Jews in Berkshire County

BY PINK HORWITT

in collaboration with Bertha Skole

WHEN, why and where the Jews came to live in Berkshire County, how they lived as Jews and how they integrated into the larger community is described in this book, tersely yet capturing the color and flavor of early and later days.

For most Jewish communities in North America, this is the penultimate hour to learn first-hand about early settlers. For that reason, this account is of interest not only to Berkshirites but to all communities as a prototype for their own research.

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Preface

WHEN, why and where the Jews came to live in Berkshire County, how they lived as Jews and how they integrated into the larger community are the questions we have tried to answer in this book. In this, we have been aided by many to whom we are indebted.

For their encouragement at the embarkation of this research, our gratitude to Kingsley R. Fall, managing editor of the *Berkshire Eagle,* and Bernard Wax, director of the American Jewish Historical Society.

For their tape-recorded conversations, we are grateful to Mendel Adlersheim, Judge Benjamin Apkin, Janet Bitensky, Mrs. Willard Goodrow, Mrs. Irving Imhoff, Mrs. Harry Kaufman, Mrs. Joseph Kaufman, Mrs. Nathan Kolman, Judge Samuel E. Levine, Mrs. Abraham Rubin, and Jacob Wineberg. For their help, we thank Simon England, Sandra Schwartz (Mrs. Raymond Lesman), Ethel S. Cohen, the editors of the *Jewish Community Star,* in particular Sylvia (Mrs. Arthur) Stein for her numerous profiles, Edward Rubin, Rosalind (Mrs. Louis) Levine, Lillian (Mrs. Albert) Chesanow, Esther (Mrs. Irving) Bashevkin and Philip Percus, our Hebrew and Yiddish authority.

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We are grateful to the people of Berkshire County who responded wholeheartedly to our questions and to the staffs of Temple Anshe Amunim, Knesses Israel, Jewish Community Center, Lenox Library and its Julia C. Peters. A special thank you to our 'undistaff side': Nathan George Horwitt for helpful suggestions and John B. Skole for unfailing recall of old times.

PINK HORWITT
BERTHA SKOLE

October, 1972

· 1 ·

The Beginnings

SUCH rudimentary conditions as comfortable distance from New York and Boston (ports of entry), compatible population of its towns and villages, and invigorating climate brought Jewish immigrants to settle in Berkshire County.

While the wool and paper mills were Yankee-owned, the workers were in large measure polyglot, coming from all parts of Europe.

Among the earliest Jewish settlers in the Berkshires are names still prominent in Pittsfield. Joseph R. Newman, Polish-born, migrated to England and left London at the age of twenty-five for America. He came to Lee in 1854 where he set up a small tailor shop and drove his wagon through the countryside selling clothes and household goods. In 1857 he moved to Pittsfield and opened a men's clothing store. His great grandson, Robert G. Newman, is librarian of the Berkshire Atheneum.

That same year the brothers Moses and Louis England from Baiersdorf, Bavaria, opened a small dry goods and pattern shop. By 1860 a ready-to-wear division started with a 'cloak parlor' where ladies' cloaks could be bought at $2 to $6. Although Louis returned to Germany, Moses England, joined by his three sons, Benjamin, Simon, and Daniel, continued the business and by 1891 England Brothers was established in its present location on North street. Now,

having bought the Newman store and built additional stories, the third generation of Englands, Benjamin M. Simon Jr., Daniel Jr., Alan J. Blau, son-in-law of Simon Sr., are at the helm with Andrew Blau representing the fourth generation.

In 1866, Jacob Rosenfeld, father of Jay, Stanley, and Ruby Finkelstein, came from Dettlebach, a suburb of Würzburg (thirty-five miles west of the Englands' hometown) to settle in Albany. With horse and cart he peddled in the Lebanon valley, sometimes trading household goods for pelts. Four years later he moved to Pittsfield and opened a men's wear store. Rosenfeld's was a North street landmark for nearly a hundred years.

The harmony and respect between these two merchant families is shown in the statement by Jay C. Rosenfeld at England's centennial: 'The town has been better off because of England's. They have been an anchor of security and integrity upon which every other merchant could measure the commercial sea and tides.'

These early settlers, joined by thirty-seven other Jewish families also from Germany, formed a religious society meeting in each other's homes; they formally organized in 1869 as a congregation 'Society Anshe Amunim' (Men of Faith).

Charter members were L. England, E. Friend, Abraham Morris, David Rosenheim, J. R. Newman, L. Kelm, Avrom Glixman, Charles M. Wolf, G. Friend, M. England, G. Molner, J. Weissberg, Abraham Newman, Morris Simon, Jacob Gilbert, Jacob Eisner, L. B. Simon, S. Schimmer, J. S. Rosenfeld, and L. D. Markstein.

The original minutes were written in German and the service was orthodox. Ten years later the members voted to conduct services according to Minhag (custom) America. The High Holidays in 1879 were observed in the reform manner.

Meanwhile the number of orthodox Jews was growing. For a while they met in the Anshe Amunim rooms and later in private homes for services. In 1893, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted a charter to the 'Gathering of Israel' (Knesses Israel) congregation. Listed on the charter were M. Rosenthal, M. Baine, J. N. Finkelstein, Robert Hayes, Max Eisner (father of Dr. Morris Eisner, surgeon, and Michael Eisner who read law in Attorney John Noxon's office), H. Shapiro, Ike Hayes, Z. Kantrovitz, J. Handler, S. Pomeranitz, G. L. Rothkopf, Louis Holsborg, and Harris Cohen.

By 1906, its newly built synagogue with mikvah (ritual bath) on Linden street was completed. Many non-Jewish citizens of Berkshire county proved to be helpful friends. A notable contribution was made by the Crane family of Dalton who gave all the pews for the synagogue—this through the influence of Chaim Levine.

The first president in the new synagogue building was Harry Blank whose name did begin with a B but was so unpronounceable he was called simply Mr. Blank. The other officers were Robert Hayes, Moses Rosenthal, Sam Rabinowitz, Robert Krantzman, Max Baz, Aaron Berkowitz, Isaac Minsky, Sam Frumkin, Abraham Adelson, Hyman Cohen, Sam Sagarin, Daniel Martin, Robert Gladstone, and Jack Daniels.

The marriage of Ida Marvin and Herman H. Braun, owner of a bottling works and liquor store, was the first wedding ceremony held in the Knesses Israel synagogue. Later, Ida Braun's annual Chanukah and Purim parties for Jewish children and her Christmas parties for Negro children became a long-standing tradition.

Her brother, Morris Marvin, who had left Pittsfield for Brazil achieved fame and fortune by discovering a means to convert the wild oiticica nut of Brazil to tung oil, the normal

supply having been cornered by the Chinese during World War I.

By now the colony had four blacksmiths: the first, Alexander Cooper to whom the Cranes brought their horses, Harry Gruner, Abraham Baz, and Samuel Shecter. Also a fair number of tailors: Lippman Kelm, David Martin, Karpel Shusterman, Benjamin Novick, Abe and Harry Green, Harry Gittleman, Benjamin Sandrew, and Moses Benson. For several years the partners Jacob Cooper, Sam Melnick, and Morris Rosenblum had a ladies' fancy tailoring shop at the corner of South and Bank row, catering to the wealthy families of Stockbridge and Lenox.

The cobblers were Harris Borke, the first in 1895 who also sold shoes from his Wahconah street store, then his in-laws the Greens, later Meyer Minsky and Julius Lubin. But most of the new arrivals were peddlers.

Making a living by free enterprise was encouraged by the paper mills which could devour all the rags collected. Crane & Company advertised in the old *Pittsfield Sun*: 'Ladies, save your RAGS.' Usually peddling was a two-way transaction, selling wares and collecting rags and junk.

For the Jews, Russia in the early 1900s was a place of terror. Frequent pogroms culminating in the Kishinev massacre in 1903 and that same year the pogrom in Gomel (Homel) plus the Russo-Japanese war in 1904 gave the final push to the wave of emigration to the United States.

'The riots at Kishenev and Homel and the general economic depression gave an impetus to Jewish emigration from Russia which was almost doubled within a year. Matters were made still worse by the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in Feb. 1904 when about 30,000 Jews were included in the regiments sent to the Far East,' wrote Herman Rosenthal, chief of the Slavonic Department of the New York Public Library for the *Jewish Encyclopedia.*

'Especially great was the number of Jewish physicians ordered to the front, a number largely disproportionate to the Jewish population. The general discontent caused by the organization of the military reserves found expression in outbursts against the government and in anti-Jewish riots which, added to the grave economic crisis, brought thousands of Jewish families to the verge of starvation.'

Among the Berkshire settlers of this wave were the Rods who had an additional problem. Barnett Rod was a millwright, his younger brother Joseph, too. Although cautioned against wearing a long duster in the flour mill, Joseph continued and an accident of the wheel catching his coat and leg made him an amputee. To ensure the younger brother's acceptance into the United States, Barnett Rod bought land in Otis in both their names. Although neither brother remained on that land, other members of the Rod family have farmed it steadily.

David Pyenson, who had studied at the Russian Agricultural School in Minsk, left Russia in 1905 for America and worked two years for the Wolin family in Otis before buying thirty-five acres there for himself. During World War I he worked in the Baltimore area building army camps. On his return, he enlarged the farm, raising cows and chickens.

His three sons have continued in the food field. Louis Pyenson, head of the Biology and Plant Pathology Department at New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute at Farmingdale, was for a time advisor in entomology to the Brazilian government. Harry Pyenson is director of research for Reddi-Whip. Maxwell, with Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts, continued to run the Otis Farm.

In 1939, he was a specialist in agriculture for the Jewish Agricultural Society, funded by Baron Maurice de Hirsch,

French financier and railway magnate. His assignment was to scout acreage suitable for dairy and poultry on which to settle Jews who had come out of Germany with professional skills and some finances. Most managed until they could be fluent enough in English to pursue their own professions.

Now, with his son, Steven, he runs the plant of 20,000 chickens (the cows have been sold off), wholesaling eggs and maintaining an attractive, well-stocked country store specializing in eggs, frozen dressed chickens, cheese, jams, and a variety of organic foods.

In that post-Kishinev era, the 1905s, came Aaron Pomerantz to Great Barrington where, as he got off the train, the local citizenry thought he was an Indian. He stayed on as a tailor. Sam Kaplan followed and was believed to be another Indian. Mr. Kaplan made his way by horse and cart to Sandisfield where the colony was forming which consisted of Benjamin Jensky, Solomon Pollock, Samuel Steinberg, L. Albert, Samuel Plotkin, H. Lipschitz, Max Sandler, M. Cohen, M. Schneiderman, and Mr. Trop.

