

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

BULLETIN



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Chasing Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American, the first large-scale exhibition to highlight the ways in which baseball helped immigrant and minority communities assimilate and connect to American life, was brought to the Detroit Historical Museum's Allesee Gallery of Culture by JHSM in Fall 2016. Photo by Elayne Gross

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, NEIL GOROSH



IT is a great honor and privilege to present my first report as president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. In what has been a truly incredible year, I wish to begin by thanking the JHSM board and our members for your faith and support. I look forward to serving you in this coming year.

Congratulations to Aimee Ergas, the 2017 recipient of the Leonard N. Simons History Award. While the list of past honorees reads like a veritable who's who of our community, and included among them are many lay leaders who share a love for and interest in Michigan Jewish history, few have the history "chops" of Ms. Ergas. Her nearly twenty-five-year

association with JHSM, and her experience as an archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library, including her work with the papers of Judge Avern Cohen and Max Fisher, are reason alone for her to be lauded. Yet, what I find most remarkable is that, long after her official duties as director of JHSM concluded, Ms. Ergas continues to show a consistent dedication to JHSM's mission and purpose. I cannot think of a worthier recipient of this award.

Congratulations also to Stanley Meretsky, only the third person in JHSM's nearly sixty-year history to receive the Leonard N. Simons Lifetime Achievement Award. And to Margery Jablin, this year's Volunteer of the Year. Margery and Stan both demonstrate the best qualities of volunteerism: perseverance, dedication, and selflessness. Without the men and women who are willing to roll up their sleeves and do the jobs that

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Standing (l to r) Dr. Paul Goodman, Gabe Neistein, Neil Gorosh, Gerald Cook, Margery Jablin, Jim Grey, Michael Kasky, Ellen Cole, Robert Kaplow, Adele Staller, Jacqui Elkus, Ruthe Goldstein, Sheri Schiff, Jeannie Weiner. Seated (l to r) Jules Goldman, Chuck Domstein, Michael Maddin, Judith Levin Cantor.

Photo by Elayne Gross



PAST PRESIDENTS OF JHSM

Past Presidents of JHSM: Gathered at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan were several of JHSM's past presidents. Standing (l to r) James Grey, Ellen Cole, Robert Kaplow, Adele Staller. Seated (l to r) Gerald Cook, Michael Maddin, Judith Levin Cantor.

Photo by Elayne Gross



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

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LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD 2017

AIMEE ERGAS

IF Hollywood comes a-callin' for a character to portray a contemporary archivist, they should consider Aimee Ergas. She's neither a stereotypical bookish academic nor a superhero who can magically rescue artifacts from deviant thieves. But she does have a detective-like curiosity, an objective nature, a delight for sharing new discoveries, classic style, and – often – a pair of bold red shoes. In the minds of the Leonard N. Simons History Award selection committee, there was no other for this year's award.

Aimee launched her impressive career after receiving her masters in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Since then, her work has been aimed at researching and sharing American and Jewish history, often with a focus on Jewish women. Her understanding and documentation of Michigan's Jewish history has led to the creation of permanent historical resources that will be accessible for generations to come.

In 1994, Judy Cantor, then editor of *Michigan Jewish History*, enlisted Aimee to write for the publication. Soon, Aimee began researching other topics and getting more involved with JHSM, and in 1998 she became the journal's editor. Her career as a JHSM volunteer came to an end in 2003, when the growing organization retained Aimee as its first-ever director.

Aimee's influence can be seen in the number of programs she initiated and in the growth of JHSM members and donors. In 2007, she entered the archival administration program at Wayne State University, which led to her current position as an archivist at the Walter P.



Reuther Library-Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at WSU. Her projects include archiving the papers of Judge Avern Cohn and Max M. Fisher, and she oversees the collections of the Jewish Community Archives, also housed at the Reuther Library.

Aimee officially stepped down from her directorship in 2012, after producing the *Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America* exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum. She continues to support the organization as both volunteer and advisor. In 2014, Aimee led the initial research for JHSM's *Michigan Women Who Made a Difference* (MWWMD) project and authored the corresponding book.

"Finding documents, clippings, and stories of women who were active in the early days of Detroit's communal history, the founders of some of our most important agencies, and activists who became involved with powerhouses such as NCJW, has been so revealing," Aimee said. "These papers sit in the stacks decade after decade. These stories allow us to add an important layer of understanding to the life history of our community."

Aimee, who curated JHSM's 2016 *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American* exhibition, also serves on several professional associations, including the Michigan Archival Association and Wayne State University President's Commission on the Status of Women, and she is a board member of the Michigan Women's Studies Association and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation. Aimee lives in Farmington Hills with her husband, Tor Shwayder, and has two married sons, a daughter, and a grandson.

THE LEONARD N. SIMONS HISTORY AWARD PAST HONOREES

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

LEONARD N. SIMONS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD STANLEY MERETSKY



At age fifteen, Stan Meretsky accepted a friend's invitation to join the Brandeis AZA chapter at Mumford High School. "They were the most incredible group of guys," he recalled. "They went on to become community leaders, doctors, attorneys." In 1961, he won an AZA/BBYO-funded trip to Israel. "That trip formed the basis of my Jewish identity and gave me focus."

A lifetime of accomplishments later, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan is honoring this man for his numerous contributions to the organization's growth.

After graduating from Wayne State University, Stan became advertising manager at AAA Michigan (American Automobile Association). As AAA was preparing to move from Detroit to its new Dearborn headquarters, Stan began collecting many of the company's artifacts, which resulted in the creation of a company archive and unleashed Stan's interest in preserving history.

That curious nature, coupled with his interest in community service, led Stan to JHSM. In 1984, he was elected president of the then-struggling organization. Stan sought the wisdom of one of JHSM's early leaders, Leonard N. Simons, himself an "ad guy." Simons' mentorship helped Stan recruit

a new generation of leaders and funders.

It was also under Stan's leadership that the creation of a Jewish community archive began. In a 1985 speech to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, he said that the archive "must be created, and created now." That speech motivated a group of leaders, including Simons and Avern Cohn, to found the Jewish Community Archives.

