

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

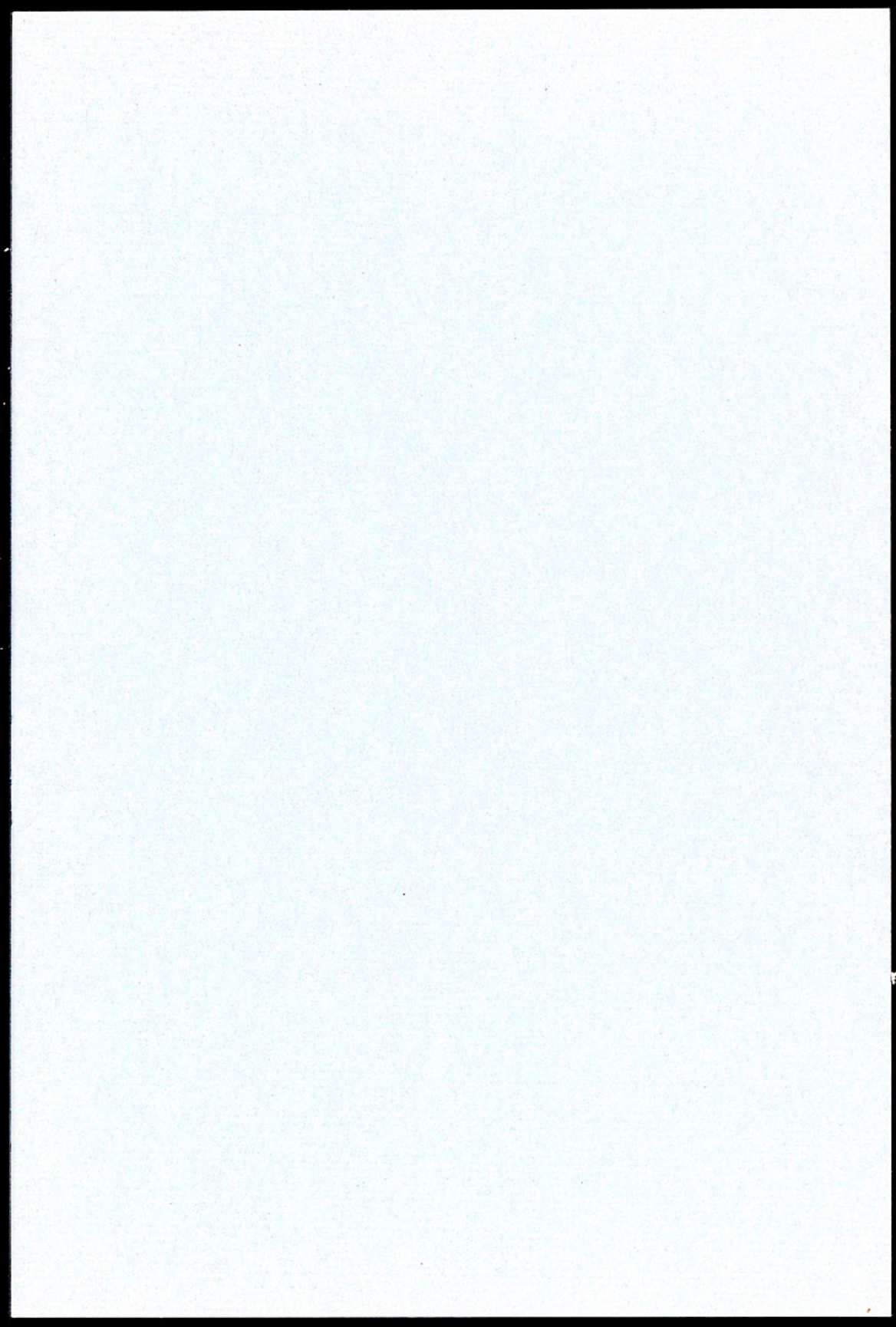


Official Publication of

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

Volume 22, Number 1

January 1982 — Tevet 5742



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 22 January 1982 — Tevet 5742 No. 1

Jewish Members of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame	3
Phillip Applebaum	
A Jewish First at the University of Michigan	12
Devera Steinberg Stocker	
Book Review	15
<i>Henry Ford and the Jews</i> by Albert Lee, reviewed by Walter E. Klein	
Report of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting	17
Bernard Isaacs Memorial	19
Constitutional Amendment	21
Corrections	22
New Members	23

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

EDITOR

Phillip Applebaum

EDITORIAL BOARD

Irving I. Edgar

Walter E. Klein

Reuben Levine

Bette A. Roth

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. MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY is available on microform from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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

Copyright 1981 by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

163 Madison Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226

OFFICERS

Phillip Applebaum	President
Walter E. Klein	Vice President
Lenore Miller	Vice President
Ida Levine	Treasurer
Esther Klein	Recording Secretary
Gertrude F. Edgar	Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Abraham S. Rogoff	Financial Secretary
Allen A. Warsen	Founder and Honorary President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Morris Adler	Mrs. Louis LaMed	Oscar D. Schwartz
Leonard Antel	Reuben Levine	Howard B. Sherizen
Laurence B. Deitch	Richard Maddin	Adelle W. Staller
Walter L. Field	Harold Norris	Devera Stocker
Leon Fram	Patricia Pilling	George M. Stutz
Miriam Hamburger	Bette A. Roth	H. Saul Sugar
	Abraham Satovsky	

PAST PRESIDENTS

Allen A. Warsen	1959-61
Irving I. Katz*	1961-63
Rabbi Emanuel Applebaum	1963-64
Dr. Irving I. Edgar	1964-73
Dr. Abraham S. Rogoff	1973-75
Dr. Henry Green	1975-77
Doris P. Easton	1977-79
Jeffrey N. Borin	1979-81

