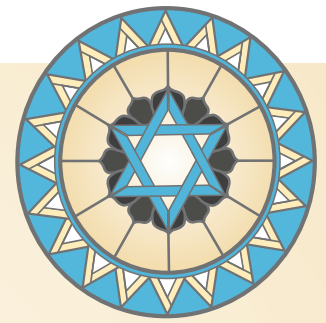


# JHSM BULLETIN



Volume 6 • December 2020



Figures 1 and 2: Zilla Goldstein (left), pre-1929, and Minnie Rosenthal (right), circa 1907. (Courtesy of Gloria Levine.)

## JEWISH MICHIGANDERS AND THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

*“Then when the final count is made, wisdom will have its reward. The suffragist lamps will be filled, trimmed and burning.”*

— Zilla Goldstein<sup>1</sup>

The year 2020 marks the centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, prohibiting the states and the federal government from denying voting rights on the basis of sex. Among the untold numbers of activists who worked to secure women's suffrage was a pair of sisters from Petoskey, Michigan: Wilhelmina “Minnie” (von Wunderlich) Rosenthal (1868-1943) and Zilla (von Wunderlich) Goldstein (1874-1946).

Minnie and Zilla von Wunderlich were born into a Jewish-German family that moved permanently to the United States between their births. In Chicago, where Zilla von Wunderlich was born, they met their respective spouses: Alick Rosenthal (who married Minnie von Wunderlich in 1887) and Cassius Goldstein (who married Zilla von Wunderlich in 1896). In 1894 Minnie and Alick Rosenthal relocated to Petoskey to work in the family department store, S. Rosenthal & Sons. Along with her daughter Gertrude, Zilla Goldstein joined them in 1911, serving for seventeen years as the store's vice president and establishing and operating its knitting shop department. After Alick Rosenthal's death in 1939, Minnie Rosenthal would serve as store president until her own death four years later.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT • RISHA B. RING

As a result of the board-approved action plan developed over a year ago, we committed to a series of goals for JHSM:

- expand our visibility in the community
- grow our target audience
- raise more funds and stretch our dollars
- increase the quality and raise the scholarly content as we tell different stories of Michigan Jewish history
- strengthen and reaffirm existing collaborations, and establish new and different collaborations
- engage new volunteers
- overhaul the variety, frequency, and content of our programming

We are thrilled that we have been able to continue working toward these seven goals, despite the obstacles all of us have faced in 2020.

Taking the board's action plan as a blueprint for the growth and success of JHSM, we embarked on creating a nearly full calendar of outstanding programming for 2020. A tour of Detroit synagogues was planned and a busload of participants was set to go on April 1st. A committee was working on our first Jewish Boston Edison tour. The J-Cycle Committee was preparing for the tenth-anniversary bicycle tour. We were working with the JCC's travel department on our first fall color tour of northern Michigan, giving participants a chance to spend a few days in the northern communities experiencing Jewish history and the beautiful fall foliage. These are only a few of the programs that came to an abrupt halt on March 12, 2020.

On that day life changed for all of us—we began to use terms like shelter in place, quarantine, social distance, PPE, ventilators, and N-95 masks, among others. We found a shortage of toilet paper and antiseptic wipes as grocery shelves emptied at a rapid pace. We were confined to our homes, while health professionals around the country struggled to get the needed supplies to help those who were struck with COVID-19.



JHSM programs were postponed at first, and then, sadly, all were canceled. We wanted to provide content and programming for our members who were seeking opportunities for enrichment, so we began to reinvent our programming using technology. We developed a calendar of Zoom events, with lectures and workshops every other week that were of interest to our membership.

Over the last seven months, April through October, we have provided sixteen Zoom programs, drawing nearly 1,000 participants. The silver lining of this pandemic has been that we have been able to reach members throughout the state, as well as “Michigan ex-pats” living in eighteen other states, Canada, and Israel. Closer to home we have shared history with members and friends who live in and around Iron Mountain, Marquette, Houghton, Sault Ste. Marie, Petoskey, Traverse City, and Alpena in the north, as well as Grand Rapids, Muskegon,

*Continued on page 5*

**FROM APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER 2020, JHSM OFFERED 16 ZOOM PROGRAMS, DRAWING NEARLY 1,000 PARTICIPANTS.**

**849**

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP  
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020**

**169**

**NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE 2019 ISSUE  
OF THE *BULLETIN* WAS PUBLISHED**



**JHSM**  
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan's *Bulletin* offers a colorful and engaging retrospective of the last year's programs, presentations, and achievements. It is one of the many perks of a JHSM membership.

### ***JHSM Bulletin***

Risha B. Ring, PhD, *President*

Catherine Cangany, PhD, *Executive Director*

Tracy Weissman, JD, *Editor*

*Designed and Printed by:* Grigg Graphic Services

*Published by:* Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • CATHERINE CANGANY, PHD



*(Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)*

Yes, you read that right. The big news around here is we have formed an Exploratory Museum Task Force, charged with investigating the possibility of establishing a Michigan Jewish history museum. It may sound radical, but actually, it is an idea 61 years in the making. The original 1959 objectives for JHSM included: “To preserve . . . materials bearing on Michigan Jewish history” and “To establish a permanent depository for these materials.”

Should it go forward, this new institution would complement and strengthen the community’s fabulous archives, and provide a place to collect and display historical objects from across the state. As nothing like this exists yet in Michigan, it would fill a real need, keeping significant items local, preserved, and available as teaching tools for now and for the future. And it also would give the community a much-needed place to gather to touch and learn about the past.

That is exactly what JHSM’s founders had in mind. JHSM Past President Stan Meretsky, chair of the task force, has been thinking through their idea for more than 30 years. We gain so much from his leadership and experience.

What may seem an odd time to contemplate getting into the museum business is, at least from this vantage point, ideal. Our membership is up. Our programming is up. Our brand is growing. Our knowledge-production is winning awards. Our commitment to engaging the entire state has never been more robust. Our supporters are here. And, thanks to COVID-19 spring cleaning, our collections are multiplying. Our star is rising, indeed.

As thrilling as this all sounds, this venture would succeed only with your help. Please tell us: Where should this museum be located? If we build it, would you come? Would your families/students/groups/friends come? Would you support it? Would you contribute collections to it? What would you like to see housed or happen in the space? Send us your feedback and blue-sky ideas at [museum@michjewishhistory.org](mailto:museum@michjewishhistory.org). Let’s brainstorm and envision together.

**2020 MEMBERSHIP IS UP**

**16%**

**(AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020)**

**PROGRAMMING IS UP**

**40%**

**(OVER 2019)**

## WELCOME JHSM’S DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR:

### KARA SCHUCHMAN

My name is Kara Schuchman, and I am JHSM’s director of development and its outreach coordinator. I began working with JHSM in March 2020—right before our world drastically changed. As an organization, we have pivoted and adapted to our “new normal,” and that has included how we program and fundraise.

Our slate of interesting and innovative Zoom programming, begun this past April, has brought our members and friends lectures from world-renowned professors, educators, writers, and entertainers. We are excited to bring more programming to you into 2021, keeping you connected, entertained, and educated from home.

We also have taken a new approach to fundraising. The organization is working on focused, targeted campaigns through quarterly standard and electronic mail and, when feasible in 2021, semiannual in-person fundraising events. Our future at JHSM is bright, and we look forward to more programming and initiatives made possible by your continued commitment.





## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION • TRACY WEISSMAN, JD



(Courtesy of Paul Stoloff Photography.)

Planning this issue of the *Bulletin* during a pandemic started out as a challenge. With our award-winning journal, *Michigan Jewish History*, shifting to include peer-reviewed articles and cementing its place as a leading publication for historical knowledge production, the *Bulletin* has become our primary resource for highlighting JHSM's annual achievements. Could this still be done successfully in 2020?

For me nothing illustrates JHSM's accomplishments better than the *Bulletin's* annual photographic Year in Review. Photos bring to life our programs, events, and tours in a way that words alone cannot: a J-Cycle bike rider's joy exploring Detroit's old Jewish neighborhoods; a student's astonishment meeting baseball legend Hank Greenberg at The Corner Ballpark, site of the former Tiger Stadium, during a Traveling Trunk bus tour; a visitor's fascination hearing JHSM member and renowned artist Ruth Adler Schnee describe her mid-century textiles during a major collaborative event at The Henry Ford; the smiling faces of our amazing volunteers seeing their plans come to fruition during a Detroit River cruise. Photos remind us of all of the wonderful opportunities JHSM provides to learn about Michigan's rich Jewish history. And photos encourage those who see what they have been missing to consider trying one of our offerings in the year ahead.

When in-person programs came to a halt in March 2020, unfortunately, so did our photos. As is evident in these pages, however, our pivot to Zoom programming did not slow our achievements. With a little creativity, we have filled the hole left by the Year in Review and produced our largest, and hopefully best, *Bulletin* yet.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from presenting any awards in 2020, it has given us the opportunity to honor in this issue's "JHSM Happenings" three very deserving award recipients from 2019, including the winners of our inaugural Outstanding Producer of Historical Knowledge and Outstanding Educator awards (pages 5-8). Our Yearbook Committee receives long-overdue recognition for its hard work putting together and maintaining the largest collection of yearbooks from Detroit-area high schools (page 10). And we highlight the story of former state representative Maxine Berman, just one of the many remarkable individuals in our Michigan Women Who Made a Difference online gallery (page 12).

The wide range of Zoom offerings has allowed us to include in this issue's "Programming Spotlight" section more articles and essays from speakers than ever before. And thanks to our wonderful photographer Elayne Gross, we could add Zoom screenshots of participants from across Michigan and beyond who typically cannot attend our in-person programs due to distance. The absence of the Year in Review also created space for historic photos, including an "unknown" image from our collection, the mystery of which we hope our readers will solve (page 40).

The issue concludes with our annual new member (page 30), tribute (page 36), and memorial contribution (page 39) lists; a final thank-you to our generous A. Alfred Taubman Heritage Council, following its retirement as of January 1, 2020, as an active giving category (page 31); and recognition of JHSM's 2020-2021 leadership (page 40). We also publicly honor for the first time in the *Bulletin* all recent donors (page 34). Without your commitment, we could not have achieved all we did this year.

With a fresh, new design, interesting content, and a dash of creativity, the *Bulletin* succeeds in capturing JHSM's accomplishments in this extraordinary year. I hope you find them as impressive as I do.

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY!

**A.** Who was Michigan's first Jewish resident?

**B.** Where and when did he settle in Michigan?

**C.** What famous Detroiter is the subject of Edgar A. Guest's 1934 poem, "Came Yom Kippur"?

Throughout this issue we have included trivia questions from our Zoom Trivia Night held on May 27, 2020. See how much you really know about the history of Michigan's Jewish communities. Answers are on page 27.



*Continued from page 2*

South Haven, Benton Harbor, and small towns along the western coast of Michigan. How wonderful it is to be able to share our mission with so many long-time and new members and friends!

Despite the pandemic, our membership continues to grow, and we have seen a significant increase in participation in our programs. Our staff has been working remotely since the start of the pandemic, and we closed the physical office on June 1st to reduce expenditures.

We continue to increase our revenue through dues, programming, and donations. Executive Director Catherine (“Katie”) Cangany is working with Kara Schuchman, our director of development and outreach coordinator, implementing a consistent plan for fund development, including a fall fundraiser, Giving Tuesday/end-of-year contributions, and fundraising events in the spring. We are able to provide quality programs because of the increased participation and generosity of our donors.

Another change this year is bringing this *Bulletin* to you at the end of the year, as a way to share the accomplishments of JHSM during the past year. We distributed the 60th-anniversary

edition of our journal, *Michigan Jewish History*, to coincide with the end of the academic year. This year’s journal included three peer-reviewed articles, as well as many articles, essays, and stories of interest to our readers. We are pleased to announce that the 60th-anniversary issue of our journal received an award from the Historical Society of Michigan—congratulations to the editor, Catherine Cangany, and the managing editor, Tracy Weissman, along with everyone who worked to create this outstanding journal.

This year the JHSM Board of Directors established the Exploratory Museum Task Force to look into the creation of a Michigan Jewish History Museum, in order to further fulfill our mission. We have a rich history that can be shared and enjoyed by visitors for years to come.

This has been a challenging year for all of us, but we can be proud of the ways we have continued to stay engaged and forge new opportunities for more Michiganders to connect with our Jewish history. We have been through a great deal this year, and we hope the worst is behind us so we can look to the future with optimism and a continued commitment to community.



## JHSM AWARD HONOREES



**On November 5, 2019, JHSM presented the following awards during a ceremony at its 60th-anniversary gala at Detroit’s Scarab Club:**

### **Outstanding Producer of Historical Knowledge Award**

This 2019-inaugural award recognizes the honoree’s commitment to promoting JHSM’s mission of producing knowledge that captures the depth and breadth of Michigan’s Jewish history. Knowledge production—taking facts and turning them into an explanation for how or why something happened—is vital to making sense of the world in which we live and predicting and shaping the future.

### **Outstanding Educator Award**

This 2019-inaugural award honors an individual who has demonstrated an above-and-beyond commitment to interpreting the history of Jewish Michigan for students, families, and/or the general public.

### **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

This award honors an individual who has demonstrated an above-and-beyond commitment to fulfilling JHSM’s mission through volunteer service to the organization.

The honorees are profiled on the following pages.

