

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF LEWISTON-AUBURN JEWRY

By Elliott L. Epstein

2021

I. FROM PEDDLARS TO PROPRIETORS AND PROFESSIONALS: THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN LEWISTON-AUBURN

German and East-European Jews first began to move to Lewiston-Auburn in small numbers in the decade after Civil War, attracted to the prosperity and economic opportunities generated by the textile and shoe industries. Initially most were probably itinerant peddlers who did not put down roots. Isaac Greenberg, an immigrant, was an early arrival who stayed. His name first appeared in the city directory in 1877 with his occupation listed as peddler. He died in 1900 and is buried in Beth Jacob Cemetery in Auburn.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Jewish peddlers were soon replaced in the late 1800s and early 1900s by retail merchants, scrap dealers, shoe manufacturers and professionals. This postcard shows upper Lisbon Street in Lewiston, looking towards Main Street, in the 1940s. Lisbon Street, the downtown's busiest commercial corridor, was the site of many Jewish-owned businesses which sold clothing, jewelry, furniture and food as well as offices of professionals like lawyers, dentists and optometrists. New England Furniture, one of the oldest and most successful Jewish retail stores, is pictured in the foreground.



In the early 1920s Abraham Plavin, a Russian-Jewish immigrant who owned a dry goods shop in Island Falls, was travelling the train from Bangor to Portland to buy a clothing store. During a conversation in a card game on the train, he learned that a furniture store in Lewiston was for sale. He knew nothing about the furniture business but got off anyway in Lewiston to investigate and ended up purchasing the store and renaming it New England Furniture.

(photo from private collection of Manny Plavin)



This 1922 photo shows Abraham Plavin and his employees seated in a showroom on the first floor of the New England Furniture store at 155 Lisbon St., Lewiston. The store had four other floors. New England Furniture eventually expanded to seven additional locations in Maine. Plavin was later joined in business by his sons Manuel (Manny) and Leonard (Lenny).
(photo from private collection of Manny Plavin)



New England Furniture window display

(photo from private collection of Manny Plavin)



New England Furniture's Lisbon Street storefront is depicted in the 1950s or 1960s with its brick exterior covered by an Art Deco façade.

(photo from private collection of Manny Plavin)



This 1932 news photo depicts owner Louis Abromson (in dark suit) and the employees of Sanitary Market shortly after the business relocated to 65 Lisbon St., Lewiston. A thriving family grocery dating from 1915 and originally situated on Birch Street in Lewiston, the Sanitary Market moved again in 1956 to Spring Street, Auburn, changing its name to Food Town and gradually expanding from its original footprint of 600 to 22,500 square feet. It also opened a 15,000 square-foot store in Rumford and another store at the Lewiston Mall.



Do you remember?

This photo taken in front of the Sanitary Market, once located on Lisbon Street, Lewiston, dates back to the time when rump steak cost 29 cents a pound; salmon, 19 cents; scallops, 25 cents; and pork roast, shoulders and butts, 10 cents. The store was owned by the Abromson family prior to its closing in 1960, and Ben Abromson helped with the identification. Included in the group are George Roux, at far left, whose daughter Marguerite Wright submitted the photo to the Journal. Others, not in order, include Joseph Laro-

chelle, Joseph Farrand, Joseph Leclair, Celia Abromson Supovitz, Joseph Tremblay, Louis Abromson, Fred Dennett, Mary Abromson, Ben Abromson, Esther Gordon, Hymen Abromson, Jacob Levine, Harry Alpren, Edmond Lambert, and Rog Douglas. The building in recent years became part of Key Bank. There was a Sanitary II Market at Pierce and Walnut streets, Lewiston. The Abromson family also operated a Foodtown in Auburn and one at the Lewiston Mall.

Sanitary Market, Libson Street (1934)

(photo from private collection of Judy Abromson)



This photo shows the ribbon cutting ceremony for the 1965 expansion of Food Town on Spring Street in Auburn. It was the successor to Sanitary Market in Lewiston. Owners Michael, Ben and John Abromson are pictured 3d, 4th & 5th from the left. In 1986, the Abromson family sold Food Town to Hannaford, a national chain.

(photo from private collection of Judy Abromson)



Max Gordon owned and operated Gordon's Delicatessen and Lunch from 1934 until his retirement in the mid-1960s. Located at 187 Main Street, Lewiston (around the corner from Park Street) and later on Center Street in Auburn, it was a favorite eatery not only for locals but for visiting celebrities and politicians. This photo probably dates from the 1930s. Max Gordon is pictured on the left.

(photo from private collection of Ruth Halperin)



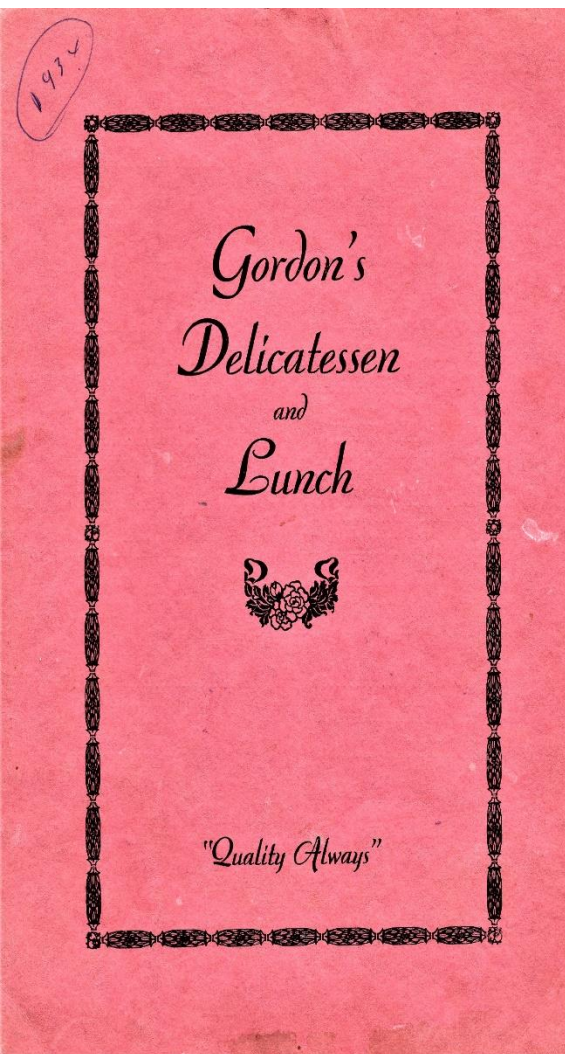
Gordon's lunch counter (1950s).

(photo from private collection of Ruth Halperin)



Though it did not follow the Jewish religious dietary laws of kashruth, Gordon's, as this 1934 menu shows, served the Eastern European cuisine typical of a Jewish delicatessen, most notably hot pastromi sandwiches.

(from private collection of Ruth Halperin)



GORDON'S DELICATESSEN

APPETIZERS

Skinless and Boneless Sardines .	25c	Caviar	50c
Anchovies	25c	Sardines	25c
Bismarck Herring	20c	Smoked Salmon	25c
Pickled Herring	20c	Tomato Herring	20c
Gaffelbiter in wine or tomato sauce		25c	
Home Made Soups—Different Variety Every Day			

SANDWICHES

Imported Swiss Cheese	15c	HOT PASTROMI	15c
Liederkrantz	20c	Gordon Special	25c
Imported Rocquefort	20c	Corned Beef	15c
American Cheese	10c	Spiced Beef	15c
Cream Cheese	15c	Rolled Beef	15c
Cream Cheese and Jelly	15c	Imported Salami	15c
Cream Cheese and Olive	15c	Hard Salami	15c
Gruyere Cheese	15c	Soft Salami	15c
Peanut Butter	10c	Liverwurst	15c
Tomato and Lettuce	15c	Bologna	10c
Smoked Salmon	20c	Frankfurt	10c
Sardine	15c	Hamburg	15c
Anchovy	20c	Tongue	20c
Salmon Salad	20c	Fried Egg	10c
Western or Eastern	20c	Hard Boiled Egg	10c
Combination with Swiss Cheese	25c	Sandwiches served on Rye Bread, Health Bread, Roll or White Bread, Plain or Toasted	
Side Order Potato Salad	10c		
Side Order Cole Slaw	10c		

BREAKFAST SUGGESTIONS AND JUICES

2 Scrambled Eggs, toast or roll, and Coffee	35c	2 Fried Eggs, toast or roll, and Coffee	35c
2 Dropped Eggs on toast or roll, and Coffee	35c	Orange Juice	10c
Plain Omelette, toast or roll, and Coffee	35c	Tomato Juice	10c
		Grapefruit Juice	10c
		Prune Juice	10c

DELICATESSEN SPECIAL

Choice of Appetizer or Soup
Meat with Eggs, Coffee or Tea 65c

DAILY SPECIAL

Choice of Appetizer or Soup
Home-Made Hamburg Steak
Served with Choice of two Vegetables
Tea or Coffee
50c

COOKED TO ORDER

Mixed Meat and Eggs	50c
Corned Beef and Eggs	50c
Tongue and Eggs	55c
Salami or Bologna and Eggs	45c 35c
Frankfurts and Eggs	45c
Plate of Cold Cuts	50c
Plate of Corned Beef	50c
Plate of Rolled Beef	50c
Frankfurts and Beans	40c

SALADS AND DAIRY DISHES

Hard Boiled Egg and Lettuce	35c
Tomato Salad	35c
Fresh Vegetable Salad	35c
Salmon Salad	35c
Fruit Salad	35c
White Fish Salad	35c
Smoked Salmon Salad	35c
Blueberries with Sweet or Sour Cream	35c
Raspberries with Sweet or Sour Cream	35c
Strawberries with Sweet or Sour Cream	35c
Vegetables with Sweet or Sour Cream	35c
Bananas with Sweet or Sour Cream	30c
Side order of any vegetable	10c

OUR DAIRY SPECIAL

Choice of Appetizer or Soup
Vegetable or Fruit with Sweet or Sour Cream
Tea or Coffee
50c

BEVERAGES

Beechnut Silex Brewed Coffee	5c	Tea	5c
Soft Drinks	10c 5c	Bottled Beer	20c
Iced Tea or Coffee	10c	Bottle Milk	5c and 10c
Chocolate Milk	5c and 10c		

May We Suggest Hood's Ice Cream

WATCH FOR OUR DAILY SPECIALS

On Your Way Out Look Over Our
DELICATESSEN SHOW COUNTER
Take Home Some Nice Delicacy For The Family
They Will Enjoy and Appreciate It.

Louis and Becky Goldberg, pictured in this 1935 photo, were immigrants from Poland. They operated Goldberg's Bakery at 35 Sabattus Street in Lewiston until Louis' death in 1945.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Ward Bros., the most successful Jewish clothing retailer on Lisbon Street, operated as a family business from 1929 to 1987. Known for its stylish women's fashions, elegant displays and attentive service, it developed a reputation and clientele throughout New England and Canada. (Pictured left to right: Larry, Nathan and Israel Ward).

New, Fresh Apparel From New York

Smart Clothes Charge Accounts Invited

WARD'S

ANNOUNCE THEIR OPENING

SATURDAY - MARCH SIXTEEN

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

COATS AND DRESSES

DIRECT FROM NEW YORK THIS WEEK

Beautiful new coats — they're light, they're warm and extremely smart. Choose a furled model in rich browns, russets, blues or mixtures. Styled right and priced right.

Highly important this season is the color of your new frock. Gay bright splashes of prints are yours to choose or frocks of plain colors in pastels and high shades. The bows, flares, ruffles and tiers are popular.

SIZES FOR MISSES & WOMEN

We have a lovely showing—and most cordially invite you to our opening Saturday. We want you to look around and see for yourself. No obligation to buy.

MEN'S DEPARTMENT

Excellent new suits and topcoats in all the new weaves, mixtures and colors. Sizes for the young man as well as the older fellow. Smart styles and popular prices.

Come Look Around Tomorrow!

WARD'S

Smart Clothes Charge Accounts Invited

72 LISBON ST., LEWISTON OPPOSITE MUSIC HALL.



WARD BROS. ADVERTISING
June 2, 1950

COAT DEPARTMENT
SHOPPING REMINDER...
If you're not slender...
If you're not in 36...
If you have a large size...
WARD BROS.
Let the rest be for you and a wonderful section priced from \$24.00 to \$39.00.

BRAS—NEZANINE FLOOR

WARD'S WARD BROS.
ACCESSORIES—STREET FLOOR

"The smartest in town"
Sheer

Nylon Gloves

For summer gloves for graduation for June weddings

NEAT... TRIM... DAINTY... LOVELY!

White, Black, Beige, Powder Blue, Pink

\$1.98
\$2.50
\$2.98

Strapless Is The Style
SURPRISE!
Let's—Revolutionary new
Long-Line Strapless

So glamorous to look at, it's hard to believe this new line can actually create so much figure beauty. Designed with a revolutionary new feature, the Ward's Model, upbills, slip up, make your dress—its fact, does everything a "surprise" bra with straps will do. And it's wonderfully comfortable to wear!

\$4.98

Right—
Strapless Bandeaux

So artfully fashioned that wear in the hand you can see the glamorous line it will create for you! Of course white nylon with a touch of nylon net, definitely bound to make your figure more beautiful than ever. Slipless, yet every bit as secure and amazingly comfortable as your favorite strap style. "SURPRISE" BRA. Size 32 to 38—B and C cups.

\$3.50

"Remember, We Won't Let You Wear It Unless It Fits Well"

In this 1954 family photograph, the owners of Ward Bros. are pictured standing, Nathan Ward, left, David Merson, 6th from left, Larry Ward, 8th from left, and Israel Ward, 11th from left.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



The Lewiston Sun article below, dated October 23, 1987, reported the sale of Ward Bros. to a local real estate developer. The store was supposed to continue in operation after the sale but closed within a few years.

Ward Bros. stores sold

Name, policies
to be retained

By Kenneth Z. Chutchian
Sun staff writer

LEWISTON — The long-rumored sale of Ward Bros. Inc., one of Maine's leading women's fashion specialty stores for more than 57 years, is official.

Lawrence J. Ward told The Sun Thursday the deal with Draw Inc., a group headed by Fred Hitchins of Yarmouth, was consummated on Monday. Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

The Ward name will be retained for all three stores in Lewiston, South Portland and Bangor. Lawrence Ward will stay aboard as manager until Jan. 1, 1988, for the transition purposes, while his partner, David Merson, "will stay on longer" for the same reason, Ward said.

"What's been sold is Ward Bros., its policies, its people, everything," Ward said in a brief interview Thursday night. "This is not a merger. It's a continuation of our services."

"It was time," Ward said when asked why he sold. "I'm 63 years old."

Joining Hitchins as the directors of Draw, Inc. are Terence Nadeau and Stephen Griswold, both of Freeport.

Griswold and Nadeau are both officers in Shelter Group Inc., Lewiston's largest taxpayer.

"I expect to see interesting things from them," Ward said.

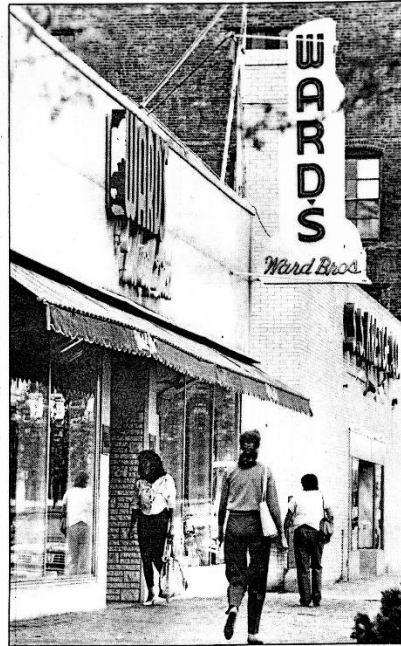
"There just aren't too many Maine-owned independent specialty stores that sell the quality and variety of fashions that Ward Bros. does," Griswold said in a prepared statement.

"With Fred Hitchins as its president, I see Ward Bros. continuing to be a leader in fashions and in more locations as time goes on."

Efforts to reach Hitchins, a former vice president and chief executive officer of the Empire retail chain throughout New England, were unsuccessful Thursday night.

