



# 1800LAWFIRM.com

## NOW SAVING COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS ON THEIR TAXES

# JN

DETROIT JEWISH NEWS

\$2.00 MARCH 22-28, 2012 / 28 ADAR-5 NISAN 5772

A JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDIA PUBLICATION

theJEWISHNEWS.com

### >> Salute To Israeli Soldiers

Friends of the IDF national NY gala raises \$26 million.

See page 10.

### >> Attack On Jewish School

Slaughter of father, two sons and a female student in France intensifies security focus. See page 32.

### >> AIPAC Trip Inspires Teens

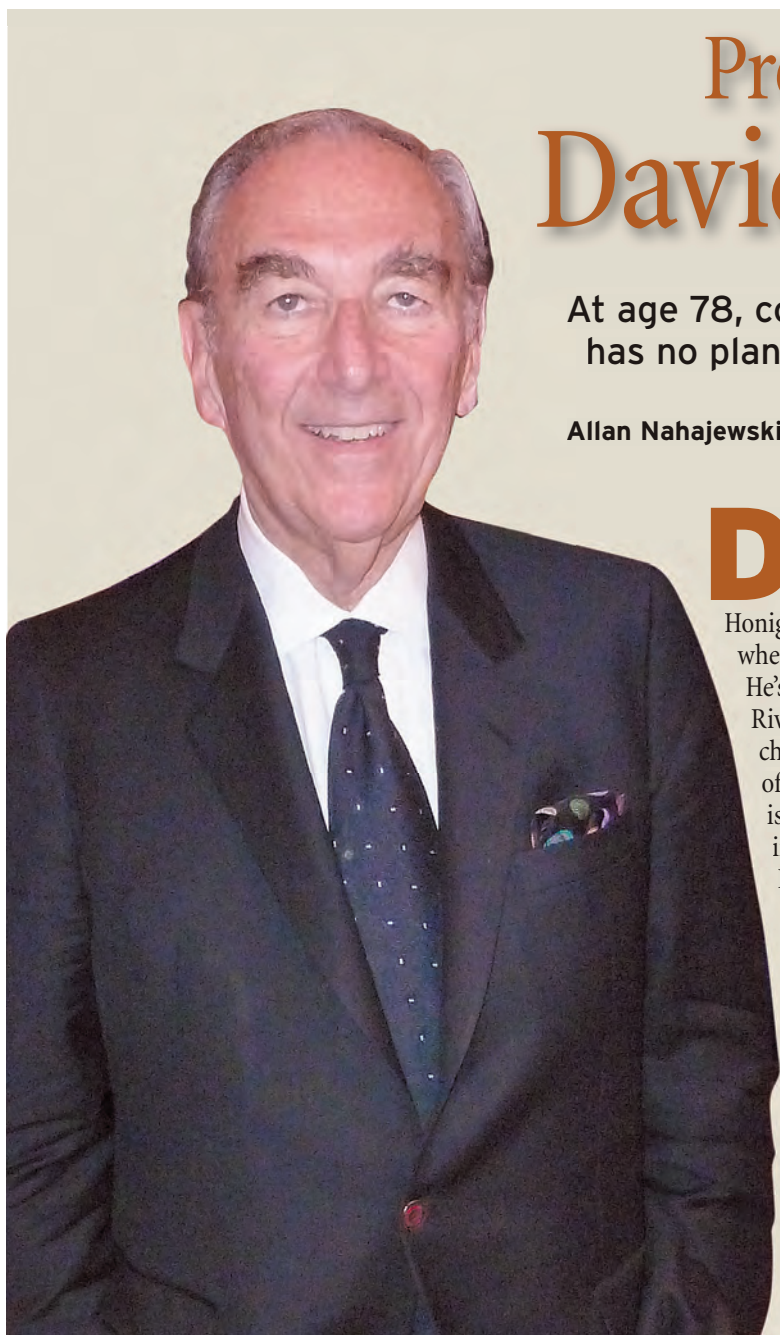
Students learn firsthand about Israel advocacy. See page 34.



Among the murder victims: Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two sons, Arieh and Gabriel.

metro

» cover story



## Profile: David Page

At age 78, community leader has no plans to slow down.

