

" I REMEMBER BORO PARK "

by

Dr. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Volume II

(1988 - 1995)

**BORO PARK
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
1996**

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America came of age, with the Bicentennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence in 1976. The nationwide celebrations were influential in giving history a new and more important significance in the American mind.

At about this time, Dr. Philip J. Kipust, a well respected teacher, guidance counselor and principal in yeshiva education, was asked by Jacque Friedman, editor and publisher of the Boro Park Community News, to write a continuing column for the newspaper.

In keeping with the mood of the country and the great deal of interest shown by the readers in historical information, the column was soon renamed, "I Remember Boro Park" and dealt mainly with local historical topics.

A direct result of the interest shown in this column would soon lead to the formation of the Boro Park Historical Society, with Jacque Friedman and Dr. Philip J. Kipust as its co-founders.

The purposes of the Historical Society was to gather, preserve and publicize the history of the area and to instill pride in the local community by this knowledge.

The letters, received by the columnist, research articles written by officers of the Society and other material soon created a wealth of historical knowledge that documented the interesting, but little known history of Boro Park.

A newspaper column, although very interesting to read, is not a very good historical research tool, since the copies of the newspaper get scattered and are soon lost.

To correct this problem, the column was cut out of the paper, photo-copied and bound into one volume covering the years :1976 to 1987. Copies of the bound volume were placed in various local libraries and sold to interested individuals. The library copies became a source of local history information to students and researchers.

By 1996 sufficient columns had been published in the newspaper between the years 1988 and 1995 to warrant the publication of Volume II, of the " I Remember Boro Park" column.

For technical reasons, no attempt has been made to correct various errors that have cropped up in the column. The column is published exactly as it appeared in the Boro Park Community News.

A Table of Contents and Index have been provided for each volume for the convenience of the readers. The column, of course, will continue to be published in the Boro Park Community News.

Dario S. Marotta
May 1996

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"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

We appreciate the letters and stories submitted by readers about their own memories and histories of the Community. From the many positive comments we receive we know that the other readers appreciate these items also.

LOPINTO MEMORIES

The following interesting letter was sent by Marjorie LoPinto. We thank her for her important contribution and wish her well.

Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Re: "I Remember Boro Park"
c/o Boro Park Community News

By Marjorie R. LoPinto
5211 Fort Hamilton Pkwy.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Some months ago, I was very pleased to read the Boro Park recollection by Arthur Spagna. Mr. Spagna was, and as far as I am concerned, still is one of the most popular and respected attorneys in Boro Park.

My memories of Boro Park begin after World War II. I was very young, but remember moving from New Jersey into a 2nd floor apartment at 5513 New Utrecht Ave. The neighborhood was a mixture of Italians, Jews, Irish and German. On the corner of 55th Street there was a supermarket owned by David and Ethel Steigman, my brother Johnny worked there delivering orders and also as stockboy. This is now children's design a Young Peoples Furn. Store. There was a special atmosphere of joy in the neighborhood at that time because the war had finally ended and our armed forces assisted by the Jews by the allies ended Hitler's holocaust by liberating the Jews from the concentration camps.

In the following years, I recall living at 130 Clara Street, 941 46th Street; on 39th Street between 15th and 16th Avenues; on 53rd Street across from the monastery. I attended many schools in Boro Park, but my happiest memories of Boro Park

were when I lived on 46th Street. I attended P.S. 220 Junior High (Pershing J.H.S.). There my classmates were Jews, Italians, Irish, German, Swede and Norwegian. It was such a happy time for us. I was young, carefree with so many friends, and not a care in the world. I cannot recall any aggression or anti-semitism among us or in our neighborhood.

Boro Park was our playground and Sunset Park our summer resort. During Passover holiday my Jewish friends mothers would give me macaroons and other delicacies. Until today the macaroon is still my favorite cookie. And because I had so

many Jewish mothers, I learned many Jewish words and sayings. I don't know where they are now, but I'm neighborhood and there were many including the cheaper priced theatres, the Ritz, which is now Mets supermarket

on 8th Ave. off or 46th St. The Normandy on 42nd St. and New Utrecht Ave. It's really incredible because there WERE movie theatres right in the heart of Boro Park - and now there are none! And yes, there were Ice Cream Parlors galore in Boro Park. The days of youth and glory are gone - and every thing else is too! Hey! "What Happened to Boro Park!" - From what I've seen happening here - It's all over but the memories - well at least I have those wonderful memories. To quote Barbara Streisand's great song: "It's the Laughter - I will Remember. Whenever, I remember. The Way We Were."

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Unfortunately, I am forced to move from "My Boro Park of Yesterday." My apartment house was purchased by Hasidic Jews, and resold to the Obel Society, causing me to vacate. Trying to find an apartment in Boro Park now - is like looking for a needle in the haystack. So now, Goodbye Boro Park.

Sincerely,
Nargar and Rose LoPinto

BILL AND ESTHER BORD

(The following article was submitted by Lucille Posner, member of the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Committee. We thank her for this interesting contribution.)

ESTHER BORD

I was one-year old when I moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side, together with my parents, Minnie and Philip Merkin, my brothers Seymour, Hymie, and Joe, and my sister, Charlotte. The year was 1906.

Our first address was 1252 39th Street, where the Jewish section was then located. Italian and Irish people also lived near us. My father bought his house and opened a fur shop on the second floor. My mother helped in the business by sewing linings in fur coats.

A blacksmith shop was located on 39th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues, but it soon went out of existence since automobiles were rapidly becoming popular. A cleaning factory is on that site now.

When I was 12 years old my father opened a fur store at 4406 13th Avenue: Philip Merkin, Reliable Furrier. (He subsequently moved his business to 4611 13th Avenue and remained there until he retired in 1950.)

At that time there were stores on 13th Avenue in the area from 39th Street to 45th Street. The rest of 13th Avenue consisted of large houses, two to a block (i.e., two houses from 48th to 49th Streets), surrounded by beautiful grounds. These houses were later torn down and stores built on their sites.

In 1918, my parents bought a house at 1338 47th Street, where I still live today with my husband and daughter, Marilyn.

My son, Marshall, attended P.S. 164 and my daughter, Marilyn, attended P.S. 103 and Montauk Jr. High School. From 1942 to 1947, I taught a class for retarded children in P.S. 164 (my old school).

I first met my husband, Bill, in 1918 when I was 13 years old. He lived across the street from me. I liked him immediately but, wise in feminine wiles, didn't let him know. We became engaged in August, 1928 and married in December, 1928.

OLYMPIA BORO PARK ATHLETIC CLUB

(The following article was written and submitted by Dominic Suplina, a member of the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Committee. We thank him for this interesting contribution.)

In 1925 a group of teenager 15 to 16 years old formed a baseball team. Most of the individuals involved lived on 49th and 50th St. between 11th Ave. and New Utrecht Ave. and on 11th Ave. between 49th and 50th St.

The original members were Matty Lundberg, Harold Christie, Herman Erlanger, Mike Acerno, Larry Lundberg, Bill Natalie, Vincent Fischelli, Andy Belucci, Joe Matera and a few others whose names cannot be recalled.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK.

This team with some changes took the name of "OLYMPIA" and in 1934 were incorporated as the "OLYMPIA B.P.A.C." (Olympia Boro Park Athletic club)

The team eventually played in the "INTER COMMUNITY LEAGUE," playing most of it's games at Parade Grounds (Park Circle) and in 1929 won the Class B championship and in 1930 took second place in it's division.

The members of the 1929 winning team were Andy Belucci, Bill Natalie, Lou Sadallah, Larry Lundberg, Fred DeVito, Vinny Fischelli, Matty Lundberg, Dominic Suplina, Joe Addonizzo, Herman Erlanger, Harold Christie, Joe Matera, Fred Lisanti, Mike Acerno.

In 1930 the OLYMPIAS were invited to play a game, against the OLYMPICS of Flatbush, at the Yankee Stadium. This took place in the morning, prior to a Yankee afternoon game. The OLYMPIAS of Boro Park won the game 9-5. it was the thrill of a life time.

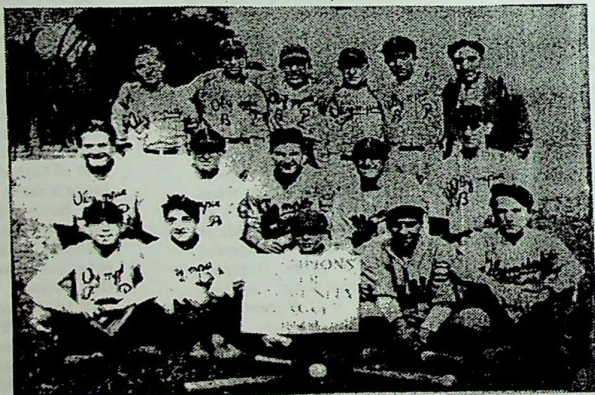
The team with numerous changes played well into the thirties.

In 1934, approximately the Olympia Club was formed into a Social Club. The club rooms were situated above a store at 4910 New Utrecht Ave.

We had many socials and "Barn Dances." We also ran Annual Dances, at Memorah Temple (14th Ave.) Bossert Hotel and the St. George Hotel.

In the late thirties, due to marriages and members moving away, the Club was disbanded.

At present to the best of my knowledge, there are only two members still living in Boro Park.



1929

Left to Right

Back Row: - Andy Belucci, Willie Natalie, Lou Sadallah, Larry Lundberg, Fred DeVito, Vinny Christie
Middle Row: - Vinny Fischelli, Matty Lundberg, Dom Suplina, Joe Addonizzo, Herman Erlanger
Front Row: - Harold Christie, Joe Matera, Joe Lisanti, Fred Lisanti, Mike Acerno

BILL BORO

In December, 1914, when I was a boy of 14, I moved to Boro Park from the Bronx with my parents, Rachel and Isaac Boro, my sister, Gertrude, and my brothers George and Benny. Our first home in Boro Park was 1319 47th Street, which is still stand-

ding. My father manufactured men's work shirts, so we were well off.

Boro Park was really like a part in those day, because of the many trees and gardens. In fact, 47th Street, at least between 13th and 14th Avenues, was not a city street at that time, but was under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. The center of the gutter was paved with wooden blocks and was surrounded by unpaved dirt. The Parks Department maintained 47th Street. Housewives who swept their leaves into the gutter before 8:00 A.M. had the advantage of having the Parks Department dispose of it. 47th Street is the only street in Boro Park that I know of which was not under the jurisdiction of the city. In addition, one side of 47th Street was zoned for one-family houses and the other side was zoned for two-family houses. That zoning law is no longer in effect.

I remember Goldman's grocery store on 45th Street and 13th Avenue; Goldstein's Bakery was on the same block. S Weiss, Haberdasher was located on 13th Avenue and 43rd Street — his son still maintains the business, now located on 13th Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets. Mr. Rothstein owned a pushcart on 13th Avenue near 40th Street; he later opened Rothstein's Department Store on 13th Avenue and 39th Street.

I remember vegetable farms around 18th Avenue — cows grazed there.

When Temple Beth-El moved to its present location at 15th Avenue and 48th Street, my parents became Life Members. My parents willed their seats to my wife and I — I still sit in my father's seat and my wife sits in my mother's seat during the High Holidays.

There was no subway then and trains ran at ground level on the same route that the West End does today. There were no wooden platforms at the various stations — a person stepped off the train into the dirt (or mud, when it rained). Later, a trolley car ran along New Utrecht Avenue, which we took to travel to Coney Island.

The world-famous Cantors Hirschman and Rosenblatt lived on 47th Street; they led congregations in Boro park.

My wife, Esther, lived across the street from me, on 47th Street. Since I was five years older than her, she did not interest me. As we both grew older, I fell for her beauty and charm, and married her in 1928.

When Esther and I were first married we lived at 4515 12th Avenue for two years, in one of the first apartment houses in Boro Park. That building is still standing. We then moved to her parents' house, where we still live today.

Between us, my wife and I have lived in Boro Park for a total of 154 years. Our life has been pleasant. We have many happy memories of friendly neighbors and a good community spirit.

Readers are invited to submit their own stories/photos and memorabilia. Help us complete the history of Boro Park and preserve it. Membership dues for 1988 are due now, \$5 per

member, \$3 for retired, \$10 for organizations and business. Send materials and dues to the Boro Park Historical Society 4810-13 Ave. 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust BORO PARK CENTENNIAL PLUS 2-CELEBRATION

A Planning Committee of Community leaders has been formed to help plan and organize the Centennial Plus Two Celebration of Boro Park in 1988. Leaders of government, community organizations, schools, religious institutions and business, are invited to participate. The next planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 29, 1988 at 7:45 pm at the Greater New York Savings Bank, 13th Ave. and 53rd Street, in the Community Room downstairs. At this meeting election of celebration officers will take place, additional suggestions for celebration activities will be heard and approved, and a calendar of events will be formulated. Several activities have already been approved.

Encourage your organization leader to attend or send his representative. Lets plan for a great Boro Park Celebration.

HANNAH HARRIS

The following interesting article was written by Hannah Harris and submitted by Lucille Posner. We thank Ma. Posner and Ms. Harris for this interesting contribution to the historical record of this Community.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I moved to Boro Park when it really was a park!

Boro Park received its name from the fact that it looked like a park — there were many beautiful trees. There were no attached houses — each house was surrounded by a garden, whether large or small. There were no apartment houses then, but there were some four-story walk-ups. There were unpaved mud gutters; there were paved sidewalks, however.

This was in 1913. I was just a toddler when I, together with my father, Chaim Harris, my mother, Frieda, and my younger sister, moved to Boro Park from Harlem. My parents had

emigrated from Poland a few years before. (Eventually two other children were born, making a total of three girls and one boy.)

Our first rented apartment was around 42nd Street, which was then the Jewish section. There was no elevated subway. A railroad ran along the route of the present B train.

My guess estimate is that at that time the Jewish population of Boro Park numbered about 25 percent. I remember many Italians, but am not sure of the nationality or religion of the other non-Jews.

My parents were Orthodox and attended Temple Beth-El, then located at 42nd Street and 12th Avenue.

We attended P.S. 164. After school, we attended Machzke Talmud Torah, then located on 43rd Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. (The building is

still there.) It was a co-ed Talmud Torah. We studied the Hebrew language and Jewish history. We also belonged to clubs sponsored by the Tamud Torah: music clubs, writing clubs, and Young Judea. There was also a children's choir, which performed at services on Jewish holidays. Special services were held for children. The clubs were co-ed but seating at the services was separate for boys and girls.

Movies were 5 cents in those days. The Garden Movie Theater, located at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue (where the lumberyard is now) had a yard where open air movies were shown. This was an important

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feature in those days of no air conditioning. A movie theater located on 43rd Street and 16th Avenue also had a yard where open air movies were shown. We children had a friend who lived next door to this theater — we leaned out of her window and saw movies free! It didn't matter if we weren't able to hear because movies were silent then anyway.

Dr. Margaretten, of the famous Horowitz-Margaretten family of prepared kosher foods, had his practice on 13th Avenue between 51st Street and 52nd Street. Dr. Schwartz, our family doctor, had his office on 46th Street and 13th Avenue. 16th Avenue was more desirable for offices at that time because a trolley car ran along its entire length. Although Dr. Schwartz would have preferred having his office on 16th Avenue, the rents were higher there, so Dr. Schwartz settled for 13th Avenue. Dr. Schwartz was also a Hebrew poet and a book of his poetry was published.

Israel Zion Hospital was already in existence, but it was very small. There were no ambulances in Boro Park. One Shabbos afternoon, during a Chanukah party at the Menorah Temple, a man ate too many potato pancakes and got sick. A doctor borrowed a wheelbarrow and wheeled the man to his office.

I enjoyed watching the lamplighters lighting the gas lamps. Some lamplighters were roller skates.

As there were very few stores in Boro Park in those days, housewives depended heavily on horses and wagons for produce, milk, and baked goods, such as Dugan's cakes.

Boro Park was largely farmland. It wasn't unusual to see chickens in peoples' yards. On 39th Street and 13th Avenue there was a farm where people bought eggs and milk.

I remember when there was a Christian country club on 13th Avenue. Together with its large garden, it extended from 50th Street to 51st Street on 13th Avenue. My father was one of a group of people who bought it and turned it into Etz Chaim Yeshiva. Many Jews moved to Boro Park so their children could attend Etz Chaim, whose Hebrew language and secular programs were equally excellent. Later, I myself taught kindergarten at Etz Chaim.

People didn't lock their doors in those days — people weren't concerned about thieves. Children felt free to walk into friends' houses if no one was at home and help themselves to a snack in the icebox. On hot nights doors were left ajar. In those days, before air conditioning, people slept on their porches and in their backyards.

When I was a child, the Boro Park Library was located on 56th Street between a New Utrecht and 14th Avenues, directly across from the Infants

Home, in one small room in a wooden storefront. (I heard the library was originally housed in a room at one of the Protestant churches.) The library had very few books — for a larger selection, we children used to go to the Kensington Library. To get there, we walked along Old New Utrecht Road. To the best of my recollection, Old Utrecht Road began where it does now, on 52nd Street between 17th and 18th Avenues, and then ran at a slant through Boro Park. Old New Utrecht Road was then an unpaved dirt road. As many people had already built houses directly on Old Utrecht Road, there was the right of passage through private property, close to the sides of peoples' houses.

Old New Utrecht Road reached 16th Avenue at 44th Street. There are three frame houses still standing on 44th Street and 16th Avenue, which are built on a slant: 1803, 1806, and 1807 44th Street. In those days, these three houses all faced toward Old

New Utrecht Road (which now ends at 49th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues). Old New Utrecht Road then continued at a slant until it reached 39th Street and 14th Avenue where, to the best of my recollection, it ended.

Incidentally, New Utrecht Avenue is the other avenue which runs at a slant through Boro Park.

The Boro Park Library soon moved into a larger storefront on 13th Avenue between 62nd and 53rd Streets, and consequently carried many more books. As many intellectual Jews and Italians were moving into Boro Park, the library received heavy use.

Boro Park was a beautiful place, a friendly place, a good place for children to grow up in. There was never any strife between Jews and non-Jews. We children played together in the streets. There were friendly feelings between people of different religions.

STEPHEN LONGSTREET

The following correspondence with a famous former Boro Parker was submitted by Thelma Fox. We thank them for this interesting contribution.

Dear Thelma:

How kind of you to recall for me the Boro Park years, which were mainly the 1930's. As for what I've done — who's who can give you some idea, the libraries have at least a dozen of my book on their shelves. "The Pedlocks" has just come out in a new edition, "High Button Shoes" which ran 3 years on B'way — is still being played across the country. You can get prints of my films for showup — from "The Joleen Story," "Uncle Harry," "Stallion Road," and others to what ever may come to cassettes.

I enclose some material for your collections — and so, the best of luck to you for keeping Boro Park shining in the sun.

Cordially

Stephen Longstreet

TEMPLE BETH EL (Part III)

The following article, research-

ed and written by B.M. Selevan, is the third of a series on the oldest Synagogue in Boro Park. Mr. Selevan is chairman of research for the B.P.H.S. and we thank him for this important contribution.

DEDICATION OF NEW TEMPLE BETH-EL OF BOROUGH PARK

In May 1923, the new Temple Beth-El was dedicated.

The Brooklyn Eagle of April 23, 1923, reported on the upcoming event, carrying a picture of the new temple with a story entitled "Imposing Temple to Be Dedicated By Borough Park Jews on May 12." It was reported that "The officers and members of congregation Beth-El of Borough Park have announced that the building will be dedicated on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 13, 14 and 15.

An elaborate program has been arranged. A big motorcade parade will be held at 1 o'clock on Sunday, May 13, from the Hebrew Institute on 13th Ave. and 50th St. at 2 o'clock the builder, H. Wilner, will hand over the key to Morris Kulok.

Many prominent rabbis, high city and state officials and members of the judiciary have accepted invitations to be present. Cantor Mordecai Hershman will officiate. On Sunday evening a banquet will be tendered to the officers and members. On Monday evening, May 14, the Young Folks League of Temple Beth-El will entertain...

On Tuesday evening, May 15, the Sisterhood will be sponsors for a concert to be rendered by the Cantors' Association of America. Cantor Mordecai Hershman will act as soloist and Prof. Zavel Zilbert will conduct.

This temple, declared to be the most spacious, most imposing in architecture and most gorgeously decorated of all synagogues of America, when fully completed will show an outlay in excess of three-quarters of a million dollars, is the outgrowth of a small congregation that started about 19 years ago with a membership of 35 men.

The arrangement committee for the dedication comprises H.I. Barnett, chairman; I. Andron, secretary; M. Aronson, D. Becka, M. Bergman, M. Bienenstock, S. Brinberg, J. Dorfman, Dr. A.M. Edelman, treasurer; L. Flaxman, L.J. Frank, S. Kabatsky, I. Karp, W. Kornblum, L. Kramer, M. Kulok, A. Levin, S.A. Levy, M. Meiselman, M. Mapelbaum, W. Paekela, L. Rosensweig, A. Schlitten, S.J. Silverman, S. Soroko, S. Streiser, H. Wilner, A. Wohl."

On May 13, 1923, the new Temple Beth-El was dedicated. The following day, May 14, 1923, the Brooklyn Eagle carried a report on the ceremonies of the previous day, entitled "URGE ATTENTION TO JEWISH CHILDREN," subtitled "Speakers at Dedication of Temple Beth El See Danger." It was reported that "Temple Beth El, 15th ave. and 48th st., one of the most spacious and best decorated synagogues of America, and constructed at a cost of more than \$750,000, was dedicated yesterday afternoon with appropriate and elaborate exercises. The need of educating the children of today to their Religious Responsibilities was stressed by Louis Marshazz. Supreme Court Justice Edward Lazansky, County Judge J. Grattan MacMahon and the many prominent members of the Jewish ministry who spoke during the dedication exercises.

Louis Marshall, who was introduced by Hyman I. Barnett, chairman of the arrangements committee, who acted as chairman, as "the greatest living lawyer and American Jew," said that the Jews should not fear being destroyed by their enemies, but that their worry should lie in a fear that their children would not be brought up to be proper Jews. He said, in part:

"Dedicating a house of worship on Mother's Day is indeed appropriate, for what could be more fitting than to renew our devotion to that greatest of all mothers—"Religion." But it is not the mere building alone that counts. It is the men and women who pray here that will constitute the synagogue. I have no fear of our enemies. We have had them for 3,000 years and more and we are still prospering.

"G-d rue the day when our children stop being taught the precepts to Judaism. If we don't rear up our children to be good Jews what will become of them? Judaism is not merely lip service, but living. A sad day will come to Judaism when we forget our teachings. Of the 300,000 Jewish children in this city, only 50,000 are getting Jewish training. What will become of the other 250,000? Will they become protagonists of our faith? It is the duty of every Jew not only to help build a temple, but also to build, a love for religion in the hearts of their children. The people of Israel can count on obloquy and hate, as they have in the past, but I do not fear, faith."

Justice Lazansky stressed the same points made by Mr. Marshall and took the opportunity to condemn spreading lawlessness."

The dedication of the great new Synagogue was advertised in the Jewish Morning Journal newspaper with large advertisements which give interesting information. An advertisement I have went as follows (my translation from Hebrew and Yiddish) "DEDICATION of the largest and nicest Orthodox Shul in the world TEMPLE BETH-EL 15th avenue and 48th street, Borough Park will take place Sunday, 27 Iyar, 5683 Sunday May 13 about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Prominent Rabbis, State and City officials will speak The famous Chazan Mordechai Herschman with Machtengergs' double choir will take part. Music by Professor Kahn.

Monday, 28 Iyar 5683-May 14 Young Folks Night. A musical concert-A Siyum Hatorah...The greatest night for the young Jewish generation of America.

Tuesday, 29 Iyar, 5683-May 15 Sisterhood night. Governor (Alfred E.) Smith will appear. A great Chazanim concert of over 75 members of the Captors' union of America with Chazan Mordechai Herschman as soloist and Prof. Zavel Zilbert as choir leader.

Everyone from New York and vicinity must make up to be in attendance in these three important days.

Tickets available every night in the temple by the committee.

The Jewish Morning Journal also carried a story on the Friday preceding of a special guest, Harav Hagaon R. Yosef Meir Levin, the Rabbi of the great Russian synagogue of Cincinnati who came to attend the Chanukas Habayis.

SUBMIT YOUR OWN STORIES Readers are invited to submit their own family histories and "memories" of Boro Park Photos and other memorabilia are welcome.

Join the Boro Park Historical Society, dues \$5 a year, retired \$3. Help research, preserve and publish the history of this community.

Boro Park Historical Society
4810-13th Ave.
Bklyn' NY 11219

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust Controversy Over Anniversary Celebration

We publicized previously that a planning committee had been formed for the celebration of the Centennial plus 102nd anniversary of Boro Park. Some objections were raised recently about the correct number of the Boro Park anniversary. This led to a debate and disagreement amongst interested members of the society. We'd like to summarize the positions taken by the two sides and ask our leaders to voice their opinions on the subject.

The factual background of this controversy is as follows: In 1886 some land was purchased in this area and was developed into the community then called Blythbourne. In 1898 another section of land next to Blythbourne was purchased by State Senator Reynolds and developed into the community called Borough Park. Some years later the name of the Blythbourne section was changed to Borough Park.

One side contends that we should be celebrating the 102nd anniversary of Boro Park because that is when part of the present Boro Park community started. They claim that the start of a community or institution or organization is not determined by when it received its current name but by when it physically began its development. They therefore argue that we should celebrate the centennial plus two anniversary of Boro Park. The other side claims that Borough Park first began in 1898 when that name was first given to the new development. They point out that since we are celebrating the anniversary of Borough Park we should consider it to have started when the new area adjacent to Blythbourne was started and the name Boro Park was first used. They therefore contend that we should now be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Borough Park Community.

We'd like to invite our readers' views on this controversy. The Boro Park Historical Society and the Planning Committee are considering some kind of compromise in order to satisfy both points of view. However the views expressed by our readers and community members will be given serious consideration in this debate.

In the meantime plans are going ahead for the celebration of the centennial plus two or 90th anniversary of the Borough Park Community.

Come to the open meeting Monday March 21, 1988 at 7:45 PM at the Greater N.Y. Savings Bank 53rd St. and 13th Ave. in the Community Room, and express your thoughts.

A special community gathering and reception is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 1, 1988 at the Boro Park branch of the Public Library. Prominent speakers, displays, and another video of Boro Park are planned for that afternoon. A series of other celebration activities are being planned for the rest of the year as well. The B.P.H.S. would also appreciate some suggestions for celebration activities in addition to your views on the controversy. Send all replies to B.P.H.S. 4810-13th Ave. 11219.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your membership my sincerest congratulations upon your forthcoming commemoration of The Boro Park Centennial Plus 2 Anniversary.

(Continued on pg. 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

(Continued from pg. 2)

Having represented Boro Park on Community School and Board District 20 for the past fifteen years, I have come to appreciate the unique position Boro Park cherishes in the world of education.

Our community has one of the largest concentrations of Jewish educational institutions anywhere in the world. Representing practically every major Hasidic and general Jewish educational point of view, Boro Park offers one of the most diverse and colorful educational settings that one can find anywhere.

While replicating many of the features of the shtetl, Boro Park has also come to stand for some of the most up-to-date, modern, sophisticated and practical communal and service structures found anywhere in our city. This has helped enhance the quality of life for the many thousands who utilize the facilities of the Boro Park Y, the services of the Council of Jewish Organizations, the various self-help and charitable organizations such as N'ehai, Tomche Shabbos, Bikkur Cholim and, last but not least, our cherished Hatzala organization.

Famed as the mecca of Jewish liturgical music, Boro Park has also been the home, in previous generations, to Zavel Kwartin and David Kusevitsky of Temple Emanu-el, Mordacai Herschman, Moshe Koussavitsky and Moshe Stern of Temple Beth-El and Yossele Rosenblatt of the Sephardic Shul. Today it still serves as the home base for the world famous Ben-Zion Miller.

Having been born and raised on New York's Lower East Side, I have come to cherish the value of neighborhood history and pride. The lower East Side swelled with history on each and every one of its streets.

So too has Boro Park, and with the passage of time and with careful and diligent research and archival facilities, The Boro Park Historical Society will surely help preserve the best of the past as a legacy for the generations of the future.

Again, congratulations upon a job well done.

Respectfully yours,
Alan Jay Gerber
Member Community School
Board 20

More On B'klyn Doctors Hospital

In the past much interest was indicated by our readers when we discussed Brooklyn Doctors' hospital, the hospital building, now the Beth Jacob Seminary, was situated on 15 ave. corner 45 St. Mr. B.M. Selevan, Chairman of Research for the B.F.H.S. submitted three items found in the Obituary column of the Brooklyn Eagle. The first article dated Wednesday March 21, 1951 reads as follows:

Dr. Philip Mininberg, Owned Brooklyn Doctors Hospital

Funeral services for Dr. Philip Mininberg, an obstetrician, who owned and operated Brooklyn Doctors Hospital, formerly the

Borough Park Maternity Hospital, at 4421 15th Ave., were held yesterday at the Riverside Chapel, Ocean Parkway and Coney Island Ave. He died Monday at his home in Stamford, Conn., at the age of 62. His Brooklyn residence was at 9 Prospect Park West.

Dr. Mininberg, a native of the Ukraine, was brought to the United States as a child, and received his medical diploma from New York University in 1915, since then he had practiced medicine in Brooklyn. He had been head of the maternity hospital here for the last 28 years.

Dr. Mininberg was a member of the Kings County Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Medical Guild, Mun Masonate Lodge, and the N.Y.U., Alumni Federation.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Helen Mininberg; a son H. Bruce Mininberg; two daughters, Mrs. Audrey Trussel and Mrs. Beverly Edelman, four sisters, Mrs. Rose Dorchin, Mrs. Doris Pinto, Mrs. Lena Blum and Mrs. Motly Criss, and a grandson.

The second article dated November 11, 1951 reads:

Hospital To Unveil Portrait Today of Dr. Mininberg

A portrait of the late Dr. Philip Mininberg, together with a tablet, will be unveiled and dedicated at 4 p.m. today in the lobby of Brooklyn Doctors Hospital, 4421 15th Ave. Supreme Court Justice Walter R. Hart will preside at the ceremonies, which will be open to the public.

Mr. Mininberg, founder of the hospital and a widely known physician, died March 19. Associated with the hospital for 28 years when he died.

The portrait and tablet are being presented to the hospital by the medical staff and personnel as a memorial to the noted physician.

The third article dated April 14, 1954 reads:

Widow, 3 Children Of Dr. Mininberg To Share Estate

Dr. Philip Mininberg, who owned and operated Brooklyn Doctors Hospital at 4415 15th Ave., left a \$346,856.43 estate, according to a tax appraisal on file today in Brooklyn Surrogate's Court.

The estate consisted mostly of the hospital, valued at \$250,000 and a nurses' residence at 4420 15th Ave. Dr. Mininberg resided at 9 Prospect Park West when he died on March 19, 1951.

One-half of the estate in trust goes to Mrs. Helen Mininberg, the widow. We we thank Mr. Selevan for this interesting contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Thought you might be interested in this list of Boro Park "firsts." This was from the book, *The Blythe Bourne*, (the former name of Boro Park), an unpublished manuscript by Ruth Whitney Hadley Beal, which is in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society.

1st doctor - Dr. Charles Harvey

Hadley practiced from 1890 to 1915:

1st undertaker - Herbert Wycoff.
1st Post Office - Blythebourne Post Office, corner 13th Ave. and 55th Street (a store was also located on the premises).

1st public school - P.S. 103, erected in the 1880's, on 14th Avenue, from 53rd to 54th Street (the building now houses a Satmar yeshiva).

1st bank - Cooperative Building Bank.

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

In the period which the book covers (1890 to 1915), most stores were located on New Utrecht Avenue. 13th Avenue was then a residential street.

1st bakery - Essling's Bakery (Specialties: Charlotte Russe, cream puffs, lemon cookies. Also, baked beans with pork on Saturdays, to be eaten for Sunday night supper).

1st toy store - Mrs. Whelan's Variety Store (also sold penny candy).

1st drugstores - Julius de Naergard Blythebourne Pharmacy, Fred Stevens Pharmacy (also had an ice cream counter).
1st movie house - Kay's Hall, 56th Street and New Utrecht Avenue.

1st plumber - Mr. Donegan.
1st hardware store - H.M. Dickover & Sons Hardware.
1st Chinese laundry - Wing Lee.
LUCILLE POSNER

YIDDISH SPEAKING ROSE

This past summer, I had cause to be outdoors, many days, on lower 13th Avenue near 37th Street. During that period of time, I met a multitude of people of all ages, races and creeds. I became friendly with most

because they had to pass by me to get to their destination; be it food or clothing stores, work or transportation.

Most of them stopped to chat with me, and so I learned a great deal about the type of people who frequent Boro Park whether as residents or transients.

One woman, in particular, who usually walked arm-in-arm with her husband, fascinated me. It was difficult to distinguish whether she was Jewish or Italian, from her looks and speech.

However, she started conversing with me in "Yiddish" one day, and was most eloquent in her speech, using "Yiddish" expressions, idioms and proverbs, and even old time songs which my grandmother had taught me. She also sang songs from the 'Jewish Theater,' with the greatest of ease.

When she said that she was of Italian descent, I was hard put to believe her. But when she told me how and where she had learned the "Yiddish" language, I earnestly beseeched her to write the story of her youth, in Boro Park; and how she came to know this language so well.

The following story was, written by Rose (she prefers her last name to remain anonymous) in her own inimitable style. It was submitted to me, to be used in the 'I Remember Boro Park' column.

Thelma Fox

"DOWN MEMORY LANE"
"BORO PARK" CIRCA
1915-1930

44th and 45th STREETS
AND 14th AVENUE

In those days the word was "Comradery." What a musical sound! Our melting pot, comprised Jews, Italians, Polish, and even our Chinese laundryman. You name it, we had it.

We attended, births christenings, confirmations, bar mitzvah's, and weddings, no matter whose! We laughed, cried, and shared all occasions as one big happy family. (Gospel truth!)

In Rothstein's Dept Store, where many bargains were bought, we received courteous attention and no hassle, when we returned merchandise for refunds. Even "Bubbie" and "Zadie" shopped there.

The big jewelry store on 13th Avenue was "Groveman," where you would find "baubles, bangles and beads," and "crosses" and "mazzizahs." There was also a very fine selection of gold articles. The Groveman store had a tremendous clock, standing on the street, in front of the store, which was visible for many blocks. Truly a landmark!

Our food market was outdoors on 13th Avenue, between 39th and 40th Streets. In the winter months, the peddlers jumped up and down to keep their feet and bodies warm, and warmed their hands over a fire, in a large ash can. Brr!

Our then Mayor of New York City, Fiorella La Guardia, built a tremendous indoor market, which thrived for many a year. "See you in the market," was a common date.

The school we attended was P.S. 164 on 14th Avenue, between 42nd and 43rd Streets. On our way to school we carried a few cents, and gosh did they go far!! A pound of peanuts, red hot went for a nickel. A Nestle Bar, so thick you had to struggle to break it apart! Cost 2-3 red pennies.

Arriving at school, we had very strict (Irish) teachers, who ruled with an iron hand. They really taught; so if you had only half a brain, they reached it!

The "Yiddish" moms made their own Elixer, "Chicken Soup," which was the cure-all for any sickness.

A ride on the subway, from Brooklyn to the Concourse on spotless trains, cost a "whopping" nickel.

Bring back, bring back, oh bring back our old Boro Park!!

Wishful Thinking! Shalom!

Rose
We thank both Rose and Thelma Fox, a member of the B.P.H.S. Executive Committee, for their interesting contributions.

Why not submit your own memories and memorabilia about Boro Park. Join the Boro Park Historical Society, \$5 per year, at 4810-13th Ave.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust BORO PARK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us at the 102-90 celebration of the Boro Park Anniversary — Centennial plus two of the first development of the community and the 90th of the new name of Boro Park.

A series of celebration activities have been arranged by the Planning Committee; including library displays and film festivals.

The opening celebration activity will be a large general community meeting at the Y.M. Y.W.H.A. of Boro Park 4912-14th Ave. on Monday, May 2 at 7 P.M. The program will include a second newly completed video film of Boro Park, places of historical interest, displays, a guest speaker, prizes and light refreshments. Admission is free and all residents and former residents of Boro Park are invited.

Information about other activities will be publicized in this paper, and by flyers and posters. We are grateful to the following for their participation in sponsoring these celebration activities: Con Edison; Brooklyn Union Gas Co.; New York Telephone Co. and Senator Martin Solomon.

The following letters received about the Centennial Plus 290th Anniversary Celebration are self explanatory.

Letters in this order:

- I - Brooklyn Historical Society
- II - Senator Solomon
- III - Assemblyman Hixind
- IV - Alan Jay Gerber

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I understand that the Boro Park Historical Society and indeed the entire community of Boro Park are celebrating your neighborhood's 102nd/90th anniversary.

On behalf of The Brooklyn Historical Society, I extend my hearty congratulations to all Boro Park residents involved in the Centennial Plus 290th Anniversary festivities.

I am sure your photograph(s)

exhibit and other events will be highly appreciated by community residents and neighboring Brooklynites alike.

As an organization fully dedicated to preserving Brooklyn's vital past for study and example. The Brooklyn Historical Society congratulates the Boro Park Historical Society and community residents for furthering public recognition of Brooklyn's heritage.

Sincerely yours,
DAVID M. KAHN
Executive Director
The Brooklyn Historical Society

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your membership my greetings upon your celebration of the Boro Park Centennial Plus 290th Anniversary.

Having represented Boro Park

for this past decade in the New York State Senate, I have come to appreciate the unique, diverse and creative spirit of the Boro Park "way of life." To know that this legacy now goes back a century makes me secure in the feeling that that "way of life" is not a transitory feature of New York urban life but rather a permanent fixture of our city's economic, social culture and religious landscape.

The stability of Boro Park is vital to our city's well-being. May its past history serve as a source for its continued strength in the many years to come, and

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from pg. 2)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
may we all share and benefit from the fruits of its labors in good health and prosperity, Mazel Tov.

Very truly yours,
MARTIN M. SOLOMON
Senator
19th District

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Boro Park Historical Society for taking upon itself the celebration of Boro Park's Centennial Plus 290th Anniversary.

The Society's efforts in helping people locate missing relatives, art work and religious articles certainly contributes to the dynamism of this community. The preservation of material related to History of a community is an important task.

I wish the Historical Society of Boro Park much continued success.

Sincerely yours,
DOV HIXIND
Member of the Assembly
48th A.D.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your membership my sincerest congratulations upon your forthcoming commemoration of The Boro Park Centennial Plus 290th Anniversary.

Having represented Boro Park on Community School Board District 20 for the past fifteen years, I have come to appreciate the unique position Boro Park cherishes in the world of education.

While replicating many of the features of the shtetl, Boro Park has also come to stand for some of the most up-to-date, modern, sophisticated and practical communal and service structures found anywhere in our city. This has helped enhance the quality of life for the many thousands who utilize the facilities of the Boro Park Y, the services of the Council of Jewish Organizations, the various self-help and charitable organizations such as N'shai, Tomche Shabbos, Bikkur Cholim and, last but not least, our cherished Hatzala organization.

Famed as the mecca of Jewish liturgical music, Boro Park has also been the home, in previous generations, to Zavel Kwartin and David Kussevitsky to Temple Emanuel, Mordchai Harschman, Moshe Koussevitsky and Moshe Stern of Temple Beth-El and Yossela Rosenblatt of the Sephardic Shul. Today it still serves as the home base for the world famous Ben-Zion Miller.

Having been born and raised on New York's Lower East Side, I have come to cherish the value of neighborhood history and pride. The lower East Side swelled with history on each and every one of its streets.

So too has Boro Park, and with the passage of time and with careful and diligent research and archival facilities, The Boro Park Historical Society will surely help preserve the best of the past as a legacy for the generations of the future.

Again, congratulations upon a job well done

Respectfully yours,
ALAN JAY GERBER
Member Community
School Board 20

The following is the first page of an unpublished book titled *the Blythebourne* by the Ruth Whitney Hadley Beal.

A copy of this book, dated May 1, 1966 coincidentally, is available in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society. This first page gives an interesting and delightful description of her memories of the beginnings of Blythebourne - Boro Park.

CHAPTER I - WAS THERE REALLY SUCH A PLACE?

Yes, there really was a place called Blythebourne, but I'm afraid you will have to take my word for it. However, if you wish to do so, you can find one small bit of corroboration of the fact. Go out to Borough Park, on Long Island in the Borough of Brooklyn, New York. There, at 5608 Thirteenth Avenue you will find a Post Office and on it you will see the name, "BLYTHEBOURNE STATION."

If you want still more proof, I have thanks to your Aunt Grace two precious, fragile copies of the "Edgewood Echo" dated June 1983 and November 1983. This little paper was published monthly "in the interest of Edgewood Reformed Church of Blythebourne, Long Island." Subscription price, Thirty Cents per Annum. Entered at the Blythebourne Post Office as Second Class Matter."

So you see, there really was a town called Blythebourne, although now it is known as Borough Park.

This is how it all began. Some time in the latter half of the 19th century, old Eleazar Litchfield (great grandfather of your cousin Howard's wife) bought some land toward the southern end of Long Island, New York. It was on the outskirts of the old Dutch town of New Utrecht and covered several blocks, probably from the forties to the sixties, on the west side of New Utrecht Avenue. He named it Blythebourne, which means "Happy Home." In order to develop the project, he opened a real estate office at 43rd Street

and New Utrecht Avenue. He called it the "West Brooklyn Land and Improvement Company of Blythebourne, Long Island." He put his son-in-law, George A. Allin, in charge and started advertising and selling. Homes were built and a Post Office and stores were opened.

For some years, both sides of the Avenue were called Blythebourne, but around 1898 a Senator William H. Reynolds came and bought land abutting on the east side of the Avenue, calling it Borough Park. This tract extended from 43rd Street to about 60th. The Senator sold lots and also built and sold several two-family houses. Soon, for the use of the people in the two growing communities, he

had a large Club House erected at 51st Street and 13th Avenue. This was a boon to the neighborhood and many a social affair was held there. At one side of the Club House there was a baseball field and that also was put to frequent use by the boys and the men.

Gradually the whole district came to be known as Borough (shortened to Boro Park), and before many years had passed, it and the neighboring sections of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst were taken over and absorbed by the City of Brooklyn.

So much for the history and geography of Blythebourne in its early days. The town was not

(Continued on Page 6)

Cont. of I Remember Boro Park (Continued from Page 3) heavily populated at the end of the 19th century but according to the census of 1890 there were only 62 1/2 million people in the whole of the United States.

When my parents (your grandparents) moved to Blythebourne in 1890, that whole part of Long Island was full of reminders of the old Dutch families who had originally settled it. There were the town names - New Utrecht, Breucklyn (the old spelling of Brooklyn), Van Pelt Manor, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst. Many of the old family names, too, were still to be found. Larzales and Van Wicklen, Van Hennicks, Van Thuis and Weigands, de Niervard, Tonjes, Kunkel and Wycoff, to mention just a few. Cowenhoven Lane, which approximated the present 54th Street, extended from west of New Utrecht Avenue, through some farmlands and across 13th Avenue. Eastward it continued through woodlands to the farm of Cornelius Cowenhoven, between 15th and 16th avenues. Here, in a lovely old Dutch farmhouse, he lived with his two sisters. My own sisters used to love to visit there. They remember it as "full of the characteristic smell of an old house" and the aroma of pumpkin pie.

The following advertisement which appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in April 1898 focuses on the new land development called "Borough Park." This is one of many such items researched and submitted by B.M. Selevan, researcher for the B.P.H.S.

50 HOMES AT COST

To Fasten Attention on What
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS

In Now Doing at BOROUGH PARK

On and after Sunday, May 1, 1898, including
Sundays, he will be at the office of the
company from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Twelve home owners have already purchased.

Landowners - not Speculators.

Homes - not Houses.

250 houses now occupied by owners.

Office Building, Forty-ninth St.
and New Utrecht Ave., Brooklyn.
Take Fifth Ave. Trolley.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip Kipust

BORO PARK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUED

The series of activities planned to help celebrate the special 102/90 Boro Park anniversary (Centennial plus two of the development of the first part of the community and the 90th of the land development first named Boro Park) will continue for several months.

General Meeting

The General Membership and Community meeting took place at the YMHA on May 2. We had a large turnout, exhibits, displays a very good program and refreshments. Dr. David Kranzler - historian, author, professor and lecturer was the guest speaker. He emphasized the importance of continuing the work of researching and preserving the history of the community and outlined a number of activities which every person in the community can undertake in order to

participate in this project and to preserve his own personal history and memories.

He interspersed his very interesting talk with numerous anecdotes dealing with his personal experiences as a former resident of Boro Park and with his interviews and research for the five books he has written. The BPHS was grateful for Dr. Kranzler for sharing his valuable time and expertise with the people present.

Joseph Fuchs, active officer of AOJT, in his unusual humorous and interesting manner told about some of the famous personalities who once resided in Boro Park. His talk was also well received.

A new video describing historical scenes of Boro Park, which was prepared and narrated by members of the B.P.H.S. Executive Committee, was shown at the meeting. This was the second in a series of Videos that was prepared and shown. Unfortunately, the rented video equipment was defective and the

pictures and sound came through distorted. Another showing of the video with new equipment is planned for the Fall. Our apologies to the people present for the technical problems and we hope you will join us for the next showing.

Several guests in the audience, long time residents of B.P., submitted interesting historical materials from their own records. A number signed up as members.

Jacque Friedman, publisher of the Boro Park Community News served a chairman of the meeting. He, Lucille Posner, Esther Kane and myself, also extended greetings.

LIBRARY EXHIBIT

A special exhibit of Boro Park History is now on display at the Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library on 43 St. near 13 Ave: the exhibit will continue for the entire month of May and is different from the exhibits displayed at the general meeting at the YMHA on May 2. Many fine photos, articles and other memorabilia can be seen at the exhibit. A new display will be shown in November.

FILM FESTIVAL

A series of three Film Festivals were planned in conjunction with the 102/90 anniversary celebration of Boro Park. These historical films were and will be shown at the Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library on May 8, May 15 and May 24 at 2:00 PM.

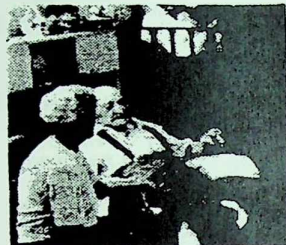
There will be additional activities scheduled in the Fall to help commemorate the 102/90 anniversary of Boro Park.

Our special thanks to Con Edison, New York Telephone and Brooklyn Union Gas Co. for sponsoring these and other activities in conjunction with the special anniversary celebrations.

MAX ROTH DECEASED

Dear Dr. Kipust,

As promised I am sending this information, to you about our friend Max Roth.



(Continued on Pg. 8)

(Continued from pg. 2)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Max Roth, probably Boro Park's oldest living resident passed away in Jan. 1988 - after reaching his 100th birthday in Sept. 1987. He was a man of simplicity and always with a cheerful outlook. He will long be remembered by everyone. To his family I say, may you cherish the years you shared with him.

I am enclosing a photo taken at Max's home on Sept. 13, 1987, the day the family was celebrating his 100th birthday, and also the letter of thanks from his son.

In reference to the residents at the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (M.J.G.C.) on Tenth Avenue, I was trying to obtain information from some of them. I spoke to a few "centennial" folks and they told me that their longevity was due to good faith and love of people. (no names). Many residents are above ninety, nearing the 100th mark with healthy anticipation.

To you Dr. Kipust and your wonderful family - and for all your good work on behalf of others - may heaven continue to bless you with good health and success in all your endeavors.

All the best
from Esther Kane

Dear Esther,

Thank you for your note. Am enclosing check to Boro Park Historical Society as a contribution from Beo and me in honor of the memory of Boro Park's senior citizen, who enjoyed so many happy years as Boro Park grew and developed.

Best regards.

Irving Roth

We thank Esther Kane for the above letters and for her many worthwhile contributions to the history of Boro Park project.

DR. MORRIS COHEN

Mr Salvatore Mannucci submitted the parts of an auto, previously owned by Dr. Morris Cohen, to the Boro Park Historical Society. The parts were mounted on a frame board and preserved all these years, the enclosed letter was submitted with this memorabilia and we thank Mr. Mannucci for this interesting and welcome contribution.

MEMORABILIA OF DR. MORRIS COHEN

A fondly remembered Doctor of the early days of Boro Park:

- * When most doctors made house calls.
- * When the fee charged was usually \$2.
- * When the patient was a person and not a medicare number.
- * When patients expected and received not only cure but sympathy and care.
- * When Boro Park doctors ministered to both Jew and Gentile without any hint of racist feelings. In those days the mixture of Germans, Jews, Irish and Italians is what made Boro Park a friendly place to live in idyllic surroundings supplied by Nature, and enhanced by neighborliness.

The frame submitted for viewing would be of great interest to Lucille Posner, a relative of Dr.

Cohen and to the comedian, Buddy Hachett who was closely connected to Dr. Cohen or his brother delivery boy and general delivery man.

This frame contains:

- * The inner part of the steering wheel that guided Dr. Cohen's 1949 "black Dodge to the homes of the sick.

- * The Cathedral-shaped frames of the rear lights of this car.

- * The smoking trays, which, I doubt, Dr. Cohen ever used.

- * This car was sold to our family in 1969 for the princely sum of \$100 - and lasted until 1968, about the time that Dr. Cohen passed to his eternal rest. We still have the two-trumpet-like horns which graced the underhood of this car, and were often welcomed by many residents of good "old" Boro Park.

P.S. The above may be published in the Boro Park News as a tribute to Dr. Cohen and to his niece Lucille Posner, a frequent contributor to "I Remember Boro Park."

SALVATORE MANNUCCI
1229 40 ST.

(Since 1919)

ADOLPH BERNSTEIN

Mr. Adolph Bernstein first moved to Boro Park in July 1939: He said he came directly from Budapest, Hungary to Boro park because his relatives who brought him were living here. His cousin Abe Katz brought him together with his mother, his brother and brother's wife. Adolph was still single at the time. His first residence in B.P. was with his uncle, Nathan Katz on 51 St. between 11th and 12th Ave.

Mr. Bernstein said he was married to Esther Fried in 1940 in the hall on the corner of 45th St. and 16th Ave. It was called Boro Manor at the time and was a novelty steam factory. His wife

Esther was a resident of Boro Park before Adolph and lived on 43rd St. between 9th and 10th Aves.

After their marriage the Bernsteins lived on 44th St. between 8th and 9th Ave., then moved to 51st St. between 9th and 10th Ave. and then to 1558-45th St. in 1949. They lived at the latter residence until 1979, through three owners: Kaufman, B. Tarlow and P. Kipust, and then moved to their current address at 1528-49th St.

In Europe Adolph worked in the antiques business but here he worked in the fur trade as a furrier.

The Bernsteins' three children were born in Maimonides hospital of B.P. Charlotte and Judy attended Sholomith School and Larry attended Toras Emes.

At first Adolph belonged to the Shomrei-Shabbos Synagogue because his uncle belonged there. In 1943 he became a member of Cong. Anshei Sfard on 45th St. and 14th Ave., where he still belongs. He said in those days Bard was president and didn't want to accept any Hungarian members. There was no official Rabbi in Cong. Anshei Sfard but Rabbi Pinaky was the unofficial Rabbi in the downstairs Beth Hamedrash.

The first official Rabbi in Cong. Anshei Sfard was Rabbi Martin, who also served as Cantor. The second was Rabbi Draizin, the third was Rabbi Swift and the fourth is the current Rabbi David Singer.

We thank Mr. Bernstein for sharing his interesting memories with us.

JOIN THE BPHS

Join the B.P.H.S. and submit your own memories and family history. Due \$5 may be sent to BPHS 4810-13th Ave., Brooklyn 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip Kipust

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I was born in 1904 when we lived at 65 St. and 14 Ave. We moved to Boro Park to 5914 - 14 Ave. in 1909. I attended P.S. 103 on 54 St. and 14 Ave. and graduated in 1919. Then I went to Murray Hill Vocational High School in Manhattan for about two years. In 1920 we moved to 1660-59th St. I was married in 1929 remained in the same house and moved to Bay Ridge in 1945 after the war.

Gene Kelly lived near us at 5908-14 Ave. (another famous Boro Parker), above Dickover's Hardware Store. This store had a sidewalk hand pump and sold gasoline to automobiles. Gene Nick named me "Mickey" and wherever he went I would go with him. He was the caretaker of the Dutch Reformed Church located at 53rd St. and 14th Ave. This church had a hot air heating system. We had to clean and fire the coal furnace in the winter time.

In the back of the church there was a small round building which also had its own hot air heating system. That's where the Boro Park library was in 1910, before it moved to 56 St. and New Utrecht Ave.

Yours truly,
Victor Raimo

Subsequently, I called Mr. Raimo and obtained additional interesting information about his Boro Park memories.

During World War II he served as an electrician for the government, helped to renovate the Pentagon Building in Washington D.C. and also several army camps. It was considered essential war service.

His three children were born in B.P., at home, at 1660-59th St. and attended Catholic Parochia. Subsequently, I called Mr. Raimo and obtained additional interesting information about his Boro Park memories.

During WW II he served as an electrician for the government, helping to renovate the Pen-

tagon Building in Washington, D.C. and also several army camps. It was considered essential war service.

His three children were born in Boro Park, at home, at 1660-59th Street and attended Catholic Parochial School in Bay Ridge.

I was astonished at his ability to remember so many facts, names, dates etc. from his early childhood.

At his school, P.S. 103, he had a math teacher, Mr. Davis and a shop teacher, Mr. Murphy. The girls had a cooking class. The auditorium was made of six classrooms with rolling doors. The doors would be opened for assembly and closed when classes were in session. On the corner of 54th Street, diagonally across from the school, there was a drug store where the children went to buy candies. The school had two principals, M. Powers and Mrs.

Fuller (one was probably Assistant Principal).

Kings bakery was situated on New Utrecht Ave. near 55 St. (second from corner). the corner store was Kelley's Drugstore. This bakery served lunch as well and the two principals would eat their lunch at that store.

He remembers that on Field Day the entire school (upper graders) would walk to George Wingate Athletic Field (near Kingston Ave.) from the school. There were no buses for them. Everyone walked to the field, participated in the athletic events and then walked home.

(Continued on Pg. 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

(Continued from Pg. 2)

When walking to school from 59 St. to 54 St. he said he would pass beautiful trees and flowers all along the way. There were only one or two houses on each block.

Mr. Raimo also mentioned Peter Riccardo of Boro Park Realty Co 5510-New Utrecht Ave. He graduated P.S. 103 in 1914, became a lawyer in 1929 and always maintained a law office in Boro Park since then. He is still practicing law but plans to retire soon.

We thank Mr. Raimo for his interesting contribution and hope he will submit additional information about the early history of Boro Park.

RUBIN HOROWITZ

Last summer, during a tour of several scandinavian countries, I met and interviewed Rubin Horowitz. He had an interesting 60 story to relate about his trip to Alaska in 1981. During a visit to Fairbanks he discovered a Synagogue. The Synagogue called the First Hebrew Congregation of Fairbanks, was inactive and the members would meet but once a month. The address of the Synagogue is listed at the business location of our electrical store owned by the former president of that Synagogue. That former president whose name Mr. Horowitz did not recall at the time, said that he used to live in Boro Park from about 1930 to 1937 and then moved to Alaska.

If any of our readers visit Fairbanks, please try to obtain additional information about this man's name and her personal history and memories of Boro Park.

Rubin Horowitz moved to B.P. when he married Shirley (nee Libowitz) in 1949. Before that he lived in Williamsburg. Their first address was at Dahil Rd. and Ave. C until 1952 and later moved to 4618-18 Ave. They lived at this address, the house of his in-laws (Colonial Decorators), until Jan. 1970 when they moved to Flatbush.

While in Boro Park Rubin attended the Young Israel and then Congregation Beth El where he is still a member to this day. He has seen the vast changes in the residents buildings and religious atmosphere of the Boro Park community since he lived there.

Dear Dr. Kipust

I would like to submit the following information about Boro Park, which may be of interest:

There are three wooden houses on the corner of 44th Street and 16th Avenue which are built on a slant and face neither 16th Avenue nor 44th Street: 1603, 1605, and 1607 44th Street. 1603 44th Street subsequently had a brick wing added and now bears the address 4315 16th Avenue. These three houses were built to face Old New Utrecht Road, which used to exist at that point but now runs from 52nd Street until 48th St.

near 17th Avenue. I was lucky enough to be invited into the front yard of one of these houses and had the feeling of being transported back to a by-gone era.

Move over, Brooklyn Heights! You may have your carriage houses which have been converted into homes, but Boro Park has a stable which has been converted into a home. 5815 15th Avenue was once the stable of a farm which used to be on that site. Joseph Vella, the present owner, bought the house in 1947 from the previous owner, who had converted it into a house from a stable. The stable was on the ground floor and the servants' quarters were on the second floor. (Evidently they equated servants with horses in those days!) In addition to living in the house, Mr. Vella operates a barber shop on the first floor.

With the current wave of renovation in Boro Park, it is interesting to note that Boro Park has been in the process of being renovated since its very beginning, when it was a community called Blythebourne. It was then a Christian neighborhood. The Rev. Bayard Snowden had been appointed to serve the Episcopal church on 14th Avenue and 55th Street (no longer in existence).

On August 20, 1981 he bought a house for himself, his wife, and five children—the Backhouse Estate, at 55th Street near New Utrecht Avenue (no longer in existence). He found it necessary to renovate this house. In Rev. Snowden's diary of September 18, 1891 he notes the following: Cost of house and grounds \$2,500. Alteration of house 1,600. Plumbing 300. Furnace and range 266. Painting exterior of house 155. TOTAL of all \$5,821.

LUCILLE POSNER

We thank Lucille Posner for her interesting contribution. Lucille Posner a member of the Executive Committee of the B.P.H.S. was the chairman of the Film Festival series at the Boro Park Public Library in celebration of the 102/90 anniversary of Boro Park. She wishes to publicly thank the Library Administration and the New York Telephone Company for their generous co-sponsorship of the successful Film Festival. Additional celebration activities are planned for the Fall.

CHAZAN YOSSELE ROSENBLATT

Chazan (Cantor) Yossele Rosenblatt is one of the most famous names in Borough Park Jewish and general history. It is interesting that now, over half a century after his death, he is still remembered fondly by old Boro Parkers as well as by others, etc.

I have done some research on the famous personality and have come up with the following information. It is especially appropriate, I think, that these words are being written in the season preparing for the Yomim Noraim or 'High Holy Days' when the great Cantors perform

and are 'in the spotlight'. Some information about the famous Chazan and an important photo of his signing a contract with the First Cong. 'Anshei sfard' have previously appeared in this newspaper, but I am trying to add information now, that has not been covered to my knowledge.

Chazan Rosenblatt was born at Biala-Cierkew, Russia, in 1882. At age 8 he and his family were expelled from Russia and he then, performed in Austria, starting his career. Later he performed elsewhere in Europe and became famous. In 1911, he came to the USA on a visit, and sang at Congregation Ohav Zedek, 116th Street, Manhattan. He made such an impression on the congregation that they did not allow him to return to Europe and he became their cantor for a good number of years. He became so well known that, according to the New York Times, letters from Europe that were addressed simply to "Yossele Rosenblatt, America", reached him promptly.

Chazan Rosenblatt was affiliated with the first Cong. 'Anshei sfard' of Boro Park toward the end of his life. I believe he came to Boro Park first in 1927 with the aforementioned Cong. Chazan Rosenblatt commanded a wage exceptionally high for that time it seems, as according to the Brooklyn Eagle, in 1922 he received \$15,000, a large sum then, just for davening (leading the prayers) for the two days of Rosh Hashanah and the one day of Yom Kippur. For him to be lured to Boro Park must have required a large sum of money.

Chazan Rosenblatt died suddenly in June 1933, while on a visit to Israel. He was making a film there and had also given some concerts there on behalf of Russian Jewry. He was only 51 years old at the time. News of his sudden death was featured prominently in the news, underlining his fame and prominence. The *Brooklyn Eagle* placed the story on page one its' edition of Monday, June 19, 1933. The story was headlined "Famed Cantor Dies of Stroke", and was covered beneath a photograph of the deceased cantor, entitled "HIS SONG SILENCED". The story was also front page news in the *Jewish Morning Journal* which carried a lengthy report on the news with relevant photos, as well as subsequent articles about the deceased.

The New York Times also carried a prominent story on the obituaries page about the famed cantor's passing, in which it was said, among other things, that the deceased was the author of more than 400 compositions.

I hope that your readers enjoyed reading this information about one of the most famous names of Boro Park's past, who, to this day is still remembered with reverence. Some of his songs also are still circulated now, over a half century after his sudden death in Israel. This fact and information above should show what a great personality we are talking about...

B.M. Selevan

We thank Mr. Selevan for his

very fine contributions and for his many other research articles.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOVES TO NEW QUARTERS

The Boro Park Historical Society together with the Boro Park Community Council have moved to new and larger quarters. The new address is B.P.H.S. 5223 B, 13 Ave. Brooklyn N.Y. 11219.

Thanks to Jacques Friedman, vice pres. for his efforts in completing the move.

Please help the B.P.H.S. in its work to research, file, preserve and publish the history of Boro Park. You can help by joining (dues \$5 a year), submitting information or 6 volunteering your time to help.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
August 1988

DESCENDANTS OF FIRST BORO PARKER

DISCOVERED

Dear Phil:

As this is the "Centennial Plus 2" Anniversary Year of the Boro Park Community (90th anniversary of the naming of Boro Park), I thought it would be important to locate descendants of Electus Backus Litchfield, who founded Boro Park in 1886 (then known as Blythebourne).

Of course, I did have a clue where to start looking. In 1964 Norman Litchfield, grandson of Electus Backus, wrote an article on the early days of Blythebourne, which was published in *The Journal of Long Island History*. (This article is now in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society.) At the time Norman wrote the article, he was living in Oxford, Connecticut, so I naturally started to look for Norman there.

I called the Oxford telephone information operator and asked

for the phone number of Norman Litchfield. She said there was no listing for Norman Litchfield, but there was a listing for a Clinton Litchfield. I dialed that number and spoke to a man who said that his family, although bearing the same last name, was not related to Norman's family. I identified myself, told him the Boro Park Historical Society was searching for descendants of Norman, and asked if he knew where I could find them. He said he knew Norman Litchfield had a daughter, Lydia von Wettberg. However, she had moved away from her home in Oxford some time ago and he had no idea where to-it could be anywhere.

I hung up the phone and considered for about two minutes. Lydia could have moved anywhere-and, by the same token, she could have moved to some other address in the same town. I picked up the phone and

asked the Oxford operator for the phone number of Lydia von Wettberg. The operator said there was no listing for a Lydia, but there was a listing for a B.W.

von Wettberg. I called that number and spoke to a man who said that Lydia was a relative of his and had moved to upstate New York some time ago. On request, he willingly gave my Lydia's phone number and address. I dialed Lydia's number next, but there was no answer.

At 9:00 a.m. the next morning I again dialed Lydia von Wettberg's phone number. A pleasant voice said "hello." I said, "Am I speaking to Mrs. Lydia von Wettberg?" A feeling of great calm came over me-similar to the feeling Lindbergh described when he first saw the lights of Paris after completing the first transatlantic flight-as the voice replied: "Yes."

Mrs. von Wettberg proved to be a charming, intelligent woman, with a great interest in history. She has since graciously turned over to the Boro Park Historical Society many photographs of the early days of Boro Park (then called Blythebourne), some of

which will be displayed in our Anniversary Exhibit at the Boro Park Library, during the entire month of November. Mrs. von Wettberg sent the people of Boro Park the following letter of congratulations:

LUCILLE POSNER

TO THE PEOPLE OF BORO PARK:

Hearty congratulations to you on the occasion of the Celebration of the Centennial plus Two (and the 90th Anniversary of the naming of Boro Park). I am the great granddaughter of Electus Backus Litchfield founder of Blythebourne, the oldest community in the area now known as Boro Park. I am also the

(Continued on Pg. 10)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (Continued from Pg. 2)

granddaughter of the Reverend Robert Bayard Snowden who was rector of St. Jude's Episcopal Church which stood somewhere in the vicinity of the southwest corner of 14th Avenue and 55th St.

My parents were Norman Litchfield, grandson of Electus, and Cora Snowden, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Snowden. They played together in Blythebourne as children and were married in 1905 in St. Jude's Episcopal Church to the Rev. Clarence Durkin. I was born in Brooklyn in 1906. I know that I did visit in Blythebourne but I remember little beyond riding in a horsecar and gathering pears from the tree in my grandmother Litchfield's front yard. Her house was at the southwest corner of 13th Avenue and 55th Street. What I really "remember" of Blythebourne comes from the fascinating stories told me by my parents of their happy childhood there. Fortunately those stories are to be found in Norman Litchfield's article on Blythebourne.

I lived for a few years on Brooklyn Heights and grew up in Westchester County. A graduate of Vassar (1927) I taught for some years in the Bronxville High School. After my marriage I lived in Connecticut where I taught at the Day Prospect Hill School in New Haven and was on its Administrative Staff. After my husband's death I settled near my son and his family here in Central New York.

With all best wishes,
Lydia Litchfield von Wettberg

Our sincere thanks to Lucille Posner, member of the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Committee for her fascinating detective work and very important disavowal. We will be hearing more about the Litchfield family and the contributions to the society by Mrs. Lydia von Wettberg in future issues.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Following are some additional biographical details about the distinguished former BORO PARK resident, HAZZAAN (CANTOR) YOSSELE ROSENBLATT excerpted from his biography published by his son, Rabbi S. Rosenblatt in 1954.

In 1922 he was asked by the CHICAGO OPERA COMPANY to join its staff of singers. He was offered \$1,000.00 for each performance and assured that he would NEVER have to perform on a Sabbath or other Jewish holidays (His initial role was to be that of ELEZAR in Halevy's opera, "LA JUIVE"). (Yossele was then still the Hazzan of the OHAB ZEDEK synagogue in Harlem at an annual salary of \$12,000.00 and there was NO HOPE for an increase since this previously prestigious neighborhood was "changing" rapidly. Yet he declined this flattering offer because it was considered "NOT BEFITTING" for a "SH'LIACH TZIBUR" (Cantor) who was leading his congregation in its prayers.

Unfortunately, Yossele besides being a very pious and generous man, was also a "trusting man" who had himself "talked into" sponsoring and unwittingly assuming personal guarantees for the debts of the "LIGHT OF ISRAEL" which started out as a daily BILINGUAL newspaper and was widely hailed for its high level presentations. When it collapsed only a year later, Yossele found himself indebted to the tune of almost \$200,000.00 and forced into bankruptcy.

In a gallant effort to pay off this huge sum, Yossele went on extended concert tours and even sang in "vaudeville". Some very old BORO PARKERS may still remember his recitations in a long since extinct cinema on NEW UTRECHT AVE. between 46th and 47th Streets. His plight had then become even more oppressive because the OHAB ZEDEK had "persuaded" him to resign his position as their Cantor. (Their old building was emptying out rapidly and their new site was still under construction.)

Therefore he greatly welcomed the offer of his friend, Max Jonas, (who was an officer of Congregation Anshe Sfard) to settle in Boro Park. Indeed Max Jonas, even arranged to have two apartments at 15th Avenue and 47th Street combined because HAZZAN and Mrs. Rosenblatt were the proud parents of 8 children and most of them were still staying with them. For a while Yossele continued with his concerts and he even toured Europe. However, he was soon forced to curtail his "outside activities"; because his strength was beginning to ebb. In 1930 he resigned his position with ANSHE SFARD because due to the 1929 STOCK MARKET crash he was no longer able to receive his salary.

Undoubtedly during his relatively short stay, Yossele was inspired by the growth of the Boro Park Jewish community and the community was inspired by his NIGGUNIM (songs) which can still be heard during the High Holidays and also during the year in many synagogues all over the world.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Wechsler

We wish to thank Mr. Joseph Wechsler, a previous contributor to these columns, for his interesting letter and information.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Anna Siegel was born in Boro Park at the beginning of the century and is still going strong, full of life and living with her active husband at 1528-49th St. I've asked her several times to submit an article for your famous column "I Remember Boro Park". I am enclosing the following article which she wrote and am hoping she will write more about her memories of Boro Park.

Shalom Esther Kane

Dear Dr. Kipust,

A poet once wrote:-

"How dear to my heart are the days of my childhood when fond recollections presents them to view."

The streets of Boro Park were lined with trees and walking was so relaxing even at night

We had quite a few moving picture houses. During the summer months we used to attend the open air movies at night. One was situated on 43rd Street and 12th Avenue. The other on 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. Young couples would bring their baby carriages and park them in the lobby. The parent was given a ticket and a duplicate stub placed on the carriage. If the baby awoke a signal would be flashed on the screen so the parent would be notified to hurry out and hush their darling back to slumber.

The "Boro" formerly on 51st Street and New Utrecht Avenue had "country night" every Thursday. A set of china was in the lobby and as we paid admission we were presented with a dish. Occasionally, during an exciting part we would hear a dish drop to the floor. The audience cheered and were more cautious in holding on to their own souvenir.

Our aim was to complete a set

of dishes and follow up on serials.

Those were the happy days.
Anne Siegel

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Esther Kane, a frequent contributor to these columns and to the Boro Park Historical Society, for her help and inspiration. Our thanks also to Mrs. Anne Siegel for her interesting memories of Boro Park, we hope there will be many more.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS HELP

Please help the B.P.H.S. meet its small budget. You can help by becoming a member and paying the nominal dues of \$5 a year and/or making a small contribution. The B.P.H.S. is very much in need of funds to help carry on its work of researching, preserving, photographing and publishing the history of Boro Park. It needs your support.

Please also submit photos, articles, and personal memories of the community.

Send materials to the new address.

B.P.H.S.
5223 B. 13th Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11219

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
CELEBRATION OF BORO PARK
ANNIVERSARY
CONTINUES

Additional celebration activities of the Boro Park Community Centennial plus two anniversary - 90th of the name Boro Park - will continue in the Fall. The Boro Park library will display another interesting exhibit of Boro Park history, prepared by Dominic Supina of the Boro Park Historical Society. The month long exhibit in May of historical photographs, and other memorabilia was very well received by the library visitors. Another month long exhibit will be on display in November. This exhibit will feature other photographs, clippings and memorabilia.

In addition, a Video film festival of Boro Park will take place at the Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library during the first two Sunday afternoons in November. We have invited descendants of the founders of Boro Park to this film festival and will be making an appropriate presentation. Other dignitaries will also be invited to participate. The two videos made by the members of the Boro Park Historical Society will be shown. The latest video presented at the general meeting in May was unfortunately difficult to hear because of the faulty equipment. The video tape itself however, was in excellent condition. It will be shown again with new and better equipment. All members of the Community, past and present, are invited to participate. Further information will be announced and members of the B.P.H.S. will receive a flyer in the mail.

FOUNDERS OF BORO PARK

The following two articles, researched and written by Lucille Posner, officer in the Boro Park Historical Society, are very important in establishing vital historical information about the very beginnings of Boro Park. We thank Ms. Posner for her interesting and valuable contribution. **LITCHFIELD**

FAMILY

When Electus Backus Litchfield founded Boro Park in 1886 (then named Blythebourne) he was 73 years old and had already lived a full and active life. He was to die only three years later.



Electus B. Litchfield

The year 1630 marked the beginning of the Litchfield family's history in the U.S. In that year (approximately) Lawrence Litchfield emigrated to the U.S. from the County of Kent, England, in search of land for farming. He settled in Scituate,

Mass. Lawrence had one son who, in turn, had nine sons, so in time the descendants were numerous. Several generations later the Litchfield family moved to Brooklyn, Conn.

In the late 1700's there was a mass migration from the New England states to the West, by way of New York State. The Litchfields were part of this migration, but instead settled permanently in Central New York State; first in Delphi, then in Pompey, and finally in Cazenovia. By 1825, when the Erie Canal was opened, Cazenovia was a bustling town. By that time the Litchfields had abandoned farming and were now carpenters and joiners.

(Continued on page 2)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

(Continued from Pg. 2)

Elisha Litchfield, father of Electus B., was elected to the New York State Assembly and subsequently represented his district in Congress.

In 1836 Electus B. had married Hannah Maria Breed; three sons and one daughter were born to the couple.

At first Electus B. worked in his father's retail store and then joined a brother in his business in Cazenovia. In 1844 Electus B., as so many have done before and since, moved to Manhattan and opened a wholesale grocery business.

Originally the only means of travel across the U.S. was by stagecoach or covered wagon. By the mid-1800's track were being laid through the Middle West. The golden age of railroads was just beginning and, for a man of Electus B. Harkus' drive and business acumen, this opportunity was too good to resist. He, along with his brother, Edwin Clark, became involved in financing and managing railroads in the Middle West. They were among the people who were instrumental in opening up the Middle West. Electus B. and his oldest son, William, moved to the Mid-West; two towns are named after them: Litchfield, Illinois and Litchfield, Minnesota. At the same time, Electus B. developed railroads and was active in real estate, both in Brooklyn.

Electus B. moved back to New York to pursue business opportunities and in 1886 formed the West Brooklyn Land & Improvement Company and bought land in the old Dutch town of New Utrecht, on the site of the present Boro Park. He named the town Blythebourne, after his former summer home on Long Island. His experience with railroads had made him aware of the importance of good transportation, and one of his first moves was to buy and develop Gunther's Railroad which ran through the area. He renamed it the Brooklyn, Bath & West End Railroad. This railroad is the direct ancestor of the former West End and current B line.

His son, William, had remained in St. Paul, Minn. where he was Vice President of a bank and owned the St. Paul Iron Foundry. In the financial troubles of the 1870's William suffered heavy losses and succumbed to his father's persuasions and moved with his family to N.Y.C. In 1888 William took the job as Superintendent of the Blythebourne development and moved there.

Electus B. and his wife, Hannah, were intelligent and loving people and had a happy marriage. His interests were centered in his church (Baptist) and other charitable endeavors. His son William had a long and happy marriage to Emily Pope, who bore him six children. William was "A man who never lost calmness when trouble came... a man of gentle courtesy to all..." as his son Norman

wrote. William was liked and respected by his workmen. His interests centered around his family and church (St. Jude's Episcopal in Blythebourne). His business failure had made him aware of the necessity of professional training and he made sure his three sons had a professional education. Two sons became engineers and one became an architect.

William died in 1901 and his wife, Emily, died in 1908 at her home in Blythebourne.

William's son, Norman, worked for the New York City Interboro Subway (IRT) for some years; William's son, Percy, worked on the construction of the N.Y.C. subways; William's son, Electus Darwin, was well-known architect practicing in Manhattan and was President of the Municipal Art Society from 1932 to 1937. In this capacity he was influential in preserving many architecturally important buildings. He was the architect for the new St. Jude's Episcopal Church building erected in Blythebourne in 1904 (no longer in existence).

Norman also was a warm and family-oriented man. He married Cora Snowden, daughter of the Rev. Robert B. Snowden, rector of St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Blythebourne. He was a calm and courteous gentleman, who got on well with people in all walks of life, a man whose opinions and sound advice were often sought. His marriage was long and happy and the couple had three daughters. He enjoyed music, literature, and family and local history.

Lydia Litchfield von Wettberg, Norman's daughter, lives in Central New York State, near her son, Norman, his wife, Merle, and her two young grandchildren, Eric and Rachel. She is a retired French teacher; her interests are reading, especially history, attending concerts, arts, and gardening. We thank her for her graciousness in allowing herself to be interviewed and verifying the facts in this article.

LUCILLE POSNER COWENHOVEN FAMILY

At the time Boro park was founded in 1886, and for some years into the 20th century, there were four Cowenhoven farms in Boro Park. Garret Peter Cowenhoven's farm, at 18th Avenue and 52nd Street, was occupied by him and his wife until 1927, when he died and the farm was sold.

Garret's wife, the former Rosabel Beck, died in 1948. The couple lived with Garret's unmarried sister, Catherine (called Kate) until her death in the early 1900's. Kate was a great and enthusiastic family and local historian; when Mrs. Bangs wrote her standard reference book, *The History of New Utrecht*, she consulted frequently with Kate.

All Cowenhovens (sometimes spelled Kouwenhoven or other variations) are descended from the same ancestor, Wolfert Kouwenhoven, a farmer who emigrated from Holland. In 1636

Wolfert was the first person to buy land from the Indians on Long Island. He named his property Amersfoort, after a city in Holland. This was one of the five towns which later made up the city of Brooklyn. After the English conquered New Amsterdam they renamed the area Flatlands.