"It gives me a great pleasure to know that Ward Bros. will continue to be a dominant force in fashions for women who enjoy quality merchandise and fine service," Ward said in a prepared statement. "It pleases me to know that Mr. Fred Hitchins plans to operate the stores with the same managers and personnel and with the same store policies that have been a hallmark of Ward Bros. for over five decades in Maine."

Ward Bros. was founded in Lewiston in 1929 by Lawrence Ward's father, Israel Ward, and David Merson's uncle, Nathan Merson. Lawrence Ward joined the firm in



Park Street entrance to Ward Bros. Bill Kennedy/Sun staff

1948 after serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and after graduating from Bowdoin College in 1948. He served as president of the Maine Merchants Association in 1981-1982 and as director of the MMA since 1952.

Merson graduated from Brown University, served in the armed forces in Italy and received a merchandising degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Retailing. He was employed at Bloomingdale's in New York City prior to joining Ward Bros.

The Supovitz siblings (1952): Four Supovitz brothers pictured below were Lewiston tailors and haberdashers. Morris, standing 2d from left, owned Style Clothing, 318 Lisbon St. Saul, standing 5th from left, Ben, seated left, and Harry, seated 4th from left, owned Supovitz Brothers, 125 Lisbon St.
(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)

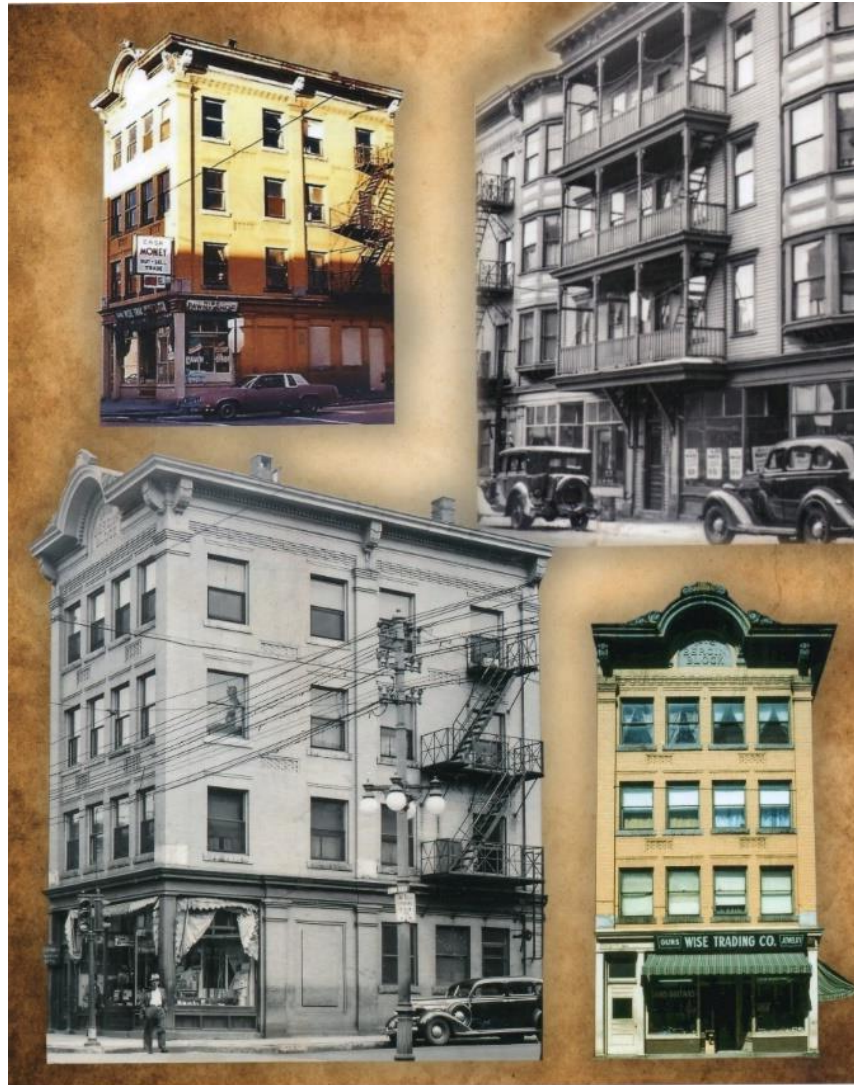


Style Clothing, 381 Lisbon Street (about 1950), and the Supovitz Bros. building, 125 Lisbon Street, which currently houses a law office.

(photo on left from Documenting Maine Jewry website, photo on right by Elliott Epstein)



Four views of Wise Trading Co., located in the Bergin Block at 340 Lisbon St., Lewiston, which started as a clothing and shoe store and later became a pawn shop. The Bergin Block, built in 1912, was demolished in 1999 and replaced by a Lewiston Police Department parking lot.



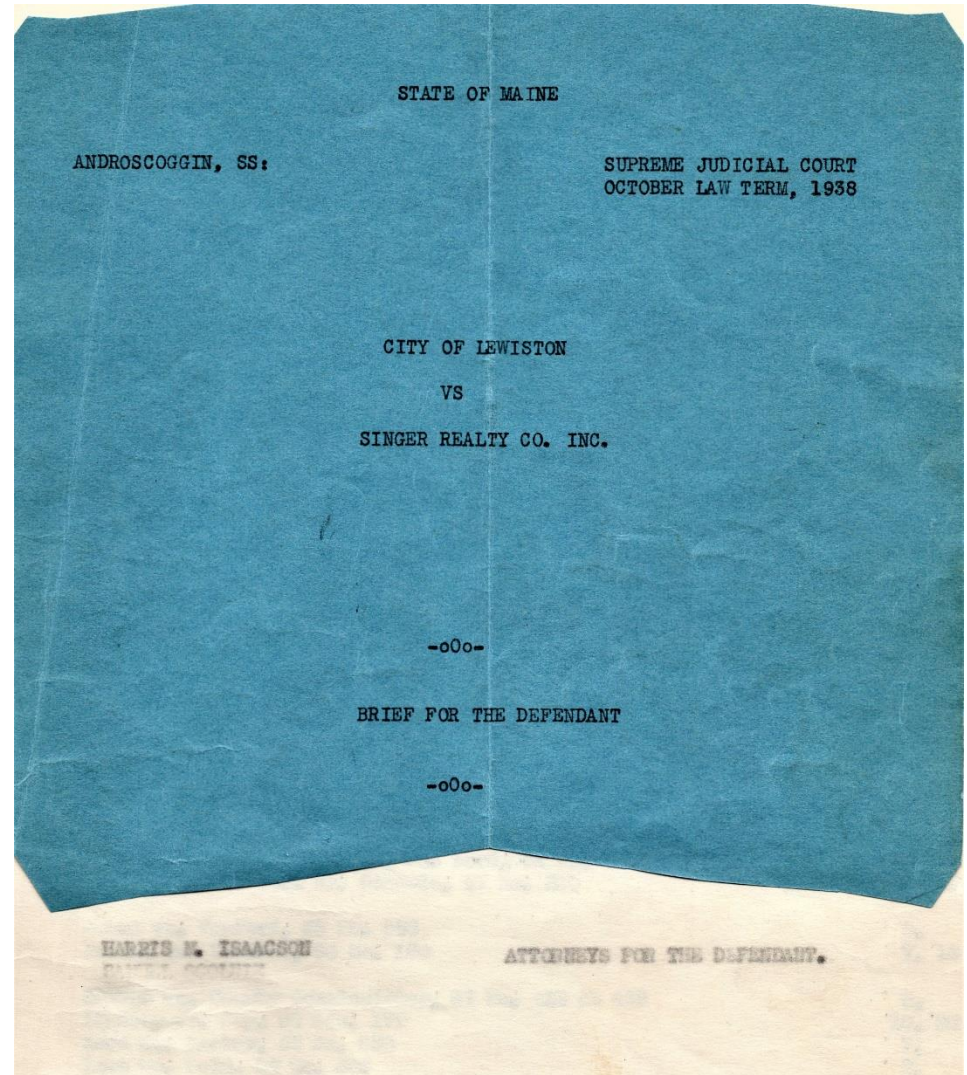
Morris and Adele Silverman are pictured, left, at their wedding in 1956 and at home in 2007. After more than half a century in business selling workingmen's clothing and boots, Morris, who started at age 7 helping out at his father's Lisbon Street store, Louie's, and ended up running it after his father's death, described himself as the last Jewish retail merchant in "probably the entire state of Maine." Adele was jokingly known as "Sister Silverman" for the way she was addressed by a student while working at a Lewiston Catholic parochial school early in her teaching career.

(photo on right by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Abraham Singer was an early Jewish investor in Lewiston real estate. The building at 198 Lisbon Street bears his name. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court brief, right, was written for a 1938 appeal filed by Singer Realty Co., Inc. against the City of Lewiston over a tax dispute. Harris M. Isaacson, a Jewish attorney with a law practice on Lisbon Street, represented Singer.

(photo on left by Elliott Epstein)



Auburn's "shoe Jews" were major supporters of L-A's synagogues and Community Center. Most moved here from Massachusetts to start factories or take over local companies in Auburn's once booming shoe industry, which had been weakened by the Great Depression, domestic competition and the bitter 1937 labor strike that shut down the industry for 14 weeks. Philip Lown, left, owner of Lown Shoes, Inc., was the uncle of renown cardiologist, inventor and nuclear disarmament activist Bernard Lown. Arthur Shapiro, right, of Shapiro Bros., originally from Haverhill, Massachusetts, acquired C.V. Watson Company. Other Jewish-owned footwear manufacturers included Koss Shoe and Clark Shoe. These businesses began closing or moving away in the 1980s due to offshoring of the industry. (photos from Temple Shalom collection)



Advance Auto Sales, Inc., a Desoto Plymouth dealership (1954), founded by Joe Lifshitz in the 1930s and located on Turner Street in Auburn, was the first franchise of what would become, under Joe's son Shep Lee, Lee Auto Group.

(photo courtesy of Lee Auto Group)



Joe Lifshitz and his son, Shep Lee, are pictured in front of Advance Auto Sales in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Shep joined his father in the car business after college and built Advance Auto into one of the most successful auto dealership chains in New England. He also became an influential figure in Democratic politics, philanthropy and education. (photo courtesy of Lee Auto Group)



Joseph Lifshitz's Employment Contract with Advance Auto (August 3, 1936) (courtesy of Lee Auto Group)

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Advance Auto Sales Inc. a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maine and having its place of business at Auburn in the County of Androscoggin, hereinafter to be called the party of the first part and Joseph Lifshitz of Lewiston, in the County of Androscoggin and State of Maine; hereinafter to be called the party of the second part, agree as follows, to wit:-

FIRST: The said party of the second part being the President and stockholder of the afore mentioned Corporation agrees to enter into the employ of the said Corporation in the capacity of Manager, for one year from the first day of August 1936 in the place of business conducted by the said Corporation, or in any branch thereof, and is to devote his entire time and attention to the management of that business, and is to use his best efforts for and in behalf of the said party of the first part.

SECOND: That the said Corporation hereby agrees to receive the said party of the second part ~~xxx~~ into its employ for the term of one year from the first day of August 1936 as Manager of its business.

THIRD: The said party of the second part is to receive as compensation for his services as above described the sum of Thirty-five (\$35.00) Dollars per week, and in addition thereto the further sum of Two percent of the actual amount received for the sale of any and all motor vehicles, the said amount received being the differential on the sale of any and all motor vehicles, the differential being a term commonly used in the automobile business, the said Commission to be paid to the said party of the second part monthly.

FOURTH; The said party of the second part hereby agrees to do no other work during the term of this contract, or any extension thereof directly or indirectly or be interested in any other concern of like tenor directly or indirectly.

FIFTH; The party of the first part hereby agrees and covenants with the party of the second part that during such time as the Corporation shall continue to exist and conduct its business that the said party of the second part will continue to be employed by it and that the compensation for such employment be determined at the expiration of each yearly period and that such agreements and contracts be entered into as might be just and equitable pertaining to the said employment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals this 3rd day of August, 1936.

ADVANCE AUTO SALES INC.

By Quinn Bunting

Treasurer

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of:

Quinn Goldmann

Wiener's Parlor Bus (owned by I.D. Wiener) is pictured in front of the old U.S. Post Office on Turner Street in Auburn (1930s). The building in the background is located close to the site where Great Falls Plaza, re-developed by Tom Platz in the 1980s, stands today. Advance Auto was situated to the left of the post office.

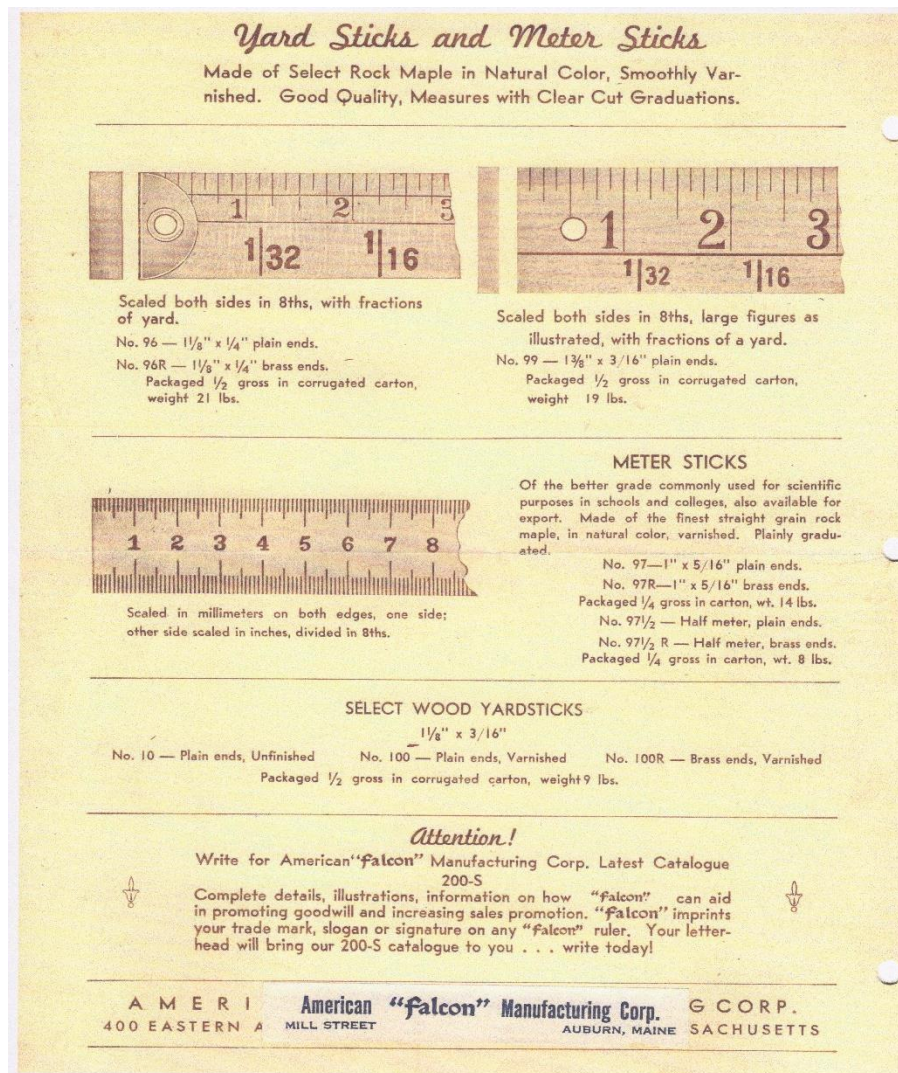
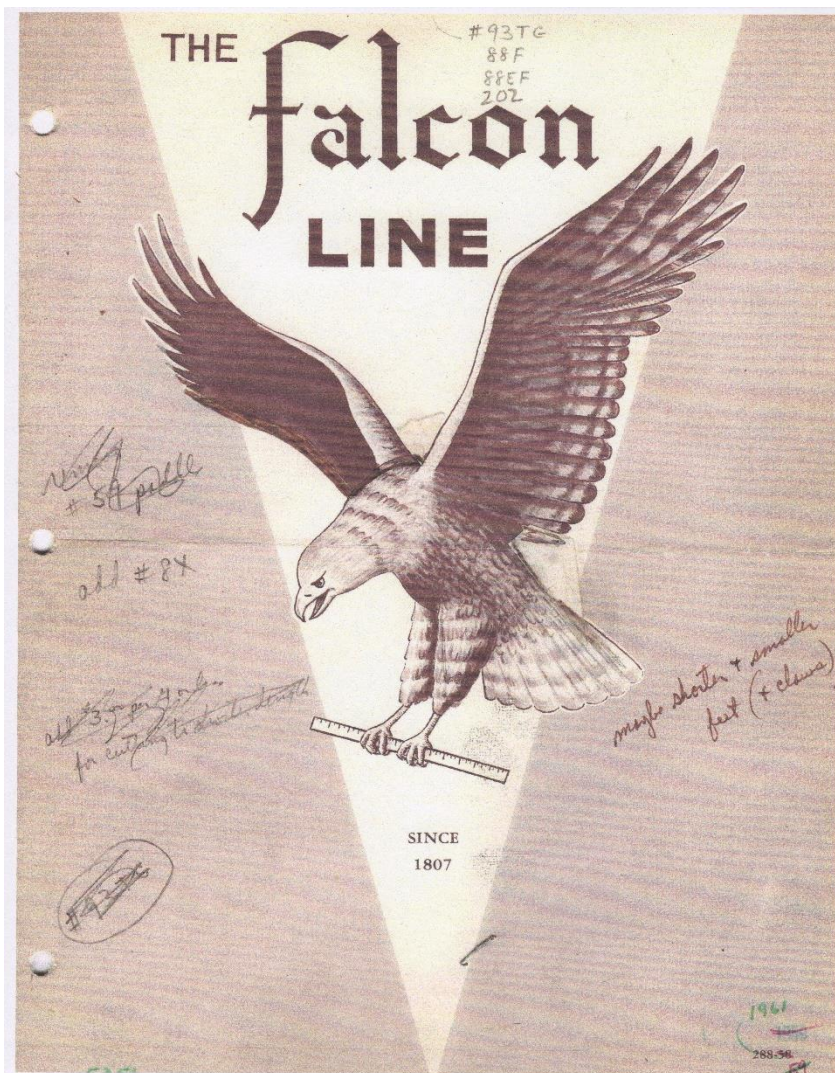
(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