While chicken farming was the mainstay of income, the 'Koch Alein' summer business was a thriving one. A family coming up from New York to the green hills and streams of Montville, a section of Sandisfield, paid $30 a summer for a room with kitchen privileges. The kitchen had more than one stove and the guests bought their provisions from the landlord. As this grew more and more popular, small outbuildings were set up to accommodate the growing number of New York guests who relished the country.

Frequently it was the wife who ran the chicken farm during the winter while her husband worked in New York. This was the case with Max Sandler, a longshoreman. Up at the farm in Montville, he kept a white horse, his joy and his undoing. The horse accidentally kicked him in the chest, a fatal injury.

His son, Jack Sandler, tells that when the family sat shiva (seven days of mourning) in Brooklyn, on one occasion a tenth man was needed for the minyan. A black-hatted, bearded man was brought in from the street. After the prayers, the bearded man asked Jack for payment.

'What do you mean, pay?' asked the astonished son.

'I'm a Greek,' he replied.

By 1921, the Sandisfield colony became a congregation 'B'nai Abraham' and Benjamin Jensky, its first president, purchased the Baptist church built in 1900 and turned it over to the congregation.

For the next thirty years, the synagogue was in full swing —services and socials. But with the sons and daughters moving off, only a few families are left now. For the past several years the synagogue has not been used. The social rooms were vandalized. Jack Sandler, its president, kept the holy scrolls in his house for safekeeping.

With a resurgence of interest in 1971, awakened by several feature stories in the *Berkshire Eagle,* Jack Sandler and his indomitable wife, Lena, were able to collect $2,000 in contributions to make repairs and hold services on the High Holy days. More than eighty persons from as far as Winsted and Stockbridge attended.

Invigorating climate was the reason many families moved into the Berkshires. John Skole's father, Harry Skoletsky, and his uncle, Louis Cohen, after working as ragpickers in Chelsea, Massachusetts, developed tuberculosis and were advised to move to a higher altitude. On coming to Pittsfield, Mr. Skoletsky went through the county with horse and wagon, trading kitchen utensils and picking up junk.

Another family, Joseph and Sara Gruberg, left Brooklyn for Pittsfield in 1915 because Mr. Gruberg's window cleaning partner was told his wife needed country air. Seven years later, Mrs. Gruberg sent for her younger brother,

Herman Fink, a Palestinian learning the electrician's trade in Alexandria, Egypt.

The beauty of the Berkshires and the cultural life were later to entice residents from other parts of the United States as well as immigrants.

· 2 ·

Sunday – the busiest day of all

AFTER the Sabbath calm came Sunday—the day the housewife received the tradesmen who came to collect their weekly accounts, take orders for the next week, and exchange the latest news. The area was compact: Linden street up to Pacific, John, Bradford, and Dewey avenue.

Came Peter Selkowitz, the first Jewish baker in the area. A few years later another baker, Selig Gratenstein, opened but, being inexpert with horse and cart, gave up.

The butchers Jacob Badanes, Morris Horelly, and Louis Klein called on their customers and took orders for Thursday delivery.

Among the grocers were: Isadore Staskin, on Eagle street, then Tyler street as the United Cash Market, the partners Adolf Klein and Morris Goldstein, George Rothkopf on Dewey, Samuel Rabinowitz, Jacob Goodman, and Mrs. Chaim Shifrin.

The dairymen were Abraham S. Lipson (father of Paul Lipson, the actor), Sam Bookless, Sam Perlmutter, and Charles Kobritz.

This convenient system held up until the appearance of the first supermarket.

Meanwhile on Sunday, the men who collected rags and scrap metal (probably half the Jewish population) spent the day sorting these for delivery to the wholesalers: Dave Minsky, Barnet Schlossman, and C. C. Henry.

It was Mr. Schlossman's advertisement in a New York Yiddish newspaper for a live-in Hebrew and Yiddish teacher for his three children which brought Mendel Adlersheim from Hoboken where he hated his $3-a-week cap-making job. The live-in arrangement gave him half days free so he naturally turned to junk collection.

Another aspect of the economy was the summer blueberry picking by the children. For 15 cents up and back by horse and cart, they would be taken to the hills in Lebanon with their twelve quart pails. On their return they went house to house in the Wendell avenue area to sell their berries at 10 cents a quart or the entire pail for $1. The proceeds augmented the family food money or paid for school clothes.

A natural answer to the needs of the hard pressed community was the founding in 1901 by Mrs. Adolph Klein of the Hebrew Ladies Aid Society which grew to several hundred members who paid 25 cents a month, their tickets punched at monthly meetings. They ran card parties for 35 cents, suppers, and the Purim Ball where tickets were 75 cents and $1. They established Hachnosat Orchim (hospitality for transient Jewish guests), a room being on steady rental with the Jacob Smecker family on Robbins avenue and later with Mrs. Schlossman on Prospect street.

Ladies Aid Society was a 'life line to the community,' according to Mrs. Harry Kaufman, daughter of Mrs. Klein. Since everyone knew everyone, the needs and troubles of a particular family were quickly spotted and help given. The steadfast reluctance to go on 'the city' broke down finally in 1935.

In 1920, Knesses Israel established Gemilat Chesed (Hebrew Free Loan Society) for its members. Small loans, $5 to $10 at no interest, helped the peddlers buy their merchandise and were repaid within a week or two. Gemilat

Chesed still functions. Its founders were Israel Davidoff, Miriam Garbowitz, Jacob Gitelman, Rivka Gold, Jacob Geller, Peter Selkowitz, Jacob Aronstein, Abraham Rubin, David Chesney, Chasha Carr, Charles Freadman, and David Minsky.

The religious life of the community required the special skills of a score or more.

From Homel where he and his wife had been wedding caterers besides trading in braided onions and blankets, Louis Evzerow brought his family of eight children to Lebanon in 1914. A friend had a farm there.

For four years he earned a meager living collecting paper. Many neighbors brought him their bundled papers which the Pittsfield collectors later picked up.

Once a week he walked from Lebanon to Pittsfield to buy his kosher foods, his walk back broken by a refreshing hot or cold drink from the Shakers who knew him well.

In 1918 he learned the Knesses Israel synagogue needed a shamos* (his predecessors had been Lippman Cohen and Harris Borke). On Armistice Day the family moved out of Lebanon into the shamos' apartment in the synagogue basement.

When officiating at services, Shamos Evzerow always wore his Prince Albert coat and his stovepipe hat to the annoyance of the rabbi or president who felt he was 'upstaging' them. However, he remained shamos for nearly twenty-five years.

When Dr. Jason Leavitt was a little boy and critically ill, he was 'sold' to Shamos Evzerow in the medieval belief that if 'sold' to a father who had never lost one of his children, the child would recover.

A Sunday school for the religious education of all Jewish children opened in 1887 with six teachers and fifty children

**Shamos*: sexton

in the Society Anshe Amunim's rented quarters in the Renne Block, Fenn street. Tuition was 2 cents a Sunday. L. B. Simon was superintendent and Rosa (Mrs. Simon) England was assistant superintendent.

'The prime mover in organizing the school was Marion Simon, later nationally known as Mrs. Caesar Misch. Rabbi de Sola Mendes conducted the first confirmation in 1889. In 1895 Mrs. Ellene Lederer became superintendent and devoted her energies for some 20 years thereafter to the religious education of local Jewish children,' wrote Robert G. Newman in *The History of Congregation Anshe Amunim.*

In the early 1920s, George A Newman became superintendent of the expanded Religious School. Teachers included Mrs. Michael L. Eisner, Mrs. Morris Ziskind, Mrs. Nathan Finkelstein, Mrs. George A. Newman, and Gerson M. Rosenthal. Later the staff included Mrs. David Harawitz, Mrs. Samuel Swartz, Mrs. Peter Schiff, Miss Bertha C. Meyer, and Miss Sadie Levin.

The cornerstone of the little group of learned men who gathered every Saturday afternoon in the synagogue study room was Hyman Bitensky. In the group were Max Baz, Harris Borke, Cantor Duker, Shamos Evzerow, Lebe Garbowitz, Solomon Genn, Sichel Klein, Sam Levine, the umbrella maker, Solomon Lipson, Morris Rosenblum, and later Louis Katz.

Zevel Kantrovitz, the original shochet,* was also cantor and mohel.† Cantor Osher Duker served as shochet and mohel. Cantor Rubinstein and later Cantor Beresh Berenholc also served at Knesses Israel. Mendel Adlersheim assisted at services and reading of the Torah.

Hebrew teachers giving private lessons in their own homes or the student's home were Reba Seltzer, Mendel Adler-

**Shochet*: ritual slaughterer
†*Mohel*: circumciser

sheim, Samuel Block, Murray Kanter, Louis Katz, Mordecai Malezky, Rabbi Joseph Singer, and Hyman Shusheim.

When the United States entered World War I, German instruction ceased in all public schools. Dr. David A. Katz, head of the German Department of the Pittsfield High School, went to Knesses Israel synagogue to teach Hebrew.

Rabbi Morris Fuhrman became full-time rabbi at Knesses Israel synagogue in 1919 and subsequently served on a retired basis for many years.

Ahavath Sholem (Love of Peace Society) was organized in 1911 through the efforts of Jacob Cooper, Louis Maefsky, and Samuel Block, who, according to Isadore Staskin, one of its charter members, 'wanted to be bosses and Knesses Israel already had too many bosses.'

Its incorporators were Jacob Cooper, Samuel Shechter, Harry Weisberg, Isadore H. Michelson, Edward L. Rubin, Theodore Weinstein, Harry Bornstein, Nathan Dichter, and Max Levine.

From 1935 on, Mendel Adlersheim has been cantor at this orthodox synagogue generally known as the 'little shul', housed in a remodeled private dwelling on Robbins avenue.

· 3 ·

The outward look

HAVING achieved some stability in its religious and economic life, the Jewish community in Pittsfield began to look outward to Zionist and national activities.

Spurred by the singlehanded efforts of Mrs. Nathan (Estelle) Kolman who enlisted Barnet Lightman to drive her around to give her sales talk—'with a 50 cent deposit you can become a member'—the Pittsfield chapter of Hadassah (Women's International Zionist Organization) formally organized in 1925 with thirty charter members. Mrs. Kolman was president for two terms: 1925–27 and 1931–33. The chapter now has a membership of 425 women with Mrs. Kolman, honorary president, and Mrs. Paul Nelson, honorary vice-president.

More than any other organization, Hadassah has attracted members of orthodox, conservative, and reform affiliation as well as nonaffiliation. Its educational programs and social fund-raising events to support its many-faceted public health programs in Israel interest newcomers to the area.

Samuel Sagarin from Vilna via Adams, in the insurance business with Abraham Adelson, was Pittsfield's most articulate and vociferous Zionist. Self-appointed, he made the annual United Palestine Appeal (later called United Jewish Appeal) on the High Holy days at Knesses Israel and Aha-

vath Sholem. With a determination so characteristic of him, he let no man or woman go unpledged for a contribution. The reform movement was not yet committed to Zionism.

