

## Rabbi's wife's gown included in exhibition

By ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

A wedding gown worn by Matie M. Oberfelder, who married Leo M. Franklin in 1896, will be part of the exhibition when "Becoming American Women: Clothing and the Jewish Immigrant Experience 1880-1920" comes to metropolitan Detroit in November.

"Franklin was rabbi of Temple Beth El (now on 14 Mile Road in Bloomfield Township), which was in downtown Detroit," said John Sonego, marketing director of the Detroit Historical Society. The dress was donated by the bride's granddaughter.

"Franklin was the most famous Jewish man in Detroit during the years he was around. He was a good friend of Henry Ford. He had a house in the Boston-Edison District where Ford lived prior to building Fair Lane," Sonego said. The exhibit opens to the public Friday, Nov. 5, at the Detroit

Historical Museum in Detroit's Cultural Center. This is the last stop for the traveling show that was organized by the Chicago Historical Society and scheduled for only five locations in the country.

The patron premiere party will include a tour, reception and supper at the museum Thursday, Nov. 7. Jaguar of Troy and Neiman Marcus (the Somerset Collection South in Troy) are sponsoring the party. For reservations by Monday, call (313) 833-7912.

After the exhibit's long stay through March 23 in Detroit, it will return to Chicago.

"A number of artifacts were donated by families all across the country," Sonego said. These will be returned to their donors after the show goes back to Chicago.

Sally Nosancheck of Franklin had originally offered to loan a wedding dress from her family to the exhibit for its Detroit stay.

The gown, however, proved to be too fragile to be displayed.

The exhibit examines the role of fashion in the assimilation of Eastern European Jewish women into American life. "Particularly for women, a hat, pair of shoes or even the lace collar on a cotton blouse became the most visible symbol of the fact that they belonged," Sonego stressed in his description of the show.

He said that a local collection of photos, of ancestors of local families who came to Detroit between 1880-1920, is being set up to run in conjunction with "Becoming American Women." Large numbers of German and Eastern European Jews settled in Detroit.

Jewish families with stores selling women's apparel who share in the Detroit history include the Himelhochs, Siegels and Winkelmans.

Among photos being shown are ones of Eluma Himelhoch (circa

1890s), Sophie Siegel, and Hattie Friedman Winkelman.

A local effort is trying to raise the \$100,000 it costs to bring the exhibit of apparel to Detroit. Shelley Roberts and Lois Shaeveky are among Birmingham-Bloomfield-area women who are part of the committee helping present the show.

Admission to the museum is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and children 12-18. Children under 12 are admitted free. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. For more information call (313) 833-1805.

The show has been seen at the Chicago Historical Society, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York, the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

## The Community House offers holiday card sale

Sixty non-for-profit organizations throughout the greater Detroit area will sell their holiday cards and other holiday gift items at the Holiday Card Sale and Display Day, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at The Community House in downtown Birmingham.

Shoppers are being invited to browse through the displays and buy their cards and small gifts, while they support the charity of their choice.

Participating organizations range from large national charities such as the American Can-

cer Society and the Salvation Army to local non-profits such as PATH, Swords into Plowshares, Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center and Boy Scout Troop #1032.

The Holiday Card Sale is open to the public without charge. The non-profits pay no fee. The event is a community service sponsored by The Community House and the Observer & Eccentric.

Eccentric Newspapers to support the work of area non-profits.

The Community House is at 360 S. Bates. For more information call (810) 644-5832.

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## Send us cards for charities

Samples of holiday cards offered for sale by charitable organizations are already beginning to arrive in the offices of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Every year, starting in November, each of the seven O&E offices invites readers to come in and look over a scrapbook we compile, showing the cards available.

If your non-profit group is selling holiday cards to raise money, send us seven sets, which we will distribute to our offices in Birmingham, Rochester, Farmington, Clarkston, Lake Orion, Livonia and Plymouth. Be sure to include information on how the cards may be ordered.

Deadline to receive cards and information is Thursday, Oct. 31, in order for your organization to be included in the scrapbooks. The project is being coordinated by Sue Mason, Wayne County community life editor. Mail cards to her at The Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150. Or, call her at (313) 953-2131.

## First Lady speaking to GOP women

Michigan's First Lady, Michelle Engler, will be keynote speaker at the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club annual meeting and membership drive Friday, Nov. 1, at the Pine Lake Country Club.

The event begins at 11 a.m. with a social hour and holiday bazaar followed by a noon luncheon. Engler will address the guests at 1 p.m. Ticket price is \$30. Members, prospective members and friends are being invited to attend.

For reservations, send checks payable to Bloomfield Republican Women's Club, c/o 726 S. Adams Road, Suite 14, Birmingham 48009. For further information call (810) 856-1517.

Engler will talk about one of her favorite charitable causes P.J. Huggabee Bears, which will be featured at the holiday bazaar, in addition to other boutique booths. Sale of the stuffed teddy bears will benefit the Chance at Childhood Foundation, which supports children entering Michigan's foster care system.

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