Allan Nahajewski | Contributing Writer

**D**avid Page fits a lot of activity into a day.

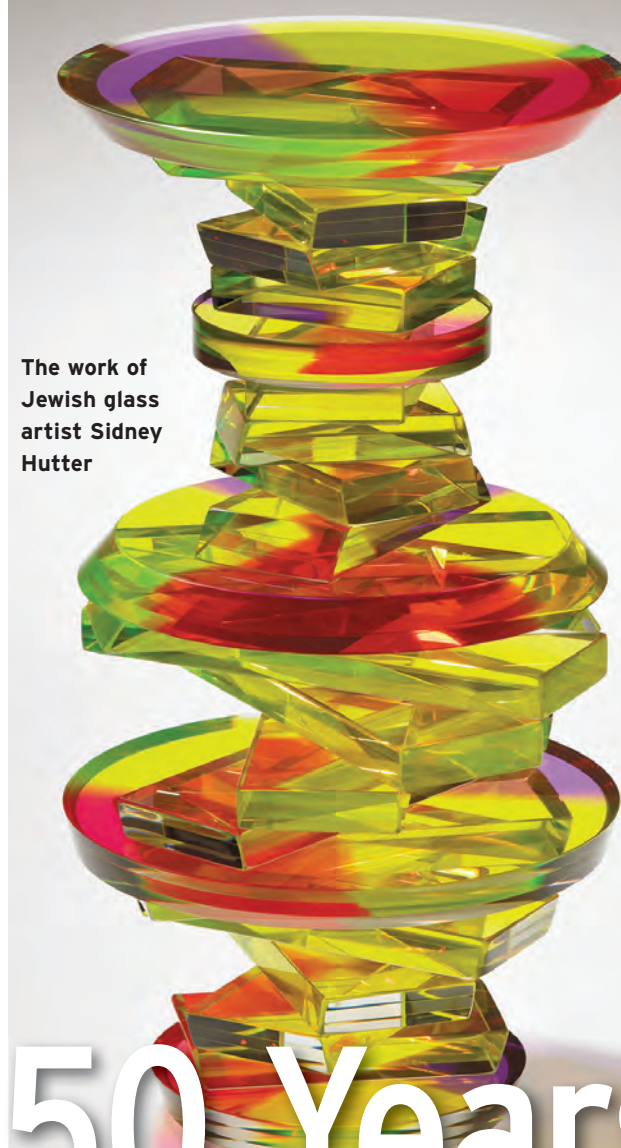
He's a partner with the Honigman law firm in Detroit, where he's worked for 53 years. He's vice chair of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. He chairs the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation and is on many boards, including the Jewish Fund, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, City Year Detroit, Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Zoo and Detroit Chamber Music Society.

That's the short version. On his official bio sheet, under "Community Involvement," there are 60 bullet points.

He also invests in businesses, serves on company boards, and loves to travel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

arts & entertainment



The work of Jewish glass artist Sidney Hutter

Courtesy Habatat Galleries

# 50 Years Of Studio Glass

Celebration of an arts movement.

STORY ON PAGE 43



# 50 Years Of Studio Glass

West Bloomfield's David Denn oversees national celebration of an arts movement.

Suzanne Chessler | Contributing Writer

**J**oanne and David Denn were browsing the Ann Arbor Art Fair some 15 years ago when glass designs by Kit Karbler caught their attention.

The couple moved in close, found a piece they both liked and made their first purchase in the contemporary medium.

Just this year in Florida, at another art fair, the Denny again spotted the work of Karbler, noticed one new piece they especially liked and made another purchase.

While they are happy with both selections, it's their involvement with the art form in between those finds that has made and will make the biggest impact.

Their shared interest has led to David Denn's chairmanship of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass 2012 Committee, a group that has promoted the development of 167 major exhibitions and associated programs across the country.

The idea came about in discussions of ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American Studio Glass Movement.

Eleven of those major exhibitions — and related ones — will take place in Michigan.

Ferdinand Hampson, owner of Habatat Galleries in Royal Oak, has defined the 2012 initiative as the largest cooperative cultural venture to take place in the United States.

"I thought I had retired from any great responsibilities when I retired from the practice of law in 2002," says Denn, 79. "Then I took on this project starting in March of 2010.

"I didn't realize how many hours would need to be devoted to it, but it has been a wonderful opportunity to meet curators and directors of museums in support of the growth of interest in contemporary glass."

