

Our Family History in the
Tree of Life Synagogue
as told by Mildred Gould Reichman



Mildred Gould Reichman
Family / Tree of Life History
August 27, 1976 To January 1977

Tape 1 - Side 1

Today is August 27th, 1976. I am Mildred Gould Reichman. Born October 29th, 1901, Pittsburgh, PA, in the Tree of Life Synagogue at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ross Street, in 1901.

My parents were Abraham A. Goldstein and Anna Goldstein, who were then the Sexton and Hebrew teacher of the Tree of Life congregation and living in quarters right in the Synagogue.

My father and mother came to the United States approximately eighteen hundred and eighty (1880). They were married in Europe and fled across the border in - did I say approximately 1880 - and coming to America was their honeymoon. They went directly to Chicago where his brother, Louis Mishkin lived.

Now, Mishkin was actually the family name because my grandparents were Chayim and Rochel Mishkinsky of Sanai, Poland. And when my father came to America, he landed at the same time with some other relations who were named Goldstein. Therefore, the immigrant specialist on Ellis Island said, "You stand over there and your name's Goldstein." And that's how we became Goldstein. However, Mishkin is actually the family name and the family in Chicago go by that name.

Father went to Chicago to join his brother, whom he thought, God knows, was a millionaire or something. And the only way he could make a living was by peddling matches.

Now here was this scholar who was only brought up to be a scholar, who came to Chicago and his only worldly belongings were a set of very valuable books. It was a treasure. There were two sets. Eleven volumes of Tanach, the complete Old Testament, plus five volumes of commentary by Rashi. They're very valuable today and on the shelves in the Herman Hailperin Library at Duquesne University. I'll tell you about that later.

Now going back to my grandparents. Chayim Mishkin and his wife Rochel didn't come to the United States until many, many years later. They were about the oldest couple in this part of the state. I don't have the exact dates, but they celebrated a seventy-first wedding anniversary when they lived with the family in McKeesport, my brother's sister. Chayim was very, very tall. And he was a contractor, called Chayim the Mishkiner. Mishkin means contractor. So he was known for that.

Now, to go back to the collection of books. When my father was a student in Europe he heard about these books and he walked eleven miles in order to get them and pawned his overcoat in order to get these books. And Rabbi Hailperin knew the whole story and knew the value of those books. The reason I'm telling you this now is that he appreciated them. And then that was the reason that we gave them to him later. Father treasured those books more than anything in the world.

He was most unhappy in Chicago and heard about a position that was open at the Tree of Life Synagogue. The Tree of Life Synagogue was established in Pittsburgh in 1864. And then they finally bought a building at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. And when father came here he was established in those rooms as a teacher.

Alexander Fink was President at that time and he was partly responsible for breaking away from Rodef Shalom Temple earlier and the Synagogue at that time was actually known as Fink's Shul.

Five children were born there, in those rooms. My sister, Eva, who later became Mrs. Samuel S. Cohen, was born in 1883. My brother, Sam, in 1886. My brother, Nathan, in 1890. And my sister, Jessie, in 1892. I came along in 1901. I was the only one delivered by a doctor. All the others were delivered by Bubbe Chanah and Mrs. Karnovsky, or the popular midwives of the day.

I was born the year that McKinley was shot. So that was... If anybody ever asked me how old I was – I was born the year that McKinley was shot.

I don't remember very much about Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. But my brother describes the frequent visits of Mrs. Karnovsky there. She was a very good friend of my mother.

And the atmosphere of the home... The kitchen was a family room with a partition. The living room had beds. And I remember the gaslight mantels. We had an outhouse. The washtub in the kitchen and baths every Saturday. A summer kitchen outside. My brother, Sam Gould, told me all this. And the hot plate to heat water and a coal stove to cook with.

Father studied most of the day and he supervised the maintenance man who was an ex-slave. And they had many, many stories to talk about.

Mother's biggest task was cleaning the silver for the Torahs. And I inherited that many years later.

We were not exactly too observ... We were Orthodox, but not too observant. We kept a kosher home and all of the holidays were observed very beautifully, but I'll go into that later.

In 1904 the Synagogue was sold, and the Curry Building was built at that corner. Today it is the site of the Allegheny County Building. Well, we had to move and my father owned a piece of property in Allegheny at that time. I don't know where he got the money to buy it, but he did own a little piece of property in Allegheny. And we moved to Allegheny. And at that time, my sister, Eva, was married in 1905.

I don't remember too much about the wedding, except that I was a little flower girl in blue, and we went in horses and carriages and I think the synagogue was not demolished yet and the wedding was in... We went back to the synagogue for the wedding.

Rabbi Michael Freed was then the rabbi and we loved him very much. He was young and he came to the synagogue in 1898 until 1906. He was ill and he had to retire and moved to California. And I just remember this very young rabbi who always wore the long frock coat. And I loved him very, very much. And when he came back from California, the first visit – he brought me a Japanese kimono – and I was so excited, and I have a picture of it.

In 1906, approximately, we moved to Craft Avenue. And my brother, the next year – brother Nate went off to Michigan University.

I'm gonna' go back and describe Fourth Avenue and Ross Street a little bit. There were only three rooms. The kitchen was portioned off with two beds. Two boys

and two girls. And then when I was born, the two boys were roomed out with a Catholic family by the name of Neeley, who were our next door neighbors. Catholic.

My mother was very, very close to all these Catholic neighbors. There were no Jewish neighbors. The priest would visit. My father would build a sukkah, and the priest in the neighborhood would visit the sukkah and have wine and cake and fruit.

And Chayim, the Mishkiner, the grandfather, built the first sukkah. They weren't exactly rich, but there was always plenty to eat.

The atmosphere of the home... The kitchen was a family room. I think I'm repeating.

Now when we moved to Craft Avenue, I went to kindergarten. My mother registered me in the Home School. There was nine years difference between Jessie and me so I think my mother lied a little bit and made me older than I was so that I got out of – really got out of grade school at the age of twelve. I wasn't so smart, but I think that's what happened.

Going back to 1909. Nate went to Michigan Agricultural College, thinking he was going to be a agriculturist. But he decided he wanted to be a lawyer. So in 1910, he went to the University of Michigan to study law.

At that time, my brother Sam had been working in New York and New Jersey with the Powers Film Studio. In fact, he was so handsome they wanted to make an actor out of him. But he was a property man. But he didn't like it because there was just too much dope and drugs and drinking and really, it was remarkable the way he talked about how those people lived at that time. There was a great English actor who took an interest in him and advised him to get out and come home.

