"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

by

Dr. PHILIP J. KIPUST

Volume III

(1996 - 2004)

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2022

BORO PARK
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
2005

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PREFACE

The unique community of Boro Park, today is considered to be the largest community of Orthodox and Hasidic jews in America. It wasn't always like this. To understand how it got that way, is to know and understand its rather obscure and little known history.

A good source of information, can be found in a monthly column written by Dr. Philip J. Kipust, and published in the Boro Park Community News, since 1976 and entitled: "I Remember Boro Park".

The column chronicles the history and culture, and its social, political and economic life. It lists and comments upon buildings, structures, streets, spaces and parks; all which weave the tapestry of this unique community, in the heart of Brooklyn, called Boro Park.

The column consists of letters from readers, researched articles by members of the Boro Park Historical Society, and original material written by the columnist.

There is information on churches, synagogues, schools and yeshivas. Transportation, stores, hospitals, restaurants, businesses, clubs and organizations.

Articles on former and current residents, such as rabbis, teachers doctors, lawyers, comedians, even opera singers and baseball players.

Since most of the information found in this column is chronicled nowhere else, and since newspaper articles are scattered and soon lost, we have decided to re-publish the column, since its inception, in a three-volume book format:

Vol.I covers the years 1976 to 1987.
Vol. II covers the years 1988 to 1995.
Vol. III covers the years 1996 to 2004.

Each volume contains a Table of Contents and an INdex.

All three volumes have been placed in various local libraries, and other local book depositories, which are generally well known to present and future historical researchers.

It is hoped that, the column "I Remember Boro Park", as re-published in book format, will encourage future researchers and historians to write about this unique and interesting community called Boro Park.

Dario S. Marotta
December 2004

SELECTED BORO PARK CHRONOLOGY

1657	Town of New Utrecht established.
1868	Edgewood Chapel established.
1885	Brooklyn, Bath & West End R.R. re-organized.
1886	West Brooklyn development started.
1887	Blythebourne development started.
1894	Town of New Utrecht annexed to City of Brooklyn.
1898	Boro Park Company starts to develop the area.
1902	Temple Beth-El, first synagogue in B.P. founded.
1916	West End surface line elevated above street and connected to the new 4th Ave. subway.
1918	Boro Park Y.M.H.A. opens.
1919	United Israel-Zion Hospital formed by a merger.
1920's	Construction of many large apt.houses,schools,theaters.
1931	Opening of Boro Park Police Station.
1939	13th Ave. Retail Market opened (eliminated push carts)
1955	New Boro Park Public Library opened.
1960's	Hassidic groups begin to settle in Boro Park.
1978	Start of "I Remember Boro Park" column.
1970'&80's	Hassidic and Orthodox groups dominate Boro Park. Establish many synagogues & yeshivas.
1980's	Revitalization of many homes and businesses.
1999	Opening of the Avenue Plaza Hotel.
2000's	Lack of space for expansion and resulting overcrowding lead some to seek other suitable areas. Flatbush seems to be the preferred area.

CONTENTS

"I Remember Boro Park"

Vol. 3

Date	Subject	Page
Jan. 1996	Nostalgic memories of Louise Offenbacher and family, their escape from Hitler's Germany and life in America and Boro Park; Lucille Posner writes about people she has known: the Herlands family and other relatives and friends; The memorable blizzard of 1947; Thank you to Con Edison for recent grant.	1-5
Feb. 1996	More on the Great Blizzard of 1947, by Teresa Sterne; More by Raymond Kipust and Shmuel Goldstein; Thank you from Nicolette Ladoulis for help in writing history of Maimonides Medical Center; Photos of Great Blizzard.	6-9
Mar. 1996	The Harbater family move from Boro Park to Israel in 1952; Newspaper articles, researched by B.M. Selevan on above; Article on opening of Borough Park Club House.	10-11
Apr. 1996	B.M. Selevan writes about much ballyhooed "Encyclopedia of New York City"; Dario Marotta's letter on Yavne Rabbinical Seminary; correcting information on changes in transit fares.	12-13
May 1996	Lucille Posner writes on information given in Encyclopedia of N.Y.C.; Cancellation of Borough Park Silver Jubilee by B.M. Selevan; Researching history of your house, with a brief history of columnist's house.	14-16
June 1996	Early days of Boro Park as published in the Boro Park Voice; Story on "Power of Tzaddik".	17-18
Sept. 1996	History of First Congregation Anshei Sefard; Stories of Holocaust survivors in Boro Park.	19-22
Oct, 1996	Ilona Penner Blech, another survivor; Shmuel Goldstein adds to history of Ansche Sefard; Lucille Posner adds more about Sabena Yaroslawitz; Gloria Evans remembers Boro Park.	23-25

Date	Subject	Page
Nov. 1996	Ken Oskosciewicz, guest speaker at B.P. Hist. Soc. annual meeting, as reported by Lucille Posner; Pres. Friedman writes to editor of Encyclopedia of N.Y. C. offering his help; some information on early years of Buddy Hackett.	26-28
Dec. 1996	"A Study of Boro Park in 1953" by Barbara Pearlman; Lucille Posner writes interview with Sylvia Cohen Shulman about her memories of Boro Park.	29-32
Jan,. 1997	"A Study of Boro Park" part 2 by Barbara Pearlman; Boro Park memories by Darla Chavkin; Vol. 2 of "I Remember Boro Park" covering years 1988 - 1995 completed.	33-35
Feb. 1997	"A Study of Boro Park" part 3 by Barbara Pearlman; some information on Leah Harris Goldstand by Lucille Posner; Additional Boro Park memories by Darla Stone; President Friedman's annual report.	36-40
Mar. 1997	Story of Gina Rosenmund Biegeleisen, Holocaust survivor and now Boro Park resident; Boro Park reunion in Israel with Edith Lieberman; Obituary of Jack Verschleiser.	41-44
Apr. 1997	Another "Study of Boro Park" done at Brooklyn College Graduate School; Story of Adelay Bakst Liss, submitted by Lucille Posner; Historical photos display at Boro Park Library.	45-48
May 1997	Part 2 of "Study of Boro Park", Death of Edna Nelsenius, beloved teacher; Emanuel Schwartz's talk on "Tradition"; Cezar Del Valle, movie on historian will speak at Annual Meeting.	49-51
June 1997	Lucille Posner comments on movie theatres; Letters from readers commenting on previous articles; odds and ends.	52-53
Sept. 3, 1997	Cezar Del Valle, Guest Speaker, at Annual Meeting entertains with slide show and history of movies. Report written by Lucille Posner, Daniel Wax, memories of Boro Park, some of it as a poem.	54-57

Date	Subject	Page
Oct. 1, 1997	Teresa Sterne, nostalgic memories of Boro Park entitled "The Magic Garden". Edith Lieberman, Israel resident remembers Boro Park, Dr. Kipust meets former Boro Parkers in Israel.	58-60
Nov. 1997	Armand Paul Grunberg, Executive Dir, of Y-orchestra tells his story; Recent death announcements Rabbi Zevi Tabori; William Blatt; Rabbi Zev Joseph; Hillel Miller; Esther Hendrikson.	61-63
Dec. 5, 1997	Paul Zittel writes of his life and family in Boro Park; Bnai Brith Lodge in B.P.; Boro Park homes for sale in 1898 Bklyn Eagle.	64-66
Jan. 12, 1998	Leon J. Hoffman, PhD. tells of his life and family in B.P.; Morton A.A. Gross, D.D.S. life in B.P.; Listing of 1946 New Utrecht High School graduates who lived in B.P. from "Comet" yearbook.	67-69
Feb./Mar. 1998	Boro Park as seen and reported in the news media; Bernice A. Blumer remembers B.P.; More names of B.P. graduates from "Comet" yearbook.	70-72
Apr. 1998	Lucille Posner reports on the Dorothy Phillips Geiger life and family in B.P.; Death of William Kufeld; more names of graduates from the 1946 "Comet" yearbook.	73-76
May 1998	David Kent-Abbott comments and expands on Dr. Kipust's article; Boro Park in the news media; More names of graduates in the 1946 "Comet" yearbook; 1956 photo of students at Yeshiva Etz Chaim.	77-79
June 1998	B.M. Selevan submits Eagle article on 25th Anniversary of B.P. Library; More graduates from 1946 "Comet" yearbook; attempt to follow-up on list of graduates.	80-82
Sept. 1998	Shalamith graduates re-union after 55 years with before and after photos. Story of Renee Schick of Schick's Bakery; letter on B.P. Library.	83-85
Oct. 9, 1998	"Boro Park Then & Now" historical article in "Jewish Week" documented by Dr. Philip Kipust.	86-87

Date	Subject	Page
Oct. 1998	Eric Ierardi, Pres. of Gravesend Hist. Soc. guest speaker at Annual Meeting as reported by Lucille Posner; Story of Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz and Rabbi Ellias Schwerte, including chronology.	88-91
Feb. 1999	Boro Park Centennial celebrated last year (1998); Goldstein brothers tell of Yeshiva Toras Emes; Information from 1935 graduation program; Photo of B.P. R.R. Station.	92-94
Mar. 1999	Abraham Lass, former high school principal and author tells of his experiences as a piano player in the Eagle Theatre a local silent movie house; Some old B.P. photos submitted by Shlomo Goldstein; 1956 newspaper article tells of Jewish H.S. honoring the memory of a local war hero.	95-97
Apr. 1999	Obituary of Rabbi Moshe Sherer, local leader and President of Agudath Israel of America; Lucille Posner submits obituary of Dr. Miriam Freund-Rosenthal; former Hadassah President and Zionist leader; Old B.P. photo.	98-101
June 1999	Ralph Broth, local resident tells of his youth in Boro Park; B.M. Selevan reviews "Borough Park - Centennial Edition 1898-1998"; New luxury hotel being built in B.P.	102-104
Sept. 1999	Two young Yeshivah students, Juda Munk & Leon Rosner find lost money and return it to the owner and donate reward to their needy school. Many years later they meet again. Tell of their life in B.P. and after; Hyman Finn's memories of B.P.	105-107
Oct. 1999	Mrs. Peter Rose, expert on foodways of Native Americans and Dutch Settlers, guest speaker at Hist. Soc. Annual Meeting; Martin Gangursky's memories of B.P.	108-111
Nov. 1999	Men's hats in Boro Park over the years, by B.M. Selevan; Recent death announcements: Grand Rabbi Moshe Stern; Rebetzin Zisel Bick; Rabbi Levi Krupenia; Rebetzin Chaya Hinda Rokeach.	112-115

Date	Subject	Page
Feb. 2000	Friends of Historic New Utrecht, organized to preserve history of old town of New Utrecht; More death announcements: Rebbetzin Rachel Wertheim; Rabbi Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky; Max (Mordechai) Lewko	116-119
March 2000	Real Estate values in Boro Park in 1911; Story of Coney Island fire; Revolutionary War Historical Trail planned in N.Y. State; Report by Society's Pres. Jacque Friedman.	120-123
April 2000	Letter from Annie (Kobe) McPherson seeking Kobe descendents; Old Boro Park photo; corrections to previous articles.	124-126
May 2000	Mike Getz, local author tells of growing up in Boro Park; Yeshiva Etz Chaim honors outstanding alumni; religious institutions no longer in Boro Park.	127-128
June 2000	Historical changes in Boro Park, Yeshiva Toras Emes moving to Flatbush, New construction on Old New Utrecht Road, Temple Emanuel sold; Items from old newspaper clippings, merger of Israel & Zion hospitals, cornerstone laid for Holy Ghost Chapel, Zion Org. Weizmann to visit B.P.; McDougall estate will sell land.	129-132
Sept. 2000	Mike Getz author to be, guest speaker at Hist. Soc's Annual Meeting. Mini-museum gets State grant; Congr. Beth-El dedicates new building, Cantors at dedication; Boro Park theatre bought by Loew's.	133-135
Nov. 2000	Obituary Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr, long time leader of Temple Beth-El. Merger with Young Israel; Dr. Kipust interviews Boro Parkers in Cape Cod; Old newspaper article about coal shortage, dedication of Machzike Talmud Torah, protests on building apt. house in B.P.	136-140
Dec. 2000	Interview with Manny & Elaine Wollman former Boro Parkers, now living in Israel on occasion of visit to B.P.; Some old news clippings; lay cornerstone of St. Catharine Church, Run on Municipal Bank in B.P. ends; Boro Parkers demand more police protection. Robert Furman gives details of proposed Heritage Trail.	141-144

Date	Subject	Page
Feb. 2001	Goldstein-Schaum Wedding unites two long time Boro Park families. Teresa Sterne, musical prodigy and B.P. Hist. Soc. Member dies; More old news clippings: Cornerstones of Temple Beth-El sold at auction, Protestant Minister tells local Protestant churches to unite in order to survive.	145-148
March 2001	Portrait of Rabbi Mordechai Aharon Kaplan, 50 years after his passing, researched by Mr. B.M. Selevan. Story of Fink Press, old establishment in B.P.	149-153
May 2001	Interview with Joseph Rabinowitz, Holocaust survivor and former Boro Parker, Lucille Posner write about the memorial service to the late Teresa Sterne.	154-156
June 2001	Life story of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes (The Tzadik of Boro Park) during a period when Boro Park became more orthodox and his influence in the change. Interviews with relatives and friends to help understand the change. Death of Joseph Dube at age 102 of Park Surgical Co.	157-162
Sept. 2001	Robert Furman, guest speaker at Annual Meeting explains the proposed Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. Report on Liberty Pole festival to be held at Reformed New Utrecht Church grounds. Readers' comments on Rabbi Parnes article. Thank you to columnist from Pres. Friedman for an outstanding article.	163-166
Oct. 2001	Archaeological Dig done at section of Old New Utrecht Rd. Results and artifacts recovered appear to be of a more recent nature and are inconclusive. Residents oppose proposed playground as reported in old Eagle newspapers; Merchants urged to stay closed one day a week. Photo of Universal Theatre.	167-170
Dec. 2001	Shimon David Biegeleisen, local Boro Parker victim of World Trade Attack on September 11, 2001. Family history in Boro Park. Temple Emanuel of Boro Park closed.	171-174

Date	Subject	Page
Feb. 2002	Mike Getz, author, Boro Parker & recent guest speaker publishes a book, "Brooklyn Boys, A Memoir"; Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation office moves out of B.P.; Public School #131 celebrates 100th Anniversary.	175-178
Mar. 2002	"The Orthodox Community in Boro Park" speech by Ms. Rashi Stolzenberg at Kingsboro C.C.; More on World Trade Center attack; Willie Sutton captured 50 years ago.	179-181
May 2002	From old newspaper clippings. Knights of Pythias host picnic of crippled children; Rabbi says Jewish pupils are forced to sing Gentile songs; Protest on garbage piles in Boro Park; Before and after photos of B.P. buildings; "Old timer" recalls first movie house in B.P.	182-186
Sept. 2002	Prof. Bertrand Agus, guest speaker of Hist. Soc. Annual Meeting. Follow-up interview with Prof. Agus. Also Edward Silver; Joseph Leifer of Boro Park is victim of terrorism in Israel. Loew's 46th Street Theatre photo.	187-190
Oct./Nov. 2002	Shomrei Hachomos-Orthodox Chapels; Elton Theatre; Odds and ends; Olympia A.C.; Y.I.V.O. launches Zamler Project; Shlomo (Sol) Goldstein B.P. memories.	191-193
Jan. 2003	"The Katz Family History" by Sidney Katz, details on lives of many members of this extended family.	194-197
Mar. 2003	Raymond Kipust, brother of the columnist memories of life in B.P. Dates of various events that have taken place in B.P. from 1892 - 2001.	198-201
Apr. 2003	Boro Park Chronology - Significant dates 1657-1979; Old newspaper clippings; Rebecca L. Brill, oldest Boro Parker dies at age 104; More about garbage.	202-204
June 2003	P.S. 192 celebrates 80th Birthday. Excerpts from interviews and columns done in years past.	205-209

Date	Subject	Page
Sept. 2003	Rabbi Chaim Moshe Yehuda Blau dies at age 90; Long at Congr. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh; Young Israel-Beth El Centennial celebration; "Jews of Brooklyn" a new book, published; Thank you certificate to Dr. Kipust by publisher Jacque Friedman for excellent column.	210-214
Nov. 2003	Old newspaper clippings: Rabbi asks schools to curb child gangs; Boro Park historical briefs; information on local personalities.	215-217
Dec. 2003	Memorial Street name honors A. Brizzi local businessman; photo of Congr. Bnei Yehuda; Sycamore tree here may be largest tree in B.P.	218-221
Mar./Apr. 2004	Requests for school visits; Listing of local public schools and names of principals. School girl Barbara Buono interviews her grandfather; Students write about Battle of Long Island and life in 1776.	222-225
Sept. 2004	Prof. Egon Mayer, author of "From Suburb to Shtetl, the Jews of Boro Park, 1979" deceased. Excerpts from his book; "Map & Guide" Brooklyn on tour; more about largest tree in B.P.	226-229
Oct./Nov. 2004	B.M. Selevan traces the early history of KOSHER supervision in Boro Park; More about Rabbi M.J. Peikes; Mr. Etz gives helpful advice on the do's and don'ts of taking care of street trees.	230-233
	Index to Volume 3	234

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Louise Asyl Offenbacher

As a resident of Boro Park for more than 57 years, I think I qualify to be called an "old-timer" and can describe the changes I saw during these many years.

My husband, Richard, our two young sons, Frank and Kurt, and I lived in Fuerth, Germany. Hitler became dictator of Germany in 1933. For the next five years we considered emigrating, but had hesitated because of our close relationship with our parents. Finally, in 1938, after great stress, excitement and hard work, my husband, I and our two sons had succeeded in boarding the Cunard liner Aquitania in Cherbourg, France. (I should mention that my dear husband, Dr. Richard Offenbacher, had practiced medicine for 25 years, including the four years he served in the German Army during World War I.)

We were happy when we landed in the U.S. on July 12, 1938. Our reception at the Hudson River pier in Manhattan was beyond our expectations. My husband's first cousin, Selig Schwarzschild (by the way, he was the first president of Yeshiva Etz Chaim) and his family met us at the boat. Outside the pier, his comfortable family car was waiting to bring us - via lower Manhattan, the Manhattan Bridge, and through beautiful Prospect Park - to the Schwarzschild home in the heart of Boro Park, 1359 51st Street (demolished).

A wonderful meal was waiting for us in their lovely one-family private house, surrounded by a front and back yard. Upon entering Boro Park, I was pleasantly impressed by tree-lined 14th and 15th Avenues and the tasteful and well-kept buildings of Congregation Anshe Sefard, Temple Emanuel and Temple Beth-El. All the one- and two-family private houses had front yards, some well-tended.

After a few days of respite, we decided to rent an affordable apartment close to our dear relatives. So shortly after, the four of us moved to a three-room apartment on the sixth floor of 1333 51st Street. The rental per month was $43, with two months rent concession.

The proximity of 13th Avenue was very convenient and made shopping easy. Who could ever imagine that this busy avenue would ever change as it did! On Shabbat (Saturdays) almost all the stores were open and did a thriving business. Today - the stores are all closed!

On the corner of 14th Avenue and 51st Street, Dr. Morris Levine, a very prominent ear, nose and throat specialist, had a booming practice in his wonderful house with a front porch (demolished). We became friendly with him and enjoyed his services and his hospitality.

Slowly but surely, Jews from Austria, Germany and Switzerland arrived in Boro Park. Meanwhile, after we had lived in Boro Park a short time, we were looking for a synagogue to join. We were advised by our relatives to join Congregation Shomrei Emunah, led by Rabbi Harry I. Wohlberg and President Joseph Libman. The congregation consisted mostly of well-to-do Jews of East-European origin. We were well-received and made some friends. Some of the names I remember are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kalmanowitz, the Zieger family, the Daniel Family, the Kufeld family and the Berman families.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Once in a while, we went to hear the famous cantors, the brothers Moshe and David Kusevitsky. Cantor Moshe was with Temple Beth-El and Cantor David was with Temple Emanuel.

After one year of unremitting study and difficult examinations, my husband succeeded in receiving his license to practice medicine. Through the good offices of a friend, Dr. Isadore Held of Manhattan, Richard was lucky to be admitted as a practicing physician by the Israel Zion Hospital. At that time, the Israel Zion Hospital consisted of one building. Twice a week, my husband donated his services to the hospital clinic and there he met and became friendly with many wonderful colleagues.

There were the excellent surgeons, Dr. Mandelberg and Dr. Sigman; the internists, Dr. E.G. Silverman, Dr. Kresky, Dr. Press and Dr. Agus. There were gynecologists, Dr. Bunim and Dr. Merriam; the pediatricians, Dr. Schmierer, Dr. Selma Wehl and Dr. Palinsky. Dr. Dressler from Vienna was there, as was the famous cardiologist, Dr. Kantrowitz, and Drs. Anna and Leo Igel. We were also close friends with Isabel and Sigi Peilte, who lived on 14th Avenue and 52nd Street.

Our personal experience with the Israel Zion Hospital is very interesting. My 83-year old mother-in-law, Helene, arrived in the U.S. shortly after we did. She first moved in with her daughter and son-in-law, the Gruensteins, at 1520 51st Street. One evening in July 1939, Helene missed a step and fell and broke her hip. What a catastrophe! The excellent orthopedist, Dr. Trynin, took care of her and she spent six weeks in a long cast in the Israel Zion Hospital. She was in a large ward (a nurse was always present). Price: $25 a week! Result: excellent!

Helene came to live with us after her accident and lived happily for a few more years, thanks to the excellent care of the Israel Zion Hospital. Since that time, Israel Zion has developed into the large Maimonides Medical Center. It now consists of several buildings and additional offices in adjacent private houses.

I just passed my 95th birthday. I could go on and on and tell you about Boro Park and its changes. Maybe at a later date!

Louise Asyl Offenbacher

(Ed: We thank Mrs. Offenbacher for her interesting article and look forward eagerly for more.)

People I Have Known

by Lucille Posner

Having long since reached the age of discretion, I feel the time has come to write about some Boro Park residents I have known, both relatives and friends.

The Herlands family made a lasting impression on everyone who ever knew them. My mother's aunt Sarah was the wife of Jacob (known as Jack) Herlands. In 1920, they moved with their four children to the house they had bought on 52nd Street between 15th and 16th Avenues. Formerly a travelling salesman, Uncle Jack eventually owned a button factory in Manhattan. Aunt Sarah was a sweet, pretty woman and Uncle Jack was a good-looking, vital man. He was very witty. Uncle Jack's favorite saying (which he made up) was, "Never run after a bus or a woman, there's always another coming behind." He did magic tricks and used to pull quarters from behind people's ears or from their shoes.

All of Jack and Sarah's children had successful careers. Lillian was a professor of English literature at N.Y.U. She wrote a textbook on English literature and received the Great Teacher Award. Bobby was a prominent Manhattan dentist, specializing in bridges. Herby was a lawyer and later moved to California, where he was the attorney for Hunts Foods. William B. Herlands, also a lawyer, was the N.Y.C. Commissioner of Investigation under Mayor LaGuardia. Some years later,

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.)*

William B. was appointed a judge in the U.S. Federal Court in Manhattan, where he served with distinction.

I first met my best friend, Cynthia Budove, when I was ten years old and she was in my class at P.S. 103, 53rd Street and 14th Avenue. I spent much of my waking hours in Cynthia's house at 1430 47th Street (demolished). She lived with her extended family: her mother, her father (a doctor of homeopathy), her unmarried aunt, her unmarried uncle, Dave Manashaw (a druggist), another aunt and her husband, (Uncle Irving), and their daughter Ruth. Cynthia's elderly, Orthodox grandparents also lived with the family. Last, but not least, Cynthia had a gentle collie dog, Daisy, who used to go on walks with Cynthia and me.

Another classmate and close friend of mine was Helene Poris, who lived on 50th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues, directly behind my house (both our houses have been demolished). Helene's father was a school principal and her mother was an art teacher. She had a little sister, Amy. Helene was an excellent pianist and devoted much of her time to practicing. As a child, Helene suffered from mastoid infections. When we were both in Montauk Junior High School, Helene underwent a mastoid operation and died. Today, mastoid infections are treated with antibiotics and operations are no longer necessary.

I remember our next-door neighbors, the Grubmans. The Grubmans were Orthodox and had, to the best of my memory, four sons. During World War II, their son, Meyer, served in the army. Because of his beautiful voice, he was picked for the chorus of the Irving Berlin musical, This is The Army. The show toured the U.S. Mr. & Mrs. Grubman began to read Variety, the show business newspaper. It was a delight to hear Mrs. Grubman, who had never come into contact with show business, toss off lines like, "We were socko in Des Moines".

We rented the bottom floor apartment of a private house at 1441 51st Street. Mrs. Eckert, our landlady, lived in one room on the second floor and rented out rooms on the second and third floors, with kitchen privileges. Several roomers stand out in my memory. There was elderly Mr. Frank, a French Jew. After the German invasion of France, Mr. Frank somehow managed to emigrate to the U.S. After World War II, Mr. Wexler (a discharged soldier) and his wife rented a room. Holocaust survivors followed in the next few years. I remember Mr. Kahnakowsky (when he became a citizen, he shortened his name to Kahn), his wife, his cute three year-old daughter, Rosina and his wife's father. Luck, and probably money had enabled them to escape from Poland. Throughout the war, they had lived in Milan, Italy, surviving with false papers identifying them as Christians.

Another roomer was an unmarried Polish woman and her son. Because of the shame she felt, she did not allow her son out of the house except for school. After school and on weekends he stayed in their room. As you can imagine, this kind of life did not make for happiness or mental health for the poor son.

Many other faces and stories pass before me, not least that of my brother, Edward. Ed had a kite when he was a boy. One day, Ed encircled our house with the kite string. He said he wanted to find out how many times the string would go around the house (several times). Ed later became a scientist.

My uncle, Morris Cohen, had his home and office on 46th Street between 15th and 16th Avenues. Uncle Doc (as we called him) lived with my grandmother, Bessie. When my uncle retired in 1958, doctors had already stopped making house calls. Uncle Doc, however, kept up the practice because he felt that doctors should make house calls. He kept his fees at $3 for an office visit and $5 for a house call, although by that time other doctors had raised their fees.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Another uncle, Sigmund Cohen (known as Jimmy), had a drugstore on 14th Avenue and 53rd Street. Uncle Jimmy - in addition to prescription and over-the-counter medications - had a soda fountain and tables and chairs. Since the store was across the street from P.S. 103, the lunchtime business was brisk. Uncle Jimmy employed Buddy Hackett (the future comedian) as a soda jerk. Buddy was, and is, a little chubby, and my uncle was constantly firing him for sampling the (Breyer's) ice cream sodas. The next day my uncle always hired him back! (Buddy Hackett was also paid to answer Uncle Doc's telephone. Answering services and voice mail did not exist in those days. When a doctor was not at home, he hired someone to answer his phone.)

