissolved in tears. As I entered the house she called to me "How can I ever explain to your parents, your coming home at this ungodly hour, and being escorted, unchaperoned, by a young man?" Such a scene!

Grace, Frank and myself were sent off to spend the day at the Steinfelds, and when we returned home that evening we were told, to our great surprise, we had a little sister, *Helen Kaichen Blitz*. We hailed the announcement with delight, and adored her from that moment to this.

As my graduation from the Liggett School approached, my father decided that I should continue my education at his alma mater, the University of Michigan, but Miss Liggett was determined that I should go to Vassar College. My father was reluctant to send me so far removed from parental guidance, but Miss Liggett won out, so I became the first Jewish girl from Michigan to enter the college, which I did in September, 1897. In fact, it was so unusual for a girl to have more than a high school education, that up to that time, only two others, Ernestine and Belle Krolik, were given that opportunity. Ernestine became Mrs. Albert Kahn, and Belle, Mrs. David Scheyer. They attended the University of Michigan. I was fortunate in entering Vassar on a certificate of recommendation, which was only accorded those in the upper tenth of the class, and I rejoiced that I didn't have to take the dreaded examinations. My father became such an enthusiastic supporter of Vassar that both my sisters, Grace and Helen, also attended that college.

It may be of interest to note that the first time mother was allowed to go out after Helen's birth, was to attend the wedding on May 4, 1891, of Blanche Heavenrich and Alfred Rothschild. The wedding was the most elaborate affair.

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When Helen was three months old, soon after the wedding, father was advised to go to Carlsbad for relief from a stomach disorder, diagnosed as catarrh of the stomach, probably ulcers or a gall bladder condition. When American doctors were at a loss, the treatments and healing waters of German spas were prescribed as a cure all. Father was loth to go without mother, but she felt it her duty to remain at home with baby Helen, although she had her wetnurse, and she could have been spared in that respect. It must have been a difficult decision to let him go alone. He wrote of his betterment, but when ready to return in September became so ill, he cabled mother to come at once. Just as she was leaving for New York, another cable came saying he had decided to return and was sailing that day. He encountered the worst equinoxial storms in years. Many passengers suffered fractures, thousands of dishes and glassware were broken, furniture smashed, and no one could appear at meals for several days. Father was lucky to escape with only a broken tooth. Mother was at the dock in New York to meet him. She said she anxiously scanned all the faces on deck to locate him, and finally did discover a man's face that bore some resemblance to father. It was hard for her to recognize him.

Soon after his return, wooden boxes began to arrive that aroused our curiosity. More than a dozen, each one containing fine oil paintings he had selected in Munich. Among them were several of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, notably the beautiful madonna Aunt Helen now has, attributed to Holbein, but more probably one of his pupils, and the lovely Dutch or Italian interior that now hangs over my fireplace on La Salle.

Because father had to carry all the burdens of his business alone, he took in a young man as a junior partner, a relative of Uncle Joe Steinfeld's, hoping he would relieve him of some of his responsibilities. Father arranged with him to send my mother \$25 weekly for household expenses in his European absence, but he was so remiss, mother had to send me every Saturday to collect the money, taking two streetcars down to Wayne and Jefferson Ave. Upon his return, this enraged my father to such an extent that he told him the partnership must be terminated. Thinking that my father was ready to sell his interest, because of his state of health, the young man, Ed Froelich by name, and his father inventoried the assets of the business at the lowest possible figure. When it came to a showdown, my father turned the tables on them, and paid them off on the basis of the inventory they had made.

Just after my eighteenth birthday, I set off alone for far off Poughkeepsie. I refused to let my mother accompany me, although it was customary in these days to arrive at the college under maternal protection. A delegation of my best friends, of both sexes were at the Michigan Central station, along with my family, to see me off, and they rode with me on the car ferry as far as Windsor.

My first weekend in New York occurred at Thanksgiving. I was the guest of my mother's uncle, Joseph Peckel, and his daughter Martha, who later married Baron von Munchausen with the aid of a fat dowry. My father opposed this visit, on the grounds that they led too sophisticated and Bohemian an existence, but mother persuaded him to let me accept the invitation. I think my father was right, and I sensed that they lived in a different world from the simple world that surrounded me in Detroit.

## “RECOLLECTIONS”

My sophomore year at college, mother wrote that father had bought a house at 26 Woodward Terrace, an exclusive residence street on block in length, that ran from Woodward to John R., and was between Brady St. and Martin Place. It had no sidewalks, but was contoured with flower beds and a fountain. It was dubbed “Paradise Alley” by my friends, the title of a popular song of the 1890’s. This is the lovely home we lived in so happily, from which I was married, which also witnessed the untimely death of our wonderful parents; my father in 1905 at 54 years, my mother’s death in 1911 at 53. Here also Louis was born in 1910, as we were sharing this home with mother, Grace, Frank and Helen after father’s death. Helen at the time was at Vassar, and Frank in Chicago, so we had our own upstairs sitting room there and two large bedrooms. Margaret shared mother’s room. Mother finished an extra bedroom on the third floor, and an extra bath, to make this arrangement possible.

During vacation of my junior year, your dad first took notice of me as a grown-up, coming to call every week, and taking me frequently to Belle Isle via the bicycle route. Sometimes we went for a sail there, with dad at the helm of a small boat that was kept at the dock of the Yacht Club, a frame building at the head of the island, of which he was a member. The day before I returned to college, a silver jewel box in the shape of a heart, bearing my engraved initials, arrived from Wright-Kay, with a card from dad saying how much he had enjoyed my companionship, etc. most unusual for a young man ever to send any attention other than flowers, books or candies, and I felt this gift had a special significance.