*(Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, JHSM was unable to present any awards during 2020.)*

## OUTSTANDING PRODUCER OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE AWARD 2019

### MICHAEL “MIKE” KASKY, MBA, JD



*Mike Kasky (center) receives JHSM's inaugural Outstanding Producer of Historical Knowledge Award at the organization's 60th-anniversary gala at Detroit's Scarab Club on November 5, 2019, from executive director Catherine Cangany, PhD (left), and president Risha B. Ring (right). (Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)*

Mike Kasky was born in Detroit to parents who had emigrated from Toronto, Canada. As a young lad at Detroit's Brady Elementary School, Mike discovered a passion for history. Perhaps this was predestined, because one of his mother's cousins—Ben Kayfetz—was a founding member of the Toronto Jewish Historical Society, and Mike may have inherited some of the same genes.

After earning a bachelor's degree in history, Mike began a career with the Detroit Civil Service Commission while taking evening graduate-level history courses. He also earned a master of business administration degree in human resources management. Mike learned a great deal of Detroit history and geography on the job, as his duties took him to many departments throughout the city. Mike even found himself one day inside the Detroit Zoo bear exhibit (happily while the bears were being fed in a locked interior room). He also worked every day of the 1967 “Rebellion,” on loan to “Riot Intelligence.”

At age 39 Mike chose to build upon his MBA and enhance his human-resources credentials by pursuing a shared ambition with his wife, Jackie; they jointly attended the Wayne State University Law School evening program. Following graduation Mike became the Wayne County Circuit Court human resources director and later joined a small law firm where he practiced corporate law. Yet, for Mike, the history bug never quite left.

Mike and Jackie fostered their strong attachment to the city of Detroit by moving from their first home in a Lafayette Park apartment to a beautiful house on East Outer Drive in the neighborhood now known as East English Village. Mike became active with the then-newly created Grosse Pointe Jewish Council (GPJC), eventually becoming president of the 130-family

congregation. Realizing that many GPJC members were new to the area, he began offering tours of Detroit. He searched out local Jewish history and incorporated the information into his tours. Fortuitously, he came face to face with one of JHSM's most ardent ambassadors: then-president Jerry Cook. The rest, as they say, is history.

“Mike the Docent,” as he quickly became known, did not just join JHSM, he went to work—as a tour planner, docent, board member, advisory board member, and officer. He has narrated many bus tours for adults and youth, and many of his narratives and photographs have appeared in JHSM's *Bulletin* and tour handouts. This Detroit Mumford High School graduate says he loves not only to learn but also to share what he can: “I'm motivated to learn the *whats* and the *whys* to explain *how* the pieces of our Jewish history fit together with our overall history; putting it all into context so our guests get a sense of our communal history.”

Among the many JHSM bus tours Mike has developed are:

- Jewish history of Southwest Detroit and Downriver
- Jewish history of Northwest Detroit
- Jewish history of Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- Detroit architecture of Albert Kahn
- Detroit architecture of Charles Agree
- “Defending Freedom,” the history of the cooperative efforts of Detroit Jews, Blacks, and union organizers to secure civil and human rights for victims of discrimination and economic exploitation

He also produced JHSM's first virtual tour of Detroit Jewish history. Feedback from Mike's tour participants has ranged from gratitude from Albert Kahn's granddaughter for showing her buildings she had never known her grandfather had designed, to an anonymous complaint by a Windsor history tour participant for subjecting her to “too much history.”

Mike and Jackie moved into their Grosse Pointe townhouse condominium in 2000. Even though Grosse Pointe is not “in the most populous Jewish ‘hood,’” and Mike probably puts more miles on his car than most JHSM volunteers, the distance never deters his participation. When the call goes out for help, Mike raises his hand or picks up his phone. He is always eager to share his own knowledge while graciously absorbing information from fellow docents and tour participants. Mike's steadfast commitment to producing knowledge that captures the depth and breadth of the history of Jewish Michigan makes him a most-deserving recipient of JHSM's inaugural Outstanding Producer of Historical Knowledge Award.

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR 2019

### RUTHE GOLDSTEIN



Ruthe Goldstein was born in 1937 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Abe and Bea Katzman. Four months later the family returned to Detroit where Ruthe and her younger sister, Judie, grew up. During Ruthe's childhood her parents were very active in the Jewish community. Their involvement inspired Ruthe's lifelong commitment to Jewish service, beginning with her participation as a teenager in the Jewish

youth groups, USY (United Synagogue Youth, the youth arm of the Conservative Movement), BBG (B'nai B'rith Girls, a Jewish teen girls' movement within B'nai B'rith Youth Organization), and Young Judea (a peer-led Zionist youth movement).

After graduating from Detroit's Mumford High School, Ruthe attended the University of Michigan. She then earned a bachelor of science degree in education, a master's degree in math education, and an education specialist certificate in math at Wayne University (now Wayne State University). She met her husband, Sam, in 1958, and they were married in June 1959. Ruthe began teaching in a six-room schoolhouse. After a leave of ten years to raise her children, Jonathan and Deborah, Ruthe found herself missing teaching and returned to the classroom as a middle-school math teacher. Ruthe went on to teach in the Detroit Public School system for 34 years.

Ruthe's service to the Jewish community, begun as a teen, has continued throughout her life. She has spent countless hours contributing to her local shul, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, which she considers her "second home." She has held leadership roles, serving as Sisterhood president and as a member of the board of trustees. She also has organized Shabbat lunches and has put her love of education to use, teaching Hebrew-school classes and co-authoring *100 Years of Shaarey Zedek*. Her greatest personal accomplishment was advocating successfully for an adult b'nai mitzvah class to give individuals, like her, who did not celebrate a b'nai mitzvah, the chance to do so later in life. Ruthe was part of the first class and aided many subsequent classes in the process. Elsewhere, Ruthe has been involved in the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and served as president of the Centennial Chapter of Jewish Women International.

Other volunteer positions have allowed Ruthe to share her passion for education with thousands in the Jewish community. In 1983 Ruthe became a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Center. She served as a member and officer of HMC's Docent Steering Committee and received an award for 30 years of service to the organization. In 2003 Ruthe began sharing her expertise on the history of Detroit's Jewish neighborhoods as a docent, director, and officer of JHSM. Described by other longtime JHSM members as a "supreme authority" and a "living library," Ruthe has brought Michigan Jewish history alive for schoolchildren, retirees, and everyone in between. She has written scripts for bus tours and developed programs that introduce her audiences to Detroit's historic Jewish neighborhoods, including the people, customs, beliefs, and practices.



*Ruthe Goldstein teaches participants about the history of Congregation Shaarey Zedek during JHSM's "Exploring Our Past: A Bus Tour of Three Former Synagogues" on July 17, 2018. (JHSM collections.)*

In 2020 Ruthe received the Tikkun Olam award "for helping to 'Repair Our World'" at the annual Eight over Eighty event sponsored by Jewish Senior Life. As part of her lifelong commitment to Tikkun Olam, Ruthe has tried to live by the following principles:

- Be a good moral human being
- Participate in your community
- Help those who are climbing the ladder

In abiding by these tenets, Ruthe has been a source of inspiration to students, mentees, and fellow community members. Her adherence to these ideals, wealth of knowledge, and love of teaching made Ruthe the natural choice to receive JHSM's inaugural Outstanding Educator award.



## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER 2019

### SHERYL "SHERI" TEREBELO SCHIFF (Z'L)



(Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)

*Sheri Schiff (z'l) received JHSM's 2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award less than two months before her unexpected death on January 5, 2020. No one was more deserving of the award than Sheri, a tireless volunteer for JHSM with an infectious can-do spirit. A portion of Sheri's in memoriam from the 2020 issue of Michigan Jewish History is reprinted below.*

On January 5, 2020, JHSM lost a dear friend, energetic member, and tireless volunteer.

Sheryl "Sheri" Terebello Schiff was born Chaya Slava Kaplan on December 28, 1947. The daughter of an Auschwitz survivor and an American aid worker for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Sheri was born in an American army hospital in a displaced persons' camp in Munich or Cyprus.<sup>1</sup>

After moving to the United States, Chaya Slava Kaplan became Sheryl Kaplan. When her mother remarried in 1956, this time to an Italian-Jewish man, Sheri became Sheri Terebello. As she put it, "I went through life with everyone thinking I was an Italian Catholic. And you know what? Sometimes it was easier."<sup>2</sup>

Sheri was a colorful character, a force to be reckoned with, who held deep-seated principles. JHSM President Risha B. Ring remembered Sheri as "full of energy, full of life, full of ideas and opinions she was not afraid to share." As a teenager, Sheri was arrested for protesting segregation at a public pool. A child of the 1960s, she closed out the decade by attending Woodstock.

At Henry Ford High School, Sheri was named a National Merit Scholar. She earned a scholarship to Michigan State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in communications and master's degrees in education and cultural anthropology. There, she joined anti-Vietnam-War protests. As a condition of her scholarship, Sheri tutored MSU football players, sometimes helping them take their tests. Because tutors were considered part of the team, she was required to attend football games dressed in suits. On game days, Sheri wore the green suit her uncle bought for her.<sup>3</sup>

Sheri worked for the *Ann Arbor Sun* and the *Fifth Estate* newspapers. Using the pseudonyms Natasha Lawrence and Sheri

Thompson, she deejayed for local radio stations, including CJOM in Windsor and WNIC in Detroit. She also did some work in television and labored behind the scenes on Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**Sheri was vital to JHSM, where her infectious readiness to help was legendary.**

Sheri found her true passion and made a name for herself volunteering in the Detroit community. She held leadership positions at numerous organizations, including the Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee, Jewish Federation of Detroit's Women's Philanthropy, and the National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan. She devoted countless hours to each. She was a driving force for Bookstock, the Detroit area's annual used book and media sale that raises money for education and literacy.

Sheri also worked tirelessly for multicultural organizations, including the Interfaith Leadership Council, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Community House's Race Relations and Diversity Task Force, the FBI Citizens' Academy, the Anti-Defamation League, Women Confronting Racism, and WISDOM (Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach in Metro Detroit). At Sheri's funeral, Rabbi Daniel B. Syme of Temple Beth El, her home congregation, said it best: "She couldn't tolerate walls. She built bridges."

Sheri was vital to JHSM, where her infectious readiness to help was legendary. She served on the board of directors since 2005 and committees too numerous to mention. She was not simply a joiner: she worked. She chaired the annual meeting several times and worked on J-Cycle (JHSM's bike tour of historic Jewish Detroit) each year. When the actor playing Blanche Hart (founder of the Fresh Air Society, now Tamarack Camps) on JHSM's youth bus tour canceled at the last minute, Sheri immediately assumed the role, arriving on Belle Isle in period costume and doing a superb job. No wonder JHSM named her its Outstanding Volunteer in 2019.

<sup>1</sup> Sheri Terebello Schiff interview, "5 Women, 5 Journeys," WISDOM: <https://youtu.be/VTi27pefeaM>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Lewis, "Her Activism and Leadership Touched Many Organizations," *Detroit Jewish News*, January 16, 2020, 48.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO 2020 MJH CONTRIBUTORS

**JHSM is pleased to announce our journal, *Michigan Jewish History*, won the Historical Society of Michigan's prestigious Outstanding Printed Periodical Award for 2020!**

The Historical Society of Michigan, the state's official historical society and oldest cultural organization, presented the award during a virtual awards ceremony on October 2, 2020. *MJH* Editor Catherine Cangany, PhD, and Managing Editor Tracy Weissman, JD, wish to recognize and thank the many individuals and organizations who made this fantastic honor possible:

Judith Levin Cantor

Barbara Madgy Cohn

Arnold Collens

Gerald Cook

Nicholas Ezra Field

Gail Fisher

Annette Friedman

Joy Gaines-Friedler

Ruthe Goldstein

Grigg Graphic Services

Michael J. Kasky

Zieva Dauber Konvisser

Ed Malkin

Risha B. Ring

Robert A. Rockaway

Karolyn Rubin

Carly A. Schiff

Charles "Chuck" Schiff

Stephanie Schiff-Nevell

Tova H. Schreiber

Sidney Simon

Michael G. Smith

Jeffrey Sofferin

Judy Sofferin

Julie Staller-Pentelnik

Mara Staller Starr

Mara Steinitz

Marc Terebelo, DC

Myron Tink

Sharon Staller Wallach

Jeannie Weiner



## COMMITTEE FOCUS: JHSM YEARBOOK COMMITTEE MAINTAINS PREMIER COLLECTION

### Morris Deitch Makes Substantial Donation of High School Yearbooks

*Gerald S. Cook and Roberta Russ,  
JHSM Yearbook Committee Members*

The last two years have been busy ones for the JHSM Yearbook Committee. Following Morris Deitch's substantial donation of high-school yearbooks, the Yearbook Committee spent many months integrating the books into JHSM's already sizable collection. The result: the largest gathering of yearbooks from Detroit-area high schools has grown even bigger. Deitch selected JHSM because "I was impressed with JHSM's care and organization of the yearbooks they had acquired from others over the past twenty years. We share an understanding of the value of these books now and far into the future. I wanted my books to be protected and well used." The donated volumes, which span about 100 years, expanded and filled many gaps in JHSM's yearbook collection.

Deitch was born in Detroit. He graduated from the city's Central High School and assisted his father in the family business, Dexter Hardware & Paint, on Dexter at Webb in Detroit. After obtaining a college degree, Deitch taught school for many years. Following his retirement from teaching, he began collecting school yearbooks.

JHSM President Risha B. Ring expressed the organization's appreciation to Mr. Deitch:

Morris Deitch's generous gift makes our extraordinary school yearbook collection bigger and better and will help JHSM expand access to these historic volumes. The collection plays an important role in carrying out JHSM's mission. It focuses on education, a key element in the success and happiness of Jews in Michigan throughout the history of the state. The books provide a virtual census of Jewish high school students.