*Deceased

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 Howard B. Sherizen, Membership Chairman, 24031 Stratford, Oak Park, MI 48237; (313) 967-1027.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

By Phillip Applebaum

Americans are lovers of sports and admirers of sports heroes, whom they have enshrined in various "halls of fame." Among the major sports, there is the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. There are similar shrines sponsored by local communities, institutions and organizations for the immortalization of athletes from among their own numbers or those who have had some association with them. Michigan was one of the first states to establish a shrine honoring men and women of athletic achievement on a state-wide scope: the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.¹

The Michigan Sports Hall of Fame was conceived in 1955, as a part of the Greater Michigan Foundation, itself established a year earlier for the purpose of promoting the state ("Michigan Week," observed annually on the third week in May). The Hall of Fame's constitution was written by a committee consisting of George S. Alderton, sports editor emeritus of the *Lansing State Journal*; Philip S. Hart, lieutenant governor of Michigan (later U.S. Senator); and Clarence L. "Biggie" Munn, athletic director of Michigan State University.

The constitution stipulates that at least two living and one deceased sportspersons be inducted each year. Team owners, general managers, coaches and athletic directors are also eligible. The electorate today comprises 139 sports editors and directors of Michigan daily newspapers who are members of the Associated Press or the United Press International, plus sports directors of the state's radio and television stations. The Hall of Fame's commissioner since its founding has been W. Nicholas Kerbawy.

In May, 1966 the Hall of Fame established a shrine in Cobo Hall, the major convention and exhibition center in the city of Detroit.

To date, 110 sportspersons have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Of that number, six are Jews. Biographical sketches follow, appearing in the order in which they were elected.

Henry Benjamin (Hank) Greenberg.² Born January 1, 1911 in New York City, "Hammerin' Hank" Greenberg was one of America's premier baseball players. The eldest child of Rumanian Jewish immigrants, Greenberg grew up in the Bronx. Active in many high school sports, he was good enough at baseball to receive a number of offers from professional baseball clubs. He signed with Detroit, and played for their farm clubs in

PHILLIP APPLEBAUM is the President of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and editor of *Michigan Jewish History*.

¹ Information on the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame was derived from a letter to the author from W. Nicholas Kerbawy, August 14, 1981.

² *Encyclopedia of Jews in Sports* by Bernard Postal, Jesse Silver and Roy Silver. (New York: Bloch Publishing Company, 1965), pp. 61-63.

the minor leagues from 1930-33, where he established a record as a power hitter.

In 1934 he was called up from the minors to play first base for the Detroit Tigers. It was a fortuitous decision. Greenberg's hitting helped pull the team out of fifth place and move up in the rankings to a point where Detroit could reasonably hope for its first American League championship since 1909. Every game became crucial. Near the end of the season, and with the pennant almost within reach, it happened that games coincided with the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. It seemed that the entire country shared Greenberg's dilemma as to whether or not he



Hank Greenberg

should play. He struck a compromise. He played on Rosh Hashana and helped the Tigers win with a pair of home runs, but he stayed out of the game on Yom Kippur and his team lost. Nevertheless, the Tigers won the pennant and went on to play St. Louis in the World Series (St. Louis won).

The following year the Tigers again won the pennant, and Greenberg was named the American League's Most Valuable Player. He broke his wrist during the season, however, and further injuries kept him out of the game for the next two seasons. He returned to the active roster in 1938, when he hit 58 home runs, two short of Babe Ruth's record.

In 1939 he was switched to the outfield. He again won the MVP award, led the league in home runs and runs-batted-in, and helped the Tigers win another league championship.

One of baseball's top-paid players, he was drafted into the U.S. armed forces after the 19th game in 1941, but was released two days before Pearl Harbor. After the United States declared war on Japan, however, he re-enlisted. By the end of World War II, he had made the grade of Air Force Captain, having served with distinction in the Far East Theater.

On his first day back in a Tiger uniform (July 1, 1945), he hit his 250th career home run. On the final day of the season, he hit a grand-slam home run in a game against the St. Louis Browns and led the Tigers to another pennant victory. The Tigers met the Chicago Cubs in the World Series, and Greenberg's hitting helped clinch the championship for Detroit. In 1946, restored to first base, he led the American League in home runs and rbi's for the third time.

Greenberg was sold to the Pittsburgh Pirates of the National League in 1947, but it was to be his last year as a baseball player. In 1948 he joined the management of the Cleveland Indians, helping them to win pennants that year and in 1954. In 1958 he became a part-owner of the Chicago White Sox, which in the following year won its first league championship since 1918. He served with the White Sox as general manager, vice president and

treasurer. He sold out his interest in 1961, finally leaving baseball to devote his time to various business investments.

In 1956 he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, and in 1958 to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, in both cases the first Jew to be so honored.

He compiled a lifetime batting average of .313, hit 331 home runs, and batted in 1,276 runs in 1,394 games.

He resides today in Beverly Hills, California.

Benjamin (Benny) Friedman.³ Generally regarded as one of the greatest passers of all time in the game of football, Benny Friedman was born on March 8, 1905 in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Mamie and Lewis Friedman,



Benny Friedman

Russian Jewish immigrants. Having excelled at high school sports, Benny was accepted at the University of Michigan, where he arrived in 1923. He was named to the varsity football team in 1924, playing as a halfback. The following year, as a quarterback, he led Michigan to the Western Conference Championship, leading the Big Ten Conference in scoring, having thrown 12 touchdown passes. Friedman and fellow team member, Bennie Oosterbaan, became one of the best-known passing combinations in collegiate history. In 1926—his senior year—he was named team captain, leading Michigan to a tie for the Conference Championship. His precision playing won him unanimous selection to the All-America first-string team.