As in a movie, memories pass before my eyes. Memories remain with us when all else is lost!
Lucille Posner

(Ed: We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society, for her interesting article, and for her many previous articles.)

The Historical Snow Blizzard

We all witnessed the historical snow blizzard of '96 early in January. Some of our young folks will probably have many fond memories of this storm which they will be able to relate to their children and grandchildren.

Some of the older folks may still remember the even larger snow blizzard of '47-'48 and some of the related experiences and memories of that snow storm. The following are a few of my own recollections of the blizzard of '47.

I remember the mountains of snow that were piled up by the plow trucks and sanitation workers. In 1947 there were far fewer cars on the streets and roads. Therefore, there was more room to pile up the snow in high hills at the corners and along the sides of the streets. Children loved to climb the snow piles and walk along the streets on the snow piles. There were also many sanitation workers on foot working at the corners, clearing the sewers of snow, to allow the water to drain.

The children seemed to have a good time, then as now, playing with the snow-sled riding, digging caves, building forts and snowmen, playing king of the Royal Mountain, and of course throwing snowballs. Sled riding was very common then, far more than it is today.

Public and private schools were closed for a few days. Students were rarely bussed in those days, but generally walked to neighborhood schools or, when in distant high schools, used public transportation.

I was attending Brooklyn College then through the benefit of the G.I. Bill of Rights. This was just about one year after my discharge from the army at the end of World War II. Brooklyn College was also closed for a few days during that blizzard.

One personal incident was deeply ingrained in my mind for some reason. I recall being sent by my mother during that blizzard, to try to help my father get home. We lived at 1864-49th Street then and my father was working in a small store factory at 1683-59th Street, off 17th Avenue. My mission was to bring him a raincoat and galoshes and help him physically wade through the snow on the way home as the buses were no longer running. Car service was not yet in existence and taxis were rarely used by workers and were probably not running either.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

When reaching the corner of 18th Avenue and 49th Street, I was surprised to see a bus going in my direction. I stopped the bus and tried to board it. The driver said the bus was no longer running officially, he was just taking it back to the depot or garage. Seeing my disappointment, the driver told me to jump on and he would take me along. Even more surprising was the fact that he said I did not have to pay. I believe the fare was 10 cents at the time.

I did reach my father and helped him close up. Then the two of us trudged home in the deep snow.

I recently went to look at 1683-59th Street and saw the stores in the building were bricked up and the building (corner) was now used as a school.

If any of our readers remember the blizzard of '47 or any other deep snowstorm and have some memories or photographs to share with our readers, we would love to hear from you.

Thank You Con Edison

The Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to Con Edison for its recent grant. The grant money was designated by Con Edison for use by the B.P.H.S. for the expansion and maintenance of its photo archives.

The money will be used primarily to purchase additional old photos for use in the annual photo exhibits at the Boro Park Public Library and the annual membership meetings of the Historical Society.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

MORE ON THE GREAT BLIZZARD OF '47

In the last issue we discussed briefly some memories of the great snowstorm of 1947, which resulted in an even larger snowfall than the recent blizzard of '96. We asked our readers to share with us some of their memories of that memorable historical snowstorm in Boro Park. The following are a few responses received to date.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Recent snowfalls and winter storms have brought to mind again some memorable ones of past years, especially those of our childhood in Boro Park. Most children love snow, and no one more than myself; what excitement! Out came the sled and snowsuit and galoshes, and what a thrill to go "belly-wopping" down the snow-covered streets and sidewalks of 49th Street.

Even shoveling the fresh-fallen white stuff was fun for us as we raced with next-door neighbors to finish first. The great reward after that was warming up in the kitchen with bowls of mama's home-made soup (lentil or split pea, into which you would cut small chunks of those great, fat, wonderfully spicy frankfurters we used to buy on 18th Avenue at Fuss's delicatessen). And after that, hot chocolate - really hot, and real chocolate.

But the snowstorm of December 26-27, 1947, was one that could never be forgotten. (I am not sure if it qualified as a "blizzard", which only applies when a heavy snowfall is accompanied by high winds.) It snowed and it snowed, heavily and continuously, for two days straight, and when it finally stopped, I believe we had, officially, 27 inches of snow on the ground, though the drifts must have been as high as four feet or more in some places. It was a gorgeous sight, truly a "winter wonderland", with trees and bushes - so many of them all around in those days - thoroughly coated and heavy with the blanketing snow. Gigantic crystalline icicles hung from the roof tops, glinting and sparkling with prismatic rainbow colors when the sun broke through, turning the entire landscape into a "magic show". It was breathtaking.

At that period, which was not long after the war, Boro Parkers, like people everywhere, were not yet so dependent on automobiles as we are today, and life went on almost normally. I certainly do not recall such hysteria over storms - before, during and after - as we have today. Subway trains kept running, including even those that ran partly above ground on snow-covered tracks, as did the old Culver Line (now the IND "F" Line) which, like today, we boarded at the 18th Avenue station. I recall that my aunt, who worked then at the State Attorney-General's office in downtown Manhattan, went in to work through all those days. For the public schools it was a holiday week, but were it not for that, very likely they may have stayed open.

Eventually, the snow plows came through, and for the rest of that winter there were snow banks piled as high as six feet or more along the curbs, lining the streets like fortresses - perfect for kids' snowball fights and hide and seek. Those "fortresses" turned into solid ice in the days following the storm, and they remained white, crystal white, for what seemed like a long time in a long, cold winter.

Even as it still stands as one of the biggest in recorded weather history (at least in this area), the snowstorm of December 1947 remains in this writer's memory as one of the most beautiful.

Happy winter 1995-96!

Teresa Sterne

P.S. Enclosed are a few photos taken in front of our home at 1657 49 St after that storm.

Ed: We thank Teresa Sterne, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society, for her interesting memories and photos. Three of the photos are included elsewhere in this column. Ms. Sterne now lives in Manhattan but has not forgotten her roots in Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

ADDITIONAL RESPONSES

The following two responses were related to me orally.

My brother, Raymond Kipust, who now lives in Los Angeles, told me that he remembers the great snowfall of December '47 when he was 13 years old. We lived at 1864 49th St then, which was (and still is) a dead end street.

Although many streets in the neighborhood were already plowed by the sanitation department workers after a few days, our dead end block remained unplowed. Our block was low on the priority list because it was more time efficient for the trucks to plow a through street than a dead end one. Also the large plow trucks of those days would have difficulties trying to turn around and leave. Therefore the block remained impassable to traffic.

One or two neighbors were very low on heating fuel by this time and were very concerned about the welfare of their babies. The oil and coal trucks could not drive into the block. A few concerned neighbors decided that they would attempt to shovel a path in the street (gutter) for the fuel trucks. They began shoveling the snow in the middle of the street, starting from their home (approx. 1871), a seemingly endless and insurmountable job. A few other neighbors saw them and joined in. One of the shovelers asked my brother Raymond if he had a spare shovel in the house. My brother brought one out and handed it to him. The man said, "I have a shovel. I meant it for you." My brother got the point and began helping them shovel.

It was a lovely day, probably a Sunday, when people were home from work. Several neighbors passed by and saw what was happening and smiling, joined in the fun. Others, including yours truly, looked out of their windows and noticed this odd sight of men and boys of all ages shoveling snow in the middle of the gutter. The spirit and conscience caught them and they also joined in the sport.

Gradually the entire block was full of men, young and old, and some women, shoveling the street - what a sight. After a few hours they completed this seeming insurmountable job and cleared the entire street from 18th Avenue until the dead end tracks.

This display of unity, solidarity and good neighborliness by the residents of that street was a beautiful expression of harmony and a lesson for young and old alike.

There were very few cars parked on the streets in those days, so the shoveled snow was piled up in hills along the curb. The snow lasted for a long time and the mountains of snow were a delight for little children on the block.

Raymond was a student then at the Yeshivas Toras Emes, then located at 4407 12th Avenue. The Yeshiva was in session and the buses were not running during the aftermath of that storm. He remembers walking to and from school each day in that heavy snow without giving it a second thought.

Shmuel Goldstein, proprietor of Goldstein Press on 16th Avenue and 46th St said he remembers that snow storm. On the corner of 14th Avenue and 45th St, diagonally across the street from First Cong. Anshei Sefard, was an auto supply store and service station. They sold gasoline from portable tanks on the street, which they wheeled over to the car and hand cranked the tank to pump the gas into the car. This store is now Wolf's Grocery at 4423 14th Avenue. The side glass windows of the store were bricked. Next to this store, at 4421, which is now Variety Corner, there was once a Sanitation Dept. office in the store. Shmuel said he remembers the big "Help Wanted" sign placed in the window of that store after the snowstorm, by the Sanitation Dept. trying to hire laborers to help clean the snow. (Had I known about this then, I would have sent the neighbors from the previous article.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

MAIMONIDES MEDICAL CENTER HISTORY

Dear Dr. Kipust,

...I am no longer the person writing the history for Maimonides Medical Center. Thank you for all the clippings you sent to me last fall. These and all correspondence have been forwarded in indexed files to Maimonides, c/o Ginger Portnoy in Development. There is a file specifically for "History of Boro Park" and it contains all information from Boro Park Historical Society members, along with other sources.

I enjoyed reading your articles. Much of the old history of the hospital has been lost because no one took interest to chronicle events as they were happening. In this respect, your endeavors are so important. The history of a hospital is a very complex story, intertwined with local history, as well as the history of science and the social history of communities and people....I assure you that all of your information is well indexed and ready to be used by the next writer. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Nicolette Ladoulis



These photos were taken in Dec. 1947 following the great snowfall.

A. Teresa Sterne, left, and friend Gloria (Bates) Evans, standing in front of the Sterne home at 1657 49th St. The house on the right, 1663 49th St. where Gloria lived, was owned by the Kerr sisters. It was demolished in the early 60's.

The house on the left, 1653 49th St, and the large maple tree in the front, were demolished in the early 70's. The Zappia and Marapodi families lived there.



B. Looking towards 17th Avenue and 49th St. Teresa and Gloria in foreground. People cleaning car at left. Auto models of the 40's, and high snow fall seen. The house next to the apartment building on the left, 1667 49th St. was demolished in the early 90's and is now an empty lot. The Topus family owned and lived there. The apartment building on the right is situated on the corner of 17th Avenue and 49th St.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

CORRECTION

In the last issue discussing the snowstorm of '47, I mentioned that I saved a bus fare of 10 cents. A reader called and said she thought the bus fare was still a nickel then.

In order to verify the exact date of the change in bus fare, I called the Transit Authority. The reader was indeed correct. The bus and train fares changed from 5 to 10 cents on July 1, 1948 and from 10 to 15 cents in July, 1953. I was a little disappointed, though, to learn that I only saved a nickel.

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C. Looking towards 16th Avenue and 49th St. Teresa and Gloria in foreground. The car at right, all covered with snow and barely discernible, is standing in front of 1653 49th St.

Note the row of newer type brick houses on the left, built in the late 30's.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The Harbater family was an institution in Boro Park from the early 1920's until they moved to Israel in 1952. This column of Dec. '90 carried an article about this family. Their last house of residence at 4901-15 Ave. (the corner house) was sold in 1952.

Recently, Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer and Chief Researcher of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) came across the following two old newspaper articles about the Harbater family. We thank Mr. Selevan for his research and past and present interesting contributions to this column.

The following article appeared in the Home Talk-Star section of the Brooklyn Eagle on July 1, 1932:

6 in Family off For Palestine

Mrs. Joseph Harbater With Five Children to Sail Next Week

Six members of the Joseph Harbater family of Borough Park leave aboard the Bremen Friday at midnight en route to Palestine to continue their Zionist work in the Holy Land. Mrs. Harbater will sail with five children. while Mr. Harbater and their son, Lester, 17, will remain here for awhile. Mr. Harbater will sail just as soon as he can iron out his business affairs, while Lester will leave in the Fall for Poland to pursue a rabbinical career. The children sailing with Mrs. Harbater are Jeanette, Moe, Bezalel, 6, Nechama, 3, and Charlotte, 1.

The Harbaters are known in Zionistic circles here and abroad for their charitable work in Palestine. The family, with the exception of Nechama, who was born in Palestine, and Charlotte, who was born here after their return from Palestine three years ago, first went to Palestine in 1928. They toured the western part of Europe, Egypt and Morocco on their way over, and lived in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv before taking their residence in Romema. In the latter town Mr. Harbater started work on an orange grove, which this year has begun to bear fruit. The grove is the largest in Palestine, and is pointed out to sightseers for its remarkable beauty.

Moe and Lester spent their time there studying at the Slobodka Yeshiva in Hebron until the Arab riots in August, 1929 put an abrupt end to their studies and the activities of the family. The boys were in the thick of the program with Moe suffering injuries.

After the riots, the Harbaters returned to this country, taking residence at 1519-50 St. and later moving to their present residence, 4901-17 Ave.

Two years ago Moe sailed for Europe with a double purpose in mind - to study for the rabbinate and to gather more details for his book on the economic continental conditions since the war. He succeeded in being admitted to the rabbinate, completing the requirements in the record time of eight months. The rest of the time abroad he devoted to work on his book. He expects to gather further details for his book on this trip.

Mrs. Harbater is a member of the Daughters of Rachel, Ladies Auxiliary of the Yeshiva College, Ladies Auxiliary of the Mir Yeshiva and the Ezras Nashim Palestinian auxiliary society.

Moe is a graduate of the Hebrew Institute of Borough Park and attended the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Institute for a short while. Jeanette is a graduate of New Utrecht High School, where she was a member of the Senior Artista.

The Harbaters expect to remain in Palestine for about two years, after which they intend to return to this country.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

The following article appeared in the Home Talk-Star Section of the Brooklyn Eagle on July 27, 1932:

HARBATERS TAKE VIENNA HOME

Borough Park Family to Live Permanently in Austria

Word has come from Vienna that Mrs. Joseph Harbater, formerly of 4901-17 Ave., and her children, Moe, Jeanette, Bezalel, Nechama and Charlotte, have taken up a temporary residence there.

While in Vienna, expert orthopedic treatment will be given Nechama, who is a victim of last year's infantile paralysis epidemic. At the same time, Moe, who completed his rabbinical course in the record time of eight months at the yeshiva in Mir, Poland, will continue work on his book. He is writing a survey of European economic conditions since the war.

This is his third trip abroad for that purpose. In 1929, he toured the western part of Europe and last year he spent time along the eastern border. This time he is analyzing the conditions in central Europe. He expects to have his book completed for publication by the fall of next year.

After their stay in Vienna, the Harbaters will continue on through the Slavic countries and then through Italy, where they will board a steamer at Trieste bound for Palestine. In Palestine Mrs. Harbater will supervise her husband's orange grove at Rechovoth.

Joseph Harbater and his son, Lester, are meanwhile living at 1253-55 St. Mr. Harbater expects to leave for Palestine in the fall and Lester intends to study for the rabbinate at Mir, Poland.

The following article, also submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in 1898. The Borough Park Club House eventually became the Yeshiva Etz Chaim or Hebrew Institute of Boro Park, which no longer exists.

NEWS FROM THE SUBURBS

The New Borough Park Club House Opened with an Entertainment and Dance

The new Borough Park Club House, on Thirteenth Avenue near Fiftieth Street, was formally opened last night. A large number of invitations had been issued and the big building was well filled. After a reception in the early part of the evening, an entertainment and dance was given. The club house is one of the finest in the suburbs. It has a frontage of over 100 feet on Thirteenth Avenue, and is surrounded by an extensive lawn. It is a wooden building, about two stories in height, and is finished in hard wood. The dancing floor occupies the entire second floor. The leading spirit in the club is former Senator William H. Reynolds, who is the owner of Borough Park and Bensonhurst. Nearly every citizen in that section has signified his willingness to become a member of the new club and it is expected that in a short time it will be one of the leading organizations in the borough. The trustees for the first year are: Frank E. Slocum, John T. Pierson, George W. Beavers of Blythebourne and Samuel Hoshell. A meeting of the members for the purpose of electing officers will be held

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following article was written and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer and Research Chairman of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS). We thank him for his interesting contribution.

Much Ballyhooed Encyclopedia of New York City Falls Short

It's finally arrived! After years of work, the Encyclopedia of New York City was finally released to the public a few months ago with great fanfare. The massive book of 1400+ pages carries a $60 list price and, I believe, can be found in every branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

The work is impressive; no doubt. However, what I saw in the entries on *Borough Park* and *Blythebourne* was disappointing. These two, relatively short entries contain more than a few errors, ranging from contradictions to misspellings and just plain incorrect information as follows:

Major mistakes: 1) Blythebourne was developed by Electus B. Litchfield, not Edwin C. Litchfield, his brother of Prospect Park fame. 2) Purim is not the most important event of the year. 3) The housing does not solely consist of one and two family houses. 4) There are parks in Borough Park, though perhaps not as many as some would like. Certainly so within the large boundaries given. 5) There is no "Belts" Hassidic sect; it is Belz(er). 6) No mention is made of William H. Reynolds, President of the Borough Park Company and the namer of the section.

Other errors & questionable assertions: 1) It is stated that initially the residents were mostly Irish immigrants. What is the source for that? 2) There was a Jewish influx *before* the 1920's, and not necessarily from Williamsburg. 3) Blythebourne is the correct spelling, and not "Blytheborne".

There are a number of places in which the entries on Borough Park and Blythebourne contradict each other. Though written by different authors, is it too much to expect some coordination, proofreading etc.? There are other things that can be questioned and challenged.

I am somewhat puzzled though, that those who wrote entries did not consult the Borough Park Historical Society or anyone else with accurate, up to date information on the area. The BPHS has been publishing on the local history for approaching twenty years and is known in the local community and among local historians as a great resource on the topic.

I wonder if similar poor treatment was accorded other neighborhoods' entries as well. If people from outside a community write about it, is it unreasonable to expect that they consult with local experts who have researched the topic for years?

I hope these and other errors will be corrected in future editions of the Encyclopedia.

~ B.M. Selevan ~

The following two letters were submitted by Mr. Dario Marotta, an officer of the BPHS, and Chairman of Archives. We thank him for his interesting contributions.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

In re-reading your "I Remember Boro Park" of May and June of 1990, you wonder about the "Yavne Rabbinical Seminary" on Dahill Road. You place it correctly in the early 1940's, but you seem to have no information, other than a sign on the Ditmas Avenue subway station.

Your friend, Milton Nordlicht, although a graduate of that institution, supplied little information, other than the fact that the school had moved to Manhattan, then to 15th Avenue and finally back to Dahill Road, its original location.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

As you requested of your readers, here is some additional information:

The synagogue: First Congregation of Kensington, Tifereth Israel, bought the land in 1909 and completed the synagogue building at 510 Dahill Road and used it as a school and clubhouse.

In 1926, the buildings were sold to Congregation Yeshivath Yavne. They may have had a small yeshiva there.

By 1943, the Yavne Jewish Theological Seminary was functioning at 510 Dahill Road. It appears that they moved several times in the late 1940's. First to Manhattan, then to 15th Avenue and 54th Street and finally back to 510 Dahill Road, its original location.

If remained there, under the name of "Yavne Hebrew Theological Seminary" for 30 years, until 1984. At this time the synagogue was sold to Yeshiva Zichron Mallech (formerly Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway).

The Seminary, moving at this time to 718 East 7th Street, where it remained until 1986. I have no other information, other than that the Seminary is no longer there.

I am surprised that there is no organization, in Boro Park or elsewhere, that would keep a current account of the many synagogues and yeshivas in the area. It certainly would be an interesting project for the Community Board or C.O.J.O. or the Historical Society.

Very Truly Yours,
Dario S. Marotta

Dear Dr. Kipust:

In the February issue of "I Remember Boro Park", you made a correction regarding the correct bus fare that was in effect during the snowstorm of 1947.

You mention that "The bus and train fares were changed from 5 to 10 cents on July 1, 1948". This is only partially correct.

As a matter of fact, although the train fares were raised to 10 cents on July 1, 1948, bus and trolley fares were only raised to 7 cents on that date. The reason was that a 100% raise from 5 to 10 cents was exorbitant for local transit, used mostly for short distances.

The fare on trolleys and busses was raised to 10 cents on July 1, 1950. It has remained on par with rapid transit fares since that time.

Very Truly Yours,
Dario S. Marotta

Correction: The article about the Harbater family in the last issue had an incorrect address. The last address of the Harbater family during the 40's and early 50's was at 4901 15th Avenue, not 17th Avenue.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Encyclopedia of New York City

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I read with great interest B.M. Selevan's article on the many factual errors about Boro Park in the recently published *Encyclopedia of New York City*. The statement in the book that the first residents of Blythebourne and Boro Park were mainly Irish immigrants can easily be refuted.

To begin, most of the Irish are Catholics. With the exception of St. Frances De Chantal Roman Catholic Church at 57th Street and 13th Avenue, all of the many churches in Blythebourne/ Boro Park were Protestant. In addition, Blythebourne/Boro Park was a comfortably middle-class neighborhood. The original residents were people who had accumulated enough money to afford to buy a house in what was then the country. They were not recently arrived immigrants!

Blythebourne was founded in 1886 by Electus B. Litchfield, a descendant of an early, New England settler. Ruth Hadley,Beal, born in 1893 in Blythebourne, write in her book, *The Blythebourne*, of some families she remembers. There were the Snowden and the Allin families. Rev. Bayard Snowden was the rector of St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Blythebourne, and George Allin was the son-in-law of Electus B. Litchfield. She recalls Fred Stevens, the druggist. Mrs. Beal does mention some Irish people in her book, such as Mrs. Burke, a washerwoman, and Marie Fahey, her family's Irish maid. These Irish women probably worshiped at St. Frances DeChantal Roman Catholic Church. (Incidentally, Mrs. Beal's family, the Hadleys, moved to Blythebourne from New Hampshire.)

Writing for the *Brooklyn Eagle* in 1940, Genevieve Beavers Earle lists the names of many Blythebourne families. She mentions the Atwaters, the Acklands, the Bennetts, the Babbitts, the Blakemans, the Fletchers, the Gaskells, the Hortons, the Orrs, the Perkins and the Stewarts. And, her own family, the Beavers. Not an Irish name among them!

To summarize, if the original residents were mostly Irish, why were there so many Protestant churches and only one Catholic church?

As Dorothy Parker once wrote in a book review, "He wrote without fear and without research!"

Lucille Posner

Ed. We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) for her interesting contribution.

The following article appeared in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle of Friday, November 1, 1929.

Borough Park Jubilee Canceled

The reopening of the Borough Park Silver Jubilee Celebration, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Borough Park as a residential and business community, scheduled to take place last night, has been indefinitely postponed.

At the headquarters of the committee, 4401 13th Avenue, Max L. Brooks, director, stated

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

last night that owing to a lack of cooperation and the failure of the merchants and property owners to support the enterprise by their refusal to pay their proportionate share of the expenses, the project had been postponed for an indefinite period. He also stated that Boro President Byrne, who was to have been the guest of honor, had been notified of the cancellation of the celebration.

The jubilee was opened and a program of events broadcasted on October 22. Mr Brooks stated that although plans for the celebration had been completed, on account of the lack of financial backing, they had necessarily been abandoned.

Ed. We thank Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer in the B.P.H.S. for submitting the above interesting article.

Please note that the Silver Jubilee Celebration mentioned above gives an inaccurate time frame for the beginning of Boro Park. The article does, however, point out that they were celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of Boro Park as a residential and business community rather than the start of Boro Park, whatever that means.

The B.P.H.S. tries to be alert to anniversary claims of institutions and organizations in Boro Park, even to newspaper articles, and urges all organizations to be accurate in their reports and age claims.

Do You Know the History of Your House?

In investigating and recording the history of this community, another area to be explored is the history of each building. Each building in the community, whether it is an institution, a public building, an apartment house or a private house, has its own unique and usually interesting history.

The history of a building may include the names of the different owners, the names of the tenants, the year it was built and the years it changed ownership. It may also include structural changes made to the building, photographs of the building showing some of these changes and changes in nearby structures such as trees, lampposts (street lights) and street signs. Those buildings used for business, organizations or schools, or those associated with special events or personalities have additional items to include in their histories. Thus there are many thousands of stories dealing with the histories of the individual buildings in Boro Park.

The history of each building adds another piece to the puzzle, another dimension to the ongoing saga of this community. We invite our readers to investigate and submit the histories of their own buildings. In order to begin this project, I did a little research of the history of my present house which follows:

A Brief History of Our House

At an organizational Dinner recently, a woman approached me and said that her grandparents were the original owners of my (our) house at 1558-45 St. The woman was Shirley (Spitz) Stein. She still lives in Boro Park (on 54 St.) and said that her grandparents were Rivka and Abraham Lieberman. With the information she gave me, and with the additional information I obtained by searching through my house documents and speaking to others, I was able to piece together this brief history.

Our house, 1558-45 St., was built as a two-family frame and stucco house in 1922 (approx.). The first owner was Abraham Lieberman (R.I.P.). His second marriage was to Rivka (R.I.P.), Shirley Stein's grandmother. They lived together in that house, top floor, until Abraham died in 1944 or 1945. Rivka did not want to live there alone, so she sold the house in 1945 to Israel and Amalie (Mollie) Kofman, and moved to her children in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Shirley said she remembers visiting her grandparents in Boro Park, from Williamsburg, as a young girl. It was like going to the country. Boro Park had many open spaces, small farms and clean, fresh air.

Israel and Amalie (Mollie) Kofman lived in this house until 1952, when they sold it to Benjamin and Fannie Tarlow.

Harriet Flusberg, daughter of the Kofmans, related the following bits of family history while living in this house.

When the Kofmans purchased the house they moved into the downstairs apartment. Upstairs the tenants

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rosengarten, who became president of Yeshiva Toras Emes. When the Rosengartens moved out in 1946, the Kofmans moved upstairs and held the downstairs apartment vacant for the parents of Israel Kofman, Leib and Chana, who were arriving from Europe after the War.

The Kofmans lived in this house for seven years with their three children, Harriet, Joan and Chaim Yosef (Charles). In this home, Harriet recalled the family enjoyed a number of family celebrations including the Bar Mitzvah of Chaim Yosef, the engagement and marriage of Harriet to Rabbi Avrohom Flusberg in 1949, and the engagement and marriage of Joan to Rabbi Shalom Hecht in 1951.

In 1950, Adolph and Esther Bernstein moved in as tenants downstairs. They remained as tenants until 1980 under three different owners. They then moved to 1528-49 St. Their three children Charlotte, Judy and Larry were married while in this house and then moved out of Boro Park.

