

Cover Story

A Time To Relish

Alan H. Feiler OCTOBER 20, 2006

"On this site in 1897, nothing happened."

On the crowded walls of the fabled Kibbitz Room at Attman's Delicatessen at 1019 E. Lombard St., the lingering past of Jewish Baltimore comes to roost like a vengeful, restless spirit. In a manner reminiscent of the 19th-century artworks that once crammed the walls of the now-defunct Haussner's Restaurant only minutes away in Highlandtown, the well-lit Kibbitz Room's framed photographs, kitschy advertisements and other items of visual assault celebrate the old glory days of the deli and East Baltimore neighborhood.

Amid a mirrored wall and tiled floor (and with the alluring scent of corned beef, hot pastrami and other culinary delicacies wafting into the room from the adjacent ordering area), there are autographed photographs of politicians and the deli's late owner, Seymour Attman; framed articles about Attman's in myriad local and national publications; enormous portraits of Dagwood-style deli meat sandwiches; a circa-1975 print ad of a curiously beaming Asian man eyeing a large sandwich with the slogan, "You don't have to be Jewish"; and sepia images of Jewish East Baltimore from the early 20th century.

In that latter vein, there is also a large, colorful painting of Lombard Street of the 1930s, depicting the area teeming with Jewish life and businesses — the pickle man, the butcher, a fruit pushcart, Smelkinson's Dairy, Holtzman's Bakery, Tulkoff's horseradish, Weiss Brothers Deli, Yankelov's Chickens, Stone's Famous Bakery. Turf and names that are familiar to those well-acquainted with the annals of Jewish Baltimore.

The painting is the visual manifestation of the place that Lombard Street — or its mid-'70s marketing designation of Corned Beef Row — maintains in the collective consciousness of a Jewish Baltimore that long ago left the "old neighborhood."

It is, in some respects, an overly nostalgic, even sporadically mythical, remembrance of a neighborhood and life and times that Jewish immigrants and their children experienced, a community frozen in that painting and in memory.

This is sacred territory — *our* Lower East Side, *our* Maxwell Street, *our* Hester Street.

And then there is that small, virtually unnoticeable plaque, which rests on the threshold between the Kibbitz Room and Attman's ordering area, bearing the humorous, quirky proclamation, "On this site in 1897, nothing happened." The plaque, situated on the cusp of two areas of concentrated, high-volume activity as any Attman's customer knows, seems to mock grandiose historical demarcations and pronouncements, while celebrating the ordinariness (and perhaps futility) of everyday life.

But regardless of the plaque's ironic message and the sentimentalizing of old Jewish Lombard Street, there is no doubt that *something* did happen there.

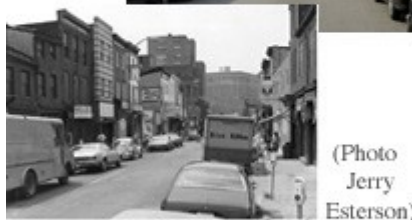
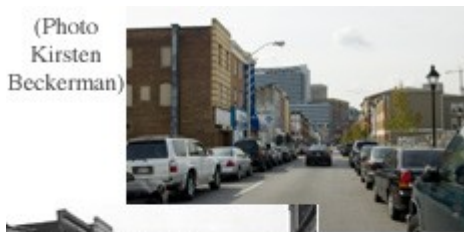
And for anyone who has recently visited the neighborhood — which still houses the Jewish Museum of Maryland, a pair of historic, well-preserved synagogues and three terminally busy Jewish delis — it's obvious that something is again happening at Corned Beef Row.

Don't look now but the old neighborhood appears to be coming back to life.



Across the street from B'nai Israel, a live/work facility is being built.
(Photo Kirsten Beckerman)

"There's a lot going on down here, and we're optimistic and excited about the future," says Dr. Marc Attman, owner and operator of the 91-year-old deli started by his grandfather, Harry. "Look around here, you've got to smile. It's fantastic, a breath of fresh air. Things are happening — *finally*. We've been waiting a long time."