Charles ("Chuck") Domstein, current chair of JHSM's Yearbook Committee, added:

Mr. Deitch's treasure trove is a great tribute to the student editors and their faculty advisors. Our collection ensures that the yearbooks, reflecting their months of labor on text, photos, and beautiful artistic work, will not be consigned to the trash. Each book also gives well-deserved credit to professional educators, preserving the memory of teachers, principals, and other school administrators.

JHSM began collecting yearbooks in 1999. It initially received substantial donations of books from former teachers Domstein, Richard Leland, and others, as well as from collector Marc Manson. Since then, JHSM has received books from hundreds of people, who donated their own yearbooks and those of their parents. Bookstock, which holds an annual used book and media sale to raise money for education and literacy, also has donated a large number.

As the collection grew, JHSM established a yearbook committee to oversee it. According to the committee's first chairperson, Marc Manson, and founding committee member Gerald ("Jerry") Cook, JHSM decided to maintain and grow the yearbook collection for several reasons:

The books provide cherished memories and treasured information for former students and teachers, their families and friends, and for researchers. Unlike other historic records, which focus on successful adults, yearbooks are about students—every student. JHSM sees every person as part of history.

On the pages of the books, we see changing fashions and hairstyles, clubs, athletic teams, handwritten inscriptions, and advertisements. The collection allows us

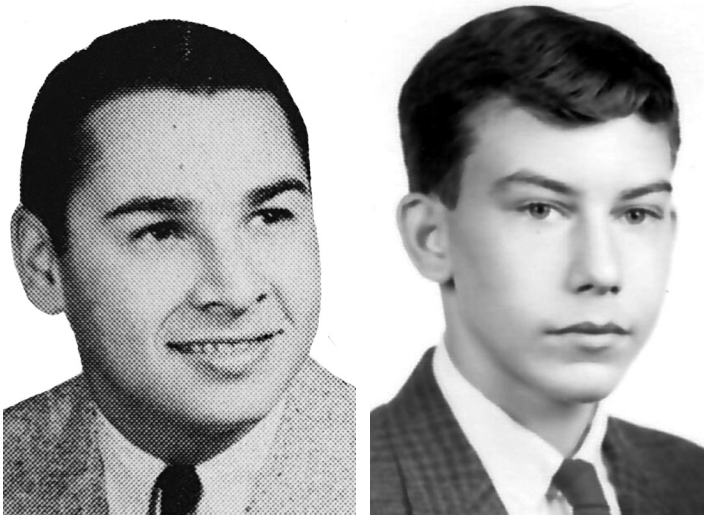


*Figure 1: JHSM Yearbook Committee Chair Chuck Domstein (right) thanks Morris Deitch (left) for donating his considerable collection of high school yearbooks. (All photos are from JHSM collections.)*



*Figure 2: Domstein (left) and Yearbook Committee member Marc Manson (right) worked tirelessly, integrating Morris Deitch's substantial yearbook donation into JHSM's collection*





*Figures 3 and 4: Chuck Domstein's senior class picture from the January 1959 Mumford High School yearbook (left) and Marc Manson's 1968 senior class photo from Henry Ford High School (right) are just two of thousands of pictures in JHSM's yearbook collection.*

to trace the pattern of migration from neighborhood to neighborhood, as a school's Jewish population rose and later declined.

JHSM's premier collection includes books from secular high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools with significant Jewish populations, and from Jewish day schools and Sunday schools. The collection also includes school magazines with student essays and artwork as well as items found inside the yearbooks, including commencement programs, newspaper articles, class pictures, and pressed corsages from proms.

Yearbooks from the collection have been displayed at many locations, including the Michigan State University Museum,



*Figure 6: Pictured are JHSM Yearbook Committee members (clockwise from left) Chuck Domstein, Marc Manson, Jerry Cook, and Jim Grey. Committee members not pictured are: Ellen Cole, Arnold Collens, Edie Resnick, and Roberta Russ. (Due to COVID-19, a photo of the entire committee was not taken.)*

local libraries, and synagogues, and at many JHSM events, including bus tours, annual meetings, Speakers' Bureau presentations at senior residences, and 2019's Rockin' and Rollin' Down the River Cruise on the Detroit River in honor of JHSM's 60th anniversary. While JHSM's yearbook collection currently is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, limited requests for information may be made.

Please contact JHSM's office at [info@michjewishhistory.org](mailto:info@michjewishhistory.org) or (248) 915-0114 with information requests or to donate yearbooks or funds. Your generosity will help ensure that this wonderful collection can be maintained and continue to grow for the benefit of current and future generations.



*Figure 5: Founding JHSM Yearbook Committee members (left to right) Chuck Domstein, Marc Manson, and Jim Grey (circa 2000) were instrumental in organizing the original collection, begun in 1999, and helping grow it.*



*Figure 7: A sampling from JHSM's extensive collection of yearbooks on display in its yearbook library.*

## PROJECT FOCUS: MICHIGAN WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

### Maxine Berman: A Principled Politician and Strong Voice for Women's Rights

Amy Rothberger,  
JHSM Contributing Writer



*Maxine Berman was a strong voice for women's rights during her fourteen years in the Michigan State Legislature. (From Michigan Women Forward, formerly Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, <https://miwof.org/timeline/maxine-berman/>.)*

Maxine Berman (1946-2018) may be best known for her fourteen-year term in the Michigan State Legislature, but those who knew and worked with her recall not only her advocacy and integrity, but also her grit and humor. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan and former English teacher at Oak Park High School (her alma mater), Berman was elected to the state legislature in 1982, representing the 36th District, covering Southfield and Lathrup Village. During

her tenure, Berman chaired the House Elections Committee, where she worked on voter registration and campaign finance reform; sat on the House Bipartisan Team, where she was instrumental in creating new systems for funding Michigan's public schools; spent six years on the House Appropriations Committee; and served as the Assistant House Leader.

Deeply committed to women's health, Berman championed legislation related to breast cancer, including a bill that made Michigan the first state in the country to require accreditation of mammography facilities. Berman lobbied the federal government for national accreditation standards, testifying before the US Senate in 1991. The US government passed a law the following year based on Michigan's model.

Berman was a strong voice for women's rights, including reproductive rights and advocating for female political candidates, having chaired the Michigan Women's Campaign Fund, a bipartisan organization that raises funds to help women get elected. The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health named her Legislator of the Year, and she received many other awards for her work, including the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women, a Leadership Award from the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and the Wonder Woman Award from the Women's Survival Center, among others. In 2015 Berman was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. In her acceptance speech, she said, "To my past, present, and future women colleagues in the Michigan legislature: Never give up the fight. Never. It's worth every minute of it."

In 1994 Berman published a book about her experiences in the legislature called *The Only Boobs in the House Are Men*. Acerbic and sharp, the book details the sexism that pervaded the Michigan State House in the 1980s and 1990s. To that end, Berman supported and encouraged many female candidates, mentoring office-seekers and office-holders on both sides of the aisle.

Before she stepped down from the Michigan State House in 1996, Jack Lessenberry profiled Berman in his Politics & Prejudices column. He called her "a politician to be proud of" and went on to say that she was "a legislator one never needed to worry about. Berman virtually always did the right thing, for humanity and for her district, usually in that order." In the profile Berman was quoted as saying, "I never do anything that prevents me from looking myself in the rearview mirror when I walk out of there each night. I tried as hard as I could to better as many lives as I could." Her integrity was one of Berman's signature traits.

*Crain's Detroit Business* named Maxine Berman one of the Most Influential Women of 1997. That same year Berman started her own business, Capitol Strategies, Inc., which emphasized advocacy training and political consulting. She also served as the executive director of the Women's Health Network of Michigan and director of Michigan Menopause Action Team, both of which she helped found. In 2003 she was appointed Head of Special Projects for Governor Jennifer Granholm, a role she served in until 2010. She was named the Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at Central Michigan University in 2009, the first woman to hold the position. That same year she became a bat mitzvah, at age 70, at Congregation Beth Ahm in West Bloomfield, with Governor Granholm in attendance. Most of Berman's writings and papers are now in a collection at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library.

Maxine Berman is remembered not only as a principled politician and advocate, but also as a thoughtful gift-giver, book lover, dog enthusiast, caring community member who gave great advice, and lively, sharp-witted spitfire. Her sister, Barbara Disner, recalls: "Her strength of character and obstinacy enabled her to accomplish goals that a lesser personality would not have been able to do. . . . [She was] a leader whose integrity could never be questioned. She fought for what she believed in and was true to her values."

Maxine Berman is just one of Michigan's remarkable Jewish women. Since 2013 JHSM has highlighted achievements like hers in the Michigan Women Who Made a Difference Project. To explore and support this undertaking, visit the online gallery at [www.michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd](http://www.michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd).



*Continued from page 1*

Beyond their remarkable commercial achievements, the sisters were known for their service to Petoskey's expanding Jewish community. Following Temple B'nai Israel's founding in 1896, Rosenthal established its Sunday school and Sisterhood, for which she served as president at the local and state levels. Goldstein volunteered alongside her, traveling to state and national Sisterhood conventions and chairing various Temple initiatives.

They also gave of themselves to a host of civic and social causes. As with their work in the Jewish community, gender norms limited their public engagement to participation through women's and children's organizations and issues. During World War I, Goldstein volunteered with a women's recruiting corps, holding rallies and registering boys and men in Petoskey and nearby Harbor Springs for service. Rosenthal was involved in the Federation of Women's Clubs and was a charter member of the Petoskey Women's Club. Both sisters also gave of their time to the Lockwood Hospital Auxiliary, donating a room in memory of Alick Rosenthal's mother and sewing layettes for the maternity ward.

But the sisters' most remarkable contribution was to the women's rights movement. Both Zilla Goldstein and Minnie Rosenthal were active members of the Emmet County Suffrage Association, even traveling to Chicago in June 1916 to attend the national suffrage convention. In May 1918 Goldstein was named the 11th Congressional District Chairman for the Suffrage Association. As with her war efforts, she worked across gender lines, recruiting men to the cause. She also served as an on-the-ground newspaper reporter, providing local coverage of the suffrage movement to the *Petoskey Evening News*.

She understood the movement's moral freight and felt certain it would emerge victorious, telling the paper's readership, "Then when the final count is made, wisdom will have its reward. The suffragist lamps will be filled, trimmed and burning."<sup>2</sup>

Goldstein's declaration proved true. Michigan women, who had agitated for voting rights as early as 1855, won state-level suffrage in 1918. The ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment occurred two years later, extending and guaranteeing Michigan women's participation in national elections. The fight for women's rights was far from over, however. Many Michiganders continued the trailblazing efforts of Goldstein, Rosenthal, and other early members of the movement, including Michigan Representative Maxine Berman, whose profile appears on page 12. But perhaps no one has done more to advance women's rights than another Jewish woman: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who died September 18, 2020. Like Goldstein, Rosenthal, and Berman, Ginsburg spent her career championing gender equality and women's rights. She understood the importance of this work for society as a whole: "Women's rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy."

<sup>1</sup>"Michigan Woman's Up to Date," *Petoskey Evening News*, February 21, 1917.

<sup>2</sup>The Zilla Goldstein and Minnie Rosenthal material is adapted from biographies written by Sally Shearer Smith and using biographical information supplied by Meryl Hankey for the Little Traverse Historical Museum's "Woman Suffrage" webpage: <https://www.petoskeymuseum.org/woman-suffrage-in-petoskey.html>. Used with permission of Sally Shearer Smith and the Little Traverse Historical Museum.

## TRIVIA QUESTIONS

**D.** Who was the first Michigan Jew to serve in Congress?

**F.** What Jewish architect designed Michigan's Mackinac Bridge?

**E.** In what decade were men and women *officially* allowed to worship together at Congregation Shaarey Zedek?

**G.** What famed Russian-Jewish pianist (and son-in-law to Mark Twain) served as the founding conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra?



## ALONE, TOGETHER: HOW JHSM ZOOM PROGRAMMING FOSTERS CONNECTION DURING COVID-19

Kara Schuchman,  
JHSM Outreach Coordinator and Development Director

Tracy Weissman, JD,  
JHSM Publications Editor and Education Director

Our shift to Zoom programming in spring 2020 has allowed us to fulfill our mission of sharing Michigan's Jewish history in new, unexpected, and wide-reaching ways. We have presented a broad range of programs—from lectures to interactive cooking demonstrations to virtual tours to trivia night to a book club—and have reached more of the community than ever before, across Michigan and beyond.

Our Zoom programming kicked off on April 20, 2020, with well-known art historian Wendy Evans' lecture, "Detroit Architecture: Old and New." Nearly 90 participants joined Evans on a virtual tour of Detroit, learning about the interesting histories of some of the city's most prominent landmarks, including the Fisher Building, the Guardian Building, Orchestra Hall, and the Michigan Central Railroad Station. Evans returned for a second, equally popular, talk on May 4 on Jewish women artists, from the 1600s through the 1900s.

Zooming from home has allowed our members to participate in our programs in surprising ways. In celebration of Passover, on April 28 Chef Annabel Cohen engaged over 70 participants in JHSM's first interactive cooking demonstration. Attendees cooked along from their homes as Cohen prepared Passover delicacies and asked questions in real time—something you cannot do on the Food Network! May 12 saw Monarch Club chef Jared Bobkin teach us how to make *ghormeh sabzi* (Persian lamb stew with rice).