When the British White Paper (Lord Passfield) was issued in 1930 barring Jewish immigration into Palestine, the widespread dismay was quickly galvanized into action. A giant rally was held in Knesses Israel where Mr. Sagarin, president of the local Z.O.A., urged every synagogue member to become a member of the Zionist Organization of America. With the signatures of Z.O.A. members on a long petition, he and Aaron Halperin visited the U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, Allen T. Treadway, to ask him to persuade the United States government to denounce the White Paper. His distress was so great that during the session with Senator Treadway, the tall, robust Sagarin burst into tears.

The infamous White Paper was withdrawn only to be replaced by a permitted miniscule immigration of Jews, equally barbarous.

Another staunch Zionist, Nathan Kolman, paint and wallpaper dealer, was a long-time collector of the little blue Jewish National Fund boxes found in nearly every home. Sam Carr, his wife's nephew, on coming to Pittsfield from North Adams, was an equally devoted J.N.F. worker.

David Carr, Sam's father, and William Martin were the collection committee for the Hebrew Alliance.

The first Jewish Boy Scout troop, #13, was organized with Jay Kruss as leader and Benjamin Genn as sponsor.

B'nai B'rith started once back in 1884, according to bank books in the possession of Joseph Cohen, treasurer for the past thirty years. It was a German-speaking secret organization patterned somewhat on the Masonic order. After a dormant period, it was reorganized in 1927 as B'nai B'rith Adullum Lodge 322, with Samuel Bloomberg as president.

Its purpose was to bring men of all Jewish organizations together. The projects began with Anti-Defamation League, then Hillel college campus activities, Service Committee for Armed Forces, and later support of reform synagogues in Israel. The women's Lodge #295 was chartered in 1940 with Mrs. Samuel Bloomberg as president. One of its Israeli projects is a home for emotionally disturbed children.

The Louis Green Post #140 of Jewish War Veterans was established in 1935 through the efforts of Henry Alperin, then commander of Schenectady Post #106. Max Samuels was the Post's first commander. The post is named for Louis Green, killed in World War I.

A giant step forward was made in 1927 by the Society Anshe Amunim, now called Temple, when it finally got its own quarters, the former Advent church on Fenn and Willis, and Rabbi Harry Kaplan became its rabbi to stay for the next eight years. Both he and his wife, Rebecca, stimulated enthusiasm in congregational affairs.

'The invigorated atmosphere drew previously unaffiliated Jews to the Temple, members were more willing to contribute time and funds, confirmations occurred regularly, there was renewed interest in social events and Sunday afternoon book reviews,' according to Robert G. Newman's history.

The book reviews were a pleasant surprise, particularly to the offspring of orthodox Jews who sneaked out on a Sunday afternoon, for these were often on worldly subjects not encountered hitherto in religious gatherings.

· 4 ·

At the drop of a hat

STRENGTH in the Jewish community of Pittsfield was noticeably increased and exercised during the 1940s by the activities of several residents and the introduction of professional staff.

Leon Mohill, a Russian immigrant, came to Pittsfield in 1925 after working five years in the newspaper circulation business in New Britain. Here he built a distribution of periodicals and newspapers from a one-truck franchise into one of the largest in the East. Here, too, he married Sonia Halperin, Boston University graduate and English teacher.

Known as a liberal when the term was synonymous with 'radical', Mr. Mohill was even better known and appreciated for his wide philanthropies on a person-to-person basis and his large contributions to the United Community Chest and the Jewish Welfare Fund. He was deeply committed to the establishment of an independent and viable Israel and to an integrated Jewish community here.

It was natural, therefore, for him to become active in the reorganized Jewish Community Center for which Herman Fink had worked hard to amalgamate the Hebrew School, the Welfare Fund, and the old Community Center.

That same year, 1940, Jacob H. Pecker came from Albany to become principal of the Hebrew School. A native New Yorker, graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary

with the degree of Bachelor of Jewish Education, he took over his domain in the Hebrew Alliance Building with a total of twenty-nine pupils. At the time of his death in 1964 it had grown to 165 pupils and a staff of five teachers.

A strong influence in the success of the Hebrew School was Dr. Kenneth Goldblum who came from Minneapolis in 1940 to work as chemist in the plastics laboratory of the General Electric Company. With his devotion and training in the Minneapolis Talmud Torah, it was natural for him to serve as lay cantor of Knesses Israel for twelve years and hold the post of chairman of the Hebrew School Committee for twenty-five years. His wife, Adelle, was school administrator for several years.

When Mr. Mohill became president of the Jewish Community Center, he propelled the next move: the purchase in 1944 of the Coogan property at 235 East street. The private residence was reconstituted as an institutional building and used concomitantly with the Hebrew Alliance Building on Robbins avenue for several years until the latter was sold.

In 1946, Bruno Aron, graduate of the City College of New York and the New York School of Social Work, Columbia University, was hired as director of the Community Center, a step which gave it a big uplift with good professional guidance and a busy day-and-night activity.

A bequest by George Margolin, long-time 'customer peddler', established the Margolin Library of Judaica in the Center. Samuel Sass, librarian of the William Stanley Library of the General Electric Company, set up its classification and catalog systems. Dr. Stanley Simkin built the shelves. Sol Cohen, art teacher at the Center, was its librarian.

The first of many lectures sponsored by the Margolin Library provoked a storm. The annual Jewish Book Award

for 1948 had just been given to *My Glorious Brothers* by Howard Fast. Sam Sass, library chairman, and Bruno Aron invited Howard Fast to speak during Jewish Book Week. When the talk was announced, there were loud protests against having a Communist speak in the Center. But when assured that the talk would be nonpolitical and after all the book *was* based on the Maccabees *and* had won the Jewish Book Award, the storm subsided.

Over a period of years the Margolin Library of Judaica in the Jewish Community Center has provided many programs: Old Testament art exhibit with Alfred Werner as judge; Percival Goodman lecture on synagogue architecture; a two-man panel, a psychiatrist, Dr. Stanley Stern, and Sam Sass, who had immigrated at age ten, reviewing *Call It Sleep* by Henry Roth, now being filmed; a series of four discussion meetings on interfaith marriage with these panelists: Mrs. Milton J. Gordon, Mrs. Albert Genn, Dr. Eugene Talbot, psychologist at Williams College, Dr. Donald B. Bloch, psychiatrist at Riggs Center, Francis X. Doyle, Roman Catholic, and James E. Sammons, Episcopalian, who gave a panel discussion on their respective churches' positions, and Philip Percus, Hebraist, with Mrs. Nathan George Horwitt, long-time chairman of the Margolin Library.

The 235 East street reconstituted dwelling bustling (or bursting) with activity was always considered a wartime stopgap measure. The site, however, was splendid. What in conjunction with classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium should there be? These were the questions which were raised and discussed endlessly. It was taken for granted, theoretically, that one united Jewish house of worship would be the ideal combination with a functional community building. But when questioned, the answer invariably was 'united' according to the reform or conservative affiliation of the answerer. The notable exception was Jay Rosenfeld.

Leon Mohill, long an advocate of Mordecai Kaplan's idea of an 'integrated' Jewish community which would do away with the orthodox, conservative, and reform segments into which Jewry had become divided, no doubt gave support to Bruno Aron, as did Herman Fink, to invite Rabbi Ira Eisenstein and his wife, Judith (Rabbi Kaplan's daughter), to hold a Sunday seminar in January 1949. Rabbi Eisenstein met with the Center Board in the morning outlining all the steps and possibilities. In the afternoon he held a seminar on religion and its place in the home. Judith meanwhile held a Hebrew singing session with the children. That evening, Rabbi Eisenstein gave a lecture in the Berkshire Museum auditorium on 'An Integrated Jewish Community.'

All this soul-searching for unity was dubbed ruefully 'At the drop of a hat'—the symbol of what was to be taken on or taken off by negotiation. It went on for another ten years.

Meanwhile a remarkable exercise of strength was shown by the Pittsfield community when it agreed in 1949 to take in thirteen displaced European families being brought to the United States by the United Service for New Americans.

Bertha (Mrs. John) Skole was made chairman of this New American committee, a fortuitous choice in view of her long experience with Hebrew Ladies Aid, wide acquaintance with local families, fluent Yiddish, and her sympathetic but firm way of handling problems, according to Bruno Aron.

In the briefing sessions with the representative of the Jewish division of United Service for New Americans, she and Bruno Aron learned the tentative timetable and family statistics. Most were former Polish nationals. All had come out of Nazi camps.

While Sam Adelson was responsible for finding jobs and Jack Pecker for English instruction, housing (which in-

cluded scrounging for furniture, beddings, etc.) and meeting the trains were Mrs. Skole's work. In this she had the constant, able assistance of Isabel England as faithful chauffeur, even on twenty-four hours' notice. Often they found their charges wearing the only clothes they possessed—so a quick S.O.S. to households for the right sizes.

The thirteen families arrived over a span of eight months, starting in May 1949. The *Berkshire Eagle,* in an eight-column-spread story with pictures, January 1950, reported the success in an interview with Bruno Aron, director of the Jewish Community Center. All but two were self-supporting. Jobs had been found at the Lichtman Tannery, Rosenfeld's, Sisselman's coat factory, Brookner's Fur Shop, and Joanne Bakers.

· 5 ·

Zionism – lower case z

In the summer of 1947, Nathan George Horwitt, vice-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine (supporters of the Irgun in British-mandated Palestine), was asked by Betar who also based their activities on Jabotinsky's philosophy of active defense against the British and the Arabs for permission to have a four-week encampment on his large farm in Stockbridge. Vladimir Jabotinsky, one of the original Zionists, had broken away by his divergent view of active versus passive resistance.

The Betar camp of sixty young people, mostly males in their late teens, set themselves up in military fashion: one big meeting tent, a big commissary tent, twelve pyramidal sleeping tents, dug their latrines. 'Officers' had the Hebrew title of Nassif (leader) and gave orders in Hebrew for maneuvers of target practice (with blank cartridges), crawling under barbed wire, a surprise middle of the night march to Pittsfield, etc. Hebrew language and political philosophy were the academic courses.

Each camper was delegated to be cook for an entire day. Supplies were gotten by driving their only vehicle, a converted old ambulance, to Pittsfield for kosher meat and other foods. Rabbi Fuhrman was heard to exclaim:

'Did you know there was a kosher camp in Lenox?'

Jack Pecker, principal of the Community Hebrew School,

brought a few of his teenage pupils to visit the Betar camp. One of them, Sandra Schwartz (now Mrs. Raymond Lesman) recalls:

'On a second trip there, we were invited to a bonfire where they served delicious corn. The speeches around the fire were very emotional. It was the time of the blockade running in Palestine and the speakers had participated in smuggling refugees ashore. I had the feeling that we were sitting among a group who were surely preparing to go to Israel on a moment's notice and fight.