*Marian Blitz at  
about 20 years of age*

When dad first saw me, in the days when I was constantly running in and out of their home, before I was twelve, he was already a young man of the world at twenty, earning a good living, and a member of the Phoenix Club, where poker was his favorite indoor sport. Naturally, he treated me as a child, and I looked upon him as hoary with age. However, through the intervening years I had observed him as the son and brother, so kind, devoted and considerate it had made a great impression upon me, and I found myself contrasting him as a model with every other man who had shown an interest in me, and so it was natural for me to reciprocate his feelings.

I thought about him constantly in the months that followed, but we only exchanged letters occasionally. When the Christmas vacation arrived, dad was traveling in the Upper Peninsula, so he was late in asking me to go with him to the New Year’s ball. Henry Wineman had already invited me, but dad managed to change the place cards at the dinner table so he was at my right, and I imagine Emily Post would have censured the lack of attention I gave my escort of the evening as the height of bad manners. Two nights later, on Jan. 2nd, 1901, we became engaged, much to my parents’ joy as well as to dad’s parents’ joy, although father insisted it must remain a secret, until after my graduation six months hence.

“RECOLLECTIONS”



*Marian & John Heavenrich at their 50th Anniversary  
reception for family and friends at home Dec. 30th 1951*



*Margaret Heavenrich at about three on  
the lap of grandmother, Otilie Kaichen Blitz*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Their beginnings in Michigan date back 136 years!*

These were the "**Heavenrich, Blitz and Kaichen**" families who were among the best known and most highly respected of all the German/Jewish settlers in our state. They were eminently successful in local business affairs as well as leaders in Jewish and civic responsibilities.

Marian Blitz and John Heavenrich were married December 30, 1901. They had five (5) children - Margaret (Mrs. Howard Kaichen who lives in Southfield), Louis (who lives in Huntington Woods), Richard of Scottsdale, Az., also John Jr., and Walter, both deceased.

Marian's parents were Louis and Oillie Kaichen Blitz. Her paternal grandparents were Israel & Betty Blitz who came to Detroit in 1861. Her maternal grandparents, Arnold and Lena (Helene) Kaichen came to Detroit in 1862.

John, born in Detroit, was one of 6 children of Samuel and Sarah Heavenrich (Himmelreich). Samuel came to Detroit at age of 14 in 1853. John was associated with his father in the very successful firm of Heavenrich Brothers, wholesale manufacturers of men's and children's clothing. Later, early 1900's, John purchased Whaling's Men's stores in Detroit. He died in 1955.

*"Marian reigned as a supreme matriarch over her brood of children until her death at age of 90 in 1970. She lived a full life involved in many communal and philanthropic projects."*

Helen Levy Welling  
(sister)

• • •

Nearly all these early Michigan Jewish immigrants were running from the aftermath of the 1848 Revolution in Germany. They were well educated and financially competent people who had sympathized with the democratic movement and now went into voluntary exile to evade the penalties of their actions.

In addition they were abandoning their native land because of all the many disabilities imposed on them such as the restrictions to marry - (so the government could prevent the Jewish population from increasing), the difficulty in acquiring legal residence, prohibited from practicing the trades and professions they knew, subjected to special taxes and humiliation daily. They saw little future for themselves and their families in Germany. They wanted to start a new life in America.

By 1850, Detroit had 51 Jews - 29 males and 22 females - most came from other parts of the U.S. where they had located first.

In the period after the American Civil War almost all our early Jewish settlers in Michigan founded trade companies which, in course of time, developed into significant business organizations.

*(leaf-tobacco, leather and wool, manufacturing of ready made clothing, men's furnishings, glass, banking, retail department stores.)*

Yes, we can take pride in the caliber of these early Michigan Jews who were so important in our local beginnings because they gave us our enviable reputation for enterprise and integrity.

Photo circa 1883  
 was found by  
 Archivist  
 Miriam  
 Kushner,  
 in the  
 Temple Beth El  
 Archives.  
 She also found  
 a letter from  
 Leo M. Butzel,  
 written a half  
 century ago, to  
 Irving Katz,  
 Temple Beth El  
 secretary,  
 identifying  
 the members  
 of the  
 Y.F.L.S.

See the  
 opposite  
 page.



“LONG LIVE THE STAUNCH OLD Y.F.L.S.”

“LONG LIVE THE STAUNCH OLD Y.F.L.S.”

- (1) *The Occasional “SOL. L’”* . . .  
was Sol Lambert, the brother of Benj. Lambert, president of Temple Beth El 1912-13.
- (2) *The Irrepressible “TOODLE”* . . .  
was the oldest son of the prominent Ortman family; not Jewish.
- (3) *The “LITTLE SID”* . . .  
was Sidney Rothschild the son of Feist Rothschild, partner in Rothschild & Bros., Tobacco dealers, Detroit and New York.
- (4) *The Generous “HARRY”* . . .  
was Harry Rothschild, son of Sigmund Rothschild, who was head of Rothschild & Bros. and also Temple Beth El president 1865-66.
- (5) *The Honorable “BOUNCER”* . . .  
was Eugene Hill, the oldest son of Mrs. Hugo Hill, the most stylish milliner of her time in Detroit.
- (6) *The Voluble “DAVE”* . . .  
was David Heineman, his mother was Fanny Butzel married to Emil Heineman who was accounted the wealthiest Detroit Jewish man of his period.
- (7) *Highly Virtuous “BUMMER”* . . .  
was Sidney Heavenrich, oldest brother of Mrs. Benj. (Hortense) Lambert, son of Simon Heavenrich, Temple Beth El president 1868-74.
- (8) *The Adolescent “WALLIE”* . . .  
was Walter S. Heavenrich, oldest son of Samuel Heavenrich, who was Temple Beth El president 1891-93 and also 1905-08. Walter was first president of Temple Beth El’s Men’s Club 1919-21.
- (9) *The Inevitable “FECH”* . . .  
was Henry M. Fechheimer (shortened to Fecheimer) married Emma Schloss daughter of Emanuel Schloss president of Temple Beth El 1859-60.
- (10) *The Dignified “ALVY”* . . .  
was Alfred Rothschild, son of Feist Rothschild, husband of Blanche Heavenrich Rothschild and father of Mrs. Grover (Ruth) Wolf.