But he had changed his name to Gould at that time. That was about 1908 or 1909. So that when my brother... When Jessie... I'm ahead of myself. When Nate went to college, he went as Gould.

My sister Jessie was only seventeen-years-old, when a big job was offered to her with a firm in Philadelphia. She graduated when she... She went to business school when she was sixteen, and was smart and looked more older – looked a little older. And she was only seventeen when she to Philadelphia. And she also changed her name. So the whole family changed their names to Gould.

Nate graduated law school and then went on to work in Detroit. And he worked as a social worker for a while. And wasn't ready for a law office. He had no money. But he met the editor of the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle and one of the biggest Federations. His name was Brown. I can't remember his first name.

Anyhow, Nate became quite well known in Detroit. And, with a partner from Pittsburgh, bought and established the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle in Milwaukee because he had experience with the Detroit Jewish Chronicle. And they were friendly with the owner, Mr. Altar, the owner of the Jewish Criterion here.

And it was a natural for him. And he and Kaminsky, a man by the name of Kaminsky, bought the Wisconsin... Established. Established the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle.

And he became a... Nate became a leading personality with the Federation and with all the Jewish community. The temple... He was really a very, very big man in Milwaukee. And, unfortunately, died very young at the age of fifty-one. But left a great heritage there.

Later he became a partner with Irving Rhodes and they also owned the Indianapolis Chronicle and the Kansas City Chronicle.

Going back to some memories of my brother Sam. Back to Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. There were some really wonderful personalities there then. Mr. B. N. Jacobs was the President of the congregation at that time. He was a very elegant English gentleman. My brother Nate was named after him. Mr. M. Arnfeld was Vice-President at the time.

Some of the most prominent families were the Henry Jacksons, the Solomons, who were then Solomon and Ruben, had a big store on Market Street. The Cass Sunsteins, the Isaac Elders, the Mark Browarskys, and...

It was a time of elegance. The big men – the big shots of the synagogue wore their Prince Albert coats and high silk hats and came to synagogue with horse drawn carriages.

And Mr. Jacobs would always give my father his... When he'd get a new Prince Albert, he'd give my father the... My father always appeared in a Prince Albert. Either from Mr. Jacobs or from one of the other men who were the President. They always saw that father had a Prince Albert. So my father was known as a wing-collar Prince Albert wearer.

My brother remembers when these rich families would come and the children were so dressed up that they would take their wraps and put them on my parent's bed down in the little bedrooms behind the shul because they wanted to make sure.

But, H. H. Livingston, I remember very well. Of course, that was Craft Avenue. With a frock coat and he wore the high gray high hat and a gold-topped cane. He was a

very little man with a beautiful English cut beard, and he wore a gray cravat. And, oh, my goodness, he was such a elegant gentleman.

Now, they lived on North Neville Street, where the present Samson Funeral Parlor is today. And not too much of the building – the style of the building was changed. Because I remember on some Saturdays...

Like once a month, the Livingstons would invite my mother, and my mother would take me with my great big ribbon and I would always be thrilled to go to Livingston's house for a drink – for tea – on Saturday afternoon. And I can remember so well that the windows went from the floor to the ceiling and those tremendously high, high ceilings. And those windows with the long white curtains. And everytime I go to Samson's I remind myself of those windows. They're still there.

Some of the other rich members were the Rosenbloom family. The Sol Rosenbloom families of Braddock. They took up two pews. They were very, very rich. Henry Jackson, that was one at one time President of the congregation, he had the first phonograph in Pittsburgh. He played records on wax cylinder recordings and a large brass horn and he would bring it to the synagogue. And for Hanukkah he would entertain by playing bell chimes and organ pieces.

Regardless of the weather, the kids – boys and girls – came to Hebrew School regularly. The kids would come frozen. And – I'm going back to Fourth Avenue and Ross Street – and they would stand in front of the big, common coal stove and thaw out.

I did name the families.

At that time they established a cemetery in Sharpsburg. And Mark and Rosa Browarsky built the chapel that stands there now.

One other historical fact about Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. There were Biddle boys. The Biddle boys were in the County jail for some crime and the Warden's wife, Mrs. Soffel, fell in love with the Biddle boys and she ran away with them. And that was a big scandal of the time. And my brother and the kids used to run over to the jail all the time. She left five boys and two girls and went... The children went to the South School and the kids would come to school everyday and ask my brother if they knew if they ever found her mother. This was a reminiscence of my brother that he remembered the big scandal of the day.

Another reminiscence of my brother Sam was the priest. When the priest would call on the Catholic neighbors, the neighbors would bring the priest over to our house and father would say kiddush, and they would discuss religion and all was pleasant and friendly with the Catholic neighbors.

The Spanish-American War came about that time and things began to change. The 18th Regiment throughout all the Civil War, uniforms and equipment. And the kids had a ball with – everybody had an old uniform.

Just a few years later Rabbi Coffey came and a new era started. That was at the time that H. H. Livingston was the dapper gentleman on the pulpit. Isaac Gross became the President.

Going back to the Livingston's. There was a son, Dillinger Livingston. And Dillinger... I don't know which came first - Dillinger Whiskey or Dillinger Livingston. (Laughs) And Dillinger was the best dressed boy in Pittsburgh. And he wore black silk stockings.

And all my brother wanted was... He wanted to live to the day when he would dress like Dillinger Livingston, and...

Well, he didn't wear black silk stockings, but believe me at the time when Sam started to earn money, he couldn't get to a custom-made tailor fast enough to buy English tweeds like Dillinger Livingston used to wear. And then my brother became the English tweed wearer, and everybody knew Sam Gould for his beautiful English tweeds.

One little bit of humor. My brother's task in those days (Laughs)... In the old shul, they had spittoons everywhere because everybody chewed and spit and everything else. And my brother's job was to clean those spittoons and when he tells that story, you can really howl. It's very funny. But he had... What a job he had! But that was his job.

And when I grew up and went to school, my job... I took over my mother's task of polishing the Torah silver.

Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffey arrived about 1906 and left, I think, in 1915. Now, those years were the real balabusta years of the people who – the Jews who lived in Oakland and were beginning to migrate to the East End section. And Squirrel Hill was so young at that time. But there was a beginning of a migration starting about 1916.

