Writer tells 'such a story' of Jewish roots

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer of this story is the niece of Edith LaZebnik, author of "Such a Life.")

By LYNN ISENBERG

Even if you never tasted gefilte fish, or matzoh balls in your chicken soup, you'll savor "Such a Life," a story written by Edith LaZebnik.

Mrs. LaZebnik, author of this Jewish "Roots" has a poignant story to tell and she tells it well, capturing the richness and flavor of times gone by.

She begins with:.

"Who can tell what life will bring? My children, six I have, God bless them in good health, they tell me I am 72 years old, a mistake, because Sam I married when I was 14, and you figure it out, he is eight years older than me, so I am 66.

"But I don't want to argue. Why should I wear my heart out with 72, 76, who knows? Except for one or two, I am the only family left from Eisenbergs."

Her style is personal and you feel as though she is talking directly with you, taking you along with her so you can share her experiences.

What kind of woman is she?

MY TANTE EATKEH came to America in the early 1900s. She lived in Detroit for a little while until she married Sam LaZebnik, a scrap dealer. They lived in Jackson 40 years.

In those years, her children were raised with a great appreciation for art and a thirst for knowledge.

Her oldest daughter, Zelda, is married and lives in California. Her oldest son, Bill, is a doctor in New York. Both appreciate craftsmanship and dabble in the arts.

Another son, Jack, is an English professor at Stevens College in Missouri and Jeanette, the fourth child, is married to a doctor and lives in Arizona where she operates a day care center.

Son Hervie lives in Jackson where he took over his father's business, and Bobby has a degree in fine arts and lives in Jackson, where he operates his own business. He's also a race car enthusiast.

Among the children and grandchildren, all pursue the arts in some form.

Mrs. LaZebnik overcame accidents and illnesses many times, but her strong lived always pushed her to live and begin again, in spite of injuries that required pinned hips and a pinned ankle.

She is extremely self-disciplined. She does exercises every day with leg kicks, toe touches and more. And that's not all she does to keep in shape. She dances.

Oh, how she loves to dance. Her favorites are the polka and the Russian waltz.

WHEN I last spoke to her, she wanted to know, "So when are you getting married? I want I should be able to dance at your wedding."

For 15 years, my Tante Edith jotted down notes of life in a Russian shtetl before she came to this country. She wrote in Yiddish, and Sherry Arden of William Morrow and Co., publishers, translated her notes into English.

One reviewer said she catches the memories of the shtetl "with the wit and talent of Mark Twain if he had a Yiddish accent."

Edith LaZebnik will be here Monday, July 31, and Tuesday, Aug. 1. She is looking forward to a reunion with family and friends like her sister Bessie Davidson of Southfield.

From 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, she will appear at the Birmingham Book Store for a champagne autograph party.

And oy, would she love to meet you.

EDITH LaZEBNIK

Special ed youth to take bus trip

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Twenty-one Southfield special education students will be treated to a trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, this weekend.

An anonymous donor gave Southfield Special Education Association Director Helene Gottfried 21 tickets for use by the students at the amusement park.

"We're really very excited," Mrs. Gottfried said. "Cedar Point is one of the largest amusement parks in the country. Ninety-nine per cent of these youngsters have never been on a trip anywhere."

St. Mary Church of Redford volunteered its bus for the trip.

Plans call for the group to leave at 9:15 a.m. Friday and return at 11 p.m.

"We're going to take them out to lunch and to dinner," Mrs. Gottfried said. "For them, it's a very special treat and something you can't put a price on.."

She said her only frustration is that the bus will hold 48 people and she would have liked to see it filled to capacity.

"We only have those 21 tickets, however. I have written to the public relations department of the amusement park at Cedar Point and asked if they could possibly come forth with any more tickets.

"I'm sure I could get the volunteers to accompany more children if we just had the tickets."

Anyone wanting to help or obtain more information can reach Mrs. Gottfried at 358-1875.

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