## YOUNG FOLKS LITERARY SOCIETY

### “LONG LIVE THE STAUNCH OLD Y.F.L.S.”

*Mrs. Bernard (NORMA) Goldman*

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The caption beneath the intriguing photo of ten young men, on the previous page, translates into “Long Live the Staunch Old *YOUNG FOLKS LITERARY SOCIETY*.”

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That is the explanation for the initials according to Samuel Heavenrich, the son of Walter S. Heavenrich in the picture. He knows the *Y.F.L.S.* story. Samuel is still with us at 89; born in Detroit, he now lives in Vermont.

At the beginning of the 1880's, a little over 100 years ago, this handful of young adults formed *Y.F.L.S.* to expand their knowledge of the literary arts. This was one of their greatest joys because they found it so interesting and so stimulating. Membership in a Literary Society meant identification with books and learning, the world-wide hallmark of anyone who was well-educated or who wanted to be well-educated.

These ten scions of some of our earliest pioneer families were Jewish (except for one). They were persistent in their “pursuit of the Book.” And, it was an intense interest because in those days, maturity and responsibility seem to have been thrust upon them at a younger age than in present times.

The *Y.F.L.S.*, like other Literary Clubs, met at fixed times to discuss new works by authors, perhaps important literary voices of the past speaking to them through their writings, or the members read aloud to the others for critical discussions on the power and glory of the English language, or perhaps they read their own creations to each other.

Yes, these outstanding young, serious-minded gentlemen of the *Y.F.L.S.* were recognized in our community as being highly intelligent men with fine futures awaiting them. . .one proved to be truly *extraordinary*. . .he was -



*David Heineman as a young man in the Y.F.L.S.*

### DAVID E. HEINEMAN

His parents came to Detroit in 1851 when Detroit's Jews numbered sixty (60) out of a total population of 21,091. David was born in Detroit in 1865.

David had impressive credentials. He graduated from Detroit High School as president of his class; then finished his schooling at University of Michigan as a graduate lawyer, elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Later U. of M. gave him an honorary doctorate.

## DAVID E. HEINEMAN

He was not only a brilliant scholar but a turn-of-the-century civic leader who played an important part in our city's history. He was one of Detroit's first citizens concerned with the future of our town and its people.

He had a multiplicity of personal interests including books and libraries; he loved music. He was one of the most active and most vocal of all the leading citizen behind the movement to build the great Cultural Center we now have.

- *He secured \$750,000 from Andrew Carnegie to help build the main Detroit Public Library*
- *helped build the Detroit Institute of Arts, and founded the Scarab Club of Detroit*
- *was president of Michigan Anti-Tuberculosis Society*
- *president local chapter American Institute of Archaeology*
- *served under 3 governors as president of State of Michigan Library Commissioners*
- *was Alderman for First Ward in 1903 and member Detroit Common Council for 7 years and its president*
- *was appointed City Controller in 1910 by the Mayor*
- *in World War I, was Food Administrator for Detroit and Wayne County*
- *was active in the Michigan Historical Society and earned the title Historiographer of the Jews of Michigan by the American Jewish Historical Society*
- *was a member of the Masons and Shriners, also the Elks and Oddfellows. He was a president of Pisgal Lodge B'nai B'rith*
- *belonged to the University Club, Detroit Boat Club and the Old Club of St. Clair Flats*

Heineman was an aristocrat who associated with top Detroit society but he was also a democratic man who enjoyed equally cavorting with politicians, etc. He was a great debater with an excellent command of our language. He was admired by all for his good common sense.

He had many financial interests including our local Railway Companies and was very generous in his contributions to his long list of charities.

This is an amazing list of service to Detroit and its people. *But, history will best remember him because he was the designer, in 1907, of the official —*



*David Heineman as a  
Detroit civic leader*

## FLAG OF DETROIT

To honor his memory, a plaque and a stained glass reproduction of the flag were erected above the main entrance to the Detroit Historical Museum on Woodward and W. Kirby.

David E. Heineman died in February 1935 at age 70, highly respected as a truly great Detroit citizen and a fine Jew. He is buried in the Beth El section of Woodmere Cemetery.

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*Prof. Norma Goldman has been teaching at Wayne State University in the Greek and Latin Departments for 40 years. She is a volunteer Adviser also to the Senior Adult Writer's Club at the JPM Branch of the Jewish Community Center.*

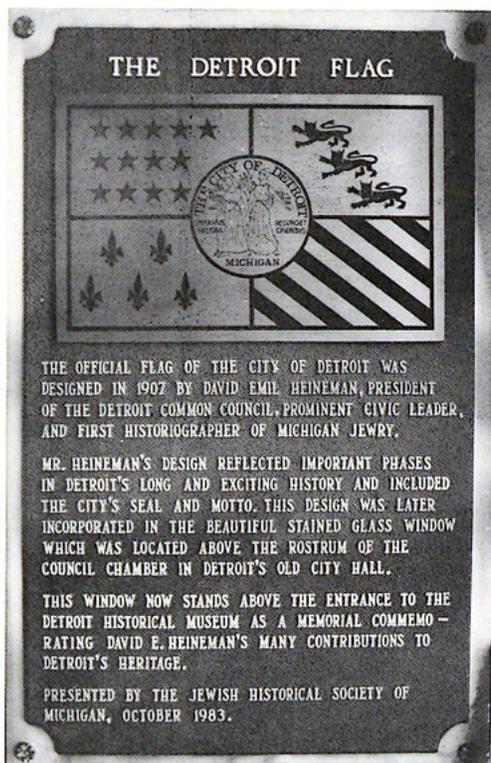
## WE'RE PROUD OF OUR HISTORICAL MARKERS

Since time immemorial Jews have used markers, tablets, pillars, stelai and inscriptions to commemorate, record and remember special events, actions and persons.