There was no rabbi between '15 and '16. And Rabbi Coffey came back for my confirmation in 1916. There were all of nine confirmants. Six boys and three girls.

During the years 1915 and 1918, when I went to Fifth Avenue for two years and Schenley High School for two years, my father took me out of Hebrew... I was just learning to read Hebrew in the second class when the... Whoever was teaching the alef beis class got sick and he pulled me out and I had to take care of the alef beis class. So for three years I taught kindergarten Hebrew alef beis – a bah gah da.

In the meantime, I was not learning Hebrew myself. I could read and that was about it. But I earned two dollars and a half the first year – a month. And five dollars a month the second. And ten dollars a month the third year that I taught. And that was really my spending money and I was very proud.

I had a very happy high school time at Schenley High School. I was popular – sorta' - kinda'. I was a cheerleader with Pauline Lewis Hirsch. I couldn't make the team, so I tried out for cheerleader and I made it. I tried out for the class play and I really got a big part, and I made it. I was active in all the stunt days for high school and it was wartime and it was great do-without days. Sugarless days. And ration days and all that.

In 1918 I graduated and immediately went to work for the Asbestos Protected Metal Company, which is now the H. H. Robertson Company, because Jessie was then the private secretary to Mr. Robertson, the President. And, incidentally, she was private secretary to Mr. Robertson for thirty-five years until he died.

My sister Eva became Mrs. Samuel S. Cohen. And became a most active woman later. She had four children. Robert. Iona, who is now Mrs. David Kaufman. Howard Cohen, who now lives in Harrisburg, he works for the State. And Florence Cohen Riesberg.

My sister Eva died in 1936, very young, of cancer at the age of fifty-two. She was most active in the Council of Jewish Women, a charter member of Pittsburgh Hadassah, and held various offices there. She was most active with the Pittsburgh House of Shelter and was a most popular, very sweet, loved woman. She was a Chairman of the Rosa Raisa Concert at the Mosque, held by Hadassah. And the first attempt of any Jewish organization to bring a great artist to Pittsburgh. It was held at Syria Mosque and

it was a huge success. And I'll never forget, every time we walked to her house... She lived on Wellsford Square at the time. The telephone was always buzzing and she was always busy with tickets, tickets, tickets.

It was an interesting thing and an opening of... I don't remember the year. But it was the opening of something tremendous here and Eva was a very, very wonderful Chairman.

My brother Sam married Nellie Goldstein, who was a very distant cousin, from Bellevue. And he worked then as a... He was a magazine salesman. I remember Forbes Magazine. He sold that as a - magazine. It was a finance magazine. And he became an expert salesman. He worked for the United Drug Company. United Cigar. He had a booth at May's in 1913, at the corner of Fifth and Smithfield. And he was very, very popular there.

Of course, during the war he had to quit and go to the mill or else he had to go to the service. He had a... Corrine was born... I forget how old she is. I think Corrine's sixty-two or sixty-three now.

My brother then went with the Simon Fisher Company where he really learned the grocery business. Very closely associated with Jay Feldstein. And later became... Went with the Rom and Sons and became the sales manager of Rom's, which position he held until he retired. And was very... He had a very happy association there.

Sam had two child... Three children. Corrine. And then nine years later came Allan. And nine years later came Rita.

Sam was a life member of the Tree of Life. He passed away at the age of eighty-eight on May 21st and, of course, because he was born in a synagogue, his funeral service was held in the chapel at the Tree of Life. An honor which really befitted the family.

Sam didn't take an active part in the life of the Tree of Life because he said while my father was living, he didn't want to be part of anything, because he might say the wrong thing. And when I got active in the synagogue then he said, "Let my sister do it." But Sam lived a beautiful, beautiful full wonderful life.

Going back to my family. Jessie came home from Philadelphia and became associated with the then Asbestos Protected Metal Company. And after two years became private secretary to Mr. H. H. Robertson. And she was there for thirty-five years. The company was later changed to the H. H. Robertson Company. When he died she was dismissed to take care of his widow. And Jessie didn't go back to work. She should have. And she passed away in 1965.

Jessie was, I think the... If they had the ten best dressed women in those days, she would have been number one. She was a beautiful, beautiful outstanding woman. A champion golf player, but never married, and didn't mix too much in Tree of Life things. She was rather an independent person who traveled to Europe and South Africa before any of the other gals did that. She was really an outstanding person.

My brother Nathan – settled in Milwaukee – and established a paper there and, unfortunately, died very young at the age of fifty-one in 1941. He had three daughters. And one lives in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco. And his wife is still living in Milwaukee. And, incidentally, his wife Margaret, was a high school companion of mine

and we both acted in the class play, *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*. She was a very, very beautiful girl.

My father was a very colorful personality and the best way I can describe him is to read an article that was published in the *Outlook* at the time, October 1953, and written by Rabbi Herman Hailperin, who was such a... Who considered my father actually a god. He just loved my father. And he says...

“We now set out to paint the broad strokes on the canvas of Pittsburgh Jewish history of the life of the synagogue sexton and Hebrew teacher most unique in the records of American Jewish history. A sexton who knew Shakespeare and Talmud. Who possessed a collection of guns. Who owned a loaded revolver and could use it. Who knew the world and human beings around him without ever leaving the confines of his home and synagogue. Who was an expert Hebraist and teacher. Who corresponded with two great Presidents of the United States. And who was ever-conscious of having a sacred mission in life. How can I ever forget, quoting Rabbi Hailperin, the early Saturday morning meetings over coffee in the old Goldstein kitchen above the old Tree of Life Synagogue on Craft Avenue. Where we once gathered to plan for school and prayer are now the actor’s dressing rooms of the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

[A little addition, there is no more Pittsburgh Playhouse.]

We often say that a man creates his own position in life. This is so true of the late Abraham A. Goldstein, sexton and Hebrew teacher of the Tree of Life Congregation for more than fifty years. That he was a sexton and Hebrew teacher is a literal fact. But that he was a veritable minister with a high mission in life is a

spiritual fact. No rabbi was ever respected by his congregation any more than was the late Mr. Goldstein. He demands the request because of his learning, his sincerity, and his life-long devotion to the Tree of Life congregation.