After selling this house, the Kofmans purchased the same kind of house, built by the same builder, at 1566 45 St., only three houses down the block. In these houses, there are two seven room apartments with three bedrooms in the rear. In their new house, the Kofmans occupied the downstairs apartment. After a few years, Israel and Mollie moved to Flatbush, and their children Harriet and Avrohom Flusberg occupied the apartment. The Flusbergs, the Hechts and the senior Kofmans presently reside in Flatbush. The son Chaim Yosef and family still reside in Boro Park. The Hechts are the proprietors of Hecht's Hebrew Book Store on Coney Island Avenue.

Benjamin and Fannie Tarlow moved into the upstairs apartment when they purchased the house in 1952. They renovated the inside of the house, built a finished basement, cemented the front garden to create a sitting area and put up an iron gate in front of the house. After selling the house, the Tarlows moved to Long Island.

We, Philip and Ruth Kipust, purchased the house on May 6, 1960, and moved in shortly afterwards to the upstairs apartment. The real estate brokers were Silberstang and Silberstang of 4429-18 Ave and Sydelle Braver was the salesperson. A mortgage was taken with the Greenpoint Savings Bank.

When the Bernsteins moved in 1980 we rented the downstairs apartment to our son-in-law and daughter, Rabbi Yitzchok (Isaac) and Rena Yarmush and their family.

Our two daughters Rena and Chaya Yetta were married from this house. Chaya Yetta was married to Shraga Greenbaum and moved to Monsey, NY. Our granddaughter, Toby Yarmush, was also married from this apartment to Sadya Grama.

We made major renovations to the house in 1981 which included a new stone face front, new stoop, new windows, vinyl-coated aluminum siding on top of the stucco, cemented backyard, enlarged front gates, internal renovations to the apartments and finished basement. The heating system was also converted from oil to gas.

Stories could undoubtedly be written about each of the families mentioned in the above article. Other stories could be written about the neighbors' houses and families as well. There are tens of thousands of stories that can be told and we invite our readers to submit some of their own stories about their own buildings and families.

Support the Boro Park Historical Society

You can support the B.P.H.S. by submitting your own memories and family histories in Boro Park. You can also help by becoming a member of the B.P.H.S. Membership dues are $5 per year ($3 if retired), $10 for a business or organization, $100 for a lifetime membership. Send to B.P.H.S. 4707 13th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11219. (The office of B.P.H.S. is now located above Zoldan's for Men &

The Early Days Of Boro Park

First Shomer Shabbos Dept. Store

Take a walk down 13th Avenue and you will realize that the streets are saturated with department stores, 5 and 10 cent shops and the now famous 99 cent stores. One of the earliest department stores in Boro Park had much less competition. At the time Blatt's Department Store opened, there were only two 5 and 10 cent stores - Woolworths and Kreges. Woolworths is still located at the same spot on 13th Avenue and Kreges was on the opposite corner , across 44th Street, where RX Unlimited is now located.

Blatt's Department Store opened on 13th Avenue , opposite the Eitz Chaim Yeshiva (now Salomon Plaza). The Blatts first moved to Boro Park in 1931 and opened a tiny variety store at 5005 13th Avenue. Their son attended the Eitz Chaim Yeshiva and eventually helped in the store.

The first store was a type of 5 and 10 cent store with a large variety of items to choose from. The Blatt's had a hard time obtaining credit from wholesalers because they were new in the business, but as time went by, they grew more successful.

Because Woolworths and Kreges were 5 and 10 cent stores with almost all items under a dime, the Blatts decided to call their store "Blatts 4 and 8 cent Store" and even advertised "why pay 5 cents and 10 cents , we sell for 4 cents and 8 cents". Mr. Blatt distributed the circulars himself from door to door and sold out his merchandise in one week.

The small store was successful and soon turned into a department store. Mr. Blatt had other problems since he was closed on Shabbos and open on Sunday. The "Blue Laws" in New York made it illegal for a store to be open on Sunday. The Blatts received many summonses and had to go to court to pay the fines.

The Blatts perservered and were one of the founders of the Shomer Shabbos Organization which helped other businesses with similar problems because of their Shabbos observants. Mr. Blatt also helped to organize the Bikur Cholim of Boro Park and was one of its first presidents.

The Unusual Block

Did you ever wonder why the buildings along 13th Avenue between 53rd Street and 54th Street are recessed and on a higher than street level? Neither have I, but we're going to tell you anyway.

The builder of those houses, in order to avoid staggering the houses to match street level, constructed a series of steps going up to the houses. These steps start at one on the corner of 53rd street and increase in number leading to 54th Street. The last steps on the last building at 54th Street originally went all the way around the corner, but that was removed to street level.

If the buildings had been built on the building line, the steps would have gone into the sidewalk making it difficult for pedestrians to walk by.

Success Through Sadness

Some of the most successful businesses in Boro Park began in the strangest ways.

Newman Dube was a peddler at the turn of the century in Boro Park, moving to the community in 1906.

Sadly, in 1919, his 15 year old daughter contracted influenza and died. Mr. Dude suddenly realized that there was a need for community-based medical care in Boro Park, so he invited local leaders to his home at 1225 48th Street and laid out plans to establish the Israel Hospital. Mr. Dube served as its president for 6 years. He was also one of the founders of the Boro Park YMHA in 1914 and of Machzikei Talmud Torah in 1916.

Israel Hospital soon merged with Zion Hospital of Bensonhurst to become the Israel Zion Hospital. In 1943, it merged with Beth Moses Hospital and became the Maimonides Medical Center.

Since Mr. Dube worked closely with those in the medical field, he realized a necessity for adequate medical equipment and surgical supplies. There were no on-hand businesses which supplied this equipment, so Mr. Dube personally contacted manufacturers and became a distributor of their products. He was successful servicing many hospitals, physicians and patients.

In 1930, right after the stock market crash, Newman Dube rented a store at 4804 13th Avenue and opened Park Surgical. He soon moved to 4902 12th Avenue and in 1934 moved again to its present and larger location.

Newman and his son, Joseph, continued to supply the growing medical professional establishment and became very successful, now including multiple departments and a mail order subdivision.

Newman Dube was active in the business until his death in 1966, reaching his 101st birthday.

Think Back...

> Anyone remember Websters Pond? It was the skating rink of many youngsters during the winter before it became the location for Maimonides Medical Center.

> One of the largest farms in Boro Park was Kochler farm on Kowenhoven Lane (now 56th Street).

> The Boro Park Club House (once Yeshiva Eitz Chaim, now Solomon Plaza) had a baseball field in the back which was always filled with neighborhood children.

> Congregation Bnei Yehudah was started in the basement of Mr. Soloman Hollander on 51st Street between 16th and 17th Avenue in the early 1920's. The Congregation was named after his wife, Yehudis and was soon moved to its present location on 16th Avenue between 53rd and 54th Street.

> When the West End-5 Avenue line was electrified with trolley wires in 1893, trolley mail service (R.P.O.) was available to residents.

> In the late 1920's, one could buy fruits and vegetables from horse drawn peddlers who would ride up and down the streets of Boro Park. The price for a 100 pound bag of potatoes: $1.

> Q. What was the prior name of McDonald Avenue?

A. Gravesand Avenue. (So what!)

THE EARLY DAYS OF BORO PARK, (cont'd.)

The Power Of A Tzaddik

An amazing story is told of the parents of Rabbi Emanuel Kramer, a former Boro Parker and currently retired Rov of the York, Pa. community.

His parents, Abraham and Yetta Kramer, were affluent and moved to Boro Park in 1925 from the Lower East Side. Abraham Kramer owned a successful knitware manufacturing company at that time.

In about the year 1928, Abraham Kramer became gravely ill with Spinal Meningitis and was hospitilized at Israel Zion Hospital. His doctor, Dr. Stegmeister, a prominent specialist in Manhattan, notified the family that his illness was very grave and there was not much hope for him. He had already lost his eyesight.

His wife, Yetta, went to the Novominsker Rebbe, Rav Yehudah Leib Perlow of Williamsburg, a great uncle of the present Novominsker Rebbe, Rav Yaakov Perlow of Boro Park. The Rebbe listened to her distraught pleas and cries and then advised her to go home *and to bring her husband to visit him when he was well again.*

Mr. Kramer remained hospitilaized for about 6 weeks before and during Pesach. His wife stayed at his side leaving the children to clean for Pesach. During that period, they were notified by the police that their factory had burned to the ground and that nothing was saved.

During Chol Hamoed Pesach, Dr. Seigmeister suffered a heart attack and died.

Mr. Kramer's fever suddenly broke, he started to make an unexpected recovery and his sight in one eye started to return. About a week after Pesach, Abraham Kramer was discharged from the hospital.

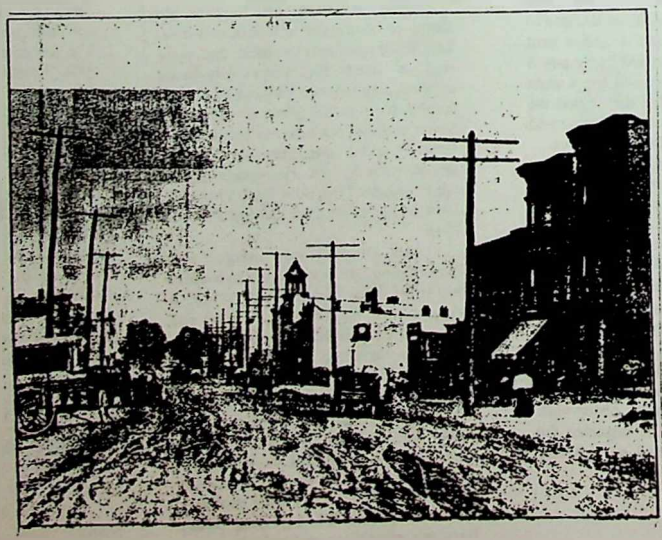
Yetta, fulfilled the Rebbe's request and brought her husband to visit the Rebbe. After about 3 hours of learning together, the Rebbe told him: "A doctor's obligation is to heal, not to make decisions about life and death."

The rebbe and Mr. Kramer became very good friends after this and visited each other regularly.

*****

We wish to thank Dr. Phillip Kipust, Oscar Isaelowitz and The Boro Park Community News for their contributions to this article.

Below is a 1906 view of 60th Street looking east from 13th Avenue towards New Utrecht Avenue.



I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

First Congregation Anshei Sefard

First Congregation Anshei Sefard, usually referred to as "The Sefardishe Shul", is one of the oldest and most popular synagogues in Boro Park. The cornerstone for the building, located at the corner of 14th Avenue and 45th Street, was laid in June, 1915, over 81 years ago. The basic construction was completed by September of that year and the congregation held its first High Holiday services there then, even though the interior was not yet completed.

The congregation celebrated its 80th anniversary at a dinner held on November 5, 1995, at the Menorah Hall, on 14th Avenue, corner of 50th Street. At that dinner, the congregation had an official installation ceremony for the current rabbi of the synagogue, Rabbi Yechiel Kaufman, son-in-law of the previous spiritual leader, Rabbi David Singer.

The synagogue has a main, large sanctuary used on Saturdays and holidays and a smaller sanctuary, *beth midrash*, used on a daily basis and also on Saturdays and holidays. The *beth midrash* has a long history in the community of providing continuous *minyanim* (prayer services) each morning from sunrise to noon and each evening from before sunset to nightfall. Historically, people who may have missed services in their shul for one reason or another, would know that they could always "catch" a *minyan* at the Sefardishe Shul. In the *beth midrash* one could also find study groups led by the Rabbi or other scholars on a daily basis.

In the early decades of this synagogue's history, the congregation did not have an official Rabbi in the main sanctuary. Rabbi Meir Pinsky served as the *Rav* of the *chevra Mishnayos* in the *beth midrash*. The first official Rabbi in the main sanctuary was Rabbi William Drazin, and he was first appointed after World War II. The other rabbis who graced the pulpit in that synagogue were Rabbi Zvi Tabori, Rabbi Isaac Swift (formerly Chief Rabbi of Sydney, Australia) and Rabbi David Singer.

A number of famous cantors have officiated at the Sefardishe Shul. They were Shloime Kreistein, Yossele Rosenblatt, Yossele Mandelbaum, Mendel Klein, Zev Kron and Cantor Aviezer Peer. Currently, Cantor Mendel Klein has returned and occupies that position.

The current president of the congregation, Isidore Greenberger, has been very active in the congregation for many years. More than that, he has been very active in the Boro Park community for about five decades, involved in the development of Maimonides Hospital, *Bikur Cholim* and other institutions. We hope to have a separate article about his memoirs of Boro Park history in the near future.

Other past presidents who served the congregation are: Harry Nadler, Isaac Ginsberg, Yitzchok Hirschbein, Harry Zahler, Abraham Barr, Harry Schechtman, Morris Grossman, Samuel Furman, Hyman Elheller, Morris Schertz, Morris Chasen, Abraham Michaelson, Abraham Roth, Isidore Greenberger, Samuel Klaus and presently, Isidore Greenberger again.

The synagogue has had three long serving Ritual Directors (*Shamosin*): Rabbi Moshe Gershon Finkelstein, Rabbi Joseph Fischman and currently Rabbi Mendel Brody. Rabbi Joseph Fischman served in that capacity for 45 years and was also very active in *bikur cholim*, *Ohel* and other Boro Park institutions.

Other officers who presently serve with Mr. Greenberger are Joseph Plawes and William Zanderer, vice presidents'

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.)

David Fried, Treasurer; Ernest Wolf, Financial Secretary and Rabbi Joseph Fischman, Recording Secretary.

Readers are invited to submit their own memories associated with this synagogue.

Holocaust Survivors in Boro Park

We recently witnessed numerous 50th anniversary commemorations of the ending of World War II and the Holocaust.

Boro Park was the home for many Holocaust escapees and survivors. Some started new lives here and remained, some eventually moved on to other locations and some merely passed through.

Each one has a story to tell and each story dramatically illustrates how false are the claims of those who deny the Holocaust. Each one also contributed in some way to the development and history of Boro Park. We would like to include the stories of some of these survivors as they pertain to the history of Boro Park.

The following are two interviews of friends. We hope to include others in future issues. We invite other Holocaust survivors who lived in Boro Park to submit their own stories of survival and their history in Boro Park.

SUSIE YAROSLAWITZ FISCHLER TEL AVIV RESTAURANT

Susie Yaroslawitz Fischler was one of the fortunate survivors of the Holocaust. She described her escape from Germany

One night, her father Markus looked up at the skies and felt impending danger. He had some influence in the hospital and finally, after much difficulty, convinced his landlord and another friend to come with him to save their lives. In the hospital they were able to gain admission to a room which read "Highly contagious diseases", and remained there all night. The next day the Gestapo came to round up the men and boys, even from the hospital, but would not take anyone from the contagious room because of the obvious danger to themselves. This was right after "Crystal Nacht" in November, 1938, Susan's name was Sabena then and legally changed in the U.S.A. when she reached 18 years of age.

Sabena, her brother, Bernard and mother Esther were luckily able to escape from Berlin in January, 1939. They pretended they were going on a visit or outing. They took their school books and passports and left their homes completely intact, taking nothing with them. They took local transportation and crossed the border to Belgium. (There were people in Belgium who were helping people escape by advising them and taking care of them in Belgium.) They called their father when they arrived safely and he managed to meet them a few days later. Sabena was 10 years old then and Bernard was 12. He became Bar Mitzvah in Belgium.

They remained in Belgium for about ten weeks and then went on to Marseilles, France. They were able to obtain passage on the Normandie ship, on its last civilian voyage to the U.S. After that, it became a troop ship. The war broke out later that year.

Her father's brother Shmelke Yaroslawitz, who lived in Williamsburg at the time, arranged for a visa for them to enter the U.S. He owned Zion Talis Co.

Their first residence in the U.S. was in Williamsburg, where her uncle rented a room for them. They remained in Williamsburg for one year and then moved to Boro Park in 1940.

Her parents had a small restaurant in Berlin and had experience in the business. In Boro Park they opened the Tel Aviv Delicatessen Restaurant at 4909 13th Avenue in 1940. There was a need at that time for a restaurant that was strictly kosher and Sabbath observant. There was a kosher delicatessen across the street named Skilowitz, but not a restaurant. Her mother was the chef and they prepared all the meals and side orders themselves, including the noodles. Only the delicatessen was not home made, it was 999 brand. Their first residence in Boro Park was at 1301 47th Street and they lived there about six or seven years. They then moved to 1319 47th Street and the landlord there was Irving Saidlower, who still lives in that home.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

The schools that Susie attended in Boro Park were P.S. 103, then Montauk J.H.S. and then New Utrecht H.S. At that time, her parents could not afford to send her to Shulamith, and Bais Yaakov was not yet operating in Boro Park. She was therefore sent to a Hebrew school in the afternoon, as was true for the vast majority of girls in Boro Park at that time. She attended Shomrei Emunah Talmud Torah located at 1363 50th Street. The building was owned by Congregation Shomrei Emunah of 14th Avenue and 52nd Street. The building also housed the Young Israel of Boro Park at that time.

After a few years, she attended the Bais Yaakov, which started as an afternoon Hebrew school. It was then located on 13th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets above the store called Baim and Blank, which sold radios and television sets.

Bernard attended Yeshiva Toras Emes H.S. in Boro Park. In those days, the students from this yeshiva had to complete their senior year and obtain their diploma from New Utrecht Evening H.S. After graduation he was drafted into the army in 1944. After the war Bernard worked in the Tel Aviv store full time.

Susie said she helped in the store during her free time. She remembers the mustard tubes they made themselves. During the war years, meat was rationed and people had to give coupons in order to purchase meat, even in their store. It was a real family business.

Her father passed away in 1958 and the business was run by her brother and mother for over a year. The business was then sold, in 1959, to Mr. Rubashkin and is operating to this day as Crown Kosher Caterers.

Susie was married in 1951 to George (Getzel) Fischler. They remained living at 1319 47th Street with her parents. After her father passed away, they moved out and purchased a family house at 1354 49th Street in 1959. They purchased the house from Dr. Mandelberg, who was a surgeon at Maimonides Hospital.

The Fischlers lived in that house until 1973, sold the house to Mr. Kaminetsky and moved to Flatbush. Mr. and Mrs. Kaminetsky were the owners of Brenda's Dress Shop on 18th Avenue between 45th and 46th Streets.

George Fischler was in the diamond business. He came to the U.S. in 1941 and was drafted into the army soon after. After the war he went back to the diamond business. George (Getzel), R.I.P., was deceased in 1995.

The Fischler's two children, Martin (Moshe) and Hadassah, were born while they were living at 1319 47th Street. Hadassah attended Shulamith School and Moshe attended Yeshiva Toras Emes.

Markus Yarolslawtz, Susie's father, was an active member of Cong. Shomrei Shabbos on 13th Avenue and 53rd Street. He was also a disciple (*chasid*) of the Chechinover Rebbe. He helped the Chechinover Rebbe come to America after the war, and to get established in Boro Park. The sister of the Chechinover Rebbe is the Bobover *Rebbetzin*. Susie's father and mother made the pre-wedding linen shower for her and escorted her to the wedding on her wedding day. They were very closely involved with the Rebbe. Her father also observed *yahrzeit* (death anniversary) of the Rebbe's father every year.

Susie said she has noticed many great changes in Boro Park since she first arrived in 1940. She remembers that Boro Park was famous in the 1940's for all the famous great cantors in the large shuls. The large apartment houses had doormen and the community was wealthy and elegant. She has also seen a great religious change. When she first came you would never see men with *shtreimlach* or other chasidic clothes in the streets; you would not even see men in the streets wearing a yarmulke or *tallis* You also would not see women wearing wigs (*shaitlach*). Now it is the usual thing.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK cont'd.

She thinks the religious changes took place after the Hungarian revolution, when many Hungarian chasidic Jews came to Boro Park. The orthodox community then was in the main modern orthodox. Today, the modern orthodox are in the minority.

She remembers the blackout in New York City in the 1960's. There was a radio station truck on 13th Avenue in front of Famous Restaurant the day after and the reporters were asking residents for comments. She said her daughter's comment then was "Boro Park is not living up to its name. Where is the park?"

Some other Boro Park memories were the Linden Dress Shop, which was the height of elegance, located on 13th Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets. That was a very exclusive shopping area then. She remembers Goldstein's between 50th and 51st Streets, where Weiss baker is now located. She remembers the appetizing store on the corner of 50th Street and 13th Avenue.

Lunchtime many students and faculty from Yeshiva Etz Chaim came into Tel Aviv to buy lunch and some would yell, "Nickel Pickle".

The restaurant was busiest at dinnertime when people came in for regular home-cooked meals. The busiest day of the year was Thanksgiving day. They also catered in-store celebrations, *bris, Bar Mitzvah, Sheva Brochos*, etc.

She remembers in the early 50's, when T.V. was starting to make its debut. There was a World Series game on Yom Kippur. Baim and Blank, a radio and T.V. store on 13th Avenue, displayed a T.V. in the window. On that Yom Kippur day, many people, including many orthodox Jews, stood outside the store and watched the World Series game.

She remembers the Uncle Milty T.V. program featuring Milton Berle. That was the main social activity on Tuesday nights. Everything else stopped. Those people who had T.V. sets would invite relatives and friends to watch the program and put out as many chairs as they had available.

Susie now resides in Flatbush and her children in Teaneck, N.J.

June 4, 1996

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Thank you for responding to my letter, regarding my trying to locate a friend who lived in Boro Park 40 plus years ago. Unfortunately, we lost touch after my husband died and I moved.

Please put my name and address in your column, asking if a friend, relative, etc. might be able to contact me regarding: PEARL YAMPOLSKI.

Sincere thanks for your kindness,

Ruth Farbstein
4 Crome Road
Syosset, NY 11791

We invite residents to submit their own family histories of Boro Park and would be interested in publishing additional stories of Holocaust survivors in Boro Park.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help preserve, research, photograph and publish the history of this community. You can help by submitting your own memories and family histories, photos and other memorabilia. You can also help support the work and expenses involved by joining the B.P.H.S., or sending tax-exempt donations. Membership is $5 a year ($3 retired), $10 business or organization. Life membership is $100, or $200 business or organization. Send to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following is another article about a Holocaust survivor that came to live in Boro Park after the war.

Ilona Penner Blech

Ilona (Penner) Blech was also one of the fortunate people who was able to escape the Holocaust. She and her twin brother, Kurt, were on the well-known Kinder transport, which left Germany in March, 1939, and arrived in England. Her parents, Chaim David and Yanka, remained in Germany, but they managed to flee and arrive in France later in the year. In France, they were rounded up for labor camps in Marseilles. They somehow worked their way to Belgium and to the U.S. and arrived in Philadelphia in 1941.

They moved to Boro Park in 1942 to 1315 50th Street, an apartment building. They lived there until 1945.

In the fall of 1943, first Kurt and a few weeks later Ilona arrived in the U.S. through the help of the H.I.A.S. organization. They landed in Boston Harbor and then traveled by train to New York and to Boro Park to join their parents.

In 1945, they moved to 1334 48th Street upstairs and lived there until 1946. They next moved to 1222 48th Street, where they lived until 1950. Ilona was married from this apartment in 1950 to Samuel Blech and moved to Flatbush. Samuel Blech is the son of Rabbi Ben Zion Blech, who was a well-known and respected Rabbi in Yeshiva Toras Emes and the Rabbi of the shul on Clara Street, bordering Boro Park.

Ilona's parents, David and Yanka Penner, moved to Manhattan in 1950 for about two years. They moved back to Boro Park, to 5601 14th Avenue in 1962. They had learned diamond cutting, which they worked on from their apartment. When the diamond trade declined, they moved to Manhattan, where they had a small yard goods store on the Lower East Side. Chaim Dovid Penner passed away in 1967, and Yanka moved to Silver Spring to be near her children, Ilona and Samuel.

Ilona attended New Utrecht H.S. Kurt attended New Utrecht H.S., Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Law School. He was married in 1958 and moved to Queens and then to Flatbush. Samuel attended Brooklyn College and majored in Chemistry. He then moved to the Washington D.C. area first Hyattsville, Md. and then Silver Spring - and worked in the U.S. Patent Office. He then completed Law School and served as a judge in the Board of Appeals of the U.S. Patent Office.

FIRST CONG. ANSHEI SFARD

Shmuel Goldstein (from Goldstein Press on 16th Avenue and 46th Street) called to comment on the article about the Sfardishe Shule. He pointed out that the article left out the name of Rabbi Dr. Bernard D. Martin who was the first Rabbi to serve in the main upstairs synagogue. He was followed by Rabbi William Drazin.

He also pointed out that Rabbi Meir Pinsky, who was the first accepted spiritual leader in the Beth Medrash downstairs for many years, was not merely the Rav of the Chevra Mishnayos, as is described in the article. Rabbi Pinsky, he emphasized, was a noted Talmudic Scholar, to whom many scholars and laymen came daily for Halachic or legal decisions and consultations. He was never appointed official Rabbi in the upstairs synagogue because he was not able to speak English, and he was more of a scholar than a pulpit Rabbi.

Mr. Goldstein and family lived on 45th Street between 14th Avenue and 15th Avenue, one half block away from the Sfardishe Shule and his family were active members in the congregation.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I very much enjoyed reading your article about Sabena Yaroslawitz, whom I remember very well. However, I think some statements require amplification.

". . .sent to a Hebrew school in the afternoon, as was true for the vast majority of girls in Boro Park at the time." Most Boro Park boys studied Hebrew in a Talmud Torah after public school classes, in order to read the Torah when they became bar mitzvahs. However, in the main, it was the Orthodox girls who were sent to afternoon Hebrew classes. (At that time, the majority of the Jews in Boro Park were not Orthodox.) Some girls did attend Sunday school. I believe that Temple Emanuel had a Sunday school and that the subject taught was Bible history.

"You would not even see men in the streets wearing a yarmulke." I remember seeing many men wearing yarmulkes in the streets, but, again, most Boro Park Jews were not Orthodox.

Boro Park youngsters attended New Utrecht High School, which islocated in Beasonhurst, not Boro Park.

In the time frame mentioned, I don't remember any of the large apartment houses having doormen, although it is possible that there were a few.

I, too, remember when Thanksgiving was a busy day for Jewish delicatessens in Boro Park. Many families came to partake of the special Thanksgiving dinner, which included soup, roast turkey, bread stuffing, cranberry sauce, sour pickles, etc. Thanksgiving was a widely observed holiday in Boro Park. Incidentally, some people say that the turkey, not the eagle, should have been our national bird!

LUCILLE POSNER

Dear. Dr. Kipust:

Would you like to accept a transplanted Yankee to the nostalgia column of your local newspaper?