Then and now, a view of Lombard Street: during the 1970s (left) and again today (above).

Dr. Attman is talking about the revitalization efforts taking place at Corned Beef Row that appear to be transforming the neighborhood — which largely consisted of vacant, dilapidated buildings and abandoned seedy properties since the riots of 1968 and subsequent flight and deterioration — into a clean, vibrant area of planned mixed-use and mixed-income residential and commercial life.

Taken a walk around Corned Beef Row recently? At times and at certain junctures, you may feel like you're in White Marsh or Owings Mills. The area, which is part of the historic Jonestown community, now brims with brand new, classic, mostly brick rowhomes, condominiums and apartment housing for young professionals, working-class families, and low-income individuals and families in need of public assistance (in the wake of the February 2001 demolition of the nearby Flag House

Courts public housing high-rise projects).

It's all part of a seemingly Utopian vision fostered by the city and the neighborhood's civic and commercial leaders to forge a rebirth of Corned Beef Row, in the same manner of the revitalization of such nearby areas as Federal Hill, Canton and Fells Point.

"It's unbelievable," says Howard Cohn, board chairman of B'nai Israel Synagogue on Lloyd Street. "If you told me that this would happen [in Corned Beef Row] 10 years ago, I would've laughed in your face — *impossible!*"

Says the *shul's* spiritual leader, Rabbi Alan Yuter: "I've been here for 13 months, and when I came [the neighborhood] looked like it was bombed-out. Empty streets, rubble. Now, it's a nice, clean, delightful neighborhood. It just came up so fast."

Thus far, the area's leadership — while still cautious about promises and expectations made by politicians and city bureaucrats, because of past dealings — is optimistic that Corned Beef Row has turned a major corner.

"We've lived long enough to see the transition," says Leon Amernick, co-owner of Leon and Allan Amernick Realtors on East Baltimore Street. "It was terrible before, very drug-ridden. Police didn't even want to go in [to Flag House]."

But the jury is still out about whether the neighborhood can actually bring together and sustain a population of diverging cultural and economic backgrounds to live in one concentrated urban area, as well as if the small business corridor there will eventually roar back to life. (To paraphrase "Field of Dreams" parlance, if you build the houses, will the businesses come?)

And will the area — which is on the city's new Heritage Walk Guided Tour and is home to such cultural institutions as the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, the Shot Tower and the Carroll Mansion —



Believed to be the first full-scale deli in Baltimore, Sussman and Lev's closed in the mid-1950s.

(Photo Jewish Museum of Maryland)

retain some of its character in the wake of gentrification efforts?

Also, will the neighborhood, which is located only minutes away from other city areas in which an estimated 10,000 Jews reside, experience a rebirth as a center of Jewish activity and significance?

In other words, will Corned Beef Row, which in essence ceased being a Jewish neighborhood more than a half-century ago, once again have *tam*, Jewish flavor?

'Enormous Disruption'

For the past couple of years, the air around Corned Beef Row has largely hummed, blared, clanked, roared and buzzed with a steady stream of sounds from bulldozers, hammers, drills and machinery, of construction crews tearing down bombed-out buildings, extending formerly closed streets (Lloyd, Granby, Albemarle, Plowman and High) to other neighborhoods such as Little Italy, and building sparkling new housing units.

"It's so weird that I live on a street called Horseradish Lane," muses one new resident with a chuckle.

The result of all the work in the neighborhood is largely the reversal of 50 years of intensive urban decay — an area now with a looser, airier, cleaner, safer look and feel. Optimism is undeniably in the atmosphere, with some new residents already moving into their homes and meticulously tending their yards.

Christopher Shea is the deputy commissioner of development at Baltimore Housing, the city agency that coordinates planning and development efforts. He admits that the construction for the Corned Beef Row project — as he himself calls it — has been at times frustrating and disorienting for the neighborhood's residents, merchants and workers. He says the project, in total, should be completed within two to three years.