(photos from private collection of Joel Goodman)

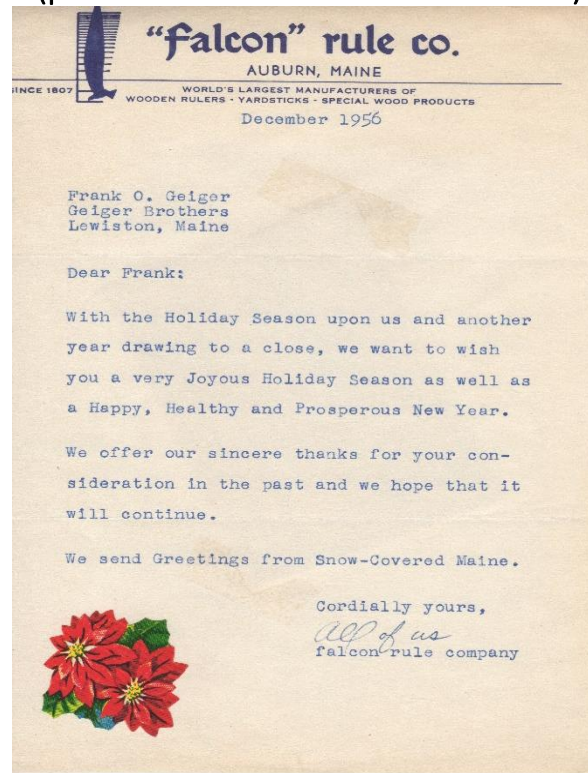


In 1945 Murray and Sheldon Nussinow, two brothers from Waltham, Massachusetts, purchased a 138-year-old upstate New York company that manufactured wooden rulers and yardsticks, moving it to Auburn in 1950. Fabricated from rock maple and imprinted with the buyer's trademark, slogan or signature, Falcon Rule products were useful tools for both measuring and marketing. Pictured on the right is the company's 1950 catalog and on the left its new logo from 1958. The business was initially housed in the Barker Mill and later in the former Koss Shoe Co. factory.
(private collection of Scott Nussinow)



Pictured above is a December 1956 Seasons Greeting note from Falcon Rule to its customer Geiger Bros. and below a customized Falcon ruler customized for the Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Community Center.

(private collection of Scott Nussinow)



Murray Nussinow, far left, and his brother Sheldon, far right, are pictured with their mother Rose and younger brother Bernie at their camp on Tripp Lake about 1960.

(photo from private collection of Scott Nussinow)



The Scolnik family included many prominent Lewiston merchants and professionals. Pictured front row, left to right, are Mary and Kalman (brother and partner of Julius in Scolnik Brothers, clothiers); back row, left to right, Eddie (pharmacist), Samuel (lawyer) and Bill (traveling salesman). Julius' son, Louis, became a Lewiston attorney, founding member of the Maine Civil Liberties Union and State Supreme Judicial Court justice. (photo from private collection of Louis Scolnik)



This November 20, 1936 Beth Jacob Congregation program for the installation of officers and board of trustees shows that they were all either Lisbon Street merchants or professionals, with the exception of Philip Lown, an Auburn shoe manufacturer.

INSTALLATION
OF
OFFICERS and BOARD
of
Congregation Beth Jacob



FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 20th, 1936
R. B. HERSHON, RABBI

OFFICERS and BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CONGREGATION BETH JACOB

Judge B. L. Berman
President

Edward S. Cortell
Vice President

Saul Supovitz
Treasurer

Meyer Canter
Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Oscar Goldman Esq., Chairman

Julius Scolnick
Vice Chairman

David Berman Esq.
Secretary

Harris M. Isaacson Esq.

Abraham H. Plavin

Louis Silverman

Dr. Meyers Brownstone

Philip Lown

USHERS

Sam Singer

Joseph Hirsh

PROGRAMME

Prelude Choir and Congregation
Mah Tovoo Rabbi
Processional Choir and Congregation
Invocation Rabbi
Solo Mrs. Julius Gottlieb
" Hear The Voice of Isreal "

SERVICES

Hymn Choir and Congregation
Installation
of
Officers and Board
by
Rabbi R. B. Hershon
Address Judge B. L. Berman, President
Remarks By E. S. Cortell, Vice President
Acceptance of the Board Oscar Goldman Esq.
Chairman Board of Trustees .
Greetings Mrs. Edward Cortell
President of Beth Jacob Sisterhood

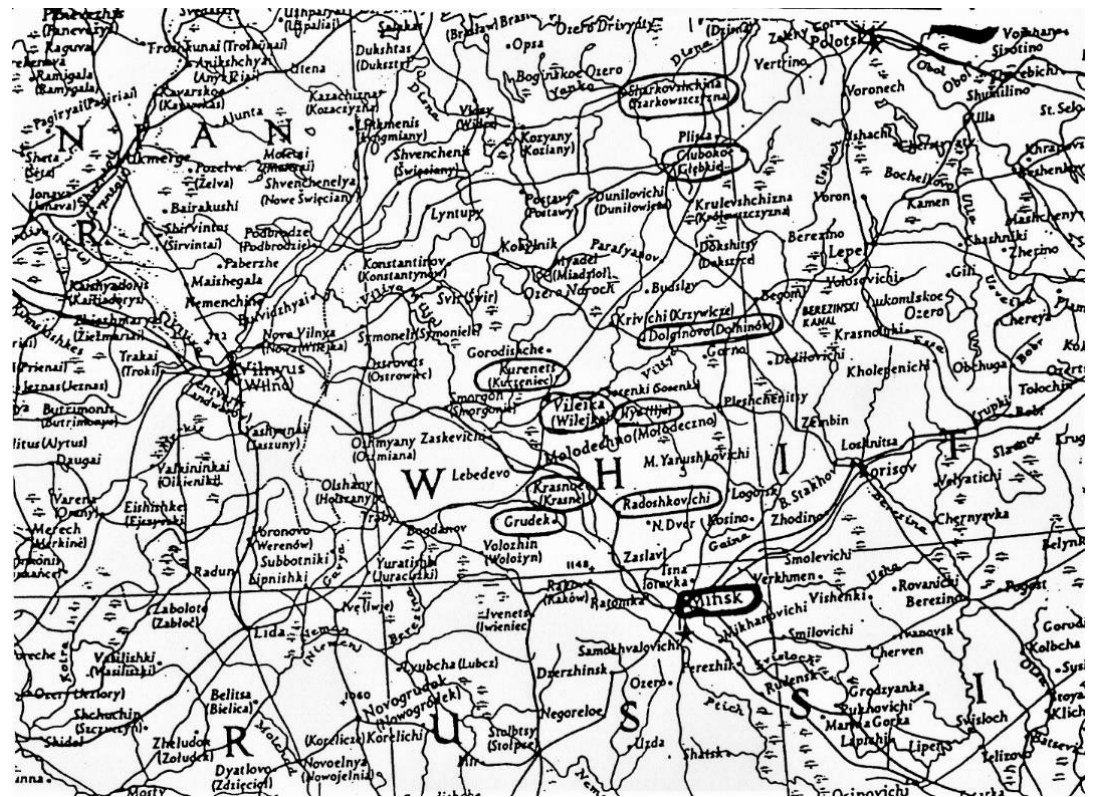
CLOSING SERVICE

Benediction

SOCIAL, HOUR AND REFRESHMENTS
SOCIAL HALL
ALL ARE INVITED

2. FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO LEWISTON- AUBURN: TRADITION AND ASSIMILATION

Many of Lewiston-Auburn's late 19th century Jewish settlers were members of the Isaacson and Alpren (also known as Halperin, Alpert or Alperowicz) families, who emigrated from an area northwest of Minsk in Belorussia and frequently intermarried. The marriage of Harry Isaacson and Eva Alpren, pictured on left (about 1890), was one such union. Harry was from Radoshkovichi and Eva from Krasnoe. They moved to Auburn in the late 1890s, where Harry became a peddler and scrap dealer.
(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Ellen (Simonds) Epstein is pictured in 2005 seated in front of the home and shop of Jacob Isaacson, her great-great grandfather and the father of Harry Isaacson, in Radoshkovichi, Belorussia.



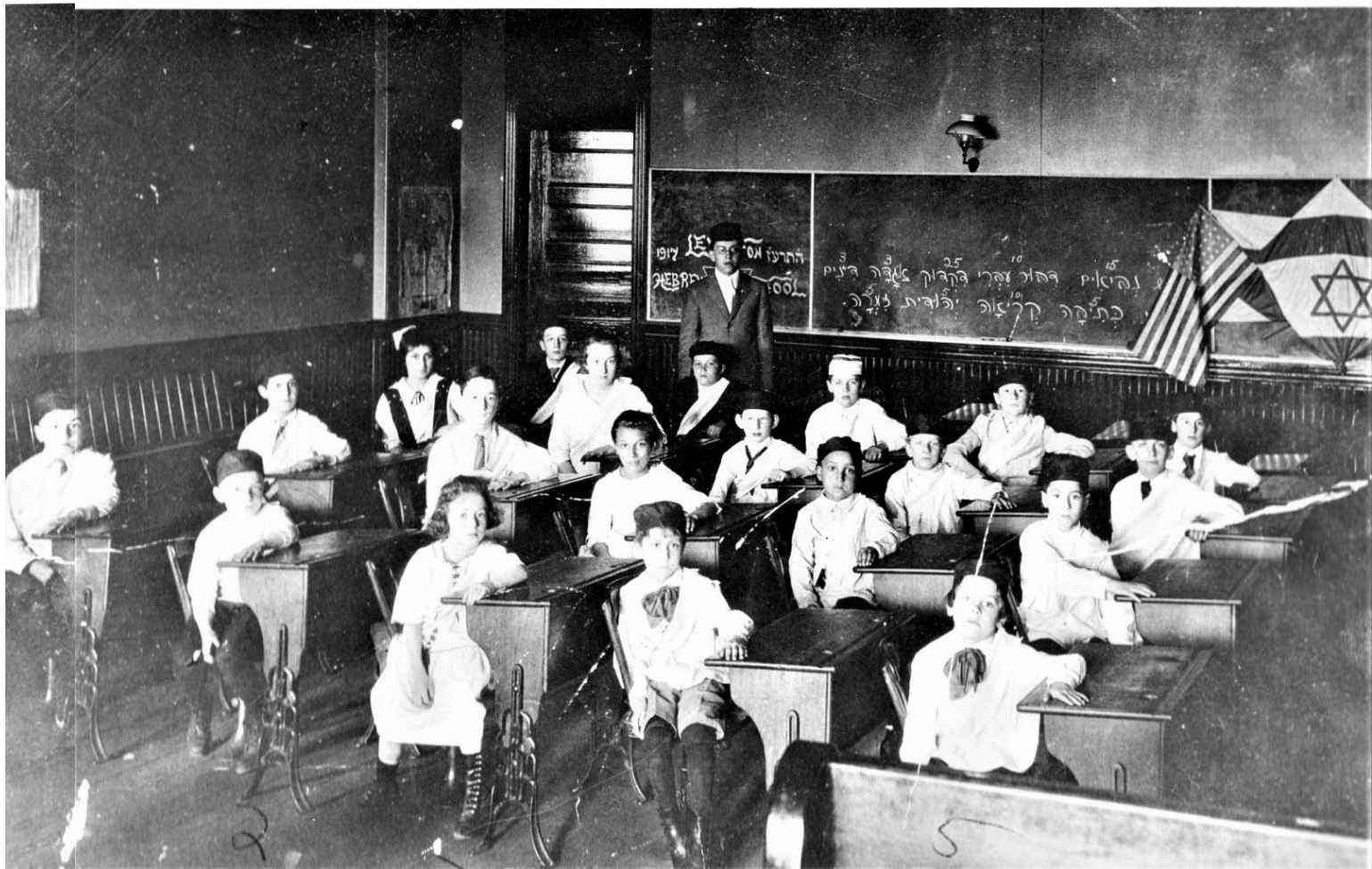
Of the seven Alpren sisters and sisters-in-law who appear in this photo from the 1930s, at least five lived part of their lives in Lewiston-Auburn and two married men from the Isaacson clan. Eva (Chaya-Chava), on the far left, was married to Harry Isaacson. Annie (Elke) Graffman, whose first marriage was to Harry's brother Samuel Isaacson, is 3d from left. Sarah (Sor'ke), 4th from left, was married to Chayim Lempert, one of the earliest and wealthiest L-A Jewish settlers. Leah (Rochel-Leyah) Day, grandmother of Charles Day, who also became a highly successful L-A businessman, is pictured 6th from left and Ida (Hinde) Steinman 7th from left. All were aunts of Harris Isaacson, whose handwriting appears at the bottom of the photo.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)