Zoom also has allowed us to connect with scholars from across the country. Lila Corwin Berman (Temple University) spoke about crises in American Jewish liberalism in the decades after World War II on June 29. Marc Dollinger (San Francisco State

University) discussed Black-Jewish relations from the 1950s through the 1970s on August 6 (see related article on page 16). And on October 13 Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University) explored the "free-seating" movement that began in Detroit a century ago at Temple Beth El. We would not have been able to bring in so many historians from beyond Michigan in "normal" circumstances.

While our fall 2020 tour of northern Michigan synagogues was postponed, Zoom viewers had several opportunities to explore northern Michigan's unique Jewish history. On June 4 Rebecca Starr spoke to over 70 people about her experience growing up Jewish on a working sheep farm in Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula (see related article on page 25). Nearly 200 people tuned in to learn about the history of northern Michigan's six surviving synagogues on August 25. And on September 14 Jim Zacks, Jack Zacks, Wendy Russman-Halperin, and Donna Minsky discussed the history and recent closing of Congregation Anshe Knesseth Israel in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Our August 12 book club offered readers the chance to explore western Michigan with Natalie Ruth Joynton, author of *Welcome to Replica Dodge*, a memoir of the challenges of living a Jewish life in rural west Michigan (see related article on page 18).

Our Zoom programs also have offered participants opportunities to explore history across a range of disciplines. Dr. David Tenenbaum drew from his autobiography, *Accused of Treason: The US Army's Witch Hunt for an Israeli Spy*, in recounting his harrowing ordeal of being falsely accused of spying for Israel while working as an army mechanical engineer at the TACOM base in Warren, Michigan (June 18). JHSM Vice President Barbara Cohn highlighted history and philanthropy during her lecture on Jewish Detroiters who championed the creation and development of the Detroit Public Library (see related article on page 28) (July 14). Attendees learned about poetry during Dina (Routin) Pyle's discussion of the songs *Jerusalem of Gold* by Naomi Shemer and *Jerusalem of Iron* by a young soldier, Meir Ariel (September 30). And Zoom viewers explored gardening on a virtual tour of the Louis and Fay Woll Memorial Bible Garden at Congregation Beth Ahm (October 22).

As Risha B. Ring noted in her President's Report on page 2, our sixteen virtual programs through the end of October 2020 have drawn nearly 1,000 participants from throughout Michigan, eighteen other states, Canada, and Israel! With Zoom programming continuing two to three times per month for the foreseeable future, there is something to engage everyone. Visit [www.michjewishhistory.org/calendar/](http://www.michjewishhistory.org/calendar/) for a list of upcoming programs, and email [info@michjewishhistory.org](mailto:info@michjewishhistory.org) with your programming ideas.

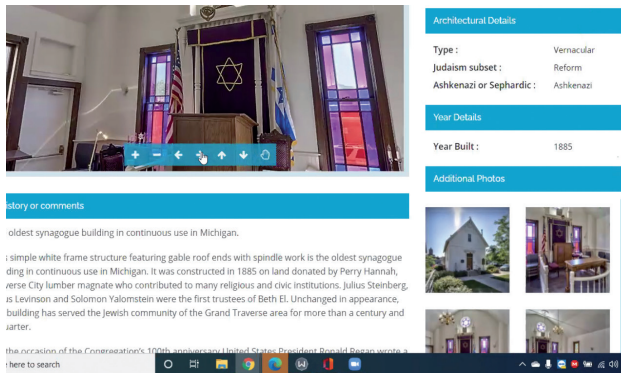
**H. What is the name of Michigan's oldest synagogue in continuous use, founded in 1885?**

Figure 1: JHSM's Zoom Trivia Night on May 27, 2020, included the trivia questions featured throughout this Bulletin. Look for the answer to Question H later in this article and for answers to all of the trivia questions on page 27.





**Figure 6 (above), Figure 7 (right), and Figure 8 (below right):** Ellen Fivenson (Figure 6) told Zoom viewers about the history of Congregation Beth Shalom (formerly, Congregation Beth El) in Traverse City during the August 25, 2020, program, "There Really Are Jews Up There?: Northern Michigan's Jewish Life." Founded in 1885, Congregation Beth Shalom is Michigan's oldest synagogue in continuous use. Figure 7 shows Beth Shalom's interior, and Figure 8 shows its exterior.



**Figure 2 (left top) and Figure 3 (left center):** Some of the nearly 200 participants who tuned in on August 25, 2020, for an interesting and enjoyable presentation on northern Michigan's six remaining synagogues. Speakers included Susan Burack (Figure 3, bottom row, second from right), Ginny Cymbalist (Figure 2, second row, left), Ken Diamond (not pictured), Carol Ellstein (Figure 2, top row, right), Ellen Fivenson (Figure 2, top row, second from right), Betty Line (not pictured), and Aaron Scholnik (Figure 3, bottom row, center). (All photos in this article are courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)



**Figure 4 (above upper) and Figure 5 (above lower):** Jim Zacks (Figure 5) was one of the presenters during JHSM's September 14, 2020, Zoom presentation, "The Life (and Death) of Congregation Anshe Knesseth Israel in Iron Mountain, MI." Figure 4 shows the interior of the synagogue.

## TRIVIA QUESTION

**I.** What is the name of the only active Michigan synagogue listed on the National Register of Historic Places?



## Jews and Civil Rights: 1950s-1970s

Professor Marc Dollinger



(JHSM collections.)

Professor Marc Dollinger of San Francisco State University provided a fascinating look at Black-Jewish relations from the 1950s through the 1970s during his Zoom lecture on August 6, 2020. Drawing upon his book, *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s* (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2018), Dollinger discussed American-Jewish involvement in the civil rights movement and the impact of the rise of Black nationalism on Jewish identity and American-Jewish support for Israel. Dollinger's talk is excerpted here and edited for clarity and length.

**White Jews and Blacks coming together was actually a union of two different historical experiences.**

Why did Jews participate so heavily in the civil rights movement?

[The first explanation historians have given is] what we call the sociology argument: Jews understand what it is to be a marginalized community, to be on the outside. Sociologically, African-Americans are clearly marginalized. Therefore, it makes sense for them to come together.

The second [explanation historians have given is] the history argument: Blacks have a history of persecution through racism, Jews have a history of persecution through anti-Semitism. Therefore, a common history will cause Blacks and Jews to come together. . . .

The third one is Judaism. The religion of Judaism says that Tikkun Olam, fixing the world, pursuing justice, is a requirement. Therefore, Jews have an obligation, as Jews, to do this.

The problem is, analysis [reveals these three explanations] actually falter.

While it is true that Jews have suffered in our history from anti-Semitism, the African-American experience and the Jewish-American experience could not be more different historically. White Jews and Blacks coming together was actually a union of two different historical experiences. It's true that in the first half of the twentieth century, Jews faced anti-Semitism and [there were times when] Jews looking like me were considered white and times when Jews looking like me were not considered white. But in the 1950s, Jews achieved whiteness, which really means power, access, privilege, the ability to live in white Christian neighborhoods. So, if sociological marginality would have brought the two groups together, it would have happened earlier. It's no accident that it took until the 1950s, until Jews actually had made it into the American middle class, before they actually joined with African-Americans.

And the third [false explanation] is religion. If Halakhic Jewish law is the way in which someone lives their life, they're trying to follow all 613 commandments [in the Torah], following Talmud. [In that case], Orthodox Jews in America would [have been] leading Jewish involvement in civil rights. In fact, there was basically no Orthodox Jewish involvement in civil rights. They didn't consider it a Jewish issue at all. And in fact, in a lot of ways, they considered it antithetical to Jewishness because if you're out doing that, you're not reading Torah. The Conservative movement had almost no one involved (Rabbi Heschel, of course, was the most famous). But what most people don't know is that Rabbi Heschel was really ostracized by his own colleagues. It was really the Reform movement, the least ritually observant, that sent more activists down. But most of the Jewish activists were not identified with any Jewish group at all. There was an inverse relationship between the level of religious observance and participation in the civil rights movement.

How about a visual depiction of [the three false explanations], which have plagued our understanding of Black-Jewish relations in the post-war era? [Draws a letter Y.] Upper left, African-Americans. White Jews on the right side. You can see they're apart, right? But over time, they come together here in the middle [and continue together], and this [downward stroke of the Y] is the civil rights movement.



Except that the Y doesn't hold after 1965. The Black-Jewish alliance lasted about ten years, from the mid-fifties to the mid-sixties. After the mid-sixties, Jews continued on their



path, which was whiteness and privilege. African-Americans moved on their path, which was still not to get out of systemic institutional racism and what the national reckoning is about now. [So the Y is really an X, the lower half of which represents the post-civil rights divergence.]

# X

Except that the X doesn't work either. [Jews and Blacks were not moving away from each other, as in the lower half of the X.] This is my argument. After the mid-sixties, Blacks and Jews were actually paralleling each other. They were copying one another in their social justice work, even if they weren't doing it together. So, if we had an X and a Y, we have to have a Z. [On the top line,] Blacks and Jews were marching together in the fifties and early sixties. But then, look what happened [in the middle of the Z] with Black Power in the mid-sixties: they go backwards and they split, breaking into the Z's parallel lines.

# Z

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Here's the flip side [to achieving the American Dream]. When Jews moved into these suburban communities [in the postwar era], the anti-Black covenants were still there. Even after the Supreme Court removed the anti-Black covenants, there were informal ways that these became white-only neighborhoods.

So, Jews living their American Dream translated into Jews becoming complicit in systemic racism. They didn't do it to be racist. They didn't do it because they were racist. They did it because that's what it meant to become an American. And at this moment, [there were] African-Americans who were still lower socioeconomically, still living in cities, still suffering from exclusion in the suburbs [who] saw a fundamental difference between themselves and white Jews. And there was also some concern that white Jews were forgetting their social justice once they moved out to the suburbs. In 1951 the Anti-Defamation League did a survey of the JCCs that were opening in the North and the suburbs. They wanted to know whether or not JCCs would admit Blacks. Half of the JCCs were racially exclusive. Jewish organizations tended to copy the racial exclusion of the larger white Christian majority, even in their

own organizations. And this also began to sow some seeds of discord in the African-American community. It all rose to a head in the mid-1960s with the Black Power movement. The rise of Black Power ended the Black-Jewish alliance, Black anti-Semitism increased, and whites were purged from at least leadership positions in civil rights groups, if not completely.

How did Jews respond to this? Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, a congregational rabbi of the Conservative movement and a Columbia University professor, wrote *The Zionist Idea* in the midst of the Black Power uprising. He had this to say about Black Power: "Perhaps the saddest element in this whole frightening picture is in the fact that Jews are the people who are best able to understand the rhetoric of Black Power, even though they're most directly on the firing line of its attack." Here is someone in the middle of this Black-Jewish discord who understood how scary it was for American Jews who were so supportive of the movement now to be purged. Yet he had nice things to say about Black Power.

Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn of Temple Israel of Boston included in a sermon to his congregation the positive aspect of Black Power: "This we Jews of all people should be able to understand and approve. The American Negro today is, in this respect, retracing precisely the experience of American Jews a generation or two ago." A senior rabbi was saying that not only was Black Power not a bad thing, it was a good thing because of its search for ethnic identity: we as Jews who are interested in strengthening our Jewishness should understand and approve of this. And in fact, he said, if you want to look at Black militancy, look at Jewish militancy a couple generations ago. Both of our groups are similar in that we both want strong identities.

Here's what the American Jewish Committee wrote: "Publicly, Black Power stresses black initiative, black self-worth, black identity, black pride, black power seats, the growth and development of black economic and political power. Black Power seeks black leadership development. Black Power strives for a form of separation, which will permit it to achieve the above goals and then to enter into coalition with whites as psychological, social and political equals." The American Jewish Committee offered public praise of Black Power.

Meanwhile, through the sixties, you had a whole generation of young Jews who wanted to be Jewish. These were their ways of expressing their newfound Jewish identity: reading the Jewish catalog, becoming more traditional, supporting Israel, supporting Soviet Jewry. My argument is that American Jews through the sixties thought that they were becoming more Jewish by doing these things. But really, they were becoming more American. But really, they were actually copying Black Power, which turned the Y from an X into a Z.

## MAKING PEACE WITH THE CANNON

Natalie Ruth Joynton

My personal pandemic meltdown came late in the game, months after the first cases of COVID-19 slammed into Michigan in March of 2020. Months after my daughter's small rural school closed for one week, then three, then the rest of the year. Months after my son's care provider closed her doors, my author speaking engagements were canceled, and my husband, a professor, scurried about like a madman trying to get circuit boards to his students so that he could teach physics from our basement . . . over Zoom.

"This is impossible," he mumbled one night.

The whole situation seemed impossible. But each evening, we had survived. We watched in horror as the numbers came in from Detroit, a steep curve crafting itself in human lives. *You have nothing to complain about*, I would tell myself.

I would go to bed, wake up, and try to shepherd the kids through another day without school, without friends, without playgrounds, without even our local library. We wiped down our groceries, we wondered if we should touch the mail. We stopped seeing my parents, who missed their grandchildren with a perpetual, palpable ache.

Remarkably, as the weeks wore on, we stumbled into something resembling a new family balance. This is due, I know, to the simple fact of where we live: rural west Michigan. Our four-acre, dirt-road property is hemmed by great swaths of hardwoods and an expansive cherry orchard, and in the early days of the pandemic, the kids and I got outside—all the time. The woods, fields, and streams surrounding our home provided the stability, activity, and structure my small children craved. These wide-open spaces were still there, waking up as they always did after months of winter.