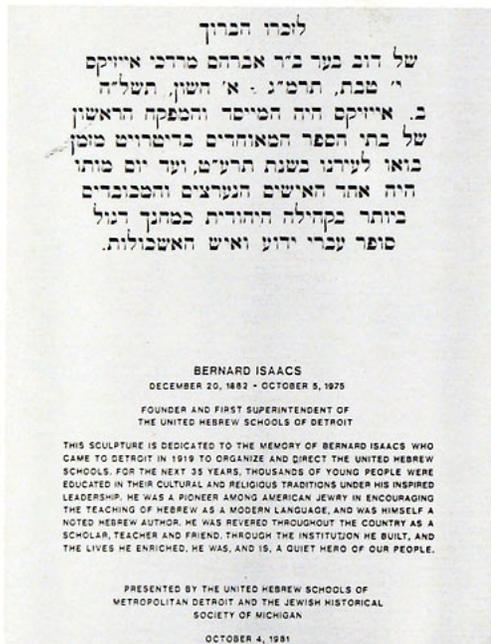
The Jews did not originate that custom but, we find in the Bible, Genesis 35:20, that Jacob set up a pillar at the site which exists to this day and is known as the "Tomb of Rachel." These markers are important for history.

We believe that next to belief in God, *Jewish history* has been the most important reason for the continued existence of the Jewish people as a religious community.

On adjoining pages are shown five of our important markers or tablets. Not pictured, are three other markers listed below -



In memory of DAVID E. HEINEMAN (1865-1935)  
Designer of the official flag of Detroit



In memory of BERNARD ISAACS (1882-1975)  
First head of the United Hebrew Schools

Bonstelle Theater of Wayne State Univ. was originally designed by architect, Albert Kahn, as Temple Beth El's synagogue from 1903 to 1922. Plaque installed May 1975.

Detroit's first Jewish cemetery was dedicated Jan. 1851 as the Champlain Street Cemetery (now called Lafayette Street) by Temple Beth El. Plaque erected May 1973.

Michigan's first Jewish cemetery was established in Ann Arbor in 1848-49. The site is now the east lawn of the U of M's Rackham Building. State marker erected June 1983.

## CHAPMAN ABRAHAM

### DETROIT'S FIRST KNOWN JEWISH RESIDENT

CHAPMAN ABRAHAM ARRIVED IN DETROIT IN 1763. HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE INDIANS AND PUT TO THE STAKE TO BE BURNED, BUT MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED DEATH. HE RESIDED AND TRADED IN DETROIT FOR MANY YEARS. HE DIED IN 1783 AT THE AGE OF 72 IN MONTREAL WHERE HE WAS A MEMBER OF CANADA'S FIRST JEWISH CONGREGATION, SHEARITH ISRAEL.

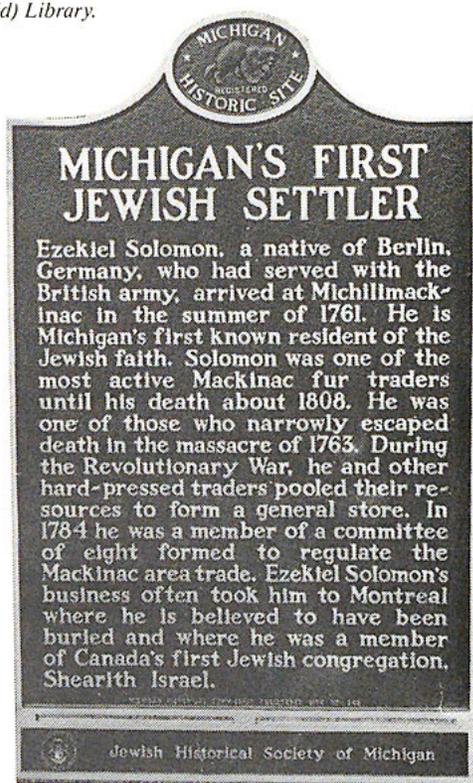
PRESENTED BY  
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

JUNE 21, 1977

*CHAPMAN ABRAHAM commemorative marker installed in Jewish Community Center (W. Bloomfield) Library.*



*Marker erected October 30, 1977 on lawn BC/BS Bldg. at Congress and St. Antoine.*

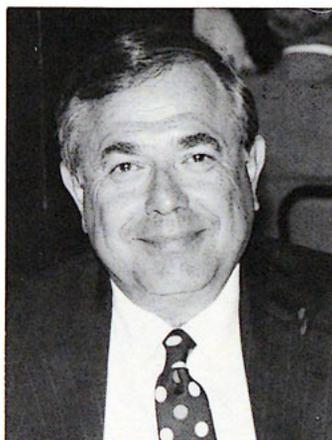


*Marker erected May 31, 1964 honoring EZEKIEL SOLOMON, Michigan's first Jew.*

## THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST GOLF CLUB IN MICHIGAN UNDER JEWISH AUSPICES



*SOL COLE*  
*First President - 1914*



*HUGH GREENBERG*  
*1989 President*

The history of Franklin Hills Country Club began back in the era of knickers and niblicks.