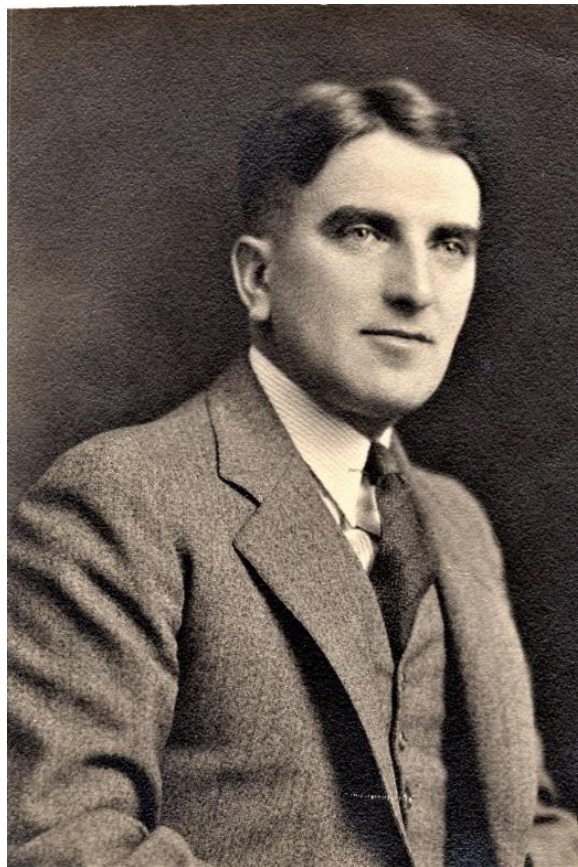


Chava - Dippie - Elke - Sor'ke - Leah - Hinde
all aunts

Religious schools for Jewish children were established in Lewiston-Auburn as early as the 1890s. This 1917 photo of Beth Jacob Hebrew School shows the influence of Zionism on religious education. The class includes girls as well as boys. Modern Hebrew words are chalked on the blackboard, and the Zionist Movement flag (designed in 1891 and later adopted by the State of Israel in 1948) hangs next to the American flag. The class included the children of many of L-A's early East-European Jewish immigrants: First row (far left), front to rear, Frank Tarr, Ben Abromson, Esther Abromson, Myer Canter. Second row, Keith Graffman, Kush Levitz, Ada Mandlestam, Hyman Supovitz. Third row, Irene Wheeler, unidentified student, Milton Wheeler, Jerry Ross. Fourth row: Samuel Sprince, unidentified student, Abe Mandlestam, Wolf Levine. Fifth row: Oscar Sprince, Morris Scolnik, Perets Singer, John Abromson. Teacher: Mr. Weis. (photo from Temple Shalom collection)



Harris M. (Isaac Myer) Isaacson (1930s), center, son of Harry and Eva (Alpren) Isaacson, was born in 1897 in Belorussia and brought to the U.S. as an infant by his parents, who settled in Auburn. He appears in the childhood group photo (about 1900), 3d from the left, along with his older brother, Ben, and his younger brother, Sam. His future wife and first cousin, Goldie Resnick, whose mother was also an Alpren, is pictured on the right in a childhood photo (about 1903). Gregarious, intelligent and athletic, Harris spoke Yiddish at home but assimilated quickly into American life through school, sports and military service. He attended public schools in Auburn and Lewiston, Hebron Academy, a Baptist-affiliated prep school, Bates, a Baptist-affiliated college, and law school at Georgetown University, a Catholic Jesuit institution. His brothers became successful businessmen in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. (photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Goldie Resnick is pictured, 5th row, 6th from left, in this 1916 photo of Lewiston Grammar (Frye) School students. Among the over 100 students appearing in this photo approximately five were Jewish, including Goldie and Etta Supovitz, standing to Goldie's left. (photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Simonds)



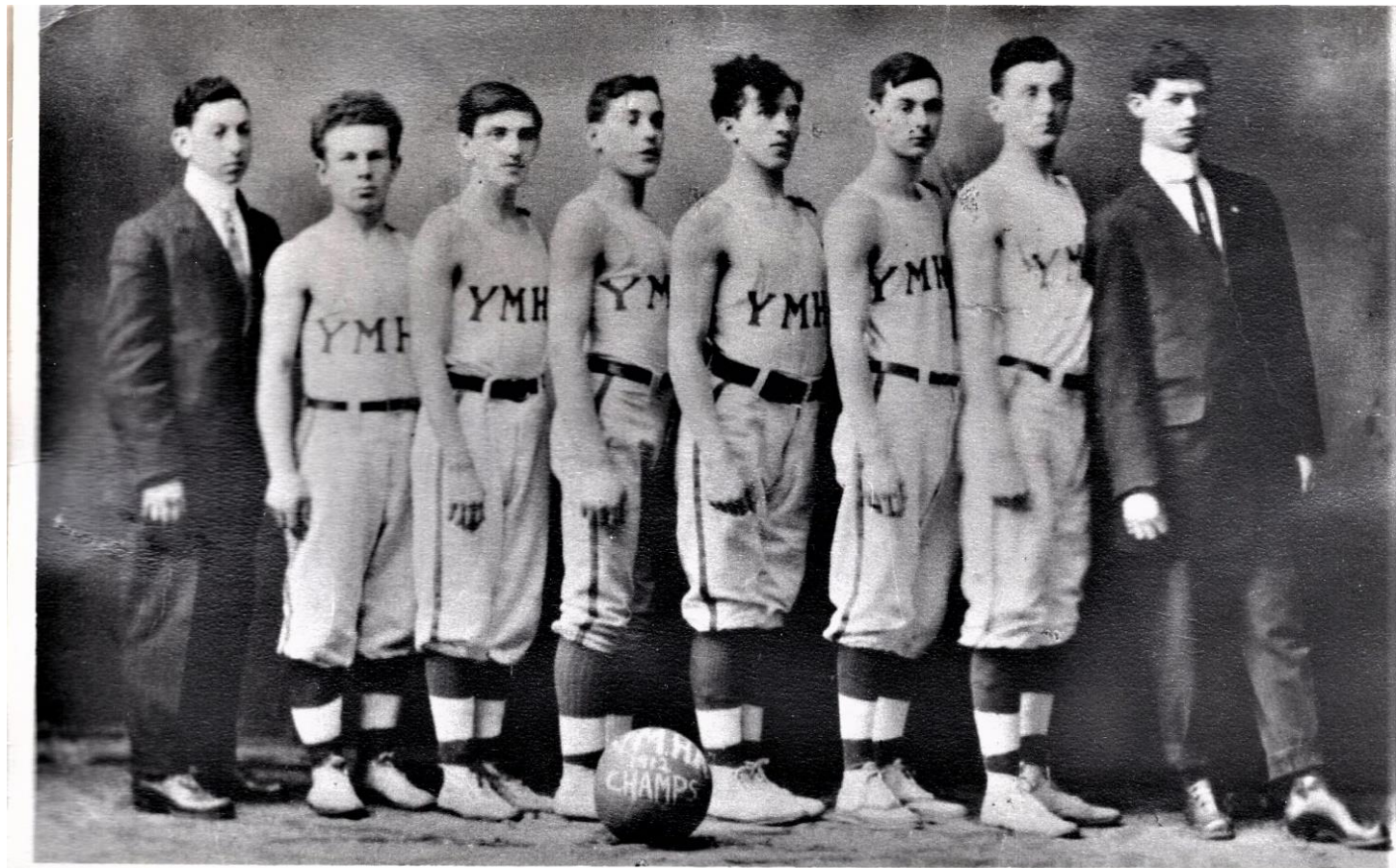
Harris and Goldie's daughter, Marilyn Isaacson, is pictured, far right, 2d row from front, in a second-grade public school class at the Lewiston Armory in 1935.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Ben Isaacson is pictured below, 3d from left, as a member of the 1912 Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) championship basketball team.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Myer
Canter

Joe
Lelansky

Ben
Isaacson

Jim
Miller

Sam
Hyman

Myer
Berman

Harry
Bornstein

Jack
Berman

In this photo of the Lewiston-Auburn Y.M.H.A. baseball team (1916), Harris Isaacson is seated 3d from the left and his brother Sam is seated 6th from the left.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)

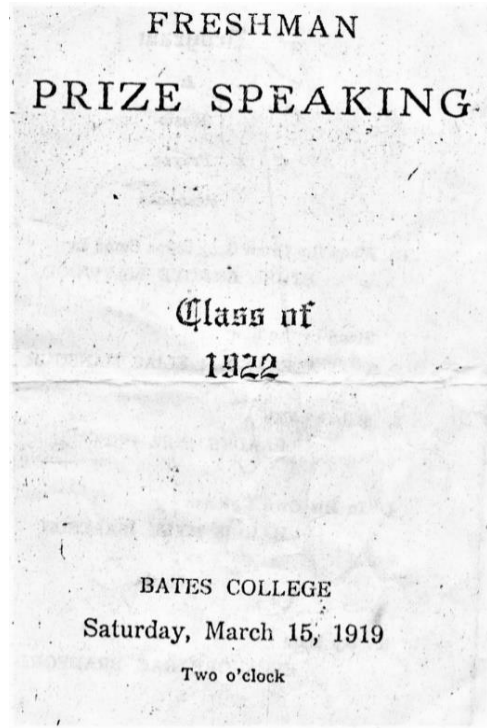


Harris M. Isaacson, far left, is pictured on horseback training with U.S. Army Cavalry for World War I at Norwich University in Vermont. He survived the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 and was discharged from service when the war ended later that year.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Harris Isaacson, left, was awarded second prize in a speaking contest at Bates College while a student there for a year in 1919. Bates, located in Lewiston, was the school of choice for many local Jews with professional aspirations. (photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



FRESHMAN
PRIZE SPEAKING

Class of
1922

BATES COLLEGE
Saturday, March 15, 1919
Two o'clock

Harris Isaacson's original law shingle is depicted below. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, he opened a solo law office at 169 Lisbon St., Lewiston, in 1922. He was the second Jewish lawyer to practice in Lewiston-Auburn. (Benjamin Berman, the founder of Berman & Simmons, was the first). Although a general practitioner, he had gained specialized knowledge working for the U.S. Patent Office during law school and became the first registered Maine patent attorney.

(photo from Maine Jewish History Project website, Colby College)



L-A Jewish families in late 1800s and early 1900s were multi-generational and close knit. Harry and Eva Isaacson are pictured in Lewiston (about 1930) with their sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. In front, left to right, are Harris, Marilyn, Roberta, Harry, Earl ("Bud"), Natalie, Eva, Philip, Burt and Benjamin Isaacson. In rear, left to right, are Mrs. Harris (Goldie), Arnold, Samuel, Mrs. Samuel (Essie), Calvin, and Mrs. Benjamin (Louise) Isaacson.
(photo from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Harris Isaacson, like many Lewiston-Auburn Jewish professionals and business people of his generation, was active in Republican politics. This 1957 note from U.S. Senator Frederick G. Payne shows that he and Payne were on a first-name basis. Payne was Maine's GOP Senator from 1953 to 1959 and had previously served as the State's governor from 1949 to 1952. Harris' wife, Goldie, belonged to the National Federation of Republican Women and Androscoggin County Women's Republican Club. It was not until the 1950s, when Gov. Edmund Muskie strengthened Maine's, and especially Androscoggin County's, Democratic Party, that more local Jews became Democratic activists. (private collection of Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)

FREDERICK G. PAYNE
MAINE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 22, 1957

Dear Harris:

Being confined to the hospital has its compensations after all when it brings a nice card and message from good friends such as you, and I want to tell you it was good to hear from you.

Am at home now and feeling better each day. My doctors say that with a few more weeks of rest, I should be feeling better than I have in years and I think that is mighty encouraging.

Hope to see you before too very long, Harris, and I hope you are well and keeping busy.

Ella and I send our best to you and yours.

Sincerely,



Frederick G. Payne,
U. S. S.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 1960

News Of The Clubs A



LOCAL WOMEN MEET GOVERNOR'S WIFE—About 125 local women met Mrs. John H. Reed this morning at a coffee held at the home of Mrs. G. Carleton Snow, Robin Rd., Auburn. Mrs. Helen Philbrook of Pittsfield, Mrs. Reed's secretary, was also a guest of honor. Pictured above, left to right, are Mrs. Charles Waterman, chairman of the County Reed for Governor Club; Mrs. John Preble and Mrs. Harris Isaacson, assisting hostesses; and Mrs. Reed. Mrs. Snow was also assisted by Mrs. William Lindquist, Mrs. Stanley Snow and Mrs. Clarence Cole.

Staff Photo By Philbrick

**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN**



1960 MEMBERSHIP CARD

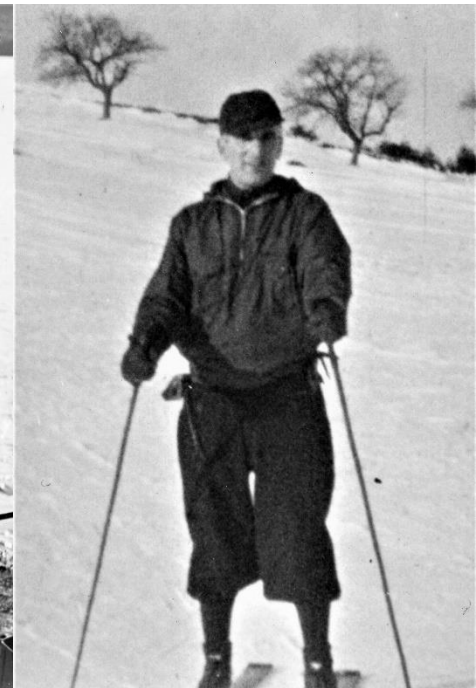
NAME Mrs. Harris Isaacson

CLUB Andro. C. Women's Republican

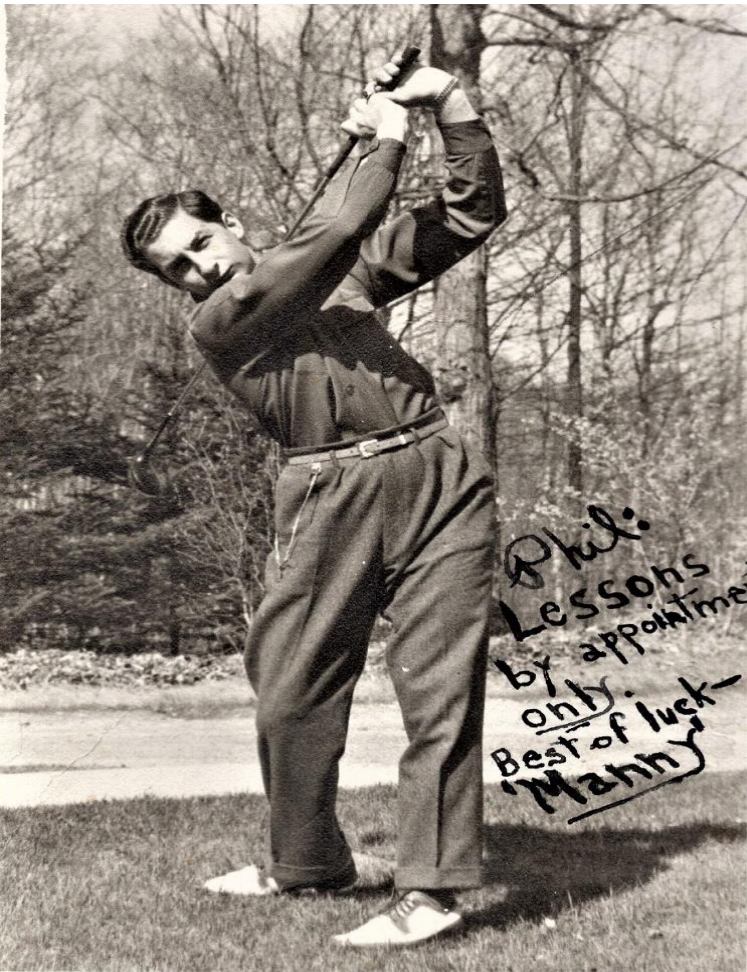
PRESIDENT Catherine Jones LOCAL TREASURER Helen S. Rand

Harris Isaacson enjoyed a robust outdoor recreational life with family and a wide range of Jewish and non-Jewish friends. He is pictured golfing at the Summit Spring course in Poland, left to right, with prominent Lewiston businessman Harry Angelides and his brother Sam Isaacson; on a fishing trip to New Brunswick, Canada, and skiing.

(photos from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Friendships among the children of Jewish immigrant families in Lewiston-Auburn were often strong and enduring. Philip Isaacson and Manny Plavin grew up in Lewiston, and their fathers, Harris Isaacson and Abraham Plavin, both worked on Lisbon Street. They attended Hebron Academy together, built their careers and raised their families in L-A, and remained lifelong friends. As this May 1942 note from Plavin to Isaacson shows, they also shared a wry sense of humor. Isaacson likewise took a ribbing in a July 1942 letter from a boyhood Lewiston friend, Eugene Zelch, for not having stayed in touch while he was working a summer job at Bath Iron Works. (private collection of the Estate of Philip M. Isaacson)



Phil —
 We both fell for a smooth line and ended up at "deah ole 'hebron'" au même temps.
 However, it has been Worth it in every way.
 Though we won't be in school together much longer, let's not forget the fun we've had skiing "etc."
 Best of everything
 Manny
 5/3/42

EUGENE S. ZELCH
 18 Howard Street
 Lewiston, Maine
 July 29, 1942

My Dear Mr. Isaacson,

We realize, of course, that you are a tremendously busy man and that you have a major part in the success or failure of the present war effort. We truly understand how such success and national fame as you have received since becoming associated with the Bath Iron Works Inc. would tend to keep you from keeping in contact with less fortunate individuals.