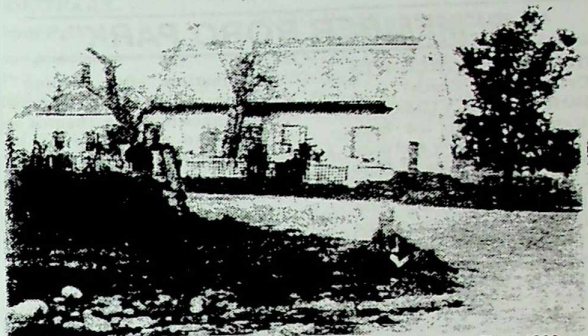
56 Kouwenhovens served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Lt. Col. Nicholas Cowenhoven served in the Kings County Militia. He was arrested on August 28, 1776 and charged with giving information to the British. The spying was alleged to have taken place when the Kings County Militia was quartered in Haylem. His defense was that General Washington had in fact asked him to collect information for the Continental Army and also that he had advanced much money to American patriots during the War, most of which had never been repaid. His case was never brought to trial. No wonder, he had a good lawyer -- Alexander Hamilton! Nicholas remained in New Utrecht for the duration of the War. After the War, public opinion changed and he was entrusted with important offices; he died in 1793.

I interviewed Catherine Cowenhoven Scarborough, granddaughter of Garret. Her mother was Karolyn, Garret's daughter. Mrs. Scarborough grew up in Flatbush, graduated from Brooklyn College, and holds a Masters Degree in English literature. She lives in Wilmington, Delaware. She is an avid tennis player and enjoys needlework and gardening. She reads regularly mainly biographies and history. She has two daughters, Sarah and Karolyn, and is the grandmother of two.

We thank Tom Prendergarst, Editor of the Kouwenhoven Family Association newsletter for giving us much information on the early years of the Kouwenhovens and thank Mrs. Catherine Cowenhoven Scarborough for giving us this interview and for her kind congratulatory letter, which follows.

Congratulations to the people of Boro Park on their 102nd Anniversary (the 90th anniversary of the name of Boro Park).

I am the granddaughter of Garret Peter Cowenhoven who lived on a farm at 18th Avenue. He



Cowenhoven House Old New Utrecht Road and 49th St. - Circa 1890.

was born December 7, 1846 and lived on the farm with his wife Rosabel Beck until his death in 1927. They were married in 1893 and had three children: two daughters, Catherine and Karolyn, the latter being my mother, and a son, Peter Cowenhoven.

Also living with them at 18th Avenue and 52nd Street was Garret Cowenhoven's sister, Catharine, known as Kate.

I am delighted to be a part of your celebration.

Sincerely,

Catharine Cowenhoven
Scarborough

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS HELP

Please help the B.P.H.S. meet its small budget. You can help by becoming a member and paying the nominal dues of \$5 a year and/or making a small contribution. The B.P.H.S. is very much in need of funds to help carry on its work of researching, preserving, photographing and

publishing the history of Boro Park. It needs your support.

Please also submit photos, articles, and personal memories of the community.

Send materials to the new address:

B.P.H.S.
5223 B 13th Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11219

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK VIDEO

Remember to join the Boro Park Historical Society and community for video films of Boro Park. The videos of Boro Park history, prepared by the B.P.H.S., will be shown on the first two Sundays of November at the Boro Park Public Library, 1265 43rd Street. One video will be shown on November 6 and one on November 13, both at 1:30 p.m., as part of the special anniversary celebration of Boro Park.

CROPSEY FAMILY

At the time Boro Park was founded in 1886, and for some years into the 20th Century, two Cropsey sisters lived on their farm, which was located in the area near 54th Street and 13th and 14th Avenues.

These sisters, and in fact all Cropseys, descended from Joost and Johannes Cropsey, two brothers who settled in Gravesend in 1652. The brothers, who

were farmers, fled Germany to escape service in the army, and went to Holland and then to Gravesend. The family name was originally Casparse but through misspellings evolved into Cropsey.

Sometime after settling in Gravesend the brothers married: Johannes to Marie Theunis and Joost to Catherine Lothie. Cropsey Avenue in Bensonhurst is named for the brothers: one brother lived at one end of Cropsey Lane (as it was then called) and the other brother at the other end. Their joint farmland was in the middle.

Alexander Henry Cropsey served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and Cropseys have fought in every American war since.

Glenn Cropsey, whom I interviewed, is a direct descendant of Joost. That branch of the Cropseys had moved upstate. Glenn's grandfather, Elmer, moved back to Brooklyn (to rejoin the Brooklyn Cropseys) in

1890 from Forrestport, New York, when his job cleaning beer pipes in bars had suffered a decline (evidently due to a temporary decrease in beer consumption). Elmer had seven children, one of whom was Walter, Glenn's father. Walter served in four U.S. wars: during World War I he was in the army, and in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars he served in the Merchant Marines!

Notable among the prominent Cropseys is Jasper Cropsey, famous artist of the Hudson River School who lived in Hastings, New York. There was Judge James Cropsey, who serv-

ed in Brooklyn Criminal Court from about 1910 through the 1920's.

Glenn Cropsey lives in Brooklyn and is employed in the Micro-Graphics Department of the New York City Court. He said that the interests of the Cropseys are extremely varied; however, many have had something to do with the sea, in various capacities: serving in the Navy, Merchant Marine, etc. Most of the Cropseys have liked to read; Glenn also enjoys reading, especially history and books on different religions. His hobbies are photography and watching baseball and hockey. He is active in his church, St. James Lutheran in Gerritsen Beach.

We thank him for giving us this information on the Cropsey (Continued on pg. 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

(Continued from Pg. 2)

family and for his congratulatory letter, which follows.

Lucille Posner

Dear Neighbors:

On behalf of the Cropsey family of Brooklyn, I want to express my heartiest congratulations to Boro Park on the occasion of its Centennial Year Plus 2, and on the 90th Anniversary of the naming of Boro Park as a neighborhood.

The Cropseys first came to Brooklyn from Holland in 1652. Since that time, a Cropsey has resided in Brooklyn, and members of our family have been employed in a number of occupations, from farming to court judge. Cropsey Avenue, once known as Cropsey Lane, was formerly a road leading to a farm owned by a member of my family. History also tells us two Cropsey sisters once lived in Boro Park.

We Cropseys take pride in the history of Brooklyn, and hope future generations will be aware of the honorable history of our borough, and its distinctive neighborhoods such as yours.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Cropsey

We thank Lucille Posner, officer in the Boro Park H.S. for her important research and valuable contributions.

JOIN THE B.P.H.S.

Join the Boro Park H.S., dues \$5 per year (retired \$3.). Help us research, photograph, preserve and publish the history of this important, interesting and unique community. While our new quarters are being renovated please send mail to B.P.H.S. 1558-45 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HONOR FAMILY OF FOUNDER

BROOKLYN, NY-The Boro Park Historical Society will honor the family of the founder of this noted Brooklyn neighborhood in a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 6, 1988, in the Boro Park Library.

Dr. Philip Kipust, President of the Historical Society, will present a commemorative award to Ms. Emily Willis of Park Slope, Brooklyn, the great-great-granddaughter of Electus Backus Litchfield, who founded Boro Park in 1886.

The ceremony celebrates both the Centennial Plus 2 Anniversary of the founding of Boro Park and the 90th Anniversary of the introduction of its current name. (Originally known as Blythebourne, the name Boro Park was introduced to a new development in 1898.)

The event at the library, located at 1265 43rd Street in Brooklyn, will be highlighted by a video festival featuring scenes of historic Boro Park institutions and greetings by State Senator Martin Solomon and Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

A collection of photographs of the neighborhood will be on display at the Library from November 1 through November 30, 1988. The photographs were donated to the Boro Park Historical Society by the Litchfield family and by Mrs. Catherine Cowenhoven Scarborough, the granddaughter of Garret Peter Cowenhoven, a prominent Dutch farmer who lived in the area.

The event is free to the public.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

AL DEL GAUDIO— BARBER AND MORE

Way back in the days of yore, on my way to what was then called the West End train, I used to pass a barber shop at 1277-49th Street.

Several months ago, I became acquainted with a beautician named Lola Del Gaudio. It was her husband, Al, who had owned that shop and she had opened a Beauty Parlor next door to him at 1279 49th Street.

In the course of conversing with her about "Old Boro Park" she told me that her husband, Alfred, affectionately called "Al" by one and all who knew him, had been the barber for many of the prominent men in this area. His shop was opened in 1938 and eventually became, due to his personality, the "in" place for men to have their hair cut.

Lola's reminiscences were so interesting and vivid, that I asked her to put into writing, the stories she had told me, so that others could read and appreciate the many good deeds Al had performed for the people who lived in Boro Park.

Lola was a little hesitant about writing the story herself, so she asked me to do it for her. Both she and Terry, who now own the Beauty Shop, supplied all the necessary names and dates, and I took over the enjoyable task of compiling all the data into an orderly and interesting article.

FORMER 13 AVE.

MERCHANTS

Alfred Del Gaudio, "Al" to all his customers and friends, bought the Barber Shop in 1938. Some of the most prominent people in Boro Park at that time, patronized him. You "old timers" will recognize the names of the shops, whose owners were Al's customers.

Most of these stores are no longer in existence, but they were mainly situated on 13th Avenue, except for a few like "The Town and Country Club" which was located at Flatbush

Avenue and Avenue U. Ben Maksik, a "Boro Parker," who had grown up here, was the proprietor, and Al used to cut his hair.

Among the 13th Avenue stores, were Waldman's Haberdashery, Weintraub's Dress Shop, Bushell's Dress Shop and Miller's Appetizing Store. Also, the Linden Shops, Bunyland, Chapeaux de Mode and Skilovitz's Delicatessen Store. Do the names of these shops ring a "bell"? If so read on.

Also among Al's following were the owners of these stores: The Famous Restaurant, when it was owned by Messrs. Baicher, Grossberg and Friedberg, Bery's

Dress Shop, The Colony Shop and the Rainbow Shop, to name a few, and Meyer's Ice Cream Parlor, where those who were thirsty or had a "sweet tooth"

would meet.

Al Fromme, of Lane's Drug Store, The Dube Family from Park Surgical Simpson's Jewelry Shop, Sidney Saperstein, director of the Infants Home, Sidney Whittman from the Menorah Temple and the Goldberg Family, who own Boro Park Tobacco Co., where all Al's customers.

Many doctors from the neighborhood patronized Al too. Some of them are: Dr. Schmurser, who just recently retired, after more than 55 years as a podiatrist, Dr. Merriam, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Taglianetti, who also retired this past year, after serving as a

(Continued on Page 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK—

(Continued from Pg. 2)

family doctor, Dr. Fineman, the Podiatrist and Dr. Kramer, the dentist, to name a few.

Rabbi Baruch Silverstein, "Rabbi Emeritus" of Temple Emanu-El, and Rabbi Israel Schorr of Temple Beth-El, also used Al as their barber. Even Sandy Koufax of baseball fame, Alan Dale, the singer and Buddy Hackett, the comedian, had their hair cut by him too.

AL'S POPULARITY

Now to come to the reasons why Al was so popular and well-liked in Boro Park. He performed haircuts for the children in the "Infants Home" for 25 years, "gratis", and received a plaque for his services.

Every year, in December, he would hire a "horse and buggy" and dress up like "Santa Claus". He gave rides to the children in the area, including those in The Infants Home. Children from the "Home", aged 3 to 6 years old, used to come to Al's store on his birthday, and would give him "original" cards that they had made themselves. Al would hang them up on the walls of his shop.

When there was a drive for "Israeli Bonds," Al sold the most in this area and won a trip to Israel. He in turn, turned over the prize to a young Rabbi.

THE SWEET SIXTEENS

A club called "The Sweet Sixteens", because it consisted of 8 couples was formed in the early '40's. Its members were all air-raid wardens and Al was very active in the club.

Those people who were members of "The Sweet Sixteen" were: Mike Trotzman, and his wife Pauline. He was president of Banker's Trust, which was located where Bank Leumi is now, Ben Cooperman, a famous lawyer in Boro Park, at that time, and his wife, Jane. Ben, later became president of B'Nai B'rith; Toby and Sam Mazure who were active in Maimonides Hospital; Marty Bloom, a detective, and his wife; Marty and Iren e Swlinger; Julie and Roslyn Gilman; Mirriam Aronowitz and her husband, who owned the "Cotton Shop"; and of course, Al and his wife, Lola. They all remained good friends for over 30 years, and the "Club" dissolved only because several of the members moved to other areas and some passed on.

Al suffered a stroke in 1973, at which time his store was sold to a Mr. Blum, who still owns it today. Al died in 1982.

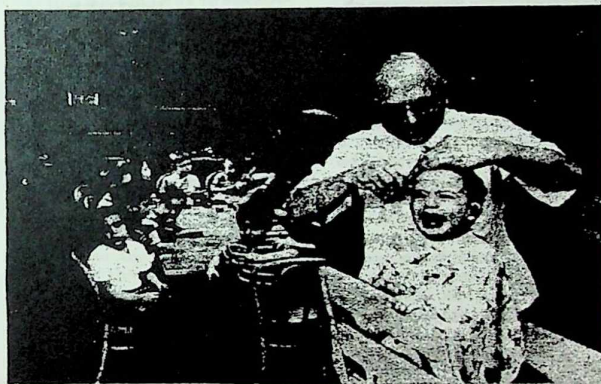
The story does not end here, because Lola, Al's wife, is alive and well and works part time in the Beauty Shop, which she opened next door to Al's Barber Shop in 1940. 2 years after Al started his career as a hair cutter. After 2 years in 1942, Lola moved her shop upstairs because her business was booming and she needed more room.

AL'S KIDDIE TRIM

Al took over the ground level shop and called it, "Al's Kiddie Trim." The boys shop contained fire engines, horses and airplanes. The children sat in one of these while he cut their hair. When those children grew

Lola moved her upstairs Beauty Shop downstairs again in 1976, to where Al's Kiddie Trim had been. After 2 years she had to retire to take care of her husband. Terry, her assistant, who had started to work for Lola when she was 15 years old and continued working for her for 24 years, bought the shop from her in 1978 and renamed it, "Terry's Beauty Hut."

Some of you, who are "Old Time Boro Parkers," will recognize the names of those women, who still frequent the shop. They are, Lenore Resnick, Mrs. Grundt, Sylvia Neuman, Ida Shakin, Lillian Richmond and Rose Hershkowitz, to name a few.



up, they brought their children in for haircuts, even though they lived outside the area.

Al was like a father to the boys who frequented his shop and they came to him with their problems. Many of them were placed in jobs, because Al interceded for them among his many acquaintances. These teenagers referred to him as "Uncle Al."

ACTIVE IN JEWISH AFFAIRS

Al, although he was not of the Jewish faith, was active in Jewish affairs. He was made a member of "The Knights of Pythias" and "B'Nai Brith". He was chosen "Man of the Year" by B'Nai Brith, for which he received a plaque in 1959.

P.S. Subsequent to my finishing the above article, Lola brought to me a batch of more than 25 letters, sent to her husband, Al, by such well-known people as Judge Frank Samansky, Samuel Fine, President Emeritus of Temple, Emanu-El in November 1963, and Eetelle Rodman, President of the Boro Park Division of the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in 1963. Much to my amazement and surprise, I saw the name of my beloved deceased aunt, Ella Jonas Linn, listed as the founder of the Boro Park Division of this hospital.

Many people wrote letters to Al thanking him for the many gifts of dolls, stuffed animals and other merchandise which he solicited from the manufacturers, and gave to childrens "homes" hospitals and charitable organizations. These organizations raised money by selling the articles, which Al donated, at bazaars, and other fund raising activities. It mattered not to him what the religion of the institutions were for he served both Christian and Jewish organizations alike.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ben Cooperman, President of the Boro Park Lodge of B'Nai Brith in 1958, was instrumental in seeing to it that Al received the tribute he deserved. On January 28, 1959, "Uncle" Alfred Del Gaudio was honored as the "Citizen of the Year", at the Boro Park Y.M.H.A. This award was made annually by the Lodge to a representative member of the community, who in their opinion, best exemplified good citizenship and the spirit of brotherhood.

I could go on and on mentioning the noted people who sent letters to Al, because he was as loving and giving. However, there is not room enough in this article to list all these people, most of whom were active in Boro Park during the 1950's and 1960's.

Terry is still popular in Boro Park and a new generation is now patronizing her shop; where Lola still comes in on Thursdays and Fridays, to lend a hand.

I hope you readers get as much

of a thrill from reading this article as I did in the course of writing it.

If nostalgia brought a tear to your eyes and a smile to your lips, then it was well worth the writing.

Thelma Fox

Before I end this truer than fiction story, let me say that what astounded me the most about this man, who was so unassuming, was what I read in an excerpt from the Journal-American, written on January 6, 1959. It told about why Alfred Del Gaudio was to be honored with an "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" award.

Not only had Al performed all the services I mentioned, from the kindness of his heart, but he had also done one special and exceptional feat. For three years, as a sympathetic member of the Israeli underground, "Hagana", Al collected uniforms and guns, brought back by the G.I.'s and turned them over to that organization!

On that note, I leave you all to wonder and ponder that a "mere mortal" so quiet and modest, was

capable of accomplishing all these extraordinary deeds in one lifetime.

Thelma Fox
We thank Thelma Fox, officer in the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting research and beautiful article.

CONSUL GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS

The following congratulatory message was sent to the Boro Park Historical Society by the Consul General of the Netherlands. We thank him for his interest and gracious message.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Although the name "Boro Park" does not immediately ring a bell with the Dutch community and the Dutch descendants in New York, New Utrecht, the name of the town situated in the same area as Boro Park, reminds all of us of the brief though important period of Dutch rule in its colony of New Netherland.

It fills us with pride that the inhabitants of Boro Park feel themselves to be the spiritual descendants of the Dutch farmers who lived in the area.

I would like to congratulate the Boro Park Historical Society on its Centennial Plus 2 Anniversary. I hope its activities will continue to keep the awareness of the population of Boro Park of its Dutch roots alive.

Sincerely,
Adrien F. Tieleman
Consul General of
the Netherlands

SCARBOROUGH VISITS BORO PARK EXHIBIT

Catherine Cowenhoven

Scarborough, granddaughter of Garret Peter Scarborough, who had his farm on what is now 52nd Street and 18th Avenue, visited Boro Park on November 9th. She travelled to Brooklyn from her home in Delaware to visit the Boro Park Historical Society's photographic exhibit at the Boro Park Library. This exhibit (which was shown during the month of November, 1988) contained many 1890 photographs of Boro Park, many of which were donated to the Boro Park Historical Society by Mrs. Scarborough.

She was accompanied by her husband, Howard, and her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet Smith. Also present were Lucille Posner and Baruch Selevan of the Boro Park Historical Society and Edward Jellin and John Latin of the Boro Park Library. Mrs. Scarborough viewed the exhibit and pronounced it "marvelous."

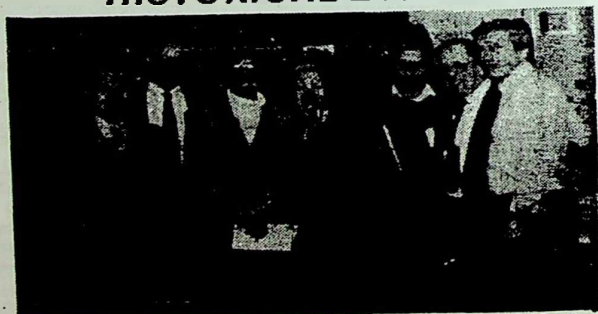
This visit marked another activity in this year's Special Anniversary celebration of the Boro Park Community.

Another month long photographic exhibit of Boro Park will be displayed in the Boro Park Library during the month of March 1989.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF B.P.

Submit information of your own memories and personal histories, photos and other memorabilia. Join the B.P. Historical Society, dues \$5 per year. Help preserve, research and publish the history of this interesting and dynamic community. Send to B.P.H.S. - 1558-45th St. 11218.

HISTORICAL EVENT



Taken 11/9/88 at Boro Park Library left to right John Latin, Bennett Smith, Catharine Cowenhoven Scarborough, Lucille Posner, Baruch Selevan, Howard Scarborough, Edward Jellin, Branch Chairman of B.P. Library.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust GLORIA KATZBERG

While talking with Dr. Kipust about how I enjoy the reminiscence with the articles on Boro Park, he suggested that I write some of my own memories too. So here goes:

Our conversation was about the old Israel Zion hospital which today is Maimonides. I was born there and there was only the main building at that time. Across the street, where the Aaron Bldg., and others are now, there was a small building that had housed the nurses, this later became the Maternity Pavillion, before expansion. Next to this building was an enclosed yard with trees. I recall that I was told that the trees were "ether trees." I always smelled of ether when I passed going to school and coming home and I used to run by because of the odor. I don't know if there were really ether trees, but this is my recollection. On the side of the main building on 49th Street between 9 & 10 Ave., there was an enclosure with benches, which was also the entrance to the clinic at that time.

I remember when the dedication of the new building took place: There were great crowds and speakers. The work for the takeover of Maimonides had stopped I believe because of the lack of workers due to the 2nd World War. When the dedication finally occurred, I was in the audience. There were seats out in the street across the gutter and stands with speakers there as well. The community all turned out as it was a very important event at that time for the health needs of the neighborhood. My late husband Edward, took pictures of the event and I enclosed them for you to look at.

I was born and resided at 5309 Ft. Hamilton Parkway as a little girl. My parents had a small grocery store at 5309 Ft. Hamilton Parkway. When the store was closed in 1932 we mov-

ed to 5305 Ft. Hamilton Parkway. Today it would have been called a little supermarket, as there was not only groceries sold, but fruit and vegetables and smoked foods. I remember people buying milk by the pitcher, which was brought from home. Butter came in tubs and was cut to the customer's needs. In fact, cheeses, and all dairy products were handled in this manner. Our living quarters were in the back of the store. Across the street from our store was a small church. I remember playing on the steps and being chased by the nuns. My mother used to send baskets of food on holidays to them and they were

customers. One day when looking out of the apartment window, when the church was being changed into the monastery it is today, I was frightened out of my wits. They had put a statuette in

and it was lit, it looked like it was a living person moving. Naturally as a small child this was quite frightening, not knowing of the changes taking place. When I told my mother, she explained what I had seen and I was comforted. Today, where a little inconsequential church had stood, a large impressive monastery takes up a complete block. No nuns or priests are visible.

Across from this store and church was a vacant lot. I used to play there. Then it was turned into the 53rd Street playground. I spent many happy

(Continued on Page 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (Continued from Pg. 2)

hours playing there as a school girl. Not far from this park is Public School 160. I attended this school and graduated in the 6th grade, as did my son, David, and my daughter, Lorraine. We all made the Rapid Advance and went to Pershing J.H.S. 220 on 9th Avenue. It was a wonderful school at the time, and it had the most beautiful of all graduations of all the schools that I or my children had attended in Brooklyn.

My older sister, Adele, had told me that she was dying to go to this school, as it had been erected in her time. Unfortunately, she did not have the good fortune to attend it.

After the war, housing was very hard to come by in all the boroughs. Most of the newly weds lived with their parents. I did too. Wanting a place of our own, and my husband getting a job in Jamaica, we moved to Flushing. I was very lonely and felt as though I was in a foreign land. After the birth of my son, we moved back to Brooklyn and good old Boro Park, and I am still here at 5601 14th Avenue. To me it will always be home.

Gloria Katzberg, nee Sorin
We thank Gloria Katzberg for sharing her interesting memories with us.

BORO PARK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A very successful anniversary celebration of the founding of Boro Park took place on November 6, 1988 at the Boro Park branch of the Public Library. A capacity crowd was privileged to see the new video presentation of Boro Park and witness the special presentation to Emily Willis, the great, great granddaughter of Electus B. Litchfield the founder of the Boro Park community. The participants were also privileged to hear Senator Martin Solomon, extend greetings and describe his own interesting community histories. Senator Solomon has been extremely helpful to the Boro Park Historical Society and has made much of its work and activities possible.

Special thanks to Lucille Posner, corresponding secretary of the B.P.H.S., who was chairman of these events, for her dedicated work. Special thanks also to the Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library for co-sponsoring these anniversary celebration meetings and photo exhibits. Another photo exhibit of Boro Park history will be displayed at the library during the month of May, 1989.

The following letters received in reference to these celebrations are self explanatory.

DEAR DR. KIPUST,

On November 6 and 13, the Boro Park Historical Society sponsored a free video festival celebrating the Centennial Plus 2 anniversary of the Boro Park community and the 90th anniversary of the Boro Park name. On both days a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed immense-

ly by all those present. As a special feature of this celebration, a commemorative award was presented to Emily Willis, great, great granddaughter of Electus Backus Litchfield, founder of Boro Park. Needless to say, all the time and effort put in to get as much past information has been a very intricate task. Our thanks to all the wonderful people who researched and worked so hard. We of B.P., who have been in this area for over 60 years and have watched the many changes, to us and to everyone present the video film brought back so many fond memories.

Many thanks to you Dr. Kipust, and to all the fine staff for their unceasing efforts at all times to bring the B.P. history with the wonderful items, especially "I Remember Boro Park," to the entire community.

With warmest regards and continued success in all your endeavors,

Sincerely,
Esther Kane

P.S. A special thanks to the Boro Park Library for co-sponsoring the meetings.

THANK YOU

To The People of Borough Park, Brooklyn and the

Boro Park Historical Society:

On behalf of the members of the Van Kouwenhoven-Conover Family Association, I send greetings and congratulations on the anniversary of your community being known as Borough Park. We are aware of the fact that several descendants of the progenitor of our family in America, Wolfert Gerrit van Kouwenhoven, lived and farmed in the area now known as Borough Park.

We are pleased also to know that the present-day residents of your community are continuing the strong family traditions and intellectual pursuits that were characteristics of the former-day inhabitants of the area.

Best wishes to the entire Borough Park Community for a strong and fruitful future.

Elaine Conover Abrahamson
President

Dear Ms. Posner:

Thank you for sharing your display with the Boro Park Library Community. The contribution of your time and talent was appreciated by both staff and patrons.

Sincerely,
Jo Chernoff
Librarian

Dear Dr. Kipust:

My thoughts were with you and the Boro Park Historical Society on Sunday, November 9th as the celebration was in progress. That evening I had a wonderful first hand account from my niece Emily Willis who was thrilled to be the Litchfield family member to receive the society's gracious commemorative award. The occasion meant so much to her that I am having her keep the award for a while to enjoy and display. She has described it to me in great detail and will send it to me eventually. On behalf of the Litchfield family I send you and the Historical Society our deepest thanks and appreciation.

I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed learning about the modern community that is living in, and working for, the area where my parents spent their happy childhood and youth. I feel now that I have friends there. My thanks to all of you for your friendship and for all the interesting information you have sent me. With sincere thanks and appreciation,
Lydia Litchfield

Von Wettberg
P.S. Lydia Litchfield von Wettberg gave the following account of how her great grandfather came to receive his name:

Elisha Litchfield served in the War of 1812 under Lieutenant Colonel Electus Backus. Elisha named his second son (Electus Backus Litchfield) after this

friend.

November 12, 1988
Dear Lucille,

Please forgive me for taking so long to get to my writing desk. Life has been quite hectic this week.

It is heartening to know that the hard work of the Litchfield ancestors has met with the esteem of you who are living in what was once Blythebourne.

Thank you for honoring my family.

In the evening on Sunday, I had a long and lovely conversation with my Aunt Lydia. She very much enjoyed my account of how gracious you were to me and how true to lasting values the work of the Boro Park Historical Society is.

My mother, Emily Litchfield Knapp, who lives in Miami, was just delighted.

Thank you, Lucille, for taking such good care of me and for making me feel so welcomed.

My best to you and to the BPHS,
Emily K. Willis

CORRECTION

We would like to correct an error which appeared in last month's issue. Catherine Cowenhoven Scarborough is the granddaughter of Garret Peter Cowenhoven.

THANK YOU
CONTRIBUTORS

Our thanks to all the above who submitted letters and articles about Boro Park. All these articles about Boro Park are well received and enjoyed by our readers.

We also thank those individuals who enable it to continue its operations. We urge other residents to join the B.P.H.S., annual dues \$5, so that we can continue to research, preserve, photograph and publish the history of this community.

NEW HOME

The Boro Park Historical Society is looking for a new home. They need a room approximately 8x12 feet. Perhaps a school or community organization could provide such a space for a modest rental or even free. Call Dr. Philip Elpus, President, 436-7722.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BOUND VOLUME OF I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Dario S. Marotta, one of the officers of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS), has recently completed a major project that will help advance the work and spirit of the BPHS. He photocopied all the "I Remember Boro Park" articles for the years 1978 through 1987 and had them bound into a beautiful hard covered book. He also included a detailed index in the back and in the front included a "Boro Park Chronology" and detailed table of contents which were prepared by B.M. Selevan. He not only contributed many months of painstaking work but also had this expensive bookbinding job done at his own expense. Of the seven volumes he had bound he contributed one each to the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Boro Park branch of the Public Library, the Library of Congress (for copyright) and the BPHS. Individuals wishing to examine this work may obtain copies at the above locations.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Marotta for this magnificent job. It will certainly help to preserve part of the history of Boro Park.

Dear Mr. Marotta:

Thank you so much for volume one of Dr. Philip J. Kipust's "I Remember Boro Park." This is a very valuable addition to our collection.

Although I am always glad to help anyone who wants to know about Brooklyn, it is even more gratifying when my help and the researcher's work result in something which will be of use to later students of Brooklyn history.

Thank you again for this gift.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth L. White
Local History Librarian
History Division
Brooklyn Public Library

MORE ON AL DEL GAUDIO

Dear Mr. Kipust,

I want to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy New Year.

My mother-in-law sent my husband and I your article, "I Remember Boro Park" dated December 1, 1988. Al Del Gaudio-Barber and More. My husband, Lewis Siegler, remembered Al cutting his hair, when Lewis was sick Al would come to his house.

You did not mention Nathan & Harry Appetizing - 3910 & 3912 13th Ave. store owners, who were also Al's customers. Lewis worked as a teenager in his

father's (Nathan) store. In fact, I have a photo on my wall of the store from 1948.

If you would like more information about this store and want

a photo, Lewis would gladly send it to you.

We enjoy reading your article especially feeling home again being 3,000 miles away.

Yours truly,

Karen Mendlinger Siegler

ROBERT KOEHLER

My family has deep roots in Boro Park, and I mean that literally. My grandfather, Jacob Koehler, had a vegetable farm in the area that later became Boro Park!

I don't know exactly when my grandfather came to the United States from Germany, but I

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (Continued from Pg. 2)

know he fought in the Civil War. The exact date when he bought the farm in Boro Park I don't know, but a map made in 1879 shows his farm. Of course, the original farmers in the area were Dutch, and my grandfather bought his farm from a Dutch farmer.

My grandfather had many children: Anne, Barbara, Caroline, Willie, Jacob, Peter and my father, Nicholas. Anne married Henry Leib, a carpenter, and (besides my grandfather) one of the first Germans in Boro Park (as it was known by that time). Henry built three adjacent houses in Boro Park, around 1910. One of those houses was 1528-58th Street, in which he lived himself. When Henry moved to Bay Ridge, he sold this house to my father. My father moved into it with his family, including my grandfather. My grandfather had sold his farm by that time. I am still living in that house today!

My father's second wife was Marie, who emigrated from Germany. Besides myself there was my brother Edward and my sister, Florence. After my grandfather sold his farm, my father went into the coal and ice business. When my father retired in 1938 we finally felt free to buy a refrigerator, which, by that time, was replacing ice boxes. My father's brother, also named Jacob, worked on the family farm until it was sold, and then worked for Borden's.

I was born in 1920. When I was a child, Boro Park had a countrified look. There were more large trees and many empty lots. There were very few automobiles - all the streets were two-way. As a result, the atmosphere was quieter and it made for easier walking. On the corner of 14th Avenue & 58th Street there was a tennis court, which was used for ice skating in the winter. Private houses are on that site now.

I played punchball and stickball in the schoolyard of P.S. 180 with my close friends Bobby Mullins and Dominick Davanzo, who both lived on my block. I attended P.S. 180 and Shallow Junior High School. I remember eating Charlotte Russes and jello in a cup topped with whipped cream, both of which were sold in candy stores. Try to find a candy store in Boro Park now!

My family attended the Lutheran Church on 13th Avenue and 51st Street. Although my parents attended church only on major religious holidays, they insisted that I attend Sunday School every week, which I did for ten months of the year. Several times I had parts in the Nativity Play at Christmastime. I also attended Christmas parties at this church, where simple refreshments of cookies and hot chocolate were served. This church was torn down about 30 years ago and a Waldbaum's Supermarket built on the site. At present the Dime Savings Bank is located there.

Trolley cars ran along New Utrecht Avenue, which we took to Coney Island in the summer. There were summer and winter trolley cars: the summer trolley had open sides.

16th Avenue didn't have too many stores in those days. There was an Italian grocery store on 58th Street and 16th Avenue, an Italian barber, and an Italian shoemaker. My mother shopped in Ralston's Grocery Store on 57th Street and New Utrecht Avenue; a printer occupies that location now. We also patronized Winkler's, a German ice cream parlor on New Utrecht Avenue between 57th and 58th Streets. Mr. Winkler made his own ice cream. My mother also shopped at a Jewish bakery on 55th Street and New Utrecht Avenue: we enjoyed their rolls, rye bread, and pumpernickel bread.

Irish, Italian, German and Jewish families lived on 58th Street when I was a child. My parents and we children were friendly with all of our neighbors. There was never any friction between families of these neighbors with different national and religious origins. We all respected each other.

I spent all my adult life as a line repairman and installer for the Telephone Company and retired a few years ago. My life in Boro Park has been pleasant; but I did enjoy it more when I was a child and the area was more countrified!

ROBERT KOEHLER

The above article was submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the BPHS. We thank Mr. Koehler and Ms. Posner for their interesting contribution.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help research, preserve and publish the history of this interesting community by becoming a member of the BPHS. Membership dues only \$5 per year, \$3 for retired, and \$10 for organizations or business establishments.

Historic Award Presentation



On November 6, 1988 The Boro Park Historical Society presented a Commemorative award to Emily Willis, great-great granddaughter of Electus B. Litchfield, who founded Boro Park in 1886 (then known as Blythebourne). This award was presented at the Boro Park Historical Society Centennial Plus Two Anniversary meeting, held at the Boro Park Branch Library 43rd St. and 13th Avenue. Left to right Lucille Posner, Chairman, Emily Willis, awardee, Jacque Friedman, Vice President, State Senator Martin M. Solomon and Dr. Philip Kipust, President Boro Park Historical Society.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust BORO-PARKERS IN ISRAEL.

Whenever I travel outside New York City, either during vacation periods, when attending professional activities or even when attending weddings and the like, my agenda will always include some consideration of Boro Park history and the B.P. Historical Society. I make it my business to look for former Boro Parkers and try to interview as many as I can. Some of those interviews are included in these columns and others are deposited in the archives of the B.P. Historical Society.

Therefore while visiting Israel during August of 1988 my wife and I did meet a number of former Boro Parkers who are now living in Israel as well as some current Boro Park residents who were visiting Israel. The following are the people whom we met during our two week visit. First I will briefly list those who went to live in Israel.

Gertie Schmell just moved in August 1988; Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph Kamibetsky moved there in 1980; Lillian Schraeder moved to Israel in 1985. She and husband Dr. Malcolm Schraeder moved from Boro Park to Silver Spring, Md. in 1966. Osber Zelig Chiconsky, a former student of Yeshiva Derech Chaim, went to study in Israel in 1986 and was married in 1988. Jack Penner was residing at the Central Hotel. Mrs. Libby Wind Londe, a retired language teacher, (New Utrecht High School), and her niece Fraida (Silber) Smith; Morris Yarmak who lived in Boro Park at 1757 - 51 St., 1946-1982;

Zoltan Weiss, who lived at 1620-53 St.; Aaron Krumbein, a retired language chairman (F.D.R. high school) last lived at 1550-50 St. and lived in B.P. from 1927-1973 when he went on Alyah to Israel. Chaya Kahanovitz (nee Frankel) went to study in Israel in 1966, was married in Israel in 1968, and has lived there since. Bruchy Sochet (Frankel) went to study in

Israel in 1983, was married in the states in 1985 and has lived in Israel since then while her husband is studying at a Yeshiva. David and Grace Tauber, formerly of 1556-44 St. moved to Israel in 1986. We also met Shaindy Rubel, the daughter of the Taubers.

Mr. Irving Reiss (Yitzchok) and Fanny Reiss, of Gold and Reiss hardware store, they opened their business on 13 Ave. between 42 and 43 St. in 1929. They moved to B.P. in 1927 and lived there until 1976. They originally lived at 1553-45 St. and then at 5302-17 Ave. until moving to Israel. Unfortunately, Mr. Irving Reiss passed away a few weeks ago, the day after the untimely passing of his daughter, Esther Drebin, who was residing in B.P.

We met Irving and Fanny Reiss at the circumcision (Bris) of his great-grandson in Jerusalem. At that occasion we also met other, former Boro Parkers, their children Bernard and Miriam Reiss who moved to Israel in 1970. Bernard was born in B.P. in 1933 and lived there until 1960. Their residence

before moving out of B.P. was at 1573-51 St. Miriam (nee Reidel) was also born in B.P. at Israel Zion (now Maimonides Hospital). Their children, parents of the new baby Yehuda and Debbie (nee Blech) (Reiss) Berson, both former Boro Parkers, also lived in Israel since their marriage. We also met Yehuda's brother Chaim Reiss; Mrs. Edith (Reidel) Darabauer, Miriam's mother, who moved to Israel in 1967. Another great-grandmother of the new baby, Mrs. Yanks Penner, and her daughter the baby's grandmother, Hona (Pennor) Blech are both former Boro Park residents.

We also met Avi Feifer who was born in B.P. in 1954, married in 1973 and moved to Flatbush. He moved to Israel in 1983. Dr. Sidney Finkelstein, Dentist, lived in B.P. from 1948-1981, when he and his wife Gabby went on Alyah. Their last residence in B.P. was at 1615-52 St.

Ruchel Wartel (nee Hersch) lived in B.P. for one year 1980-81, at 1558-45 St. She was then married and moved to Israel. Manny and Elaine Wollman moved to Israel in 1960. Elaine was born in B.P. in 1930. Their last residence was at 1818-48 St. Ed.

(Continued on Page 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

die and Miriam Baumel, last residence in B.P. was at 1534-45 St.; Chana (Stein) Rabinowitz, parents Rabbi and Mrs. Aron Stein still live at 1541-45 St.; Sara (Abend) Gruber who lived at 1558-45 St. in 1981-82 and at 1560-50 St. till she went on Alyah in 1985.

Other present and former B.P. residents whom we met, who were only visiting include Abe and Joyce Carrey, Rabbi Hillel Hochberg, former principal of Machzikei Talmud Torah on 47 St. and 14 Ave. from 1956-1966; Israel Turkowitz, Sonia Adler, and Shirley and Bernard Frankel. That seems to be a substantial list of people from Boro Park that we were able to meet in a span of two weeks.

The reason for including this list of former Boro Parkers whom we met, and a brief summary of some of the information gathered, is that this too is historical. It helps indicate the migration patterns of former Boro Parkers. In the same way that it is of historical interest to study the immigration patterns of people who moved into Boro Park and find out where they came from and when and why they moved into this neighborhood, it is of historical interest and importance to study the patterns of those who move out of the neighborhood and find out where they move to and when and why. Any additional contributions of information along these lines will be useful.

INFANTS HOME

Dear Dr. Kipust:

The following is from the book *Aleppo Chronicles* by Joseph A.D. Sutton, published by Thayer-Jacoby in 1988. This interesting book refers to Jews from Arab countries, currently living in Brooklyn in the vicinity of Ocean Parkway and Kings Highway.

The book consists of oral histories of various Sephardi individuals. The following is from Pauline Gazi, born in Aleppo, Syria in 1902. At the time she speaks of, she (and the Sephardi Jews) were living in Bensonhurst, in the vicinity of 20th Avenue from 60th to about 67th Street. Mrs. Gazi writes the following:

There were many Ashkenazi friends I made in my work at the Infants Home of Brooklyn. I was the "builder" of the Home, almost. It took in children from babyhood to age six. The Home became my life. How it happened? One day a stranger, "Mrs. Rubin", rang my doorbell asking for a contribution "for a Home." "What is that?" I asked. The lady invited me to come see it, to see what was done there. I went, and I fell in love with what they were doing for those poor neglected children, orphans, and children from broken homes. The Home has since become a place for retarded children.

The book states that this noble soul died July 31, 1986 at the age of 82. The story of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Infants Home must be an interesting one. Are any former members still living in Boro Park? Does anyone remember Mrs. Gazi?

LUCILLE POSNER

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

This special anniversary year celebration, centennial plus two of the first development of part of this community and 90th of the development of another part and the naming it Borough Park, will continue until June. A special general membership meeting, open to the public is scheduled for Monday evening, May 22, 1989 at 7:30 PM at the Greater New York Savings Bank, 13th Ave. and 53rd St. Another new unproved video presentation of Boro Park will be featured as well as new displays, speakers and open discussion. Please try to attend and bring some Boro Park memories with you.

There will be a special photo exhibit on the history of Boro Park at the Boro Park Public Library, 1265-43rd St. during the entire month of May. Past exhibits have been very well received and attracted considerable attention.

There have been several articles about the Litchfield family, founders of the first development in this community, in commemoration of the 102nd anniversary. The following article, about Senator Reynolds, deals with the founder of another part of the community and the first to name his development Boro Park. The article was researched and written by Mr. B.M. Selevan, officer and researcher of the B.P.H.S. We thank him for his interesting contribution.

WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS — FOUNDER OF BORO PARK

By B.M. Selevan

Inasmuch as we are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the beginning of Borough Park, I thought it would be appropriate to say a few words about the founder of Borough Park in this anniversary year.

Though perhaps better known as the founder of present day Long Beach, Long Island, in Nassau County, and/or for other things he accomplished in his life, 'Senator' Reynolds nevertheless

deserves credit and mention as the founder of Borough Park.

True, there was some development of the area before he came upon the scene here, but the development was spotty and scanty. The West Brooklyn development started 1886 and the Blythebourne development started the following year laid groundwork for area development in this part of Brooklyn, but their size and scope were relatively minimal. Indeed, the names West Brooklyn and Blythebourne have just about disappeared, while the name Borough Park has stuck to the neighborhood.

Ex-N.Y. State Senator W.H. "Billy" Reynolds was a developer, and businessman extraordinaire. He was so successful that at his death in the 1930's, he left an estate numbering in millions of dollars, a not inconsequential sum at that time. He came to the area, to become Borough Park in the 1890's, when he was a young man still in his twenties. He had already accomplished many things, portending his lifelong accomplishment. He came upon an area which

'had potential', but which seemingly had 'run out of steam'. Here his substantial talent and enterprise could be put to work in the competitive market for 'suburban' living in or near the big city.

In 1898 Senator Reynolds purchased the holdings of the West Brooklyn Land & Improvement Co., including several thousand lots, for between one and two million dollars. This was to become the core of his new development. In a flurry of activity, Senator Reynolds changed the name of the area to Borough Park, started constructing more housing, embarked on an exten-

sive promotional and advertising campaign and erected the Borough Park Clubhouse (later Yeshiva Eitz Chaim), all within months of taking control of the property. Indeed, he breathed life into the area, it could be said. It seems that he also lived in Borough Park for a while as well.

W.H. Reynolds continued his activities in the area through the Borough Park Company, formed to manage the property, of which he was President, for a few years into the early 1900's. He erected hundreds upon hundreds of houses while introducing other improvements in the same time

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
Continued From Pg. 2

period. After a while he probably sought new challenge and left Borough Park, embarking on other projects such as the development of Long Beach, L.I., among other things. After his departure, the development of Borough Park was decentralized and continued by various smaller developers in the following years. By then, however, Reynolds had done the job, put Borough Park on it's feet and on the map and had earned the right to be called the father of our community. These few words about William H. Reynolds, founder of Borough Park, are just a small fraction of what could be said about the man. I think an entire book could be written on the subject. For now, however, these words hopefully will serve as an introduction to the story of W.H. Reynolds to anyone interested and will give an outline of his activities and work in relation to Borough Park.

I think it is most appropriate to remember the founder of Borough Park, especially in this 90th anniversary period. I hope that I have done honor to the cause of local history with these few words about a founding father of Borough Park.

HELP THE WORK OF THE BPHS

Help the Boro Park Historical Society continue in its work of researching preserving and publishing the history of Boro Park. Send in your personal memories and history. Join the B.P.H.S. for \$5 a year and have a share in this work.

CONG. OHEL ABRAHAM MISHKAN JOSEPH

This year the Yeshiva Derech Chaim honored the Congregation Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph at its annual dinner on March 12, 1929. The congregation located at 4907-18 Ave. was honored because it housed the Yeshiva Derech Chaim now located at 1573-39 St. (corner 4 story building) from the time the Yeshiva started in 1975 until it moved into its new quarters in March 1988 after the tragic fire in the congregation building.

One of the officers of the congregation, Mr. Norman Parnass gave me copies of two important historical documents pertaining to the incorporation of the congregation and its subsequent name change.

This synagogue was first called Congregation and Hebrew School Sons of Abraham. It was common in those days for most synagogues to have a Hebrew school or Talmud Torah on its premises for students who attended public schools in the morning to study Hebrew and Judaism in the afternoons and Sundays. The following excerpts from the original Certificate of Incorporation include interesting and valuable information.

"That on the 21st day of August, 1926, and on three consecutive Sabbaths prior thereto, the members of said congregation in good and regular standing, persons of full age belonging to the said congregation, worshipped at 1780 - 50th Street, in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and met at the aforementioned place of worship for the purpose of incorporating it as a religious society.

"The following were duly elected to hold office as trustees until the first annual election of trustees thereafter: Jacob Pollack, 1780 - 50th St., B'klyn, Isidor Golding, 1746 - 50th St., B'klyn, Samuel Solarz, 1805 - 49th St., B'klyn.

"The following were duly elected to hold office as trustees until the second annual election of trustees thereafter: Solomon Stein, 1847 - 48th St., B'klyn, William Sacha, 1818 - 51st St., B'klyn, Hyman Samonick, 1766 - 50th St., B'klyn.

"The following were duly elected to hold office as trustees until the third annual election of trustees thereafter: Jacob Uilberg, 1789 - 51st St., B'klyn, Jacob Seideman, 4907 - 18th Ave, B'klyn, Isidor Weiner, 1738 - 50th St., B'klyn. It was further determined at said meeting that the principal place of worship is to be located in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York.

"In witness whereof, the undersigned have made, subscribed, acknowledged, certified and filed this Certificate this 7th day of October, 1926, J. Polack, Presiding Officer, Isidore Goding, Samuel Solarz."

The certificate does not indicate when the congregation moved into its present quarters, although we see that one of its trustees, Mr. Jacob Seideman was living on those premises at that time. It also shows that the congregation was meeting and holding services in the home or basement of Jacob Pollack, probably for some considerable time. Since I attended that Synagogue with my father (A.H.) and grandfather (A.H.) while a child growing up in the neighborhood, (we lived around the corner) I still remember Mr. Jacob Pollack during the 1930's and early 40's.

The following are relevant excerpts from the second document.
CERTIFICATE OF CHANGE OF NAME OF

CONGREGATION AND HEBREW SCHOOL SONS OF ABRAHAM

TO CONGREGATION & TALMUD TORAH-OHEL ABRAHAM MISHKAN JOSEPH

Pursuant to Section Sixty of the General Corporation Law

We, the undersigned, having been duly elected and constituted President and Secretary of CONGREGATION AND HEBREW SCHOOL SONS OF ABRAHAM, and having been duly authorized to subscribe our names to this certificate of change of name do certify:

I. The name of the corporation is **CONGREGATION AND HEBREW SCHOOL SONS OF ABRAHAM.**

II. Certificate of Incorporation was filed in the Office of the Country Clerk of the County of Kings, City and State of New York, on the 13th day of October, 1926.

III. The new name to be assumed by the corporation is **CONGREGATION & TALMUD TORAH-OHEL ABRAHAM MISHKAN JOSEPH.**

In witness whereof, we have made and subscribed this certificate in duplicate this 7 day of May, 1929.

Jacob Silberhartz

President

Isaac Jacobs

Secretary

"JACOB SILBERHARTZ, residing at 1757-51st Street, in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and Isaac Jacobs, residing at 5107-18 Ave. in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, being duly severally sworn, depose and say:

That they are respectively, the President and Secretary of the Congregation and Hebrew School Sons of Abraham, a religious corporation in and for the County of Kings, City and State of New York, with a principal place of worship at 5104-18th Avenue, County of Kings, Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York."

"JULIUS STERN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is an attorney and counsellor at law, with offices at 51 Chambers Street, in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York.

That he is familiar with the translation of the name Congregation & Talmud Torah-Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph, and that the title Congregation & Talmud Torah-Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph translated in English, is as follows:

Congregation and Hebrew School, Temple of Learning, Abraham and Joseph."

This document indicates that as of May 1929 the congregation was conducting services at 5104-18 Ave., not yet on its current premises. Additional research is necessary to find out when they purchased and started to use their current building.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We remind our readers to attend the Fifth Annual General Membership meeting on Monday, May 22, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greater New York Savings Bank, meeting room. Come, reminisce, enjoy.

Also visit the pictorial display of B.P. history at the Boro Park Library 1265-43th St. throughout the month of May.

DR. JOSEPH ESTRIN

By Thelma Fox

The response to my article on "All Del-Gaudio, Barber and More", which appeared in the December, 1988 edition of this paper, was received so favorably that I decided to write about another well-known personality, who practiced in our neighborhood. This time it is about an outstanding professional person.

There was no doubt in my mind whom I should choose. I always knew that someday I would get the chance to write about Dr. Joseph Estrin, a modest and unassuming man as well as a capable and compassionate surgeon. Unfortunately, he retired in January, 1986, and so is unavailable to those who would want to use his services.

When Dr. Estrin first began practicing medicine in 1938, he started out as a "General Practitioner." He became a "Surgeon" in 1945, with offices at 4815-14th Avenue, where he remained until his retirement.

I called Dr. Estrin about 3 months ago, to find out if he would like to write an article, or be interviewed, about his remembrances of Boro Park. He told me that he had recently given a talk at dedication ceremonies for "Maimonides Medical Center's" newest facilities and that I would find that speech written up in the "Maimonides Alumni Journal." I managed to obtain a copy of that paper, and so my story about him will contain information I gleaned from that article, as well as

from my own experience in using him, at times, for my medical needs.

No story about Dr. Estrin can be complete without mentioning "Maimonides Hospital," where he trained, performed his surgery and was so active in its growth. And so, in telling the story of Dr. Estrin, I am also going to mention the stages the "Hospital" went through, that Dr. Estrin spoke about in giving his lecture.

Prefacing the talk he gave, he began with a brief history of Boro Park, mentioning such names as Electus Litchfield and Senator William Reynolds as being instrumental in developing this neighborhood in which we live. If you are a faithful reader of the "I Remember Boro Park" column, you know we have touched upon this subject many times in telling about how Boro Park derived its name.

In 1910, the area where "Maimonides" now stands was called "Webster's Pond," and was inhabited mainly by cows. But changes developed rapidly and the following order of events led up to the establishment of the

present institution, "Maimonides Medical Center". You may recognize some of the names and places Dr. Estrin mentioned.

The following is the list as he gave it:

1. New Utrecht Dispensary: Formed June 12, 1911.
2. Zion Hospital (Cropsey Avenue): Formed 1913.
3. New Utrecht Dispensary became New Utrecht Hospital and Dispensary: December 28, 1916.
4. New Utrecht Hospital and Dispensary changed to Israel Hospital: April 17, 1919.
5. Israel Hospital moved to present site and cornerstone laid: June 9, 1919.
6. Israel and Zion Hospitals combined to form United Israel Zion Hospital: May 10, 1920.
7. Formal opening of building (for admission of patients): September 17, 1922.

8. Beth Moses Hospital merged with United Israel Zion Hospital to become Maimonides Hospital: July 25, 1947.

9. Maimonides Hospital became Maimonides Medical Center: June 29, 1966.

Now to get to how I came to know and use Dr. Estrin. My brother had had some minor surgery performed by the doctor and spoke very highly about his (Continued On Page 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Continued From Pg. 2

capability and performance as a surgeon, as well as his genuine interest in his patients. So when I needed a surgeon for a minor problem with my back, I naturally went to Dr. Estrin for an examination and for his opinion on what should be done. He recommended that out-patient surgery be done at the hospital.

At the pre-arranged time, I went to "Maimonides," received a local anaesthetic, and lay on my stomach while Dr. Estrin performed the surgery. When I heard singing, I thought a radio had been turned on or that my mind was playing tricks on me. But no! It turned out be Dr. Estrin, himself, singing as he worked - and what was the song? - the New Utrecht High School theme song, "Ten Thousand Boys, Ten Thousand Girls, united in these high school halls." Since I was a graduate also of that school, I sang along with him, and before I knew it, the surgery was over and it was time for me to go home. This incident would have made a great "Video."

Shortly before his retirement in January, 1986, I had an urgent need for his services again. I walked into his office, without an appointment, and asked: his gracious receptionist if it were possible for him to see me. Without any hesitation, she replied, "Of course."

After examining me, Dr. Estrin referred me to another doctor, who, he said, would be better able to take care of my condition. He told me to go home and call that doctor immediately, so that I would not miss that doctor's office hours.

I reached my home in about 5 minutes, because I live just around the corner from Dr. Estrin's office. I immediately called the office of the doctor he recommended and was told by his receptionist that there were no appointments open for that day, and that the doctor would be leaving his office shortly. However, when I said that I had just come from Dr. Estrin's office and that he wanted me to be seen that day, her attitude changed immediately and she asked me how soon I could get there. This is an example of how highly Dr. Estrin is esteemed by his own peers; and that all things are possible if you know the "magic" word - which in this case, was "Dr. Estrin."

Blossom Rosen, who worked as Dr. Estrin's receptionist for over 5 years before his retirement, says he was the most wonderful and caring person to work for, and was as wonderful and caring towards his patients.

Dr. Estrin is remembered by his colleagues, for his creative and entertaining songs and skits, depicting the life of a doctor in training. He is also an accomplished painter and sculptor, who was responsible for mounting the "Physicians' Art Show"

for many years at "Maumonides." He modestly makes light of his own achievements as a surgical innovator during a long and very distinguished career.

Enjoy your retirement, "Doctor," you have earned it!

We thank Thelma Fox, officer of the B.P.H.S. for her research and interesting article.

GROVEMAN JEWELERS

My husband, David Groveman, was born in Boro Park in 1909 at 1335 42nd Street, his parents' house. At that time there was no hospital in Boro Park and the Jewish section was located in the 30's and 40's. His parents had moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side in 1908.

I myself did not have the good sense to be born in Boro Park, but rectified that omission when, at the age of one-year, together with my parents Max and Fannie Rothman, I moved to Boro Park from Manhattan. Ultimately there were two boys and three girls in my family. My brother Leon and myself are the only ones still alive. My father, Max Rothman, worked as a coat designer in the garment center and my mother developed and sold real estate in Brooklyn.

Bernard Groveman was one of the founders of Anshe Sfarad Synagogue, 14th Avenue & 45th Street, founded 1915. Bernard spend about six months making silver crowns with bells for a torah, which he donated to Anshe Sfarad soon after the founding. Can you believe it, these beautiful crowns were stolen from the synagogue in about four months! The thief was never found. My father-in-law mourned the loss of these crowns for years.

Bernard Groveman opened a jewelry store in 1912 at 4314 13 Ave. (Save-Rite Discount Center now is at that address.) Bernard had a large clock affixed to a pole on the sidewalk outside his store. This clock could be seen for blocks. Incidentally, Bernard was the 7th generation of his family (from Russia) to be a jeweler. Later, my husband David joined the business and became the 8th generation of jewelers!

David began working in his father's store when he attended high school. His father died in 1939 and willed the business to his two sons, Julius and David. In 1949 David bought Julius' share of the business.

Since both Bernard and David Groveman were known to be honest, and since both were gentle, soft-spoken, and had great patience with customers, the business was very successful.

I married David in 1945, after World War II. We had two daughters, Bonnie and Judy. I started working in the store in 1949 and worked there until we closed the store in 1976. My husband David died in 1985.

In 1955 we moved the store to 4605 13th Avenue. Naturally, we expected we would move the large clock with us. However, we unexpectedly received notice from the City that the clock was a sidewalk obstruction and would

not be allowed. (Why it wasn't considered an obstruction previously was not stated.) We had to pay to have the clock hauled to a junkyard. Customers were angry with us for not taking the clock Ebingers; Weintraub's, between 48 and 49th Streets, which sold women's dresses; Chapeau Mode on 49th Street, which sold custom-made hats.

I am donating a photograph taken in 1900 to the Boro Park Historical Society, taken at 49th Street and 12th Avenue. P.S. 131, which had just been built, can be seen in the background. I am also loaning a photograph of the original Groveman's Jewelry Store with the large clock outside, taken sometime in the late 1940's. Both of these photographs, I understand, will be displayed in the Boro Park Historical Society exhibit at the Boro Park Library in May, 1989.

Yours truly,

Rose Groveman

The above article was submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the B.P.H.S. We thank Rose Groveman and Lucille Posner for this very interesting contribution. Join the Boro Park Historical Society

Help us carry on this work, researching, preserving, and publishing the history of Boro Park. Annual dues \$5. Send in your own with us. Believe me, if we could have, we would have. Incidentally, Camella Infants & Teens Wear is at 4605 13 Avenue now.

I remember many former stores on 13th Avenue: Ebingers Bakery, 13th Avenue & 49th Street, one of a chain of Brooklyn bakeries. Who can forget their delicious black-out cake, their Boston cream pie, their luscious fruit pies, etc., to name only a few? The Linden Shop, a women's clothing store across the street from family history and memories for preservation. Send to B.P.H.S. 1558 45th St. 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 22, 1989

The annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society took place on the evening of May 22, 1989. Dr. Kipust, President, thanked the New York Telephone Company for sponsoring the cost of a video film which was being shown that evening and thanked Con Edison for a grant to cover the costs of the annual meeting. He thanked Senator Solomon for helping the Society receive a State grant which had paid for a video camera, and he also thanked the Greater New York Savings Bank for allowing us the use of their meeting room.

Dr. Kipust announced that a hard covered, hand bound book of the "I Remember Boro Park" columns from 1989 to 1987 has been printed by Dario Marotta. The very limited supply has been exhausted, but anyone wishing to purchase a copy at the price of \$40 should contact the Boro Park Historical Society, since more can be printed on demand.

Leon Weinstock was the featured speaker. Mr. Weinstock and his family moved to Boro Park in 1914. In part, his speech consisted of a letter written by his wife, Adele, who could not be present that evening. Adele, whose maiden name was Ottensstein, was born at 1327 45 Street in 1908. (That house is no longer in existence.) Her family had moved to Boro Park in 1907. Johnsen Brothers, builders, had built the family home. The house, and everything in it, was built on the site itself! At that time there was mostly vacant land between 45th Street and 13th Avenue, and 37 Street and 13 Avenue.

At that time most streets were unpaved and there were many Protestant churches. One by one the churches disappeared and one by one synagogues were built. At first there were only private houses on 13th Avenue. Then the zoning laws were changed and the houses were torn down and stores built in their place. Some of the private

houses were moved to another site, drawn by lumbering teams of horses. Interesting question: where in Boro Park are these houses now?

Electricity was not yet in use at that time, so houses were built with gas lines in them. Many of these old houses, while using electricity now, still have their gas lines. On 13th Ave. between 44th and 45th Streets there was a James Butler Grocery store, one of a large chain of Irish-American grocery stores.

On 48th Street, between 13th and 14th Avenues, there were wooden paving blocks in the gutter, as the gutters were not yet paved with asphalt. There was a large tree in the middle of this gutter, left over from when the entire area was farmland. Horses had to detour around this tree.

Leon Weinstock's charm and dynamic personality were obvious to all; they must have served him well during his many years as a trial lawyer.

A video film was then shown featuring the history of various Boro Park institutions, such as the Yemenite synagogue on 45th

Street and 12th Avenue and the Norwegian Church on 52nd Street and 8th Avenue. Participating in this video were Thelma Fox, Jacque Friedman, Esther Kane, Dr. Philip Kipust,

and Dario Marotta. A highlight was the walking tour segment filmed on 13th Avenue, from 37th Street to 44th Street, the site of the first stores on 13th Avenue.

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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The audience participated in a lively discussion following the video presentation. This discussion was videotaped by Dr. Kipust and shown to the audience at the end of the meeting. The members of the audience were thrilled to see themselves on video.

In attendance were Sima Goldstein representing Con Edison, Ira Kluger of the Canarsie Historical Society, A. Quentin Pulaski of the Bay Ridge Historical Society, and George Paszkewicz of the Society of Old Brooklynites. Ira Kluger was impressed with the work the Boro Park Historical Society has accomplished. George Paszkewicz complimented the Society on the innovative use of video to record local history and the meeting discussion, and expressed the hope that other neighborhood historical societies would do the same.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the audience split up into convivial groups, where they regaled each other with memories of Boro Park. As Esther Kane remarked, memories are what revive people and keep them young!

Lucille Posner
Corresponding Secretary
Boro Park Historical Society

We thank Lucille Posner for this very interesting summary of the general membership meeting and for all her work for the B.P.H.S.

BERNARD COHEN - BORO
FUEL

For the last several years I have read with interest many of the articles by Boro Park old timers. While I am only 52 years old, I have a good memory and have tried to catalog mentally my reminiscences.

My name is Bernard H. Cohn and I was born on January 13, 1937, at Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). I lived with my brother Howard (4 years my senior) and my parents William and Hilda at 1254-42 Street until about 1941. We then moved to 1529-42 Street, where we lived until 1950. As a child, I saw my first movie "Bambi" at the Radio Theatre (formerly the Royal - the name was changed because people called it the "Royal Dump." This was on 13th Avenue between 41st Street and 42nd Street.

Other movie houses in Boro Park were the "Garden" also on New Utrecht Ave., the Windsor on 15th Avenue and 40th Street, the Culver on 18th and McDonald, the Loew's on 46th Street on New Utrecht Avenue (now a furniture store), and the Loew's Boro Park on 51 Street and New Utrecht Avenue (now the Post Office). I remember being taken to live Vaudeville at the Loew's Boro Park on a Wednesday evening. In fact, I remember one of the acts was Buck and Bubbles, a song and dance team.

I attended P.S. 164, where Milton B. Pearlman was the principal for many years. My mother, my brother and myself had the

same teacher Mrs. Pera. When my mother was in her class she was still Miss Trapp until her marriage. Other teachers names I recall prior to 1948 were Miss Swan, Miss Cardwell, Miss Woods, Miss Malone (was she tough!) Mr. Anker, Mrs. Mendelson, Miss Ravella and Miss Carney who taught kindergarten for decades.

On 15th Avenue and 41st Street was Becker's drug store. Also on 15th Avenue between 40th and 41st Street was Plotnisky's Butcher Shop, and egg store, and Cy Barr's Wine and Liquor shop was next to the Windsor Theatre. On the other side of the avenue my family patronized Adler's fruit store, Abe Goldman's Plumbing Supply was on 15th Avenue and 40th Street. There was a big lot where Windsor Plumbing Supply warehouse is today, which had an outdoor billboard usually sponsored by Rheingold Beer. We sleigh rode there as well as on 41 Street between 15th and 16th Avenue, which was also a vast empty lot. My cousin Arnold Cohn (my partner at Boro Fuel Co., Inc.) and myself as well as our friends made some pretty big fires on that lot which called out the New York Fire Department several times.

The superintendent at 1529-42 Street had a Victory Garden occupying part of the lot which ran part of the way to 41 Street. He raised all kinds of vegetables and chickens, including the chicks that I had given him involuntarily. They were given to me when the egg man delivered eggs to our apartment and my mother gave them to the super. Some of the family names I remember from 1529-42nd Street, were Mr. Tantaraes (he painted all the apartments for the landlord, Mr. Radlnsky). There were the Heller's (Judge Blossom Heller's parents Al and Gerlie) and Athletic brother Jay Heller who headed a Montauk School yard softball team, the Modoc's. There were the Magid's, Colton's, the Francis's, the Koren's, Webber, Seiden's, Schwartz's, Kayes, Gordon's, Kaplan's, Schulman's, Harkavy, etc.

On 15th and 42nd Street was Schechter's grocery, Buchter's famous candy store & Reimer's grocery store. Our butcher was Mr. Plotnisky who was across from Adler's and Wexler's store. On 16th Avenue was Charlie Goldman's barber shop, Bashie's kosher butcher, a candy store and in later years a discount store; Miracle cleaner and weaver run by a blind man and his wife. Rumor has it he was blinded by a jealous ex-wife. Also Charlie the Chinese Laundry man had his store there. These stores were between 42nd and 41st Street. Charlie gave us number 78, which is the number still carried to this day in all my shirts. Across on 16th Avenue between 41st and 42nd Street was Sam's candy store where I went with Arnie Cohn, Stuart Colton, Arnold Schwartz, Arnie Cohn, Stuart Colton, Arnold Schwartz, Arnie Magid and sometimes Danny Koren for ice cream frappes (4

scoops, whipped cream, chocolate syrup and a cherry for 15 cents). Childrens admission to the Windsor Theatre for a matinee was 11 cents (2 features a news reel and a serial as well as several cartoons.)

In 1944 my mother was operated on at Brooklyn Doctor's Hospital on 15th Avenue and 45th Street, for removal of her gall bladder. I was seven, but my brother and I sneaked in the small entrance door to the right of the main stairs. I believe the surgeon was Dr. Buntzig. My tonsils were removed by Dr. Nathan Brody in his house operatory. Other Doctor's names in Boro Park that I recall were, Dr. Henry Gross, Dr. Hyman Rosenfeld, Dr. Palinsky, Dr. Jos. Estrin, Dr. Shantz, Dr. Clurman, Dr. Ben Lubitz, Dr. Jacob Ostroff, Dr. Margaretten, Dr. Tannenhaus, Drs. Segall & Wiener, Dr. Marcus, Dr. Marren, Dr. Ressler, Dr. Shmlerer, Dr. Miller, Dr. Mbrim, etc. Our family dentist was Dr. Samuel Levine who jointly shared the office with his wife Dr. May Sherman on 49th Street between 14 and 15th Avenue, down the street from the old 66th precinct, which looked like an ordinary house.

During World War II, I remember saving silver foil from cigarette pack wrappers that the kids would collect and peel off. We would roll them up in a ball to contribute to the war effort. We also saved tin cans, toothpaste tubes and fat in jars which was collected. My brother made airplane models which he bought from the Montauk Model Shop on 16th Avenue and 43rd Street. My uncle David Cohn was a roofer, together with a Mr. Kessler on 16th Avenue and 44th Street.

I remember Mr. Curto's shoe repair on 16th Avenue between 45th and 46th Street and Siegel the butcher. My father William Cohn and his brother Joseph started Boro Fuel Oil Company and moved in to the corner store and the one next to it eventually on 48th Street and 16th Avenue. I remember pasting ration stamps collected from the customers during World War II. These had to be submitted at the oil terminals to purchase more product.

In 1948 during the blizzard my mother, my brother and myself would bring food and clothes to the office for my father who had to sleep there for 3 days and nights to make sure everybody had oil.

In late 1948 or 1949 we moved Boro Fuel to its present location at 2 Church Avenue (around the corner from 14th Avenue and 36th Street.) As a child, I attended Camp Mohaph in Glen Spey, N.Y., during the summers.

Otherwise it was stick ball, baseball, softball, boxball, hit the penny, ring a levio, off the wall, 3 steps to Germany, redlight, hide and seek on 42nd Street, in Montauk school yard or in the court yards of 1529-42nd Street. We would also appropriate a portion of the cellar with old furniture and make a "club house" until we were discovered by the landlord. We would read comic books down there and decide who can be a new member or who to throw out.

In 1948 when television came out, one or two neighbors got TV sets. Everyone was invited (up to 15 or 20 lucky people) would pile in on Tuesday nights to see Milton Berle and on another night the Goldberg's with Gertrude Berg as Molly Goldberg. My friend Arnold Schwartz had a TV. His old grandmother, Mrs. Harkavy got all dressed up like to a bar mitzvah to watch the Goldbergs. Her daughter, Jean Schwartz asked "Momma, why do you do this?" she replied - "Look how nice they all DRESS, how does it look to them when they look back at me in your living room and see me in a house dress?"

Rothstein's Department Store raffled off a TV but to my dismay I didn't win. Nearby the best pickles in town came either from Nathan Sandler in the 13 Avenue Public Market or from Dave Peiper on 13th Avenue and 41st Street. I remember Hirsch's deli at 3917-13th Avenue, for the best deli. On 15th Avenue and 43rd Street was Merrin's Pharmacy.

Other Boro Park delis were Katz on 15th Avenue, Atelmans and Skilowitz on 13th Avenue and Kanisaw on 16th Avenue and 51st Street.

HISTORIC TRIVIA

Samuel Dyen points out that the following business establishments were operating in Boro Park in 1936. We thank him for this interesting contribution.

H. Kornreich, Real Estate, 4915 - 12 Ave. Tel. WI 6-8855
 Jungreis Tie Shop, 4521 - 13 Ave.
 Berkshire Radio & Electric Co., 1314 - 47 St.
 O.K. Laundry, 4915 - 13 Ave.
 Roth's Candy Shop, 5001 - 13 Ave.
 Culver Glass Co., 4506 - 18 Ave.
 F. & L. Bakery (under the supervision of Rabbi Kaplan) 5011 - 13 Ave.

KALI-STEN-IKS "the finest children's shoes made" 4311 - 13 Ave.

Skilowitz Kosher Delicatessen, 4914 - 13 Ave.
 Menorah Bowling & Billiard Academy - 5000 - 14 Ave.
 Spitz Florist, 4524 - 13 Ave. (Tel. AM 2-3233).

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submit your own personal histories, photos and other historical materials. Become a member, only \$5, and help research, photograph, preserve and publicize the history of this very unique community.



Dear Dr. Kipust:

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your continued support of the library and your generous contribution of "I Remember Boro Park" Vol. 1 (1978-1987).

After sharing it with my colleagues, it aroused feelings of pride and nostalgia among us all and whetted a taste for more.

Once again, many thanks.

Sincerely,
 Edward Jelen

Branch Librarian
 (Boro Park)

The photograph shows the presentation of the bound volume "I Remember Boro Park" to Mr. Edward Jelen, (right) Branch Librarian by Dr. Philip J. Kipust, President Boro Park Historical Society. This volume, prepared by Dario Marotta, is now available at the local branch as well as the Grand Army Plaza branch and at the Brooklyn Historical Society.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

FORMER BORO PARKER IS CELEBRITY

At 85, Henrietta Spiegel, born and raised in New York, (living in Boro Park from 1925-1942) finally graduated from college. The recent college grad earned her degree from the University of Maryland at College Park in May, 1989, and made Cum Laude, Tau Delta, Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board National Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, The Guinness Book of World Records, Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities, and she received a special award from the president of the university. She graduated as an English major with a 3.69 grade-point average (out of a possible 4.0).

Several photos and articles about Mrs. Spiegel, probably the oldest student ever to be graduated from the University of Maryland and ever to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, appeared in the Washington Times, the Washington Jewish Week, the Evening Sun, the Journal of Prince George County and others. She enrolled at the University in 1984 at the age of 80, after the death of her husband of 60 years.

She was described as a symbol of perseverance and dedication; was respected by her fellow students who often came to her for advice and she was given an award by one fraternity as the best neighbor anyone could have.

Spiegel and her husband, who worked in the advertising business, rented out rooms to Jewish college students at College Park, many of whom had nowhere else to turn for kosher dining and Shabbat meals. Mrs. Spiegel submitted the following interesting article about her Boro Park memories for which we thank her and wish her well.

HENRIETTA M. SPIEGEL

I was married in Manhattan in 1924, and moved to Boro Park in 1925, to 960-43rd Street. I remember in 1925 Carl Laemmle's Universal theatre being built on New Utrecht Avenue and 47th Street across the street from the Garden Movies. There were two movie houses; one open-air. I remember in 1926, on New Utrecht Avenue and 43rd Street, two one-family houses being lifted off their foundations and moved to a new foundation on 42nd Street between New Utrecht Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway. I also remember the Elton Movies being built on this lot from which the two private houses were removed.

In 1926, Feb. 1, I gave birth to a son at the Israel Zion Hospital on Tenth Avenue and 49th Street.

My next apartment in 1928 was 939-42nd Street.

Other things I remember about Boro Park: McDonald Avenue

was called Gravesend Avenue; the Church Avenue trolley went underground at Ocean Parkway; a new street called Caton Avenue was cut through at Fort Hamilton Parkway and Dahill Road. We used to walk along Fort Hamilton Parkway from Boro Park to Prospect Park. I remember in 1926 the Velvet and Knickerbocker Horse Drawn Yellow Ice Cream Wagons with their five and ten cents ice cream cones and sandwiches. There was a private bus running cross-town on 49th Street; a yellow bus. The 13th Avenue Bus first started running in 1930.

There was a small church on

the south side of 13th Avenue and 51st Street. Before anybody would attempt to buy it or attempt to tear it down, to rebuild over it, they considered the rumor around. The rumor was that part of its land contained a small private cemetery.

I belonged to Bnai Israel of Linden Heights Ladies Auxiliary and was part of a committee in 1936 of putting papers in the corner stone at 45th Street and Ninth Avenue.

On 52nd Street, and 13th Avenue there was a very thriving miniature golf course, until it was purchased by a real estate agent to erect a corner building for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

In 1928 there was a very heavy

rainfall for several hours, causing a very heavy mud landslide about 600 feet from the Ninth Avenue station. A West End train was stalled for several hours, tying up the subway system.

I recall a large church on the corner of 53rd Street and 14th Avenue, and a high church steeple being built in 1926 at Fort Hamilton Parkway and 41st Street. In 1930 on 47th Street and 13th Avenue, the Bank of the United States failed, I received

\$2.50 for my \$5.00 deposit. I remember on the southwest corner of 13th Avenue and 44th Street a branch of the Public National Bank. On 68th Street, around the corner from New Utrecht Avenue facing 14th Avenue, was a one-family wooden house which was a branch of the New York Public Library. I remember a private house on 49th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues was the Boro Park Police Station. I

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

remember in 1925 a policeman riding a bicycle, and a two-seat police car with solid rubber tires with holes all around the sides for springiness.

In 1930 you could buy a brand new Chevrolet for less than \$600 delivered and no sales tax. There was a gasoline war in 1930 and you could buy 12 gallons of gas for \$1.00, grease and change oil \$1.25, fix a flat by hand 25 cents, including pumping up tires by hand.

My other residences in Boro

Park from 1926-1944 was 1124-43rd Street (1928), 5501 15th Avenue (1933), 1149-51st Street (1934-1939), 1425-51st Street (1940-1944). I then moved to Baltimore, Maryland, Pimlico Section. My husband of 59 years was an

advertising executive, and my three children were all born at the Israel Zion Hospital, George (1926) Eleanor (1934) Roberta (1940).

I am now past 85 years old, and reside in College Park, Maryland, since 1962.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipnust

GROVEMAN FAMILY

Dear Sir:

Rose Groveman's letter in the May '89 issue of Boro Park Community News prompts many memories of my grandfather Bernard, my father Julius and my Uncle David, and of Groveman's jewelry store, the place with the clock in front at 4314 13th Avenue that was so long a part of the Boro Park scene.

Bernard had come to America from Novoseltze in Bessarabia in 1889, sending for his wife and three-month old son (my father) a few months later, and in the next fourteen years his father and two older brothers followed. My grandfather was for many years employed by a major silver manufacturer in Providence as a silver craftsman. In his youth he served an apprenticeship in Pforzheim in Germany, a city near Baden on the edge of the Black

Forest which was a major center for silver, gold and jewelry manufacturing. His father, David, before him was a jeweler according to David's death certificate which I possess. I did not know that the family tradition as jewelers went back eight generations as Rose stated, but I am not surprised.

Except for time out for service in the First World War, my father worked in Groveman's jewelry store from the time it was founded in 1912, became a de facto partner when he married my mother in 1924, and on his father's death his younger brother David became his partner. Over the years I have encountered strangers who, upon learning my name and the jewelry store connection, would tell me that they or their mothers had gotten their engagement rings or other precious stones at Groveman's, and spoke well of fair and honest treatment by my grandfather, father and uncle. (The Grovemans not on-

ly sold jewelry they designed and created their own jewelry.) They would always recall the clock standing near the curb in front of the store.