Born in Lithuania in 1857, he came to Chicago from Sanai, Lithuania in 1880. As a rule the office of sexton is not of great significance in the history of the Jewish congregation. But in 1884 an incident took place in the history of the Tree of Life which was destined to become an event of importance many decades later. In that year, Alexander Fink, the congregation's President, extended an invitation to Mr. Goldstein to become sexton and Hebrew teacher. Until his death in 1938, for fifty-four uninterrupted years Mr. Goldstein acted as teacher, counselor, and friend to thousands of persons who in the course of half a century were affiliated with the congregation. He taught Hebrew to several thousand boys and girls and prepared hundreds of boys for bar mitzvah. Among those boys are some of Pittsburgh's most prominent business and professional men.

In the career of Abraham Goldstein, the late Mrs. Goldstein was an ardent and ideal helpmate. She cheerfully shared in the many trials of the congregation in the spirit of consecrated Jewish motherhood, Mrs. Goldstein always took a personal interest in the welfare of every man, woman, and child in the Tree of Life family. Their whole married life was spent in service to their faith and community here in Pittsburgh.

In connection with the seventieth anniversary of the Tree of Life, the Goldstein Jubilee was celebrated Tuesday evening, March 20, 1934. It was a glorious evening marked by the return of Mr. Goldstein's old grads. Those who

were present that night will never forget the powerful tribute that was paid to the Goldsteins on that evening.

It is worthy of recording here the precise words used by the celebrant in his response. "An occasion such as this must begin with a well-known blessing, 'Praise be thou, O Lord, our God, Ruler of the Universe who hath given us life, who hath sustained us, who hath permitted us to reach this season.' No one will charge me with egotism and self-glory if I say that this occasion is historical. After all, how often do we find synagogues celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their shamus. And how old altogether is the synagogue? It has only reached its seventieth birthday and I have been privileged to possess fifty out of those seventy years. This is indeed a momentous occasion for me. Although I see and speak to you and your dear families as individuals, the opportunity of a public message such as is granted to me on this important night is rare and outstanding and brings to me a realization that this is my time to give expression to my feelings. But what can I say to you on such an historic event? I've lived through a period of Jewish life in America to see the beginning and many trials and growing pains of our people. I have seen this congregation in its periods of ups and downs. Having seen ups and downs and having seen downs and ups, I therefore, naturally, refuse to say that the present down is the end of it. No. Positively not. Suppose someone were to say to me as follows, 'You, as a sexton and teacher in the Tree of Life, you have labored all kinds of situations during these fifty years. You have tried to serve our cause according to the best of your abilities. If you could have one wish. If that wish could be granted. What would

that one wish be?' Dear friends, I do not hesitate to tell you that as sexton and teacher of our beloved congregation for fifty years, I am now ready to express one, single, unique wish. A wish that if I could be certain would be fulfilled by you and those who come after you, would make my declining years very happy.

What do I mean? If I were a hundred percent selfish person, I suppose I would say to myself as follows: My time is nearing the end. I have done my duty as I have seen fit. Inasmuch as I will be through with it all after I am called to the great beyond. Why should I worry what happens after I am gone? But, dear friends, I have watched with care and affection the continued growth, almost from infancy, of a fine noble, strong, and firm institution. And now as I view it full grown in its traditions and accomplishments my gravest concern is its future developments and power to carry on the good work. Therefore, my single wish would be simply this: That in my declining years I shall be strengthened by your conduct such as will lead me to believe, to trust and to hope that after I am gone the congregation will continue a life of usefulness and inspiration to those who come after us. My age and my disposition that I hold both give me the right and the privilege to bless you. I extend my blessing to every member of the congregation and all the families. I extend my blessings to the officers and leaders of the congregation and sisterhood. I invoke God's blessing upon our cantor, who has been with me for more than half of my half century. And last, but not least, I wish to bless our rabbi who was our first rabbi with his longest record of service that he may in his day see signs and evidence that my one single and unique wish may come true.'

I always [this is a quote from Rabbi Hailperin] marveled at Mr. Goldstein's realistic grasp of world affairs and the behavior of human beings, though he rarely left his home and synagogue. It is no exaggeration to say that he perhaps never left Pittsburgh more than five times in his whole lifetime. When I would listen to his profound grasp of human problems, I would always remind myself of Emmanuel Kant, the greatest philosopher of the last three hundred years, who rarely ever left his native city of Koneigsburg. And on these occasions not more than ten miles away from the city.

Mr. Goldstein's collection of guns can be explained simply as his own way of expressing his basic interest in mechanics and the way in which machines work. It was simply an expression of a suppressed desire. Cleaning the guns was a ritual. He polished, oiled, and cleaned them every week. The boys and girls of the Hebrew school used to come up to the Goldstein apartment to look with great interest on those guns.

The use of the revolver is a special story in itself. In the 1880's the congregation was much worried over the practice of robbing graves after the new burials. So the Tree of Life sexton used to go out to the old cemetery on Kittanning Pike, a wilderness in those days, to spend the night to ward off intruders and possible thieves. Mr. Goldstein had with him a friend, Old Man Green, two revolvers, a bottle of whiskey, a deck of cards, and with these they would often have to walk that great distance because there was no other way of going.

Abraham Goldstein's most favorite books were Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward" and Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea." He knew those books almost by heart. It was this same person who knew the Hebrew Bible from cover to cover and was very intimate with the Babylonian Talmud.

It is true to say that this unusual subject of today's story was perhaps better acquainted with the actual real world than the so-called men of affairs just because he was detached throughout his mature life from the everyday humdrum which blinds the eyes and confuses the periods of so many.

In 1917, during the First World War, Mr. Goldstein presented the plans of the United States Navy which received serious comment and acknowledgement from Josephus Daniels, the then Secretary of the Navy. It was a plan suggesting the use of a special interest in the bow of the warship which would be sensitive to the ripples created in the water a great distance away by a passing submarine. Local engineers and technologists were amazed at Mr. Goldstein's creative original mind. Though this former Yeshiva bocher lacked the mechanical experience and know-how to give material expression to his theory.

On November 15th, 1932, Mr. Goldstein wrote a detailed letter to President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, outlining a plan which would help to bring the economic depression to an end. The present writer had little to do with some of the externalities and rhetoric of that letter. On January 17, 1933, the letter was answered by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Goldstein are most fortunate in the respect they receive from their children. The annual Passover seder in their apartment above the old Craft Avenue synagogue was a great event attended by admiring children and grandchildren. Their son, the late Nathan Gould, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin made a great contribution to the field of Jewish journalism. Here in Pittsburgh one of their daughters, Mrs. Samuel H. Reichman, has distinguished herself in the sisterhood and other Jewish civic leadership.