As a modern practicing Jewish woman born and raised in Houston, I've struggled to call rural Michigan home. This challenge doubled with the arrival of Rivka and Linus. How does one raise Jewish kids in a place with no other Jews? Where Judaism is a curious homespun marvel, rather than a community constant? Is this even possible? These questions I wrestle with year in and year out, but last March and April, I couldn't have been more grateful for our forgotten pastoral inch of the world.

*You have nothing to complain about*, I told myself again.

May arrived and my husband submitted final grades; our child-care duties evened out overnight. The weather warmed. We planted a family garden for the first time, starting our seeds indoors, checking for new life each morning. Then organizations began reaching out to me again, scheduling virtual author book talks.

An enthusiastic group of readers joined author Natalie Ruth Joynton on August 12, 2020, for a discussion of her memoir, *Welcome to Replica Dodge*. The book recounts Joynton's experiences as a newly converted Jew moving with her fiancé to rural west Michigan. Almost one hundred miles from the closest synagogue, Joynton slowly learns to adjust to her new life on a farm, complete with a full-size tribute to the Old West on her front lawn—a replica of Dodge City, Kansas. Among the book's themes that participants discussed was how to continue building a meaningful life in the midst of great challenge—the COVID-19 pandemic. In the accompanying piece Joynton further explores this theme, relating the significant impact on her during the pandemic of a little-known practice used by cherry farmers.

By late June, we were doing what we always do: waiting for the cherry harvest.

This region of Michigan is known for its fruit production, and the annual cherry harvest never fails to produce the tense bliss of anticipation for the few who live on our mile-long stretch of country road. This is because after the shakers—the equipment used to remove the cherries from the trees—come through, the farmers allow us to gather whatever fruit is left. Usually it is a prolific amount of cherries, free and fresh picked.

This farming tradition of leaving some of the harvest behind, rather than gathering every last piece of fruit, has distinct Jewish roots. The ancient practice now continues in Christian families who farm, as "gleaning after the reapers" is discussed in Leviticus 23:22. "You shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest," it reads. "You shall leave them for the poor and the stranger."

In this year of unfathomable change, the cherry harvest became even more significant, my anticipation as a gleaner especially acute. Which is exactly why—when all of a sudden waiting for the cherries turned from joyful to antagonizing—I lost it.

We were eating lunch when it happened. **POW!**

My husband looked at me and I looked at him. The kids looked at us.

"Who is practicing for deer season this early?" I wondered. **POW!**

"Mama," Rivka said, "They sound really close." **POW!**

Our senior dog skittered under the table and whined. **POW!**

"Listen," my husband said. "I don't think that's a rifle."

A moment passed and all was quiet. **POW! POW! POW!**

“It’s on a timer,” my husband observed. “That’s not a rifle. It’s an air cannon.”

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What it sounded like was the Fourth of July right outside our farmhouse door. A short trip down the road confirmed my husband’s hypothesis: some rows into the orchard, an air cannon had been rigged up. It looked flimsy, a series of plastic barrels connected by a little tube to a large propane tank. But every time the cannon erupted, the ground shook. The dog had refused to walk with me. In fact, he had refused to leave the house at all, even to use the bathroom.

I gritted my teeth and turned home, assuming that the inexplicable, sudden onslaught of this new guest would only last a few hours. But as afternoon turned to evening, the explosions continued. My husband calculated that the cannon went off every three minutes. That night we learned that it would not be shut off when the sun went down. The kids had a hard time getting to sleep. The dog was pacing. It took me hours to fall asleep as well, and the next day I woke up furious.

Because we live in a small community it took me almost no time to learn the names and numbers of the farmers who own the orchard, a pair of local brothers. I studied my slip of paper with their names and numbers, chose one at random, and dialed.

“Yes?” the farmer answered. It was early, but I could tell he was already out in a field somewhere. The whirl of wind was constant.

“I live on Bronson,” I said. “My name is Natalie, and I’m calling about the air cannon.”

More wind.

Finally: “What about it?”

“I want to know how long you plan on keeping it in the orchard.”

“The cannon stays until we harvest,” he said, “It’s fully legal.”

My heart surged into my throat. “That’s weeks away!” I shouted.

“You got a better way to keep the crows off my cherries?”

I was silent but wanted to scream.

Then I said something I still can’t make sense of.

“Listen,” I hissed. “I’m a Jewish woman from Texas. I don’t give up.”

“That’s farming for you,” he huffed, and hung up.

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In that moment, the sum total of COVID-19, the months-long adaptations and readaptations we had made, strong-faced for our children, barreled toward me at top speed. It hit my

chest, my face, my knees. It hit home in the oddest way: the last inch of my life that had remained normal since March—the rural refuge of west Michigan I had fought hard to call home—was snatched back from my grasp. I started crying. Hard. The explosions continued.

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It’s a quarter mile down the road to our nearest neighbor, a kind retiree with his PhD in biology. As we stood, two days later, social distancing on his porch, hollering over the cannon every three minutes as it went off, James shared a history that of course, as a Jewish city girl, came as news to me.

“They did this for years before you arrived.” He shook his head. “It’s an old tactic. Unfortunately, I’m not even convinced it works.”

“Oh that’s rich,” I rolled my eyes. “The cannon doesn’t even work. What idiots. Don’t they know we have enough to deal with?”

“I know.” James looked like he wanted to give me a hug, and it occurred to me that I probably looked like I needed one: short on sleep, frazzled, my eyes red from off-and-on crying.

“They’re desperate,” he added.

“What do you mean, desperate?”

“You don’t know?”

I shook my head.

“Cherry farmers across Michigan lost a tremendous amount of crop this year. Those hard May frosts? Remember? Most blossoms never stood a chance.”

I stared at James. **POW!**

“But these survived,” I hollered.

“This isn’t their only cherry orchard,” James nodded. “But it may be the only one that’s made it.”

**POW! POW! POW!**

\*\*\*

Walking home from James’s house, my heart still catching with each explosion from the air cannon, I considered how many years we had gone into the orchard to pick after the harvest. How I was still, at moments, a stranger in Michigan, and yet had received an abundance of free fruit: red jewels we washed and served on Shabbat eve, the extras we froze, the tart cherries my mother-in-law canned, batch after batch. I remembered the first summer our son learned how to eat a cherry whole, then spit the pit.

I wished the farmer had told me the whole story.



Had I told him mine?

At home I fished the slip of paper with the names and numbers of the brothers from the recycling. I figured the first brother wouldn't pick up again, so I tried the second brother.

"Listen," I told him, "I understand why you're using the cannon."

Silence. I continued. "I understand it's been a hard year."

"It has," he acknowledged.

"Can I ask you something? Do crows feed at night?"

"No. They roost."

"But the cannon goes off all night."

"Oh my G-d, really?" His shock seemed genuine.

"Is there a way," I began, but the second brother was already ahead of me.

"I can send someone in the evening."

"Thank you," I said, and hung up.

\*\*\*

The second brother stood by his word. Sometimes a worker wouldn't get to the orchard to turn off the cannon until twilight, but someone always came. Our days were still punctuated with explosions, but each evening, the refuge of the west Michigan countryside returned to me. My home returned.

Two weeks later the cherries were harvested and the air cannon—our most unwelcome guest—was unceremoniously disengaged, loaded into the back of a pickup truck, and hauled off. I was outside with the kids at the time.

When this pandemic passes, I will look exactly as I did in that moment, watching the air cannon disappear down the road into the hardwoods. I will smile like a fool at the simple embrace of a friend. I will board a plane with my family and return for a long visit to Texas, my first home. I will start taking my children to Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids, two hours south, at least a few times a year, so they know that there is a whole community of people standing with them, that Judaism is not just their mother's curious homespun marvel.

For now, I have stopped telling myself that I have nothing to complain about. We have been fortunate not to have lost loved ones to COVID-19, and our livelihoods have not been threatened. But in this ever-confusing new "normal," even if we are fortunate, we must leave room in our lives for regularly falling apart. We must say the hard things, the whole truth.

*I'm a stranger in my own house.*

*I've lost most of my crop this year.*

*I'm protecting everything that's still alive.*



**Natalie Ruth Joynton** is the author of *Welcome to Replica Dodge*, a finalist in the Memoir category of the Next Gen Indie Book Awards, and a Foreword Reviews Book of the Day. She lives with her husband, son, and daughter in Mason County, Michigan. She can be reached at [natalieruthjoynton@gmail.com](mailto:natalieruthjoynton@gmail.com).

## TRIVIA QUESTIONS

**J.** In whose home was the first minyan in Detroit held?

**K.** Where was Michigan's first Jewish cemetery established?

**L.** In the mid-1950s, what protégé of Diego Rivera painted the 1,000-square-foot mural in Grand Rapids' Temple Emanuel?

**M.** As of 2018, how many Jews live in Michigan (rounded to the nearest thousand)?

**N.** What is the name of the only free-standing synagogue currently within Detroit city limits?

## HASTINGS STREET HERO: SONNY ELIOT WEATHERS HIS TIME AS A POW

Jane Nordberg

Sonny Eliot was a beloved radio and television weathercaster in Metro Detroit for nearly 60 years, becoming a household name and a Detroit institution. Delivering his forecasts with a quick wit, corny puns, and a penchant for the small towns of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, he was a fan favorite and regularly rated at the top of numerous Detroit-personality popularity polls. Prior to his longstanding career in media, however, Eliot was a pilot in World War II, shot down, and held in a prison camp in Germany for over a year—an experience that shaped the rest of his life.


Born Marvin Eliot Schlossberg in Detroit on December 5, 1920 (or possibly 1919, as he was cagey about his real age), Eliot received his moniker from his eldest sister, Anne, who oversaw the Schlossberg household while parents Jacob and Jeanette, Latvian immigrants, ran the family's hardware store on Hastings Street, Detroit's predominantly Jewish, immigrant neighborhood. Despite this location, according to Eliot's great-niece, the Schlossberg family was not overtly religious and often worked on Jewish holidays and during Shabbat, as the family's hardware store was open six days per week.



*Figure 1: Weathercaster Sonny Eliot became a household name in Metro Detroit and beyond, delivering light-hearted, witty forecasts from 1956 until his retirement in 2010. (Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit.)*

Eliot graduated from nearby Central High School in 1939, where he earned his chops in physical comedy by captaining the all-male cheerleading team of three, and where, as a member of Central's radio unit, he got his first taste of playwriting and broadcasting.

Following high school, Eliot attended Wayne University (now Wayne State University) to study acting and broadcasting, and began taking flying lessons at Wayne County Airport



On January 7, 2020, over 50 people gathered to learn about the life of legendary weathercaster Sonny Eliot. At what turned out to be one of JHSM's only in-person programs in 2020, guests heard a wide-ranging lecture by freelance writer and former JHSM Program Director Jane Nordberg. In her presentation, "Sonny Eliot: From POW to Punster," Nordberg explored Eliot's time as a POW during World War II and subsequent rise to fame. By the mid-1960s, Eliot had become Detroit's top television personality, delivering light-hearted weather forecasts enjoyed by millions until his retirement from broadcasting in 2010. The accompanying article provides further insight into the impact of Eliot's time as a POW on his life and career.

*JHSM President Risha B. Ring (left) introduced presenter Jane Nordberg (right) at "Sonny Eliot: From POW to Punster." (Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)*



*Figure 2: Sonny Eliot, born Marvin Schlossberg (center), gained experience in comedy as captain of the all-male cheerleading team at Detroit's Central High School in the late 1930s. Such experience helped him deliver audience-pleasing forecasts on television and radio years later. (JHSM collections.)*

(now Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport). He received his private pilot's license in 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

### War Interrupts Acting Plans

"When the war broke out in '41, we were all stricken with great patriotism," Eliot later recalled in his typical light-hearted manner. "We immediately went down to enlist because we



were afraid the war wouldn't last long enough. It's a common malady for people caught up in wartime."

After basic and advanced army training and specialized pilot's training, Eliot earned his wings and was sent to Salt Lake City for training in four-engine B-24 bombers. He was an Air Force Lieutenant in a B-24 bomber squadron when he was shot down in the winter of 1944 during a daylight raid near Frankfurt, Germany. It was his sixteenth mission.

Eliot and his crew parachuted to earth, where they landed safely, waist-deep in a snowdrift. Farmers captured the airmen and kept them for two days. SS troops then rounded them up and shoved them into a boxcar with some food scraps. Ten days later they arrived at Dulag Luft, a prisoner-of-war transit camp in Frankfurt, where Eliot was kept in solitary confinement for six days. Following weeks of interrogation, he was transferred to Stalag Luft, a prisoner-of-war camp run by the *Luftwaffe* near Barth, Germany, in February 1944.

From then on it was a bad dream, Eliot recalled. While he did not count himself particularly religious, he made no effort to hide his Jewish identity, with one exception. He told the Nazis he was Lutheran because "that seemed an appropriate thing to do." They caught on anyway, scrawling "Jude" across Eliot's POW identity card.

### Life as a Prisoner of War

The treatment varied from time to time, from place to place, and from guard to guard, but the worst of it was the hunger and

the boredom. The Red Cross helped with the former—sending packages containing toothbrushes that could be traded for cigarettes, the medium of exchange with the guards.

As for the boredom, Eliot's job in the camp was to promote hope. "We had artists, writers, actors—there were a great many talented people in prison camp. Everyone did what they did best." Eliot, ever the cheerleader, became the camp morale officer. "Without a job to go to, without responsibilities, one could funnel all energy into entertainment. I would put on little shows and plays—talk about a captive audience—we had some damned good shows."