When Stan proposed the creation of a history award to honor an individual who made "outstanding contributions to the enrichment, preservation, and dissemination of Michigan Jewish history," he suggested the award be named for his mentor, Leonard Simons. In 1991, four years before the death of its namesake, the first Leonard N. Simons History Award was given to Philip Slomovitz, editor and publisher of the *Detroit Jewish News*.

In 1992, Stan launched McCullough Corp., a surplus brokerage firm specializing in helping manufacturers rid themselves of excess merchandise and equipment. Throughout, he has remained active with JHSM and the Jewish Community Archives.

JHSM is honored to recognize the contributions and achievements of Stan Meretsky—father of two, grandfather of four, and a leader in the Michigan Jewish community.

JHSM VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR MARGERY JABLIN



Photo by Elayne Gross

She's done just about everything a JHSM volunteer could do. From organizing and leading adult and youth tours, to stuffing envelopes, greeting guests, and writing scripts, Margery is a stalwart advocate of JHSM. And, no matter what she's working on, she does it with a smile and a get-it-done spirit, two of the many attributes that made it easy for JHSM's staff and president to select this thrice-retired educator and administrator as JHSM's Volunteer of the Year. The award, established in 2006, honors those whose contributions of time and talent exceed expectations.

After graduating from Berkley High School, Margery received an M.A. in education from Wayne State University, and then attended Oakland University to become certified

as a specialist in administration.

Margery was introduced to JHSM in 2002, when leaders were developing bus tours of historic Jewish Detroit for fifth and sixth graders. Margery, then teaching at Hillel Day School, agreed to be the "guinea pig." As the program expanded, she began leading other youth and adult tours, and was asked to sit on the board of directors, a position she continues to hold. Most recently, Margery, as chair of JHSM's newly-formed Speakers Bureau, has helped train volunteer docents, and has led efforts to organize and write the various presentations now being offered to the community.

This mother of two and grandmother of five is also membership chair for Adat Shalom Synagogue's Sisterhood and volunteers with the National Council of Jewish Women and Bookstock.

need to be done, JHSM could not advance our mission of celebrating and promoting Michigan Jewish history.

Recognizing that it is volunteerism that ultimately drives the success of non-profits, I have endeavored as president to make each board or committee meeting as interesting and participatory as possible. I continue to marvel at the knowledge and experience of our board of directors and advisory board members, among them historians, philanthropists, educators, attorneys, accountants, business professionals, and others. JHSM could never afford to pay for these efforts. Instead, what we will continue to do is recognize the assets each volunteer brings to the table and make our interactions meaningful and rewarding.



In December, 2016, a tremendous team of JHSM volunteers spent an evening answering phones, raising funds for Detroit Public Television and introducing a new audience to the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, during the station's Jewish Heritage Night. Pictured are, bottom row (l to r): Larry Gunsberg, Neil Gorosh, Zelda Gechter, Susan Weinstock. Top row (l to r): WTVS volunteer, Robert Kaplow, Dennis Frank, Estelle Snyder, WTVS Volunteer, Risha Ring.

This past October, in preparing for our first volunteer-appreciation brunch, we gathered a list of JHSM volunteers who had spent time with us in the past year and tallied the number of hours they had donated to us. More than 100 men and women donated more than 1,500 hours of their time. They include board members who offer advice and guidance; individuals who lead tours; members of our Speakers Bureau; authors who research and write articles for our publications; and those who loyally come to the office to help with mailings. Thank you once again to all who made this past year so successful.

I often describe JHSM as a programming powerhouse, and 2016 was certainly no exception. Our team conducted more than fifty-five programs throughout the state, directly reaching more than 1,200 people. The programs ranged from our fantastic JHSM Jewish History Curriculum, which you can read more about on Page 9; to our Nosh Gen series, events for adults who like to nosh and learn a bit about Jewish history in a social environment; to our Speakers Bureau



Chuck Domstein is JHSM vice president and chair of the Yearbook Committee. The "Yearbook Show & Tell" is one of four Speakers-Bureau programs offered throughout the state.

presentations of historic Jewish Michigan. One, "Synagogues of Michigan," was shown to audiences in Petoskey, Detroit, West Bloomfield, and elsewhere around the state.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to once again thank Cathy and James Deutchman, Donna and Michael Maddin, and all the other members of the *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American* "Season Opener" committee. The exhibition and the gala were truly special and memorable events for all who attended.



2016 will be forever remembered in JHSM history as the year of baseball. Exhibition and Season Opener chairs, Cathy and James Deutchman, championed this endeavor, which not only raised important funds for JHSM but also generated tremendous interest in the work of our organization.

I have no doubt that the coming year will be just as robust as the last, and I am especially excited about the launch of our new website, the re-design of which was generously funded by the William Davidson Foundation. Featuring a "virtual museum" of Michigan's Jewish history, the website will reach a new generation of members and donors.

Every issue of our journal, *Michigan Jewish History*, includes the following quotation from the book of Joshua: "When your children shall ask their parents in time to come..." While many of our programs and events are geared toward those of us who are here today, all of our research, programming, and work is conducted so that the next generation and the generations to follow will know the legacies of those who came before them.



Neil Gorosh, as pictured in his senior year of high school, Southfield Lathrup, 1973. The book is among the more than 1,800 in the JHSM Yearbook Collection.

Almost exactly forty years ago, I graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts in history. To all of those who asked me at that time, "What are you going to do with a degree in history?" – I think I have finally figured that out. Thank you again for the opportunity to continue to serve JHSM and our members.

JHSM Year On Review

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

In September 2016, JHSM sponsored *Chasing Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American*, a museum exhibition exploring how baseball has been and continues to be a pathway to Americanization for immigrant and minority communities. More than 300 guests attended the September 9 exhibit opening, chaired by our Dream Team of Donna and Michael Maddin and Cathy and James Deutchman, at the Detroit Historical Museum. *Chasing Dreams* was enjoyed by more than 17,000 museum guests over a three-month period, providing many opportunities for JHSM to engage the community in programming and celebration. In addition to private tours and discussions, JHSM hosted several special exhibition-related programs at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Chasing Dreams Family Day, presented in partnership with PJ Library. A full day of family-friendly baseball activities. Highlights included a baseball broadcast booth, photo booth, and the lively panel discussion, **Old Jews Talking Baseball**, with some of Detroit's best historians.

