

Who's Who

in
Bnai Brith
Indianapolis Lodge 58



BENEVOLENCE

BROTHERLY LOVE

HARMONY

FROM 1939 TO 1964

Why?

Many of Lodge 58's older members have asked this question about the efforts of the Lodge to honor them. Many have modestly said they belonged to B'nai B'rith to support its charities. Many said they belonged because they liked the way the Anti-Defamation League stuck its organizational chin out for them. Many said they liked to attend meetings. A few said they belonged because they got started and it was easier to pay dues than it was to face the Lodge's enforcers, its Retention Committee.

But none said they belonged so that someday they might be honored.

Through the years, the Lodge has honored civic leaders, humanitarians, businessmen ... but it never honored, sometimes totally ignored, that group which served as the backbone of the organization--its ordinary common run-of-the-mill dues-paying loyal uncomplaining membership.

In a sense, we honor ourselves tonight. In paying tribute to its long-time members, Lodge 58 congratulates itself in being able to keep the loyalty of so many men for so many years. The Lodge thanks each of you for giving it the opportunity to congratulate itself.

This book is a potpourri of B'nai B'rith and Lodge 58 miscellany. Readers will find bits and pieces about its members, its history, the history of the times we have survived. Some of our old timers have written short biographies (or whatever) about each of our known 25-year members. Accidentally we've probably picked up some 23 and maybe 20-year members and some 40 and 50-year members ... but no harm done, because we're honoring our entire membership tonight. The biographies, because of time and space limitations, necessarily are brief and are only intended to highlight the well-known characteristics of the subject. We hope no one's offended.

Interspersed among the biographies are headlines and news items gleaned by Morris Strauss from the Indiana Jewish Chronicle, which cover the year 1939, from January to December. We hope they will help you reminisce.

We chose to combine the honoring of 25-year members with the installation of new officers for several reasons. For one, we wanted to remind all of the ritual and tradition which helps preserve B'nai B'rith's hold on its members. For another, we wanted the old-timers to get a close look at the men who are carrying the banner currently for the Lodge.

At any rate, this is your evening. Enjoy, Enjoy.

Especial thanks for this book and tonight's program go to Jules Medias, Bob Gordon, Sam Kroot, Phil Kraft, Sam Mantel, Tom Mantel, Syd Romer and Morris Strauss.

Philip D. Pecar,
Editor

Our Twenty-Five Year Members

SAM ABELS... The man who they all come to for the right answer about cars. Built a solid reputation through the years for two things: Trust-worthy dealer in cars, and a top-of-the-deck dealer in gin.

PHILIP ADLER, JR. ... Brilliant speaker, devoted worker in both Jewish and non-Jewish activities. Twenty-five years ago he was the head of American Hosiery Mills, which he still heads. (That's the trouble with starting at the top; you can't advance.) That smile he wore 25 years ago was probably because he had learned that he was destined someday to receive the United Fund's man of the year award for outstanding service.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Eddie Cantor was presented with a life membership to the A.Z.A. by Sidney J. Kusworm.

HARRY ALPERT ... Generally regarded as one of the fine putters at Broadmoor Country Club, particularly if you don't have to swear to it on a stack of Bibles. Harry is astute; has a good kopf on his shoulders, and is particularly beloved by his golf opponents when he gets on and around the greens.

SIDNEY ARONSON ... The portly and genial physician who has an ear for good music and a balm for every sore throat. The ears, nose and throat of the world.

THE WORLD 1939

Nazi Germany and Soviet Union sign non-aggression Pact. (Aug. 24)
Roosevelt proclaims limited national emergency. (Sept. 8)

LOUIS BARNETT ... For nineteen years the President of Shara Tefilla Synagogue. Lou is a long time member of the southside business community as President of Barnett Bottling Company. Lou also served for many years as Treasurer of the Beth-El Zedeck Temple.

CHARLES BASSLER ... Another of the old time members. Helped with raising funds to build the Jewish Community Center. His hobby is pipe collecting.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Maurice Bisgyer, National Secretary, comes here October 18, 1939.

JOE BASSLER ... Old time trustee and guardian of the Ma-Co Building Club Rooms. Charter member of the coffee klatsch which shifted from the old Thompson's to Lincoln Hotel. Ask him about his hobby -- collecting books on Lincoln.

J. K. BERMAN ... Dr. Jack recently lent his services to the establishment of the Chair of Hebrew Language and Literature at Indiana University. His leadership earned him the praise of Herman Wells, Elvis Stahr and Jews throughout America. Dr. Berman's a top surgeon, but don't let him catch you calling his fees "cut rates".

THE WORLD 1940

Litvaks become a part of USSR. (July 14)
Russia and Finland sign peace treaty. (Mar. 12)

DR. A. EBNER BLATT ... A superb physician and a superb soldier in World War II. Ebner wanted to be a paratrooper (how meshuga can you get?) but he was X pounds overweight, so he went on a rigid diet and lost those X pounds. Then he could jump into the far blue yonder with a prayer on his lips and a song in his heart. Ebner is a past board member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. As a doctor in the paratroopers, he treated high livers.

BARNEY BLICKMAN ... At one time he would go "right to the point"... Yes, everyday for many years the Point at Illinois and Washington Streets. A good merchant who retired, got tired of being retired, and couldn't wait to get back into business. But did he?? A good guy, easy and lovable.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Theodore Dann was named President of the J. C. C. A.

JEROME BLICKMAN ... Gives the impression of being the world's slowest moving human, and the west's unfastest gun, but actually a sharp wit. A delight to have around -- if you can get him to come around. Formerly a highly regarded jeweler -- today a highly regarded semi-retired gentleman.

SOL BLICKMAN ... Known for his red hair and even temperment, Sol led Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation during recent years, and is now a member of the Washington Township School Board. About him it can truly be said that when he left the jewelry business, he pooled his resources. Good Sammy from I. U.