Those of us who knew and worked with Abraham Goldstein will long remember the man who on shabbas and holy days regularly wore his Prince Albert. Who never changed his standup collar style. And who looked upon his office as if he was the President of a World Federation of Nations. Mr. Goldstein passed away at the age of eighty-one. The funeral service was a public tribute in the old Craft Avenue synagogue.”

And to add my little personal comment. I must add about the kitchen table in Craft Avenue was like a League of Nations table. I remember when I went to visit the Pan-American Building in Washington, D.C., I saw... It was the largest oval table I ever saw in my life with high-backed chairs of each South American country. And when I saw it the first time, I said, “Oh! This reminds me of my parents’ kitchen table.”

I found some notes reminiscing about Craft Avenue. Not important, but I might as well tell them. I remember when we got to Craft Avenue, the bathroom... Oh, my goodness! How exciting the bathroom was! And separate rooms – like a palace. And electric lights! A long hall. Must have been sixty feet. What went on in that hall. A

window opened and overlooked the vestry rooms downstairs. We used to sneak looks. And I remember when the Y was organized – the YMHA – and had a large smoker, we listened to the dirty jokes from that window. It was a stag.

Then the YW had a first musical. A beautiful, beautiful affair in the vestry rooms. And all these things we watched from the window from my parent's apartment. There was nine years difference between my sister and Jessie and we had very different interests. But when I was in the first grade at the Home School, when Jessie graduated and went to business school, Nathan went to M.A.C. – well I said all that.

Jessie worked and we had a wonderful dressmaker. Her name was Mrs. Bruff. She lived a few blocks away and she was so imaginative that I wore all of Jessie's hand-me-downs and always looked better than any of the other kids.

My mother loved Rosenbaum's. But in the earlier days she shopped Solomon and Rubens. Solomon was one of our rich members. School was uneventful. I was an average student. Hated night work. Took piano with Athelia Averman Vogel, a very fine teacher, and then Emil Bund. But I wouldn't practice and then in 6-A, I had Miss Doherty. I loved her and she double-promoted me. And then I had it rough the rest of the time.

I loved English. Wrote nice compositions. Bad in arithmetic. And a new manager at the German Club, Marie Hoferman, my best friend... Tree of Life had dancing school Saturday afternoons at McDougal's Hall, Forbes and Craig. And these are some of the little reminiscences of various things that happened.

I remember the sewing group used to meet downstairs and my mother made such wonderful coffee. And the ladies used to just rave about my mother's coffee - made in a

great big enamel coffee pot. And the ladies came... Had several sewing machines that they later gave to Montefiore Hospital. Mrs. Alexander Gordon, Mary Gordon, was the chairman of that sewing group and they really were the beginning of the Montefiore Sewing Group.

I remember... One thing I'll always remember is the Jones and Laughlin, J&L Bessemer, which I sat by the hour and watched. And my mother had these white curtains in the living room and on account of the dirt from the Bessemer, she was forever washing those white curtains. But, oh, they were very beautiful.

And the couch in the... We had a couch in the dining room. And that couch was so busy on Yom Kippur day because Chazan Levine would come up for his rest. And then a couple of the ladies – each one would take a turn on resting on the couch in the dining room.

That dining room had the most beautiful white linen for the various dinners that my mother loved to prepare and loved to do. And I'll never forget the white, white table cloth, the lovely china and silver, and Jessie would always bring the fresh flowers and arrange them. And the old cuckoo clock in the dining room. These are things that are not important, but I just wanted to say.

Going back to the books that my father made Sam promise that he would never part with those books. When Sam moved to an apartment and didn't have shelves, he gave me the books and I had no library, so they were on my third floor. And I knew that Rabbi Hailperin appreciated the value of those books and knew all about them, so I promised to give them to the rabbi for his library, and I did. And when the rabbi gave his

collection to Duquesne University, there are two shelves that I'm very, very proud of that the rabbi had those books re-bound and two shelves of my father's books.

Now, my father loved rubber stamps. And he would always rubber stamp everything he owned. And on the front page of every single one of those books is the rubber stamp of "A. A. Goldstein, Fourth Avenue and Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA." And that is still on the front page. So if you ever go to Duquesne University, Rabbi Hailperin...

End of Tape 1 – Side 1

Tape 1 – Side 2

...Rabbi Hailperin Library. Be sure and look that up. And coming back to some of the books that my father loved so much... He not only knew Jules Verne off by heart and Sherlock Holmes, but he read and re-read and re-read all the Dumas shelf. We had a whole shelf of Dumas and we had a whole shelf of the humorist Mark Twain. He read the Yiddish paper everyday and was a very good friend of the old man Glick, who published the Daily Forwards.

My father was a borderline Socialist. He liked Eugene Debs and voted for him and he liked to get into political arguments. He really was a real fabrenta Socialist.

Now I'm up to 1918 and the war years and the working years. And I was, as I said, I took a position with the old Asbestos Protected Metal Company. And then I met Sam Reichman. And in 1920 I was married.

Something most interesting was... Sam's office – when I met him – was in the Curry Building at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ross Street, where I was born. Sam Reichman was the one of the original charter members of the Y. One of the sixteen organizers of the Y.

As I said, we were married in 1920 and we had three beautiful children. Judson, born in 1923. Marian born in 1926. And Joan born in 1921.

And Judson was born the eighth Chanukkah light and my father wanted to name him Judah Maccabee. But I couldn't have that. That little teeny, weeny thing. So we called him Judson Maccabee. And he celebrates his birthday on the eighth light of Chanukkah and my father's is the second light of Chanukkah. So it's very in keeping.

Now, in 1920 I married and I think I joined the sisterhood in 1922. I was a very active golf player and I had my children and I was very, very busy.

In 1930 I became President of the Sisterhood.

In 1931 I went to my first convention in Atlantic City. It was a combination of Women's League, which had been established in Pittsburgh a few years prior and the United Synagogue Combination Convention there. Most interesting.

My son Jud was bar mitzvah in 1936.

Now, I served President from 1930. But in 1934 the synagogue was going to celebrate its seventieth anniversary. Therefore, they changed the Constitution so I could serve four years instead of three years, so that I could be on the committee with Charlie Rosenbloom. In fact, Charles Rosenbloom and I were co-chairmen of the week's celebration of the seventieth anniversary and one of those nights, as you have heard, in Rabbi Hailperin's story was the "Abraham Goldstein Night," celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of my mother and father's connection with the Hebrew – with the Synagogue.