The Denny, who live in West Bloomfield and have enjoyed traveling to some of the exhibitions already in place, are looking forward to openings around the state.

The Detroit Institute of Arts, for instance, is reinstalling the Aviva and Jack Robinson Gallery, creating a special display of the museum's extensive glass holdings to be on view for one year starting Wednesday, April 4.

Rebecca Hart, DIA associate curator, will present an in-depth discussion of the collection at 7 p.m. Friday, April 27, almost two months before a visit by members of the Glass Art Society.

The Toledo Museum of Art, which launched the American Studio Glass movement and will host the annual conference of the society, has made plans for its own exhibition and associated programs.

The Ohio museum, in 1962, held two experimental glass workshops at the core of transforming glass into a popular and respected artistic medium.

In a joint effort, artist and university instructor Harvey Littleton, glass technician Dominick Labino and glassblower Harvey Leafgreen pioneered

hot-blown glassworking techniques outside the factory setting.

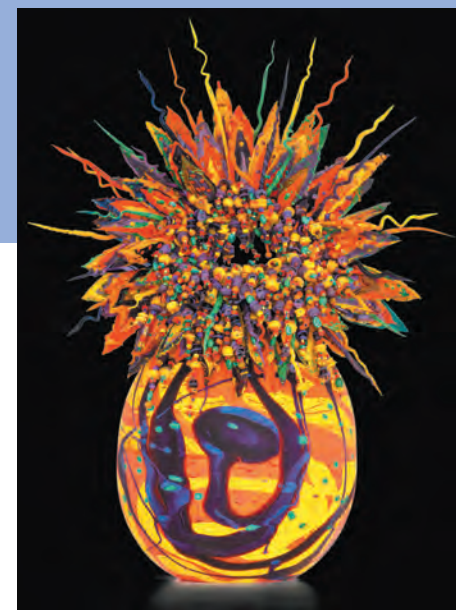
Also visiting Toledo will be some 70 board members of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, which this June is having its board meeting in the Metro Detroit area for the first time.

All the anniversary activities remind the Denny of their personal history with glass.

"Some time after we bought that first glass piece in Ann Arbor, my wife and I decided to go to an open glass exhibition at the Habatat Galleries," Denn recalls. "I saw a piece by Toots Zynsky and decided



The work of Jewish glass artists Daniel Clayman (left), Alex Bernstein (top right) and Laura Donefer (bottom right).



Courtesy Habatat Galleries

to get it as a birthday gift for my wife. That really started our serious collecting.

"In 2000, Habatat sponsored a tour to Venice, Prague and Paris, and we joined about 30 other collectors. During our travels, we bought several pieces.

"As our collecting continued, it added a very exciting dimension to our retirement years. We've gotten to know the artists, the processes and the history of each piece."

The Denny, members of Temple Kol Ami, have accumulated a large number of works by Jewish glass artists and commissioned a piece by Lucio Bubacco of Italy to capture the Jewish holidays.

Bubacco shows the lighting of the Sabbath candles, blowing of the shofar and reading of the Torah. His figures of three young people represent the couple's three children.

"The Habatat Galleries assisted us in having that piece developed during one year," Denn says. "We keep it in our living room."

Habatat, in conjunction with the 50-year celebration, is holding its 40th annual International Glass Invitational Awards Exhibition April 26-May 26. More than 90 works from around the world, including one by Littleton, will be shown.

Among the Michigan art and educational centers joining the glass commemoration are the Berkowitz Gallery at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Flint Institute of Arts, Denny Museum Center in Traverse City, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Muskegon Museum of Art, Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in Midland, Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Rankin Art Gallery at Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

Herb Babcock, who heads glass initia-

tives at the College for Creative Studies, has curated "Fusion," an exhibition and sale that features glass along with clay and runs March 29-May 2 at the Janice Charach Gallery in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield (see related story on page 45).

"Glass has a timeless elegance," Denn says. "It delights the eye and exercises the mind. It's so unique in its beauty that it lights up our lives to have it all around us. Our collection is something we hope our children and grandchildren will enjoy for years to come." □



Glass collectors Joanne and David Denn



The Denny commissioned a piece by Lucio Bubacco of Italy to capture the Jewish holidays. The lighting of the Sabbath candles, blowing of the shofar and reading of the Torah are depicted.

For details regarding the major glass exhibitions, go to [www.contempglass.org](http://www.contempglass.org).