

MICHIGAN

JEWISH HISTORY

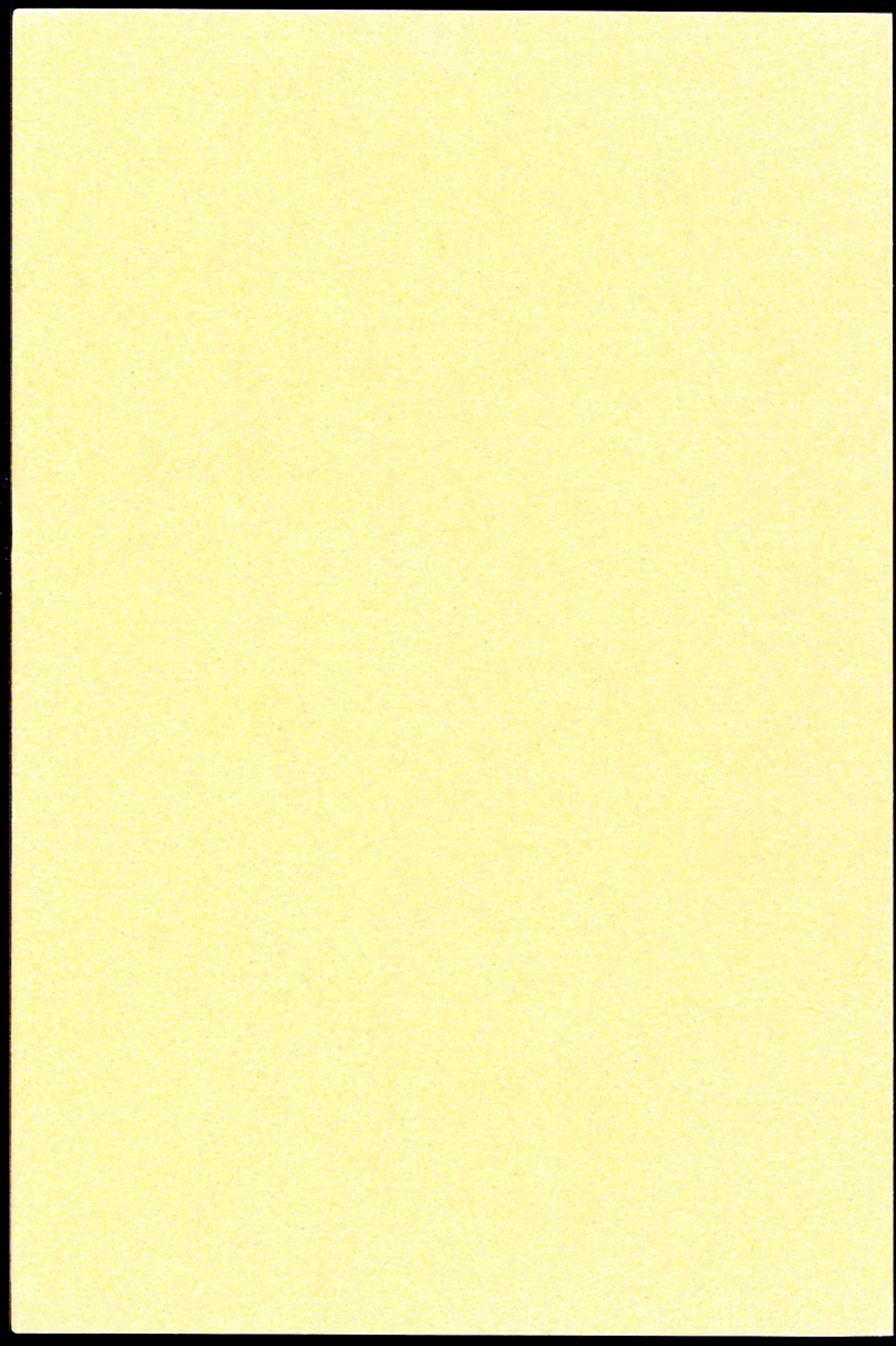


Official Publication of

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

Volume 20, Number 1

January 1980 - Tevet 5740



# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

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

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

— Joshua 4:21

Volume 20

January 1980 — Tevet 5740

No. 1

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MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY is published semi-annually by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Correspondence concerning the contribution of articles, books for review, and all editorial matters, including distribution, should be sent to the editor, 24680 Rensselaer, Oak Park, Michigan 48237. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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

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The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, founded in 1959, promotes the study and research of Michigan Jewish history, publishes periodicals, collects documents and records which are deposited in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, and commemorates sites of Jewish historical significance.

Categories of membership in the Society include Life Member (\$100), Sustaining (\$25), Contributing (\$15), Regular (\$10). Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to Ida Levine, Membership Chairman, 23237 Providence Dr., Southfield, Michigan 48075, (313) 557-0431.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History.

The certificate, a prize in the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement, was awarded to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan for our work in collecting, studying and commemorating the history of the Jews of Michigan.

The American Association for State and Local History, with headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944. It is a nonprofit educational organization with a membership of over 6,000 individuals and institutions in the United States and Canada.

The Association notified us of their decision following two days of deliberations by their national selection committee. The committee, composed of leaders in the history profession, screened over 100 nominations in its annual deliberations.

We will be presented the award in a special ceremony this spring, and the event will be fully covered in the June issue of *Michigan Jewish History*.

## THE HISTORY OF THE TRAVERSE CITY JEWISH COMMUNITY

### Part II\*

By DEVERA STEINBERG STOCKER  
BESS ALPER DUTSCH  
NAOMI BUCHHALTER FLOCH

The Lazarus family has the distinction of having lived in Traverse City the longest of all the early Jewish settlers.<sup>1</sup> Their 77 years of residence ended in 1971 with the death of Maynard, one of the younger sons. He had remained in Traverse City and raised his own family there. Maynard's parents, Abraham and Sarah, came to Traverse City in 1894 with five children: Meyer, Aaron, Rachel, Eva (aged three) and Benjamin, an infant.

Abraham fled from Russian Poland around 1872 to escape military conscription. He went to Leeds, England, where he made his home for a number of years. Here he learned the trade of slipper making, which many Jewish immigrants learned, and by which they made their living before coming to America. An added advantage to living in England was the opportunity to learn to speak English. Abraham married in England and was the father of five children before he and his wife decided to migrate to America, for Mrs. Lazarus had a sister in New York.

Tragedy entered the life of the Lazarus family enroute to America. A typhoid fever epidemic broke out on the boat and took the lives of Mrs. Lazarus and one of the children. Abraham arrived in New York in the late 1880's with four small children and the sad news to report to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Fanny Feinstein. It is not known how long he remained in New York, nor what motivated him to come to Detroit and later to Traverse City, but in Detroit he met a young widow, Sarah Mitchell Levey, whom he married. In time he brought three of his children to Detroit: Minnie, Meyer and Aaron. His sister-in-law in New York, with whom he had left the children, was reluctant to part with the baby, Julius, and this child remained with her. Esther, the only child of Sarah Levey Lazarus by her previous

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\*Part I appeared in the June, 1979 issue of *Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 19, No. 2.

DEVERA STEINBERG STOCKER, BESS ALPER DUTSCH and NAOMI BUCHHALTER FLOCH are all decendants of early Jewish settlers of Traverse City; Mrs. Stocker is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.



Sarah and Abraham Lazarus.

marriage, remained with her paternal grandmother in Detroit and did not join the family until she was grown. Minnie, Abraham's eldest daughter, already sixteen years of age when the family moved to Traverse City, elected to remain in Detroit, where she was working. She visited often and kept in close touch with the family. (On August 29, 1977 she celebrated her 99th birthday in the Detroit Jewish Home for the Aged, but died in October, 1977.)