- 1:** Three generations of the Maddin family enjoyed *Chasing Dreams Family Day*. Standing (l to r) Marty Maddin, Lindsey Maddin, Melissa Weisberger, Donna Maddin, Michael Maddin. Bottom row (l to r): Brody Maddin, Zachary Weisberger, Lainey Maddin.
- 2:** (l to r) The *Old Jews Talking Baseball* panel included (l to r) moderator Jim Grey, Irwin Cohen, Robert Matthews and Max Lapidus.



Jewish Heritage Day at Comerica Park

3: JHSM was selected as the benefitting partner for the September 2016 Jewish Heritage Day at Comerica Park. Standing on the field in a brief pre-game ceremony are (l to r) Jordan Field, Detroit Tigers Foundation; Ian Kinsler, Detroit Tigers second baseman; Robert Matthews, Chasing Dreams contributor; Gabe Neinstein, JHSM Board of Directors; and Wendy Bice, JHSM executive director. Photo courtesy of Detroit Tigers.



Chasing Dreams

BASEBALL & BECOMING AMERICAN

Many thanks to Elayne Gross for most of the wonderful photographs featured on the following pages.



Chasing Dreams Season Opener

- 4:** Charlene Handelman and Judy Pazol, Chasing Dreams Season Opener committee members.
- 5:** Melissa and Brian Weisberger, and Susan and Rabbi Joseph Krakoff.
- 6:** Harriet and Mark Cooperman in their "baseball best!"
- 7:** Fran and Aaron Martin and Mark and Linda Jacobs have some fun posing with Paws from the Detroit Tigers.
- 8:** Tor Shwayder and Aimee Ergas in front of one of the locally-curated Michigan panels.

JHSM Year On Review

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

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was held at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills on May 1, 2016, and featured the presentation of the Leonard N. Simons History Award to Jan Durecki, archivist, Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives.

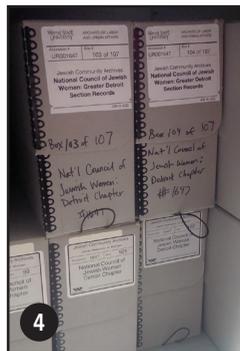


1: Jan Durecki is flanked by members of the Jewish War Veterans of Michigan: Martin Myers, Commander Post 474, Larry Berry, and Art Fishman.

2: Guests were invited to tour the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives with Portraits of WWII soldiers including (left): Morton Silverman and Robert Rafelson. Both young men were killed in Germany.

3: Leonard N. Simons Award honorees Sharon Alterman (2007) and Edie Resnick (2005) pose for a picture.

In honor of its 100th anniversary, National Council of Jewish Women/Greater Detroit Section worked with JHSM to organize a tour of historic Jewish Detroit, which included a visit to the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, home of the Jewish Community Archives and many other collections including the papers of the NCJW Greater Detroit section.



4: A handful of the hundreds of archival boxes contained in the NCJW collection at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

5: Barbara Grant and Edie Broida explore some of the artifacts showcased during the tour.



JHSM's *Michigan Women Who Made a Difference* Conference, held at Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids, attracted more than 100 guests who shared the stories of women who helped build and shape Michigan's Jewish organizations, institutions and communities.

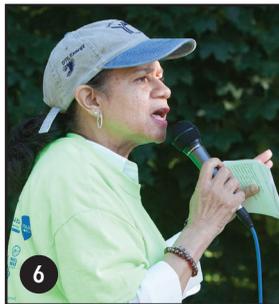
6: Archivist and MWWMD Advisory Panel member, Margaret "Peg" Finkelstein (right), curated a special exhibition for the conference, which was made possible by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council and Peg and Mort Finkelstein.

In November 2016, JHSM co-sponsored the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives' Mary Einstein Shapero Memorial Lecture. The featured speaker was Hasia Diner, author of *Roads Taken: The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers who Forged the Way*.

7: Pictured here are (l to r) Peggy Frank; lecture sponsors, Hon. Walter Shapero, Kathleen Strauss, and David Shapero; and Rabbi Mark Miller and Kim Raznick of Temple Beth El.

JHSM Year In Review

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



The 6th annual J-Cycle bicycle tour of historic Jewish Detroit went off without a hitch in August 2016. More than 225 cyclists explored the Boston-Edison neighborhood, Chicago Blvd., the Dexter and Davidson region, and Oakland Ave./ North End area of the city. Pictured are:

- 1: Andee and David Liberman
- 2: Harriet Saperstein, docent, and Ron Elkus
- 3: Molly and Andy Levin, leader
- 4: Glen Lapin, J-Cycle committee
- 5: Beth Gotthelf and Chuck Newman
- 6: Gar Sims Jones, docent



The communities of Detroit and Windsor have been intertwined for generations. Such was the subject of the JHSM Tour of Historic Jewish Windsor, held in September 2016. Two busloads of guests, American and Canadian, enjoyed this exploration.

Among the highlights was the visit to the Shaar Hashomayim, Windsor's Orthodox congregation.

- 7: Enjoying the Belle Isle Aquarium are Susan Moiseev and Marla Rowe Gorosh.
- 8: Marty and Julie Weiner join Nosh Gen committee member Debby Tukel at the Belle Isle Aquarium.
- 9: Big Al Muskovitz and Mike "Stoney" Stone talked baseball and baseball history at the Detroit Historical Museum as part of the Chasing Dreams exhibition.
- 10: Thoroughly enjoying the Nosh Gen bowling event were Chuck Sadoff, and Nosh Gen Committee member and Chuck's daughter Dr. Wendy Sadoff.
- 11: The History of Bowling in the Motor City Nosh Gen event was hosted by Century Bowl proprietors, Diane and Mark Voight.