My dear friend, Teresa Sterne, a former next-door neighbor, encouraged me to write and tell you of my fond memories of Boro Park and surrounding neighborhoods in Brooklyn where I lived for the first 25 years of my life and a time that will always be dear to my heart. It was at P.S. 192, Montauk Jr. High and New Utrecht High that I received my education.

My pal of yesteryear and still my best friend, Teresa and I, have many memories of our younger days through all seasons. The photo you printed (Feb. 1996) in your paper showed us enjoying the big snowfall in the late 40's. Other seasons were just as enjoyable; working in our beautiful gardens in spring and sunning ourselves or hosing each other down in summer.

The wonderful Jewish fare that Teresa's mother cooked for supper to which I was often invited, makes my mouth water today. To have heard Teresa play the various piano pieces from my home next door or just sitting in the room with her, brings tears to my eyes even now.

I can never forget the beautiful old Victorian house at 1663-49th Street where I grew up and where my mother continued to live until 1961; shortly after that, the house was demolished. It was a gabled, three-story wood-frame structure with wide front porch and a smaller veranda fronting the second floor. Of course it had a large backyard, as did all such houses of that period. There was a small mulberry tree in the front yard and next to the curb stood a large linden that blossomed fragrantly every spring. The interior of the house was mainly of cherry wood and in the parlor was a gas fireplace in the dining room where the walls were lined, part way up to the ceiling, in dark green paneling with beaded edges. Both fireplaces had marble hearths. There was a front and back parlor, as they were called in those days; the back parlor had the fire place, the front contained a large mirror with a mantel under it. Sliding doors separated these two rooms from the hall and dining room. I remember the attic with three rooms; one was my play room, and the adjoining one contained a little bed where I used to love to sleep when it rained, it was so cozy listening to the rain on the roof. At other times I slept in my bedroom, one of four on the second floor. When I was a youngster I recall a wood/coal stove; I even remember when all gas lights were replaced with electric. As a child I recollect my mother reading me stories by gas light and sometimes a kerosene lamp covered with a beautiful cut-glass shade in various colors.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Although we correspond regularly, Teresa and I haven't seen each other for about 24 years -- I moved south in 1949 and now live about 80 miles from Atlanta -- and I think it's time we did, along with my English husband whom I met in Brooklyn during World War II days while he was serving in the Royal Navy. He and I spent a happy time enjoying Boro Park, the skating rink in Flatbush, Coney Island and Prospect Park; and how could we ever forget the romantic Old New Utrecht Road, a dirt road then, off 49th Street and 17th Avenue. His ship left the Brooklyn Navy Yard after being repaired from a bombing attack in 1942, and although we corresponded occasionally, we did not see each other again until I traveled to England to visit his sister in 1979. When we met once again, we found that after 36 years we still felt the same about each other. At long last we married and have been together now for 16 years, still very happy and in love.

Oh yes, do you remember The Brooklyn Eagle? On the back page of the "comics" was a "club" for budding artists; I think it was called Aunt Jean's Club. many of my drawings were printed and I still keep them in a scrapbook.

Having written all this, I feel homesick, as I will always call Boro Park home.

Sincerely,
GLORIA E.
(MRS. REGINALD) EVANS
Eatonton, GA

We invite residents to submit their own family histories of Boro Park and would be interested in publishing additional stories of Holocaust survivors in Boro Park.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 3, 1996

President Jacque Friedman thanked the Greater New York Savings Bank for making the meeting room available to the Society. He expressed pleasure at the fact that so many people were present, despite the heaviest rain of the year, and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co- President of the Canarsie Historical Society, who had braved the rain to travel to Boro Park.

President Friedman said that the photographs on the tables had recently returned from a highly successful exhibit at the Boro Park Library, during the month of May. The photographs — of early Boro Park farmhouses, movie theaters, and trains -- were acquired through grants from Con Edison and the Brooklyn Union Gas Company.

President Friedman introduced guest speaker Ken Oskosciewicz. Born in 1941, Ken spent his first four years in Brownsville, while his father, a career sergeant in the U.S. Army, served overseas during World War 2. After the war, Ken and his mother lived in the various countries where his father was stationed. As an adult, Ken followed in his father's footsteps and served as an officer in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. After receiving a medical discharge, Ken taught math and, later, computer technology at New York University. In 1970, Ken suddenly developed an avid interest in New York City transportation and began to accumulate his vast knowledge of the subject.

GUEST SPEAKER KEN OSKOSCIEWICZ

Ken Oskosciewicz explained that Boro Park is located within the area of what was the Town of New Utrecht, one of the original six towns which now comprise Brooklyn. Boro Park, he said, is one of the few Brooklyn neighborhoods which is served by three subway lines: the IND F train (former Culver line), which runs along McDonald Avenue, the BMT N train (former Sea Beach line), which runs along 8th Avenue, and the IND B line (former West End line), which runs along New Utrecht Avenue. (Ken observed that he calls the West End, the "Worst End."

Ken said that New Utrecht Avenue had first been a dirt road and then a plank road (a road covered with wooden planks). Planks enabled wagon wheels to turn on muddy roads. Most plank roads, including New Utrecht Avenue, were toll roads, sometimes called turnpikes. The company operating the New Utrecht Avenue turnpike was the Brooklyn, Greenwood, and Bath Plank Company.

On June 8, 1864, the Brooklyn, Bath, and Coney Island Railroad began operation. One car, pulled by horses, ran on a single track -- far different than what we think of now as a railroad! Part of the route lay along New Utrecht Avenue, through the farmlands of what became Boro Park. The railroad terminated at Bath Beach and Coney Island (both fashionable beach resorts).

Electus B. Litchfield, who had founded railroads in the midwest, foresaw a time when masses of people would want to travel to Bath Beach and the west end of Coney Island. In 1885, he bought the Brooklyn, Bath, and Coney Island Railroad and renamed it the Brooklyn, Bath, and West End Railroad. (In 1886, he founded Blythebourne, now Boro Park. He upgraded the railroad from a one- to a two-track line. Around 1887 he retired the horses and replaced them with steam locomotives which pulled several cars.

Trolley cars have an interesting history, Ken said. They originated as street cars pulled by horses. Frank Sprague, an inventor, developed a system to operate street cars by electricity.

The first electric street car began operation in 1887. Then Granville Woods, a black inventor,developed a metal pole with wheels on one end. The wheel end of the pole was attached to an overhead wire and the other end of the pole was attached to the top of the street car. The overhead wire transmitted electricity which ran the street cars. Mr. Woods called the pole "trollers". When the U.S. Patent Office issued the patent, it was mistakenly spelled "trolleys" and trolley: they have been ever since.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Ken pointed out that, at one time, Brooklyn had more trolley lines than any city in the U.S., so many that people had to dodge them when they crossed the street. Brooklyn ites became known as "trolley dodgers." When a name was wanted for the newly formed Brooklyn baseball team it was most inevitable that the team would be named the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In 1893 electric trolley cars replaced the steam locomotives of the Brooklyn Bath, and West End Railroad. The trolley cars ran on two tracks on the odd numbered side of New Utrecht Avenue.

In 1901, the Brooklyn Bath and West End Railroad was connected to the (Brooklyn)5th Avenue El. There were also other improvements. Instead of a single trolley car, several cars were linked together They were still powered by electricity transmitted by overhead poles. Passengers now boarded the cars from station platforms about 3 feet high, located approximately where Boro Park stations of the B line are now.

Ken said that 1911 was another momentous year for the West End line. In that year,a contract was signed by New York City to expand the subways. The original plans were to build the West End as a four track line running in a trench under New Utrecht Avenue. It was found that an elevated structure with three tracks would be cheaper to build. (Because of narrow street space, the Culver line was planned as a three-track elevated line from the start.) In actual practice, the center tracks of the West End and Culver lines are rarely used.

Ken pointed out that 1996 marks the 80th anniversary of the opening of the elevated West End line. Newspaper articles about the 1916 celebration, which marked the opening of the elevated West End, were displayed on a table. (The Culver line, the last elevated line in Brooklyn to open, began operation in 1919.) A trolley to Coney Island, which ran along New Utrecht Avenue, continued to operate until the early 1950's, since its route differed slightly from the West End line.

With the opening of the elevated West End line, Boro Park was connected to the New York City subway system. Transportation to jobs in Manhattan became faster, encouraging many Jews and Italians to move to Boro Park and transforming it from a suburb to a city neighborhood.

Concluding his talk, Ken said that he volunteers at the New York City Transit Museum in downtown Brooklyn. The museum runs several "nostalgia trains" a year. Participants travel on an antique subway car to a specific destination, led by a knowledgeable guide. The next "nostalgia train" will be on December 8, 1996. For information, phone 243-8601. Following his talk Ken asked for questions and comments from the audience.

President Jacques Friedman thanked Ken for his informative and interesting talk He thanked the members of the Boro Park Historical Society, who realize the importance of researching and preserving the history of Boro Park. Membership dues enable the Society to continue its work. Annual dues are $5, $3 for retirees, and $10 for organizations and businesses. Life membership dues are $100 for individuals and $200 for businesses and organizations.

Respectfully submitted

Lucille Posner

(We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for the above interesting summary and minutes of the Annual Meeting of the BPHS.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

BORO PARK IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF N. Y.

September 18, 1996

Mr. Charles Grench
Editor in Chief
Yale University Press

Dear Mr. Grench:

The articles on Boro Park and Blythebourne in the Encylopedia of New York, while short, contain many errors. Enclosed are two articles from the Boro Park Community News, by B.M: Selevan and Lucille Posner, pointing out these errors.

It is surprising that the articles on Blythebourne and Boro Park (Blythebourne is the original name of Boro Park) contradict each other! Another surprise is that Blythebourne is misspelled!

If you need more detailed information, or if you have any questions, please free to call on us.

We request that future editions of the Encyclopedia reflect the attached corrections. We are proud of our neighborhood and don't want inaccurate information disseminated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,
Jacque Friedman, President
Boro Park Historical Society

September 26, 1996

Jacque Friedman
Boro Park Historical Society

Dear Jacque Friedman:

Thank you for your letter of 18 September. I am passing along your letter and the enclosures to the editors of the Encyclopedia. They will review the articles and make the necessary changes in the next printing. I appreciate your writing to us about this matter.

Sincerely,
Charles Grench, Editor in Chief
Yale University Press

BUDDY HACKETT

The following excerpt, written by Buddy Hackett, Comedian, was taken from the book I Remember Brooklyn by Ralph Monti (1991).

"I cherished Sunday mornings in Brooklyn. I eagerly looked forward to the rousing softball and touch football games my friends and I played against the other kids in the neighborhood. It was a great release. Most of the time during the week was spent working or going to school. There were a variety of jobs I held. I worked in a liquor store, a grocery, dry cleaners, drugstore, or with my father in his upholstery business. I even worked for a doctor at night, answering his telephone. I

was born on Kosciusko Street in the Williamsburg section, but soon after moved to 1379 54th Street in Borough Park. I attended P.S. 103 and from there went to New Utrecht H.S. The best memories I have about B'klyn were the years I was just starting to work in show business."

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

A study of Boro Park in 1953

The following report was written by Barbara Pearlman (now Levine) in May 1953 as a course requirement. The course was education 34c at Brooklyn College and the professor was Dr. Mackenzie.

The report was submitted to this columnist by a mutual friend, Judy Markowitz,, a current resident of Boro Park. Barbara points out that her mother arrived in Boro Park in 1916, right off the boat. We thank both of them for this interesting contribution.

When reading the description of this neighborhood and viewing the photographs in this report, we notice many changes in the physical environment and in the population since 1953. We plan to include most of the report and several photos in three installments.

Boro Park

By Barbara Pearlman

The neighborhood I have mapped is the "center" of a larger area known as Boro Park. The name was possibly suggested by the tree-lined streets and the fact that nearly every house has some plot of land planted with shrubbery and flowers.

The area is residential. The avenues are wide streets permitting two way traffic. 14th and 15th Avenues are lined with mostly six-story elevator houses. On 14 Avenue we also find Temple Emanuel, a large, conservative synagogue, the "Y", the Menorah Temple (Masonic Center), the Shomrei Emunah synagogue (orthodox), the Edgewood Dutch Reformed Church – which also housed a Day Care Center, and Public School 103. Along 15 Avenue, we note more private homes than on 14th, and the largest orthodox synagogue in the neighborhood, Temple Beth El.

Sixteenth Avenue is a shopping street. There are one or two private homes. The stores sell food, hardware, dry goods, and small appliances. There are repairshops, dry cleaners, beauty shops, barbers, candy stores, and one bar. There is a large, orthodox synagogue on 16 Avenue at 53 Street. P.S. 180 is on this avenue, between 56 and 57 Streets, and the police station is at 59 Street. Recently, several small factories, making clothing, have been opened on 16 Avenue.

Thirteenth Avenue represents the hub of the area. Here we find clothing stores, banks, supermarkets, big appliance chain stores, show chains, a small church, barely one story high, the public library (a converted store), and a large Yeshiva.

New Utrecht Avenue has the two movies mentioned in this report. The B.M.T. West End express runs on elevated tracks on this street.

The inhabitants of the neighborhood are mostly middle class families. A few are extremely wealthy, but poverty is almost unknown. The majority of people are Jewish, with an unusually large number being orthodox, as evidenced by the houses of worship. Incidentally, there are at least ten, small, very orthodox congregations meeting in private homes. The gentile families who live in the neighborhood are mostly of Italian origin. The greatest number live in the area beginning on 55 Streets. Several Christian families live on and around New Utrecht Avenue. Most of these families are Catholic. Other groups include about five to ten Chinese families living on Sixteenth Avenue. The different groups in the neighborhood get along well.

The children in the neighborhoods attend P.S. 180 if they live above 15th Avenue. The others attend P.S. 103. Many youngsters attend private, religious day schools. The majority of Jewish boys and girls who attend public school also attend Hebrew school five days a week. Most of the area mapped is in the district for Montauk Jr. H.S. (P.S. 223, 16th Av. and 43rd Street). Beyond 55th Street, we enter the Shallow Jr. H.S. district. Montauk has a better reputation among the parents and children. Sub-rose maneuvers are common to enter out-of-district children in Montauk.

The area is in the district for New Utrecht High School. The school has less prestige for the neighborhood than Erasmus or Midwood. Many boys, girls, and their parents, commit perjury to prevent enrollment at New Utrecht in favor of the other schools. Many boys attend

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Technical High Schools. A small number attend private high schools which are under religious auspices. An occasional youngster attends the High School of Music and Art. Very few attend vocational schools.

College students and graduates are common. Most have or are, attending the municipal colleges. Very few go out of town to school.

The area under consideration is a very desirable one. For example, a new apartment house on 15th Avenue and 52nd Street was quickly rented at $30.00 per room. Adolescents are given a great deal of help in growing up. Their families are interested in them. The prevalent atmosphere is positive in terms of their behavior. Good marks in school, and academic aspirations are something to be proud of. But, is this too sheltered an environment for the adolescent? The recreational facilities, for example, are nearly all based on religious support. There is no public park, for example, in the entire vicinity. In this area, the adolescent meets with a limited segment of the population. Even in high school, we see the majority of friendships are continuation of lower-school relationships, and often based on the proximity of homes.

In the knowledge that the favorite activity of adolescents is "hanging around", we are sorry to find that none of the centers in the neighborhood have a lounge. From the map, it is also apparent that there are no parks or playgrounds in the area. Stoops and benches are the lounge areas; the streets are the playgrounds.

Meyers

This ice-cream parlor is easily the most popular candy store in the neighborhood. On pleasant evenings, it is almost impossible to pass 13 Avenue in front of the store (48-49 Street.) Friday night is the most popular night for the high school crowd – and the squad cars. Neighbors often call the police to help disburse the crowd when it becomes noisy. On Saturday night, it is fashionable to be seen with a date in Meyer's. While it is acceptable for groups of boys to sit inside, teen-aged custom holds that it is taboo for girls to appear unescorted on Saturday nights.

The store does not sell any newspapers, magazines or books. There is a newspaper vendor who sets up shop on the sidewalk in front of Meyer's on Saturday nights. He is known to be a "runner", but does not take bets from the teen-agers.

Hessing's

This store is located on the corner of 49th Street and 13 Avenue. Adolescents congregate here during the afternoon and evening. While they buy sandwiches and ice-cream at Meyer's, they seem to concentrate on Cokes at Hessings, which does not have the prestige of Meyers.

The New York Post is the best selling paper. The News is second. T.V. Guide, women's magazines, Seventeen and crime comic books are sold in that order. More browsing than purchasing is done here by the teen-aged crowd.

Silver's

The small candy-store on the corner of 13th Avenue and 48 Street reports that it does a large business in pocketbooks, particularly with adolescents. Life is the best selling magazine. Modern Screen and Screen Romances are very good sellers. Children's Digest was also mentioned as being popular. The Times and Post are the papers with the highest circulation at this store.

Marcus

This luncheoncite on 16 Avenue and 52 Street is the place where many older adolescents congregate. Marcus' draws the 17–20 years old group. Life, Saturday Evening Post, and Look are the most popular, in that order. Morning papers (the store is opposite a bus stop where people gather on the way to work and school in the morning) sell most. The Times, News, and Mirror are sold in that order.

(To be continued).

SYLVIA COHEN SHULMAN

(The following article was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society, we thank her for her interesting Contribution.)

I was a mere two months old In 1913, when I moved from Williamsburg to Boro Park. I was accompanied by my parents, Anna and Samuel Cohen, and my brothers, Benjamin and Joseph. My father's housepainting business was flourishing and he decided his family should live in suburban Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Our first apartment was in a private house at 1373 42nd Street. (At that time, most Boro Park Jews lived in the low 40's area.) When I was six years old, we moved to an apartment in a private house at 1353 44th Street. We next moved to an apartment at 4307 14th Avenue, above Zeitlin's fruit store. Spinrod's bakery was right across the street and I enjoyed watching Mr. Spinrod bake bread and cake in the oven in the back room. Then, when I was eight years old, the birth of my brother Samuel necessitated another move. My father bought a private house, 5420 16th Avenue, where we lived from then on.

My brothers and I attended P.S. 164, 4211 14th Avenue. After public school classes, I attended Machzikei Talmud Torah, 1315 43rd Street, for about five years. I had a "crush" on Joe Estrin, another Machzikei student. My friend, Lillian Davis, and I played ball with Joe, who later became a prominent doctor at the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). Simon Mendelberg, another friend, also became a doctor.

I remember Richard Tucker, who later sang with the Metropolitan Opera. On Friday nights, Machzikei Talmud Torah held a service for children with a children's choir. Joe Estrin was the shammus and Richard Tucker sang solos. On Sunday afternoons, I enjoyed attending the extracurricular classes in art and singing at Machzikei Talmud Torah. Mr. Coopersmith was the music teacher.

In 1921, Chaim Weitzman came to Boro Park on a speaking tour to raise funds for Palestine. He spoke to 1,800 children from the United Hebrew Schools at Etz Chaim Yeshiva, 13th Avenue, 50th to 51st Streets (demolished). I was privileged to be present on that historic occasion.

Originally, Etz Chaim Yeshiva occupied a private house across the street from Anshe Sfard synagogue, 45th Street and 14th Avenue. The father of Lilly Levine, a friend of mine, was the head of Etz Chaim at that time.

I am probably one of the few people who remember the New Utrecht Dispensary which occupied a small store at 1275 37th Street. The furniture was plain and the floor consisted of rough boards. I remember Dr. Giventer, a dermatologist, and Dr. Silverman, a specialist in Internal medicine. Dr. Greenberg, an ear, nose, and throat doctor, removed my tonsils in the attic of the dispensary. I stayed overnight in one of the four beds and enjoyed the ice cream they gave me. In 1916, the dispensary moved to slightly larger quarters in a small house at 1322 44th Street. In 1919, the dispensary was renamed the Israel Hospital and in 1920 it merged with the Zion Hospital. In 1920, the Israel Zion Hospital (as it was now called) was built at 49th Street and 10th Avenue. My mother was a member of the Israel Zion ladies auxiliary and sewed pillowcases and sheets for the beds.

My brother Joe became a bar mitzvah in a small shule on 42nd Street. My brothers Ben and Samuel became bar mitzvahs in the synagogue on 16th Avenue and 54th Street.

I remember the trolley car which ran along 16th Avenue, from Gravesend Avenue (now MacDonald Avenue) to 60th Street and 16th Avenue. It was a one-track line: one trolley car ran back and forth each day. In summer, when the trolley passed our house, my mother gave the driver - a mug of cold beer. The driver, in return, let her ride on the trolley without charge.

Fields of tall grasses and wildflowers stretched from 8th Avenue to New Utrecht Avenue. I used to pick bouquets for my mother and we children used to bake potatoes in the fields. Since not many houses had been built yet, we had a view of the Narrows at Shore Road.

I went to the Kensington Library on Ditmas Avenue because it had more books than the Boro Park Library. To get there, I walked across 15th Avenue, through fields of tall grasses and wildflowers, to Old New Utrecht Road and then proceeded down Old New Utrecht Road to the library. Outhouses stood in the fields, lonely survivors of demolished farmhouses. I used to throw pebbles down the outhouses, to hear the water splash. (Houses have long since been built on most of Old New Utrecht Road, which now ends at 48th Street and 17th Avenue.)

Fifteenth Avenue was absolutely beautiful. Tall trees lined the streets and many streets had one house to a block. All houses had large, well-kept lawns. At night, I enjoyed looking into the first floor windows to see the beautifully furnished interiors.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Dr. Seigmeister lived with his family in a very large house with large front and back yards, at 5420 15th Avenue. His son, Elie, played the piano beautifully. On summer nights, mother and I brought a blanket to the Seigmeisters' backyard, to listen to Elie's playing. The free concert was the equal of any in Tanglewood! Elie later became a famous composer.

Mr. Kulok (a men's clothing manufacturer) and his family lived across the street from the Seigmeisters. Mr. Kulok was both wealthy and generous. He donated a large sum of money to build the new Temple Beth-El at 15th Avenue and 48th Street. Because of faulty work the domed roof collapsed during construction and had to be rebuilt.

Mr. I.J. Fox, owner of several well-known fur stores, lived in a large house with a domed roof on 15th Avenue and 47th Street. An apartment house now stands on the site. The Goodmans, A wealthy family, lived on 15th Avenue, 50th Street to 51 Street, in a beautiful house with a tiled Spanish-style roof (demolished).

I remember Mortimer Neinken, son of Jacob. Both father and son donated large sums to the Israel Zion Hospital. Mortimer had a large brick private house built at 5502 15th Avenue. Mortimer, his wife and only child, Paul lived in the upstairs apartment. His wife's sister and brother lived in the downstairs apartment. (The house has recently undergone renovation.) Mortimer Neinken had a smaller brick house, which resembled his own house, built next door for his wife's two sisters and their families. (The windows in that house have been altered.) One sister, married to Irving Maltzman lived downstairs. The other sister, married to a Mr. Modell, lived in the upstairs apartment. (Their son, Artie Modell owns the Cleveland Browns football team.) Mortimer Neinken gave Mr. Modell the money to start his own business. I can't say enough about the kindness and generosity of Mortimer Neinken.

I remember the lamplighter who came by at dusk to light the gas lamps. There was a sanitation worker who rode a tricycle with an attached garbage can and shovel. He shoveled horse manure into the garbage can and took it to a sanitation depot on 60th Street and 16th Avenue.

The Diamonds were a quiet family who lived on 55th Street between New Utrecht Avenue and 14th Avenue. It was a great shock to everyone when their two sons, Joseph and Morris, who were about 19 and 20 years old respectively, shot and killed two bank messengers in November 1923. The messengers were bringing money to the Irving National Bank, 5328 New Utrecht Avenue. They were exiting the West End 55th Street station when they were shot without warning. The two boys were caught, tried, and executed.

In 1935 married Charles Shulman in Rabbi Kaplan's home on 54th Street between 16th and 17th Avenue; where we held our reception. Our first apartment was on 54th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. We then moved to an apartment house, 5420 – 15th Avenue, built on the site of Dr. Seigmeister's demolished house. Fred, our only child, attended P.S. 103, Shallow Jr. High School, and studied Hebrew after school at a Talmud Torah on 16th Avenue and 56th Street.

Talking about Fred, I must relate this incident. In post years, the early morning, by milkmen with horses and wagons. One day, I took little Fred out for an airing in his baby carriage. I was already outside when I decided to warm little Fred's milk bott' I asked a neighbor to watch Fr' while I went back to o' apartment. I noticed a horse an' milk wagon standing at the curb, the driver had evidently gone somewhere. When I returned with the milk bottle, my heart stopped. The neighbor was nowhere to be seen and the horse was standing on the sidewalk, his head in little Fred's carriage. He was kissing Fred's face, who was laughing!

Except for the first two months of my life, I have lived my entire life in Boro Park. Charles and I have lived in the same apartment for the past 60 years. I have seen Boro Park grow from a park-like suburb to a city neighborhood with apartment houses and many stores. Many of the beautiful old houses and spacious gardens are gone. But, most important of all, I remember the many generous old-time Boro Parkers who donated time and money to establish the institutions of Boro Park. As the song goes, "I remember it well."

JOIN

Help preserve, research, photograph and publish the history of this community. You can help by submitting your own memories and family histories, photos and other memorabilia. You can also help support the work and expenses involved by joining the B.P.H.S., or sending tax-exempt donations. Membership is $5 a year ($3 retired), $10 business or organization. Life membership is $100, or $200 business or organization. Send to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

A STUDY OF BORO PARK PART II

(The following report "A Study of a Neighborhood" was written by Barbara Pearlman (now Levine) in May 1953 as a course requirement at Brooklyn College. This is the second of three installments.)

HABONIM CENTER

On Fifteenth Avenue, between 47 and 48 Streets, there is a large house which has been remodeled into a club house. It belongs to the Habonim organization, which is a Jewish Zionist club.

There are three floors, used by at least 100 youngsters. The age range, extends from 10 years old to the middle twenties. They are divided into small groups led by organization trained personnel.

The emphasis is on Jewish culture. The groups learn folk dances and Israeli dances. They learn Hebrew songs. Informal discussions are popular. The group takes no religious stand.

The main activities take place on the week-end, although individual groups meet during the week.

Members of the Habonim are completely responsible for the maintenance of their center. Volunteers clean up and do necessary repairs.

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Patrolman Peter Brown is one of the two P.A.L. officers at the 66 Precinct Police station, on 16 Avenue and 59 Street. Patrolman Brown was kind enough to grant me an interview. He explained the P.A.L. in great detail and with obviously sincere interest in his work and the children he meets.

Last year, there were 34 baseball teams sponsored by the 66 and 68 precincts. Over 500 boys were accommodated. This year, because of lack of funds, only 24 teams will be playing. Nearly all the P.A.L. members in the immediate neighborhood join of their own accord. Juvenile Aid Board references are rare. Officer Brown classified the neighborhood I have mapped as "good". According to him, juvenile delinquency is almost unheard of. "The kids are just too busy going to school to get into trouble." was his explanation.