'Then I remember that several weeks later National Betar held a convention in Pittsfield. Somehow they were able to get the old B'nai B'rith hall on South street. Several busloads arrived with kids all in military uniform. I think the Jewish community was flabbergasted and quite uneasy with these guests parading around town in strange uniforms. I say this because I recall the word was, after that, any member of the local Young Judea group found encouraging these "Betarnicks" to return would automatically forfeit future Camp Y.J. scholarship.'

The same reluctance to acknowledge any but the official Zionist philosophy was encountered by Mr. Horwitt, trying to explain the Irgun's activities. Ben Slaminsky and Fred Ketay, however, did arrange a meeting for him in Great Barrington.

When Herman Fink returned from a 1948 visit to his native city, Petach Tikvah, he revised his opinion for he found nearly every family he knew had one son in the Haganah (official Jewish Agency defense army) and another son in the Irgun. He and his wife, Jean, opened their home to several informational meetings on the Irgun.

The younger members of the local community were more attuned as shown by this announcement in a 1947 *Jewish Community News*:

TRUMPELDOREAN CLUB OF YOUNG JUDEA,
PROGRAM & DEBATE 3/30/47
IN B'NAI B'RITH ROOMS.

The question for debate is one uppermost in many minds today; whether or not the Jews of America should support the Irgun group in Palestine.

When the state of Israel was proclaimed, the last of the British gone, but the embattled Arab Legions to be faced, the Irgun ship *Altalena* neared Israeli shores. Her captain, Monroe Fein, a former United States Naval officer, had walked into the Irgun's New York office to volunteer.

In her hold were more guns and ammunition than the combined Haganah, Jewish Agency, and World Zionist Organization had been able to accumulate from 1917 to 1948. This materiel by pre-established basis was to be shared with the new defense army of Israel and Irgun units in Jerusalem.

The first night's rendezvous missed. The second at Kfar Vitkin went on schedule and a small part of the cargo had already been discharged when the Haganah opened up fire! Ben Gurion had changed his mind.

On the third night to avoid strife the *Altalena* with no soldiers on board and only wounded Israeli veterans for stevedores sailed into Tel Aviv harbor. Artillery hits exploded the munitions. One important Irgunist was killed, several others wounded. The shattered hulk of the ship lies at the bottom of the sea just off the swank hotel area of Tel Aviv.*

Not long after, Monroe Fein came to work in the General Electric Company's ordnance department. He and his wife, Malka, an Israeli Irgunist nurse, lived on Linden street until his subsequent G.E. transfer.

*Reference: Eliahu Lankin's book in Hebrew, *The Story of the Altalena Commander*, Tel Aviv: Hadar Pub. Co., 1967.

· 6 ·

'We'

A RECEPTION for Dr. Serge Koussevitzky by the Pittsfield Jewish Community in acknowledgment and gratitude for the gift of his Paris collection of scores to the Hebrew University Library was held August 15, 1949, in the Berkshire Museum. The meeting had a capacity attendance of invited subscribers thereby providing funds for additional scores to be added to the collection.

Mrs. Frank R. Cohen of New York City, music library chairman of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and Leonard Bernstein had persuaded the maestro of the Boston Symphony Orchestra to make this gift to be called the Serge Koussevitzky Collection of Orchestral and Choral Music.

Mrs. Cohen introduced the five Israeli musicians attending the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood: Zvi Zeitlin, violinist; Joseph Bernstein, violinist; Celia Liebowitz, pianist; Ben Zion Orgad, composer; and Elyakum Shapiro, conductor, who presented a program of Israeli compositions.

Jay C. Rosenfeld, program chairman, read messages from Israeli Ambassador Elihu Elath expressing appreciation for this gift and from Sir Leon Simon, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University who added that the collection 'would be made available to all who can use it for the enrichment of the musical life of Israel.'

Leonard Bernstein, who had just given the score of his 'Age of Anxiety' to the Koussevitzky collection, said of the maestro, 'he has become a symbol for them – a symbol of universality in music.'

Dr. Israel S. Wechsler, president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, made the formal acceptance of the gift, saying to Dr. Koussevitzky: 'Your contribution to Israel as a teacher and benefactor will touch the deepest sentiments of an eternally grateful people. They will accept and cherish your collection as a token of encouragement, as a sign of faith.'

When Dr. Koussevitzky rose to respond he was 'visibly touched by the plaudits accorded him,' wrote the *Eagle* reporter. In a fervent speech he called for continued gifts of music to the Hebrew University in Israel.

At the conclusion of his talk, Dr. Koussevitzky was presented with a check for $500 by Jay Rosenfeld to be used for the purchase of American music for the Hebrew University collection.

The reception then moved upstairs to the Ellen Crane room where refreshments were served by the B'nai B'rith women, Mrs. Jack Daniels, chairman.

The details of this reception were culled, largely from clippings of the *Berkshire Eagle,* carefully preserved in the Berkshire Museum's scrapbooks.

However, one detail was missing. During his response, Dr. Koussevitzky used the word 'we.' For his listeners, this has remained the sharpest memory of that occasion.

· 7 ·

Coming of Age

THE organized life of the community of Jews in Pittsfield made its long-term structural changes in the years 1950–70 not without some frustrations and certainly not without large capital outlay.

First among these was the new building in 1950 for the Jewish Community Center at 235 East street, attached to the Coogan house which would be demolished sometime later when an appropriate structure would replace it.

The contract for $142,000 called for classrooms in the basement, large auditorium-gymnasium, big kitchen facilities, offices on the first floor, and a smaller meeting room with foyer on the second floor, all contiguous to the standing residence.

On their last night before leaving for Israel, the Mohills were present for the cornerstone laying of the building. The festive gathering had contributed to a purse for the children of Ein Hashofet, the kibbutz in which the Mohills were to live.

The completed building was dedicated in October 1951. Herman Reder was chairman of the building committee; Dr. Joseph H. Budnitz, co-chairman.

His staunch supporters, the Mohills, now in Israel and Isabel England leaving for Israel, Bruno Aron resigned to join the Bonds for Israel national organization, continuing to live in Pittsfield. His job of executive director was taken

over by Howard Udel, an active committee member of the Jewish Community Center.

Thereafter, a succession of three professional directors was engaged before the Center reverted to nonprofessional though dedicated members of the community: Herman Fink, John Skole, and currently Sanford Lubin.

Most notable of the successful activities housed in the Center has been the Hebrew School. With Jack Pecker as principal and one full-time teacher, Shifra (Mrs. Harry) Deykin of Great Barrington, later succeeded by Izak Herman, plus three part-time teachers, the school was in session five days a week, Sunday through Thursday. On Jack's untimely death, Chaim and Sonia Witkowski were engaged to be the full-time faculty. After four years, they were succeeded by Norbert Kamlot as principal assisted by Edward Berkowitz, cantor of Knesses Israel. The school has an enrollment of 140 pupils from kindergarten up. The Academy covers high school and adult classes and is headed by Chaim Witkowski.

The Hebrew School Association was established as a sponsoring body to raise funds for the school. Sidney I. Katz was its effective fund raiser and treasurer. His son, David, has followed him in this effort.

At present the Center serves as a meeting place for the Berkshire Credit Union (the oldest credit union in the county, chartered in 1927), the Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, and the Boy Scouts.

It houses the Nursery School started fifteen years ago when the Community Center joined the United Community Services (Red Feather). This nonsectarian educational project has an enrollment of fifty-four preschool children in two sessions. Mrs. William W. Simons is director; Mrs. Gordon J. Adelson and Mrs. Enid L. Fuhrman are assistant teachers.

The Center itself sponsors athletic activities. Sauna, handball, and apparatus room are available, also a trampoline for youngsters, including nursery school tots.

Sanford Lubin, its present executive director, in an interview, The *Berkshire Eagle*, Sunday, May 7, 1972, said:

'This building is not here for religious or ethnic purposes. It's a community center where anyone who wishes may participate. One-third of our members are not of the Jewish faith.'

The price for 'a mess of red pottage' has remained constant since biblical days.

Back in the spring of 1960 one of the largest mass meetings, second only to that on the eve of the Six-Day war, was held in the Community Center. Significantly, many were young married couples. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of merger of the Center with either Temple or Synagogue. While it was a carry-over of the 'drop of a hat' discussion, this time it was not the hat as much as the purse.

The timing was critical. The Temple had been given a gift of the Simon England Sr. home on Broad street by the Simon England and Alan Blau families, provided a building campaign would ensue. The Temple was on the verge of selecting an architect.

Knesses Israel, having bought the Unitarian church building on Wendell avenue in 1954, was hard pressed for room even though it used the Center auditorium for the High Holy days.

A panel of four addressed this meeting. Herman Fink explored the functions the Community Center should serve. Edwin E. Reder compared the financial success of the united drives with individual drives. It was candidly acknowledged that support for the Center was lagging behind the interest in both religious institutions.

Dr. Stanley Simkin noted that 'apparently the Pittsfield Jewish community favors a religious-social setup, leading to a Temple or Synagogue Center.'

More to the point was this statement in Jay Rosenfeld's fervent plea for authorized representatives to meet and explore the possibility of amalgamation: 'We have three huge budgets; we have three large plants and, in the case of the synagogues, larger ones under consideration.'

It was a futile courtship; the bridegroom is still waiting for a bride.

By late summer 1964, the new Temple Anshe Amunim on Broad and Wendell avenue was completed. William Pomerantz was chairman of the building committee; Mrs. Arthur Maislen, chairman of the ritual arts committee.

This serenely beautiful building, designed by Henry Blatner of Albany, rightly merits inclusion in John Wedda's illustrated book, *New England Worships.*

The interior, judiciously designed for an easy flow of people, is well balanced with the sanctuary in the middle, flanked by the temple office and rabbi's study on the left and the library-chapel meeting room on the right. On the upper floor is a social hall which becomes part of the sanctuary on the High Holidays, ample kitchen facilities, and classrooms for the religious school.

An outstanding annual lecture is presented each spring by the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation of Temple Anshe Amunim established by her sons, Dr. Armond V. Feigenbaum and Donald S. Feigenbaum.

The series, open to the public 'to make the enriching treasuries of the Jewish spirit accessible to as wide an audience as possible,' has since 1968 brought these speakers to Temple Anshe Amunim: Meyer Levin, author; Prof. Leonard J. Fein of M.I.T.; Prof. Samuel Sandmel, specialist in New Testament relationship to Judaism; Prof. Eugene

B. Borowitz of Hebrew Union College; and Dr. Seymour Martin Lipset, Harvard University. Mrs. Milton J. Gordon is chairman of the lecture committee.