JHSM's Nosh Gen event series connects active Jewish adults to Michigan's Jewish history. In June 2016, more than 100 gathered at the beautiful Belle Isle Aquarium to learn about the aquarium's many "fishy" Jewish connections. In October, as part of the *Chasing Dreams* exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum, dozens attended an evening with Mike "Stoney" Stone and Big Al Muskovitz and, on February 4, 2017, "Nosh Genners" threw on some bowling shoes and enjoyed the History of Bowling in the Motor City, a fun evening event at Century Bowl in Waterford.

JHSM Jewish History Curriculum

ONE of the most meaningful ways through which JHSM executes and achieves our mission to share and celebrate Michigan's Jewish history is by offering the JHSM Jewish History Curriculum. Targeted to fifth- and sixth-grade students, the curriculum features two components: the Traveling Trunk, which is a series of in-class Jewish history lessons, and the Settlers to Citizens bus tours of historic Jewish Detroit. Over the course of the 2016-2017 academic school year, more than 300 religious-school students and 75 day-school students participated in the program.

In 2000, JHSM began offering bus tours of historic Jewish Detroit to religious-school students. More than a decade later, in 2012, JHSM began working in collaboration with the Metro Detroit Board of Jewish Educators to update and revise the program. The result was the creation of the Traveling Trunk, four lessons that engage students, through games and activities, in exploring the history of Detroit's and Michigan's Jewish communities, from the earliest settlers to modern-day history makers. The classes are followed by the bus tour, which is led by JHSM's own docents and includes stops at a former synagogue, the Belle Isle Aquarium, the Detroit Riverfront, and Campus Martius. The main objective of the tour is not only to bring to life the lessons learned in class, but also to help students develop a sense of pride in their Jewish heritage and Jewish identity. Students also get to see history in the making when they spend time in Detroit's lively downtown and meet young adults actively involved in Detroit's Jewish community.

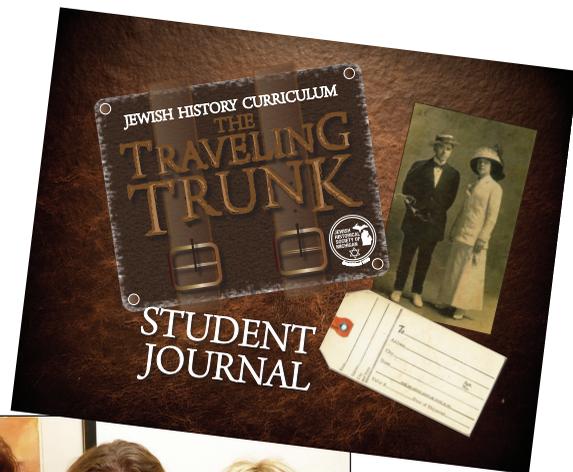
"The Traveling Trunk curriculum is more than learning about history," says Risha Ring, JHSM Jewish History Curriculum chairperson. "Students are able to live this history



Shir Shalom students Ella Blank, Isabella Cimmino, Aaron Weiskopf, and Aiden Weissman participate in the Traveling Trunk Lesson 3.

and use those lessons to nurture their Jewish and Michigan identities, while also developing a sense of personal and community pride, and responsibility."

As JHSM looks to secure a permanent funding source for this program, in the form of either an annual agreement or an endowment gift, the organization is deeply grateful to our funders whose philanthropy has enabled JHSM to develop this quality curriculum, taught by a dedicated team of JHSM educators who bring these stories to life and demonstrate how Jewish values have been and continue to be a part of everyday life.



Each student receives a Traveling Trunk Student Journal, a workbook that travels with them throughout their lessons and on the bus tour, and then is sent home. Designed to support the curriculum, the journal also has pages of interest to parents and grandparents, thereby further supporting JHSM's mission.

Students from Farber Hebrew Day School enjoy a chilly morning on the Detroit Riverfront, pointing to Canada as they stand beside the Gateway to Freedom Statue, which honors those who helped slaves along the Underground Railroad. Jewish Detroiters Emil and Fannie Heineman are named on the statue's plaque, as they provided clothing for escaping slaves.



The JHSM Jewish History Curriculum is taught by JHSM's team of educators, (l to r) Lori Lasday, Alysa Kornfeld and Charyl Apple.



CHASING DREAMS: BASEBALL AND BECOMING AMERICAN

BY AIMEE ERGAS, CURATOR



The Chasing Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American exhibition, brought to Detroit by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, included national and regional stories of how baseball helped minority and immigrant communities assimilate to American life. Visitors were greeted by this giant wall of baseball images, set against the backdrop of the old Tiger Stadium at Michigan and Trumbull.

More than 300 guests donned their "baseball best" and celebrated the opening of the Chasing Dreams:

Baseball and Becoming American exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum. The September 8, 2016 benefit event included docent-led tours of the exhibit; a conversation with Dan Dickerson, Play-by-Play broadcaster for the Detroit Tigers; and "Rabbis Talking Baseball," a smash-hit panel discussion hosted by Neal Rubin of the Detroit Free Press and featuring Rabbi Aaron Bergman (Adat Shalom Synagogue), Rabbi Mark Miller (Temple Beth El), and Rabbi Joey Krakoff (Jewish Hospice of Michigan).

JHSM was able to bring this exhibit to Detroit, and curate local content in the form of customized panel displays and local artifacts, thanks to the team efforts of Chasing Dreams chairpersons Cathy and James Deutchman and Donna and Michael Maddin, and generous donors including the Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Family Foundation, Ed Levy Jr. and Linda Dresner, and Myrna and Spencer Partrich. Exhibit partner, the Detroit Historical Society, donated the exhibition space, located in the main gallery of the museum.

The Season Opener was the first of several JHSM-sponsored programs promoting Chasing Dreams, which ran from September 9 to November 27, 2016. In all, some 17,000 guests saw the exhibit, including public- and private-school groups, visitors to the city, tour groups, and event participants.

FOR GENERATIONS of American Jews--as well as other minorities - the greatest heroes in baseball did more than play the game. They changed it.

