

***Commemorative  
Tea & Musicale***



**AUGUST 12, 1985  
BLAINE HOUSE**



## Julius G. Sussman 1895-1984

*If a man does not keep pace with his companions,  
Perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.  
Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.*

Henry David Thoreau

When Julius G. Sussman came to Augusta 51 years ago, he came to make a new path at age 39. His violin had helped him to face poverty during elementary, high school and college years. In Augusta the violin helped him express his great love for people.

Suss used adversity to try again. His three year teaching job in Waterville High School terminated when a local girl was hired. He went into the shoe manufacturing business on borrowed money; when that failed he taught violin pupils. Although he had 105 students in the Sussman Violin School, it was not successful. He opened a lunch counter in a shoe factory—a strike ruined that. He was managing a team of magazine sellers when the opportunity arose to buy the Augusta News Agency. He was, of course, one of many college graduates who tried a great variety of jobs during the Depression, but he said he enjoyed all of them.

For the first few years after the Sussmans came to Augusta, they figured out they worked 90 hours a week for 5 cents an hour. Yet Suss organized a string band and paid back the money he borrowed in the first ten years.

He survived four heart attacks, the birth and death of his only child, afflicted by Down's Syndrome, as well as natural disasters like the great flood of 1935.

Suss played the violin in a locked room, back against the wall, for 40 or 50 sick women in the Augusta State Hospital. He played at the Veterans Facility in Augusta for 40 years. He was a founding member of the Kennebec Valley Council for Retarded Citizens. He merged his band with other Maine musicians to form the Augusta Symphony Orchestra. He clowned for children of all ages.

All of his activities gave him opportunities to instill confidence in shy people, encourage amateurs to play in groups, guide young musicians, teach the value of saving to his employees, and to write recommendations for awards and grants.

Suss truly allowed people to step to the music each one heard. He made no fences between people of assorted religions, occupations or education. His friends are all the people he sang and played for. His prayers in the state legislature were for all mankind.

He was honored in life as a humanitarian; it behooves us to honor him now by continuing his work for humanity.

Based on "Yankee Fiddler"  
by Celia C. Risen



# PROGRAM

Tributes.....Bernard Lipman, Bennett Katz

*When You're Smiling*.....Fisher, Goodwin & Shea

*Be a Clown*.....Cole Porter

Roberta Katz, soprano  
Accompanied by Joseph M. Villani

*A Little Love, a Little Kiss*.....Lao Silesu

*Only a Rose*.....Rudolph Friml

Alice DeGroff, soprano  
Cello obligato—Patricia Bradford  
Accompanied by Juanita Neiman

*Music, When Soft Voices Die*.....A. Walter Kramer

*Fragments*.....Julius Sussman

words by Lillian Sussman

Irene Austin, soprano  
Accompanied by Alcada Desjardins

Three Trio Duos.....Beethoven

2 Movements

Patricia Bradford, cello  
Elderic Roussel, violin



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