"There's been enormous disruption in the neighborhood," he says. "They've all lived through this horrendous upheaval, in terms of the streets. They've survived that in a courageous manner."

According to Baltimore Housing, there is a total of 336 units that have been — or are being — built in the area. One-hundred-and-eighty-two are designated "affordable housing" rental units (in other words, for low-income families, some of whom previously lived in Flag House Courts and must undergo a thorough screening process); 10 "affordable" for-sale units, for working-class families; and 135 "market-rate" housing units, running \$300,000 and up (loose translation: for Yuppies and empty-nesters). By all reports, sales for the market-rate housing units are brisk, selling almost as fast as they're going up.

There will also be nine market-rate live/work (mixed residential and professional) units, and a live/work facility will be built at the corner of Lombard and Lloyd streets, across from B'nai Israel Synagogue and the Jewish Museum. Proposals for the facility are under review, according to Rosa Diaz, assistant commissioner for real estate development at Baltimore Housing. "The plan is to develop uses that are compatible with the neighborhood," she says.

(In addition, a roundabout has been built in the center of Lombard Street, at the intersection with High Street, with a statue by local sculptor David Hess to be installed in the near future.)

Flaghouse Courts LLC is the master developer of the affordable housing project, known by the quaint nomenclature of Albemarle Square. Harrison-Adaoha/EHCDC is developer of the 10 affordable for-sale units, and Atlanta-based Beazer Homes is builder of the market-rate houses and served as general contractor on the rental phases.

Mr. Shea says the neighborhood's \$65 million revitalization project largely stems from the demolition

of Flag House Courts. In 1998, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City was awarded a \$21.5 million HOPE VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help finance the redevelopment of Flag House Courts and other off-site properties in the Jonestown community. Like other redevelopment plans for high-rise public housing complexes in Baltimore, the project called for a sizable reduction in density and the creation of a mixed-income community.

Because of the HOPE VI grant and the historical nature of public housing in the area, Mr. Shea says it was essential for Corned Beef Row to be a mixed-income neighborhood. He says that successful urban neighborhoods tend to have "a healthy diversity of economic incomes."

"What's unusual with this is that we've created all of this for a commercial district," says Mr. Shea, noting that the city owns 80 percent of the vacant land in the neighborhood. "[Mayor Martin O'Malley's] directive was, this was a thriving business district — how do you get back there again? So there's a thread of investment logic here. We're being very deliberate in our thinking with this. You need the cachet that Corned Beef Row has. People around the city go to Attman's and Weiss's [Deli]. So there's a lot of existing market for what's there now.

"There's a lot going on here, and it's exciting."

Avi Y. Decter agrees with that sentiment. The Jewish Museum's executive director for nearly eight years, Mr. Decter says visitors to his institution, and the adjacent B'nai Israel and Lloyd Street synagogues, are frequently stunned by the neighborhood's transformation.

"Someone said to me that the museum has changed its location without even moving," he says, laughing. "It's clear that the neighborhood is reviving. Just from the streetscape aesthetic, everything is beautiful. It looks and feels different, and people feel good about it."

Meanwhile, Mr. Decter says the museum — which will stage an exhibition next fall about Corned Beef Row from a multi-ethnic perspective (*see box*) — wants to serve as a neighborhood catalyst. The museum and its parent organization, the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, are in the midst of plans to possibly build a community center of some type in Corned Beef Row.

Two years ago, the Associated purchased the property behind the museum on which Lenny's Delicatessen is located and plans to build a center there, according to Matt Freedman, chief planning officer for the Associated. He says the center may be similar to New York's 92nd Y, a Jewish community and cultural center that offers classes and programming.

"I'm not sure when this facility will be built, but it's part of our long-range planning," says Mr. Freedman. He says the center could be used for multiple purposes, such as exhibition space for the museum, meeting rooms, office space for social services and Associated agencies and recreational usage.