He entered professional football in 1927 and revolutionized the game with his use of the forward pass. He was also a deadly accurate place kicker and runner. He played with the Cleveland Bulldogs (1927), the Detroit Wolverines (1928), the New York Giants (1929-31), and was player-coach of the Brooklyn Dodgers (1932-33). Leaving the professional game in 1934, he became head coach at the City College of New York for eight years. In World War II he served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. In 1949 he was named the first athletic director and head football coach at Brandeis University, where he served until 1963. Thereafter he devoted his time to his boys' summer camp in Maine.

He was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1961.

In Jewish affairs, Friedman was active in the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith. On February 12, 1931 he married Shirley Immerman of New York. The Friedmans reside today in New York City.

³ Letter to the author from Benny Friedman, August 3, 1981; *Encyclopedia of Jews in Sports*, pp. 244-248.

Jacob (Jake) Mazer.⁴ Considered the finest of Michigan's pioneer basketball players, Jacob Mazer was born on January 6, 1877 in the small town of Grbrinka,* Russia, the youngest of several children of Susan and Aaron Mazer. The family eventually left Russia, and settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Jake, like his brothers, worked long hours in the family cigar-making business, but when he wasn't in the shop, he devoted his time to sports. His love was bicycling, and from 1892 to 1900 he was the leading bicycle racer in the state. In fact, at the age of 16 he already held every Pennsylvania record from hill climbing to 25 miles. He later turned his attention to basketball, practicing long hours and developing into an expert player.

Around 1898, he and two brothers—Henry and Joseph Mazer—moved to Detroit and went into the cigar business for themselves. After a stint in the Spanish-American War, Jake returned to Detroit, put together a team and played basketball for the YMCA. After a year of brilliant and almost unbeatable play, the team was lured by the Detroit Athletic Club to its palatial gym on Woodward and Garfield.

The DAC team, with Jake as running guard, played 30 games a year for the next ten years, losing a total of only seven. They played the best college and club teams in the country, beating Yale, the intercollegiate champions, in 1904. In the game, Jake made 16 points—all free throws—and scored the winning basket.

No one could make free throws like Jake; he was widely acknowledged as the master of the shot. Moreover, he never lost the ability, being able to sink basket after basket, even in his old age.

The DAC's re-organization in 1911 included a policy excluding Jews from membership. Jake left the club and rejoined the YMCA, and in 1918 his team won the state championship. He then quit playing basketball, but he didn't leave sports. He took an active role in the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union, of which he was elected president in 1929. In 1927 he and a group of Detroit businessmen founded the Cadillac Athletic Club, located at First and Lafayette. In 1939 he put together a professional basketball team, the Eagles; but without the old master as player, the team did not fare well. He was also a member of the American Olympic Committee, and chairman of the field events committee for the annual Police Field Day. Jake was a remarkably resilient man. At the age of 45, and again at 53, he and his old DAC teammates played and defeated opponents their own age in regulation



Jacob Mazer

⁴ Letter to the author from William M. Mazer, August 4, 1981; *The Tobacco Leaf*, September 28, 1946; *Detroit News*, July 26, 1958; *Detroit News*, February 1, 1967.

* The precise name and location of the town is not known to Mr. Mazer, and this spelling is the closest to the pronunciation that he can determine.

games. At the age of 55 he turned to handball, retiring from the strenuous sport eleven years later.

Jake was as active in business as he was in sports. In 1924 he merged with the Cressman Cigar Company, then sold out in the early 1930s. He later went to Washington, D.C. as a member of the NRA Committee for the cigar industry and also as a member of the Wage Hour Committee. Upon returning to Detroit, he joined the Essex Cigar Company, which was sold to the Fleming-Hall Tobacco Co., Inc. in the early 1940s. In September, 1946, he was honored by the local cigar manufacturers with Jacob Mazer Night, sponsored by the Detroit Tobacco Tablers at the Wardell-Sheraton Hotel.

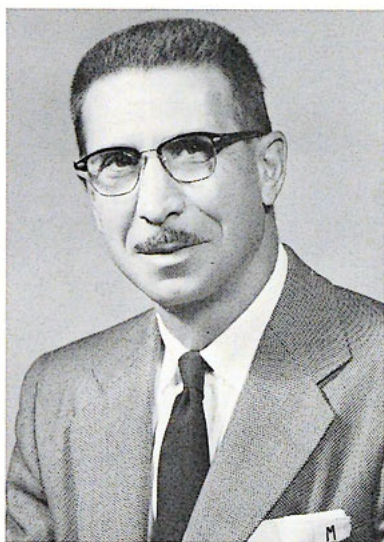
In 1906 Jake married Hazel Blank of Detroit, by whom he had two children, William M. Mazer and Robert N. Mazer. Hazel died in 1919 and Jake subsequently remarried.

Jake had a strong Jewish identity. He was a member of Temple Beth El since his arrival in Detroit, serving as a trustee for several years and was an intimate friend of Beth El's Rabbi Leo M. Franklin. He was also a member of the Pisgah Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, and was a generous contributor to many causes, Jewish and otherwise.

He died in Detroit on July 26, 1958, and was buried in Beth El Memorial Park. He was posthumously inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1967.

Maurice (Mauri) Rose.⁵ One of the country's most successful racing-car drivers, Mauri Rose was born on May 26, 1906 in Columbus, Ohio, the son of Harry and Carrie (Goldsmith) Rose. Harry, who had come to America from Liverpool, England, was the advance booking agent for a circus. His marriage with Carrie was not successful, and they were divorced when Mauri and his older sister, Lillian, were quite young; the children remained with their mother. They lived with her parents, Dina and Joseph Goldsmith, natives of Germany, who had come to Columbus from New York.