Knesses Israel synagogue began the long road to achieving its new synagogue in 1963 when it purchased the Colt estate of mansion and 4½ acres on Colt Road. With Dr. Stanley Simkin as chairman of the fund drive, and co-chairmen William Lipton and Kenneth Loveman, the congregation was ready in 1966 to build a new synagogue complex there.

Under the watchful eye of Sanford Lubin, building chairman, this distinctive structure designed by Pittsfield architect Terry Hallock was completed in time for the High Holy days, 1970.

The sanctuary proper is shaped like a six-pointed star, the exterior treatment reminiscent of old European synagogue architecture. Adjoining are the large social hall, very ample kitchen facilities, the offices, and the rabbi's study. Off the sanctuary is the bride's dressing room, a pet project of Isodore Goodman, a thoughtful convenience for wedding ceremonies. Mrs. Carl J. Wildman was in charge of decoration; Marshall Raser, interior furnishings. Classrooms are part of the complex.

That the two large congregations had the strength and cohesion to build fine new structures is certainly a sign of maturity. More evident is the long tenure of their rabbis. Harold L. Salzmann has been rabbi of Temple Anshe Amunim for eighteen years; Sanford D. Shanblatt has been rabbi of Knesses Israel for twelve years.

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In the public sector

PRIVATE enterprise is still the major occupation of Jews in the Berkshires, in some instances on a much grander scale, as note the A. Leo Nash Steel Corporation (grandsons of Barnet Schlossman), Charles Freadman Steel Corporation, the Lipton enterprises, and Kaufman Brothers Toys with a new 600,000-square-foot warehouse in Lee. Twenty percent of the practitioners in the medical, dental, and legal professions are Jews, a far cry from the days when Dr. Nathan Finkelstein, one of the first Jewish doctors, made his house calls by bicycle.

Now a significant number are working in communications, education, federal, state, and city government, and, of course, in the General Electric Company, the corporate giant, and in the lesser giants in the area.

The top five of the fifty working in the General Electric Company are: Max I. Alimansky, general manager, business development and operations transformer division, recently retired; Albert A. Fried, manager, chemical operations; Samuel Sass, librarian of the William Stanley Library; Norman Moskowitz, manager, ordnance systems; and Robert S. Cohen, program manager, distributor switch equipment.

Of these, Sam Sass is probably the most widely known throughout the area. He has been a member of the Berk-

shire Advisory Committee against Discrimination since 1961 and its chairman for three years. He was chairman of the Town Hall Architectural Commission which restored the building to its 1832 condition. His most recent activity has been as chairman of the Pittsfield Noise Control commission whose chief target is the snowmobile.

Among the other forty-five Jewish workers in the General Electric Company are chemists, engineers, patent lawyer, computer experts, accountants, welders, and plant protectors.

Two other large corporations in the area are the Eaton Paper Company (now part of Textron Corporation), of which Morton Weiss is president, and the Peter J. Schweitzer division of Kimberly Clark in Lee where Milton J. Gordon is director of plans and development and Arthur Aronoff of Stockbridge is technical sales representative.

Working with the Federal government are Allan R. Zenowitz of Great Barrington, director of Civil Defense, U.S. Region 1, and Samuel J. Karlin, supervisor of Berkshire County Internal Revenue Service, Pittsfield.

Serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are three judges, all of North Adams: Samuel E. Levine, district court judge; Benjamin Apkin, special justice; Bernard Lenhoff, special justice; and clerk of court Morton Freedman. In Pittsfield, Joel S. Greenberg, former three-term state representative from the 4th Berkshire district, is assistant attorney general for consumer affairs. William W. Simons is assistant district attorney.

In the city of Pittsfield government are Dr. Harold Stein, health commissioner, Samuel Landa, city solicitor, and Arnold L. Rose, assistant solicitor.

Theodore Herberg is director of research in the Pittsfield School Department and acting administrative assistant to the superintendent of schools. He also served as

principal of the Temple Anshe Amunim religious school for nearly two decades. He is co-designer of the monumental cakes his wife, Sonia, bakes for Hadassah meetings where they are raffled off to enrich its treasury by $500 each year.

Leon L. Siegel is assistant superintendent of schools for business services. Winifred B. (Mrs. Lee) Bell is public school art coordinator. Morton Wayne is head of the music department. At the time of his death in 1969, Robert Kriger had been head of the commercial department for thirty-four years.

At Berkshire Community College, Grace (Mrs. Frederic R.) Meyers has been dean of women for twelve years. She was also editor of the *Jewish Community Center Star,* a bimonthly, for seven years. Dr. Sydelle Stone Shapiro (Mrs. Stanley Shapiro) was head of the psychology department of Berkshire Community College for several years. Martin J. Jonas is head of its business department.

In the field of radio, Station WBEC was owned for six years by Monroe B. England who sold it to Leon Podolsky in 1947. He kept it for several years before going to Sprague Electric Company as assistant to the president. Jan Tavelin is newscaster at Station WBRK.

Recently a new radio station, WGRG, the third in Pittsfield, was granted a license. The owners are Jerry Graham and Alvin H. Perlmutter, both of Stockbridge; Bernard Ruttenberg, New York City; and Melvin Gordon, Indianapolis.

The largest area in the field of communications is covered by the *Berkshire Eagle* with a circulation of 30,525, reaching into all parts of the county as well as adjacent communities.

On its editorial staff are Abraham A. Michelson, political

editor; Milton R. Bass, entertainment editor; Jay C. Rosenfeld, music critic; Elsbet Wayne, assistant music critic; Winifred B. Bell, art critic; and Richard K. Weil, city reporter.

This panorama in the early 1970s indicates an open door everywhere for merit to seek its earned level. In only one case is there a door which allegedly is not open or open only by a crack. This is the Country Club of Pittsfield.

Early in September 1971, I wrote to William M. Furey, its president, that we were researching material on the Jews in the Berkshires. The letter stated: 'Various stories come to our attention of the Country Club of Pittsfield with reference to Jews as members. I would be very grateful for a half hour of your time to check these out with you.'

A week later, Robert D. Bardwell Jr. telephoned me saying Mr. Furey had delegated him to answer my questions. Mr. Bardwell is a director, secretary of the club, and chairman of the membership committee. He invited me to lunch at the club and was a most gracious host.

The questions were typed so that he could see precisely what was going to be asked and his answers could be noted on my copy. These are the questions and answers:

Q. When did the Englands give land to the Country Club?

A. There was no land given. When, at the turn of the century, the Country Club then situated in the Dawes avenue area wanted to buy the Melville property of 450 acres and the original Melville residence, a stock subscription was offered. Simon and Dan England (sons of Moses England) were among the original subscribers. [Dan England was mayor of Pittsfield in 1902. – PH]

Q. Besides the First Agricultural National Bank, what other companies hold their annual meetings at the Coun-

try Club? (This question was asked because one known Jewish stockholder refused in writing to attend these meetings if held at the Country Club.)

A. Only the First Agricultural Bank which held stockholder's meetings in 1969 and 1970, subsequently in the Berkshire Common.

Q. Is it true Jay Rosenfeld was proposed for membership some years back and was rejected?

A. Jay and Stanley around 1944–46. Regrettably.

Q. Was there a bylaw excluding Jews? Or a resolution?

A. No.

Q. What prompted the recent (two years) tacit welcome of twenty-five Jews preferably in professional fields?

A. The number twenty-five and men engaged in professional work, meeting all kinds of people during the day, is correct—but not necessarily limited to Jews. It takes 750 members to maintain the Club and because of attrition at the General Electric Company and members moving away replacements are needed. It is also in the interest of maintaining the Club's kitchen and bar facilities that outside organizations' luncheon and dinner meetings are encouraged.

The procedure for becoming a member, Mr. Bardwell explained, starts with the desire on the part of the prospect and his ability to afford the membership dues, initiation fee, and stock purchase.

Thereupon a 'proposer', a member of the club who is not a director (and therefore not on the membership committee) offers the name for consideration by the membership committee. The prospect's name is then circularized by mail to the entire membership for comment. After collating the

verbal and written responses, the board of directors meets and determines the decision.

Meanwhile, there has been a process of 'peering' during which the candidate (his wife and family) are scanned for compatability with the Country Club's members in terms of speech, manners, dress, and interests, i.e., tennis, golf, and dining.

· 9 ·

Lenox

UNTIL the Tanglewood concerts, Lenox hardly ever saw a Jew, apart from Mendel Adlersheim, metal scrap collector, whose horse and wagon were a common sight from 1917 on. He called on plumbers, electricians, garages, and the Greenfield farm in New Lenox. He upgraded his business with a truck in 1928 and continued to visit Lee, Stockbridge, Housatonic, and Great Barrington.

True, the Julius Rosenwald family of Chicago and the Riegelman family of New York were summer guests at the old Aspinwall Hotel. Mr. Rosenwald's daughter, Mrs. Edgar B. Stern, has owned a summer home in Lenox since 1954. William I. Riegelman has a summer home on Stockbridge Bowl.*

In the early 1940s, music lovers coming up for the Tanglewood concerts wanting to engage rooms at the Curtis Hotel claimed that being Jewish was a bar. The Baroness de Rothschild of Paris, however, spent the summer of 1940 at the Curtis. Her son-in-law, Gregor Piatagorsky, was director of the chamber music division that first year of the Berkshire Music Center.

The availability of handsome large estates, built in the late nineteenth century during the 'Gilded Age' of the Berkshires, was undoubtedly a determinant factor in the

*Data on early Lenox from George E. Mole.

establishment of several hotels and the first coeducational boarding preparatory school in the United States.

Windsor Mountain School started here in 1946 when its founders, Dr. Max Bondy and his wife, Dr. Gertrude Bondy, purchased the Greenville Winthrop estate. The Bondys were the originators of the coeducational boarding prep school in Germany. Heinz Bondy, their son, is headmaster.

In 1965, Jan Wiener, nephew of Dr. Gertrude Bondy, came from Prague to join the faculty as history teacher. His book, *Assassination of Heydrich*, published by Viking press, is also the story of his life under the Nazis.

Blantyre, the beautiful Normanesque castle built in 1902 by Robert W. Patterson, was purchased in the 1950s by Henry de Sola Mendes and his wife, Babette, who transformed it into a hotel where many gala wedding receptions and banquets were held. In 1967, Blantyre was sold to Robert Weiss and Lee Gunst who enlarged its facilities, particularly the tennis courts, and remodeled the carriage house into suites.

Roy A. (Skip) Rappaport, fresh out of Cornell University hotel administration, purchased the Bonnie Brae estate built in 1885. He revamped it as an inn, 'Avaloch,' which drew a lively young crowd. One of the highlights was a seminar weekend presided over by Saul K. Padover, political scientist. In 1959 'Skip' sold Avaloch and returned for graduate study, this time at Columbia University. He is now associate professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan.