THE WORLD 1941

Four Freedoms announced by FDR. (Jan. 6)
Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor. (Dec. 7)

JOSEPH M. BLOCH ... This emigrant from Selma, Alabama, is a fifty-year-plus member of B'nai B'rith. Being chairman of the Board of the Gibson Company, he is naturally motivated by things automotive. This is why he has been a big gear in many community activities -- especially Starlight Musicals and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. A gin player of modest proportions and a world traveler, Joe seems only to accelerate his interests with each passing year.

MAURICE BLOCK ... A fine example of personal achievement before the years have tolled. A top merchant and executive. What was Cincinnati's loss was Indianapolis' gain. He's smooth and handsome, but girls, he's taken.

MEIER BLOCK ... For years regarded as one of the country's leading apparel merchants. Fun-loving and gifted with a handsome look that would mark him as 25 years his own junior.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

B'nai B'rith will observe "Hillel Night" November 15 at Kirshbaum.
Rabbi M. M. Perley will be the speaker. Hillel players to offer a skit.

ABE BORINSTEIN ... One of the peers of a grand family. Even this very day as you read this a testimonial dinner is being given in his honor. May B'nai B'rith salute you too, Mr. Abe, on this occasion of your 75th birthday.

LOUIS J. BORINSTEIN ... Mr. B'nai B'rith of Indianapolis and the world, he is one of Lodge 58's 50 year members. Several years ago, Lou was honored by the B'nai B'rith Foundation by the creation of a Youth Fellowship in his name, and a beautiful testimonial dinner. Forged today's Chamber of Commerce from raw materials with his bare hands.

THE WORLD 1942

Fire sweeps Coconut Grove. (Nov. 28)
Nevada's 6 week divorce notice held valid. (Dec. 21)

WILFRED BORINSTEIN ... At one time dashing and debonaire, and after the passage of years, more dashing and more debonaire. A member of one of our City's First Families and never one to live in the reflected glory of his beloved brother LJB. J. E. is quite a guy on his own.

FERDINAND BORN ... Indianapolis' top practitioner of Interstate Commerce Commission and transportation law. Ferd is a stalwart of Indianapolis Hebrew, and the perennial head of the Temple Legal Committee.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

B'nai B'rith plans a bowling league with N. Weisman and Meyer Efroymsen in charge.

ABE BORTS ... the kind of man you can account on, with most entries on the credit side of his ledger. Ever devoted to Jewish causes. Has served as Secretary of Beth El.

SIMON BRILL ... The "other half" of a one-time familiar duet of "Sam and Simon." At one time quite the "Yeshiva Bocher", and if memory serves us right, even considered the rabbinate for a few minutes. Founder of Sigma Zeta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu.

THE WORLD 1943

Income withholding tax bill signed by Roosevelt. (June 10)
Race Riot in Detroit. (June 21)

CLARENCE BUDD ... Has the ability to frighten attendants at Men's Club affairs with feigned attacks - usually result from over-eating.

LESTER BUDD ... Here's a young man with a lot of class. Personable, brilliant, an excellent student during his Butler University days, and a top representative of the University in debating and oratory. A grand guy; could grow up to be president of the United States.

JOSEPH CANTOR ... Well-known man about the amusement industry, Joe sought to amuse himself by becoming a renowned art collector. His Hamilton County estate is a thing of beauty, and his sturdy tractor is a welcome sight on 106th street after each heavy snowstorm.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

A. Z. A. meeting at Kirshbaum Center.

ALVIN COHEN ... He gave the insurance business the Rudolph Valentino image. During his tenure as IHC President, female attendance increased 20% and the sighs during announcement time were reminiscent of the Sinatra era. Renowned traveler.

BENJAMIN X. COHEN ... Rumor has it that the X was adopted out of gratitude to U. S. Steel. (X is the ticker tape symbol for the stock of U. S. Steel). When "Big Steel" cut its dividends, "Crying" Ben petitioned the New York Stock Exchange for a change of name.

THE WORLD 1944

Ringling Brothers Circus Fire. (July 6)

BERNARD COHEN ... Made outstanding contribution to victory in World War II. Was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy at the fall of Corregidor.

GEORGE COHEN ... A generous man, active in Orthodox Jewish life. A leader in his congregation, Knesseth Israel, which he has served long and loyally as President.

DAVID M. COOK ... Mr. Amy Cook practices a good deal of law in Indianapolis, when he's not defending the honor of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Past Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Federation, he nevertheless is widely-known and well-liked. Our Lodge proudly claims him as a Past President. An ardent nature lover, Dave has learned much about wild life by watching his children in action.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

B'nai B'rith held an essay contest which was sponsored by the State Association.

THEODORE DANN ... Long the community's outstanding worker. Tete is a past President of the Jewish Community Center and a bored member of many other organizations. One of Indianapolis's prominent attorneys, Tete was instrumental in bringing about the construction of the new Jewish Community Center, while at the same time serving as patron saint of Sigma Alpha Mu at I. U. He was Mr. Basketball at Rose City before height was a factor.

DAVID DOBROWITZ ... Followed in his father's footsteps as one of the town's most reliable kosher butchers. From one of the town's First Families.

THE WORLD 1945 Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill meet at Yalta. (Feb. 3)
Roosevelt Dies. (Apr. 12) Mussolini Executed. (Apr. 28)
Hitler Commits Suicide. (Apr. 29)

BEN DOMONT ... Never one to get bottled up in his business, Ben has found time this year to head up both the Federation drive and Broadmoor Country Club. In 1939, he had more hair, but baldness is supposed to be a sign of virility. A mainstay of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and a member of the Board, he nevertheless has been known to associate with his Conservative brother Gus on the links, around the plant, and at the bank.

GUS DOMONT ... On any given day Gus can be found on his patio, drinking a Pepsi, and thinking Conservative thoughts. A mainstay of Temple Beth-El Zedeck, and present president, he nevertheless has been known to associate with his Reformed brother Ben on the links, around the plant and at the bank.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

The degree team is composed of Meyer Efroymson, Jr., Joseph Calderon, Dr. Philip Fichman and Harry Ripert.