From his youth, Mauri was fascinated with cars. For his sixteenth birthday, he was given an old Ford by his Aunt Jeanette (who paid \$50 for the car). Although allowed to drive around the neighborhood only, he took the car down one Sunday to Buckeye Lake and entered the jalopy race, winning the first prize of fifty dollars. On the way home, however, he had an accident



Mauri Rose

⁵ Letters from Mrs. Lillian (Rose) Warner to the author, August 31, 1981 and September 15, 1981; telephone interview with Mrs. Dori (Rose) Mountain August 25, 1981; *Detroit Free Press*, January 3, 1981 P. 1-C.

which wrecked the car, although he wasn't hurt. Nevertheless, he was forbidden to drive for the next two years. Undaunted, he repaired the wreck and sold it for \$75.

An engineering major, he was graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (and later attended the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan). Back in Columbus, he entered some dirt-track auto races. Hupmobile offered him a job and he moved to Detroit, where he won his first major car competition—a 100-mile race at the State Fairgrounds in the fall of 1932.

In May, 1933 he entered his first race at Indianapolis, finishing 35th out of 42. The next year he finished second. After seven more years of trying, he won his first Indianapolis 500 in 1941. Two more "500" victories came in 1947 and 1948, making him one of only three three-time winners. (Since then, two more three-time winners have been added.) He drove in 16 of the Indianapolis races, surviving a number of spectacular accidents on the track and in the pit. After driving in the 1951 race, he retired from the sport.

Unlike many of today's top drivers, Rose always held a job outside of racing. Throughout his career, he maintained that auto racing was only a hobby, not an occupation. He held many aircraft and automotive engineering jobs around the country, having left Detroit in the 1940s. He returned to Michigan in 1952 for a job with the General Motors Tech Center in Warren. His last position was with American General Corporation, a division of American Motors.

In 1972 he was elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, the first auto racer to be so honored. In 1966 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation of the AOT Automotive Hall of Fame in Midland, Michigan.

Rose was completely estranged from Judaism. His mother, as well as his grandparents, were non-observant, and the Rose children were raised without Jewish content. Although as adolescents he and his sister attended dances at the Columbus Jewish Community Center, Mauri as an adult lived divorced from his heritage. (His sister, Lillian, on the other hand, married into an Orthodox Jewish family in Detroit.) He was married three times; none of his wives were Jewish. His first marriage was brief, ending in divorce. He seemed to have found religion with his second wife, Ruth Ricketts, a Lutheran. They were married in a Lutheran church, and Mauri later taught in a Lutheran Sunday school. By Ruth, who died in 1950, he had two children: Mauri Rose, Jr., and a daughter, Doris J. Rose. By his third wife, whom he divorced, he had a son, David E. Rose.

Aside from the Lutheran church, his favorite charities were the Salvation Army, Boys' Town and the Muscular Dystrophy Fund. A resident of Warren, Michigan, he died January 1, 1981, and was buried in the non-sectarian White Chapel Cemetery.

Philip ("Cincy") Sachs.⁶ Known to many as "Mr. Basketball," Philip Sachs was born in Russia on April 1, 1902, the son of Rachel and Abraham Sachs. The family immigrated to the United States around 1904, settling in

⁶ Letter to the author from Marion Sachs (sister of Philip Sachs), August 31, 1981; Michigan Sports Hall of Fame 1973 Yearbook, pp. 23, 87.

Cincinnati, Ohio. In August, 1917 they moved to Detroit where Abraham, a carpenter, had found work.

Philip expressed an interest in basketball at an early age; when he was ten years old he was a mascot in a YMCA gym. He played throughout his youth, and by 1919 had gained enough skill in the game to try his hand at coaching. His first team, the Riptons, proved his skill, winning 30 games and losing only one—a championship try for the Michigan AAU Class C title.

In 1936 he was named head coach at the four-year-old Lawrence Institute of Technology, then located on Woodward Avenue near Sears in Highland Park, Michigan. In his first year, Sachs led the LIT team to a second-place finish in the Michigan-Ontario League. In the following year, LIT tied Calvin College for the league championship. In his four years at Lawrence, Sach's team won 56 games and lost 28, compiling a .667 record.

In 1946 he was hired as head coach of the Detroit Falcons in the Professional Basketball Association. Although the team did well, the league collapsed (but was later revived as the National Basketball Association).

Sachs shifted from competitive coaching to teaching in 1950. He started Michigan's first basketball school, which attracted boys from around the state. On the strength of their training at the Sachs school, scores of boys won basketball scholarships to college. He also promoted basketball tournaments throughout the 1940s and '50s, attracting wide participation. Sports dominated his life, even his mainstay employment. For over forty years he was a salesman for the Griswold Sporting Goods Company.

He was a personal friend of the late Abe Saperstein, owner of the famed Harlem Globetrotters. A Sachs-coached team made extensive tours with the Globetrotters, often breaking the routine and winning a share of the games.

Sachs' total record as a coach speaks to his ability. The various amateur and semi-professional teams he coached from the 1920s to the 1940s garnered 782 victories as against 158 losses. His teams won seven Michigan AAU championships and the 1945 Cleveland Pro Invitational. In 1973 he was elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Never married, he died on December 19, 1973 in Detroit. He was a member of the Downtown Synagogue, Congregation Beth Achim, and the Hannah Schloss Old Timers.



