

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

BULLETIN



VOLUME 4 6/5/18



The Strata or Old Synagogue, the oldest Jewish synagogue remaining in Poland, was built in either 1407 or 1492, depending on the source, and now serves as the Jewish History Museum, a division of the Historical Museum of Kraków. When rebuilt in 1570, windows were placed far above ground level, and thick, masonry walls with heavy buttressing were added to withstand siege. Until WWII, the synagogue served as the main religious, social, and organizational center of the Kraków Jewish community. Photo by Arnold Collens, September 2013

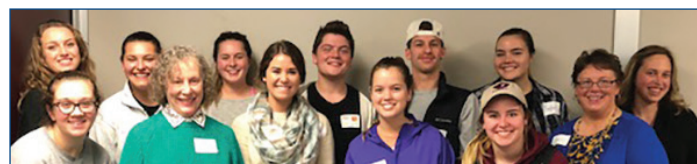
PRESIDENT'S REPORT, NEIL GOROSH



AS you read this, my term as president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan is coming to an end. What a wonderful ride it has been. Our mission, to share and celebrate Michigan's Jewish history, is accomplished largely through programming and special events. And, during these past few years, attaining that mission has included an exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum; Insider's Tours of Fort Wayne, the Detroit Public Library, and the Guardian Building; and the launch of the Nosh Gen series, including fantastic events at the Belle Isle Aquarium and The Schvitz. JHSM continues to conduct bus tours of historic Jewish Detroit, Windsor, and – soon – Ann Arbor; and host our J-Cycle bicycle event. Our

Speakers' Bureau allows us to bring "virtual tours" to Jewish Senior Life Apartments, synagogues, and other community venues. I'm also thrilled to announce that, for the first time ever, The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn has tasked its entire curatorial staff to develop a fall 2018 program at the Museum for JHSM's members and guests highlighting items in its collections with a Jewish connection.

Not bad for an organization with no physical building in



JHSM board member, Jeannie Weiner (front, second from left) and JHSM program associate, Jane Nordberg (second from right) spent an evening with Hillel students at Central Michigan University to lead a workshop and discuss the JHSM Michigan Women Who Made a Difference Project.

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**of Blessed Memory*



2017-2018 JHSM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Standing (l to r): Ronald Sollish; Larry Gunsberg; Neil Gorosh, President; Michael Maddin, Immediate Past President; Edward Malkin, Vice President; Risha Ring, Secretary; Margery Jablin; Michael Kasky; Ruthe Goldstein; Charles Domstein, Vice President. Seated (l to r): Ralph Woronoff, Treasurer; Barbara Cohn; Jeannie Weiner; Sheri Schiff; Joy Gaines Friedler; Jacqueline Elkus, Vice President. Photo by Elayne Gross



LEONARD N. SIMONS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Standing (l to r): Jan Durecki (2016), Michael O. Smith (2012); Mary Lou Zieve (1997), Sharon Alterman (2007), Aimee Ergas (2017), James D. Grey (2010), Michael W. Maddin (1999). Seated (l to r): Judith Levin Cantor (1998), Gerald S. Cook (2006), Edith L. Resnick (2005), Hon. Avern Cohn (1992), Charlotte M. Dubin (2011). Photo by Elayne Gross



Michigan Jewish History Bulletin is a newsletter for JHSM membership designed to share the fascinating information and research presented at JHSM's tours and programs, and to offer a colorful overview of the activities of the organization.

Michigan Jewish History Bulletin

Neil Gorosh, *President*
 Wendy Rose Bice, *Executive Director*
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LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD 2018

ARNOLD COLLENS

ARNIE COLLENS knows the art of telling a story, a trait that he may have inherited from his father, Harry. Occasionally, the two would walk to one of the small shuls that lined Wyoming Avenue in Northwest Detroit. "He didn't take me to *daven* (pray) but to hear the stories," said Arnie.



when he contributed to an article on the history of Detroit's Eastern Market in JHSM's annual journal, *Michigan Jewish History*. In 2016, he chronicled life in Jewish Detroit during the Civil War era.

Arnie helped re-develop and update the script and route for JHSM's Settlers to Citizens Bus Tours of Historic Jewish Detroit. As a co-founder of JHSM's

As a student at Detroit's Mumford High School, Arnie saw how history can engage others. "The effect of that realization was profound," he said. While it would be many years before Arnie connected that lesson to an avocation, the impact wasn't forgotten. In June 1966, Arnie married Dorothy Tann. That summer, the two led the Fresh Air Society's Eastern and Western Teen trips. It was while on those trips that Arnie saw how history and storytelling connected. "The staff at our national parks were models of how to involve guests in the story," Arnie said. "They created living history, and I found it to be contagious."

Professionally, Arnie went from teaching to sales to owning his own industrial, janitorial and plastic injection mold supply firm that he sold in 2005. Along the way, Dorothy and Arnie never stopped traveling. They have explored forty-nine states and six continents. All the while, Arnie found himself investigating lessons of the past and connecting them to the present.

In 2005, Arnie discovered the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan on a bus tour of historic Jewish Detroit. Within a few months, he was leading JHSM's tours, mentored by some of JHSM's best: Judy Cantor, Barbara and Jerry Cook, Ruthe Goldstein, Mike Kasky, and Adele Staller, to name a few. He became one of JHSM's most in-demand docents, cherished historians, and important leaders.

In 2006, Arnie began putting his stories on paper

Jewish Landmarks Committee, Arnie helped chronicle many of Michigan's historic sites and developed several JHSM maps. He was one of the first members of JHSM's Speakers' Bureau, and, as JHSM's president from 2008 (two years as co-president with Ellen Cole) to 2012, he ushered in the transitional period which led JHSM to grow into the organization it is today.

Wherever and whenever possible, Arnie had his camera at the ready. "He has a wonderful eye and captures amazing places and faces. The best part is that he shares his talents with others," said Mary Lou Zieve, chairperson, Leonard N. Simons History Award. "His photographs speak volumes."

Arnie's leadership and generosity extend beyond JHSM. He is an oft-requested lecturer throughout the community, sharing both Jewish and Detroit history. In the winter months, he serves as a naturalist and captain at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Florida. He is a past board member of Temple Israel, has served on committees with the Fresh Air Society and Jewish Senior Life, and helped to create JARC, which serves to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

Arnie and Dorothy have two married sons and five grandchildren. When not chasing birds and butterflies in Naples, they love watching sunsets from their Waterford Township home.