Its golf roots began when our leading local Jewish social group, the Phoenix Club, (founded by 70 Detroit families November 14, 1872) decided to have a Country Club in addition to its City club. Why? . . . because many of its younger members wanted to expand the club's activities and acquire golf facilities.

Among the young pioneers were Judge Charles C. Simons, Andrew Wineman, Henry M. Fechimer, Sol Cole, Sam Summerfield and Melville Welt. They were the instigators of the Phoenix Golf Club. Bernard B. Selling was president in 1913. Acreage in Redford was purchased. This became Phoenix Club's Redford Country Club. USGA advises that in 1914 it was one of only six golf clubs in our local area. Sol M. Cole was president when the golf club opened for play on Labor Day, **SEPTEMBER 7, 1914**.

The 1917 "American Annual Golf Guide" describes Redford C.C. as having "Grass Greens" because many golf clubs at that time had *sand* greens! "Redford was 13 miles from the city and could be reached by auto or Suburban trolley. Visitors charges \$1.00 a day, \$2.00 on Sundays and holidays; caddies available. Phoenix Club supports both town and country club with same membership."

Redford was a "club within a club" – but memberships in both were identical and were governed by the same board. Late in 1919, the Phoenix Club decided to spin-off its Redford Country Club. The apparent reason was the difference of opinion among the non-golfing members whether or not the golf club should be self-sustaining.

## FRANKLIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

To serve the best interests of both clubs, it was voted to place them under separate managing boards and officers. Redford Country Club was incorporated January 1, 1920. All who belonged to the parent city club continued as members of the golf club. Redford was limited to 250 members and even then, there was a waiting list to join. Leo M. Butzel was elected its first president.

Detroit's expanding population growth was fantastic. Soon, Redford C.C. was no longer "way out in the country." In the late twenties, it was decided to sell "Redford" and build a new golf course in Oakland County. In 1926 the club acquired 400 acres. The name Redford was inappropriate at the new location. *Franklin Hills* was selected in recognition of the nearby village of Franklin. The roster of members was identical to Redford's - the officers and directors were the same - the only changes were the corporate name and the site.

Franklin Hills was one of the few golf courses in the world to have bent grass *fairways*. The noted architect Albert Kahn, a member of the club, again planned the clubhouse.

Franklin Hills had many nationally known "pros" including "Davey" Robertson, Al Watrous and Ralph Guldahl, twice U.S. National Open Champion in 1937 and 1938. Another was Wally Burkemo the U.S. "PGA" Champion in 1953. Tom Deaton, current "pro" since 1971 was Michigan PGA Champion in 1967 and Michigan Open Champion in 1977. Arthur Thorner, a FHCC member, won the "U.S. Amateur Golf Championship for Left-Handers," in 1938.

None of the 1914 members is still alive, but today's FHCC membership includes many of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Excerpts from the Franklin Hills booklet —  
*The 'Royal & Ancient' Beginnings*

### J.H.S.M. CONGRATULATES **MUSKEGON** ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

*YASHER KOACH... MAZEL TOV!... L'CHAIM...* to the 87-family Muskegon Jewish community on the celebration of its synagogue's 100th Anniversary. What a splendid accomplishment!... a century of serving so many generations of Jewish families and our God. They have every reason to be proud.

The eight-month community-wide Jewish Centennial celebration was highlighted by the publication of a history of Muskegon Jewry plus four art exhibits at the Muskegon Museum of Art, a concert by the internationally famous violinist, Isaac Stern, and a dedication by U.S. Senator Carl Levin.

*A summary report of this event that was three years in the planning and involved all 14 major Muskegon institutions may be obtained from the Chairperson, Sylvia Kaufman, P.O. Box 6, Muskegon 49443, phone (616) 722-6681.*

## J.H.S.M. / WALTER FIELD SPONSOR JEWISH HISTORY QUIZ



*Adele Staller, president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, presents awards to Robbie Rose and Alexandra Winokur at the Jewish History Quiz awards ceremony.*

In what is believed to be the first event of its kind in America, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan created a Jewish History QUIZ Contest, sponsored by its Walter & Lea Field Jewish History Fund.

The inspiration for the idea of a contest was Walter Field's, a well-known Bible scholar and philanthropist. He is the author of the unique Jewish history book, "A People's Epic." The idea of the QUIZ has been enthusiastically received and applauded. The results of the initial contest were announced last December 7th at a delightful city-wide Assembly at Shaarey Zedek synagogue.

The contest was open to 6th grade students in all United Hebrew schools, the Jewish day schools and the synagogue schools. 534 youngsters entered and were each given the gift of the book.

The QUIZ, in the form of a game, consists of a set of questions pertaining to Jewish history. The students write a short essay on any of three suggested subjects. The answers can be found in "A People's Epic."

## HISTORY QUIZ

The teachers, in each of the 32 classes that participated, judged the essays. They chose two winners from their class who received cash for 1st and 2nd prizes; The others received Certificates of Recognition.

The Jewish History QUIZ was chaired by Harriet F. Siden. Committee members included Judy Cantor, Marvin W. Cherrin, Bea Kriechman, Robert Lask, Benno Levi, Evelyn Noveck, Adele Staller and Janis Waxenberg. Honorary members included Rabbi Irwin Groner, Philip Slomovitz and Leonard N. Simons. The quiz was administered under the auspices of the Jewish Educator's Council of Greater Detroit.