"Cincy" Sachs

Sam Isaac Bishop.⁷ Prominently identified with public-school athletics throughout his career, Sam Bishop was born November 1, 1897 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, the son of Mary and Simon Goldstein.



Sam Bishop

Sam was a successful high-school athlete, playing on teams of Lane Technical High School in Chicago, where the family moved while his mother underwent medical treatment. When they returned to Benton Harbor, Sam resumed his studies at Benton Harbor High. His father died not long after, and he was forced to leave school to help support his mother and younger sister, Anna. He got a good-paying job as a typesetter, and supplemented his pay by playing semi-professional football and baseball, and did some prize fighting.

He attracted the attention of Notre Dame's famed football coach, Knute Rockne, who offered him a football scholarship. When Sam's mother discovered that Notre Dame—a Catholic college—required mandatory chapel attendance, she turned down Rockne's offer.

Although he had to become the family's breadwinner, Sam did not abandon the hope of completing his education. He continued his high school studies, and finally, at the age of 24½, received his diploma from Benton Harbor High. He chose teaching as a career, and enrolled at Western State Teachers College in Kalamazoo (today Western Michigan University), where he was a star baseball and football player. Two years later he earned a teaching certificate. A Gentile friend from Benton Harbor told him of a job opening at Detroit's Northwestern High, but advised him that things would go easier if he shed the burden of a Jewish name like Goldstein. Sam pondered over names, trying to find something close to his parents' original name, Bobush (which they had changed to Goldstein upon the advice of a fellow immigrant when they landed at Boston). He finally decided upon Bishop.

He was hired at Northwestern and was named the school's football coach. In 1948 he was named Northwestern's athletic director, a job he held for 20 years.

Still mindful of education, Sam pursued further studies, and in 1933 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Detroit City College; in 1938 he

⁷ Telephone interview with Mrs. Madelyn Liss (daughter of Sam Bishop), September 2, 1981; letter to the author from Mrs. Anna (Goldstein) Simons, October 10, 1981; Michigan Sports Hall of Fame 1977 Yearbook (manuscript).

received a Master of Arts degree from the same school, which had changed its name to Wayne University (today Wayne State University).

A vigorous and enthusiastic coach, Sam strived for and achieved results. His football teams won six city championships, plus two state and four West Side titles. In total, they garnered 113 victories as against 52 losses, with 16 ties. His baseball and track teams also won championships. Many of the boys he coached went on to become leading players in professional sports.

He retired from Northwestern in 1968, after 44 years of service, but his retirement did not prevent further work in sports. He was named Detroit's City Athletic Director, and also took up a post offered by Shaw College. There he taught a course in kinesiology, the study of the movement of muscles, an area in which he took special interest, for he tried to take a more scientific approach to athletics. His new activities were to come to an end, however, in 1970, when he suffered a stroke and was forced to take a final retirement.

Never one to shrink from adversity, Sam strove to remain active, both physically and socially. He took daily walks, and became more involved in synagogue work. Actually, the synagogue had always been an important part of his life. In his parents' house, Benton Harbor's Jews held their first organized services. The Goldstein home became the city's first synagogue, and when additions and renovations proved inadequate to provide for both a synagogue and living quarters for a family, the Goldsteins moved out, bought a new house, and donated the old residence to the congregation. Sam and his wife, Helen (Jacobson)—a fellow Benton Harborite, whom he married in their home town on August 26, 1926—were founding members of Adat Shalom Synagogue. They were instrumental in raising the money to build the first part of the synagogue on Curtis and Monica in Detroit. When his daughter, Madelyn, became president of the Downtown Synagogue Sisterhood, Sam filled his days with volunteer work for the group, becoming as active as any of the women. He also spent time with his grandchildren: Madelyn's two girls, and his son Mel's three boys.

Sam's contributions to sports, education and his community were not ignored. He was honored on many occasions by a variety of groups. In 1959 he was cited as Michigan High School Coach of the Year; in 1966 the Detroit Chapter of the National Football Foundation named him Citizen-Sportsman of the Year; in 1970 he was presented with the Golden Key Award of the National Association of Teachers; in 1974 the March of Dimes named him Distinguished Citizen of the Year, and in that same year, he was inducted into Western Michigan University's Hall of Fame.

He died February 19, 1977 and was buried in Adat Shalom Memorial Park. Four days later the ballots were counted that elected him to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

A JEWISH FIRST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

By Devera Steinberg Stocker

Sixty years ago, March 18, 1921, the Jewish community was pleased to note the selection by the University of Michigan of the first Jewish girl to represent the school on its intercollegiate varsity debating team. Devera Steinberg, a junior literary student from Traverse City, was the third woman in the history of the university to represent the school in an intercollegiate debate. A woman on the team was so new that newspaper articles either headlined the fact or overlooked it by listing her name along with the "men selected by the university." The story was also covered by the *Detroit Jewish Chronicle* (March 25, 1921), in an article headlined, "Jewess Represents U. of M. in Debate."

The debate was held under the auspices of the Mid-West Debating League, which sponsored three debates annually. The question for debate was "Resolved, that the Government of the United States should at once officially recognize the Soviet Government of Russia." The University of Michigan's affirmative team, of which Devera was a member, upheld its position against the University of Wisconsin's negative team at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor. Michigan's negative team met the affirmative team of the University of Illinois at Champaign, Illinois. At the same hour, the University of Wisconsin's affirmative team met the University of Illinois' negative team in Madison, Wisconsin. A half-hour question-and-answer period followed the conclusion of the rebuttal speeches. In keeping with the ruling of the Mid-West Debating League, there were no judges and no decision rendered.

The participants in the debates were elected to membership in the national honorary public-speaking fraternity, Delta Sigma Rho. Each received the gold key signifying membership, and also a gold medallion decorated in blue scrolling bearing the inscription, "University of Michigan Honor



Devera Steinberg in 1921.