In 1933, my parents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the Synagogue.

In 1933 I became Vice-President of the Pittsburgh Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations. The President then was Mrs. Saul Levine. And I also served as the Vice-President under Mrs. Maurice Davis.

In 1936, we held the first reception under Mrs. Maurice Davis for the entire Women's Organization and invitations were sent out to the Federation of Women's Clubs of the city. And we held the reception – Rosh Hashana New Year's reception for all

Women's Clubs at the Y. It was very, very formal. It was a beautiful affair and I was the Chairman of that first affair.

In 1937, the Sisterhood had its first donor luncheon, but we dared not call it donor because Hadassah had a donor luncheon. So we called it a gift luncheon and it was all of five dollars.

And the program was most original. I had very good ideas in those days. Very original ideas. And the program was given by... I said – we had singers and all kind of musical instruments – why not a dance? Why not a dancer – to illustrate or demonstrate Jewish music. And Genevieve Jones, who was in... Marian was then studying with her – she was her student.

I asked Genevieve Jones if she would be interested in doing some research on dancing to Hebrew music. She worked with a cantor who was Chazzan Levine. Harvey Gaul. And she got music together and did a magnificent portrayal of Miriam, a Joyful Dance, and Lamentations. And it was the first introduction. She included it in her repertoire when she danced for women's clubs and I was very, very proud of that.

In 1938, we decided to send Judson to military school and it was quite expensive, and I decided the thing to do was go to work. All the women were going to work, so I decided to go to work.

Between 1938 and 1946, I worked between Kaufmann's and Gimbel's, and became the Assistant Buyer of the – various positions of the gift shop. I always said if Carl Kaufmann needed an experiment done, he'd call on me if it was the head of the janitors.

I was the... I took a survey of different gifts. National survey. I took a survey of whether they should have walking section managers or have section managers' desks. And it was always Mildred who was chosen to do the survey. I enjoyed my work and I retired in 1946, when mother wasn't too well.

In 1949 I became President of A. E. Phi Mother's Club because Joan was a very, very active member.

Incidentally, in 1946, the hospital gift shop started as a cart and I was one of the retired retail women – there were three of us – who started the buying for the hospital cart and was in a stock room with a dutch door before it became a gift shop. That was started in 1946.

In 1952, the new building was... The cornerstone was laid for the new building on Wilkins and Shady. And I was Chairman of the memorial section of that book and it was very, very successful. And Sam Reichman was one of the men to lay the cornerstone with Charlie Rosenbloom and Dr. Berkowitz.

Sam Reichman had a very, very interesting career in the synagogue. Sam became active in the synagogue as soon as we were married. And very shortly thereafter he became Secretary and served in some executive capacity, actually for forty-four years. He was a Vice-President and he was the first Chairman of the New Memorial Park when they purchased that ground. Sam, Leon Lewis and Ralph Schugar purchased fifty-five acres out in Ross Township or whatever the name of it is. Anyhow, Sam was the first Chairman of the Memorial Park and we remember that very, very well.

In the hundredth anniversary of the synagogue, we had another beautiful book and there is a resolution in that hundred book for Sam. He died in 1964 and was, of course, buried from the synagogue.

In 1953, Sam was elected the first life trustee. At the time of his death, he had practiced in the law. He had practiced law for fifty years. But that year... They hadn't started to honor the fifty-year men. He died in 1964. They did that later.

Sam was a very honorable lawyer at the Allegheny County Bar and was a member of whatever he was supposed to be a member of. He was very, very active in the Y in the early days and...

But Tree of Life was his baby. He loved it and we went to the Y early concerts and we did many, many things. He was an active bowler. He was just Tree of Life in and out. And he certainly was worthy the honor bestowed upon him when he was buried from the chapel.

I must go back to 1930, when I became President of the Sisterhood. There were no young people at all. They were all women of my mother's age. And they used to really kid me and make fun of me. I mean...

I remember Lily Davis, Mrs. Simon Davis, who was a big B'nai B'rith woman was on the Board. And there used to be five... We rarely had a... What do you call it? You know. A quorum. And I was conducting the meeting and she disagreed with what I said, and she said, "Look! I used to diaper you. I knew you when you were a baby!" And that's the sort of thing I had to put up with.

Anyhow, I started to get young women and was responsible for really... I had many protégés in the sisterhood. Women who went on to bigger jobs and bigger things. And really, I was very proud of what I did for the sisterhood.

I should be up to 1949 now. When I was re-elected again – not re-. But elected President in 1949, the year of the golden anniversary of the sisterhood, I stepped in when the celebration was over and took on a twenty... Rose Edelstein had made a thirty-five thousand pledge during her regime. And I took on the balance of twenty-four thousand dollars when I became President in 1949.

In 1943, the... In 1953, we had reduced that pledge to seven thousand dollars. In 1950, Marian joined the sisterhood. And was I ever proud of that – when she became a member of the sisterhood.

In 1954, I became branch President - the President of the Western Pennsylvania Branch of the United Synagogue. And became a member of the National Board and made several trips and attended all of the conventions.

In 1956, I was the branch Torah Fund Chairman and, of course, did a lot of traveling then.

In 1958, I was again the donor chairman. Now I said, again, because in 1937 somehow or other I skipped that year. Where is it? 1937, I was the donor Chairman... The first... Oh, the first donor Chairman. That was it.

In 1958 I was the... The sisterhood came of age. I was the twenty-first donor Chairman and we had a magnificent donor at Westmoreland Country Club. It was very, very beautiful and I was very successful and I established categories then as donor Chairman. Oh, I could go on for an hour telling you about it – it was so wonderful.

In 1958 I went to work at the Borkon Travel Service. I couldn't resist the temptation of a job around the corner. And through the job, of course, in 1962 I got a very beautiful trip to Israel as a travel agent. And that was a thrill. That was a real thrill.

In 1958...

In 1964 Sam passed away. But I didn't quit work and two months later Jessie passed away – in February 1965. It was a very, very difficult time, but I kept work - I didn't give up the job.

And in 1968 - '67 – I moved to the Dithridge Apartments and retired.

And in 1969 Marian became the Vice-President of the sisterhood and was in charge of fund raising. It was the seventieth anniversary of the sisterhood. Marian would have it no other way but that I become donor Chairman. So I was – had quit work – I was a lady of leisure and I became the donor Chairman. And we created the seventy-dollar category. It was such a huge success. It was really, really beautiful. I was very proud of that. And I was very proud of Marian.

