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<i>Basic biographical data</i>	
Name:	Sarah Lovell
Other names (by-names, pseud. etc.):	Sarah Rebecca Hellman * Sarah Rebecca Lovell * Sarah Zucker
Date and place of birth:	May 8, 1922, Brooklyn, NY (USA)
Date and place of death:	June 14, 1994, New York, NY (USA)
Nationality:	USA
Occupations, careers, etc.:	Copy editor, writer, party organizer, unionist
Time of activity in Trotskyist movement:	1938 - 1994 (lifelong Trotskyist)

Biographical sketch

Sarah (Rebecca) Lovell was born on May 8, 1922, in Brooklyn, New York, N.Y. as daughter of Sol Hellman and Yetta Yankowitz, East European Jews who had immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century. Together with her two sisters, Anne and Molly, she grew up in the working class milieu and was only seven years old when the Great Depression began. In 1938, aged sixteen, she joined the *Young Peoples Socialist League (YPSL)* where she was much impressed with Harry [Braverman](#), a then YPSL leader.

In 1940, Sarah Lovell joined the *Socialist Workers Party (SWP)* and became a veteran to the labor and socialist movement in the spirit of James P. [Cannon](#) and Leon Trotsky. In the early 1940s, she was briefly married to a Trotskyist comrade, Eugene Zucker. After World War II, she met SWP and union activist Frank [Lovell](#)¹, gave up her party activities in one of the branches of the New York City Local and followed him to San Francisco. Though Sarah Lovell soon returned to New York, she eventually decided for San Francisco, where she and Frank Lovell were married in April 1949. Later that year, the SWP sent them to Seattle for helping in a fight among the *Sailors' Union of the Pacific*. A few months before they moved back to San Francisco, their daughter Joan was born (July 1950). In the early 1950s, the SWP asked them to move to Detroit where another division struggled with the party over how to proceed in the new period of political reaction (McCarthyism). Led by trade unionist Bert [Cochran](#) and accompanied among others by Harry and Miriam [Braverman](#), a faction set up which believed, that it was necessary to scale back dramatically, dropping SWP electoral campaigns and other activities that would make party members vulnerable, adapting to the liberal trade union bureaucracy in such unions as the *United Auto Workers*, and in some cases regrouping with non-Trotskyist radicals in the Stalinist milieu. In 1953, shortly after Frank ran for mayor of Detroit, the *Cochranites* split from the SWP. The Lovells remained in Detroit, Sarah earning her living as a proofreader and copy editor

1) For more about Frank Lovell see the bio-bibliographical sketch [Frank Lovell](#), provided within the framework of our Lubitz' TrotskyanaNet website

with the *Detroit Free Press* and was an active member of the *International Typographical Union (ITU)*. At the same time, she was deeply involved in the weekly *Friday Night Socialist Forum* of the Detroit *SWP* branch, the moving spirit of which were George and Dorothea Breitman. But Sarah Lovell did much more than give forums and classes: in 1957, she ran a vigorous election campaign for mayor, in 1961 she was on the ballot for Common Council, and in 1968 she was a candidate for the U.S. Congress. A defender of the Cuban revolution, she travelled to Cuba, she organized meetings and demonstrations against the Vietnam war and against racist discrimination in the U.S. She served as a branch organizer, was a Detroit delegate to the *National Convention* of the *SWP*, and in the Sixties she functioned as an alternate to the *SWP National Committee*. In 1969, the Lovells moved to New York City where Frank became *SWP* trade union director and a member of the *Political Committee*. Sarah remained active in her union, in anti-racist campaigns and in movements against the Vietnam war. When the new *SWP* leadership under Jack Barnes transformed the party away from Trotskyism and the *Fourth International* into an uncritical sister party of Castro's Cuban Communist Party, the Lovells, together with a group of other renowned Trotskyist veterans under the intellectual leadership of George Breitman, resisted to this new course, forming an oppositional caucus in 1981. The three volume documentary series *In defense of American Trotskyism*, to which Sarah Lovell contributed as editor and co-author, vividly reflects this inner party struggle and the subsequent development of the radical socialist movement in the United States.

Expelled from the *SWP* in 1983, the Lovells, the Breitmans and others founded the *Fourth Internationalist Tendency (FIT)* in 1984. Sarah Lovell was a member until 1992 when she decided to join *Solidarity*. Her utmost contribution to the work of the *FIT* was the founding and publication of its theoretical paper *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism (BIDOM)*. From 1987 until September 1992, she held the post of its co-editor; she also was *BIDOM*'s circulation manager, supervised mailings to subscribers and contributed a lot of articles and reviews.

Her excellent skills as proofreader and copy-editor were much appreciated in her ten years lasting work with George Breitman on the English-language edition of Leon Trotsky's collected *Writings*. After Breitman's death in 1986 she was committed to various literary pursuits, writing numerous articles and supervising a variety of publishing projects including her labor of love *A tribute to George Breitman : writer, organizer, revolutionary* (1987).