The largest membership is under 15 years of age. It seems that the older youngsters either work or are affiliated with senior high school sponsored groups. Patrolman Brown said there are no unknown gangs in the neighborhood.

The 66 Precinct has no P.A.L facilities, other than a desk for the officer in charge. The building is only two years old. The group uses Park Department playgrounds and high school fields.

PUBLIC SCHOOL 103

The school yard of PS 103 at 14 Avenue between 53 and 54 Streets is an ever-popular retreat of the neighborhood youngsters. The gates are open everyday and teenagers are there from early afternoon to late evenings.

On the 53 Street side, there are two basketball hoops. Boys ranging in age from 8 years to college students play games or just shoot for practice, often as late as 10:00 p.m. in the summer. Girls rarely congregate in this part of the yard, but they parade past the fence in small groups. The boys hardly notice them or show signs of [illegible] 54 St. (the street adjoining this side of the school yard) is a play street.

Street side, we find several small groups of younger children playing softball. On this particular day, there was one group of three girls who were singing popular songs softly.

It has been my observation that the boys and girls who meet at this yard are well behaved and welcome by the school. The playground is clean, reasonably quiet, and there are no broken windows.

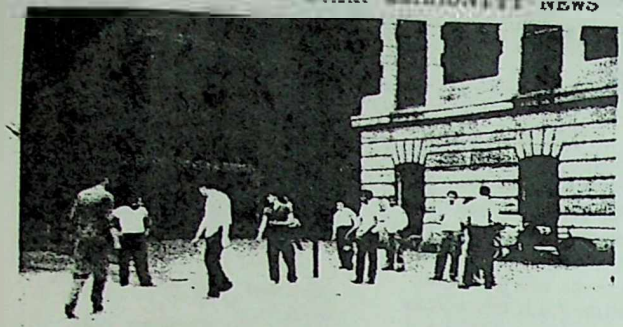
PUBLIC SCHOOL 180

At the P.S. 180 school yard, (16th Ave. & 56th St.) I found that the groups were, on the whole, smaller and offered more variety in the choice of activity than those at the P.S. 103 yard. The reason may be that the 180 yard is larger and has no permanent athletic facilities (like basketball hoops). Most of the children have brought balls and played with them. They played handball (mixed), catch, softball, and boxball. Some boys on the playground were no older that six.

Particularly interesting to note is the penny-pitching game. The boys were about seventeen years old. One was older (21-23). All were wary of being photographed and only three of the five playing, excluding the older boy, would permit me to snap their picture. This fellow later drove off in a 1951 Oldsmobile. Small boys of seven and eight watched the contest with excited interest. Perhaps it should be noted that this school yard is enclosed by the sides of the building, boardered by two trafficless streets. Neither schoolyard is supervised, but the 103 yard is completely visible from the street.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The very active Parents' Association of P.S. 180 instituted a highly successful evening center. It has already been closed for the season. For a fee of 25¢ per year, an adolescent can visit the center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights to participate in games, tournaments, craft classes, and dancing. All activities are supervised.



P.S. 103 Schoolyard. The school building was sold by the city to the Satmar community and is now the Beth Rachel School of Borough Park. The School yard was built upon and now houses the Ateres Chaya Hall, the largest wedding hall in Boro Park.



Fifty-third Street corner 14th Avenue outside the PS 103 School Yard. Notice two way traffic on 14th Avenue and old (former) buildings.



White stone structure, visible on the right of the girl, supported the gates around the building then used by Shulamith School for Girls. The building was located on the corner of 48th Street and 15th Avenue. The children in the photo are Yoel and Darla Chavkin (now Stone). The photo was taken in 1953 by Rabbi Roy Chavkin.

In the previous article above the same building was identified as being used previously as the Habonim Center, across the street is Temple Beth El, as it looked then.

BORO PARK MEMORIES

Dear Dr. Kipust.

Enclosed is a photo taken in 1953. The children in this photo Yoel and Darla Chavkin, moved to Boro Park in 1949 with their parents from Sea Gate, Brooklyn. The little girl was a student of Shulamith School for Girls which was located in an old two or three story corner house with turret like shaped structures on 48th St. & 15th Avenue - across the street from Temple Beth El. The school moved (1954) to its new building at 1353 50th Street. The Shulamith building on 48th Street was later occupied by Happytown Day Camp. The first grade teachers were Ms. Housedorf and Mrs. Steinberg. Ms. Haber was the very devoted school secretary. The school principals were Dr. Judith Lieberman and Dr. Max Kufeld. The moment one of the principals would step through the classroom door, the entire class would immediately stop whatever they were doing and jump up to greet the principal saying, "Good Morning", in a long drawn out singsong manner. If the principal appeared again, ten minutes later, they would get the same drawn out greeting. Several years later when Dr. Jonas Salk discovered a polio vaccine, the children at Shulamith went to the Etz Chaim Yeshiva to get vaccinated.

The boy in this photograph, Yoel, attended Yeshiva Toras Emes, then located on 12th Avenue (between 45 & 44 street) in Boro Park. Yeshiva Toras Emes, originally part of Yeshivah Etz Chaim (located on 13th Avenue between 50th & 51st Street) broke away and formed its own Yeshivah. Nathan Chavkin, a great uncle of the children in this photograph, was one of the founders of the Yeshivah Toras Emes. Nathan

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

came to America with his parents Rubin and Malvina Chavkin in 1903 from Bobruisk, Russia on the S.S. Aurania. Rubin's immigration papers listed his "Race as "Hebrew". Nathan had a ladies apparel factory on 53rd Street & 16th Avenue which is now the site of the Ungavar Yeshivah - opposite the Bnai Yehudah Shul. Nathan lived in Boro Park until his death in 1960. He is buried in the Congregation Toras Emes Society plot in Beth David, Queens which he co-founded. (Enclosed photograph of) Major Ralph Chavkin, Nathan's nephew, a second generation American born was the first in his family to volunteer and serve in the United States Army during World War Two.

During those years the very few stores that were closed on Shabbos (on 13th Avenue) included Semel's Grocery, Gold & Reis Hardwares (42nd & 43rd Street) and possibly a butcher store on 45th Street. On 16th Avenue the Shomer Shabbos stores included two bakeries, Jacobs and Shicks, a laundry store owned by Mr. Klein, a grocery on 51st Street owned by Mr. Feldman and a tailor Levy. The owner of Jacobs bakery on 16th (between 50 & 51st) told Rabbi Roy Chavkin that he used to look at his house 1601 50th Street (demolished) which he could see from his store, in order to see when the lights went on after Shabbos. He then knew that Shabbos was over. When a kosher pizza store opened on 13th Avenue, over a decade later, the children weren't sure it was really possible for pizza to be kosher. There was a Parness family on 16th Avenue near 55th Street who had a Shul and a Mikveh in their house. On Shabbos this family, wouldn't use any electricity because the generators were working on Shabbos.

Rothstein's a family clothing store was "the" place to buy clothing. A McCroys was located across the street from the Woolworth store on 13th Avenue. The Rubenstein furniture store on New Utrecht was a Lowes Movie Theatre. G & Sons was a very small store. A trolly car came into Boro Park down on 39th Street and turned left on 13th Avenue towards Church Avenue until 1956 when the last trolly was taken out of service on Saturday night. The West End and Sea Beach train lines that went through Boro Park were decorated by photographs of Miss Subway contestants.

The enclosed photograph was taken by Rabbi Roy Chavkin, father of the two children. He was a teacher (Rebbe) in Yeshiva Toras Emes for over 40 years and retired about ten years ago.

Sincerely
Darla Chavkin
(718) 332-6209

VOLUME II of "I REMEMBER BORO PARK" COMPLETED

Volume II of "I remember Boro Park" including all the articles from 1988-1995 has now been completed. Reference copies of this volume are available at the following library branches: Boro Park, 1265 43rd Street, Mapleton, 1702 60th Street, Central Library - Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn Historical Society, Boro Park Historical Society and the Library of Congress.

The 214 page volume, including all the articles published within those years and professionally bound in hard covers (library bound), was produced by Mr. Dario S. Marotta, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. The copyrighted volume includes a comprehensive table of contents and a comprehensive index. All the work and expenditures involved were contributed by Mr. Marotta. He also contributed the volumes to the B.P.H.S. and to the various library branches.

This was not a commercial venture, but one undertaken to help preserve and make available a source of local history for students and researchers. A few extra copies were published and will be available at the cost price of $35 to those interested parties who are first to request them by sending a check to B.P.H.S. c/o Jacque Friedman 4424 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220.

Volume I of "I Remember Boro Park" containing all the articles published between the years 1976-1987 was also produced by Mr. Marotta and copies were donated to the same libraries listed above. Many students requesting information about Boro Park are referred to these volumes. We and the community are indebted to Mr. Dario S. Marotta for making this important contribution towards preserving and publicizing the history of our community.

JOIN

Help preserve, research, photograph and publish the history of this community. You can help by submitting your own memories and family histories, photos and other memorabilia. You can also help support the work and expenses involved by joining the B.P.H.S., or sending tax-exempt donations. Membership is $5 a year ($3 retired), $10 business or organization. Life membership is $100, or $200 business or organization. Send to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

A STUDY OF BORO PARK PART III

(The following report "A Study of a Neighborhood" was written by Barbara Pearlman (now Levine) in May 1953 as a course requirement at Brooklyn College. This is the last of three installments.)

MENORAH MASONIC TEMPLE

This is a large building on 14 Avenue, between 50th and 51st Streets. Weddings, dances, and other social functions are held in several ballrooms in the building. In the basement, there are four bowling alleys, reached by a separate entrance. This entrance is a hangout populated by adolescents by day as well as by evening. In the same room as the bowling alleys, there are billiard and pool tables, and a bar, dispensing hard and soft drinks. The entire room is dimly lighted. It is safe to say there are usually more youngsters outside than there are inside. Pool is more popular than bowling, except when girls come to bowl in groups, or with dates. It is "O.K." for most youngsters in the neighborhood to hang around or bowl at Menorah. The teenagers are from 15-19 years old.

YOUNG MEN'S & WOMEN'S HEBREW ASSOCIATION

The Y.M & W.H.A. is a three story building with a basement and wire-enclosed roof. The administration longs for a larger building with some ground space to house more activities in answer to neighborhood needs.

High-school youngsters belong to the Intermediate group. The fee, $5.00 per year, entitles a member to use the gymnasium, swimming pool, and ping-pong room. If a club wants the use of a small room for regular meetings, it must meet the rules of having each of its members become a "Y" member, and of accepting an advisor provided by the "Y". More girls than boys have such an arrangement.

The "Y" sponsors basketball teams. These boys compete in inter-Y tournaments, and with other organizations. These games attract large groups of teen-aged spectators.

Other activities sponsored by the "Y" are interest or hobby groups. These youngsters meet during the week for crafts, dramatics, and dancing. Music classes in most instruments are held at reasonable fees. All activities are under the supervision of trained recreation leaders, social workers, school teachers, and volunteer college students.

The "Y" draws its largest crowd of adolescents on the night it is closed, Friday night. Boys and girls, 12-15 years old converge on the area, many from surrounding neighborhoods. They talk, flirt, chase each other and sit on the steps of the "Y" and of Temple Emanual next door. Occasionally, a squad car appears to break up the crowd.

Scout troops meet in the "Y".

YOUNG ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

The congregation of this orthodox synagogue is predominately youthful. Of especial interest is the group of about 50 boys of high-school age who conduct their own services in a small, separate room on Saturday mornings.

During the week, several clubs sponsored by Young Israel (a national organization) meet with a leader. The clubs are either boy's or girl's groups on the adolescent level. Most of the members come from orthodox Jewish homes. $3.00 per year entitles the youngster to a junior membership status in the congregation and use of the gymnasium, as well as club membership. The synagogue is generous with its facilities. Several other organizations, unaffiliated with Y.I., meet here.

The "Schields", a boy's group, is one of the largest and most popular clubs. Its main interest is basketball.

LOEW'S 46 STREET

This is a chain-theatre. All the movies shown are selected by the main offices. Teenagers attend in large numbers on Friday nights and on Saturday afternoons, between 3:00 and 5:00 P.M.

A new show starts on Sunday, and ends on Saturday. away from the Boro-Park theatre.

SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

"Road to Bali & "Savage"
"Above and Beyond" & Confidentially Connie"
"Stooge" & "Tropic Zone"
"Story of Three Loves" & "Gunsmoke"
"Sands of Iwo Jima" & "Lady from Louisiana"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

LOEW'S BORO-PARK
Schedule for the month of April

Monday, Apr. 1–Sunday, Apr. 5	"Niagra", " Something for the Birds"
Monday, Apr. 6–Saturday, Apr. 1	"Peter Pan", "Cattle Town"
Sunday, Apr. 12 –Tuesday, Apr. 14	"The Man Behind The Screen", "Abbott and Costello meet Captain Kidd"
Wednesday, April 15–Sun., Apr. 19	"I Don't Care Girl", "I'll Get You"
Monday, Apr. 20–Tuesday, Apr. 21	"On the Riviera", "The Black Swan"
Wednesday., Apr. 22–Sat. Apr. 25	"Tonight We Sing
Sunday, Apr. 26–Thursday, Apr. 30	"Anna" "Gambler and the Lady"



YMHA YWHA- on 14th Avenue between 49th & 50th Streets. Note two way traffic and front of building as it looked before renovations.



Loews Boro Park - located on the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 51st Street. Post office is now located on that site.

Teen-agers go to the "Boro" on sunday afternoons As a neighborhood theatre, it is not exciting enough for dates on Friday and Saturday evenings. This theatre had suffered from televisionitis, and has to close its balcony. Saturday afternoons, teen-aged boys and girls avoid their younger brothers and sister, who are attracted by contests and prizes, by not attending.

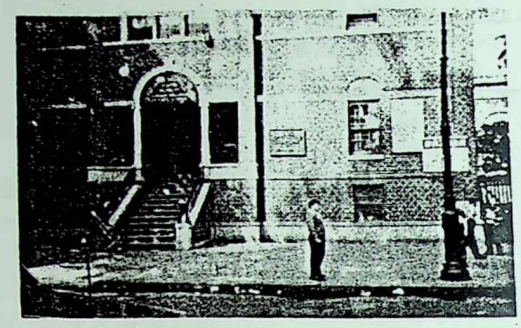
"FOOTNOTES" COMMENTS TO THIS THREE PART REPORT

The hand drawn outline map included in the report covers the area of Boro Park between 13th and 16th Avenues and between 48th and 58th Streets. The following are some of the locations indicated on the map, which are no longer present.

1. American Legion POST - located on 16th Avenue (West Side) between 48th Street and 49th Street over the stores. Probably where the Belzer and Poalei Agudah shuls are now located.
2. Market - located on 16th Avenue (East Side) between 51 and 52 Streets where the Lakewood Minyan is now located.
3. Marcus Candy Store - located on 16th Avenue (West Side) corner 52nd Street where Herbst Optician is now located.
4. Store factories on 16th Avenue (East Side) between 54 and 55 Street, where the new Gerer Yeshivah is now located.
5. Bar - Located on 16th Avenue (West Side) between 54 and 55 Streets, opposite the Gerer Yeshiva.
6. Public Library - Boro Park branch, on 13th Avenue (East Side) between 52 and 53 Street probably where Jerusalem Meat and Quality Dress are now located.
7. Bowling - located on 13th Avenue (West Side) between 52 and 53 Streets above stores.
8. Church and small cemetery on 13th Avenue (S.W. corner) and 51 Street where Waldbaums and then Dime Savings Bank were located. It is now under construction.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

9. Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) on 13th Avenue (West Side) between 50 and 51 Streets, full block.
10. Edgewood Church on 14th Avenue (West Side) between 53 and 54 Streets, opposite former P.S. 103 (which is now Beth Rachel School.)
11. Young Israel Building and Talmud Torah Shomrei Emunah, located at 1363 50 Street where Yeshiva Viznitz is now located.
12. Loews 46th Street, discussed in the article, was located on New Utrecht Avenue (not on the inserted map) between 45 and 46 Streets where Rubinstein & Klein furniture store was located until recently. It is currently the location of Regal Fine Furniture.



Young Israel building, then at 1363 - 50th Street. It also housed the Shomrei Emunah Talmud Torah. Now it is the location of the Yeshiva Viznitz. Note old street light post (lamp post).



Boro Park Bowling located on New Utrecht Avenue and 52nd Street, next to Loews Boro Park. Arman Terrace wedding hall is now on that site.

LEAH HARRIS GOLDSTAND

Leah Harris Goldstand, who had moved to Boro Park when she was six months old, took up permanent residence in Israel on October 30, 1996. Her father, Herman Harris, was one of the founders of the Etz Chaim Yeshiva (13th Avenue, 50th to 51st Streets – demolished) also known as the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park. Etz Chaim was one of the first modern, Zionist-oriented yeshivas; some classes were taught in Hebrew. Etz Chaim's secular courses were also held in high repute.

Mrs. Goldstand and her family were ardent Zionists. She was a member of the Boro Park chapter of the Zionist Organization of America, the Boro Park chapter of Amit women, the Boro Park chapter of Hadassah, and the Boro Park chapter of B'nai B'rith. She attended the Young Israel-Bethel synagogue.

Her sister, the late Hannah Harris, was also a long-time Boro Park resident. Miss Harris was a leading Hebrew-school kindergarten teacher and the author of several books on the subject.

Mrs. Goldstand was the cousin of the late Moshe Brilliant, a former resident of Boro Park and an Israel correspondent for the New York Times.

Mrs. Goldstand moved to Israel with her son, Harvey, her daughter-in-law, and her three young grandchildren. They will live in Jerusalem

LUCILLE POSNER

Dear Dr. Kipust:
You are to be commended for the uniformly high standards of the "I Remember Boro Park" column, year in and year out. Many people have mentioned how much they enjoy reading these reminiscences of early Boro Park.

I would like to correct a statement in the interesting article by Darla Chavkin, wherein she states that, during the 1950's, a McCrory's five and dime store was located across the street from Woolworth's on 13th Avenue and 43rd Street. Actually, there was a Kresge's five and dime store across the street from Woolworth's -- there was never a McCrorys store in Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Many people still remember that, in the 1950's, G & Sons was G & S and Sons. Mr S. later sold his share of the store to Mr. G. It was not, however, a "small store," although it did expand later on.

Re: the photo of three boys standing on the corner of 53rd Street and 14th Avenue, which accompanied Barbara Pearlman Levine's article. The caption says the buildings across the street are former buildings. Actually, the building on the extreme left is still standing, but the second house from the left was recently demolished and another house erected in its place.

I remember the Wonder store on 13th Avenue and about 43rd Street, which sold yard goods. In Junior High School, whenever we had a sewing project, most of the girls bought material from Wonder's. With what delicious delight did I touch the various bolts of cotton and with what pleasure did I decide on a color! Unfortunately, my creations never lived up to my expectations and I must admit that my greatest accomplishment was buying the material!

LUCILLE POSNER

(Ed. we thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for her long listing of interesting comments and contribution.)

ADDITIONAL BORO PARK MEMORIES

Roy Chavkin's Aunt's family lived originally in Boro Park but moved to Brownsville because there was no Yeshivah in Boro Park for her two brothers, Jack and Oscar Goldman to attend. He recalls hearing a story about a Chassidik man who wanted to move to Boro Park from Williamsburg. When he asked his Rebe if it was allright to move since Boro Park was only 18 minutes away, his Rebe replied that 18 minutes was all the time needed for Matzah to be spoiled!

Yeshivah Toras Emes started classes in a small house on 15th avenue & 47th street. Later this house was replaced with an apartment house where Rav Arron Kotler ZT"L and his family resided at one time. On 12th Avenue and 40th street there was a Luhavitch Shul which housed some Toras Emes classes. Rabbi Dr. Shorr of Temple Beth El was then a teacher in Toras Emes. Toras Emes got its own building on 12th avenue between 45 and 44th street. This building may have originally been a hospital. When Toras Emes moved to its next building on 43rd street between 13&14th avenue, Yeshivah Beer Shmul took over their old building on 12th avenue. The building next door was originally a church and was later sold and became the First Yeminite Congregation. Eventually Toras Emes moved to its present building on 56th street.

Rebes who taught in Toras Emes for decades of devoted service to generations of children included Rabbi Blech, Rabbi Roy Chavkin, Rabbi Danzig, Rabbi Mendel Goldwirth, Rabbi Ritter, Rabbi Ritterman, Rabbi Schiff, Rabbi Joshua Silbermintz ZT"L, Rabbi Benyomin Suger, Rabbi Weinberger, Rabbi (Shimon?) Weiss, Rabbi Dr. Arnold Wolf and Rabbi Dovid Yarmush. Boro Parkers who were among the earliest students of Toras Emes who became Rosh Yeshivahs, educators and outstanding personalities in communities in Israel and the United States include, Rabbi Shlomie Braunstein, Rabbi Yosef Dov Friedman, Rabbi Osher Zelig Friedman, Rabbi Avi Gold, Rabbi Aaron Jofen ZT"L, Rabbi Dovid Orlowek and Rabbi Noach Orlowek.

Jan Pierce grew up in Boro Park in a corner house on 9th avenue and 45th street. Roy Chavkin and his family lived on this block years later. Unbeknown to them was a second cousin living around the corner from them - whom they never knew existed. This cousin was born in Galicia and left to Palestine before World War II - (decades after his aunt who became Roy Chavkin's grandmother-in-law Immigrated to the U.S. from Galicia in 1907). There was no contact between these families for more than seventy years until a family member doing geneological research found this cousin. The families were separated for generations, two World Wars, several continents and ended up living one block away from each other in Boro Park! DARLA STONE

(We thank Darla Stone for this and her previews interesting article of Jan. 97. We'd like to point out that there are many more famous Roshei Yeshivos who were among the earliest students of Toras Emes).

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4707 13th Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11219

ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND CONCERNED PEOPLE

Thank you Con Edison for a modest grant. The money was used to purchase valuable photos for the archives. During the year there were also people who donated memorablia to the BP Historical Society.

We had our annual showing of photographs at the Boro Park Public Library 43rd Street and 13th Avenue. We were also called by many school children and college students and The New Standard Publication called up us for many valuable photos. It was a beautiful feature showing historical moments in Boro Park.

Dr. Philip Kipust was available to provide information to various groups wanting information. The Second Volume of our Book - I Remember Boro Park was edited and printed thru the kindness of Dario Marotta.

We enlarged on the Life Membership Program and to date we have the following members. Mrs. Leah Levine, Jacque Friedman, Dr. Philip Kipust, Paul Lindenblat, Fredi Berkowitz, Dr. Victor Genco, The Reichman Family, Daniel Dube, all contributed $100.00 for Life Membership in the Society. Boro Park Community News, Quality Equipment, Fairmont Funding and now Maimonides Medical Center as organizations contributed $200 for life membership. Life Membership for organizations and businesses are $200 and for private individuals $100.00 . WHY NOT BE A MEMBER - Join Today.

Many new pieces of furniture were received and our Mini-Museum is beginning to take shape. Volunteers are needed to hang pictures and in general to help. Thanks and appreciation to Michael Friedman, our LANDLORD FOR HIS SUPPORT.

Jacque Friedman - President.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

(The following is another article about a Holocaust survivor who came to live in Boro Park).

GINA (REGINA) ROSENMUND BIEGELEISEN

Gina Rosenmund Biegeleisen was one of the fortunate survivors of the Holocaust who settled in Boro Park. She was born in Poland and as an infant settled in Vienna with her parents Eli and Dvorah Rosenmund. She was a young child when Hitler came to power but remembers the people rounded up and sent away to concentration camps. Then came Kristalnacht and the great fear among the Jewish people. She recalls that at that time the Jewish children were no longer permitted to attend public schools but could attend Jewish schools. The gentiles no longer spoke to the Jews and wouldn't employ Jewish workers.

Austria was occupied by Hitler in March 1938. In Sept. 1939 when the war broke out, her family had escaped from Vienna, which was already under Hitler's rule since 1938, to Belgium.

Gina's father, who was a Hebrew teacher, had already left Vienna in 1938 in order to say goodbye to his brother in Czechoslovakia. There he was able to obtain a visa to Belgium. He remained in Belgium and waited for Gina and her mother to arrive. The Belgian consulate in Czechoslovakia gave a number of Belgian visas to Jews. Her father was one of the fortunate few to receive one.

Gina, her mother, Aunt Yanka and Uncle Dovid Penner, went to Berlin and were able to obtain an illegal, forged visa from Berlin, via Cologne to Brussels. They then lived in Antwerp for ten months waiting for a visa to the U.S.A. Through relatives in America they were able to obtain legal visas under the American immigration quota system. They were considered to be Polish subjects and were able to enter under the Polish quota but had to wait for their turn. Their relatives had to submit affidavits agreeing to sponsor and care for them.

In the spring of 1940 their turn under the quota system finally arrived. They set sail for America on the French ship the Champlaign. During the trip the ship had to be careful to avoid U-Boats (German Submarines). In fact, their trip was the last one for the Champlaign. On its next voyage to America it was sunk by the submarines.

When they arrived in the U.S.A. Gina's mother borrowed a nickel in order to call her aunt and notify her relatives that they indeed actually arrived in the U.S.A. Her aunt lived in Boro Park and when her aunt came to pick them up they were brought to Boro Park to live temporarily with her aunt and uncle and family. The family's name was Popover and they lived at 1658 50th Street. Gina started school at P.S. 180 located at 56th Street and 16th Avenue. They lived there until her father was able to obtain a job as a Hebrew teacher in Philadelphia and they moved to Philadelphia.

In 1945 right after the war her father was offered a position in New York City so they moved back to Boro Park. They moved to 5205 13th Avenue, above a store and near the library.

When they moved back to Boro Park Gina just started High School and attended New Utrecht High School. She then attended Brooklyn College and lived at the same location until her marriage to Shlomo Biegeleisen in 1952.

Gina's parents then moved to the apartment building at 1320 51st Street where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Her father Eli was deceased in 1981 and her mother Devora was deceased in 1983.

When Gina and Shlomo Biegeleisen were married in 1952 they moved to 450 Ocean Parkway. In 1957 they moved back to Boro Park to 1634 53rd Street where they have lived ever since. When they first moved to this location Gina said there were only a few Orthodox Jewish families living on the block. She remembers the Freundlich, Karmel, Goldberg and Niger Families. Most of the people who lived on the block were Italians. Now almost all the people living on the block are Orthodox Jews. In those days no one would wear their tallis in the street and no one wore Chassidic clothes in the street in Boro Park. Very few Jewish men wore black hats then.