In September 2016, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan brought the traveling version of *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American* to the Detroit Historical Museum. Curated by and originally presented in 2014 at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia (www.nmajh.org), *Chasing Dreams* was the first large-scale exhibition to use the story of Jews and baseball as an opportunity to highlight the ways in which our national pastime is part of the past, and indeed the current, story of how immigrant and minority communities assimilated and connected to American life.

For immigrants and their descendants, baseball has long served as a pathway for learning and understanding American values. Philip Roth wrote, "Baseball was a kind of secular church that reached into every class and region of the nation.... Baseball made me understand what patriotism was about, at its best" ("My Baseball Years," *New York Times*, April 2, 1973). While its initial focus was related to Jews in baseball, *Chasing Dreams* also included stories of Irish, Italians, Germans, Asians, African Americans, and Latinos, among others.

Chasing Dreams explored ways in which the game has reflected the best of America, but also how the sport mirrors challenges our nation has faced, such as racism, anti-Semitism, class stratifications, and urbanization.

To accomplish this, the exhibit focused on several basic themes: Shaping Identity, Overcoming Adversity, Family and Community, and Americanization. Each concept was represented by a baseball hero or pioneer like Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax, Jackie Robinson, or Roberto Clemente. JHSM added Michigan content to further emphasize these ideas with stories about notable individuals such as Joseph Weiss, Ben Turpin, Willie Horton, and Turkey Stearnes, and lesser-known community organizations such as the Detroit Flashlights, the Washington Progressives, and the Academy of the Americas softball team. The goal was to give visitors an understanding of these ideas along with an enjoyable selection of baseball stories, images, and artifacts.

A Walk Through the Exhibition

Visitors to *Chasing Dreams* were encouraged to think about baseball as more than a summer pastime. Upon entering the exhibit area, visitors first saw a collage of local baseball images spanning many decades and encompassing several communities. Set against a background of an aerial photo of Detroit's former Tiger Stadium, images included nineteenth-century Detroit Tigers and women players, mid-twentieth-century African-American community teams, and twenty-first-century youth leagues sponsored by the Detroit Police Athletic League.

The panels anchoring the central portion of the exhibit illustrated aspects of the themes mentioned above. A quote from Jewish author Chaim Potok and another from a 1903 *Jewish Daily Forward* showcased the importance of baseball in early U.S. Jewish communities. The challenges faced by players such as Hank Greenberg and Joe DiMaggio because of their ethnic origins were noted and illustrated with life-size images of the two men. Representing the obstacles faced by players of color, Jackie Robinson and Roberto Clemente appeared on the panels as important groundbreakers.

Other panels noted the change from early decades when players hid their religion or ethnicity by changing their names to sound more American, contrasted with late-twentieth-century players who proudly claimed their backgrounds and became advocates of their communities. The song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," written by Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer, was presented as America's second national anthem, as was information about the first woman to serve as a professional baseball coach. More about women in baseball from the nineteenth



A reproduction of the first American sports publication, The Official Baseball Record, published in 1886, included an image of Lipman Pike, a nineteenth-century baseball star who is considered the first Jewish professional player.

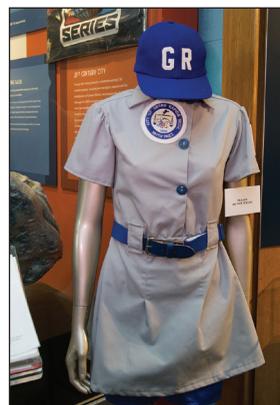
century to today was included in a special panel created by JHSM.

Michigan's Contributions

Two panels highlighted four groups important to Michigan: early Europeans, the Jewish and African-American communities, and Latino players and teams.

The Early Europeans panel included a short essay on early Detroit teams in the nineteenth century with names like the Early Risers, the Michigan Central RR Club, and the Franklins, whose players were printers from the *Detroit Free Press* along with lawyers and clerks. These teams were comprised of white men, mostly of Anglo origin, but new teams were formed as waves of immigrants arrived from Germany, Ireland, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. Included also were biographical sketches of Hal Newhouser, the son of Czech and Austrian immigrants, who became an MVP in the 1940s; Henry Beckendorf, the son of German immigrants and an early Detroit Tigers catcher; Steve Gromek, of Polish heritage from Hamtramck, who played for the Tigers in the early 1950s and was featured in an iconic photo embracing African-American center fielder Larry Doby after the 1948 World Series win; and Mike Ilitch, son of Macedonian immigrants.

The Jewish community panel included the story of Joseph Weiss, a former ball player, attorney, Detroit civic leader, and state representative and senator. When he passed away in 1937, he was mourned by the community at Navin Field, then the center of Detroit's baseball universe. Also, Frank Faudem, a WWII hero killed in action, was remembered as a hometown baseball hero from Central



The All-American Girls' Professional Ball League, based in Chicago, was an association of eight baseball clubs owned and operated by local civic and industrial leaders on a community, non-profit basis, mostly in the Midwest. The league lasted from 1943 to 1954 and teams played a 126-game season on a diamond slightly smaller than the men's. In 1948, players earned from \$55 to \$100 per week. There were two teams in Michigan: the Muskegon Lassies and the Grand Rapids Chicks, who won the league championship in 1953. A replica of the Grand Rapids Chicks uniform is pictured. Photo courtesy of Elayne Gross.

High School; and Henry Ward Beckendorf, a first-generation American who became a professional catcher, spending two seasons with the Detroit Tigers beginning in 1909. The story of the local Sloan family illustrated four generations of Detroit Tigers fans in the Jewish community, beginning with David, a Russian immigrant born in 1886, who frequented Navin Field. His son, Bernard "Bernie" Sloan, born in 1912, also became a tremendous Tigers fan who indoctrinated his son, also named David, to the Tigers. Finally, David's son John, born in 1986, is the latest Tigers fan in the Sloan family.

The late Mike Ilitch played baseball throughout high school, in the Marines, and with the Tigers farm system. An injury halted his career but led to the fulfillment of his American dream after he opened his first Little Caesar's pizza shop and went on to become one of America's most successful businessmen. He purchased the Detroit Tigers in 1992. Courtesy Ilitch Holdings Corporate Archive.