Sarah Lovell was also a committed socialist-feminist and joined first the *Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)* and later the *National Organization for Women (NOW)* shortly after its founding convention and acted in its exploratory commissions until her death.

On June 14, 1994, Sarah Lovell died in New York City, at age 72 of cancer. A memorial service was held at *Tamiment Library*, New York City, on September 30, 1994.

Selective bibliography ²

- ***Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets and journals (co-)edited by Lovell***

Bulletin in Defense of Marxism (New York, NY) <TSB 0219>

In Defense of Marxism (New York, NY) <TSB 0616>

The struggle inside the Socialist Workers Party 1979-1983 / ed. by Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Fourth Internationalist Tendency, 1992. - 329 pp. - (In defense of American Trotskyism)

A tribute to George Breitman : writer, organizer, revolutionary / ed. by Naomi Allen and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Fourth Internationalist Tendency, 1987. - 163 pp. [Obituaries, reminiscences and appraisals by some 50 individuals and some 14 organizations]

Trotsky, Leon: Leon Trotsky speaks / ed. [and with a pref.] by Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr.,

² TSB item numbers (e.g. <TSB 0716>) refer to Lubitz' *Trotskyist Serials Bibliography*, München [etc.] : Saur, 1993, which is out of print but [available as PDF file](#) within the framework of the *Lubitz' TrotskyanaNet* website. In TSB you can find detailed descriptions of the respective Trotskyist journals, newsletters, bulletins and the like.

1972. - 333 pp. [& later ed.]
- Trotsky, Leon: Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1929 / ed. by George Breitman and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1975. - 460 pp.
- Trotsky, Leon: Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1930 / ed. by George Breitman and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1975. - 443 pp.
- Trotsky, Leon: Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1930 - 31 / ed. by George Breitman and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1973. - 441 pp.
- Trotsky, Leon: Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1932 / ed. by George Breitman and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1973. - 413 pp.
- Trotsky, Leon: Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1932 - 33 / ed. by George Breitman and Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1972. - 365 pp. [& later ed.]

- ***Selective bibliography: Books, collections, journals, bulletins to which Lovell contributed***

- Bulletin In Defense of Marxism (New York, NY) <TSB 0219>
- In Defense of Marxism (New York, NY) <TSB 0616>
- International Viewpoint (Various places) [ISSN 0294-2925] <TSB 0726>
- The Party Builder / Socialist Workers Party (New York, NY) <TSB 1178>
- Trotsky, Leon: Leon Trotsky speaks / ed. [and with a pref.] by Sarah Lovell. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1972. - 333 pp. [& later ed.]

- ***Selective bibliography: Books and articles about Lovell***

- [Anon.]: Lovell, Sarah Rebecca, in: *The New York Times*, 1994 (June 16). [Obituary]
- [Anon.]: Sarah Lovell (1922-1994), in: *In Defense of Marxism* <TSB 0616> 12.1994 (6=117), p. 2. [Obituary]
- [Anon.]: Sarah Lovell (1922-1994) / aus d. Engl. übers. von Friedrich Dorn, in: *Inprekorr : internationale Pressekorrespondenz der IV. Internationale* <TSB 0654>, 1995 (290), p. 35. [Obituary]
- [Anon.]: Sarah Lovell, fighter for Trotskyism, in: *The Organizer* <TSB 1157>, 1994 (July/Aug.). [Obituary]
- Breitman, Dorothea: Sarah Rebecca Lovell (1922-1994) / Dorothy Breitman, in: *Socialist Action* (San Francisco) <TSB 1489>, 12.1994 (8), p. 14. [Obituary]
- Hepner, Randal L.: Sarah Lovell, 1922-1994, in: *Against the Current* <TSB 0014>, n.s. 9.1994 (4=52), p. 44. [Obituary]
- Le Blanc, Paul: Sarah Lovell : collective portrait of a revolutionary, in: *In Defense of Marxism* <TSB 0616>, 12.1994 (7=118), pp. 23-27. [Obituary]
- Le Blanc, Paul: Sarah Lovell : collective portrait of a revolutionary, in: *Revolutionary labor socialist : the life, ideas, and comrades of Frank Lovell* / ed. by Paul Le Blanc and Thomas Barrett, Union City, NJ, 2000, pp. 247-262. [Obituary]
- Panitch, Leo: Sarah Lovell (1922-1994), in: *Canadian Dimension*, 28.1994 (4), p. 43. [Obituary]

Note: More information about Sarah Lovell is likely to be found in some of the books, pamphlets, university works, and articles listed in the relevant chapters of the *Lubitz' Leon Trotsky Bibliography* [ISSN 2190-0183], e.g. in chapter [7.5.18](#)

- ***Selective bibliography: Books dedicated to Lovell***

- From Marx to Gramsci : a reader in revolutionary Marxist politics / historical overview and selection by Paul Le Blanc. - Atlantic Highlands, NJ : Humanities Pr., 1996. - XIV, 350 pp.

Wolfgang and Petra Lubitz, 2006
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