My father, Julius, died in 1971. In going through his effects, my stepmother, Etta Groveman, found on old paper in a foreign language and passed it along to me. I recognized the Cyrillic letters as being Russian, and my daughter Helen, then a student at Douglass College, brought the document to the head of Slavic Studies at her school. It was translated for us and turned out to be my grandfather's internal passport to travel as he wished within the borders of Russia by order of Czar Alexander, an uncommon privilege for a Jew at that time. As the passport expired in 1901, and grandfather Bernard was already in America in 1889, I have an idea that it was useful to him in leaving Mother Russia forever. The physical description and biographical details on my grandfather filled in many gaps in my knowledge of his earlier years.

The landmark clock on 13th Avenue was one of a type of store sign that decorated the streets of America before the automobile made curb space extremely scarce. Few people carried pocket watches in those years and wrist watches hadn't arrived yet. Over the years my father had occasional run-ins with city inspectors who wanted the clock removed as a sidewalk obstacle, but he always managed to save it on grounds of useful service to the public. A truck once backed into it and did heavy damage. As the years went by, it became

more and more difficult to find craftsmen able to service the clock.

I have not lived in Boro Park for decades, but many of the strands of my life are tied up with the area. My father lived on 49th Street near 15th Avenue for more than thirty years before his death, and his widow, Etta, is still there. I met my wife, Gertrude (Kaplan) at college in Ohio, later learning that she had lived for many years as a young girl near 61st Street and 15th Avenue. Her grandfather, Harry Grossberger, owned a house and raised a large family on 43rd

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
Street, just off 13th Avenue and around the corner from our family jewelry store.

The tradition in our family is that the Grovemans descend from German Jews who ended up on the Russian-Romanian borderland, and Sephardic Jews whose families had earlier fled from Spain, settled in Turkey, and eventually moved north. I am the only male grandchild of Bernard Groveman, and to honor his memory I named my own son Bernard. He is married to a woman whose father is a Holocaust survivor, an Italian Jew from Milan whose own ancestors were refugees from Spain centuries earlier. History turns in circles.
Yours sincerely,
William Groveman

We thank Mr. William Groveman for his very interesting contribution to the history of the community.

THOMAS MORTON

I was born on Avenue F in the Kensington neighborhood in 1914. My parents were Grace and Fred. Morton. Although I didn't move to Boro Park until 1944, yet, since Kensington was just across the borderline of Boro Park, I have many memories of Boro Park and I would like to tell you a few of them.

I remember going to the Eagle Theater, 4215 16th Avenue, a wooden building directly across from the present Montauk Junior High School. This theater showed silent films indoors in the winter, outdoors in the summer. I remember also the opening of the Culver Theater about 1928. At that time, sound films were not yet being made. This theater had an orchestra and an organ and sometimes presented vaudeville acts between films. The orchestra played at every performance, as far as I can recall.

When I was a child there were only a few grocery stores on 16th Avenue and a few private houses. 16th Avenue then mainly consisted of vacant lots. A trolley car ran on 16th Avenue. The comedian Buddy Hackett's father had an upholstery shop on 16th Avenue. When Buddy was a little boy of five years old he even then had a humorous way of talking!

My parents having divorced some years ago, I moved with my mother and my brother Harry to my present address on Dahill Road in 1944, where I still live now. Dahill Road is on the borderline of Boro Park and Kensington and was also on the borderline of the Towns of New Utrecht and Flatbush.

We had many Jewish neighbors and we were friendly with all of them. My brother Harry married a Jewish girl who lived in our apartment house, Thelma

Myers. They were married in City Hall. Unfortunately, the marriage was not happy and the couple was divorced after eight years. There were no children. The couple lived at 39th Street and 16th Avenue.

I myself never had the good (or bad) fortune to marry. My brother and my mother having died respectively in 1958 and 1959, I am now living in the same apartment, where I still enjoy many things, including the company of nice neighbors.

Thomas Morton
The above article was submitted by Lucille Posner, officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank both Lucille Posner and Thomas Morton for this interesting contribution.

Dr. Kipust,

The following is a copy of a page from a 1916 Journal published as part of the celebration of the opening of the Boro Park part of the West End elevated line. June was the 78 anniversary of that celebration. It deals with a Gorgeous Child contest held as part of the celebration activities. The little boy crowned King after celebration, Lester Silver White, later became a writer for comedian Bob Hope.

Yours truly,
B.M. Selevan

The Little Leaders of the Gorgeous Parade and Pageant.

THE LITTLE LEADERS of the GORGEOUS PARADE AND PAGEANT

An interesting feature of the celebration was a most spirited contest conducted at the Garden Theatre by Mr. Gustav Baron, for the selection of King and Queen by popular vote.

Master Lester Silver-White and little Miss Maxine Larson were elected King and Queen respectively. Sydney Washington Belth and Florence Yarmus gaining second honors, Kenneth J. Strully and Harriet Shrimpton, third.

There were fifty-eight contestants and the interest engendered thereby was the best publicity effort possible. On Tuesday evening, June 6th, the King and Queen were crowned at the Garden Theatre by Hon. Daniel J. Griffin, Representative in Congress from the Borough Park District, and it was most beautiful ceremony ever witnessed. The theatre, decorated for the occasion, a special stage built to hold the Royal Court and attendants. Mr. Wessel furnished appropriate music, and after the coronation Congressman Griffin presented silver loving cups to:

Master LESTER SILVER-WHITE
Master SYDNEY WASHINGTON BELTH
Master KENNETH J. STRULLY
Master WILLIE GALLAGHER
Master HERBERT LEVY

Miss MAXINE LARSON
Miss FLORENCE YARMUS
Miss HARRIET SHRIMPTON
Miss ETHEL COHN
and gold signal rings to all the contestants.

King Lester, age four years, astounded the Congressman and the audience, after his coronation, by responding in an address that was marvelous, considering his age and size. We thank Mr. Selevan, an officer in the BPHS for his interesting contribution.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help continue the work of the BPHS of researching Photographing, preserving and publishing the history of this community.

You can help by becoming a member, for \$5 a year (\$3 for retired) or sending a donation. You can also help by submitting photos, documents, or personal accounts of your own family history and memories.

Send to Boro Park H.S., 1558-45 St., 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kiput

During the past ten years or so I have been interviewing present and former residents of Boro Park in order to gather information about the history of the community and about individual families, businesses and institutions. I have used various opportunities, such as attendance at weddings, dinners, and meetings, while travelling or waiting on lines and the like in order to obtain the information. Some of the interviews were very brief and others more extensive. Many have already appeared in these columns and many are still in my files or the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society, waiting to be used. Every piece of information however, no matter how inconsequential it may appear, is like a piece of a puzzle which we hope will help to

piece together the full history of this community.

In this column I hope to use several of the interviews that were completed a few years ago. Some are very brief because of the particular circumstances and time constraints under which they were gathered. We certainly welcome readers to submit additional information that they may have to help fill in some of the missing gaps.

DR. RABBI LOUIS BERNSTEIN

When I interviewed Rabbi Louis Bernstein, I believe it was in 1984 or 1985, he was then president of the Religious Zionists of America (R.Z.A.), Rabbi of the Young Israel of Windsor Park and assistant professor of Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University. All the information included is as of that date, it hasn't been updated.

He said his parents Sam and Anna Bernstein came to Boro

Park in 1928, when they were first married. They lived at 4222-13 Ave., one flight up, above Rose Hat Store. His mother "came" from Philadelphia and his father from Brownsville. They were married in B.P. by Rabbi Goodman, the Kamenitzer Rov-Padolak, (in Concordia Club at 15 Ave. corner 49 St. His father was a furrier in his earlier years, then had a dress stand on 13 Ave. and 42 St. and in his later years worked as a mashgiach for Cake Stylitz, under the U.O. His father passed away in December, 1973, after the Yom-Kippur War in Israel.

In 1937 his family moved to 1480-44 St., and in 1955 or 56 moved to 4812-14 Ave. where his mother still resides. He has one younger sister, Frances Zalcberg, who lives in Israel and is one of Israel's top Social Workers. He also has a younger brother, Walter.

His father was affiliated with the "Sfardische Shule", 14 Ave. corner 45 St., where his

mother is still a member.

Louis attended and graduated from Eitz Chaim Yeshiva, completed Yeshiva University high school through University and Ph.D. and Smicha or Rabbinical ordination. He was married in 1955 and moved to Crown Heights. A few of his other accomplishments include service in the U.S. Army in 1952 during the Korean war as a Chaplain; an officer in the Young Israel, past president of the Rabbinical Council of America and member of the World Zionist Executives.

The following are a few of Rabbi Bernstein's memories of Boro Park during his younger years. He remembers the usual Friday night stroll along 13 Ave. with Herman Kelman and Nechemia Gelman (now a chemist in Israel), when they often visited George "Mishkoff" (R.I.P.) and Rabbi David Mirsky (R.I.P.). He remembers being impressed with the work and lectures of Rabbi William Drasin who was then Rabbi of the Sfardische Shule. He enjoyed listening to Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt and other

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

famous cantors in Boro Park, he used to love to listen to cantors.

He also recalled the incident in one shule in Boro Park where it was alleged that a girl sang in the choir during the Sabbath services. Daniel Goldstein, who now lives in New Square, the story goes, came into the Synagogue, banged on the Bima and announced, "Friends you are not permitted to pray in this shule, there's a girl in the choir."

RABBI YISROEL POHRILLE

(This information was obtained from Rabbi Moshe Pohrille during a brief interview in August, 1985.)

Rabbi Yisroel Pohrille was a respected and admired young spiritual leader in Boro Park, with a bright future, when he suddenly passed away due to a heart attack in 1964 at an early age. He had married Ruth Schapiro only eleven years earlier, in 1943.

Rabbi Moshe Schapiro, Ruth's father, came to Boro Park with his family in 1917. Ruth was seven years old then and attended P.S. 164. Rabbi Schapiro was spiritual leader of Cong. Machezkel Talmud Torah (M.T.T.) then located at 1317-43 St., for many years. He had studied at the Slobodka Yeshiva in Europe.

Yisroel and Ruth were married in the M.T.T. synagogue. They then moved to Crown Heights, where Yisroel had a position as Rabbi in one of the local synagogues. They moved back to B.P. in 1947 to a house they purchased at 1434-45 St. Their son Moshe was born soon after in 1948. Rabbi Yisroel Pohrille was appointed Rabbi of M.T.T. when his father-in-law was too ill to continue and retained that position until his own demise.

Rabbi Moshe Pohrille attended Yeshiva Toras Emes until the completion of eighth grade. He attended Kamenitzer Mesivta, then a separate school, for one year. Hebrew studies only, while he was in eighth grade at Y.T.E. He then attended Mirrer Yeshiva, high school and post high school, for the next twenty years.

He married Nechama Germaine in 1973 (she was from East New York). Nechama taught at Beth Jacob school on 14 Ave. and 48 St. They now have seven children and still live in the same house purchased by parents at 1434-45 St. Rabbi Moshe Pohrille is a Rebbe (Teacher) at Yeshiva Derech Chaim, 39 St. corner 16 Ave.

Rabbi Pohrille recalled some of his Rebeim (Hebrew Teachers) while in Yeshiva Toras Emes. He said he was very happy with all his teachers. Rabbi Schwartz and

Dr. Mandel were the principals. Rabbi Arnold Wolf was his Rebbe during the last year he taught, before he became the assistant principal in 1957. His other teachers were: Rabbi Silbermintz-Grade 2, Rabbi Chaffkin-Grade 3, Rabbi Wolf-Grade 5, Rabbi Yarmush-Grade 8, Rabbi Respler-Grade 7 (when he first came to the school, about 1959), Rabbi Rosengarten-Grade 8, and Rabbi Reiter-Grade 9.

SAMUEL OELBAUM

This brief interview of Samuel (Schmuel) Gelbaum, also took place in 1984 or 85 and is not updated in this article. Samuel came to B.P. with family, parents Moses and Lena and brother Yehuda, in 1941, from Providence, R.I. They first lived at 5110-Ft. Hamilton Pkwy; they owned the grocery store downstairs and they lived upstairs. They moved to 1655-46 St. in 1951 (approx.) and to 1714-48 St. in 1962. His parents moved their grocery store business to 4502-16 Ave. and remained there until 1959. The grocery business was then sold to Mr. Zisfine who sold it to Mr. Deutsch, who sold it to Mr. Aronowitz.

Shmuel was married in 1957 and lived at 4812-14 Ave. until 1960. He then moved to 1789-48 St. where he currently resides. He attended Yeshiva Toras Emes elementary and high schools. He then studied at Yeshiva Torah Vadaath in Williamsburg, and then at Beth Medrash Elyon. He was a teacher at Yeshiva Toras Emes for a few months but then became an accountant and a C.P.A. He served as President of the Agudath Israel Synagogue of 16 Ave.

His brother Yehuda, who is a prominent Rabbi and educator in the community was married in 1959. He then moved to Crown Heights and returned to B.P. in 1962. Yehuda also attended Yeshiva Toras Emes, then Yeshiva Torah Vadaath, then Beth Medrash Elyon. He served as principal of Achiezer, then of Kamenitzer Mesivta of Boro Park, and then of Yeshiva Toras Chaim of South Shore. He was also president of the Agudath Israel of 16 Ave.

Shmuel indicated that he has seen the changes in the Boro Park Community since first arriving in 1941. When they first lived on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy there were few orthodox Jews and many Italian families living there. Now the Boro Park Community residents are orthodox Jews in the main. Many Italian and non-observant Jewish families have moved away from the community and many chasidic families have moved here.

I would like to thank the interviewees mentioned in this column for their cooperation and for the interesting information they shared with us.

Perhaps I could update two items for our readers and for historical purposes. The grocery store at 4502-16 Ave. is now owned by Mr. Moshe Fischman, since 1986.

Rabbi Yehuda Oelbaum is now principal of Machon Bais Yaacov located at 1937-48 St. Help Preserve the History of Boro Park

Share your memories of Boro Park and your family histories with our readers. Also, send old photos of B.P. scenes and other literature related to this community. We invite you to join the B.P. Historical Society, annual membership only \$5. Send to B.P.H.S., 1558-45 St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
FROM JERUSALEM
Dear Dr. Kipust,

It was nice welcoming many of our old friends (former Boro Parkers) in Israel during the past year, such as: Rabbi Henry Roschander, Edith Halpern, Harriet Grumet, Hennie Padawer, etc. with their spouses.

We are publishing articles about a famous former Boro Parker, Dr. Fred Margaretten (R.I.P.), taken from the Horowitz-Margaretten Family Association Bulletin. Dr. Fred delivered me and my three daughters. Our regards to all in Boro Park from Jerusalem. Elaine and Manny Wollman
DR. FRED MARGARETTEN
From the N.Y. Times, May 4, 1989:

MARGARETTEN-Fred'k M., M.D. Dr. Fred'k M. Margaretten, a retired

specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, died Thursday, May 4, 1989 at Elizabeth NJ General Medical Center at age 92. He was born in Hungary to the late Solomon and Kate Margaretten and came to NYC as a young child. He was a graduate of Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital and New York Medical College and became one of the founding physicians and staff members of the Israel Zion Hospital of Brooklyn, later renamed Maimonides Medical Center when it became a teaching hospital. Illness forced his retirement with his late wife Miriam to Miami Beach in 1965 and in 1983 he moved near his daughter in Elizabeth, NJ. In the 1930's and 1940's Dr. Margaretten's oil paintings were included in exhibitions in both New York and San Francisco, and during that same period he authored an

essay "Treatise on Women," autobiographical sketches called "Striving After Wind" and a book entitled "The Stork Joins the Blue Eagle." He was a member of the American Medical Association and a life member of the Medical Society of the State of New York. In 1971, Dr. Margaretten was awarded a golden diploma by his alma mater, Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital and New York Medical College for fifty years of meritorious service in the medical profession. He is survived by two daughters, Ruth M. Bilenker of Elizabeth, NJ and Millicent Kaplan of B'klyn, NY; two sons, Bill of B'klyn, NY and Richard A. Marton of Los Angeles, CA;

four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

DR. FREDRICK M. MARGARETTEN (1896-1989)
by Dr. Elias J. Margaretten (brother)

...How does one describe a legend? According to Webster, it is almost an unbelievable sainthood-Fred

was primarily a physician, mostly Obstetrics and Gynecology. Yet, he was also a student of Maimonides, a writer, poet, musician and painter. He was flamboyant, a lover of life, yet a disciplinarian where his immediate family was involved.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Fred was charitable almost to his own detriment. It was only a short time ago that he lost his beloved wife, Miriam. He guarded her life through many years of sickness, at times in utter disregard of his own serious illness. How they lasted this long was a miracle in itself.

...Their wedding at the Regina Mansion in Brooklyn was well attended. I remember my first white suit and long pants. My birthday was the following day and my sister Ella got married the day after. It was a hectic weekend.

Fred patronized Hart, Schaffner & Marx for his clothing and haberdashery. He always sported a cigar in his mouth and a flower in his lapel. As to cars, from an Essex, a blue Buick (when Ruth was born), he drove a series of yellow Pearce Arrows. All Boro Park knew he was on his way to a delivery, especially when the muffler blew out. I remember later chauffeuring for him in a righthand drive black Lincoln. There were many anxious moments when ambulances were not available that we picked up the "kimpeturlm" (pregnant women) and made deliveries of babies in the back of the car!

In rapid succession, Richard, Ruth, Millicent and William were born. I must say that each child turned out to be more handsome and beautiful than the other. There were at least three or four in help in their household in Linden Heights but it was never enough. Fraulein, the governess, ruled with an iron hand but on her day off or when Miriam went off to the mountains, I served as the baby sitter and manager.

Fred's medical skills spread far and wide. It meant nothing for him to make calls all over Brooklyn—to Bensonhurst, Coney Island, Bay Ridge and Williamsburg. He could make a diagnosis by looking at the palm of your hands, fingernails or eyelids. There was no such thing as a twenty-four hour day. Sleep was the last item to enter his mind. As fast as the money came in, it was spend on overhead, trips to Miami, Fallsburg, charitable contributions, family help and unsuccessful real estate ventures.

A long with brother Dave, Frank Berman and Sam Hartley, Fred set up a dynasty of social and political power in the Linden Heights section of Brooklyn neighborhood. I admired Fred's oratory, his choice of words, his poetry when addressing an audience. Many meetings and bridge games were held in his home, most-

ly on Saturday nights, followed with frankfurters, corned beef and beer. There were always parties going on and Fred always paid the check.

Fred gave financially, spiritually and above all health care to our saintly parents, far beyond anyone's expectations. For this alone he deserves a throne in the hereafter. He delivered almost all of the grandchildren and also tended to all our health needs without expecting any compensation. He commanded the respect of all relatives and friends whom he served well and often.

Unfortunately, about twenty years ago Fred was stricken with Myasthenia Gravis which forced him to retire and move to Miami Beach, his favorite vacation place. His many years of overactivity had taken its toll, yet his lust for life carried him far beyond three score and ten.

We thank Elaine and Manny Wollman for their interesting contribution. We also invite any of our readers who may have some personal information about this famous Boro Park doctor to send in that information. What was his address in Boro Park? When did he first move to Boro Park? What religious or organizational affiliations did he have in the community?

THE DAY RUDY VALLEE CAME TO BORO PARK

(Submitted by Lucille Posner)

On August 3, 1932 Madeline Prendergast gave birth to Florence in the then Israel Zion Hospital, now Maimonides Hospital. (Florence Prendergast is a direct descendant of Wolfert Kouwenhoven, a Dutch farmer who was the first white man to buy land from the Indians in Long Island, in the area now known as Flatlands, Brooklyn.)

Madeline's husband, Tom, was a reporter for a New York City newspaper and in this capacity was friendly with many celebrities, including Rudy Vallee. Rudy Vallee, for those too young to remember, was a widely known and popular singing star of radio, recordings, and movies in the 1930's and 1940's, a crooner whom women swooned over.

When Rudy Vallee heard of the birth of Tom's daughter, nothing would do but that he travel to Brooklyn from Manhattan, to the Israel Zion Hospital to visit the new mother and baby. His arrival threw the doctors, the nurses, the staff, and the other newmothers into a state of wild excitement. Even Madeline Prendergast was caught up in the excitement. The only person not visibly affected was little Florence: to baby Florence, one adult was just like another!

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust NEW HOME FOR BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After much trial and tribulation, the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) has finally found a new home - office, the new location is 4211 13th Avenue, one flight up. The site itself may evoke some fond historical memories for many Boro Parkers. It is located above the store that was once Gold and Reiss Hardware. In fact there is still a sign above the present store indicating the new location of Gold and Reiss Hardware.

In the new modest office, shared with the Boro Park Community Council, the B.P.H.S. hopes to set up some interesting historical displays and photo exhibits which will hopefully develop into a small museum of Boro Park history and memories. All contribu-

tions of historical materials to the displays are most welcome. Special hours are planned for public viewing.

The B.P.H.S. welcomes volunteers to help in the work on manning the office, filing, making phone calls, doing clerical work or interviewing people. In order to help pay the rent, utilities, mailing, photography, copying etc. the B.P.H.S. is in need of funds. Your membership dues of \$5 will help. Join us - Boro Park is you.

LIBRARY PHOTO EXHIBIT 851-8488

The Boro Park Branch Library at 1255 43rd Street will feature another month long photo exhibit of Boro Park history during May 1990. New photo exhibits will be set up by the B.P.H.S.

A community grant of \$250 by the Brooklyn Union Gas Company to the B.P.H.S. for

the purpose of maintaining and expanding its photo archive, helped finance this exhibit. Thanks and appreciation have been expressed to the Brooklyn Union Gas Company for this community grant and public service.

Last year's photo exhibit aroused considerable interest in the community. This year's exhibit will feature some new and very interesting items. Remember to mark your calendar

1935 - BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

Mr. Samuel Dyen submitted the following names and addresses of some of the business establishments that were operating in Boro Park in 1935. Many old timers may remember these places. We thank Mr. Dyen for his interesting contribution.

Balm & Blank 4616-13 Ave.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Eisenbeine Dairy

4607-13 Ave.

The Foot-Rest Shop

4623-13 Ave.

The Rappaport Children's

Shops 4623-13 Ave.

Blossom Hat 4603-13 Ave.

B. Weissman - Interior

Decorators and Furnishings

5214-13 Ave.

M. Horowitz Bakery

5303-13 Ave.

Jack Feinman - Paints

4707-New Utrecht Ave.

Zion Vegetarian & Dairy

Restaurant 4923-13 Ave.

The following article, published in the Brooklyn Eagle in February 1913, was submitted by Mr. B. Selevan, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank him for this interesting contribution.

FAMOUS HOMESTEAD IS DOOMED BY CITY

Lefferts House, Landmark
in Hythebourne, About to
be Removed.

STREET WIDENING THE CAUSE

Building on New Utrecht
Avenue, Long Occupied by
Mrs. Allen, Will Soon Go.

An old house, one which well represents the Brooklyn of a hundred years ago, is about to disappear. This house occupies a conspicuous position where it has become familiar to a large number of Brooklyn people. It is the mansion built by the Lefferts family on New Utrecht Avenue near Fifty-Sixth Street, Blythebourne, owned and occupied for the past twenty-five years by Mrs. George A. Allen.

The cause of the removal of this historic house, which embodies in it so much that is typical of old-time Dutch-Colonial architecture of early Brooklyn, is that Thirteenth Avenue is to be widened, and this widening would take a slice off the old mansion and would therefore necessitate the entire removal of the building.

Mrs. Allen, from whom the house has been purchased by the City of New York, in order to enable the widening of the

Avenue to be made, came in the old house in 1888. That was only to spend her summers there. Then the district all about was a beautiful farming country, where vegetables in large quantities were grown for the city markets. She became a permanent resident of the old house in 1890.

Mrs. Allen Is A Daughter of E.B. Litchfield.

Mrs. Allen is a daughter of Electus B. Litchfield, who, with his brother Edwin C. Litchfield, owned a large part of the land which was taken by the city for Prospect Park. Mr. Litchfield bought the old Lefferts house from Barnard Larzelere and the adjoining farm of thirty-eight acres. This farm Mr. Larzelere had cultivated for fifty years and meanwhile made a number of changes in the house which altered its appearance somewhat. It is still what may be called a rambling old structure but two wings, one on each side, have been removed, since the dwelling was built.

A feature of this rare antique in the way of early Brooklyn homes, is the shingles with which the outside is covered. These were hand made, and cannot be duplicated by anything in the same line produced at the present day. Where these shingles are seen, used as weatherboards, they are a trustworthy certificate of age, as much so as any document which could be produced.

But if the outside of the house has the stamp of an ancient pedigree, what shall be said of the interior? In the first place there is a circular stairway running from the main hall on the first floor in the top. It is one of the most beautiful specimens of a Colonial stairway to be found in Brooklyn. Lovers of the antique in architecture have come from near and far to look at it.

Wonderful Staircase Built by Judge Cropsey's Father.

This wonderful staircase was built by the father of Judge Cropsey, who was a carpenter in the New Utrecht section when the mansion was planned. But while the staircase is one of the greatest curios of the building, it is not the only one. There are the

double Dutch doors, or doors cut in two in the middle, so that the lower portion can be closed to keep the chickens out of the house, and the upper part remain open to let in the air.

Another striking attraction of the old house is the size of the drawingrooms and parlors. They are spacious. A mighty contrast is furnished by these great rooms with the cramped apartments of many dwellings of the present day. Mrs. Allen has added a great many artistic adornments in the way of furnishings and works of the sculptor and the portrait painter, and these harmonize well with the old Colonial mantelpieces and the general character of the old mansion.

After the purchase of the old Lefferts house and its thirty-eight adjoining acres, Electus B. Litchfield, father of Mrs. George A. Allen, the present owner and occupant of the house, decided to cut up the land into building lots and dispose of it to those who even then—1886—were pushing out into the suburbs of Brooklyn, and demanding to be accommodated with modern dwelling houses. Mr. Litchfield named his new land development project Blythebourne, which has become one of the most attractive and prosperous sections of the flourishing Borough of Brooklyn. Blythebourne means happy home, and was the name of Mr. Litchfield's country home at Babylon, L.I.

First Steam Railroad to Con- ey Island Ran Directly in Front of Old Home.

The first steam railroad to run to Coney Island was what was known then as the Gunther Road. It was so called for C. Godfrey Gunther, who was Mayor of the old City of New York and was its projector. When Mr. Litchfield became interested in the development of Blythebourne he bought in to the railroad, which ran through his property, greatly improved it, and it then became known as the West End line. George A. Allen, husband of Mrs. Allen, who now owns the old house, was the general manager of the road. Mr. Allen was also the general manager of the West Brooklyn Company, another really development of the section. Electus B. Litchfield died in 1889 and Mr. Allen died in February, 1911.

HELP PRESERVE AND WRITE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help in this project by submitting your own memories and family histories. You can also help by joining the Boro Park Historical Society, 1558 45 St. Annual dues are \$5. Funds are needed to take photographs, make photo copies, pay for rent and utilities, etc. Your help is urgently needed.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust NEW HOME FOR BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DR. JACOB SMITHLINE
By Genevieve Antin

My father, DR. JACOB SMITHLINE, and my mother, Betsey, moved to Boro Park in 1917. I was born sometime after that date (I never divulge my birthdate, believing that a woman who tells her age tells everything) at our home at 1230 46 Street. My father was out on a house call at the time and my mother was therefore forced to call in another doctor when I arrived in the world.

My father was born in Rumania and emigrated to the United States in 1885. He was extremely

bright and graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical College at the age of 18, as valedictorian. He also received all the medals given out to his class. My mother, also the daughter of Eastern European immigrants, graduated from Hunter College about 1900. In those days it was unusual for a daughter of Eastern European immigrants to attend college.

My parents met each other when they were about six or seven years old. They adored each other and there was never any other love interest for either of them. My mother was a housewife, happy with her large family, for whom she did all the cooking.

My father was the first Head of the New Utrecht Dispensary,

located on 43rd Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. It was the direct forerunner of the Israel Zion Hospital, of which he was one of the founders (now Maimonides Hospital). His office was in our home at 1230 46th Street; it was a large house: three floors, an open porch, front and back yards with grass, colorful flowers, and apple trees, all of which were tended by our Italian gardener, Joe. This house with the beautiful gardens is no longer in existence.

My father specialized in internal medicine and later also specialized in cardiology. He had especially strong views about women's immersion in a mikveh, which he believed was important to women's reproductive

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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health and wrote pamphlets on The Scientific Aspects of Sexual Hygiene.

He was one of the founders of Etz Chaim, the first yeshiva in the United States to combine Hebrew studies and English studies. My parents attended Anshe Sfarad Synagogue (14th Avenue and 45th Street) and, true to the precepts of Judaism, my father gave most generously to charity. I still have an account book wherein he itemized his charitable contributions. One entry notes that he made a house call to a poor family. Not only did he not charge them for his visit, but he also left \$10 under the patient's pillow! My father donated 20 cents of every dollar he earned to charity.

My father wrote many articles for medical journals on treatment of cancer and heart disease. During World War II he advised the War Production Board on how the Armed Services could avoid fatigue. His accomplishments included inventing the three-tone stethoscope and a better neurological hammer and the invention of the thoroscope.

During President Truman's administration, my father was called in as a consultant by the President's doctor to examine Mrs. Truman, her mother, Mrs. Wallace, and President Truman. At that time he was invited to sleep over in the White House. A framed thank you letter from President Truman hangs in my apartment.

My memories of Boro Park are vivid. In addition to stores, food was sold from horse and wagons. I remember the banana man, the fish man, and the vegetable man. Then there was the pushcart market on 39th Street and 13th Avenue, before the City Market was built at that location during the administration of Mayor LaGuardia and the pushcart vendors were obliged to take stalls inside. The Super K Discount Market is now on that site. At that time 13th Avenue was still residential, with stores extending only from 45th Street to 39th Street. Beyond Old New Utrecht Road, toward 18th Avenue, there was only farmland.

My sister's name was Stella, and my brothers' names were Albert, Arthur, Norman, Pinchas, Seymour, and Sidney. Albert, Norman,

Pincus, Sidney and their wives still live in Boro Park today. How well I remember the large seders we had, with the whole family and guests seated around our large dining room table!

We children were very close and went everywhere in a group. My brother Pincus married my friend Sylvia Labenoff.

I remember the many fine dress shops on 13th Avenue: Bushell's, between 48th and 49th Streets (next door to Meyer's Ice Cream Parlor); when Bushell's went out of business, the Linden Shop moved into Bushell's store from another location on 13th Avenue; Weintraub's, on the corner of 49th Street and 13th Avenue; and Morrell's, between 48th and 49th Streets, which stocked good quality skirts and blouses. Then there was Al-Hi, a men's clothing shop at the corner of 49th Street and 13th Avenue, and Home Beautiful, between 46th and 47th Streets, which sold beautiful furniture.

When I was still single, I was a Vice President of the Junior League of Israel Zion Hospital. After meetings which were held at the Concordia Club on 15th Avenue and 49th Street, we girls went to Meyer's Ice Cream Parlor on 13th Avenue and 49th Street for sodas. I also belonged to the young people's group at the Infants Home, located on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues. My brothers and I went to Saturday night dances at the Menorah Temple, a catering hall on 14th Avenue and 50th Street, now a school.

None of my brothers became doctors. However, my father's medical heritage lives on in his grandchildren, many of whom became doctors.

We thank Genevieve Antin who wrote the above article and Lucille Posner, officer of the Boro Park Historical Society who interviewed her and submitted this very interesting family history.

While looking through my files I found a copy of Dr. Smithline's pamphlet. There is no

date inside, but from the scientific papers cited it seems that this 12 page pamphlet was written in the mid to late 1930's. The cover reads as follows:

SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS

OF

SEXUAL HYGIENE

The Bath of Immersion (Mikvah)

By

JACOB SMITHLINE,

M.D.

1230-46th STREET,
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Fellow of the American Medical Association, Member of the New York State, Kings County, and New Utrecht Medical Associations, and Associate Physician to the Israel Zion Hospital at Brooklyn, etc.

15c

The next booklet will be
**HOW TO LIVE WITH THE
BIBLE**

The inside cover reads as follows:

To his teachers
RABBI ABRAHAM
ELEAZER ALPERSTEIN
RABBI CHAIM
NACHMAN COHEN
and to his father...

ZEVI HERSH SMITHLINE
and to his mother
MERIAM SMITHLINE
whose lives were simple
and true, and to whom he
owes what he is, who will
forever command his
esteem and love and
respect, this pamphlet is
dedicated by the Author.

NEW HOME FOR BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After much trial and tribulation, the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) has finally found a new home-office. The new location is 4211 13th Avenue, one flight up.

In the new modest office, shared with the Boro Park Community Council, the B.P.H.S. hopes to set up some interesting historical displays and photo exhibits which will hopefully develop into a small museum of Boro Park history and memories. All contributions of historical materials to the displays are most welcome. Special hours are planned for public viewing.

The B.P.H.S.

welcomes volunteers to help in the work on manning the office, filing, making phone calls, doing clerical work, or interviewing people. In order to help pay the rent, utilities, mailing, photography, copying, etc., the B.P.H.S. is in need of funds. Your membership dues of \$5 will help. Join us - Boro Park is you.

Please send your dues and/or contributions to The Boro Park Historical Society, 4211 - 13th Avenue - Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kiput

Schools In Boro Park

The schools in Boro Park, the Public as well as the religious schools, are certainly an important component of the history of this community. I have made an in depth study of the history of the schools in this community and plan to include a series of articles summarizing these studies in this column over the next few months. Perhaps readers can add additional information about these schools from their own experiences and memories.

Public Schools

There have been ten public schools functioning in the Boro Park community. The first and oldest school building in Boro Park, located on 14th Ave. Between 53rd and 54th streets, had an interesting history which reflects some of the changes in the community. That school was first established as P.S. 103 in the early 1880's when this community was still part of the Town of New Utrecht. A few new buildings and additions were built for P.S. 103 but the present large brick structure running along 14th Avenue was erected in 1904-1905. There is a small section in the back that was built earlier. The total cost of this structure, built in 1904-1905, including land, construction and contents was \$278,534. Today the land itself may have a value of Twenty times that amount.

Nine other public school buildings were subsequently built in the Boro Park community. The last one, Montauk J.H.S. 223, located on 16th Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Streets was completed in 1930. Thus the newest public school building in this community is now 60 years old and there are no plans to build any new public schools in Boro

Park.

The reason for this is that as the ethnic composition of the neighborhood and the religious orientation of the people changed over the years, more and more of the neighborhood children began attending Yeshivas and parochial schools. Consequently, even though the population of Boro Park increased dramatically, there was no need for any additional public schools. In fact the existing public schools became underutilized, as more and more Yeshivas were built. In addition all the afternoon Hebrew schools or Talmud Torah's also slowly lost their students and closed down.

P.S. 103, the first public school built also became the first public school closed because of underutilization. It was sold by the city in 1979 to a Yeshiva. The building now houses a girl's religious school of the Saurar chasidic community called "Bais

Rochel De Satmar".

Other public schools in the community that became partially underutilized were also on the brink of being closed. Instead, however, the city brought in students from other communities to help relieve the congestion in other school districts and established several special programs in the available space in the existing schools.

The other eight public schools in the Boro Park community their addresses and the year of construction are as follows:

P.S. 48 at 6015-18 Ave. Built in 1915. (This school is on the border of Boro Park.)

P. S. 105 (The Blythebourne School) at 1031-59 St. Became a separate school in 1895 in a wooden building. Before that it was a branch of P.S. 103, the present brick structure was completed in 1926.

P.S. 131 at Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. Between 43 and 44 Streets, was completed in 1901.

P.S. 160 (The William T. Sampson School) at 5105-Ft. Hamilton Parkway , was completed in 19099.

P.S. 164 (The Rodney School)) at 14 Ave. between 42 and 43 Streets was completed in 1910.

P.S. 180(The Homewood School) at 5601 16 Ave. was completed in 1925.

P.S. 192 at 4715 18 Ave. was completed in 1924.

John J. Pershing J.H.S. 220 at 4812- 9 Ave. was completed in 1925.

Adelle Weinstock

I was born in Boro Park and lived on 45th St. between 13th and 14th Ave. From birth until I was married. My husband and I moved back to the same house in 1955 and lived there until 1979. We then sold the property and moved to our present residence on 58th St.

During these years I have seen great changes in the community. some of these changes I remember and some have been told to me.

My parents moved to Boro Park in 1907. The streets then were mostly unpaved. The nearest school was P.S. 103 on 14th Ave. and 53rd st. My older brother and sister had to attend P.S. 103 until P.S. 164 on 14th Ave. and 43rd St. was opened. My brother then graduated from P.S. 164 about 1911, I believe he was in the first graduating class. The rest of us all attended P.S. 164 which was then an 8R school. They offered

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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cooking classes and Home Economics classes for girls and shop classes for boys. In the summer there were "Summer School" play activities.

My sister took me to the library then located in a small building near the Edgewood Church on 14th Ave. and 54th St. From there the library moved to a store on 56th St. near 13th Ave., then to a double store on 13th Ave. near 52nd St., and finally to its present location on 43rd St.

When I was a child there were private houses on 13th Ave. from 45th St. to the higher streets. Later zoning laws changed. Many of the houses were actually moved from one site to another, drawn by teams of horses.

When my parents first located on 45th St., you could see the Culver line on 37th St. from our house. Soon after the streets were built up with cheap houses still in existence.

I recall going with my brother Nat to meet my father at the station on New Utrecht Ave. When the West End train ran on the ground. I also remember the subway celebration when the elevated train made its first run and stop on New Utrecht Ave. There were many festivities and pageants in which school children participated.

I can recall the gas lamps that lit the streets and the lamplighter that made his daily rounds - a romantic touch.

The Etz Chaim Yeshivah, now gone, was built on the site of the Boro Park Club House. The entrance to the Yeshivah was a semi-circular road up on which the horses and carriages drove and later automobiles.

The movies were a big thing in those days. The Garden on 46 St. and New Utrecht Ave. and the Eagle on 16th Ave. and 42nd St. had open air performances in the summer time. On 13th Ave. was the Royal where children piled in with their lunch to spend the day there for a nickel. In the movie house a piano accompanied the movie and a man went around spraying the air with some perfume or air fresheer.

Later, much later, we had the West End and Loew's Boro Park movie houses which also showed live vaudeville shows. My husband took me there on a date. There were ice cream parlors all over and after a movie you stopped in for a sundae.

Milk was delivered to each house daily and the white Borden Wagon with a white horse was a familiar sight. I always called the genial man who came to collect the bill "Mr. Borden". The other competing milk company was "Sheffield".

Boro Park was really a park then, with its many trees and gardens. Houses were not built without yards and gardens.

There were a number of Churches, most of them disappeared one by one and one by one new Synagogues appeared. The Machzikei Talmud Torah was on 43rd St. near 13th Ave. There was a shul, still there, on 12th Ave. and 41st St. in 1905. Later Temple Emmanuel which had a very wealthy congregation and Shomrei Emunah were built. Then First Congregation Anshei Sfard was built around 1915 and Beth - El later. We had great cantors and well known Rabbis in Boro Park too.

We thank Adelle Weinstock, a prominent Boro Park old timer, for her interesting contribution and welcome comments from our readers.

READERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Occasionally, there are omissions or technical errors in this column. For the sake of historical accuracy, we are happy to list the corrections and additions when they are brought to our attention. A few such comments follow and we thank our readers for bringing them to our attention.

• In the issue of December 1989, we had an article about Dr. Fred Margaretten. Mr. Herman Silberstein remembers that Dr. Margaretten's office was located on 14th Avenue, between 47th and 48th street, right next to the new large Munkacher Synagogue. Dr. Margaretten's office was taken over by Dr. Abraham Bornstein when the former retired. The building was then purchased by the Munkacher Synagogue when Dr. Bornstein retired, and is now used as offices for their community.

• In the issue of January 1990, an article from the Brooklyn Eagle of February 1913 mentioned the name of Mrs. Allin, daughter of E. B. Litchfield. The name, Allin, was spelled incorrectly, as "Allen". Mr. B. M. Selevan indicates that it is important to mention this correction because, that family name is very

significant in the early history of Boro Park.

• In the issue of November 1989, we had an article, entitled "Samuel Oelbaum". In that article, we mentioned the series of owners of the grocery store at 4502 16th Avenue. Mr. Herman Deutsch, one of the owners of that store, indicated that he could add

some dates and other information. He purchased the store in 1968 from Mr. Zisfine, and stayed there until 1971 when he sold it to Mr. Roth. Mr. Deutsch moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side, where he also owned a grocery store. He lived on 45th street, between 12th and 13th Avenue, then moved to Flatbush when he sold his grocery and house. Mr. Deutsch, subsequently, went into the Nursing Home business.

NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO. GRANT

We received a grant of \$250 from the New York Telephone Co. to help pay for our video film of Boro Park last year. The Video included the New York Telephone building and history on 14th Avenue and 42nd Street, among other sites. Mr. Gerard J. Bisogno, Community Relations representative of New York Telephone Co., researched and presented a summary of the history of that building in the community. We thank Mr. Bisogno and the New York Telephone Co. for their help.

The B.P.H.S. welcomes volunteers to help in the work on manning the office, filing, making phone calls, doing clerical work or interviewing people. In order to help pay the rent, utilities, mailing, photography, copying etc. the B.P.H.S. is in need of funds. Your membership dues of \$5 will help. Join us - Boro Park is you.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BENJAMIN M. KORNGREICH

About 5 years ago I interviewed Benjamin M. Korngreich, attorney and real estate businessman. His business office is located at 4915-12 Ave. Unfortunately, we both had only a few minutes for this interview and therefore we could only discuss a few items. The Korngreich family is really a very old-time prominent Boro Park family and I hope at a future time to be able to have another interview.

His parents, Hyman and Pepie Korngreich and family came to Boro Park in 1905 from the Lower East Side, the same year that Benjamin was born on the East Side. Their first residence in Boro Park was on 42nd St. between Ft. Hamilton and 12th Ave. They were very active and helpful in the building of the synagogue on 12th Ave. and 41st St., then called Temple Beth-El.

Some of the subsequent addresses of the family were 1260-49 St., 1540-54 St., 5714-15 Ave. and 4817-15 Ave.

Ben remembers the West End Railroad when it ran on the ground on New Utrecht Avenue, the elevated line was built in 1916.

Hyman Korngreich helped to build Shomrei Emunah Synagogue on 14 Ave. and 52 St. A plaque still hangs in the synagogue honoring him for donating all the officers chairs. Ben attended Shomrei Emunah until 1958 when he moved to Great Neck.

Hyman Korngreich originally immigrated to the U.S. from Austria (Hungary) in 1889. He was a member of the Borgenicht family and helped build their 24 room home on 15 Ave. between 51 and 52 St. The home stretched along the entire block. On that site the apartment house at 5100-15 Ave. is now located. Ben's mother was deceased in 1957 and his father

was deceased in 1967.

Louis and Regina Borgenicht had a little shule in their house which they used for study groups and prayer in the evenings on the Sabbath and holidays. The family was very prominent and charitable and hosted many guests there who needed a place to stay or eat. On their property was a very small police booth. A replica of this home was built on Shore Road but it has now been converted into a nursing home.

The Borgenicht family is written about in the book "Days of Our Years". They were the largest manufacturers of children's dresses.

Mr. H. Korngreich went into the real estate business in 1928 and then became a broker. His son Benjamin continued in the real estate business for many years. In fact after my own marriage, Ben served as broker for the first house I purchased at 1582-51 St. in 1952.

DR. MIRIAM

FREUND-ROSENTHAL

Dear Phil:

In reading the book, *In My Lifetime*, by Miriam Freund-

Rosenthal, I was interested to learn that both the author and Rose Halprin, Past Presidents of Hadassah, formerly lived in Boro Park. The book is available on page 8

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Continued from Page 2

able from the Jewish Education Dept., Hadassah, 50 W. 58th St., New York, NY 10019, for \$12, including postage. If bought in person at the Hadassah office, the price is \$10. Information on Boro Park is excerpted below.

My childhood and youth were lived in Boro Park, Brooklyn, with the exception of four years in New Jersey. Boro Park was better known to readers of the Yiddish press as "Bluttertown" or Mudtown, due to the lack of paved streets in its beginnings. My grandfather had been an early pioneer, settling his family in a vast white house on 12th Avenue. Boro Park was a wonderful home for a young Jewish girl who loved the Sabbath holiness, both at home and in the neighborhood. What joy to visit Temple Emanuel, where my grandfather prayed, facing the congregation on the mizrah bench, then to go on and visit my parents at Yeshiva Eitz Chaim, one of the first modern day schools in this country, of which my father was a founder.

So much did my parents believe in the virtues of modern Hebrew that they imported a Palestinian Jew to teach their children. It is interesting to note that, although my grandfather was one of the founders of the Orthodox shul on 14th Avenue, he preferred in his later years to daven in the Conservative Temple Emanuel. What a thrill it was to walk down the aisle dressed in my new holiday outfit! Each year, just before Rosh Hashana and before Passover, Mother and I shopped for something new for the holiday. Joy and love have colored those special holiday memories for me. I often think that today children miss much of that special distinctiveness.

My mother's parents were Charles and Tobela Zindler, who opened a women's shirt-waist business on the Lower East Side, corner of Grand and Allen Streets. One of their children was my mother, Rebecca, who married Harry Kottler, son of Arye Chaim (deceased) and Devorah (also known as Baba) Kottler; both were descended from renowned rabbinical families.

Harry, the youngest of three sons, learned the trade of cutter and found work at the Zindler establishment where he met my mother. Grandpa Zindler did not consider him a suitable groom for his daughter; they had to resort to the help of a friend to arrange meetings. I only learned this after my father died, and the friend came to visit. Grandpa was finally convinced that this Litvak was his daughter's choice for marriage. They were married at the turn of the century.

Four children were born to them; Esther, myself, Archie and Joseph. Despite the ups and downs of making a living, they sent all four children to college and participated in Jewish communal life. They remained lovers despite the moral vicissitudes of life. Father was full of warmth and loved fun; Mother was more reticent but they shared beliefs and values.

Mother and her two sisters, Lena Yanover and Mary Elmer, were loyal daughters and on Saturday afternoons they brought their children to visit with Grandpa and Grandma Zindler. My father's mother, Baba Kottler, was a constant presence. The Salanter Rav, the Rav Epstein, Frank and Kottler were always there in our home, in spirit. Judaism, scholarship and Zion were interwoven and became part of my daily life.

My father was an honorable and faithful man and Jew. When he died, his body was carried through the streets from our home to Etz Chaim Yeshiva (although he was not fully observant) and the final services were held there. When Mother died, her body, in a coffin, was brought to Etz Chaim, and the doors were opened in her honor, before she was carried on to the funeral parlor. Thirty days after Mother's death, the community arranged a Hespel (a memorial service) in her memory.

My childhood was lived in the ups and downs of the Zionist movement. A small, but fervent Zionist circle met in a Zionist house, whose deed was in my mother's name. Zvi Hirsch Masliansky, the magnetic orator, Dr. Abraham Samuel Schwartz, the Hebrew poet, Mr. Abraham Spicchan- dler, and Mr. Fishman were all family friends.

I must have absorbed the message of taking action and joining, because even at an early age I was a member of a Girl Scout troop (led by our Rebbitzin, Mrs. Wellerstein),

of a Young Judea club, of Junior Hadassah, one of a tennis club.

During my childhood years I had visited Rose Halprin's home. Her family lived on 46th Street and 14th Avenue. Her father was Orthodox and was known as a Hebrew scholar; her stepmother and my mother were friends. (Rose Halprin was later to become a National President of Hadassah.)

My second home in Boro Park was the Boro Park Library on New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street, where I spent countless afternoons.

I first met my husband, Milton Freund, on Rosh Hashanah 1921, I was 15 and he was 17. I had gone to my aunt's house to wish her a happy holiday and my tennis group was to meet me there. Milton was a newcomer to the group and he came with them. Milton's parents, Isaac and Bella Goldberg Freund, lived in Boro Park too. We met and immediately recognized our destiny together. We were married on July 3, 1927.

Soon after my marriage, I found myself President of the Young Israel Women's Group of Boro Park, and a member of the Board of Education for the Flatbush Yeshiva, despite a full teaching schedule and graduate work at New York University. The year 1935 was a remarkable turning point in my life. (She joined Hadas- sah.) I also remember with much respect and affection those women of Boro Park -- active, concerned, articulate, determined to play a positive role in assuring a Jewish future.

Often on Saturday evenings (after Shabbat) Milton, my son Mat and I would have dinner at the Famous, a vegetarian restaurant on 13th Avenue in Boro Park. We often met Grandpa and Grandma Zindler there and they would ask us to join them. Grandpa would take the check, leave a tip and then go pay the bill. Grandma, without saying a word, would add to the tip and walk away. This happened every time!

After reading this extremely interesting book, I contacted

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Dr. Freund-Rosenthal for further questions. She told me that she moved to Boro Park with her parents in 1910 and that she lived here until about 1941. Her family home was 1325-47th Street. Her mother's parents, the Zindlers, lived in a big white house on the corner of 12th Avenue and 46th Street; an apartment house is on that site now. Miriam Kottler married Milton Freund at Temple Emanuel on July 3, 1927; they lived at the Temple Arms, an apartment house at 49th Street and 14th Avenue. Milton Freund died in April 1968 and Miriam Freund married Harry Rosenthal in 1974; he died in 1989. Etz Chaim Yeshiva was located on 13th Avenue, 50th to 51st Street; the King David Shopping Mall occupies that site

now. In addition to Past Presidents Dr. Freund-Rosenthal and Rose Halprin, other Boro Park women who served on Hadassah's National Board are the late Pauline Borgenicht Mack, Martha Gold and Naomi Gurin.

We thank this magnificent woman for giving us permission to use the above paragraphs from her extremely interesting book. LUCILLE POSNER. We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for this interesting article.

The B.P.H.S. welcomes volunteers to help in the work on manning the office, filing, making phone calls, doing clerical work or interviewing people. In order to help pay the rent, utilities, mailing, photography, copying etc. the B.P.H.S. is in need of funds. Your membership dues of \$5 will help. Join us - Boro Park is you.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

HEBREW SCHOOLS IN EARLY BORO PARK

In the March issue we summarized briefly the history of the Public Schools in Boro Park. In continuation of that series on schools we would like to outline the history of Hebrew schools in the early years of Boro Park. This will merely be a brief outline. In the future we will have more in depth studies of the individual schools. Jewish residents first made their appearance in this community between 1891-1900, before the name Boro Park was introduced. In 1884 the town of New Utrecht and the four other towns were annexed and became part of the City of Brooklyn. It wasn't until 1898 that the City of Brooklyn became part of the City of New York. It was also

in that year that Senator William Reynolds gave the name of Boro Park to his new real estate development, extending from 43 St. to 60 St. and east of New Utrecht avenue.

At first Hebrew education was limited to private lessons given after school in the community. As synagogues (shules) were built, little Hebrew schools, called Talmud Torahs, were usually developed within each synagogue. The first large shul was Temple Beth-El which started in 1902 on 12th Ave. and 41 St. That building, the oldest shul in Boro Park, still stands at that location today.

In 1908, a separate independent Hebrew School was started which was not affiliated with any synagogue. It was called Machzikei Talmud Torah. This school, then located at 1315 43 St., provided Hebrew instruction to students who attended public schools in the mornings. The hours of

instruction were usually from 4 to 6 pm, Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings. The Machzikei Talmud Torah was very successful providing instruction to over 600 students on a regular basis during its prime years.

The Machzikei Talmud Torah moved to its new building on 14th Ave. corner 47 St. in 1951. Due to changing population of the community (most Jewish children now attended Yeshivos) the M.T.T. closed its doors in 1976 (approximately).

FIRST YESHIVA

The first yeshiva or all day school established in Boro Park was the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park, also known as Yeshiva Etz Chaim. It was first established in Jan. 1916 in a private house on 46 St. and 14th Ave. A few years later in 1920, the old Boro Park Club House was purchased and the Yeshiva added two wings, renovated and moved into that building on 13th Ave. between

50 and 51 Sts. The Boro Park club house was first built by Senator Reynolds in 1898 when he started his Boro Park development.

It was a religious institution

which provided both the religious or Hebrew instruction as well as the general or secular studies to its students. It should be pointed out that the Yeshiva Etz Chaim was the first Day School in all of Brooklyn and the second in the United States. The yeshiva closed in 1979 due to the changing needs of the Boro Park Community.

YESHIVA TORATH EMETH

The Academy Torath Emeth, the official name by which this yeshiva was first incorporated and called, started in 1927. Some parents in the changing community felt a need for a

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Yeshiva in which the language of instruction and translation was Yiddish rather than Hebrew. This school first started with a handful of students in the building of the first shule in Boro Park on 12th Ave. and 41 St., now called Cong. Anshei Lubawitz.

In a year or two it moved to its own building, an old wooden private house at 1359-48 St. In 1938 the Yeshiva purchased a building at 4407-12 Ave., renovated it and relocated there. Then in 1950-51 the Yeshiva purchased the old Machzikei Talmud Torah building at 1315-1317-43 St. and moved there.

Finally in 1972 a new magnificent building was erected at 1650-56 St. and the Yeshiva, now combined with the Kaminetzer High School, moved into the new and present location.

The Mesivta of Boro Park High School, an offshoot of Yeshiva Toras Emes, began in 1955 in the old building of the Agudath Israel at 4511-14 Ave. In 1957 it moved into the donated Isaac M. Lobell Institute building at 960-49th St. In 1959 it merged with the Kaminetzer Yeshiva. Finally in 1968 Yeshiva Toras Emes and Kaminetzer Mesivta H.S. merged once more but remained in separate buildings until 1972.

FIRST GIRLS DAYS SCHOOL

Although girls attended some of the Talmud Torah schools in Boro Park, as elsewhere in the country, there were no Yeshiva type day schools available for girls anywhere in the United States.

In 1929 the Shulamith School for girls was established in Boro Park. It was an all day school, the first such school for girls in the United States. The first class met above a store on 13 Ave., later it rented rooms in the Y.M.H.A. building on 14 Ave. This was its home for many years until the new Shulamith Young Israel building was built in 1954 (approx.)

Again due to the changing population in Boro Park the Shulamith School enrollment began to decline. The school then moved to Flatbush about ten years ago and is now a thriving flourishing educational center.

BETH JACOB OF BORO PARK

The Beth Jacob Elementary school located at 1372 46 St. (corner 14 Ave.) is now the largest Beth Jacob school in the U.S. and probably the largest girls Jewish elementary day school of any kind in the United States.

In 1941 a small group of parents seeking an intensive Jewish religious for their daughters with the language translation in Yiddish, decided to start a new school. The school started

with seven girls meeting in the home/shul of Rabbi Simpson at 1546 46 St. The school was first called Beth Rivka. It subsequently moved to several temporary locations until the first building was purchased at 1413 45 St. Later the school expanded rapidly to two, then three buildings and still became seriously overcrowded. Finally in 1962 the new building on 46 St. and 14 Ave. was completed and the school moved there. Due to rapid growth of the school the new building was soon inadequate and a large adjoining building was completed in 1982.

FIRST JEWISH SEMINARY IN BORO PARK

Rabbi Avrohom Jofen, the famous Talmudic Scholar and Rabbinical seminary dean (Rosh Yeshiva) escaped from Europe (Lithuania) and came to America in 1941. He soon started a new his famous seminary, Yeshiva Beth Josef. The classes first met in the Agudath Israel Synagogue, then located at 1211-50 St. (near New Utrecht) above a store. In a short time the school began to grow and acquired its own building at 1429-49 St. where it is still located today.

There was also at that time a rabbinical seminary functioning called Yavneh Rabbinical Seminary on Dahill Rd. and Ditmas Avenue, in the synagogue at that location. However, that school was short lived and I do not have available right now any more specific information about when the seminary began. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to supply that information. On the Ditmas Ave. station of the F train line there is still a sign which reads "Yeshiva Yavneh Rabbinical Seminary."

FIRST CHASIDIC YESHIVA

The first chasidic yeshiva in Boro Park was the Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel. It started in 1953 at 4407-12 Ave. in the building formerly occupied by Yeshiva Toras Emes. In 1959 the Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel added a mesita or high school. In 1960 the administration purchased the building at 1363-50 St. This building formerly belonged to Cong. Shomrei Emunah and was used by the Young Israel Synagogue before the completion of its own new building. This building was then used for the Be'er Shmuel elementary school. About ten years ago the Be'er Shmuel Yeshiva at this location closed down and the building was sold to another yeshiva.

During the next three decades the community has seen the development and growth of many new yeshivas, mostly chasidic on all levels. Interestingly, due to the changing population and changing times, many of the earliest Hebrew schools have closed or moved from the neighborhood.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The community is invited to participate in the 6th General Membership Meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society which will feature interesting presentations of Boro Park history.

At this gathering another video presentation of Boro Park history will be shown; Photo and memorabilia displays will be exhibited; a guest speaker will relate personal memories of old Boro Park; and a discussion of Boro Park memories with audience participation will take place and will be videoed.

This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 6, 1990, at 7:30 PM at the Greater New York Savings Bank (downstairs meeting room). Please plan to join us and bring a friend. Admission is free. Come-reminisce-enjoy. JOIN THE B.P.H.S.

Help us to preserve, record and publicize the history of this community. We need you and we need your contributions of information, photos, documents, and dues. Send your dues (\$5 per year) or information to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4211-13 Ave, Bklyn, NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

LOOKING FOR SIEGEL FAMILY

We received the following letter from a FLORIDA resident seeking information about the Siegel family. If any of our readers know the family or have information to help this lady, please send it to my attention at the B.P. Community News or the Boro Park Historical Society. Members of BPHS are also doing some research on the matter to see if we can help in the search.

March 29, 1990

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I was delighted to read of BPHS, in the Winter issue of Dorot. If people seeking information on families in this area have been as unsuccessful as I have been, I think you will be inundated with requests for, and how to get, information!

I have been trying to trace the family of Joseph SIEGEL, his wife Choshka and their children Anne, Blanche, Rose, and Nathan. They were an Orthodox family and would have attended an Orthodox (if not Chassidic) shul, probably close to where they lived. Nathan, and possibly the girls, would have attended a Talmud Torah connected with the shul.

Perhaps you can answer these questions for me:

1. Was there one shul which attracted Russian Jews, in particular? Is there a membership or Chevra Kadisha listing available?
2. Was there a particular cemetery, in or near Boro Park, used by Orthodox Jews? One of the stories about my grandmother (Mary Kasdan Siegel), who died in the 30's, is that she

was so well known for her charities and good works, that the men of the congregation carried her coffin to the cemetery.

3. Does BPHS have any idea of the Census Districts for Boro Park for the NY State Census and the US Census for 1930? I would be most appreciative of any facts or ideas your members could give me. Since I am far from NYC, I find it impossible to tap the files of the Jewish newspapers for 1920-40 or to use information available through the New York Public Library.

Sincerely,

Pauline Horowitz

In last month's column we discussed the beginning of Hebrew/Jewish education in Boro Park. We outlined in chronological order the development of the first Day schools and Yeshivas in the community. The following items based upon comments and mini-interviews add information about these early schools.

MILTON NORDLICHT

I met Mr. Nordlicht, a boyhood classmate and friend of mine, at a weekend convention recently which took place at the Homowack Hotel in Spring Glen, New York. He had just read the Boro Park Community News distributed there and wanted to supply some additional information about the Yeshiva Yavneh as requested in the article. Mr. Nordlicht attended the Yeshiva Yavneh during the years of 1950-54. He received Smicha (Ordination) from the Yeshiva in 1954. He indicated that the Yeshiva moved several

times during his years there. It first met in the Synagogue on Dahill Rd. and Ditmas Ave., then moved to 206 - E. Broadway, Manhattan, then moved to a house on the corner of 54 St. and 15 Ave. (approximately in 1952-53) and then moved back to Dahill Rd. However, he doesn't have any information about when this Yeshiva first started.

Milton Nordlicht moved to Boro Park with his two brothers and parents Hyman and Miriam, in Jan. 1937. The family purchased a local grocery store from M. Katz at 5222 - 16 Ave. (Cor. 53 St.) and lived above the store. His father

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Continued from Page 2

passed away in 1947 but the family continued to operate the grocery store until they sold it in 1949. Milton indicated that their groceries was one of the first Shomer Shabbos grocery in the community and may have been the first to carry Cholov Yisroel. They sold Balsom milk which then came in two varieties - Cholov Yisroel and regular. They also sold Kahal milk which was entirely Cholov Yisroel and was introduced into the market a few years after Balsom milk.

Mr. Nordlicht's mother continued to live in Boro Park until 1980 when she passed away. His older brother Irving married in 1952 and moved to Queens. Milton was married in 1955 and moved to Queens. His younger brother Jules married a local girl Barbara Chamides, lived in Boro Park for a few years and then moved to Long Beach, L.I.

PINKY SMITHLINE

Pinky Smithline, said he was born at home in 1914 at 230-46 St. Pinky is a son of Dr. Jacob Smithline M.D., about whom we wrote several articles in the past. The family came to B.P. in 1914 from Bayonne, N.J. Mr. Smithline said he attended the Yeshiva Etz Chaim when it was located on the corner of 14 Ave. and 46 St. This corner building which housed the Yeshiva was donated by Mr. Strauss. Mr. Strauss lived in the house across the street, where Beth Jacob is now located. He remembers walking in the big parade marking the purchase of B.P. Club House by the Yeshiva Etz Chaim, in 1920.

After that he remembers that the club house was renovated, two wings and a brick front were added, before the school occupied the building. The club house, he recalls, had green shingles.

He also remembers the first Hebrew Principal, Mr. Richman and the first English Principal, Mr. Kufeld.

The following are a few other memories recalled by Mr. Smithline. He remembers that the Garden theater on New Utrecht Ave. and 46 St. showed

open air silent movies in the summer time. Admission to the Movies was 10¢. Some people would go up to the elevated train, pay 5¢ for the train fare, and watch the movie from the station walkway at half price.

Pinky said he has a photo, taken about 1920, of 13 Ave and 48 St., where the Anchor Bank is now located. There was a church at the location at that time.

GEORGE GOTTIEB

George Gottlieb said he was one of the early students in the Yeshiva Toras Emes. He started there in 1929 when the school met in the Synagogue on 12 Ave and 41 St. He was in the 6th grade then and his class included Melvin and Harold

Cohen (twins), Abe Sternman, Sam Deutsch and others. George indicated that he was in the second graduating class of that school. He recalls that the first Hebrew Principal of Toras Emes was Rabbi Shmuel Wolk, the man who subsequently founded Shulamith school for girls.

The second principal, he said, was Rabbi Dr. Treistman, who was a student of Rabbi Chaim Heller. He returned to Europe and was lost in the holocaust. The third Hebrew principal was Rabbi Goldberg. He also remembers the first English principal, Mr. Harry Lipschitz, and his graduating teacher Mr. Louis Wald.

George Gottlieb's parents first moved to Mapleton Park (Bensonhurst) in 1929 from Harlem. His father was a Cantor. George moved to B.P. in 1948 when he married Beverly Roth. Beverly's father Harry Roth was also one of the staunch financial supporters of Yeshiva Toras Emes.

RABBI PHILIP GOLDBERG Rabbi Philip (Faivel) Goldberg recalled that his father Rabbi Menachem Goldberg was the first Hebrew Principal in Yeshiva Toras Emes when it moved to 48 St. between 13th and 14th Aves. His father left for Canada for two years and the officers of Toras Emes called him back to be principal again when the Yeshiva moved to 4407 - 12 Ave. in 1938.

The building on 12 Ave. was purchased by the Yeshiva from Dr. Wald. That building was used by Dr. Wald as a small private hospital. Dr. Wald lived and maintained his office right next door, on the corner of 44 St.

There were times when the Yeshiva was in serious financial difficulties. In fact the bank wanted to take over the building for non payment of mortgage. At that time Philip Goldberg's mother gave up her jewelry to help save the mortgage and prevent the bank takeover. In fact when the building was subsequently sold to Yeshiva Beer Shmuel they had to go to Mrs. Goldberg to obtain the deed which was still in her house.

OTHER COMMENTS

Rabbi Rubin Soloff commented to me that his parents were involved in organizing Toras Emes. People called his parents and others involved in starting the Yeshiva fanatics. They wanted to know why Etz Chaim was not religious enough since most of the Rabbis sent their children there. Mr. Leo Zelinger informed me that he moved to Boro Park in 1932.

I remembered that he was president of the Yeshiva Toras Emes for many years and a very active supporter of the Yeshiva for decades. In fact I remember when his wife Bertha was

terminally ill in the hospital, and uppermost in her mind was the welfare of the Yeshiva. When ever people came to visit her she discouraged any gifts and asked her visitors to help the Yeshiva instead. She also declined gifts of jewelry from her husband advising instead that the money be give to the Yeshiva. She passed away in 1962. Their son Rabbi Yakov Zelinger has been one of the Roshei Yeshiva, leading Rabbis in the Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz now for many years.

In Dec. 1986, I chanced to meet Mr. S. Ezra Austen at some function. he said he lived in Far Rockaway but commuted and attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim from 1928-30 when he was in the 3rd and 4th grades. His Hebrew teacher was Mrs. Auerbach. He remembers playing Ring-a-lieve in the school yard. He said he never lived in Boro Park but was then (1986) temporarily living in a furnished room while on a visit from Bnei Brak, Israel.

We have received more items in connection to the early history of Hebrew schools in Boro Park and plan to incorporate them in future columns.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

We encourage our readers to submit their own comments based upon memories of Boro Park and family.

We also appeal to our readers to join the B.P.H.S. and support the work of the organization. Help preserve, research, and publish the history of this community. Your \$5 dues will help pay some of the expenses. Send items and dues to B.P.H.S. 4211 - 13 Ave., Bklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THE 6TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society's 6th annual general membership meeting took place on June 6th, 7:30 P.M. in the meeting room of the Greater New York Savings Bank. Even before the meeting began, joy emanated from the audience as they eagerly shared recollections and looked at the old photographs which were on display.

Dr. Philip Kipust, President, welcomed the audience. First on the agenda was the showing of a video film, made by the Executive Committee, which included various 13th Avenue locations, from 44th Street to 53rd Street. Following are some of the highlights.

The video began in front of Rx Unlimited, 44th Street and 13th Avenue. RICHARD AIENA, owner, said that Kresge's five and dime store had formerly occupied the site. (Among several others, Crawford's, a men's clothing store, had also occupied the site.) Mr. Aiena recalled the days when a customer could walk out of the side door of Woolworth's, cross 44th Street, and walk right in at the side door of Kresge's. He also gave the history of several nearby stores: Woolworth's five and dime store is the only old time store still there, on its original site.

DARIO MAROTTA gave a brief history of 13th Avenue banks, the ones from 44th to 53rd Street. Beginning in 1933, the present Bank Leumi at 4410 13th Avenue was the home of the Public National Bank. The Municipal Bank was located at 46 Street from 1921 to 1926; after that the building was occupied by a store. Beginning in 1927 the corner of 47th Street was occu-

pied by the Municipal Bank and is now the home of the Chase Manhattan Bank. The Bay Ridge Savings Bank moved to the corner of 48th Street in 1927. Its name was changed to Anchor Savings Bank in 1968. The name Bay Ridge Savings Bank is still engraved high up on the front of the building. The words "New Utrecht Branch" are incised on the front of the building since the bank was originally located on New Utrecht Avenue. Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, a Greek revival building, is located at the corner of 49th Street. From 1925 until 1929. This was the site of the State Bank and Trust Company. The Dime Savings Bank on 51st Street was, until three years ago, the site of Waldbaum's Supermarket; before that the site was occupied by a German Lutheran Church (demolished). The corner of 53rd Street, occupied since 1979 by the Greater New York Savings

Bank, was formerly occupied by Simon Bernstein's furniture store.

HAANNAH HARRIS was on hand in front of the pizza parlor at 4814-13 Avenue. She spoke of Meyers Ice Cream Parlor, the former occupant. Meyer's was a neighborhood hang-out; the comedian Buddy Hackett was among the many hangers-out.

ESTHER KANE spoke in front of the Famous Dairy Restaurant, 4818-13th Avenue. The Famous has been at the same location for 64 years, although the original owner is no longer there.

LUCILLE POSER, in front of the fruit store at 4905-13th Avenue, spoke of Ebinger's Bakery, the former occupant. Ebinger's, one of an exclusive Brooklyn chain of German-American bakeries, moved to that location in 1937. Ebinger's was famous for their delicious cakes and pies, including their

chocolate Boston Cream Pie and their vanilla or strawberry bisque. When Ebinger's went out of business in 1972, Ossie's Fish Store was the next occupant, until Ossie's moved around the corner in 1989.

PHILIP KIPUST spoke in front of King Solomon Plaza.

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Continued from Page 2

51st to 52nd Streets. Elz Chaim Yeshiva (or Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) occupied the site until about ten years ago, when the building was demolished. Originally, the site was the home of the Boro Park Club House, built in 1898 to serve the growing neighborhood of Boro Park. Elz Chaim Yeshiva purchased the building in 1920 and it was renovated for use as a school.

Lucille Posner spoke in front of the previous home of the Boro Park Library, which occupied the stores at 5211 and 5213-13 Avenue, from 1926 until 1955. The children's room was on the right at 5213 and the adult room was on the left.

Some old photos and music was edited into the video film, adding to its interest and effectiveness.

THELMA FOX then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. VICTOR GENCO, who has maintained a dental practice in Boro Park for 35 years. Dr. Genco said that his family was one of the first Italian families to move to Boro Park, in 1932. In 1936 his father bought the house at 5406-14th Avenue for what was, during the Depression, the then princely sum of \$5,000. Dr. Genco's dental office is still at that address. His extended family, including his grandparents, uncles, and aunts, all lived in the house.

Dr. Genco's Boy Scout troop regularly met at the Edgewood Dutch Reformed Church, 14th Avenue and 53rd Street (demolished). He recalled a German-American Ice Cream Parlor, Schmeelix, at 52nd Street and 13th Avenue. Ice cream parlors were numerous in those pre-home freezer days. Next to Dr. Genco's home was Jimmy Cohen's drugstore, which had a soda fountain and served Breyer's ice cream. Children who attended P.S. 103, located directly across 14th Avenue, were among Jimmy's many customers. Buddy Hackett, comedian, had worked there as a soda jerk at one time; even as a schoolboy he was funny! Dr. Genco recalled the "I Cash Clothes" man, the organ grinder man, and the iceman, 5 cents and 10 cents for ice. Dr. Kipust thanked Dr. Genco for his vital and interesting speech, which had awakened many fond memories.

RED SILVER, owner of a luncheonette on the corner of 48th Street and 13th Avenue (no longer in existence), spoke briefly of his store and passed around photographs. (White-haired now, Red had red hair in former years.) SY FRANKEL spoke briefly of a few of his memories of Boro Park. A Boro Park resident for 73 years, Sy has plenty of memories! Sy remembers the pre-1916 days when the West End Line ran on ground-level tracks on New Utrecht Avenue.

A brief period for audience participation followed; a video film of the meeting which Dr. Kipust had just taken, was shown. Esther Kane spoke very warmly of the wonderful work done by the B.P.H.S. and thanked the Society for the wonderful program.

Jacque Friedman, Vice President, invited Boro Park residents to join the Boro Park Historical Society (\$5 a year, \$3

for retired persons, \$10 for stores or organizations). Membership dues enable the Society to collect and preserve historical data, and prepare these interesting meetings.

Dr. Kipust thanked the audience for their interest and participation and invited people to submit articles on their recollections of Boro Park. Respectfully submitted, LUCILLE POSNER

We thank Lucille Posner for her interesting summary of the meeting and for all her work on behalf of the B.P.H.S.

Thank Community National Bank

The B.P.H.S. thanks the Community National Bank for their donation towards the upkeep of our photo library. The money was used for acquiring additional photos which will be on display in the near future.

TEXAS MAN SEARCHING FOR OLD LEVY, HELFGOT, BUGATZ FAMILIES

The following letter was sent to the Boro Park Public Library from a man in Texas seeking information about Boro Park relatives. The librarian sent the request to the Boro Park Historical Society to see if information could be obtained to help this man. If anyone has information that may be useful, please write to this columnist at the newspaper or call 718-436-7729.

ATTN:

Reference Service Librarian

I'm originally from New Jersey and have been tracing my Jewish roots of all four sides since age 30 in 1977. Many of my relatives lived and died in Boro Park and are buried in Washington Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y. I was told to contact your library to have sent the following since I'm disabled and can neither hire a researcher nor come myself for quite some time. I'd appreciate what you can send. Would you be so kind to send?

1. Any information you have about the Levy/Bugatz family - lived at 1221 - 42nd St. Boro Park 1920 on for many years.

2. Jewish Synagogues and Rabbis name (if available) Boro Park near 42nd St. 1920, 1925, 1940, 1990

3. List of Jewish Burial Societies for Brooklyn and area, whatever available 1850, 1870, 1881, 1925, 1940.

4. Elections office address for Boro Park where my relatives could have registered to vote and whom to contact

Addresses and whom to contact for: deeds and wills.

5. Any information available on the Jewish Society Krasnopol (also spelled Krasnople) of Brooklyn, N.Y. Started in 1890's - was dissolved in 1980's.

Copies of Obituaries for the following relatives - who died in Boro Park or Brooklyn.

Irving Levy Feb. 18, 1973 Age 68 or 69

Rose Levy (wife) June 24, 1974 Age 64 or 65

Annette Helfgot Nov. 28, 1981

Harry Levy May 21, 1972 Age 60 or 61

Meyer (Mayer) Levy Nov. 5, 1955 Age 70 or 71

Minnie (Minkes) Levy, June 11, 1964 Age 72 - 74 Wife of Mayer

Annie Levy Jan. 18, 1924 Age 45 (my grandmother) Died 1221 - 42nd St. Wife of Nathan

Moses (Morris) Bugatz or Bageu. Died July 29, 1931. 1221 - 42nd St. Age 70 or 71

Thank You. P.S. There was a Ruth Levy living at 1271 - 43rd St. Brooklyn, up until around 1960 - 1980 but not listed currently. How can I learn where she moved to.

Yours truly,

Allen Levy, Austin Texas

SUBMIT YOUR BORO PARK MEMORIES

We are interested in your memories of Boro Park and family histories. You can help in the work of discovering and preserving the history of our community by submitting information, photos, articles, etc. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. only \$5. a year. Write to Boro Park Historical Society, 4211 - 13 Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

RESPONSES TO LETTER ON LEVY-BUGATZ FAMILY

In the last issue (Sept. '90), we published a letter from a man in Austin, Texas seeking information about his family in Boro Park. They included the Levy, Helfgot and Bugatz families. The following are some of the responses we received which we will forward to the writer.

Mr. Harold Kellerman contacted us. His family goes way back in Boro Park and in addition Mr. Kellerman has a good deal of experience on how to research family histories which he is willing to share with the letter writer. We have put the two parties in touch.

A Woman by the name of Mollie called and indicated that her father was also a member of the Shule (Chevra Krasnopol) remembers that the shule met in a storefront but wasn't sure of the location. In fact she thinks that the letter writer may even be a relative of hers. We also put her in contact with the man from Texas.

Then Mr. Shmuel Goldstein, from Goldstein Press, 16 Ave. called. He said he remembers Mr. Bugatz and he was a Shamos in a storefront shule on 16 Ave., corner 45 St., where Doris Beauty Parlor is now located. Mr. Bugatz also owned a tailor shop in the early 1940's at 1403 - 44 St. Mr. Bugatz had a daughter named Mrs. Berlin who worked in the office of Yeshiva Toras Emes and Yeshiva Beth Joseph for many years.

Our last contact was Mrs. Sara Fishman, who's maiden name was Berlin. She said her grandfather was Mr. Gershon Bugatz and his wife, her grandmother was Rachel. They lived

at 1401 - 44 St. and operated the tailor shop at 1403 - 44 St. Her grandfather's sister was married to Levy and she believes this man from Texas is a descendant from that part of the family.

The Bugatz family moved to Boro Park in 1918 from the Lower East Side. Sara said her mother's name was Mollie and the previous caller may have been a relative. Many in the family were named Mollie.

Sara was born in Boro Park in 1935 and attended Shulamith School for Girls. Her father, Lester Berlin attended Shomrei Emunah Synagogue.

Sara was married in 1954 to Jerome Fishman who was also born in Boro Park and who attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim. His parents had a paint store at 1202 -39 St.

Jerome and Sara have four children who attended Etz Chaim or Shulamith. They are Esiher Weitzman who now lives in Los Angeles; Samuel Fishman now in New Jersey; Deborah Karp now in Flatbush and Rachel Rudman now in Jerusalem. The fishman's belonged to Temple Beth-El.