DEVERA STEINBERG STOCKER, born in Detroit and raised in Traverse City, Michigan, was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1922 with an AB degree and a teaching certificate. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the same institution in 1942. A member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, she has written extensively on her family history and on the history of the Jewish community of Traverse City.

Sixth Annual Debate of the
Mid-West Debating League

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

vs.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, Friday, March 18, 1921

Chairman: PROFESSOR ANDREW T. WEAVER
 University of Wisconsin

QUESTION FOR DEBATE

Resolved, "That the Government of the United States should at once officially recognize the Soviet Government of Russia."

CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES—twelve minutes each

Devera Steinberg, Michigan—Affirmative

Chas. D. Assovsky, Wisconsin—Negative

Earl F. Boxwell, Michigan—Affirmative

Martin R. Kriewaldt, Wisconsin—Negative

Robert R. Ritter, Michigan—Affirmative

J. Arnold Perstein, Wisconsin—Negative

REBUTTALS—five minutes each

Chas. D. Assovsky, Wisconsin—Negative

Devera Steinberg, Michigan—Affirmative

Martin R. Kriewaldt, Wisconsin—Negative

Earl F. Boxwell, Michigan—Affirmative

J. Arnold Perstein, Wisconsin—Negative

Robert R. Ritter, Michigan—Affirmative

There are no official judges, and there will be no decision.

At the conclusion of the rebuttal speeches, there will be a half hour devoted to questions and answers. Anyone in the audience may ask questions of either team, under such regulations as the presiding officer may announce.

Debater." (University of Michigan's colors are blue and gold.) Each participant also received a check for \$50.

Although Devera's participation in the debate caused much excitement among her family and friends, the University's own newspaper, *The Michigan Daily*, seemed to lose sight of its female debater. The story it ran on the fraternity initiation carried the headline, "Delta Sigma Rho Chooses 8 Men"!

MID-WEST DEBATES

Michigan-Wisconsin-Illinois

Wisconsin vs. Michigan

Michigan's Team vs. Wisconsin



R. B. Ritter. E. F. Boxell. D. Steinberg.

Michigan's Team vs. Illinois



R. M. Johnson. J. A. Bacon. E. Ramsdell

Hill Auditorium

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

8:00 p.m. sharp.

Presiding officer, Prof. J. M. O'Neill, University of Wisconsin

Question: Recognition of Soviet Russia

At the close of the debate the audience will be given a chance to ask questions for the debaters to answer.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

BOOK REVIEW

Henry Ford and the Jews. By Albert Lee. New York: Stein and Day, 1981. VIII + 200 pp. \$12.95.

The thrust of the elder Ford's anti-Semitism was national, even international, in its scope. The argument can be made, however, that since—like the other well-known product that bore his name—it was “made in Michigan,” it has a particular interest for devotees of Michigan Jewish history. And indeed, so many of the personalities involved are so much a part of the Michigan and Detroit landscape that the reader feels a certain intimacy with events, places and personalities.

Just *why* Ford embarked upon his anti-Semitic campaign is not really made clear, and perhaps is still not known precisely. Was it his reaction to the ill-fated “peace ship” which he had been persuaded to sponsor by Rosika Schwimmer? Was it his own Populist ideology (or image) which made him suspicious of all bankers, and hence, by his kind of reasoning, of Jews? One suggested reason that is convincingly dismissed by the author is that Ford was the compliant pawn of evil counselors. Quite the contrary. Job security in the upper philosophical reaches of the Ford organization seemed to mean that you endorsed the nonsense, venom and duplicity of the “old man,” or that you appeared to. In other words, Henry Ford was very much the leader and in charge.

Using as his medium a small country weekly which he had purchased, *The Dearborn Independent*, Ford in 1920 opened the greatest barrage of anti-Semitism in American history. In each of ninety-one consecutive issues, the paper carried a major story exposing what it chose to define as some Jewish evil. The articles swiped at Jewish influences in banking, military adventurism, and in the degeneracies of jazz, movies and alcohol. Eventually, there was a four-volume reprint of the most aggressive of these articles under the title of *The International Jew*. The estimate was made that ten million copies of these collected anti-Semitic articles were sold in the U.S.; additionally, the volume was translated into sixteen languages. The burden of the articles was the theme of a world-wide conspiracy by Jewish super-capitalists.

The lengths to which Ford went in pursuit of his fight against the Jews make a truly astonishing story. “Hundreds” of spies were on the Ford payroll. These were frequently individuals who had had investigative experience with civilian or military agencies, and who were charged with checking the activities of prominent Jews or of others (public officials and such) suspected of having too-close ties to Jews. This operation assumed an added flavor with the assignment of letter and number codes to the spies.

No extremes were too patently absurd in the Ford campaign against the Jews. One of Ford's agents “discovered” the ridiculous and long-discredited *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, which he made available to the *Dearborn Independent*, and which, it might be added, were eagerly seized by the Fordlings in control of the *Independent*. The *Protocols* offered the readers of the *Independent* an “explanation” of those Jewish influences which led to bootlegging, Bolshevism, immoral movies, control

of the press, of capital, of Freemasonry, etc.

The first round of Ford's anti-Jewish campaign was abruptly called to a halt by Ford himself in January, 1922. The reason to this day is unclear. Ford stated that he wanted Jewish allies in a fight that he was about to initiate for money reform and against the gold standard. Another reason, more acceptable to the author, is that he was entertaining the idea of running for president and did not wish to alienate Jewish voters who were numerous in the key states of New York and Ohio. In any event, it was merely a temporary cease-fire and not the end of Ford's war.