Shlomo Biegeleisen and his father and brother were in the Hebrew book business. Their business was originally located in their home at 1427 53rd Street. It was later established on the lower East Side and again moved back to Boro Park in 1980 to 4409 16th Avenue.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Shlomo and Gina had three children, Shelley, Yosef and Shimmy. Shelley attended Shulamith and the boys attended Yeshiva Torah Emes in their elementary grades. All three were married from their present address. Shelley married Shlomo Berger - a Boro Park resident. He also attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and then Kamenitzer High School. His photo is on the first Pirchei record. He is an attorney now. After their marriage they lived on 50th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues and them moved to Flatbush.

Yossie is also an attorney. He married Devora Gross and moved to Riverdale. They now live in Flatbush.

Shimmy is a computer programmer. He married Miriam Stern and moved to Flatbush.

In the early years of their marriage, even when they lived on Ocean Parkway Gina's husband Shlomo attended prayer services regularly at the Sfas Emes Shul 1339 42nd Street until the Belzer Shul opened in 1957. (Cong. Chasidei Belz). The Belz Shul first started in a small store on 16th Avenue between 47th Street and 48th Street (West Side), in what was previously an egg store. Later (1958 or 1959) they purchased their present building at 4814 16th Avenue and used only the upstairs. In the store downstairs the tenant sold venetian blinds. Some time later when the store became vacant the building was renovated and the men's shul was made downstairs and the woman's shul upstairs.

Some of the memories of Boro Park that Gina recalled were the business changes. When she lived at 5205 13th Avenue, the stores on her side starting from 52nd Street were

5201 - Grocery Store (Now Goldstein Bros. Grocery).

5203 - Charlie's Fruit Store (Now ~~Landau's Health Food~~) Kal

5205 - Peggy's Candy Store (Now Landaus Health Food)

5209 - Bakery (Now Strauss Bakery)

5211 - Library (Now divided into two stores - In A Nutshell and Jerusalem Meat and Poultry.

5213 - Library (Now Quality Dress Shop)

5215 - Library (Now Hoffy's Electronics)

When she first came to B.P. in 1940 and lived at 1658 50th Street. She remembers some of the stores in that area on the corner of 50th Street and 16th Avenue, where Bochner's is now located, there was a small grocery then named Isaacs & Bros., the next store was a Chinese laundry, next was Lefkowitz butcher, next was a bicycle repair store, next a furrier, then a candy store, next a hardware store (Tillie's) and then on the corner of 51st there was another grocery store, Cooper's. Cooper's Grocery on the corner of 51st Street later became Heftler's Plumbing Store and now is a jewelry store.

When she attended P.S. 180 in 1940 she recalls that most of the area residents beyond 50th Street were Italians, very few Jews lived there. Dr. Julian lived in the corner house at 1601 53rd Street where Max Wasser and family now live. Dr. Julian's wife was a teacher at P.S. 180.

Some memories of her current residence at 53rd Street include the following: The previous owner of her home at 1634 53rd Street was Mary Melito. The block was almost all Italian when she moved there now it is all Jewish. Nordlicht owned the grocery store on the N.E. corner of 16th Avenue and 53rd Street.

There was a small food market on 16th Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Street which later became a movie sales store and is now the Lakewood Minyan Synagogue. There was a candy store on every corner and some blocks had two. There was a Chinese Laundry on the corner of 51st Street and 16th Avenue, now there is a Beeper Store.

Gina has seen the many changes in B.P. during her 57 year residence here. She appreciates these changes much more than the changes she witnessed as a child in Europe and is forever grateful for having been saved from the Holocaust.

BORO PARK REUNION IN ISRAEL

Dear Dr. Kipust,

We had another Boro Park Reunion in Israel on October 12, 1996. We had a weekend get together at Kibutz Chofetz Chaim. We've had several Boro Park Reunions in previous years which you wrote about in your column.

The present visiting and former Boro Parkers now living in Israel, who attended this reunion, as shown in the enclosed photos are: M/M Zoltan Weiss, Manya Turner, Batya Lerner, M/M Al Malek, M/M Ernst Ruvel, M/M Moshe Brodetzky, M/M Ben Broitman, M/M Louis Safer, M/M Jerry Fogel, M/M Moshe Elefant, M/M Gedion Elefant, M/M Moshe Sanders, M/M Izzy Schmell, M/M Max Wasser, Jean Fogel, Ann Stausky, M/M Manny Wolman and yours truly Abe and Edith Lieberman. Joe and Ruth Aron dropped in to stay hello.

We've had these Boro Park reunions almost every year for the past ten years. The participants enjoy reminiscing about Boro Park their mutual acquaintances, old memories and how the community has changed.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.



Some of the Boro Parkers in Israel at recent Reunion. Left to Right Edith & Abe Lieberman (Netanya), Joe & Ruth Aaron (Rechovot), Max & Rose Wasser (visiting), Al & Rivka Malek (Jerusalem)

Enclosed also is a picture of myself, Edith Lieberman, wife of Abraham Lieberman, mother of Jonas, Sammy, Urie, Jacob and Joel. All our boys attended Yeshiva Toras Emes.

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. David Bochner, who first owned Elegant Clothes, the first Shomrei Shabbat men's clothing store on 13th Avenue opposite Woolworth and Farmfood (owned by cousin Moshe Bochner who later took over Famous). During the war the store became Edith's Hosiery, and was the first and only one to carry Nylon stockings.

My husband Abe, had a cabinet making shop on 41st Street and 16th Avenue and he made furniture frames for upholsterers and stores. In 1971 we all went on Aliyah giving up everything. At the time I was a teacher of Health and Physical Education in Brooklyn Central and Esther Schoenfeld H.S. on the East Side. The majority of the students were from Boro Park. Quite a few now live in Israel, and we had a reunion of Central Girls in Jerusalem the day of the Jerusalem bus attack. One hundred and twenty-five girls showed up.

As a teenager, till I married, I was the leader and organizer of Betar Brooklyn. Miriam Baumel whose son is missing since the Lebanese War, was a member of my group. (Her name was Miriam Turetzki).

After working for close to a year as swimming instructor in the Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem (the Jewish Y would not hire me, as I did not speak Hebrew well) I started work at Laniado Hospital in Netanya (where we had moved to) and I have been there ever since, going on 24 years, the longest serving employee of the Medical Center. I organized, in 1973, even before the hospital opened to the Public, the Netanya Friends of the Hospital. To date the group still functions, now called Netanya supporters. The following former Boro Parkers are active members. Frances Adler, Ester Reinman, Jacob and Ester Rosenbaum and Adelle Weinberger, Mr. and Mrs. Laszo Solomon and Pearl Paneth, the former wife of Morris Paneth who is unberufen 94 years old, and visits my home every Shabbat.

The picture enclosed is of the affair where the workers of the hospital were honored for the service and I was chosen to be "The Honoree" for being the longest employed.

A year ago I was honored by Vatike Betar for my service to the Party, and three years ago I was recognized as honorary citizen of Netanya for my voluntary contribution in the field of health, Aliyah and general goodwill.

I guess you have enough to write about - - specially so, since I have kept Boro Park alive and thriving in Isarel.

Fondly
Edith Lieberman

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

JACK VERSCHLEISER PASSES ON

The name Jack (Yaakov) Verschleiser (Rip) should be familiar to the readers of this column. He was very much a part of the history of Boro Park and contributed historical information to this column, and to the video of Boro Park, several times in the past.

The funeral services for Jack Verschleiser (RIP) took place on Sunday, Feb. 16, 1997 at Shomer Hadaas Chapels located at 14th Avenue and 39th Street. He had passed away the previous night.

An overflowing crowd attended the funeral services. The eulogies lasted for more than two hours. A long procession of cars accompanied the hearse through the busy Sunday afternoon 13th Avenue and other streets of Boro Park on the way to the cemetery. The hearse passed and stopped (in a final farewell) at several of the Boro Park Synagogues and Yeshivos which Mr. Verschleiser helped to found and support.

Jack Verschleiser arrived in Boro Park as a young boy of seven, with his family from Vienna, in 1920, and lived in Boro Park, with one interruption, ever since. In 1940 Jack married Ida Kramer, a Boro Park girl, whose family lived in Boro Park since 1925. The Kramer Family history in Boro Park also appeared in this column a number of years ago. During the war years, soon after their marriage, from 1941 to 1946 they lived in San Francisco, the only interruption to their long 77 year residence in Boro Park.

Mr. Verschleiser was a well known and well liked philanthropist in the community and a supporter, founder and member of a number institutions in Boro Park. Those institutions include First Cong. Anshei Sfard at 4502 14th Avenue, Cong. Shomrei Emunah at 5202 14th Avenue, Cong. Beth El at 15th Avenues and 48th Street, Radziner Beth Medrash at 1344 54th Street, Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz at 1650 56th Street, Ohel Children's Home at 4510 16th Avenue, Guardians of the Sick at 5216 11th Avenue, Cong. Sfas Emes at 1339 42nd Street, and Kolel Tartikov (Babad) at 1452 55th Street. There were numerous other institutions in and out of B.P. that he generously helped.

His family lived in several different locations in Boro Park,his last residence, where his wife Ida still resides, was at 1439 55th Street. His son Yisroel and family live in Lakewood, NJ, his son Ari and family and daughter Henny (who is married to Rabbi Pinchos Kahn) and family live in Flatbush.

The burial took place in Beth David Cemetery in Queens in the section belonging to First Cong. Anshie Sfard.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF B.P.

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park. You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorablia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S. 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ANOTHER STUDY OF BORO PARK

The following report, "A Study of A Community", was written in Jan. 1951 as part of a course requirement. The Course, Ed. 327.2, was taken at Brooklyn College Graduate School under Prof. Gavian.

Following a similar report carried in this column during the last three issues, and well received by our readers, we decided to use excerpts of this report as well, to help round out the description and portrayal of this community, as it appeared in the early fifties. This is the first of two parts.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

Boro Park is a community in Brooklyn which is a little over a mile long in all directions. To the North it faces the famous Flatbush section; to the South it faces Bensonhurst; to the West, Sunset; and to the East Midwood. Although there are no natural boundaries separating Boro Park from the other sections and only between it and Flatbush is there any semblance of a boundary line in the form of an elevated line, the people living there or in the surrounding sections know very well where they are. In fact the people in Boro Park, generally, are so proud and conscious of their community - more so than in most communities in Brooklyn - that they just "feel it in the air" when they have to cross the boundaries into another section.

At first appearance Boro Park appears to be one of the "better" sections, and it probably is. Although there are a few places that lack central heating, in general the homes are nice and generally fall into the middle - middle class. There are also many homes and families that are part of the upper-middle and lower-upper classes. However, I doubt whether there are any inhabitants of this section that belong to the upper-upper or to the lower-lower class.

In general, Boro Park is a completely residential section with several main and local shopping districts. There are however, a few small factories in the vicinity, which are confined to larger stores. These factory stores are mostly concentrated under the elevated trains on New Utrecht Avenue.

In my study of the neighborhood my interest has been directed mainly towards the adolescents living in the community. In order to learn and understand how the adolescents behave, where they congregate, what they enjoy doing and the like, I first had to make a brief study of the structure of the community in general. The following pages will give an insight, although meager in comparison to some of the famous studies such as Elmtown's youth, into the pattern of behavior of the adolescents in Boro Park. It is only after finishing my own studies that I can appreciate the amount of work, skill, ingenuity and above all time, required to make a real thorough study of a community as depicted in some of the famous community studies.

DEVELOPMENT OF BORO PARK

Boro Park is a relatively new community in Brooklyn. About 25-30 years ago there were small farms and gardens in many places. Many parts were underdeveloped and unbuilt. Shopping was inconvenient and required long walking distance from some places. There were many Italian immigrants settled here and many Jews. As New York City started to receive more settlers, the various underdeveloped sections such as Boro Park became populated and settled. New homes, apartment houses, stores, schools etc. started going up and Boro Park was starting to fill in its "britches". The development of these sections then was probably very similar to the development of new sections in Long Island now.

Boro Park now is a different picture. It is practically busting at its seams. Every available plot of ground has been built upon. There are probably only about 4 small plots of ground vacant in the entire section large enough to build private homes upon. Out of these, I know that 2 belong to private institutions that are trying to save up money to build on them. The other two I don't know who own nor why they weren't built upon. Many of my acquaintances in different sections have been looking for rooms in Boro Park because it is considered to be one of the better and nicer sections. Even I, who was born and bred in this section, and who have a strong attachment to it and to its inhabitants, was forced to take rooms in a different section temporarily, now that I am getting married, until I can get rooms here.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Not only is Boro Park so crowded, but even the population distribution has changed. There has been a great influx of Jewish settlers, many are immigrants from other countries and many from other sections of the city. Because of this the population of Boro Park is probably close to 70% Jewish and is one of the largest Jewish communities in the world. The remainder of the population is composed of a great deal of Italians.

CINEMAS

There are seven Movie Theatres in the vicinity under study. They range from the Loews 46th - the best theatre - to the Garden, which is about the worst. Aside from the 3 bowling alleys and five pool parlors, these theatres are the only means of commercial entertainment in the neighborhood. On "dates", therefore, young people usually go out of the neighborhood - either to lower Brooklyn or Manhattan. The younger ones, stay in the vicinity and visit a neighborhood movie.

Following are samples and descriptions of the types of movies shown at the various theatres.

The Loews 46th and the Loews Boro Park are the largest movies in the neighborhood. The 46th is somewhat larger than the Boro Park and it has a balcony of same size. They are both run by the Loews chain of theatres and show the same pictures except that the 46th shows it a week earlier than the Boro Park. These are the theatres visited frequently by married couples who want to "go out", or the adolescents (from the upper classes) going in groups or with their friends. Younger adolescents and many older ones also frequent these theatres. The price they charge on Sat. & Sun. Eves is 70 cents.

In interviewing the manager of the Loews 46th I obtained the following information. During the week, he said, there were never more than 50 adolescents in the theatre on any one day. On Friday, Sat. & Sun. nights the audience was almost entirely adult. Friday nights, he volunteered, adolescents spend their time at P.A.L. meetings, "Frats", or other clubs, while on Sat. afternoon they usually played ball.

Sunday afternoon is the children's and adolescents day with some nine hundred in attendance. They preferred war, horse, cowboy, or murder pictures. The adolescents come in separately but usually end up together in the balcony where they try to "neck" until told to move by the ushers. On the following pages can be seen the movie program of the Boro Park and 46th as they appeared in the newspaper. The same show is usually shown for the entire week. These movie houses don't print their own program sheets.

The Windsor theatre, the Normandy and the Culver Theatres are exclusively local theatres. They are locally owned and managed and are small theatres without any balconies. They show double features and change their shows 2 or 3 times a week. Most of the shows from the Lowes Theatres are shown in these movies houses several weeks later. The Culver gets them first and then they go the Windsor and Normandie.

I interviewed the manager of the Normandy Theatre and he said that the adolescents come to the theatre mainly on Sat. afternoon or Sunday afternoon. He also thought that most "Teenagers" spend Friday nights at clubs, meetings or dances. Many no longer come because of the attraction of Television. Boys and girls usually enter separately and meet inside after each has paid for his own

These theatres are frequented mostly by the lower middle class crowd and occasionally by the others who come to see a picture that they missed.

The manager didn't have any old program sheets but he gave me a list of some of the past programs. Adventure, murder, and cowboy pictures are stressed in these theatres.

The Garden Theatre is a small theatre, situated on New Utrecht Avenue beneath the elevated train. It is a small dingy decrepit theatre which shows the triple-feature variety. The shows consist generally of three pictures - a cowboy, a murder, and a war picture. The patrons are from the lower class with perhaps some youngsters from the middle class that come to see the action pictures. I decided to visit the Garden theatre and went there on a Sat. eve. The clientele was made up largely of adults, but there were many teenagers also. The place was very stuffy and the aroma was not exactly attractive. People called out to make remarks at various times during the show. There were at least two brawls during my stay, one between two patrons, and one between a patron and an usher. The manager came and threatened to put the customer out. The pictures shown were a Frank buck picture, a Tarzan picture and a cowboy picture. There was also a Laurel and Hardy comedy. This type of program is very typical of this theatre and it is designed to cater to a specific type clientele the so called "Hoodlum" type.

The Garden doesn't print any programs nor do they advertise in the papers and I couldn't get a list of previous shows from the manager because of lack of time. However, my description thus far should give a fair idea of the type of program shown.

The Radio is a very small theatre situated on 13th Avenue in the middle of the shopping district. At one time it was a broken, decrepit "joint" that showed 3 pictures for a dime to draw the children and lower

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

class "teenagers". About 7 years ago it was renovated and now features foreign pictures in Italian and Yiddish for the older, foreign born residents. Adolescents rarely visit this theatre now.

(To be continured)

ADELAY BAKST LISS

In 1914, a young woman named Dorothy (who became my mother), moved with her parents, Libby and Simon Marrow, to an apartment on 54th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues. At the same time, a young man named Isaac Bakst (who became my father) was living in Brownsville. A salesman by profession, Isaac sold commercial-size spools of thread to clothing manufacturers. In this way, my mother's brother, Isadore, who had an underwear factory, met Isaac and introduced him to Dorothy. In due course (1916), my Dorothy and Isaac were married in the home of my maternal grandparents.

My parents' first home was in a new apartment house on 43rd Street and 12th Avenue. In 1918, they bought a three-floor, one family house with ten rooms, at 1335 45th Street. My mother's parents, the Marrows, occupied the middle floor. This was my parents' last move; they lived in that house for the rest of their lives. It was there that my older sister, Charlotte, was born, and it was there that I was born, in 1919.

My mother bought meat from Zieselman's kosher butcher on 14th Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets and, later on, from Tabacoff and Amsterdam kosher butchers on 13th Avenue and 44th Street. I remember Kayliss Bakery, Goldstein's Bakery, and Rennell's Bakery, all on 13th Avenue. I also remember the candy store on the corner of 45th Street and the odd number side of 14th Avenue.

I attended P.S. 164, 14th Avenue and 43rd Street. Two teachers whom I remember were Miss Gambert, my third-grade teacher, and Miss Massemine. I attended Montauk Junior High School, 43rd Street and 16th Avenue, from which I graduated in 1932. My parents were very attuned (no pun intended) to music. My sister Charlotte was given piano lessons and I was given violin lessons. I played violin in the Montauk Jr. High school orchestra.

From about 1930 to 1985, I played violin with the Boro Park YM/YWHA Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Myron Levite. Abe Hershkowitz was the Director of the Y at that time The orchestra had such a good reputation that people from all parts of New York City attended the concerts.

Many famous guest artists appeared with the Y orchestra. The famous pianist, Emanuel Ax, was still a schoolboy when he played with the Y orchestra. Kenneth Gordon, the violinist, currently with the New York Philharmonic, also appeared with the Y orchestra. In 1981, the violinist, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, appeared with the Y orchestra. She gives recitals all over the world and appears as a guest artist with all the major orchestras. Samson Guillard, an oboe player and a Yemenite Jew, appeared with the Y orchestra. He later played with major symphony orchestras. Elmar Oliveira, the violinist (who gives recitals and appears with chamber music groups), had just won first prize in a musical contest when he appeared as a guest artist with the Y orchestra. I recently went up to him after he appeared in a concert at Lincoln Center. When I reminded him that we had met years ago when he appeared with the Y orchestra, his face lit up. He clearly recalled the concert!

Some members of the Y orchestra also played in the Y's musical comedies, which played to capacity audiences.

Beginning about 1949 (and for quite a few years after), the Y had a music school where lessons were given in how to play various musical instruments. Myron Levite was the director of the music school. He was a top-notch conductor; his biography appeared in Who's Who In Music.

In 1985, a decision was made to discontinue the Y orchestra. The glorious days of the Y orchestra were ended!

About two years ago, I resumed my violin lessons. My teacher is Aron Pichkhadze, who lives in Boro Park. The violin has given me a lifetime of pleasure. I am a member of the Kingsborough College Symphony Orchestra, which gives periodic concerts.

When I was young, 13th Avenue had many fine stores. On languid summer days, I strolled up and down 13th Avenue with my sister Charlotte and our friends, looking in the store windows. There was Home Beautiful, a furniture store; Bushell's and Morrell's, women's dress shops; and Bunnyland and Tobias, children's clothing stores. Of course, we always made a tour of Woolworth, a variety store, 4318 13th Avenue, and Kresge, another variety store, at 4402 13th Avenue. We looked at every item, from almond bars, through make-up, through toys, and finished up with zippers.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

I also remember some other 13th Avenue stores, such as the Famous Dairy Restaurant, between 48th and 49th Streets, and Skilowitz Delicatessen, between 49th and 50th Street. Lofts candy store, one of a chain, was on 46th Street. All of the above were on the even number side of 13th Avenue. There were several shoe stores, such as A.S. Beck and Thom McAnn (both chain stores) and Markell's.

The date of October 14, 1944 will remain in my memory forever. It was on that day that my cousin, Lucille Richman, a longtime (and current) resident of Boro Park, gave a party in her home. Among the people she invited was her friend, Hannah Unger (a Boro Park resident). Since Hannah has always believed that a good man is hard to find and an extra man is always welcome, she invited a fellow named George Liss to the party. I discovered that George enjoys reading, music, the theater, crossword puzzles (which he does with a pen) and solving math problems. Because of his many interests and his keen intelligence, George is a stimulating conversationalist. When he asked me for a date, I accepted. The end result was that we were married on June 17, 1945. (In June 1997, we will celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary.)

For the first years of our marriage, we lived in Flatbush (the only time in my life when I didn't live in Boro Park). In 1950, we moved to a four-room apartment at 1330 45th Street, across the street from my parents' house. We lived there until 1956 when we bought a one family house, where we live today.

We have three sons, Harvey, Ira, and Stuart. They attended P.S 192, 18th Avenue and 48th Street, and Montauk Junior High School. George and I have been members of the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue (a Reform congregation) since 1956, where all three of our sons became bar mitzvahs.

George is a co-president of our synagogue. From 1978 to 1981, I was the president of the synagogue the only woman to ever hold that position. I was also a president of the synagogue's Sisterhood for many years, and am presently a co-president.

The Boro Park Progressive /Synagogue has always contributed money to Boro Park institutions. The congregation raised funds for the new Israel-Zion Hospital (now Maimonides Hospital). We contribute to the Hatzolah ambulance service, the Mishkon home for children at 1358 56th Street, and other institutions. Time marches on! Harvey is a clinical psychologist and lives in Vermont; Ira is a graphic artist and an entertainer, and lives in Colorado; and Stuart, a computer expert, also lives in Colorado. Incidentally Stuart is the family geneologist. We have three grandchildren George and I enjoy our home, our synagogue, the companionship of friends, and concerts and plays which we frequently attend. And, of course, I enjoy playing my violin!

(Ed.: The above article was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her for her interesting contribution.)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit the Brooklyn Public Library 1265 43rd St and see the wonderful window display of items from the Boro Park Historical Society.The display will be there the entire month of May,1997.

Want to help, be a Life Member of the Boro Park Historical Society $100.00 for individuals or $200.00 for a community organization or business. You can be a regular member for $5.00 yearly, Senior member for $3.00 or $10.00 yearly for business or organization.

Life Members, Mrs. Leah Levine, Dr. Philip Kipust, Jacque Friedman, Paul Lindenblatt, Fredi Berkovits, Dr. Victor Genco, Guy Granato, Daniel Dube. Business, Quality Equipment Co., Boro Park Community News.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ANOTHER STUDY OF BORO PARK

The following report, "A Study of A Community", was written in Jan. 1951 as part of a course requirement at Brooklyn College.

This is the second of two parts of excerpts from that report.

BOWLING ALLEYS & POOL ROOMS

In general Bowling Alleys and Pool Rooms seem to go together. Most of the bowling alley places also have billiard tables. Also, it was interesting to note, that Pool Rooms are generally situated near the Movie Houses. Probably, they attempt to get the aftermovie crowd or attract part of the crowd going to the movies.

One Pool Parlor (p1) above the Normandy Theatre, which I visited, had some thirty male congregants varying in age from 16 to 25. This was: Club Life" class IV style, for most of the youngsters were not particularly well dressed - odd pants, open shirt and lumberjacket, and cigarettes were sticking out of the sides of most of the mouths. What their female counterparts were doing at the time, I do not know.

Next door to the Loews 46th, in a basement, was another Pool Parlor (p2) with about 25 youths (Wed. night). Some were at a card table playing poker, others were playing pool, and some were watching the television set.

Near the Loews Boro Park there is a Billiard Academy and Bowling Alley (p3) which I did not visit. This place, from what I heard, has a slightly better type of clientele which come to bowl.

In the basement of the Menorah Temple (a wedding hall of very large size) there is also a Bowling Alley and Pool Room (p4). The Menorah Temple is a very fancy place and although its basement characteristically belies the social status of its wedding halls, the type of people coming there are more refined and of better "character" than those going to the other pool rooms. Most of the business here is done by the Bowling Alley and many local teen-agers frequent this place on dates and with friends.

The last pool room that I came across (p5) is situated on 13th Avenue, the shopping district. This place I didn't get a chance to visit.

OTHER "HANGOUTS"

Every Friday night there is a large crowd of teen-agers congregated in front of the YMHA (h1). Whenever I pass by some are standing on the sidewalk in front of the building, some are on the steps and some are inside the building. Outside the boys and girls don't seem to be doing anything except to stand around and talk, tell jokes, sing songs, etc. Inside the YMHA there are ping pong tables and occasional programs prepared for the teen-agers.

As we go around the corner we find the Young Israel (h2) which also has a crowd of teen-agers as well as adults congregated in front of the building. The adults come to participate in the cultural lectures and classes arranged for them. There are classes & discussion groups for the teen-agers too, but many don't go inside, they just stand around outside and talk. The Young Israel also has clubs during the week, and a gym for the use of the teen-agers.

Across the street from the Young Israel we can usually find another crowd outside of the Menorah Temple (p4). These congregants come to play pool and to bowl and hang around on the corner before and after their games. Many only come to talk & whistle at the girls that pass. At any rate this information coincides with the opinions of the movie managers who said that the teen-agers spend Friday nights at clubs, etc. Of course I couldn't visit or find the private clubs or Fraternities.

Some other places that teen-agers use for hangouts are the corner candy stores, of which the larger crowd-drawers are indicated on the map. Some of the school yards (S1, S2 & S3) especially, are common hangouts for some some of the teen-agers. In (s1) police cars frequently come around a night to break up the "crap games" and disperse the groups of teen-agers-boys and girls.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

CONCLUSIONS

Many discussions with teen-agers in different groups that I met and interviewed, and with storekeepers, were not able to be tabulated or analyzed scientifically. However, the general impressions that I got from these interviews will be briefly discussed in these conclusions. Though these impressions are highly opinionated and based upon scanty bits of information, interviews and incidents, I do not know whether they are any less reliable than the information contained in textbooks or other general studies made of communities.