In 1967, Jerome & Sara purchased Dave's Trimming Store which was then located at 3810 13th Ave. They kept the existing name on the store. Her husband died in 1984 and she sold the store in 1988. Now Sara manages the store for the new owners. In the early years they had problems because the store was closed on Saturdays and open on Sundays. In those days the N.Y. State blue laws made it illegal for a business

to operate on Sundays. Although most stores on 13 Ave. were open on Saturdays then, (Saturdays were important shopping days) they were successful nonetheless.

Sara remembers the community being more countrified in her early days. She said her mother was a student a Machzikei Talmud Torah and as a student was given a collection box and used to collect money to help build the Israel Zion Hospital.

Sara confirmed the fact that her grandfather was the Shamos of the storefront shule on 45 St and 16 Ave. She thinks that was Continued on page 6

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the one named Chevra Krasnopol. That shule later moved to another location and finally to 1509 - 44 St. (Ed. I remember that shule their during the 1970's, my father who lived across the street used to pray there.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

MORE ON EARLY HEBREW SCHOOLS ON BORO PARK

The following family interviews contain more historical information about the development of Hebrew education and Yeshivas in Boro Park.

Rabbi Rubin

Rabbi Yisroel Leibish Rubin was born in Boro Park in 1948. He said he attended Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel and started when he was four years old. The Yeshivah started in the building purchased from Yeshiva Toras Emes, at 4407 - 12 Ave. The Yeshivah was started in 1953 by Rabbi Yosef Yonah Horowitz. Rabbi Rubin indicated that this was the first chassidic Yeshiva in Boro Park.

In 1960 -61 the Yeshivah purchased the building at 1363-50 St. previously used by the Young Israel of Boro Park and owned by the Cong. Shomrei Emenah Talmud Torah. The new building was used for the elementary grades and the other building on 12 Ave. was used for the high school.

Previously the building on 50 St. was rented by the Beth Jacob elementary school, for a while, until it was purchased by Be'er Shmuel. After Be'er Shmuel elementary school closed, the building was occupied by the Tamar Dvora High School and preschool.

The Be'er Shmuel High School (Mesivta) began in 1959, with two classes. Rabi Bittersfeld, brother-in law of abbi Moshe Horowitz, became the Rosh Hayeshiva of the Mesivta. The other class was taught by Rabbi Charnis. The Mesivta started in a private house, the home of Rabbi Yosef onah Horowitz, at 1353 - 46th

St. That is currently the location of the Boro Park Mikveh. The classes studied there for a brief time, a few months probably, before the fire Dept. closed it. The Yeshiva then rented rooms in the Machzikei Talmud Torah on 47 St. and 14 Ave. In the following year 1960-61, the Yeshiva moved to the corner of 12 Ave. and 53 St. where the Chuster Shule is now located. Then in 1961 the Mesivta Be'er Shmuel High School relocated to its own building at 4407 - 12 Ave. Rabbi Y.L. Rubin indicated that he left this Yeshiva in 1963 and attended a Yeshiva outside of Boro Park.

According to Rabbi Rubin the Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel was the

first Hasidic Yeshiva in Boro Park. The Klausenberg Hasidim followed by opening a cheder school in 1954 on 14 Ave. between 43 and 44 St. He thinks the Stoliner Yeshiva was next and then Salmar. The Salmar Hasidim started their first cheder school on 15 Ave. and 38 St. in the Sochover Rebbe's Shule.

Rabbi Rubin said he remembers when they built Waldbaum's on 13 Ave. and 51 St. in 1961, on the site of a former church. He remembers an interruption in the building because he thinks they may have found the remains of a small church cemetery. After a while they started building again.

Rabbi Rubin added that his parents Rabbi Sholem and Sarah Rubin - Halberstam, (Czeshonover Rebbe) came to Boro Park in 1947. They first lived in an apartment building for a few weeks and then in November '47 moved to 961 - 44 St. there his father started a Shule in his house. He also built a mikveh in his shule about 1955, probably the first in that part of Boro Park. Except for a short

stay (several weeks) in Williamsburg by relatives and friends, Boro Park was their first home after immigrating to America from Prague, Poland. He remembers among his father's Hasidim and helpers were Mordechai (Tel-Aviv restaurant) and Shmelka Yaroslavity and Mendel Hausman.

AARON KRUMBEIN

During one of my trips to Israel I had the opportunity to meet and interview Aaron Krumbein, one of the early and prominent members of this community.

Aaron's father Mordechai moved to Boro Park with family in June 1927 from the Bronx. Aaron's younger brother Eli was born in Boro Park. One of the main reasons for that move to Boro Park was that the community had a Yeshiva, Etz Chaim. In the Bronx, Aaron had to travel a long trip to Yeshiva by taxi in the morning and late at night. In addition, this community was considered to be "a nice area" then. His father was a wool merchant and the family was interested in improving their living space. Aaron was only seven years old when the family moved to Boro Park. He remembers at that time seeing the cows roaming the fields and the farmers tilling the soil in Boro Park.

Aaron attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim and graduated in 1933. He then attended New Utrecht High School. His father organized a home study group or Mesivta for Aaron and about 7 other boys, so that they could continue their Hebrew studies in the afternoons. There was no Yeshiva high school or Mesivta in Boro Park at that time. The

teachers of this group were Rabbi Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky (who later became Rabbi of the Young Israel of Boro Park); Dr. Pinchas Churgin (who later became Dean of the Talmudical Academy); and Dr. Nathan Klotz (who later became professor of Bible at Yeshiva University). The class met several afternoons a week at various homes or shules. The course was quite intensive. Following high school Aaron attended Yeshiva Yitzchok Elchonon (Yeshiva University) and Brooklyn College. As an adult Aaron taught Hegrew language in the public high schools and was appointed Chairman of Foreign Languages at F.D.R. High School, remained in that position until his retirement.

The Krumbein family was very active and prominent in the communal life of Boro Park. Aaron's father, Mordechai, was an active member and officer in the Young Israel which then was located at 1363 -50 St. Joe. Sullman was president of Y.I. at that time. Samuel Cantor was President of Y.I. in 1933. Mordechai was also Treasurer of the Mizrahi of Boro Park for many years and Treasurer of the combined Mezug (Mizrahi and Hapoel Mizrahi) after the merger. He was also active in Etz Chaim and Yitzchok Elchonon and helped in the founding of Albert Einstein Medical School.

Moshe Krumberin, Mordechai's brother, came to Boro Park before 1925. He was one of the founders of Shulamith school. In fact the founding meeting took place in his home. He was also very active in Etz Chaim and Young Israel.

According to Aaron the Shulamith school started in a store where part of the Simon Bernstein furniture store was later located. They moved to the Y.M. H.A. where they remained until they built a new building together with the Young Israel at 1353 -50 St.

Aaron indicated that in those years the Y.I. of Boro Park was the main center of activities for orthodox Jewish Youth. Aaron served in almost every office in the Y.I. and was president several times. he was also Chairman of the U.J.A. of Boro Park. In addition he served as president of the Mordechai Krumbein Chapter of Hapoel Hamizrachi (named after his father) and president of Yeshiva Etz Chaim. He also served as a member of the Board of Education, Board of Governors and Board of Directors of Shulamith. He was honored by Shulamith in 1964, by the National Council of Young Israel in 1971 and by the Yeshiva University Alumni. Aaron and his family went on Aliyah in the early 1970's and settled in Jerusalem.

Corrections:

In the last issue (Sept '90), the article about the B.P.H.S. general meeting omitted mentioning that Mr. B. Selevan prepared two historical sheets, one for the year 1920 and one for the year 1898, which he distributed to all who were in attendance. The sheets attracted considerable attention and were well received.

In the same article Meyers Ice Cream parlor was mentioned as having been located at 4814-13 Ave., the correct address should have been 4810 -13 Ave.

**SUBMIT
YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**
Send in your own family history and memories of Boro Park for inclusion in these article and in our archives and possible future publication.

Also help the B.P.H.S. by joining as a member, only \$5 per year, \$3 for retired. Send to B.P.H.S. 4211-13 Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11219 (718)436-7729

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Pincus smithline

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I am giving this old photo to the Boro Park Historical Society. Unfortunately I cannot donate it to the Society outright because it is a valued family memento. However, you can make a copy and then return the original.

The photograph was taken in 1920 in front of the Baptist Church on 48th Street and 13th Avenue. This church was later demolished and a store built on that site, now occupied by Anchor Savings Bank. At that time 13th Avenue was a residential street, occupied by private houses with front yards. For instance, when a store-front building was erected at 4602 13th Avenue, the private house on that site was moved to an empty lot about 125 feet away, on 46th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. That private house was demolished about 15 years ago but the store-front building - which was occupied for many years by the Corsetorium - is now occupied by the Kosher Delight Restaurant.

Additional memories have floated to the surface of my mind. As I said in a previous article, I was born in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1914 and arrived in Boro Park with my family in 1916. Boro Park was then like the country. I remember the Italian pushcart peddlers, who wheeled their pushcarts into the backyards of private houses. Especially do I remember the fish peddlers, who yelled "fish". Kitchens were at the back of the houses, adjacent to backyards, which made shopping for food convenient for housewives. There was also an Italian with a

cart containing ice and fruit syrup. He shaved some ice into a cup and poured syrup over it - voila, ices, for 2 cents a cup!

When I was five years old I made sure to wake up at 5:00 A.M. in order to meet the Sheffield milkman and his horse-drawn wagon. My family lived on 46th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. The milkman left full milk bottles on the back porches of the houses and picked up the empty bottles. To help him, I collected the empty milk bottles from the backyards, and in return, the milkman allowed me to ride bareback on his horse as he crossed 13th, 14th and 15th Avenues, where he turned down 47th Street and continued on his rounds, leaving me off at 13th Avenue. A life-long love of horseback riding was formed.

My father, of blessed memory, Dr. Jacob Smithline, was one of the founders of the Etz Chaim Yeshiva (also known as the Hebrew Institute), in 1916. Mr. Straus donated the first home of the Etz Chaim Yeshiva, a private house he owned on 14th Avenue and 46th Street. This was the first all-day yeshiva in Boro Park and the first yeshiva in the U.S. to combine Hebrew and secular studies. In 1920 the Etz Chaim Yeshiva bought the Boro Park Clubhouse, which occupied the site on 13th Avenue from 51st to 50th Street. Classes were held there beginning in the fall of 1920, with my brothers and I in attendance. By 1923 enough money had been donated to renovate the building by adding a wing on each side, putting a brick facing on the school, and cementing the front and back yards. The renovation was completed in October 1923. So from September 1923 until October 1923 classes were held in Machzike Tamud Torah, 43rd Street between 13th and 14th Avenues.

I remember Max Kufeld, the first Principal. Mr. Kufeld was a classmate of my father's at a public elementary school on the Lower East Side. He was a member of Congregation Shomrei Emunah, which now has the Max Kufeld Torah Study Class named in his honor. At the beginning of each school year, my father gave a free medical examination to all the Etz Chaim pupils.

My father was a very well-liked man. Each morning, on coming from services at the Anshe Sfard Synagogue, he walked past the pushcart market which was located on 13th Avenue from 42nd to 39th Streets. The pushcart peddlers greeted him warmly. If even one day passed without my father making an appearance, they called him at home to find out if he was well.

Many people have spoken of the various Boro Park movie theaters. I remember that, when the Garden Theater on New Utrecht Avenue and 46th Street was opened, they took as their slogan, "Boro Park's most beautiful playhouse." A lumber yard occupies that site now. When the Universal Theater opened in October 9, 1927, also at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, my brother Norman played the drums with the band and also won the Charleston contest. The theater was bought by Loew's in 1928, renamed the Loew's 46th Street Theater, and is now occupied by Rubinstein & Klein Furniture.]

My daughter, Marsh attended the Shulamith School, which was located on 50th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. She is with the N.Y.C. Human Resources Administration. Following the family tradition, my son, Howard attended Etz Chaim Yeshiva. He now teaches archontology at Tel Aviv University. My wife and I

Continued on page 6

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Continued from Page 2
still live in Boro Park (I have lived in Boro Park for 74 continuous years, to date) and visit Howard in Israel every year.

The above article was submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the B.P.H.S. We thank her and Mr. Smithline for this very interesting contribution.

Dauber Family Gentlemen:

Our family members were old time Boro Parkers. My father, Joseph Dauber and my mother Anna Dauber moved to Boro Park from the East Side about 1915. They had 6 children born from 1910 to 1918. We lived on 50th Street near 14th Avenue. And then we moved to 52nd Street between 14 and 15th Avenue. We lived in a 3 story house and had a big back yard with a hot house, apple trees and a garage with a chicken coop on top. My oldest brother Isie made a club house out of the chicken coop.

My father was very active in the community. He was one of the founders of the Congregation Anshe Sfard on 14th Ave and 45th Street where we all prayed, of the Israel Zion Hospital and of Yeshiva Etz Chaim. My oldest brother Isie had to go to a public school as the Yeshiva wasn't in existence, but my brothers, Heshie and Mendy went to Etz Chaim. There were no Yeshivas for girls at that time so my sisters Lily, Sarah and I went to public school P.S. 103 and to the Hebrew Academy on 50th Street near 14th Avenue. I was born in 1916, the year of the polio epidemic. I was next to the youngest. My parents had 4 children at that time so they spent the summer in a cottage in the Catskill Mountains where I was born. Although my name officially is Ethel. I was nicknamed Ettie.

My father was a Zionist and very active in the Mizrahi. He was very orthodox. He and my mother decided to emigrate to Palestine with the family. My brother Heshie died of a form of polio a year before at the age of 19 1/2. My older brother Isie married Beatrice in 1934 and we all left for Palestine in 1935. We sold our house on 52nd Street and an apartment house was built on the site. We returned to the U.S.A. in 1941 because it was dangerous to stay there during the war and all American citizens were warned to leave. Only my sister Sarah remained with her 4 year old son because her husband Gerald who was English refused to leave the country.

When we came back to Boro Park, my father bought a house

on 11th Avenue near 55th Street. My brother Isie and Beatrice lived downstairs and I and my parents had 2 apartments upstairs. We attended Beth Israel Synagogue across the street but my father walked to his Congregation Anshe Sfard every Shabbos. My brother Mendy moved to New Jersey. My oldest daughter Lily was born in Palestine. She was 2 years old when we came back to the U.S. My sister Lilij was killed in an accident in Palestine so we were only 4 children left.

My brother Isie and sister in law Beatrice had 2 children, Lenny and Kenny, who went to Etz Chaim Yeshiva. Beatrice was a teacher in Shulamith School since its inception. I have 3 children Lily, Florence and Abba. Lily and Florence attended Shulamith School and Abba, Etz Chaim Yeshiva. My sister Sara stayed in Palestine which then became Israel in 1948. She, her husband Gerald and her younger son Julie came back to Boro Park to live in 1951. Their older son Zvi came

to the States some years earlier and attended New Utrecht High School. Sarah and her family moved to Flatbush and I moved there 9 years ago. Boro Park is much changed since we lived there.

I still have 2 cousins living in Boro Park and I still belong to Tova Chapter of Amit women in Boro Park and go the the Y where we meet. I still do some shopping in Boro Park. The Weinstocks who wrote their story and also Mollie Berlin and her family are old friends of ours. My cousin who lives in Boro Park gave me your paper to read. I am enclosing \$3.00 membership fee.

Sincerely

(Mrs.) Ethel Becker

P.S. Dr Herbert Becker is my second husband. I was previously married and my name was Ethel Krieger.

Thank You Con Edison

The Boro Park Historical Society extends its thanks and gratitude to Con Edison for its recent grant. The money is designated for the purpose of maintaining and expanding the society's photo archives. New historical photos have already been ordered of old time Boro Park and will be on display at the annual exhibit in May 1991 at the Borough Park Public Library, 43 Street near 13th Avenue.

Searching for Lazarus Family

Dear Dr. Kipust

Would you please help me in my search for relatives in connection with my "family Tree" Project. I am looking for any information about the following family:

Simon (Shimon) Lazarus, originally Lazarovitch. His wife's name was Basha and two

of his son's were Jacob and Joseph. They lived in a large house on 15th Avenue in the 50's Street during the 1920's and later, the family owned a men's clothing company called "Lazarus Brothers". They also owned a farm in the Englishtown, N.J. area.

If any of your readers have any information about this family please have them submit it to you or the Boro Park Historical Society.

Thank you,

Name withheld on request

Parochial Schools

In the next iss., we plan to begin a series of articles about the Catholic Parochial Schools in Boro Park. This will follow the articles we have had about the history of public schools and Hebrew schools or Yeshivas. If any of our readers have information to submit about the Parochial Schools please do so now so that we may include them in the series.

Additional Data

Dear Mr. Kipust,

Nechemia Oberstein, President of Young Israel-Bethel Synagogue, gave the following data regarding your article in Oct. 1990 I remember Boro Park column:

The synagogue where your father prayed was named B'nei Arye on 15th Avenue and 44th Street. The synagogue subsequently moved to 43rd Street and 15th Avenue. It closed about January 1981. The synagogue's four torahs were given away as follows: three torahs were donated to the Young Israel Synagogue. One torah, which was not so good, was donated to the Israeli Defense Forces.

Yours Truly,

Lucille Posner

Help Preserve the History of Boro Park

Submit your own family history, photos and memories of this community. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S., membership only \$5 per year (\$3 for retired people)

Boro Park Historical Society
4211-13th Avenue 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Continuing our series of articles on the schools in Boro Park we will begin relating the history of the Parochial Schools. During the past several months we have reviewed the Public schools and the Hebrew Schools. We invite our readers to submit additional information they may have.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN BORO PARK (CATHOLIC)

There are currently three Catholic Parochial Schools in Boro Park. To my knowledge there were no others in this community. All three are elementary level schools (K-8) and are sponsored by the three nearby Catholic Churches.

Academy of St. Catharine of Alexandria

The first, or oldest of these schools is the Academy of St. Catherine of Alexandria. The academy opened in Sept. 1909 in a private home, on FT. Hamilton Parkway between 40 and 41 St., across the street from the Church. The opening registration included about 40 pupils. This school was established at a cost of approximately ten thousand dollars and run by nuns belonging to the Sacred Heart of Mary Order. The first superior was Reverend Mother St. Joseph.

As the enrollment increased the existing facility became inadequate. A new building was erected at 4002 Ft. Hamilton Parkway at a cost of \$100,000, this new building, which is still in use today, was opened in Sept. 1913.

As the school enrollment increased the new facility became inadequate. In the early 1950's an old age home at 1041-41 St. moved out and the church purchased this land. A new building which is still used, was erected at this site and opened in Sept. 1956.

In 1984 the school enrollment reached about 600 students. The principal reported that the students came from multi-national backgrounds, representing approximately 33 nations. About 15 percent of them were non-Catholic and about 3 percent non-Christian.

ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL SCHOOL

Near the opposite end of Boro Park, the Church of St. Frances de Chantal, on 57th and 13th Ave., also felt the need to establish a school for the children of its parishioners. The school started in January 1913 and the Sisters of St. Dominic came to administer the school. The building used was the former rectory of the church. The school opened with two classes including grades 1-4. The original faculty included two teachers, Sister Leonilla and Sister Adel Gundis. Each Sister had two grades in a class, 1A to 2A and 2B to 4B. The dues or tuition then was 10¢ weekly. By Sept. 1914 the school had grades 1A to 7A with an enrollment of 235 students.

Steady growth of the school's enrollment from 35 pupils in 1913 to about 500 in 1950 to about 1,000 in 1955 and to about 1,300 in 1967 created the need for a new building. In 1955 a modern 4-story brick building, with 16 classrooms, 1 gym and library, was erected at 1273-57th St. and is still in use today.

Since Sept. 1984 the school faculty is composed of lay teachers and a lay principal. Since the beginning of 1989 church officials noticed that there were a great number of Polish people attending masses who did not know English too well. Most of these people are working in Boro Park, mainly in grocery stores, as maids, construction etc. In order to accommodate these people, beginning about April 1989, St. Francis de Chantal Church began to offer masses in Polish on Saturdays and Sundays.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

The third Catholic church, the Holy Ghost Church (now named the Holy Spirit Church) was first established as a chapel of St. Catherine of Alexandria Church and became an independent parish in 1922.

In 1966 the Parish began to build a new school. On Sept. 8, 1966 the new school opened at 1668-46th St. for the benefit of the local children. The school yard, incidentally, is built on part of Old New Utrecht Road, an important historical street in Boro Park.

The first superior and principal of this school was Sister Anne Kathleen C.S.J., the first secretary was Grayce Prestipino and the first custodian was Angelo Lorenzo.

The 1950's saw great growth and expansion of the Catholic Schools. This was due to several reasons including the greater interest in religious education, the "Baby Boom" generation reaching school age and the deteriorating conditions in the public schools. Currently, the lowered birthrate, change in neighborhood populations and increased costs have reduced the enrollment in these schools. However many parishioners are still willing to sacrifice, to meet the higher costs, in order to provide their children with a Catholic education.

When the Baptist Church at 48th Street and 13th Avenue was demolished, a store was built on the site, which is now occupied by Lane Pharmacy.

HARBATER FAMILY

The Harbater family was an institution in Boro Park during the 1940's and early 50's. They lived

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Continued from Page 2

in the magnificent corner house at 4901 15th Ave. Their house was a social center for the teenage friends of their children and their own adult friends. I remember visiting their home, with many other mutual friends, almost every Shabbos afternoon during our late teenage and early adult years.

It was therefore sad to notice last week that this magnificent corner house was all boarded up and ready to be thrown down. I hurriedly went out take a few photos of the house for our archives.

It is difficult to keep up with all the houses that are about to be demolished in Boro Park. I have taken many photos of houses but can't get them all. The B.P.H.S. would therefore appreciate any assistance our readers can provide by sending us photos of demolished houses or informing us about those scheduled for demolition. Photos should have the address of the house and if possible the year the photo was taken.

In 1985 while visiting Israel, we visited and interviewed Bezalel Harbater (RIP), who has since passed away. Bezalel was one of my teenage friends for many years. His wife Sylvia (Sissy) was a friend of my wife during those years and later during our early married years.

Bezalel (A.H.) was born in Boro Park in 1926 in Israel Zion Hospital. He lived in B.P. until 1951 when he was married. When he was one year old his family moved to Israel and remained there about two years, returning in 1929. The family had lived first on 17th Ave. corner 49th St. (North-east corner). And then at 4901 15th Ave. In 1952 his mother sold the house and moved to Israel with her family, to be with her husband who had been living in Israel a number of years. The sale price was \$29,000.

Bezalel's parents, Tillie and Joe came to B.P. originally in the early 1920's. His father was a builder and built the house they lived in on 17th Ave. Bezalel attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim, Torah Vadaath and then Mesifita Toras Ems.

Bezalel said that during the 1920's his father was a wealthy man. His older brothers Moe and Lester were driven by a Chauffeured Cadillac to Yeshiva Etz Chaim, only two avenue blocks away. The chauffeur opened the door for his brothers and as they left the car they roller skated up the path to the school building. His father was a member of Shomrei Emunah.

During the years of 1928-1932 (approximately) Bezalel's older

brother Moe, attended a Rabbinical Seminary in Yeshiva Chevron in Palestine (now Israel). In those years the Jews had a small defenseless community in Palestine and were subject to periodic attacks by the Arabs living there. On one occasion a mob of Arabs attacked the Chevron Yeshiva killing and maiming a number of students who were preoccupied with their studies. During that attack Moe's life was fortunately spared but he lost two fingers.

Bezalel's two younger sisters, Nechama Dison and Charlotte

(Dvora) Melamed married and remained settled in Israel with their respective families.
HELP PRESERVE BOROPARK HISTORY

You can help preserve the history of Boro Park by submitting your own memories and your family history relating to this community. You can help in the work of preserving recording and publicizing the history by sending membership dues, only \$5.

Send to B.P.H.S.
4211-13 Ave.
Bklyn NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

MEMBER'S RESPONSES

The membership applications for the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) include the following two items: 1. Date family first came to Boro Park. 2. Family history in Boro Park.

Many members answer these questions and the information as well as the applications will be included in our archives of the B.P.H.S. Files in the archives are opened for individual families when they complete these applications and/or when information is submitted to us for our monthly articles in this column.

The following are samples of information gleaned from the membership applications. It may help others respond to these questions when submitting their own family histories.

LEON & ADELE WEINSTOCK:

Leon's family first came to Boro Park in 1915. Adele's family, the Ottensteins, first moved to Boro Park in 1907. The Ottenstein's residence was at 1327-45 Street from 1907 to 1979.

The Weinstocks lived at the following addresses:

1379-45 St. -- 1915-18

1257-44 St. -- 1918-62

1358-47 St. -- 1937-55

1445-58 -- 1979-present.

ROCCO MOTTOLA: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1952.

SIDNEY M. MARKS, P.E.:

Family first moved to Boro Park in 1907. "I was born at 1251-40 Street on 6/22/09. I went to P.S. 131. We moved to Bay Ridge in 1920."

[Ed. Mr. Marks now lives in Liberty, N.Y. and we are thankful to him for sending us a picture postcard postmarked 1906 of the Boro Park Club House,

which later became the Yeshiva Etz Chaim and is now the Solomon Plaza.]

TERESA STERNE: Family moved to Boro Park in 1930 and they have been living in the same house at 1657-49 Street since then. "Keep up the good work! Wish I had more time to volunteer."

LUCILLE RICHMAN: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1907 or 1908. Father I. L. Marrow helped establish Machzikei Talmud Torah at 1321-43 Street and Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

HELEN GOLDBERG: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1912. Two generations attended P.S. 160, J.H.S. 220, and New Utrecht H.S.

I. SOLOMON BIEGELEISEN: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1921.

SIDNEY KATZ: Family first moved to Boro Park on January 1, 1930.

CHARLES & RUTH NEWMAN: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1942.

MORTON HOROWITZ: Family first moved to Boro Park in 1974.

DAVID WEINSTEIN: Family first moved to Boro Park in the 1920's.

If you wish to have your family history saved in the archives of the B.P.H.S. and/or included in this column, please submit your information to this column or the B.P.H.S.

We are hopeful that one day funding will be available to enable us to enter all the historical information about Boro Park into a computer for storage and reference by future researchers and for writing a full history of the community.

CORRECTIONS

1. In the previous issue (December, 1990) we discussed the Harbater family and the home they lived in at 4901-15 Avenue. We indicated that the house was all boarded up and ready to be thrown down. This was an error; the house was boarded up in preparation for renovations but will not be thrown down.

In the last decade or so we have seen so many houses boarded up and then thrown down in Boro Park, it has become so commonplace, that it was easy for anyone to make such an error. This last comment also has some historical significance.

2. In the November, 1990 issue article about Pincus Smithline, an item appears which reads, "The photograph was taken in 1920 in front of the Baptist Church on 48 Street and 13 Avenue. This church was later demolished and a store built on that site, now occupied by Anchor Savings Bank." The last phrase should have read, "now occupied by Lane Pharmacy."

It is important, for the sake of historical accuracy and for future researchers, that we record these corrections.

MORE ON

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

In response to our request for more information about the Catholic Parochial Schools in Boro Park, the following article was submitted by Sr. Genevieve Murphy RSHM, principal of St. Catharine of Alexandria School.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

(continued from page 4)

We thank her for this interesting contribution to the history of the community.

ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL

St. Catharine of Alexandria Parochial School has held an honored place in the Boro Park Community since the Religious of the Sacred Heart Mary RSHM arrived here in 1906 to teach Brooklyn Catholic school children. The philosophy of the school has always been to educate for human freedom which consists of freeing our students from ignorance, prejudice, and fear, and to think and act globally.

With this educational philosophy, the RSHM entered the Brooklyn education scene 85 years ago, at the Parish of St. Catharine of Alexandria. A Parish School was opened by the Reverend John J. O'Neil in 1912. During the next few years, the enrollment increased so much that it was necessary to expand the facilities, so a new building containing a spacious Auditorium, Cafeteria, Library, additional classrooms, and offices was erected in 1957.

Through the years, our students received a well-rounded education--the education of the whole person within a Catholic environment. Utmost attention is given to all secular subjects with special emphasis on art, music, and physical education. Simultaneously, students are constantly challenged towards an awareness of the needs of others. They generously respond to Christmas and Thanksgiving food and clothing drives, service to the elderly and shut-ins, and weekly visits to the local Jewish Geriatric Center.

Today, St. Catharine of Alexandria School located at 41 Street and Ft. Hamilton Parkway, 85 years young and growing, ranks as one of the model schools in the Brooklyn Diocese. In March 1986, a team of Diocesan examiners visited and evaluated the school. The committee returned the report of its findings on March 20, 1986, giving a glowing approval of the staff, curriculum, and facilities. This report ended with the words of the Committee, "We commend the St. Catharine of Alexandria School Community for its excellent self-study which reflects a pride and concern for living up to its philosophy as a Catholic School. We hope that his effort is seen by all as a contribution to the overall mission of the Church, in particular Catholic Schools." The student body comprises approximately

36 nationalities of mixed minority groups and races. Our many graduates -- estimated at over 8,000 have attained a distinction in various fields of endeavor and have carefully guarded the precious seeds of love, compassion, tolerance, and fidelity implanted during their years at St. Catharine of Alexandria. It is from this vantage point of 85 years that we look to a future full of promise for our Parish, our students, and our alumnae.

Sr. Genevieve Murphy RSHM
Principal

HELP THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help research, photograph, preserve, and publicize the history of Boro Park. You can help by joining the B.P.H.S., membership is only \$5.00 per person (\$3.00 for "natives"), and/or by submitting historical information, photographs, or documents about your family or community institutions. You can also help by volunteering your services to the B.P.H.S.

4211-13 Avenue or 1558-45
Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219
Tel: 436-7729

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following interview was submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and the Kufeld's for this interesting contribution to the history of this community.

MRS. MAX KUFELD (CARRIE):

A few years after our 1915 wedding in the house of my family (the Hausdorffs) in Boro Park, a group of men decided to establish an orthodox elementary school for boys, which would provide both Hebrew and secular education. They approached my husband, Max Kufeld, a teacher in a public elementary school, and asked him to be the principal of the secular studies department.

Max Kufeld set the standards for the educational policies of the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park (or Etz Chaim), as the school was named, and also approached the State Board of Regents and received a license for the school to operate. The school, located on 13th Avenue, from 50th to 51st Street, was the first yeshiva in the U. S. to combine Hebrew and secular studies; it had a Zionist orientation and the Hebrew studies instruction was given in Hebrew. Max remained Principal of secular studies at Etz Chaim until 1962, when he died.

At first, it was difficult to convince parents that their sons would receive a good secular education in a Jewish day school; many parents preferred public school education for this reason. In those days, orthodox Jewish parents wanted to ensure that their children would receive a good secular education so that they would enjoy professional success and an enriched life in an open, democratic United States.

We had four children, two boys and two girls: William (known as Billy) and Henry (known as Buddy), Rita, and Lucille. Both of our sons attended Etz Chaim. William is now on the Board of Directors of the Etz Chaim Foundation and lives in Great Neck; Henry lives in South Fallsburg, N.Y. Both of my daughters still live in Boro Park.

Years later, when the Shulamith School for Girls was started (a school which also combined religious and secular education) Max was asked to be the first principal of the secular studies department, concurrent with his position as principal of secular studies at Etz Chaim. Also concurrently, he was the first principal of the secular studies department of the Yeshiva of Flatbush, which is a school for boys and girls founded along the same lines as Etz Chaim, and remained in that

position for 25 years, until his retirement on June 24, 1953. Max was calm, composed, and extremely modest and unassuming and was loved by students, teaching staff, and parents.

I was my husband's assistant at Etz Chaim for many years. I am a volunteer with the Women's Division of the Hebrew Institute for the Deaf. I am a member of the Boro Park chapter of AMIT and am a member and past president of Boro Park Hadassah. I was one of the early members of Boro Park Hadassah -- an early member, in fact, in the whole of Brooklyn.

Etz Chaim left a heritage in

its highly educated graduates, who live throughout the United States and in Israel. We know Seymour Reich, a past president of B'nai B'rith and the Council of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations. Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz is an alumnus, as is Judge Norman Felig. The list of illustrious graduates is long. There is Saul Farber, Dean of the N.Y.U. School of Medicine; Philip Kaiser, who became U.S. Ambassador to two African nations; Robert Lifton, President of the American Jewish Committee; and Arthur

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Modell, owner of the Cleveland Browns football team. Arthur Zwerling, another graduate, changed his name to Jeff Corey and became an actor in Hollywood and later started an acting school. Many Etz Chaim graduates served in the U.S. armed forces in WWII; eleven gave their lives. Some graduates volunteered to fight in the Israel defense forces during the 1948 War of Independence.

RITA KUFELD MICHAELSON

The first child of Max and Carrie Kufeld, I was born in my parents' home on 58th Street between 15th and 16th Avenues. In 1922 my parents bought a house, 1533 52nd Street, and it was there that we children grew up. The house was a three-family, grey wooden frame house with porches and a garden. We also owned the adjacent lot, about 40 feet by 100 feet; a beautiful lawn surrounded by flowers. Many Hadassah and Hebrew Institute of the Deaf parties were held there, mostly in the spring.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

I was married to William Michaelson in Congregation Shomrei Emenah, where my family was a member. After we were married, my husband and I occupied the second floor of my parent's house, where we raised our two children: Laura, who attended Shulamith School, and Michael, who attended Etz Chaim. Michael and his family live in Israel and Laura and her family live in Staten Island.

About 1926 my parents opened Camp Aurora in Burlington, Vermont, which consisted of three camps: a boys, a girls, and an adult camp. All were very successful and were in existence for about 10 years.

Boro Park has changed in my years here. When I was a child, private houses still lined 13th Avenue and there were many empty lots in Boro Park. I remember farms in the neighborhood and large private houses with sprawling gardens.

I remember the two Hambliss brothers, Jerome and Albert; their mother still lives on 9th Avenue. Albert became an ophthalmologist and Jerome is a NYC Criminal Court Judge and Acting State Supreme Court Judge. Jesse Roth became a prominent doctor. I also remember William Balfour Herlands, who became the NYC Commissioner of Investigation under Mayor LaGuardia and was later appointed a Judge in the U.S. Southern District Court in Manhattan.

I attended P.S. 103 (14th Avenue and 53rd Street). Later I was transferred to P.S. 180 and then attended Montauk Jr. High School. After public school

hours I attended Hebrew school four afternoons a week and Sunday mornings, at the Hebrew Academy, 50th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. I was a member of Young Israel and am active in the combined Young Israel-Bethel Congregation. I am a member of Boro Park Hadassah and am a past president of the chapter.

My parents and my husband and I continued to live in the family home at 1533 52nd Street until about 1980. About that time my mother sold the house and adjacent lot. A provision of the sale was that both our families would receive apartments in the new houses. Three houses were built on the lot, two of them attached. My mother and Lucille and my husband and I, according to this agreement, rented apartments adjacent to each other in each of the attached houses, where we continue to live.

My family has always enjoyed a pleasant life, with good friends, a lively social life, and meaningful volunteer work in various Boro Park and Zionist organizations.

DEAR EDITOR,

I came across an article in the December issue of the Boro Park Community News referring to the house at 4901 15th Avenue. I would like to point out that an error was made by stating that the house was boarded up "and ready to be thrown down." It is true that a few months ago the house was boarded up, however not to be demolished but rather to be fixed up. The old rotten windows were replaced and the creaking staircases which were built in 1919 were reinforced. I invite Mr. Kipust to take another picture (in about a month when the house is expected to be finished) so that he can have a before and after picture and see for himself the improvement that was made.

Sincerely,

"My" Contracting Corp.

RABBI CHAIM (HENRY) HOSCHANDER Drebin Wedding

Recently, on December 17, 1990 to be exact, a number of Boro Parkers including my wife and I, attended a wedding in Toronto, Canada. Eli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Label Drebin married Devora Weiss of Toronto. Label Drebin is a member of the Presidium of Congregation Avrohom Uzvi Hirsch which is located at 4320-16th Avenue (corner 44th Street); he is also the proprietor of an electrical contracting business in Boro Park.

At the wedding I was very pleasantly surprised to meet a very dear old time Boro Park friend. We were school buddies and later good friends socially until about 1950-51 when we both were married. Rabbi Chaim

(Henry) Hoschander accepted his first Rabbinical position in Massachusetts at that time, and has served as Rabbi in various pulpits out of town since then. That wedding, therefore, also provided the background for a very delightful but brief reunion for the two of us and our wives. It also provided the opportunity for the following brief interview for the history of Boro Park (what else is on my mind?)

As a young boy Chaim, with his parents Isaac and Esther, his two brothers David and Freddy, and sister Chana, immigrated to Boro Park on December 2, 1937. What is somewhat unusual about this move is that they came directly from Germany to Boro Park. In those years Boro Park was generally not the first stop for immigrants. Boro Park was usually the section people selected for upward mobility from other parts of the city. Rabbi Hoschander doesn't know what conditions prompted his family to move directly to Boro Park; he was too young to have been concerned about it.

Their first address in Boro Park was 4220-14th Avenue where they lived for almost 10 years. His father worked in a printing plant and managed to support his family during those difficult depression years despite his language handicap.

Chaim attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and then Yeshiva Rabbi Jacob Joseph and Rabbi Yitzchok Elchonon. In addition to his Rabbinical degree he also earned a B.A. in Math and an M.S. in psychology.

Rabbi Chaim Hoschander is currently the spiritual leader at Congregation Shaarei Shomayim in Toronto, the largest Orthodox synagogue in Canada and the 3rd or 4th largest in North America.

During his youth Rabbi Hoschander and family attended services at First Cong. Anshei Sfard on 14th Avenue, corner 45th Street. Other residences of the Hoschander family in Boro Park included 1480 44th Street, 917 49th Street, and 1642 49th Street.

The Rabbi's father Isaac A"H was deceased in 1982. His sister Chana Cohen A"H, who remained a resident of Boro Park, passed away in 1989. David Hoschander, the Rabbi's older brother was in the diamond business. He is now retired and still lives in Boro Park. Freddy, the younger brother, is a medical doctor and lives in North Belmore. The Rabbi's son, Azriel, taught for a few years in the Hebrew department at Yeshiva Toras Emes. He married the daughter of Rabbi Elias Schwartz, Dean of Yeshiva Toras Emes. He now lives in Flatbush and is a Special Education teacher in public education. David's son Abraham works

for assemblyman Dov Hikind in Boro Park and is also a law school student.

One of the interesting outcomes of these personal interviews is that we discover many of the numerous prominent personalities who had their roots in Boro Park.

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Help research, photograph,

preserve, and publicize the history of Boro Park. Send in your own memories, photos, documents, and other memorabilia for our archives and articles. Also become a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only \$5 a year (\$3 - retired). Send to:

Boro Park Historical Society
4211 13th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

JACK VERSCHLEISER

One of the old time Boro Parkers, who has contributed a number of historical items to this column is Jack Verschleiser. Jack's parents Elias and Tzirl and children came to Boro Park in 1920. Jack was a young boy of about 7 years then. They came directly to Boro Park when arriving in America from Vienna because Elias had a sister living in Boro Park. The sister and brother-in-law owned Feinstein Pharmacy on 44 Street (N.E. corner) and 14 Avenue. The Verschleisers stayed with the Feinsteins the first week or so, in their apartment above the drug store. Some time later the Feinsteins moved the pharmacy across the street to the S.E. corner.

Jack married Ida Kramer, a local Boro Park girl, in March 1940. I was privileged to attend their 50th wedding anniversary celebration just one year ago this month.

During this interview Jack discussed the public market on 13th Avenue between 54 and 55 Streets. The following details he recalls from his youth are testimony to his phenomenal memory.

The public market started in 1921 or 1922 and extended from the corner of 54 Street until what is now Brauner's Bakery. On that site before that was a nickelodian theatre, a wooden movie house called The Tuxedo. The theatre was purchased by a Mr. Geier, who converted the property into the public market.

In this market several businessmen rented and operated individual stands. Jack's father, Elias Verschleiser (RIP) operated the commission bakery stand. Mr. Locker (RIP) operated the appetizing stand, and Mr. Max Kipust (RIP), father of this columnist, the dry goods stand. Mr. Bochenik operated the chicken stand, and there was also a butcher stand. Mr. Cooperman operated the grocery stand, Mr. Turok the fish stand, and Mr. Ringler the dairy stand.

Elias Verschleiser later purchased the appetizing stand from Mr. Locker and sold both of his stands circa 1930. The market remained active for a few more years after that, into the mid '30s.

On the site of the current Brauner's Bakery there was a small candy stand owned by Mr. Seligson. He sold mallets for 10¢ which included 4 large glasses. His son still lives in Boro Park.

Next to the candy stand there was an A&P store, then a hardware store owned by a Mr. Schechter, and then a candy store.

The Diamond family lived on

55 Street between 13 and 14 Avenues. They had a son known as "Legs Diamond", a well known underworld figure.

On the corner of 53 Street and 13 Avenue, where the Greater N.Y. Savings Bank is now located, there was a one family house owned and occupied by Dr. Kuhn. The building was thrown down to make way for the stores. On that site the Simon Bernstein Furniture store was then located.

There was a golf course on the corner of 52 Street and 13 Avenue which was later replaced by stores. Above the stores the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company had its offices. Currently the building

is owned and occupied by the Munkatch Yeshiva.

We thank Mr. Jack Verschleiser for his interesting contribution to the history of Boro Park and look forward to more of his Boro Park memories in future columns.

SAMUEL DYEN

Mr. Samuel Dyen has contributed to this column in the past. The following are some of the business establishments that were in operation in Boro Park during the mid 1930's. We have already published other stores Mr. Dyen submitted in the past. How many of them do you remember?

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Tin Plate Lithographing Co.

3611-14 Avenue

Dr. J. Kuhn

1317-49 Street

Lyn Hardware

4915-13 Street

Lee's Vanity Shoppe

4316A-13 Avenue

Big Boy Restaurant

49 St. Corner 12 Avenue

Libman Curtain Shop

4918-13 Avenue

Minette Beauty Parlor

4701-18 Avenue

J. Goldrich Clocks, Watches,
Jewelry

1283-49 Street

Abe Kessler Roofing

4508-14 Avenue

Envoy Dairy Restaurant

4312-13 Avenue

J. H. Kaufman Tire & Tube

Vulcanizing Socony Gas

1311-55 Street

La Salle Dairy

4206-13 Avenue

G&S Dept. Store

4810 New Utrecht Avenue

Park Surgical Co.

4903-12 Avenue

Herbert W. Poresky

Chiropractist, Podiatrist

(Daily Except Saturdays,

Sunday 10-1)

5001-14 Avenue

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Similar photo exhibits displayed in prior years at the library by the Boro Park Historical Society attracted a great deal of interest and many viewers.

THANK YOU

BROOKLYN UNION GAS CO

The Brooklyn Union Gas Company has approved a mini grant to the Boro Park Historical Society for upkeep and expansion of its photo archives. The grant money, already received, has been used for the purchase of old photos to be featured in the photo exhibit described above.

The Boro Park Historical Society and the Boro Park community extends its thanks to the Brooklyn Union Gas Co. for this service to the community.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE B.P.H.S.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following interview and article was arranged and submitted by Ms. Lucille Posner, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Mrs. Krantz for this interesting contribution to this column.

MRS. MAX KRANTZ (MIRIAM)

I, Miriam Osofsky, moved to Boro Park in 1925 from the Lower East Side with my parents and three brothers, Abraham, David, and Louis. My parents had just bought a building at 4213 8th Avenue. At the street level was my parents' stationery and toy store; we all lived in the apartment above the store. At the time there were expectations that New York City would build a subway line along 8th Avenue. As a result, merchants expected that 8th Avenue would become a prosperous shopping street. In the 1930's, plans to build the subway were abandoned and my parents eventually sold the building at a loss.

I married my husband, Max, in 1929. Our first apartment was in an apartment house at 4600 9th Avenue. Our first child, Joan, was born in 1930 and, needing another bedroom, we moved in 1931 to another apartment house, 5001 14th Avenue. Our daughter Ellen was born in 1934 and, for the same reason, we next moved to a larger apartment at 5516 12th Avenue, one of a row of attached brick private houses.

In 1939 we moved to 5614 15th Avenue, where we still live today. This apartment is, in my opinion, the nicest apartment house in Boro Park. The lobby is beautifully decorated and the apartments have large rooms with arched doorways. The

building is still as well maintained today as when it was first built. However, in the building's early years, it and many other Boro Park apartment houses had doormen. This was because landlords wanted to attract tenants, since apartments were plentiful in those days. In fact, many tenants not wanting to undergo the ordeal of painting moved instead!

Max and I have been members of Temple Emanuel since about 1934. Rabbi Emerius Baruch Silverstein, rabbi for 40 years, was an inspiring spiritual leader, revered even by community residents who were not members of Temple Emanuel. The lay leaders of Temple Emanuel were civic-minded people, giving both their time and money to other Boro Park institutions, such as the Israel Zion Hospital, the Infants Home, and the YMHA/YWHA. At one time Max was President of Temple Emanuel and I was President of the Sisterhood.

About 1935 I became a member of the Boro Park chapter of Hadassah. The Boro Park chapter was always a going concern. During World War II it had from 700 to 800 members. I served as President for five non-consecutive terms. Through my work in Hadassah, I met many wonderful and high-achieving women whom I will always remember.

I particularly remember Ella Pearlstein, a natural leader, who lived in a private house on 51st Street between 14th and 15th Avenue. I was younger than

Ella, and I was inspired by her keen intelligence, love of reading, high ideals, and devotion to Israel. Ella's husband was a Hebrew scholar. Her son, Moshe, was the first American to be killed in Israel's War of Independence in 1948; at the time, he was studying at a yeshiva in Israel.

I remember Hadassah member Bertha Silverstein, a most gracious hostess, who was related to Rabbi Silverstein of Temple Emanuel. Rabbi Silverstein's wife Edith, another Hadassah member, was a charming woman and a natural

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leader. I could go on and on. There is Mollie Dworetzky, a selfless woman who is completely devoted to Israel. Who can ever forget Dorothy Lewis, a philanthropic woman who was active in many Boro Park organizations. The Boro Park Community Council's annual Dorothy Lewis Memorial Award honors her many achievements.

Supermarkets did not come into existence until after World War II, in the late 1940's. The Sheffield milkman, with his horse and wagon, delivered milk to my door every morning. I shopped in small food stores on 13th Avenue, which were all a center for gossip. I bought meat at a kosher butcher, Marmorstein, and patronized a fruit store on 13th Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Street. Food stores were very accommodating in those days. The fruit store owner would, at no extra charge, carve pineapples in any fancy shapes you wanted! Also, food stores delivered your orders for free — you only had to tip the delivery boy.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

I remember Frank's Fish Store on New Utrecht Avenue between 54th and 55th Streets. Most, maybe all, fish stores had a tile fish tank with live carp. Live carp was considered desirable by Jewish women, who boiled and baked carp and also used chopped carp in gefulte fish. The customer pointed to the carp she wanted; the fishmonger removed the fish from the tank and killed it by hitting it on the head with a knife handle. I still buy fish in the same fish store, although it is no longer owned by Frank. It is, as far as I know, one of the few Boro Park fish stores that still has a fish tank, although now they keep a few other live fish besides carp.

As I mentioned, there were no such stores as supermarkets. There were, however, large markets. There was one on New Utrecht Avenue between 54th and 55th Streets and one on 13th Avenue between 47th and 48th Streets (in addition to the City market on 13th Avenue and 39th Street.) The owners of these markets rented stalls to individual fruit and vegetable men, dairymen, grocers, etc. Both of the above markets carried live fish in tanks.

There was a Bohack's grocery store on 16th Avenue, one of a large grocery chain. There was also an A & P (one of a large nation-wide chain) on New Utrecht Avenue. The A & P sold canned goods, cheese, milk, butter, and eggs, had a butcher, and roasted coffee beans for the customer, etc. Both the privately owned markets and the A & P were the forerunners of present-day supermarkets.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the great cantor David Kusevitsky, who was the cantor of Temple Emanuel for about 38 years, until he died in office a few years ago.

I am fortunate to have a wonderful husband, who always supported me in my Hadassah work. Max and I have had a full life. We have had the pleasure of being parents, then grandparents, and now great-grandparents (with four great-grandchildren). Max and I derived much satisfaction from our volunteer work. We volunteered in the springtime of our lives, continued through our glorious summer, and now, in the golden autumn of our lives, are still active. What heartwarming memories we have of the wonderful people we met along the way!

We received the following letter from a medical doctor in Houston, Texas. If any of our readers can supply any information, please write to this column and we will forward your letter.

MOIEL, MOYEL, MOHL FAMILY
Dear Dr. Kipust,

My grandparents may have lived on Eldridge Street from approximately 1906 - 1920's. The names would be Elias Moiel or Elias Moyel and Benjamin Mohl after 1908. The rest of the family arrived from Torchin and Radziechow Poland/Russia.

Do you have any helpful information about them?

Thank you,
Richard H. Moiel, M.D.
Houston, Texas

It would be of interest to learn how this party knew of the Boro Park Historical Society and why he wrote to us about a family that lived on the lower East Side in Manhattan.

I checked the Boro Park phone book and didn't find any families with either of the three spellings indicated in the letter. However, someone in the community may have known or has information that could be of help to the writer.

DEAR DR. KIPUST,

It is gratifying to know that I was in the position to add an item to the archives of the B.P.H.S.

I understand that you are doing a magnificent job in boosting Boro Park. Good luck to you in all your endeavors.

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the forthcoming events of the B.P.H.S.

With kindest regards,
Carrie Kufeld

DEAR DR. KIPUST,

The *I Remember Boro Park* column in the Jan. 9, 1991 issue of the *Boro Park Community News* lists corrections of errors in previous issues. Since you are interested in maintaining accuracy, I submit the following correction to the article about my family, which was beautifully written in the Oct. 1, 1990 issue. Mr. Shmuel Goldstein of Goldstein Press mentioned that my mother, Mollie Berlin, worked in the office of Yeshiva Toras Emes. In fact, Mollie Berlin worked in the office of Yeshiva Elz Chaim for many years and then later, as previously mentioned, at Yeshiva Beh Joseph.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Fishman

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

IN MEMORIUM

Elie Siegmeister

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Elie Siegmeister, a former Boro Park resident.

Your readers may recall that in the April 24, 1985 issue of this newspaper, I wrote an article on famous people who had lived in Boro Park at some point in their lives and then went on to fame and/or fortune. Elie Siegmeister, the musician, composer, and symphony conductor, was one of them.

I am reproducing the article as it appeared in the "I Remember Boro Park" column as follows: Elie Siegmeister: Musician

"Diagonally across the street from my parents' home, the later to become famous composer,

Elie Siegmeister, lived with his family at 4924-17th Avenue. He is now recognized as a major composer and conductor of music, and is also the author of many books on this subject.

He wrote the music for several shows, one of which, "Sing Out Sweet Land" received plaudits from the music critics. He is the founder of the American Composer Alliance and was and may still be Professor of Music at Hopkins University, and Conductor of Hofstra Symphony Orchestra. I am privileged to say that I could see and hear him when he was composing at the piano, because the room he worked in was almost completely surrounded by windows."

I had previously written to him at his home in Great Neck, Long Island, reminding him of who I was, and requesting of him to send some artifacts for our files. He responded on August 19, 1987 by sending me the following letter:

"Dear Thelma,

What a beautiful letter you sent me! It was not only a surprise but a great joy to hear from you, who have stayed in Boro Park when all the rest of us have wandered throughout the length and breadth of this globe. I am happy to know not only that Boro Park lives, but that it boasts something that even Great Neck, with all its 'fancy-shmancy' people, does not have -- its own Historical Society. Hooray for Boro Park, and I am proud to have been there and that you still remember me.

I am so busy that the thought of adding one more thing even made my typewriter go kaput, as you see. However, I am sending you an artifact and a catalogue of my works.

The artifact is a copy of my "Boro Park Blues," written in Paris in 1929, an expression of my loneliness and love for my old neighborhood.

Since it is difficult to write without a typewriter, I send you my warmest wishes! If there is any way I can help you, please call me.

Cordially,
Elie"

As you can see from his letter, he really loved Boro Park. His obituary appeared in the *New York Times* on March 11, 1991. It mentions that he composed eight operas, eight symphonies, and a large catalogue of songs, choral settings, concerts, orchestral works, and chamber pieces. One of his popular orchestral works, "Sunday in Brooklyn" (1946) explored the sounds of the city.

He continued to follow his musical and political agenda in the 1960's with such works as "I Had a Dream" (1967), a setting of the famous speech by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and "Faces of War" (1968), a work protesting the Vietnam War, with poetry by Langston Hughes.

Elie Siegmeister began his musical studies in 1924. After completing his undergraduate work at Columbia University in

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1927 when he was 18 years old, Elie moved to Paris where he studied for four years.

He was composer in residence at Hofstra University from 1966-1976 and contributed articles on aspects of American music to several publications.

We who knew him and appreciate his gifts to the world now salute him and say to him, as Horatio said to Hamlet, "Good night sweet prince."

--Thelma Fox

We thank Thelma Fox, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for her research, article and interesting contribution.

HY COHEN

Hyman Cohen said he lived in Boro Park from 1948-1953 in the apartment house at 4217-16th Ave., opposite Montauk Jr. H.S. He moved to Boro Park from the Bronx when he was married to Sylvia in 1948. His brother-in-law, Harry Aranoff, gave him his apartment (apartments were very difficult to find in those years) when he moved to New Jersey.

Mr. Cohen remembers Simon Ackerman, the famous department store owner, in Boro Park. Mr. Ackerman in the early 1950's built a small synagogue on 43 St. between 16 and 17 Ave. The synagogue was indented about 50 feet from the street. On that site currently the Krasna Synagogue and Yeshiva is located. They built the main synagogue in front of and attached to the Simon Ackerman Synagogue. Before the Krasna Rav purchased the property, the Ackerman synagogue was used for many years by the Boro Park Miztrachi-Hapool Hamizrachi group as a synagogue.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Mr. Cohen also remembers the *Mirrer* minyan which met in the building of the then Yeshiva Toras Emes 1315-43 St. from 1950-1953. Rabbi Simcha Z. Levovitz and his brother and Rabbi Sampson R. Weiss and Hy Cohen attended that synagogue. After 1953 the *Mirrer* minyan moved to their own current building at 16th Ave. corner 54th St. Hy Cohen moved to Far Rockaway after Boro Park, where he still lives with his wife Sylvia as a retired public school administrator.

RESPONSE TO VERSCHLEISER ARTICLE

Mr. Samuel (Shmuel) Goldstein (Goldstein Printers on 16th Avenue), a loyal reader of this column and frequent contributor, called to add some information. He indicated that he remembers the Feinstein Pharmacy located at 4501 14th Avenue, across the avenue from the Sfaridsh shul. In last month's column, Jack Verschleiser indicated that Feinstein Pharmacy was located on 44 Street and 14 Avenue. Mr. Goldstein lived at 1443 45 Street from 1930 on.

Mr. Goldstein said he remembers one time when a man was shot -- a rare occurrence in those days -- and they took him into the drugstore. "I saw him lying on the floor until medical attention arrived," he recalled. "Some time later," he continued, "the pharmacy moved to 44 Street."

Sol (Shlomo) Goldstein, Samuel's older brother who lives in Baltimore was in Boro Park recently, and I discussed this item with him. He said he remembers Feinstein Pharmacy on the corner of 45 Street. When his family moved to the block in 1930, there was a kitchen appliance store on that corner before the pharmacy moved there. The store sold kitchen stoves and ice boxes; he doesn't remember if refrigerators were on the market yet at that time.

Sol also remembers the corner store across 45 Street on 14 Avenue at that time was Harry's Gasoline Station. They had portable gasoline wagons and would fill the car's gas tanks with hand pumps.

He also recalls the beautiful mansion on the corner of 46th Street and 14th Avenue, where the Beth Jacob school is now located. That set back home was owned by a Mr. Straus and it had a very large landscaped yard and garden all around it. He pointed out that the large, open gardens and yards were very typical of many homes in Boro Park in those days. Mr. Straus was one of the officers and founders of the Sfaridsh shul.

Sol Goldstein shared a few additional memories. The Grand Mansion on the N.E. corner of 45th Street and 16th Avenue, now a factory, was a prominent catering hall then in Boro Park. He remembers attending the Bar Mitzvah of Motel Twersky, brother of the present Skverer Rebbe, Rabbi Dovid Twersky.

The Goldstein family lived at 1443 - 45th Street from 1930 - 1962 when his parents (RIP) moved to Israel. Sol's sister Dina Rosengarten still lives on that block with her husband, Rabbi Yitzchok Rosengarten and family at 1423 - 45th Street. She has lived on that block almost continuously since 1930.

Subsequently, I discussed the Feinstein Pharmacy mystery with Mr. Jack Verschleiser. He informed me that the pharmacy was on 44th Street during the 1920's, moved to 45th Street in the early 1930's, and then moved back to 44th Street.

DEAR DR. KIPUST,

My parents, Mildred and Maurice Reis, came to Boro Park in 1917 and lived in the first apartment house -- 1421 53rd Street -- until they moved to 54th Street in 1923.

I remember my father's description of the 50th Street station on New Utrecht Avenue. The West End train (now the B)

ran on street level before the el was built. The station was in a small building in front of which were the words BORO PARK in white stones.

I still live in the community.
Edith Prostkoff

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By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

DANIEL DUBE

First of all, I think I should tell you about the origin of the name Dube, since almost everybody asks me that question sooner or later.

The word dubova means forest in Russian. My grandfather, Elihu Dubovsky, lived in Minsk, where there were many forests, from which the family's name derived. He was an agent for rich landowners who owned large forests. My grandfather sold the landowners' logs to wholesalers and bought household and other supplies for his employers. When my father, Newman Dube, emigrated to the U.S. in 1888 at the age of 20, he shortened the family name.

When my father first came to the U.S., he went to Chicago to work for a cousin and to live in the cousin's home. This sounded like an ideal arrangement, the only drawback being that the cousin kept my father's entire salary, saying that it covered his room and board! My father looked around and saw that there was money to be made as a peddler. He became a notions peddler (pins, needles, thread, etc.), travelling through rural areas in the midwest. In the 1700's and 1800's roads were bad and few and far between and the automobile and bus had not yet been invented, making it difficult for farmers to travel to towns to buy household goods. Peddlers were highly respected men who were indispensable to manufacturers and to residents of rural areas.

My father peddled for several years in the midwest and then came to live on the Lower East Side of New York City, to work in another cousin's clothing manufacturing factory. It was

there on the Lower East Side that he met my mother, Jennie Schoenbaum, whom he married in a ceremony at the Henry Street Hall in 1895. My father soon had his own clothing factory, manufacturing men's and boys' clothing, at which he became successful. The family moved to better living quarters several times, first on the Lower East Side and then to the Bronx.

My father, however, wanted to live in a more rural area than the Bronx. One day in 1906 he boarded a train in the Bronx and, after several transfers, ended up on the train that is now called the B train which, at that time, ran at ground level. He disembarked from the train at 49th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, where he saw the name Borough Park spelled out in white clamshells in a triangular, grassy area (now occupied by a fruit store). He saw a suburban neighborhood: many trees, beautiful houses with

spacious lawns, and many empty lots. This was the place for his family to live!

My father bought a gray, wooden frame 13-room house, 1225 - 48th Street, in 1906, for the sum of \$9,000. The size of the house and yard was 60 ft. x 100 ft. My parents and my brothers and sisters, Joseph, Irving, Judith, and Lillian moved in. I was born in that house in 1908 and my brother, Herbert, was born at home in 1912, since there was no hospital in Boro Park at that time.

I remember the well-kept lawn of our house, which was tended

by a gardener, Frank Carlucci, who owned a greenhouse on 58th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues (demolished). We all enjoyed our colorful flowers, well-trimmed hedges, peach trees, and the grape arbor. Our house, 1225 - 48th Street, was demolished around 1940 and another house erected in its place.

Some neighbors that I remember are Irving Stone, Sol Weinstein, and Barney Kaufman. I remember the mud gutters, since none were paved; the sidewalks, however, were all paved. There were two large houses to an avenue block (such

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as 13th, 14th, etc.) — mansions really, with spacious lawns. The side streets, however, had about five or six houses to each block, all with spacious lawns. Boro Park was a beautiful and peaceful neighborhood for a child. We boys played marbles and stickball in the streets and, after the YMHA was built in 1916, we played basketball in the gym.

I attended P.S. 160, at 52nd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. Helen Curran was the principal, a charming and beautiful woman. Some of my teachers were Miss Rose, Miss McDermott, and Miss Graham. My brothers and I learned Hebrew from a teacher who came to our house after public school hours in order to prepare us for our Bar Mitzvahs. My sisters were not taught Hebrew, as most girls didn't receive Hebrew lessons at that time.

Around 1918 my brother Herbert came down with diphtheria, a usually fatal disease. My father had Herbert taken to Kings County Hospital, located a long distance away. There Herbert had surgery, which saved his life. That made my father realize the necessity of having a first-class hospital in Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

In 1919 my father convened a meeting of prominent Boro Park business and professional people for the purpose of establishing a hospital. My father was elected President of the Israel Hospital, as it was named, and continued in that position for six years. The officers of the Israel Hospital occupied quarters in the New Utrecht Hospital and Dispensary, 1246 - 42th Street — which now changed its name to the Israel Hospital — and set about raising money. Boris Fingerhood was the man in charge of public relations and fundraising. He later became superintendent of the hospital.

My father was also a director of the Zion Hospital, then located on Cropsey Avenue. My father decided it would be desirable to merge the two hospitals and, to this end, was the dominant force. In 1921, the new Israel-Zion Hospital building was opened at 49th Street and 10th Avenue. I was present at the cornerstone laying in June 1919. My father was the only man present who wore a frock coat and top hat, which was befitting, considering the part he played in the hospital's founding.

The next major event in our family's history was the stock market crash of 1929. My father lost everything: his savings, his clothing factory (Newman Dube and Sons), and our house, in which we continued to live as tenants.

My father was 61 years old when he lost his business. About the right age, one might say, for a man to retire or, at most, to seek part-time employment two or three days a week. For a man of my father's vitality and innate business ability, however, losing his business was merely a sign that it was time to start another business — in a completely different line!

In 1930 my father decided to go into the surgical supply business. He took Theodore Weiss as his partner, who had experience in that line. The PARK SURGICAL COMPANY's first store was at 4804 - 13th Avenue. The Israel-Zion Hospital, appropriately enough, was their first customer. Theodore Weiss left the business after two years; Park Surgical remained at that address for four years and then moved to 4903 - 13th Avenue. In 1943 Park Surgical moved to our present address, 5001 New Utrecht Avenue.

Our customers are hospitals, doctors, and individuals who need medical supplies. From the beginning, Park Surgical has been known for its comprehensive stock and its policy of personalized service, which policy continues to this day.

As I said, my family lost our house after the stock market crash of 1929 when my father could not pay the mortgage. By pawning my mother's jewelry, and the fact that the Park Surgical Company was successful, in 1936 my father was able to buy

our present house at 1259 - 49th Street, where I still live today...

In addition to founding the Israel-Zion Hospital, my father was also one of the founders of Machzike Talmud Torah (no longer in existence). My father died at home in 1966 at the age of 101.

At one time I was a member of the Young Folks League of the Infants Home, located on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues (no longer in existence); for seven years I was President of the Young Folks League of Temple Emanuel-EI. I am presently on the Board of Trustees of Temple Emanuel and am Past President of the Community League, a group affiliated with Maimonides Hospital (the current name of the hospital my father founded).

My sister, Judith, married Max Seakwood. (The Seakwoods were one of the early Jewish families in Boro Park.) 95 years old, she lives in Florida and is still active in Hadassah. An accomplished pianist, she plays the piano at Hadassah meetings. My sister Lillian died at the age of 15 in the influenza epidemic of 1919, which virus was brought back from Europe by returning World War I soldiers. My brother Herbert died in 1985 at the age of 73. My brother, Joseph, now 92, divides his time equally between Woodmere, L.I. and Tucson, Arizona. My brother Irving, age 89, lives in Manhattan and is active in the textile business. I am 82 years old and am still



DANIEL, NEWMAN, JOSEPH, HERBERT DUBE

active in the Park Surgical Company. In fact, my father's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren work in the Park Surgical Company, which is multi-faceted and continually expanding; we now have an orthopedic department.

A friend laughingly remarked that the Dube family of the surgical supply business reminds her of the Rothschild family of the banking business! "Both businesses were founded by highly intelligent men of great business ability and were continued and expanded by several sons who inherited their father's business ability. Then, in both instances, the founders' grandsons went into the family business." May it long continue to be so!

The above interview and article was submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro

Park Historical Society. We thank her and Daniel Dube for this interesting contribution to the history of this community.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help research, preserve, and publicize the history of this community in several ways.

1. Submit your own memories, family history, and other information about Boro Park.

2. Submit old photos and other memorabilia.

3. Become a member of the Boro Park Historical Society. Your dues, and donations, only \$5 a year, will help pay for some of the expenses, and are tax deductible. Send to:

B.P.H.S.
4211 - 13th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

FRANK MICELI

(The following interview and article was submitted by Ms. Lucille Posner officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Mr. Miceli for this interesting contribution.)

I was nine years old in 1925 when my family moved from South Brooklyn to Boro Park. My parents, Josephine and Frank Miceli, moved to Boro Park with the family because they wanted to live in a better neighborhood. We were eight children: myself, my brothers Louis, Peter, and Salvatore, and my sisters, Angie, Josephine, Nancy and Newie. My father bought a two-family brick house at 1317 44th Street. We lived upstairs and rented out the downstairs apartment.

The Gentile brothers, Tommy and Tony, lived on my block and were close friends of mine. After they got married we slowly drifted apart; I haven't seen them for 20 years. I remember the De Pietro family who lived on my block. They had three children, two boys and a girl; all nice people.

I remember when the Berkshire Dairy, a large grocery store, occupied the site where Woolworth's is now. I delivered orders for Berkshire after my classes at P.S. 164, 14th Avenue and 43rd Street. I next attended Montauk Junior High School, 16th Avenue and 43rd Street. Unhappily, Montauk was the last school I attended. This was in the height of the Depression and I had to leave school and work in a hat factory in order to help support my family.

My mother bought meat at the Ambrosia Meat Market, 13th Avenue and 39th Street, now the

Capitol Meat Market. She bought vegetables from the pushcarts that lined 13th Avenue and 39th Street. In fact, my mother bought almost everything from pushcarts, including suits for my brothers and myself. In those days boys' and men's suits came complete with two pairs of pants.

I remember the live chicken market on 39th Street and 13th Avenue. I also remember Renken Milk Farms on 60th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. This was not actually a farm, despite the name. Rather, Renken was a milk wholesaler. Farmers sold their milk to Renken, who loaded the milk on horses and wagons, for delivery to stores and private homes.

Our next-door neighbors were Orthodox Jewish people. My family got along well with all our Jewish neighbors and the Jewish storekeepers and pushcart peddlers. Our relations were always of the best.

My friends and I used to roller skate and play stickball and soccer in the gutters, as there was not too much automobile traffic in those days. We also played marbles and a gambling game, Baseball Cards Off The Wall. In the summers we ate Italian ices in a paper cup, which we bought from the Italian bakeries on 13th Avenue and 39th Street.

Every once in a while my father took the family out to dinner at Red's Italian Restaurant at 39th Street and 13th Avenue—which is still doing business at the same location. In those days a whole pitcher of beer cost 25 cents and a whole pizza pie was the same price!

I think it was about 1937 when I met my wife, Connie De Simone, at a dance at the Crystal Palace, 14th Avenue and 43rd Street. (The building is still there, although the Crystal Palace is no longer in existence.) This was a catering hall where weddings

and bar mitzvahs were held. The De Simones were also a Boro Park family. We were married on June 25, 1939 in St. Catherine of Alexandria Roman Catholic Church, Fort Hamilton Parkway and 41st Street, where my family has always worshipped. In June of 1991, I will have been married for 52 happy years to the same wonderful woman.

Sometime during the 1930's there was a fire at St. Catherine's Church. The firemen managed to save many religious statues and the altar, but much of the church burned down and the stained glass windows were broken by the firemen. There was another big fire, which burned for several hours during the day, at the Rubel Ice Company, 37th Street and 12th Avenue, also sometime during the 1930's. Nearby householders were told to bring pails of sand to their roofs to extinguish any flying sparks.

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After the fire, the Knickerbocker Ice Company occupied the store. I should mention that, even as late as the 1930's, not every family had an electric refrigerator; many families still had an icebox. Icemen, with their horses and wagons, were a familiar sight in Boro Park.

After our marriage, Connie and I rented an apartment in a two-family shingled brick house with an open porch, 3802 12th Avenue. Our children, Steven and Joan, were both born at the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). They both attended P.S. 131, 44th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, and took out books from the Boro Park Library, then located in a store on 13th Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Streets.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

About 1970 I gave up working in a factory and took a job as a bartender in the Step-In Bar and Grill, 12th Avenue and 37th Street. I took the bartending job because the salary was better and I enjoy talking with people. In fact, one of the advantages (or disadvantages, depending on how you feel about it) of the job was that I got to hear all my customers' troubles!

In 1990 there were two big changes in my life. First, I started my present job as a guard at the Boro Park Library, 43rd Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. I remember when the site was occupied by a Turkish bath, there were separate days for men and women. Another big change was that, after 51 years, Connie and I had to move from our apartment at 3802 12th Avenue. Fortunately, we found an apartment around the corner, in a private house, 1126 38th Street.

After being forced to leave school during the Depression, I find much satisfaction in being employed in a library. Most of the knowledge of the world is in books—free to anyone who has a library card!

I hope our readers enjoyed this article as much as your columnist did. As a child I lived at 1358 44th Street, across the street from Mr. Miceli, during the years of 1934-1939. Although I didn't know him, he was much older. I did know the Orthodox Jewish neighbors he mentions. In fact, his neighbor's children and myself were schoolmates and lifelong friends. There were three families, all related, who were his neighbors at 1321 and 1323 44th Street. Their family names were Klein, Fried, and Friedman. Some of the children still live in Boro Park.

THE 7TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society's 7th annual general membership meeting took place on June 3rd, 7:30 P.M. in the meeting room of the Greater New York Savings Bank. Even before the meeting began, the audience eagerly shared recollections and looked at the old photographs which were on display.

First on the agenda was the showing of a video film, made by the Executive Committee, which included various 13th Avenue locations, from 53rd Street to 60th Street. This area included the old Blythbourne section, the cradle of the current Boro Park neighborhood. The video included presentations by Dario Marrotta, Jack Verschleiser, Thelma Fox, Lucille Posner, Esther Kane, and Jacques Friedman. The video was shown in two segments, interspersed with guest speakers.

Lucille Posner introduced the first guest speaker, Hannah Harris, a real old time Boro Parker, who discussed some of the changes she has seen in Boro Park over the last half century and more.

Thelma Fox introduced Rose Walzer who discussed some of her family's history in Boro Park since 1912 and some of her memories of old Boro Park. A summary of her presentation follows this article.

A lively discussion followed as members of the audience shared their own memories of the community. Esther Kane and Jacques Friedman asked Boro Parkers to join the Boro Park Historical Society and help in its work.



ROSE WALZER

(Summary of

Rose Walzer's Presentation)

In 1912, my father's two sisters came to Boro Park from the Lower East Side. It seems that some of the men my uncle worked with were moving here. One aunt lived on 12th Avenue between 41st and 42nd Street. Incidentally, the house was recently torn down. My other aunt bought a house on 41st Street between 12th and 13th Avenue. They had a dry cleaning store and two apartments up stairs. That house is still there.

In 1913 they convinced my parents to come from Boro Park and they rented an apartment at 1316 41st Street where I was born. That house is still there.

The subways in those days were the Culver Line that ran on the ground to 9th Avenue and the West End that also ran on the ground at 39th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. Both lines were later elevated. The West End trolley with its open sides ran from 39th Street and New Utrecht Avenue to Coney Island in the summertime and to Almer Park in Bensonhurst in the winter. The trolley was discontinued in 1943 during World War II.

There was a trolley on 16th Avenue that ran from 62nd Street to McDonald Avenue. It was called the Tannerville Trolley because there was only one and if you missed it you walked to wherever you were going. The New Utrecht H.S. Annex was located at P.S. 180 which is at 56th Street and 16th Avenue and many a day I walked there.

People in Boro Park were movie-goers and the following are some of the theaters in B.P.

Eagle - 16th Ave. & 43rd St
Elton - New Utrecht Ave. & 43rd St.

Windsor - 15th Ave. & 40th St.

West End - 51st St. & New Utrecht Ave.

Ritz - 8th Ave.

Garden - Open Air - New Utrecht Ave. & 46th St.

Royal - 13th Ave. bet. 41st and 42nd St.

New Moon - Ft Hamilton Pkwy and 39th St.

Later - The Loews - 46th St. and Loews Boro Park were built.

Maimonides Hospital started at 42nd St. between 12th and 13th Avenue. Mr. N. Dube was one of its founders. Minnensberg Maternity Hospital was located at 15th Avenue, between 44th and 45th Street and is now Bais Yaakov High School. Maimonides Hospital, previously known as the Israel Zion Hospital, was formed after a joining of the Zion Hospital of Boro Park and the Israel Hospital of Bensonhurst. The cornerstone was laid in June 1919, and the doors opened in 1921.

Former Stores

Cushman's Bakery, A & P, Bohacks, Kresge, Bushell, Linden Chapeau de Mode, Machta Bros., Schmeiliks, Skilowitz, Meyers, Reds Restaurant Envoys Cafeteria, Rothstein's, Simon

Bernstein Furniture, and Wallachs who is still on 13th Avenue. One of our guests here today is Ruth Levy, daughter of the original Wallach. There were also Bloom, Goldfaber (hardware), Franklins (women's clothing), Renell Bakery, and Brooklyn Wonder Store (fabrics).

The Brooklyn Public Library was originally at 56th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, then moved to 13th Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Street, and then to its present location at 43rd Street off 13th Avenue.

There was a catering hall on 43rd Street off 14th Avenue known as the Crystal Palace. My friend's father was a partner and I danced at many Italian weddings on Saturday nights.

How can we forget the Pool Room at 14th Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Street, directly across from P.S. 164. My five sisters, my daughter, and I all went there. On the corner of 43rd Street across from the school was Korman's Candy Store. Mr. Korman was Annie Weintraub's brother.

Hecker's Flour was started in a building on the corner of 13th Avenue and 41st Street.

There was also a farm on 13th Avenue and 45th Street where there were chickens and goats and the Kindergarten children

were taken there for an outing.

I have racked my brain, picked the brains of my sister and friends who are old time Boro Parkers to prepare for this talk. I hope you all have the happy memories that I have. I still live in Boro Park but it's not the same place of my youth.

We thank Ms. Rose Walzer for her interesting talk and contribution to the history of the community.

In the June 1 Remember Boro Park Column, the following sentence in the article on Daniel Dube should be changed to read as follows:

He disembarked from the train at 49th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, where he saw the name Borough Park spelled out in white cobblestones in a triangular grassy area (now occupied by a fruit store).

SUBMIT YOUR BORO PARK MEMORIES

We are interested in your memories of Boro Park and family histories. You can help in the work of discovering and preserving the history of our community by submitting information, photos, articles, etc. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. only \$5 a year. Write to Boro Park Historical Society, 4211-13th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11219.

NEW YORK TELEPHONE GRANT

The Boro Park Historical Society wishes to thank the New York Telephone Co. for its recent grant to help develop its photographic archives. The money was used to purchase old

photos of this community for the photographic display at the public library and at the annual membership meeting. These old photos have also enhanced the B.P.H.S. photographic archives.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK TOURS

Boro Park has become a tourist attraction. Walking tours of the community are given to groups periodically by arrangement with Joel Schwartz at the C.O.J.O. of Boro Park.

Last year, for the Sunday before Passover, he had two groups that requested a tour and recommended that one group contact me. A branch of Hadassah women from upper Manhattan contacted me and I agreed to lead a bus tour of the community. By the time the date arrived they had over two busloads of over 90 people signed up for the tour. This is an indication of the rising popularity of Boro Park as a tourist attraction.

I led one bus group in the morning and one in the afternoon. The groups also alternated in visiting another Jewish community in Brooklyn. They had lunch at Ossie's Restaurant on 50th Street near 13th Ave.

During the past few years Boro Park has become a very busy shopping area, especially on Sundays. Many people drive into Boro Park from other neighborhoods to take advantage of the many shopping benefits in Boro Park - low prices, large variety, and specialty items for the Jewish consumer. There is a serious problem, however, and that is the lack of adequate parking space available, especially for the influx of visiting cars.

