

# REPORTER DISPATCH

Journal of Old Allegheny History and Lore

## MARKER FOR TRAILBLAZING ALLEGHENY WOMAN

Thanks to the hard work of Matthew Falcone, President of Preservation Pittsburgh, a new Pennsylvania State Historical marker has been erected for another trailblazing Allegheny Woman.

Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg was one of the daughters of Mayer and Henriette Hanauer, German Jews who arrived in the America in the late 1840s. Mr. Hanauer was a retail clothing merchant as were many of the Jews arriving from Bavaria at that time. Unlike later Jewish arrivals from Eastern Europe, the early Jews to the area were more financially stable upon arrival. The Hanauer family would have found Allegheny City very welcoming with its strong German presence.

First worshipping in their homes later in a rented hall on St. Claire Street in Allegheny, the Jewish faithful in 1859 had a temple built on Eight Street in Pittsburgh. The temple (with services in German) and the social Concordia Club on Stockton Avenue in Allegheny, were the religious and community centers of the early Jewish community. The Mayer Hanauer family was instrumental in the founding and growth of both of these Jewish institutions. Michelle Pailthorp, in her paper entitled "The German-Jewish Elite of Pittsburgh" considered the Hanauer family originating members of this elite class.

Born in 1863, Pauline didn't see her mother's work with the Hebrew Ladies Aid Society which helped the Pittsburgh Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. Many historians believe that the soldiers' relief work performed by women during the Civil War was the beginning of the feminism movement. After the war, Henriette

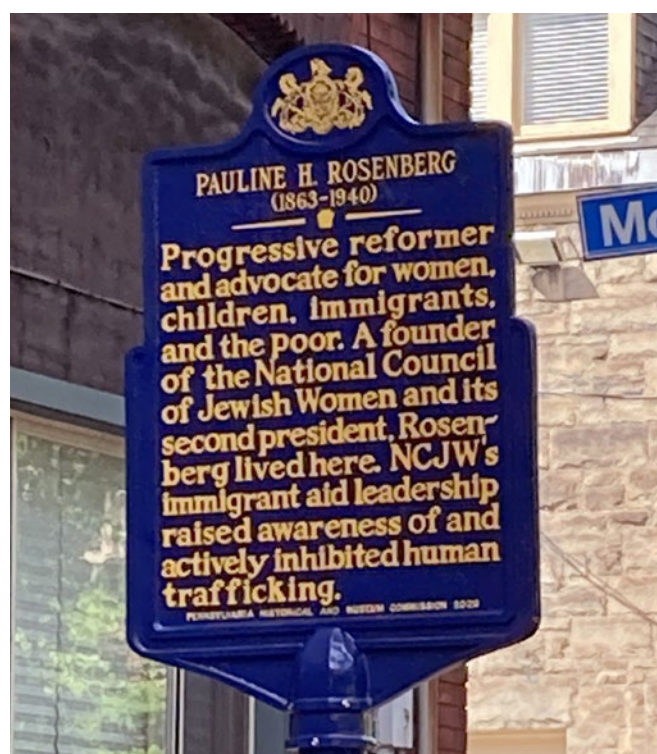
Ruth McCartan

continued her benevolent work helping the sick and needy through her synagogue, Rodef Shalom.

Unlike the majority of families in the 1870s, the Hanauers believed in the importance of knowledge for both their son and their daughters. Because of this enlightened thinking, Pauline had the opportunity to attend the Central High School of Pittsburgh at a time when most girls were exposed to only the basics.

Lippman Mayer, then rabbi of Rodef Shalom was a strong believer in American Reform Judaism and was a dominate force in

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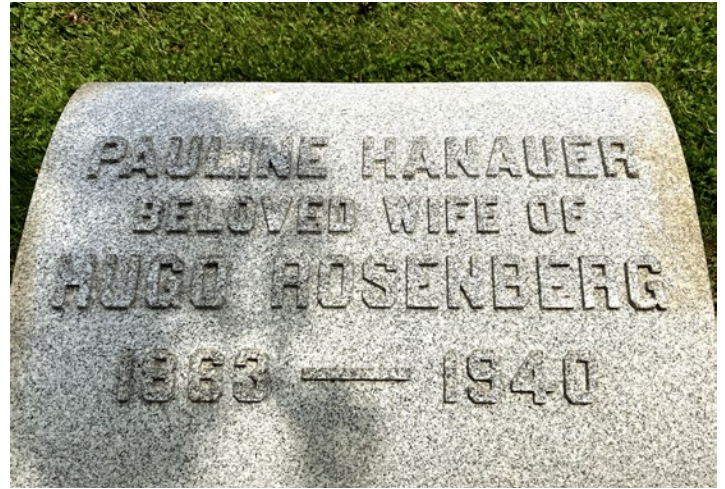
the Pittsburgh Platform of 1885. A meeting held in the Concordia Club produced a one-page agreement which set out the basic tenants of their faith. The eighth point of the Platform urged Jews to effect social justice by helping the poor, something the Hanauer family was already doing, and their daughter Pauline would continue for years to come.