When the Lazarus family came to Traverse City, Abraham changed his work from slipper-making to shoe repair and set up his shop on Union Street, where he remained in business for more than thirty years, until his retirement in 1928. A tribute to him appeared in the *Traverse City Record Eagle* on September 8, 1959, in Jay Smith's column, "The Observer," which read in part as follows:

Among the unforgettable characters of our childhood was A. Lazarus, shoe-maker. He was a roly-poly little man with sparkling eyes who always wore a beard and a skullcap. His shop was one of our frequent stopping places because we always had a welcome reception. It never seemed to bother him when kids came in with no other mission than to chat.

The shop was described as

a little place of rich odors. There was the aroma of newly tanned leather, of shoe polish, of the wax he used on "wax ends" and there was something which gave off the odor of pitch. He was a kind man. Were we looking for some leather to cover a string baseball, sure he had some.

The writer added that Mr. Lazarus was well liked by the other business men on Union Street.

From 1894 to 1906 four more children were born to the Lazarus family: Ephraim (Eddie), Maynard, Devera and Joseph. They were a



Maynard Lazarus with his son, David.

deeply religious family and devoted to each other.

In 1928 Maynard Lazarus married Anna Aaron, daughter of another immigrant family more recently arrived (see below). Maynard was a manufacturer's agent for Northern Auto Parts Company for 35 years. He was closely identified with the Traverse City synagogue and was actively concerned with preserv-

ing the Jewish character of the congregation; Anna shared her husband's Jewish interests. (Their three children, Helene, David and Adelle, are married and live in Michigan. Helene, married to Michael Tinn, and her brother, David, and his wife, Hannah, live in the Detroit area. Adelle, married to Boyce Lucas, lives in Whitehall.)

Meanwhile, Eva Lazarus took over the home responsibilities after her mother's death in 1917. She maintained the house for her father until his death in 1930. In 1932 she married Abraham Leach of Detroit, and they lived in Detroit for a number of years. In the 1940's she returned to Traverse City with her husband, who opened a shoe store. They remained in Traverse City for twenty years, and she was again active in the Jewish community. Her sister, Devera, married Sam Rabinovitch, formerly of Traverse City, and since her marriage in 1946 has lived in Florida. Eva now lives in Detroit.

J.H. Steinberg, more generally known as "Jake,"<sup>2</sup> returned to Traverse City in 1902 with his wife, Minnie Lipsitz of Detroit, and their children: Devera, aged three, and Morton, aged one year. Jake had been in business in St. Ignace, Michigan, since 1888. He returned now to Traverse City to take over the Steinberg family store in partnership with his brother, Alec. His parents, Julius and Mary, planned to move to Detroit with their two younger daughters, Irene and Birdie.

Jake had spent his childhood and youth in Traverse City. With his teen-aged friends he had jumped logs as the logs floated down the





Minnie and Jacob H. Steinberg in 1896.

Boardman River to the saw mill. He had clerked in his father's store, and helped with the care of the younger children, since his mother also worked in the store. He had been a stamp collector and a coin collector in his youth, and had a large collection of Chinese coins with the hole in the center for carrying on a cord. He played the cornet, and while in St. Ignace played in the local band. After high school his parents sent him to Eryant & Stratton Business College in Chicago. In 1888 they set him up in business in St. Ignace, a lumber industry outpost.

When he returned to Traverse City in 1902, lumbering was declining. Lumberjacks were moving north where timber remained. By the turn of the century the character of Traverse City had changed. It was becoming a more staid community, as evidenced by the reversal of ratio between churches and saloons. The Pere Marquette Railroad brought in the outside world. The first decade of the new century heralded the future: it brought the phonograph, the telephone and the automobile. Many more surprises followed, such as electric lights and central heating. Though most of the population did not enjoy these conveniences at once, they were already present as Traverse City moved rapidly from a general farming community to a fruit belt.

The merchandise carried in Steinberg's store reflected the changes. Steinberg's was a large department store employing 27 clerks. Merchandise included men's and women's clothing, coats, suits, shirts, socks, neckties, corsets, blouses (beaded georgette blouses were a vogue in the second decade), shirt waists and skirts for the ladies, stockings, yard goods, silks and cottons for dresses, pillow tubing, bed linens and table linens. Much home sewing was done in those years and sewing materials such as laces, yarn, etc. were also sold. A store advertisement in 1902 featured "ladies eleven gored skirts."

Some items were carried as premiums, most outstanding of which was the doll collection at Christmas. Weeks before the holiday the entire street window on one side of the entrance to the store featured dolls. These were bisque dolls with jointed arms and legs, china heads and simulated real hair. Some closed and opened their eyes, and some were walking dolls. The customer whose purchases totalled the highest on the final day had first choice of selection. The second highest had second choice, and so on.

Cable cash carriers were used in the store to complete a sale. The clerk placed the bill and payment received from the customer in the carrier and sent it on its way to the office via the cable. The cashier in the office then placed the change due the customer in the carrier and returned it to the clerk.

On October 12, 1910 the Jewish community in Traverse City had its population increased by two. A little girl, Getelle (Gitl), was born to Jake and Minnie Steinberg, and a daughter, Esther, was born to Nathan and Fanny Alper. Not only was October 12, 1910, Columbus Day, it was also *erev* Yom Kippur!

In 1913 Alec Steinberg married Fanny Wetsman of Detroit. They lived in Traverse City for only a short time. Fanny longed to live where her family was located and they decided to move to Detroit, after which the name of the family business became the J.H. Steinberg Store.

In about 1916 Jake bought a Willys-Knight car. As with all cars of that time, it had to be cranked in order to get it started. Use of the telephone required turning the handle at the side of the box to notify the operator to make a connection. Phonographs were also hand-wound. The phonograph in the Steinberg home was an Edison. In appearance it was an unattractive dark-wood box that stood upright on the floor. The records were thick and unbreakable, but the phonograph brought to the listener the voice of the great Caruso and the music of the famous violinists, Jascha Heifetz and Mischa Elman. There were also records featuring Jewish humor with Fannie Brice, Sophie Tucker and others.

Steinberg's Grand Opera House was at the height of its popularity in the first decade of this century and continued so into the second. Stock companies played there, there were occasional Shakespeare, minstrel shows and one-night stands. After 1916 the opera-house era came to an end; Chautauqua and other tent shows, and mainly the cinema, took its place.

The year 1914 and the First World War brought more changes. By this time the older Steinberg children were in high school. Super-

imposed on their Jewish upbringing were the idealistic slogans of the war that was being fought to "make the world safe for democracy." Jake and Minnie were intensely patriotic. Minnie was also deeply religious, and as nearly as possible in a small frontier town all *mitzvot* (religious obligations) were observed. Devera and Morton were on the high school debating teams, expressing their idealism. One year the teacher and the principal were faced with the minor problem of two Steinbergs on one team. The problem was solved by placing Morton on the team going out of town and keeping Devera on the home team. The explanation offered was that "Woman's place is in the home!"

In keeping with the prevailing philosophy, Minnie occupied herself with homemaking. In a kosher home household help had no part in the daily food preparation. Bread was home-baked and much canning of fruits and berries was done in summer. Music appreciation was very important to Minnie. She had studied piano at the Detroit Conservatory of Music for many years and was an accomplished pianist. She was interested in home furnishings and sewing. In those days great importance was attached to things that were "hand-made," as for instance, hand-painted china and needle work of all kinds. The word "women" was seldom in use, since women were referred to as "ladies." The card games the ladies played were euchre and whist. Minnie was a member of the Eastern Star and the Pythian Sisters.

Jake was a 32nd degree Mason, and also a member of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and was quite likely a member of the other lodges in Traverse City. (The history of Jewish families in small towns should include the fact that they lived in the midst of contradictions, and the struggle to preserve their Jewish identities was ever present.)