THE LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD PAST HONOREES

1991	PHILIP SLOMOVITZ*	2000	ALAN D. KANDEL*	2009	MANDELL L. BERMAN
1992	AVERN L. COHN	2001	SIDNEY M. BOLKOSKY*	2010	JAMES D. GREY
1993	GEORGE M. STUTZ*	2002	ADELE W. STALLER	2011	CHARLOTTE M. DUBIN
1994	IRWIN SHAW*	2003	MATILDA BRANDWINE*	2012	MICHAEL O. SMITH
1995	EMMA LAZAROFF SCHAVER*	2004	SUSIE CITRIN	2013	IRWIN J. COHEN
1996	LESLIE S. HOUGH, PHILIP P. MASON	2005	EDITH L. RESNICK	2014	A. ALFRED TAUBMAN*
1997	MARY LOU SIMONS ZIEVE	2006	GERALD S. COOK	2015	CARL LEVIN
1998	JUDITH LEVIN CANTOR	2007	SHARON L. ALTERMAN	2016	JAN DURECKI
1999	MICHAEL W. MADDIN	2008	GEORGE M. ZELTZER*	2017	AIMEE ERGAS

**Of Blessed Memory*

LEONARD N. SIMONS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ROBERT KAPLOW



The best way to recruit a volunteer? Just ask. Robert Kaplow, curious to know what Jewish history there was to discover at Comerica Park, joined JHSM on a tour of the newly opened facility in 2000. Within two years, the New York-born attorney who has called Detroit home since graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in 1971, was installed as JHSM's eighteenth president.

Now, for the fourth time in JHSM's history, the Leonard N. Simons Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated a long history of service and dedication to JHSM. That person is Rob Kaplow.

Touring Comerica Park rekindled Rob's passion for learning what goes on behind the scenes and sparked an interest in Michigan's Jewish history. When he raised his hand to ask a question to tour leader and JHSM past president Jim Grey, Rob was rewarded with a question back: Would he be interested in getting more involved?

Involved he became. Serving as JHSM president in 2002, Rob oversaw a strategic update to JHSM's mission statement, and prepared the organization to participate in the "350 Years of Jews in America" celebrations. He helped launch the "Settlers to Citizens: A 21st Century Tour of Historic Jewish Detroit" for religious school students and oversaw the creation

of JHSM's first-ever website.

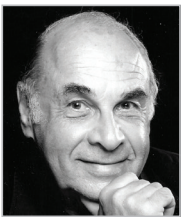
It was, Rob said, "a time that saw the beginning of JHSM's miraculous growth." Kaplow led the nearly all-volunteer leadership team with a steady hand and a watchful eye, ensuring JHSM's fiscally efficient operations and securing its future.

In 2005, Kaplow, an estate planning and corporate tax attorney with the firm, Maddin, Hauser, Roth and Heller, P.C., helped Judy Cantor form the JHS of Michigan Heritage Foundation, a supporting organization created to support JHSM's mission and operation. The JHS of Michigan Heritage Foundation manages JHSM's endowment, and Kaplow has served as its chair since its founding. He also has provided JHSM with a variety of pro bono legal services and has served on just about every committee of JHSM, including as chair of the JHSM Nominating and By-Laws committees.

Of course, there is more to Robert Kaplow than legal papers. He is married to Lois and is the father of two and grandfather of five. He continues to volunteer for many of JHSM's programs. Rob also volunteers with JARC, and is active with the Financial and Estate Planning Council of Metropolitan Detroit and the Planned Giving Advisory Councils of Detroit Public Television and the Karmanos Cancer Institute, among other activities.

JHSM VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

CHARLES DOMSTEIN



Ask and you shall receive. That, in the simplest of explanations, is why the JHSM staff unanimously selected Dr. Charles "Chuck" Domstein as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

A native Detroiter, Chuck is a retired educator who spent thirty-three years with the Oak Park School system as a teacher, director of alternative education, and principal. Not quite ready to stop being an educator after retiring from Oak Park Schools, Chuck began a five-year tenure as principal of Akiva Hebrew Day School (now known as Farber Hebrew Day School), and then taught at Marygrove College. While at Akiva, Chuck conceived and implemented a Holocaust studies class for middle and high school students, many of whom had grandparents who

were survivors.

Along the way, in 2000, Chuck became involved as a volunteer with the JHSM Yearbook Collection, a committee he now chairs. The collection, launched by Jerry Cook, Jim Grey, and Marc Manson, contains more than 1,800 year-books from schools throughout Michigan in which there was or is a Jewish presence. Since 2013, Chuck has served on the JHSM Board of Directors.

Beloved by all for his generous smile and warm heart, Chuck is usually the first to raise his hand when a call for volunteers is sent, often with his wife Judy by his side. In addition to his time with JHSM, Chuck continues to volunteer with the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Campus and with Friendship Circle. Chuck and Judy are parents of two and grandparents of four.

which to display artifacts, collect items, or host events. JHSM is, in short, a programming dynamo.

2019 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of JHSM and while that may sound solidly middle-aged, the growing pains we are experiencing are quite real. Ten years ago, we muddled along with a couple of part-time employees working out of a cubicle at the Jewish Community Center in



Working in collaboration with the 6th grade social studies team from Hillel Day School, JHSM tested a new tour focusing on Jewish history, culture, social justice, and activism. Pictured is one of those students journaling her impressions of the Birwood Wall in Detroit.

West Bloomfield. Today, we occupy an office suite and employ more than the equivalent of three full-time employees. As a result, your continued support is more important than ever. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership or make a donation, or give someone the gift of JHSM membership.

More than ever, we need your help in supporting our

JHSM Jewish History Curriculum. During the 2017-18 school year, JHSM's trio of educators taught the Traveling Trunk to more than 330 religious school students from eight religious schools and one day school. Over the course of four classroom sessions, students learned about Michigan's rich Jewish history and strengthened their Jewish identity. Students—along with many of their parents—also participated in our Settlers to Citizens Bus Tour of Historic Jewish Detroit to see these lessons come to life.

Sharing our state's proud Jewish history is central to JHSM's mission, and this vital program exemplifies the work our team does every day. We deliver this program, complete with student workbooks, JHSM's trained educators, and charter buses for the field trip, free of charge. Since its inception, more than 1,500 children, as well as many of their parents, have benefited from the course. It is not an inexpensive program to offer to the community, however. Annual expenses range between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year. Unfortunately, the annual and multi-year grants, which have made this important program possible, will be ending shortly. We need your help.

Although our vision is to find a permanent funding source for our educational curriculum, we must raise funds to sustain it. I ask that you consider making a directed gift to JHSM to support this program. Fund the cost of an educator



On a chilly, sunny Sunday in March, eighty students and some two dozen parents from Temples Beth El, Kol Ami, and Shir Shalom participated in the Settlers to Citizens Bus Tour of Historic Jewish Detroit. At the Gateway to Freedom Statue, students explored the values of Gemilut Chasidim (acts of loving kindness) and Derech Eretz (helping others in a way which preserves their dignity).

to teach the four Traveling Trunk classes and conduct the Settlers to Citizens bus tour for one school, underwrite the cost to rent a charter bus for one field trip, or donate \$100 for each Sunday that our educators teach the program.