SAM DORFMAN ... Past President of B'nai Torah Synagogue, Sam is a dedicated worker in many organizations including the Jewish Welfare Federation, Jewish Community Credit Union and others. Sam is well known to any member of the Jewish community who has been a patient in our local hospitals as he makes it a weekly practice to visit all members of the community who are hospitalized.

B. L. DORMAN ... One of the pillars in the endeavors of Beth El, a regular worker for its needs and a liberal donor. His conscientious nature is indicated by his regular attendance at Yizkor services.

H. ROBERT DORMAN ... Contemplating retirement from business, we hear. A gentleman with high religious principles and a strong regard for things Jewish.

THE WORLD 1946

First General Assembly of UN meets. (Jan. 10)
Radar beam reaches moon. (Jan. 10)

CHARLES EFROYMSON, SR. ... In 1939, Charles, as now, was known to one and all as Mr. Wasson. Of course, his executive position with Wassons' has been merely a side-line to his gin rummy, at which indoor sport he excels more than somewhat. He is the husband of the lovely, outstanding Marie, B'nai B'rith's Woman of the Century, and father of Chuck, Jr.

JACK EFROYMSON ... The Star Store's loss was Rost's gain. A good Scout, Jack's association with Troop #65 still lives in the memory of his tenderfeet. B'nai B'rith was wise indeed to select this capable man as its President. Bowling, golf, and his family afford him his chief delights. His slow backswing is a source of constant delight to the foursome behind him.

LOUIS EFROYMSON ... A preeminent gentleman from a preeminent family. In earlier years quite responsible to civic call, and a good standard bearer of local causes.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Norman Weissman was named A. Z. A. Deputy of District No. 2.

RICHARD P. EFROYMSON ... In 1939 people were saying "Let Dick do it", because they knew that any job Dick undertook would be done well. As a reward for his years of hard work, Dick was to be rewarded later by being elected not only President of Indianapolis Lodge, but also by being elected President of the Indiana State Association of B'nai B'rith Lodges. Dick has turned into a doting granddaddy. (Children are often spoiled because you can't spank their grandfathers.)

ARTHUR A. FAIRBANKS ... Is the only Ben Brither who, to our knowledge, ever owned a live pet elephant. Incidentally, Arthur, what happened to your sweet pachyderm? Brother Fairbanks has always been an active loyal member of B'nai B'rith. Although a few years younger than Harry Truman, they have one blessing in common: Time apparently has no effect on Art except to sharpen his wit and improve his physique. 'Pawn his soul, he's a good man.

THE WORLD 1947

Senate Approves Taft-Hartley Act. (May 13)
Marshall Plan Announced. (June 5)

CHARLES B. FEIBLEMAN ... In 1939 he had been in the practice of law for one year, having graduated from Harvard Law School. He was preparing himself for his future army activity as a Captain, and to be President of Indianapolis Lodge. He also joined the Indianapolis Bar Association which 25 years later, as President, he was to lead brilliantly.

MARCUS A. FEINBERG ... A Naval Officer during World War II, Marc returned to Indianapolis to attack the machinery business with frontal assault. His proudest possessions are his lovely family, his lawn and his vertical milling machine.

MILTON J. FINEBERG ... Another in the long line of attorneys who made their fortune by avoiding the practice of law. The mayor of Williams Drive and the Baron of Brendon Park, Josh finds time to raise funds, build houses, rent cars, raise funds and host the biggest race party in town. Remains loyal to B'nai B'rith as a long-time member of our initiation team.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

The following officers were nominated at the B'nai B'rith meeting held May 15, 1939: Jack Kammins, President; Max Farb, 1st Vice-President; Monroe Leiser, 2nd Vice-President; Milton Fineberg, Secretary; Jules Medias, Monitor.

CHARLES FISHER ... Long-time grocer and tavern operator, Charlie is best known as the town's leading camera bug, and for his sense of humor. Takes more pictures per hour of party time than any one else in town. Beth El member and ardent Las Vegas enthusiast.

JOSEPH FOGLE ... Top-notch businessman, and an authority on children's supplies. Always reliable in matters Jewish, and a respected man in his community.

LIPOT FRANKOVITZ ... Best identified by his dapper garb and his foot-long cigar, Frank has served as Chairman of the Israel Bond Drive. A native of Transylvania or Pennsylvania, we forget which, who made good in the land of the free.

SAM FREEMAN... First Board President of the Five-Hundred Festival. He also has served as judge of the Festival. He is an active member of the Merchants Association. Sam has received the Print Award of Indianapolis Advertising, and is very active in community projects.

THE WORLD 1948

Mohandas K. Gandhi Assassinated. (Jan. 30)
State of Israel Proclaimed in Tel Aviv. (May 14)

SOL B. FRIEDLAND... "Painless Doc" spent many a happy year filling cavities. Crowned heads are old hat to him. He made his fortune by adhering to the old adage, "a stitch in time costs nine." More recently, Sol had turned his talents to real estate. Hotel operating has taken the place of dental operating. Excavation and restoration have taken on new meanings for him.

LEON FRISCH ... Prominent supermarket operator for years, Leon now divides his time between watching the ticker tick, playing with his darling grandchildren, enjoying the southern sunshine and, when time permits, indulging in a hand of gin.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Rabbi M. M. Perley, Director of Indiana Hillel Foundation, to address Lodge.

RUBY F. GLICK ... Ruby epitomizes the perfect B'nai B'rith member. Except that his thick shock of hair has become snow white, Ruby hasn't changed through the years. Deeply religious, he has enjoyed affiliation with B'nai B'rith and with I.H.C. He is associated with his son, Gene, in the building business, and is very proud of his lovely granddaughters. Lodge 58 is proud to have Ruby as a member and Past President.