The exhibition included local artifacts, on loan to JHSM from several local baseball historians and collectors. Among the items showcased were the original edition of the Jewish Major Leaguers baseball cards, a Fresh Air camp baseball from 1914, a 1914 silver bat and ball trophy belonging to the Detroit Public Schools playgrounds league, and several items from the Robert Matthews sports exhibit at the JCC in West Bloomfield, including artifacts from baseball star/spy Moe Berg.

Professor De Witt Dykes of Oakland University and the archives at the Wright Museum of African American History helped create the panel for the African-American community. The Wright Museum's collections included a 1940s scrapbook belonging to Ben Turnpin, a detective with the Detroit Police Department, who owned a local "Negro" team called the Turpin Athletic Club. Other teams highlighted included the Grand Rapids Black Sox, and iconic players Turkey Stearnes, Ozzie Virgil, and Willie Horton, who represented the local challenges and successes of Black players.

The Latino community was represented on a panel with a combination of professional profiles and community stories. Three notable professional players who played for the Detroit Tigers in the late 1950s to 1980s included Aurelio Lopez, who is credited with a big win for the Tigers in the 1984 World Series. The profile of Coach Jose Ramirez, who came from Mexico to the U.S. as a small child with his



The Washington Progressives baseball team, circa 1920, based at the Hannah Schloss Memorial Building, the de facto Jewish Community Center of the early twentieth century, was depicted as a representation of the many teams that emanated from the Jewish community. Courtesy of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Small Collections, Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.

migrant-worker mother and siblings, served as perhaps one of the most inspiring examples of the *Chasing Dreams* theme.

After attending many schools as a child, Ramirez won a scholarship to Eastern Michigan University. He settled in Southwest Detroit and had two daughters. When they were old enough to play sports, he realized there were no opportunities for girls, so he joined with fathers from the area and launched the Academy of the Americas softball team, which competes in the Detroit PAL. Coach Ramirez wrote: "Nobody is going to hand [these girls] a championship trophy. They have to earn it by practicing hard on a daily basis. In life, nobody is going to hand them a career or job; they have to earn it through attending school and giving their best effort in and out of the classroom."

Coach Ramirez's message, to work hard, work together, and earn success, beautifully ties in with another theme of the exhibition: that as Americans, Jewish and not, we all share in cherishing the values of community, family, camaraderie, and even faith.



The exhibition included local artifacts, on loan to JHSM from several historians and collectors. Included was this mini-uniform presented to Marshall Loewenstein by Hank Greenberg in 1935, when Marshall was four years old. Since then, each of Marshall's sons, including Rick (pictured above with his mother Phyllis, and wife Dana), and grandsons has been photographed in the uniform with a member of the Tigers team. Photo by Elayne Gross.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF JEWISH WINDSOR

BY MICHAEL KASKY, JHSM TOUR DEVELOPMENT CHAIR



Windsor's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, built in 1929, features stunning stained glass windows, pew seating and separate seating areas for men and women.

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, nearly 100 guests joined JHSM for a tour of Jewish Windsor. Mike Kasky was the docent on one bus, while Jeannie Weiner and Fred Katzman teamed up on the other. Also assisting were Windsor residents, Nancy Barat, Herb Brudner, Milton Dzodin, Sarah Shklov, and Howard Spinner. Guests visited the magnificent Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, whose building was completed in 1930. All were awed by the sanctuary's magnificent stained-glass windows, which depict Jewish holidays and life-cycle events.

Other sites along the route included the former location of Congregation Shaarey Zedek; Ottawa Street (once home to many Jewish-owned shops and still home to Jewish-owned clothier Freeds); Rachel Kaplan Hebrew Memorial Chapel, whose parking lot is the former site of a Talmud Torah; and Mercer Street, where Windsor's first synagogues—Shaarey Zedek (1906) and Congregation Tifereth Israel (1919)—once stood; and toured the Shaar Hashomayim cemetery. Guests saw Walkerville, once a prosperous, separate municipality where the Walker family owned virtually everything and restrictive covenants excluded Jews.

The last stop was Congregation Beth El followed by lunch at Mazal Tov Kosher Restaurant at the Windsor Jewish Community Centre, where executive director Jay Katz and program director Anna Ginden shared more local history. Thanks to Harvey Strosberg of Sutts Strosberg LLP and to Freeds of Windsor for their support of this tour.

WINDSOR, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan, face each other from opposite banks of the Detroit River. While an international border often deters contact between the two sides, Detroit and Windsor have been an exception to this rule, especially for these cities' Jewish communities.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, two million Eastern European Jews immigrated to North America. While the majority came to the U.S., thousands went to Canada, in large part because of Canada's fewer quotas and entrance requirements. Many of these immigrants, along with Jewish families who had already settled there, saw Canada as a good step toward getting into the United States.¹ The tradition of families crossing the border, often for greater economic opportunity, continues today.

The story of Windsor's first Jewish settler begins in the 1790s, after the British, who conquered French North America in 1760, permitted Jews to live in it. Several Jewish traders settled in the Montreal area and in 1768 formed Congregation Shearith Yisrael, whose members included at least three congregants who would become significant to Michigan's Jewish history:

- Ezekiel Solomon (born in Berlin ca. 1735) and five other Jewish individuals obtained British licenses to trade with the Indians in 1761. Solomon, Michigan's first Jewish resident, opened a trading post and later a general store at Fort Michilimackinac.
- Chapman Abraham (born Kaufman Abraham in Germany in 1723) was a supplier of goods to the British Army during the French and Indian War. In 1762, at age thirty-nine, he came to Detroit with his British license to trade with the Indians. Abraham is considered Detroit's first Jewish resident.
- Moses David (born in Montreal in 1767) came to Detroit in 1790 as a young man in his twenties. His father, Lazarus², one of the three most prosperous Jews in Montreal, died before Moses was ten years old.