I was honored to greet JHSM members at our 59th Annual Meeting and privileged to share the spotlight with Arnold Collens, recipient of the Leonard N. Simons History Award; Robert Kaplow, recipient of the Leonard N. Simons Lifetime Achievement Award; and our Volunteer of the Year, Charles Domstein. I also had the opportunity to say thank you and good luck to our Executive Director, Wendy Rose Bice, who after nearly ten years of service, has decided it is time to leave our employ to pursue other projects and spend more time with her family. While Wendy insisted that nothing be done for her at this time, we intend to plan an upcoming event to give Wendy the send-off she deserves. Stay tuned.

It has been my honor to work with the entire JHSM staff. Moreover, I am continually amazed by the tireless efforts of our volunteer corps beginning with the dedication of our board of directors and advisory board. I am also grateful for the wisdom and help of the JHSM past presidents. The fact that so many from this group remain active and fully committed to JHSM tells you all you need to know about the organization.

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife, Marla, for her love and support, and for accompanying me to so many of the programs and events mentioned above. Passion is personal. Marla, thank you for encouraging me to pursue my passion and for tirelessly sharing it with me.

While my presidency has come to an end, I have no intention of slinking off into history. I'm excited to report that I have recently "graduated" from JHSM's Docent Training Program, which enables me to lead historic bus tours and to present our Speakers' Bureau programs. In short, I'm hooked. So, if you love history as much as I do, or simply value the importance of Jewish history in our lives, stay connected with JHSM. We'll hook you too!

JHSM Year In Review

HUNDREDS LEARN MICHIGAN'S JEWISH HISTORY
BY ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN JHSM'S
PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



JHSM's Nosh Gen is an innovative, cultural programming series targeted to adults who have an interest in learning a bit of history while enjoying good food, great people, and an interesting environment.

On a beautiful summer eve in August 2017, JHSM's Nosh Gen event was held at Detroit Farm & Garden, located in Southwest Detroit. Because Detroit Farm & Garden was the first - and only - landscape supply store in central Detroit, the focus of the evening was urban agriculture. Detroit Farm & Garden owner, Jeff Klein, passionately described the renewed interest of gardening within the city and the importance of his store to the local community. Eitan Sussman of Keep Growing Detroit spoke more specifically about urban gardening trends locally and nationally, and how Detroit, in many ways, is leading the charge in converting abandoned land into sustainable food gardens.

"Nosh Gen: A Night at The Schvitz" was a historic night not only for the 170 guests who attended the February 2018 Nosh Gen event, but also for the new owners of the landmark. Among the many highlights of the evening (see related article on page 13) were reunions of old friends, the return of the original founding family's descendants, and the chance to see this historic building, the Oakland Bath House, come back to life.

- 6 Larry Gunsberg and Sharon Havis.
- 7 In the 1970s, Dr. Marty Levinson was enjoying a night of steam when his wife called to say she was in labor and he needed to come home immediately. Forty years later, the doctor decided to bring his entire clan to see his favorite Russian steam bath. (l to r): Elise, Katy, Gideon, Noah, Marty (back), Josh (front), and Simon Levinson.
- 8 Alice McGinty, Alan Havis (Schvitz co-owner), Barbara and Sheldon Cohn, and Leslie Magy.
- 9 Richard Meltzer, pictured here with his daughter, Samantha, is the son of Harry Meltzer, co-founder of the Oakland Bath House. Meltzer, who had not been inside the building in decades, returned for the Schvitz event with his wife and daughter.



- 1 Donna and Michael Maddin, and Esther Ingber.
- 2 Carol Ellis and Stefany and Gary Freeman enjoy Detroit Farm & Garden's hospitality.
- 3 The Nosh Gen committee (l to r): Robyn Canvasser, Debby Tukel, Dan Buckfire, Barbara Cohn, Wendy Rose Bice, and Jane Nordberg.
- 4 Eitan Sussman, Keep Growing Detroit.
- 5 Jeff Klein, Detroit Farm & Garden. Editor's Note: We were saddened to learn that after six years in Southwest Detroit, Detroit Farm & Garden is closing its doors in Spring 2018.



Detroit Farm & Garden photos by Elayne Gross; Schvitz photos by Jeff Aleman

JHSM Year In Review

HUNDREDS LEARN MICHIGAN'S JEWISH HISTORY
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JHSM'S PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

The hospitality of Doreen and David (z'l) Hermelin is legendary. In October 2017, Doreen Hermelin hosted the first-ever tour of the Jewish art and artists in the Hermelin collection, a fundraising event for JHSM. A team of art docents helped guide the nearly 200 guests through the home, pointing out unique pieces in the collection. Barbara Cohn, event co-chairperson, and Wendy Rose Bice, JHSM Executive Director, anchored a lively conversation with Ms. Hermelin, during which she told some of her favorite stories about her late husband, David, and their escapades and adventures in amassing the collection.



STORIES AND JEWISH ART:

AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF THE JUDAIC ART
AND JEWISH ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTION OF
DOREEN AND DAVID (z'l) HERMELIN



- 1 Doreen Hermelin and daughter, Marcie Orley.
- 2 Stories and Jewish Art docent team. Pictured are (l to r): Mia Kennedy, Stacey Simmons, Harriet Siden, Janice Sobel, Sue Kalisky, Anne Klisman, Gail Fisher, Susan Moiseev, Rochelle Forester (front), Laini Freed, and Barbara Cohn.
- 3 Stories and Jewish Art co-chairs, Larry and Jacqui Elkus.
- 4 Aimee Ergas toasts Two Ladies, a papier-mache and mixed-media sculpture by artist Jane Buckles.
- 5 Dennis and Peggy Frank.
- 6 Michael Fenberg, Beth Sills, and Robyn Fenberg.
- 7 Justin Wedes and Lee Hertz.
- 8 Lewis and Judy Tann.
- 9 Lisa and Hannan Lis.

Photos by Elayne Gross

JHSM Year On Review

HUNDREDS LEARN MICHIGAN'S JEWISH HISTORY
BY ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN JHSM'S
PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



In August 2017, more than 200 cyclists of varying abilities rode the 18-mile J-Cycle 7. The route began at the Northwest Activities Center (the former Meyers and Curtis JCC) and rode north, exploring Northwest Detroit and parts of Ferndale and Oak Park.

HAVIS
Chiropractic

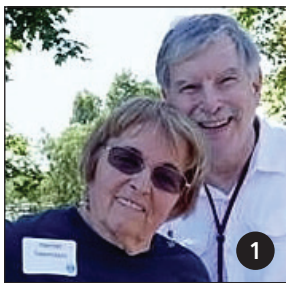
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MJS PACKAGING
Passion • Performance • Service Since 1982

PRINCETON



- 1 Docent and incoming JHSM President Risha Ring shares the history of the Beth Abraham Cemetery on Woodward Ave. in Ferndale.
- 2 (l to r) Todd Sachse, Anna Aronovitz, Marc Kay, Danny Aronovitz, Jim Ketai, and Karen Sachse.
- 3 JHSM J-Cycle volunteers, Rena Friedberg and Deede Auster.
- 4 (l to r) Stan Chodun, Rick Stoller, Stuart Raider, Barry Roberts, and Cheryl Chodun.