1. When asked how the new ban on extra-curricula activities in the public schools affected them, the high school students furnished me with a variety of responses. Those who suffered mostly from the ban were the athletically inclined students, especially those who actively participated in the athletic events. Many students didn't feel affected at all, saying that it didn't make any difference to them because they didn't attend any clubs anyhow. Some went so far as to say that the clubs were good because it meant shorter periods one day a week. In general though, the students did miss the extra-curricula activities especially such important ones as graduation proms, newspapers, class papers etc.

2.Boro Park in general is a middle-class neighborhood.

3. It is a residential section and although it offers an average amount of recreational and social attractions to the teen-agers, most of the teen-agers go outside of the section to supplement these activities.

4. There are different "types" of teen-age groups living in Boro Park. While one type may enjoy playing pool more than doing anything else in the form of recreation, another type may enjoy going to a movie or watching the T.V. for recreation.

5. In general teen-agers enjoy adventure, whether it is in the form or a movie, a Radio program, a book or even an actual experience. One type prefers comedies to adventure, but it also likes adventure.

6. Teen-agers are very sex-conscious, and express this fact in their belonging to co-ed social groups; congregating in co-ed crowds; in their manner of dress and general behavior in the presence of the opposite sex. Many have not as yet adjusted themselves properly to the opposite sex.

7. Teen-agers in Boro Park spend their Friday nights at clubs, organizations, recreational centers or with friends. They spend Saturday nights on dates, going to a party, going bowling or to a movie with their friends. Most of the teen-agers go to the movies on Sunday afternoon.

8. The average teen-ager that I have spoken to dates about once in 3 weeks and most of the times the girl and boy each pays his own way.

9. The average teen-ager thinks about the war but doesn't feel very concerned about being drafted. Being drafted is too far from them as yet to concern them very much.

FOOTNOTES:

(p1) New Utrecht Ave. bet. 42 & 43 St.
(p2) New Utrecht Ave. bet. 45 & 46 St.
(p3) New Utrecht Ave. bet. 51 & 52 St.
(p4) 14 Ave. bet. 50 & 51 St.
(p5) 13 Ave. bet. 46 & 47 St.
(h1) 14 Ave. bet. 49 & 50 St.
(h2) 1363 - 50 St.
(s1) 18 Ave. bet. 47 & 48 St.
(s2) 14 Ave. 42 & 43 St.
(s3) 14 Ave. bet. 53 & 54 St.

BORO PARK PHOTO EXHIBIT

Each year, during the month of May, the Boro Park Historical Society sponsors a photo exhibit at the Boro Park branch of the Public Library at 1265-43 St. This month's exhibit of old Boro Park includes a special section about Cantor Yossele Rosenblan in Boro Park (1927-28) with rare clippings from contemporary newspapers. It also includes other photos and clippings about Boro Park in the 1920's from contemporary Yiddish and English newspapers. The exhibit was prepared by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. Another section of the photo exhibit dealing with old movie theatres and public schools was prepared by Mr. Dario Marrotta.

EDNA NELSENIUS, BELOVED TEACHER

Edna Nelsenius, who taught in Boro Park public schools for many years, died the week of March 17, 1997. She reached her 105th birthday on March 8th, 1997.

From 1930 to June 1941, she taught elementary grades at P.S. 103, 14th Avenue and 53rd Street (now Beth Rachel School for Girls). From 1941 until her retirement in the 1950's, she taught algebra and geometry at Montauk Junior High School, 43rd Street and 16th Avenue.

She lived in her own home in Bay Ridge (for the last few years with a companion) until the very end. Although she grew physically weaker and weaker, her mind remained sharp and alert.

She is survived by her niece, Lenore Nordstrom.

Submitted by Lucille Posner

FORMER BORO PARKER

January 15, 1997

Gentleman,

Enclose you will find a check for membership. I had a copy of your paper and it brought back

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

many many happy memories of Boro Park. My grandparents bought a house in Boro Park in 1918 when it was a farm country. My parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends grew up in Boro Park. I too have some wonderful stories about growing up in Boro Park. I will try to get it down on paper and send it to you.

Yours truly,
Rita Appelbaum
Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn

TRADITION!!! TRADITION!!! What Exactly Has Been Our Tradition?

Close your eyes for moment and let us take you on a journey to many of the places where our traditions were formed -- no reservations and no passports are needed and you will all travel first class. Our first stop is nearby in Boro Park, Brooklyn. The time is the 40's. We were not such a mobile society then and whole families lived walking distance to one another. All the cousins played together and no introductions were necessary. There were no shopping malls, no supermarkets, no parking lot searches for the spot nearest the store, and nobody went to the gym. Exercise was provided free of charge. All the sisters walked to the store together pushing large English coach carriages for their infants or straw baby buggies (strollers) for their young children. The bundles were carried home in these carriages, then taken upstairs, or, for the lucky ones, carried up in the elevator. That took care of EXERCISE! During the walk to the store, recipes were exchanged, problems were discussed, opinions were given, and solutions often resulted. The fresh air and exercise did wonders. Each grocer had products piled to the ceiling and special attention was given to each order. Ladders and grabbers on poles were used to get the products down. I can remember the merchants -- George Levy, the grocer, Chumsky, the tailor, Mr. Blatt and Mr. Glickman who owned the variety stores. They all looked up from their work and tapped on the window or waved a friendly hello as I went by. The grocery and appetizing stores were not as antiseptic - wonderful smells pervaded the air. Frozen food was not available. Some people still had ice boxes. Most had refrigerators.

It was a given that we all would assemble in Grandma's well- scrubbed apartment. The smell of delicious cooking was everywhere. Everyone in Boro Park knew that it was Pesach. Twice a year, new clothes were purchased - Passover and Rosh Hashonah. New shoes and spring coats were bought then. Even the weather was right on time and all the children needed spring coats and beautiful hats. I can still remember the derby hats with long-flowing ribbons that matched our spring coats. Everyone dressed in his or her best. Togetherness was the key. Cooperation, not caterers. All of the women cooked together and the men schlepped the cartons of Passover dishes and pots and pans and set up the makeshift tables. The Hagaddah was read in it's entirety and all the rituals were performed. The children planned for how the matzoh would be stolen, who would open the door for Elijah, etc. All of us attended the same Hebrew school, so we all knew the same melodies and the singing was loud, rhythmic and joyful. Familiar objects were available from one generation to the next.

And now, our journey takes us to Iran, where Pennina Sarraf will tell us about the traditions of Passover in Persia.

"This is a part of a Sisterhood program given at Temple Beth Sholom, in Roslyn, Long Island on March 17, 1997. the countries represented included U.S.A., Iran, Cuba, Morocco, France, Bahrain, Mexico, Israel and Iraq. The portion in Boro Park was written by Eleanor Spiegel Roberts, who resided in Boro Park during the 40's.

(Ed: We thank Mr. Emanuel Schwartz of 14 Avenue for submitting the above interesting article.)

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The Boro Park Historical Society
4707 13th Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11219
(718) 854-1033 or
(718) 436-7729

COME ONE COME ALL
The Annual Open Meeting
featuring

Cezar del Valle

Movie Historian

Movie Theatre Memories
of Brooklyn
Slide Presentation

Admission Free

at GREATER NEW YORK SAVINGS BANK
53rd Street & 13th Avenue
downstairs - Community Room

Monday
June 2, 1997
at 7:30 p.m.

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Remember
"Boro Park is You"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I greatly enjoyed the article in your April column on Boro Park in 1951. I would like to add several comments about Boro Park movie theaters.

There were two Loew's movie theaters in Boro Park: Loew's Boro Park (51st and New Utrecht Avenue) and Loew's 46th Street, (also on New Utrecht Avenue). Loew's 46th Street was not "somewhat larger" than Loew's Boro Park, but was a great deal larger. In fact, it was one of the most beautiful movie theaters in Brooklyn. The ceiling was painted light blue with white clouds.

Loew's Boro Park and Loew's 46th Street did not "show the same pictures except that the 46th shows a picture a week earlier than the Boro Park." Both of them were first-run movie theaters. I must explain that a first-run movie theater showed movies when it first came to the neighborhoods after opening in Manhattan. After playing at first-run movie theaters, movies made the circuit of second-run movie theaters, and ended up playing the circuit of third-run movie theaters. Patrons of third-run movie theaters saw movies many months after they opened. Consequently, tickets cost less at second- and third-run movie theaters. The major movies of any given year were booked into the Loew's 46th Street, since it had a much larger seating capacity than Loew's Boro Park.

The two Loew's theaters were the only ones patronized by me and my family. I must admit that I never even laid eyes on any other Boro Park movie theater than the two Loew's theaters. Some of my friends, however, went to the Windsor movie theater on 15th Ave., which was a second-run or possibly a third-run theater. The Windsor was never referred to as the Windsor, but was always referred to as "the Windsor – that dump."

Every Saturday, from 11:00 to 12:00 noon, the Loew's Boro Park had a "kiddie show." Cartoons, short movies on humorous topics, sing-a-longs, and a movie serial were shown. The serials were called "cliff-hangers" because each installment ended with the hero (male or female) clinging to the edge of a cliff or lying tied up on a railroad track with a train approaching. (The next installment showed that the hero had miraculously escaped death.) Children brought sandwiches along, which were eaten at 12:00 noon, before the regular program was shown. In those years, all programs were double features, consisting of an "A" movie and a "B" movie. Although made on a smaller budget, the "B" movies were well written and acted.

After a movie, it was customary to have an ice cream soda or a sundae at a nearby luncheonette. (Refrigerators did not yet have freezers in those days.) A luncheonette was conveniently located in the same building as Loew's Boro Park. Alternately, my family and I sometimes ate at a Chinese restaurant. Two Chinese restaurants were located on New Utrecht Avenue. One was conveniently near Loew's Boro Park and one was near Loew's 46th Street. I can not remember my family or my friends ordering anything other than chicken chow mein. More sophisticated (and expensive) Chinese dishes were far in the future.

As you can see, sitting at home and watching TV does not even begin to compare with the pleasure of going to a movie!

LUCILLE POSNER

[ED: There was a period of time (not always) when movies would be shown at the Loews 46th Street first and later at the Loews Boro Park. It was common for people who missed a movie at the 46th Street to wait for it to be shown at the Loews Boro Park, and some time later at one of the third rate movies, like the Windsor. Some waited because of the lower admission fees at the other theaters.]

[ED: The above item was submitted by Lucille Posner. We thank Lucille, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for her interesting contribution to this column.]

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Adelay Liss mailed a copy of her article, which appeared in the April "I Remember Boro Park" column, to David and Hannah Aronson, old-time Boro Park residents who now live in New Jersey. Following is a letter David wrote, thanking Adelay for sending the article:

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Dear Adelay:

Thanks so much for sending us the copy of your article on your memories of Boro Park some decades ago. You have a keen sense of observation and a strong memory. We recalled some of the recollections, but you noted much more than we did.

As Hannah read me your account of all that happened on 13th Avenue and nearby, I thought of some of the interesting times I had even earlier. Somewhere in our files I have a copy of the poem I wrote about 13th Avenue. It covers the time when we lived in a railroad flat above a store, between 38th and 39th Streets. Brookstein's live poultry market was on the corner. Until prohibition went into effect, there was a bar across the street with the traditional swinging small doors. Now and then a policeman threw out a drunken customer (we called them stumble bums.)

Pushcarts lined 13th Avenue. The horses that pulled the pushcarts to the sales spot were then taken to a multi-story stable on 39th Street. Across from the stable was a blacksmith shop where new horseshoes were beaten out from strips of iron. The area was alive.

So much for memories -- times never to return. Love and shalom to you and George.

DAVID ARONSON

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I read your very interesting article, written in the Boro Park Community News, which was distributed at Regina Parcis Center. The paper was dated 4/9/97.

I just was interested to know when was the last time you were in Boro Park?

The theatre houses you mention have been out of existence more than thirty years!

The article did bring back many memories. My folks had a candy store on 7th Avenue and 46th Street.

Sincerely
Frances Friedman Shatz

[ED: The article you mention reprinted a school report written in 1951. It described Boro Park then. I and my family were born in Boro Park and still live here.]

ODDS AND ENDS

- I found an old family photo taken in 1926 at the Hurwitz Studio located at 4704 13th Avenue. The name and address were printed on the cardboard frame. Paradise Jewelers is now located there.

The following note was recorded in April 1988: Charles Newman, President of Temple Emanuel since 1986, moved to B.P. in 1942. His first apartment in Boro Park, after moving from Bensonhurst, was at 5001 14th Avenue. His wife Ruth (nee-Schertzer) had parents who lived in B.P. and had a candy store at 4801 13th Avenue. The Newman's later moved to 1665 46th Street.

Some memories of the 1930's:
We lived in a 4 room apartment at 1358 44th Street, ground floor, back. Rent was $20 per month. There was no central heating. We had a coal stove in the kitchen which we used to warm the apartment and in the winter months, while it was providing heat, it was also used for cooking purposes.
We had an ice box to keep the food cold in the summer months (no refrigerator yet). During the winter months we had a metal window box installed on the window sill - outside the window - in which to keep the food cold. This helped save the cost of purchasing ice for the ice box.
Cigarettes were sold in the candy stores individually for 1¢ a piece for those who couldn't or didn't want to buy a whole pack.

The Holy Spirit School (Formerly Holy Ghost), a catholic parochial school at 1668 46th Street, was opened in September 1966. It was built over a section of Old New Utrecht Road.

UP THE HILL, DOWN THE HILL

When one walks along the streets of Boro Park or when one thinks of it's simple and logical street plan, and numerical order, one also gets the impression that the streets are all flat. The truth of the matter is however, that Boro Park, like other communities, has its ups and downs. Although developed on comparatively level ground there are some hilly sections in Boro Park as well.

If you walk along 16th Avenue from Dahill Road until 43rd Street you will be walking up a relatively steep hill; its much easier to walk in the other direction. The hill also seems to get steeper as one progresses in age.

There are several other hilly sections in Boro Park as well and we would appreciate hearing about them from our readers.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING -- JUNE 2, 1996

President Jacque Friedman welcomed the audience to the annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society and thanked the Greater New York Savings Bank for the use of the meeting room. He expressed satisfaction that, despite a day-long rain and windstorm, there was a near capacity audience.

He explained that the goal of the Society is to research the history of Boro Park, including maintaining an archive of early Boro Park photographs, some of which were on display around the meeting room.

Lucille Posner, Secretary, noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society, Michael Mann, of the First Battle Revival Alliance (responsible for renovating the old stone house in Park Slope, site of the first battle of the American Revolution), and Marcia Kaplan-Mann, of the Brooklyn Coordinating Council.

Ms. Posner introduced guest speaker Cezar Del Valle. Born in 1945 in Washington, D.C., he moved to Brooklyn in 1976. Del Valle, a mixed media collage artist, has also been a booking agent for singers and comedians.

His interest in movie theaters began in childhood, when he and his father went to the movies every Saturday morning. Years later, in the early 1970's, large numbers of movie theaters were closing and theater owners were throwing movie posters and photographs of movie stars out with the garbage. Horrified at this wanton destruction of a part of our popular culture, he began to collect movie memorabilia, including slides of old movie theaters.

CEZAR DEL VALLE -- GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Del Valle began his slide presentation by explaining that in 1891 William Dickson of Thomas Edison Laboratories invented the Kinetoscope. The Kinetoscope was a box, about five feet high, with a small window in the top. For a nickel, a person looked through the window while turning a hand crank connected to a wheel inside the box. Attached to the wheel was a film strip of photographs taken consecutively. The revolving wheel gave the illusion that the people in the photographs moved. The Kinetoscope was designed for use in Kinetoscope parlors or amusement arcades. The first Kinetoscope parlor was opened in 1894 at 1155 Broadway, Manhattan.

The next development was when the Lumiere Brothers in France took out a patent for a movie projector. In 1895, the first successful projected movie was shown to a paying audience in Paris. (The ancestor of movie projectors was the magic lantern, invented by Frederick Langenheim of Philadelphia in 1850. Magic lanterns magnified glass slides and projected them on a wall.)

Thomas Edison realized [redacted] the Kinetoscope, which could be viewed by only one person at a time, had limited commercial possibilities. The money-making potential of projected movies awakened his interest, however. Thomas Armat, under the auspices of Thomas Edison, developed the Vitascope movie projector. In 1896, the first projected movie using a Vitascope was shown to a paying audience at Koster and Beal's Music Hall, 34th Street and Broadway, site of the present Macy's.

The early movies were one- and two-reels of boxing matches, dances, comic sketches, etc., which were filmed by the Edison Trust and the Lumiere Brothers. Frequently shown as part of a vaudeville program, when the novelty wore off they were placed last on the program, serving as "chasers" to empty theaters.

Theaters traditionally closed on Thanksgiving. Before long, enterprising showmen rented theaters on Thanksgiving to show movies. This was the origin of the expression, when a movie is bad, "it's a turkey."

Movies were also shown in nickelodeons. Vacant stores were rented and folding chairs rented or bought. The screen was frequently a white sheet hung on a wall. Theaters were called nickelodeons because the price of a ticket was -- you guessed it [redacted]kel. By 1910, many nickelodeons existed, and every year thousands more opened.

Audiences soon lost interest in short movies without story lines and, around 1900, new production companies, or studios, were formed. Scriptwriters were hired and movies became longer. The public developed an interest in the actors, or stars, of these movies. The Edison Trust and the Lumiere Brothers, who saw no need to improve the quality of movies, soon faded into obscurity along with their movies.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

The Vitagraph Company, one of the early movie studios, was located in Flatbush and filmed many movies in Brooklyn. The Vitagraph building still stands, at 1277 E. 14th Street, but is now occupied by the Shulamith School For Girls.

At first, theater owners had to buy movies at 10 cents a foot from the Edison Trust. In 1902, the first film exchange opened. Films could now be rented instead of bought, for an initial charge of $25 and an annual charge of $12.50. The profits of theater owners increased accordingly, and many more theaters opened.

Laws were soon passed, regulating fire safety, ventilation, and seating capacity of movie theaters.

Open-air theaters in the summertime were another type of movie theater. On two occasions, Marcus Loew rented Ebbetts Field for this purpose. Loew was active in developing Brooklyn movie theaters; he opened Loew's Metropolitan in downtown Brooklyn in 1918.

Mr. Del Valle observed that, in 1930, Brooklyn movie theaters had a total seating capacity of 300,000. The oldest remaining Brooklyn movie theater, that is still used for showing movies, is the Plaza Theater on Flatbush Avenue, opened in 1912.

Mr. Del Valle said that the Levy Brothers, who built homes in Boro Park, built the Boro Park Theater in 1921 and leased it to the B. F. Keith Circuit. There were two shows a day, consisting of vaudeville and a movie. Loew's Theaters bought the Boro Park from the Levy Brothers in 1923.

In 1927, a Universal theater, with 2, 675 seats, opened on New Utrecht Avenue and 46th Street (later bought by Loew's). The entire interior was carpeted. The lobby was spacious, and a grand staircase led to the balcony. Marble statues stood in niches in the auditorium, whose ceiling was light blue. Lighting effects gave the illusion of moving white clouds. Theaters themselves were now part of the movie-going experience. No wonder they were called movie palaces!

During World War II, movie theaters conducted war bond drives. From 1942 to 1943, $1 million worth of war bonds were sold at Loew's Boro Park.

Attendance at movie theaters reached an all-time high in 1946. Only a few years later, the popularity of television proved the movies' demise; now only a shadow of their former glory remains. Most movie theaters closed. Loew's Boro Park was demolished and the Blythebourne Post Office was built on the site. Loew's 46th Street is occupied by Regal Furniture and the West End Theater on New Utrecht Avenue and 52nd Street is a catering hall. (Armon Terrace)

Jacque Friedman, president, thanked Mr. Del Valle for his fascinating and informative slide presentation.

He expressed appreciation to the members of the Boro Park Historical Society, whose membership dues enable the Society to function. Dues are $5 a year for individuals, $3 a year for retirees, $10 a year for institutions and stores, $100 for life membership, and $200 for life membership for institutions or stores.

Respectfully yours,
LUCILLE POSNER

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

DANIEL WAX

Daniel Wax visited Boro Park on July 15, 1997, which he said was his first time back in over 25 years. He stopped in at the Aronowitz Grocery Store on the corner of 16th Avenue and 45th Street and after speaking to him a few minutes Mr. Duddy Aronowitz referred him to me.

Mr. Wax lives in Los Angeles now and is an Environmental Attorney and Chemical Engineer. During his current trip to New York City he said he must visit his roots in Boro Park and so he stopped by to reminisce. He seemed to be enjoying his nostalgic recollection of his youthful memories.

He said his parents David and Reva Wax first moved to Boro Park in 1940 from the Lower East Side and Brownsville. They first moved to 44th Street between 16th and 17th Avenue and soon moved to 4502 16th Avenue one flight above the grocery store. They lived there until 1954. Daniel was born in 1940 at Brookdale Hospital while his family lived in Boro Park.

The proprietor of the grocery store at 4502 16th Avenue at that time was Mr. Reamer who later sold it to Mr. Oelbaum about 1944. The building itself was owned by Mr. Tomashoff. Mr. Wax remembers some of the neighbors with whom he played and attended as a youngster. He played with Georgie Tucker who lived at 1560 45th Street. Georgie's sister Gloria Greenhut and family still live in that house. He remembers Irwin Tarlow who lived at 1558 45th Street. The Tarlows sold their home to this columnist who still lives there. He played with Jerry Gordon who lived at 1548 45th Street. Jerry's mother Etta Gordon still lives there. He played with Freddie Steinberg who lived two or three houses after the Gordon's towards 15th Avenue. The Steinberg's moved here from Philadelphia and after about 5 years moved back. He played with John Liberkino who lived at 1565 45th Street and later became a medical doctor. Rabbi Berel Weiss and family now live at that location. He played with Wayne Domash who lived at 1564 45th Street. Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Silver live there now. He went to school with Marcia Lipskin who lived at 1513 or 1515 45th Street (in the old houses). It was the second house from the hospital, now Beth Jacob Seminary.

Daniel Wax attended PS 164, Montauk Junior High School and Stuyvesant H.S. He said Dr. Goldstein the dentist on the corner of 44th Street and 16th Avenue was there then. There was a hobby store across the street from the dentist, where the shul is now located, and he used to purchase model airplanes there. There was a gas station on the corner of 46th Street and 16th Avenue where Independence Bank is now located. He remembers the small corner shule on the corner of 16th Avenue and 45th Street across from the Aronowitz Grocery, where the Beauty Parlor is now located. There was a candy store on the corner of 43rd Street and 16th Avenue where Matamim is now located. Next to the candy store there was an Italian Barber who had a large turtle as a pet which he let walk around the store. Daniel said he was fascinated by that turtle because it was very large and he had never seen a live large turtle before.

He remembers the large open lot between the corner house at 4502 and the house at 1566 45th Street, before the new brick houses were built. The area was all open and green with a large beautiful garden.. During World War II, several families planted a victory garden there and shared the produce.

Mr. Wax remembers playing in the streets which were then safe from cars and crime. The children played punchball and stoopball and triangle and all other popular street games.

He noticed the many changes in the neighborhood. Then it was about half Italian and half Jewish. Now it is mostly Jewish. But the Jewish population now is mostly Orthodox and Chasidic. The area is much more crowded with houses, people and cars. He said he was glad that he visited his old neighborhood.

*The following poem was written by David Aronson and submitted by Adelay Liss. The poem was mentioned in the article by David Aronson which appeared in this column in June '97. We thank them for this interesting contribution.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

*MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD ON 13TH AVENUE

(Note: In 1915, my family moved to a railroad flat at 3813 13th Avenue. One of the stanzas depicts the construction of the elevated structure for the Culver Line in 1919.)

Our flat above a store -- railroad apartment
From to back passage -- a hallway shared with upstairs neighbors
Excitements -- frightening -- but made safe in memory.
Police roughly handled "stumble bums"
Expelled from corner saloon with half, swinging doors.

Crates of chickens shipped to live poultry market,
Now and then accidentally dropped.

Chickens freed from slat covers raced up and down
The trolley tracks -- conductor, passengers, and poultry workers Join to clear the right-of-way -- returning chicks to their doom.

Later the same day, or rather at night, when sleet sneaks in on
Chilly winds, road below, and trolley wire above, become
Enclosed in newly formed ice -- a dangerous barrier.
As current tries to break across, blue streaks flash
Between wire and trolley pole, illuminate the scene with weird dread.

In daytime, the grocer next door asks if I know
Names of all stations from here to Coney Island.
As I recite, he remembers tasks inside.
He loves to turn the huge wheel of the coffee grinder.
At the final turn, the feed funnel is empty, while below,
The specially-shaped receiver is full.
The grocer picks that up and, through the gaping spout,
Pours all into the waiting bag. With deft twist, he
Folds the top over to seal in the heady smell of Java.

Across the street, the barber shop has emblazoned a strange sign.
"Physiognomical Tonsorialist," words
I could only read years later
Customers paid no attention to that sign because the striped pole
Told the story to customers, who swapped their own tales, using
Familiar four-letter words as embellishments.

Excitement came also in the form of a runaway horse, probably frightened
By an overloaded truck backfiring.
No time to lose! Bystanders anxious to show off skills, then
Reach to grab the bridle, subdue the frightened beast.

Another block away, there are the tracks of the trains to Coney Island
Or to Brooklyn Bridge, gateway to Manhattan. A new activity-
Cranes lift columns and beams to form the rapid transit elevated road.
Boys skilled in catching, using metal pans, not mitts,
Reach out to land the red-hot rivets, to be taken with tongs and Inserted in waiting holes.
The rivets, no sooner placed, are Struck by noise-wracking blows of sledge hammer wielded by a mighty arm.
That noise at one end of the avenue makes it come alive, matched by
The raucous shouts of street vendors, each by his own cart,
From which the horse has been led away to a nearby stable.

Matching all that, on the sidestreet leading to the stable,
The mighty blacksmith pulls bars out of the bellows-forced
Charcoal heater, so that the red-hot metal can be hammered into
Horseshoes, later nailed to hoofs needing metal girding.

DAVID ARONSON

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THE MAGIC GARDEN

Dear Dr. Kipust,

The sudden arrival of another spring inspires me to one more song in praise of the lovely trees and shrubs, blossoms and plants, and all of nature's green bounty that for so long had surrounded our Boro Park home.