Jake was active in the community all his life. He worked with other business men in efforts to bring more tourist business to Traverse City, for they looked with envy on Petoskey and Charlevoix, which were so much more successful in attracting tourists. He joined the public school teachers in their fight for a raise in salary, and during the war he was particularly active in support of the sale of Liberty Bonds, and bought them himself.

Jake passed away in 1922 of complications following an appendectomy, in the days before penicillin was known. Many friends paid tribute to him. From the *Traverse City Record Eagle*:

Many people can be good merchants but few can be good citizens. [Jake Steinberg] has been one of the outstanding figures of the community, prominent in all community activities and a willing promoter of movements toward public progress. His death will be mourned by the entire region.

Minnie and Getelle moved from Traverse City in 1923 to make their home in Detroit. Devera was already married to Harry Stocker,

a young physician. They settled in Detroit after he completed his hospital internship. Morton went on to law school and was a practicing attorney in Muskegon for a few years. He became active in politics and served in several departments of the federal government in a legal capacity before being named special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1965. Meanwhile he moved with his family to Englewood, New Jersey; he passed away in 1974. Getelle moved to California in 1945. She was a kindergarten teacher until her retirement in 1976. Devera is the only one of the children who remained in Michigan. She lives in Oak Park, a suburb of Detroit.

Nathan Alper came to the United States in 1903, from Soly, Russia. He and a friend, who had a horse, formed a partnership. Starting from Scranton, Pennsylvania, their travels took them over a wide area. They came to Detroit, and proceeded north, stopping finally in Traverse City, at which time their horse died—thus dissolving the partnership.

Nathan brought his wife, Fruma Zlata, and son, Abe, to the United States in 1905. Two older children had died in Europe. Abe died in 1941, and a daughter, Leba Alper Salomon, of Silver Spring, Maryland, died in 1974. Other children of this union are: Bessie



Nathan Alper with his wife, Fruma Zlata, and their son, Abe, upon their arrival in the United States.

Alper Dutsch, Huntington Woods; Ethel Alper Valesco, Los Angeles; Ethel Alper Blender, Chicago (married to Dr. Paul Blender, formerly of Traverse City); Jennie Alper, Chicago.

Peddling in the small towns surrounding Traverse City, Nathan earned his livelihood at first by selling religious articles and pictures. He later dealt in metals, furs, wool, hides and ginseng (a root grown in Northern Michigan and used for medicinal purposes). Nathan dried the ginseng roots himself—hanging them close to the ceiling out of reach of his small children—then took them to Chicago's Chinatown for sale and processing. By 1919, the business warranted the purchase of his first truck.

In 1925, Nathan started the Northern Auto Parts Co. in Traverse City. He was a pioneer in this industry and a person whose business integrity was respected by employees, customers and competitors. The enterprise met an important need and found a ready market for reusable components of cars. By 1930, the growth of the business necessitated the hiring of a salesman to make regular calls on the road throughout Northern Michigan. Such a salesman for 35 years was Maynard Lazarus, son of the aforementioned Sarah and Abraham Lazarus.

During the early 1930's, son Abe became a partner in and manager of Northern Auto Parts and remained in that capacity until his death (noted above) in 1941. Abe was married to Minnie Kroll of Detroit. They had a daughter, Florence Marie, who in 1950 married Donald Morris, owner of Donald Morris Art Gallery of Birmingham, Michigan. The Morris' have two sons, Mark and Stephen, both active in the art gallery.

Jennie Alper succeeded Abe as manager of Northern Auto Parts. She had been active in the business for 11 years and was thoroughly knowledgeable, due to her experience in financial and inventory management. During its years of expansion, Northern Auto Parts Co. branches had been established in Petoskey, Manistee, Kalkaska and Bellaire. The business was sold by the Alper family in 1946.

Many personal reminiscences of Nathan Alper are still shared by members of the family and by others who came to know him: his annual gifts of mead and *matzot* to his non-Jewish neighbors; his willingness, as the fine Hebrew scholar he was, to prepare boys for *bar mitzva* during the sometimes long lapses between visits of itinerant rabbis, his readiness to arrange a *minyan* for a traveling Jew who wished to recite *kaddish*.

Nathan died in 1959 in Detroit. Fruma Zlata's death had occurred in 1922.

Wolf Bushell, who had come from Vilna in 1900, settled with his family in Grawn, about 8 miles from Traverse City. The family traced its lineage to the Romm brothers, proprietors of the well-known Vilna publishing firm. (It is of coincidental interest that dur-

ing the early years of his peddling, Nathan Alper stayed with the Bushells when he could not reach his own home in time for the Sabbath.) In 1903, Annie Bushell became the bride of Mitchell (William) Buchhalter in a Traverse City ceremony at which the Rev. Abraham J. Rubiner, the father of Judge Charles Rubiner of Detroit, officiated.<sup>3</sup> Mitchell Buchhalter was the son of Hyman Buchhalter, a *shohet* and an educator in Detroit. His Talmud Torah on Division Street was a forerunner of Detroit's United Hebrew Schools.

Rabbi Aaron Zussman and his wife Huddy came to this country from the Vilna-Minsk area in about 1900.<sup>4</sup> They settled first in Laurium, an Upper Peninsula community near Houghton and Hancock, where Aaron served as rabbi, *mohel* and *shohet* until 1903; they then moved to Traverse City where Rabbi Zussman served in the same capacities. Three of their five children were born in Traverse City: John, 1904; Anna, 1905; and Sam, 1907. The family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin in 1908.

The Gottliebs, Gus and Rose, came from Kurland, Latvia. They settled in Traverse City in 1899 at 811 State Street, next to the Rubiner family.<sup>5</sup> Gus Gottlieb was a police officer, and for a short while was Chief of Police in Traverse City. He is remembered as having owned two horses, one of which he raced on Sundays. Rose Gottlieb was noted for her skill in the culinary arts, for which she



Rabbi and Mrs. Aaron Zussman and their children.

was awarded prizes at the Traverse City Fair. (Their children, Edith Gottlieb Silverman, now of Miami Beach, and her brother, Kalman, recall periodic visits of the *shohet* who kashered their chickens and took them to the ice house to be stored for future use. Mrs. Silverman also recalls the efforts of her grandmother, who lived with them, to teach the children Yiddish. These efforts were accompanied by promises that if they learned well, lemon drops would fall from God's hand. And whatever the source, the young scholars were impressed by the fact that lemon drops actually did fall through the ceiling registers!)

Arthur Rosenthal came to Traverse City with his brother Hyman about 1901, and later opened a general store, the Globe Department Store.<sup>6</sup> Hyman was associated with the store for a short while, then went to East Jordan, Michigan, where he established his own store. Arthur Rosenthal married Hattie Blumrosen of Detroit. They had two children, James K., presently of New York City and Rita, now Mrs. Lester Morrison of California.

Arthur and Hattie Rosenthal left Traverse City for Detroit in the early 1920's. They subsequently moved to Pontiac, where he operated a women's apparel shop, Arthur's, on Saginaw Street. Hattie Rosenthal died in 1938; Arthur in 1964.

A sister of Arthur Rosenthal, Mrs. Eva Coplan, also lived in Traverse City, where Mr. Coplan was connected with the Globe Department Store. They had four children: Hyman, a 1907 graduate of Traverse City High School, was advertising manager of the year book and a football coach; Elizabeth, Gus and Joe. All these children are deceased. Elizabeth and Hyman were buried in the Traverse City Oakwood Jewish Cemetery.