The 58th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was held at Temple Kol Ami on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

- 1 2017 Leonard N. Simons History Award recipient, Aimee Ergas, stands between JHSM President Neil Gorosh and Leonard N. Simons History Award chairperson, Mary Lou Zieve.
- 2 Filmmaker Aviva Kempner (right) joined by Aimee Ergas at the 58th Annual Meeting of JHSM.
- 3 (l to r) Susan Moiseev, Gabe Neistein, JHSM Immediate Past President Michael Maddin, and Donna Maddin.
- 4 Les Kannon and Al Saperstein.



On June 11, 2017, Michael Kasky, JHSM's Tour Development Chair, led the tour "Defending Freedom: Jewish Detroit's Response to Anti-Semitism and Hate" (see related article on page 10). Participants explored Jewish responses to anti-Semitism, anti-unionism, and civil rights violations from the 1930s to 1967.

- 1 "Defending Freedom" tour docents Harriet Saperstein and Michael Kasky.
- 2 Jamon Jordan, Black Scroll Network historian, and David Elsil, a retired United Automobile Workers official, describe the historic significance of the Ford Rouge Plant's memorial to the 1937 Battle of the Overpass.
- 3 A group photo taken at the Alphonso Wells Memorial Playground in Detroit.



JHSM *Michigan Women Who Made a Difference Project*

"How can I thank you for such beautiful work on behalf of Mom and our family?

I know that she hoped some part of her life would be remembered and valued, and this website facilitates that so very well."



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

THESE words, beautifully articulated by Dr. Thomas Lynn of Reading, Pa., encapsulate the essence of the Michigan Women Who Made a Difference (MWWMD) project. Dr. Lynn's mother, Oakland County land use activist and educator Janet Lynn, is one of thirty-five women

whose stories are shared with a global audience through the MWWMD online gallery.

Since its inception in 2013, the goal of the MWWMD project has been to document, preserve, and share the stories and achievements of Michigan's Jewish women who have helped to build and shape our communities, institutions, and organizations. These are women who often stood in the background, who led with strength, dignity and silence, and whose stories are largely untold.

In January 2015, author and historian Aimee Ergas shared the stories of 125 such women in her book, *Michigan Women Who Made a Difference: Builders of the Detroit Jewish Community* (for sale by contacting JHSM). A Heritage Grant from the Michigan Humanities Council allowed JHSM to continue and expand the MWWMD project statewide, including holding a one-day conference in Grand Rapids.

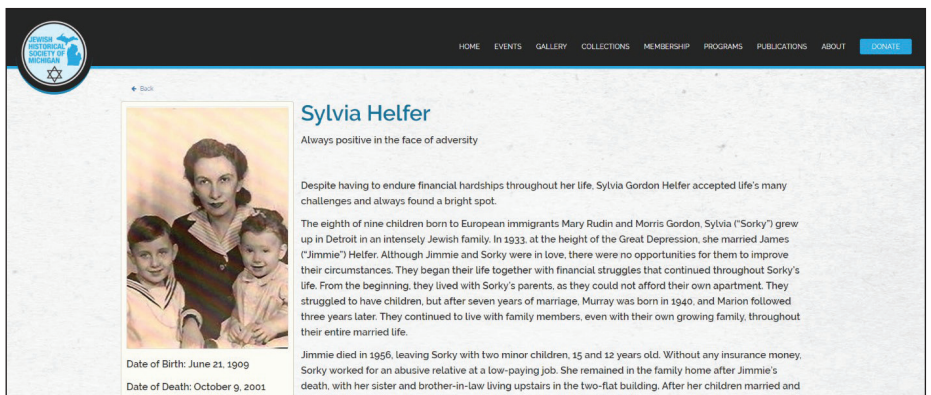
But, it was thanks to a grant from the William Davidson Foundation that JHSM, in 2017, launched the MWWMD online gallery, a new section within JHSM's revamped website, dedicated to celebrating the lives of women who made a difference in the home, the workplace, or a volunteer organization. The stories posted on this site, and shared through social media, reveal the diverse ways Michigan's Jewish women have impacted and enriched our lives. The story of WWII pilot

Sylvia Granader's service to our country, for example, which was posted on Facebook and Instagram in conjunction with Women's History month, reached over 1,107 people and had 179 reactions, comments, and shares.

JHSM's vision, to continue to build the presence of the MWWMD web page, is getting a boost from the creation of the Story Squad, a team of volunteers who have committed to conduct interviews or research histories of Michigan's Jewish women activists and innovators. Chaired by JHSM board members Jeannie Weiner and Jacqui Elkus, the project will initially focus on preserving the stories of women who have been the engines of National Council of Jewish Women/Michigan.

Importantly, the MWWMD project also includes keeping a paper archive of these stories and maintaining a database of women whose contributions are noted but for whom a biography has yet to be curated. There are more than 260 women in this ever-growing database - women whose stories, like that of Janet Lynn's, will be preserved and shared as an inspiration for generations to come.

We hope you will explore the Michigan Women Who Made a Difference webpage on the JHSM website (michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd) and read the stories of these amazing women. There you can also learn how to submit a biography or donate to the project.



The MWWMD online gallery features inspiring stories of thirty-five Michigan Jewish women, including the story of Sylvia Helfer, "Beloved Bubbie" and mother of NCJW/MI advisory director Marion Freedman.



DEFENDING FREEDOM: JEWISH DETROIT'S RESPONSE TO ANTI-SEMITISM AND HATE

BY MICHAEL KASKY, JHSM TOUR DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

The great sage, Rabbi Hillel the Elder, is remembered as saying:

"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?

And if I am only for myself, then what am I?"

Today, we call this basic Jewish mission Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World.

On June 11, 2017, Michael Kasky, JHSM's Tour Development Chair, led a tour that explored Jewish responses to anti-Semitism, anti-unionism, and civil rights violations from the 1930s to 1967. "Defending Freedom: Jewish Detroit's Response to Anti-Semitism and Hate" included sites relevant to how civil, economic, and religious rights issues affected our local Jewish community, and how these issues inspired many to become activists. Funding for the tour was provided by the Ravitz Foundation.

Sites visited included Dearborn's Ford Rouge Plant memorial to the 1937 Battle of the Overpass. David Elsilá, a retired United Automobile Workers (UAW) official, discussed the vicious attack on UAW organizers trying to peacefully distribute pro-unionization materials to Ford Motor Company employees on space leased to the Detroit Department of Street Railways.

Harriet Saperstein, a retired urban planner and sociologist, led a discussion at Detroit's Alphonso Wells Memorial Playground's Wall of Freedom, a half-mile-long concrete wall built in 1940 to create a then-legal barrier between an all-white neighborhood and one which was likely to include African Americans. Often referred to as the Birwood Wall, one side of the concrete has been colorfully decorated by community members with drawings expressing solidarity and hope for humanity.