On any Sunday, driving through Boro Park is a very tedious process because of the heavy traffic. You can well imagine how busy and crowded it was on the Sunday just before the Passover holiday. Nonetheless,

since we didn't have to park and preferred driving slowly to enjoy the sites and the narration, the bus drivers were able to do a very skillful job of maneuvering the large tourist buses up and down the streets of Boro Park. Some readers may remember seeing those huge buses and wondering about them. During the tour, we related some of the history of the community and some of the institutions. The tourists asked many questions of interest to them, primarily about the chasidic Jewish groups in the community. Each tour lasted about two hours and was interesting to me as well as to the tourists. Since this was the first time I had led such a tour, it required a little more preparation. At the end, the tours were well received and praised directly to me and to others.

Although I enjoyed talking about and promoting the Boro Park community, I wouldn't have the time to develop or lead these tours on a regular basis. However, I can see some enterprising business man or organization some day successfully promoting such a tourist business in this neighborhood. The B.P.H.S. would certainly be willing to cooperate and help.

HOW DID BORO PARK BECOME SUCH AN IMPORTANT CENTER FOR ORTHODOX JEWRY?

One of the questions that was asked on both tours and frequently asked by others is "How did Boro Park become such an important center for Orthodox Jewry?" After all, Boro Park is probably the largest orthodox and chasidic community in the world, concentrated in one neighborhood. It has over 200 synagogues and over 50 Hebrew schools and Yeshivas. What attracted all the chasidic residents to this community? What special attraction or merit did Boro Park have?

This is an important question very relevant to the history of Boro Park and shall be dealt with. I plan to discuss this topic, and present historical, sociological, and religious information in future columns (P.G.) to help answer these questions. Your thoughts on this topic are very welcome.

WRITE US

FAREWELL, REGINA SPIEGEL

The following article and interview was prepared by Lucie Posner, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.). We thank her for her interesting contribution.

Regina Spiegel is dead. Possibly the oldest resident of Boro Park, she died at the age of 101 years and 10 months. She passed away on September 10th at Maimonides Hospital in Boro Park. She had been admitted to the hospital on February 16, 1991, suffering from pneumonia. Although she subsequently recovered from pneumonia, she never regained her health to the point where she was able to leave the hospital and return to her home at 1370-51 St.

Her companion of seven years, Branislava Lenart, her son Isaac Bacon, and her neighbors visited her in the hospital frequently.

Mrs. Spiegel was a former inmate of Theresienstadt Concentration Camp, a transit camp in Czechoslovakia. Her husband (Mr. Bakun), her daughter, her daughter's husband, and her grandchild were transported to

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Auschwitz, where they were murdered. By a stroke of fate, Mrs. Spiegel avoided being transported to Auschwitz and lived to survive Hitler (who killed himself in his bunker on April 30, 1945) by 46 years, four months, and ten days.

In 1946 Mrs. Spiegel emigrated to the United States and married Mr. Spiegel, who died 16 years ago.

Almost until the end, Mrs. Spiegel maintained a keen interest in the world. She read both the New York Post and the Algemeine Journal and discussed the political scene in Israel with insight and intelligence. She enjoyed watching TV, particularly ballet. Her son, Isaac Bacon, who lives in Brooklyn, is a former Dean of Yeshiva University; her other son, who lives in Israel, is the editor of a magazine. Among her grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, who live in Israel and the United States, there are many teachers.

She was a warm, giving person. For years she baked a kugel especially to give to a neighbor for Shabbos. When she became too infirm to bake, she had her companion-housekeeper bake the kugel for the neighbor. Mrs.

Spiegel's charm, warmth, and an indefinable spirit that was all her own, gave a feeling of happiness to people who spent any time in her company.

Good-bye, dear Mrs. Spiegel. You will live on in the memory of all those who knew you.

LILA LICHTENFELD

Gentlemen:

I receive the Boro Park Community News and I find it very enjoyable.

I love reading "I remember Boro Park" as I am living here since 1926. I may be the longest and possibly the oldest living resident here. My parents opened a girdle and bra shop on Fort Hamilton Parkway between 44th Street and 45th Street. The name of the shop was Horwitz Corset Shop.

My sister Sara went to textile High School. My brother George went to P.S. 131 on Fort Hamilton Parkway, my sister Ann and myself also went to that school. George, Ann and I went to Pershing Jr. High School and then on to New Utrecht High. My sister and I were married in Boro Park and my brother was married in New York City when he was in the Air Corp. in World War II.

My mother passed away in 1947, my father died in 1979. I operated the store until November 12, 1982, exactly 50 years after my parents opened the shop.

My daughter, Rita, was married 25 years ago at Temple Emanuel with Rabbi Silverstein and Cantor David Kusevitsky officiating.

I am still living in Boro Park and I may be the longest living resident in this neighborhood. My mother was also a member of the Hadassah.

There were ten one family houses on each block, there were very few apartment houses.

The appetizing store was Miller's on 49th Street and 13th Avenue. Next door to that store was the Linden Dress Shop where one was able to purchase the most elegant dresses. On the other side was Merlins's Fur Shoppe. On 47th Street and 13th Avenue was a dairy where you bought fresh butter, cheese and he also candled the eggs to make sure they were fresh.

We had three movie theaters, the Elton on New Utrecht Avenue where one saw silent movies, the larger theaters were the Lowes on 46th Street and

Lowes Boro Park.

There is so much more that I can write, but it may be too long print.

Lila Lichtenfeld

We thank Lila Lichtenfeld for her interesting contribution to the history of Boro Park.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER

CHAIM ROBINSON?

We received several calls from a young lady in Cherry Hill, New Jersey who is interested in finding information about her great grandfather, Chaim Robinson. The young lady, Flora Robinson, a teenager, is doing research about her family history. She says she believed that Chaim Robinson was one of the founders and served as a principal of Yeshiva Etz Chaim in Boro Park, which was on 13th Avenue and 50th Street, where Solomon Plaza is now located.

Mr. Robinson came to America in 1888 and settled in East New York. In 1916 he helped start the Yeshiva Etz Chaim. He died in 1923.

If anyone remembers the person or the name or has any other information about the man, his great granddaughter would greatly appreciate hearing about it. Please send information to this column or the B.P.H.S. and we will forward it to Flora Robinson.

SUBMIT YOUR BORO PARK MEMORIES

Let us hear from you. We are interested in your comments, family histories and personal memories of this community. Old photos of stores, houses and people in the community would be greatly appreciated.

You can help preserve and publicize the history of this community by joining the Boro Park Historical Society. Dues are only \$5.00 per year. Send to B.P.H.S. 4211 - 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

As we continue with this column and the work of the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) we find that the research and many of the articles have become more thorough; have gained in depth and profundity. The two articles which follow are examples of this; both focusing on specific topics in greater depth and revealing more thorough and painstaking research.

The first article is a study of apartment houses in Boro Park. We thank Mr. B. M. Selevan, Research Chairman of the B.P.H.S. for this interesting contribution. The second article is a study of the Blythebourne Post Office. We thank Mrs. Thelma Fox, Membership Chairman of the B.P.H.S. for the interesting contribution.

APARTMENT HOUSES OF BORO PARK

by B.M. Selevan

A significant place among the housing stock of Borough Park at present is occupied by apartment houses where residents of the area reside. This was not always the case, though. The story of apartment houses in Borough Park is an interesting one which I'll endeavor to discuss in the following article.

In the early days of this community there were none. Early housing in this area did not include apartment buildings. Zoning, deed restrictions, and the idea of a quiet neighborhood away from the crowded center city did not allow for such houses. Additionally, I believe that the technology and techniques for building such modern apartment houses as we know today were in their infancy and not fully developed in the early years of Borough Park.

After a while, though, things started to change. Some restrictions disappeared and the neighborhood became less remote from and more a part of the busy city. Advances in transportation, particularly the opening of the West End elevated section through the area in 1916, made the neighborhood home of many commuters. The quantity and the stage was set for the advent of many large multiple dwelling structures.

Some small apartment buildings may have been built as early as 1910 or so, but these were likely small, simple, non-elevator buildings. Most of the larger (six stories seems to be the standard size), more luxurious elevator buildings seem to have been built in the 1920's and 1930's. The Great Depression did stop or curtail construction it seems, but after it eased off some other buildings were built prior to World War II. The most re-

cently built large apartment house in the neighborhood, to my knowledge, is the "Georgian" building of 1502-52nd Street, built circa 1952 by the Lefrak Organization. The 1370-51st Street building is also of recent vintage, I believe. The Colony House (1455-49 St.) according to resident Thelma Fox was built around the beginning of World War two, after (along with) the building across the street from it, housing the Sherman-Abrams dental lab, by the Sherman-Abrams family.

Many of these buildings were built predominantly along certain specific avenues or streets; major examples being 12th, 14th, and 15th avenues and 48th and 52nd streets. Many seem to have been built on the sites of former 'mansions', luxurious residences with large grounds which started disappearing as the neighborhood and population of the area changed.

BUILDING NAMES

Many of the buildings were

given names by their builders or owners, names which often evoked visions of luxury, grandeur, and comfortable living. Many of the names ended with words such as COURT, ARMS, GARDENS, CIRCLE, and PLAZA.

Some building's names were derived from their geography. Examples of this type are (Borough) PARK GARDENS (4815-23 15th Ave.), PARK PLAZA (4901-14th Ave.), TEMPLE ARMS (4812-14th Ave. near Temple Emanuel), WEST END (trains) ARMS (1600-55th St.) SUNSET COURT (5001-10th Ave.) HIGHLAND CIRCLE (880-47th St.), and THE MONTAUCK (4217 16th Ave., on the site of the former Montauk theatre and across the ave from Montauk J.H.S.). Other names had their source seemingly in a name of the builder, owner or their loved ones. Examples of this type would be ALBERT ARMS (914-47th st.), DANIEL ARMS (902-47th st.), MAYER COURT (1574-56th st.), MINGERT ARMS (1472-43rd st.), MINGERT COURT (1454-43).

Yet others derived their names from famous figures of the day, e.g. PERSHING ARMS (5801-13th Ave.) and perhaps the DELANO (5023-15th Ave.), after Franklin Delano Roosevelt, former NYS Governor & President)

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

continued from page

Other names advertised their buildings, e.g. THE SUPERBUILT (974-47), THE ULTRABUILT (968-47) and BOROUGH PARK DE LUX. APTS (1254-42nd st.).

The remaining names seem to be just nice, majestic, aristocratic sounding names, such as THE CHESHIRE (4716-14), THE BERKSHIRE (926-47), MAYFAIR (5421-15), AMBASSADOR (4910-15), THE PLYMOUTH (1450-48), THE WINDSOR (1335-50), THE COLONY HOUSE (1455-49) and THE SUPERNAL (4706-10th Ave).

By the way, the above is not a complete listing of all named Borough Park apartment houses.

Most of the names were/are set in stone above the entrance, while some are affixed to glass or set forth on a sign at the same spot.

In keeping with their image of luxury and comfortable living, some of the houses incorporated elaborate entrances, canopies, friezes and other ornamentation on and in the buildings.

Doormen were on duty at the entrance of the buildings (now disappeared) ensuring that things were in order and proper decorum was kept. Signs affixed to the exterior of buildings (some still extant and visible today) carried messages such as LOITERING, SITTING OR BABY CARRIAGES NOT ALLOWED, NO SOLICITING and ALL DELIVERIES THROUGH BASEMENT.

THE SCENE IN 1991

Nowadays, most of these buildings are still standing but a few have disappeared. Some have been converted to co-ops and to institutional use. Some have been renovated and re-named, such as "Borough Park Village" on 52nd st. between 18th and 19th avenues. Some still stand but have lost their names and/or no loitering, etc., signs. Rents have risen dramatically. By way of illustration of the last point I'll mention that a 1916 Paul W. Connely Co. ad in my possession advertised "modern apts 4&5 rooms and bath for \$25 to \$45 a month" and new building medium priced apts were \$18 & \$20 per month for 6 rooms and bath. A 1952 Brooklyn Eagle clipping I have reports that the 2 to 4 and 1/2 room with 2 bath apts are offered from \$81 for early summer occupancy in the new 'Georgian' building at 1502-52nd st. by the Lefrak Organization. Now prices are a bit different.

Each building has its own history. I've tried to give the subject a general overview. This article is by no means a complete study of the subject. Nevertheless, I hope I've made a worthwhile contribution to the historiography of Borough Park with it.

I hope the reader has found this to be of interest and I welcome any contributions of further information on the subject.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Dario Marotta for his assistance with this article and subject.

THE BLYTHEBOURNE POST OFFICE

Dear Dr. Kipust,

The "Video" presentation, which was shown at the last open meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society, held at the Greater New York Savings Bank's meeting room, on June 3, 1991, focused on various stories on 13th Avenue from 52nd Street to 60th Street, the outer limits of Boro Park.

The reason these places were chosen, was because they have some historical significance pertaining to the founding and growth of our community. The "Video" also showed previous locations of some important Boro Park establishments.

The last portion of the "Video" showed me standing in front of "Inger Furniture" at 5608-13th Avenue. Because I feel that my story about that location, has historical significance, I have put it into writing, so that it will appear in the "I Remember Boro Park" column where people can read about it.

The Blythebourne Post Office, now located at 1200 - 51st Street, on the site of the former Boro Park Theater, was previously situated at 5608-13th Avenue. It was first established on June 5, 1888 about a year after the founding of this community. At that time, it was located in a two-story, flat roofed building, which was situated at 13th Avenue and 55th Street, where Citibank now stands.

Although most of the present streets were mapped in the 1870's, many of them did not exist in reality. Therefore, the Post Office had its entrance on what was then called Cowenhaven Lane.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

There was a Hall (often called Sedgewick Hall) above the Post Office, which was used for socials, church services and later a school. The number of the Post Office's first telephone, established in 1912, was Boro Park 3098.

I think I should digress for a moment and mention that there was a West Brooklyn Post Office, at 4319 New Utrecht Avenue, in the 1890's. A unique service was Trolley Mail Service. Which was mail, delivered from the Central Post Office, to a number of local Post Offices including Blythebourne. This

took place in 1894, by public trolley cars.

Getting back to the Post Office which was located at 13th Avenue and 55th Street, the first Superintendent that I have on record, was a Mr. Albert E. Stewart, who served from 1900 to 1903.

In 1913, the growing community needed a larger Post Office. The original building was demolished and another built in its place which is now the 2 story brick Citibank Building.

It was designed by architects, Frank Quimby and William Strout, and built at a cost of \$16,000, by the William Kennedy Construction Company, for the Sedgewick estate the owners of both the original and present buildings. It was leased to the Post Office for a 10 year period.

This Post Office was known as "Station K" for a time. The telephone number became Blythebourne 3098, but since automatic dialing had not yet come into use, the change from the Boro Park number to the Blythebourne number didn't have much meaning.

The second floor of the building now contained offices and was no longer used as a "Hall". By 1923, at the expiration of the 10 year lease, the Post Office leased a new building, which was built for them, at 5608 - 13th Avenue, the building that now houses "Inger Furniture". The location of the building is easily recognizable by the beige color of its bricks.

While inability to agree on a renewed lease was one reason for the move, another reason was that the new building was accessible to "Post Office Vehicles" from an alleyway, on one of the side streets.

There were at least 5 superintendents in the period between 1924 and 1933. The phone number was changed to Berkshire 7095.

By 1977, changing requirements, such as more automation and more mail delivery trucks, dictated another move, - this time to 1200-51st Street. Former buildings were leased, but the present one is owned by the Post Office. It opened in 1977, at the time Jimmy Carter was president. There is a loading platform in the back with ample room for the mail trucks to park.

At the present time, Mr. De Virgilio is the Superintendent, Mr. Zaffuto is the manager and Mr. Worsdale is the supervisor. The telephone number now is 436-6706, in case you want to

contact the Post Office. This post office still maintains the name of Blythebourne which was the original name of this part of the community.

Special thanks to Dario Marotta for supplying some of the historical data used in this article.

Sincerely, Thelma Fox

THANK YOU CON EDISON

The officers and members of the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) would like to express their gratitude to the Con Edison company for their recent community grant. The money is being used for the maintenance and expansion of the Photo Archives of the B.P.H.S. Additional photos have been purchased and will be displayed at the annual photo exhibit in the Boro Park Public Library during the month of May.

YOU CAN HELP

Please participate in the project of researching, preserving, and publicizing the history of this community. You can help by submitting your own family history information and memories. Photos and documents are also very welcome.

You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S., only \$5 a year for individuals (\$3 for retired or students), and \$10 for organizations or business establishments.

You can also help by volunteering to do some work for the B.P.H.S. Write or call B.P.H.S. 4211-13th Ave. 11219. Tel. 436-7729 or 854-1033.

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
WAS NOT PUBLISHED
IN DECEMBER 1991

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Dear Dr. Kipust,

In the last issue you asked what factors changed Boro Park to become such a vibrant and dynamic orthodox community. Having lived in Boro Park for over 60 years I would attribute this vast change mostly to the Bobover chasidim having set anchor here and making Boro Park their home.

The influx of the various other chassidic groups to Boro Park came after the die was cast.

And what a change took place: yeshivas, girls' schools, mikvaos, etc. were established everywhere in Boro Park.

The Bobover have even reached out to serve the general community needs such as career development for youths, a program which trains girls and boys to be able to work in offices as computer operators. They even have a special program to train women to become paralegal assistants. They work together with Touro College on many programs enabling one to get a degree.

To talk about their Bikur Cholim projects, I must say they do a fantastic job. They also have an outreach program for the Russians. So if you were to ask me who put Boro Park on the map, the nod would go to Bobov.

Sincerely, Shmuel Goldstein
(Goldstein Printers)

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Lila Lichtenfeld's article in your column of October 24th requires a response. She most definitely is not the oldest resident or the one who has lived in Boro Park the longest. I was born in Boro Park long before her parents moved here and I am still a resident. However, I doubt that I am the one who has lived

in Boro Park the longest. I know I am not the oldest.

I remember the Horwitz Corset Shop- my mother was a good customer- but the one I remember was on 13th Avenue between 46th and 47th Street. All the other details given about the store lead me to believe that it must have been moved from Fort Hamilton Parkway to 13th Avenue.

I remember 13th Avenue when it was restricted to private homes- southwest of 45th Street, and when there were no apartment houses. I remember Boro Park when many streets were unpaved, when gas lamps provided street lighting, etc. But that's another story.

Sincerely yours, Adele Weinstock

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Always enjoy reading your columns and news in them. Guess you've heard by now that our

dear Mother, Carrie Kufeld (RIP) passed away on October 12. The write-up by Lucille Posner was great. She put a lot of work into it, and people enjoyed reading it. It was done in time.

I'm, writing because I read something in the latest issue- re: a Mr. Robinson, about whom his great granddaughter is doing research "on Roots". Yes, the yeshiva had several founders- they're all gone now.

As far as Mr. Robinson having been a principal of that yeshiva- my dad, Max Kufeld, sure was the first one there until 1962. The name Robinson is completely foreign to us.

Good Luck,
Rita (Kufeld)
Michaelson

P.S. In reference to Mrs. Lichtenfeld's letter- my mother Carrie Kufeld (RIP) moved to Boro Park in 1915 and was in her late 90's when she passed away on Oct. 12. We, the family, easily recall the places and people mentioned in Mrs. Lichtenfeld's article.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

In reference to the request for information about Mr. Chaim Robinson (RIP) I believe that there may have been some residents by the name of Robinson in Boro Park. I remember vaguely seeing that name on some large synagogue plaque and I recall a student by that name perhaps 2 or 3 years behind me in the Yeshiva Toras Emes.

However, I think that Flora Robinson may be making a mistake. In the book, The Story of Yeshiva University, by Gilbert Klaperman, a Chaim Robinson is mentioned. The index cites five citations under his name. In addition there are three citations in the book for a Moshe Robinson. For further information also see the book Bernard Revel - Builder of American Jewish Orthodoxy by Aaron Rothkoff. Since Yeshiva Etz Chaim and R.I.E.T.S. were forerunners of Yeshiva University, she might have confused Yeshiva Etz Chaim of Manhattan with that of Boro Park.

I am also led to suspect as much by seeing no mention of Mr. Robinson in any early newspaper clippings dealing with Yeshiva Etz Chaim of Boro Park.

A newspaper obituary could provide valuable information which might shed some light on the matter. Perhaps I'll

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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be able to obtain some more information on the matter in the future.

Yours truly
B.M. Selevan

We thank the above writers, Shmuel Goldstein, Adele Weinstock, Rita (Kufeld) Michaelson and B.M. Selevan for their interesting and important contributions.

The following interview and article was submitted by Lucille Posner an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Charles Sallusto for this interesting and important contribution.

CHARLES SALLUSTO

I was two years old when my family moved to Blythebourne in 1917. At that time, my family consisted of my parents, Justine and Anthony, and seven children, including myself. Our family eventually grew to include eleven children, six boys and five girls; I was the sixth oldest child.

We moved to Blythebourne from the neighborhood of Greenwich Village in Manhattan — where my father, a manufacturing chemist, had his plant — because my parents wanted to live in the suburbs. (Later, in 1924, my father was one of the first chemists in the U.S. to develop and market an anti-hypertension drug).

Blythebourne, founded in 1886 by Electus B. Litchfield, has long since been absorbed into the adjacent, and larger, Boro Park neighborhood. When it was founded, Blythebourne extended from about 54th Street to about 60th Street, and from about 11th Avenue to about 14th Avenue. The rest of the area was farmland.

My father bought a one-family, 15-room, wooden house, 5718 12th Avenue. Our house and large garden — where we grew flowers and vegetables — comprised five lots. In addition to what we grew, my family, and many Blythebourne residents, bought fruit and vegetables from the Koehler Farm, Cowenhoven Lane (now 56th Street) and 12th Avenue. I think I should explain that Cowenhoven Lane ran at a slant through Blythebourne, ending at a Cowenhoven farm at 52nd Street and Old New Utrecht Road. This lane is no longer in existence, houses having been built on it.

When I was a child, the entire area was extremely countrified. I remember 12th Avenue and 58th Street when they were both unpaved dirt roads. We children went swimming in Wyman's Pond, (now existing only in memory) located on 63rd Street between 11th and 12th Avenues.

When I was a child, our neighborhood was predominantly Jewish and Italian, as it is now. However, many of the original residents — most of whom were Protestants — still lived in Blythebourne. When the entire neighborhood came to be called Boro Park, sometime around 1920, we still described ourselves as Blythebourne residents.

One early resident was James Baker, M.D., 1238 56th Street, whom I knew very well, since I was friendly with two of his sons. His house (built of wood, as were all the original Blythebourne houses) was next door to that of his father, a notary public. Dr. Baker's house and his garden had a frontage of about 100 feet; in his front yard was an extremely large fishpond with live goldfish. Dr. Baker remained in Blythebourne for many years — until 1940 or later. The houses of Dr. Baker and his father have since been demolished and several houses erected in its place.

The first grammar school I attended was P.S. 105. A regular school building had not yet been built, so the school held classes in the so-called "chicken coop," comprised of five wooden bungalows. In 1925, classes were transferred to the newly-built P.S. 105 school building at 1031 59th Street (where it stands today). After the 6th grade, my whole class was transferred to P.S. 103, 14th Avenue, 53rd to 54th Streets (now occupied by Beth Rachel De Saumar girls' school). The principal at P.S. 103 was Mr. Powers, an Irishman who had a red, bulbous nose and a red face. Some of my teachers at P.S. 103 were: Mrs. Metzger, Miss Nelsenius, Miss Collins, Miss O'Mahoney (a heavy-set woman who gave a lot of homework), and one of the two Posner sisters.

When I was a child, most wage-earners shopped for food on Saturday nights, probably because Saturday was payday. Almost all Boro Park stores were located on New Utrecht Avenue, since 13th Avenue was still largely residential.

The Boro Park Library was located in a wooden house on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues, right behind Carl Strauss' candy store (now occupied by SmithKline Beecham Clinical Labs.). Mr. Strauss, a World War I veteran, was afflicted with Parkinson's Disease. Despite that, he was a warm and gentle person, a friend to all, as was his wife.

Pop Warshofsky (the spelling of his name may be wrong) had a shoe repair store on New Utrecht Avenue between 55th and 56th Streets. A wonderful man! We kids used his store as a hang-out. Many times he took

us to Essling's Bakery on New Utrecht Avenue between 56th and 57th Streets, where we all had coffee and buns, Pop's treat. Two buns and a cup of coffee cost 10 cents! (When I was a boy, some bakeries had a few tables and chairs where people could have cake and coffee.) The Esslings were German-Americans; theirs was the first bakery in Blythebourne.

I remember Borough Park Hardware, 14th Avenue between 59th and 60th Streets, owned by Nathan Oguss". This hardware store was founded in 1900 by Mr. H. M. Dickover and is the oldest store in Boro Park, still doing business at its original location! I went to grammar school with Nathan Oguss' sons, Murray and Lennie.

I bought paper-covered Frank Menwell novels (price 15 cents) at Pop Rosen's candy store, located next door to the present Citibank, 55th Street and New Utrecht Avenue (American Grocery, a combination grocery and candy store, occupies the store now).

There were several German-American ice cream parlors in Boro Park. I particularly remember Winkler's on New Utrecht Avenue. Winkler's sold the best Charlotte Russes in Boro Park and made their own ice cream and chocolate candy — I particularly loved the latter!

Halloween was a fun time, especially for us boys. We enjoyed putting flour in old socks and hitting the girls with it. Boys and girls wore Halloween masks and went trick-or-treating; in those days children also went trick-or-treating on Thanksgiving.

In the 1940's, after World War II, the soon-to-be comedian Buddy Hackett hung out in Whitey's Bar, corner of 49th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. I remember the first time Buddy appeared on television, then in his infancy. We all watched him perform in the bar's TV; at the conclusion of the TV show, Buddy said, "Hello to the gang at Whitey's".

My future wife, Rose Grieco, lived with her family diagonally across the street from my house; we were married in 1940 at St. Frances de Chantal Church, where my family has always worshipped. My son, Sal, and my daughter, Bernadette, were born in Doctors Hospital, 15th Avenue and 45th Street (no longer in existence).

In September 1991 Rose and I celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary. In 1977 I sold the family home (it has since been demolished and another house erected in its place) and moved to a rented apartment in Boro Park. Rose and I finally moved out of the neighborhood in 1981.

Having literally lived through the seven ages of man in Boro Park, from babyhood through young manhood to my mature years. I look back on many pleasant memories of Boro Park, or -- as I shall always think of it -- Blythebourne.

JOIN THE B.B.H.S.

You can help in the work of researching, preserving and printing the history of Boro Park by joining the BPHS Annual

Membership. Dues are only \$5 (\$3 for retired), \$10 for organizations and business establishments.

You can also help by submitting old photos, documents, or personal memories and family histories.

Send dues or articles to
BPHS
1558 - 45th Street, Brooklyn,
NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Dr. Kipust:

A friend has told me that one of my former pupils, Charles Sallusto, mentioned my name in the January "I Remember Boro Park" column. Unfortunately, I don't remember any of my former pupils. After all, I retired from teaching 30 years ago - memories of my pupils are dim after all these years! I do, however, remember that the pupils at P.S. 103 were mostly Jewish and Italian boys and girls and were intelligent and industrious.

I think it was about 1930 when I began teaching in P.S. 103, 14th Avenue and 53rd Street. At that time, classes went up to 6B. At first I taught the lower grades, then later switched to the higher grades. In the fall of 1941, P.S. 103 became a 6B school, and all classes above 6B were transferred to Montauk Jr. High

School, 43rd Street and 16th Avenue. I transferred to Montauk along with these classes and there taught algebra and geometry for many years. I do remember many of the teachers in P.S. 103. There were the two Porter sisters; Marcella Collins; Catherine O'Mahoney, a heavy-set woman; and Miss Mahoney, a heavy-set woman who gave a lot of homework.

I clearly remember the principal, Mr. Powers. He was such a gentleman! Always polite and kind, and a very good principal. I remember Mrs. Oxley, the assistant principal, a humorous, heavy-set woman.

I will be 100 years old in March 8, 1992. What changes I have witnessed in my 100 years: the invention of the automobile, the airplane, radio and TV! I am in good health, although a little unsteady on my feet. I live alone in an apartment in Bay Ridge and manage with the help of a cleaning woman every other week. My niece, who lives in the same building, cooks for me. One of the things I enjoy are evening concerts at a neighborhood church. With this letter I would like to greet all my former pupils. I hope they are doing well and are happy.

Sincerely, EDNA NELSENIUS

Dear Mr. Kipust,

Enclosed please find a check for "Senior" dues for Boro Park Historical Society for Mr. & Mrs. Ben Pollack.

Also, I have some information about Boro Park Cong. Sons of Judah once had a Talmud Torah - the principals were Mr. Goldin and then Mr. Kleinman. At the end of the school year, the school sponsored a public examination of the graduating students. It was held in the main synagogue and

the students were seated on the center Bimah (platform). One year, I believe it was in 1927, Rabbi Meyer Joshua Peikes (RIP), was the guest examiner. Rabbi Peikes, who served as volunteer Rabbi in Cong. Shomrei Emenah and Cong. Anshe Sfard, also was the guest speaker at the dedication ceremony of Cong. Bnai Yehudah. Previous to coming to Boro Park, Rabbi Peikes served as Rabbi in Kehilath Jeshurun Shul in Manhattan.

During the week Rabbi Peikes earned his livelihood by manufacturing gold jewelry (watches, chains, bracelets etc.) He was responsible for the stamping of numerous karats of gold the jewelry contained. He personally spoke before the Congress as a Slabodka graduate, pupil of Rabbi Israel Salanter ZT"L and honored ordainee of Reb. Chaim Brisker ZT"L. He could not tolerate the cheating that went on in misrepresenting the gold content in the jewelry line. He

was very careful in all his business affairs to conduct himself with meticulous honesty.

The following little article appeared in the Bklyn Eagle of April 1, 1929 after the funeral services for Rabbi M.J. Peikes.

"Impressive memorial services for Rabbi M.J. Peikes were held at the Congregation: Shomrei Emenah, 14 ave. and 52 St. yesterday afternoon, at which representatives of many Jewish organizations of Brooklyn and Manhattan were present.

"The Rev. Dr. Wolf Gold, rabbi of the Synagogue, officiated and delivered an eulogistic address. Passages from the Talmud were read in the original Hebraic text and the deeds of the late rabbi extolled in an address by the Rev. Dr. Max Leisorowitz assistant rabbi, followed by a memorial song composed for the occasion by the Rev. Moses Diamond, Cantor."

Sincerely, Annette and Ben Pollack

MORDECHAI (MAX) LERNER

Max Lerner was a friend and schoolmate of mine at the then Yeshiva Toras Emes on 12 ave. near 44 St. (now Beer Shmuel). On a visit to Boro Park from his home in Israel a few years ago I had the opportunity to interview him.

His parents Rabbi Pinchos
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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Yosef and Rachel first moved to B.P. in 1930 from Pitkin Ave. they moved to B.P. because Max's Uncle Eliezer Lerner, who was then a teacher in Yeshiva Etz Chaim, convinced them to do so. Max's father worked as a Schochet and Bodek (ritual slaughterer) for the New York Butchers Kosher Division at Armour & Swift Meat Packing Co. The U.N. Is built on the site where Armour & Swift Meat Packing Co. was located. His father was a member of the Board of Directors of the "Sfardishe Shule", cong. Anshei sfard. He always insisted that the Cantors that the shule hired be sincerely observant in their religious duties.

"As a youth," Max said, "I remember we spoke in English to our friends and in Yiddish to older people, this was automatic, but we grew up speaking in English to our children."

His first address in B.P. was in the apartment building on the corner of 13 ave. and 53 St. the entrance was on 13 ave. then, but in later years the entrance area was filled in with stores. From there they moved to 1335 54 St. where his younger brother, Chaim Moshe, was born. Their next address was 4620 12 ave.

where he lived when he was Bar Mitzvahed. His parents had a deal with the owner to live in the house and pay no rent, but pay for the house maintenance. In those days the economy was still weak, still in the depression. The landlord wanted to keep the house and was happy to find someone that would pay for the maintenance. From there the family moved to 46 St. between 12th and New Urecht Aves.

Max attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim as a boy from the kindergarten until grade 5B. He remembers Rabbi Binimovitz, a Rebbe in Etz Chaim, who wore a beard and payos. He taught the highest class in Talmud but translated the Gemorah into Hebrew.

Max was Bar Mitzvahed in Cong. Anshei Sfard in the upper shule. The shule did not have an official Rabbi then. Rabbi Pinsky served as an unofficial Rabbi in the downstairs shule. After the services the family and invited guests had dinner in the catering hall on 45 St. corner 16 ave. now a factory. At his Bar Mitzvah in 1938 several Chasidic Rebbes who lived in Boro Park came and spoke at his affair. He remembers the Trisker Rebbe, the Squarer Rebbe (Rabbi David Twersky's father) and the Chernobler Rebbe spoke at his Bar Mitzva. Mordechai's father was a descendant 9th generation, from the Baal Shem

Tov. Rabbi Chaim Twersky, Chaplain at Maumonides Medical Center, is a second cousin.

Max remembers as a young boy he was playing stick ball on Friday afternoon. In the heat of the game his father called him in to get ready for Shabbos and to go to Shule. His Italian friend Tony who was playing with him said he wanted to come along. Max's father jokingly told Tony to ask his parents but his parents didn't let him go.

There was no time to continue this interview as Max had to leave and was returning to Israel the next day. Perhaps at some future time we can hear "the rest of the story."

One final comment that Max made was, "here's a community that could have gone down the drain, but the cooperative communal efforts helped rebuild and revitalize the Boro Park Community."

Help the Boro Park Historical Society

You can help continue the work of researching, preserving and recording the history of Boro Park. Send in your own personal memories and family history. Send in photos and other documents and join the B.P.H.S. Annual dues \$5 (\$3 for retired), \$10 for business or organizations. Send to: BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1276-46th 11219.

NEW HOME

The Boro Park Community Council, and the Boro Park Historical Society have moved to a new location, one flight up at 1276 46th St. corner 13th Ave.

We need to put up shelving and help sort out papers. Please call Jacque Friedman, Chairman Boro Park Community Council, 854-1033 if you can volunteer. The Boro Park Community Council also needs people to help move furniture and clothing and food, please volunteer any time you have. We are continuing to

fight Sanitation tickets, call 854-1033 for help.

The Boro Park Historical Society urges you to give your old historical documents, school journals, and other bits of historical information to them. We are developing a Mini Museum. We also urge you to join. Dues are \$5.00 yearly, for individuals, but \$3.00 for Retirees, and \$10.00 for business.

Please mail to 1276 46th St. 2nd Fl. Brooklyn, New York 11219.

I REMEMBER HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS BORO PARK

In this issue we have two very interesting articles which are valuable contributions to the history of Boro Park. The first article, Alben Square, was researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, researcher for the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank him for this contribution.

ALBEN SQUARE

During my years of residence in Borough Park I have more than once passed by a little square or island that lies just underneath and beside the Fort Hamilton Park way station on the "B" or West End elevated line, at the junction of 46th St., New Utrecht Avenue and Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. The fenced in plot of land there contains a flagpole, some overgrown vegetation and not much else. A sign identifies the tiny plot of land as "Alben Square." What is "Alben Square" and what is its story? Perhaps you have wondered about this along with me.

Recently, while doing some research in the library I came across some newspaper stories in the 1934 Brooklyn Eagle that shed some light on the matter. Here's what I found out about this obscure, tiny neglected piece of real estate in our midst.

Private Bud H. Alben was believed to be the first Jewish soldier (presumably of the U.S. Army) to die in World War One (then referred to as the World War.)

On January 15, 1934 the NYC Board of Aldermen (equivalent to today's city council) created or designated this square as Alben Square in memory of this fallen soldier

and as a war memorial in general. This was the first war memorial in Borough Park as the first world war was the first large, major conflict the USA was involved in after Borough Park was settled as a city neighborhood. In the end of March
continued on page 3

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

continued from page 2

1934, The Eagle, in its Home Talk section, reported that a \$5,000 drive was being planned for a monument to be erected in memory of Pvt. Alben under the auspices of the Memorial Park Association of Borough Park. The chairman of the committee was Morris Morrison, a local politician, once known as 'the mayor of Borough Park'. The committee planned an evening at the Menora Temple, 5000 14th Avenue with music and top name entertainment on May 12, 1934 to raise money for the memorial. The event was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Bud H. Alben post, Borough Park Post of the American Legion and the Jewish War Veterans Boro Park Post. Over 800 persons attended the event, among them local politicians, to kick off this campaign. Presumably other fund raising and planning took place subsequently, though I am not aware of all details.

In 1935 Alben Square was dedicated as a war memorial with a flagpole, plaque and ceremony (it can safely be assumed) in the presence of local citizens and veterans of the great war (It was not yet referred to as World War One, that designation came later.)

With the coming of World War two, (which to some extent overshadowed and eclipsed the memory of WW1, as I believe it continues to do to this day) and the passage of time in general, the memorial declined in importance locally, received less attention and ultimately fell into the state of neglect in which it exists today. Also, the aging and passing away and relocation of local World War I veterans and veterans in general left the memorial with a diminishing to disappearing group of advocates. Now, probably very few if any local citizens know the story of this square. I think it's a story that should be told and I hope I have succeeded in making people aware of the background and history of Alben Square, the first war memorial in Borough Park. Perhaps if people know a bit about this square they will treat it with a bit of respect and not allow it to be further neglected.

Submitted by, B.M. Selevan

continued next issue for other story

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By DR. PHILIP
J. KIPUST

OLDEST EXISTING BUSINESS

The next article, Leonard Oguss, discusses what is probably the oldest existing business in Boro Park. This interview was conducted and submitted by Lucille Posner, Corresponding Secretary of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her for this contribution.

LEONARD OGUSS

I was seven years old on July 1, 1922, the day I moved to Boro Park with my parents, Nathan and Ida, and my six-year old kid brother Murray. My sister, Sally, was the only one of us to have the good sense to be born in Boro Park — in 1930, in the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides).

I remember the date we moved to Boro Park so precisely because that was the day when my father — who had owned a hardware store in the Bronx, where we lived — took possession of Dickover's Hardware Store, 5906 14th Avenue, which he had recently bought. Mr. H. M. Dickover, a German-American from Pennsylvania, had erected the building and established the store in 1900; he lived with his family in the apartment above the store. When the hardware store was first established, Blythebourne (now Boro Park) had been in existence since 1886. Most of the area, however, was still farmland, and farmers and Blythebourne residents were Mr. Dickover's customers.

There is a very large saw in a back room of Borough Park Hardware. This type of large saw was used by farmers to cut ice from ponds in the winter. (My family was told that at least two

ponds had been located in the immediate vicinity: Webster's continued on page 8

Cont. from pg. 2

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Pond, 49th to 48th Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues, and Wyman's Pond, on 63rd Street between 11th and 12th Avenues.) After blocks of ice were cut from ponds, farmers stored the ice in wooden ice-houses, which were insulated with sawdust. When summer rolled around, the ice blocks were removed and used in wooden iceboxes to prevent food from spoiling. The invention of electric refrigerators was still in the future.

In 1918 Mr. Dickover sold his store to two brothers-in-law, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Crystal, who sold it to my father in 1922. My father changed the store's name to Borough Park Hardware, Borough Park Hardware, in continuous operation at the same location for 92 years, is the oldest hardware store in Boro Park and, in fact, the oldest store in Boro Park. It also has the distinction of being one of the oldest businesses in Brooklyn.

When my family first moved to Boro Park, in the early 1920's, many apartment houses and one- and two-family houses were going up throughout the neighborhood. We, however, took up residence in the six room apartment above our store. One of my earliest memories — an exciting one to a small boy — is of horses pulling fire engines from nearby Engine Company #247, 1336 60th Street. This building was erected in 1898 and is still in use as a firehouse.

My brother and I attended P.S. 103, 14th Avenue, 53rd to 54th Street. (The building is now occupied by the Beth Rachel De Sotmar girls' school.) Afternoons, after my public school classes, I studied Hebrew at the Hebrew Academy, which was under the auspices of Congregation Shomrei Emenah. The Hebrew Academy was located on 50th Street, between 13th and 14th Avenues (now the home of the Beer Shmuel Yeshiva). In 1928 I had my bar mitzvah at Anshe Sfard Synagogue, corner of 14th Avenue and 45th Street. Later, my father became a member of Congregation B'nai Judah, 16th Avenue and 53rd Street.

My close friends were Max Richter, who lived in a one-family house on 59th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues; Bernard Wattenberg, who gave his life for his country in World War II; and Harry Seelig, who lived on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues. I remember the Kramer family — my sister, Sally, married a son, Emanuel. A classmate in P.S. 10 whom I remember with great fondness was Ruth Goldberg, a very pretty girl with light brown hair. Frank Collone, another

friend, lived near Max Richter. His father owned a butcher store on 57th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. Max Straus was another friend; his father owned a candy store on 57th Street and New Utrecht Avenue.

I remember Sam Horowitz' hardware store, 5320 New Utrecht Avenue (no longer in existence). There was a James Butler store on 58th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, one of a chain of small Brooklyn grocery stores. All of the salesclerks were Irish, of whom it was said that they "came right off the boat." There was a bakery, owned by Mr. Buttacavoli, on the corner of 58th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, near the James Butler grocery Store.

Borough Park Hardware originally had two entrances, one on New Utrecht Avenue and one on 14th Avenue; now only the 14th Avenue entrance is used. Entrances on two avenues are possible since New Utrecht and 14th Avenues intersect at 60th Street. The distance between the two avenues at that point narrows to only a few yards. In addition to Borough Park Hardware, other stores on the block between 59th and 60th Streets had entrances on both New Utrecht and 14th Avenues. Next door to our store was a tinsmith shop owned by Mr. Seebeck, who may have been related to Mr. Dickover. (This store has since been incorporated into Borough Park Hardware.) Next was a candy store owned by Moc, now occupied by Ace Store Fronts. The next store is presently a laundromat that still uses its entrances on both New Utrecht and 14th Avenues. Next is an unoccupied store (now only the apartment above is occupied) that now uses only its 14th Avenue entrance and, last, on the corner of 60th Street, was a gas station owned by Tom Carbonaro. It is now National Automotive Repair — they use only their New Utrecht Avenue entrance.

Other stores that I remember are Winkler's candy store. New Utrecht Avenue between 57th and 58th Streets. Mr. Winkler, a German-American, made his own delicious ice cream and chocolate candy. He later sold the store to his brother-in-law. I remember the Chifari family, who lived across the street from us, and owned an Italian bakery on New Utrecht Avenue. I went to school with one of the sons, Carmello.

Dr. Brody was our family doctor; his office was on 55th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues. Our family dentist was Dr. Driver, whose office was in a wooden house on the corner of 57th Street and 14th

Avenue (demolished). Dr. Driver, one of the original Blythebourne residents, was an older man by that time. Afterwards, our family dentist was Dr. Phillips, who lived across the street from Dr. Brody.

In the late 1920's or early 1930's, when Borough Park Hardware was doing well financially, my family moved to a nicer apartment at 5612 14th Avenue. A few years later, my family moved again, to 1661 54th Street, a stucco house with garage.

On Sunday afternoon, December 7, 1941, I married Thelma Kline, in the house of a Boro Park rabbi, whose name I no longer remember. We then had a small reception in my parents' apartment. The news that the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor came over the radio during our wedding reception and was heard only by my brother, Murray. He immediately turned off the radio so that the bad news wouldn't spoil the reception. In fact, Thelma and I only heard about Pearl Harbor when we arrived at the hotel in Manhattan where we spent our wedding night. I served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Europe during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1945. I can't remember the exact year when Murray and I took over the management of Borough Park Hardware from our father. My wife and I lived in Flatbush for a short time and then, in 1947, moved back to Boro Park, to 1452 57th Street, a two-family stucco house. Our landlord was Frank Lopresti. In 1950 we moved to an apartment at 1659 54th Street, below my parents' apartment at 1661 54th Street. Most of the private, two-family houses on the odd-numbered side of 54th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues were built by the same builder. They all have separate entrance addresses, with apartments located one above the other.

Thelma and I have two daughters, Marilyn and Joan, who attended P.S. 180, 5601 16th Avenue. Around 1963, Marilyn was married in Temple Emanuel, 49th Street and 14th Avenue, a Conservative synagogue. I can never forget the date of my own wedding — December 7, 1941 — the day Pearl Harbor was bombed! Now, 50 years after Thelma and I were married, we have many happy dividends: nine grandchildren (eight of whom are Marilyn's) and three great-grandchildren.

Retired from Borough Park Hardware in 1977 and my brother, Murray, retired about 11 years later. Murray's son, David Oguss, now manages Borough Park Hardware. He continues the store's long tradition of stocking hard-to-find tools for the contractor and homeowner, combined with courteous, fast service.

Thelma and I live in a retirement community in New Jersey

and keep busy by taking courses at a local community college. I do volunteer work with the U.S. Small Business Administration, advising people how to start their own business or how to successfully manage their existing business — a subject that I know much about!

I have only pleasant memories of my many happy years in Boro Park: of a peaceful neighborhood, of warm, concerned neighbors, and of my close friends.

JOIN THE B.B.H.S.

You can help in the work of researching, preserving and printing the history of Boro Park by joining the BPHS Annual Membership. Dues are only \$5 (\$3 for retired), \$10 for organizations and business establishments.

You can also help by submitting old photos, documents, or personal memories and family histories.

Send dues or articles to
BPHS
1558 - 45th Street, Brooklyn,
NY 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

We meet Boro Parkers at various functions and celebrations and sometimes attempt to interview them in order to tap their memories about B.P. history. Often the constraints of time do not allow for a full in depth discussion and the information obtained is very limited. Below we will attempt to share with you several of these brief interviews. They may also be considered contributions to an understanding of the history of this community and reveal some of the patterns of living and schooling prevalent in Boro Park during different periods of time.

SEYMOUR PEARLSTEIN

Seymour Pearlstein first moved to Boro Park in 1930 and first lived at 4921-13th Avenue above a store. He was a young boy when he and his family moved here from Washington Heights in Manhattan. The family came here at the request of his uncle Frank (Francis A.) Berman, who was a resident of B.P. at the time.

As was very common in those days, Seymour attended public school in the morning and Machzikei Talmud Torah in the afternoons for his Hebrew education. He attended P.S.103, P.S.131, P.S.164, and Montauk J.H.S. He then continued at Brooklyn Tech H.S., City College and B'klyn Polytech Inst. and graduated as a chemist. He attended services regularly at the Young Israel of Boro Park.

Seymour was a first cousin to Moshe Pearlstein (OBM), a young Boro Park resident who went to help Israel in 1948 in the War of Independence where he

lost his life. He went to help the Religious Kibbutz near Jerusalem which was overrun by the Arabs. He was probably the first, maybe the only, Boro Park boy killed in that war. The B.P. community was saddened by his death and several memorials

Continued on Page 6

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

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were established in his honor.

Seymour indicated that he lived in a number of residences in B.P. In those years people moved frequently. In 1931 he moved to 1217-45 St. He was married in 1953 to Shirley Weissman, who lived on Ocean Parkway, and they moved to Flatbush. His wife is a Title I, Reading teacher and he works in a family business which manufactures bakery specialty ingredients.

AVROM GLUCKOWSKY

As a young boy of eight, Avrohom Yaakov Gluckowsky came to Boro Park in December, 1937 in order to obtain a Hebrew education in Yeshiva Toras Emes. His parents and family remained in Elizabeth, New Jersey where his father was employed as a Hebrew teacher.

When he came to B.P. he lived with the Chernobler Rebbetzin (OBM) at 1578-48th St. He slept there and made his own breakfasts. He ate dinners each evening at the home of Moshe Waldman's parents and his Shabbos meals at the home of his grandparents, the saintly Rabbi and Mrs. Yosef Yitzchok Parnes (OBM).

The Chernobler Rebbetzin was the Chernobler Rebbe's (OBM) father's second wife, the Rebbe's father was deceased in the early 1930's. The Chernobler Rabbi, Rabbi Yaakov Yisroel Twersky (OBM) lived and had his shul at 1520-49th until he passed away in 1983.

Rabbi Chaim Mordechai Gluckowsky, Avrohom Yaakov's father, and his family moved to B.P. from Elizabeth New Jersey in 1937. They first lived at 1577-48th St. then moved to 4210-15th Ave. Rabbi Gluckowsky had his own Talmud Torah on 44th St. between 14th and 15th Ave. Later he had his shul and Talmud Torah at the corner of 40th St. and 15th Ave. and later moved to 1377-40th St. He was deceased in Jan. 1963 and his wife Nechama Leah (OBM) was deceased on Chol Hamoad Pesach in 1955.

BOB COOPER

Bob Cooper moved to B.P. in 1972, about 20 years ago. He came from Brownsville because the neighborhood had become unsafe. He said he was mugged one day near his home and the next day the mugger tried to sell him his own belongings that he had robbed. He was fearful for the safety of his mother, with whom he lived, and so the two of them moved to 1805-49th St.

Bob works as a consultant in the Information Sciences and writes a column "Off the Reference Shelves" for the Boro Park Community News.

He attends services at Rabbi Felder's Shul, across the street from his home on 18th Ave and corner of 49th St. and enjoys attending the lectures at the Cong. Anshei Sfard on 45th St. and 14th Ave. on Saturday evenings.

Bob voiced his concern at some of the conditions in B.P. He was unhappy at the tearing down of the beautiful stately mansions in B.P. and replacing them with what he called the brick cheese boxes. He said it sometimes makes him want to sit down and weep.

He said the community is getting too crowded there are too many cars and busses whose emissions adversely affect the air and environment. Some of the private busses are not in good condition and help contaminate the air. All these factors he cautioned may be steps that could turn B.P. into another slum area.

He made some suggestions for improving the quality of B.P. Perhaps the community can obtain the air rights over the Long Island R.R. tracks and build a series of parks and bus terminals to improve the quality of the air and reduce the number of cars. He also suggested the B.P. experiment with the use of electric powered busses to improve the quality and preserve health.

He also suggested that new houses should have fire escapes. New types are available which are not expensive and do not take up as much space and could prevent catastrophe.

He pointed out that B.P. has a wide mixture of cultures which are interesting and help give B.P. an international flavor. He suggested some kind of international cultural facility which could be experimental and useful.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

LABOR LYCEUM

(The following article on the Labor Lyceum was researched and prepared by Lucille Posner, and officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her for her interesting and important contribution.)

LABOR LYCEUM

A committee of Boro Park Workmen's Circle members was organized in 1924 for the purpose of erecting the Labor Lyceum. The building, 1377 42nd Street, was erected in 1925 by the Brody Construction Company; Mr. M. Brody was a member of the Boro Park Branch of the Workmen's Circle. The esteemed Mr. Brody raised most of the money to build the Labor Lyceum and became its first President. The Labor Lyceum was in continuous operation until 1966, when it was sold to a girls' Yeshiva.

The Workmen's Circle ideology, in part, was that the Jewish people could survive without religion; the bonds of Jewish culture, a shared history, and the Yiddish language would suffice. However, individual members of the Workmen's Circle were religious.

The two Boro Park branches of the Workmen's Circle — Branch 315, the men's branch, and Branch 315B, the women's branch — raised money to erect the building and the National Office gave and held the mortgage.

Lectures, concerts, and Yiddish theater performances were held in the large auditorium on the ground floor. A balcony overlooked the auditorium and the manager's office was located next to the balcony. There was a large hall with an adjacent kitchen in the basement, used by the Workmen's Circle for fundraising events. Both the audi-

torium and the basement hall were rented out for weddings; the marriage ceremony was held in the auditorium and the hall was used for the reception. The

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wedding parties hired their own caterers, who used the kitchen. The rental charge was reasonable and many Polish, Italian, and Jewish weddings were held in the Labor Lyceum.

After-school classes for children on speaking, reading, and writing Yiddish were held in the five or six meeting rooms on the third floor. There were 8 to 10 boys and girls in each of four consecutive after-school classes, each class lasting one hour. Later, the Yiddish classes were held in the back part of the basement hall, which could be closed off by a sliding partition. The meeting rooms were sometimes rented out to other organizations, such as the Jewish Socialist Verband (Union) and the Consumers League.

The first manager of the Labor Lyceum was Isadore Abb. Beginning in 1925, Abraham Zumoff became Secretary of the Board of Directors and later as President of the Labor Lyceum until 1966, when it was sold to a girls' yeshiva. Morris Weiss and Morris Noskowitz were also active in the Labor Lyceum; at one time, Morris Weiss was manager. Abraham Zumoff's wife, Siella, was the Secretary of Branch 315B of the Workmen's Circle.

When the Labor Lyceum was sold in 1966, the Workmen's Circle bought a store on the corner of 40th Street and 14th Avenue, which became the Boro Park Educational Center, an abridged version of the Labor Lyceum. (As with the Labor

Lyceum, the Workmen's Circle held the mortgage on the Educational Center.) There was a small hall on the ground floor of the Educational Center, which was used for Workmen's Circle meetings and events. Morris Noskowitz was active in the Educational Center, Abraham Zumoff was Director and Secretary-Treasurer, and Morris Weiss was Manager.

The Educational Center was sold about 1985 to the next-door factory owner, writing firms to the over 60-year history of the Workmen's Circle in Boro Park.

DEAR DR. KIPUST,

The following are additional business and professional offices that existed in Boro Park in the mid 1930's. Thank you for publishing my previous articles.

Samuel Dyen

Dr. Joseph Benson
1358 - 43 Street

Dr. B.L. Goldstein
Surgeon Dentist

..... 5401-14 Ave.

Simon Piller
General Insurance
1426 - 54 St.
(W16-1206)

Meyer Goldberg
Signs for all Purposes
Gold Lettering on Windows
4719 - New Utrecht Ave.
(W16-5875)

Art Linens & Gifts
4203 - 13th Ave.
(AM2-0140)

Irving J. Weissman
Paints Varnishes - Chemicals
4213 - 13th Ave.
(W16-0360)

Landesman's Delicatessen
and Restaurant
Catering to Weddings
& Parties
4514 - 13th Ave.
(W18-9314)

REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following are several brief items that were related to this columnist.

Monte Greenhut, Inc.
Gas Station - Auto Accessories
24 Hour Service
49 St. & New Utrecht Ave.

Dr. M. Merriam
1270 - 49 St.

If it's for the sick - get it at the
13th Ave. Drug Co.
49 St. & 13th Ave.
(W16-8377)

Glassmans - Wholesale -
Curtain Cleaning and Dyeing
Cretannes, Blankets & Drapes
5118 - 13th Ave.

Milton Rodner
Meat and Poultry Market
1276 - 49 St.
(W16-8136)

Imperial Drug Co.
S. Cohen, Pharmacist
5101 - 13 Ave.
(W18-9164)

Famous Restaurant
4818 - 13 Ave.
(W18-8732)

Dr. L. Greenberg
4919 - 15 Ave.

Regal Kiddie Shops
4103 - 13 Ave.

Rosemar
Music and Book Shop
5103 New Utrecht Ave.
(W16-3323)

Dr. M.P. Morris
1282 - 49 St.

Boro Park's Newest & Leading
Haber Dasher - Deems Ltd.
4600 - 13 Ave.
(W18-9145)

Linden Heights Center
M. Silverman, Caterer
French and American Service
9th Ave. & 45 St.
(Under supervision Vaad
Hakashruth)
Dr. J. Levine
1219 - 49 St.

We thank Mr. Samuel Dyen
for his interesting contribution
about Boro Park interesting
contribution about Boro Park in
the 1930's)

HARRY TRAINER

Harry Trainer, the well known Boro Park photographer with studio located at 1366 - 55 St. related the following short story to me. When he first became a photographer in Boro Park some Chasidic Rebbes refused to allow photos taken of them at weddings and other affairs for religious reasons. Once Mr. Trainer was successful in obtaining a photo of one such Chasidic Rebbe under the Chupah (Wedding Canopy). After the ceremony the Rebbe came over to him, grabbed his camera and smashed it on the floor. Mr. Trainer took the Rebbe to a Din Torah (Rabbinical Court). He won the decision permitting him to take such photos and requiring the Rebbe to pay for the camera.

Incidentally Harry Trainer was already a popular photographer in Boro Park when he photographed this columnists wedding in January 1951.

EBINGER BAKERY

Ebinger's Bakery was located at 4905 - 13 Ave. I was photographing the old bakery sign on top of the store front as the store was about to be renovated in 1989. A man named Israel Jankowicz approached me and said that he worked as a baker for Ebingers (approximately) in 1964, when the Bakers Union was on strike. He said he also worked for Stuhmers Bakery which was then located on Bergen St.

Mr. Jankowicz who now lives in Boro Park, said he lived in Brownsville at that time and came to Boro Park when his former community changed and became unsafe.

ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

A reader, who wishes to remain anonymous, indicated to me that he believes that the Roosevelt Democratic Club in Boro Park should be renamed the Truman Democratic Club.

He said that Boro Park which has the largest Jewish community should give proper recognition to former President Harry Truman who took such a courageous stand in 1948 in recognizing the state of Israel and helping the Jewish refugees, in opposition to the advice of his State Department. A change in name might also attract more friends and workers for the local Democratic Club.

The Boro Park Historical Society thanks Brooklyn Union Gas Co. for a grant of \$250 for the purpose of maintaining our archives.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can help research, photograph and preserve the history of this community. Send in your own memories, photographs and documents and become a member of the Boro Park Historical Society 1276-46 St., Bklyn, NY 11219. Membership \$5 a year (\$3 for retired) \$10 for Business or Organization.

GOODBYE "PAPA"

Dear Mr. Friedman,

On September 3, 1987, you printed an article titled "I Remember Boro Park" on my grandfather, Tony Prince - Prince Shoe Repair Shop.

My grandfather, known to all as "Papa", clipped this article and hung it proudly on his wall in the shop. It would always give him pleasure to discuss the article to all who inquired about it. And believe me, a lot of people were interested.

Papa was born in Italy and came to the U.S. in 1923. His intentions were to work here for a while and then move back to Italy, but he fell in love with America, and Boro Park, and never went back. You could never meet a more patriotic person than Papa. He taught us to love and respect our country and to be proud that we were Americans.

Papa died a few weeks ago on March 27, 1992. He leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Gorizia, 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Up until his death he worked side by side with his son, and my father John, repairing shoes. I remember working at the shop and watching Papa. He took such great pride in his trade, no job was too big or too small. When it came to his customers he treated all of them special and to him, all of them were.

Everyone who knew Papa loved him, he was a gentle, warm and sincere person who respected all people no matter what religion, race or nationality. I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone, no matter what they did.

Papa touched the lives of many people, and all of us will miss him in our own special way. For those of us who were blessed to know him, know that he is in a very special place. It is a comfort to know that as long as we hold Papa's memory in our hearts, he will never be far away.

For our friends in the community, the entire Prince family would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who offered their prayers and sympathetic words during this difficult time. Papa would be honored to see that so many people in the community respected him, as well as admired his work that he was so proud of. I now understand why he never wanted to leave Boro Park. We will all miss him very much.

With warmest regards, Lisa Principe-Gallagher

BOOK REVIEW

by B.M. Selevan

Early Views Of Borough Park
by Oscar Israelowitz, 89 pages
text and photos, Brooklyn, New
York 1992. Israelowitz Publish-
ing \$4.95.5 & 3/8 by 7 & 3/8
inches.

Oscar Israelowitz has taken
his old "Shopper's Guide to
Borough Park" of years past and
expanded and revised it, along
with changing the title to focus
more on the history of Borough
Park to produce this new small
volume. The new compendium
of photos from the Brooklyn
Public Library, maps, text and
advertisements lists for the
higher price of \$4.95.

The photos, old and new, are
interesting, though one wonders,
for example, what a photo of a
house on Elmwood Avenue is
doing in a book on Borough Park.

The captions of the photos and
other parts of the
text, however, contain a sub-
stantial number of errors and
incorrect facts, some of which
originate in various accounts that
the author evidently consulted,
others of which seem to origi-
nate with this author. In either
case, if the author would have
been more careful and done more
research they could have been
avoided.

In the interest of brevity, I will
cite only some of the inaccura-
cies in this volume, as follows-

1) Electus B. Litchfield,
founder of Blythebourne, was
the brother of Edwin C.
Litchfield of Prospect Park fame,
not his son.

2) The famous, massive old

tree pictured on page 31 was
known as the umbrella elm tree.
It was not an oak tree.

3) The Blythebourne settle-
ment, located on the old 38 acre
Lazalere farm, was not identical
to and one and the same as the
adjoining, much larger West
Brooklyn development (the land
of which was sold to the Borough
Park Company in 1898). Al-
though they did have some things
in common, such as corporate
directors involved in both com-
panies, West Brooklyn, founded
1886, and Blythebourne,
founded 1887, were two distinct
corporate entities. A look at the
incorporation papers of both
companies, annual reports and
contemporary newspaper ac-
counts will confirm this and other
facts.

4) A number of photos are
incorrectly dated (e.g. BOOK
REVIEW (continued) photos on
pages 9,13,15,21,71) of which
dates given in this booklet, differ
from the actual dates given in
Mr. Israelowitz's earlier ac-
counts. Also, the caption on page
88 gives an incorrect location
for the page 89 photo. The actual
location of the scene is in the mid
40's as I recall, in terms of street
location. The date given for this
photo also seems to be too late
and inaccurate. These are some
of the more glaring, though not
all the errors in this publication.
Hopefully, the public at large
and historians and chroniclers of
local history will see these errors
for what they are, delete them
from any accounts and not dis-
seminate them further, lest they
come, over time, to be accepted
as fact instead of fiction.

To sum it up, then this booklet
has some interesting photo-
graphs, but the text is riddled
with inaccuracies. Helpfully fu-
ture publications will correct and
improve upon this small work.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) held its eighth annual meeting for the general public on June 1, 1992 at the Greater New York Savings Bank on 13th Ave. Corner 53rd St.

The following article describing and summarizing the contents of the meeting was prepared by Lucille Posner, an officer of the B.P.H.S. We thank her for her contribution.

ANNUAL MEETING - June 1, 1992

Dr. Philip Kipust, President, expressed pleasure at the large attendance. Even though rain had been predicted. He noted the presence of Ira Kluger of the Canarsie Historical Society and Pinchas Smithline, son of Dr. Jacob Smithline, first Head of the New Utrecht Dispensary. Founded in 1911, the New Utrecht Dispensary, first located on 43rd Street between 12th and 13th Avenues, was the direct forerunner of the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides Hospital).

Dr. Kipust announced the historic anniversaries of the two major Boro Park houses of worship. Temple Bethel (now Young Israel-Beth El), 48th Street and 14th Avenue the oldest synagogue in Boro Park, was founded in 1902, and is now celebrating its 90th anniversary. St. Frances de Chantal Church, 57th Street and 13th Avenue, the oldest church in Boro Park, is now celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1892.

Copies of the Boro Park Historical Society's new publication, *Borough Park in the 1920's* were distributed. The publica-

tion is a compilation of photo copies of actual 1920 newspaper articles about Boro Park, compiled and arranged by B. M. Selevan, Chief Researcher of the

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Boro Park Historical Society. Recipients expressed enthusiastic interest in this publication.

Dr. Kipust pointed out that an earlier publication, a compilation of *I Remember Boro Park* columns dating from 1978 to 1987, is in the reference section of the Boro Park Library.

Lucille Posner introduced guest speaker Lucille Richman. Mrs. Richman's parents, Rebecca and Isidore Marrow, moved to Boro Park about 1907. Sometime thereafter, Mrs. Richman was born at the family home, 41st Street between 12th and 13th Avenues; the Jewish section of Boro Park was located in that area in those days. Now retired, she taught science in Fort Hamilton High School for 2 years. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Boro Park YMHA/YWHA, past president of Boro Park Hadassah, and a member and past chairman of the Boro Park Women's Committee of UJA Federation.

LUCILLE RICHMAN

Mrs. Richman explained that, in 1886, Electus B. Litchfield founded the town of Blythebourne (now called Boro Park) in what was then sparsely populated farmland in the Dutch town of New Utrecht, L. I. Electus B. Litchfield erected one-family, wooden houses with open porches and front and back yards. Some of these houses are still standing, occupied and in good condition, on 57th Street between 11th and 13th Avenues. The name Blythebourne exists only in the name of the Boro Park post office.

Mrs. Richman recalled the Culver Line, founded by Andrew Culver in 1875. The Culver Line was originally a steam railroad; later, it was electrified with overhead trolley wires. Summer trolleys had bars on the sides so that passengers would not fall out. On the return trip from Coney Island, teen-age boys would jump over the bars in order to get to the seats first. In 1919, elevated tracks were erected. The tracks of the ground level Culver Line still remain, on 37th Street from Fort Hamilton Parkway to McDonald Avenue.

She remembered the Brooklyn, Bath, and West End Railroad, opened on June 8, 1864, the forerunner of the West End and present B Lines. This, too, was originally a steam railroad; later the Line was electrified with overhead trolley wires. In 1916, elevated tracks were erected and the Line was connected with the N.Y.C. subway system.

She recalled the Knickerbocker Ice Company, 37th Street and 12th Avenue. This was a factory for the commercial manufacture of ice. Ice-boxes (and outside window boxes in the winter) were the only form of refrigeration until the invention and widespread use of electric refrigerators in the 1930's. Icemen, with their horses and wagons, could be seen daily on the streets of Boro Park. Large chunks of ice were placed on these wagons and, according to customers' requests, icemen chipped off chunks of ice with an icepick. An iceman would place a length of sackcloth on one shoulder, hoist the ice, with the aid of ice tongs, on top of the sackcloth, and deliver the ice to the customer's home. (There were many jokes about housewives' having romances with icemen.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

She also remembered black, coal-fired stoves; gas and electric stoves had not yet come into existence. Mrs. Richman's mother insisted on having a white stove in her home and the company had one especially built for her in their factory. Subsequently, many other Boro Parkers wanted to buy white coal stoves.

She remembered the many Protestant churches in Boro Park, which were demolished one by one as Protestants moved away. The Boro Park Presbyterian Church, however, was sold to the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue in 1920 and still stands at 1515 46th Street.

The 66th Police Precinct station was in a private house on 49th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues (demolished). She recalled that, at 2:00 P.M. when policemen changed shifts, officers from the first shift exited the station house in formation.

Dr. Kipust thanked Mrs. Richman for her informative and poignant talk and introduced guest speaker Mr. B. M. Selevan, Chief Researcher of the Boro Park Historical Society. Mr. Selevan, although a young man, has acquired a vast knowledge of early Boro Park from his extensive research.

B. M. SELEVAN

Mr. Selevan's talk, *Borough Park in the 1920's*, was correlated with the B.P.H.S.' new publication of the same name. This booklet was researched and compiled, almost entirely from Brooklyn Eagle articles, by Mr. Selevan himself. He pointed out that, according to articles in this

publication, complaints about inadequate garbage removal and insufficient police protection are nothing new! Even in the 1920's, there were complaints about this problem! Many people moved to Boro Park during the 1920's. The enlarged population generated more garbage and the need for more policemen. At that time, Boro Park only had a police booth; there was no police station in Boro Park until 1931.

Many synagogues were built in the 1920's. The dedication ceremonies frequently included automobile parades. This was feasible in the 1920's when there was little automobile traffic. There was much Zionist activity in Boro Park in the 1920's. Dr. Chaim Weizmann visited Boro Park in 1921 to raise money for what was then called Palestine.

The first elevator apartment house in Boro Park was built in 1926 at 47th Street and 15th Avenue. The Temple Arms, another elevator apartment house at 49th Street and 14th Avenue, was built in 1927; it derived its name from the fact that it is located across the street from Temple Emanuel. Newly-erected apartment houses replaced demolished private houses and, in a sense, obliterated the suburban appearance of Boro Park.

Dr. Kipust thanked Mr. Selevan for his well-researched and informative talk. Dr. Kipust explained that a copy of *Borough Park in the 1920's* is available free to members (\$10 a year for businesses and organizations, \$5 a year for individuals, and \$3 a year for retirees).

Mr. Jacques Friedman, vice president, made an urgent request for people to join Boro Park Historical Society. Many people joined and we urge the community to send their membership dues to Boro Park Historical Society, 1276 46th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

A recent video, of stores and institutions on 14th Avenue from 37th to 60th Streets, was shown. Participants in the video were Dr. Philip Kipust, Dario Maroua, and Lucille Posner.

The meeting was thrown open to questions and comments from the audience. Dr. Kipust filmed the audience participation session and then ran the video tape. After the meeting was concluded, the audience exchanged reminiscences and looked at the display of photographs of early Boro Park (some of which had just returned from a highly successful exhibit at the Boro Park Library). Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Posner

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N., ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, VISITS BORO PARK

(The following article was submitted by Lucille Posner. We thank her for her contribution.)

Jewish Times, book published in both hardcover and softcover, by Howard Simons, is a compilation of oral histories of Jewish life in the U. S. The following is excerpted from the late Arthur J. Goldberg's family history:

I am former counselor to the labor movement, former Secretary of Labor, former Justice of the Supreme Court, former Ambassador to the United Nations (1965-1968), and a former Ambassador-At-Large.

My family moved to Chicago around 1896 to early 1900. The neighborhood was called the Old West Side and it centered around Maxwell Street, where the bazaars were. It was very much like if you go to Boro Park. When I was United Nations Ambassador, my law clerk at the time was ALAN DERSHOWITZ, this little boy who has become nationally known, which gives me great pleasure. He came from Boro Park, which is the very religious section of New York. And I liked Alan. He was, at that time, a little, modest fellow and Orthodox. He's not any longer. Anyhow, when it came to worshipping on the High Holidays, he and his family invited us —, I was Ambassador at the time, to come to them and worship in their Orthodox synagogue, and we did. And I saw in Boro Park a repetition of my childhood. Shops all closed. People walked to the synagogue. That's the atmosphere I recall in Chicago.

MURRAY LEEDS

One of the many calls we receive pertaining to the history of Boro Park came from Murray Leeds. He inquired about the radio movie theatre which was formerly called the Royal and was located on 13 Ave between 41 & 42 St. During the conversation I asked him about his Boro Park Memories and he shared the following with us.

M. Leeds lived in B.P. from 1931-38 moving here from Greenpoint. He doesn't know why his family moved as he was a small child then. He did have relatives in B.P. and later moved to Williamsburg. He indicated that people in those days moved frequently, sometimes merely because the apartment needed a painting.

He attended P.S. 164 which was on the corner of his residence located at 1324 - 43 St. and Machzikei Talmud Torah which was then located right across the street from his home. He also

lived on 44 St. and on 39 St.

He remembers attending the Windsor theatre on 15 Ave and seeing the film "King Kong." He also remembers attending the Radio (Royal) theatre and seeing the film "Captains Courageous" with Spencer Tracy and Freddy Bartholomew.

He remembers also being on home relief and receiving potatoes from the city. They would then roast "mickies" in the street.

Mr. Leeds recently visited Boro Park and P.S. 164. He was surprised that the school was exactly the same as when he attended except perhaps for the addition of fluorescent lighting.

Join the B.P. Historical Society

Help further the work of the BPHS by becoming a member \$5 per year (\$3 for retired) and submitting your own family histories and Photos. Send to B.P.H.S. 1276 - 46th St 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

BORO PARKERS IN ISRAEL

It is surprising to learn how many former Boro Parkers are spread throughout the U.S.A. and many foreign countries. Whenever traveling I make it an integral part of my traveling agenda to try to locate and identify former and present Boro Parkers. The information gathered from and about them, I believe, is also part of the history of this community.

On our recent trip to Israel in July 1992, my wife, granddaughter Mindel Yarmush and myself met or spoke to the following present or former Boro Parkers. Some of them have settled in Israel, some are studying in Yeshivahs there and some were just visiting.

The following have settled and now live in Israel: Chava Kahanovitz (nee Frankel), Aaron Krumbein, Abe Halpern, Morris and Bobbie Yarmak, Abe Bernstein, Rivka Malek, Elaine Wohlman, Dr. Sidney Finkelstein, Gabby Finkelstein, Max Mordechai Lerner, Nechama Dison (nee Harbater), Rabbi Joseph Kopolovitz, Eddie and Miriam Baumel, Manya Turner, Shlomo Lifschitz, and Goldie Bodek.

The following are students attending Yeshivahs in Israel: Aryeh Leib Goldberg, Moshe Aaron Frank, Dove Stein.

The following were visiting Israel: Dr. & Mrs. Meir Wikler, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Seidenfeld, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Seidenfeld & Family, Reuven Elkans, Rabbi Chaim Grozovsky, Yaakov and Dina Goldberg, Tova (nee Selengut) and Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, Ray and Yaakov

Feifer, Dorothy and Arthur Schick, Ellen Federman (nee Kirzer), Rabbi & Mrs. Morris Schmidman and Family, Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Brodie, Rabbi Eli Teitlebaum (Camp Sdei Chemed), Joyce and Abe Carey, Lee and Harry First, Rabbi Joel

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Kramer, Rachel Meth, Ruth Stillman, Rivky & Faigy Kohn, and Raizy Isaacs.

Of course there are numerous other people settled, studying or visiting Israel but those listed are the ones we actually met or spoke to during this three week visit.

Goldie Bodek informed us that the annual weekend for former Boro Parkers settled in Israel still takes place under the chairmanship of Edith Lieberman. She said that the weekends would be more interesting if they would display some photographs or other memorabilia of Boro Park.

Nechama Harbater Dison recently (1989) sent her husband who was a veterinarian and lived at Kfar Horoeh. She said she plans to write a book about her family history in Boro Park and Israel. She said she attended the Boro Park weekend in August 1991 at Kibbutz Chofetz Chaim. The previous one took place in Natanya. At the weekend she met Temy and Elyahu Kanofsky, Elaine and Manny Wohlman, Mrs. Ehrenfeld (Elaine's mother), Sydelle and Ralph Braver, and Edith Lieberman, amongst others.

Mathan Seidenfeld moved to Boro Park in 1974 from Flatbush. He retired from a business in Flatbush. He first lived on 53rd Street near 14th Avenue and now lives at 1458-55th Street. His son Norman Seidenfeld, an attorney, lives with his family at 1226-58th Street.

Max Mordechai Lerner, who worked as a diamond cutter while living in Boro Park, took advantage of his artistic talent and became a sofer (scribe) while living in Israel.

DR. BARNETT ZUMOFF

I was born in 1926 in Doctor's Hospital, 4421 15 Avenue (now Beth Jacob girls high school). My parents, Abraham and Siella, and my half-brother, Nathan, had moved from Philadelphia to Boro Park — to 1042 45th Street, an apartment house — the previous year.

My parents were first cousins, both from small towns near Kiev, Russia. In 1912, when my father came to the U.S. with his family, he was 17 years old; my mother was a two-year old toddler when her family came to the U.S. in 1902. Both families settled in Philadelphia where my father married Nellie Goodheart, his first wife. At the time, he worked as a clerk in the Philadelphia office of the *Jewish Daily Forward*.

Then tragedy struck. People were dying by the hundreds of thousands of a deadly form of flu, brought back to the U.S. by returning World War soldiers. Nellie died of the flu in 1918, three days after giving birth to Nathan. Seven years later, in 1925, my father married his cousin Siella, my mother. That same year, my father accepted a promotion and transfer to the New York City office of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, in the position of Supervisor of the Composing Room. He remained at that job until he retired in 1973. He had a definite artistic flair, and some of the Yiddish type-faces which he designed are still being used.

Shortly after my birth, my family moved to an apartment in a private, wooden-frame house between 9th and 10th Avenues. I can't recall the exact address. The landlord was a Hungarian Jew, Mr. D'Lucacz. The prosperity of the 1920's having rubbed off on my father, my family next moved to a luxury apartment house on Kings Highway. With the Depression, my father's lowered income mandated that our family move back to Boro Park. In 1932 my family moved into the ground floor apartment of a private, wooden-frame house, 1866 47th Street. The landlord was a clothing manufacturer, Mr. Cohen, possibly Abraham. Mr. Cohen had two sons, Herbert and Norman, and a daughter, Caroline. We lived there until 1941, when my father bought a private house, 4317 17th Avenue, our home from then on.

I attended P.S. 192, 4715 18th Avenue, until 6B, and then attended Montauk Junior High School, 16th Avenue and 43rd Street. Two P.S. 192 teachers that I vividly remember are Miss Ross, my third-grade teacher, a lovely young woman and pleasant. After her marriage her name was Mrs. Donnelon. Then there was Mrs. Moos, my fourth-grade teacher — a very good teacher who unfortunately had buck teeth.