Louis and Hilda Morris came to America from Kurland, and were married in Detroit in 1901.<sup>7</sup> Leaving Detroit, they went first to Fife Lake<sup>8</sup> and then to Traverse City where Mr. Morris operated The Phonograph Shop from 1911 to 1924. The Morris' had three children, Dahlia, Dorothy and Stanford.

The Phonograph Shop was sold by Mr. Morris to his brother-in-law, Rudolph Baumgarth. The Baumgarths were formerly of Kingsley, Michigan, and had two children: Irene Cooper of Bay City and Russell, now deceased.

Jacob and Fannie Fishman came to Traverse City from Leeds, England, in the early 1900's.<sup>9</sup> Mr. Fishman was a peddler, and he and his wife were the parents of Rachel, Millie, Harry, Al, Sam, Arthur, Leo Morris and Ethel. Rachel and Millie were born in Leeds. The family left Traverse City in 1916 to live in Bay City, where they had relatives.

Max and Brocha Rabinovitch settled in Traverse City in 1910.<sup>10</sup> Max and Brocha were cousins. They were married in 1906 in Toronto, where they first lived after arriving in the New World, and where Max learned cigar-making, a skill which was to prove useful in later years.

After a few years in the cigar factory, Max turned to the peddling of food products and dry goods. Venturing increasing distances from Toronto, he made periodic stops in Traverse City, where he was persuaded by some of the residents to make his home and establish a cigar factory. His knowledge that there was a synagogue in Traverse City helped influence his decision to move there.

Realizing after a short time that nationally distributed and advertised brands of cigars put a local factory at a competitive disadvantage, Max converted his East Front Street establishment into a grocery store in the period immediately before World War I. The store was later moved to State Street, in front of an area where farmers visiting the city left their horses and wagons. He developed an active trade with these farmers, selling them basic supplies and in turn purchasing produce from them, which he sold and delivered to the hospitals in town.

Respected by their customers, Max and Brocha (Bertha) were remembered also as very generous people, who opened their home to Jewish families coming to Traverse City to worship at Beth El Synagogue during the High Holy Days. Children of the time, who are today parents and grandparents, remember fondly the bags of goodies provided by Max and Bertha on festive Jewish occasions.

In 1914, Sam Aaron, whose wife was a cousin of the Rabinovitch family, came to this country from the Ukraine.<sup>11</sup> He worked for a

time in a New York steel bed factory, and then came to Traverse City, where he worked for Max Rabinovitch in his grocery store. Sam later opened his own store.

Sam's wife, Reva, and their children, David and Anna, were brought from Europe to Traverse City in 1922. Anna married Maynard Lazarus (see above), and they remained in Traverse City;



Max and Brocha Rabinovitch in 1935.



David married Dorothy Radner of Detroit, where the couple settled.

Reva Aaron died in Traverse City in 1948; Sam died in Detroit in 1956.

In 1922 Max and his brother, Abe, brought other members of the family to America. These included their mother; a sister, Bessie and her husband, Sol Cavitch; a brother, Sam, his wife, Muny and daughter, Donna; and a brother, Louis.

The sister and brother-in-law, Bessie and Sol Cavitch, lived in Traverse City. They had three children: a daughter, Shirley Gordon; and sons Zolman, an attorney in Cleveland, and David, at Tufts University. Sam's wife, Muny, died in 1945. In 1946, Sam married Devera Lazarus, daughter of Abraham and Sarah Lazarus, and, as previously noted, a Traverse City native. Sam Rabinovitch died in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1976. Brocha and Max died in 1960, Abe in 1944 and Louis in 1940.

The remodeling of the kitchen and social hall of Traverse City's Beth El Synagogue during the period 1950-1960 was made possible by the generosity of Max and Brocha Rabinovitch. On learning that the synagogue was established as a Michigan historical site in 1977 (see below), their nephew, David Cavitch, wrote:

I was deeply moved to learn that our synagogue is now to be remembered for posterity. It is a marvellous gesture of recognition of the earlier generations who dedicated their lives to the congregation. The little building on the very edge of the riverbank, behind the row of Christian churches and county buildings appeared all too likely to slide into oblivion. Now, clearly it will stand secure for a long time to come.

Nathan and Dora Katzen,<sup>12</sup> who lived in Chicago, travelled north in 1913, spending some time each summer near Bay City and then moving on to Traverse City, where the climate was reputed to be beneficial for hay fever and asthma sufferers. From a Martha Washington shoe salesman, Mr. Katzen learned of a general store for sale, located in Suttons Bay, about 18 miles from Traverse City. He bought the store, and it turned out to be a very successful business venture. Interesting to note, and related to an important industry in the Traverse Bay area, one of the leading items in the store was gauze, used to wrap the cherry trees to keep birds from eating the crop.

The Katzen children were Joe, Max and Helen. Max, a well known baseball player in Northern Michigan, died in Grand Rapids in 1977. Joe and Helen (Berman) now reside in Chicago. The Katzen family spent the High Holidays in Traverse City where they were the house guests of Max and Brocha Rabinovitch. To provide a more Jewish environment for the children, the family returned to Chicago in about 1922.

In 1914 a different kind of newcomer arrived in Traverse City. Ethyl Klein came from St. Louis, Michigan, a very small town in Gratiot County, where her father, Joseph Klein, had a dry goods store. They were the only Jewish family in St. Louis. She came to Traverse City to take a job teaching the third grade in one of the public schools. She had received her teacher training at Central State Normal College in Mt. Pleasant and her salary of \$546 a year was the annual salary of public school teachers in the United States in 1914. College for Jewish girls and jobs away from home were still novel for Ethyl's day.

She inquired about the Jewish community in Traverse City and was told to look up the Steinbergs. Following through on this suggestion, she walked into the Steinberg Store and asked a clerk, a young man, for information, saying she would like to meet some Jewish people. The clerk, Hyman (Hy) Podolsky, had come to Traverse City a year or so earlier. His parents had migrated from Kiev, Russia, when he was 15 years old, and they settled first in Duluth, Minnesota, where they had relatives, and later moved to Superior, Wisconsin, where there were also relatives. Hy had gained experience as a salesman while working for his relatives in Wisconsin. What motivated him to come to Traverse City is not known. After the turn of the century young men moving about found employment as salesmen in established stores. The era of the pack peddler was over. For the young salesman ambitious to make progress, the next step was accumulating enough money to go into business for himself. Thus Hy Podolsky, product of the new era, was an up-and-coming salesman in Traverse City, and Ethyl Klein, who wanted to meet

Jewish people, came to Traverse City in search of a larger Jewish community. Cupid never had it easier! After a two-year courtship they were married on June 25, 1916 and lived in Traverse city until 1920. Their first child, Harriet, was born in Traverse City in 1917.

From Traverse City they moved to Flint, Michigan, where Hy eventually went into business for himself. Their two younger children, Ruth and Martin, were born in Flint. Their marriage lasted more than 60 years until Hy's death in 1976.<sup>13</sup>



Hy and Ethyl Podolsky, around 1916.

In 1917 Myron and Deena Ginsberg came to Traverse

City by horse and wagon from Detroit, where they had been married four years earlier.<sup>14</sup> The Ginsbergs had four children: Gertrude, Goodwin, Milford and Harold.

Myron's parents, Jacob and Hannah Ginsberg, had been living in Traverse City since the turn of the century. Not much is known of the elder Ginsbergs beyond the fact that Jacob ran a raw hide and fur business, which Myron joined. They later went into the junk business.

Jacob died in Traverse City in 1930, and Myron died there in 1971. His family then moved to California, where they now reside.

Little is known of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Brown, who lived in Traverse City for a few years. They had a dress shop on Front Street around 1917. Edward, their oldest son, was a physician in New York City; their son Monroe became an attorney. The Browns also had a younger daughter.