Eliot documented these "Schlossberg Follies" in a thick journal he kept while in captivity. More of a scrapbook, it contains not only Eliot's poems and written thoughts, but also German propaganda, photographs, bawdy limericks heavily illustrated by a talented fellow prisoner, and letters Eliot received from home. The letters began arriving as soon as the Schlossberg household learned Eliot had not, as they had originally thought, died in a fiery plane crash. "Sonny Darling," his sister Anne wrote on May 11, 1944, "The mailman rang the bell this morning with your card, we were so happy to see your handwriting, we kissed the card. So happy that you are well and unhurt."

Despite taking months to arrive, Anne's letters and packages boosted Eliot's morale, helping him keep up his cheerleading until finally, in the spring of 1945, Russians liberated the camp. Upon his release, Eliot weighed a scant 90 pounds.



Figure 3: Sonny Eliot, circa 1941, enlisted in the Air Force following America's entry into World War II. In the winter of 1944, he was shot down over Germany during his sixteenth mission and was held by the Nazis as a prisoner of war for over a year. (Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit.)

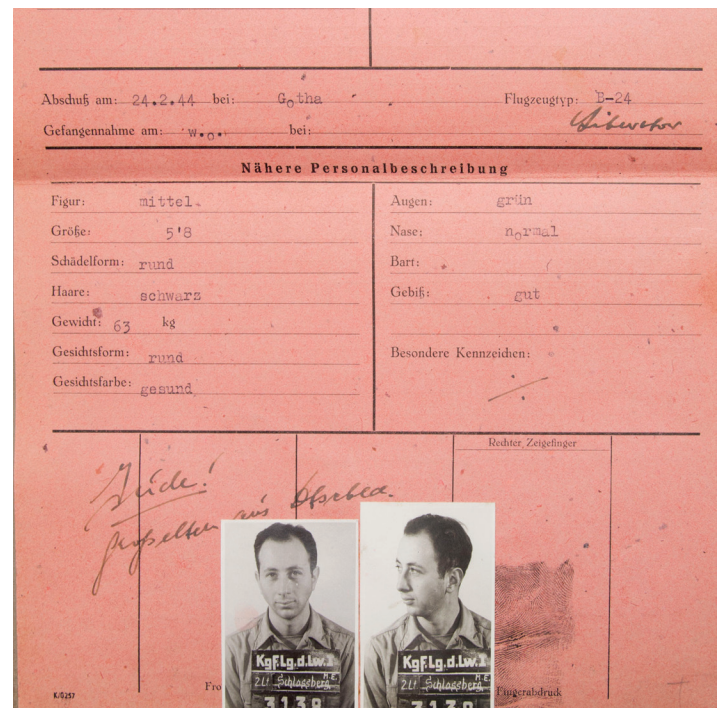


Figure 4: After being shot down and taken prisoner during World War II, Sonny Eliot received a POW identity card on which his Nazi captors wrote "Jude" or "Jew" above his photo. (Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)



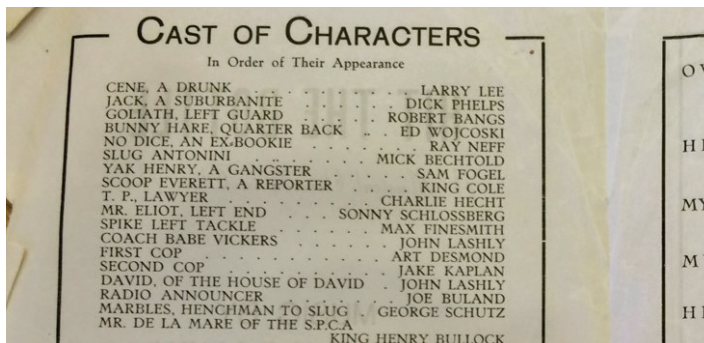


Figure 5: Sonny Eliot organized many shows at Stalag Luft prison camp to help boost morale. Prisoners even put together written programs for their performances such as this one for “Hit the Bottle,” circa July 4, 1944. Sonny Eliot is listed tenth in the cast of characters under the name Sonny Schlossberg. (Courtesy of Elayne Gross Photography.)

### The Genesis of a 60-Year Career

Upon returning to Detroit, Eliot re-entered Wayne State University to complete his degree. He hosted a university radio show and worked in the family’s hardware store after school. He also continued to fly a Cessna 210 at City Airport. Upon graduation, he abandoned the name Marvin Schlossberg and became forevermore Sonny Eliot. Although he came by it honestly, his stage name erased his Jewish identity—a common practice for public personalities in that era.

With several acting and broadcasting roles in various radio productions under his belt, Eliot was hired in 1947 by WWJ-TV Channel 4, Michigan’s first television station. Initially he appeared on a range of programs, including children’s shows, sports-casts, and comedy-variety shows. In 1956 he became the station’s weathercaster, a role aided by his wartime experiences.

“Weather is a prime factor in staying alive while flying,” he quipped.

Eliot did not start out forecasting the weather with shtick. His military training was serious, and his early reports on Channel 4 cited isobars, isotherms, and 500 millibar charts. He followed that approach for about four months, until he became bored with the same numbers day after day, and figured his audience probably was too.

One day he threw in a joke, and it got a chuckle. The next day, the same. Viewers began taking notice, and ratings improved. “Every station had the same data,” he said. “Where TV reports differ is in the presentation by each individual weatherman. Make it interesting, and people pay attention. And that’s how it happened—what I call a ‘light-hearted look at the weather’” was born: If there was a storm in the Carolinas, it would be “busier than a one-armed pickpocket with a large family.” Eliot would give a plug to Jacobsville in the Upper Peninsula, “a town so small their dogcatcher is a vicious cat,” as he lifted up the Keweenaw Peninsula from the map (and did an exaggerated double-take at the sight of a raunchy message the stagehands had hidden underneath it). On a cloudy and chilly day in Detroit, Sonny Eliot would quip, “that’s



Figure 6: Sonny Eliot, circa 1950s, transformed his weather reports at WWJ-TV Channel 4 into light-hearted banter, full of puns and quips, and became a household name. (Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit.)

CLILLY sort of weather,” and would chalk “NHO PHOG” on the map for good measure. Viewers tuned in for his four-minute banter at 6:15, 7:15, and 11:25 each weekday evening and for his regular spot on WWJ Radio at 6:25 weekday mornings.

It did not hurt his broadcasts that, due to his upbringing, Eliot was fluent in many languages, including Polish, Spanish, German, Italian, Hungarian, Yiddish, and Hebrew. He often picked foreign cities and gave their weather in their local tongues. This approach especially resonated with first-generation immigrants, like his parents.

### Sunny Days for Sonny Eliot

In 1962, at age 41, Sonny Eliot married his longtime sweetheart, East Detroit Schools music teacher Annette Gaertner. They had courted for many years, only marrying after the death of Eliot’s mother, who had wanted her son to marry a Jewish woman. The couple settled into a newly built luxury apartment in Lafayette Park and seem to have lived a fairly secular life. (Eliot played Santa Claus when visiting Annette Eliot’s music classrooms and even posed in an Easter Bunny suit for a Jacobson’s department store ad.)

By the mid-1960s Eliot had established himself as Detroit’s top television personality. In 1972 WWJ appointed him public relations director, and in the coming decades, Eliot’s face was everywhere. He emceed hundreds of events, including fundraisers for causes dear to his heart. He hosted a weekly program at the Detroit Zoo for seventeen years, and co-hosted the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day Parade with his wife for two decades.

The consummate entertainer, Eliot participated in numerous publicity stunts. He tamed circus big cats in a cage, fought a rodeo bull, played poker with Amarillo Slim, and boxed Joe Frazier. In October 1972, in his most publicized stunt, Sonny Eliot walked the high wire with famed aerialist Karl Wallenda 45 feet in the air above the concrete floor of Detroit’s Olympia Stadium, without a net.

“A complete misunderstanding on my part,” Eliot said, assuming the wire would be only a few feet off the ground for



Figure 7: Sonny Eliot, circa 1959, had a special affection for the Detroit Zoo, hosting a weekly program there for seventeen years. (Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit.)

the short time it took to get a camera shot. “When Karl agreed to do it, for real, I realized he was in [as] much danger as I was of falling, and I didn’t have the heart to back out.”

### Winds of Change

On July 22, 1978, under new management, WWJ became WDIV, and Eliot’s new bosses were not enamored with his playful delivery. On March 3, 1980, after more than three decades with the station, Eliot moved to Channel 2, where he received a warm welcome from vice president Bob McBride, who promised to let Eliot “do his thing.”

The move stunned fans, who wrote hundreds of letters in support. A Lake Orion family wrote a scathing letter to Channel 4: “We were shocked upon hearing that Sonny Eliot is leaving Channel 4. . . . Through Sonny, our five children, now grown, learned more about the names and locations of Michigan’s small towns and villages than they did in school. Sonny has done so much for Detroit. In closing, where Sonny goes, we go.”

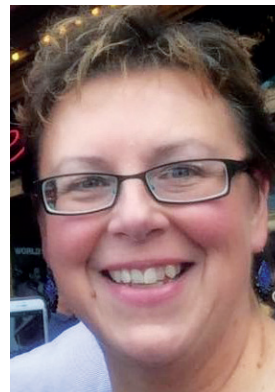
And go they did. By June 1980, popular *Detroit Free Press* columnist Bob Talbert, a regular lunch partner of Eliot’s, reported a significant ratings surge at Channel 2.

Eliot retired in 2010, after 63 years in broadcasting. Sonny and Annette Eliot then traveled the world. Their trips included a stop in Barth, where Eliot showed his bride of 50 years a plaque near the camp where he was imprisoned many years earlier.

He died peacefully at home in 2012 at age 91, and Annette Eliot followed in 2014.

Eliot earned numerous accolades and honors throughout his life, including the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Excellence Award, the Alfred P. Sloan Award for his traffic safety tips,<sup>1</sup> and awards from the American Legion and American Meteorological Society. He was inducted into the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2005. He was particularly proud of “Sonny Eliot Day” in the Upper Peninsula town of Engadine (or Enga-ringa-dinga-dine, as Eliot called it), where, though out of broadcast range, the townspeople were grateful for the many Detroit tourists spurred to explore the town after viewing Eliot’s broadcasts.

Sonny Eliot, the legendary weathercaster, was so much more, perhaps foreshadowed in this notation in the 1939 Central High School yearbook: “The cheerleader must have grace and rhythm, but most importantly, his mental attitude must always be one of optimism; he must always be able to see the bright side of every situation.” For decades, Eliot rejected numerous offers from big-city stations with deep pockets, electing to stay in Detroit where he had become a legend, a hometown hero. “I was born here, I grew up here, I’ve been here a long, long time,” he said. “These are the people I know and the people who know me; Detroit is where I belong.”



Jane Nordberg is JHSM’s former program director and an award-winning writer. Her work has appeared in *Lake Superior Magazine*, *Michigan History Magazine*, and the Historical Society of Michigan’s *Chronicle*, among other publications. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, Erik, and two demanding cats.

Nordberg wishes to thank Sonny Eliot’s relatives, Caryn Acker and Elayne Gross; staff at the Walter P. Reuther Library’s Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs; author Richard Bak; Chapter 13 of the Experimental Aircraft Association and its president, Rex Phelps; and staff at Michigan’s Military and Space Heroes Museum (Frankenmuth), for providing information and answering questions during the research process. She also wishes to thank JHSM for inviting her to share Sonny Eliot’s history during her presentation on January 7, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup>This annual award recognized individuals or businesses that promoted workplace or consumer safety, and is now known as the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.



## YOOPER GIRL IN THE CITY

Rebecca E. Starr

*“There are no Jews in the Upper Peninsula.”*

“How could you possibly be Jewish and be from the Upper Peninsula?”

Statements and questions like these proliferate whenever I introduce myself and my upbringing to someone new. For many, the existence of deep and meaningful Jewish life in rural areas seems nearly impossible to imagine. Although history teaches that Jews helped to build business and commerce in rural towns throughout America, many currently perceive those days as long gone, thinking that Jews migrated to cities as quickly as they possibly could. While it is true that the Jewish population is often centered in major metropolitan areas, it also is true that, as Larry Milder sang, “Wherever you go, there’s always someone Jewish” (full lyrics available at [https://pjlbrary.org/HGF\\_ResourceCenter/media/LiveResourceLib/Wherever-You-Go.docx](https://pjlbrary.org/HGF_ResourceCenter/media/LiveResourceLib/Wherever-You-Go.docx)). My experience as a Jew growing up in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula may seem unique. As I look back, though, I see clearly that it was filled with a richness of Jewish learning, identity awareness, and legacy.

The story begins before I was born, when, in 1973, my parents made the difficult decision to leave their beloved Detroit to begin a new life away from the hectic nature of the city and the aftermath of the riots of the late 1960s. They started a homestead in Pickford—population of about 1,000—in Michigan’s eastern Upper Peninsula. My parents maintained an 80-acre sheep farm while simultaneously working in the public-school system as social workers. I was born in 1975 across the border in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, approximately 30 miles from our home.



