

Frances *Hoffman* Lavine



Photo added by Paul Wilcox



Added by Paul Wilcox

BIRTH 7 Jan 1906

Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, USA

DEATH 8 Jul 1999 (aged 93)

Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota, USA

BURIAL Temple Emanuel Cemetery

Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota, USA

MEMORIAL ID 48834610

Frances Hoffman Lavine, 93, of 3800 London Road, Duluth, died on Thursday, July 8, 1999 at St. Mary's Hospice in Duluth. Born Jan. 7, 1906 in Chicago, she was the daughter of Louis and Sophie (Tauber) Hoffman.

In her twenties, she was known in the Twin Ports and around the country as founder of the legendary Duluth Children's Theater. Later, while still a very young woman, she toured the United States and Canada with one-woman shows she created and produced. Theater remained a life-long passion and, as opportunities to share her skills in non-theatrical settings presented themselves she added the art of teaching, along with community service and organizing to her lengthening list of capabilities.

In December of 1935 she was married to Max H. Lavine, then advertising department manager of the former Superior Evening Telegram.

Active in the Superior community, she spearheaded raising funds for Douglas County's first mobile X-ray unit to screen children and adults for tuberculosis and devised a public awareness campaign to mobilize residents' use of the facility. She also led in the effort to raise support for the Easter Seal Society for handicapped children when polio was rampant, and she raised funds to build an accessible classroom for handicapped children at Superior's Cooper School. She put tireless energies into drives for blood donations during World War II.

In more recent years, she was an early trustee of the Duluth-Superior Educational TV Corporation. Newspapering involved all of the Lavines. By the early 1960s, Max Lavine had become general manager of the Superior Evening Telegram and General Manager of the Murphy Newspapers. He and

Mrs. Lavine were also owners of the Portage Daily Register of Portage. It was the first newspaper in what was to become The Lavine Newspaper Group. Just before Mr. Lavine's death in 1964, the family purchased the Chippewa Falls Herald Telegram in Chippewa Falls. In 1968 they added the Baraboo News Republic and, in 1975, the Shawano Evening Leader. They also developed weekly newspapers and commercial printing ventures in those markets. Mrs. Lavine served as Chairman of the Lavine Newspaper Group and son John Lavine was Publisher-Editor.

During the 1960s, when the Job Corps set up a site at Clam Lake, Mrs. Lavine convinced them to let her be the first teacher-in-residence to the 200 young men who came there from inner cities around the country. Initially she received a cool reception. Soon, however, she could be seen walking across the camp between tough, towering young men who were engaged in animated conversation. They were consulting her about some aspect of their futures. Mrs. Lavine said that the experience moved her deeply. For the rest of her life, she dedicated a significant portion of her personal and financial resources to providing educational opportunities for young people who might not otherwise find a path to success. Mrs. Lavine also designated special awards for faculty who teach those students. In 1972, the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth named Mrs. Lavine to its first lay board of trustees, a group of prominent business and academic leaders. Mrs. Lavine was the first lay-woman, as well as the first member of the Jewish community, nominated to the new board. She served for 12 years and since has been active as a trustee emerita.

Mrs. Lavine's service and accomplishments earned her honorary doctorate degrees from both the College of St. Scholastica and Northland College in Ashland. Faculty and students at the College of St. Scholastics, the University of Wisconsin-Superior and Northland College in Ashland have also benefited from Mrs. Lavine's interest in teaching and learning. At Scholastica, Mrs. Lavine endowed scholarships in history, music, and gerontology; an annual award to an outstanding English major; and an annual award for excellence in teaching. At the University of Wisconsin-Superior, Mrs. Lavine established the Max Lavine Award for Scholarly Achievement and an American Indian Studies fund. At Northland College, the Frances Lavine Native American Studies Outstanding Service Award and the Native American Studies Academic Achievement Award are given annually at the Spring Honors Convocation.

For her 90th birthday, friends of Frances Lavine arranged for the birthday gift of her long lifetime. In lieu of individual presents, a pool of more than

\$15,000 was put together as a start on a Habitat for Humanity house. In the spring of 1999, Mrs. Lavine saw the house completed and ready for its new owners. She participated in a ceremony at Temple Israel celebrating the occasion.

Mrs. Lavine was preceded in death by her husband, Max, and by her father, Louis, her mother, Sophie, as well as her brothers, Morris of Phoenix, Ariz., and Harold of Fountain City, Ariz.

She is survived by her son, John (Meryl Lipton) Lavine, Evanston, Ill.; two grandsons, Max Bernard Lavine, also of Evanston, and Marc, of San Francisco, Calif.; her granddaughter, Miriam 'Mimi' (Jon) Gellman, of Jersey City, N.J.; her great-grandson, Adam Louis Gellman; four nephews and two nieces.

Services will take place at 10 a.m. Sunday at Temple Israel, 16th Ave. E. and 2nd St., Duluth, with burial at Temple Emanuel Cemetery, 4400 Woodland Ave., Duluth.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to:

Frances Lavine Fund
c/o Habitat for Humanity-Duluth
130 West Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

The Frances Lavine Scholarships
c/o College of St. Scholastica
Duluth, MN 65811

University of Wisconsin-Superior
Superior, WI. 54880

Northland College
Ashland, WI 54806

Service arrangements are being handled by the Johnson Mortuary in Duluth.

Family Members

Parents



Louis Hoffman
1881-1960



Sophie *Tauber* Hoffman
1884-1918

Spouse



Max H Lavine
1905-1964 (m. 1935)

Siblings



Morris C Hoffman
1907–1988



Dorothy Libby Hoffman
1909–1909



Harold Louis Hoffman
1910–1997

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Added: 26 Feb 2010

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