Phoebe, Moses' mother, died when Moses was still a teenager. Moses' two elder brothers ran the family business, increasing and diversifying it, and sent their younger brother to British-held Detroit to purchase furs for the business. Moses lived in Detroit for several years but, like many residents of Detroit who chose to retain their British citizenship, relocated across the newly established international border. By 1796, Moses was living in Sandwich, the capital of Western Upper Canada.

Moses David became a successful businessman and land speculator, establishing a cordial relationship with a prominent minister who often interceded on Moses' behalf with government officials. By 1803 he had been commissioned an ensign in the Essex County Militia. Interestingly, he was not made to swear the usual oath of loyalty and allegiance "upon the true faith of a Christian," nor was he asked to so swear when he was promoted to lieutenant, and later captain in 1807. In February 1808, he was appointed coroner of the Western District of Upper Canada, again without having to sign a Christian oath. Historians believe David was the first Jewish commissioned officer in the British Empire and was the first Jew authorized to purchase real property in Upper Canada, thereby creating the precedent for Jews to own land in Ontario.³

Early History of Windsor and Canada

In 1867, the Dominion of Canada was created by the British, empowering it to become a self-governing colony. It eventually grew to ten provinces and three northern territories. Windsor, located in the province of Ontario, was officially incorporated on April 14, 1892, and was one of four adjacent municipalities which, in 1935, were amalgamated into Windsor. The other three were:

- Sandwich, to Windsor's south, had been the major town until industrialization and immigration swelled Windsor's population.
- Walkerville, located to Windsor's east, was founded in the 1850s by American Hiram Walker. Hiram Walker & Sons distillery became the major employer and Walker used the profits to build houses to rent (not sell) to his workers. He determined who could work for him but also who could live in Walkerville, and he excluded Jews.
- East Windsor (Ford City), located east of Walkerville, was a sparsely settled rural area at the beginning of

the twentieth century. This changed when Henry Ford realized he could pay a lower import duty if he brought in auto parts rather than fully assembled cars, thereby getting a price advantage in the Canadian market. Ford of Canada built a new complex in 1910 that Ford continually expanded, eventually covering hundreds of acres. At one point Ford employed 14,000 workers there. It is interesting to note that Jewish Detroitier Albert Kahn—Henry Ford's go-to architect—designed its powerhouse.⁴

The Ford complex was soon surrounded by quickly erected, modest homes built for the plant workers, many of whom came from Eastern Europe. The area was dubbed Ford City. Incorporated as a village in 1913, the community reached town status by 1915. By 1928, when Ford City changed its name to East Windsor, it had reached its peak population of around 16,000.⁵

History of Windsor's Jewish Community

Even though by 1850 German Jews had begun settling in Detroit and formed the Beth El Society, few, if any, German Jews settled in Windsor. In the late 1870s, when Imperial Russia's Tsars wanted to rid Russia of the Jews they'd earlier absorbed, millions began fleeing the country heading by the thousands to North America. In 1893, Windsor's Jewish community, located on the lower east side of the city, near the Detroit River, formed Congregation Shaarey Zedek. Twenty members attended High Holiday services held in 1895 in a rented storefront located at 50 Pitt St E. (adjoining the fire department).

In January 1906, when Windsor's Jewish community numbered around sixty, the cornerstone was laid for the new Shaarey Zedek building on the corner of Mercer and Brant Streets. Just over 300 Jewish families lived in Windsor in 1911, and by 1921, the community numbered 980.

In 1919, a faction broke away from Shaarey Zedek and founded Congregation Tifereth Israel, located at 48 Mercer in a small bungalow building. Six years later, in 1925, the congregation built a small building at 1012 Hickory in East Windsor, where a significant number of Jewish merchant families lived from the 1930s to the 1950s. Tifereth Israel remained an Orthodox congregation with a membership of around forty families. Never able to support a permanent rabbi, the congregation disbanded in 1975 and its building was demolished in 1979.

Ottawa Street

As the Jewish population grew, many moved south to the Giles Boulevard and Ottawa Street area. Jewish merchants opened shops on Ottawa Street and founded successful multi-generation businesses. One example is



Sam Freed, Founder

Courtesy Freeds of Windsor

Freeds of Windsor, founded in 1929 by Sam Freed as Sam's Place. Sam Freed's grandsons, Dan Orman and Ari Freed, own and manage Canada's largest independent men's and ladies' clothing store.

It was also in 1929 that a cornerstone was laid at the corner of Giles Boulevard and Goyeau Street for a larger, more elaborate synagogue--Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. While the sanctuary

was designed to eventually accommodate a more liberal mixed seating, to this day the "Shaar" remains Orthodox, and men and women may sit separately.

By 1929, Windsor's Jewish population reached about 2,200, soon after a second wave of Jewish immigrants, primarily from Russia, began settling in the city and established the Peretz School, which stressed Jewish culture and history.



The "Shaar" has beautiful stained-glass windows depicting Jewish holidays, rituals, and life-cycle events.

The 1950s

The booming automobile industry and the post-war baby boom fostered Windsor's population growth. In 1958 Congregation Shaarey Zedek relocated to a new building at the corner of Giles Boulevard and Lillian.⁶ It was also at this time that many Jewish families began seeking an alternative to Orthodox Judaism. Unable to persuade a majority of Shaar members to become more "liberal," plans to form a new congregation began in 1959. Founded as Congregation Beth El, the group began meeting at the home of Milton and Betty Kovinsky on Ouellette Avenue. Soon after, a building on Ouellette was purchased and



This building served as Congregation Shaarey Zedek's home from 1906-1957 and was the focal point for Windsor's Jewish community.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine, formerly of Temple Beth El in Detroit, became their first rabbi. In 1961, construction began on a mid-century modern building on Mark Avenue in South Windsor. In November 1962, the first phase of the building was dedicated. Phase two was completed and dedicated in 1982.

By the end of the twentieth century, the number of Jewish families living in Windsor had significantly declined. Present-day Windsor is a city of about 211,000 people with a Jewish community of 1,200. There are two Orthodox congregations, a Chabad House, one Reform Congregation, and the Jewish Community Centre, built in 1959, which continues to offer a variety of athletic, social, cultural, and educational programs, and is home to a kosher restaurant and a children's day camp. Adjacent is the I.L. Peretz House senior-citizen residential tower.