Both my parents were intelligent, civic-minded people, who enjoyed reading, art, and music. My mother was Secretary of the women's branch of the Boro Park Workmen's Circle. My father was first the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Labor Lyceum, 1377 42nd Street (meeting hall of the Boro Park Workmen's Circle) and later on became its President. After 1966, when the Labor Lyceum was sold, he was active in its successor, the Boro Park Educational Center, 40th Street and 14th Avenue.

The ideology of the Workmen's Circle, in part, was that the Jewish people could survive without the Jewish religion: the bonds of Yiddish culture, a shared history, and the Yiddish language would suffice. In line with that ideology, it was vital that children be taught to read, write, and speak Yiddish. Every afternoon, after my public school classes were over, I studied Yiddish in the Workmen's Circle school in the Labor Lyceum. As a child, I never attended any Hebrew school! However, my father taught me enough Hebrew so that I was able to become a bar mitzvah at my grandfather's schule in Philadelphia.

Starting in P.S. 192, my best friend was Henry Bernstein, one of my classmates, who lived at 1646 47th Street. We both loved to read and were the two top students in every one of our classes. Henry and I remained close friends all through childhood, until we went to different high schools.

During my years at P.S. 192, I sometimes ate lunch in the Meyer's Luncheonette (one of a chain of Brooklyn ice cream parlors) right across the street. When I attended Montauk Jr. High, I ate lunch in a delicatessen on 16th Avenue and 45th Street. I had a corned beef sandwich for 10 cents and then had a malted milk for 5 cents at the candy store around the corner. I also remember a delicatessen on the corner of 18th Avenue and 46th Street, owned by Mr. Fuss, whose son, Stanley, was in my classes in Montauk.

Children roller skated on the sidewalks after school and on weekends. We boys played various ballgames: stickball, stoopball, handball, Russian handball, and boxball. Marble playing was a major pastime for boys. Boys played mumblety peg, a game in which each player threw his pocket knife into the ground, marking off territory.

We played ring—a levio, a rough form of hide-and-seek. Both boys and girls played patsy, a game in which squares were marked off with chalk on the sidewalk.

Every Saturday afternoon without fail — whether the movie was good or bad — we attended the children's matinee at the Culver Theater on 18th and McDonald Avenues (no longer in existence). My brother Nathan and I attended Workmen's Circle parties and cultural events at the Labor Lyceum.

My mother bought groceries in Hafner's grocery store on 18th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets. Nobody paid cash for groceries in those Depression days — the charges were written in a book and families paid at the end of the month. Butter and pot cheese came in tubs and were measured out by weight. The standard purchase of lox was 1/2 of a 1/4 pound. Milk and cream

(in glass bottles) were delivered to customers' front doors in the dawn hours by milkmen (either the Sheffield Company or the Borden Company) and their horses and wagons.

Who doesn't remember his or her first love? In 3rd grade I had a crush on Nanette Danziger, a pretty girl with long, reddish-blond hair, who lived on 43rd Street between 17th Avenue and Dahill Road. In 4th grade, the object of my affections was Florence Schabel. Nanette didn't even know I was alive but Florence lived on my block and at least knew of my existence.

I have the Workmen's Circle to thank for my happy marriage! In 1947 I met my future wife, Selma Silver (from Brighton Beach) at the Workmen's Circle camp in Hopewell Junction, New York, where we both had summer jobs. Selma and I were married in 1951, two years after I graduated from medical school.

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By: Dr. Philip J. Kiput

After my marriage I was called up by the Doctors' Draft and served in the Air Force for two years. After my discharge in 1953, Selma and I lived in my parents house, 4317 17th Avenue, and then moved to Flatbush, where we still live. Our three daughters now have families of their own.

My father had long known Jennie and Charles Davis. For years the Davises had been active in the Labor Lyceum. They lived on 43rd Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. Time passed. Jennie's husband died in 1961 and my mother died in 1973. In 1974, my father invited Jennie to a family party at a Flatbush restaurant. The following summer they both happened to be vacationing at the same time at the Workmen's Circle adult camp. Then, as my father wrote in his autobiography (published privately in 1987), "One evening when I escorted Jennie back to her bungalow late at night, I stood for hours near the place where Jennie had already gone to sleep and realized that I was in love with her." Jennie was 70 and my father was 80 when they married in 1974.

Jennie died suddenly in 1982 and my father died in 1987 at the age of 92. He had outlived three wives. Until the end of his life he remained active in the Workmen's Circle. Of his two closest friends in the Labor Lyceum, Morris Weiss died at the age of 92 and Morris Moskowitz

died at the age of 82. All three men were keenly interested in life until the very end. Although they had strong and differing opinions on almost everything (politics, religion, art, music, you name it) and had many spirited arguments, this did not affect their friendship.

I am Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Beth Israel Hospital, and I am Professor of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. In both hospitals I teach, do research, and do administrative work; at Beth Israel Hospital I also see private patients.

Morris' son, Abe, is an active member of the Workmen's Circle. Morris Naskowitz' son, Jack, was Executive Director of the Workmen's Circle from 1981 to 1989. I was President of the Workmen's Circle from 1984 to 1988 and have just been elected President from 1992 to 1994. I am also President of the Forward Association, publisher of the Yiddish and English editions of the Forward. We three are following in our parents' footsteps — their goals are being continued.

SUBMIT YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY

Help promote the work of the B.P. Historical Society and the history of this community by submitting your own family histories and memories of B.P.

You can also help us by joining the B.P.H.S. Membership dues only \$5 (\$3 for retired). Send dues and information to B.P.H.S. 1276-46 St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Over the years we met and spoke to many present and former Boro Parkers and gathered bits of information about the community. Time did not permit follow up interviews in depth. In this column we would like to present some of the information gathered in these "mini-interviews." Perhaps our readers will be able to add additional information and perhaps more extensive interviews will be forthcoming in the near future.

RABBI MEYER PINSKY

Old time Boro Parkers will certainly remember Rabbi Meyer Pinsky, prominent Rabbinical figure, who served as unofficial Rabbi in Cong. Anshei Sfar, 14th Ave. corner 45th St. He led adult classes and services in the basement sanctuary of this synagogue.

His daughter Sarah Traube related that he arrived in America on October 24, 1933 and moved into Boro Park on the very same day. That was very unusual those days. Her uncle, the prominent Rabbi Kalmanovitz, came to America in those years to raise money for his Yeshiva. At that time he arranged for Rabbi Pinsky to come to America for a possible position Temple Beth El.

Rabbi Pinsky presented a Talmudic lecture in the downstairs Beth Medrash of Cong. Anshei Sfar and at the request of the congregants remained there in his unofficial position. The congregation paid him a very modest salary of five dollars a week and helped support the widow when the Rabbi passed away. Rabbi Pinsky was deceased on December 24, 1967.

This columnist remembers Rabbi Pinsky. He was a beloved humble personality as well as a prominent Talmudic Scholar. He lived on 44th St. between 13th and 14th Ave., across the street from yours truly.

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RABBI MOSHE LEVY

Rabbi Moshe Levy's parents came to Boro Park in 1925. His parents Yehoshua Ephraim and Shprintzer Levy moved here from the East New York section of Brooklyn.

His father, a tailor, opened a tailor store called "Levy's Cleaning and Dyeing" at 4911-16th Ave. where the Agudath Israel synagogue is now located. The store was relocated to 4906-16th Ave. in 1928 and then to 4807-16th in 1933. His business remained at that location until he was deceased in 1959. The tailor's wife was deceased in 1955.

Rabbi Levy thinks that his father's store was the first Shomer Shabbos (Sabbath Observant) store in Boro Park. He also remembers that his mother traveled every week to the Lower East Side to purchase kosher meat. He also remembers the mikvah (Ritual Bath) located in the public bath building on the site where the Boro Park Library is now located.

This columnist remembers Mr. Levy the tailor because his grandparents and parents were customers in that store. I remember him as a short, thin, quiet, humble, honest and beloved man.

DR. BARNETT ZUMOFF

Last month we carried an article about Dr. Barnett Zumoff. We regret that the credit for that interview was inadvertently omitted. We thank Lucille Posner, an officer in the B.P.H.S. for that interesting article.

Dr. Barnett Zumoff donated a copy of his father's autobiography, printed in Yiddish and translated into English, to the archives of the B.P.H.S. That addition should be of interest and value to future researchers.

OSCAR S. KIPUST

Oscar Kipust, an uncle of this columnist, lives in Los Angeles and was interviewed there in 1987. Oscar came to America with his mother Ida and brother Max in 1913. Father Elias had already arrived in America before that in order to avoid the Polish army.

Oscar related that in 1921 the family moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They purchased a one family house at 1864-49th St. for the sum of \$6500. The \$1500. down payment was brought in cash sewn into his pants pocket, right side front. He wore knickers then.

In 1921 only the even side of the street had a sidewalk and some houses. There were large tomato fields or farms on the odd side. The street was unpaved from 18th to 19th Avenues. The house at 1866 was the last house built there; from there until the train tracks on 19th Ave. the land was vacant.

In 1924 the house at 1864 was converted into a two-family home after adding an extra room in the back on both floors. The upstairs was rented to a plumber.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK **Historical Highlights**

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

In 1923, Oscar recalls trying to build a small automobile from a motorcycle engine, but never completed it. He left New York in 1924 and returned in 1927 to get married to Irene Palace.

In 1926 Elias Kipust sold half of the house to Israel Butinsky, a co-worker of his in a clothing factory. They lived together in the house for many years until all were deceased. Ida was deceased in June of 1942, Elias was deceased in Dec. 1946 and Sarah Butinsky was deceased in the 1960's.

Oscar related some additional memories of the community. He remembers the street lights on posts and the lamp lighter coming around each evening on his bicycle to light the gas lamps. He also remembers the buildings on the even side until the 19th Ave. tracks being built several years later and the house on the odd side being built in the early 1930's. Dr. Ressler, a well-known medical doctor in the community had his office at 4911-18th Ave., the building that now houses the synagogue Congregation Ohel Abraham Mishkon Joseph. Dr. Ressler moved his office to 15th Ave. where he remained for many years. Dr. Ressler was the family physician for Elias Kipust who was injured on his job.

IRVING KRIEGER

Irving Krieger was interviewed by this columnist in Los Angeles in 1987.

Irving related that his father David and mother Hermina Krieger and their seven children moved to Boro Park in 1930 from Manhattan. They moved to B.P. in order to provide their children with a Yeshiva education.

David Krieger helped organize the synagogue, Shomrei Shabbos Anshei Sfard on 13th Ave. and 53rd St. That congregation began in the building of Yeshiva Etz Chaim, downstairs on the 50th St. entrance.

The Krieger boys attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim for a few months and then transferred to the Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva in Manhattan.

Irving and brother Moe helped organize the West End chapter of Hapoel Hamizrachi in B.P. Moe was president of that chapter. Ezra Gelman was also a member. Irving's father was an officer in Cong. Shomrei Shabbos and his mother was President of the Ladies Auxiliary there.

Irving married Rosalyn Krameisen in 1947. She came from Crown Heights. They first lived in B.P. at 1330-52nd St., upstairs in father's house. They then moved to 1650-52nd St. in 1956. They moved to Los Angeles in 1980.

Irving said his sister Eleanor Epstein still lives in B.P. on 47th St. and 12th Ave. She was a teacher in Shulamith. Irving attended services in the Young Israel of Boro Park, in the Bnei Yehuda Synagogue and in the Etz Chaim Yeshiva where he served as a Gabbai. He also served as president of the New York Council of Hapoel Hamizrachi. His father was deceased in 1935 and his mother in 1947, both of cancer. Irving's father was in the sign business on the Lower East Side and Irving was in the wholesale musical industry.

HELP THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Send in your own memoirs and family history. Join the B.P.H.S. for only \$5 a year (\$3 for retired). Send to B.P.H.S. 1272-46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

RABBI MOSHE SHULMAN
Rabbi Moshe Shulman was one of the first Roshei Yeshiva (seminary teachers) of the Yeshiva Beth Joseph Rabbinical Seminary in Boro Park. I interviewed him recently to obtain more information about the early history of that yeshiva and its leader Rabbi Abraham Jofen and about his own personal history in Boro Park. I was surprised and impressed at his ability to recall names and places and other details of 50 and 60 years ago with such clarity.

Rabbi Shulman arrived in America and Boro Park in April 1941. He was fortunately able to escape the Holocaust in Europe because he was married to an American girl, Faige Blumenkrantz and obtained a visa to enter this country. During his travels by boat he was delayed in Stockholm, Sweden be-

cause the waters were mined. He served as Rabbi there for the year that he remained.

He first moved to Boro Park because his in-laws Mr. and Mrs. Abraham David Blumenkrantz lived here. His first apartment was a basement at 1254 54th Street. There he and his family lived for a short time and then moved to an empty apartment in his in-laws' two family house at 1212 54th Street. In 1944 his father-in-law helped him buy a house at 930 45th Street where he and his family lived until 1958 and then moved to Flatbush.

Rabbi Shulman received his first rabbinical ordination at the age of 19 while in Europe. In Boro Park shortly after his arrival, his rebbe and mentor, Rabbi Abraham Jofen arrived. Rabbi Shulman helped him establish the Beth Joseph Seminary in Boro Park. This was the twelfth Beth Joseph Yeshiva Branch that Rabbi Shulman had established, the other 11 were in Europe.

During his first summer in Boro Park Rabbi Shulman was invited by Rabbi Israel Schorr, of Temple Beth El to speak in the synagogue on Yiddish one Saturday morning. He also spoke a few weeks later at Congregation Shomrei Shabbos on 13th Ave.

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and 53rd St. Soon after the yeshiva was established, he being a noted scholar became one of the Roshei Yeshiva (Talmud lecturers) there. Rabbi Shulman also spoke every Friday morning on radio, station WEVD, in Yiddish, for over thirty years starting in 1954 on behalf of the Mirrer Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He did not accept any payment for these radio talks. His father-in-law Mr. Blumenkrantz attended services at the synagogue of the famous Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes and was close to him.

Rabbi Shulman provided me with a 1947 photo shown below and with the names listed. He also gave me a copy of the 1946 Graduation Exercises program of the Yeshiva Beth Joseph and the information for these two articles. We thank him for his contribution.

Rabbi Shulman will be publishing a book very shortly entitled "Mishkon Moshe", in Hebrew, which will include many of the teachings of Rabbi Abraham Jofen and other great Torah Sages of Europe, based on his own notes and memories.

RABBI ABRAHAM JOFEN ZTL

Yeshiva Beth Joseph
Boro Park has been the home of numerous famous personalities, outstanding in many different fields. We have written in the past about a number of them. One of the famous personalities in the Jewish world, who lived in Boro Park was Rabbi Avrohom (Abraham) Jofen (ZTL).

Rabbi Jofen was a great world renowned Talmud Scholar and Rabbinical leader. He was the Rosh HaYeshiva (dean) of the Beth Joseph Rabbinical Seminary which had over 30 branches throughout Europe. He was a Tzadik (pious and saintly person) and one of the great Scholars of the Jewish world.

Rabbi Jofen escaped the Holocaust almost miraculously and remained in Japan and Shanghai for a time with the Mirrer Yeshivah. He arrived by ship in America in May 1941, a few months before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The ship first brought him to San Francisco and he traveled the rest of the way by train to New York.

After living in Williamsburg for a few months he moved to Boro Park in order to open his Yeshiva on Monday. Before moving to Boro Park, Rabbi Jofen came to the community a few times for Shabbos as a guest of Irving Bunim. Rabbi Jofen spoke one Shabbos morning in the Young Israel Congregation, one morning in Congregation Shomrei Emunah and one week at the Congregation Shomrei Shabbos as a guest lecturer.

When moving to Boro Park he found his first apartment in a two family house at 1349 52nd St. upstairs. He lived there for three or four years. In 1945, Mrs. Pearlberg, a woman with a long record of charitable deeds to her credit, purchased a home from her own life savings for Rabbi Jofen. The two family house which cost her \$8,000 at that time, was located at 1552 45th Street.

With the help of some prominent Boro Park philanthropists, including Mr. Irving Bunim and Mr. Henry Krausher, Rabbi Jofen started his yeshiva again in September 1941 soon after his arrival in Boro Park. The Yeshiva was first located at the Agudath Israel Synagogue on 50th St. near New Utrecht Ave. one flight up above the stores. The president was Moshe Gleicher, the Yeshiva remained there for about 6 or 7 months.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kiput

Early in 1942 Irving Bunim, Henry Kraushar and others decided to help find a building for the New Yeshiva. Rabbi Shulman said he remembers walking down 49th St. and saw the night "Building for Sale" sign on a brick two family house located at 1427 49th St. they were looking for a brick building that would meet the building and fire codes. The building was priced at \$18,000. They offered \$13,000 and purchased it through the office of Komreich Realtors on 12th Ave. near 50th. The yeshiva was officially called "The Central Yeshiva Beth Joseph Rabbinical Seminary" It should be noted that in 1942 there were only two other boys schools in Boro Park Yeshiva Eitz Chayim and Yeshiva Toras Emes, with classes from grades K to 8. (There was only one girls elementary yeshiva - Shulamith - and Beth Jacob was just beginning that year.) The Yeshiva Beth Joseph was a seminary for post-high school students. There were few students in those years in B.P. interested in advanced full time yeshiva studies.

After WWII some of the Yeshiva students who were fortunate enough to escape the Holocaust arrived in the U.S.A. and joined the Yeshiva. The Yeshiva used the top floor as a dormitory for some of the students and the bottom floor and basement for a synagogue, classes, and kitchen. The Yeshiva population was limited in numbers, so that the building, although crowded, was adequate to serve its needs.

The 1946 program of "Graduation Exercises and Installation of Officers" lists the following officers:

Henry L. Kraushar, Pres.
Israel Kestenbaum, Vice-Pres.
Irving M. Bunim, Vice-Pres.
William Weingarten, Vice-Pres.
Jacob Cohen, Treasurer

Morris Rokowsky, Ass't Treas.
George Rubin, Financial Sec'y.

Israel Grossman, Secretary
Louis Kaimanowitz, Rec. Sec'y.

Israel Kestenbaum, Chairman,
Bd of Directors

Rabbi Julius Goldberger, Co-chairman

Many of these people were prominent community leaders for many years.

For those interested in cantors, the program also included the following announcement: "A musical program will be rendered by the well-known cantors — Cantor Moses Erstling, Cantor Zundel Eskowitz, and Cantor Joseph Mirsky."

A Bulletin of the Yeshiva dated February 1950 includes the following information:

On June 19, 1946, nine students were ordained. In September 1948, at the second Smichah Convocation, eight students were ordained. They were: Rabbi Chaim Auerbach, Rabbi Meier Blech, Rabbi Sol Blum, Rabbi Samuel Fishbein, Rabbi Shaye Klein, Rabbi Joshua Soden, Rabbi Mendel Spitalny, Rabbi Boruch Zlotowich.

The Bulletin also had an article which reported that "thousands of Beth Joseph scholars of Europe were killed by the Nazis. Only a small remnant remained of the great glory that was once Novardok."

The Yeshiva undertook the tremendous task of trying to bring some of the remaining students to the U.S.A. and help them get established. The following are a few of the names mentioned. These became prominent members of their community and some became Rabbinical figures:

1946

Rabbi C.B. Faskowitz
Rabbi Ch.M. Weinkrantz
1947

Rabbi I. Movshowitz
Rabbi M. Abramczyk
Rabbi G. Lazewnik
Rabbi S. Margolis
Rabbi W. Zolmen
Rabbi I. Zoherman

1948

Rabbi J.L. Nekritz
Rabbi A.E. Glaserman
Rabbi J. Orlansky
Rabbi Ch. Zaichik

Many of the former Yeshiva students were able to migrate from Europe to Israel and establish several Beth Joseph Yeshivas there.

After completing military service in 1946 this columnist had the privilege of attending the Yeshiva Beth Joseph for about 2 years. This was on a part time basis while attending Brooklyn College. Rabbi M. Shulman was

the Rebbe of my class and to my amazement he remembered me when I interviewed him recently.

At the request of many of his former students and Rabbis, in 1966 Rabbi Abraham Jofen and his wife moved to Israel to lead the Yeshivas there. Rabbi Jofen's son Yaakov and son-in-law Rabbi Leib Nekritz took over the mantle of leadership of the Yeshiva in America. In 1970 Rabbi Avrohom Jofen was deceased on Passover eve when he went out to burn the chometz.

This columnist had the privilege and merit of becoming a neighbor of Rabbi Jofen in 1960 when I purchased the house right next door to his. I remember one year on the first day of the holiday of Succoth we had a hurricane and many Succoth were blown down, including that of Rabbi Jofen. The Rabbi asked if he could use our Succah during the second day. We were honored to have him use it but he insisted on waiting until we finished eating there at night and day until he went in with his family. During Chol Hamoed they were able to repair their fallen Succah.

Another neighbor of Rabbi Jofen, Mr. Jack Gersner, said he remembers when Rabbi Jofen moved on to the block. At that time he was planning to make a synagogue in his house. However, the neighbors complained and protested so the Rabbi withdrew his plans. Oddly enough, although there are numerous small synagogues in Boro Park now, almost on every block, there has never been one on that block.

When Rabbi Jofen moved to Israel, his daughter and son-in-law Rabbi Leib Mekritz zt"l remained living in the house at 45th Street upstairs and their daughter and son-in-law, Rabbi Yechiel Perr lived downstairs. Rabbi Perr moved to Far Rockaway when he founded and became the principal of the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway. Rabbi Yitzchok Perris and family then moved into his apartment.

A while after Rabbi Mekritz was deceased in 1985 (approx.) the house was sold and thrown down. A new 3 family house was built in its place in 1989 by Mr. Moshe Freund of the Freund Fish Market on 15th Avenue and 43rd Street. He currently occupies one of the apartments.

We invite readers to submit additional information about the Yeshiva in order to help complete and preserve this part of the community history. *Continued on page 10*

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DEAR B. P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

I am very excited to learn of your existence because Boro Park is where I was born and raised. My grandparents, David and Hermina Krieger, bought a house at 1330 52nd St. in 1924. They raised seven children in that house. David Kreiger was a sign maker and made the Etz Chaim Yeshiva sign. That boys' Yeshiva was on 13th Avenue for many years. My sisters and I attended Shulamith School for Girls where our mother, Eleanor Epstein, taught for over 30 years.

She and my father have lived in Boro Park for the past 57 years. My husband and I spend a few days each summer in B. P. when we visit my parents who live on 12th Avenue and 46th Street.

I love the religious revival and new home construction the Chassidim have brought to B.P.

My eighth grade teacher at Shulamith School, Mrs. Birnbaum, described what Boro Park was like when she moved there in the early 1900's. She described 13th Avenue as having farms all around. My mother remembers a mansion on 13th Avenue near 52nd Street. I would love to know if you have copies of old pictures of Boro Park that you could send to me.

I'm enclosing a check to pay

my membership dues and to cover the cost of pictures you may be able to send to me. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Grace Epstein Friedman
(Husband, Dr. Herbert Friedman)

It is interesting to note that we had an article in the November issue of this column, about Irving Krieger. It was purely coincidental that we received the above letter from his niece about the same family. A correction is in order however. In the Irving Krieger article it stated that David and Hermina Kruger first moved to Boro Park in 1930. I contacted Mrs. Eleanor Epstein and she verified the fact that the family first moved to B.P. in 1923 or 24.

I also learned that Eleanor Epstein's husband Isidore was deceased about a month earlier, in October 1992.

JOIN THE B.P.H.S.

Help research, preserve, exhibit, and publish the history of Boro Park. Send in your own family history memories and memorabilia. Join the B.P.H.S. Annual dues \$5 per year (\$3 for retired, \$10 for organizations and businesses). Send to B.P.H.S. 1272 46th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

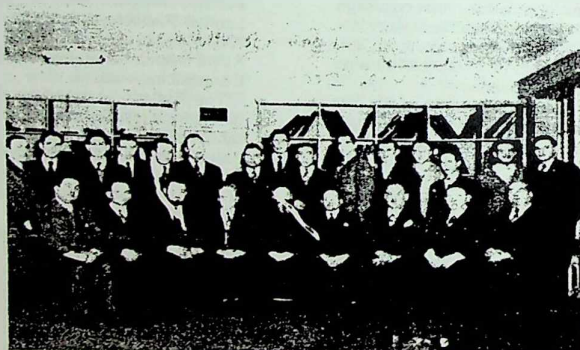


Photo of Yeshiva Beth Joseph faculty, officers, and students taken in the Yeshiva on Feb. 16, 1947 (Titles as of 1947).

Seated L to R:

Rabbi Isaac H. Ever (AH), Exec. Director; Rabbi Moshe Shulman, Rosh Yeshiva; Rabbi C. B. Faskowitz, Rosh Yeshiva; Rabbi Yakov Jofen (current Rosh HaYeshiva); Rabbi Avrohom Jofen, the Rosh HaYeshiva (Dean); Henry L. Kraushar, Pres.; Jacob Cohen, Treas.; William Weingarten, V.P.; Mr. George Rubin, Financial Sec'y;

Students, Standing L to R:

Chaim Auerbach, Yitzchok Klein, Yosef Klein, Avrohom Rosenblatt (AH), Shaya Klein, Sol Blum,

Standing R to L:

Philip J. Kipust, Irving Fried, Zalman Jofen.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST
LOUIS ABRAMS

This interview of attorney Louis Abrams took place in 1987 while I was paying a *shiva* (condolence) call at the home of Norman (*Nachum*) Dick, CPA on 17th Ave. near 58th St. Although Mr. Abrams has not lived in Boro Park for many decades, his memories of this community as well as those of the other interviewees, help us learn about and get a sense of the flavor of the community and the times.

Mr. Abrams lived in Boro Park from 1920-1928 with his father Abraham and mother Fannie. They moved to Boro Park from the Bronx because they were looking for a better neighborhood. His father had a printing business in Manhattan which prospered, and the family was looking for what was considered a more affluent neighborhood. "Boro Park," he said, "had beautiful estates in those days." The family lived at 1601-53rd St. near *Congregation Bnei Yehuda* (Sons of Judah).

Louis attended P.S. 103 on 14th Ave. and 53rd St. and New Utrecht High School. He also attended a Hebrew school located on 13th Ave. and 50th St. His *Bar Mitzvah* took place in Temple Emanuel where his father was a member. Louis indicated that he remembers when *Cong. Bnei Yehuda*, near his home, was built in 1925 (approximately). The following are some Boro Park memories that came to his mind during the interview.

He remembers attending the

Eagle Theatre for 5¢ and stayed there all afternoon. There was a live piano player in front of the theatre who played while the silent films

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were shown. Ushers walked down the aisles spraying the theatre with air freshener.

He remembers playing stickball games in the street, box ball, Johnny on the Pony, Kick the Can and Ring-a-Leveo. One rarely sees any of these games played anymore by the children. Louis remembers the candy store on the corner of 16th Ave. and 52nd St. where he purchased his ice cream and candy. He remembers the delicatessen store on 16th Ave. between 49th and 50th St. He paid 25¢ for a tongue sandwich and the same 25¢ for a frankfurter and soda. He remembers four friends with whom he grew up in Boro Park.

Isidore Leinwand and Henry Ratner lived on 53rd St., his block, Martin Winter lived on 52nd St. between 16th and 17th Ave. and Ben Reison lived on 17th Ave. and 50th St. These five friends have kept in touch as good friends ever since then.

GRAMA FAMILY

Many old time Boro Parkers will remember the well-known Yemenite Jewish family, the Grama family. Yehiya and Esther Grama (a.h.), were very pious Jews even in those days when few Jews in Boro Park were strictly observant. They raised 14 children in Boro Park at a

time when large families were very uncommon. They lived on the corner of 14th Ave. and 45th St. above the stores and were active congregants in the *Congregation Anshei Sfard* across the street.

It was therefore of interest to me to come across a Letter of Editor published in the *Jewish Press* on 8/30/85 sent in by their daughter Adina Greenfield of Monsey, N.Y. The following is an excerpt of the letter:

"With reference to Mr. Baker's article on Yemenite Jews in New York... he neglected to mention my father and mother Yehiya and Esther Grama, z'l, who were of the original founders and leaders of the Yemenite community on the East Side and in Boro Park. My parents came to America in 1924 and raised 14 children under the most difficult conditions imaginable. They clung to their faith in *Hashem* and were *Shomrei Torah* and *Mitzvoth* their entire lives... My father Yehiya Grama was *niftar* (deceased) in *Bnai Brak* last week, the 18th day of Av. He was one of the last of this great Yemenite community."

SARA STERN

In the summer of 1987, my wife and I were on a tour of the Scandinavian countries and met several present and former Boro Parkers there. One lady we met was Sara Stern. Surprisingly, she lived on our block only three houses away and we didn't know her at all.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Sara first came to Boro Park in 1971 for a visit with her family. She came to participate in the wedding celebration of her brother which took place at Menorah Hall and remained for 12 days. Her impression of Boro Park was very favorable.

In 1979, she moved to Boro Park in order to work and to start a new life for herself. She was attracted to Boro Park also because she wanted to live in an orthodox community. She moved to an apartment at 1544-45th St. and has lived there to this present day.

She first worked as a wig stylist privately for three people, then eight months later, in 1980, she opened her own wig salon. The business known as Sara Stern's Wig Salon is located at 4906-13th Ave., then above Finesse Ice Cream and Phillys Linen.

Her comments about Boro Park during the interview in 1987 were that it was crowded, had no park, parking, was very difficult, not clean and apartments were very expensive. She indicated that she saw a great change in the community between 1971 and 1979 and an even greater change between 1979 and 1987. There were both positive and negative aspects to these changes.

PHYLLIS ROTH

During the same Scandinavian tour in 1987 we met Phyllis Roth, who was born and raised in Boro Park. Her parents James and Ettie Markowitz came to Boro Park in 1920 (approximately) from the Bushwick section of

Brooklyn. They came because Boro Park was then a new suburban section. Her father was a salesman for a thread company and sold to the garment trade.

They first moved to 960-50th St. where Phyllis was born. Phyllis attended P.S. 160, Pershing JHS, Ft. Hamilton High School and Brooklyn College. Her parents were members of Temple Emanuel. The family moved to 936-50th St. in 1942 (approximately).

Phyllis remembers the candy store on 10th Ave. and 51st St. where she went to buy milk shakes. Dr. Margareten was the family doctor and his office was located on 13th Ave. between 51st and 52nd St. He had his office in a private house; there were no stores there yet. Rabbi Silverstein of Temple Emanuel came to his position when she was a young girl. She also remembers the Rabbi before him.

Her science teacher at Pershing JHS, 9th Ave. and 48th St., was Isidore Unteberg. He was also a fraternal society brother with her father at the Samuel Tischner society. Her father was president of the society. Isidore Unteberg lived in Boro Park most of his adult life. He was a very close friend of the family.

Phyllis has two sisters. Ruth went to Lincoln HS, because New Utrecht HS was not yet built. Adele, her younger sister, went to New Utrecht HS.

Parents moved out of B.P. to Ocean Parkway and Caton Ave. in 1958 because their house was sold and the children were all married. Phyllis moved to Flatbush when she was married in 1952 to David Roth. Phyllis is a social worker for the Board of Education in District 21.

BORO PARK DOCUMENTARY

The Boro Park Historical Society was approached by a representative of an historical research group that is interested in doing a documentary film of Boro Park. The emphasis will be on the growth and development of the Hasidic Community here since World War II.

They are interested in obtaining photos primarily of the 1940's and 1950's that would show the development and growth of the Hasidic and general orthodox community.

If any of our readers have photos or articles or other historical information that they would like to offer or sell for this project, kindly write to the BPHS at 1272-46th St.,

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 or call (718) 436-7729 or (718) 854-1033.

HELP THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can help locate, research, preserve exhibit and publish the history of this community. You can help by submitting information about your own families, business and memories in Boro Park. You can help by sending in old photos or documents or articles, most of which would otherwise be eventually discarded or lost. Finally, you can help by joining the BPHS, \$5 a year (\$3 for retired), \$10 for business or organization, or sending a donation. Send to BPHS 1272-46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

1940 AND 1990 COMPARED

One way of presenting the history of Boro Park, and helping our readers visualize and appreciate the changes that have taken place, is to compare two periods of time. This article will attempt to describe and compare a 50 year interval of time in the history of Boro Park - 1940 and 1990.

The information included will be based a good deal upon memory and therefore the picture may be incomplete and perhaps include some errors. Readers are invited to add information and bring to our attention any corrections of which they may be aware. This will help complete the historical record and make it more accurate.

This article will also serve, to some extent, as a summary of

the information included in many of the previous columns of "I Remember Boro Park" and help to unify the different bits of information.

Although some of the changes noted here were unique and true to Boro Park alone, many of the changes mentioned were true to the society in general. We will begin with a comparison of the business establishments in Boro Park between these two periods of time.

BUSINESS IN GENERAL

In general we should first point out that in 1940 13th Ave. was known for its many fine and exclusive shops for ladies' and mens' clothing, there were no discount stores, no sidewalk vendors and no junk stores. The pushcarts on 13 Ave. had already been moved indoors, the

previous year, into the 13th Ave. retail market on 39 St. There were comparatively few autos on the streets and a few horse driven wagons riding down the street were occasionally seen. There were no parking meters. 13th and 14th avenues were two

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

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way streets. The community was in general not so congested, there were more open land and green grass areas between the houses, with ample parking and cleaner streets.

Saturdays were the main shopping days. With very few exceptions all the stores were open on Saturdays. The blue laws which prohibited business establishments from being open on Sundays were still in effect in New York State. The relatively few Sabbath observant businesses suffered financially because they lost the main business day of the week. A few attempted to be open on Sundays, at least a half a day, but were usually given summonses, had to appear in court and pay penalties.

In contrast to the above we find that in 1990 the types of businesses and general atmosphere have changed quite a bit. There are now numerous discount stores, junk stores, street vendors and very few exclusive high class shops. The streets are congested with autos and trucks and parking space is usually difficult to locate on many streets, even with the many parking meters located on business streets. 13th and 14th avenues are now one way streets. The population in Boro Park has grown considerably. There are many new houses built with no empty land between them. The green park atmosphere has been lost. Sunday is now the busiest shopping day and it is very difficult to find a store that is open on Saturdays. Even the banks in Boro Park have Sunday hours. The blue laws have been abolished. An old Italian barber told me that he keeps his store closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays out of respect for his customers and the community. He

even wears a Yarmulka in the store during business hours. On Sundays especially, people come to Boro Park from many other communities to do shopping and take advantage of the low prices, variety of merchandise and many specialty Jewish items. On Sundays the streets are especially congested with cars and people and parking space is very difficult to locate.

CHANGES IN NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS

There have been many changes in the types and distribution of neighborhood stores and other businesses. According to my recollections there were only five banks in Boro Park in 1940, four on 13th Ave. and one on 18 Ave. and 60 St. according to my count there are fourteen banks today including ten on 13th Ave., one on 16th Ave. and 46 St., one on 18th ave. and 60 St. and two on the border of Boro Park on 18th Ave. near McDonald Ave.

In 1940 there were seven movie theatres operating in Boro Park and two just outside at the same time. They were the Lowey's Boro Park, Lowey's 46th St., Garden theatre and Elton theatre on New Utrecht ave., the Windsor theatre on 15th ave., the Ritz theatre on 8th ave. and the Radio theatre on 13th ave. The two just outside Boro Park were the Beverly on Church and McDonald and the Walker on 18th and 64 st.

In 1990 all nine of these were closed and no movie theatres were operating in or near Boro Park.

In 1940 there seemed to be more barber shops operating in Boro Park than there are today. Each barber shop had its distinctive barber sign outside which consisted of a round striped pole with red and white stripes beneath a glass cover rotating. Several of the barber shops then still had signs saying, "We do cupping."

I do not recall seeing any of the barber poles left in Boro Park in 1990 and certainly no more signs, "We do cupping."

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I REMEMBER

For the benefit of the younger generation perhaps we should explain. What "cupping" means. When I was a child my grandmother (RIP) would perform cupping, called "Bankess" in Jewish. It was a procedure performed and thought to be a remedy for colds and many other illnesses. Small glass cups would be heated with a flame on the inside and then placed on the raw skin of the back. As the cup cooled it would form a suction on the skin pulling an area of the skin, which had turned red, part way into the cup. A number of such cups were placed on the back.

In bygone years medical science believed that many illnesses were caused by poisons or impurities in the blood. The cupping procedure would draw the bad blood together and often the red skin was punctured allowing the bad blood to ooze out. It was a form of bloodletting. Also in bygone years barbers were usually the surgeon's assistants and would perform the surgical procedures. Therefore the red and white stripes, reminiscent of bandages and the cupping procedure remained as trademarks of the barber.

In 1940 there were many more local grocery stores, one or two on each business street, dealing with a much smaller population. There were no supermarkets in this area, except perhaps for the thirteenth Ave. Retail Market and one or two small A & P stores - the forerunners of the modern supermarkets. The thirteenth Ave. Retail Market was owned by the city and rented space to individual vendors, many of whom were originally pushcart peddlers.

Grocery stores then sold only groceries - not vegetables, fruit, toys, hot coffee, sandwiches, newspapers or drug store items as we find frequently today. Of course the number of packaged or canned items were much fewer than we find today and more items had to be sliced or scooped out of large containers or barrels.

Hebrew books and religious article stores were quite numerous in 1990, more than a dozen according to my count. In 1940 there were only three such business establishments according to my recollection. One was J. Beigeleisen Hebrew Books located at 1427 53 St. ground floor of a two family house. Mr. Beigeleisen (RIP) carried on the business from his home. The second was Aronowsky Hebrew Books, a business also carried out from the home on 43 st. corner 13th ave., one flight up, above the stores. The third one was Flushberg's Hebrew Books a business established in a store at 1276-47 St. It was still doing business in 1990 at the same location under the same name but the owners had changed several times. It is no longer in business today.

Mr. J. Biegeleisen (RIP) later moved to a store on the Lower East Side where he did business for many years. His sons moved the business back to Boro park a few years ago and are now located in a store at 4409-16th ave.

We should point out that although the above two Hebrew Book businesses carried on business from their homes this was quite unusual in 1940. I don't recall any other merchandise business carried out from a home in those years. On the other hand in 1990 we have numerous businesses established in people's homes and basements selling various items from clothing to

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furniture.

In 1940 there were many laundries who picked up a family's laundry basket, cleaned it and returned it. The laundry included linen and clothing. There were no washing machines in private homes then according to my recollections. In 1990 there are no laundry men operating in Boro Park, except perhaps for commercial businesses such as hotels, hospitals or restaurants. The washers and driers in private homes or laundromats take care of that and housewives do their own ironing or utilize press free liners.

Some types of businesses we have today were unheard of in 1940 and some businesses of those years are no longer in existence today. There are also many changes in the number or frequency of many businesses. Some of the businesses that were more numerous in the neighborhood in 1940 than in 1990 were the following! Candy stores, tailor stores, dry-goods stores, butcher shops, watch repair shops, bars and grills, trimming and notion stores, knife sharpening and grinding trucks, and knitting and yarn stores.

BUSINESSES NOT FOUND IN 1940

Some of the businesses we have today that were unheard of in Boro Park in 1940 are the following! Electronics, Burglar Alarm Systems, Aluminum Windows, Takeout Foods, Asbestos Removal, Audio Visual Equipment, Auto Alarms, Air Conditioners, Sales and Repairs, Rent a Car, Pizza and Falafel Stores, Wig Shops, Beepers, Travel Agencies, Car service, Check Cashing service, Computer Centers, Photo Copy Centers, Family Counseling, Data Processing services, Day Care Centers, Health food stores, Doughnut shops, Fax centers, Financial Consultants, Formica Cabinets, Graphic Designers, Window Guards, Video Rentals, Laundromats, Computer Schools, TV. Repairs, Unisex Haircutters, Vacuum Cleaner Sales & Repairs, Venetian Blinds and Washing Machine and Dryers, Sales and Repairs.

Some of the business establishments that we find more numerous in 1990 than we found in 1940 are as follows: Auto Body Shops, Auto Service and Gas Stations, Appliance Stores, Photography Stores, Carpet and Rug Dealers, Catering establishments, General Contractors, Medical Labs, Driving Schools, Film Processing, Income Tax Preparation, Securities Brokers, Silver Shops, Hebrew Books,

Sofrim (Hebrew Scribes), Restaurants and Fast Food Stores.

I REMEMBER

There are also a few business types that we had in 1940 which no longer exist in Boro Park today - they are: Coal Dealers, Ice Dealers, Movie Theatres, Ice Cream Parlors, Live Chicken Market, Laundryman.

I don't recall seeing any telephone booths or public phones on the street in 1940 although there were many in drug store and candy stores.

CANDY STORES

The candy store was a very popular and common business in Boro Park in 1940. It was very popular with the children but very difficult in terms of work and hours for the owners. Just about every block had a candy store, some had two. The candy stores were usually located on the corners of the business streets because the corners had more traffic of people passing by them than the middle of the block stores. Candy stores sold newspapers, comic books, magazines, cigarettes, cigars, ice cream, candy, malteds, soda (bottled or fountain), egg cream, seltzer, simple school supplies and simple toys. Many had pin ball machines inside where young and old tried their skills. Candy stores could usually be recognized by the wooden newspaper stand that stood in front of the store. It had a backboard on which additional newspapers and magazines were displayed. Inside the store one would usually find a glass counter and showcase in which various loose candies were displayed. Children would come with their precious pennies to purchase candy and would stand in front of the counter to study the various choices available before parting with the penny. A few choices that I recall were licorice sticks both black and brown, lollipops, pretzels, bubble gum, Wrigley's spearmint gum, gum drops, sunflower seeds, chocolate bars, pumpkin seeds, sucking candy, button candy on long strips of paper, chocolate covered halvah, peanuts, raisins and marmalade.

The candy store served as the local social gathering for teenagers and adults. In the summertime one would go to the candy store to purchase ice cream or soda. In later years the candy stores began to serve sandwiches and coffee and finally evolved into lunchconettes.

When my family lived at 1358 44 St. in the late 1930's, there was a small candy store on 44th St. close to 14th Ave. (approximately 1376 44 St.). It was owned by a Mr. Levine. There was a public phone in the store. Few people on our block, if any, owned their own telephones in those days. These were the depression years. Our family did not own its own phone until after World War 2. Anyway, if someone wanted to telephone a family on our block, they would call the candy store. The owner would send a child, if one was around to call the party to the phone or deliver a message. Phone calls were made then only for very important reasons. When we lived at 1864 49 St. in later years. Our next door neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Sulkes at 1866 had a telephone for health reasons. If someone wanted to telephone us they would call her and she would call us to the phone. Sometimes they would knock on the wall (the houses were attached) and sometimes Mrs. Sulkes would stand on her porch and call us.

In Boro Park 1990 there were only a handful of candy stores left and even these have been modified to serve mainly as lunchconettes. They do sell newspapers, cigarettes, bar candy and fountain drinks as well. One of these candy stores is located on 16 Ave. corner 48 St., one on 15 Ave. corner 44 St.,

continued on page 10

two are located on New Utrecht Ave. between 54 and 55 St. and one near 49 St. near the B line station (one called American Grocery also sells groceries), two are on 18 Ave. near McDonald Ave. and one on Dahill corner Ditmas Ave. There may be sev-

eral more that I am not aware of at the moment. The candy stores' prime locations were near train stations and schools.

In 1940 there were two 5 cent and 10 cent stores in Boro Park named Woolworth and Kresges. Woolworth is still doing business at the same location 13 Ave. & 44 St. Although the merchandise no longer sells for 5 cents and 10 cents. Kresges was located across the street from Woolworth where the RX pharmacy is now located.

There were very few business establishments left in Boro Park in 1990 that were there in 1940. In this article we mentioned a few, Woolworth, Flusbergs and Biegeleisen (although at a different location). The Chinese restaurant on 13th Ave. bet. 44th & 45th Sts. and Weiss Mens' Wear on the same block and the Boro Park Hardware store were also there in 1940.

We would be interested in hearing from our readers about any other business establishments that fall into that category.

In future columns we hope to compare other aspects of the community such as education, schools, and religious institutions for the same two periods of time.

THANK YOU CON EDISON

The Boro Park Historical Society wishes to extend its appreciation to Con Edison for its community grant to the society. The money will be used to help add materials and photos to its archives and develop displays for its office and library. Thank you Con Edison for this help to the community.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help the B.P.H.S. carry on its work of researching, safeguarding and publicizing the history of this community. Join the B.P.H.S. membership dues only \$5 per year (\$3 retired). Send in your own memories and family history items, photos, articles or documents. Send to B.P.H.S. 1276-46 St. Bklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I greatly enjoyed your nostalgic article on the many changes in Boro Park since 1940, which has motivated me to write the following.

In 1940, most Boro Park residents were not Orthodox. However, a significant minority of Orthodox residents set the tone for the observance of Jewish holidays.

I was surprised to read that almost nobody living in the 40's streets had telephones even as late as 1940. My family lived in the 50's streets on 14th and 15th Avenues. My family and our neighbors had telephones in the 1930's and earlier.

Boro Park originally was a Christian neighborhood — mostly Protestant, including German-Americans. There was a German-Lutheran Church on 13th Avenue and 51st Street where the Dime Savings Bank now stands. When I was a child, some German-American families still lived on the second floor of a stucco, private house on 54th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues, nearer to 15th Avenue. Freddie's mother invited me up to see their Christmas tree one year. When I was nine years old, my family moved to 1441 51st Street. A few houses down, in a stucco, private one-family house, Mr. and Mrs. Menkin and their young, unmarried son lived. They were German-Americans and were gentle, kindly people. Mrs. Menkin gave piano lessons to the neighborhood children, mostly girls. (Piano playing was considered a social accomplish-

ment for women.) The fee was 50 cents a lesson. The family lived on the block until the early 1950's, when the parents died and the son finally sold the house and moved away.

I remember Rothstein's, a large dry goods store on 13th

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Continued from Page 2

Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets, odd number side. Rothstein's consisted of a main floor and a basement. For sale were such items as pots and pans, aprons, pocketbooks, fabric, and underwear for men and women and boys and girls. Rothstein's was also a major source of clothes and equipment for children who went to camp in the summer.

I remember the pickle store on the corner of 13th Avenue and 40th Street, odd number side. Pickles floated in brine in wooden barrels. Many times my mother bought me a tiny dill pickle (very sour). I happily munched the tasty tidbit as I walked.

Who could forget Luigi Alba, the very large Italian bakery on New Utrecht between 51st and 52nd Streets, odd number side? Alba's windows displayed tempting pastries and cakes. There were such long lines waiting outside the bakery just before Christmas and Easter that a policeman was stationed to maintain order.

Man — or woman does not live by bread or cake alone. To gild the outer woman, many Boro Park women patronized Norman and Fred's beauty parlor on 13th Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets, odd number side.

Incidentally, the Windsor movie theater on the corner of 15th Avenue and 40th Street was never referred to simply as the Windsor. It was always "the Windsor—that dump," as if dump was part of the name. The Loew's Boro Park theater, New Utrecht Avenue and 51st Street, even number side, had a one-hour kiddie show beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. The bill consisted of animated short cartoons and an episode of a serial, called a "cliff-hanger." As each episode ended, the hero was, for instance, either falling off a cliff or lying tied up in the path of an onrushing train. At the beginning of the next episode, it was seen that the hero had managed to break his fall by catching hold of a tree branch or by untying himself in the nick of time. Children brought sandwiches for lunch and stayed for the regular feature film. During Passover week, Jewish children brought hard-boiled eggs and matzos.

I vividly remember the Borden and Sheffield milkmen and their horses and wagons. Many times, half waking at 5:30 a.m., I heard

the reassuring clip-clop of milkmen's horses. Milkmen delivered milk and cream in glass bottles to customers' front doors. Milk wasn't homogenized in those days and by the time housewives arose and took in the milk, the cream had risen to the top.

I also remember the pretzel man, who sold large, chewy pretzels for one cent during the school lunch break at 12 noon. These same pretzels are one dollar today! There were German bands, consisting of three or four men, who played in apartment house courtyards. People, especially children, would throw down pennies wrapped in paper.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

In 1940 there were three Chinese restaurants in Boro Park: at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue (near the Loew's 46th Street Theater), at 51st and New Utrecht Avenue (near the Loew's Boro Park Theater) and at 13th Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets, odd number side. Only the latter remains today. The first two restaurants were located near movie theaters to cater to movie patrons. Chicken chow mein was the meal of choice.

CANDY STORES AND DELICATESSEN STORES

To the case of the vanishing candy stores, I would like to add the case of the vanishing kosher delicatessens. In 1940 there were many more delicatessens in Boro Park than there are today. One by one during the past 20 years, they disappeared. In addition to Adelman's Delicatessen (now Berger's), 13th Avenue and 45th Street, even number side, there was a delicatessen on the even number side of 13th Avenue and 43rd Street which went out of business about 15 years ago. There was Skilowitz Delicatessen, between 49th and 50th Street, even number side. There was a large delicatessen on 11th Avenue and 45th Street; a delicatessen on 15th Avenue and about 45th Street; and a delicatessen on 16th Avenue and about 50th Street. Until about 10 years or so ago, there was a large delicatessen on 50th Street and 18th Avenue. On Thanksgiving Day, these delicatessens were jammed with families feasting on turkey dinners with all the trimmings.

All the above delicatessens, although strictly kosher were open on Saturdays. In 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Yaroslavitze opened the Tel Aviv Delicatessen on 13th Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets (now Crown Delicatessen). The Yaroslavitzes were Orthodox and closed on Saturdays. (Kosher butchers were

supervised by a different rabbinical authority and were obliged to close on Saturdays).

You write that there were no "take-out" foods, in Boro Park in 1940. However, all delicatessens had a take-out counter where they sold frankfurters, tongue, corned beef, pickles, etc., all with paper cornucopins of free mustard. Many families would have delicatessen meals at least once a week.

Children loved the penny candy which was sold in candy stores. I remember chocolate babies and red, gummy canoes shaped like coins. All candy stores had a few tables and chairs and an ice cream fountain. When I attended Montauk Jr. High School, 16th Avenue and 43rd Street, my girlfriends and I brought sandwiches and an apple for lunch. For the price of a 13 cent malted, we were allowed to eat our sandwiches in a nearby candy store. Two of us would share a 13 cent malted. The cost was divided fairly: one day one girl paid 6 cents and one girl would pay 7 cents; the following day the order of payment was reversed.

Ice cream parlors and soda fountains were almost a necessity in 1940. Refrigerators did not yet have freezer compartments. If a family wanted to eat ice cream in the warm months, they would go to a candy store or an ice cream parlor and order a pint of ice cream, usually "loose" and hand-scooped into cardboard containers.

During the fall months, candy stores sold Charlotte Russes. This confection was a white cardboard cup surrounding a sponge cake base topped with swirls of whipped cream and a maraschino cherry. Candy stores also sold all manner of sandwiches. The meat sandwiches were all non-kosher.

Where have all the candy and delicatessen stores gone? These stores were owned by immigrant parents who sent their children to college. After they graduated, their children entered professions and did not go into the family business.

In some cases, the more things change, the more they remain the same. Although much has changed, Boro Park remains a family-oriented, friendly and caring neighborhood.

LUCILLE POSNER

We thank Lucille Posner, officer of the Boro Park Historical Society, for her very interesting contribution.

SUBMIT YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the history of Boro Park by submitting your own memories, photos and family histories. You can also help by joining the Boro Park Historical Society, annual dues \$5 (retired \$3). Send to B.P.H.S., 1276 - 46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Dear Readers,

The article that we published recently, Feb. 4, 1993, comparing Boro Park of 1940 to that of 1990 — a fifty year interval — was well received by our readers. This was determined by the numerous verbal and written comments we received. The following are a few letters we received contributing much additional interesting information. We urge our readers to jot down some of their own memoirs and personal family histories. These family histories will be preserved by inclusion in these columns, in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.), and in the second volume of the hardcover bound collection of these columns of "I Remember Boro Park."

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I enjoyed your column comparing the Boro Park of 1940 with that of today. You certainly have a good memory and a very analytical mind, as shown by your comparisons.

However, even the best memory can forget a few things. You forgot a few 1940 banks; here is my list of all the banks in 1940:

1. Public National & Trust Co. of N.Y., 4412 13th Ave. Where Bank Leumi is today.

2. Bay Ridge Savings Bank, 4724 13th Ave. Now called Anchor Savings Bank.

3. Bank of the Manhattan Co., 4622 13th Ave. Now called Chase-Manhattan Co.

4. National City Bank of New York, 5420 13th Ave. Now Citibank.

5. Food Dealers Industrial Bank, 4614 13th Ave. Where Mildred's Bedding Store is now.

6. Manufacturers Trust Co., 4901 13th Ave., Now Manufacturers-Hanover Trust Co.

7. Manufacturers Trust Co., 5922 18th Ave., Now Manufacturers-Hanover Trust Co.

Continued from Page 2

Among your theaters you did not mention the Berkshire Theatre of 5911 8th Ave. Your spelling of Loew's, the theatre chain, is certainly unique.

My memory of these things is certainly no better than yours, but I rely on certain lists that I have of these things.

Sincerely yours,

Dario S. Marotta

We thank Mr. Dario S. Marotta, an officer of the B.P.H.S. for his valuable contribution.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I have been reading your "I Remember Boro Park" column for a long time and enjoying the

past history very much. I have lived in Boro Park since 1923, so much is very familiar. Now I have decided to become a member, too. Here is my check for dues. Continue to publish these stories and I promise to continue to read and enjoy them!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Rubin

PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY AND MEMORIES

You can preserve your own family history and personal memories of Boro Park by submitting that information for inclusion in these columns and in the archives of the B.P.H.S. You can also help in the work of researching, preserving, and publishing this history by joining the B.P.H.S. Annual dues only \$5 (\$3 for retired).

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Dear Readers,

The article that we published recently, Feb. 4, 1993, comparing Boro Park of 1940 to that of 1990 — a fifty year interval — was well received by our readers. This was determined by the numerous verbal and written comments we received. The following are a few letters we received contributing much additional interesting information. We urge our readers to jot down some of their own memoirs and personal family histories. These family histories will be preserved by inclusion in these columns, in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.), and in the second volume of the hardcover bound collection of these columns of "I Remember Boro Park."

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Though I have been far removed from my old neighborhood for many long years, I still have been able to keep in touch with the goings on via my cousin, and until her recent death, my mother. Enclosed please find my \$3 yearly dues for membership. I would like to receive the "I Remember Boro Park" News. Please include the following in the "I Remember" section, and let me know if it would be possible to have "Boro Park News" mailed to me.

I was born in what was then Israel Zion Hospital in 1940. My parents Hilda and Abraham (Al) Efrein moved into our home 5100-15th Avenue in 1937. I remember a chicken farm on 56th Street between 16 and 17 ave. where my mom used to buy eggs for our family. I attended P.S. 103 from 1946 until 1952. The

principal was Miss Bruce, and my teachers were Mrs. Goldin, Mrs. Lovelock, Mrs. Ehrenholtz, Miss Carroll, and my favorite, Miss Estelle B. Morgan for 6th grade, class 6-3. cont'd on p. 8

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I then attended Montauk JHS. Principal was Mr. Rothchild, and I remember the gym teachers, Mr. Casiano, McKenna, and McCaffrey, along with the shop teacher Mr. (one finger) Chayene. I had Mr. Smith for Latin, and Mr. Grossbard for history. I then went to a private high school in N.Y.C., graduated CUNY and went on to become a research chemist for a multinational food company upstate New York. I am now retired.

My mother Hilda taught as a substitute teacher in and around Boro Park for many years, and my father was a lawyer for the city.

I had many friends back then. Jake Myron, Neil Lieberman, Stan Soffer, Steve Fistell, Lanny Eisenberg, Paul Abt, John Maranov, Steve Shapiro, Artie Levine, and many more, all of whom I have lost touch with over the years.

Boro Park in the fifties was not an orthodox community, but rather one of assimilated Jews, most of whom had direct roots to the lower east side. It consisted of apartment houses, along with large and beautiful homes on big plots. We had big trees then, and all the side streets were two way, if you can believe that. All the avenues were also two way, and there was one traffic light at 60th street, and one at 43rd. Boy was it a nice ride in an old hot rod down 15th Ave.!

I remember Joe, the ice cream man with his truck, and the many candy stores where we could hang out. Kaplans, and Clair and Loui's, both on 16th Ave. between 51st and 50th Sts, Julies on 13th and 49th, and Grossmans on 13th and 50th. I also remember the Borden's milk wagons with horses to pull them, and the odd electric trucks of the Pilgrim laundry, big chain drive coal trucks, ice and rag men, and hand cranked merry go rounds that would appear in the summertime to amuse the kids. I sure was fun back then. There was a trolley car that went to Coney Island that ran under the New Utrecht cl, and trackless trolleys on 16th Ave. that went to Prospect Park all for 5 cents! The old library was on 13th and 53rd, and the police station was in an old private house, I think on 49th St. near 14th Ave. There was almost no crime back then.

My first real job was at the Bohacks on 16th Ave. I also worked at Big Georges food store on 13th and 51st while going to school. I got my hair cuts at Abe Gurspan's place on 51st near 13th, and enjoyed a candy bar at Pete's store next door. 50¢ back then for the haircut and 5¢ for the candy. I loved the movies, and

spent time at the Culver on 18th Ave., and of course, the Loew's at 51st and also at 46th St. The ushers would keep us quiet with dirty looks!

If any of my old friends would like to write, I would be very glad to hear from them.

Yours truly,
L. Robert Efrein
RRI Box 96A
Ninevah, NY 13813

We thank Mr. L. Robert Efrein for his interesting personal memories and family history.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

To whom it may concern,
I accidentally found an issue of "The Boro Park Community News" a few days ago. I had never read it before.

I was especially interested in the article "I Remember Boro Park" by Dr. Philip J. Kipust. It was an excellent article and it brought into clearer perspective my own formative years spent in Boro Park.

I was born in Russia in 1916. My parents and I escaped to Poland in 1922, and then traveled to Palestine (now Israel) in 1922. We emigrated to the U.S. in July 1924, just as the new immigration laws limiting immigration to the U.S. were passed.

My parents and I lived for one year in the lower east side. We then moved to Boro Park during 1925. From the crowded streets and tenements of the east side, Boro Park seemed like a paradise, a rural, countryified and uncrowded neighborhood, so dissimilar to the east side.

We moved into 1444-43rd St., a five floor walk-up apartment building. Naturally we resided on the top floor. There were fire escapes where people sat during hot evenings and a courtyard and rear area for kids to play ball in. Boro Park was a virgin area and there were empty lots all over. Next to our building there was a large empty lot where we had sled riding during the severe winters that existed then. Eventually three new buildings were built in the empty lot area.

Old New Utrecht Road, a dirt road, ran through much of Boro Park then. As far as 13th Ave. was concerned, it was just beginning to be built. Eventually the City Municipal Market was built on 39th-40th St. and 13th Ave., and on the opposite corner was a live chicken market.

I attended P.S. 164 located just up my block on the corner of 14th Ave. & 42-43rd St. In 1930 Montauk Junior High School opened up. Since they needed students, students like myself who were in the 8th grade were placed in Montauk to fill up the school. We technically graduated from Montauk, but actually from PS 164.

There was a candy store on corner of 14th Ave. and 43rd St.

opposite the school, called Kormans, and it was there for years. Across from the school there was a Labor Lyceum. On the corner of McDonald Ave. near Ditmas Ave. there was a coal company. Some people still used coal stoves. On the streets, trucks with ice were selling ice to people to use in ice boxes. In our courtyards, street singers would sing for pennies. There were also organ grinders and people offering to buy old rags from people.

There were trollies all over the place. For example on 39th St. going to Church Ave. There was a public library located on 52nd St. and 13th Ave. (I worked there), also one on the corner of Ditmas Ave. and McDonald Ave. I worked there also. The libraries were not too well lit, and the books were in not too great shape.

Dr. Kipust mentioned the many motion picture theatres in Boro Park. However, he did not mention one: The Eagle Theatre located on corner of 41st St. and 16th Ave. - across the street from where Montauk JHS is currently located. He probably wasn't aware of it because it was the first of the movie theatres that closed, possibly before he moved into Boro Park.

Abraham Lass, former principal of Lincoln High School, and Chairman of High School Principals' Association, claimed that he played the piano at the Eagle Theater when he was a young boy, when silent movies were shown.

Across the street from the Windsor Theatre (40th St. & 15th Ave.) there was an empty lot. During the Depression, free movies, shorts, comedies, and some full length pictures were shown to the public. Also in the movies, free dishes were given to people who paid and entered some movie theatres.

Some of the theatres were the Royal formerly called the Radio on 42nd St. & 13th Ave. The Windsor at 40th St. & 15th Ave..

The Elton at 42nd St., New Utrecht Ave., the Garden at 46th St. & New Utrecht Ave., Loews 46th St. at 46th and New Utrecht Ave., Loews 50th St. at 50th St. & New Utrecht Ave., the Ritz at 8th Ave. and 46th St., the Beverly at Church Ave. & McDonald Ave., and the Culver at 18th Ave. & McDonald Ave.

There was also a public school at 53rd St. & 14th Ave. I believe is a religious school now.

On the corner of 50th St. and 14th Ave. there was a YMHA, I believe it's still there. Across the street was the Menorah Temple where affairs and dances for

singles were held. Across the street was the Young Israel for men and next to it was a religious girls school, Beth Rivkah. On 13th Ave. & 51st St. for many years was a Talmud Torah for Boys, translated in English its name means "Tree of Life."

There also was an orthodox synagogue located on 46th St. & 14th Ave. The Rabbi was Eli Simpson; my father was the President. There was a fire and the firemen managed to save the Holy Scrolls of the Torah.

By the way, our street 43rd St. between 14th and 15th Ave. was a mixture of Jewish and Italian people. Jewish people lived on one side of the street and Italian people on the other side. Streets nearby, some had more Italian people, some more Jewish. Basically we all got along reasonably well.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Philip J. Kipust

There was an ice cream parlor, Myers, located on 47th St. and 13th Ave. It was a popular hang-out for young people and Buddy Hackett could be found there.

There was also a popular drug store, Silverods, located on 46th St. and 13th Ave.

Miniature golf was a tremendous fad which kept people's minds off the deep economic problems of the Depression.

I hope that the above information will add to your historical knowledge of what Boro Park used to be like years ago.

I am enclosing a check to cover dues to your fine organization. If there is any way I can be of help I'd be glad to do so.

Sincerely,
Sol Tumarkin

We thank Mr. Sol Tumarkin for his interesting contribution of family history and personal memories.

The reason we didn't mention the Eagle theatre in the article was that the article was describing and comparing Boro Park in 1940 and 1990, and the Eagle theatre was closed long before 1940.

Georgie's Park Mansion

The newly renovated Georgie's Beauty Salon and Wig Stylists Center for Women is located in a historical building of Boro Park. The building at 4424 16th Ave. (corner of 45th Street) was originally built as a catering hall and was called the Park Mansion. Several past interviews provided some information about the history and function of this building.

Leslie Grosshandler indicated that his father Murray Grosshandler, who operated a plumbing business in Boro Park,

and his mother Beatrice Margolies, were married in the Park Mansion in 1916. They moved to Boro Park from the Bronx, right after their marriage, to 1425 56th St. We will have a separate article about the Grosshandlers in a future column.

Max (Mordechai) Lerner said that his Bar Mitzvah Dinner was held at the Park Mansion in 1938. His Bar Mitzvah service took place at the Cong. Anshei Sfard on 14th Avenue and 45th Street, upper synagogue. After services the family and guests walked the two blocks to have dinner at the Park Mansion. He pointed out that at his Bar Mitzvah, three Chasidic Rebbe's who then lived in Boro Park, spoke during the meal at the Park Mansion. They were the Trisker Rebbe, obm, the former Skverer Rebbe, obm, (Rabbi David Twersky's father), and the Chernobler Rebbe, obm.

Samuel Goldstein (Goldstein Press) remembers when Yeshiva Toras Emes held a Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon at the Park Mansion in 1941. As a young boy and student at the Yeshiva, he was asked to deliver a speech at the luncheon. After the speech he remembers that Mrs. Jolkowitz, obm, an officer of the Ladies Auxiliary came over to compliment him and gave him a kiss.

During WWII the catering business suffered severely. There were few weddings or other large celebrations taking place. Due to the decline in business, the Park Mansion was sold to a novelty business. The new business, Levon Products, purchased the Park Mansion building in 1942 and sold it in 1992 to Georgie's, the present owners.

Levon products manufactured and packaged novelties and toys during the 50 years that the business was conducted at these premises. The owner of Levon products, who doesn't want his name mentioned, showed me around the building as he was moving. He showed me the old "chupah" wedding canopy that still stood in its place throughout the 50 years. He also said that the Park Mansion was also used as a synagogue during the high holidays when most Jews in those days attended services.

He also indicated that Boro Park was once considered a wealthy community. Many business people from the Garment Center lived here. Several large beautiful synagogues were built then in Boro Park. The chil-

cont'd on p. 9

cont'd from p. 8

dren of the next generation were encouraged to enter the professions and those in the main moved to the Island. He also remembers when the three new high stoop brick houses 1570-1574 across 45th Street from Park Mansion were built. Before that there were a series of car garages on that piece of land.

After extensive renovations to the building Georgie's was partially opened to business in February 1993. Just before the planned ceremonial opening, the owner Mr. Klein and several workers were injured in an elevator accident in the new building. The elevator cable snapped and the elevator and passengers fell to the basement. Mr. Klein, the most seriously injured, was hospitalized in critical condition and the opening was postponed indefinitely.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of the B.P.H.S., open to the general public, is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greater New York Savings Bank Community Room, 13th Avenue and 53rd Street.

One scheduled feature of the forthcoming meeting is guest speaker Herb Preminger on the topic "Sweet Memories of the Corner Candy Store: A Nostalgic Tour Down Memory Lane."

Another feature will be a display of old photos and other memorabilia of old Boro Park.

Audience participation in the ensuing discussions of Boro Park memories is encouraged and has been a popular feature of past meetings. The entire program will be videoed and preserved in the archives of the B.P.H.S.

PHOTO DISPLAY OF OLD BORO PARK

The Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at 1265 43rd Street is featuring an exhibit of photos of old Boro Park scenes. Many newly acquired photos will be included in the popular annual exhibit arranged by the Boro Park Historical Society. This exhibit will be featured during the entire month of May.

HELP PRESERVE BORO PARK HISTORY

You can help preserve the history of Boro Park by submitting your own memories, family history, photos or documents. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. \$5 a year (\$3 for retired). You can also help by volunteering your time to join the Executive Board, do interviews or work on the archives and displays. Write to B.P.H.S. at 1276 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

RABBI LEON SOLONCHE

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Our family moved to Boro Park, 41st St. and 12 Ave., about 1920. I started school there at Eitz Chaim Yeshiva, from which I was graduated in 1929. Among my classmates was Arthur Zwerling, who later became well known as Jeff Corey, the Hollywood actor and drama coach. I remember—Himmelfarb, the tailor, next door; a bagel factory on the corner of 12th Ave.; and following Wrubel's Coal truck to gather pieces of coal that dropped. I still recall the lamplighter lighting the gas street lights. There were very few apartment houses at that time. Most were detached houses and some were semi-attached two family homes. On 15th Ave., there was an estate that ran from 49th to 50th, and on the corner of 50th, there was a private boarding school.

The Spewack family, who lived next door on 41st St., were very helpful to our family, especially to my late brother, Joe. He learned the mattress business from them. Mackta Brothers had a shoe store.

My father used to walk to the Kalveria Schule on Manhattan's lower East side to read the Torah on Shabbos. Later we moved to 1420 50th St., and like our neighbors, we had a phone. The house was owned by one of the Horowitz brothers, of Matzoh fame. On the ground floor was a Schule, Shomrei Shabbos, where my father became the Shammos (Sexton). We lived on the upper floors. This was a much more affluent neighborhood. I re-

member—an electric automobile driven by a local woman; luxurious Pierce Arrow cars cleaned and cared for and driven by chauffeurs in raccoon coats; and being the only

kid on the block who didn't go to summer camp or have a sleep-in maid. cont'd on p. 8

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On Friday nights, I used to accompany my mother to Temple Emanuel whenever there was a new Chazan (Cantor) for a "tryout," and we heard many of the "greats" of the era. My father used to take me to hear Cantor Yossie Rosenblatt.

My older brothers and sisters used to speak of Meyers Ice Cream Parlor, and Famous Restaurant. I remember—going to the 55th St. El station to see the bullet holes left by a gangland shootout; the Universal Theater on New Utrecht Ave.; open trolleys; and the excavations for the Menorah Temple.

We left Boro Park in 1929. On the corner where Yeshiva Eitz Chaim stood, there is now a shopping center, and precisely under what was my eighth grade class room, my daughter, Sara Goldenberg, who lives in Boro Park with husband and four children, manages Copy Corner.

Since our retirement of 91/2 years ago, my wife and I have been living in Jerusalem. We have been hearing many tales of a Boro Park I do not recognize, and often remember the community as it was when I lived there. B.C. (Before Chassidim).

We thank Rabbi Leon Solonche for contributing this interesting letter.

JACK MANZAR

I have no recollection of the day in the latter part of December 1908 when I moved to Boro Park.

How could I? I was only a year old when I, along with my father, Louis, a middleman for woolen fabrics, and my mother, Betty, a milliner, moved to Boro Park from East Harlem. I was the first born child; my sisters Sylvia and Dorothy were born while we were living in Boro Park.

In 1908, and for some years after, the Jewish section of Boro Park was located from about 37th Street to about 43rd Street. The majority of the Boro Park population was comprised mainly of Protestants with some Catholics.

My family's first apartment was in a private house on 39th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. Our next home was a ground floor apartment in a row house at 1338 42nd Street. Then we moved to 1119 42nd Street, where we rented the entire house at 1237 46th Street.

Much of Boro Park was still farmland when I was a child. There were farms in the 50's streets between 16th and 18th Avenues and a farm on Fort Hamilton Parkway between Caton and Gravesend (now McDonald) Avenues. These farms had goats, sheep, and horses. In this semi-rural neighborhood, when people went out during the day they didn't lock their front doors — and there were no burglaries! The sidewalks were paved but the gutters were not. I remember horses and carriages but I can't seem to recall any automobiles. Of course, it would not have been easy to drive a car in mud gutters.

There was an area called McDougall Hills (after the real estate developer who owned the land), located from about 43rd Street to about 46th Street and from New Utrecht to 9th Avenue. A hill rose from New Utrecht Avenue towards 9th Avenue. After a snowfall, children took their sleds to the top of the hill on 9th Avenue and slid down to New Utrecht Avenue. There were several ponds in Boro Park; I especially remember a pond on 49th Street and 10th Avenue, where Maimonides Hospital now stands.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights By: Dr. Philip J. Kiput

Boro Park had many movie theaters. In 1915, I saw the silent movie "Birth of a Nation" at the Eagle Theater, an open-air movie house on 16th Avenue and 43rd Street, directly across the street from the present Montauk Jr. High School. In those days of silent movies, theater managers hired piano players who suited their playing to the action on the screen. Movies may have been silent but at times the piano players generated quite a lot of noise in the theater!

There were formerly many ice cream parlors in Boro Park. Morton Seligman owned an ice cream parlor on 46th Street and new Utrecht Avenue, near the Loew's 46th Street Theater and the Garden Theater. I remember Schaeffer's Ice Cream Parlor on 13th Avenue and 45th Street.

I recall when stores only extended from 39th to 45th Street on 13th Avenue; private houses occupied 13th Avenue from 45th Street to the 50's streets. On the corner of 51st Street and 13th Avenue there was a German-Lutheran church (now the site of the Dime Savings Bank). A police booth was located in front of the Boro Park Clubhouse (demolished) on 13th Avenue from 50th Street to 51st Street; the policeman responded to calls on his bicycle.

My mother opened a hat store on 13th Avenue between 41st and 42nd Street, the first ladies' hat store in Boro Park. A hat store was almost a necessity because in those days a woman never left her house without wearing a hat. Mr. Helman later became her landlord.

Some stores came to the customer, instead of the customer going to the stores. Fruit and vegetables were sold from horses and wagons, as was fish. Milkmen (Borden and Sheffield), with their horses and wagons, left milk at customers' front door in the early morning hours.

There was a Bohack's (one of a large chain of grocery stores) on the corner of Fort Hamilton

Parkway and 42nd Street, where my mother bought groceries. My mother also patronized

Bashkowitz kosher butcher on 13th Avenue somewhere in the low 40's streets. She bought bread and cake from Goldstein's Bakery, then located on 13th Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets. Weir Florist's large greenhouse occupied the corner of Fort Hamilton Parkway and Gravesend (now McDonald) Avenue.

The winter of 1917/1918, when I was ten years old, was very cold. World War I was in progress and coal supplies were low. (Houses were heated by coal at that time.) Because of lack of heat, the water pipes froze in our house and we were obliged to honor our relatives with extended visits. In 1918 a flu epidemic raged in the U.S., brought back from Europe by returning World War I soldiers. My mother and my two sisters were very sick but fortunately my father and I escaped the disease.

Originally both the Culver Line and the West End Line ran on the ground. I watched the parade which was held when the West End Line was elevated in 1916.

I began my education in 1912 at P.S. 164, 4211 14th Avenue. A few years later I was transferred to P.S. 131, 4305 Fort Hamilton Parkway. The principal was Mrs. Bartel. I attended P.S. 131 until the 6th grade and then attended P.S. 160, 5105 Fort Hamilton Parkway. In preparation for my bar mitzvah in 1920, I attended Hebrew school at Temple Emanuel, my father's synagogue. The class was taught by the shammash (sexton) Mr. Schneideman. Only boys studied Hebrew in those days.

I was friendly with a son of the well-to-do Lax family, who lived in large private house on 14th Avenue, perhaps on 47th Street; their house burned down about 1925. Another friend was the son of Gittleman the barber, who had his shop on 13th Avenue in the low 40's streets. My friend, Leonard Druckerman, was the son of a dentist, whose office was on 13th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets.

Dr. Fred Margaretten and his optometrist brother, Elias, lived in Boro Park. Dr. Kunin, Elias Margaretten's father-in-law, had his dental office somewhere on 48th Street. The Doctors Margaretten were cousins of the famous Margaretten of Horowitz-Margaretten kosher foods, who also lived in Boro Park.

A few years after I married Rose, we moved to an apartment house, 1528 49th Street. Rose and I lived in that apartment for over 54 years. This must be something of a record! Our children, Kenneth and Barion, attended P.S. 180 and were—as I was—bar mitzvahed at Temple Emanuel, my father's synagogue.

I was an accountant until my retirement. I am currently President of the Goldfaden Independent Society of Boro Park, a social organization and burial society. The Goldfaden Society was formerly affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. Both societies met at the Menorah Temple, 50th Street and 14th Avenue (now Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn). The Goldfaden Society now meets in the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue, 1515 46th Street, which synagogue I joined three years ago.

Boro Park was a good place in which to live and bring up children. It was a place where a Jew felt secure and could live without fear of physical harassment. The Italians and the Jews in Boro Park always got on very well together. Boro Park residents had a feeling of being part of a neighborhood group. That much has not changed.

We thank Mr. Jack Manzer for his interesting contribution to the history of Boro Park.

HELP PRESERVE BORO PARK HISTORY
You can help preserve the history of Boro Park by submitting your own memories, family history, photos or documents. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. for \$5 a year (\$3 for retired). You can also help by volunteering your time to join the Executive Board, do interviews or work on the archives and displays. Write to B.P.H.S. at 1276 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. ■

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Dear Dr. Kipust,

For several years I have been following your fascinating column "I Remember Boro Park." Since my own BP memories go back not quite as far as some of your other contributors', I have hesitated to chime in. But now, since many of us are feeling a sense of nostalgia for the way things were — here goes:

In 1930, my family bought a beautiful private house on 49th Street between 17th and 16th Avenues, where I grew up and lived until the mid-1950s when I moved to Manhattan's Upper West Side, yet always calling 49th Street "home." Built as far as we could tell around 1913 or '14, the house was kept beautifully in its pristine state by my family, never remodeled into a multi-family dwelling.

In those years, there was a lot of porch-life. Air conditioning was almost unknown, and on warm summer nights we would sit out on our generous-sized open porch in summer sofas and arm chairs and the charming glider-swing, conversing across the driveways that divided adjacent houses with neighbors doing likewise. We would all buy ice cream from the itinerant Good Humor man (on a bicycle in those days) and once in a while someone would get the "Lucky Stick" which entitled you to a free Good Humor popsicle!