While visiting the former Temple Beth El building on Woodward and Gladstone, guests heard an update on the work of Detroit Jews for Justice and met Pastor Aramis Hinds, owner of the interfaith Bethel Community Transformation Center, who spoke to the themes of the day: Freedom and Community.



This memorial, located on the grounds of the Ford Motor Company River Rouge Plant, stands as a memorial to the May 26, 1937 Battle of the Overpass. On that date, Walter P. Reuther and other UAW organizers were passing out union leaflets when they were brutally attacked by members of the Ford Service Department, a private police force composed of ex-convicts, ex-athletes, ex-cops, and gangsters.

DETROIT, in the mid-twentieth century, was a city of extreme contrasts and dynamic change. Great wealth and severe poverty existed side-by-side; civil rights were not universally granted; and many Detroiters were the victims of economic exploitation. Farm mechanization reduced the need for agricultural manual labor; factories replaced mechanics' workshops; and large numbers of people who had migrated to the area to find work suddenly had to confront established racial, religious, and ethnic residential and employment patterns and prejudices.

At that time, many were adrift in a world of extreme stress that promised no security. Jews and other minorities were among those caught in this swirling anxiety. Fearmongers labeled all Jews as Communists, and Jewish bankers were viewed as shrewd and parasitic money lenders. Non-white people and Jews were labeled eugenically inferior and rarely hired for anything other than menial labor. They were barred from owning or renting homes anywhere but in the poorest of neighborhoods. With no federal or state anti-discrimination laws to protect the rights of minorities, employers were free to discriminate in their hiring decisions.

Many Jews, appalled by these conditions, joined together with other similarly concerned people to help fulfill America's promises of equal opportunity and equal protection for all.

The Birwood Wall and Residential Exclusion of Minorities (Restrictive Covenants)

The poverty of the Great Depression exacerbated discriminatory conditions. Michigan organizations like the Black Legion and Ku Klux Klan terrorized non-white Protestants. An admirer of Adolph Hitler, Royal Oak's Father Charles Coughlin added a Catholic voice preaching anti-Semitic charges on national radio. Henry Ford serialized the despicable fictional work, "Protocols of The Elders of Zion," in his *Dearborn Independent* to advance these beliefs.

President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislation attempted to address many of these problems. The 1933 Federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation and 1934 Federal Housing Administration (FHA) sought to prevent foreclosures by purchasing existing mortgages and reissuing ones with lower interest rates, thus making the purchase and financing of new homes more affordable. The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 guaranteed the right of private sector employees to organize into trade unions, engage in collective bargaining for better terms and conditions at work, and take collective action, including the right to strike. But, as Detroit's experiences demonstrated, these laws were, at best, incomplete.

Determined to implement its new programs as quickly as possible, the FHA engaged local realtors to appraise the value of properties to determine their current market value. These realtors, bound by their *Code of Ethics*, incorporated the racial composition of the applicable neighborhood into their appraisals.¹

To help perform risk appraisals, the FHA adopted the National Association of Real Estate Boards' mapping policy which appraised each local neighborhood. Four color codes were issued to identify these appraised values. The safest investment areas were coded green, and the riskiest were coded red. A neighborhood with black residents was automatically coded red, which meant automatic rejection. Properties were deemed too risky if they were in racially-mixed neighborhoods or in all-white neighborhoods too close to black ones to preclude future integration.²

Jews were also included in these discriminatory practices. Restrictive covenants prohibiting Jews from owning homes in both exclusive and working-class areas were in place. Employers were free to make hiring and admissions decisions based on discriminatory beliefs. In response, Detroit's Jewish community established the North End Clinic to provide Jewish physicians, denied staff

privileges at local hospitals, with a place to practice. Excluded from social and leisure clubs, such as the Detroit Athletic Club, ironically designed by renowned Jewish architect Albert Kahn, a group of Jewish men and women, in 1906, formed the prominent Phoenix Club, better known today as the Franklin Hills Country Club.



The Birwood Wall or the Wall of Inspiration, as it is now called, remains as a symbol of hope and as a reminder of the historic discrimination of the United States Government. Lita Zemmol and Zak Rosen were among those on the tour. Photo by Michael Kasky

In 1940, a white developer applied for an FHA-guaranteed loan to build houses on undeveloped land north of Pembroke and west of Mendota in Northwest Detroit. This land abutted a neighborhood of black-owned, single-family homes to the east. The FHA denied the application. The developer then erected a six-foot-tall concrete wall between its tract and the black neighborhood. The mortgage application was subsequently approved.

In 1944, black *Detroit Free Press* maintenance supervisor Orsel McGhee sought to purchase a single-family house on Seebaldt Street west of Grand River and two blocks north of Tireman Road. Orsel and his wife, Minnie, a post office employee, had been renting the home for about ten years and were well liked by their white neighbors who encouraged them to buy the house.

At that time, Tireman Road was the de facto border between the predominantly black neighborhood to its south and the all-white neighborhood north of it. Relying on a 1922 U.S. Supreme Court decision³ upholding restrictive covenants, a white resident of Seebaldt Street brought suit, demanding enforcement of a 1935 restrictive covenant which stated that only members of the Caucasian race could use or occupy the property. In affirming a lower court decision upholding the restrictive covenant, the Michigan Supreme Court declared that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment applies to public rights but not to private contractual rights.⁴

Appealed to the United States Supreme Court, the McGhee case was consolidated with similar cases into the *Shelley v. Kramer* suit. In its 1948 decision, the Court held that while there was no federal prohibition against including restrictive covenants in property deeds, **no state or federal court could enforce them** (emphasis added).

Civil rights activists viewed this as a great victory since

restrictive covenants could no longer be used to keep Jews or blacks out of a neighborhood. Developers, however, continued to insert them into property deeds until the 1960s. While the decision was a major blow to Jim Crow practices in residential segregation, actual segregation of blacks from whites in neighborhoods did not start to decline until after 1970, presumably, in part, because of the Open Housing Law that Congress passed in 1968.

Workers' Right to Unionize

Passage of the National Labor Relations Act inspired labor organizers to try to unionize the automobile industry. Following hard-fought battles with other manufacturers, in May of 1937, the United Automobile Workers of America (now known as the United Automobile Workers) focused on the Ford Motor Company.

Henry Ford enjoyed autonomous rule. His company was a private corporation with no other shareholders and was self-financed to circumvent bankers' lending fees. He was adamantly opposed to unions telling him whom he could hire and fire, how to organize work, or what to pay his employees. When labor organizer Walter P. Reuther and the UAW set their sights on the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge complex in Dearborn, Michigan, Henry Ford swore he would never give in to the union.

Ernest Goodman, Maurice Sugar, and Myra Wolfgang were notable Jewish activists during this era. Goodman (1929-1997), a civil rights attorney, devoted his life to constitutional issues, defending those no one else would: Ford Motor Company strikers, Michigan Communist Party leaders, and Black Panthers accused of murdering a Detroit police officer. Together with his partners, George Crockett Jr. and Maurice Sugar, Goodman founded the country's first racially integrated law firm. Goodman also argued before the United States Supreme Court seven times, was arrested once, was placed under FBI surveillance, was vilified, shunned, lauded, and honored, and, five years before his death, received the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award.

