

Elizabeth Shaikun Weinberg passed away at age 92 on January 10, 2016. She was born in Greensburg, Kentucky to Eugenia Lerner and Edward Shaikun. She graduated from Greensburg High School and attended Indiana University and received a master's degree from the University of Kentucky. She taught business and was co-owner of the Plaza Shop clothing store in Madison, Indiana. Elizabeth was a member of Keneseth Israel congregation and sisterhood, Hadassah, NCJW – Louisville Section, Indiana Jewish Historical Society, Jefferson County Historical Society and Tri Kappa of Madison. She was president of the League of Women Voters and authored three Indiana Jewish historical publications about Madison. She enjoyed reading, playing bridge, watching movies, and researching family genealogy.

Elizabeth wrote and traced where the Madison European Jews lived before immigrating to the US and Madison and also where they made their home after moving from Madison. A group of 20 Jewish families started a Jewish Synagogue in 1855 located off Main Street upstairs over a butcher shop. The building is still standing today because Madison is a National Trust for Historical Preservation city. You can read her articles in the Indiana Jewish Historical Society books publication No. 21, 23, 24, and 27. Elizabeth wrote an entire article on the Madison Jews' hiring of the first Hebrew teacher Bernard Felsenthal who became instrumental in helping to form the American Reform movement. Her articles are extremely well written and she is most deserving of this award. None of this history would be known today, if not for Elizabeth's years of research, study and desire to write about these small town Jews. We all owe Elizabeth much gratitude for saving this Jewish History. We are honored to present the Hoosier Jewish Legends Award to Elizabeth Weinberg.