VICTOR GOLDBERG... His closest friends know him as "green eyes." The title probably comes from the glow that's visible when he wanders around inside the dark caverns of his tarpaulin palaces. "Big Vic" is the Jewish community's answer to Omar the tent maker. Dominant figure in the Brandeis University movement.

DR. MAURICE GOLDBLATT ... Maurice is a man of many facets: A good Rabbi, a Past President, a successful insurance man (soul insurance to life insurance), a popular Kiwanian, and a sharp bowler. Also, Maurice is the perfect husband as Bess can testify. He is an example of what B'nai B'rith stands for: Piety, Charity, Patriotism, and loyalty to his fellow man.

THE WORLD 1949

Tokyo Rose sentenced to 10 years. (Oct. 7)
Nationalist Chinese Government Flees to Formosa. (Dec. 7)

SOL GOLDSMITH ... Long time member of B'nai B'rith. He was in the drug business for many years and served on the Board of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. He has also been very active in Real Estate.

L. L. GOODMAN ... Running a hosiery business is his sheer pleasure. For nylon to forty years he has been associated with every worthy civic cause in the city. Sound judgment and action programs are his stocking trade. Happily we can report that though he was ill a few years ago, today he is knitting nicely. Round-the-Clock he has served the Welfare Federation and the American Jewish Committee. Contrary to popular opinion, though the Israeli airline was not named after him.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Milton J. Fineberg, Norman Weisman, Meyer Efrogmson, and Bernie Bloom are helping to plan the annual Jewish Youth Conclave, May 24, 1939.

MORRIS GOODMAN ... Morris serves on the Board of the Indianapolis Symphony. He has been very active in the Downtown Merchants Association, and various other civic organizations. He is active in Welfare Fund campaigns and plays a leading part in Federation affairs.

RUBEN W. GREENBERG ... Indianapolis Lodge #58 takes a special pride in its fifty-year members, and Ruby is one of them. A strong, vigorous man who doesn't know what rest is, Ruby is still active in the furniture business. B'nai B'rith, the Temple Brotherhood and the Retail Furniture Association have been his primary community interests. Photography and travel delight him personally. Chicago's loss was Indianapolis' gain.

HARRY GREENWALD ... Harry has been in and connected with the baking business for many years and made plenty of dough. His long term devotion to B'nai B'rith is attested to by his long membership.

THE WORLD 1950

Great Britain Recognizes Communist China
Brinks Robbed. (Jan. 17)

JEROME HAMMERMAN ... Easy going, quiet and modest. An avid golfer and fair country bowler. All the way, about as likeable a chap as you'll find in the community. Formerly one of the city's most successful jobbers; today a successful on-the-road man.

JACOB HAYS ... Well-known merchandiser who retired after many years of responsibility with a large department store. He must receive credit for his services in the community, and he's in a position to give himself credit through the Credit Union, which he served for years. His charming wife has been a great help during the years.

DAVID HERMAN ... Though a 50-year member of the Lodge, Dave is still active in the insurance and real estate fields. To meet him is to find a ready smile and a kind word. In fact, he even had kind words for the bowling team he sponsored in the bowling league, though it never won more than a dishonorable mention.

J. S. HIRSCH ... A soft spoken gentleman, and at one time a top representative of one of our large department stores. To our present knowledge, less active than before in business, but has lost none of his earlier charm or lustre.

EMANUEL HOCHMAN ... At one time Bulova Watch Company's most successful salesman. So good, in fact, that he advanced quickly to executive rank with that firm. A good joke and story man who definitely has a way about him.

SAM HOCHMAN ... A popular restaurateur, Sam is well known throughout the country for his cross-country hikes and as an avid physical fitness advocate. For many years the guiding inspiration of the Sam's Subway Restaurant. An ardent supporter of the community, Sam inspired the members of his family to be responsive to the needs of the community and is proud that this tradition is upheld by the sons and daughters, all of whom are active participants in the community.

THE WORLD 1951

Truman Relieves MacArthur of Command. (Apr. 11)
Transcontinental Television Inaugurated. (Sept. 4)

JOE JACKSON, JR. ... Recently retired from the manufacturing business, and now a full-fledged salesman of apparel lines. Not to be confused with a certain poorly-shod baseball player.

JOSEPH JACKSON, SR. ... Well-known manufacturer of overalls, now retired. Good member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and in his time a fine bridge player.

JOE JACOBSON ... The Jacobson family represents a solid block in our local community and Joe can lay claim to a little fame of his own. Always full of good information on current topics.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Jules Medias, Mrs. Max Farb and Mrs. Harold I. Platt are co-chairmen of the annual J. E. A. Purim Ball.

DR. A. S. JAEGER ... A 50-year member, of Lodge 58 and one of Indianapolis' grandest citizens. Instrumental in the growth of Jewish Social Services, and most active in B'nai B'rith. Appeared in the Lodge programs through the years, and his name crops up regularly in Lodge publications.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Henry Montor, National U. J. A. director, to address a joint B'nai B'rith and Zionist meeting at Kirshbaum Center.

ROBERT JAEGER ... Respected and well-liked member of one of Indianapolis' first families.

LEWIS JAFFE ... Jovial optometrist, who's motto has always been, "All the better to see me with, you dear". An enthusiastic bowler, Lew can always be counted on to support B'nai B'rith.

SIDNEY L. JAMES ... Sidney is what is known as a Party Man, and we don't meal political, but he and his lovely wife, Cecele, do get around to a lot of social affairs. Sid used to play golf. Sid supplements his income from gin as a salesman. Despite their many activities, Sid and Cele are at worship in the Synagogue on Friday nights.

THE WORLD 1952

Truman Seizes Nation's Steel Mills. (Apr. 8)
First Hydrogen Device Exploded. (Nov. 1)

JAY KAHN ... One of the more active members of the "board watchers" clan. His recent purchase of a "Checker" car (without a meter or jump seats) was Jay's personal response to Detroit's high horsepower, super chromide, narrow-doored chariots.