But for the benefit of our records and for certain transactions we have to make in the near future, the following information would interest us greatly:

What shift are you working on now?
 Why haven't we heard from you?
 When are we going to hear from you?
 Why didn't you want to go last Sunday?
 Have you forgotten how to use the telephone?(hint)

And so Mr. Isaac, I have to go to work now but I will expect to hear from you in the very near future.

Anxiously yours,
 Mr. Eugene Zulchburg
 from the firm of
 O'Hara, Macdonald, and Zulchburg

THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON THE L-A JEWISH COMMUNITY

Harris Isaacson closely followed events in Europe in the dark years leading up to World War II. In a letter to his cousin in Palestine, dated May 24, 1933, less than four months after Adolph Hitler's appointment as German Chancellor, Isaacson expressed grave concern for the future of German Jewry. His words, that Germany's leaders "were bent to destroy, at all costs, our brethren and all his life work," were prophetic. (private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)

HARRIS M. ISAACSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LEWISTON, MAINE

MAY
Twenty-fourth
1933

Mr. Besolol Isaacson
Box 370
Jerusalem, Palestine

My dear Cousin:

I am anticipating that this letter will be received by you in great surprise. Not having heard from any member of my family, including my father's, I expect this to be the case. However, I am happy to address this communication to you.

Father tells me that off and on he receives letters from your beloved father, the nature of which seems to be the same; that is, that he is finding his plight as great as ever.

There appears to be no let up of government requirements. The Bolshevik government has certainly laid its hand heavily on its own people - so much so that I am sometimes committed to the belief, which is entirely a personal view, that the people of Russia have experienced and lived under better conditions when the Tsar was at the head of the realm, although the yoke then was even heavier, than at the present time with its seemingly liberal character which to me, as an American, is only a veneer.

I would have liked very much to have had your beloved father write me of the real conditions as they actually exist in Russia today but it is easily gathered from his letters that because of censorship he is restricted in his criticism. You, now being far removed from Russia and being beyond its control and knowing of some of its conditions, I would be greatly pleased if, at your leisure moments, you would reduce to writing, for my benefit, your reactions on the Bolshevik movement in Russia. You of course have read with a sad heart of the unbearable events with their constant rapidity which have been placed into action against our brethren in Germany.

American Jewry have already spoken through their large mass meetings held throughout the large centers of America and through the daily press, the result of which has had an apparent quieting effect upon the leaders in Germany, but according to foreign dispatches they are bent to destroy, at all costs, our brethren and all his life work which has, from more than one aspect, given Germany some of its degrees of greatness. All of his work has been in vain. His existence, such as it is, remains highly conjectural, and his outcome lies in the hands of the Almighty who remains so reticent. For

us who remain beyond the borders of Germany, we can but hope that the German Jew will be spared from further humiliation and bodily harm and again be given the opportunity as a human person to engage in his work, profession and the maintenance of his home, and be permitted to enjoy the pursuit of happiness inherent to all human beings.

If I were to tell you of the depression which has overtaken America it would be purely a reaffirmation of what you already know. My immediate family and remote relatives have been hard hit, finding it greatly difficult to ek out a mere existence but, having undergone three years of depression, have learned the art of living where it has already reached a stage of desperation; but there is, however, a ray of sunshine hovering over us. For the last two months, and after all the relief measures passed by our new government headed by our President, Roosevelt, the tide appears to have changed. We are located in an industrial center where shoes and cotton goods are manufactured. The employment in both of these industries has increased tremendously. There is talk of increasing wages for the laborer which should result in a better purchasing power.

I have reason to be thankful - as they say in America - "to be able to make both ends meet". I hold a government position which is termed here as the Clerk of Courts. I am assuming that my father, through his letters to you, informed you that for the years 1931 and 1932 I was connected with the Prosecuting Department, but since the latter part of 1932 up to the present time I have been holding the position of Clerk of Courts which carries a very reasonable salary but which work does not prevent me from carrying on my work as an advocate.

My father tells me that you have been happily married and are working at the present time in the compilation of some research matter, the nature of which he is unfamiliar with. I would be pleased to receive from you a letter giving me some idea of your present undertakings, and also the general conditions of Palestine with its many problems. Are you not also connected as Associate Editor with some Hebrew newspaper? If this is so may I have a copy of this newspaper containing one of your editorials? I must frankly admit, much to my regret, that I am not conversant with the Hebrew language; neither am I at all proficient in being able to read Jewish. In view of these glaring inabilities I must ask you to write me in English.

I have a dear friend, who is also an advocate and a former judge, by the name of Benjamin L. Berman, who is planning a trip to Italy, Palestine and Russia. His itinerary discloses that he will be in Jerusalem from July 20th next to July 27th. May I ask you kindly, if you are in a position, when he arrives to show him around, so to speak. If you will give me your address where he will be able to meet you upon his arrival I will turn it over to him. I am sending through him a wedding present which will be in the nature of money for which you should readily find a use. Not knowing what the climate is like during July, he wishes to be informed what attire it will be necessary to provide himself with. You will find him a very intelligent person, congenial and good company, and whatever attention you may give him would be certainly appreciated. I will expect an immediate reply to my inquiries so that I may impart the information to my friend in good season and before his departure. He expects to sail on the seventh day of July.

I am taking the liberty of sending you my portrait taken a number of months ago. It would be a pleasure to receive yours and also one of your beloved wife.

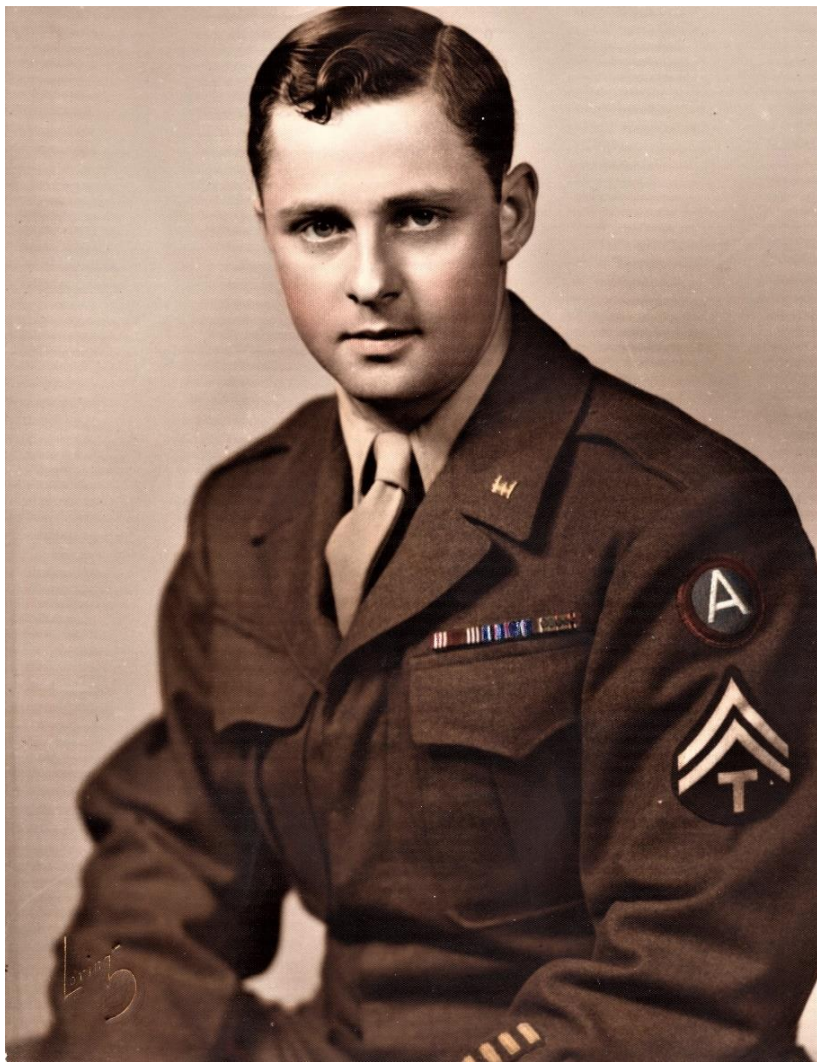
If it is your wish I will write to you at regular intervals and naturally I would expect a corresponding wish on your part. I profoundly hope that I have not made this letter too ponderous. It was my aim to give you a general idea of conditions here; also my reactions on the terrible happenings existing in Germany. I will expect a long letter from you.

Father, mother and Brother Sam all wish to be remembered. They are sending their best wishes to you and yours. Regards from my immediate family which consists of my wife and one boy, Philip, and girl, Marilyn. My best wishes to your beloved wife.

From your loving cousin,

H. Isaacson

Ben Barr (1944) enlisted in the Army as a musician in 1943 but was transferred to a combat engineering unit, participating in the D-Day Landing and serving with General George Patton's Third Army in the campaign to liberate occupied France and invade Nazi Germany during World War II. His letter from England, dated May 24, 1944, less than two weeks before Operation Overlord was launched, described "everything" as "nice and quiet for a while." Military secrecy would have prohibited him from disclosing any information about preparations for the upcoming invasion of Europe. (photo and letter from private collection of Barr family)



England
24 May 1944

Pfc. Ben Barr #31320341
Co. A 150th Engr. (C) Bn.
A.P.O. 2307 Pm. N.Y., N.Y.

Dear Folks,

There isn't too much to say tonight - Everything is nice and quiet for a while.

I really am glad that the flowers arrived in time. I ordered them some time in March. I also sent some to Ma in R. care.

I don't remember whether I mentioned it or not, but Mike (Zelch) is already in England. I haven't the slightest idea where he is located, but with a little luck I should find him - I'll write about him.

In your next letter, would you please send a few packages of Silletto's Blacks and a couple jars of Norema?.

I received your letter of the 9th inst. - with the pictures. It seemed funny, or rather strange, to hear that Burton is ready for school. Well, I'll be sure that I have a bracelet and will send it as soon as possible.

Well, the month of May will just about be over by the time it is all over you. When do you expect to go to the Orchard?

So much for tonight. I'll write soon again.

Happy Birthdays
Elaine

Love to all,
Fanny

Arthur Barr, Ben's father, pictured in hunting gear, was the owner of the Rock Maple Wood Heel Co. of Auburn, one of many local Jewish-owned businesses in the shoe industry. After returning from the war, Ben worked briefly for his father but became restless and struck out on his own as a successful independent sales representative for shoe manufacturers and as co-owner of a vending machine company.

(photo from private collection of Barr family)



Ben Barr, began playing trombone as a boy and continued performing into his 90s. He is pictured, left, with his slide trombone in 2012. (photo by Russ Dillingham, Lewiston Sun Journal)

Ben and his wife Lois are pictured on the right in 2016, with their sons, left to right, Peter, Michael, Adam and Larry. (photo from private collection of Barr family)



Louis Scolnik, left, a future lawyer, founder of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and a Maine Superior and Supreme Court justice, served with the Navy in the Pacific during World War II after graduating from the Bates College accelerated V-12 program. He was one of a number of local Jewish men who joined the armed forces after the U.S. entered the war.

(photo from private collection of Louis Scolnik)



Louis Scolnik is pictured playing saxophone in his 20s and in his 90s. He was referred to jokingly by lawyers who appeared in his courtroom as the “swinging judge.”

(photo from private collection of Louis Scolnik)



Philip Isaacson, left, is pictured with his shipmates aboard a U.S. Navy LST (Tank Landing Ship) at Shanghai, China in January 1946. The LST had been stationed in the Far East from July 1945 in anticipation of an American attack on the Japanese home islands, but Japan's surrender in August 1945 made the invasion unnecessary. (photo from private collection of the Estate of Philip M. Isaacson)



U.S.S. (#1020)
WHANGPOO RIVER, SHANGHAI, CHINA.
5TH. JANUARY, 1946.

Marilyn (Isaacson) Simonds is pictured in 1940 at age 12, shortly before the U.S. entered World War II (1940).

(Photo by Dora Clark Tash)



On May 27, 1945, Marilyn (Isaacson) Simonds, age 17, wrote a letter to her brother Philip, who was serving with the Navy in the Pacific Theater. Her letter from Lewiston, where "it's just as dead as it can be," was filled with tidbits of news about family as well as friends and contemporaries headed off to war.

(letter from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)

Marilyn Lois Isaacson

30 White Street Lewiston, Maine

May 27, 1945

Dear Phil,
How does it go by you, brother. Every thing so? Three years ago you would never believe you'd be in the "gay tropic"!!! (If I may be so bold as to use you very words.)

Guess what Phil, summer is leaving for the navy right after graduation. Yes, he's been accepted already! Joe Goodman leaves the 15th of June. Louise Dion took the test for the Coast Guard and it waiting. Ah, did Mom tell you Louise has been accepted at M. I. P. Don't that wonderful. Jimmy Lottier took his physical for the army yesterday.

²
Speaking of the Hatchfield, they bought the Bolster's house and are moving in soon.

I had a big party for Joe Goodman last Saturday night. We had a roast and ~~of~~ doors. I only had twenty kids!!! Harold ~~Lytch~~ who was here with Mimi Kuman from Portland. They brought a sailor from Bates with them. His name is Arthur Gross. Do you know him?

Mom and Dad are going up north for the memorial day week-end. They are leaving this Tuesday. I have a chance to go to either Boston or Old Orchard. But I'm not doing either as I don't want to miss school. Two days of school is too dark. ~~Oh we weren't having~~

²
finals I would.

Philip, I've sent you a birthday present and I hope it reaches you before and not after your birthday. If it reaches you after at least you'll know I remember it.

While Ethel is going to have a brand new little nusicor. The store is going to visit the Lescard some time in September.

Nothing going on here in Lewiston. It's just as dead as it can be. But was int it always.

Dad and Pip are now out playing golf, as usual. Andy is being courted again, the cats are just about driving the family crazy.

⁴¹
I've got to go to dinner now, but be a good boy, and hands off the native girls.