Hugo Rosenberg married Pauline Hanauer in 1886. The ceremony was conducted by Rabbi Mayer, who would soon to be their neighbor on Liberty Street. Hugo was a retail merchant and had arrived in Allegheny in 1871 with his family. He later became involved in the liquor distilling business. He encouraged and supported his wife's benevolent work in the community, and her commitment to her Jewish ideals grew. The Rosenbergs moved into their rented three-story, Richardsonian Romanesque, red brick rowhouse at 16 Liberty (now 417 Lockhart) Street right after it was built in 1888–1889.

Pauline became involved with the Free Kindergarten Association of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, a project pioneered by Kate McKnight, a socially prominent Alleghenian. Before her marriage to Hugo, Pauline had been living with her family on Fayette Avenue, now West North Avenue, the enclave of the German-Jewish upper class, only a few streets away from the McKnight family mansion on Western. The Allegheny women got the free kindergarten started in their own Fifth Ward. This kindergarten association was one of the first examples of Jews and Gentiles working together for the common good. Women such as Kate McKnight, Mary Junkin Cowley and now Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg, were no longer content to dwell in the “private sphere” that society had assigned to them. Educated, American-born, affluent, and socially conscious they saw the needs of society and formed associations or clubs to help. These early “club women” began meeting for social and literary edification eventually becoming a source of reform during the Progressive Era.

Allegheny City had no hospital until then Mayor, Louis Peterson discussed the need of establishing one in 1881. Mrs. Rosenberg joined the Allegheny Hospital Ladies Auxiliary at the new nonsectarian hospital on Stockton Avenue right around the corner from her Liberty Street home.

The organizers of the World Columbian Exposition (the Chicago World's Fair) of 1893 proposed the idea of a World Parliament of Religions, inviting all formal religious organizations to attend for meetings and interfaith gatherings. The Jewish women were invited to assist the faithful Jewish men within the social setting but would have no further involvement. Because of the very limited involved offered them, a separate Jewish Women's Congress was formed. The moving force for this Congress were the progressive Jewish women activists of the day under the direction of Hannah G. Solomon. Over 93 delegates were selected representing over 29 American cities. Allegheny City/Pittsburgh Jewish



Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg's headstone in West View Cemetery

women selected Mrs. Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg as their delegate. Her essay was selected for presentation at the Congress, which was entitled “Influence of the Discovery of America on the Jews,” which formulated the idea “that no matter how the newly arriving Jewish immigrants were ignorant and oppressed, they and their children would become remarkable Americans.” No doubt she had observed this phenomenon in her work with the Free Kindergarten Association in the Fifth Ward of Allegheny.

It is only conjecture, but hopefully Pauline had the chance to view Mary Cassatt's mural entitled “Modern Woman” in the Woman's Building at the Fair, another Alleghenian on her way to making a name for herself.

At the end of the Exposition, the Jewish Women's Congress elected to form a permanent national organization that would provide the leadership for newly forming city councils. Mrs. Hannah G. Solomon was elected president and Mrs. Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg of 16 Liberty Street, Allegheny, was elected Vice President. The various councils could choose the projects that fit best for their city but “the study of religion and philanthropy be not omitted” wrote Pauline's Sister Fannie Hamburger in an article for the *Jewish Criterion* in 1897. Various names were suggested for the newly forming women's organization with Pauline putting forward “Columbian Union.” This name was voted down and the name decided upon was “National Council of Jewish Women.” Ida Cohen Selvan in her article entitled, *The Founding of the Columbia Council* reveals that the local council of Pittsburgh/Allegheny used Columbia Council as its local designation for years, one of the only groups to not have their city mentioned in the name.

Back home in Allegheny City the hard work of organizing the local council of Jewish Women began. Within a few months of returning, the Columbia Council of the National Council of Jewish Women was organized and open for business. The Rosenbergs' home on Liberty Street became the headquarters of the new group and was used as the gathering place for meetings and events.



Lessons learned earlier with the forming of the free kindergartens and the positive results shown, had gotten the Columbia Council into early childhood education right away. The women saw the need for all kinds of assistance with the newly arriving immigrants from Eastern Europe. The Columbia Council's next endeavor was what was called "Personal Service." Council women were assigned impoverished Jewish immigrant families to help become self-supporting. They would visit and suggest ways for the families and especially the women to welcome self-reliant in their new homeland. Mrs. Pauline Rosenberg in the Jewish Criterion of 1895 advised visiting service workers "to go slowly but surely, be patient, be sympathetic ... do not dictate but suggest changes and improvements."