ROGER A. KAHN ... Roger is credited with originating the title, "Never on Sunday." Though he used to have a store full of sofas and beds, he was never one to lay down on the job. More recently he gave up Duncan-Phyfe for Dow-Jones and traded dressers for dogs. Sunday closings no longer oppress him unless it's the first tee that is closed. A man of pleasant mien, he is known to his friends as "Jolly Roger."

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Judge A. B. Frey, District President, of St. Louis, to address new membership class initiation, December 17, 1939, at Kirshbaum Center.

S. CARROLL KAHN, SR. ... One of the few people in America who can live on paper profits. Their motto is - "If you can't wrap it, bag it." In either case they can sell you the container. A standard-bearer at I. H. C.

JACK KAMMINS ... Past President of the Lodge, lover of ballet and the symphony, Past President of the IHC, Chairman of the City Zoning Board, Jack and his charming wife Jenny have firmly established themselves as solid community leaders. Jack's recent efforts would indicate his alphabet runs from A (for Apartments) to Z (for Zoning).

ALEX KATZ ... One of the town's ardent Zionists. Engaged in the bag business for years. One of the lodge's loyal members.

ISADORE KATZ ... Izzy has been a consistent leader in community affairs through the years. His efforts for the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Jewish Educational Association, particularly in fund-raising and fiscal matters, has made him truly the bag man for the Jewish community.

Some Of Our Members Went To War

Reprinted from the March 30, 1945 issue of "The Indiana Jewish Chronicle".



JOSEPH KAUFMAN ... Well-known and respected attorney in Indianapolis. Joe practiced law for many years with his lovely wife, Bess. His soft-spoken ways and pleasing smile have endeared him to those who know him.

THE WORLD 1953

Stalin Dies. (Mar. 5)

Mount Everest Conquered. (May 29)

DAVID KLAIN ... Friendly Dave, the plumber's helper, gives no one a sinking feeling, and if you crane your neck, you'll see him plunging into his work, wrenching away from all distractions except his fine family.

MAX KLEZMER ... In addition to running a well-established law practice, this graduate of Butler and Indiana Law School has maintained a constant, active interest in the welfare of his community. He has chaired the Jewish Community Relations Council and served on its board for many years. Where there is a cause identified with decency and justice, you will find Max.

PHILLIP KRAFT ... The President of Kraft Baking Company, this human dynamo has been everything from Democratic Ward Chairman to Dollar-a-Year Man. The South Side Community is much the better for his ever present helping hand. Many a refugee is deeply grateful to Phil for making life in a new country easier. It is a rare facet of the Jewish community that has not experienced the benevolence and help of this dedicated Jew.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

B'nai B'rith meeting to feature a ping-pong match between Jimmy McClure and the "Masked Marvel" at Kirshbaum Center.

ABE KROOT ... The great silent type. A perfect example of "How to Play it Smart by Listening to Others Make Fools of Themselves by Talking Too Much." A charitable gentleman and a successful business man.

SAMUEL KROOT ... This 1929 graduate from Indiana Law School gave up the Bar for business. A Past President of Indianapolis Lodge 58, Sam still answers the call when he is needed. He has headed up the local Welfare Federation and the Community Center. He has bred a lovely daughter and a President of the Lodge Bowling League. Enamored of his own first name, he naturally sat as a member of the national board of S.A.M. Being a good liberal, he is, of course, left-handed.

EDWIN LETZTER ... Mainstay of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Manny has long been known as the man who made the machinery turn on South Meridian.

THE WORLD 1954

Racial Segregation in Public Schools Ruled Unconstitutional. (May 17)

Condemnation of Senator McCarthy Voted by Senate. (Dec. 2)

MANUEL I. LEVE ... Vice President of the Kirschbaum Community Center, Chairman of Finance Committee and President of Beth-El Zedeck Congregation, Past President of Jewish Welfare Federation and outstanding business man in the community. Manny's a gentleman of the first water, and a fine representative of Indianapolis Jewry.

DR. LEON LEVI ... There is an informality about Leon's method of operation that is both revealing and exciting. The "38th Street Schweitzer" is the originator of the open door policy. He can be seen at all hours of the day or evening busily diagnosing, injecting, typing, and billing. Between patients he provides proper transfusions for the American Christian Palestine Committee.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

The Silver Shirt organization invades Indianapolis. They met at the Dearborn Hotel. 169 persons attended. Roy Zachary of Ashville, N. C., Field Marshall, was the speaker.

HARRY LEVIN ... A Past President of our Lodge, and of the Indiana State B'nai B'rith Association, Harry also found time to serve for many years as Vice President of the Jewish Community Credit Union, and has been active in many service organizations. With a traditional B'nai B'rith family background, Harry's son, Bob, followed in his father's footsteps by serving as President of our Lodge and the Indiana State Association as well.

LEON LEVIN ... President of Kipp Brothers Company, Leon is also a Past President of our Lodge, and a long time member of the credit committee of the Jewish Community Credit Union. Leon also has found the time to be an active supporter of many civic organizations throughout Indianapolis.

THE WORLD 1955

President Eisenhower Suffers Heart Attack. (Sept. 24)

AFL and CIO merge. (Dec. 5)

WALTER LICHTENSTEIN ... So impressed was he with his early course in American History that he made John Hancock his life work. With his twin brother Carl, they can double-team a prospect better than any agents in town. Loyal Ben Brith.

SILAS LIPMAN ... Twenty-five years ago Silas was just as quiet and unassuming as he is today. He once was the law partner of Judge Charles Karabell, a Past President of Indianapolis Lodge. But don't let Si's quietness fool you. He doesn't miss a thing, and that mind of his is as sharp as can be.

DAVE LIPP ... One of the world's last "sweet people" who is truly swell people. Quiet and modest, a hell of a gin player, who can hit a golf ball like - well, let's forget that one. Can cut a mean rug in any company -- particularly his own.