God bless you and kept you safe for us.
Your loving sister,
Mickey

Happy birthday
"Piv"

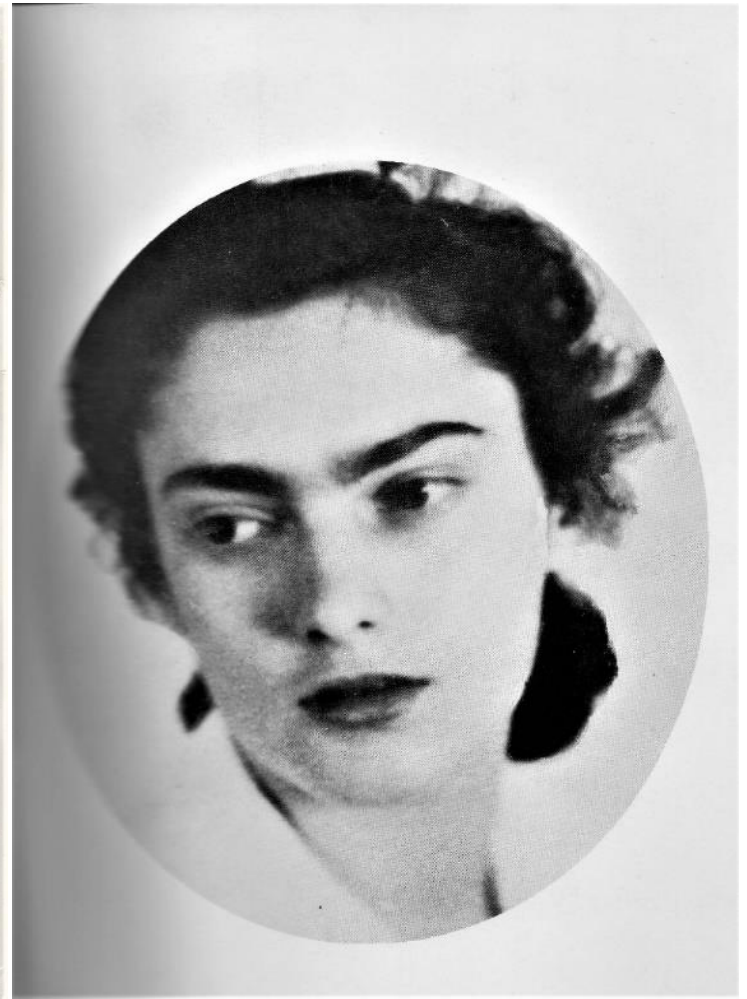
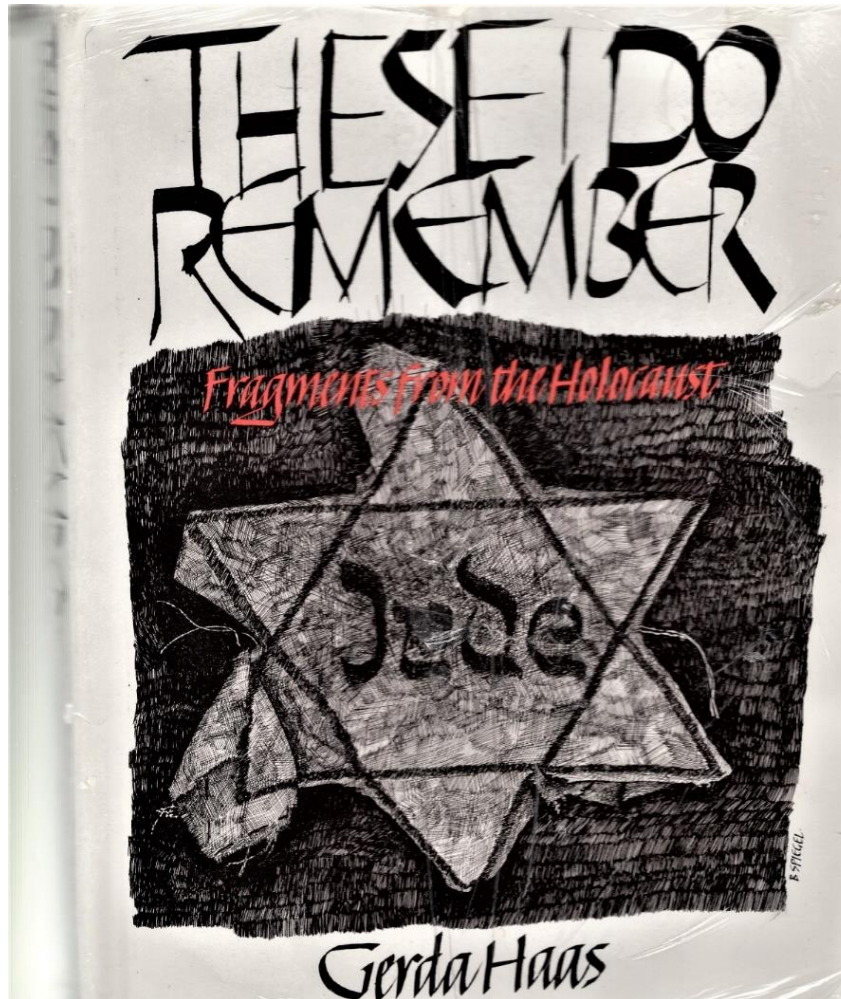
What's from Pip & Cindy.

Dr. Lester Miller, who served as a dentist with the U.S. Army Air Force in England during World War II, is seated at a café in Switzerland in 1946 after the war's end.

(photo from private collection of Marianne Miller)



Gerda Schild Haas (pictured in 1939), a German Jew trained as a nurse, survived nearly two years of Nazi internment in the notorious Theresienstadt Ghetto during the World War II. In 1946, she emigrated to the U.S., married Dr. Rudy Haas, a fellow German-Jewish refugee and settled in Lewiston-Auburn. She became a Bates College librarian, leading Holocaust educator, and author of the 1982 memoir, "These I do Remember," about the experiences, including her own, of women who suffered in the Holocaust. She died in 2021 at the age of 98.



Dr. Rudolph Haas, a German-Jewish immigrant and husband of Holocaust survivor, educator and author, Gerda Haas, retired in 1992 after practicing internal medicine in Lewiston for over half a century.

Just another page for Dr. Haas:

After 14,000 patients, Rudolph Haas tries retirement

By SUSAN RAYFIELD
Sunday Staff Writer

LEWISTON — Dr. Rudolph Haas celebrated his 80th birthday last week surrounded by family, including three of his four children, and four grandchildren.

It was the first time in 51 years he didn't have to think about going back to work.

On April 14, Haas retired from his Lewiston practice in internal medicine.

More than a hundred physicians were among

those gathered to honor him at a banquet at Central Maine Medical Center, one of the largest such tributes ever paid to one of their own.

"Rudy represents the very essence of compassion, caring and service in the medical profession," remarked William Young, president and chief executive officer at Central Maine Medical Center, in a phone interview Friday. "He's a physician's physician."

For his patients — 14,000 in all, 700 in the active file when he left — Haas was more than a physician. He was a friend.

"If we walked in upset about something, stayed late to talk to us," said the Rev. Jo Davis, pastor of St. Anne's Church in Lisbon. "He was always there when we needed him."

"We will miss him tremendously," Davis said.

"I consider him almost a member of the family," added Renee Laine, of Lewiston, who has been a patient of Haas' since the late 1940s.

When she turned 50, the doctor showed up at her house, unexpectedly, with a gift.

See HAAS, page 9A

Haas from 1A

Like with many of his other patients, Haas treated four generations of the Davis and Laine families: grandparents, parents, wives and husbands, daughters and sons.

He even made house calls. Former banker Stephen Trafton, of Auburn, remembers the night his father suffered a heart attack at their summer home in Sabattus. "A normal doctor would tell you to call an ambulance," Trafton said. "Rudy came all the way out there himself, even called the ambulance."

In 1946, house calls cost \$3, office visits \$2, night calls \$5, and a day at the hospital ran to \$16.

A lot has happened to medicine since then.

From Germany to Jackman

Haas first came to Central Maine Medical Center (then Central Maine General Hospital) as an intern in 1941 — by way of Jackman, Boston, New York, France, Switzerland and Germany.

Staunch, dapper, sometimes stern but with a twinkle in his eye, Haas, who looks 80-going-on-60, still speaks with the rich accent of his homeland. Born in Frankfurt, he completed medical school there in 1935, two years after Hitler came to power.

In those days, Jews could move about freely, Haas recalls. But life was not pleasant.

"You attended the lectures with one of the students in Nazi uniform, guns at their side. Even some of the professors were in Nazi uniform," he said. "It was not exactly a very comfortable feeling."

Still, no one could imagine what was coming in 1938, when the killings began.

While he didn't suffer personally, his two sisters, with six children between them, were exterminated in concentration camps.

Since the Nazis would not allow Jewish students to obtain their li-



Dr. Rudolph Haas

cense or medical degree, Haas had to travel to Switzerland for it.

Finding work was difficult, however, with unemployment in Europe widespread. After a year-and-a-half internship at a small Swiss hospital, Haas moved to France, where he spent another year volunteering in various hospitals, "looking for a country I could enter and practice medicine."

Finally, he found a second cousin in America to vouch for him, and arrived in New York in 1938.

"I was delighted to be here, of course," Haas recounts. "It was a new life for me. New York City was fairly pleasant in those days."

After a brief stint at hospitals in New York and Boston, Haas got a call one day from a professor at what is now the New England Medi-

cal Center, asking if he would consider coming to Jackman, Maine, to practice.

Haas agreed. A surplus of doctors everywhere had made jobs scarce. He lasted one afternoon.

"I didn't think Jackman was quite the place for me," he said, with a laugh. The nearest hospital to the western Maine lumbering town was 30 miles away in Greenville. When the road was closed in winter, patients were transported to Skowhegan, 50 miles away.

Haas settled in Lewiston, instead, passing the Maine state boards "properly, in the middle of a blizzard in Portland."

As an intern at CMGH, he got room, board and a uniform, but no pay.

The next year, as a resident, he received a whopping salary of \$100 a month. "Quite a treat," he said.

After two years in the service, converting a station hospital in Alaska into a tuberculosis sanitarium, Haas returned to Lewiston in 1946 and started his own practice.

It was also the year he got married and started a family.

His wife Gerda, a nurse in Berlin, had spent two years in a concentration camp in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Liberated to Switzerland in 1945, she arrived in America with some of Haas' Swiss friends, who introduced the couple.

Changes with the years

At CMMC, "paging Dr. Haas" was heard often in the hospital corridors.

"He was a role model for all of the young physicians who came here over the years," said Young.

The diagnosis and treatment for Davis' father, who had spinal meningitis and a heart condition, were

very complicated. "But everything worked out fine," Davis said.

"Haas arranged for specialists, but he was the conductor, calling in instruments as needed. We thought very highly of him."

Seeing the hospital grow meant a lot to Haas. As he watched the progress of medicine, from the use of no antibiotics to a flood of them, he witnessed the near-disappearance of diseases like TB and polio, and the appearance of another: AIDS.

In addition to private practice, Haas was college physician at Bates for 26 years, chief of medicine at CMMC for two years in the late 1960s, and president of the state medical society there from 1973 to 1975.

He says he'll miss the challenge of diagnosing and treating diabetes, lung diseases, and gastrointestinal and renal diseases — all part of his job of internal medicine.

"But the loyalty of my patients was the most rewarding satisfaction," he declares.

Two weeks before he closed the door to his practice for the last time, a patient congratulated him on his retirement.

"Or condolences," Haas replied, "have loved my work very much."

Now that Haas has retired, first on his list will be visiting his children.

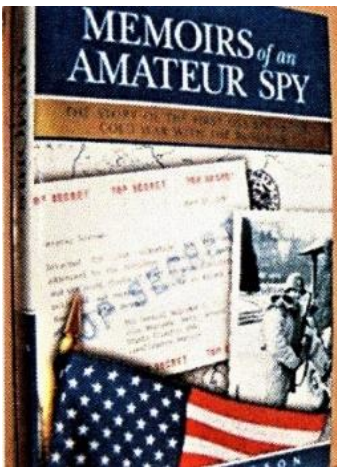
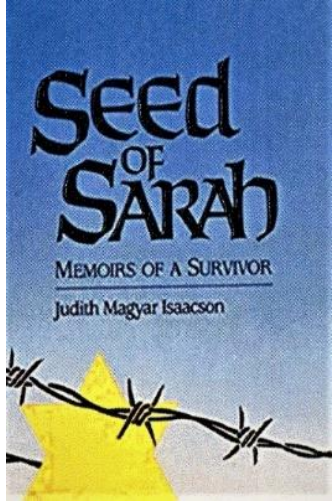
Then he plans to do some fishing, which he always talked about "but never got on to doing."

There will also be more time for skiing and tennis — "Rudy plays heck of a game," according to CMMC's Young.

Eventually though, Haas hopes to get back to part-time work in medicine.

"It's still my favorite pastime," said.

Love rises from the ashes of the Holocaust: In 1945 in the ruins of occupied Germany at the end of World War II, Auburn native Irving Isaacson, who was serving with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner of the CIA, met and married, Judith Isaacson, a Jewish-Hungarian survivor of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. They are pictured, right, in the yard of their Auburn home in 2005. Their loving union lasted for 70 years until Judith's death in 2015. When asked how long he had been married to Judith, Irving always replied, "Not long enough." Both published memoirs of their wartime experiences. (Photo on right by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



A 1935 refugee from anti-Semitism in pre-World War II Lithuania and nephew of Auburn shoe manufacturer, Philip Lown, Bernard Lown became a renowned cardiologist, was an inventor of the cardiac defibrillator, and co-founded the Nobel Prize winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Lown is pictured, left, at work in Boston and, right, in Lewiston-Auburn during the dedication of the Bernard Lown Peace Bridge in 2008. (photo on right by Jose Leiva, Lewiston Sun Journal)



3. THE GOLDEN AGE OF L-A JEWRY: 1945 TO 1989

The 45-year span between the end of World War II and the close of the 1980s constituted a “golden age” for the Lewiston-Auburn-Jewish community, one marked by self-confidence, economic prosperity, high achievement, social connectivity and civic engagement with the larger community. For most of that period, Jewish religious and social life centered around the two L-A synagogues, Beth Jacob in Lewiston, built in 1925, and Beth Abraham in Auburn, built in 1934 (replacing an earlier building in New Auburn which had been destroyed by fire). Beth Jacob (pictured below), which now houses a church, was located at the corner of Sabattus and Shawmut Streets. In 1951, a new Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Community Center further enriched local Jewish life and helped unify the two congregations.



The “Ner Tamid” (eternal flame) and a pediment, consisting of Lions of Judah bracketing the Tablets of the Ten Commandments, originally stood over an ark at Beth Jacob Synagogue. It was later transferred from Beth Jacob to the small sanctuary at Temple Shalom in 1982.

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



Samuel and Marilyn (Isaacson) Simonds are pictured in the sanctuary of the Beth Jacob Synagogue at their 1948 wedding and at their daughter Ellen's 1980 wedding. Pictured on right, left to right, are Samuel Simonds, Marilyn Simonds, Ellen (Simonds) Epstein, Elliott Epstein, Gail Simonds and David Simonds.

(photos from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



Beth Abraham Synagogue on Laurel Street in Auburn is pictured below at the time it was closed in 2017. The building has been redeveloped into apartments.

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



The sanctuary of Beth Abraham was surrounded by stained glass windows and had seating at two levels. Until the late 1940s or early 1950s, it followed the Orthodox tradition of separating men and women during prayer with women sitting in the balcony. Torah and ark covers are displayed along the two front rows.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry)



Rabbi David Berent (1940-1974), left, and Rabbi Norman Geller (1966-1992), right, were the longest serving religious leaders of Beth Jacob and Beth Abraham Synagogues.



Rabbi Berent and his son are pictured with Maine U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith and Vice-President and later President Lyndon B. Johnson on a visit to Washington, D.C. (early 1960s)

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Rabbi Berent is pictured with the Beth Jacob choir on the bima (the elevated platform where the Torah is read and services conducted) in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Berent introduced the use of mixed male-female choirs in services. This was a progressive step for the time. Although women could pray in synagogue and, through organizations like Hadassah, Sisterhood and B'nai Brith, played a very active role in Jewish communal life, they were not allowed to participate in leading services in most American Conservative synagogues until the 1970s. However, only the men in this photo are wearing the traditional prayer shawl ("tallit"), a practice not extended to women in Conservative synagogues until the 1970s and still prohibited in Orthodox synagogues today.
(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Four boys wearing a Jewish prayer shawl ("tallit") are pictured at Beth Jacob in 1964. Rear, left to right, David Leitman, David Wilner and Daniel Ross; front, Martin Alperen.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Beth Jacob Hebrew school confirmation ceremony (1964): standing, left to right, are Arnold Goldman, Rabbi David Berent, Harriet Shapiro (Passerman) & Michael Goldman; seated, left to right, are Robert Stack, Alan Goldstein & Aaron Silverman.

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Hebrew Elementary School Report Card (about 1964): Children from Beth Jacob and Beth Abraham Synagogues attended classes at the Center. Elementary students studied there from the time they were in second grade in public school until age 13. The curriculum was prescribed by the Philadelphia Branch of the United Synagogue of America Board of Jewish Education. (private collection of the Estate of Philip M. Isaacson))

ATTENDANCE — CLASS

PRESENT.....
ABSENT.....
LATE.....

REPORT PERIOD I	REPORT PERIOD II	REPORT PERIOD III	TOTAL
4	3	5	
0	3	0	

ATTENDANCE — SYNAGOGUE

Sabbath

PRESENT.....
ABSENT.....

Holidays

PRESENT.....
ABSENT.....

TORAH AND THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

BIBLE.....

REPORT PERIOD I	REPORT PERIOD II	FINAL REPORT

LANGUAGE SKILLS (comprehension
and composition—oral and written)

VOCABULARY.....
GRAMMAR.....

A	A	A

SUPPLEMENTARY READING.....

Writing

A	A	A

JEWISH LIFE AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Siddur.....