Rabbi Jacob Kamenetsky, his wife Celia, and daughters Mollie and Naomi, came to Traverse City in 1922.<sup>15</sup> The rabbi served as the community's *shohet*, but the family returned to Detroit in 1924. Naomi (Lansky) now lives in Ann Arbor, and Mollie (Masserman) resides in Oak Park.

\* \* \*

A by-product of the research for this article was the discovery that Ben Zion Goldberg (or Ben Zion Waife Goldberg), the eminent author and journalist, was once a resident of Traverse City. Born in Lithuania in 1894, Goldberg was brought to this country in 1907, at the age of 13, and until 1910 lived in Traverse City where his father, Moses, was a *sofer* (scribe) or *shohet*. In 1917 Ben Zion married Marie Rabinowitz, youngest daughter of the famed Sholom Aleichem (Solomon Rabinowitz). Goldberg went to New York City, where from 1924 to 1940 he was managing editor of the Yiddish newspaper, *The Day (Der Tog)*. Goldberg died in Tel Aviv on December 29, 1972. A granddaughter, Bel Kaufman, is the author of the well-known book, *Up the Down Staircase*.

Although the following Jews lived in Traverse City, little information on them is known:

Mr. Korn, a relative of Myron Ginsberg, lived in Traverse City in early 1900.

Dr. Barnett Blender, optometrist, lived in Traverse City around 1918, with his wife Jennie, and their children Delbert, Paul and Helen.

Rabbi Gordon, who in 1913 trained Morton Steinberg (brother of Devera Steinberg Stocker) for bar mitzva.

David H. Netzorg owned a Traverse City clothing store known as "The Irishman and the Jew,"<sup>16</sup> (see "The Jews of Kalkaska County," *Michigan Jewish History* 19, January 1979, pp. 7-8) from 1917 until his death in 1956. Although born Jewish, he became a Christian convert, and did not associate with the Jewish community.

\* \* \*

Traverse City's Beth El synagogue, (whose founding was described in Part I of this article), is still a functioning house of worship. In the past, Jews from the entire Grand Traverse Bay region, including such towns as Fife Lake, Kingsley, Kalkaska, Elk Rapids, Suttons Bay and others, would attend holiday services in Traverse City. In recent years, visiting student rabbis and cantors have conducted Friday evening and holiday services.

The building itself is of wood frame construction, two stories in height. Built for an Orthodox congregation, the second floor was originally used as the women's gallery. Today, it has been converted to lodging quarters for the visiting rabbis. The main floor is capable of seating 100 people on 30 wooden benches; the *bima* can contain a choir of 20 persons. The *aron kodesh* (ark) houses four Torah scrolls, and has a *parokhet* (ark curtain) of white satin, which was donated by Rachel (Rae) Lazarus Harris, daughter of Abraham Lazarus. The synagogue basement is used as a social hall.

In October, 1977, the Michigan State Historical Commission designated Beth El a historic site. An official state marker was erected on the grounds of the synagogue with the following inscription:

This simple white frame structure featuring gable roof-ends with spindle work is the oldest synagogue building in continuous use in Michigan. It was constructed in 1885 on land donated by Perry Hannah, Traverse City lumber magnate who contributed to many religious and civic institutions. Julius Steinberg, Julius Levinson Solomon Yalomstein were the first trustees of Beth El. Unchanged in appearance, the building has served the Jewish community in the Grand Traverse area for almost a century.

\* \* \*

#### ADDENDUM

Inadvertently, the Shepman family was not included among the early Jewish settlers in Traverse City described in Part I. The U.S. Census of 1880 lists Isaac Shepman, his wife Many, their daughter Ella (age 20), and their granddaughter Dora Bell, 2 years old. Isaac was a notions peddler. There is no further reference to them in subsequent census lists, and nothing further is known of them.

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup>Information on the Lazarus family came from interviews with Eva Lazarus Leach by Devera Steinberg Stocker in 1977.
- <sup>2</sup>See *Michigan Jewish History* 19 (June 1979): p. 18.
- <sup>3</sup>See *Michigan Jewish History* 19 (June 1979): p. 27.
- <sup>4</sup>Information on the Zussman family came from a letter of John Zussman to Bess Alper Dutsch, January 20, 1979.
- <sup>5</sup>Information on the Gottlieb family came from a letter of Edith Gottlieb Silverman to Bess Alper Dutsch, June 24, 1976; and from an interview with Kalman Gottlieb by Bess Alper Dutsch, Miami Beach, Fla., June, 1976.
- <sup>6</sup>Information on the Rosenthal family came from an interview with Dorothy Imerman by Bess Alper Dutsch, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., 1977.
- <sup>7</sup>Information on the Morris family came from an interview with Dahlia Morris Emmer by Bess Alper Dutsch, Huntington Woods, Mich.
- <sup>8</sup>See also "The Jews of Kalkaska County," *Michigan Jewish History* 19 (January 1979): p. 9.
- <sup>9</sup>Information on the Fishman family came from a telephone interview with Millie Fishman Graff by Bess Alper Dutsch, Oak Park, Mich., 1978.
- <sup>10</sup>Information on the Rabinovitch and Cavitch families came from letters of Zolman Cavitch, March 24, 1978 and David Cavitch, April 9, 1978 to Bess Alper Dutsch.
- <sup>11</sup>Information on the Aaron family came from a telephone interview with David Aaron, Detroit, Mich., by Bess Alper Dutsch.
- <sup>12</sup>Information on the Katzen family came from an interview with Joe Katzen, Chicago, Ill., April, 1978 by Bess Alper Dutsch.
- <sup>13</sup>Information on the Podolsky family came from interviews with Ruth Podolsky and her mother, Ethyl Klein Podolsky, by Devera Steinberg Stocker, January, 1979.
- <sup>14</sup>Information on the Ginsberg family came from a letter of Dr. Milford Gilbert, October 9, 1978, to Bess Alper Dutsch.
- <sup>15</sup>Information on the Kamenetsky family came from a telephone interview with Mollie Kamenetsky Masserman, Detroit, Mich., by Bess Alper Dutsch.
- <sup>16</sup>"The Jews of Kalkaska County," *Michigan Jewish History* 19 (January 1979): pp. 7-8.

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

### PART IV\*

By IRVING I. EDGAR, M.D.

#### The Rivard Street Synagogue (1861 - 1867)

The Michigan Grand Avenue (now Cadillac Square) site (III) of Congregation Beth El remained as its place of religious activities for only two years (1859 - 1861). The often expressed hope and desire of its members to have a building of their own became fulfilled when the congregation bought the French Methodist Episcopal Church and adjoining parsonage<sup>1</sup> located on Rivard Street between what is now Monroe Avenue and Lafayette Streets, but at that time named Croghan and Champlain Streets, respectively. They purchased this property for the sum of \$3,500, "subject to a special assessment for paving the street."<sup>2</sup> The legal papers of transfer, deed, and several other papers are dated March 1, 1861, and signed by Simon Friedman, the then-president of the congregation, and by the appropriate officers of the congregation.

This new home for the various religious, school and other activities of the congregation and its members was dedicated six months later, in August, during which interim period the necessary changes were made in the building in accordance with the needs of the congregation.

The official dedication of the Rivard Street synagogue occurred on Friday, August 30, 1861. According to an eye-witness account of this event appearing in the *Detroit Tribune and Advertiser* of August 3, 1861,<sup>3</sup> the ceremonies "commenced" at 3 o'clock p.m.,

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\*This is the fourth of a series of six articles on the subject in *Michigan Jewish History*. The first, "The Cozens' Home," appeared in June, 1970, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 17 - 23. The second, "The First Synagogue of Congregational Beth El: The Room Above The Store of Silberman and Hirsch, 1852 - 1859," appeared in November, 1970, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 5 - 11. The third article, "The Michigan Grand Avenue Synagogue, 1859 - 1861," appeared in January, 1973, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 13 - 20.