In 1918, an Orthodox Talmud Torah was built on the corner of Aylmer and Tuscarora, near Shaarey Zedek. The building was also home to a Zionist center for Labor Zionist families. A 1949 interior fire ended its use as a school; in 1952, the property became a Jewish funeral chapel serving all of Windsor's synagogues, now named the Rachel Kaplan Hebrew Memorial Chapel.

¹ My family is an example of this. My grandparents settled in Canada and my parents moved to Detroit for better economic opportunities.

² Lazarus had come to Montreal from Wales and married Phoebe Samuels of New York City in 1761.

³ On one of his many trips back to Montreal, Moses met Charlotte Hart, daughter of Dorthea and Aaron Hart. (Aaron, coming from London, was Canada's first Jewish settler). Moses and Charlotte married in 1811 or '12 and had one son, Moses Eleazer, in 1813. After Moses' death in 1814, the family moved back to Montreal. Moses David was originally buried by his family on land adjacent to his house in Sandwich in what would become known as the "Jew Cemetery;" In 1977, he was re-interred in Shaar Hashomayim Cemetery.

⁴ Ford left Windsor for the Toronto suburb of Oakville in 1953, closing the Riverside Drive plant and leaving thousands unemployed; only the casting and engine plants remained.

⁵ The haste with which Ford was built and the fact that many of its residents were newcomers influenced the nature of the housing stock, which was largely built by owners and speculative landlords. It was not built to last.

⁶ With a membership of fewer than forty families, and a flooded basement, the building was put up for sale in 2013 and the congregation relocated to the Shaar Hashomayim chapel.

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On the birth of your great-granddaughter, Lily Prichard from JHSM Officers & Board

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In honor of your great job with the U of M Students at the Chasing Dreams Exhibit
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On your 80th birthday from JHSM Officers & Board

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On your wonderful work! from Lisa & Larry Rich

On your receiving the Leonard N. Simons History Award from Harriet Berg; Wendy & Gary Bice; Inge Eriks & Glenn Cantor; Lois & Hon. Avem Cohn; Dr. Barbara Crone & Lee Hertz; Charlotte Dubin; Jacqui & Larry Elkus; Gayle & Gary Eubanks; Lois & Harvey Freeman; Barbara & Dr. Paul Goodman; Sandra & Dr. Robert Matthews; Stanley Meretsky; Jane & Erik Nordberg; Risha Ring; Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University; Harriet Siden; Pam & Mike Smith; Sandy Soifer; Kathleen Strauss & Hon. Walter Shapero

On your receiving the Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History 4th Annual Gordon Olson Award from JHSM Officers & Board

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On your 90th Birthday from Barbara Crone & Lee Hertz; JHSM Officers & Board

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On receiving the 2017 "8 Over 80" Award from JHSM Officers & Board

On Dr. Evelyn Golden's induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame
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In honor of your 50th anniversary from JHSM Officers & Board

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The Eisenberg Family Foundation

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On the Bat Mitzvah of your granddaughter, Shira Faith Ellis from JHSM Officers & Board

In honor of six generations of the Gunsberg Family from Larry Gunsberg

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On your receiving the 2017 JHSM Volunteer of the Year from Wendy & Gary Bice; Sara Braverman; Charlotte Dubin; Stanley Meretsky; Risha Ring; Andrea Sanfield; Marjorie & Saul Saulson

In honor of your special birthday from JHSM Officers & Board

In honor of your special birthday from JHSM Officers & Board

On your Grand Jester Award, for 30 years of participation in the Thanksgiving Parade's Distinguished Clown Corp - the first to achieve 30 years! from Judy & Bernie Cantor

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On your receiving the Leonard N. Simons Lifetime Achievement Award from Wendy & Gary Bice; Susie & Bob Citrin; Charlotte Dubin; Marilyn & Richard Emmer; Jacqui & Larry Elkus; Rozanne & Judge Bernard Friedman; Beth Gotthelf & Steve Miesowicz; Alicia & Rabbi David Nelson; Martin Smith

On your receiving Michigan Israel Business Bridge's Volunteer of the Year Award from JHSM Officers & Board

On your receiving a 36 Under 36 recognition from JHSM Officers & Board

On your 70th birthday from Annette Friedman

On receiving the 2017 "8 Over 80" Award from JHSM Officers & Board

On the birth of your son, Gabriel Akiva Rosen from Roz Sell

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On your induction into the National Hall of Fame for State School Boards

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On becoming grandparents from Fran Katz

On your receiving the JCRC - 2017 Activist Award from Harriet Siden; JHSM Officers & Board

On your work with JHSM from Barbara & Jerry Cook

On your 90th birthday from Joyce & Ronald Rothstein

In Memoriam.

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During the past twelve months, JHSM has received the following funds from foundations and individuals whose gifts enable us to focus on specific areas of organizational growth.

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Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation:

Final installment of a two-year grant to support Educational Program Coordinator.

William Davidson Foundation:

Second year of a two-year grant to re-develop JHSM's website.

DeRoy Testamentary Foundation:

Funding for *JHSM Youth Education Curriculum: Traveling Trunk* educational program and *Settlers to Citizens* Bus Tour of historic Jewish Detroit.

Hermelin-Davidson Center for Congregational Excellence (Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit):

Continuation funding for *JHSM Youth Education Curriculum: Traveling Trunk* educational program and *Settlers to Citizens* Bus Tour of historic Jewish Detroit.

David-Horodoker Organization:

For the support of JHSM Speakers Bureau, the virtual tour of Northwest Detroit.

Marjorie and Maxwell Jospey Foundation:

Conclusion of a three-year grant to support Educational Program Coordinator.

Ravitz Foundation:

Funds to create a JHSM Jewish History Curriculum map and timeline.

Jeannie Weiner, in memory of Gershon Weiner:

A matching gift program to support the *Michigan Women Who Made a Difference* project.

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