Both the Society and the Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Field, feel the project has great merit and was well worth the effort and money involved. Mr. Field's idea is to encourage young people to a better understanding of their Jewishness and a better knowledge of the role Jews have played in the drama of world civilization. It is hoped that the QUIZ contest will be an annual Metropolitan Detroit event and an important happening in the lives of a great many of our youngsters. The idea is NOT copyrighted, so, it is also hoped that it will be adopted by many other Jewish communities throughout America.

First prize winners include: Barry Lieberman, Jennifer Rose, Dara Seitzman, Jamie Frohlich, Jan Amber, Dana Cohen, Vita Scaglione, Julie Bass, Rachel Keller, Erin Corby, Apple Elise Snider, Marci Sturman, Alexandra Winokur, Aaron Starr, Karen Rappaport, Mark Kenneth Snyder, Sabrina Jaffa, Laurice Covensky, Allison Kleiner, Nikki Brodsky, Mathew Droz, Jeffrey Abrams, Jeffrey Lawson, Stephanie Herzberg, Michelle Efros, Jonathan Stern and Carolyn Owen.

Second place winners were: Lauren Stein, Allison Wolkin, Heidi Feldman, Mark Silver, Marci Stern, Erika Finn, Talya Drissman, Bob Beresh, Robert Rose, Lori Kaplan, Stacy Lezell, Tracie Ratiner and Roman Kapp.

Certificates were awarded to Marla Pinsky, Jen Yellin, Michele Lober, Taal Ashmann, Melissa Kane, Scott Kaplan, Greg Sobol, Laurie Piper, David Ishbia, Andrew Daitch, Neil Rosenzweig, Jennifer Lynn, Laura Lubetsky, Dan Kukes, Karen Stahl, Stephanie Zeskind, Lindsay Klein, Kimberly Weiss, Bradley Holcman and Scott Turbow.

*As we go to press — Walter Field received some very exciting news. The committee of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem which selects reading material of Judaica content to send to the "Refuseniks" in Russia has chosen Mr. Field's book, "A PEOPLE'S EPIC," an outline of Jewish history. It will be translated into Russian, so that all Jews, particularly the young, will have an opportunity to know their background and heritage. The Russian translation will closely follow the script and format of the original translation into Hebrew written by the well-known late Israeli poet, Abraham Regelson.*

*In Retrospect*

## **1959 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR**

*Researched by Gilbert Borman*

1959 was considered a prosperous, peaceful year for most of the world . . . led by such leaders as President Dwight Eisenhower, Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, and Russia's Premier Nikita Krushchev.

Eisenhower's State of the Union Address called upon America to do extensive long range planning to accommodate U.S.A.'s rapidly expanding population which was 174,064,000 in '59 nationally, Jewish population was 5,642,700 and there were 101,800 Jews in Michigan.

The major events of this period (Oct '58 to Oct '59) was the *legal and effective changes and enforcements*, nationally and by state legislation, of DESEGREGATION, CIVIL RIGHTS and the PRIVILEGES *guaranteed by law to each person*. It was the beginning of the collapse of massive resistance! The escalation of the Civil Rights movement was at hand.

After hundreds of years, Pope John XXIII dropped the Catholic anti-Semitic prayer mentioning "the perfidy of the Jews, "a slanderous incitement to prejudice.

Hawaii became our 50th state.

U.S. had a budget of only 77 billion dollars but had a *surplus* of 70 million dollars.

Minimum wage was \$1.00 an hour.

The first intercontinental telephone line connected Europe and North America.

Sandy Koufax was the Dodger's ace pitcher who refused to play on Yom Kippur.

Elvis Presley was young America's heartthrob; it was the beginning of the rock and roll era of popular music.

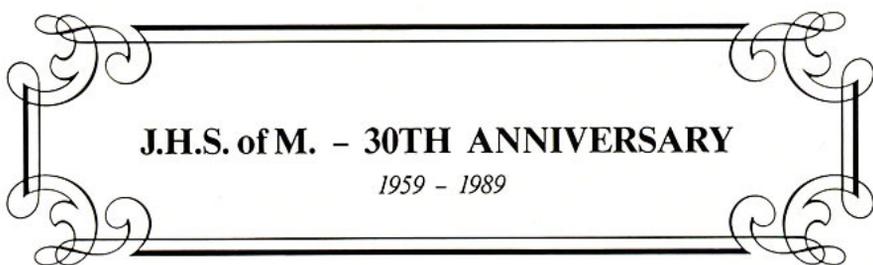
Susan Haywood and David Niven won the Oscars for best movie actress and actor; "Gigi" was voted best film.

The *first* exodus of Jews from behind the Iron Curtain: - 120,000 Jews signed up to immigrate from Roumania to Israel. Emergency meeting of 19 Jewish organizations in NYC declares this an historic challenge.

Most Russian Eastern Jews emigrated to Israel. Large numbers of Jewish refugees from Egypt were set free.

For Israel the struggle to forge the new nation continued. Nasser closed the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping provoking a crisis. Ben Gurion's government was having problems with the extremist elements in his coalition. The "Who is a Jew" issue caused anger with Jewish communities throughout the world.

1959 was the 100th anniversary of the Reform Jewish movement founded by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise.



## J.H.S. of M. - 30TH ANNIVERSARY

1959 - 1989

Locally, G. Mennen Williams was our Governor, Louis Miriani was Mayor. Detroit was at its most prosperous peak. The American Automobile was the king of the road.

Detroiters had three major daily papers from which to choose: the Free Press, the News and the Times.