IRVING I. EDGAR, M.D. is a past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and is the immediate past editor of *Michigan Jewish History*. He is in private practice in Detroit, and also serves on the staffs of Harper-Grace, Sinai and Doctors Hospitals.

. . . with a Hebrew song by the choir accompanied by a melodeon, during which Rev. Mr. Lasar\* [sic], Mr. S. Freedman\*\* and Mr. Schloss,\*\*\* carried the sacred scrolls of the law in procession through the Synagogue, preceded by six girls dressed in white, carrying burning wax tapers. Having reached the altar, the Rev. Dr. I. M. Wise, LL.D.,\*\*\*\* opened the services with an English prayer. Several psalms were then sung by the choir, and the Rev. Dr. Lasar, after which the sacred scrolls were deposited in the arch [sic] of the covenant. The consecration hymn was then sung, and the Rev. Dr. Wise preached the dedication sermon, taking his text from the end of the 4th and 6th chapters of Isaiah. He said the congregation deserved particular praise for having erected a monument to the ancient cause of Judaism in the city of Detroit, being few in number, and in these hard times, it certainly required heavy sacrifices to accomplish the object.

At the conclusion of the dedication sermon, Dr. Wise "consecrated the new edifice and prayed for peace and Union in this great and glorious Republic."<sup>4</sup>

Following this sermon, Mr. Laser "appeared in the pulpit and explained in German the object of the present occasion . . . The whole was very impressive, the ceremonies very imposing."<sup>5</sup>

It is interesting to note that this same account of the dedication mentions that the "celebrated J. J. Benjamin [sic],<sup>6</sup> the great oriental traveler, the author of the great work, 'Eight Years in Asia and Africa,' " was present at the ceremonies, having "just arrived from . . . California, having thereby concluded his voyage around the world, and hastened to the synagogue to meet his not less celebrated friend, Dr. Wise."<sup>7</sup>

After the dedication, services were held, and the following day the regular Sabbath morning services took place, where Dr. Wise delivered a German sermon to the congregation.

However, the use of the melodeon reed organ and of a mixed choir during the dedication services was considered by many members as being contrary to Orthodox Judaism, since it must be remembered that "up to this time the worship of the congregation was rigorously Orthodox and the question of reform in any particular respect had been rigidly excluded."<sup>8</sup> As a result, at least 17 members withdrew from the congregation and organized their own new "Schaarey Zedek Society" in September 1861, which became the nucleus of the now large Conservative Shaarey Zedek Congregation of Detroit.

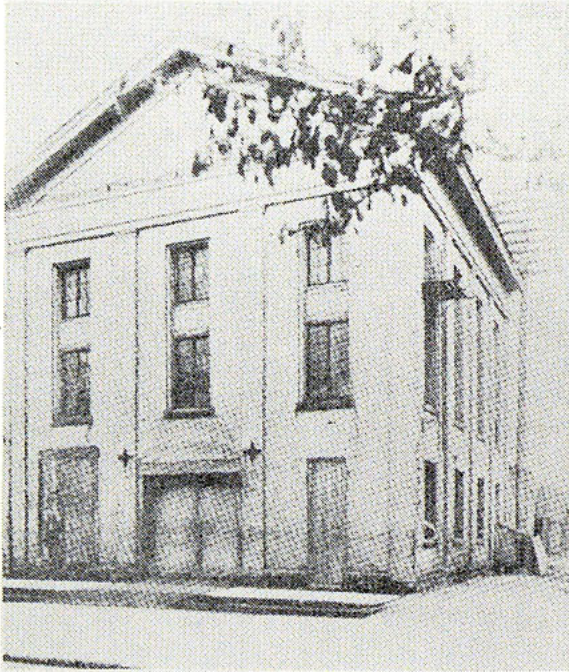
Congregation Beth El continued on its path of Reform during its stay at the Rivard Street Synagogue. Thus, in April, 1862, they adopted a new constitution setting out these Reform ideas more specifically, which included: (1) the replacement of the Orthodox

\*Rabbi Abraham Laser, third spiritual leader of Beth El.

\*\*Simon Freedman, president of Beth El.

\*\*\*Emanuel Schloss, Beth El president from 1859 - 1860.

\*\*\*\*Isaac M. Wise (1819 - 1900) of Cincinnati, father of American Reform Judaism.



The Rivard Street synagogue, 1861-1867.

liturgy and ritual (Minhag Ashkenaz) by the American Reform ritual (Minhag America) of Isaac M. Wise, (2) the retention of instrumental music and a mixed choir as an integral part of the religious services, (3) the abandonment of *aliyot* at the Torah reading, (4) the discarding of the *talit* (prayer shawl), (5) the seating of men and women together rather than separately, as in Orthodox congregations, (6) the introduction of

the ceremony of Confirmation for both boys and girls on the Shavuot holiday. And indeed the first confirmation of ten boys and girls took place at the Rivard Street Synagogue for the first time in April, 1862. Many other changes followed during the few years at this synagogue site, and not without conflict among its members. Appropos to this, there is a well-authenticated story to the effect that "Messrs. Sigmund Rothchild and A. J. Franklin took it upon themselves to saw away the seats reserved for women in the gallery and that consternation reigned, when on the following Sabbath, the ladies were confronted with the changed conditions for which they were totally unprepared. It was not long thereafter, that the family pew was officially sanctioned and introduced."<sup>9</sup>

During this period also there were several changes in the congregation's rabbinate. Thus Dr. Liebman Adler, who had officiated as rabbi at the Michigan Grand Avenue site (III) for 2 years, served only a few months at the Rivard Street synagogue (Site IV), when he left to serve as rabbi at a Reform synagogue in Chicago. Abraham Laser shortly thereafter became Beth El's rabbi. It was he who organized the Ladies Society for the Support of Hebrew Widows and Orphans in July, 1863 (which existed until 1927). However, Rabbi Laser ceased to be with the congregation about this time, evident by the fact that we find Beth El advertising for someone else to fill their rabbinate. The following advertisement appeared in *The Israelite* of August 6, 1864:



WANTED - By the Congregation of Beth El, Detroit, Mich., a competent gentleman to officiate in the capacity of Chasan and Teacher in Hebrew and German, and who is capable of instructing a choir. Salary \$1,000 per annum, and the use of a commodious dwelling house free of rent. Perquisites will amount to about \$300, per annum. Applications to be directed to Mr. S. Freedman, Detroit.

L. LAMBERT, Sec'y.

Whether through this advertisement or by other means, Dr. Isidor Kalisch became the next spiritual leader at the Rivard Street synagogue; he preached his inaugural sermon there on September 10, 1864. On September 22, 1864, Dr. Kalisch gave the dedicatory sermon at the first synagogue of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, then located on Congress and Antoine Streets.<sup>10</sup> On April 19, 1865, Dr. Kalisch conducted a memorial service for President Abraham Lincoln, a report of which (including the full actual sermon) appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* of April 20, 1865. During the same month, he published a volume of his poems in German, entitled *Toene des Morgen Landes* (Sounds of the Orient).<sup>11</sup>

Soon thereafter, Rabbi Kalisch left for a post in Newark, New Jersey. He was soon replaced by Rabbi Elias Eppstein in 1866, who served at the Rivard Street synagogue for only a short time, as Beth El, not long thereafter, moved to their new site (the fifth) — the Washington Boulevard synagogue — located at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Clifford Street.