"The specifics will depend on the population there," he says. "If there are a lot of toddlers in the area, for example, we might put in an early childhood facility.

"What we're witnessing is a return of Jewish life to downtown Baltimore, which has been absent to that area for about 60 years," says Mr. Freedman. "We believe there's an opportunity for a type of anchor in downtown Baltimore similar to [the Jewish Community Centers in] Park Heights and Owings Mills. There's a Jewish renewal downtown because of the redevelopment there and because of the growing number of young professionals. That says to us that there is an opportunity and a responsibility to build there."

Mr. Decter envisions the possibility that the center could become a community center for the entire Jonestown community.

"We're moving very cautiously in our plan," he says. "We're looking for partners and realistic cost estimates. We want a clear vision that's proportional to our scales, to the site, to the audience."

More Than Corned Beef

At the same time, Dr. Attman says he is being cautiously ambitious in his designs to expand his deli business. Besides seeking to purchase the next door property that formerly housed Ginsberg's Fruit and Vegetable to enlarge the 38-year-old Kibbitz Room, he says Attman's hopes to purchase units for retail space in the live/work project across the street.

"Our size here is limited, so we want to [expand]," Dr. Attman says. "This is a 105-year-old building, so we want to upgrade and make maintenance updates. People always ask me if we'll stay here. Of course we will. I have all my eggs in one basket. We're making a big commitment here. We're not going anywhere."

Joe Burstyn, co-owner of Weiss's Deli, says his establishment is staying put, too. But he's less sanguine than others about the neighborhood's revitalization.



Weiss Deli co-owner Joe Burstyn: "They're doing a lot of building around here, but they're not really helping the businesses."
(Photo Kirsten Beckerman)

"Who knows? We'll see. It couldn't get no worse," he says with a growl. "Most of the people moving in are the same people who were in the projects and the high-rises before. The city says it won't let the troublemakers move in, that they'll be screened out. We'll see what happens. It's a different clientele with renting. People who don't care will destroy the houses. They should have made it all middle-class housing."

Similarly, Mr. Burstyn expresses doubt about the people moving into the market-rate units. "Just because they're moving in doesn't mean they'll stick around," he says. "We'll see how long they stay."

Dr. Attman, an optometrist who lives in Pikesville, says he's encouraged that the city "wants to make this area a Georgetown, with boutiques and shops. We're in favor of that. Business brings business, and we're hoping that will happen."

But he says he hopes the revitalization of the business corridor attracts a mix of commercial endeavors. "It's got to be more than just delis," he says. "There used to be six or seven delis down here, now there's just three. But people aren't going to eat corned beef everyday. We need variety down here. There should be choices."

Dr. Attman says the revitalization of Corned Beef Row was a long time coming, but he says he started believing in a turnaround when a nearby street was dedicated in 2003 in memory of his father, Seymour, who was a neighborhood staple.

"I started getting optimistic then when I saw that street cut through. It tied us to Little Italy, making it a continuum, a world you could walk around and peer into windows and see what's going on," Dr. Attman says. "The city woke up and saw how people were living here. It was bad, not how it's supposed to be. Now, it's a different ballgame, all good stuff. The people down here now are very nice. They want to live down here."

And despite the presence of low-income rental dwellings and homeless shelters in the area, Dr. Attman says middle-class and upper middle-class people are moving to Corned Beef Row, as indicated by housing sales.

"People know what they're getting into with cities," he said. "They're not afraid to move here. Where are [the shelters] going to go? They've been here for years. They need a place. We're going to move them out? It's a way of the world. No one is threatening anyone. We don't have any problems down here."

But despite the rosy picture blooming around Corned Beef Row, Dr. Attman and others say they would still like to see more work on the city's part to build up the business corridor. Dr. Attman says there should be tax breaks and low-interest loans to attract entrepreneurs to the area.