Labor attorney Maurice Sugar (1891-1974) was involved in many of Detroit's most crucial progressive actions. He defended participants in the 1932 Hunger March when Ford Motor Company thugs (and Dearborn police) killed four marchers. He helped found the National Lawyers Guild in 1936 as a way for liberal lawyers to network regarding their causes, and represented the UAW during the 1936-37



Maurice Sugar was a Jewish labor rights attorney and activist. Photo courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library

General Motors Flint Sit-Down Strike. He also worked hard to develop the coalition between labor and the black community that led to the UAW's 1941 organizing of workers at Ford.

Myra Komaroff Wolfgang (1914-1976), one of our nation's first female

union organizers, was, by age twenty three, leading strikes and directing organizing drives in Detroit's hotels and restaurants. In 1937, Wolfgang strode to the middle of one of Detroit's forty Woolworth stores and gave the signal for the planned sit-down strike of salesclerks and counter waitresses to begin. The main Woolworth store was already on strike, and the union was threatening to expand the strike to all the stores in Detroit.

Wolfgang eventually became an International Vice President for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, she ran the Union's Detroit Joint Council, which represented thousands of cooks, bartenders, food servers, dishwashers, maids, and other hotel and restaurant workers. A lifelong member of the NAACP, she insisted, for example, on sending out racially integrated crews from the Union's hiring hall in the 1940s and 1950s, rejecting such standard employer requests as "black waiters only, white gloves required."

Members of Detroit's Jewish community found common ground with other victims of discrimination and were inspired to become activists against those who threatened anyone's basic human rights.

¹ The Board's *Code of Ethics* provided, "A realtor should never be instrumental in introducing into a neighborhood people of any race or nationality whose presence will be clearly detrimental to property values."

² The post-World War II Veterans Administration's guaranteed mortgages adopted these same FHA appraisal policies.

³ *Corrigan v. Buckley*. Jewish civil rights organizations had joined with other organizations submitting amicus briefs opposing restrictive covenants as tools of unconstitutional racial and religious discrimination.

⁴ Notwithstanding amicus curiae briefs filed by Jewish lawyers representing the UAW, AJC, and National Lawyers Guild, the Michigan Supreme Court, including Jewish Justice Henry Butzel, voted unanimously to uphold the restrictive covenant.



THE SCHVITZ: MEMORIES STEAMED INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS

BY WENDY BICE



The Oakland Bath House, or as it is known throughout the Detroit-area community, The Schvitz. Circa 1940. Photo courtesy of Richard Meltzer

When Alan Havis, a JHSM J-Cycle volunteer and one-half of the duo that purchased Detroit's historic Oakland Bath House, invited JHSM to host an event at the newly restored building, no one imagined that on a Saturday night in February 2018, more than 170 guests would find their way to Detroit's North End to visit The Schvitz.

"Nosh Gen: A Night at The Schvitz" was historic in many ways. It was the first, large-scale public event in the building since its new owners, Havis and Paddy Lynch, purchased the building in 2017.

And, it was the first time the Jewish community gathered as a community in the building since the 1940s or 50s. More than that, however, it was an emotional night of celebration and remembrance.

JHSM was honored to have Richard Meltzer, the son of Harry B. Meltzer, co-founder of The Schvitz, as guest of honor. Richard Meltzer, who literally grew up in that building, only recently returned to see his family legacy after its present-day owners, Lynch and Havis, purchased it. Meltzer also brought with him, for their first visit, his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Samantha.

IN 1981, then-student Alan Havis found his way a few miles up from downtown's Detroit College of Law to The Schvitz – a place where guys could relish a hot steam and cold swim – plus a great steak. In what was then a boarded-up strip of Detroit's Oakland Avenue, he found the Oakland Bath House, built in 1930 and still standing. He schvitzed, got a playtza (an oak-leaf massage broom, soaked in steamy hot – not cold – water), and ate, spending quality time with his dad, Sam Havis, who had been going weekly for many years. In those few hours, Alan Havis felt more restored and relaxed than he had for months. Together with his father and his great-uncle, Lou Topor, he began going to the bathhouse once a week for a night of steam, camaraderie, and relaxation.

Flash forward almost four decades. Havis and his business partner, Paddy Lynch, now own the Oakland Bath House, whose name has been officially changed to what it has been unofficially called for years, The Schvitz.

"What began as a place to spend quality time with my dad became a place to escape," said Havis at JHSM's "Nosh Gen: A Night at The Schvitz" event. "I could put down my cell phone, and not worry about work or anything else. I would tell friends that The Schvitz was the place I went so that I could do all of the other things I needed to do for the rest of the week. The steam was cleansing...not only physically, but it mentally cleared my head."

Havis, whose father and great-uncle are both deceased, never stopped going to The Schvitz. Nor did dozens of other patrons – regulars who sought the steam to gain a break from the daily grind.

Detroit's North End

In 1930, Charles Meltzer and his sons, Harry B. and Frank, opened the Oakland Bath House. Charles came to this country from Russia in the early 1900s to escape religious persecution. He found his way to Detroit, where the family settled in 1909, and eventually moved to Detroit's North End.

The North End, also called the Oakland Avenue area, began to attract a working-class populace in the 1910s. Many of the Jewish families who lived in the nearby Hastings Street area moved to this neighborhood because it offered easier access to industrial jobs and larger homes. Soon, many cultural and social institutions and small synagogues followed. Vacancies and new buildings along Oakland Avenue afforded opportunities for entrepreneurs. Charles Meltzer, however, surmised that this new hemisphere of Jewish life was missing a sense of permanence...a building where the community could gather.

Charles, who was involved in a Prohibition-era-liquor business, purchased a three-story building on Oakland Avenue in 1928 with plans to turn it into a Russian-style bath house. The Russian *banya*, steam bath, was a comfort from home missed by many in this immigrant neighborhood. It also served an important purpose, as many of the homes lacked proper running water.

Charles and his sons renovated the building, converting what was originally three storefronts on the main level into a single main floor with a kitchen, dining room, and locker area. The second floor consisted of apartments. On the third floor, they fashioned a ballroom and bandstand and held Saturday night dances.

It was in the basement, however, where they created the magic. Charles, cognizant of the work ahead, hired a local man named Eugene Johnson, who was known by his nickname "Toots." Together, the four men dug out a pool - by hand - and filled it with fresh cool water. They constructed a giant gas-powered oven, the opening of which connected directly to a ceramic-tiled room, lined with tiered wooden benches. Into the oven they loaded, without the benefit of any machinery, seven tons of Michigan boulders. "The bigger the rock the better the steam," they said. They lit the oven, waited twenty-four hours for the boulders to heat to 170 degrees, and splashed onto the rocks buckets of hot water. Voila... steam. Hot therapeutic steam. And, they knew they had the best steam room anywhere.