Rabbi Elias Eppstein, in succeeding Rabbi Kalisch in 1866, became the fifth spiritual leader of the congregation, at an annual salary of \$1,500. It was noted at the time that the members were "exceedingly pleased with Rabbi Eppstein and in token of their appreciation, they renovated and refurnished his parsonage."<sup>12</sup>

Rabbi Eppstein continued to serve the congregation until 1869, most of his services taking place at the Washington Boulevard synagogue; he was succeeded there by Rabbi Kaufman Kohler.

During the Rivard Street synagogue period also, it is of interest to note that a certain number of the members of the congregation pledged themselves to give certain sums of money toward the purchase of a new *sefer Torah*. Their "subscription paper" follows:<sup>13</sup>

Detroit, Sept. 5, 1862

We, the undersigned, do hereby pledge ourselves to pay the sums set opposite our respective names for the purpose of purchasing a new *Sefer Thora* for the ensuing holy days to be dedicated to and for the use of the congregation Beth El. A copy of this, together with the respective names of the donors to be placed on the records of the congregation (signed), S. Musliner, M. Cohen, H. Freedman, Simon Friedman, Heavenrich Brothers, A. J. Franklin, E. S. Heineman, J. Sittig, B. Prell, M. Bamberger, A. Laser, Moses Trounstien, A. Lehman, L. Labold, Emanuel Schloss, Rothschilds, L. Hirschman, M. Hirschman, J. Silberman, Chas. Weichselbaum, A. Hersch, L. Lambert, J. Robinson, E. Lieberman, M. Rindskoff, S. G. Knoll, Jos. Joseph, H. Fredsdorf, Jos. Newman, M. Rosenberger, A. Lowenstein, Moses Marx.

A letter of 1867 from Isaac Hart of Detroit to the Rev. Isaac Lesser of Philadelphia<sup>14</sup> is of interest as mentioning the Rivard Street synagogue, saying that his

. . . immediate and kindest and best friends . . . are those connected with the Reform Synagogue . . . The Minister of the Rivard Street Synagogue, Mr. Epstine [sic], is a very talented man. He preaches every *Shabbat* alternately English, German. His Synagogue is well attended. He has that happy oratory of making his hearers feel his words and frequently the whole audience are in tears at the strength of his words . . .

In summary, we can state that Beth El remained at the Rivard Street synagogue (Site IV) for six years (1861 - 1867), and during that time has a least three changes in their spiritual leadership. Also, Detroit's Jewish community experienced its first religious schism at the Rivard Street setting. However, the progress of Beth El continued as a Reform congregation.

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>It must be remembered that Detroit originally had been under French rule until 1760, and there were many descendants of French-speaking people in the city; hence, the name French Methodist Episcopal Church.

<sup>2</sup>Rabbi Leo M. Franklin et al., *A History of Congregation Beth El, Detroit, Michigan, 1850 - 1900* (Detroit: Winn Hammond, 1900), p. 25.

<sup>3</sup>A photographic copy of this account appears in *The Beth El Story* by Irving I. Katz (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1955), Appendix IX. See also the actual order of the exercises in the *History of Beth El*, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup>*Detroit Tribune and Advertiser*.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>I. J. Benjamin (1818 - 1864), Rumanian Jewish explorer and writer, who in emulation of the medieval traveler, Benjamin of Tudela, styled himself "Benjamin II." Beginning in 1845 he traveled through North Africa, Asia and Europe. In 1859 he began a journey through the United States, describing his travels in *Drei Jahre in Amerika* (1862; republished in English in 1956 by the Jewish Publication Society of America).

<sup>7</sup>*Detroit Tribune and Advertiser*.

<sup>8</sup>*History of Beth El*, p. 26.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 27 - 28.

<sup>10</sup>*The Beth El Story*, p. 78.

<sup>11</sup>*History of Beth El*, p. 79.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 30.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 29.

<sup>14</sup>Irving I. Katz, "Detroit's Jewish Community in 1867," *Michigan Jewish History* 4 (May 1964): 12 - 13.

## REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding at its annual meeting on June 17, 1979 at the Labor Zionist Institute in Farmington Hills.

The late-morning brunch was attended by more than 100 people. President Doris P. Easton called the business portion of the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Attendees stood in silent tribute to the memory of recently deceased JHSM members Herbert M. Eiges, Benjamin Laikin, and past President Irving I. Katz.

The officers gave their respective reports, notable among which was Treasurer Reuben Levine's report that the Society was in a favorable financial condition. In her review of the past year's activities, President Easton noted the completion of the revision of our Constitution and By-Laws, a significant change being the introduction of a second office of vice presidency.

Past President Irving I. Edgar gave a personal overview of the past two decades of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. He devoted particular attention to the state and private markers commemorating sites, events and people of Jewish significance throughout the state of Michigan. Five of the markers were erected through the efforts of the JHSM: at Fort Michilimackinac, commemorating Michigan's first known Jew, Ezekiel Solomon; at Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery, commemorating the Champlain Street Cemetery, Michigan's oldest Jewish burial ground; at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre in Detroit, commemorating the structure as a former site of Temple Beth El; a window at the Detroit Historical Museum depicting the flag of the city of Detroit,

\*See below.



JHSM Past Presidents were honored with *Resolutions of Appreciation* on the occasion of our Twentieth Anniversary. *Left to right:* Dr. Henry Green, Allen A. Warsen, Doris P. Easton, Dr. Abraham S. Rogoff, Dr. Irving I. Edgar.



Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Shull (front center), recipients of a JHSM *Resolution of Commendation* for archival work, express their thanks, with outgoing President Doris P. Easton (back center) looking on.

designed by the Jewish historian and former president of the Detroit Common Council, David E. Heineman; and at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, commemorating Chapman Abraham, Detroit's first known Jew. An official state marker in downtown Detroit, commemorating the first formal Jewish religious services in the city in 1850, was erected through the cooperative efforts of the JHSM, Temple Beth El and Congregation T'chayah. Another official state marker commemorating the Traverse City synagogue was erected strictly through that community's efforts, but the JHSM was invited to, and did, participate in the dedication ceremonies.

Numerous messages of congratulation to the Society on its twentieth anniversary were received and put on display at the meeting.\* Anniversary greetings came from the Presidents of the United States and the state of Israel, from Jewish and secular historical societies, communal organizations and political figures. A handsome display depicting the Society's many activities was also on view.

In honor of our anniversary celebration, special recognition was accorded our past presidents, each being presented with a *Resolution of Appreciation* from the Society. Our founder and first president, Allen A. Warsen, was presented with a special Resolution, in recognition of his having established the Society, and, among many other accomplishments, having designated the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library as our official depository. The other past presidents honored were Dr. Irving I. Edgar, Dr. Abraham S. Rogoff and Dr. Henry Green. Aid Kushner accepted the Resolution posthumously awarded to Irving I. Katz, our second president. Mr. Kushner accepted the honor on behalf of Mrs. Katz.

A *Resolution of Commendation* was presented to Dr. and Mrs.

Charles W. Shull, who for the past several years, have voluntarily organized the vast amount of Jewish material in the Burton Collection. The Resolution noted that the Shulls (who are neither Jewish nor members of the JHSM), devoted time each week to work on the Jewish material, and succeeded in organizing more than 280 boxes and other forms of Temple Beth El material. They are currently organizing the records of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit on deposit at Burton.

Past President Green presented the slate of officers and Board members nominated to serve in the 1979-1980 term. Officers: Jeffrey N. Borin, president; Phillip Applebaum, Walter E. Klein, vice presidents; Reuben Levine, treasurer; Larry Gormezano, recording secretary; Sarah Rogoff, financial secretary; Gertrude F. Edgar, corresponding secretary. Board of Directors: Goldie Adler, David G. Brodman, Laurence B. Deitch, Walter L. Field, Evan Fishman,\* Rabbi Leon Fram, Morris Friedman, Sarah Friedman, Louis LaMed, Mrs. Louis LaMed, Ida Levine, Lenore Miller, Dr. Leonard Moss, Dr. Harold Norris, Patricia Pilling, Abraham Satovsky, Bette Schein, Lee Schwartz, Dr. Oscar D. Schwartz, Leonard Simons, Devera Stocker, Dr. Saul Sugar and George M. Stutz. (All past presidents are automatically members of the Board.)