*Figure 1: The author’s mother, Carol Line, on the family’s Pickford homestead in Michigan’s eastern Upper Peninsula shortly after the family moved there, circa 1974. (All photos in this essay are courtesy of the author.)*

Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, also is the home of Congregation Beth Jacob. Founded more than a century ago, the synagogue serves the large rural expanse of northern Ontario and the U.P. This year Beth Jacob marked the 75th anniversary of its current synagogue

*On June 4, 2020, Rebecca Starr offered over 70 Zoom viewers a look at her life growing up Jewish in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Raised on an 80-acre sheep farm in rural Pickford, Starr learned to work the land while holding onto Jewish tradition and practice. The only Jews for miles around, Starr and her family attended synagogue at Congregation Beth Jacob in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, about 30 miles from their home. The accompanying essay provides readers the opportunity to learn more about Starr’s experience.*



*Figure 2 (upper) and Figure 3 (lower): The author’s fond childhood memories include showing sheep at the Chippewa County fair near her family’s farm in Michigan’s eastern Upper Peninsula, circa 1985 (Figure 2), and mowing the grass on the farm, circa 1988 (Figure 3).*

building. The building itself is small, but so is the congregational membership. Today there are approximately 25 families affiliated with Beth Jacob (although in the 1940s and 1950s, the businesses in the growing Sault-area brought more Jewish families to the synagogue). As a young girl, I attended Hebrew school each week with two other students my age. We celebrated Jewish holidays with our Beth Jacob family, and I discovered early on that when you are part of a community, it is important to show up. Every person was needed to play a role: in the service, at communal meals and holiday celebrations, and in Hebrew school. This is when I learned, as the Talmud instructs, that we really are all responsible for one another (BT Shavuot 39a).



I also learned that when you are the only Jew in the neighborhood (for miles around), you have a responsibility to educate the community about Judaism. From an early age, I remember my mother bringing *latkes* to my local public school along with a *menorah* to teach my classmates about *Hanukkah*. She delivered lectures to local nursing students about Jewish practices surrounding death and dying. We served as the local Jewish experts and consultants because we were the only ones who could. As such, we carried the huge responsibility of ensuring that our community was educated about Judaism and Jewish culture, topics that previously had been completely foreign to the majority.

Growing up I loved being part of Pickford, and, for the most part, I felt accepted. One of the questions I am asked most often is, “Was there a lot of anti-Semitism up there?” My answer is “no,” but there was a lot of ignorance about minority culture, in general, and Judaism, in particular. There were very few minority groups represented in town. As a result, sensitivity to diversity of race, religion, sexual orientation, and beyond, was low. I never felt attacked because I was a Jew, but I often felt that those around me did not understand my beliefs and practices unless they were educated about them. For example, I recall one year when my school principal could not understand why I was missing so many days of school around the high holidays. It took a trip to his office and a lot of work on my mother’s part to get the principal to really appreciate why my absences should be excused.

Some chose to ask questions and find out more. They visited our Friday night Shabbat dinners and joined us for Passover seders.

They learned about Jewish prayer and attended my bat mitzvah celebration to support me. (I was the first girl to become a bat mitzvah at Beth Jacob.) Those who were open to learning and to asking questions still mention that they appreciated the opportunities we provided.

In addition to living a Jewish life at home and as part of our synagogue community, I attended Camp Ramah in Canada, part of the Jewish camping arm of the Conservative Movement. My parents knew I needed a deeper Jewish communal experience to better develop my identity, and they chose the right place. Ramah is where my knowledge of Jewish life and practice grew beyond what I could learn in a small Jewish community. Ramah is where I made deep Jewish friendships. Ramah is also where I first dated a Jewish boy! Research shows that the Jewish camping experience is foundational in helping Jewish children develop and maintain strong religious affiliations. For me this was certainly true. I met Israelis, spoke modern Hebrew, prayed every day, and observed Shabbat. Camp opened the Jewish world to me and pushed me to forge a career in Jewish education and communal service. I fully credit my experience at Ramah for helping me realize how much more there was and still is to learn about Judaism. I also am proud that my two sons are part of the next generation of Ramah Canada campers!

We lived our life on the farm by the seasons. We watched our ewes deliver lambs in the spring, and we harvested hay in the summer. We picked strawberries in June and beans in July. We canned tomatoes in August. My parents hunted deer in November (no judgment, please!), we went ice fishing in



*Figure 4: While living in Pickford, the author and her family attended synagogue at Congregation Beth Jacob in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. The synagogue had a transborder membership, serving northern Ontario and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, which continues today.*



*Figure 5: The author was the first girl to become a bat mitzvah at Congregation Beth Jacob, circa September 1988.*





Figure 6: The author and her sons, Caleb (right) and Ayal (left), at Camp Ramah in Canada.



Figure 7: The author's family farm in Pickford right before the author's parents moved away, circa 1994.

January, we woke up in the middle of the night to go smelt fishing in March, and we sent our yearling lambs to slaughter in late spring. We lived off the land as farmers, cultivators, preservers, and foragers. We also lived our Jewish life by the seasons. I often missed the first days of school because of Rosh Hashanah. We fasted on Yom Kippur and built a sukkah in the fall. In the late winter we delivered *Mishloach Manot* packages on Purim to our Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors. Today, living in a large Jewish community as the wife of a rabbi, we also try to live by these same cycles: the cycle of the Jewish calendar and the cycle of the earth. They are intimately connected and, perhaps because of the way in which I was raised, I am acutely aware of this relationship.

Jewish life is what you make of it. This is true whether you live in a huge city or on an 80-acre farm in the Upper Peninsula. Committed to embracing our differences within our local community, and with the help of a wonderful congregational family and Camp Ramah, my parents made sure we lived as active a Jewish life as possible. The choice my parents made nearly 50 years ago to leave the city of Detroit, the Jewish community they knew, and secure jobs, was a gift to me. I am proud and grateful to say I lived in “G-d’s country” for a while and am now, simply, a Yooper girl in the city.



**Rebecca E. Starr** is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she earned undergraduate degrees in education and Judaic studies, as well as a master’s degree in social work and a certificate in Jewish communal service. She is the Midwest Manager at Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, where she oversees all program development, management, and partnerships in the Midwest region.

Starr is a respected educator and community organizer. She served as an assistant director at Federation’s Alliance for Jewish

Education at the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit, where she organized learning opportunities for teachers in congregational and day schools and directed the award-winning Detroit branch of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. She continues to serve as a Melton faculty member and to create innovative learning opportunities for adult Jewish learners in a variety of settings.

As a lifelong Ramahnik, Starr pioneered the role of program director for the National Ramah Commission’s fellows program in Detroit, and spent many summers working with campers and staff at Camp Ramah in Canada. Starr is married to Rabbi Aaron Starr, and they are the proud parents of two sons.

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

- A. Ezekiel Solomons (often rendered Solomon);
- B. Michilimackinac, 1761; C. Detroit Tiger Hank Greenberg;
- D. Julius Houseman; E. 1930s; F. David Steinman;
- G. Ossip Gabrilowitsch; H. Congregation Beth Shalom, Traverse City;
- I. Temple Jacob in Hancock; J. Sarah and Isaac Couzens;
- K. Ann Arbor (currently the east lawn of U-M’s Rackham Building);
- L. Lucienne Bloch Dimitroff; M. 88,000 (actual figure: 87,905);
- N. Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue

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| ILLINOIS   | NEW YORK       | WASHINGTON   |
| MARYLAND   | NORTH CAROLINA | WISCONSIN    |
|            | OHIO           |              |



## NOTABLE JEWISH MICHIGANDERS IN HISTORY

### Rabbi Leon Fram: A Leader, Activist, and . . . Rabbi

Barbara Madgy Cohn

On July 14, 2020, 90 people gathered on Zoom to watch JHSM Vice President Barbara Madgy Cohn's lecture, "Significant Jewish Contributions to the Early Building of the Detroit Public Library, Years 1870-1965." Participants were treated to a fascinating discussion of six of Detroit's Jewish and civic leaders who championed the creation and development of the Detroit Public Library. Each made unique contributions to the library system, its building, and its sustenance. Each also served on the Detroit Library Commission for the following years of service: Magnus Butzel (1883-1900), the first Jewish person to serve on the commission; Bernard Ginsburg (1909-1914); David Heineman (1918-1920); Rabbi Leo M. Franklin (1927-1948); Henry Meyers (1948-1952); and Rabbi Leon Fram (1953-1967), profiled here.

**An activist, educator, supporter of controversial art, world traveler, leader in the Detroit Jewish and civic communities, and . . . religious leader—This is Rabbi Leon Fram.**



*Figure 1: Rabbi Leon Fram, the founding rabbi of Temple Israel, established in 1941, was an activist who supported causes ranging from Zionism to the organization of automobile workers. Pictured in 1954, Fram also was a leader in Detroit's civic community, serving on the Detroit Library Commission during the 1950s and 1960s. (JHSM collections.)*

Born in Lithuania, Rabbi Leon Fram (1895-1987) immigrated with his family to Baltimore, Maryland, where he was raised and educated. He started college at Johns Hopkins University on a chemistry scholarship, but left to pursue his religious calling at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. His passion for knowledge led him simultaneously to earn bachelor of arts

and master of arts degrees in philosophy. Arriving in Detroit in 1925, Fram joined Temple Beth El as director of religious education, in association with Rabbi Leo Franklin.

In 1941 Fram was the founding rabbi of Temple Israel, which started with 600 members. Ahead of his time, Rabbi Fram was a strong supporter of Zionism and Reform Judaism; he devoted his life to standing up for his convictions. In the Jewish community he was active in the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit (now Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee), Zionist Organization of Detroit, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit (now Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit), and Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism). He served as the delegate to the World Jewish Congress in Stockholm in 1959. In the civic community he served on the Detroit Public Library commission from 1953 through 1967, the League for Human Rights, and the Commission on Justice and Peace, and was appointed by Governor William G. Milliken as chairman of the Michigan Fair Campaign Practices Commission. In most of these positions he served as either chairperson or president.

In 1933 the Detroit Institute of Arts unveiled artist Diego Rivera's *Detroit Industry Murals*. Controversy erupted over Rivera's depiction of an interracial workforce and nude figures, as well as over the hiring of a foreign artist to paint the murals, among other things. Some considered the murals "communistic, sacrilegious and anti-American" (Hodges, *Detroit News*, March 13, 2015). Members of the community protested, including the Catholic Church and Detroit City Council. Rabbi Fram formed and led a committee to save the murals, and he spoke out frequently in support of them: "The frescos speak the deepest religious lesson, in spite of the criticisms against them—the lesson that man, plain common man, possesses the potentiality for brotherhood" (*Detroit Free Press*, March 23, 1933).

As a social activist, Fram made important civic contributions. He engaged in a telephone campaign to alert the Jewish community when the broadcasts of “radio priest” Charles E. Coughlin began to take on an anti-Semitic tone. Fram openly advocated for and supported the organization of automobile workers and worked on the Absentee Voters Act of 1952, a law permitting Jewish citizens to vote absentee when an election occurred on a Jewish holiday.



*Figure 2: Rabbi Leon Fram (seated) looks at Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry Murals at the DIA with (left to right) Shirley Fink (z'l), Stanley Millman (z'l), and Doreen Millman, circa 1984. Fram frequently spoke out in defense of the murals, following their unveiling in 1933. (Courtesy of Temple Israel Archives, West Bloomfield, Michigan.)*

A distinguished world traveler, he visited other countries when it was not easy or fashionable. In 1937 he entered Nazi Germany. Twice he visited Latin America on cultural missions and was among the first Americans to travel to Russia. He also took trips to Mexico, Palestine (and later Israel), and Western and Eastern Europe. He was a man who was interested in distant lands, different cultures, and meeting people from around the world.

When asked in a 1970 interview about his greatest achievements in Detroit, Rabbi Fram proudly answered: the founding of Temple Israel and the completion of an addition to the Detroit Public Library (DPL). During his library commission presidency, DPL opened additional wings, increasing the

### Rabbi Defends Painter

Rabbi Leon Fram, of Temple Beth El, read what he had come to express. He said that he had seen the Rivera murals in Mexico City, likewise “vital, provocative frescoes.”

“Mr. Rivera came to Detroit under no false pretenses,” he said. “He came at a time when he could see the splendid machinery of production and its present paralysis. He might have painted soup kitchens, bank failures, riots, men sleeping in Grand Circus Park and many other things. But he seems to have gained in Detroit such respect, such reverence for its mechanical genius that he had room for nothing else on the walls of the Garden Court. Moreover, the frescoes speak the deepest religious lesson, in spite of criticisms against them—the lesson that man, plain common man, possesses the potentiality for brotherhood.”

*Figure 3: In 1933 the Detroit Free Press reported on Rabbi Leon Fram's support of Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry Murals at the DIA. (“Rabbi Defends Painter,” Detroit Free Press, March 23, 1933.)*

building's size by 240,000 square feet. It took five years to build the addition and cost over eleven million dollars. Through his leadership and activism, Rabbi Fram made a difference for many in Detroit's Jewish and civic communities.

**Barbara Madgy Cohn** is the co-author of *The Detroit Public Library: An American Classic* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2017) and a master's candidate in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University. She has been a docent since 2007 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, is a Special Project Advisor to the Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation, and serves as vice president of JHSM.