Overt hostilities were resumed by the *Independent* two years later when it took up the cudgels for the farmers, and portrayed them as victims of a Jewish conspiracy to gain control of their money and their land. The outgrowth of this campaign, the famous Aaron Sapiro libel case against the *Dearborn Independent*, is a piece of Michigan Jewish history, since the matter was litigated in a Detroit courtroom. The consequence of this trial, of course, was Ford's retraction and apology, and a reported, but undisclosed, money settlement.

The *Independent's* guns were now finally silenced, and there was a kind of peace between Ford and the Jews. This may, however, have been a peace more in name than in substance. A minor galaxy of anti-Semitic and German-American Bund types remained in or at the edges of the Ford picture: Gerald L.K. Smith, Charles Coughlin, Gerald Winrod, Fritz Kuhn, Edward Rumely, William Cameron, and others—all names that were familiar to persons following the activities of the domestic anti-Semites in the thirties and forties, and all having some kind of association with Ford or his minions. Ford himself was silent, but the vineyards were being worked by the Anglo-Saxon Federation (Cameron), the Christian Nationalist Crusade (Smith), the Christian Front (Coughlin), Defenders of the Christian Faith (Winrod).

The book pays its respects, as it should, to Ford's son, Edsel, and grandson, Henry II, for their abhorrence of the founder's policies and practices. When the senior Ford was finally forced to relinquish control and Henry II took charge, the Ford empire was completely purged. The Company since that time has consistently displayed its friendship toward the Jewish community and its support of Jewish causes.

In a critical comment, two observations: (a) By and large, the material presented here has already appeared in other published sources and in that sense, the book offers no new insights into the Ford character and no new information. (b) There's a bit of a tendency toward hyperbole, as in the author's speculation that only the lack of a Dale Carnegie course stood between Ford and the presidency, a speculation based on very scant evidence; or in the misuse of a reference source, transforming a "large" picture of Ford reportedly in Hitler's office, into a "life-size" picture.

Nonetheless, for the reader who has not encountered any of the many works about Ford, this can be recommended as an interesting and very readable book.

Walter E. Klein
Vice President
Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was held Sunday, June 14, 1981 at the Michigan Inn in Southfield. The late-morning brunch was attended by approximately 100 persons.

The Society was reported to be in favorable financial condition, with a growing membership. In his annual report, President Jeffrey N. Borin reviewed some of the highlights from the past year of JHSM activities. In November, 1980 the Society sponsored a reception in Southfield for leaders of the American Jewish Historical Society: Bernard Wax, executive director; Saul Viener, national president, and Mrs. Viener. All were in Detroit to attend the 49th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations at the Detroit Plaza Hotel. The guests were given a tour of old Jewish Detroit and then greeted at the North Park Towers club room.

Along with the Jewish Parents Institute, the Society co-sponsored a speaker at the Jewish Book Fair in the Jewish Community Center. Our guest author was Arthur Kurzweil, who wrote the book, *From Generation to Generation: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy*. Given the tremendous interest in genealogy and family history, the talk was well attended.

At our semi-annual meeting in January 1981, our guest speaker was Dr. Zvi Gitelman, professor of political science at the University of Michigan. His topic was on the aspects of Soviet Jewish immigration to the United States.

In accordance with our Society's constitution, elections of officers and Board members were held at the meeting. The following were elected for a one-year term: Phillip Applebaum, president; Walter E. Klein, Lenore Miller, vice presidents; Ida Levine, treasurer; Esther Klein, recording secretary; Gertrude F. Edgar, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Abraham S.



JHSM officers elected for 1981-82 at the annual meeting. *Sitting:* Phillip Applebaum, president. *Standing, left to right:* Sarah Rogoff, financial secretary; Walter E. Klein, vice president; Ida Levine, treasurer; Esther Klein, recording secretary; Lenore Miller, vice president; Gertrude F. Edgar, corresponding secretary.



JHSM directors for 1981-82 elected at the annual meeting. *First row, left to right:* Jeffrey N. Borin, Henry Green, Abraham S. Rogoff, Phillip Applebaum, Doris P. Easton, Allen A. Warsen, Irving I. Edgar. *Second row:* Gertrude F. Edgar, Abraham Satovsky, Sarah Rogoff, Mrs. Louis LaMed, Adelle W. Staller, Oscar D. Schwartz, George Stutz. *Third row:* Lenore Miller, H. Saul Sugar, Richard Maddin, Howard B. Sherizen, Leonard Antel. *Not pictured:* Goldie Adler, Laurence B. Deitch, Walter L. Field, Leon Fram, Miriam Hamburger, Reuben Levine, Harold Norris, Patricia Pilling, Bette A. Roth, Leonard N. Simons, Devera Stocker.

Rogoff, financial secretary. Elected to the Board of Directors for a one-year term were: Mrs. Morris Adler, Leonard Antel, Laurence B. Deitch, Walter L. Field, Leon Fram, Miriam Hamburger, Mrs. Louis LaMed, Reuben Levine, Richard Maddin, Harold Norris, Patricia Pilling, Bette Roth, Abraham Satovsky, Oscar D. Schwartz, Howard B. Sherizen, Leonard Simons, Adelle W. Staller, Devera Stocker, George M. Stutz, H. Saul Sugar. All past Presidents are automatically members of the Board: Allen A. Warsen, Emanuel Applebaum, Irving I. Edgar, Abraham S. Rogoff, Henry Green, Doris P. Easton, Jeffrey N. Borin.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Bernard Goldman, professor of art history at Wayne State University and director of the Wayne State Press. He gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on the discovery and excavation of the second-century CE synagogue at Dura-Europos, in what is today Syria.