Seven Hills, one of the largest and most successful summer hotels, was the former Shipton Court,* built in 1885 and purchased in 1952 from the Baroness de Viry by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence K. Howitt, better known to their guests

*Data on estates from David Wood's book on Lenox published by the town.

as Larry and Sophie. For the past ten years, Sam Levenson, the well-known educator-humorist, has been a month-long guest, holding Saturday afternoon 'workshop' sessions on the lawn where the 150 guests are regaled with his latest observations and stories. The sessions are tape-recorded for audience reaction.

About the same time, Bruno and Claire Aron purchased the Junius Morgan estate in the heart of Lenox and made over the manor house into a hotel, 'Festival House.' This ran quite successfully as a moderate-priced inn with the carriage house transformed into a theatre. Subsequently, after being rented for several years to the Fokine Ballet Camp, it was sold to the camp. The Arons still use the summer home they built on the far edge of the estate.

Hungarian food was featured at the little inn 'Shadowood' owned by Mr. and Mrs. Max Rosenberg.

High Point Inn and Galleries on West Mountain Road is owned by Doris Bardon. Originally built by the artist Thomas Shields Clark, this interesting estate is further enhanced by the activities described in its name plus the liberal 'cause' parties Mrs. Bardon hosts.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts at Tanglewood have drawn many residents to the area. The magnificence of the scenery, the open spaces, and the intellectual climate made a deep impression on visitors.

Invited by Dorothy Thompson, journalist, who was chairman of the Russian War Relief benefit concert the B.S.O. gave in 1942 (one of many war relief benefits), historian Stefan Lorant, a refugee from Hungary via London, foreswore his Vermont land to become a Lenox resident.

Although situated in Canaan, New York, the eighty-year-old Berkshire Farm which provides resident training and treatment of judicially certified delinquent boys is the reason some of its present and past professional staff are

residents of Berkshire county. Abraham Novick, its director, lives in Richmond; Philip Kaminstein, Albert Ovadia, and Al Schwarts in Pittsfield; Dr. Monroe M. Lefkowitz in Lenox; and Irving Landa and David Resnik in Stockbridge.

At present, Lenox has approximately thirty-eight Jewish families, including Rabbi Emeritus Jacob Philip Rudin, formerly of Temple Beth El, Great Neck, New York.

Among its business enterprises, Loeb's Foodtown was opened by Leo and Marion Loeb nineteen years ago in a small rented store, then moved into the colonial corner building which they built and later sold.

The Wolfs (Abe, Sara, and their son, Leonard) acquired the Log Cabin restaurant in 1957 and made its second enlargement. It was originally built in 1922 by the Carey Maple Sugar Company of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, as an authentic log cabin, constructed of Vermont spruce logs by five French Canadian lumberjacks. Here waffles and maple syrup were served and Vermont products sold. Planned as the first of a chain to cover the seaboard, only this prototype was built. Mr. Carey's son decided to be an Episcopal minister instead of managing a chain.*

Sounds of Music is owned by Ross and Adele Tane. The Bookstore is owned by David Silverstein. Alan Weinman is chef and owner of The Restaurant. The Crazy Horse gift shop in the Lenox Shopping Plaza is owned by David and Rebecca Levine, formerly of North Adams. Heinz Weissenstein, official photographer for the B.S.O., owns Whitestone Photo.

The Berkshire County unit of Recording for the Blind, one of seventeen in the United States, is housed in the Lenox Library building. With its affiliate in Williamstown, this unit has chalked up 10,000 volunteer hours a year. On request of blind college students, required texts are taped

*Data on origin of the Log Cabin from William D. Roche.

and copied, with the original going to the main office in New York City for master files, the copy going to the student.

On the board are Mrs. Daniel England, Mrs. Simon England, Philip Percus, treasurer, and Mrs. Herbert Sandick. Among the volunteers (readers and monitors) are Mrs. J. Harry Fierman, Hedy Fischel, Mrs. Gerald L. Haidak, Mrs. Charles Pincu, and Rabbi Sanford D. Shanblatt of Pittsfield; Helen Goldin, Iris Katz, Blanche and Philip Percus of Lenox, and Mrs. Eugene Talbot of Stockbridge.

Volunteers at the Williamstown recording studio include Mrs. David Krizack, Williamstown; Mrs. Joseph Kronick, Mrs. Maurice Shapiro, Mrs. Sterling Shapiro, Mrs. Eugene Weiss of North Adams; and Mrs. Mervin S. Wineburg of Adams.

Lenox Library Association recently appointed Norman Hirschl of West Stockbridge to its art committee.

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Stockbridge

FROM 1913 to 1961, Stockbridge had at least one Jewish resident, albeit a day-time resident. Hyman Cohen of Pittsfield, a president of Knesses Israel, had his tailorshop in the Braman Department Store and later moved to his own shop on Main street. He was widely known among his customers for his tales of Czarist days.

In the late 1940s, when Dr. Robert P. Knight became head of the Austin Riggs Center, he brought with him from the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas, Dr. David Rapaport and Dr. Margaret Brenman (Mrs. William Gibson).

Dr. Rapaport held a series of four discussion meetings in the Jewish Community Center, Pittsfield, on Sunday afternoons during November 1951. The topic, 'A Minority Culture Living in a Majority Culture,' drew a capacity audience at each session. The Christmas-Chanukah anxiety syndrome made it particularly timely.

When the University of California demanded loyalty *plus* oaths from its professors, Dr. Knight invited Erik H. Erikson to come to Riggs. After a period during which he divided his time between Cambridge and Stockbridge, Mr. Erikson settled completely in Stockbridge.

Riggs has brought other Jewish psychologists and psychiatrists to Stockbridge: Donald B. Bloch, Martin Cooperman, Arthur Deikman. Herbert Erlich, Robert A. Harris,

George S. Klein, Dori Laub, Mark Lubin, Stanley Stern, and Eugene Talbot.

Through Dr. Knight, Dr. Johanna Grad set up the little inn and Viennese restaurant 'The Homestead' which flourished from 1948 to 1961.

Beth (Mrs. Jay C.) Rosenfeld of Pittsfield was director of activities at Riggs for thirteen years. Dr. Sydelle Stone Shapiro was research associate prior to heading the psychology department at Berkshire Community College.

In 1952, Mordecai and Irma Bauman of Cleveland bought Ambassador Norman P. Davies' estate on Prospect Hill and established Indian Hill Summer camp specializing in music, drama, and art. Mr. Bauman had been head of the Opera Department of the Cleveland Institute of Music as well as cantor and conductor of chorus for the Young Peoples' Congregation, Temple on the Heights. On coming here, he served as cantor at Temple Anshe Amunim for ten years.

On a visit to Israel in 1968, Mr. Bauman arranged through its Ministry of Agriculture to bring back numerous seeds of biblical plants which he grew in his greenhouse.

Stockbridge School in Interlaken was established in 1949 on the Dan Hanna estate by Hans and Ruth Maeder as a coeducational boarding preparatory school. Coming to the school as faculty members, Harry and Reggie Rubinstein later became permanent residents of Lenox, each continuing in the music profession.

The Stockbridge School attracted parents to the area as residents – Thelma (Tommy) Keitlin, for example, formerly of Springfield where she headed the Anti-Defamation League of the state.

Having recently come out of Vienna, Angela Wottitz spent a summer working at Stockbridge School, met and later married Clemens Kalischer, a Berliner. They run the Image Gallery in the old Town Hall where art exhibits are

held during the year and showings of Mr. Kalischer's photography.

Riggs indirectly brought the Berlin couple Karl and Lilly Boecher to Stockbridge when Peggy Best, their friend, joined the staff of Riggs as art teacher. The Boechers were victims of Nazi oppression: Karl, an Aryan, for his political views; Lilly for being Jewish. They managed to hide out in Bavaria where her health was irreparably damaged. Karl joined Stockbridge School as art teacher and has been with Windsor Mountain School for the past ten years. Their guest house near the Red Lion Inn was also an antique shop specializing in silver and pewter.

In town government, Dr. Eugene Talbot, now psychologist to Williams College was for a long period chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. Clemens Kalischer has won election to the planning board and school committee. Nathan George Horwitt, holding appointive office of 'drover', has for several decades been the perennial outspoken citizen at annual town meetings.

The Berkshire Garden Center, an affiliate of the Audubon Society, is a cultural hub of Stockbridge. During the fall and winter, talks are held in the Garden Center building. Having become an amateur authority on wild mushrooms growing in the area, Mr. Horwitt was invited to give a talk there in 1964. When the standees outside were as numerous as the audience filling the building, a hurried call was made to acquire the high school auditorium three miles distant. A half hour later, 300 persons were comfortably seated and the talk with slides proceeded.

The Berkshire Garden Center's annual Autumn Festival is a real country fair. For many years Mrs. Arthur Aronoff has been chairman of 'scarecrows' designed and executed by children. Mrs. Andrew Blau of Pittsfield was in charge of the games division of the Midway.

· II ·

South County

THE thirty-five Jewish families living in Great Barrington are bound together and with their congregation, Havath Sholom (Love of Peace), through one man, Jacob Axelrod, who has been their rabbi for nearly fifty years.

Born in Poland, he entered the Lubom yeshiva when he was ten years old. After three years, he went to a larger city, Novograd Wolinsak, where he continued his studies at its yeshiva. At nineteen he received 'smicha' (ordination). Two years later, leaving behind his wife and infant son to join him subsequently, he emigrated to the United States.

His first post was rabbi and shochot at a Bronx synagogue. His response to an advertisement for a rabbi in the *Yiddish Morning Journal* brought Isadore Karp of Great Barrington to the Bronx where he spent the weekend and decided that Jacob Axelrod would become rabbi of their orthodox congregation.

When the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted a charter in 1926, it read: 'Love of Peace Congregation *Church* of the Jewish Faith.' Eleven years later, through the persistance of Isaac Broverman who was nettled by the error and finally undertook the payment personally for the two required advertisements in the *Berkshire Courier* of 'change of name' and legal fees for a corrected charter, the Commonwealth issued one with the word 'church' omitted.

The founders of Havath Sholom were Leo Kaplan, Max

Gans, Max Slaminsky, David Liss, Isaac Broverman, and Louis Sossner.

Ladies Aid Society, begun in the 1930s, supports Hebrew education at Havath Sholom. According to its president, Rosalind (Mrs. Louis) Levine, it pays for the Hebrew classes for members' children, adult Hebrew evening classes for members (nonmembers pay a tuition fee), and makes contributions to community drives for the blind, etc. Its monthly meetings are educational and fund raising.