The Oakland Bath House became a place of legend and lore, surviving Prohibition (yes, members of the Purple Gang, the infamous Jewish gangsters, hung out there), the Great Depression, and World War II. Charles Meltzer passed away in 1940. Soon after, Frank left the business to run a local delicatessen. But Harry stayed and became synonymous with The Schvitz. Harry, respected and revered as the consummate host, welcomed patrons of all religions and ethnicities to his special oasis. His son, Richard, followed in his father's steps.



Richard and Harry Meltzer, circa 1980. After selling The Schvitz in the 1970s, father and son opened Uncle Harry's Delicatessen in St. Clair Shores, which Richard continues to operate to this day.

"I remember the patrons at the bathhouse representing a diverse crowd," Richard Meltzer recalled. "We served some of the most influential people in the city - judges, lawyers, Detroit city councilmen, law enforcement officers, priests, and doctors, but we also served average people looking to enjoy a day at the bath house. No matter who they were, everyone came to the bath house for the same things: the steam, the food, and the atmosphere."

As a young boy, Richard Meltzer spent countless hours folding towels and stocking the giant walk-in refrigerator. Later, he worked with his father to run The Schvitz, doing everything from cooking steaks alongside Toots, to scrubbing the pool and spending untold hours with the customers. He and his father held The Schvitz steady through the turbulent days that led to Detroit's great decline. In 1975, Harry and Richard decided it was time to sell. Toots stayed on, running the business until his retirement in the mid 80s.

It Is Like a Religion

Longtime Schvitzers attest that it is The Schvitz's special "atmosphere" that kept them coming back. "At its core, and through all its years and challenges," said Havis, "The Schvitz is and has always been a place for people to restore. The steam room has been the vehicle for this building to survive and be a place for healing and rejuvenation of mind, body, and spirit. The Schvitz is a true example of resilience."

Havis says there is a spirituality to the steam, and once you are hooked, whether you are a once-a-weeker or once-a-monther, going becomes like religion. That sensation wasn't lost on Paddy Lynch.

Lynch, age 34, is the son of Patrick Lynch and grandson of Edward J. Lynch, Jr., who founded Lynch & Sons Funeral Home in 1948 at Woodward and Davison Avenues in Highland Park, not far from The Schvitz. A devout Irish-Catholic, Paddy Lynch studied theology with the Jesuits as an undergrad before attending mortuary school and entering the family business.

"I believe that, whenever possible, historical spaces should be used for the reasons they were constructed... It's interesting when a church is turned into a restaurant or a bar, but here in Detroit, we have plenty of restaurants and bars, but there's only one Schvitz," said Lynch, when speaking at the Nosh Gen event.

Lynch also spoke about the connections between his profession and the Jewish community. "The connection between the Jewish heritage of The Schvitz and funeral service are stunning and provocative," he said. "We believe our bodies do not belong to ourselves but rather to the community of faith out of which they are made. The way in which a society treats its dead will always correlate to the way in which the most vulnerable among us are treated: the poor, the elderly, the minority, the refugee, the addicted, the mentally or physically disabled, and so on.

"I think the community that surrounds Detroit's Schvitz has acknowledged and accepted this reality for years.... There is a generosity, a tenderness, and hospitality available at The Schvitz that is no longer a norm in our culture. We used to have much stronger neighborhoods, faith communities, and fraternal organizations – those institutions that transcend political and socioeconomic boundaries."

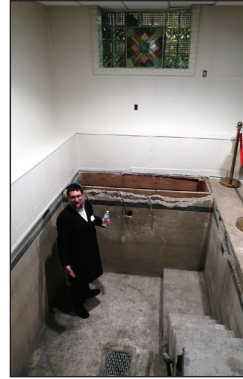
Lynch and Havis are dedicated not only to restoring the building to its original beauty and function, complete with an updated dining room, new kitchen, and spa facilities, but also to upholding its early traditions.



Most of the rooms at The Schvitz have been updated and restored, including the dining room (left), which features its original tile floor and tin ceiling; the outdoor deck and bar; and new benches in the steam room (right). Photos by Jeff Aleman

The Mikveh

By the 1950s, the Jewish population had left the Oakland Avenue area. To suit changing customer needs, Harry Meltzer updated the building. One of the changes he made was tiling the floor of a small room on the main floor and turning it into a card room.



Rabbi Yisrael Pinson, Chabad of Greater Downtown Detroit, explains the process of making the mikveh kosher for use. Photo courtesy of Michael Kasky

Six decades later, the men who purchased the building had no idea the card room was once the site of the community mikveh... a ritual bath used by observant Jews to purify their minds and bodies for the weekly sabbath (including women who would visit the mikveh after their monthly cycle for purification). "To see the mikveh unearthed was like finding a historic artifact from another time," said Havis. "Everyone who was in the room had the sense that we had uncovered important

spiritual history. Rabbi Yisrael Pinson, among others, came quickly to confirm its authenticity. It was a great day," said Lynch.

Upon reflection, knowing of that lack of permanence in the community, Charles Meltzer's decision to construct a mikveh made sense. Now, working together with Chabad and Rabbi Pinson, The Schvitz is in the process of making the mikveh usable for ritualistic purposes.

"I find it compelling that nearly a century later that aspect of the building [the spirituality of the mikveh] was seemingly lost forever. But here we are, with the only mikveh left in the city of Detroit, exposed and ready for restoration," said Lynch. Although JHSM's Nosh Gen event is now a piece of our past, The Schvitz does not have to be.



(l to r) Alan Havis and Paddy Lynch, owners of The Schvitz, with Richard Meltzer, son of co-founder Harry B. Meltzer.

To plan a visit to this historic bath house, visit www.schvitzdetroit.com or call, 313-SCHVITZ (313-724-8489).

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MARY LOU ZIEVE

On your 93rd birthday in 2018 from Liz & Les Kannon

On your 92nd birthday and celebrating your Bar Mitzvah from Jerry Cook

In honor of your receiving the JHSM Lifetime Achievement Award from Wendy Rose & Gary Bice; Judith & Bernard Cantor; Ellen Cole; Dorothy & Arnold Collens; Barbara & Jerry Cook; Charlotte Dubin; Jacqui & Larry Elkus; Susan & Danny Kaplan; Donna & Michael Maddin; Jacqueline & Myron Milgrom; Phil Neuman; Susan & Norman Pappas; Eunice & Milton Ring; Risha B. Ring; Shelley Roth; Aimee Ergas & Tor Shwayder; Alice & Dr. Raymond Silverman; Joyce Keller & Michael Walch; JHSM Board & Officers

On the wonderful family tour you provided from Rita Keywell Trust

In your honor to the Alpena Film Project from Diane Landay

Wishing you a speedy recovery from JHSM Board & Officers

Thank you for your thoughtful gift to us as a way to honor Judy Cantor's many contributions to JHSM from Risha B. Ring

In honor of your receiving a 2018 "8 Over 80" Award from Liz & Les Kannon

In your honor to the Alpena Film Project from Diane Landay

On your receiving the Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award for Distinguished Community Service from JHSM Board & Officers