I want to go back to 1952 when I was President of the sisterhood and attended the Women's League Convention in Minneapolis, which was one of the most fascinating affairs I ever went to. I hadn't attended a convention from 1930 when it was combined with the men, this was the first women's convention I attended, and I was very, very excited and went to the one in Philadelphia in 1954. Then attended my first convention at the Concord in 1956. All Women's League.

And there Dr. Finkelstein, who was Chancellor, pinned me. It was the beginning of a Chayei Alam of a hundred dollars contribution to be a benefactor for the Women's

League scholarship fund and we were all personally pinned by Rabbi – by Dr. Finkelstein – and that was quite a thrill.

In 1970, I guess... Marian became President of the congregation. She said she wouldn't, wouldn't, wouldn't, but she did. And I continued as a category Chairman for the donors and I'm still active at that. I am now personal interest Chairman of the sisterhood.

Marian was elected in 1970 and I installed her and the picture of my pinning her as President was sent to the National Women's League and published in Women's League Outlook and it was really a very thrilling event to see that picture in the national magazine which goes to two hundred and fifty thousand women.

In 1973 I was elected life trustee. The first woman to be a life trustee on the synagogue board. And right now, I'm as active as I can be.

And I'm going to go over my notes and if there's anything I left out, I'll catch up.

When I was elected life trustee I would say that is full cycle. Having been born in the synagogue. Born and raised in the synagogue. Lived to become a member of the board of the congregation, President of the sisterhood twice, active in every possible capacity.

Four generations. The children were very active when they went to Sunday School and the religious school. Diane, Karen, and Aaron – the girls were bat mitzvah. Aaron was bar mitzvah. They were active in the young people's league at the time.

And I feel this was full-cycle, being elected a trustee of the congregation – the first woman. I was the first woman to participate in a Yom Kippur service, which at the time was held at the Y. It was during the time that we were moving from Craft Avenue

to Wilkins Avenue, and the building wasn't ready and the Tree of Life – the Craft Avenue synagogue was sold to the Playhouse – a heartbreaking incident at that time. And I was the first woman to be called to the pulpit on a Yom Kippur day.

I was the second woman to be given an Aliyah. And the first Aliyah given to a woman in the Tree of Life was the President of the sisterhood at the time on a Simchas Torah service.

But then the actual Aliyah at a service was given to me at a High Holiday service shortly thereafter. And I have been called to the pulpit many, many times and I am always really thrilled and feel very, very wonderful about this.

I'm ahead of myself now. It's not going chronological. But I'll have to... You'll have to go along with me.

I have a correction to make. In 1970 when Marian was elected President of the sisterhood it was not cong... I said congregation. It was sisterhood.

Now that brings us up to 1973.

But now I'm going to go back and make some corrections.

We talked about my grandparents – my paternal grandparents – Chayim and Rochel Mishkinsky. But we didn't mention my mother's father and mother.

My grandparents on the maternal side. Aaron – his name was Aaron Simiensky. Her name was Fagie. And they also came from Sanai. We had a picture of him on Craft Avenue in my mother's bedroom. Not a picture of my grandmother, but a picture of my grandfather. Very handsome gentleman with a beard and oh, a cravat, and looked really, really beautifully dressed. And he must have been the traveling salesman of his day because he crossed the ocean many times.

And Sam Gould told us about how many – from the stories he heard – how many times Grandfather Simiensky came back and forth from Europe to America and America to Europe. When he came the first time, he met up with the old Mr. – original Mr. Kaufmann – I think it was Morris Kaufmann of the Kaufmann Department Stores. And the two of them were partners in their peddling in the early, early days. Now I haven't got the dates. I don't know where this is. It's in the 1880's.

But Mr. Kaufmann and Aaron Simiensky were pals in their peddling together. But Kaufmann went on to the retailing business. And I guess my grandfather went back to Europe and then... I can't follow anymore. But I thought I'd like to insert that.

One of the most emotional experiences I had was on a Yom Kippur service just about two years ago. When Marian was President of the sisterhood and I, as past President, was sitting on the pulpit and we both had Aliyahs and we both were on the pulpit at the same time and we both walked off the pulpit together. And I think that was one of the high most solemn, most emotional, most beautiful moments of my life. It was – it was – I keep saying thrilling, but it was really thrilling.

There's a correction. Marian was the past-President of the sisterhood because somebody else was President two years ago.

This is – the year I'm talking in now is 1976. I haven't picked this thing up since we started a few months ago. But the date now is January, 1977. And I shall continue with a few corrections and additions.

There were several notes here that got sort of mixed up, but I can't pass the date of April 12, 1912, when ex-President Theodore Roosevelt was a guest of the congregation and delivered a most forceful address from the pulpit. It was through the

influence of Rabbi Coffey at the time that President Roosevelt – ex-President Roosevelt was brought to the congregation. And I was so excited because I was able to serve him a glass of water.

These are the exciting things that happened. And as I come to them I shall recall them. But as I say again, they will not be in chronological order.

I want to go back and reminisce about the confirmation classes. Now I'm not sure. I have no way of knowing at the time. This may have been in the old synagogue at Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. When Mrs. Rachel Haas was responsible for organizing the confirmation classes. I think we were the first congregation to have confirmation.

And I remember very vividly on Craft Avenue how she would lead the girls in their white dresses and red bouquets. Very beautiful. And this is a memory that I shall always have about Mrs. Morris Haas's – Rachel Haas's – participation in the confirmations. And I'd like... I'm not sure about the authenticity of the date, but it was... They were really beautiful.

Then when Mrs. Haas was eighty-years-old, the sisterhood celebrated and she was the honor guest at a donor at the Roosevelt Hotel. I was President at the time. I'm not sure who was donor Chairman. I think it was Freda Lenchner. And we presented her with eighty beautiful red roses. These are little memories that come up occasionally. And, as I say, they're not chronological - but I want them recorded.

Did I say the sisterhood was founded – I think in Mrs. Jackson's home. But actually the first meeting was around my mother's kitchen table down on Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. When the sister... In 1899 the sisterhood was founded at that time.

And I was not born until 1901. So you can see that I really was born into the life of the sisterhood and the congregation. And I was really born into it.

Some of the important names at that time were Isaac Gross, who was President of the congregation in 1911.