Shifra (Mrs. Harry) Deykin and Ella Wohl, national chairman of Hadassah's Youth Aliyah program and a summer resident of Great Barrington, got its chapter of Hadassah organized in 1951. For several years the chapter joined Pittsfield for the annual donor dinner, but in 1956 and 1957 held its own annual dinner with Nathan George Horwitt guest speaker for the first and Hans Maeder for the second. However, in the past two years the chapter has become moribund.

An exceptional Jewish institution having no relationship to the inhabitants of Great Barrington (or the county) is the Joseph Eisner Camp Institute for Living Judaism on the 600-acre estate first established in the 1880s by David Leavitt, a Brooklynite and officer of the New Haven railroad whose tracks had just come through the area. The barn he built was described as the largest in the United States when Horace Greeley wrote about the fire which destroyed it.

William Stanley bought the estate, engaged Carrère and Hastings, architects of the New York Public Library, to design the mansion and Vitale to lay out the gardens.* The estate, called 'Brookside', was sold on Mr. Stanley's death to William H. Walker, co-inventor with Eastman of the film roll holder.

Isaac More Altarez, Yugoslavian educator-philosopher,

*Conversation with Mrs. Christine S. Knowlton, Mr. Stanley's daughter.

purchased Brookside where he founded a 'family school' for seventh graders up through high school with 'preparedness for life' its motivation. The school retained the name Brookside and relocated on Route 183 when the Institute for Living Judaism bought the estate.

Philip and Judith Jaffe, both in the New York City school system, are the directors of the Institute, now in its fifteenth year, offering training to teachers in the reformed religious schools. Groups of 160 student-teachers also meet for seminars held four times a year. They come from Canada, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and all parts of New England. Youth groups have conclaves during the winter and spring vacations and at Thanksgiving.

On the road between Stockbridge and Great Barrington stands the big red barn 'Jennifer House'. Karl K. Lipsky, its owner, had come out of the University of Wisconsin in 1931 an avowed antiques hobbyist. First starting a shop in North Conway, the war's gas rationing diverted him to mail order which he set up in New Marlboro. Later he moved this enterprise of antique reproductions to Route 7 in Great Barrington where both retail selling and mail order are carried on in large volume.

'Sun-Inside' on the Monterey road is an inn, restaurant, and art gallery run by sculptor Fred Lancome and his wife, Lucy, Parisians, who came to the United States in 1940. During the war years, Fred, a trained artist, worked as a hand milker on a purebred dairy farm.

South of Great Barrington, in Mill River, is the farm of Abraham J. Rosenstein, textile manufacturer, which until ten years ago ran a herd of 200 cattle. In those days, an annual early summer 'cause' party was held in the hay barns. Mr. Rosenstein is one of the liberal regulars contributing to 'Letters to the Editor' in the *Berkshire Eagle*. Leo Brenman of Stockbridge was another.

· 12 ·

North County

ATTRACTED to the northern Berkshire Valley by the wool and cotton mills and the shoe factory whose workers provided customers for their wares, the small handful of Jewish settlers before 1880 were soon joined by twenty additional families so that by 1890 there were twenty-five families in North Adams and five in Adams.

They were: Louis Abrams at whose house services were held, David Rudnick, Manes Kronick (was this the Kronick who on arriving in New York was given a railroad ticket by a 'landsman' to the end of the line, North Adams?), Raphael and Abraham Beninowitz, Louis Herstein, Morris Chaim, Louis Hirsch, B. M. Hirsh, Hyman Kronick, Morris Gatslick, Jonah Abramson, Mendel Karp, Issar Kronick, Louis and Abraham Rudman, Jacob Fishstein, Hyman Jacobs, Louis Stone, Harry Reinhard, Abraham Jaffe, Hyman S. Katz, Louis Salkin, and Louis Simon in North Adams. In Adams: Jacob and Joseph Levine who sent for their brothers Morris, Harris, and Max, and later Morris Schwartz at whose house the daily minyan was held, and Morris Schiff.

Subsequent Adamsites were: Sam Sagarin, Morris Katz, Isaac Sokolove, Abraham Stein, Joseph Lev, the Silvermans, Henry Cohen, Karpel Halperin, Louis Davidson, Jacob and Bune Kronick.

These immigrants, coming as they did from Eastern Europe, many from the same province, Minsk, and even from the same town, Kletzk, made a homogeneous group of orthodox Jews with no Sephardic or German strata to conflict with their mode of worship. They have remained so to this day with only a recent turning from strict orthodoxy to conservatism.

North Adams and Adams were one congregation, Beth Israel, which in 1892 built a two-story frame building costing $4,500 and large enough to provide a synagogue, Talmud Torah, Mikvah, and shamos' quarters.

The Chevra Kadisha, formed in 1895 to conduct the prescribed burial rites, were Judah Lieb Strauss, Morris Schiff, Morris Manes, Hyman H. Kronick, and Max Feder, later joined by A. A. Less and Harry Wein.

A splinter group of early Beth Israel members formed their own 'shul' called Chevra Chad Yodim in the 'swamp' area close to their homes. It was known familiarly as the Kleisel (small satellite).

Hospitality to the wayfarer, Hachnosat Orchim, was the responsibility of Mr. and Mrs. Alter Melcher whose home was always open.

The period before and after World War I was full of activity for the community. Hadassah was formed in 1918 by Mrs. Samuel Richton and Mrs. Harry Entin with thirty-nine members. Zionist Organization of America in North Adams was organized by Samuel Richton, Morris Geller, and Philip Solomon, the butcher.

A Y.M.H.A. was established with Harry Wein as president. Its basketball team won the championship in the state. Players were Sam Berger, George and Sam Krouss, Charles Lenhoff, 'Toots' Kronick, Harry Feder, and Jack Less. Ida K. Hirsh, president of the Y.W.H.A. founded in

1919, also helped establish the Sunday School with Dr. Frank Cohen.

To meet the needs of a growing congregation, Beth Israel purchased the Bijou Theatre building in 1920 and remodeled it for synagogue and community use. This spurred furthur activity: the formation of Junior Hadassah, Young Judea, B'nai B'rith Lodge, B'nai B'rith Chapter, and Boy Scout troop with Harry Melcher as scout master and Macy Kronick, senior patrol leader.

In 1925, the president of Beth Israel, Harry Abrams, and its rabbi, Irving Miller, brought these lecturers to North Adams: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Warden Lewis E. Lawes, and Clarence Darrow. The attendance was so large the Drury High School auditorium was used.

Until recently, Beth Israel, although steadily having a cantor-schochet, engaged rabbis only sporadically. Fortunately, Harry Entin faithfully read the Torah at services for thirty years.

Following World War II, a Jewish War Veterans group was formed in memory of Seymour Gittelson, Benjamin Pindick, Gilmore Sherman, killed in that war, and Burton Levenson in the Korean conflict.

The urban renewal plan for North Adams in 1958 caused the merger of the Chevra Chai Yodim with Beth Israel and a year later the purchase of property on Church street and engagement of the Leon Einhorn architectural firm of Albany to design the new building, dedicated in 1962. It serves the Jews in Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Bennington, and Pownal.

The structure was well conceived to provide for every possible need: sanctuary, social halls for large and small meetings with adjoining kitchens, classrooms, well-stocked library whose shelves were built and given by a Shaftsbury,

Vermont, man, Peter Maller, who had come daily to Beth Israel for eleven months to say Kaddish for his father.

Located quite centrally, Beth Israel is able to have a minyan for both morning and evening services. The rabbi's residence is directly across from the synagogue on Porter street.

Four years ago the congregation joined the conservative movement, the noticeable change being that women and men can sit together at services. Paul B. Silton, its current rabbi, was engaged in 1970.*

Jacob Wineberg, who has spread the name Adams throughout the county with his chain of supermarkets, was eighteen years old when he came from Slonim, Grovnick province, Russia, in 1912. After two years in Baltimore and Poughkeepsie where his wife had relatives, he came to Adams where his uncle, Harry Baskin, was in the cattle business. From 1914 on, Jake Wineberg was in the meat business, buying cattle from farmers, slaughtering, and selling to stores. Meat did not come in from the West in those days.

With only $50 in his pocket, he bought his first meat market in Adams for $275, of which $225 was a mortgage. His meeting with the manager of Swift Packing succeeded in obtaining credit, provided he paid twice a week. The second store opened in 1920 on Summer street in Adams. When his son, Mervin, came out of the army in 1946, the first supermarket opened on Park street, Adams. Now the Adams Super Markets, with Jacob Wineberg as chairman of the board, his son, and his son-in-law, Edwin Ginsberg, also at the helm, operate six supermarkets: one each in Adams, North Adams, Great Barrington, and three in Pittsfield.

*Data on Beth Israel from history prepared by Harry Melcher and updated by Mrs. Harold Less and Mrs. Sterling Shapiro.

In Williamstown, five miles west of North Adams, Morris and Fanny Rudnick became the first Jewish family in the early 1900s. Rudnick Cleaners and Launderers has been an institution under their sons.

The second family to move from North Adams in 1934 to Williamstown was Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kalker. Mr. Kalker was president of Sprague Electric Products from 1926 to 1967. Edward H. Goodman, manager of foreign factory plans for Sprague Electric also lives in Williamstown.

When Mayor James Michael Curley of Boston was running for governor in 1935, he made a campaign speech in Williamstown. The heckling from the college students upset him so, he cut short his speech, shouting:

'If I'm elected, I'll see to it you get a judge to sit in Williamstown who'll be a black or a Jew!'*

Israel Ruby of Boston was appointed to the bench by Governor Curley and on his death in 1952, Samuel E. Levine, born in Nova Scotia, district attorney in North Adams for seventeen years, was appointed judge by Governor Devers.

The Williams College Jewish Association was organized in 1952 by Steven Wiener and Richard Maidman, students, as an unstructured group but helped by Hillel with advice and the loan of prayer equipment. With a constant enrollment of 160 Jewish students, its Friday night services were packed. Chapel attendance was compulsory until 1965 so a student whose card was punched for the Friday night service had the whole weekend free.

Lack of a steady meeting place was solved by the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Kuskin of Silver Springs, Maryland, of a permanent room in the chapel building, named in memory of their son, William F. Kuskin, '68, killed in an automobile accident his freshman year.

*Recollections of Edward W. Miller, long-time Williamstown resident.

The Kuskin room has a fine library of Judaica catalogued by the Williams College Library, a lectern, a Sefer Torah, taleysim, and prayer books. Members of the W.C.J.A. themselves conduct the Friday night service.

Monthly Sunday lox-and-bagel brunches are held in the Kuskin room, the college being the commissary department. Twice a semester a 'mixer' is held in the Language Center to which Jewish students at Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Vassar, Wellesley, Skidmore, and Bennington were invited. Now with coeds at Williams College, this may be changed.

While many of the active members of the association read Hebrew and can 'davon' a mile a minute, their small knowledge of the Hebrew language is being expanded by a weekly evening class given by Rabbi Paul B. Silton. Coeds may participate.