SAMUEL LOVINGER ... The "speaker" and his cigar was credited with inventing bowling. One of the few nautically-minded residents of Indianapolis, "Speak" concentrates on shipping for a livelihood. It's confusing, but between his business and bowling, he's worried if he gets a strike and worried if he doesn't.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

B'nai B'rith Lodge sponsors goodwill meeting April 24, 1939, with Clarence Manion as the speaker.

LEWIS K. LURIE ... Twenty-five years ago, Lewis said to himself that he would become a community leader; that he would head his Temple, become President of the Capital Paper Company, and that 25 years later his wife, the lovely Betti Kahn Lurie, would be selected as the B'nai B'rith Woman of the Year. Lewis has met all of those objectives and is looking forward to a future of continued success and new and higher goals.

SIDNEY MAHALOWITZ ... Sidney has literally put his life's blood into B'nai B'rith (of which he's a Past President), The Borinstein Home, the Jewish Community Credit Union, The American Legion, and a host of other activities close to his heart. It is men like Sid who ignore their own troubles and constantly plug away to help the community in which they live. Incidentally, Sid has a keen sense of humor, and he is the only man in town to occupy the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison and lived to tell about it.

SAMUEL J. MANTEL ... An extraordinary man of Jewish and civic activities, to list all of his interests and honors would take pages. In 1939 he had already served as President of Lodge 58 and the Indiana State Association, and was preparing to be President of the District in 1940. Then, he little suspected he would spend 1942 to 1946 in service ending up as a Colonel in the Air Force with a chest full of decorations. A father of two and a grandfather of seven, this Harvard-trained lawyer has the enviable reputation of being both a gentleman and a gentle man.

ALFRED MASCHKE ... Al is the Jewish Community's champion gin and bridge player. Although busy engaging in the wholesale drug business, Al is never too busy to share a good joke or pick up a few master points. His pride and joy is his lovely wife, Jennie Mack.

LEON MAZUR ... Past President of Lodge 58 and active and honored member of I. H. C. Today a prominent realtor known for his reliability.

THE WORLD 1956

Hungarian Revolt Begins. (Oct. 23)

Israel Invades Sinai Peninsula. (Oct. 29)

SEYMOUR MAZUR ... Star track man at Shortridge, attended Purdue and 25 years ago had a seed and plant store. Moved from small real estate (a potful at a time) to big real estate.

JULES V. MEDIAS ... It is difficult to find a man who never says "no", who is always pleasant, and who is quite uniformly capable. Such a man is Jules. A Harvard Law graduate, he nevertheless is an honorable

man who now deals in "schmates." A Past-President of Lodge #58, Jules has been a member of its degreeteam so long he runs a perpetual fever. This brilliant head of skin also contains one of the finest public-speaking voices in the city. Who else should be MC?

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Louis J. Borinstein to head the annual Jewish Welfare Fund campaign.

THEODORE MEDIAS ... A top student in his school days and a crack debater in the Golden Era of Shortridge High School, back there a couple of years ago, give or take 40 years. Not the best gin player in the world...and not the worst, we tinnnk. A darn good merchant, a good conversationalist and a guy who doesn't know an enemy.

WILLIAM MEDIAS ... A gentleman who is first and foremost a gentleman. Charitable and thoughtful is Bill, and a man who quietly and unostentatiously does more good for more people than he modestly cares to make known.

WILLIAM M. MEYERS ... Past President of Lodge 58, Bill raised a lovely family and is now the Master of Deerfield Circle. He's thrived on the theory that "we'll can what we can and what we can't can, we can." To him J. P. does not stand for Justice of the Peace. Net weight 9 oz. - packed in syrup.

THE WORLD 1957

Sputnik I Launched by USSR. (Oct. 4)

Eisenhower sends troops to Little Rock. (Sept. 24)

ABE MILLER ... A malleable sort of fellow, Abe introduced to Indianapolis that famous French dish, Gehachte Le Bour. In recent years he's developed proficiency in changing bedsheets and serving as master host. Abe's introduction of corned beef, smoked herring, and dill pickles into the I.S.T.A. Building has caused certain rumblings among the teachers -- especially late at night.

LIEBERT I. MOSSLER ... Perhaps Indianapolis' outstanding diplomat, Bud has combined a lifetime of civic activity with an almost enviable reputation for frankness. He has never allowed his insurance business to interfere with more important affairs such as golf, bowling, the AJC, Broadmoor and the like. Captain Mossler to his subordinates, he is out-ranked only by his wife, Shirley.

LOUIS MUNTER ... Extremely active in the Indianapolis general community as well as the Jewish community. Engages in the furniture business.

LEO NETZORG ... An ardent tennis player, Leo is good enough at the game to always require his opponents to live on love -he won't let them score. In his off hours, Leo engages in the industrial supply business.

THE WORLD 1958

U. S. Explorer I Orbits. (Jan. 31)

De Gaulle Becomes French Premier. (June 1)

ROBERT NETZORG ... Dark, handsome and urbane, he is Capital's paper tiger. The Lodge's most willing Past President, he spread his talents to I. H. C., where he served as president of the Brotherhood and on the Temple Board. Fine guy with lovely wife.

LEO PAUL ... A fine gentleman, Leo joined B'nai B'rith in 1920 in Germany, at a time when the Order was the cement binding the Jewish community. Leo has been a staunch member of Lodge 58 since 1938.

MAX M. PLESSER ... Long active in Republican politics, Max is a former county attorney for Marion County. He has also belonged to B'nai B'rith for forty-four years. He also is an ex-board member of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

THE WORLD 1959

Castro Assumes Power in Cuba. (Jan. 1)
Hawaii Becomes 50th State. (Aug. 21)

JUDGE SAUL I. RABB ... Our most photogenic member. LIFE had an issue featuring his court and its handsome judge. Twenty-five years ago he would have been voted as the man most likely to be elected to any judicial office he sought. Beside his outstanding knowledge of law, he has an equally outstanding sense of humor. Has a lot of funny words, but rarely a funny sentence.