Rabbi Emeritus Abraham M. Hershman, age 79, died; rabbi since 1907 for more than half the life of the 98 year-old Congregation Shaarey Zedek. Rabbi Irwin Groner of Little Rock, Arkansas appointed Assistant Rabbi.

David A. Brown died. He was the outstanding early 20th century Detroit civic leader who was also prominent in local and world-wide Jewish philanthropy, etc. Chairman of 1922 Emergency Fund, 1935 ORT, board member J.D.C., U.A.H.C.

Max M. Fisher elected president of Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, succeeding Judge Theodore Levin.

The Detroit Jewish community was vibrant and active. 1959 (AJC) Allied Jewish Campaign with co-chairmen Irwin I. Cohn and Leonard N. Simons raised over \$6,000,000.

Sidney J. Allen was honored with the Fred M. Butzel Award for outstanding community service by the Jewish Welfare Federation.

Judge Ira Kaufman was the honoree of the annual Council of Orthodox Rabbis' dinner.

Charles Rubiner elected president of the Detroit Bar Association.

The new Detroit Jewish Community Center at Curtis and Meyers was dedicated.

Livonia Jewish congregation established.

Eleanor Roosevelt came to Detroit to congratulate us on our successful campaign to establish the "Detroit Dormitory" on the campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The first Israeli ship arrives in Detroit. . . the S.S. Tamar of the Zim-American Lines.

Professor Samuel M. Levin becomes president of Detroit chapter, Jewish National Fund upon his retirement from teaching at Wayne State University for 43 years.

Architect's model of new Shaarey Zedek synagogue to be built at Eleven Mile and Bell Road, Southfield, unveiled by Louis Berry, Hy Safran, and Mandell Berman, leaders of the multi-million dollar campaign.

AND, while not exactly "earth-shattering" news, but of much importance to us, the J.H.S. of M. was born!

## SOME JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MICHIGAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

*Selma Goode,  
Executive Director, Michigan Jewish Labor Committee*

Many Jewish men and women contributed to the growth and the social consciousness of the American trade union movement nationally and locally.

Unlike cities such as New York and Philadelphia, Detroit had a shabby anti-union reputation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Because Detroit was an industrial city, many unions existed, being successful at first and then becoming mere paper organizations. Infant labor affiliations had neither the talent nor the ability to grow or to coalesce with other unions in order to become part of a strong movement. Therefore, Detroit employers used their authority to suppress the fledgling organizations.

As early as 1887, Sam Goldwater, who was head of the Cigarmakers Union and a leader in the Socialist Labor Party, was elected president of the Detroit Trades Council, which soon joined the new American Federation of Labor. In addition, he was one of the charter members of the Michigan Federation of Labor. After delivering the keynote address at the founding convention, in 1889, Detroit's working class elected him a Detroit Alderman in 1894. Goldwater was born in Poland in 1850, arrived in New York in 1859, and came to Detroit in 1886, already a seasoned trade unionist. He served Detroit unionists well, until his death in 1898.

At the turn of the century, many ethnic locals existed. With a total of about 10,000 Jews in Detroit, and all-Jewish Local 4 of the United Cloth, Hat, and Capmakers of North America was formed. Lazarus Goldberg headed the Cutters Union. Joseph Katz organized the Jewish Local 1512 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and served as president for many years, beginning in 1920. Included in the roster of officers were Jacob Ketter and Ben Shifrin.

By 1912 the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) had been organized in Detroit. In 1913 Matilda Rabinowitz was arrested for speaking to thousands of Ford workers during the lunch break. The firing of an IWW leader at Studebaker #3 prompted Detroit's first major auto workers' strike in June 1913. These workers began marching at Clark and West Jefferson and were joined by the Timken workers. They continued to Studebaker #1 and then downtown to Studebaker #5. The event was concluded with a rally where speeches in Yiddish, Russian, German, and English were made.

In 1913 Issac Litwak arrived in Detroit, a victim of Czarist Russian anti-Semitism who had been imprisoned in Siberia for anti-government activities. Though only 21, he quickly found employment at the Ford Highland Park foundry. Later he helped to organize the Jewish Laundry Drivers Union and then the Teamsters Linen and Laundry Drivers, Local 285. He served in the United Brotherhood of Teamsters for many years and despite two violent assaults, Litwak managed to keep his local free of mob influence.

With the 1929 Depression, workers had to seek help from their "landsmen." The Jewish Emergency Relief Fund was established. The workmen's Circle (Arbeiter Ring) set up a soup line and Dr. Shmarya Kleinman of Workmen's Circle provided his medical services for the unemployed. Frank Murphy was

## MICHIGAN TRADE UNIONS

elected Mayor of Detroit in 1930 and the climate began to change. He publicly backed the unionization of municipal employees. The Communist Party's Unemployed Councils of 1930 and 1931 brought Black, Jewish, Italian, and East European workers from the East Side of Detroit together into one council. Joe Billups, a Black auto worker at Ford Local 600, married a Jewish girl from New York. Rose Billups remained a life-long member of Local 600's Women's Auxiliary until her death a few years ago.

Myra Komaroff Wolfgang was the most prominent woman leader in the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union. Born in 1914, she attended Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh for one year. She worked as a waitress in Detroit for one year and then began organizing women into a union. Wolfgang was a member of the Proletarian Party with a vision of secular morality and non-exploitive future. Her concern for poor women never lessened. In the late '60s she was lending support to welfare mothers organizing for humane and just treatment. With all the corruption in the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Myra's local remained honest and above reproach. In the women's movement she is well-known for saying in 1974 at the founding convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW): "We didn't come here to swap recipes!"