All those nominated were voted in by acclamation, and were installed by Dr. Edgar.

\*Mr. Fishman has since resigned his post because of his relocation outside the state.



Officers and members of the Board of Directors elected at the Twentieth Annual Meeting. *Bottom row, left to right:* Dr. Oscar D. Schwartz, Abraham Satovsky, Walter E. Klein, Jeffrey N. Borin, Allen A. Warsen, Dr. Saul Sugar, Dr. Abraham S. Rogoff, Reuben Levine. *Center row:* Gertrude F. Edgar, Devera Stocker, Mrs. Louis LaMed, Sarah Friedman, Ida Levine, Doris P. Easton, Goldie Adler. *Back row:* Lee Schwartz, Dr. Irving I. Edgar, Laurence B. Deitch, Dr. Henry Green, Louis LaMed, U.S. Senator Carl Levin (*guest speaker*), Patricia L. Pilling, Morris Friedman, Evan Fishman, Phillip A. Applebaum, Sarah Rogoff, Dr. Harold Norris. *Not pictured:* David G. Brodman, Walter L. Field, Rabbi Leon Fram, Larry Gormezano, Lenore Miller, Dr. Leonard Moss, Bette Schein, Leonard Simons, George M. Stutz.

In his acceptance speech, newly-elected President Borin vowed to continue the fine work and tradition of the Society, and promised to move the JHSM on to greater accomplishments. He presented outgoing President Easton with a plaque in recognition of her achievements, and with a *Resolution of Appreciation*, similar to those presented to the other past presidents.



Guest speaker, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, addresses the Twentieth Annual Meeting (newly-elected President Jeffrey N. Borin in background).

Past President Rogoff introduced the Twentieth Anniversary guest speaker, U.S. Senator Carl Levin. Mr. Levin, a JHSM member, spoke on the topic, "Personal experiences in Michigan Politics," placing special emphasis on the Jewish aspects of political life. The senator, a former president of the Detroit City Council, is the first Jew from the state of Michigan to have been elected to the U.S. Senate, and is only the second Michigan Jew to serve in either house of the U.S. Congress. (The first was Julius Houseman, who represented Grand Rapids in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 48th Congress, 1883 to 1885.) Senator Levin was enthusiastically received, and an extensive question-and-answer period followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

\* \* \*

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan acknowledges with grateful appreciation the expressions of congratulation for our Twentieth Anniversary received from the following:

James J. Blanchard, U.S. Representative, 18th District, Michigan.

William Brodhead, U.S. Representative, 17th District, Michigan.

Alice C. Dalligan, Chief, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.

Detroit City Council. Erma Henderson, President (*Testimonial Resolution*).

Detroit Historical Society. Hudson Mead, President; Nancy D. Cunningham, Executive Director (*Certificate of Merit*).

Donald F. Fracassi, Mayor, City of Southfield, Michigan.

Gerald George, Director, American Association for State and Local History.

Carl Levin, U.S. Senator, Michigan.

Jacob R. Marcus, Director, American Jewish Archives.

Michigan Historical Commission. Michigan History Division, Michigan Department of State (*Resolution*).

Michigan State Legislature (*House Concurrent Resolution 206*, offered by Representatives Forbes, Wilson, Ogonowski, McCollough, and Senators Welborn, Arthurhultz, Bishop, Geake, Plawecki, Hertel, Kelly).

William G. Milliken, Governor, State of Michigan.

Shulamit Nardi, Assistant to President Yitzhak Navon, State of Israel.

Joseph L. (Jody) Powell, Jr., Press Secretary to President Jimmy Carter, U.S.A.

Donald W. Riegle, Jr., U.S. Senator, Michigan.

Saul Viener, President, American Jewish Historical Society.

Frank C. Wilhelme, Executive Director, Historical Society of Michigan.

Colman A. Young, Mayor, City of Detroit, Michigan.

George M. Zeltzer, President, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit.



## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following persons who have recently joined the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan:

Prof. John J. Appel  
Dr. Paul Blender  
Cynthia Brody  
Mrs. Sol R. Colton  
Edith Ella Davis  
Mrs. Samuel Fineman  
Carol Finerman  
Max M. Fisher (*Life Member*)  
Gertrude Foster  
Mrs. Dan Frohman  
Mrs. Samuel J. Greenberg  
Jeanne Hahn  
Sol Lachman  
Richard B. Levie  
Sidney M. Levine  
Dr. Peter A. Martin (*Life Member*)  
Sherman Nacmani  
Norman Naimark  
Leo L. Perelman  
Mrs. Louis Pevin  
Saul J. Rubin  
Charles Rubiner  
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sallan  
Milton Shapiro  
Milford Stein  
Morris W. Stein  
Lee Waldbott  
Dr. Frederick H. Wasserman  
Mrs. Bernard Whiteman  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Willis

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Note the following corrections for Volume 19, Number 2, June 1979:

Page 3, Hebrew date to read: Sivan 5739.

Page 3, by-line of "History of Traverse City Jewish Community," name should be corrected to: Devera Steinberg Stocker.

\* \* \*

Corrections and additions for "History of the Traverse City Jewish Community: Part One" (v. 19, n. 2):

Page 13, by-line, name to be corrected to: Devera Steinberg Stocker.

Page 13, biographical footnote, name to be corrected to: Devera Steinberg Stocker.

Page 14, paragraph 3, Articles of Incorporation, add footnote no. 3 designation following name of Julius Steinberg.

Page 21, paragraph 1, line 9: footnote designation should be 20 [instead of 29].

Page 26, last paragraph states that Louis Sandelman left Sault Ste. Marie to join his sister in Petoskey, when in fact it was Meir and Hannah who left. Thus, the paragraph should read:

In 1895 their daughter, Minnie, who had married Jake Greenberg, moved to Petoskey; Meir and Hannah moved from Traverse City soon after. It is believed they went first to Sault Ste. Marie where their son, Louis, had a racket store. Isaac and Isaer also joined their brother in Sault Ste. Marie. A short time later Meir and Hannah left to take up residence with their daughter and son-in-law in Petoskey . . .

Page 27, paragraph 4, line 7: name should be Annie Bushell.

Page 29, first paragraph, add the following:

Ben Wepman, son of Schulam and Fayga, left Traverse City for Grand Rapids in 1915. (According to Ben, a rabbi would visit Traverse City for the High Holidays, and the traditional *tashlikh* services were performed.)

Page 30, notes 8 and 10: correspondence was between informants and Devera Steinberg Stocker only.

Page 31, note 21: name should be Lena Goldman Goldstein.

Page 32, note 27: name should be Sara Greenberg Goldberg.

Page 32, notes 27 and 28: correspondence was between the informants and Devera Steinberg Stocker only.

Page 32, note 38: correspondence was between Ben Wepman and Bess Alper Dutsch only.

\* \* \*

Page 43: Norman Lederer is Dean of Occupational [not Vocational] and General Studies at Washtenaw Community College.

We respectfully wish to inform our membership that they can benefit the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan by means of bequests from wills, trust funds, insurance policies, endowments, foundation donations, and outright gifts. For further information, please contact our president, Jeffrey N. Borin, Suite 1430, 3000 Town Center, Southfield, Michigan 48075; (313) 353-0023. All inquires will be handled in strict confidence.

# TRIBUTE FUND

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