"I've lived here during ripped-up streets, blown-up buildings," says Dr. Attman. "It's nice what the city did, and I appreciate it. But the retail [component] will be a challenge. There's not a lot here. You need a big draw. I just want someone to come in and have the confidence to build on the street. I talk to a lot of people about coming down here — we'll see. Once we're done and people see what we're going to do here, I hope they'll take a chance. It's hard to be the first."

Leon Amernick describes himself as "moderately hopeful" about the area's ability to develop a commercial district. "It's going to take a push from the city fathers for Corned Beef Row to be re-establish itself as a commercial area," he says. "I'm just saying it as it is."

Says Mr. Burstyn: "There's only three businesses left here. We could use a bakery, a few groceries. The city talks nice, but then they always say that the funds run out. They've got every excuse in the book."

Several business people interviewed for this article say that the commercial area's success will largely hinge on the availability and cost of parking.

"They're doing a lot of building around here, but they're not really helping the businesses," says Mr. Burstyn. "We need more off-street parking. When it gets busy around here, there's no place to park, except possibly on Lombard Street."

One area businessperson and community leader, who requested anonymity, criticizes the city for "dragging its feet about parking, and I don't know why. They get an A-plus for the residential side, but they don't do s— on the business side. They say they do, but they don't. The whole area, if it doesn't get off-street, free, dedicated parking, you're not going to get small business people. You need parking that's free to the public and that's furnished by the city."

(In an e-mail response, Baltimore Housing's Rosa Diaz writes that the Jonestown area plan has two parking lots to serve area businesses, one at the corner of Lombard Street and Central Avenue and one behind Lloyd and Exeter streets. But she writes that the construction of retail parking "is dependent on further acquisition and demolition of vacant properties on Lombard Street.")

Regardless of concerns about parking, Father Richard Lawrence, spiritual leader of the St. Vincent de Paul Church and president of the Jonestown Planning Council, says he's confident about the business corridor's rebirth. He believes that short-time meters may be a solution, as well as the eventual connection between the red-line light rail and the subway.

"Parking has always been a struggle, for a lot of reasons," he says. "But how can you have free parking when you're at the edge of downtown? People will walk three blocks away if the parking is free. ...

"I think as we get more residents in the area, there will be more demands for [commercial] services. It will work more slowly than the housing. It won't be a Rouse mall opening. It will be entrepreneur by entrepreneur."



Father Richard Lawrence. "We've got something Canton doesn't have — a shul that's had a minyan for more than 100 years."
(Photo Kirsten Beckerman)

But with the construction of new homes in the area, Father Lawrence and others say they want to ensure that the community retains its original character and flavor while avoiding the generic attributes of urban gentrification.

"Bombed-out buildings are an asset to nothing. But you want to retain the history and character of a community," says Father Lawrence. "Otherwise, you could be anywhere. Jonestown was always mixed-use — low-density, low-rise, residential and business. It was a working-class neighborhood. It was *everyone's* neighborhood — Irish, Jewish, German, African-American. It's always had that flavor. We need to preserve that flavor and character and history."

Still, Marc Attman laughs when questioned about the neighborhood losing its character.

"Losing its character? The character 60 years ago was different. But from 1970 to 2003, that character can be *done*," he says. "What do you want, pornography shops and phone stores? There's got to be newness. We needed change. The other way wasn't working. I'd like it to be like Hampden — merchants involved, community involved and nothing vanilla. That would be my hope."

Beyond Killing Chickens

In his book "Jewish Baltimore: A Family Album" (Johns Hopkins Press), Gilbert Sandler writes of Corned Beef Row, "From the delicatessens, bakeries, fruit, and poultry stalls came the heady and haunting aromas of hot dogs, salami and mustard, homemade pickles in strong brine (bay leaves, ginger, cloves), freshly cut onions, ground peppers and rye bread still warm."

But he cautions that's a world that is no more, quite extinct, and no urban renaissance or nostalgic journey can ever bring it back.