READING FLUENCY.....
FAMILIARITY.....

REPORT PERIOD I	REPORT PERIOD II	FINAL REPORT

A	A	A

Religious Practices.....

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS.....
CUSTOMS & CEREMONIES.....

A	A	A

THE JEWISH PEOPLE (SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY, CURRENT EVENTS AND INSTITUTIONS, ISRAEL)

History.....

A	A	A

BEHAVIOR WORK HABITS

A	A	A
A	A	A

SCALE OF MARKS

A — Excellent.....
B — Very Good.....
C — Satisfactory.....

D — Passing.....
E — Unsatisfactory.....

Passover, perhaps more than any other Jewish holiday, is traditionally celebrated at home with extended family gatherings. The Seder meal commemorates the escape of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Cohen-Wiener family is pictured at a Passover Seder in 1947.
(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



The Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Community Center, 134 College St., Lewiston: From 1951 to 1982, the JCC served the social, educational, cultural, athletic and charitable needs of members of both synagogues and the local Jewish population through an array of well-attended programs.
(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



Introductory page from a booklet marking the opening of the L-A Jewish Community Center



DANIEL BALSAM

... your Jewish Community Center

History Early in 1945, a small group of civic-minded Americans of the Jewish faith, seeking to develop and enrich human personalities and group associations in the Lewiston-Auburn community, pooled together their economic and cultural resources towards the erection of a Jewish Community Center. Six years later, as the result of personal sacrifice, combined and persevering efforts, these citizens manifested the accomplishment of their common goal in the form of two buildings situated in Lewiston and officially dedicated in 1951 as the Jewish Community Center. Today the Center proudly takes its place in the Lewiston-Auburn communal life as an instrumentality of the Jewish people through which they may make a significant contribution to American culture.

Administration The responsibility for supervision of all Center activities is vested in the person of Daniel Balsam, whose official title is that of Executive Director. Mr. Balsam holds the degrees of Bachelor of Science from Columbia University and Master of Science from the New York School of Social Work. For many years he has been directly associated with youth and adult community activities in Jewish Center work. More recently Mr. Balsam served as a social director in the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The Center policies and regulations are devised and submitted by appropriately small working committees to the Executive Committee who in turn must submit all policy and budget recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval and authority.

Purpose The Lewiston-Auburn Community Center makes available through technical help and expert guidance community-wide cultural youth and adult programs. Jewish education, books, music, athletics, club organization and committee activities are among the many facilities provided by the Center administration. All programs are planned and supervised by competent personnel in the respective fields. For general recreational activity facilities are available to youth and adults for bowling, basketball, ping-pong, bridge, arts and crafts, reading rooms and dancing. The Jewish Community Center serves to fulfill a Jewish purpose, although participation in the Community Center is open to all inhabitants of the community.

Laying the cornerstone for an addition to the Jewish Community Center building (June 11, 1950)

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



Youth basketball at the Jewish Community Center (1968)

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC youth activities: duckpin bowling and table tennis (1950s)

(photos from Temple Shalom collection)



Boy Scout Troop No. 169 (1950s)

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC youth activities: Israeli dancing for Succoth, left, and dance party, right (1960s)

(photos from Temple Shalom collection)



This 1950s photo depicts the JCC teenage choral group accompanied by Susan Miller on the piano. Miller played for many Center youth musical activities.

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC youth activities: left, Jewish Book Month book fair; right, Purim play (1960s)

(photos from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Youth Board reports to the Center Board: left to right, Ellie Shapiro, Joel Abromson and Ruth Flock, report to the Center Board, left to right, Israel A. Miller (president), William Cohen, Bernard Cohen, Arthur Shapiro, William Goldstein, Norman Izenstatt, Mrs. Ben Abromson, Mrs. Phillip Flock and Saul Shapiro (early 1950s). (photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Nursery School, 1964-65: Left to right, 1st row: Ricky Isaacson, Ann Robinson, Charles Wilner, Wendy Jacobson, Lenny Shems; 2d row: Linda Laliberte, David Passerman, Glenn Baker, Chuck Koss, Steve Cohen, Wayne Kisonak, Melanie Bates; 3d row: Louise Nadeau, Jimmy Peck, Dorry Shaw, Peter Koss, Abby Baker, Todd Nussinow, Wendy Shapiro, Alan Schwartz, Cheryl Silverman.
(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Nursery School Mothers' Coffee (May 7, 1965): Left to right, Gladys Koss, Barbara Shapiro, Judith Jacobson, Norma Silverman, Anita Laliberte, Jane Peck, Deborah Isaacson and John Isaacson. (photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Tercentenary Celebration of Jews in America (1954).

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Chanukah Celebration (1954). Seated at the long table, left to right, are Beth Abraham Rabbi Norman Zdanowitz, Nancy Lee, Eda Zdanowitz, Shepard (Shep) Lee, Arthur Shapiro, Sara Shapiro, Edith Kronenfeld and Center Director Morris Kronenfeld.

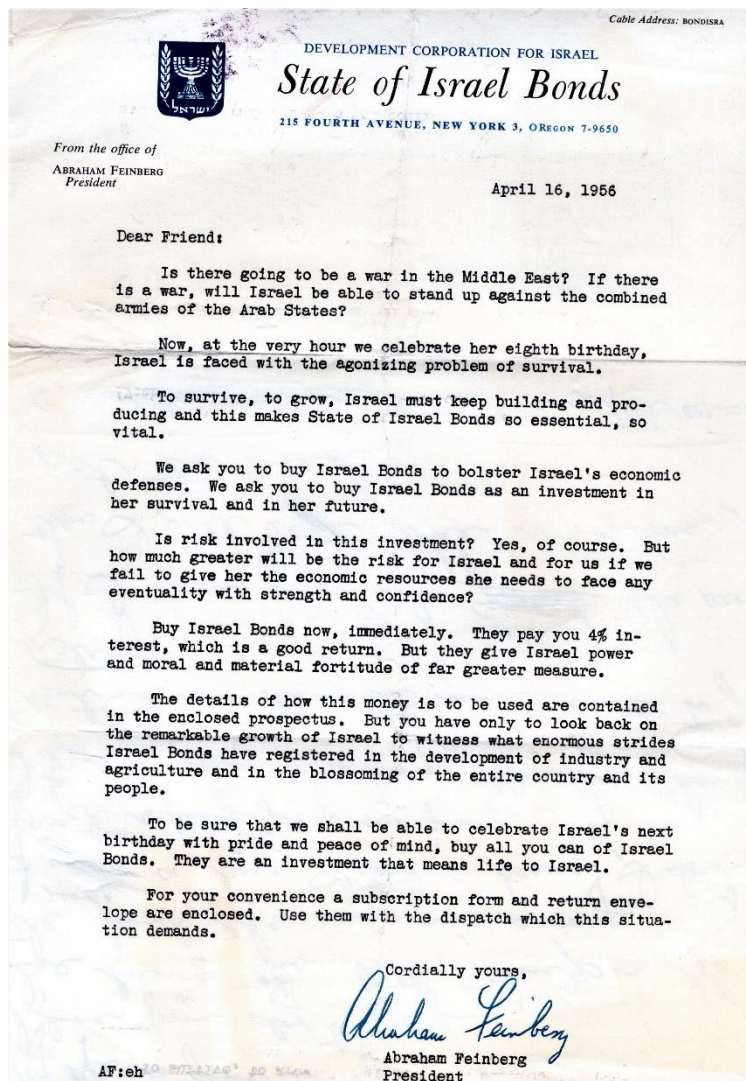
(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



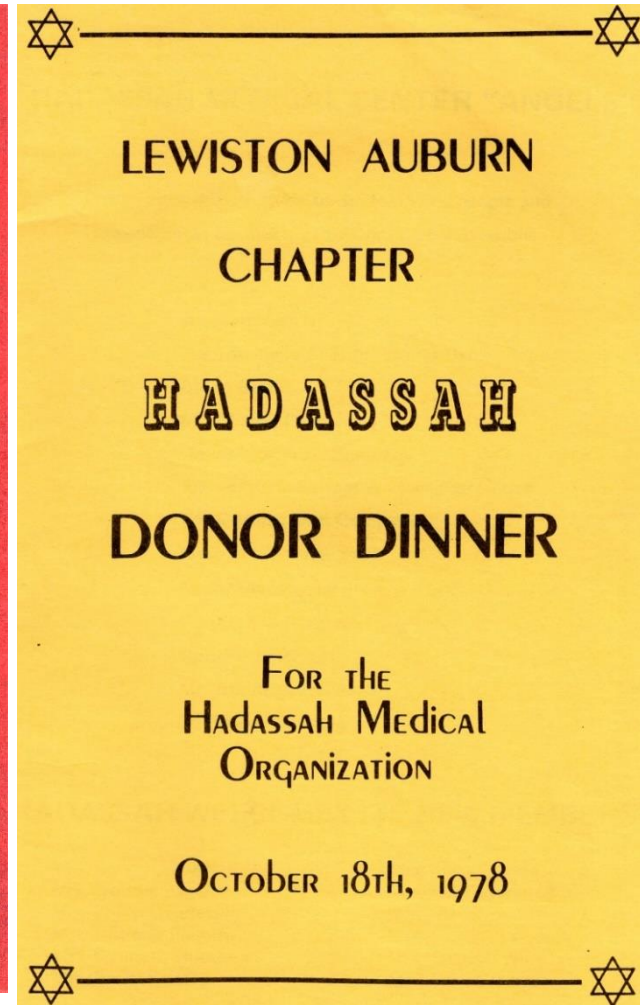
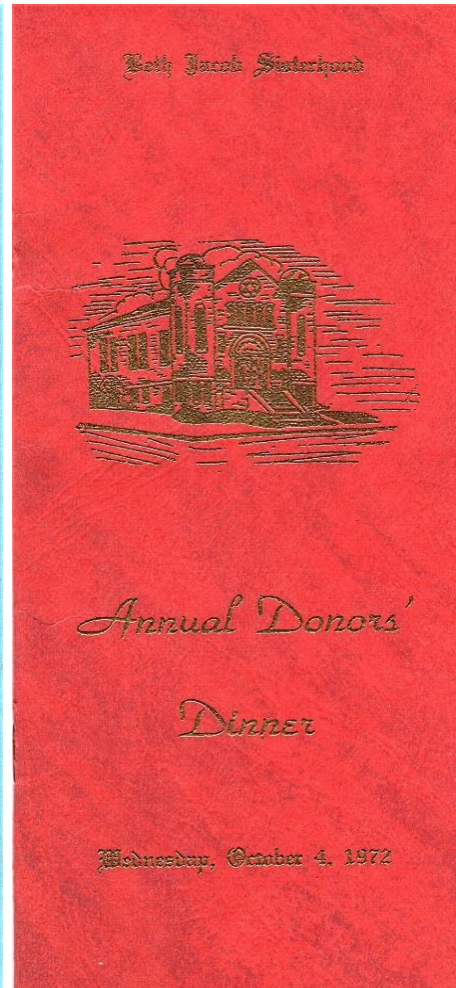
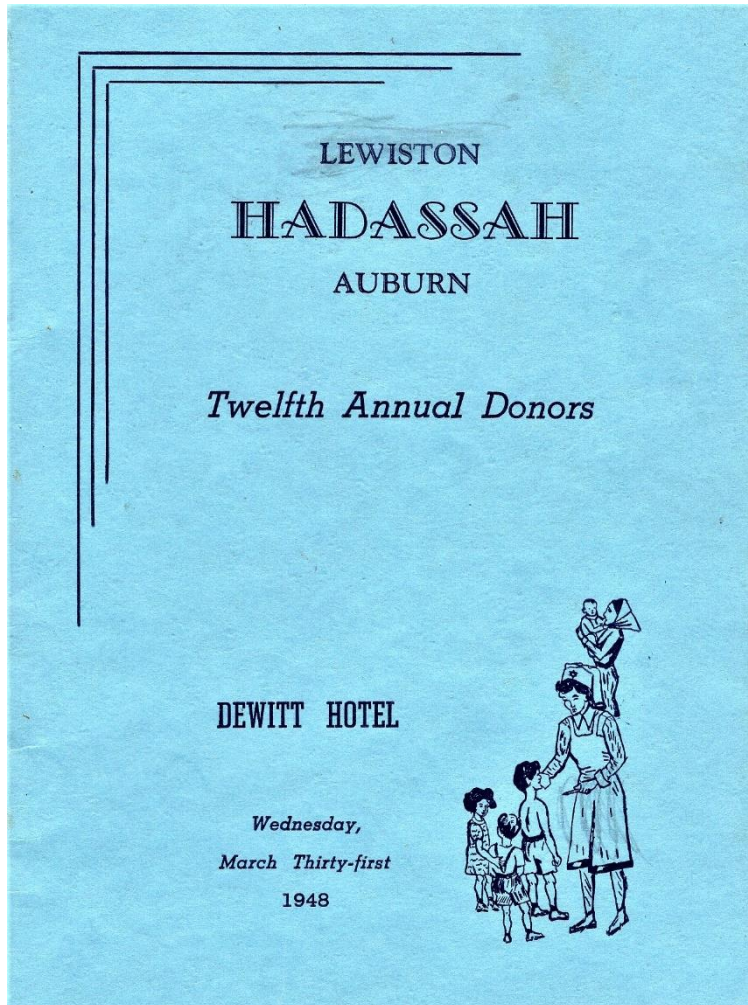
The L-A Jewish community has long been involved in fundraising to support the State of Israel and international Jewry through the Jewish Federation, United Jewish Appeal, B'nai B'rith and the purchase of Israel bonds. Left: the Maine Council of B'nai Brith, including Philip Lown, far left, confers a plaque upon Maine's U.S. Senator and later Secretary of State Edmund Muskie. Right: the opening event for an annual UJA fundraising drive. (photo from Temple Shalom collection)



An April 16, 1956 letter, left, from the Israel Development Corporation, sent to members of the local Jewish community just six months prior to the Sinai War between Israel and Egypt, urged them to purchase State of Israel bonds to bolster the country's "economic defenses." The 1981 publication of "Incredible Edibles," a cookbook of recipes gathered by the L-A Hadassah chapter, raised money for cancer research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel. Pictured on right, left to right, are Paulyn Rosenthal, Judy Abromson, June Margolin and Carol Berman.



Donor dinners, such as those shown in the programs of the Lewiston-Auburn Chapter of Hadassah, 1948 and 1978, and the Beth Jacob Sisterhood, 1972, were major fundraisers for the two synagogues and other Jewish causes.