SYDNEY ROMER ... Kiwanis Club Member, and Board member of the Jewish Community Credit Union. Member of the Merchants Association, the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, ex-President of the Men's Brotherhood of the Temple, and an ex-member of the Real Estate Board. Chairman of the After-Meeting Poker Club.

MORRIS ROTHBARD ... A prominent merchant and a long-time member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Known as a nice guy, he'll discount his merchandise but has never been known to discount the other fellow's poker losings.

THE WORLD 1960

Caryl Chessman Executed. (May 2)
Adolph Eichmann Captured in Argentina. (May 22)

IRVING RUBEN ... His annual New England boiled dinner is a coronary delight. The menu of chopped liver, stuffed veal breast, kasheh, knishes, kreplach and kishke serve as an exciting entree for a variety of his other enterprises.

JULES RUBEN ... Dean of the Ruben trio. He and his boys have become a classic example of how hard work, imagination and skill can fulfill the promise of the American dream.

DAVE SABLOSKY ... Ex-President of the Zionist District, and the Beth-El Zedeck Men's Club. He is a Board member in an advisory capacity of the Jewish Community Credit Union. He has been very active in the Dry Goods field.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Sidney J. Kusworm to address B'nai B'rith Smoker at Kirschbaum Center which is tied up with the lodge's membership drive.

ARTHUR SACHS ... Stalwart of Sigma Alpha Mu at Indiana University, Art joined B'nai B'rith as a very young man, and has been a loyal member since. Art's slogan in business was that fine old yiddish phrase, "Hock with me your china."

BEN SAGALOWSKY ... A man of essential dignity and quiet. His oft-times silence is not to be mistaken for distance or withdrawal, for indeed, Ben is always interested in Jewish and non-Jewish causes. An astute gentleman and businessman critical of wrong and quick to recognize the good in others.

JULIUS SAGALOWSKY ... A practicing lawyer, Julius was largely responsible for the continued success of B'nai B'rith in Indianapolis 25 years and more ago. Longtime secretary of the Lodge, Julius compiled a perfect set of records, which was promptly misplaced after he retired from Lodge work.

ALEX SCHAMBERG ... Something of a merchant prince in his own little kingdom. One of the originators of chain operation, and one of the few who could do it successfully.

WILLIAM L. SCHLOSS ... Twenty-five years ago Bill was beginning to give the name "Morris Plan" the status which he felt it merited, and he was beginning to groom himself for all of those positions of leadership which he would display with regularity. Modest and unassuming he takes his honors lightly. President of the Jewish Welfare Federation and currently enjoying new grandfatherhood.

THE WORLD 1961

U. S. Peace Corps Created by Kennedy. (Mar. 1)
Yuri Gagarin Becomes First Man in Space. (Apr. 12)

LEO SELIG ... An active and successful businessman, who finds time to apply his zeal for the benefit of his community. Chief among his many activities is the part he played in the building of Beth El Temple.

MAX SELIG ... One of the stellar performers in the old Casino Garden days who married his love of the very late "Charleston" era. Remember, Ann, we said "very late." Enjoys his regular gin and golf game with his great buddies.

ISADORE SHAPIRO ... The man in charge of the "take out" counter. Lays out the "meanest" slab of corned beef in the Delicatessen business. They call him "Mr. Cold Cut."

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Samuel J. Mantel, 2nd Vice President of District No. 2 was in charge of the local B'nai B'rith membership campaign as part of the national effort. Henry Monsky was national President.

MAX SHAPIRO ... Guardian of the gefullte, conservator of the corned beef, master of the mustard, protector of the pastrami, savior of the swiss, replenisher of the rye, bearer of the beans, lifter of the lox, Max's prime service to the community has been to make Indianapolis a better place to eat.

HARRY SMITH ... A New England transplant. He helped integrate the Indianapolis Rotary Club and has been active at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

REUBEN A. SOLOMON ... "Reuben, Reuben, I been thinkin', the rate of my pulse is slowing sinkin'." "Never fear, just take this pill, then wait till you see the size of my bill." This and other forms of doggerel, cause physicians like this Doctor to heal themselves. He must have done a good job since he is generally considered to be both a good physician and well-healed.

MAURICE SPASSER ... A fine gentleman who won his spurs as a top merchandiser for a large local department store. Very likeable and as he moves on the sidelines of community endeavor, always a supporter of good local causes.

THE WORLD 1962

Worst one day break in Stock Prices since 1929 (May 28)

Ecumenical Council Opened by Pope John XXIII (Oct. 11)

MORRIS STRAUSS ... A past President of the Lodge, Morris has served his community as its reporter of current events for years, making the Chronicle a welcome addition to the reading of most Jewish families. His annual B'nai B'rith edition is a collector's item. The high-voltage Voltaire has never tried to unduly influence the community, not subscribing to the theory "Let the other man be herded."

BERNARD STROYMAN ... A prominent attorney and a past Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Federation campaign, Bernard was the guiding force in the construction of the new Jewish Educational Association building and until recently President of the organization.

I. SIDNEY STEIN ... An attorney of the first Constellation. Has without a doubt the shortest golf clubs in the game and hits the ball to match. Really and truly a likeable guy with much eligibility.

THE WORLD 1963

Pope John XXIII Dies. (June 3)

Kennedy Assassinated. (Nov. 22)

LOUIS TALESNICK ... Long-time member of Lodge 58 and I.H.C., Lou raised three fine children who have carved their niches in the community (son, Stanley, being a past President). Working hard in the tobacco, candy, paper and novelties business, his source of livelihood can best be described by the old song, "Sundries, Mondays and Always."