"It's a stretch to claim anything of that area as Jewish now," insists Mr. Sandler, a monthly history columnist for the Baltimore Jewish Times. "Most young people don't connect to this East side *schtick*. Too many generations have gone by. There was a concentration of *Yiddishkeit* that once made it a Jewish neighborhood. I don't think that element is there now."

While legions of young Jewish urban professionals and empty-nesters have moved to Canton, Fells Point and Federal Hill, it remains to be seen if Corned Beef Row will experience a Jewish influx. But Mr. Sandler says it wouldn't matter if Jews moved there anyway.

"They are not moving [to East Baltimore and Federal Hill] because of memories of Jewish Baltimore," he says. "Having young Jewish professionals living in a neighborhood that was Jewish 100 years ago doesn't make it a Jewish neighborhood. The notion that this is going to be a revival in any mutation that's Jewish challenges me."

Several months ago, while watching the demolitions and construction taking place in Corned Beef Row, the Baltimore-born Mr. Sandler, an octogenarian, says he bid farewell to the area's rich Jewish legacy.

"I felt like they were plowing over my heritage and going to build on top of that," he says. "But then I said goodbye to it. It was a graveyard of Jewish Baltimore history. History always builds on top of the graves of the past. And so it is."

Joe Burstyn, of Weiss's Deli, says he doesn't believe young Jewish professionals will flock to Corned Beef Row. "Canton is a completely different neighborhood," he says. "You don't have public housing there. You're not going to have young Jewish professionals living next to subsidized housing. I just can't see it. If you're *really* Jewish, you'll be in Park Heights."

But Avi Decter and others contend that Corned Beef Row could again be a flourishing Jewish

community, albeit one that's quite different from the 1930s model.

"Look, they'll never be killing live chickens on the street or running pushcarts on the sidewalk, or have the rich variety of [Jewish] stores," he says. "But it can be a 21st-century version of that. Will there be a growing Jewish community? Look out there, Jewish people are already here in town, living and working and playing here."

Leon Amernick agrees. "It could be restored to its former status, not its former glory," he says. "I could see [young Jews] moving there, with the Jewish Museum and B'nai Israel being a centerpiece. People could be enticed there. Why not?"

Sitting in his rectory kitchen on a recent chilly morning, Father Lawrence — a Pikesville native of whom one Jewish businessman on Corned Beef Row calls "our savior" for his longtime civic activism — ponders the area's potential Jewish rebirth.

"You won't have chickens in the cages in the streets or the *shochets* [ritual slaughterers], like when I first came here [in 1973]," says Father Lawrence, pulling at his long, gray beard while sipping a cup of coffee. "Where *do* you have chickens in cages on the streets today? It's not going to be re-created here or anywhere else.

"But we've got something here that Canton doesn't have — a *shul* that's had a *minyan* for more than 100 years. B'nai Israel is still an active congregation. Why not buy a house that's in walking distance to the *shul*?"

Father Lawrence maintains a universalistic vision of the future Corned Beef Row. "I do think the neighborhood can be like it was before — for everyone," he says. "And as it works, more people will come here. I don't think that these people will be at a loss if and when they sell in 10 years. I think we're moving in the right direction. It's taken forever, but I don't think there's any question that things are happening around here."

And perhaps someday in Corned Beef Row, at a spot where a pickle vendor once peddled his wares, they'll put up a plaque that reads, "On this site in 2006, something happened."

Seeing 'Voices'

Next fall, the Jewish Museum of Maryland will open a major original exhibition that illuminates a century of change and diversity in East Baltimore. "Voices of Lombard Street: A Century of Change in East Baltimore" will interpret the history of East Baltimore's Jewish community in relation to other ethnic groups that made their homes in the colorful neighborhood just east of the Jones Falls.

As it traces the neighborhood's evolution from 1900 to today, the exhibition will chronicle Jewish life and show how the experiences of Jews and other residents intersected, overlapped and diverged. It will explore the meanings and shapes of community, and invite visitors to offer their own reflections and observations.