And Morris Haas. Morris Haas was the father of, oh, seven boys, I believe. They were in the roofing business. And they built... On Craft Avenue they built the sukkahs. Now the sukkah was built in the vestry room because there was a skylight in that vestry room. And the sukkahs were just magnificent with the most beautiful fresh greens brought in, vegetables and everything.

And the way the ladies baked. There was no question then about kashrut. Everybody was supposedly keeping kosher. The most beautiful cakes were brought in. And wine and fruit. Beautiful! One day was for children and one day was for the adults. And it was magnificent.

Then later, they built the sukkah – the Haas family – built the sukkah outside in the walkway between the German Club and the shul and the entrance to where we lived.

The telephone rang here and I think the machine kept going. I may be repeating, but let me continue.

I have some funny memories of that sukkah. They had beautiful vegetables hanging. This is outside. And Louie Gordon at that time was President of the synagogue. Louis Gordon. And he loved to make speeches. And he had this cute little accent and he had particular phrases and he'd tell the same story year in and year out. I only wish that my dear brother Sam were alive so he could really give an im... He gave such a wonderful imitation of Louie Gordon.

Louie Gordon always reminisced about when his poor mother and poor father came from Europe and how they struggled and everything and he would cry. And invariably, he stood under a head of cabbage. And we kids used to (Laughs) stand around and say, "Oh, if that head of cabbage ever fell down!" There was always something funny. And I wish I had written those funny incidences down in my lifetime.

But this sukkah I will always remember, especially since Harry Haas later became... Harry and Eva Haas became one of our dearest and best friends of Sam's and mine. And he was the youngest son of the Haas boys. Incidentally, he was the second boy to be bar mitzvah when we moved to Craft Avenue. Unfortunately, and I'm very sad to say, Harry just died about a month ago.

Lawrence DeRoy was the first boy to be bar mitzvah and Lawrence was a very, very handsome young boy and turned out to be a handsome young man. Moved to California in later years.

But his aunt, Hannah Gelder, loved me and I loved her. She was one of those people who... Oh, always remembered me with lovely gifts. And when I was confirmed she gave me a beautiful ring. And I loved her. She didn't have any children, she just sort of picked me.

But Harry... Lawrence DeRoy was the first and Harry Haas was the second bar mitzvah boys on Craft Avenue.

Now, talking about Craft Avenue... And as I say, this is not in... [Pause]

Speaking of Craft Avenue. And again, I say this is not in chronological order.

But I must make a little vignette here of the Golden Anniversary of the congregation.

In 1914 they decided to hold a banquet in the vestry rooms. My mother and fath... My mother, especially, was very, very friendly with Mr. And Mrs. Hofferman, who were managers of the German Club which was next door to us.

The German Club was a very, very high class club for Hoche Deutsch. The most outstanding Germans, if you can call them outstanding... This was before the war. We looked upon them as very, very ritzy... Oh, the – men were all so military in their style. Typical Germans. But we didn't know what typical Germans meant in those days.

But Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman were very, very lovely and through them they arranged to serve a kosher dinner for the banquet to be held in honor of the Golden Anniversary of the shul which was in 1914.

Now, the kosher meal was prepared... I don't know the logistics. I don't know how they did it. But the kosher meal was prepared at the German Club and served in the vestry room and I think it was catered by Meyers Kosher Restaurant on Fifth Avenue.

The ladies... Oh! It was a fashion parade, it was a fashion contest. The gorgeous gowns that they all wore. And the vestry room was decorated so beautifully with fresh ferns and fresh palms. In those days everything... The greens were rented and they were all fresh. There wasn't an artificial green in the place. And the chamber music was hidden behind the ferns. It was beautiful.

And my sister Eva... Oh! She got a gown – a magnificent custom-made black chiffon over coral satin and she looked beautiful. Sam had gotten her diamond earrings. And I think for this occasion, perhaps after the birth of one of the children. I don't remember which. He bought her a beautiful diamond brooch – they called them brooches in those days – a gorgeous pin – sunburst. It was beautiful.

And my mother, as I recall, wore lavender satin. I remember that dress and that color so well. It was like a lavender. Beautiful! It was really a gala gala gala to be remembered.

And while I'm in this period – either 1915 or '16 – I don't know if I'm going to take the time now to look up the old records. I was... For confirmation there were all of three girls. Five girls and three boys. And I had the floral offering and I was so excited about getting the floral offering because I could write a speech and quote Tennyson.

And I remember so well - I was in the English class at Fifth Avenue High School. And my luck, I was the only girl in a class of all boys. I don't know how that happened. They had manual training in those days. And I was an odd girl and I went up to the teacher to ask if I should transfer... He said, "No, no, this is going to be a wonderful experience for you. You stay." (Laughs)

And I wrote my floral offering and had the guts and the nerve to get up in front of all those boys and read it because it was to be marked as an English composition. And I think the teacher's name was Mr. Bowman, Mr. Borman... Anyhow, he gave me a very high mark. He was so thrilled with my confirmation floral offering speech.

Little vignettes of things that I want to remember. May not be important, but their so important in my memory.

Also in those days we used to hold... Oh, beautiful reviews (Laughs). I don't know... We didn't call them reviews at that time – for Purim – up in the old Montefiore Hall.

And it was a Fanny Skirboll Rosenthal that used to be the producer and director. And they were... Oooh! The story of Queen Esther was done with such drama. And the

costumes that were ordered. And Marie and Esther Rosenthal – she's Esther Finkel now – and her son is Bobby Finkel the famous producer in Hollywood. So it goes back to when Esther was a leading lady in the old Purim shows at Montefiore Hall.

I was always made a little Jap. And even... I remember Mortimer Frank used to be in the show too. And as long as I can remember him, he'd say, "Hello, Jap."

Samie Frankel was my partner in "Sun Bonnet Sue." And (Sings) "Ruben, Ruben, I've been thinking." And the old memories of those beautiful performances at Montefiore Hall.

Which, incidentally, later became... The Coffee Club either bought or rented that building. And years later – quite a few years later – I went to all the basketball games and dances at the Coffee Club. That was the social center. That and the YWHA in that period before and during the War. I mean the First World War.

[No further speaking]

End of Tape 1 – Side 2

[Tape started August 27, 1976 and ended January, 1977]

"Mother never finished the tape for some reason or other and passed away on October 30, 1979, at the age of 78 years."

Marian Reichman Heller, Daughter