BERNARD ISAACS MEMORIAL

A long-planned project came to fruition with the dedication of a sculpture and plaque in memory of Bernard Isaacs (1882-1975), first superintendent of the United Hebrew Schools of Metropolitan Detroit. The project involved years of planning and effort by members of the United Hebrew Schools and the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

Rabbi Max Weine, professor at the Midrasha College of Jewish Studies (affiliated with the UHS) and a colleague of the late Mr. Isaacs, presented the idea of an Isaacs commemoration to a meeting of the JHSM Board of Directors in early 1978. He suggested joint sponsorship by the UHS and the Historical Society. The Board agreed to the proposal, and a Bernard Isaacs Committee, comprising members of both organizations, was formed to explore modes of commemoration. Named to the committee were: Phillip Applebaum, Jeffrey N. Borin, Laurence B. Deitch, Morris and Sarah Friedman of the Historical Society; Reuben Isaacs (son of Bernard); Rose Kaye, Midrasha Chairman of the Board; Morris Nobel, lecturer at the Midrasha; Dr. Gerald A. Teller, Midrasha president; and Rabbi Weine.

The committee's work was realized with a commemorative program on October 4, 1981 in the LaMed Auditorium of the United Hebrew Schools building in Southfield, well attended by the community. Taking the form of an Academic Convocation, the program, presided over by Dr. Teller, embraced a three-fold commemoration: Appreciative remarks and readings by Rabbi Weine, Mr. Nobel and UHS students; a talk by Dr. Samuel Schaffler, superintendent of the Board of Jewish Education of Chicago regarding "Notes on a History of Jewish Education in the United States"; and the dedication of a memorial sculpture and plaque mounted on the wall opposite the auditorium.

The sculpture, representing the Tora and the Jewish family, surmounted by the quotation, "You shall teach them to your children" in Hebrew, was designed by noted Michigan artist, Arthur Schneider. The plaque, mounted next to the sculpture, with texts in Hebrew and English, was donated by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Both texts were read to the assembly by JHSM President Phillip Applebaum. The English portion reads:

BERNARD ISAACS

December 20, 1882 - October 5, 1975

Founder and First Superintendent of
the United Hebrew Schools of Detroit

This sculpture is dedicated to the memory of Bernard Isaacs who came to Detroit in 1919 to organize and direct the United Hebrew Schools. For the next 35 years, thousands of young people were educated in their cultural and religious traditions under his inspired leadership. He was a pioneer among American Jewry in encouraging the teaching of Hebrew as a modern language and was himself

a noted Hebrew author. He was revered throughout the country as a scholar, teacher and friend. Through the institution he built and the lives he enriched, he was, and is, a quiet hero of our people.

Sculptor: Arthur Schneider

Presented by the United Hebrew Schools of
Metropolitan Detroit and the Jewish Historical
Society of Michigan

October 4, 1981

Also appearing on the program were Mandell Berman, past president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, and Julius J. Harwood, president of the United Hebrew Schools, who each extended greetings to the assembly on behalf of their organizations. The sculpture itself was dedicated by Mrs. Kaye and Mr. Schneider.

**This publication
is available in microform.**



University Microfilms International

Please send additional information

Name _____

Institution _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

300 North Zeeb Road
Dept. P.R.
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48106
U.S.A.

30-32 Mortimer Street
Dept. P.R.
London WIN 7RA
England

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on September 21, 1981, the following amendment of Article VI of our Constitution was adopted. The full text of the Constitution was published in Michigan Jewish History Volume 19, Number 1 (January 1979), pp. 16-21. The following replaces the original:

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. The management of the Society shall be vested in the Board of Directors who shall be elected for a term of one year. The Board of Directors shall consist of twenty-five elected Directors, plus the elected Officers, the past Presidents and the Editor of the Society's official journal.

Section 2. Candidates for the Board of Directors shall be nominated at least fifteen days before the annual meeting by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.

The general membership may also nominate candidates by petition. At least sixty days before the annual meeting the President shall send written notice to the general membership announcing the opening of nominations by petition. Such nominations will be valid provided there is one nominee per petition, the petition is signed by at least ten members in good standing, and is delivered to the Corresponding Secretary of the Society at least thirty days before the annual meeting.

The nominees of the Nominating Committee and those made by petition shall be listed together in alphabetical order at the annual meeting. No additional nominations may be made from the floor.

CORRECTIONS

Note the following corrections for *Michigan Jewish History* Volume 21, Number 2 (June 1981).

Corrections for "Nate S. Shapero and Cunningham Drug Stores, Inc."

Page 9, paragraph 4: ("During a New York fund-raising event sponsored by the American Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem...") The dinner was held in Detroit.

Page 14, References: Written Works—"I Remember It Well" by Leonard N. Simons was published in the *Bulletin* of Sinai Hospital of Detroit, Volume 26, No. 5 (May 1978), pp. 2-7.

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,

*Phillip Applebaum
24680 Rensselaer*

*Oak Park, Michigan 48237
(313) 548-9176.*

All inquiries will be handled in strict confidence.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome our new members with the hope that their association with us will be fruitful and rewarding.

Bessie Altman

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ash

Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Ash

Dr. and Mrs. Ira Avrin

Mrs. Max Dushkin

Lawrence Imerman

Morris Lieberman

Dr. Richard London

Tadayuki Sato

Yehuda Stebbins

Leonard W. Williams

TRIBUTE FUND

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SENDER'S NAME _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to Jewish Historical Society of Michigan
and mail to the Tribute Chairman:

Adelle W. Staller
27506 Fairfax
Southfield, Michigan 48076

contributions are tax deductible