In honor of your special birthday from Annette Friedman

On the completion of your doctoral degree from Jane Nordberg; JHSM Board & Officers

In your honor to the Alpena Film Project from Diane Landay

In honor of your 50th anniversary from JHSM Board & Officers

On your receiving the Josephine Weiner Award from National Council of Jewish Women from Risha B. Ring; JHSM Board & Officers

Wishing you a speedy recovery from Jacqui & Larry Elkus; JHSM Board & Officers

Wishing you well in your Presidency of JHSM from Rhonda & Morris Brown; Barbara & Jerry Cook; Phyllis & Ernie Ring

In honor of your 70th birthday from Charyl Apple & Steven Tepper

On the birth of your daughter, Noa from JHSM Board & Officers

On your engagement from JHSM Board & Officers

In honor of your receiving a 2018 "36 Under 36" Award from JHSM Board & Officers

In honor of your receiving a 2018 "8 Over 80" Award from Donna & Michael Maddin; JHSM Board & Officers

On your receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award - Peace & Justice Activism from Peace Action of Michigan from JHSM Board & Officers

In your honor to the Alpena Film Project from Diane Landay

We loved your Bar Mitzvah and congratulate you on the great job. It was an historic occasion, marking the succession of many generations of Saulsons, and you were awesome.

We were so happy to be there. A huge Mazel Tov! From Judith & Bernard Cantor

On the birth of your granddaughter, Liora Rae Nevell from JHSM Board & Officers

In honor of Helga & Irwin Field from Joyce & Myron LaBan

Wishing you a speedy recovery from JHSM Board & Officers

On your 85th birthday from Joyce & Myron LaBan

Wishing you a speedy recovery from JHSM Board & Officers

On your becoming grandparents from Fern Katz

On your receiving the 2018 BPAA President's Award from JHSM Board & Officers

Wishing you good health from Eileen Hyman

On your birthday from Roseanne & Rudy Simons

In Memoriam.

WE FONDLY REMEMBER...

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In Memoriam.

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Annette Friedman

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*In Memoriam tribute donations
up to May 9, 2018*

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**of Blessed Memory
As of Tuesday, May 22, 2018*

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan makes every attempt to account accurately for all financial contributions. If your name does not appear above or is incorrect, we apologize and ask that you contact our office to correct the error.

››› A FAREWELL MESSAGE ›››

FROM OUR OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WENDY BICE

TEN YEARS AGO,

give or take a few months, I was hired as JHSM's executive director. Fresh off our 50th anniversary, JHSM was poised to grow. The task would be an easy one, I surmised. The organization was ready for a professional makeover...update the computer system with an integrated membership database, organize files, and utilize online bookkeeping and email management software. Working together with a team of extraordinary leaders and volunteers, we vowed to build membership by adding a slate of new and updated programs, and, of course, to continue to preserve and capture our state's remarkable Jewish history.

A list of all that has been achieved over this past decade would impress anyone. Missing from that list, however, would be the stories behind each milestone. The list would show membership numbers have doubled, but no one would know that so many joined JHSM because our team of volunteers helped present inspiring tours and noteworthy events that enable us to discover our place in the stories of family and community.

The number 1,500 would represent middle school students who, in the past five years, have benefitted from the JHSM Jewish History Curriculum, an in-school educational program and bus tour, which uses history to teach critical and independent thinking skills and encourages young people to examine the contributions of the leaders of our past and connect them to the actions exhibited by present-day heroes.

The number of grants we have received and the balance in our endowment fund would also impress. Those figures do not include the sentiment of our donors and funders who entrust their philanthropic dollars to JHSM because they believe in our mission to preserve and teach the stories and legacies behind the events, institutions, and people whose contributions and accomplishments inspire us.

Four would represent the number of professionally-developed presentations that are available as part of



The JHSM team: (l to r) Jane Nordberg, Program Associate; Elizabeth Kannon, Office Manager; Wendy Rose Bice, Executive Director; Charyl Apple, Educational Program Coordinator

JHSM's Speakers' Bureau. This new division allows JHSM to truly represent the entire state of Michigan in our programming. The team of volunteer Speakers' Bureau docents travel from Michigan's "Tip to Toe" explaining our collective past and sharing inspiring stories of Jewish life in Michigan.

A list would do no justice to this organization which I often describe as a hub. JHSM possesses few artifacts, no physical museum, and a scant number of original documents or photographs. Instead, as Jews have throughout history, we collect and preserve our stories through the spoken word. And then, using every available resource, we execute our mission to share Michigan's Jewish history in spaces across the state, in our publications, and through the world wide web and social media. We collaborate. We innovate.

Throughout this past decade, I have had the honor and privilege to work with some of the most passionate, kind, and dedicated leaders and volunteers. Many have mentored me and have helped articulate the importance of JHSM to our community. Together, we have discovered stories of inspiring women, sports legends, local business entrepreneurs, and those creative geniuses who make up our thriving community. We cried together as we read of the sacrifices made by pioneering families who came to this land seeking opportunity and freedom.

One of my mentors, Judy Cantor, often said, "If you have lived in Michigan for even a day, you are part of Michigan's Jewish history." Each of us is a stitch in the fabric of this community, this mitten surrounded by Great Lakes and filled with inspiring stories of our people.

As I prepare to leave my position as JHSM's executive director, I know my successor will create a new list of accomplishments. There is great comfort in knowing that, on the eve of our 60th anniversary, JHSM has grown into an educational and inspirational powerhouse, an organization that has the honorable work of preserving Michigan's Jewish history for the next generation, and the generation after that.

2018-2019
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Evelyn Noveck* (1987-1988)
Gilbert Borman (1989-1993)
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Ellen S. Cole (2005-2009)
Arnold Collens (2008-2012)
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**of Blessed Memory*

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Wendy Rose Bice, *Executive Director*
Elizabeth Kannon, *Office Manager*
Jane Nordberg, *Program Associate*
Charyl Apple, *Educational Program Coordinator*
Aimee Ergas, *Research Director*



SAVE THE DATES

the Henry Ford THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

JOIN JHSM FOR THIS FIRST-EVER
JEWISH-THEMED CURATOR'S TOUR
OF THE HENRY FORD

Sunday, November 18, 2018
3:30 p.m.

This remarkable exploration of The Henry Ford will include a curator-led discussion and audio visual tour covering the history of Henry Ford's collecting and life, including a discussion of his actions for and against Jewish citizens, followed by a self-guided tour of Jewish-related items within the Henry Ford collection.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN



A BICYCLE TOUR of
HISTORIC JEWISH DETROIT

SUNDAY / AUGUST 19 / 2018

DETROIT'S EASTERN MARKET

GROUPS DEPART EVERY 15 MINUTES

FASTER RIDER GROUP 1 DEPARTS AT 8:25 A.M.
ALL OTHER GROUPS BEGIN DEPARTING AROUND 8:30 A.M.

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