OSCAR TAVEL ... To know him is to love him, and he has a host of friends to prove it. Retired recently after many successful years of business. Still dabbles in investments just "to keep his oar in."

HARRY TRAUGOTT ... Well-known around town as a fair financier. Chief interests center around the Boy Scouts, in connection with which he has been feted by the Central Indiana Council. A Silver Beaver.

SAM WEINBERGER ... Sam has devoted many years to the Jewish Welfare Federation. As chairman of the budget committee for years, he gained a reputation for fair dealing and equitable treatment. When he untied the magic knot on the JWF's purse-strings, only a few moths could escape at a time.

INDIANAPOLIS 1939

Norman Weisman was master of ceremonies at the annual Jewish Youth Jamboree at Kirshbaum Center.

NORMAN WEISMAN ... Perennial chronicler of Indianapolis Jewish society Norm's most memorable line was "Guess who died? Tee Hee". Avid golfer, bowler, jokester and husband. His broad smile lights up any room he enters. Norman early spurned the job of driving the delivery truck for a delicatessen, deciding between delivering pickles and pickling livers.

WALTER E. WOLF ... When not traveling around the world, this mercantile giant chairs the Board of Directors of H. P. Wasson and Company. The Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries, and the Merchants Association have been his primary civic interests. In the Jewish Community he served as President of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Partially released from the rigors of the business world, he now takes great delight in gentleman farming.

DAVID YAVER ... Dave once heard a song called "I Won't Grow Old", liked it, and followed its philosophy. Since 1939 he has refused to age, but has matured. His love in life--outside of his family--has been his bowling, at which sport he is better than somewhat. Quiet and unassuming, he, at times, writes lengthy and forcible letters to the editor.

JOE YAVER ... A golfer's golfer. A hole-in-one artist who has a fine stroke on fairway and green alike. Has won a few cups at the game he loves, and if he gets any better, Broadmoor will have to send him on the Circuit! Won the B'nai B'rith golf tourney two years ago.

SAM ZIFFRIN ... The Middle West's model for Wells Fargo. Sam was hauling when trucking was a dance and his biggest competition was from Conestoga wagon wholesalers. His first 8 truck drivers were mule skinnners who had been retrained by a Federal grant to aid workers displaced by automation.

HARRY ZUCKERBERG ... The "Mr. Big" of the Men's Wear business. A specialist in his field who has the big boys beating a path to his door.

A Chronicle Capsule

by Morris Strauss

Some forty years ago, our community was small and largely concentrated on the South Side. The B'nai B'rith was always considered an influential organization. Many of the captains of industry and business of our city were members, not necessarily active ones. I well remember that when I first became associated with it, many of the regular lodge meetings were attended by a handful of members, barely a quorum, even though there was no television to compete with lodge activities. But for some special social or cultural event, the membership did turn out en masse.

Way back in 1922, "B'nai B'rith Day" was proclaimed in a special announcement in *The Chronicle*. The occasion was the appearance of the late Alfred M. Cohen of Cincinnati, Ohio, who was President of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College. He was also First Vice-President of District Grand Lodge No. 2, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, as it was then known. The meeting was held at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Temple at Tenth and Delaware. This was preceded by dinner at the Indianapolis Club, which later became the Kirshbaum Center. Among those who planned the affair were Lou Borinstein, Isidore Feibleman, Saul Munter, A. H. Goldstein, Eph Levin, Sol S. Kiser, Leo Kaminsky, Adolph Biccarrd, Ernest Cohen, Edward A. Kahn, Rabbi M. M. Feuerlicht, Samuel Mueller, Manuel Freeman, and others. Hillel Foundations had not made their appearance as yet in our state.

The big social event of the community was the annual show produced by the B'nai B'rith which was usually held at the old German House. The date of one such production was Dec. 11, 1911, and was called "A Night in Tokio". The cast consisted of talented members and their ladies. The late Saul Munter use to "brag" about how the lodge sponsored a concert by the famous Opera Star, Sophie Breslaw, but went into the red \$2,000.00.

When I became a member in the "Terrible Twenties" and later president of our lodge, the Klu Klux Klan darkened the Jewish scene. (Please don't connect the two events.) The Klan became the "law in Indiana". D. C. Stephenson seemed to be the political power supreme. Needless to say, the Anti-Defamation League fought him and his organization with everything in its power. But it remained for Attorney General Arthur Gilliom to pull the rug from under the "hoods," when he personally went before the court and asked for an injunction and receivership because of fraud.

In welfare, civic and communal affairs, B'nai B'rith leaders were always in the forefront. They headed Federation campaigns as well as communal and religious fund drives. They played an important part in city-wide projects. Some of the high political and civic posts held by our members were as follows: Sol Schloss, headed the Indianapolis Board of Health; Jack Joseph, Park Board; Jack Kammins, Metropolitan

Zoning Board; Richard Munter, City Purchasing Department; Charles J. Karabell, City Judge; Louis J. Borinstein, Chamber of Commerce.

In fraternal honors, Adolph Biccarrd, headed the Knights of Pythias; Eph Levin held high office in the Masonic Lodge. Likewise did Lou Borinstein, Isidore Feibleman, and Samuel J. Mantel served as President of District Grand Lodge #2, B'nai B'rith. Eph Levin for many years held the honor and affection of the members when he was given the duty of Sergeant-at-Arms at district conventions. This was comparable to the title of "Shamas" in our shules. Eph was the instigator of the Indiana State B'nai B'rith Association. This inspired similar organizations in other states.

An outstanding district convention was held in Indianapolis May 11 through 14, 1935, at the Claypool Hotel. Lou Borinstein was chairman. One of the highlights especially arranged for the entertainment of the delegates, was a twenty-five mile exhibition race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in which a half a dozen drivers participated.

Our lodge used to hold executive meetings in the good old days, when there was kreplach soup, at Solomon's Restaurant. Later we formed a Past-Presidents club which would meet at the home of a former president.

I regret that neither time nor space permits a more complete resume.