The Columbia Council's work did not go unnoticed. Rabbi Lippman Mayer, the reform-minded leader of Rodef Shalom told the women of the great need for a religious school for the children of the Jewish immigrants. A committee of the Council in 1896 formed the "Columbian Council School" located on Townsend Street in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where the majority of these immigrants could afford to live. The school's mission later expanded from work with just immigrant children to helping the entire family. By the turn of the century, these Jewish ladies were running a settlement house fashioned after the work of Jane Adams's Hull House in Chicago. The Columbian School and Settlement, later called the Irene Kaufman Settlement, helped thousands of Jewish families learn English, and find work, housing, medical care and wholesome recreation.

Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg attended Barnard College in New York City from 1899 to 1902. With her leaving the area and being elected the President of the National Council of Jewish Woman she became more involved on the state and national levels. She was the ultimate "Club Woman," with memberships in the Pittsburgh Woman's Club, the Federation of Woman's Clubs and Civic Club, always fighting to combat the social ills of the new industrial society.

Travels to Europe, Mexico and Canada in the early decades of the 1900s could not extend Hugo's life and he passed away in 1926. Returning frequently to visit her siblings and their children in Pittsburgh after her husband's death, she kept abreast of the work of the various committees of the Columbia Council, but New York City was her home base now. Dying in 1940 at the age of 77 she returned home one last time to Allegheny to be buried in West View Cemetery alongside of her beloved husband Hugo.

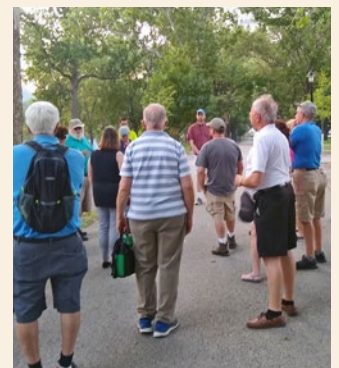
At a time when women were to be seen and not heard, Pauline made sure her voice was heard loud and clear.

For more information on Pauline Hanauer Rosenberg, please see the web site for Preservation Pittsburgh. The site contains the Individual Property Nomination Form for the Hanauer-Rosenberg Residence on Lockhart Street.

END

## 2021 SUMMER TOURS

The Society hosted walking tours in and around Allegheny Commons



# NORTH SIDE FARMERS MARKET REVISITED

Dennis N. Ranalli

This story in two parts recounts experiences from the North Side Farmers Market in Pittsburgh during the 1950s and '60s. | Part One

... memories of the sights, sounds, and aromas experienced by a young lad as he explores the market with his parents.

On warm summer evenings it was not unusual for us to take a ride in Dad's light blue 1950 Chrysler New Yorker with the windows rolled down and the breeze cooling our faces. On many of those evening drives he didn't seem to have any particular destination in mind, but every summer some of those rides led us to the Farmers Market on Pittsburgh's North Side.

The market was located just off Federal Street in a large open-air lot on the corner of West General Robinson Street and what at the time was West Lacock Street. Originally incorporated by the Allegheny County Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association in 1919, the market initially was located under a covered space on the Monongahela Wharf.

When the Mon Wharf market was shut down by the city in 1938, the association of farmers then leased the North Side lot from the International Harvester Co. and there it remained for over 30 years until the early 1970s. The North Side Market was closed when construction grading commenced for building Three Rivers Stadium. At that point the Farmers Market moved to its next location in Heidelberg.

The Farmers Market on the North Side operated during May through November, three days per week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 pm until midnight. A loud horn blast at 6:30 pm signaled that the market soon would be ready for business. During the decades of the 1950s and '60s the growers association had some 70 members who paid an annual fee of \$200.

The truck farmers – some local, others from distant counties as far away as Erie – came to market and backed into stalls they had leased. The manner in which they lined-up their vehicles one next to another created a perimeter surrounding a large corridor where customers could safely stroll up one side and down the other comparison shopping for best fresh produce at the lowest prices. Some stalls were prized more highly than others; location being a key to

customer access and sales. So, when a prime spot was relinquished by its holder, bidding wars reportedly took place that determined who would claim the rights to such a preferred stall!

Back in August of 1942, for example, auctioneer Oliver Wright of Perrysville opened bids on 14 stalls given up by farmers who no longer wanted to keep them. Winning a bid during that era gave a farmer the right to pay \$50 per year to retain that particular stall. The sum of the winning bid plus the \$50 fee went to the association.