Co-curators of the exhibition are the museum's associate director, Anita Kassof, and Deborah R. Weiner, the JMM's research historian and family history coordinator.

Timeline of Jewish Baltimore

1845: The Lloyd Street Synagogue is built by

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, the city's first Jewish congregation. Jews reportedly began settling in East Baltimore as early as 1815.

1876: Chizuk Amuno builds a synagogue a few doors away on Lloyd Street. In 1895, the building is sold to B'nai Israel Congregation.

1890s: The transition of the East Baltimore Jewish neighborhood from German to East European becomes complete. Lombard Street is in full swing as the community's market center.

1902: The Aitz Chaim Congregation moves to 17 S. Eden St. Most of the area *shuls* occupy the side streets of the neighborhood — High, Exeter, Lloyd and Eden.

1905: Four delicatessens are located in the neighborhood. With Lombard Street serving as the marketplace, Baltimore Street becomes the entertainment and cultural center of the community, with restaurants, theaters and cultural institutions such as the B'rith Sholom Hall.

1909: The Talmud Torah, the city's largest Hebrew school, moves to 1029 E. Baltimore St. In 1930, the Workmen's Circle takes over the building.

1913: The Jewish Educational Alliance moves to 1216 E. Baltimore St., where it will remain until closing in 1952.

1915: The Baltimore City directory lists 19 *shuls* in the neighborhood. Harry Attman opens his first deli.

1920s: The East Baltimore Jewish neighborhood expands east beyond Caroline Street, all the way to Patterson Park. East European Jews also begin moving to Lower Park Heights and other northwest neighborhoods.

1940s-1960s: Urban renewal projects change the face of the neighborhood, as tenements are demolished to make way for public housing and other large projects. The Jewish population, which decreased significantly by the start of World War II, is now almost entirely gone. However, throngs of Jews continue to shop on Lombard Street on the weekends.

1955: The Flag House Courts public housing development opens. It contains a mix of low-rise and high-rise buildings.

1960: The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland is created, with the mission to acquire, renovate and maintain the Lloyd Street Synagogue. Four years later, the partially restored synagogue is dedicated as a museum and opened to the public.

1968: The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sparks citywide riots. One shop on Lombard Street is burned down. Others are damaged, but most reopen and continue to serve customers well into the 1970s. Also, the Kibbitz Room at Attman's Deli opens in 1968.

1970s-1980s: Lombard Street stores begin to dwindle as crime increases and inner city areas deteriorate. By the 1990s, three delicatessens remain: Attman's, Weiss's and Lenny's (formerly Jack's Corned Beef). All continue to attract a loyal and diverse clientele.

1974: The Jonestown Planning Council is founded to address the needs of the neighborhood bounded by Pratt, Lexington, Fallsway and Central Avenue.

1976: East Lombard Street area is proclaimed "Corned Beef Row" by then-Mayor William Donald Schaefer to revitalize the neighborhood. The \$3 million improvement program does not succeed.

1981: B'nai Israel Congregation deeds its Lloyd Street building to the Jewish Historical Society. The society restores the synagogue while leasing the facility back to B'nai Israel.

1987: The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland opens a Jewish Heritage Center on the lot between the Lloyd Street and the B'nai Israel synagogues.

2001: The Flag House Courts public housing project is demolished.

2002: Local museums, businesses and cultural institutions come together to form Historic Jonestown Inc. They begin developing Heritage Walk, a pedestrian trail highlighting the neighborhood's many landmarks and museums.

2003: Dedication of the street Seymour Attman's Way, in honor of the longtime Corned Beef Row activist and proprietor of Attman's Deli. Attman died the previous year.

2005: The new rowhouse development, Albemarle Square, begins to open in phases as construction is completed. It contains a mixture of low- and moderate-income rentals with market-rate condominiums. Heritage Walk also opens.

Compiled by Deborah R. Weiner, research historian and family history coordinator, Jewish Museum of Maryland, and Alan H. Feiler