I entered grade school at P.S. 192 on 18th Avenue between 47th and 48th Streets; it was the mid-30's and the heart of the Great Depression. We were not oblivious to the rise of the Nazis in Germany, but hardly guessed what this would portend in the very near future. But we did hear

a lot about the little man with the black mustache named Adolf Hitler and on the radio would
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I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

hear him screaming to the German crowds and they would scream back "Sieg heil!" And of course we would tune in devotedly to every one of our President FDR's speeches and fire-side chats; in the warm weather, you could walk down the street and hear his words coming out of the radios in all the houses. He and his eloquent voice were like some father symbol to the whole nation at the time, at least so it seemed to us in Brooklyn in the late '30s and the war years of the 1940s. When he died, our family wept for three days.

At school, the ratio of ethnicity among the kids was about one-to-one Jewish and Italian, with a sprinkling of Irish, Scandinavian, and Polish. We all got along fine except once in a while there would be a silly ethnic slur which, being kids, we didn't take too seriously. Except when you mentioned it later at home, mama would get really mad.

Kitchen and household supplies were often quite different from today's, and they arrived differently. Back in the Thirties and Forties, milk was delivered directly to the homes by drivers in horse-drawn wagons by Sheffield and Borden (we were Borden customers). They would leave our daily order on the back porch (we had a small box with a hinged cover for this), delivering it in the wee hours of early morning. Sometimes you might awaken through the night hearing the clip-clop of the milkman's horse — I can still recall that sound. On very cold winter mornings there was the possibility of the milk freezing and Mother would usually be up especially early to take the milk in quickly.

This was before milk was homogenized and the bottles had long narrow necks so the cream would rise to the top and you'd have to shake the bottle if you wanted the milk evenly distributed. The milkman would also stop by once a week to collect payment (no computers then!) so one would get to know them as neighborhood friends, like the mailman. The companies switched to motorized trucks a few years after the war, and soon there were no more horses trotting through the night.

Fruits and vegetables were usually bought from street vendors on horse-drawn wagons, and I also recall some that would just push smaller carts, or pull them by long handles — pushcart peddlers, they were called. Some specialized in potatoes, carrots and onions, some in greens, and there was always "the Banana Man," a real specialist. They had individual street cries; especially memorable were "straw-BERR-ies" and "ba-NAHN."

Another long-gone feature of those decades were the street musicians who would play marches and waltzes and old favorite tunes for pennies we'd throw or put into a hat they would pass around after playing. Among them were some really good old fiddlers, but the one that brought us running down the street was a one-man band who played a harmonica and accordion, seemingly each with one hand, with a drum strapped to one knee and cymbal to the foot, which he would crash with one or the other foot for accents. Of course there were also organ-grinders, some carrying the box strapped over the shoulder — different from the hurdy-gurdy which could be quite large, mounted on a cart and pushed from street to street. Dimly I recollect one of the organ-grinders haying a little monkey in a red cap who collected the pennies (pennies were worth something then). Mayor La Guardia put an end to such entertainment; he made the grind-organs and hurdy-gurdies illegal and soon they were all gone.

Another charm of Brooklyn street life for kids in the summertime and for us in Boro Park was the travelling merry-go-round, also horse-drawn into the 1940's. I remember the horse being white or dappled gray, and the merry-go-round man resembled the conductor Arturo Toscanini. He would turn a large crank that would rotate the round platform; mounted on it was a circle of brightly colored small carousel horses which he strapped us into, and for 3¢ you'd get a ride of several turns, to jolly grind-organ music. In the dappled sunlight filtering through the street trees, which in those days grew very dense and formed a canopy of leaves over the entire street, the circling merry-go-round along the curb remains today a very happy childhood memory. I wonder if kids playing Nintendo today enjoy a similar thrill.

Thanks for the memories, Brooklyn. Perhaps others may share some of the same.

And thank you, Dr. Kipust, for stirring up cherished memories.

Sincerely yours, Teresa Sterne

Ed. - We thank Teresa Sterne for her very lovely article and memories. It is an interesting contribution to the history of Boro Park.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I am seeking childhood friends of Alan Dershowitz that grew up with him in the Borough Park area. This is for a biography of him for a New York publisher.

I can be reached collect at (703) 758-8191 most weekends. Or one can write me at 2010 Turtle Pond, Reston, Va. 22091.

With advance thanks to the people of Borough Park for their cooperation.

Yours truly, Adrian Havill

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Re: Your article "I Remember Boro Park"

You said you lived at 1864-49th Street; well my family and I lived at 1864 48th Street for over thirty years (our backyards faced each other). My father, Vincent Bonomo, owned the candy store on the corner of 48th Street and 18th Avenue from 1949-1959. It was previously owned by an older man named "Pops." On the corner of 47th Street and 18th Avenue was Ruby's candy store. I'm curious to know if you remember this.

My mother still lives in Brooklyn, that is how I get the Boro Park Newspaper.

Sincerely,

Ms. Vivian Zaffuto, Ozone Park, NY

Ed. - We thank Ms. Vivian Zaffuto for her interesting letter. I do remember the candy stores you mention but I'm sorry to point out that our backyards did not face each other since we both lived on the even sides of the street.

Dear Sir,

I have just heard that you are in possession of historical records of synagogues and yeshivot in Boro Park. I am interested in the records (between about 1925 and 1955) of Congregation Anshe Sfard which assembled in the basement of the large synagogue on the corner of 14th Avenue and 45th Street. My father and both my grandfathers were members there.

In addition, my father was a member of the Goldfaden Association, which met on 14th Avenue and 48th Street.

We lived on 44th Street and I went to P.S. 164, and then Montauk Junior High School. There are many fond memories of growing up in Brooklyn!

I am interested in obtaining information on the synagogue and on my family. Is there any way in which such information might be obtained?

The family names are:

Father: Max Elias
Koenigsberg
Grandfather: Abraham
Koenigsberg
Grandfather: Louis (Leibisch)
Leibowitz

I look forward to your reply.
Yours sincerely, Ernest
Koenigsberg, San Francisco, CA
Ed. - If any of our readers know the above mentioned individuals or can supply any information about them, please send information to this columnist and we will both add it to our archives and forward the information to Mr. Koenigsberg.

meeting and writing this interesting report.

Correction! In the last issue we omitted to thank Lucille Posner for the interview and write up of the article on Jack Manza. Thank you Lucille for the very interesting contribution.

THANK YOU ANCHOR SAVINGS BANK

The Boro Park Historical Society wishes to express its gratitude to Anchor Savings Bank for their community grant which helped pay for the recent publication of Boro Park in the 1930's. Copies are available for members.

YOU CAN HELP

You can help in the work of preserving and publishing the history of our community by submitting your own memories and family histories, by joining the Boro Park Historical Society (Dues: \$5 a year, \$3 retired), and by volunteering to join the executive committee of B.P.H.S.

Send material to Boro Park Historical Society, 1276-46th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST
ANNUAL MEETING,
BORO PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JUNE 7, 1993

Dr. Philip Kipust, President, welcomed attendees to the 9th annual meeting and noted the presence of Ira Kluger of the Canarsie Historical Society. Dr.

Kipust suggested that people finish viewing the displays of candy store memorabilia and early photographs of Boro Park after the meeting.

Borough Park In The 1930's, a recent publication of the Boro Park Historical Society, was distributed. Dr. Kipust then asked Lucille Posner to introduce the guest speaker.

Lucille Posner, Secretary, observed that there are people who research different areas of history. Herb Preminger is probably the only person specializing in the history of candy stores. Mr. Preminger, who writes articles for scientific and entertainment journals, realized about 1978 that candy stores would soon be a thing of the past. He drove throughout the five boroughs of New York City looking for candy stores, from which he bought his extensive and unique collection of candy store memorabilia.

HERB PREMINGER

Mr. Preminger said that candy stores originated with newspaper dealers, mostly Jewish, on the Lower East Side. These men also sold cigars, cigarettes, and candy bars at their newsstands. In order to increase sales, the makers of Eskimo Pie (a chocolate-covered ice cream pop) had supported the development of dry ice, which was made of chemicals and lasted longer than regular ice. Representatives approached newsdealers and asked them to sell Eskimo Pies at their newsstands. They supplied a container which held a supply of dry ice and Eskimo Pies. When other

companies saw a way to promote the sale of their ice cream.

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they gave low cost loans to newsdealers for the purpose of opening candy stores at which their brand of ice cream (Breyers, Reids, Hortons, etc.) would be sold exclusively.

Seltzer had its origin in Eastern Europe so it was only natural for Jewish candy store owners to sell it by the glass. Then they began to make their own fruit syrup and, with the addition of a spoonful to a glass of seltzer, the era of sodas began. To supply this demand, syrup began to be made commercially, including chocolate syrup. When penny candy was added to the stock, the evolution of candy stores was complete. Penny candy was a source of delight to children. It was not unusual to see a child take an hour to decide which candies he should buy with his pennies!

Candy stores were open most of the day, from dawn until late at night. In order to be open such long hours, a candy store owner's family was obliged to work in shifts. The family usually lived in an apartment behind or above the candy store.

Mr. Preminger described the important functions that candy stores served in a neighborhood. In the early days, before everyone had a telephone, candy stores took phone calls for nearby families. A child who called somebody to the phone received a small tip. Candy stores were a hang-out for teenagers. They had a juke-box; by inserting 5 cents in a slot, a person could choose a record to be played. Candy stores were stable. They were open the greater part of a day, 12 months of the year, excluding a few holidays. If a child went away for a summer, he knew the candy store would be there when he returned.

The floor was thrown open for a discussion period. Red Silver (whose hair is now white) had owned a candy store on 48th Street and 13th Avenue. He recalled that he opened his candy store very early in the morning and worked long into the night. Now retired, he has nightmares about not waking up in time to open his store! Several people recalled their favorite Boro Park candy store.

Dr. Kipust thanked Mr. Preminger for his interesting and informative presentation, and then called upon several members of the Executive Committee to speak.

THELMA FOX, Membership Chairman, recalled that she had started her schooling at P.S. 134, 18th Avenue and Ocean Parkway, in the 1920's. At that time, children living in the vicinity of 50th Street and 17th Avenue attended P.S. 134. P.S. 192, 18th Avenue, 47th to 48th Street, was still being built. Afterwards, Thelma Fox was not allowed to transfer to P.S. 192 because at that time the Board of Education didn't allow a pupil to transfer to a school which a sibling attended. Mrs. Fox's sister attended P.S. 192. At first, P.S. 192 only had classes up to the 3rd grade, to allow some Montauk Jr. High School classes to occupy the upper floors.

Thelma Fox commended Jacques Friedman, President of the Boro Park Community Council for his action in saving Old New Utrecht Road. Old New Utrecht Road, the first road in the Town of New Utrecht, was created by Dutch farmers in the 1600's. In August 1776, the British landed at the Narrows on Shore Road. They marched down Old New Utrecht Road to the Town of Flatbush, where the Battle of Long Island took place, the first battle of the Revolutionary War. The road originally began at 53rd Street and 18th Avenue and ended at 36th Street and Church Avenue. Little by little over the years, houses were built on Old New Utrecht Road.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

This resulted in most of Old New Utrecht Road being obliterated, a process called demapping. Because of demapping, Old New Utrecht Road now exists only from 52nd Street and 18th Avenue to 48th Street and 17th Avenue. A few years ago, a nearby yeshiva wanted to build a parking lot for their school buses on Old New Utrecht Road, which would have completely obliterated the remainder of this historic road. Jacques Friedman convened a meeting of the Boro Park Community Council to protest this action. Many people testified as to the historic importance of Old New Utrecht Road and the concern of adjacent property owners, and to their credit, the yeshiva backed down.

DARIO MAROTTA, Archives Chairman, spoke about the electric buses which formerly ran on 16th Avenue. The route began on 62nd Street and New 16th Avenue, ending at Cortelyou Road and Flatbush Avenue. Two flexible poles on the roof of an electric bus were connected to wires strung over gutters. Unlike trolleys, electric buses did not run on tracks in the middle of gutters. This enabled electric buses to move four or five feet toward a sidewalk, allowing passengers to enter and exit more easily. Electric buses, unlike regular buses, did not have a gasoline engine. And, unlike trolleys, electric buses ran on rubber tires instead of steel wheels. They were less noisy than trolleys and, unlike regular buses, gasoline fumes did not pollute the air.

From 1932 to 1948, the only electric buses in New York City ran on 16th Avenue. In 1948, four other electric buses were added to the New York City transit system. In 1957, The New York City Transit System discontinued all electric buses.

LUCILLE POSNER, Secretary, observed that Baruch Selevan, Research Chairman, was seated in the audience. She commended Mr. Selevan for his extensive and accurate research that resulted in the Society's latest publication, *Borough Park In The 1930's*. This publication is available free to members. For each 1930's year there is a page of contemporary newspaper articles relating to Boro Park.

Lucille spoke of her school days, (spelled d-a-z-e) at P.S. 103, 14th Avenue, 53rd to 54th Streets, the first school in Boro Park. The first school building on the site was erected in 1889; a back wing was added in 1898. In 1906 the front building was demolished. The same year a new front building was erected (still in existence) and joined to the 1898 back wing. The back wing and the schoolyard were recently demolished.

She recalled gazing out of classroom windows at the Dutch Reform Church across 14th Avenue (demolished) and daydreaming. The church building was erected in 1902, although the church itself dated back to 1868, when the area was farmland.

She explained that each classroom had six rows of desks and seats, bolted to the floor. Boys and girls were always separated. Some teachers arranged three rows of boys and three rows of girls and some teachers alternated the rows of boys and girls.

Most teachers were Irish in those days, she pointed out. There were some Protestant teachers but very few Jewish teachers.

She recalled the recess period, held in the schoolyard, weather permitting. Recess was taken as a class, boys and girls together. Various singing games were played, such as: Here we go loop-de-loop, Here we loop-de-la, All on a Saturday night; This is the way we wash our clothes, wash our clothes. So early Monday morning, London Bridge is Falling Down; and The Farmer in the Dell. This last game ended with a child who was chosen to be the cheese standing alone in the center of a circle of his classmates.

BARUCH SELEVAN, Research Chairman, commented on the publication, *Borough Park In The 1930's*. Baruch Selevan explained that the two dominant events of the 1930's were the depression and the rise of Hitler. He pointed out articles relating Boro Park to these two events.

JACQUE FRIEDMAN, Vice President of the Boro Park Historical Society, expressed appreciation to the Society's members. Membership dues, he ex-

plained, enable the Society to research, photograph, and publish the history of Boro Park. Membership dues are \$5 a year, \$3 a year for retirees, and \$10 a year for stores and organizations. Without the support of its members, the Boro Park Historical Society could not function.

Dr. Kipust thanked the attendees for their alert participation and conveyed his best wishes to all for an enjoyable summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucille Posner

Ed. - We thank Lucille Posner, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society for her masterful job of taking the minutes at the meeting and writing this interesting report.

Ed. The following article was researched and prepared by Mr. B. M. Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank him for his interesting contribution.

CEMETERIES BORDERING ON BOROUGH PARK

There are two cemeteries in the vicinity of Borough Park, Greenwood and Washington cemeteries. Though the cemeteries might not technically be within Borough Park, nevertheless, due to their close proximity to it, I feel it is appropriate to say a few words about them and their histories.

First, some background.

In the early days, burials of city residents mostly took place within city limits, whether in church graveyards or elsewhere.

As time went on, the growth of cities, health concerns, and perhaps other factors, brought about the establishment of large cemeteries outside city limits, to which most burials shifted.

Greenwood and Washington cemeteries were both formed outside the growing city of Brooklyn (today's downtown Brooklyn) in rural parts of Kings County before the Civil War, Greenwood circa 1838 and Washington around 1850.

Since much has been written and is known about Greenwood, especially compared to relatively obscure Washington cemetery, I will not say much about it here. Many 'celebrities' lie there.

Washington cemetery was founded by Dr. James Arlington Bennett, head of the Arlington Academy, in 1850. He lived in a mansion in the neighborhood of 18th Avenue and 60th Street, as now laid out (Brooklyn Eagle, Feb. 25, 1924).

It seems that Washington was not envisioned to be a 'Hebrew' cemetery at first, though it later became predominantly, almost exclusively, so. When it was incorporated on September 7, 1850, the population of Hebrews in the area was not great. An advertisement in the Kings County Rural Gazette of April 29, 1876 states "this cemetery is

beautifully located... part of it is appropriated to Christians and part to Israelites." "Then, perhaps in a reference to Greenwood cemetery and similar places, it continues. "The prices in some of the cemeteries have got so high that they virtually exclude the poor; but the poor shall have respectable sepulchre in this cemetery, as well as the rich; as graves can be obtained from \$5 to \$10 each... As these prices of lots are very low in comparison with other cemeteries, they will be raised after some time." "The names of the cemetery trustees under the advertisement contain no identifiably Hebrew names.

Soon afterward, a change seems to have taken place. Perhaps the cemetery was not faring well and a growing Jewish population in the area was in need of a burial ground. In Stiles' History of Kings County of 1884 it is reported that "It has become now almost exclusively a Jewish burying-ground." Cemetery officials listed seem to be of German-Jewish descent, with a connection to the past retained in the form of Henry D. Bennett, son of the founder of the cemetery, as superintendent.

Another change over the years at Washington was enlargement of the cemetery grounds. While the 1876 ad gives its size as 85 acres, Stiles in 1884 gives it as 100 acres, and The Eagle and Brooklyn, an 1890's history, gives its size as 200 acres. An attempt in 1915 to further enlarge the grounds was blocked by opposition.

I have been asked about the streets that run through the cemetery (20th Avenue, Bay Parkway, McDonald Avenue) if any graves originally occupied their territory and were moved to make way for them. I have come across no mention of any such thing and it seems unlikely that such occurred. A street grid for the area was mapped out in 1874, in the cemetery's infancy, and it's unlikely that the problem ever existed here.

In more recent years Washington cemetery has sometimes been in the news due to neglect, etc., while Greenwood has become a site for tours of the resting places of 'the rich and famous'. Those things are more well known, though, than how things were at the beginning. Therefore my words here were meant to try to tell a bit of how it was 'way back when'. Hope it's been of interest.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I arrived in Boro Park in January 1931, due to my father's death. We were very poor — my mother received widow's pension. She wanted to be near her sister's, who lived in Boro Park, in order to receive some help from them. My favorite aunt was

cont'd. on p. 9

cont'd. from p. 8

Frances and my favorite uncle was Louis, they helped us a lot as I was growing up.

When arriving in Boro Park I first attended P.S. 131 on Ft. Hamilton Avenue and 43rd Street. After that I attended Montauk J.H.S. on 16th Avenue and 43rd Street.

Reading the articles in the Boro Park Community News brings back memories of Montauk J.H.S. I recall several teachers while I was a student in Montauk — Mrs. Friedman, Mrs. Zeeve and Mr. Cheyette. We had a very active basketball team. As I recall, Pershing J.H.S., located on 9th Avenue and 48th Street, always beat us. One year, however, we beat Pershing and went on to the championship to beat

Marshall J.H.S. At the time I had Mr. O'Connor and Mr. McKenna, who was new, as gym teachers.

Lawrence Cuomo

Ed. We thank Mr. Cuomo for sharing his interesting memories of Boro Park with us.

YOU CAN HELP

You can help in the work of preserving and publishing the history of our community by submitting your own memories and family histories, by joining the Boro Park Historical Society (Dues: \$5 a year, \$3 retired), and by volunteering to join the executive committee of B.P.H.S.

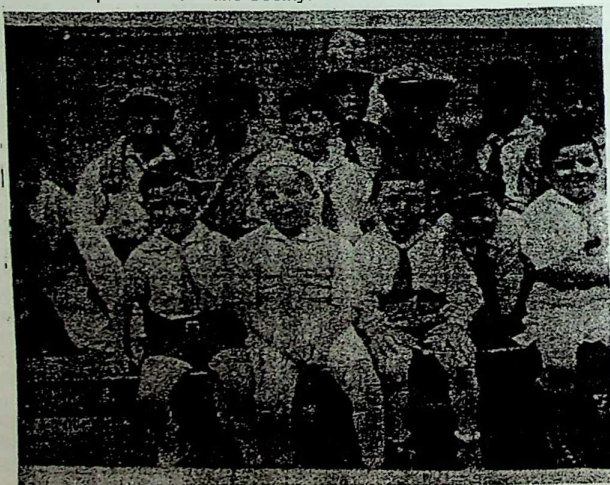
Send material to Boro Park Historical Society, 1276-46th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

The photo below was taken on Jun 28, 1935, in the yard of Academy (Yeshiva) Torah Emeth, then located at 1359-48th Street, in a small private house. The entire student body of the school then numbered approximately 35 or 40 students. It operated to some extent like the old one-room school house, with several grades assigned to one classroom. The photo was donated by Shmuel Goldstein of Golostein Press, 16th Avenue and 46th Street, and we thank him for it. Mr. Goldstein also supplied the names of the students in the photo by memory to the best of his ability.

Sitting L to R: 1-Handler 2-Raymond Berlin 3-Samuel (Shmuel) Goldstein (of Goldstein Press) 4-Meyer Aronofsky (now a judge in Jerusalem) 5-Rabbi Joseph (Yosef) Goldstein (now a principal in Beth Jacob school).

Standing L to R: 1-Jack Dreher 2-Moshe Rosen 3-Jack (Yankie) Parnes (O.B.M.) (grandson of the famous Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes of Boro Park) 4-Abe Getzler (his father was president of Cong. Anshei Sfard) 5-Solomon Goldstein (lives in Baltimore) 6-Schleifer (his father had a butcher store in Boro Park) 7-Adler 8-Shimon Aaron Simpson (his father Rabbi Simpson had synagogue at 1546-46th Street, still serving the community today) 9-Standing back row, head only, Rabbi Daniel Goldstein, now county clerk of New Square in Rockland County.



I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST
SCHOOL DAYS

Dear Dr. Kipust

In the mid-1930's when I entered first grade ("I-A"), our neighborhood's public school P.S. 192 on 18th Avenue at 47th Street brought together under one roof children of diverse ethnic ancestry, of a range fairly representative of immigrant America of the period. We were mainly second generation Brooklynites, and our class of 48 girls and boys — which stayed together, for the most part, for the six grade-school years — was a mixture of Italian, Jewish, Irish, Polish, and Scandinavian heritage. (The multi-racial African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Arabic-American communities were then some miles and decades away from our Boro Park enclave.) In our classrooms at the start of each school day, we pledged allegiance to the American flag (although I think many of us were garbling the words), and in the school auditorium where several grades periodically assembled, we sang "America the Beautiful" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" along with children's songs; later, Foster's "Old Black Joe" and "My Old Kentucky Home." The teacher's harmonica apparently kept our young voices on pitch.

The musty smell of chalk dust and old wood permeates recollections of the first days of school, which saw many youngsters choking back tears at this separation from home. But even the shy ones were quickly drawn into the dance games "How Do You Do, My Partner" and "Good Morning Merry Sunshine" and the like. Later we were led by teachers in mock-military "drills," beating toy drums and marching in formation.

Our teachers in that era were

almost all female. There was Mrs. Hinchey, known to be a
cont'd. on p. 8

Continued from Page 2

terror to the first-graders, and the Downey sisters (the slimmer one, Agnes Downey, a dignified lady and serious teacher, was "ours" in grade 3-B), but my favorite of all was Edna Moose, a hearty woman with bulging eyes and protruding teeth, and a great sense of humor, a truly memorable educator. 192's school principal at that time was Mrs. Connor, a fearsome woman with close-cropped, carrot-colored hair and a formidable chest. "Music Appreciation" was brought to us by Mrs. Morrison — she also played the piano for assembly chorus practice — via old 78rpm records and a small wind-up phonograph, year after year grinding the grooves of such small chestnuts as Dvorak's *Humoresque*, MacDowell's *To a Wild Rose*, and Rossini's *William Tell* overture ("Hi-Yo Silver," the boys would cackle). Someone in charge at the Board of Education had evidently decreed these pieces as most suitable for young ears, and they remained for more than one generation the staples of New York City's music education program (now, alas, quite abandoned).

On the last day of school at the end of June, it was a custom to bring the teacher bouquets of the flowers then blooming around our homes or, for those not blessed with gardens, a home-baked cake. Along with the joy of summer's release, I used to feel a lump in my throat at these final little ceremonies.

Throughout those years, street games were a significant part of children's daily routine after school hours, from early spring through fall. The boys regularly played street baseball — this was even before we all became rabid

Dodger fans in the Fifties — and 49th Street in the late afternoons used to resonate with their excited shouts. We little girls bounced balls to alphabet rhymes and ditties, skipped rope (including "Double Dutch"), and played a game called "poisy" for which you chalk-marked the sidewalk with boxes numbered up to ten. As twilight descended, mothers' voices would echo along the street, calling us home for supper. Then, in that vanished pre-television era, it was school homework and to bed.

Thank you, Dr. Kipust, for providing this space for reminiscences, and for the opportunity to share them with neighbors, old and new.

Very sincerely, Teresa Stern

Ed.: We thank Ms. Teresa Stern for her interesting contribution to these columns and to the history of Boro Park.

RABBI BLECH

The history of the Blech family, a prominent Rabbinical family in Boro Park for the past half a century, really deserves a full and detailed article. Several items have already appeared in this column about some members of the extended family, and undoubtedly others will appear in the future.

A few months ago I was able to do a mini-interview with Rabbi Shmuel Blech, who now resides in Lakewood, New Jersey, and was able to obtain the following information.

His father and mother, Hersh (RIP) and Lollie Blech first moved to Boro Park in 1940. They lived in Williamsburg for a few months before that, after fortunately escaping from the European inferno. His parents moved to B.P. because his father's brother Moshe and wife Sulka lived in B.P. at the time.

His father served as Rabbi in the synagogue on East 3rd St. and Ditmas Ave. for about 15 years. Rabbi Pasternack (RIP) later served as Rabbi in that Shul

until his passing early this year. Rabbi Hersh Blech then worked in the Diamond business until his sudden passing in 1964. Lollie Blech continued to live in B.P. until 1983 when she moved to Lakewood, N.J.

Rabbi Shmuel Blech also pointed out that his father's oldest brother Moshe (RiP) was the Rabbi in the Beth Medrash of the Ocean Parkway Jewish Center. Another brother, Rabbi Ben Zion Blech (RiP) was a Rebbe in Yeshiva Toras Emes for many years and a Rabbi in the synagogue on Clara St. Rabbi Ben Zion Blech and his wife Gitel and family first came to America in 1941. They arrived on the freighter called Novemor, also known as the HellShip. Their first apartment in Boro Park was at 4309 15th Avenue which was arranged by his brother Moshe. The family then moved to 3513-12th Ave., close to the Clara St. Shul. Gitel still lives there.

Rabbi Shmuel Blech pointed out that when he was a youngster the Yeshiva Toras Emes did not have a kindergarten. Therefore kindergarten-age children, including himself, attended Beth Jacob school's coed kindergarten.

TO BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

I am conducting a family history project and would greatly appreciate the assistance of the Boro Park Historical Society. My grandfather, Rabbi (and Cantor) Jacob Hillman lived in Boro Park with his wife Regina (Ray) and children Zella Miriam (my mother) and Moshe (Merwyn) during the early 1940's (probably 1942 or 1943). He officiated at High Holy Day services at the Boro Park Casino. My mother attended P.S. 164 (probably post 1940).

Although there is little information to go on, I hope your organization will be able to help. Thanks in advance for your anticipated attention and cooperation regarding this matter.

Gary Fittleberg
West Hills, CA 91307

Please check synagogue records and newspapers including, but not limited to, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn Citizen and Brooklyn Standard Union.

Ed If any readers have any information about, or even knew, Rabbi Hillman, please send that information to this paper and we will pass it on to the writer.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THELMA

(With apologies to Oscar Wilde for paraphrasing the title of his famous classic novel.)

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I was sitting in Amnon's Pizza Shop on 13th Avenue, the other day, when the woman seated opposite me, called out "Hello Toby," to a friend of hers who had just entered the store. After they greeted each other and had a short conversation, the friend walked over to another table. I remarked to the woman facing me that my name was "Toby" too. And thereby hangs a tale.

I proceeded to tell her the story connected to my name, and when I had finished, she told me that it would make an interesting contribution to the "I Remember Boro Park" column, especially since I am on the Executive Board of the "Boro Park Historical Society." So here goes.

I was born at home in the Bronx. When the doctor was making out the Birth Certificate he asked my mother what name she wanted him to put down for the new-born child. Evidently she pronounced the name in its "Yiddish" sound, for he wrote down "Taubel," the way it came out phonetically in English.

Now I have to skip a few years before I can continue with this story, and reach its conclusion.

My family moved to Boro Park when I was one year old and we lived at 1616-46th Street. When I was just past five years of age, we moved to 4913-17th Avenue. This house is still there, although it has been altered quite a bit, to keep up with the changing times. We made the move in

September, when I should have been entered into kindergarten, but my mother was expecting another baby in December. This fact, plus the additional work involved in moving into a brand new house, prevented her from enrolling me in school, which was situated a long distance away from my home.

The school that the Board of Education stated was the one for my district, was P.S. 134, located at 18th Ave. and East 5th Street, one half a block away from Ocean Parkway. There were no buses running on 18th Ave., at that time, nor was there such a thing as "school-busing."

So you can see, it was quite a distance for a 6-year-old to walk, come home for lunch, return to school afterwards, and then go back to my house after 3:00.

I found out much later that the Board of Ed had erred in sending me to a school so far away. It would have been so much nearer and time-saving for me to walk to P.S. 103, which was situated on 14th Ave. and 53rd St. This building no longer exists as a city-run school. It is now a girls' Yeshiva owned by the Satmars. There is even a new building where the yard used to be. Within a few years of my entering school, P.S. 180 on 16th Avenue and 56th Street opened up. However, by that time I was practically ready to graduate from the 6th grade and go to P.S. 192 at 18th Ave. and 47th St., which maintained a junior high school on its upper floors. Actually, this school opened up a year after I entered first grade but I could not be transferred to it for two reasons. The "Board of Ed" did not allow a child to change to another school, even though it was nearer to home, if there was an older sibling attending the same school. My sister, Hilda Klein, was enrolled in P.S. 134 at the same time as I. Also P.S. 192 went from kindergarten to the 3rd grade only. When the junior high school, housed in the same building, moved to 16th Ave. and 42nd

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

St., and became Montauk JHS. I was in the first graduating class from the 9th grade. It was after the JHS had moved out, that P.S. 192 became a regular elementary school, with classes from kindergarten to the 6th grade.

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party," or in other words, now is the time for me to continue with my original story, which I put on hold, after the fourth paragraph.

When I was 6 years old, my mother took me to P.S. 134 and presented my birth certificate to the school clerk (as school secretaries were then called) for enrollment in the first grade. What took place then, I have no remembrance of, but can only piece together from the story my mother told me many years later.

The Irish school clerk (most teachers and clerks were Irish at that time) could not figure out how to pronounce the name on the birth certificate (Taubé). She had never been presented with a birth certificate bearing that name. She therefore took it upon herself to inform my mother that my name should be registered as "Thelma" and no sooner said than done. I, who had always been called "Toby" by my family, now had to learn to respond to both names.

In school, on all my records and on all the work I handed in, Thelma Klein was my official nomenclature, and in time, I became used to the "double standard" so to speak. I was Thelma to everyone except my closest relatives. What does all this have to do with my living in Boro Park? Read on and find out!

Boro Park was more provincial in those days, more like a suburb, so a name like Thelma stood out. One was more likely to hear the name "Selma," and more often than not, that is how many people referred to me.

However, I could console myself, knowing there was a movie star named "Thelma Todd." How many of you remember her? On the other hand, there was also an actress named "Toby Wing." You old-timers or you young aficionados of old-time movies may recall these names.

I thought I had it all straightened out - I'm Thelma in school and Thelma or Toby in my neighborhood. But then came the day of reckoning. When I was graduating from Hunter College, with teaching as my goal, a notice was sent to each senior saying "now is the time for you to decide what you want your legal name to be." I had to weigh the pros and cons of the three names - to keep Taubé as it was written on my birth certificate, or to change my name to Toby or to Thelma, which was the name that appeared on all my school records. I didn't like Taubé per

se, but rather preferred Toby, spelled this way. However, this name would have meant that all my school records, and believe me there was a mound of them, would have to be changed, and in the process some very important papers would probably be lost. Also, I still would have to change legally from Taubé to Toby. Which name did I really want? "Is a puzzlement," as Yul Brenner, the actor, said in the movie "The King and I."

It didn't take me long to decide. I had my birth certificate legally changed to Thelma, which left all my school records intact, and it was the college which took care of all the legal work involved.

If you were me, which name would you have chosen and why? Maybe one of the other names would have changed the course of my life! But as Romeo said, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name etc." I would like a response from some of you readers which name you would have chosen.

And to think that this tale was written all because of a chance
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cont'd. from p. 8

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Remark made in a pizza store!

Sincerely, Thelma (Toby Klein) Fox

Ed. We thank Thelma (Toby) Fox, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting contribution.

CONTRIBUTE YOUR MEMORIES AND FAMILY HISTORY

You can help in this project of researching, writing, and preserving the history of this community by submitting your own family history and memories of Boro Park. You can also help by becoming a member of the B.P.H.S. for \$5 per year (\$3 for retired) and \$10 for organizations, schools and businesses. Send all materials to: Boro Park Historical Society, 1276-46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Philip J. Kiput

Dear Dr. Kiput:

I wonder how many other senior Boro Parkers still recall the street photographer who used to come walking along the curb leading a little pony. To have one's picture taken astride that pony was a major event, often the highlight of a child's summertime. In snapping the picture, the photographer would duck his head beneath a big black cloth. Magic!

Other 49th Street charms of the era included the scissors- and knife-grinder, a great travelling service; the grinder-man signalled his approach with a silvery gong as the wagon moved slowly along the street. And there was the "junkman"—the original re-cycler (broken toys, furniture, appliances, all were worth something in these Depression days), whose presence was announced by a row of tinkling cowbells.

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(I Remember Boro Park continued from p.2)

And still) another special memory is that of the itinerant "Fuller Brush Man," a kind of early version of today's "Avon Calling," who would make periodic visits to the house. The classic Fuller hair brushes, and other bristly products, became standard accessories in our house.

Neighborhood shops of the Thirties and Forties have left a lifelong impression, although none of them exists today. Long gone are the Ebinger bakery shops (the one nearest to us was on 18th Avenue near McDonald). Who of that Brooklyn generation will forget their delicate coffee rings, the lady-fingers and birthday cakes, and their Charlotte Russes—sponge cake topped with whipped cream and a maraschino cherry, all held in a little round, scalloped container (you ate it while walking, just as you would eat a jelly apple.) The Ebinger chain closed some time in the 1960's, I believe.

We had, in fact, always bought our important breads, the challahs and a great pumpernickel with caraway seeds, on 18th Avenue near 46th Street at a bakery called, I think, Kay's. Near there was an ice-cream parlor run by the Myers family who made their own ice cream, and at the corner of 46th Street (now a laundromat) stood a delicatessen where the big treat was to order a plate of frankfurters (not yet called "hot dogs") with sauerkraut. Candy stores dotted nearly every street corner. Besides selling newspapers and penny candies, these family proprietors also made ice-cream sodas and egg creams (which contained neither eggs nor cream, but rather chocolate syrup, milk, and seltzer). There, one also bought comic books, which were quite new in those days. My own favorites were "Tip-Top Comics" and the brand-new, exciting "Superman."

On 16th Avenue, at the corner of 49th Street I remember an old-fashioned grocery store that was run by a kindly Mr. and Mrs. Reimer (he was a stout, moon-faced man). Between 50th and 51st Street there was a fine old upholsterer, a Mr. Raim. And on that same block was Sam Spiegelman's butcher shop where mama pre-selected our chicken for the weekend's soup; she preferred the black-feathered ones, which she found more tender and flavorful. Cooper's "appetizing" store, at the 50th Street corner where Bochner's grocery now stands, was a place fragrant with pickles in open barrels, from which you selected the fattest one within reach. Sawdust covered the wooden floor, and there were great open bins along one wall filled with all sorts of old-fashioned candies individually wrapped in shiny metallic paper in a rainbow of colors, plus gold and silver.

There too, one encountered lox (10¢ a lb. then) and bagels (smaller and drier than today's version), which we would buy for Sunday brunch, a very happy time. The Windsor Taxi Service on 16th Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets was a group of friendly fellows (two of them named Joe) who drove us to concerts and the theater if we needed to travel late, and sometimes even to "the country" in summer.

Mr. Resnick, the pharmacist at 49th Street and 16th Avenue, was our local wise-man, and his shop was a neighborhood gathering place for its old-style health and beauty products and doctors' prescriptions being filled from great jars of jewel-colored liquids, as well as for friendly advice in medical and family emergencies. His successor Frank Gayer, together with his pharmacist wife, Amalia, maintained the store well into the 1980's (eventually moving one door away from the corner). When the Gayers retired, the pharmacy closed and, in its place, there is now a shoe store and a gift shop. These devoted families took their work very seriously, and they were a mainstay of the community.

The markets and shops of 13th Avenue were still another world, especially in the years of the pushcart stands and street vendors preceding the La Guardia administration's construction in 1939 of the enclosed market at 39th and 40th Streets. It was a wondrous bazaar of old-European folkways, some of whose details I may try to recount another day.

Thank for the memories, Boro Park!

Sincerely,

Teresa Sterne

Ed. We thank Ms. Teresa Sterne for her very interesting article and contribution to this project. Ms. Sterne has recently joined the Executive Board of the Boro Park Historical Society.

Leslie Grosshandler

We recently had some kitchen cabinets installed by Jo-Lyn Kitchens on McDonald Ave. The installation was done by the owner's father Leslie Grosshandler who turned out to be an old time Boro Parker.

Mr. Grosshandler told me that his father Murray and mother Beatrice Margolias were married in 1916 in Boro Park. They were married in the then Park Mansion on the corner of 16th Avenue and 45th Street. That hall was recently renovated and is now used as a wig salon and hair by Georgie. In addition, the second floor is used as a catering hall again.

After their marriage the Grosshandlers moved to 1425-56th Street from the Bronx. They later moved to 16th Avenue and 56th Street in the corner apartment house. Leslie was born in Boro Park in 1926.

Buddy Hacket lived on the block near them, on 56th Street between 15th and 16th Avenue. Leslie remembers when as a young boy Buddy Hacket wanted to beat him up, and a group of his friends protected him.

Leslie's father had a plumbing store on 55th Street, between 12th and 13th Avenues, right after the corner store on 13th Avenue. His partner in the business was Sol Kaplan. Leslie often worked with them as an assistant plumber while he was growing up.

Leslie and sister Muriel and brother Arthur were born in Boro Park. Leslie was born in his house and his grandmother helped deliver him. He attended a vocational high school called Brooklyn Specialty Trades, which was then lo-

cated in the top two floors of the school (now P.S. 192) on 18th Avenue and 48th Street. When he was 16 his family moved to 1845-50th Street.

One of the people Leslie remembers in Boro Park was Jerry Grossbard, who lived on 45th Street (between 14th and 15th Ave.). Jerry had a handicap on his hand and wasn't accepted into the army during the draft of WWII. He did serve in the merchant marines. Leslie remembers that Jerry was always selling merchandise. He started out as a delivery boy for Pearlman's Pharmacy on 18th Ave. and East 2nd Street. He later opened a small jewelry manufacturing business, married a girl named Honey, and named his business Honora Jewelry. He concluded by saying that Jerry recently retired a multi-millionaire.

Leslie volunteered for the army at age 17 and was discharged in 1946. He married Kate Rubenstein, a Boro Park girl, in 1947, and moved to Midwood area, 66th Street, in 1948.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I was raised most of my young years in Boro Park, a suburb of Brooklyn, New York.

I remember the trolley and the bus that took me to New Utrecht High School, when I graduated Montauk JHS in 1955. I remember only bad times in junior high school.

My neighborhood was very nice. All my gang "hung out," Adrienne Mendelan, my very best friend since I was thirteen, and my other friends Elliott Kaplan and Jack Ruditz.

I remember the Windsor Movies, and the Culver Movies, where I got dishes every time my friends and I went to the movie. For the price of admission, I received a dish. Pretty soon I had acquired a whole set, and a date with the usher.

I moved away from Brooklyn in 1963, when I got married. I then lived in Long Island. Who knew of Long Island in those days, even though it is not long ago. The wife went where the husband had his job, never mind about her. I had to find my way around by myself. Most of the time I was very lonely, my husband was at work all day, and I had to find my way by myself. Which I did. I found a job in the neighborhood as a receptionist, paying about \$90.00 per week. Somehow we managed.

Now thirty years have gone by, and the saying "what goes around, comes around" is true. I have moved back to Boro Park, and I am very happy to be living in a wonderful, safe neighborhood.

Helena Singer

Ed.: We thank Ms. Helena Singer for her interesting memories of the community. Helena has recently joined the Executive Board of the Boro Park Historical Society.

Annual Report of the Boro Park Historical Society

The annual report of the B.P.H.S. is now being mailed to members of the society. We urge them to renew their membership now for 1994. Current and old residents of Boro Park are urged to join as members. Dues are very nominal, only \$5 per year for individuals (\$3 for retired

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

OLD BORO PARKERS UNITE

I recently (February 20, 1994) attended a wedding at which two old time Boro Park families were united in wedlock. The bride, Shaindy Kornfeld, a grandniece of this columnist, is a fifth generation Boro Park resident. Her great, great grandparents, Elias and Ida Kipust (RIP), first moved to Boro Park at 1864-49th St. in 1921. Her great grandparents, Max and Fannie Kipust (RIP) continued to live at that address until 1972.

The bride's grandparents, Bernard (Pinchus) and Shirley Frankel, now live at 1532-41st St. The bride's parents, Nachum and Fraidy Kornfeld, live at 1560-48th St. Nachum Kornfeld is one of the owners of Simcha Graphic at 4311-15th Ave.

The groom, Shloime Weissman, is also a fifth Generation Boro Park resident. His great, great grandfather, Yechezkel Hendel (RIP) moved to Boro Park with children and grandchildren in 1926 from Amsterdam, N.Y. Their first residence was at 1365-43rd St. The groom's great grandparents, Zundel and Hinda Hendel (RIP), were proprietors of a small grocery store first located at 1311-43rd St. and then at 1318-44th St. They were among the first owners of Sabbath Observant stores in this community. The groom's grandparents, Jack and Miriam Steinmetz, lived at 1636-53rd St. until they moved to Jerusalem, Israel, where they now reside. The groom's parents, Hillel and Esther Weissman, now live in Toronto, Canada. The

I REMEMBER... con't from pg. 2
groom's other grandmother, Rivkah Gartenhaus, a Boro Park resident, lives at 1626-53rd St. The groom has been living and attending yeshivos in Boro Park in recent years and now attends Yeshiva Toras Chesed at 5506-16th Ave. The young couple now live in the apartment building at 1440-54th St.

As we look forward, please G-d, to a sixth generation of Boro Parkers we wonder if there are any other fifth or sixth generation Boro Parkers now living in this community. If there are, we would like to hear about them from our readers.

BORO PARK TRIVIA

The following are some brief items about Boro Park that have come to our attention:

At the recent COJO of Boro Park Dinner, on Sunday March 6, 1994 at the Royale on McDonald near Ditmas Avenues, three of the speakers began their speeches by proudly proclaiming some Boro Park connection. Public Advocate Mark Green, proudly announced that he was born in the Israel Zion Hospital, now Miamonides Medical Center.

Congressman Jerrold Nadler also proudly announced that he was born in the Israel Zion Hospital.

Sheldon Silver, speaker, New York State Assembly, and recipient of the State Leadership award at this Dinner proudly announced his connection to Boro Park through his brother Dr. Joseph Silver, who is a medical doctor at Miamonides Medical Center and has his office at 4901 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy.

Rabbi Israel Schorr, was installed as Rabbi at Temple Beth El - 15 Ave. & 48 St. in 1937 and still serves in that position. He first came to Boro Park in 1927 when he was engaged to serve as Rabbi at Cong. Beth Israel at 11th Ave. and 56 St. He has thus been serving as a spiritual leader in the Boro Park community continuously for the past 67 years. (b.a.h.)

Rabbi Glazer served as Rabbi at Temple Beth El from 1936-37. Temple Beth El had no official Rabbi before that time. There were discussions about engaging Rabbi Gold for that position but it never materialized.

Peter Kalikow, former owner of the N.Y. Post, once lived in Boro Park and attended services at Cong. Shomer Emunah at 14 Ave. & 52 St.

Mr. M.G., who doesn't want his name mentioned, said he moved to Boro Park in 1949 and related several memories:

The Goldstein family, owners of Goldstein Bakery, then located at 5011-13th Ave. (now Weiss Bakery) lived in the corner house at 47th St. and 14th Ave. where Cong. Munkatch is now located. Across the street, where Machzikei Talmud Torah is now located, was

then a parcel of vacant land. The apartment house at 1327 - 46th St. was the last apartment building built in Boro Park before World War II. It was actually completed during the war, with special permission of government officials, while some tenants were already living there.

The Mikvah Israel of Boro Park at 1351-46th St. is located on the property where the Unsodfer Rav, Rabbi Horowitz, previously lived and where he started the Beer Shmuel Yeshiva.

On the corner of 46th St. and 14th Ave., where the Beth Jacob of Boro Park is now located, there was a very old large house. The house had approximately 15 rooms and a basement for storing ice. People said it was built in the mid 1800's and owned by a farmer who stored ice in the basement. The house was vacant for a long period of time and children referred to it as the "haunted house". Mr. M.G. said that he sometimes walked to that house with his children on Saturday afternoons. The children loved to run through the house and hide in the different rooms.

Rabbi Hersch Rosenhan of Monsey, N.Y. said he first moved to B.P. in 1967 from Boston. He obtained a teaching position in the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway then located on Church Ave. His first residence in B.P. was at 1248 - 45th St. He attended services at the Yeshiva Shaarei Yosher which was then located at 14th Ave. and 43rd St. His boys first attended the Yeshiva Bais Yitzchok which was then located in the old Agudah building at 4511-14th Ave. and then attended the Stollner Yeshiva on 18th Ave. and 54th St. His daughters attended Tomer Dvora school.

Rabbi Rosenhan served as mashgiach in the Beth Medrosh of Rabbi Palor's Yeshiva, M'kor Chaim, for two years from 1971-73. The family moved out of Boro Park to Monsey, N.Y. in 1973, after the Yom Kippur War in Israel.

CORRECTION

Some technical problems resulted in a mixup and deletion of part of an article by Teresa Sterne which was printed in our Feb. 1994 column. Therefore, with apologies to Ms. Sterne and our readers, we are reprinting the article in its entirety:

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I wonder how many other senior Boro Parkers still recall the street photographer who used to come walking along the curb leading a little pony. To have one's picture taken astride that pony was a major event, often the highlight of a child's summertime. In snapping the picture, the photographer would duck his head beneath a big black cloth. Magic!

Other 49th-Street charms of the era included the scissors and knife grinder, a great travelling service; the grinder-man signalled his approach with a silvery gong as the wagon moved slowly along the street. And there was the "junk-man" — the original recycler (broken toys, furniture, appliances, all were worth something in those Depression days), whose presence was announced by a row of tinkling cowbells strung across the horse-cart. Even more of a specialist was the "old-clothes man," the one I recall went on foot and carried a bulging sack over his back, calling out in a soft, high-pitched voice, "ole-clo, ole-clo." He must have had a rival, because sometimes a stronger voice rang out on the street: "I CASH CLOES!" Probably the best remembered travelling merchant of that time was the ice-man delivering huge blocks of ice for the means of refrigeration for daily storage of perishable foods. The fun for kids was to follow the ice truck and plead for, and be given, "a piece of ice to suck."

This was easily granted, as fragments would always chip off when the delivery men hauled into each customer's house the giant chunk, carried with large iron tongs. And still another special memory is that of the itinerant "Fuller Brush Man," a kind of early version of today's "Avon Calling," who would make periodic visits to the house. The classic Fuller hair brushes, and other bristly products, became standard accessories in our house.

Neighborhood shops of the Thirties and Forties have left a lifelong impression, although none of them exists today. Long gone are the Ebinger bakery shops (the one nearest to us was on 18th Avenue near McDonald). Who of that Brooklyn generation will forget their delicate coffee rings, the lady-fingers and birthday cakes, and their Charlotte Russes — sponge cake topped with whipped cream and a maraschino cherry, all held in a little round, scalloped cardboard container (you ate it while walking, just as you would a jelly apple). The Ebinger chain closed some time in the 1960's, I believe. We had, in fact, always bought our important breads, the challahs and a great pumpernickel with caraway seeds, on 18th Avenue near 46th Street at a bakery called, I think, Kays. Near there was an ice-cream parlor run by the Myers family who made their own ice cream, and at the corner of 46th Street (now a laundromat) stood a delicatessen where the big treat was to order a plate of frankfurters (not yet called "hot dogs") with sauerkraut. Candy stores dotted nearly every street corner.

Besides selling newspapers and penny candy, these family proprietors also made ice cream sodas and egg creams (which contain neither eggs nor cream, but rather chocolate syrup, milk and seltzer). There, one also bought comic books. My own favorites were "Tip Top Comics" and the brand new exciting "Superman."

On 16th Avenue, at the corner of 49th Street, I remember an old fashioned grocery store that was run by a kindly Mr. and Mrs. Reiner (he was a stout moon-faced man). Between 50th and 51st St., there was a fine old upholsterer, a Mr. Raim. And on that same block was Sam Spiegelman's butcher shop where Mama pre-selected our chicken for the weekend soup. She preferred the black feathered ones, which she found more tender and flavorful. Cooper's "appetizing" store, at the 50th St. corner where Bochner's Grocery now stands, was a place fragrant with pickles in open barrels from which you selected the fattest one within reach. Sawdust covered the woden floor and there were great open bins along one wall filled with all sorts of old-fashioned candies individually wrapped in shiny metallic paper in a rainbow of colors, plus gold and silver. There too, one encountered lox (10¢ a lb. then) and bagels (smaller and drier than today's version), which we would buy for Sunday brunch, a very happy time. The Windsor Taxi Service on 16th Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets was a group of friendly fellows (two of them named Joe) who drove us to concerts and the theater if we needed to travel late, and sometimes even to "the country" in summer.

Mr. Resnick, the pharmacist at 49th Street and 16th Avenue, was our local wise-man, and his shop was a neighborhood gathering place for its old-style health and beauty products and doctors' prescriptions being filled from great jar of jewel-colored liquids, as well as for friendly advice in medical and family emergencies. His successor Frank Gayer, together with his pharmacist wife, Amalia, maintained the store well into the 1980's (eventually moving one door away from the corner). When the Gayers retired, the pharmacy closed and, in its place, there is now a shoe store and a gift shop. These devoted families took their work very seriously, and they were a mainstay of the community.

The markets and shops of 13th Avenue were still another world, especially in the years of the pushcart stands and street vendors preceding the La Guardia administration's construction in 1939 of the enclosed market at 39th and 40th Streets. It was a wondrous bazaar of old European folkways, some of whose details I may try to recount another day.

Thanks for the memories, Boro Park!

Sincerely,

Teresa Sterne

Ed. We thank Ms. Teresa Sterne for her very interesting article and contribution to this project. Ms. Sterne has recently joined the Executive Board of the Boro Park Historical Society.

THANK YOU BROOKLYN UNION

The Boro Park Historical Society extends its appreciation and thanks to Brooklyn Union Gas for its generous grant to the society. The grant money will be used for the maintenance and expansion of its archives. Thank you Brooklyn Union.

YOU CAN HELP

You can help preserve, record and publicize the history of this community by joining and by submitting your own memories and family history. Send to Boro Park Historical Society, 1276-46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
WAS NOT PUBLISHED
IN APRIL 1994

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

BELLE DE FINO GAMBARO

In 1906, the recently established congregation of Temple Beth-El hired my father to build a synagogue. Completed in 1906, the synagogue is still standing at 4022 12th Avenue but is now occupied by Congregation Anshe Lubowitz.

The previous year, 1905, my Parents, Tecla and Vito De Fino, and their children had moved from Manhattan to the house they had recently bought on 39th Street and 10th Avenue. The West End train ran nearby on ground level tracks. In 1915, when construction of elevated tracks for the West End Line began, the New York City Transit Authority bought my parents' house and demolished it to make room for the new elevated structure.

My father, as I indicated, was a builder. With the money he received from the sale of his house, my father built a new house at 1121 36th Street. My parents moved into the new house in 1916, in time for me to be born at home. I was my parents' 12th child; my sister, Teresa, the 13th and last child in my family, was born two years later, also at home.

There was only one other house on our block when I was a small child. Thirty-sixth Street, from Chester Avenue to Dahill Road, was all farmland. Empty lots surrounded our house. Thirty-sixth Street was still called by its original name, Martense Lane, after the Dutch farmer who lived on Martense Lane and 14th Avenue. Martense Lane, a narrow, dirt road, was the dividing line between the old Dutch towns of New Utrecht and Flatbush.

My father built a stable next to our house for the horses and wagons which he used in his construction business. My mother had her own pony that pulled a small, open cart with two or three seats, which she used to shop on 13th Avenue. She patronized an Italian bakery on 39th Street and 13th Avenue and an Italian butcher on 38th Street

cont'd. on p. 8

and 13th Avenue. Not all food was sold in stores, however. I remember the fishmonger who came around with his horse and wagon on Wednesdays and Fridays; fruit and vegetables were sold by men with horses and wagons. Fruit and vegetables were also sold from pushcarts which were lined up in the gutter, next to the curb, on 13th Avenue from 39th Street to 41st Street.

Mr. Barrons, a Dutch farmer, lived in a nearby farmhouse with his family. Tommy and Veronica Barrons were friends of mine. Mr. Barrons had four attached houses built on 36th Street between Minna Street and 12th Avenue: 1139, 1141, 1143, and 1145 36th Street. Later a married son of the Barrons lived with his family at 1145 36th Street; another married son lived with his family at 1143 36th Street. Two of the Barron's unmarried daughters and an unmarried son lived with their parents in the family farmhouse. Eventually Mr. and Mrs. Barrons sold their farmhouse and it was demolished.

In 1918, World War One still raged. My father, despite having ten living children, received a draft notice! Preparing for induction into the army, my father began negotiations to sell his horses and wagons. Suddenly, at the age of 44, my father had a cerebral hemorrhage and died. I was two years old and my sister, Theresa, was a few months old.

Mother was left with ten children to support. The situation could have been hopeless but my mother was a woman of great pluck and resourcefulness. We owned a female goat and chickens so mother sold eggs and goat milk to our Boro Park neighbors. She also sold vegetables and fruit from our backyard. From our own tomatoes, mother put up tomato paste and tomato sauce, which we ate over pasta during the winter months. We bought grapes and made red wine in our basement, for our own consumption. Since our stable was no longer needed, mother rented space to peddlers for their horses and wagons. As my brothers and sisters grew older, they found jobs and contributed to the family income. Somehow we managed.

My brothers worked for the Hegeman Farms milk company on 36th Street near our home, delivering milk and cream to homes and stores. Many people can remember when milk and cream were delivered before dawn to front doors in glass bottles. Empty bottles were placed at front doors for return. A housewife would write her milk order for the day on a piece of paper and insert it in an empty milk bottle.

My brother Charles delivered milk to a Jewish family who lived on 15th Avenue and 38th Street. He met the daughter of the family in the course of time and subsequently married her. And they say it is impossible for a girl to find a husband by staying at home!

Speaking of jobs, one of my uncles worked for the Vita Company. He developed a fondness for pickled herring, which he passed on to mother and me. To this day, I still buy Vita pickled herring.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

My whole family worshipped at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, Fort Hamilton Parkway, 40th to 41st Street. I attended St. Catherine's elementary school. I particularly remember Sister Eugene, a very good teacher. Before the church was built, mass was held in a house on 39th Street near 10th Avenue. Father O'Neill, the church's first priest, was active in raising money for the church.

In the winter, we children ice skated in the empty lot behind our house (a house is now on the lot). We also went ice skating on Prospect Park Lake. The winters were much colder at that time; it first snowed around Thanksgiving and the snow didn't thaw until March.

Some girls marry the boy next door. I, however, married the boy in the stable next door! I met my future husband, John Gambaro, in 1934. John, an iceman, rented space in our stable for his horse and wagon. (Our stable has long since been demolished; McDonald's parking lot is now on the site.) Every morning, John and I exchanged a few words. One word led to another, and before we knew it we were engaged! We were married in 1936 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church; the reception was held in my family's house.

John had moved to Boro Park from Park Slope with his family in 1918. His family first rented a house on 38th Street between 12th and 13th Avenue (demolished). John went to P.S. 131 on 43rd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. He remembers when Fort Hamilton began at 38th Street. From 38th Street to McDonald Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway was comprised of empty lots. At that time, the Culver Line ran at ground level on 37th Street. The tracks are still there.

John's first job was as a truck driver for S. Klein Building Materials, located on 38th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. Then he took a job delivering ice for the Knickerbocker Ice Company, which occupied the whole block on 12th Avenue from 36th to 37th Street.

When John and I were first married, we lived for about two years in an apartment in a private house on 43rd Street and 9th Avenue. Then we moved to an apartment in a private house on 40th Street and 12th Avenue, where we lived for another two years. In 1940, we moved into the downstairs apartment in the family house; my mother lived in the upstairs apartment. We still live there today.

Our first child, John, Jr., was born in 1938 in the Boro Park Maternity Hospital, 4421 15th Avenue. Dr. Fisher, our family doctor, who lives on 41st Street and 12th Avenue, delivered John, Jr. Our son Thomas was born in 1942 in the same hospital and delivered by the same doctor. Robert was born in 1945 in the same hospital, which had now been renamed Boro Park Doctors Hospital. (This hospital is no longer in existence; Beth Jacob High School for girls occupies the building.) Barbara, born in 1959, was our only child who was not born in Boro Park.

All of our children attended St. Catherine of Alexandria school up to the 8th grade, after which they went to work. Barbara subsequently married Albert Saydeh, of Egyptian descent. They bought a house near us, where they lived until moving to Florida in 1991.

John and I remember the big fire in 1950 in the Knickerbocker Ice Company building. The fire started where the ice was stored. People in nearby houses were evacuated and brought to our stable yard. The fire was so fierce it took about two days to extinguish.

For many years, 36th Street and a few streets beyond were considered part of Boro Park. However, for the past several decades, 36th Street has been considered the dividing line between the neighborhoods of Boro Park and Kensington. I, having been born in Boro Park and having lived all my life in Boro Park, consider myself a resident of Boro Park. John and I have had happy lives. We are fortunate in having had devoted parents, loving brothers and sisters, wonderful children, and friendly neighbors.

Ed: The above article was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Belle Gambaro for this interesting contribution.

More Old Boro Parkers Unite

In our last column we asked our readers if they knew of any fifth generation Boro Parkers now living in the community and to share that information with us. We define the term "Boro Parker" loosely to include anyone who lived in Boro Park at some time in his or her life. As that information is submitted we hope to include it in this column.

Recently (April 10, 1994), I had the extreme pleasure of attending the wedding of my granddaughter, Toby Yarmush, who is a fifth generation Boro Park resident, to Sadya Grama, who is a 3rd generation Boro Park resident.

Toby's great, great grandparents, Elias and Ida Kipust (R.I.P.), first moved to Boro Park in 1921 and lived at 1864-49 St. for the remainder of their lives. Ida was deceased in 1941 and Elias, was deceased in 1946.

The bride's great grandparents, Max and Fannie Kipust (R.I.P.), continued to live at the same address until they sold the house in 1972. They then moved to 1502 44th St. where they lived for one year and then to 1558 41st St. where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Max passed away in 1975 and Fannie in 1983.

The grandparents, myself and my wife Ruth, were both born in Boro Park, have lived in several locations in this community and for the past 34 years have resided at 1558 45 St. The bride's other grandparents, David and Mildred Yarmush, also reside in Boro Park, at 1430 43rd St.

Toby's parents, Rabbi Yitzchok and Rena Yarmush also reside at 1558 45th St. Rena was born in Boro Park at Maimonides hospital. Rabbi Yitzchok Yarmush serves on the faculty of Yeshiva Derech Chaim, a post high school Yeshiva located at 1573 39th St. on the corner of 16th Ave. The bride Toby was also from Maimonides.

Sadya (the groom) Grama's grandparents, Yehiya and Esther Grama (R.I.P.) came to the U.S.A. from Yemen in 1924. They moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side in 1939 (approx.) They were the original founders and leaders of the Yemenite Community in Boro Park. Their first apartment in Boro Park was located at 43rd St. between 12th and 13th avenues. They then purchased a house and moved to 45th St. Between 13th and 14th avenues. They were very active at Congregation Anshei Sfard on the corner of 14th ave. and 45th St. A few years later they sold this house in order to purchase the storefront building at 4505-14 ave. This building housed their upholstery business in the store, and they moved upstairs. They raised 14 children in Boro Park.

The groom's father, Rabbi Shimon Grama, the youngest of the 14 children, was born in Maimonides Hospital while the family lived at 43 St. He and his wife Toby (nee Nulman) lived at 4304 17 ave. when first married. While living at this address Sadya was born, also at Maimonides hospital. When Sadya was 3 weeks old the family moved to Israel.

The young couple, Sadya and Toby Grama now reside at 1572-44 St. Sadya now continues to study at the Yeshiva Zichron Melech located at 510 Dahill Rd. (corner 40th St.) where he has been a student for several years.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I remember Boro Park when storekeepers were our friends who cheerfully provided service. A customer could telephone an order and have it delivered cheerfully, without additional cost. Today, an order must reach a specified total, often outrageous, and the prices are pure profiteering. The recent harsh winter has made life unbearably difficult and expensive for the great number of senior citizens who live alone, on limited incomes.

I remember Boro Park when every householder was required to remove snow from his sidewalk within 24 hours of the storm. Then boys and men carrying snow shovels came looking for an opportunity to earn a few extra dollars by cleaning sidewalks. Where are these boys and men now? Boro Park is bursting at the seams with young people — but they are obviously too well-heeled to need to earn an extra buck!

I remember Boro Park when an uncovered garbage pail brought the householder a summons and a fine. Look around you now!

I remember Boro Park when broken sidewalks had to be repaired quickly. Today a walk on the streets is an obstacle course. The emergency room at Maimonides is overflowing with casualties caused by the negligence of landlords.

I have always lived in Boro Park and still do, but I am really saddened by the unnecessary deterioration of the quality of life.

Sincerely yours, Adele Weinstock

Ed: We thank Adele Weinstock for her interesting memories and comments.

SUBMIT YOUR PERSONAL MEMOIRS

You can help research, preserve and publicize the history of Boro Park by submitting your own memories of this community and your own family history in Boro Park. You can also help by joining the Boro Park Historical Society. Membership is \$5 per year (\$3 for retired, \$10 for business or organizations). Send to B.P.H.S., 1276-46th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUSTY

TERESA STERNE

When my family came to live at 1657-49th Street in 1930, automobiles were still quite rare. Neighbors across the street owned a large, high-roofed Packard that seemed like an exotic animal on our block. Trolleys ran along tracks on 16th Avenue, and I can still recall their very special sound, a resonant clang. You would enter the trolley car at the rear, and besides the conductor there was also a ticket-taker who collected the fares (then a few pennies). Soon the 16th Avenue trolley was replaced by a quiet electric bus that was connected to overhead wires. The mechanisms wasn't perfect as the connection often sputtered with blue sparks and came unhinged, whereupon the driver had to get out to reconnect the bus's main electrical pulley. This public vehicle was maintained from the mid-Thirties well into the Fifties, and when it was discontinued we got the gas-guzzling, air-polluting buses of today.

A trolley line was also operated along McDonald Avenue, but those streetcars had a "streamlined" look, painted a silvery gray, much advanced in appearance over the old-fashioned red-and-yellow model. That line too became extinct, I believe around the time the IND "F" train was extended past Church Avenue, replacing the route of the quaint old Culver trains with their straw seats, not just in summer but also on clear winter Sunday for a walk on the beach and boardwalk, to watch the seagulls

and clear our lungs. The big carousel was just about the one ride that kept running after the summer season, and even with its prancing wooden horses and cheery tunes, it had a lonely air with so few people about.

In those decades, I remember wide extremes in weather — even greater in retrospect than what we have now. Wintertime meant ferocious winds and frequent snowstorms, and the streets would be blanketed with ice and snow, for-

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trellis-like walls of packed snow lining the curbs. Helping our elders dig out the sidewalks and driveways with shovels and picks was great fun, followed by sledding and "belly-whopping" along the deserted, icy streets. Yet even during the fiercest of storms, the subways kept running! Once, during a near-blizzard, I recall riding with my aunt in a West End line train (now the "B" line) when, on one of the outdoor stretches, the motorman had to stop the train and step out to shovel a snow drift from a few yards of track; he then returned to his caboose and we proceeded on the journey. Most people didn't drive cars to work in those days and children walked to school, so workplace and schoolhouse closings were almost unheard of.

The summer of 1937 brought temperatures well above 100 degrees for days on end, though it seemed somehow bearable as the humidity was low and air was clear (air-conditioning wasn't yet prevalent, and we used a variety of electric fans). In September of 1938 we were struck by a massive hurricane that left the streets littered with broken boughs and branches and fallen trees. In our own backyard, the silver-barked walnut tree came down in the raging wind, though the old peach tree survived, continuing for many years to yield rich harvests of fruit. Peach-picking time in September, ladders and all, then the sorting and tasting, was a big excitement for kids.

In fact, there was then an enormous variety of tree life in Boro Park, an area that — according to old neighbors, long gone now, who had resided there in the early decades of this century — had once been densely wooded. Fruit trees abounded, and I recall two ancient, gnarled cherry trees along the sidewalk further along the block that put forth delicate white blossoms each spring, later spattering the street with dark cherry juice and pits. Springtime brought an intoxicating fragrance, a poipourri of wisteria, jasmine, linden, catalpa (a towering tree whose blossoms resembled a wild orchid), and there were hedges

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Historical Highlights

By: Dr. Philip J. Kipust

that had grown high as the rooftops in adjacent backyards, whose creamy lilac-shaped flowers were overpoweringly pungent. (Hardly any of that lush verdure is in evidence today; and another disappearance noticeable in Brooklyn backyards recently is that of the many busy song birds which had inhabited the trees of my childhood days.) In summer, many homes were adorned with rambling-rose bushes that bloomed prolifically from April to November. Maple trees of various types were plentiful and vigorous, and in autumn their foliage blazed in thrilling shades of russet and gold, scarlet and bronze.

Those were the years before most Americans came to hear about the Holocaust in Europe; we lived innocently then, unaware of the brewing nightmare of our millennium. There were indeed newspaper reports of "camps" in Europe, but we hardly guessed their unspeakable horrors to follow. Here, families were immersed in the Great Depression of the Thirties which affected all economic classes; you looked to President Roosevelt for his New Deal remedies, not yet as a world statesman. I still remember dignified gentlemen coming to our back door to ask for a sandwich. If they were handy and able to do odd jobs, the dollar that mama could spare, along with the sandwich and cup of coffee, was joyfully received.

Those long-held memories of Borough Park, more than a half-century ago, may be as true for other neighborhoods and other towns, yet for those of us who grew up here in those decades there lingers a uniquely poetic vision of a place like no other.

Ed: We thank Teresa Sterne, a member of the Exec. Board of the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting article and memories.

GREENFIELD'S BAKERY To the Boro Park Historical Society:

The enclosed picture must have been taken in the summer of 1936. This picture was taken in front of 1760-47th Street or one of the houses near it:



*Melvin Greenfield / 1936
Son of the owners of Greenfield's Bakery at 4616-18th Ave., B.P.*

The young boy near the pony is the son of the owners of Greenfield's Bakery at 4616-18th Ave.

In the Boro Park Community News of Feb. 16, 1994, in the "I Remember Boro Park" column, the article submitted by Teresa Sterne mentions the bakery as Kay's. This is incorrect. As I mention above, it was "Greenfield's Bakery" and I'm certain because I'm Greenfield's daughter. The delicatessen at 46th St. corner was Fuss's delicatessen run by the Fuss family. Continue your good work. Yours truly, Sarah Gerb.

Ed: We thank Sarah Gerb for her contribution of the old photo and comments.

FUZZY RECOLLECTIONS AND FAULTY HISTORY

by B.M. Selevan

When dealing with past events in a place like Borough Park, we often have problems due to fading and fuzzy memories, as well as hazy recollections, of long-ago events.

Even if the interviewee or person recalling a past event was an eyewitness or even a participant, with the passage of time and accumulation of newer memories, older memories often fade. This fading can cause loss of memory, as well as blurring or changing of relevant facts.

Often, an interviewee or source of historical information is a secondhand or even more distant account.

The more distant we are from a past event, the more errors are prone to creep into accounts of these events.

We must therefore exercise care, as much as possible to establish what really happened years ago.

One important source of information is contemporary newspaper accounts, written at the time of, or shortly after past events, when recollections were new and fresh, sharp and vivid, in people's minds. While these can occasionally be less than perfect, they are very important to us.

Contemporary recorded accounts and later memories complement each other. Both are valuable and important to historians.

What prompts the writing of these words?

Two recent blatant errors in regard to local institutions illustrate what can happen when one does not document facts and dates.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

#1 - The N.Y. Daily News of March 8, 1994 had an almost-full page story about the 66th precinct Police station. While trying to call attention to cramped conditions at the stationhouse, the writer mistakenly wrote that it was opened in 1943. Not so! Whoever gave him this date was off by about six years. It was dedicated in late 1949 (see Brooklyn Eagle, November 29, 1949 for account). The station is not over 50 years old. Also the previous station was opened in 1931, not 1932 (see Eagle, May 17, 1931).

#2 - One of the oldest Jewish congregations in Borough Park recently announced a Centennial dinner, celebrating 100 years of work in the neighborhood. In reality, this congregation is only 89 years old, according to our information (see Eagle, December 17, 1909, p. 19). Where does the figure of 100 years come from? Wishful thinking? The first Jewish Congregation in Borough Park was organized in 1902 (Temple Beth El), 92 years ago.

These are just two examples of how mistakes can be made and incorrect information disseminated.

Hopefully, people will be more careful in the future to make sure their information is indeed correct before they "go public" with it.

Inquiries and questions are welcome and should be sent to the Borough Park Historical Society. (cont'd on page 10)

(cont'd. from page 8)

ALBEN SQUARE FLAG FLIES AGAIN

It's nice to see a flag again at Alben Square, Borough Park's war memorial. Hopefully one day the gates will be fixed as well.

Alben Square was written about a while back in "I Remember Borough Park." That article probably encouraged the subsequent sprucing up of the square. To those responsible I say thank you and keep up the good work.

Ed: We thank B.M. Selevan for his interesting comments in the above two articles. Mr. Selevan is Chairman of Research for the Boro Park Historical Society.

PANKIN

The following is some information regarding my grandfather David Pankin.

After he came to America in 1886 he eventually settled in the Boro Park section of Brooklyn. He was one of the founders of Congregation Anshe Sfard located on the corner of 45th Street and 14th Avenue.

My grandparents donated the Aron Kodesh to the shul and the name Pankin is accordingly inscribed on it. — Harold Beck, Sunrise, FL.

Ed.: The above is an excerpt of a letter that appeared in the Jewish Press on 12/6/91.

SUBMIT YOUR FAMILY HISTORIES

You can help in the work of the Boro Park Historical Society to research, preserve and publish the history of this community, by submitting your own memories and family histories. You can also help by becoming a member of the B.P.H.S. Membership dues are only \$5 a year (\$3 for retired), \$10 for an organization or business. Send to B.P.H.S., 1276-46th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

(cont'd. from page 2)

CONGREGATION SHOMREI EMUNAH 1904-1994

Congregation Shomrei Emonah, located on 14th Avenue, corner 52nd Street, held a Testimonial Dinner on May 22, 1994 at Menorah Hall, celebrating almost 90 years of service to the Boro Park Community. At this Dinner the Synagogue honored Rabbi Yaakov Pollak, its current spiritual leader, who has served with distinction for fifteen years, and two old time Boro Parkers, Jack Verschleiser and Joseph Pekelner, for their outstanding service to the community. Joseph Gottlieb, also an old time Boro Parker, served as Dinner Chairman.

The exact starting date of this congregation is difficult to determine. As is true of many synagogues, prayer services at Shomrei Emonah started in private homes in an unofficial manner. Since no early records were kept and no early published material is available it is difficult to determine exactly when these prayer services actually began. The 1904 starting date is based upon the research of the officers of this congregation some forty years ago. The research of the Boro Park Historical Society indicates a starting date perhaps a year or so later.

The Souvenir Journal distributed at the Dinner contained a long interesting article delineating the history of this synagogue. The following are excerpts from this Journal with minor editorial modifications:

cont'd. on p. 8

"CONGREGATION SHOMREI EMUNAH

"Prior to 1907, Borough Park had no Orthodox Jewish Synagogue other than one at Forty-first Street and Twelfth Avenue. That was too distant for those living in the Fiftieth Streets, and a small group therefore organized a minyon in that year, and rented the second floor in a building on the corner of Fifty-sixth Street and New Utrecht Avenue for \$25 per month, where religious services were conducted. That was the origin of Congregation Shomrei Emonah.

"We know little of its membership of that time, except that on August 31, 1907, there was filed in the County Clerk's Office in Brooklyn, the certificate of incorporation, signed by Solomon Klotz, a Borough Park pioneer real estate man, and one of its first presidents as presiding officer, Solomon Lamport, Philip Marcus, Marks Horowitz, Aaron Raizin, J. Shapiro, and Harris Mayer as a majority of its members. Of these, we know that Solomon Lamport was the well-known philanthropist, and Philip Marcus was the father of our late members Louis and Hyman Marcus, who remained members until recent years, and whom a great many of us will remember.

"The interesting part of the certificate of incorporation, in view of the subsequent history of the Congregation, is that it provided not only for the maintenance of a Synagogue, but also for the acquisition of property for the purpose 'of a hospital and school and lecture room,' as well as 'a home for the aged poor of its membership or Congregation.' It is also significant that the certificate provided that the first annual meeting of the Congregation was to be held in December, 1907. Exactly fifty years later the Gold Jubilee Anniversary celebration took place.

"The Congregation continued to hold services at the New Utrecht Avenue quarters until 1911. In 1909, it purchased the lot 60'2" wide on the southeast corner of Fifty-second Street and Fourteenth Avenue, where the present Synagogue was erected. The Congregation apparently had very little funds at the time, for according to the deed, the total price of the lot was \$5,000, but \$4,000 of this was paid by way of a purchase money mortgage. Construction of the Synagogue was not commenced until 1911, and evidently involved great difficulty, for some of us will remember being told by our beloved late member, Jacob Rubin, of his carrying bricks and other building material to aid in its construction, and of his soliciting monies; also how some people, including his own daughters helped in raising funds for the building and completion of the Synagogue. Sufficient of the skeleton of the building was completed by the fall of 1911, to enable the holding of the High Holiday Days services there, with temporary equipment, including camp chairs. The shortness of funds continued, for the record shows that the Congregation had mortgages on its Synagogue property until 1927, which were finally paid off by contributions of its members.

"That shortness of funds, however, did not deter the Congregation from increasing the size of its plot, for in the intervening period it acquired not only the 20 foot plot immediately adjoining the Synagogue, but also the adjoining 40 foot plot with the building then erected on it, so that the Congregation now had a frontage on Fourteenth Avenue of 120'2."

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

"How well the Congregation has complied with the objects quoted above from its certificate may well be illustrated by the important role it has since played not only in Borough Park Jewish activity, but in that of the city and of the nation as well. Thus both the first Congregation Anshe Sfard and the Congregation Bnai Yehuda on Sixteenth Avenue are outgrowth's of our Synagogue, for they both were formed by former members of our Congregation. The Yeshiva Etz Chaim, the first Yeshiva Katanah in Borough Park, and probably one of the first in the whole country was organized principally by members of our Congregation, and our late members. Selig M. Schwarzschild and Gustav S. Roth, were respectively its first and second presidents. In 1919, Young Israel was permitted to use our Beth Medrash as a Synagogue. In 1921, the Congregation took a leading part in the creation of a Vaad Hakashruth of Borough Park, to the support of which it annually contributed \$1000 to \$1500 out of its own funds for many years.

"The present Maimonides Hospital had its birth in an emergency meeting in our Synagogue on a Saturday afternoon immediately after Mincha during the first influenza epidemic in this country. People were ill in practically every home, and necessary nursing services were unavailable. A temporary nursing corps was created at that meeting, which eventually resulted in the amalgamation of a small private hospital in Borough Park known as the Zion Hospital with another in Bensonhurst known as The Israel Hospital to form what was known as the Israel Zion Hospital, in the building and management of which many of our members too numerous to mention here, but including our ex-presidents Gustav S. Roth, Louis Hochstein, and Joseph Libman, also our late distinguished members Sol Friedman, Joseph Kalikow, and Jacob Neinken, played a most prominent part, and to the support of which our Congregation not only permitted an annual appeal in Synagogue, but also in 1924, contributed from its own funds, by endowing a hospital bed therein.