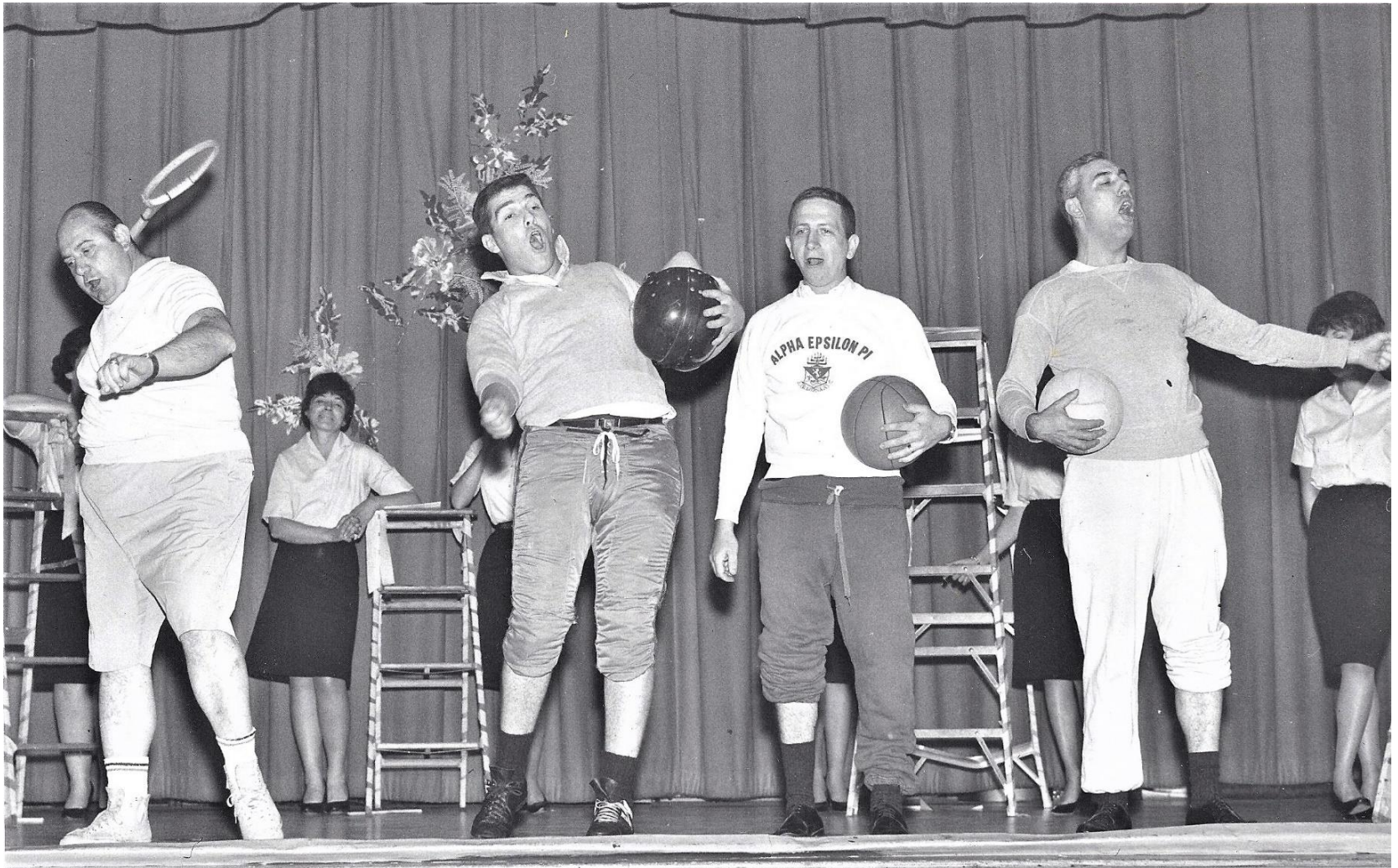
JCC New Year's Eve dances, like those in 1960, left, and 1969, right, were gala affairs that were well attended. Pictured in the 1969 photo are: seated left to right, Estelle Rubenstein, unknown guest, Elaine (Mrs. Warren) Baker, Barbara Plavin, Harriet Passerman; standing left to right, Eileen Rosenblatt, Murray Rubenstein, Stanley Bernard, Harriet Bernard, unknown guest, Elaine (Mrs. Leroy) Baker, Shirley Goodman, Joel Goodman, Warren Baker, Leroy (Sonny) Baker, Maury Plavin, Steve Passerman.

(photos from Temple Shalom collection)



The Center Players staged many musicals at the JCC. Pictured in this 1966 photo, left to right, are Buddy Appelbaum, Sonny Shibles (rear), Aaron Burke, Gary Jacobson and Joel Goodman.

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



This 1966 JCC photo depicts a cross-section of the type of businessmen – shoe manufacturers and small retailers -- that continued to provide dependable financial support for the Center and Lewiston-Auburn's two synagogues through the 1980s: left to right, are Stuart Cohen and Norman Izenstatt (both from the shoe industry) and Julius Wise (a Lisbon Street merchant). Pictured on the far right, Joel Abromson (son of Food Town co-owner John Abromson) was illustrative of another trend -- the tendency of the younger generation of L-A Jews to move to larger urban centers. Abromson, whose family was a pillar of the local Jewish community, was raised in Auburn but settled in the Portland area, where he and his wife, Linda, became deeply involved in local and state politics and civic affairs. He served four terms in the Maine State Senate from 1995 until his death in 2002. (photo from Temple Shalom collection)



JCC Women's League sponsors Red Cross Bloodmobile drive.

(photo from Temple Shalom collection)



Enjoying JCC art shows: left, Ina and Jack Martel (1969); right, Phyllis and Leonard Bell.
The painting displayed on the right by the renown wartime British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was so valuable it was guarded around the clock.

(photos from Temple Shalom collection)



Lewiston-Auburn Jews were active in non-Jewish civic, service and social organizations. In the photo on the left, Philip Isaacson, standing, 2d from left, his brother-in-law, Samuel Simonds, standing, 5th from left, and, sitting, far left, Saul Shapiro, are pictured at a Lewiston Masonic Lodge ceremony. In the photo on the right, Isaacson's mother, Goldie, is pictured, standing, second row, 4th from left, at the installation of officers of the Mt. Olivet Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in 1962.

(photos from private collection of the Estate of Marilyn Isaacson Simonds)



This newspaper article from the 1970s reported the election of Michael Abromson to the governing board of St. Mary's General Hospital in Lewiston. Abromson's naming to the board of a Catholic hospital illustrates the extent of involvement of local Jews in the broader community, especially in the post-World War II era. A co-owner of the Food Town supermarket chain, he was not only a director of Beth Jacob Synagogue and the Jewish Community Center but served on the United Way board and as co-chairman for businesses of the Joint Hospital Fund Campaign before being named to the St. Mary's board.

Two Are Elected To St. Mary's Gov. Board



MALCOLM W. PHILBROOK JR.

Michael Abromson and Malcolm W. Philbrook Jr. were elected members of the Governing Board of St. Mary's General Hospital at the board's bi-monthly meeting.

Former members of the Advisory Board, they were added to the Governing Board in its expansion from 11 to 13 voting members, according to Guy A. Hartnett, president.

"We are most fortunate in obtaining the services and counsel of these two prominent community leaders," Hartnett said. "They have participated conscientiously and with great interest on hospital committees in their previous capacity."

"We look forward to their able assistance on the Governing Board, knowing they will bring with them both the experience in hospital and community affairs and the personal qualifications that will be very beneficial to us."

Abromson

Abromson, director of FoodTown, Inc. is an Auburn native who was assistant to the director, meat operations, and assistant to the buyer, at Hannaford Brothers. He attended Tabor Academy at Marion, Mass.; Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill., and Boston University, where he received a B.A. degree in business administration.

Abromson is a member of the



MICHAEL ABROMSON

board of directors of the Jewish Community Center, Beth Jacob Synagogue and the United Way. He was co-chairman for businesses in the Joint Hospital Fund Campaign. His wife is the former Judy Williams of Chicago, and they have two sons, Ricky and Danny.

Philbrook

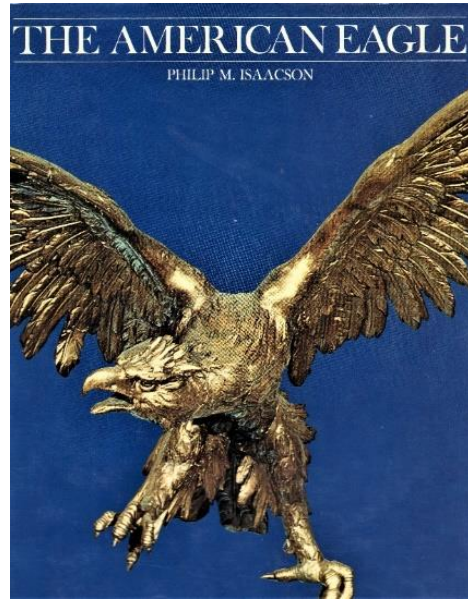
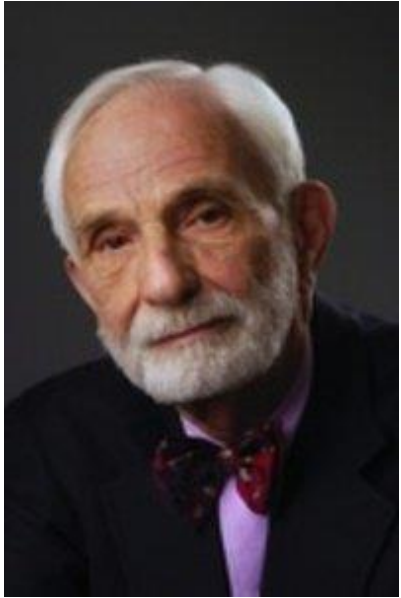
Malcolm Philbrook, Jr. is a partner in the law firm of Crockett and Philbrook. Until October of 1974, he was vice president and trust officer of Northeast Bank.

Also an Auburn native, Philbrook is a graduate of Edward Little High School, who attended Bates College, and graduated from Boston University School of Law.

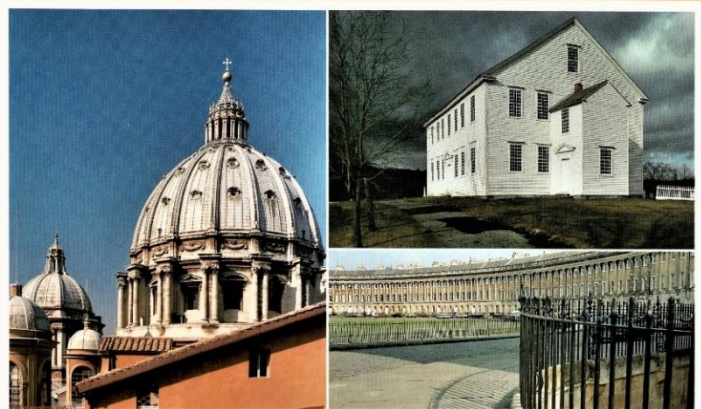
Philbrook is a member and past president of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club; past president and member of the Edward Little Alumni Association; director of the Auburn Grandstand Club; chairman of the Auburn Recreation Study Facilities Committee; and trustee of High Street Congregational Church.

He is married to the former Sandra Gibson of Lewiston, and they have six children, Deborah, Sharon, Linda, Michael, Pamela and Karen.

Philip Isaacson (1924-2013) had a lifelong passion for art and architecture. Although highly respected as an attorney like his father Harris, with whom he practiced law in Lewiston following his return from World War II military service and Harvard Law School, he was even more widely recognized and acclaimed for his avocation as a author, columnist, photographer, and advocate for the arts. The Maine Times dubbed him "Maine's most cultured man." He authored three richly illustrated, widely read books, whose covers are pictured below, which were published in 1975, 1988 and 1993.

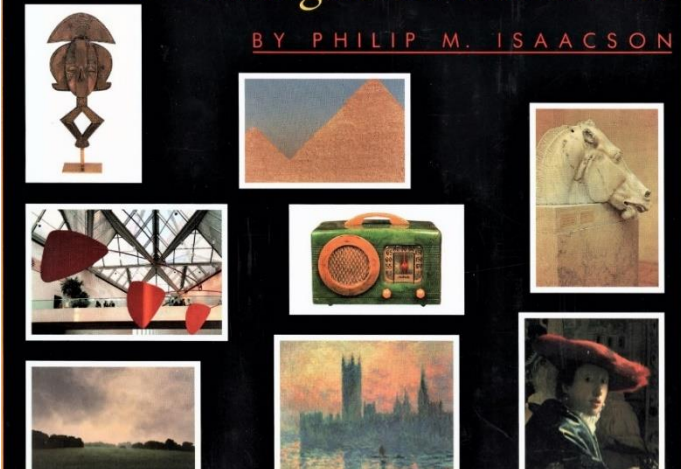


Round Buildings,
Square Buildings, &
Buildings That Wiggle Like a Fish



A Short Walk Around the Pyramids
& Through the World of Art

BY PHILIP M. ISAACSON



Isaacson was also an avid skier, climber and traveler. At age 85, he climbed Mt. Washington with his children and grandchildren.

(photo from private collection of the Estate of Philip M. Isaacson)



In 2006, Marilyn Isaacson Simonds, a lifelong resident of Lewiston-Auburn and an active member of the local Jewish community, was one of four people chosen from around the country to receive the prestigious National Child Labor Committee's Lewis Hine award for her decades of volunteer work with children, disabled adults and immigrants. Over her lifetime, she contributed her energy, time and skills to the creation and growth of many L-A social service organizations, including Head Start, Pathways, Inc., Book Reach and the Adult Learning Center.

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THE LEWIS HINE AWARDS 2006

NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

Volunteer

Marilyn Isaacson Simonds

Auburn, Maine

ABOVE ALL ELSE in her life, Marilyn Simonds works with children.

She has worked with Head Start as a teacher, and has served as a volunteer in southern Maine for over ten years. She participated in the Read-In at a local school, coming every week to meet individually with children. At the public libraries in Auburn and Lewiston, she has played a vital role in establishing the BookReach program for early childhood literacy.

Marilyn has contributed 30 years of her life to an organization called Pathways, Inc., on whose board she was a founding member. Pathways reaches out to children with special needs, helping these children become part of their larger community.

Consider immigrant families from Somalia coming into a town where there is little support, virtually no connection to their new homes and long, cold winters. Ponder the adult who is freshly settled, but cannot speak English. How do these families express their needs? How do they get help?

In the course of tutoring adults in a new language at the Adult Learning Center, Marilyn often hears of a family's need for food, warm clothing, furniture, bedding and medical care. She takes note, and works hard to connect these families to food pantries, clothing sources, and affordable health care providers.

Some needs are not so clear-cut as literacy and the need for the bare essentials of life. For decades, she has mentored girls at a reform facility, the Stevens Training School. Sometimes she even takes them into her own home. She has served as a leader of youth groups for children at a shelter for abused women.

Marilyn Isaacson Simonds keeps a close and caring watch on the children and families in her community who need help. And so it has been for 30 years in the southern Maine communities of Lewiston and Auburn. ■



"When something needs to be done for children in the community, Marilyn steps forward to help and to mobilize all of the resources necessary."

—Pam Beliveau

Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors for
Androscoggin Head Start and Childcare in
Lewiston, Maine

Nominated by

Pamella Starbird Beliveau

Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors,
Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care

A 1987 news article, right, featured the work of Tom Platz, left, Auburn native, architect and real estate developer, who renovated the former Peck's Department Store building on Main Street in Lewiston into an L.L. Bean telemarketing center. He later purchased, renovated and rejuvenated the historic Bates Mill complex in the heart of Lewiston's downtown.

(photo from Platz Associates website)



4: DOING MORE WITH LESS: 1990 TO THE PRESENT

In 1982 Temple Shalom (pictured below in 2015) on Bradman Road in Auburn opened its doors, replacing Beth Jacob Synagogue and the JCC. This occurred at a time when the local Jewish population was still at its peak, numbering well over 1,000. By the end of the decade, due to changes in the local economy (notably the offshoring of shoe manufacturing and replacement of family-owned retail stores by malls and chain stores) and to broader demographic trends (the shift in Jewish population from small cities and towns to larger urban areas), the number of Jews living and working in L-A and hence synagogue membership went into decline. Currently Temple Shalom has fewer than 100 member families but has learned to do more with less. Thanks to the inspired leadership of Rabbi Sruli Dresdner, able assistance of Rebbetzin Lisa Dresdner, and dedication and enthusiasm of the congregation, Temple Shalom has continued to hold regular religious services and maintain a robust program of educational, social and cultural events.

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Stained-glass Ark door of Temple Shalom Sanctuary

(photo from Documenting Maine Jewry website)



Rabbi Sruli and Rebbetzin Lisa Dresdner playing at a Temple Shalom musical Shabbat service in 2016.

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Rabbi Sruli Dresner teaching a Hebrew school class at Temple Shalom (2016)

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Succoth holiday celebration at Temple Shalom (2015)

Pictured in the Succa (booth), left to right, are Rabbi Sruli Dresdner, David Allen, Lesli Weiner and Ellen Burke.

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Chanukah celebration at Temple Shalom (2017)

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Lighting the Chanukah Menorah at Temple Shalom (2016)

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



Temple Shalom member Sheri Olstein blows the Shofar (ram's horn) used to mark the solemnity of the Jewish high holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

(photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen)



The COVID-19 epidemic of 2020 and 2021 forced Temple Shalom to suspend in-person gatherings. Religious services and other events were conducted remotely or, when weather permitted, outdoors. Pictured in September 2020 holding Torah scrolls are: top, left to right, Laurence and Bonnie Faiman and Harriet and Behzad Fakhery; below, left to right, David Allen and Bertha Bodenheimer. (photos by Phyllis Graber Jensen)