Jewish names occur frequently in oral and written Detroit trade union history: Debbie Meltzer in the needle trades; Bob Kantor, the UAW Local 174 organizer, who was with Walter Reuther during the infamous Ford "Battle of the Overpass" in 1937; and David Hecker, assistant to Tom Turner, the current president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO are but a few.

The late Sam Fishman is an example of a working-class New Yorker who came to Detroit in the early 1940's and was fired for union organizing at several plants before he became established at Ford Motor Company in Highland Park. Being a UAW Committeeman, president of a local, assistant to UAW secretary-treasurer Emil Mazey of the Michigan UAW Community Action Program, and finally president of the Michigan AFL-CIO displays a most impressive record of accomplishment.

Other leading Michigan Jewish Trade Unionists were: (1) Nat Weinberg, Walter Reuther's assistant and first head of the UAW Research Department. (2) May Wolf, secretary of UAW Local 174, who married Walter Reuther. (3) Bernie Labovitz, treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 58. (4) Paul Silver, president of the union at Square D, which joined the Reuther faction of the UAW. (5) Arnold Brutman, secretary-treasurer of UAW Local 2500 - Blue Cross workers. (6) Bernard Firestone, Board of Central States - Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and vice president of Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO. (7) Milt Tambor, organizer for the American Federation of State, Country, and Municipal Employees, Council 25. (8) Irv Bluestone, who caught Walter Reuther's eye with his union activity in New Jersey, came to Detroit, served as a chief negotiator with Reuther and became vice-president of the UAW. (9) Martin Gerber, who was president of his UAW local, became a UAW Regional Director in New York, and retired as vice president of the UAW. He now serves Metro Detroit AFL-CIO president Tom Turner as a consultant. (10) Kenny Morris, president of Local 212, who was viciously attacked in 1946, also served as Regional Director of UAW 1B until his retirement.

Just as the Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO) used the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit as a model, so did the Trade

## MICHIGAN TRADE UNIONS

Union Leadership Council (TULC) take inspiration from the Jewish Labor Committee when it was formed in 1957. TULC was a Black trade union caucus which helped elect Jerome Cavanaugh mayor of Detroit. He, in turn, opened city government to Black citizen participation.

As the Jewish community moved from the lower East Side of Detroit, to a central east area and then westward, northward, and finally outside the city, "Jewish" locals disappeared and great numbers of Jews left the rank and file membership of the unions. However, the Jewish contributions to the Michigan Labor movement remains visible and significant.

Resource material:

1. "The Jews of Detroit" by Robert A. Rockaway
2. "Working Detroit" by Steve Babson
3. Moe and Sara Caplan's personal memories

*Selma Goode is the Executive Director of the Michigan Jewish Labor Committee. A native of Michigan, she was born in Richmond and graduated from Wayne State University. She has worked in the Labor Movement for 15 years. Selma has also been active in other Jewish organizations and is currently the Chairperson of the Workmen's Circle District Committee of Michigan.*

**Have you any idea of**

### **HOW MANY JEWS LIVE IN MICHIGAN?**

**answer: about 18,000 less than 30 years ago!**

|                   |                     |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| *Ann Arbor-4,500  | *Flint-2,000        | *Marquette Cnty-150 |
| Battle Creek-180  | *Grand Rapids-1,500 | Midland-200         |
| Bay City-280      | *Jackson-325        | ***Mt. Clemens-420  |
| Benton Harbor-500 | *Kalamazoo-1000     | Mt. Pleasant-120    |
| **Detroit-70,000  | *Lansing-1,900      | Muskegon-235        |
|                   |                     | *Saginaw-200        |

\* entire county      \*\* 2 counties      \*\*\* not updated

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1988 Estimated Michigan Total - 84,000  
1959 Estimated Michigan Total - 101,800

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*Statistics from annual Amer. Jewish Comm./Jewish Publ. Soc. of Amer.  
"YEAR BOOKS"*

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

29699 Southfield Rd. — Suite 217  
Southfield, Michigan 48076

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Contributions to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan made in Honor of — in Memory of — or, to Commemorate any special occasion will be appreciated and will help support our efforts to promote the study, research and recording of Michigan Jewish History — a very worthy purpose.

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## EXCITING NEWS FROM WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

This year-end, the culmination of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus' vision and determination, his magnum opus, the four-volume complete history of American Jews reaches print. Wayne State University PRESS is proud to publish this great accomplishment.

It is titled "UNITED STATES JEWRY" and is our history from 1776 to 1985, fully documented, starting with the Revolution to the present day, told in an *interesting way*.

Rabbi Marcus, the 93-year-old world's expert on American Jewish history, spent 20 years on this project. It is unique, the only multi-volume American Jewish history and our *first* complete history, based on source material, primary data. For the first time we will know what happened to the Jews in this country and why. All four volumes are written. W.S.U. Press will publish one or more volumes a year - starting this November. Volume one has 864 pages.

The author is the beloved mentor of several generations of rabbis. He has taught at Hebrew Union College since 1920 (about 70 years) and has almost a century of stories to tell. He is affectionately called "The Rabbi's Rabbi."

Dr. Marcus is famous and loved because he has given the American Jew a history and that is something that gives us pride. He recorded and shared the history of American Jewry. He developed it as an academic discipline, creating a whole field of study where none had existed before; his approach is unreservedly scientific.

He has authored over 250 items including more than a dozen books on European and American history. He is the founder and director of the American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, and honorary president of the American Jewish Historical Society. He has received many university honorary doctorates.



Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus

Orders for the first volume of "United States Jewry" @ \$49.95 each plus 4% state tax can be sent to Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, 29699 Southfield Road, Suite #217, Southfield, MI 48076. J.H.S. of M. will pay the cost of the postage and mailing.

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