"The Aniyim Fund (Poor Fund) of our Congregation is outstanding for its enormous help since its creation to persons in need, and it remains a tradition to this day.

"The Malbish Arumim fund (Poor Fund) of Borough Park, which did such noble work among the less fortunate, was organized by some of the leading women of our Congregation.

"The Bnos Zion Mizrahi, the first women's Zionist Organization in Borough Park, which nobly contributed so much towards the support and upbuilding of Israel, has had and still has had and still has its center in our Beth Hamedrash.

"We dare not overlook the Chevra Mishnayis Ugmilas Chesed (Free Loan Fund) which was organized in June, 1934, by many of our distinguished members, now deceased, and by other noble souls who were interested in helping brethren in need of temporary financial assistance. It has established an enviable record by loaning sums of money without interest to innumerable persons, and it can always be depended upon in time of need.

"The motto of our Congregation has always been 'Torah, Avodah, and Gemilas Chasodim. (Torah study, Service and Acts of Kindness).'

"But Congregation Shomrei Emunah never was provincial. From the earliest days, it permitted an annual appeal for Federation, as well as for all the leading schools of learning and general welfare organizations, including the Yeshiva Yitzchok Elchanan and the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School.

"Our Congregation has been a member of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America since its creation, and one of our members is now an active member on the Kashruth Committee of that organization.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

"Its place in the building of the present Yeshiva College is best attested to by a letter dated April 25, 1923, written by the world renowned Mizrachist, Rabbi Meyer Berlin, z.l., who was then its president, to Mr. Joseph Libman, our then president, in which Rabbi Berlin stated, "From the records in the office of the Yeshiva, I have learned that your Congregation is leading all the Congregations in New York and in the country over, with its sincere devotion to our Yeshivah. Our directors as well as myself feel happy about your magnanimity and unfaltering devotion you have displayed these many years towards our Yeshivah. Of course, you should also feel happy and delighted about this fact because you are helping to build the greatest center of higher learning in this country, and you assist the promotion of Judaism on this continent.

"This is besides the individual liberality of the individual members of our Congregation to that great institution, among whom was our ex-president, Gustav S. Roth, who in his latest years gave all of his time and actually all of his money to its support as well as to the maintenance of the Israel Zion Hospital.

"Our Congregation has always generously supported the Mizrahi and its undertakings. The late Rabbi Wolf Gold, z.l. who played such important roles in American and world Mizrahi, was our spiritual leader for many years.

"The late Chaim Weitzman, then president of the World Zionist Organization, and later the first President of the State of Israel, while on a visit to the U.S.A., attended services at our Synagogue. It was on a proclaimed fast day. He fasted, and was given an Aliyah at the Mincha services.

"Many of the world's most learned and renowned scholars and rabbis graced our Synagogue with their presence at our services at various times through the year. To mention but a few, there were:

Rabbi Abraham I. Kook, z.l., first Chief Rabbi of Eretz Yisrael
 Rabbi Abraham Shapiro, z.l., famed Rabbi of Kovno
 Rabbi Moshe Mordecai Epstein, z.l., sainted Rosh Yeshiva of Slobodka
 Rabbi Baruch Ber Lebowitz, z.l., revered head of the Kaminetz Yeshiva
 Rabbi Elchanan Wasserman, z.l., martyred leader of Baranovice
 Rabbi Elihu Bloch, z.l., the Rosh Hayeshiva of Telse
 Rabbi Yisroel Rosenberg, Pres. Aguda Harabonim-USA
 Rabbi Issor Unterman, then Chief Rabbi of Israel
 Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, Rishon Lezion."

"Our Congregation has always played a leading part in American Jewish Life and has helped many Yeshivos, hospitals, homes for aged-gemilas chesed-help to the poor and many worthy causes in this country and Israel.

"The large influx of Chasidim from Williamsburgh and Crown Heights has led to the establishment of many Shtiebloch in our neighborhood. Despite a somewhat different outlook, they still regard our Synagogue as a suitable place for prayer and indeed many attend our services.

"Our Rabbis following the late Rav Wolf Gold have been Rabbi Dr. Harry Wohlberg, a famous Talmudist and orator of world renown. He was a musmach of Yeshivas Yitzchok Elchanan and subsequently served as professor of Homiletics at Yeshiva University. At the present time, our congregation is fortunate to have Rabbi Yaakov Pollak serve as its Moreh D'asreh (spiritual leader). During his fifteen years of service to Shomrei Emunah, we have been able to maintain our splendid reputation as one of the leading synagogues in America.

"Aside from our Rabbi, we are fortunate to be served by our Cantor Pinchas Rubin and Rev. Asher Blumenfeld. They truly enhance our services.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.)

THINKING OF INK

I was a pupil at P.S. 103, 53rd to 54th Streets and 14th Avenue, from the 1A through the 6B. I was fortunate that I had the same classmates my entire six years in P.S. 103. To name just a few, there was my close friend Cynthia Budove; Paul Neinken (whose father and grandfather donated large sums to Israel Zion Hospital); close friends Shirley Wechsler and Dolores Alter; Joan Solomon; Marcy Krasney; William Margaretten, a cousin of the Margaretten of Horowitz-Margaretten kosher foods; and my friend Helene Poris. Helene was a talented pianist; she died as a result of a mastoid infection when we were in Montauk Jr. High School.

I often think of an item that, as far as anyone knew, would be used forever — ink!

Classrooms had six rows of desks and seats, bolted to the floor, eight to a row. Some teachers seated three rows of girls and three rows of boys, while other teachers preferred to alternate the rows of boys and girls. In either case, boys and girls never sat in the same row.

On the upper right side of each desk, an inkwell was fitted into a small round hole. The inkwell had a pewter cover which could be lifted for pupils to fill the inkwell with their own blue ink.

A smaller hole in the cover, when opened, was for dipping the pen into the ink. Every boy and girl brought to school a pen, and points for their pen, a blotter, and a chamois cloth. When penpoints wore out, they were replaced with a new one. The blotter was for blotting a completed page of writing and the chamois cloth was for wiping the pen at the end of the school day. Ink was wet!

There were many times when a girl's braid would accidentally dip into the inkwell on the desk behind her. Luckily, I wore my hair short!

In brief, ink was a very large part of our lives, so much so that school children recited the ditty:

Ink, ink
A bottle of ink
The cork fell out
And you stink!

Lucille Posner

Ed: We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the B.P.H.S. for her interesting contribution and for all her past contributions to this column.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the history of this community by sending in your own memories and family histories relating to Boro Park. You can also help by becoming a member or making a contribution. Membership only \$5 per year. \$3 for retired, \$10 for organizations or business. Send to B.P.H.S., 1276-46th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN BORO PARK

A Historical Museum in Boro Park. What a wonderful idea! The Boro Park Historical Society has made 3 videos of parts of Boro Park and has taken hundreds of pictures. We have accumulated much files and historical information and actually found the founding family of Blytheborne section of Boro Park.

Now we want make a museum in Boro Park. We need a building and most important of all we need many new members and supporters who believe in the community.

Please join become a member. Business \$10.00 yearly dues, individual \$5.00 and special for retirees and seniors \$3.00 yearly dues. Please send your checks to Boro Park Historical Society 1276-46th St. Brooklyn, NY 11219. Or call (718) 854-1033.

Do you still have your old graduation books or pictures of scenes in Boro Park that you want to share with the community. We will make a copy and return your photo back to you.

This museum is for the pride and remembrance of our community and with your efforts it can be successful. Join Today.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following article was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her for her interesting article and contribution.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 10TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 10th annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society was held on June 8, 1994 at the Greater New York Savings Bank. Jaque Friedman, President, presided. He expressed his pleasure at the large attendance and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, President of the Canarsie Historical Society. Mr. Friedman thanked the Greater New York Savings Bank for making the bank's meeting room available to the community.

Mr. Friedman said that the photographs of old Boro Park, on display in the meeting room had just returned from a highly successful exhibit at the Boro Park Library. He pointed out that a copy of the Society's latest publication, Borough Park In The 1940's, had been placed on every chair.

Mr. Friedman thanked Past President Dr. Philip Kipust for his effective leadership of the Boro Park Historical Society during the past years and said he would continue to work toward the same goal as Dr. Kipust.

Mr. Friedman said that the Boro Park Historical Society welcomes donations of memorabilia and old photographs of Boro Park. He urged people who have these items to contact the President or a member of the Executive Committee. If anyone wants their photograph returned, the Society will make a copy and return the original.

Lucille Posner introduced guest speaker Ron Schweiger, Brooklyn historian. Mr. Schweiger, she explained, has a large collection of slides of old Brooklyn and his presentations have won wide favor with Brooklyn organizations and religious institutions. His slide presentation, "Life And Leisure In Old Brooklyn," records by-gone days in Brooklyn.

RON SCHWEIGER — GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Schweiger said that, as a teacher in a public school in East Flatbush, he tries to instill his pupils with a sense of history. *cont'd. on p. 8*

of the rich history of East Flatbush. In his spare time he conducts walking tours, mainly in Flatbush and Sheepshead Bay.

Mr. Schweiger observed that 1994 marks the 100th anniversary of the merging of the Town of New Utrecht with the City of Brooklyn. (Four years later, in 1898, Brooklyn merged with the City of New York.) Boro Park, he explained, is located within the boundaries of the former Town of New Utrecht, settled by the Dutch in 1647.

New Utrecht and the other Dutch towns in Brooklyn (except for the City of Brooklyn) were largely farmland 100 years ago. Brooklyn was built up after 1898 with the extension of the New York City subway lines to Brooklyn. Faster transportation made it convenient for masses of people to live in Brooklyn and travel to their jobs in Manhattan. Building on a large scale obliterated the beautiful countryside with its woods, meadows, and ponds.

Mr. Schweiger showed slides of early Borough Park and other neighborhoods in the Town of new Utrecht. He showed a slide of two girls walking in Bay Ridge near the Narrows — a cow was nearby! He showed slides of Midwood which, even as late as the 1920's, was sparsely populated. He showed slides of Sheepshead Bay, including a slide of the original Lundy's Restaurant, a simple wooden building.

Mr. Friedman thanked Mr. Schweiger for his informative and enjoyable presentation.

BOROUGH PARK IN THE 1940'S

Mr. Friedman introduced Baruch Selevan, Chief Researcher of the Boro Park Historical Society.

Mr. Selevan talked about the Society's latest publication, Borough Park In The 1940's. He complemented Mr. Schweiger for doing an excellent job in showing the building up of Brooklyn.

All Brooklyn neighborhoods, including Boro Park, Mr. Selevan explained, had developed from farmland in a similar fashion.

However, Mr. Selevan continued, each neighborhood is unique; the goal of a neighborhood historical society is to document this uniqueness. His own desire to document the history of Boro Park had led him to the microfilms of the Brooklyn Eagle in the Brooklyn Public Library.

During the 1940's, he explained, Borough Park reflected what was taking place in the U.S. and Europe. The new publication has a page of articles for each year of the 1940's. Mr. Selevan pointed out articles which showed the relation of Borough Park to world events.

World War II had begun in 1939 with the invasion of Poland by Germany. In the year 1940, an article reported that the Chief Rabbi of Finland (recently conquered by Russia) had spoken at a UJA emergency fundraising meeting in Borough Park. The purpose of the meeting was to raise money for food for Polish Jews, who had been put on starvation rations by the Germans. In the year 1941, an article reported that Congregation Anshe Sfard had donated money to plant an orchard in Palestine in honor

of Harry Zahler, President of the congregation. In the year 1942, Simon Slovitt, a Borough Park air raid warden, had suggested that part of the scrap metal being collected should be used for helmets for air raid wardens. Also in 1942, Young Israel of Boro Park marked its 25th anniversary. Subsequently, 20 members of Young Israel served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II. In an article in the year 1943, William Cohen, Executive Director of the Boro Park YMHA, described an affect of the war on the home front — an increase in juvenile delinquency. Many fathers were serving in the armed forces and many mothers worked in war plants and were not at home during the day. Children were left with little or no moral guidance. To counteract this, the YMHA expanded its youth activity program, to keep youngsters off the street.

Mr. Selevan continued, pointing out relevant articles for the years 1943 through 1949.

Jacque Friedman thanked Mr. Selevan for his talk about the Society's latest publication, *Borough Park In The 1940's*. He commended Mr. Selevan for the many hours of diligent research it took in order to compile the articles, available free to members.

Mr. Friedman reported that the past year had been a successful one for the Society and that the current year promised to be just as fruitful.

Mr. Friedman thanked the members of the Boro Park Historical Society for their support. Member's dues made possible the research and publication of *Borough Park In The 1940's* and all other research.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucille Posner,
Secretary

Dear Dr. Kipust:

As an old Boro Parker, I enjoy reading the "I Remember" column. I especially enjoyed Theresa Sterne's article and the lovely description of the trees and flowers which made our community a real park.

My parents moved to Boro Park in 1907 to a house on 45th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. This 2-family house remained in our possession until 1979 when my husband and I sold it, and moved to 58th Street. My father's choice of 45th Street was not a very good one because subsequently cheap, cold water flats were built on 44th Street and beyond, to the Culver line.

The streets from 45th Street upward had lovely 2-family and one family houses with well-cared for gardens and yards.

My older siblings (all now deceased) had to attend school in P.S. 103 on 54th Street and 14th Ave. until P.S. 164 on 43rd Street and 14th Avenue was opened. In fact, my brother Morris was the valedictorian of the first graduating class in 1911. (I am not sure of the date).

My sister Charlotte, my brother Nathan, and I all went to 164 where we received quality education.

Mrs. Carruther's cooking class (now it would be called Home Economics) has left indelible memories.

I often read about "new" information which Mrs. Carruthers dispensed 70 years ago. She taught us about nutrients, balanced diets, general hygiene, money management, as well as simple cooking recipes. I still have my cooking note book!

One memory leads to another, but this letter was written chiefly to thank Theresa Sterne.

Sincerely yours, Adele Ottenstein Weinstock

Ed.: We thank Adele Weinstock for her interesting contribution and for all her past contributions to this column.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Since "13th Avenue" is the so-called "Hub" of Boro Park, I get to spend a good deal of my time walking along the avenue, and going into the stores. During the course of so - doing, I unintentionally hear people's conversations and thereby hangs a tale.

I would say without exaggeration, that at least half the people living here, and those who come from other areas to shop here, do not know how to pronounce the name of our main institution for the ailing, namely, Miamonides Hospital. Not only do they mispronounce the name, but they also do not know its meaning. So I have decided to enlighten them on both accounts.

Moses Miamonides, called Rambam, was born in Cordoba, Spain in the year 1135. He was a Rabbi, philosopher and physician. He is best remembered for his "Oath for Physicians", his commentary on the "Mishna" and the 13 principles of the Jewish faith. His commentaries on Jewish law, medicine, astronomy and science, were translated into Hebrew and other languages, and influenced philosophers and medical education for many centuries. In his lifetime, he was regarded as the greatest Jewish thinker since Moses. Maimonides died in Cairo, Egypt in the year 1204. "Israel Zion Hospital", located on 10th Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets, changed its name to "Miamonides Hospital" in 1947.

To get back to the correct pronunciation of the "Hospital's" name, phonetically, it is written (mi-mon-i-déz) accent on the second syllable. A straight line across a vowel means say the vowel's name. The half curve across "mon" means the "o" is like in the word "not". The "i" is pronounced as in the word "if". "Déz" is sounded as if the word ends in "dez". Never, ever, say "mi-mom-i-dez. This is the way most people mispronounce the name, making the second syllable sound like "mom", a person's mother.

I hope this article will have some effect in saying "Miamonides Hospital" correctly, and that your readers now know for whom the "Hospital" was named and why.

Sincerely, Thelma Fox

Ed. We thank Thelma Fox, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting contribution.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

CONGREGATION SHOMREI EMUNAH

In the last issue we included excerpts about the history of Cong.

"Space does not permit mention of the many persons who have participated in the wonderful and exemplary record of the Congregation. We shall therefore limit ourselves to merely listing our presidents in the order and time of their service. They were:

Joseph Klotz (1907-8)
Philip Marcus (1909-11)
Joseph Klotz (1912-15)
Gustave S. Roth (1915-19)
Louis Hochstein (1919-21)
Joseph Libman (1921-22)
Max Silverstein (1922-23)
Joseph Libman (1923-49)
Hyman Bregman (1949-53)
Joseph Stillman (1953-55)
Abraham Bursky (1955-56)

Shmrei Emunah from the latest Souvenir Dinner Journal the following are additional excerpts about the history of this congregation.

Joseph Stillman
Joseph Levine
Marin Weissberger
Nat Pullman
Benjamin Weiss
Nat Pullman
Joseph Heisler
Joseph Gottlieb
Nochum Silberman
Leo Kurland
Imre Reves."

Some of our readers may have additional information relating to the history of Congregation Shomrei Emunah. We invite them to submit this information for inclusion in future articles.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Boro Park Museum receives several lovely pieces of old furniture. A dish closet from the 1930's and a lovely chest of drawers from the 1940's

If you know anything about finishing old furniture and want to help with our Museum, please contact the Boro Park Historical Society at (718) 854-1033.

We have started on a Life Membership Project. Join as a Life Member for individual \$100.00 and for Organization \$200.00. Call if you have some old items you want to give away. If you have old pictures, may we copy them and then return them to you. Share your memories, with the community and help give our history to our youth



Mr. Jacque Friedman, President of the Boro Park Historical Society, recently gave a talk to the 4th Grade Class of Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn 49th St. and 14th Ave. Mrs. Teichman is to be commended for her excellent work in helping the children of her class. Several video's were made available for the classes to view. Other schools may request videos and other information about the history of Boro Park.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can help in the interesting project of researching, preserving and publicizing the history of this community. Send in your own memories and family history, and old photos, documents and other memorabilia. You can help by joining the B.P.H.S. dues only \$5 per year, \$3 for retired and \$10 for business or institution. Life membership \$100 for individuals, \$200 for business or organizations.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

GAMES CHILDREN PLAYED

In February 1993 this column included an article that compared Boro Park of 1940 to Boro Park of 1990 for the types of business found in the neighborhood. It was of interest to note how many changes took place in the types of business during this fifty year interval. At that time we indicated that there would be future articles comparing other aspects of our community. In the present article we would like to compare the games children played then with those they play now, covering the same 50 year span.

In order to help me prepare this article, I had to pick the brains of my wife, children and grandchildren because I've been away from some of these games for awhile. Our readers are invited to share their own memories of games with us to help correct any errors and fill in any omissions in this article.

These are some games which we played in the 30's and 40's in Boro Park and elsewhere which do not seem to be played any longer in the 90's. We should keep in mind that in those pre-television, pre-computer and pre-air conditioner days, children (as well as adults) spent longer hours staying and playing outdoors. Moreover, the fact that there were so few cars traveling or parked in the streets then made it easier, safer and more inviting for children to play in the streets (gutters). Our family lived on a dead end street (49th St. between 18th & 19th Avenues) and as children we were able to spend long summer hours, undisturbed by cars, playing in the street (gutter).

OLD GAMES

The following are some of the games we played then which seem to have disappeared from the streets and homes of Boro Park. We are using a very broad definition of the word game

to include activities used by children of all ages to amuse themselves including ball games, rope games, circle games, card games, street games, board games, toys and crafts or hobbies.

Three-Feet to Germany, Marbles, Kick the Can, Johnny on the Pony, Box Ball, Ring-a-livio, Giant Step, Pitch the Penny, Hit the Penny, Skelzie, Tossing Baseball Cards, Horseback Riding (remember the horse riding path along Ocean Parkway?), Loopety-Loop, How Do You Do My Partner, Oats, Peas, Beans & Barley Grow, Pisha Pasha (card game), Roll the marbles into holes in a cheesebox, Fountain Pens, Tether Ball, Roll the Hoop.

There are a few games that are still seen in the stores but hardly ever seen being played or used by children in the community. Examples include: Jacks, Hoola Hoop, Horse Rein, Rubber Band Balls, Badminton, ShuffleBoard, Toy Trains, Sleigh Riding, Yo-Yo, Crocheting, Statues, Tinker Toys, Bocci, Erector Sets.

NEW GAMES

Then there are some new games played today which were unheard of in 1940. Some of these are the result of modern technology and others the result of children's and adult's imaginations. The following are some of these new games:

Roller Blading, Video Games, Computer Games, Walkie Talkie, Big Wheels, Kugelach (5 stones), Scrabble, Seven Up, Pass the Present, Steal the Salami, Tap Tap Trio, Topple, Tip It, Shipwreck, Foolsie, Capture the Flag, Miniature Golf, Stickers, Snakes & Ladders, UNO, Boggle, Trouble, Concentration, SPIT, Stratego, Hokey Pokey, Markers, Ball Point Pens, SPUD, Lego, Wireless controlled cars, trucks, etc., Kings Court, Clue, Pictionary. There are many other games, too numerous to mention, that have appeared in the toy stores. A few new craft activities for children are: 1) Hook Rug 2) Needle Point 3) Macrame.

There are of course numerous new dolls that can do just about everything, from drinking to giving birth. To help children play "House" we find numerous new appliances including refrigerators, cooking stoves, washers, dryers, full kitchens, ironing boards, strollers, telephones and packaged grocery items.

Then we have seen numerous games appearing in the stores of Boro Park designed for the Jewish community, dealing with Jewish holidays and Torah (Bible) personalities and topics. We also find many card collections, similar to baseball cards, but dealing with Jewish topics such as famous Rabbis and Sages, Jewish holidays or Torah (Bible) topics being collected and traded by Jewish youth.

continued on page 8

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 2)

GAMES THAT DIDN'T CHANGE

The majority of games played 50 years ago are still played today. Some games are modified a little, some are seasonal and some come and go in cycles. Although some of these games are no longer seen in the streets, they may still be played in nursery schools, camps or kindergartens. The following is the list of such games that I was able to prepare for the time being. In order to help organize this list I've arranged the games into several categories.

A) Ball Games

Paddle Ball, Dodge Ball, Volley Ball, Stoop Ball, Hand Ball, Soccer, Punch Ball, Basketball, Baseball, Football, Bounce Ball Games, Beach Ball, Off the Wall

B) Street Games

Tag, Hide & Seek, Races, Mother May I, Red Rover, Red Light, Green Light, Johnny May I, Hop Scotch or Potsie, Cops & Robbers, Scatter, Tug-o-War, Leap Frog, Jump Rope, Limbo (rope game), High Low (rope game), Potato Race, Double Dutch (rope game), Pussy in the Corner, Cat and Mouse, Chinese Jump Rope.

C) Board or Card Games

Monopoly, Candy Land, Chinese Checkers, Bingo, Checkers, Chess, Parchisi, Dominoes, Mah Jong, Poker, Twenty One, Bridge, Old Maid, Go Fish, War, Casino, Backgammon, Easy Money, Tic-Tac-Toe, Authors or Actors etc., Rummy.

D) Circle Games

Ring Around a Rosie, Farmer in the Dell, London Bridge, Simple Simon, Pat-a-Cake, Musical Chairs, Tisket-a-Tasket, Duck Duck Goose, Sleeping Beauty.

E) Miscellaneous Games

Hi-Li, Hockey, Roller Skating, Ice Skating, Fly a Kite, Bicycle Riding, Ring Toss, Play School, Doctor or Nurse, Play House, Build Snowmen, Snow Balls, Musical Chairs, Tricycle Riding, Hot and Cold, Charades, Ping Pong, Knock Hockey, Blowing Bubbles, Camp Guns, Paint Sets, Coloring Books, Crayons, Flipping Coins, Donkey's Tail, Telephone, One Potato-Two Potato, Password, Blind Man's Buff, Ghosts, I Spy, Indian Chief, Oil Painting by Number, Hide the Coin.

We didn't attempt to describe how these games are played because that would be too lengthy. Our purpose here was to develop a comprehensive list and note to what extent games have changed. However, we invite our readers to describe their experiences and memories of games played and include descriptions of how they were played in some instances.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

This is a note of warm thanks to Adele Ottenstein Weinstock for her kind response to my letter portraying the lush verdure in Boro Park years ago ("I Remember Boro Park," June 15, 1994). Indeed, even as I was trying to describe accurately my memories of that landscape, I wondered whether nostalgia was perhaps glorifying the details of those remembrances - the "golden haze of memory." And yet, referring to old snapshots taken during the Thirties and Forties, even though in black & white, seemed to confirm my impressions of the chiaroscuro effect of those rich layers of foliage in summer, dappling sidewalks and streets as though in a woodland. Needless to say, all this predated the air pollution, acid rain, etc. that has sadly

diminished our earthly environment. Now Mrs. Weinstock's comments seem to affirm the validity of my recollections, and it was heartwarming to learn that there are others who share poetic remembrances of those "good old days."

I also enjoyed very much Mrs. Weinstock's charming memoir of the "cooking classes" and so much more at P.S. 164. If only today's youngsters could receive the well-rounded education offered us in public schools of that era. It occurs to me too that Mrs. Weinstock might also take pleasure in reading Ruth Whitney Hadley Beal's memoir of "Blythebourne" (the turn-of-the-century predecessor of our Boro Park area), written in the 1960's, manuscript copies of which are available in the Boro Park Historical Society's archives. Mrs. Beal's account of the local way of life and surroundings in the early years of this century are full of charm and color, and not so very different from our own early impressions. All of that is part of history now, of course.

Thanks again to Mrs. Weinstock for the lovely note, and always to you, Dr. Kipust, for providing this valued column for airing and sharing such observations!

Most Sincerely, Teresa Sterne
Seeking Information

Perhaps one of our readers may have information to help our correspondent below. Although the synagogues and areas mentioned are not in Boro Park, we may have some local residents who lived in those areas at one time. Any information would be appreciated. It may be sent to this columnist at the Boro Park Community News and it will be forwarded.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

It is my understanding that you have synagogue records from Brooklyn. My grandparents, George and Rebecca (Gedalia and Rifka) Gonsky lived at 1100 Prospect Place in 1930 and with his second wife at 2862 West 24th Street, Coney Island from around 1944 to 1954. Would you have any idea which synagogue they would have attended? My grandparents were very religious and my grandfather was highly respected within the Jewish community. If you do know which synagogue it is, what records would you have?

Additionally, my parents lived in Brooklyn for a short time. In 1940 they resided at 9823 Avenue L.

They lived most of their married years in the Bronx. I am having difficulty locating records from their synagogue in the Bronx — it was The Emanuel Synagogue on Elder Avenue and 172nd Street. Both of my parents were very active there. Would you have any advice as to whom to contact for Bronx records?

Please let me know what is available to me and what the costs are.

Thank you so much. I'll anxiously wait for a reply.

Sincerely,
Reva Lowe
Boardman, Ohio

MY YOUNG LIFE IN BORO PARK

I come from a family of four — Mother, Father, sister and myself. We lived at 4109 15th Avenue. I was 11 years old when we moved there. I went to Montauk Jr. High School and had nothing but unhappy years there.

Forty one hundred and nine was a wonderful building. It was four stories high and we lived on the top floor. Every Saturday we went to the Windsor Movies, or for a change to the Culver movies, where I and all the others received free dishes.

Everything was nearby — the candy store on the corner of 15th Avenue and 41st Street, the barber

shop across the street where Dad got his hair cut, the kosher butcher on 13th Avenue where Mutter bought live chickens, Danny Esposito the Banana Man at 42nd St. and 13th Ave., Bevy's where we bought dresses, and the library where all our stories on any subject were easily found. All you had to do was walk a couple of blocks.

I remember the Seltzer Man; he brought up big cases of Good Health Seltzer just about every week; he was a very nice man. My friend Adrienne Mendelsohn lived on the next block — 15th Ave. and 42nd St. We had a large apartment with a long foyer, nice sized kitchen and two bedrooms. One bedroom had big windows that led to a fire escape overlooking an empty lot. That lot was eventually converted into two family brick homes.

I went dancing at the Borough Park YM/YMHA on weekends. When I became 16 & 17 years old I joined the Volunteers group of the Infants Home of Brooklyn. The Founder who ran this organization was Mrs. Saperstein. They took in children from broken homes and orphaned children. We had bake sales, dances and seminars on all subjects to raise money to keep the Home going. I was secretary and I took minutes on weekends. Sometimes I would take a child for a day's outing. They had such sad lives, not much hope for the future, unless some wealthy rich family would take them as their legally adopted family. Mrs. Saperstein has long since passed away, and the home no longer exists.

Thirty-four years have passed, and I now live on 58th and 14th Avenue. What a small world. I went all the way to Long Island, raised my son, in 1980 moved back to Bensonhurst, and in 1993 moved to Borough Park. What a strange twist of events, to be raised in Borough Park and to leave and come back in the mid-years of my life.

Helena Singer

THANK YOU CON EDISON

The Boro Park Historical Society wishes to acknowledge and thank the Con Edison company for its annual grant. The money will be used by the Boro Park Historical Society to maintain and expand its archives including its photo collection. Parts of the photo collection are exhibited in the Boro Park branch of the public library during the month of May each year.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help research, preserve and publicize the history of this community in several ways. You can submit your own memories of Boro Park and your own family history in the community. You can also help by becoming a member of B.P.H.S. only \$5 per year (\$3 for retired), \$10 for business or organization. You can also make a donation or become a life member for \$150. Mail to this

newspaper or to the B.P.H.S., 1276-46 St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

We thank Helena Singer, a member of the Executive Board of the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting contribution.

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
WAS NOT PUBLISHED
IN APRIL 1995

MEMORIES OF US ALL

The Boro Park Historical Society Ltd., has begun working on its Mini museum. We have acquired old pieces of furniture going back to the 1930's. We have much, much material and we now need a computer, scanner and printer. We ask the community to help us get either donations of these pieces of equipment or else to become members at \$5.00 yearly individuals, \$3.00 for seniors and \$10.00 for business.

If you wish to be a LIFE member, \$100.00 individuals and \$200.00 for business or organizations. We publicly thank Dime Savings, (remember the old Anchor Branch 48th St and 13th Ave.) Mr. Bruce KAPLAN, manager, for being the first to join. We urge people and business and organizations to do likewise.

Recently we got a donation of records which included The Wedding service and other melodies by Cantor David Kusevitsky who is still remembered for his tremendous voice. Perhaps there are records of other cantors that people wish to donate to our memorabilia collection.

Old letters, school journals, ad books, organization's anniversary materials, old clothing that has

school or organization names sewn on the clothing. Old pictures that you want to share, we will scan or make copies and return them to you. etc.

We are indeed indebted to Dr. Philip J. Kipust for his wonderful articles and stories about Boro Park. Lets have a great pride in our community, whether it was Dutch, Scandinavian, Italian, Jewish, Spanish, etc.

Call 718-854-1033, and we will come to pick up.

During the month of May, 1995 we will have our annual exhibit of pictures at the Brooklyn Public Library 13th Ave. and 43rd St. On June 6, 1995 at 7:30 P.M. we will have our annual open meeting at the Greater NY Savings Bank, Community Room, 53rd St and 13th Ave. John Gallagher, will speak about the Battle of Brooklyn and show slides. Remember the British soldiers marched up Old New Utrecht Ave. The street between 52nd St. and 48th St. Its History.

I urge you to join, contribute memorabilia, and come to our functions.

Jacque Friedman,
President B.P. Historical Society

MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the BPHS is scheduled for Tuesday evening June 6, 1995 at 7:30 P.M. at the greater New York Savings Bank. An interesting program has been arranged dealing with the history of the community. A photo display and other items will be exhibited. Admission is free.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ADDITIONAL 1940 MEMO- RIES

We have attempted to present the history of Boro Park in a number of different ways. One format that we used was to compare a 50 year interval of time in the history of this community namely 1940 and 1990. Thus in the issue of Feb. '93 we described and compared business activity in Boro Park between 1940 and 1990. In the last issue, March '95, we discussed and compared games children played during that half century interval. In this issue we would like to share some additional general memories of Boro Park in 1940. The readers can make comparisons to Boro Park today in their own minds.

Mail Delivery:

In 1940 mail was delivered to each house two times a day; once in the morning and once in the afternoon. On Saturday's there was only one delivery. First class postage was then three cents an ounce and postal cards were one cent.

The mail carrier carried the mail in a leather sack, strapped onto his back. He would carry a pack of mail in his hands and when that pack was delivered he would take his sack off and take out the next pack. In those days people didn't receive very much mail. There was very little of the junk mail we receive today. Each mail carrier wore a uniform with a cap. There were no women mail carriers then.

Today we have women carriers as well as men. Each carrier has a cart with wheels and strapped to it are two leather mailbags.

Traffic:

There was relatively little auto or truck traffic in 1940. Horses were still used occasion-

ally in Boro Park to pull wagons. We had a fruit and vegetable dealer who came around with his horse drawn wagon two or three times a week. The iceman had a horse drawn wagon and delivered ice daily in the summer time. The horses would sometimes slow traffic down as they tried to pass them. The streets or gutters, as they were called, would often have horse wastes in small piles scattered around in different locations where the horses had been standing. The horses and the wastes attracted many flies including horse flies.

Horses were also used for pleasure. The horse drawn merry-go-round children's ride, or carousel, was a common sight as the merry-go-round man visited different streets in the summer time to give children rides for a penny or two. Little ponies were used to give children rides for a few cents or by photographers who came around to take pictures of the children on the ponies for a small fee.

Corner Speeches:

In the late 30's, probably until 1941, the communist party was still very active in the U.S.A.

In Boro Park on Friday nights communist party representatives would set up a platform and make speeches. The usual location that I remember was on the corner of 13th ave. and 44th street between the two stores, Woolworth and Kresges. The platform was set up in the gutter and passersby would gather around and listen to the party speeches. All business was open Friday night in those days and many people walked along 13th ave. then in the evenings.

When Russia signed a peace treaty with Germany, during WWII, the communist speakers were jeered and booed and were not able to speak. When the U.S. declared war against Germany in Dec. 1941 the communists didn't dare to show up any more.

There were occasional other speakers as well. Sometimes there were peddlers selling newly discovered all purpose medicines. Sometimes there were religious speakers such as missionaries. During election years there were occasional political speakers and candidates for office.

UNITED YESHIVOS FOUNDATION:

Boro Park Historical Society recently acquired a photocopy of a 56 page pamphlet called "Yeshivos Review" which was published in April 1941 by the United Yeshivos Foundation Inc. Some of our older readers may recall the work of the United Yeshivos Foundation in the late 30's and early 40's. They were organized to help all the yeshivos

by forming a united fund-raising organization and campaign. Membership was one dollar per year and each member was automatically enrolled in a kind of lottery which provided substantial monetary prizes. The proceeds of this United Fund Raising Campaign was distributed to the participating yeshivos throughout the U.S.A.

In 1941 there were three yeshivos in Boro Park which are listed in the pamphlet. They were The Hebrew Institute of Boro Park, The Yeshiva Torath Emeth, and The Yeshiva Torath Emeth, and The Sholomith Institute for Girls. There were 36 yeshivos throughout the U.S.A. which are listed in this pamphlet. Today there are more than 36 yeshivos in the Boro Park Community alone.

The pamphlet describes 18 of the yeshivos in some detail including the following two from Boro Park. Many of the readers will find some of the details and the names of great interest.

continued on page 6

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 2)

HEBREW INSTITUTE OF BORO PARK

13th Avenue and 50th Street
Brooklyn, New York

The Yeshivas Elitz Chaim, established in a neighborhood almost entirely Jewish, is one of the prides of the Borough Park community, by which it is known as the Hebrew Institute. It was founded in 1916, and chartered by the University of the State of New York, whose representative has lauded its plant, its administration, and instruction as being far above the average.

Begun with seven students in a rented synagogue room, this outstanding yeshiva now occupies an entire block at its present location. Over five hundred pupils are cared for by forty-two instructors, through all grades including the first year of high school.

The principal of the Hebrew department is Rabbi M. I. Shulman; of the secular school, Max Mufeld. Of the nearly thousand graduates there are many who have distinguished themselves in American and European Yeshivos and colleges, including the Yeshiva College, Oxford, and the Sorbonne. There are two Pulitzer and one Rhodes Scholr among them.

The officers include: president, Alex Lehman; vice presidents, Hyman Bergman, Irving M. Bunim, Henry L. Kraushar, William Weingarten, and George Fish; financial secretary, Samuel Greenfield; treasurer, Philip Bodek. The president of the ladies' auxiliary is Mrs. Goldie Kraushar.

YESHIVA TORATH EMETH

4407-12th Avenue,
Brooklyn New York

Providing almost personal instruction in small classes, the Yeshivas Torath Emeth of Brooklyn has in eleven years expanded into an institution with an enrollment of 175, and with six secular classes headed respectively by Rabbi Jacob Shapiro and Mr. M. Mandel. It has 200 graduates, who studied in its original 48th Street location and in its present comfortable quarters at 4407 12th Avenue.

This institution is noteworthy not alone for its work among the Jews in Borough Park and vicinity, but also for an openheartedness which has impelled it to accept 75 percent of free pupils. These include 20 refugees as well.

The present structure has been used for three years. Plans for expansion and advancement of activities are constantly before the loyal and hard working officials.

The officers include B. Silber, president; D. Jotkowitz, first vice-president; Joseph Deutsch, second vice-president; M. Biegeleisen, secretary; and Samuel Waldman, chairman of the board of directors.

The officers of the ladies' auxiliary are: president, Mrs. D. Daniel; vice-president, Mrs. R. Waldman; treasurer, Mrs. L. Deutsch. Mr. Ben Lieber is president of the Young Folk's League.

AN 1896 DESCRIPTION OF JEWISH STUDENTS

The following article appeared recently in the newsletter of "The Greater Ridgewood Historical Society Inc." It should be of interest to our readers to see how the Jewish students were viewed in 1896.

(From The Whitestone Herald, June 11, 1896)

"The records of the public schools of New York City show that the attendance of the Hebrew children is more regular than the attendance of any other class, and that their standard of scholarship is higher. No sacrifice is considered too great by the Hebrew father and mother to keep their children at school as long as possible.

A Hebrew who cannot read and write his own language at least is the exception. An educational restriction on education would have no appreciable effect in excluding Russian Hebrews. The Hebrews are a temperate people, and the saloon is not likely to become an element in their social and political life.

Instead of beer and strong alcoholic liquors, they drink enormous quantities of tea and coffee. Hebrew immigration is free from the objection so commonly urged against immigration in general, that it increases crime and pauperism. The Hebrew quarter in New York, although more densely populated than any other tenement district, is rarely the scene of serious brawls or disturbances."

RABBI SAMUEL E. STRAUSS

Rabbi Samuel E. Strauss was the Rabbi of Congregation Ohel Abraham Mishkon Joseph located at 4444-18th Avenue, from approximately 1940-1944. I remember him because my family

attended services at that synagogue in those years. He was the Rabbi there when my grandmother Ida Kipust (R.I.P.) passed away in 1941 and he came to our home to pay a condolence call.

While looking through the books in my home library recently, I came across a copy of a book he had written in 1944 and had presented to my grandfather. The title of the book is Gan Shmuel. The front page notation states, "Lectures and Interpretations upon Biblical and Talmudic Subjects."

The Rabbi's address and phone number are listed as, address: 1683-53 St., Tel.: Windsor 8-4023. I remember passing Rabbi Strauss's house on many occasions and was attracted to the sign in front of his house which read "Rabbi Samuel E. Strauss-Performer of all Rabbinical Performances." I do not remember if the sign was at the location of the address mentioned in the book or at a different location where he lived. Perhaps one of the readers will recall the sign and the location.

THANK YOU BROOKLYN UNION GAS CO.

The Boro Park Society wishes to extend its sincere thank you and appreciation to Brooklyn Union Gas Co. for its annual grant to the BPHS. The grant was allocated for use in further developing the archives of the society. The archives of the BPHS consists of photographs, articles, books, magazines, documents, and other memorabilia relating to Boro Park history. Additional acquisitions will be made with this grant.

MAY PHOTO EXHIBIT

A photo display of Boro Park historical scenes is on exhibit at the B.P. branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at 43rd Street near 13th Avenue. The exhibit sponsored by the BPHS is on display during the entire month of May.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can help research, preserve, and publicize the history of this community in several ways. You can submit your own memories of Boro Park and your family history in the community. You can also help by becoming a member for only \$5 per year (\$3 for retired), \$10 for business or organizations. Life membership is available for families at \$100 or for businesses or organizations for \$200. You are invited to join and support its work. B.P.H.S.: 1276-46th St., Bklyn NY 11219

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

MORE ABOUT GAMES

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Your article on children's games awakened many memories. Boys and girls played "May I Take a Giant Step", in the street. A leader was chosen and the other children faced him in a row. The leader said, for example, "Lucille, you may take (one or two or three) giant steps." If the selected child forgot to say "May I?" he or she was out of the game, which continued until one child, the winner, remained. There was a different game called "Three Feet to Germany". Unfortunately, I can't remember how this game was played nor can anyone I asked.

At birthday parties we

played "musical chairs" or "Marching to Jerusalem". Let's say if ten children were present, nine chairs were placed in a row. An adult would play a tune on a piano (humming would serve the same purpose). When the piano playing suddenly stopped, we children all rushed to sit down on a chair. The race was to the swift, and the child who remained standing would be out of the game. A chair would be removed and the game continued. The child who remained at the end of the game was the winner.

During the summer I played Monopoly with two or three girlfriends. We would sit on my family's open porch at 1441-51st

Street (demolished) and play for hours. We were usually unable to finish the game in one day and the game would be continued for days, sometimes for as long as a week. Even today, I still find the game fascinating--although, then and now, I always lose!

Then there was a toy sold to girls called, to the best of my memory, "Lariat". It consisted of a length of colored crepe paper about 1/2 inch wide, inserted in a handle. When the handle was pressed, the crepe paper flew out in a circle, like a lariat.

How pleasant and fleeting are the pleasures of youth!

LUCILLE POSNER

We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting letter.

The game "Three Feet to Germany" as I remember playing it, was as follows: All the players lined up on one curb while the person who was "it" stood in the middle of the gutter and called out "Three Feet to Germany". The players on the curb took three steps as large as possible, into the gutter and stood there. Each player then tried to run to the opposite curb without being tagged by the caller. Whoever was tagged

by the caller became "it" and became the caller during the next round. If he didn't tag anyone the caller was "it" again.

TERRITORY

Mr. Shmuel Goldstein, of Goldstein Press, on 46 St and 16 Ave., advised me that I left out a game boys played very often called TERRITORY. In this game boys would draw a line in the ground to form a circle or a square, then the boys would throw a pocket knife into that area. If the knife stuck in the ground the thrower would draw the line in the direction that the knife was facing and cut a piece of the circle or square. The object of the game was to cut up the territory until there was not enough lift for the player to fit his foot in it. The last boy to cut the territory was the winner.

In those days boys often carried pocket knives very proudly in order to play games or to carve wood etc. Using knives for fighting or for crime or even for self protection was unheard of.

We thank Shmuel Goldstein for bringing this information to our attention.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

My article of 9-3-87 about Rabbis and Cantors in Congregation Bnai Yehuda

during the late 1920's, 1930's and 1940's mentioned Arele Diamond as one of the Cantors. The name should have been Arele Blum.

continued on page 8

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 2)

At the conclusion of that article, I promised to discuss sports in Boro Park during those years. To this day, I did not keep my promise. However, your beautiful and extensive list of games in general 50 years ago woke me up. So thanks to you I will concentrate on "ball" sports that were popular from 1925 (the year my family moved to 1676-52nd St.) thru the decade of the 1940's or a few years following the Second World War.

In my book, punchball was the most popular sport and for several reasons:

1. Punchball was played on almost any street. But some streets were favored. Our punchball team had as its home court the wide 17th Ave., starting from the corner of 52nd St. and stretching toward 53rd St. The starting point or "home plate" was the round sewer cover in the middle of the gutter. The playing field then took the shape of a diamond with 1st base located 50 feet away on the gutter touching the sidewalk. 2nd base was on a line with home plate in the middle of the gutter, usually on another round sewer cover, also some 50 feet from 1st base. Coming back toward home plate, exactly opposite 1st base was 3rd base. With 1st base and 3rd base as the cornerstones, the playing field stretched out toward 53rd Street and beyond. Generally, the sidewalks were part of the playing fields, the gardens were not.

2. The ball was a simple, small, rubber ball, preferably a "spauldeen high bouncer". If we did not have the money to purchase a spauldeen, we tore the cover off an old tennis ball and we were in business.

3. Punchball had 2 teams opposing each other, either 5, 6 or 7 men on a team. The team on offense had 3 "outs" to score as many runs as possible, similar to modern baseball. The defending team was spread out to prevent the opponent from reaching the bases safely and scoring runs. On the offense, each player would take a step or 2 forward and "punch" or slap the ball, hoping the ball would bounce in fair territory and thus he could reach 1st base ahead of the defensive team's throw to its 1st baseman.

Again, similar to modern baseball, the game consisted of 9 innings, the team with the most runs was the winner.

Punchball was so competitive that we would wager on the game. Usually ten cents or twenty five cents a man, which was lots of money for us kids those days.

4. The scarcity of autos in those days was very favorable. Should an auto be parked on our court on 17th Ave., we would simply release the brake and move the car to the next block.

5. Punchball had two types of offensive hitters. First the long ball hitter (The Proverbial "2 Sewer Hitter"), and then the fellow who would punch or slap the ball in spots where the defensive player could not "throw him out."

BOXBALL was the next popular ball sport, again because the same inexpensive ball was needed and the game could be played in the gutter or on the sidewalk.

There were several versions of boxball. The popular one was played on the corner of an avenue. In many ways it was similar to punchball, but different in that the playing court was much smaller, using the four corners of the gutter as the four bases:

Boxball made use of a pitcher, who would single bounce the ball to the batter. The batter would slap the ball with his hand. If the batter placed the ball well, he ran to 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base and on to home plate for a home run. The scoring was similar to punchball. A maximum of six players formed a team.

A miniature form of boxball was a game called "Triangle". Remember, anybody?

Another popular ball sport was and still is handball, played either against a wall, a building, or in a school yard. We played with a Spauldeen.

There were two versions of handball: "American" and "Chinese". In "Chinese", you bounced the ball once before the ball hit the wall.

Dr. Kipust many more ball sports at a future time. Thank You!

In the meantime, how about a Boro Park Old Timer's Olympics: at P.S. 192 or 164, or anywhere else in Boro Park with Kosher hot dogs, soda, pretzels, etc.? And you as the commissioner.

We thank Arthur Steinmetz, a former resident of Boro Park, for his interesting letter.

According to my recollection we played the game he called Boxball but we had a different name for it. I think it was called "Diamond". We also played it in the middle of a block, not necessarily at the four corners. We drew a court in the shape of a diamond or square from one curb across to the next. Do any of our readers remember another name for this game?

The game Triangle was played in a similar way. Instead of four bases there were only three, first, second and home. The court was in the shape of a triangle also from one curb to the other across the street. A pitcher would throw the ball on a bounce and the hitter would slap it and run to the first base. The rules of punchball applied except that the ball must be hit within the triangle territory.

The game we called Boxball was played on the sidewalk with two players facing each other and two cement boxes between them. The ball (Spauldeen) was slapped by one player into the box of his opponent and the opponent would slap it back after it bounced. Each player could put one foot into his box. If the ball hit any of the lines or landed outside his opponents box. The hitter was out and the opponent received a point. When one earned eleven points, or whatever amount was agreed upon, he would win the game.

The game was sometimes modified to include four players with four boxes in a square following the same rules. Four boxes could be found in driveways, near corners or in front of stores.

We thank Mr. Steinmetz also for his suggestion of forming a Boro Park Old Timer's Olympics and especially for offering me the title of Commissioner. I've been offered many positions and called many things in my lifetime but this is the first time, (including all my dreams and fantasies) for the title of Commissioner.

ADDITIONAL MEMORIES OF THE FORTIES

Toys and games were made of wood, paper, metal or rubber. There were no plastic products then. Chess and checker pieces were made of wood. Real expensive ones were made of ivory.

Even forks and spoons used for picnicking were made of wood. If you purchased a cup of ice cream (Dixie Cup) you would get a small wooden spoon with it. Today most of these products are made of plastic.

In 1940 we still wrote with fountain pens, there were no ball point pens yet. We used ink blotters to help the ink dry faster and ink eradicators to help eradicate errors made when writing with ink. Nowadays we use white out to correct errors when writing with ball point pens or typing.

Homes were heated with coal fuel in 1940. The coal man would deliver truck loads of coal which would be delivered to the basement of the house with barrels. The coal would be poured down a metal chute and collected into a barrel at the other end. Ashes had to be cleaned from the furnace daily and taken out to the street.

FIRST USA BICYCLE PATH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

(submitted by B.M. Selevan)

As it is said that "no man is an island", similarly it can be said that "no neighborhood is an island". Every neighborhood is subject to influences from outside its borders, be they economic, social, political, etc., while it, in turn exerts influence in other areas.

In that vein I would like to present a story of Ocean Parkway which adjoins Borough Park, particularly focusing on the Ocean Parkway bicycle path.

This year marks one hundred years since the opening of the first dedicated bicycle path in the United States. The path, along Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn from Prospect Park to Coney Island, was opened with great fanfare on June 15, 1895. Here's how it happened.

In 1876 Ocean Parkway was completed and opened from the still new Prospect Park to a Coney Island just starting to become a popular resort. It was a new type of road, a 'Parkway', intended as an extension of Prospect Park. At that time cycling in this country was still in its infancy, the domain of a small number of people riding primitive machines.

This soon changed, however. In the following years cycling grew and grew in popularity as great improvements were made in technology of cycles. The advent of the safety bicycle, pneumatic tires and more making the bicycle more safe and comfortable, along with mass production by American manufacturers brought about the bicycle craze of the 1890's. The 'Silent Steed' as it was sometimes called, brought greatly enhanced mobility to millions of Americans. Newspapers and magazines were filled with cycle news and advertisements. Although the vehicles then were significantly more costly than today, millions purchased their own vehicles.

In an America becoming more and more urbanized, the horse was of limited value. In a large city, many did not have room for and/or could not afford the feed and upkeep of a horse. A bicycle was an attractive alternative, being quiet, quick, relatively clean and not needing to be fed, etc. It did not need a stable for its lodgings.

Brooklyn and New York were hotbeds of cycling with a number of clubs and many riders who campaigned for a bicycle path to Coney Island fruitlessly for some years. When a new administration came into office one year, a sympathetic ear was found and work finally began on the path. Interestingly, the cost of the new path was shared with the city by the cycling community, as the city claimed to be short of funds.

On June 15, 1895 the path opened with a parade of thousands of cyclists passing by a flag and bunting draped

reviewing stand containing the Mayor of Brooklyn, most of his cabinet, cycling dignitaries and a military band thousands of spectators lining the route to Coney Island. It was a spectacular day. The path was so popular that it was widened, redone and a return path constructed in following years.

After the turn of the new century, the cycling craze died down as automobiles became the rage on the land. The path became less busy. As cycling declined with some exceptions, so did the first path.

One hundred years later, cycling has come back a bit. The bicycle path still exists, albeit in a truncated form, narrower, neglected, rerouted and encroached upon. It's mere existence though, for one hundred years, is worthy of remark, commemoration and reflection.

Ed: We thank Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society, for his interesting article.

PARTICIPATE IN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

You can help further the research, preservation and publication of the history of this community by submitting your own memories, attending meetings, volunteering your time and skills and becoming a member. Membership dues are \$5 a year (\$3 for retired), \$10 for business or organizations. Life memberships now available for \$100 per family. Write to Boro Park Historical Society:

1272-46th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11219

THE BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
WAS NOT PUBLISHED
IN OCTOBER 1995

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following are the minutes of the annual general membership meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society held at the Greater New York Savings Bank. The minutes were prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, Secretary of the B.P.H.S. We thank her for her interesting contribution.

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 6, 1995

Jacque Friedman, President, greeted the audience and thanked Past President Dr. Philip Kipust for contributing to the success of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS).

President Friedman said that the Society's next goal is to have a mini-museum. To that end, photographs, yearbooks, and other memorabilia

have been acquired and donated. He expressed thanks to Rabbi Shook, who had just given the BPHS several phonograph records of the renowned Cantor Moshe Koussevitsky of Boro Park.

IRA KLUGER-GUEST SPEAKER

Lucille Posner introduced Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society. Mr. Kluger has lived in Canarsie most of his life. He is an Assistant Deputy Director in the NYC Office of Legal Affairs. He is on the Board of Directors of the Flatbush Historical Society, the Sunset Park Historical Society, and the Liberty Pole Association. He is a member of the Bay Ridge Historical Society, and the Society of Old Brooklynites. He also serves

on the House Committee of the Wyckoff House Association. Ms. Posner said that Ira Kluger was undoubtedly the person most qualified to speak on historical societies in Brooklyn.

Mr. Kluger said the leading historical society in Brooklyn is the Brooklyn Historical Society, founded in 1864. He explained how various local historical societies function. Some local historical societies do not have members but make information available to writers, schoolchildren, etc. These are the Bensonhurst Historical Society, the Kingsborough Historical Society, the Gravesend Historical Society, and the Sheepshead Bay Historical Society. The Canarsie Historical Society, founded in 1982, has members, conducts research, publishes historical articles in a neighborhood newspaper, and has a table at the annual Welcome Back to Brooklyn Fair. The Weeksville Historical Society takes its name from a community of African-Americans, located in what is now Bedford-Stuyvesant. The Wyckoff House Association finances and maintains the Wyckoff farmhouse in Flatlands. Bob Diamond, who discovered the abandoned railroad tunnel under Atlantic Avenue, founded the Brooklyn Railroad

Association. The Fort Hamilton Historical Society focuses on the history of Fort Hamilton.

Mr. Kluger said that the Boro Park Historical Society has members, and maintains archives, and has a column, "I Remember Boro Park," in the **Boro Park Community News**. He commended Baruch Selevan and Dario Marotta for their thorough research.

President Friedman thanked Ira Kluger for his comprehensive and illuminating presentation and called upon Past President Dr. Philip Kipust to extend greetings. Dr. Kipust

pointed out that the BPHS hopes to foster residents' pride in their neighborhood and to awaken nostalgic memories as well as preserve the history of the neighborhood. Neighborhood schools and writers doing research frequently call him for information. The BPHS also has given the Boro Park and Mapleton Libraries reference materials, including the book containing a compilation of "I Remember Boro Park" columns.

JOHN J. GALLAGHER

GUEST SPEAKER

President Friedman introduced John J. Gallagher, author of the book, *The Battle of Brooklyn-1776*. Mr. Gallagher, a Park Slope resident, lived in Europe for many years; where he was a reporter for Hearst Newspapers and Fairchild Publications.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 2)

His major interest is history. He is the largest, single contributor to the *Encyclopedia of the City of New York*, soon to be published. He wrote the book, *Human Proportion*, about the building of the Upper West Side and wrote the Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island sections of the *New York Walk Book*.

Mr. Gallagher expressed his pleasure at being invited to speak at the meeting. He observed that Brooklyn has more historical organizations than any other borough in New York City. Brooklyn residents are proud of their heritage and seek to preserve it. He pointed out that the first battle after the signing of the Declaration of Independence took place in Brooklyn.

On August 22, 1776, a combined force of 22,000 British and Hessian soldiers landed on Gravesend Bay and near where Fort Hamilton is now.

Only 12,000 U.S. soldiers were stationed in Brooklyn.

Some British troops marched down 18th Avenue and then down Old New Utrecht Road, towards the town of Flatbush.

Mr. Gallagher related the story of Nelje Cowenhoven, a beautiful young widow with a baby. Nelje lived with her father-in-law, Garrett Cowenhoven, on the Cowenhoven farm at 52nd Street and 18th Avenue. As the British troops marched down 18th Avenue, Garrett Cowenhoven, Nelje, and her baby were in a wagon, preparing to flee. Nelje suddenly remembered that she had left her large mirror behind. She handed the baby to her father-in-law and ran back into the house to retrieve the mirror. The family left a slave behind to watch over the cattle and the house.

When the British arrived at the farm, they asked the slave if his owner was loyal to King George III. To all questions, the faithful fellow only answered, "My master is Garrett Cowenhoven." (Mr. Gallagher explained that, because of the liberal policies of the Dutch, Brooklyn had the largest percentage of free Blacks in the thirteen colonies.)

On August 27, 1776 at 9:00 A.M., in the vicinity of what is now 3rd Avenue and 8th Street, near the Gowanus Creek, 17,000 British soldiers faced 1,800 U.S. soldiers. The British army was made up of professional soldiers and the U.S. army consisted of citizen volunteers. Realizing that he was hopelessly outnumbered, U.S. General Sterling ordered his men to retreat across Gowanus Creek, leaving 400 Maryland soldiers to draw the enemy fire. It was clear the battle was lost and it was expected that the 400 Maryland soldiers would surrender. Instead, they counter-attacked. General Washington watched the battle from Brooklyn Heights and said, "What brave men I must this day lose." Of the 400, 256 Maryland soldiers were killed; the rest made it back to the American lines.

The British had won the first battle of the Revolutionary War and prepared to attack the U.S. army, who were camped on Brooklyn Heights. However, it was raining and windy on the night of August 27th and the British decided to wait until the weather cleared before mounting an attack. There is no doubt that, when the British soldiers stormed Brooklyn Heights, Washington's army would be destroyed and the British would win the war.

Even though the winds and rain made rowing on the East River hazardous, the American army managed to escape to Manhattan that night. It so happened that some of General Washington's soldiers were New England fishermen, who could row almost as soon as they could walk. They succeeded in rowing all of General Washington's soldiers to Manhattan during that stormy night. When dawn broke, the British saw that George Washington and his army were no longer in Brooklyn. The American army fought on and the rest, as they say, is history!

Mr. Gallagher showed slides of the areas described in his book. Battle Pass, down which the British marched, is now part of Prospect Park. The terrain in Prospect Park looks the same now as it did in 1776. Jacque Friedman thanked John Gallagher for his very interesting presentation and said he looked forward to reading the detailed story in the book, *The Battle of Brooklyn-1776*.

President Friedman said that annual membership dues are \$5 for individuals, \$3 for retired persons, and \$10 for institutions and businesses. Life membership dues are \$100 for individuals and \$200 for institutions and organizations.

The president invited interested persons to join the Executive Committee. He thanked the audience for attending the meeting and said that he looked forward to seeing them at the 1996 annual meeting.

MORE GAMES AND TOYS

One of the popular playthings used by boys during the 30's and 40's was the home made scooter. It was constructed by nailing an orange crate or some other wooden fruit crate on to a piece of 2x4 wood about 5 or 6 feet long. Under the 2x4 would be attached skate wheels.

The boys would scooter along on the sidewalk or gutter by holding on to the wooden crate in front of them, placing one foot on the 2x4 wood and the other foot on the ground, running a little and then jumping on to the scooter with both feet, the metal skate wheels on the sidewalk made a lot of noise.

Some more innovative boys would attach wooden handles to the crate and reflective mirrors to the back of the scooter. This was a common toy during the depression years when money was scarce. Boys loved to own their own scooter and would ride them frequently.

SIXTH GENERATION BORO PARKERS

In previous columns we asked our readers if they knew of any fifth generation Boro Parkers now living in the community and to share that information with us: we define the term "Boro Parker" loosely to include anyone who lived in Boro Park at some time in his or her life.

In our column of March '94 in a piece entitled "Old Boro Parkers Unite" we wrote about the union of two fifth generation Boro Parkers, Shloime Weissman and Shaimy Kornfeld. We are happy to report that a sixth generation Boro Parker, Elimelech Weissman, was born to them (thank G-d) on Feb. 21, 1995.

In May '94 in a piece entitled "More Old Boro Parkers Unite" we wrote about the union of a fifth generation

Boro Parker, my granddaughter, Toby Yarmush, to a third generation Boro Parker, Sadya Grama. We are again happy to report a sixth generation Boro Parker, Chaya Esther Grama was born to them (thank G-d) on October 2, 1995.

Both babies, cousins, trace their lineage to Elias and Ida Kipust (RIP) who moved to Boro Park in 1921. In both cases there are four generations currently living in Boro Park. The previous two generations passed away while living in Boro Park.

There undoubtedly are other residents in the community who are fifth or sixth generation Boro Parkers. We would like to hear from them, listing the names, and other information. This information will be kept in our archives and included in this column.

THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOVED TO NEW QUARTERS

The previous premises of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) were sold and the society was therefore required to move to new quarters. The BPHS was thereby placed in a dilemma. The previous office space was graciously and generously provided rent free by the owner Mr. Kulok who had family roots in Boro Park and was interested in the work the society was doing. Now the society did not have sufficient funds to rent office space. It does not receive any government grants or funding. The small income it receives from membership dues and donations and utility company project grants is just enough to cover the expenses of acquiring photos, videos, and other items for the archives, running meetings and mailing expenses. There are no paid employees. All the work is done by volunteer members.

The officers of the society were unsuccessful in locating office space rent free or at

very minimum costs. What to do?

Fortunately, one of the officers of the BPHS came to its rescue, graciously and generously offering to pay half the rent for one year if the society succeeds in raising the other half. The officers happily and thankfully accepted this offer and agreed to spend additional time and effort attempting to raise the additional funds necessary to continue its operations.

The BPHS was successful in locating new office space, in a very good location and at a reasonable rental. The new location is at 4707 13th Ave., One flight up, above "Zolands for Men and Boys" store. The new premises are larger and and nicer than the previous one. It is also the location where Brooklyn Boro President Howard Golden had his district office giving it a little historical prominence.

The new office space will enable the BPHS to go ahead

with its long standing dream and plans to develop a little mini museum of Boro Park history. It hopes to arrange for public viewing hours to enable school classes or the general public to visit the museum.

In order to help the BPHS continue its work and expand its activities it is searching for sources of funds from industry, private philanthropists or government grants. Perhaps our readers may be in a position to help. The BPHS is a purely cultural organization, non-denominational, non-political, non-profit and may be entitled to funds or grants stipulated for such purposes. In addition membership dues, life membership dues and general donations will help the organization survive and expand its activities.

Dues are only \$5 (\$10 for business or organization, \$3 for retired, \$100 life membership per year). Donations and dues should be sent to BPHS 4707 13th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11219, or call 854-1033 or 436-7729. Every little bit helps.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Dear Dr Kipust:

I always read your column "I Remember Boro Park" with interest, being a third generation Boro Parker.

Some time last year you had a column concerning life here in the 1940's as opposed to the 1990's. My family moved to Boro Park in 1951, so I have no recollection of the 40's but thought you might want to publish something about the 1950's and am happy to give you my recollections to that end.

During the 1950's, perhaps only 25% of the population was Hassidic, as opposed to near 80% today (my own estimation). Then, approximately 35% were Orthodox, Conservative and a scattering of Reform Jews, about 30% Italian and the remainder Puerto Rican, Scandinavian and other European residents. I remember only two Black families in the neighborhood at that time.

In the 1950's, very few business establishments were open on Sunday. Whereas today almost all are open with the exception of liquor stores which are prohibited by law from doing business on Sundays. Two that were open on Sundays in the 1950's were Rothstein's "Department Store" on 13th Avenue (near 39th St.) and a bakery on the S/E side of Ft.

Hamilton Pkwy and 41st Street (name forgotten).

In addition to the Boro Park Hardware Store on 59th St. & 14th Avenue and the Weiss Men's Wear on 13th Ave. between 44th and 45th Streets, mentioned in your 1940's article as still operating today, four stores that I know of that were there in the 1950's and still exist today are Lane's Drug Store (now at 4623-13th Ave.), Linick's Toys (4811 13th Ave.), Scotto's Bakery, now greatly expanded from the original store at 3807-13th Ave. and a candy store (name unknown) on New Utrecht Ave. between 44th and 45th Streets (E/S) right near the subway entrance.

Speaking of candy stores, I fondly remember one (name unknown) on 12th Avenue & 43rd Street (S/W corner) operated by a Mr. Smith whose eyeglasses were so thick they resembled Coke bottle bottoms. I remember one time that a friend and I each had a quarter and decided to spend our combined 50¢ on candy at this store. Since most candy cost from one to five cents at this time, we got a huge amount and then proceeded to devour it while sitting on

my front stoop that afternoon. We were both so gorged that we couldn't eat dinner.

There was Ebingers Bakery on 13th Ave. (between 49th & 50th Streets) on the E/S that provided the neighborhood with a variety of exquisite baked goods. My father and I were particularly fond of their raisin bread and coconut custard pie. There was another bakery, Hascomb's, at the N/W corner of 13th Ave. & 44th Street, right next to Woolworth's, that sold ice cream in what was then called "bricks" of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry. My family would buy a brick (sold only in the summer) then slice it in pieces to make ice cream sodas with Hoffman's Black Cherry Soda. When this bakery closed in 1959, Flagg Brothers Shoe Store opened there. As an inducement to customers during the first week of operation, they gave a handsome wood shoeshine box, complete with several tins of polish, brushes and chamois cloth with each pair of shoes purchased. Both my grandfather and father purchased shoes as a result and these shoeshine

continued on page 6

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 2)

boxes are still used by our family.

I fondly remember Packer's Supermarket at the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 46th Street (S/E) now occupied by Boro Park Lumber. It had two entrances one on New Utrecht (main) and the other on 46th Street. The latter was my favorite because it was there that the giant red Coca Cola machine was situated. Put your coin in and a cold, dewy bottle slid out. Readily opened by a tug upon the built in bottle opener on the upper left hand corner of the machine - and then, the thirst quenching quality it had! A stack of wooden bottle holders stood nearby for the empties. But we patronized supermarkets primarily for the produce and canned goods. For everyday groceries my grandmother would call one of two grocers (depending on which one she was mad at) either Hymie on 12th Avenue between 44th and 43rd Streets on the W/S who was a concentration camp survivor or Mr. Schubert on the N/W corner of 12th Avenue and 43rd Street. Both of these had their

sons deliver and 5c was the customary tip. My grandmother was also a weekly caller to the Silver Star Butcher at 3906-13th Avenue for home deliveries but when they moved out patronized the White Eagle Market at 628 5th Avenue.

Both my grandmother and grandfather worked in Brooklyn laundries. In fact that's where they met; they married in 1927. In his later years my grandfather, Achilles (Arty) Wulffaert worked for the Arrow and Champion Laundries. He worked until he was almost 82, walking to work at 62nd Street and New Utrecht Avenue from 44th Street and 12th Avenue unless there was snow on the ground, whereupon he would take a bus. He died in 1970 and was widely known throughout Brooklyn. Hundreds of people (many of whom the family did not know) turned out for his funeral.

There were also the doctors who were always available for a house call, unlike today. There was Dr. Levy at 1167-45th Street who was cross-eyed and sang "Oh Suzannah" to me while giving me a shot and Dr. Marandino at 1113-45th Street who had a radiation device in his office which he used to treat various ailments. There also was Dr. Stousland of 11th Avenue who came to the house three times a week to give my grandmother shots for her arthritis. I also want to mention a dentist, Dr. Termini, who was located on the N/S of 44th Street between Ft. Hamilton Pkwy and 12th Avenue. My teeth still have the fillings he administered in the 1950's.

There also were certain neighborhood repair persons who came to our house. Some that I remember are M&B Radio (51st & New Utrecht Avenue) who fixed appliances and televisions, the Reliable Tinsmith Company and Strafacci Plumbing.

It seems, regarding your prior articles, that you've focused primarily on boys games. There were girls games too. One was played with a pink "spaldeen" ball that involved bouncing it around the girl's outstretched right leg (if she were right-handed), or if left-handed, the left leg. The girl would bounce the ball on the ground, then as it rose up to meet her hand, lift her leg over it, slap the ball down again, lift her leg over it and keep repeating this until she missed. Upon missing, it became the next girl's turn. Any number could play. There were many "songs" that were sung to punctuate the bounces of the ball but the one I remember best involved the alphabet. The object was to have each girl use different names while using the same letter of the alphabet. Her turn continued until she missed bouncing and turning her leg over each bounce. The first girl might say, "A (bounce) my name is Alice (bounce) and my husband's name is Albert (bounce). He is an accountant (bounce) and we live in Arkansas (bounce)." The girl would then pause if she wished and then continue, "B (bounce) my name is Barbara (bounce) and my husband's name is Bob (bounce). He is a barber (bounce) and we live in Baltimore (bounce). One won by getting to the letter 'Z' first.

The way kids chose who would get to play first, second, third, etc., at games was usually with the following rhyme, touching (or pointing) at each in turn, "Eeeny, meenic, miny, moc, catch an Indian by the toe; if he hollers, let him go". The child pointed to, at the word "go" was first, and the process was repeated until all had their turn appointed. The second method was known as "odds and evens". This involved sticking out one finger (odd) or two fingers (even) between two children. Each had to call out either "odd" or "even" while stretching out their fingers. The one who called it right out of three times got to go first.

I remember the old Blythbourne Post Office at 56th Street & 13th Avenue with its rows of post office boxes in the middle and the clerks behind ornate ironwork grills. It also had a large wooden table in the center for people to write, sort mail or whatever.

Please keep on writing your wonderful columns for the benefit of old and new residents.

Yours Truly,
Sue Markus
1215-44th Street

(Ed. We thank Sue Markus for her very interesting letter and contribution to the history of this community.)

NEW UTRECHT DISPENSARY

Dear Dr. Kipust:

In 1912, when I moved to Boro Park with my family, I was one year-old. I remember going to the New Utrecht Dispensary when I was about 8 years old. The fee for a clinic visit was 50 cents. We used our family doctor for major illnesses and went to the clinic for minor ailments.

I remember one time when the receptionist said to a little girl, "How come you are here? You are so beautifully dressed?" The girl's mother answered "Just because I wash and starch my little girl's dresses doesn't mean that I am rich!"

I went with my father to the laying of the cornerstone of the Israel Zion Hospital on June 29, 1919. Most of the area around the new hospital was still farmland. I was more interested in watching the horses plowing the fields than I was in watching the laying of the cornerstone! I remember

Joseph Barondess, who was a successful lawyer. He was a founder of the Israel Zion Hospital and he donated money to many Boro Park Institutions.

Hannah Harris

(Ed. The above article was submitted by Lucille Posner, An officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Hannah Harris, both past contributors, for this additional interesting contribution.)

MORE GAMES

Dear Dr. Kipust:

"Triangle" was also played in a school yard, with four bases. A class was divided up into teams. Two teams played each other during recess.

"Points", "Grounders", "Immies", "King of the Royal Mountain", "Kick the Can" and "Kings" were other games and sports played years ago.

"Kings" was related to Chinese Handball, but each player had a box. For instance, if there were three players, each had a box. The first player was "King", objective of the other players was to advance to become "King". If the number 2 (player) in the no. 2 box defeated the "King", he

advanced to the no. 1 box and became "King".

Yours Truly,
Samuel Dycen

(Ed. We thank Samuel Dycen, a past contributor, for his interesting contribution to the series on games.)

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Over the last few years you have responded so kindly to my little Boro Park reminiscence notes, and since 1995 saw my final departure from the beloved old family home on 49th Street (now to be home to a new generation of owners), it would seem not inappropriate to share with you some long-ago and lingering impressions.

The family came to live in Boro Park in 1930 after a long turn-of-the-(last)-century migration — my mother's parents from Vilna and Riga, meeting and marrying in England in 1880, then residing for some years in Paris and in Jerusalem. It had been the dream of my grandfather's life, as one of the pioneers in the early Zionist colonization movement founded by Hugo Pinsker, to help build a Jewish Homeland. (To the meetings in Paris would come and sing Abraham Goldfaden, famous lyric composer of operettas and one of the founders of the Yiddish theater.) And finally, to America — first, to a country village near Boston, then on to various Brooklyn districts, coming to rest at last in Boro Park. My father, though, was a Manhattan native (the youngest of nine siblings whose parents had emigrated from Poland before 1900), but on marrying my beautiful mother he made the big move to Brooklyn. I was born in a grand old brownstone on St. Mark's Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant and was just three years of age when the family — my father and mother, my maternal grandmother, my aunt and two uncles — moved to the stucco and stone house on 49th Street, making this truly my childhood home.

It is perhaps the aroma of the dark oak wood of which our house was constructed that haunts the memory most, a fragrance that bespeaks health and history; it was especially pungent on rainy days, of which we had many when I

was a girl. The architect who designed the place, the Norwegian-born Edward Olsen, had been commissioned to design every alternate building on that side of the street. This grand project was undertaken by Edward Johnson (1863-1940), a pioneering developer and builder in many parts of Brooklyn and Long Island, including the Lido Country Club, the Jamaica Race Track, and the ill-fated Dreamland amusement park in Coney Island, among countless other enterprises. In fact Edward Johnson made such a name for himself in the U.S.A. that he was eventually invited and honored as a guest of the King and Queen in his native Norway.

The 49th Street commission resulted in six or eight one-family houses completed in 1911 (I'm not certain just how many were built originally, since almost all are now gone with the bulldozers) with nearly identical exterior features: huge stucco-covered pillars, four pagoda-style dormers at the top facing the four points of the compass, numerous stained glass windows, veranda porches, etc. But inasmuch as Mr. Olsen planned 1657 for himself and his young bride, this dwelling alone was to contain the detailed structure, interior crafting and decor, the rich, dark-grained oak wood shipped directly from Norway, the wainscoting, moldings and shelving, huge ceiling beams, mantelpieces and buffets, and so forth. It also sported an unusual two-toned roof, its colored shingles alternately brick red and slate blue.

We learned the historical facts about the house from the ladies who lived next door at 1663 — a great old frame house dating from before 1900, its fireplaces and cherry wood and marble mantles all demolished in 1963. They recalled that Brooklynites from other neighborhoods journeyed to 49th Street to witness this unique building in progress — a "dream house" that was being hand crafted on the spot. Nothing less than brass, copper, and bronze was used for all the metal hinges, handles, nails, screws, door-knobs and knockers that went into such a building.

I recall as a tiny girl sitting on the golden oak stairs, gazing at the exotic

grain in the wood paneling of those great doors and walls, until I would see in them glorious scenes of sunsets and trees, storms, battles, faces and flowers. And in later years, I would sit practicing at the Steinway preparing for the concerts I gave as a teenager, I was often transfixed by the passage of sunlight and shadow across those same doors and walls, seeing dancing figures and patterns that shifted with the hours and seasons, an ever-changing but perennial choreography. In this house was the tick-tock of time. Time passing yet with the illusion of permanence. For here there was a cherishment of things of beauty, the preservation of things of the mind, a space for philosophers.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd. from page 6)

In that house one felt one's place on the planet as its wheels in its diurnal turning. For through the 44 windows facing in all directions, at all levels and angles, came all the lights and shades of day and night, from the earliest opal and rose of dawn, the brilliant gold of morning, platinum of rain or snow at noon, the amber and silver rays of late afternoon, delicate and sometimes flaming sunsets, the crepuscule of dusk. Then the first glimmer of stars, the rising and setting moon in all its phases; the velvet dark of midnight and deepest nighttimes; the passing of clouds. And always, sighing and whispering, sometimes roaring, the leaves, branches and blossoms of surrounding trees tall and small, bushes, hedges, and vines. To view the summer moon magically riding the clouds through the garnet leaves of our Japanese maple and plum trees that embraced the front of our house was to sense the eternal cycle of nature, of which we are all a part.

On the very last evening I spent there, the furnishings all removed, rooms emptied, the oak walls and pillars, doors and archways, staircases and Newel posts and softly gleaming oak floors echoing to my footsteps, I was suddenly moved to sing an old Yiddish lullaby to the house — the same one my little grandmother had sung to me there (she passed away just four months after the move to that home, though in that brief period she had planted the great pine tree in the

back and the first, now oldest, of the plum trees which still stands.) Somehow, it felt only right to close the cycle in this way. "*Schlaf mein falguleh, mach tzu dein atgaleh; schlaf, schlaf mein kindt... ai-u-u, at-u-u, at-u-u...*" ("Sleep little bird, close your eyes; sleep, my child... at-u-u, at-u-u, at-u-u...")

With all good wishes,
I remain, Sincerely,
Teresa Sterne

(Ed. We thank Teresa Sterne, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society, and past contribu-

tor, for her interesting contribution, describing her arrival to and emotional departure from her Boro Park home.)

SUPPORT THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can support the work of the B.P.H.S. by submitting your own memories and family histories in B.P. You can also help by becoming a member of the B.P.H.S. Membership dues are \$5 per year, \$3 retired, \$10 business or organization. \$100 Life Membership. Send to B.P.H.S. 4707 -13th Avenue, Brooklyn N.Y. 11219.

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