Of the 150 stalls at the market, Stall 13 fronting West Robinson Street was considered a prime spot. When it came up for auction, Sam Simmons a farmer from Baldwin wanted it. Mrs. Raymond Brinkle of Mount Troy had different ideas; she wanted Stall 13 for her daughter. Back and forth their bids went at a brisk pace; neither bidder wanting to back down. When the bidding finally closed, auctioneer Wright announced: "Sold to Mrs. Raymond Brinkle for \$174"; the highest bid ever paid for a stall up until that point in the history of North Side Farmers Market.



Advertisement from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 1955



Meanwhile, the farmers, along with family members and sometimes hired hands, pitched in to set up the display tables behind their vehicles. Methodically, the fresh produce stacked in their truck beds was unloaded and placed on display. Often prices were handwritten on pieces of cardboard, and generally were less expensive than those in large grocery store chains. For those customers who did purchase larger quantities of produce, prices were even better. Vendors, with stands now at the ready, awaited the arrival of their first customers of the evening.

As we approached the market the glow from the lights hovered over the parking area and market space. In the shadows off to one side I spotted a sign with a huge Clark Bar on the candy factory where those iconic Pittsburgh chocolate bars were made. As most of the farmers knew one another, they spoke back and forth among themselves while they waited. As shoppers began to trickle in the vendors would take time to converse with them as they were making a sale. As we strolled around the market the sights, the sounds, and the aromas all mingled together in the night air creating a sense of conviviality.

Through my Dad's work with the Equitable Gas Co., he had become acquainted with many of the farmers. He was most familiar with those who worked farms on Mount Troy in Reserve Township. So, along our way we stopped to exchange a few words with his friends. Dad was inclined to give our business to those he knew best.

The crowds would fluctuate over the course of an evening as customers came and went. When the Downtown stores closed at 9 pm, a new influx of shoppers would flow into the market. On average nights crowds at the North Side Farmers Market were estimated to range from 4–5,000 customers! Crowds were even larger in August as the summer crops ripened and were harvested. The attraction was simple: fresh, high-quality items at prices that were reasonable; no parking or entry fees; plus it was fun to be there!

There seemed an endless array of items from which to choose: fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, honey, eggs, and even chickens. On our strolls through the market I munched on roasted peanuts from the shell; refreshing ice balls – I preferred grape flavoring; and candy apples in the fall. Items for sale varied depending on the month that crops ripened for harvest. A sampling in May and June might include lettuce, spinach, green onions, or rhubarb, a bit later, cucumbers, kohlrabi, or strawberries; July into August featured so many choices. Included among others were cabbage, sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, or cherries, melons, peaches, pears, plums, and raspberries; then late August into Autumn brought in squash, watermelons, apples and cider, mums, gourds, and pumpkins.

But my favorite vendor was the man who sold cheese. His display table covered with white paper was set-up to hold huge



blocks of various cheeses. At times he would use a long piece of wire with wooden handles on both ends to bisect a large block into smaller sections. Then he would use his large knife, one that I imagined looked like a pirate's dagger, to cut a section of cheese into the size that filled his customers' orders. He seemed to know by sight and feel how much each piece of cheese weighed as he wrapped it in the white paper before he handed it over to the shopper. What I probably liked best is when I would ask him for a sample, he always obliged and gave me a sliver to taste.

Purchasing patterns varied among customers. Some shopped there to buy fresh items for use in their restaurants, while others used the market to make purchases that would stock the shelves in their own small Mom-and-Pop markets. But mostly individual customers were there to buy just enough fresh produce at reasonable costs to use for the family table. Some did buy in bulk as specific crops came into season. These larger purchases were taken home to process for canning or freezing. Stored in such ways they were ready for use over the winter. I can recall my Mom making strawberry preserves, jars of peaches, and cooked tomatoes that she bottled in Mason jars.

Those summer evening strolls through the North Side Farmers Market bring back vivid memories but gave not a hint to the amount of work and degree of effort that was involved to bring that fresh produce to market. For many of the farmers this market was their main source of income. But those were lessons I soon would come to learn.

Part 2, "Back on the Farm" will appear in the next issue of *The Reporter Dispatch*

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## WEST VIEW CEMETERY TOUR OCTOBER 24TH

Ever wonder what family stories are found behind the artful tombstones in West View Cemetery? This well-maintained "city of the dead" on Cemetery Lane was established by Rodef Shalom Congregation in 1880. Allegheny City's Jewish history is found here in the section we call Allegheny Terrace.

Join us for a fall afternoon walking tour on October 24, at 1:00. We will explore the tales of a department store founding family, clothes merchants, nationally known religious leaders, club women, suffragists, and even a baseball tycoon. These builders of the City of Allegheny and Pittsburgh await you. Come learn their interesting stories.

Cost for the tour is \$5. For reservations call Amelia at 412-766-5670. This is a working cemetery, and the tour may be delayed for a funeral. We will be walking on uneven ground with a slight elevation, so please plan accordingly!