Beth Israel has been host to the members of the W.C.J.A. for High Holiday services. During Passover, the college makes available Kosher Shel Pesach food.

Rabbi Meier Kahane and Dave Berg were speakers brought to Williams College by the W.C.J.A. Larry Shoer, of Swampscott, Massachusetts, was president 1970–71. Stephen Birmingham and Elie Wiesel are scheduled for the 1972–73 year, according to Jeffrey K. Seitelman, Brooklyn, New York, 1971–72 president. These programs are open to the public.

Among the faculty of Williams College, sixteen are Jewish. Dean Neil Grabois is informal faculty advisor and Assistant Professor Lawrence Kaplan, biochemistry, official advisor to the Williams College Jewish Association.

Appendix: The Presidents

PITTSFIELD

TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM

Edward Friend
Louis Wolff
H. Goodman
Abraham J. Newman
Louis B. Simon
Joseph R. Newman
Charles M. Wolff
Louis Wolff
Max Rosenthal
Leo Zander
Simon Rosenthal
George A. Newman
James Rosenthal
Dr. Nathan Finkelstein
Michael Eisner
Dr. Benjamin Genn
Dr. Harry J. Handler
Jay C. Rosenfeld
Mayo Robinson
Alan Blau
Nathaniel R. Herbits
Joseph Gross
Dr. J. Harry Fierman
Alan A. Solin
Dr. Morris Taylor
William Pomerantz
Dr. Arthur M. Levy
Burton Coplan
Theodore Herberg
Albert S. Silverman
Mervin Wineberg
Howard Kaufman

SISTERHOOD

Mrs. Samuel Kruss
Mrs. Benjamin Genn
Mrs. Philip Reder Rubin
Mrs. Harry Lazarus
Mrs. Joseph Gross
Mrs. Ellias Miller
Mrs. Nathaniel Herbits
Mrs. Richard Brandt
Mrs. Jack Paley
Mrs. Harry Baker

Mrs. Richard Kaufman
Mrs. Alfred Korkin
Mrs. Arthur M. Levy
Mrs. Alan A. Solin
Mrs. Howard Kaufman
Mrs. Jacob Franklin

MEN'S CLUB
George B. Molner
Maurice I. Lerner
Dr. Arthur M. Levy
Monroe England Jr.
Alfred Korkin
Donald S. Feigenbaum
Milton J. Gordon
Edwin Ginsburg
Ben Ortenberg
William A. Gordon
Nathan Doctrow

HEBREW LADIES AID SOCIETY

Mrs. Adolph Klein
Mrs. Samuel Rothkopf
Mrs. Mary Dresner Levine
Mrs. Nathan Kolman
Mrs. John B. Skole

AHAVATH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE

Paul Nelson
Paul Sandrew
Jacob Block
Jacob Aaronson
Edward Rubin
Harry Horelly

KNESSES ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Harry Blank
Abraham Adelson
Karpel Halperin
Samuel Sagarin
Hyman Cohen
Henry Alperin
Jack Daniels
Herman Garbowit
Daniel Martin
Dr. Robert Gladstone
Dr. David Greengold
Dr. Morris Geller
Paul B. Abkowitz
Isodore Goodman
Dr. Max Fishelson
Albert Hunt
Arthur Stein

SISTERHOOD

Mrs. Paul B. Abkowitz
Mrs. Walter Epstein
Mrs. Leon Lipton
Mrs. Eugene S. Anolick
Mrs. Jack Widitor
Mrs. Albert Hunt
Mrs. Elliot Greenfeld
Mrs. William Haims

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Leon Mohill
Henry Alperin
Albert S. Silverman
Herman Fink
Isabel England
L. George Reder
Bernard H. Starr
William W. Simons
Sanford Lubin
Mrs. Arthur Stein
Dr. Elliot M. Greenfeld

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dr. Sidney M. Zeff
Dr. David Greengold
Dr. Morris Geller
Nathaniel Herbits
Edwin E. Reder
Paul B. Abkowitz
Paul C. Aronstein
Arthur Stein
L. George Reder

B'NAI B'RITH - ADULLUM LODGE

Samuel Bloomberg
Mayo Robinson
Samuel Brandt
Herman Reder
Alan A. Solin
Samuel Adelson
Benjamin Wolfe
Albert S. Silverman
Jacob Aaronson
Charles Adelson
L. George Reder
William Bryer
Albert Alper
Louis Kommit
Joseph Gordon
Leonard S. Lipton
Mark L. Selkowitz
Milton Selkowitz

Benjamin G. Klein
Joel S. Greenberg

LADIES AUXILIARY

Mrs. Samuel Bloomberg
Mrs. Jacob Aaronson
Mrs. Lester Kaplow
Mrs. Alias Miller
Mrs. Jack Daniels
Mrs. Samuel Cutler
Mrs. Earl Rosen
Mrs. Joseph Gordon
Mrs. Philip Reder Rubin
Mrs. Louis Kommit
Mrs. Jacob Block
Mrs. William Gitelson
Mrs. George Frenkel
Mrs. Albert A. Fried

LOUIS GREEN POST OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Named for Louis Green, killed in World War I

CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR II:

Albert Jaffe
Benjamin Kaplan
Bernard Bialor
Saul Lipchitz
Dr. Stanley Cohen
Benjamin Perlman
Gustave Secunda

COMMANDERS:

George Rosen
Benjamin R. Bookless
Leslie Rivlin
Samuel Perlmutter
Dr. Morris Geller
George Miller
Irving Wolfe
Harry Schreck
Morris Rispler
Harvey L. Rubin
Samuel H. Levine
George Phillips
Marvin L. Weiss
Jack Lessoff
Dr. Max Fishelson
George A. Garbowit

HADASSAH

Mrs. Nathan Kolman
Mrs. Paul Nelson
Mrs. Morris Leavitt
Mrs. Samuel Swartz
Mrs. Abe Goodman
Mrs. Morris Levinson

Mrs. John B. Skole
Mrs. Julius Leavitt
Mrs. Arthur Rubin
Mrs. Harry G. Rich
Mrs. Leon Mohill
Mrs. Kenneth Goldblum
Mrs. Monroe England Sr.
Mrs. Jay C. Rosenfeld
Mrs. Max Waxstein
Mrs. Charles L. Pincu
Mrs. David Schainuck
Mrs. Irving I. Rubin
Mrs. M. Robert Briskin
Mrs. Leon Lipton
Mrs. Carl J. Wildman
Mrs. Ellis M. Fribush
Mrs. Leon L. Siegel
Mrs. Phillip Kaminstein

GREAT BARRINGTON

AVATH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE

Sam Rajonsky
Max Gans
Joseph Brickman
Irving Steinberg
Sam Nager
Albert Rapport
Joseph Kaplan
Robert Cummins
Isaac Broverman
Nathan Brickman
Morris Brickman
Harry Deykin
Fred Ketay
Herbert Moskowitz

HEBREW LADIES AID SOCIETY

Mrs. Solomon Nager
Mrs. Samuel Kaplan
Mrs. Max Gans
Mrs. Harry Deykin
Mrs. Isadore Karp
Mrs. Ralph Zenowitz
Mrs. David Schocket
Mrs. Nathan Brickman
Mrs. Simon Budner
Mrs. Herbert Moskowitz
Mrs. Harry Weiss
Mrs. Harry Moskowitz
Mrs. Irving Steinberg
Mrs. Jacob Penziner
Mrs. Eugene Freund
Mrs. Louis Levine

HADASSAH

Mrs. Harry Deykin
Mrs. William Raflowitz
Mrs. Max Gans
Mrs. Leo Loeb
Mrs. Sam Linder
Mrs. Samuel Vagenheim
Mrs. Isadore Karp
Mrs. Ben Slaminsky
Mrs. Albert Chesanow
Mrs. Louis Levine
Mrs. Louis Sossner
Mrs. Max Raflowitz
Mrs. Bernard Green
Mrs. Arthur Stavitsky
Mrs. Robert Drucker

NORTH ADAMS

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Louis Herstein
Jacob Levine
Jacob Cohen
Morris Schiff
Isaac Greenberg
Max Frumkin
Hyman S. Katz
Hyman H. Kronick
Isaac Cohen
Samuel Richton
Jacob M. Lenhoff
Barnet Ark
Harry Wein
Max Feder
Isadore Shapiro
Simon Kronick
Israel Ruby
Isadore Shapiro
Joseph G. Kronick
Harry Melcher
Eugene Wein
Joseph Kronick
Albert Taskin
Benjamin Dolgoff

AUXILIARY (later called SISTERHOOD)

Mrs. Isaac Cohen
Mrs. Morris Kronick
Mrs. Harry Kronick
Mrs. Abraham Hurowitz
Mrs. Joseph Strauss
Mrs. Samuel Frumkin
Mrs. Myles Schiff
Mrs. Chuckrow
Mrs. Harry Jacobs

Mrs. Joseph Rudnick
Mrs. Hyman Katz
Mrs. Openfeld
Mrs. Isaac Cohen
Mrs. David Carr
Mrs. Samuel Shapiro
Mrs. Charles Z. Kronick
Mrs. Alter Melcher
Mrs. David Bashevkin
Mrs. Samuel Richton
Mrs. Samuel Patashnick
Mrs. Jacob Less
Mrs. Samuel Greenberg
Mrs. Samuel Levenson
Mrs. Simon Kronick
Mrs. Philip Melcher
Mrs. Jack Kronick
Mrs. Louis Cramer
Mrs. William Kerson
Mrs. Sterling Shapiro
Mrs. Charles E. Kronick
Mrs. Eugene Wein
Mrs. Benjamin Apkin
Mrs. Laurence Katz
Mrs. Elias Sabin
Mrs. Arthur Richton
Mrs. William Bashevkin
Mrs. Robert Bashevkin
Mrs. Maurice Spitzer
Mrs. Jacob Lev
Mrs. Irving Bashevkin
Mrs. Theodore Lieberman

Mrs. Philip Apkin

HADASSAH

Mrs. Samuel Richton
Mrs. Joseph Strauss
Mrs. Harry Entin
Mrs. David Bashevkin
Miss Sara Sokolove
Mrs. Minnie Manes
Mrs. Simon Kronick
Mrs. Harry Melcher
Mrs. Samuel Levenson
Mrs. Joseph G. Kronick
Mrs. Eli Shapiro
Mrs. Micky Shapiro
Mrs. Oscar Rosenblum
Mrs. William Platt
Mrs. Samuel Kronick
Mrs. Harold Schiff
Mrs. Sterling Shapiro
Mrs. Morton Freedman
Mrs. Harold Less
Mrs. Philip Apkin
Mrs. Charles Kronick
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Mrs. Benedict Rosen

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