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 Zieva & Marc Konvisser  
 Ruth Kraut & Michael Appel  
 Ellen & Dr. James Labes  
 Sarah Z. Marwil Lamstein  
 Carol & Dr. Steven M. Lash  
 Bryna & Jeff Leib

Myrle & Richard Leland  
 Max Lepler & Rex Dotson  
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 Randie Levin  
 Susan Levin  
 Adeline Levine  
 Lynn & Jerold Levine  
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 Leslie Magy  
 Marlene & Ed Malkin  
 Rhoda Medow  
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 Carol & Joe Nederlander  
 Gabe Neistein  
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 Mindy & Stuart Opperer  
 Judith Pasternak  
 Rhoda Paull  
 Michael Pavorsky  
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 Cecile Pizer  
 Rhoda Raider  
 Jackie & Earl Remer  
 Richard Blumenstein Family Foundation  
 Rocket Giving Fund  
 Susan & Robert Rollinger

Reva & Bob Rosen  
 Ann Rosenberg  
 Rosenblatt Family Foundation  
 Dulcie Rosenfeld  
 Peggy & James Rosenfeld  
 Joyce & Ronald Rothstein  
 Richard Ruby  
 Rachel Rudman & Justin Wedes  
 Beverly Sabbath  
 Peggy & Dr. Mark Saffer  
 Hayley Sakwa  
 Phyllis Salomon  
 Myrna & Joseph Salzman  
 Harriet & Alvin Saperstein  
 Joan & Neil Satovsky  
 Marjorie & Saul Saulson  
 Bluma Schechter  
 Sherri\* & Charles Schiff  
 Sheila & Daniel Schiffer  
 Elizabeth Schmier  
 Jody & Lee Schottenfels  
 Sondra & Sherman Schreier  
 Sandy & Alan Schwartz  
 Sharon & Lawrence Schwartz  
 Rosalind B. Sell  
 Audrey Shapiro  
 Arlene & Joel Sharkey  
 Stewart Shear  
 Susan Sherman & William Hirschhorn  
 Linda Sherr  
 Maryann & Prof. Martin Shichtman  
 Julie & Douglas Shiffman  
 Marci & Marvin Shulman  
 Sheryl & Jim Siegel  
 Marcia Silverman  
 Michaelyn & Milton Silverman  
 Stacey & Michael Simmons  
 Mariette & Sidney Simon  
 Fred Singer

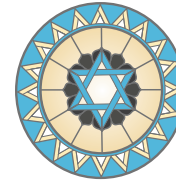
Sandra & Mike Skinner  
 Beth & Robert Sklar  
 Estelle Snyder  
 Pam\* & Jeffrey Sofferin  
 Rachel Solom  
 Ruth Solom  
 Warren Solom  
 Dr. Rochelle N. Solomon  
 Lynn & Rabbi Samuel Stahl  
 Jane Steinger  
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 Cantor Penny Steyer  
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 Susan Tapper  
 Warren Tessler  
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 Martha & Eric Young  
 Jerome Zacks  
 Greta & Marvin Zalman  
 Linda Zlotoff  
 Milton Zussman

*\*of Blessed Memory*





# JHSM TRIBUTES



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

PHILLIP APPLEBAUM & FAMILY	<b>Mazel Tov on the graduation of your daughter, Shoshana, from Farber Hebrew Day School</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
ROZ & STANFORD BLANCK	<b>Thank you for your hospitality during JARC's program featuring Arnold Collens</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JUDIE BLUMENO	<b>Thank you for leading a wonderful private bus tour</b> <i>from Carol Jacob</i>
RHEA & ROBERT* BRODY	<b>Mazel Tov on your 70th wedding anniversary</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JUDITH & BERNARD CANTOR	<b>Mazel Tov on the birth of your grandchild and on a wedding in your family</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JUDITH LEVIN CANTOR	<b>In honor of your birthday</b> <i>from Glenn Cantor</i>
JANICE & LARRY COHEN	<b>Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year—L'Shana Tova</b> <i>from Risha B. Ring</i>
KAREN & PHIL COHEN	<b>Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year—L'Shana Tova</b> <i>from Risha B. Ring</i>
HON. AVERN COHN	<b>In honor of your 95th birthday</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook</i>
BARBARA COHN	<b>Congratulations on your 2019-2020 reelection to JHSM's board of directors</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i> <b>In your honor</b> <i>from Reva &amp; Robert Rosen</i>
ARNOLD COLLENS	<b>Thank you for all of your help researching my family history</b> <i>from Jacob Lorber</i> <b>Thank you for leading a wonderful private bus tour in honor of the special birthday of my sister, Phyllis Salomon,</b> <i>from Sheila Berman Kohn</i>
BARBARA COOK	<b>Wishing you a successful surgery and a speedy recovery</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
ILENE CRANE & GABE NEISTEIN	<b>On the occasion of your marriage</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
CHARLES "CHUCK" DOMSTEIN	<b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> <i>from Edith &amp; Donn Resnick, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JACQUELINE ELKUS	<b>Thank you for all of your service to JHSM</b> <i>from Barbara Cohn</i> <b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from Jeannie Weiner, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JACQUELINE & LAWRENCE ELKUS	<b>Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter, Paige Leigh,</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
SHARI & STANLEY FINSILVER	<b>Mazel Tov on the bat mitzvah of your granddaughter, Francesca Jane Finsilver,</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
DENNIS FRANK	<b>In celebration of your recovery and many years of friendship</b> <i>from Jacqueline DeYoung-Kasky &amp; Michael Kasky</i>
NANCY & DAVID GAD-HARF	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i> <b>Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year—L'Shana Tova</b> <i>from Risha B. Ring</i>



RUTHE GOLDSTEIN	<p><b>In honor of your receiving JHSM's 2019 Outstanding Educator Award</b> from Dorothy &amp; Arnold Collens, Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, Margery Jablin, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p> <p><b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, Risha B. Ring &amp; Catherine Cangany, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p> <p><b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
ELAYNE GROSS	<p><b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
DEE & HARRY GRUENBERG	<p><b>Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year—L'Shana Tova</b> from Risha B. Ring</p>
LARRY GUNSBERG	<p><b>Congratulations on your 2019-2020 reelection to JHSM's board of directors</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
RITA HADDOW*	<p><b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
BARBARA HELLER	<p><b>In honor of your receiving the 24th annual Birmingham/Bloomfield Cultural Arts Award</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
DR. MARTIN HERMAN	<p><b>On your special birthday</b> from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook</p>
DOREEN HERMELIN	<p><b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> from Edith &amp; Donn Resnick, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p> <p><b>Wishing you a day filled with joy on your special birthday</b> from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
JOAN JAMPEL	<p><b>On your 90th birthday</b> from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn</p>
ROBERT JAMPEL	<p><b>Thinking of you and wishing you a speedy recovery</b> from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn</p>
SUE KALISKY	<p><b>Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter, Liv Mara Kalisky,</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
MICHAEL KASKY	<p><b>In honor of your receiving JHSM's 2019 Outstanding Producer of Historical Knowledge Award</b> from Arnold &amp; Dorothy Collens, Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, Margery Jablin, Alyssa Mertz, Susan Sovel, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
FRED KRAINEN	<p><b>Thank you for providing a table on behalf of JHSM at Temple Shir Shalom's Business &amp; Senior Expo</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>
DONNA & MICHAEL MADDIN	<p><b>Thank you for a wonderful Rockin' &amp; Rollin' Down the River Cruise</b> from Dorothy &amp; Arnold Collens</p>
MARLENE & ED MALKIN	<p><b>Thank you for a wonderful Rockin' &amp; Rollin' Down the River Cruise</b> from Dorothy &amp; Arnold Collens</p>
FLORINE MARK	<p><b>In honor of your receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree at Wayne State University's spring 2019 commencement ceremony</b> from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn</p>
DAVID MAYER	<p><b>Thank you for making a wonderful video for JHSM</b> from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn</p>
RACHEL ANN & RABBI MARK MILLER	<p><b>Mazel Tov on the bar mitzvah of your son, Abraham,</b> from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</p>

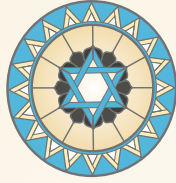




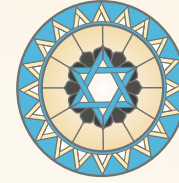
## JHSM TRIBUTES

LINDA MINNS	<b>Thank you for co-chairing the "Hidden Treasures" event at the Detroit Public Library</b> <i>from Barbara Cohn</i>
PAUL SIEGEL NADIV	<b>Congratulations on your selection to the 2019 Class of Rising Stars</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
BONNIE OTIS	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
RABBI YISRAEL & DEVORAH PINSON	<b>Mazel Tov on the birth of your son</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
EDITH RESNICK	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
RISHA B. RING	<b>In honor of your presidency at JHSM</b> <i>from Rhonda &amp; Morris Brown, Sharon &amp; Elliot Burns, Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn, Nancy &amp; David Gad-Harf</i> <b>Congratulations on your 2019-2020 reelection to JHSM's board of directors</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i> <b>Wishing you a speedy recovery following surgery</b> <i>from JHSM Staff</i>
DR. MONICA & DR. BEN ROSEN	<b>In honor of the birth of your daughter, Mira Fay Rosen,</b> <i>from Rosalind Sell</i>
HARRIET SAPERSTEIN	<b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn, Ellen Cole, Jacqueline &amp; Lawrence Elkus, Barbara &amp; Dr. Paul Goodman, Margery Jablin, Donna &amp; Michael Maddin, Rachel &amp; Rabbi Mark Miller, Hon. Susan Moiseev, Edith &amp; Donn Resnick, Risha B. Ring, Sheri* &amp; Charles Schiff, Mariette &amp; Sidney Simon, Jeannie Weiner, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
SHERI SCHIFF*	<b>In honor of your receiving JHSM's 2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award</b> <i>from Dorothy &amp; Arnold Collens, Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, Anita Devine, Margery Jablin, Jane Steinger &amp; Friends from Bookstock, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
ELAINE & MICHAEL SERLING	<b>Mazel Tov on your 50th wedding anniversary</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
LINDA & ED SHAPIRO	<b>Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year—L'Shana Tova</b> <i>from Risha B. Ring</i>
DR. TOR SHWAYDER	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
RON SOLLISH	<b>Congratulations on your 2019-2020 reelection to JHSM's board of directors</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JERRY SUKENIC	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook</i>
MARTIN SUMMER	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook</i>
WARREN TESSLER	<b>Mazel Tov on your "8 over 80" honor</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
JEANNIE WEINER	<b>Thank you for leading a wonderful private bus tour</b> <i>from Carol Jacob</i>
LAURA WILLIAMS	<b>Mazel Tov on your engagement and graduation</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
BEVERLY WORONOFF	<b>Wishing you continued good health</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
BEVERLY & RALPH WORONOFF	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Sheldon Cohn, Judie Blumeno &amp; Arnie Levitsky, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
RALPH WORONOFF	<b>Congratulations on your 2019-2020 reelection to JHSM's board of directors</b> <i>from JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>
MARY LOU ZIEVE	<b>Wishing you a speedy recovery</b> <i>from Barbara &amp; Jerry Cook, JHSM Board, Officers, &amp; Staff</i>

*\*of Blessed Memory*



# IN MEMORIAM



WE FONDLY REMEMBER...

**Howard Abrams**

Jeannie Weiner

**Robert Brody**

Judith & Bernard Cantor  
Risha B. Ring  
JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Norm Cohn**

Dorothy & Arnold Collens  
JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Gloria Collen**

JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Noah Cutler**

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn

**Richard Drazin**

Risha B. Ring

**Judith Frank**

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**Lois Freeman**

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Ruth & Jim Grey  
Lois & Rob Kaplow  
Harriet Siden  
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Ellen Cole  
Barbara & Jerry Cook  
Ruth & Jim Grey  
Lois & Rob Kaplow  
Myrle & Richard Leland  
Harriet Siden  
Jeannie Weiner  
Tracy & Michael Weissman  
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& Staff

**Rita Haddow**

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**Rochelle Iczkowitz**

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn  
Margery Jablin

**John Jacobs**

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Peggy & Dennis Frank

**Samuel Klein**

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**Marion Rose**

Ellen Cole

**Marlynn Ross**

The Tuesday/Wednesday  
card group

**Sheri Schiff**

Robin & Brad Axelrod

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn  
Ellen Cole  
Dorothy & Arnold Collens  
Barbara & Jerry Cook  
Jacqueline DeYoung-Kasky  
& Michael Kasky  
Gail Fisher  
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Harriet Siden

**Lila Silverman**

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn

**Philip Silverman**

JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Pamela Sofferin**

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn  
Ruth & Jim Grey  
Susan Levin  
Risha B. Ring  
JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Robert Tracy**

JHSM Board, Officers,  
& Staff

**Herbert Weberman**

Barbara & Sheldon Cohn

**Sheldon Weisberg**

Dorothy & Arnold Collens

*The Tribute and In Memoriam lists include contributions received from April 15, 2019, through August 31, 2020. JHSM makes every attempt to account accurately for all financial contributions. If you believe an error has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact our office to correct it.*





# 2020-2021 JHSM LEADERSHIP

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**Barbara Cohn**, Vice President  
**Jeannie Weiner**, Vice President  
**David Otis**, Treasurer  
**Hon. Susan M. Moiseev**, Secretary

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1963 – 1964 **Emanuel Applebaum\***

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1973 – 1975 **Dr. A.S. Rogoff\***  
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1977 – 1979 **Doris Easton\***  
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1981 – 1983 **Phillip Applebaum**  
1983 – 1984 **Bette A. Roth Young**  
1984 – 1987 **Stanley N. Meretsky**  
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1988 – 1990 **Adele W. Staller\***  
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1993 – 1997 **Judith Levin Cantor**  
1997 – 2001 **James D. Grey**  
2001 – 2002 **Joan R. Braun\***  
2002 – 2005 **Robert D. Kaplow**  
2005 – 2009 **Ellen S. Cole**  
2008 – 2012 **Arnold S. Collens**  
2012 – 2014 **Gerald S. Cook**  
2014 – 2016 **Michael W. Maddin**  
2016 – 2018 **Neil Gorosh**

*\* of Blessed Memory*

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**Catherine Cangany, PhD**, Executive Director  
**Tracy Weissman, JD**, Education Director & Publications Editor  
**Kara Schuchman**, Development Director & Outreach Coordinator  
**Judy Sofferin**, Office Manager & Bookkeeper

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