With its stately, fine-art woodwork of dark Norwegian oak, intricately crafted throughout its twelve rooms, it was one of the most elegantly and boldly conceived residences built in the area - a "dream house", designed by a gifted architect for himself and his young family. Visitors stood amazed at first sight of it, one Dutch friend declaring that the entrance hall reminded him architecturally of nothing less than Holland's "Rembrandt House", home of the painter and now a national shrine in his country. A venerable Scandinavian craftsman asserted that such heft of oak wood was the very kind used by the Vikings in building their sturdy sailing ships; he could not recall seeing its like in any edifice on these shores. "It's Shangri-La, this house," whispered a young violin student of my uncle's, just arrived from England after the war.

My family of musicians and poets came to live there as the new owners in 1930 when 1657 49th Street was some 20 years old, and it was there that I grew up. And though I migrated across the bridge in the late Fifties to work and reside in Manhattan, here always dwelt my family, and here was home, to which I often returned. After the death of my dear mother (the last of my kin) in 1977, I kept the place, feeling lucky to have it in my life as a haven for creative work, a peaceful "country retreat". In contrast to mid-Manhattan, it was indeed that, with its majestic garnet-leaved plum trees and Japanese maples framing the front garden - home to myriad songbirds down through the decades. Welcoming too were the old wisteria vines, their jade tendrils wrapped tightly about the stuccoed granite pillars that stood like tall sentinels, supporting the broad front porch with its rose-tinted stone floor and mahogany ceiling. The 44 windows of the house (seven of stained glass) faced in every direction, at various levels and angles, and through them came all the lights and shades of day and night. Here, one began to feel one's place on the planet as it wheeled through its steadfast daily rotation.

Around in the back, where one could see the sun rise, stood the towering Canadian hemlock tree, its emerald boughs spreading ever wider with time, eventually reaching downward to meet the great Concord grape vine to form a kind of Arcadian bower. Birds and squirrels feasted on those dark, sweet grapes, yet there always remained countless heavy bunches for us to gather in September, and we shared them happily with the neighbors. Long ago, mama and auntie would cook up jams and jellies - an autumn celebration that inevitably signalled the High Holidays for this child. The earth circled; the seasons turned.

And flourishing all about, lining the driveways and fences, nestling close against the exterior stucco walls of the house and in front and back garden niches, were the little plants and grasses that returned faithfully each spring and summer - snowdrops and crocuses, the first to peep bravely out of the earth even while the last snows of winter were still melting, and tiny wood violets, first etched against the brown earth, then framed by their glossy, heartshaped leaves. In the next patch, lilies-of-the-valley sprouted sharply out of the ground, small green arrows sheltering the miniature, delicate ivory-white bells that emitted the most exquisite of scents (managing always to arrive in time for Mother's Day).

There too stood the old rose bushes, announcing summer with a first red rose, sometimes as early as April, then blooming away and perfuming the air around us all summer long, even into December. In June, we would pick armfuls of roses of all hues, garnet and seashell pink, crimson and white and coral - - bouquets to bring to our teacher on the last day of school.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Very soon there followed a wild parade of summer flowers: giant yellow buttercups alongside the dark, indigo-blue tiny cup-shaped blossoms that grew in thick clusters (whose name I never learned), and the tall, flaming orange tiger lilies, so prolific and so adored by the butterflies and bees. By July came the little fireflies, their miniature lanterns winking away in the summer dusk; later, we heard the sound of one cricket, chirping through the warm summer nights - a music like no other.

Through all the seasons of those dreamlike years, I was there at the Steinway, studying, working, practicing - sonatas, etudes, fantasias, concertos. To this day, certain melodies and phrases will unfailingly evoke for me a particular sweet aroma, the vivid color of a particular flower. In midsummer, Auntie Rose would regularly plant "heavenly blue" morning glories, coaxing them to climb up and around the fences and window-frames. And they lived up to their name, those enormous bell-shaped flowers, opening their cups to the earliest daylight, seeming to draw their color from the summer sky. There is a Mozart sonata that for me is forever touched by the azure of that flower.

How my little aunt loved working in that magical garden, and how many of the perennials she planted and nurtured would return faithfully year after year, long after her passing, remembering and returning in nature's orderly way. And through storm and wind and snow soft as apple blossoms and sometimes sharp as Arctic ice, in shimmering summer with its play of light and leafy shadow, throughout all the golden autumns, forever, stood the trees - the plum trees and maple and the great hemlock, each one planted by a member of my family who came here (from Riga and Vilna, via Manchester, Jerusalem, Paris, Boston) and made this poetic spot their own.

Two years ago, when at last it became necessary for me to part with this home of mine, I was elated when the new owners-to-be, a young and happy family, seemed entranced by its unique character, its noble spaces that also sheltered a cozy environment. Their little daughters quickly discovered hiding places and enticing corners for imaginary games, just as I did so many years ago, as did all the kids who visited and played here down through the years. And now these lovely children danced with pleasure at sight of the plums ripening in the branches of those graceful trees that now seemed to stand guard over the house - soon to be theirs

But the new owners chose instead to dismantle and demolish it all: the house and garden, its fences and gates and walkways, its separately housed garage looking every bit like a small country cottage - all of it laid waste piece by piece, wrecked, annihilated, smashed and shattered and finally crushed into dust, eradicated from the face of the earth. Every tree, each growing thing, large and small, teeming with life, was torn out by its roots to create a vast, dark pit, dug deep and still deeper by bulldozers and towering cranes. Not a vestige of that rich organic life remained.

Another spring has arrived, but there on 49th Street, no white plum blossoms, no tiny new leaves on hedge and wisteria, nor budding azalea or grape vine greets the new season; no snowdrop or violet braves the fearsome winds of March.

They live on, though, budding and blossoming forever in my heart and in my mind, and in the living memory of the friends and neighbors, the pupils, colleagues, workmen, teachers and artists, and the children - all those who came and passed long, happy hours there, drawing inspiration from this Brooklyn "dream house" and its magic garden, throughout all the years of its honorable, grand and glorious existence.

Teresa Sterne

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Ed: This poetic description of her lost home has a universal theme and, in Boro Park especially, many can relate to this experience. We thank Teresa Sterne for this artistic contribution to the history of Boro Park.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

We remember Boro Park and Boro Park remembers us.

Though we reside 26 years already in Israel, we return annually to Brooklyn. This year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary, here with 75 of our New York friends, most of them from Boro Park. On June 29th a luncheon was held in our honor with all the monetary gifts contributed to Laniado Hospital in Israel, the only inpatient Medical Center in Netanya. I have been the longest serving employee there in the Public Relations Department. -

It was 51 years ago, that I, a Boro Parker, met by husband Abe, a veteran of the U.S. Army and a Bronx resident, at the Pioneer Country Club in the Catskills.

Boro Park in those years still had a trolley on 39th Street around the corner of the big market. One could then safely stroll down 13th Avenue at midnight and find some stores open. My parents owned the Elegant Clothing store (offering free shatness and closed on Shabbat) opposite Woolworth on 13th Avenue. Right after World War II it also became "Edith" Hoisery, the first nylon stocking store in Brooklyn.

All five of our sons were born at Maimonides Hospital and attended Yeshiva Toras Emes.

It was also in Boro Park, while still single that I organized the Betar Youth movement of which Miriam Baumel was a member. It is her son Zacharie, who has been a missing Israeli soldier since the Lebanese War.

It was in Boro Park that my husband had a furniture frame shop where most of the decorators and upholsterers of New York bought their furniture frames. To date his customers boast that their cabinets and furniture are as good as new, and still functionable in their home.

For the past 18 years I have organized the Boro Parkers weekend in Israel. We meet once a year at a hotel or kibutz to recall our days of pleasure, life and involvement in the most prosperous community in Brooklyn.

Any Boro Parkers visiting Netanya or wishing to visit Sanz Medical Center, Laniado Hospital, please write or call and you'll receive a prompt reply.

Edith Lieberman P.R. Dept. Laniado Hospital Kiryat Sanz Netanya, Israel. Phone 011-972-9-860-4764 Fax 8821-069. Best wishes for a blessed healthy year to all Boro Parkers.

Sincerely
Edith Lieberman

OTHER BORO PARKERS IN ISRAEL

Whenever we travel we try to locate, identify and sometimes interview present or former Boro Parkers. This past July we visited Israel again and during our travels and touring we met a number of Boro Parkers. Some are now settled in Israel, some are students attending Yeshivahs and some were just touring. During our previous visits to Israel, for various reasons, we had the opportunity to meet larger numbers of both present and former Boro Parkers.

The following are now living or settled in Israel: Mrs. Chaya Kahanovitz, Kiryat Sanz, Jerusalem; Moshe, Leah and Ephraim Mordechai Frankel - Bet Shemesh; Rabbi Yosef Kopelovitz - Kiryat Sanz, Jerusalem.

The following are students attending Yeshivas: Chaim Yarmush, Shmuel Teitelbaum, Yitzchok Orange.

The following were visiting Israel: Rabbi and Mrs. Kruper (nee Hene Dachowitz) and sons; Mr. Hillel Miller; Dr. and Mrs. Meir Wikler and son; Mrs. Eudice Nathan; Mr. and Mrs. Lezer Galinsky; Mr. and Mrs. Julius Mazurek, Mrs. Henny (nee Verschleiser) Kahn and Rabbi Yaakov Pressman.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF B.P.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ARMAND PAUL GRUNBERG

The story of how I, a Belgian citizen, came to live in Boro Park is a little complicated.

In 1927, I spent my vacation at a hotel in the Catskill Mountains, where I met Harriet Spinell from Boro Park. By the time my vacation was over, I had proposed to Harriet. Even though we intended to make our home in the U.S., I had to return to Belgium because my tourist visa had expired. It was decided that I would apply for a permanent resident visa and return to the U.S. It proved, however, to be extremely difficult to get a permanent resident U.S. visa, so I applied for a tourist visa to Canada. Harriet and her parents met me in Montreal, where we were married. After our marriage, Harriet returned to the U.S. with her parents. She applied for a permanent resident visa for me, now the husband of a U.S. citizen. Six months later, in 1929, my visa arrived and I lost no timing in coming to the U.S.

At first, Harriet and I lived in an apartment in her parent's house, on 51st Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. I established a business importing diamonds from Belgium. (This was only natural; my father was a leading diamond merchant in Belgium.) Dr. Rosenthal, one of our neighbors, became my close friend. (We subsequently moved to an apartment on Ocean Avenue.) Our only child, Daniel, was born in 1937.

On August 22, 1939 - - ten days before German invasion of Poland and the start of World War II - the British government sent an R.A.F. plane to bring my father and stepmother to England. The British government had been given my father's name by the British Diamond Syndicate, since he manufactured diamond-cutting tools, which were used to make high-precision military instruments.

My brother, Julien, had meanwhile been drafted into the Belgian army. When Belgium surrendered to Germany, Julien fled to Vichy France, then to Spain, and then to the U.S. He then went back to Egypt, where he had been living. A former reporter for the Palestine Post (now the Jerusalem Post), Julien served as a war correspondent with the British navy in the Mediteranean during World War II. Like my father and brother, I also wanted to contribute to the fight against Nazi Germany. In 1940 I volunteered to serve in the Canadian Army. (The U.S. was not yet in the war).

In retrospect, these varied circumstances got my immediate family out of Europe during the Holocaust and saved our lives.

After my discharge from the Canadian army in 1945 (Harriet and Daniel had been living with her parents in Boro Park during the war) we rented an apartment in a private house on 50th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. Daniel attended Boro Park schools and became a bar mitzvah in Temple Emanuel (a Conservative congregation), 14th Avenue and 49th Street.

One evening in 1945, I was driving home from work one Thursday night, and passed the YM/YWHA on 14th Avenue and 50th Street. I was surprised to hear an orchestra playing Beehoven's Eroica Symphony's Funeral March. After asking around, I was told that I had heard the weekly Thursday night rehearsal of the Y Symphony Orchestra. The following Thursday night I went to the Y and introduced myself to Myron Levite, leader of the orchestra. I volunteered my services and was assigned such tasks as placing music stands and chairs for the musicians, etc. Before long, I was appointed to the volunteer position of Executive Director of the Y orchestra.

One of my responsibilities was writing the text for the Y orchestra's programs. This took a great deal of my time, since I researched and wrote brief biographies of various composers for each program. I became, As Myron Levite remarked, "A man without whom nothing was possible"

When the Y orchestra was disbanded around 1983, I lost no time in founding the Levite Symphony Orchestra, which gave concerts in Brooklyn public schools. In May 1984, when I retired from my volunteer work, I was named Manager Emeritus

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

of the Levite Symphony Orchestra.

Harriet and I moved out of Boro Park in 1975. Sadly, she died later the same year; I have since remarried. As for my son, Daniel is a missile engineer employed by NASA. He lives in Maryland. To date, I have three grandchildren and two-great-grandchildren.

Boro Park, in my memory, was a quiet neighborhood with friendly people. Some of the best years of my life were spent in Boro Park, particularly my best musical years!

(Ed. the above article is another one, in our series of Holocaust survivors in Boro Park. It was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner, a frequent contributor to this column. We thank her for her interesting contribution.)

RECENT DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following are extracts from death announcements which appeared in the Jewish media recently, of prominent personalities in the Jewish community who lived or once lived in Boro Park.

RABBI ZEVI TABORI (RIP)

Rabbi Zevi Tabori (RIP) passed away in Jerusalem, at the age of 92, during the summer of 1996. He had once occupied the pulpit of the First Cong. Anshei Sfard, on 14th Avenue corner 45th Street, succeeding the late Rabbi Dr. William Drazin, (RIP) and preceding the late Rabbi David Singer (RIP). Rabbi Tabori had acquired a reputation as a dynamic orator and prolific writer in English, Yiddish and Hebrew.

The following are a few of the numerous positions he held - Director of the Department for Torah Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Member of the Executive Committee of the National Council for Jewish Education; member of the National Executive Commission of Mizrachi - Hapoel Hamizrachi - the Religious Zionist Organization of America and Past President of the Boro Park Chapter. Rabbi Tabori also held pulpit positions in Baltimore and Manhattan. He was also editor of "Tziyon Min Hatorah" dealing with weekly Torah lessons with the participation of the late Rabbi Yosef Dov Solovetchik (RIP), Rabbi Zev Wolf Gold (RIP) (of Cong. Shomrei Emunah in Boro Park) and Rabbi Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky (RIP) (of the Young Israel of Boro Park).

MR. WILLIAM BLATT (RIP)

Mr. William Blatt (RIP) passed away in Jerusalem in Dec. 1996 at the age of 95. He was the founder of the then famous Blatt's Department Store at 5005 13th Avenue. The store was in operation from approx. 1940 until 1965. The space was later occupied by Community National Bank and Tiv Tov Carpet and is now occupied by Eagle Electronics. Mr. Blatt was one of the organizers and one of the first presidents of Bikur Cholim - Guardians of the Sick - of Boro Park.

William and his wife Frances Blatt moved to Israel in 1967 right after the Six Day War. They were well known in Jerusalem for their charitable work in helping the poor and needy.

RABBI ZEV JOSEPH (RIP)

Rabbi Zev Joseph (RIP) passed away in Feb. 1997 at the age of 87. He was the spiritual leader of Congregation Bnai Israel of Boro Park, located at 4304 15th Avenue, for the past thirty-three years. Funeral services were held at the Congregation and the over flow crowd spilled into the street and into two adjacent buildings. Eulogies were delivered by several Boro Park Rabbis and relatives including Rabbi Avrohom Joseph, a son; Rabbi Shmuel Pinter, a son-in-law; Rabbi Pesachya Fried, a son-in-law and successor as Rabbi of the Congregation; Rabbi Yisroel Perkowsky, Rabbi of Cong. Agudath Israel of 16th

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Avenue and Rabbi Menashe Klein the Ungvarer Rov of Boro Park.

Rabbi Joseph a well known Torah scholar, was a holocaust survivor. He was born in the Lithuanian town of Kobrin. When World War II erupted he escaped to Vilna just before the German invasion. There, in 1940, he married Rochel Blumberg. As the German army continued to march eastward, Rabbi Joseph and his wife along with many other Jews were successfully able to escape making their way across Russia to Japan and then to Shanghai - the wartime home of the escaped Mirrer Yeshiva students.

After the war, in 1946, Rabbi Joseph and his family came to the USA where he accepted a position as the Rabbi of Cong. Ahavas Sholom in the Bronx. In 1967 Rabbi Joseph moved his family to Boro Park, where he accepted the position as Rabbi of Cong. Bnai Israel of Boro Park. He was very respected for his scholarship and his charitable work.

HILLEL MILLER

We interviewed Mr. Hillel Miller, a former Boro Parker, whom we met on one of our tours in Israel. Hillel Miller moved to Boro Park with his parents Abraham and Ethyl Rivka Miller in 1926, from the Bronx. They lived at 1341 54th Street. His mother's sister and family (Fleisher) had been living in B.P. before that, at 59th Street and 15th Avenue. His mother's maiden name was Charnas.

Hillel was a student at Yeshiva Etz Chaim until the 7th grade, when he transferred to Rabbi Jacob Joseph School on the Lower East Side. He was in the 7th grade when Yeshiva Toras Emes first started in 1929. He and some of his friends then transferred to R.J.J. partly because of the minor controversy in the community surrounding the start of Yeshiva Toras Emes.

Hillel was Bar Mitzva in Cong Beth El in 1930. He remembers Rabbi Zev Gold who was then Rabbi in Cong. Shomrei Emunah, 14th Avenue and 52nd Street, and Rabbi Laizerovitz who was Shammos (Sexton) there.

Hillel's family was very friendly with the Slutzker Rav who lived on 53rd Street between 13th Avenue and 14th Avenue and attended services at Cong. Beth El in the downstairs synagogue. Hillel's father helped encourage donations for the Slutzker Rav.

Hillel had four older brothers and five sisters. His father was in the notion business in Manhattan. His family moved out of B.P. to Far Rockaway in 1931 (aprox.)

ESTHER HENRIKSON, LONG-TIME BORO PARK RESIDENT

Esther Henrikson, possibly the resident who lived the most number of years in Boro Park, died of a heart ailment on July 24, 1997. Her parents, Wilhelm and Joanna moved to Boro Park in 1903. There were still farms in Boro Park and cows roamed 13th Avenue. In 1904, her father and a friend built two attached two-family houses on 44th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. In 1904, her parents moved into an apartment at 1234 44th Street, the house her father had built. In 1908, Esther was born in that house and it was where she lived her entire life.

She is survived by her sister, Elin Johnson, a niece and several nephews.

Internment was at Greenwood Cemetery.

(Ed: We thank Lucille Posner for submitting the above item and for all her very important and interesting contributions.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust



PAUL ZITTELL

Paul Zittell was born in Boro Park in 1919. He was born at home and delivered by Dr. Schwartz. He said he cried like a baby at the time. His family then lived on 53rd Street between 15th and 16th Avenues.

His parents Arthur and Anna Zittell moved to Boro Park in 1906 (approx.) from Harlem. They moved here because Boro Park was then a nice middle class suburban Jewish neighborhood, and because his mother had some family here. After Paul was born his family purchased a house at 1550 52nd Street and lived there until 1925 (approx.) when a fire broke out in their home forcing them to move.

The Zittell's lived in several different apartments in Boro Park. In those days there were plenty of empty apartments and landlords offered one or two months rent for free for new tenants. During kindergarten and first grade, when they lived on 52nd Street, Paul attended school at PS 103 - 14th Avenue and 53rd Street (now a girl's yeshiva). During second grade the family lived on 57th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues and Paul attended school at PS 180 on 16th Avenue and 56th Street.

In the third grade Paul was admitted to Yeshiva Etz Chaim and attended until his graduation in 1932 or 1933. The family then lived at 1324 49th Street. He was Bar Mitzva from that home. Later the family moved to 1266 47th Street. After Etz Chaim Paul attended Erasmus High School.

Arthur Zittel, Paul's father was in the printing business in Manhattan. He was also vice president of Cong. Shomrei Emunah (14th Avenue and 52nd Street) for about 15 or 20 years. The Rabbi there at the time, who also officiated at Paul's Bar Mitzvah, was Rabbi Wolf Gold.

Paul mentioned an unusual historical item which never came to our attention previously. He recalls that when he was a student at Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) there were about 700 other boys attending and one girl student. Her name was Naomi Chertoff and her father was a medical doctor. They lived on 51st Street between 13th Avenue and 14th Avenues. She was the only girl who attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim. She graduated in the early 1930's and later in life she became the National President of Hadassah Women's Organization.

Paul was the youngest of five children three boys and two girls. His brother Theodore H. Zittell (Ted) was the oldest child and was born in 1903. Ted was the founder, editor and co-publisher of the "Boro Park Post", a community newspaper, the forerunner of the "Boro Park Community News". The Post was published during the 1930's from an office on the corner of 13th Avenue and 45th Street. Ted went on to a famous Journalistic career as reporter, and writer for the "Newark Star Ledger", the "New York Post" the "Journal American" the "New York Graphic" and others. Ted also worked in public relations for several trade unions - The Transportation Workers Union (worked with Mike Quill), the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, etc. He had his picture on the front page of the New York Times because of his union srike activity.

The "Boro Park Post" was the first newspaper in Boro Park and the co-publisher was Ned Pines. When Paul was a young boy he worked after school for his brother delivering the newspaper.

Ted moved out of Boro Park in 1940 (approx.) and later moved to Los Angeles. He lived there until his death of a heart attack in 1953 at the age of 50.

Paul had two sisters Jeanette and Gwen (Goldie). Jeanette married Fred Rand one of the owners of Norman and Fred's Beauty Salon on 13th Avenue between 49th & 50th Street. The Rand's lived on the corner of 15th Ave. and 50th Street. They moved out of Boro Park in the 1950's.

Gwen married Maurice Smith and they moved to Manhattan after the wedding. She was a public school teacher but did not teach in the community.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Paul's brother Bernard attended the Hebrew Academy under the auspices of Cong. Shomrei Emunah. It was located at 1363 50th Street together with the old Young Israel.

Paul attended two reunions of the Yeshiva Etz Chaim alumni. Contact was made with him at the recent reunion. He said that before WWII the community was small and very closely knit. When he walked along 13th Avenue, he knew almost everyone. During WWII he served in the U.S. Airforce. When he returned home in 1946 he said he hardly knew anyone anymore. He said that after WWII the community changed a great deal. Many residents moved to the suburbs and many new residents moved into Boro Park.

In 1946 Paul married a Boro Park girl, Rosalyn Dicker. Her father had a butcher store on 13th Avenue between 39th Street and 40th Street. The Kirshner chicken market was on the corner of 39th Street and 13th Avenue. Right next to Dicker's meat market was Hirsch's Delicatessen store.

It was tough finding an apartment after the war because there had been no new building construction throughout the war years. They finally found an apartment at 1727 47th Street. Their two children were born while they lived at that address, and attended PS 192 on 18th Avenue and 47th Street. They remained living in that apartment until 1966, when they moved to Manhattan Beach.

The following are some of the memories related to me by Paul, in his own words!

"My family attended services at Cong. Shomrei Emunah. My father was Vice President and Mr. Joseph Lippman was president. I belonged to several boys clubs in the YMHA. My mother was secretary of the YWHA for about 15 years. I used to play pool in a pool room on 13th Avenue between 46th Street and 47th Street. Above Baim and Blank, a store that sold radios and later T.V.'s. The pool room was called Jack's Billiard Academy. It was later sold to a Jewish fellow named Paul or Pesach and we called it Peshie's pool room. As teenagers we hung out there and at Meyer's Ice Cream Parlor.

"I was president of the Boro Park chapter of Bnai Brith for many years, well into the 1960's. They used to meet in the Boro Park YMHA. In those days there were five large shuls in Boro Park. I remember my father taking me to listen to Cantor Rosenblatt at Congregation Anshei Sfard at 14th Avenue and 45th Street.

"I knew the stores on 13th Avenue like a book. Some that I can still recall are Eli Mackta (ladies shoes) between 45th and 46th Street, next to Rubin's Men's Clothing store. Weiss Haberdashery between 44th and 45th Street had a large sign in front which read "Adams Hats", they got the sign free from the company so they hung it up. They also sold Adam's Hats.

"When I was 9 or 10 I used to play with my friends on the corner of 13th Avenue (odd side) and 48th Street. There was a church on that corner and we played in the church yard as well as on the street. Later it became a three story building with stores. Weiss Photo Store was situated there and later Lane's Pharmacy. Yeshiva Toras Emes was in a small building about at half way down the block towards 14th Avenue. Across from the church on 48th Street was a candy store owned by Mr. Garment and later purchased by Mr. Seiden.

"There was Bushell's Ladies Dress store next to Famous Restaurant, between 48th and 49th Street on the even side. Around the corner from there was Al Delgordio's Barber Shop, on 49th Street off 13th Avenue. Between 49th and 50th was Skilowitz Delicatessen and Restaurant and on the corner of 50th Street was Miller and Feig Appetizing Store. Feintuch was a large bakery right next to Skilowitz. Across the avenue was Norman and Fred's Beauty Salon and Wolf's Ladies Clothes. Silver Rods was on the corner of 46th Street, even side. On 44th Street we had Woolworth and across the street was Kresges 5¢ & 10¢ Store. There was the Pickle Man on the corner of 40th Street where we brought Pickle right from the barrel.

"As a child we played right on the street (gutter) on 48th Street - punch ball, stick ball, association (foot ball), box ball etc. In those days there were very few cars traveling on the streets. There were probably as many horse and wagons as cars. We had club houses in rented basements or clubrooms. People were very friendly and neighborly. Boro Park was a wonderful place to grow up in.

"In the middle section of Boro Park from 17th Avenue to 12th Avenue and from 45th to 55th Street the population was almost all Jewish. There were many Italians living in the lower 40's and upper 50's. There were very few members of any other ethnic groups living in Boro Park as far as I can remember".

One of the drawing cards that brought Paul's parents to Boro Park were his mother's relatives who lived here before them. Paul's mother had a sister Jennie Bernstein who lived on 51st Street between 16th and 17th Avenue. They had cousins, Friedlander family, with 16 children. Another sister of Paul's mother was Mary who was married to Jacob Selkowitz later changed to Seely, they attended services at Temple Emanuel.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Paul is an Insurance Agent for Mass Mutual. In his early years besides delivering papers he also worked as a Printing Salesman for his father and others.

Paul's mother, Anna (RIP) was deceased in 1930 in Boro Park. His father Arthur (RIP) was deceased while living in 1939 while living at the El Hambra, an apartment building on 12th Avenue between 45th and 46th Street.

Paul is now married to Barbara (nee Eisenstein) whose family was also amongst the old time Boro Parkers: Her mother's maiden name was Ruth Schwartz and her grandparents were Isidore and Celia Schwartz who lived all their lives at 1606 52nd Street and attended Cong. Bnei Jehudah on 16th Avenue and 53rd Street.

All in all Paul has very fond memories of growing up and living in Boro Park.

BNAI BRITH BORO PARK LODGE

Paul Zittel gave us on old invitation from the Annual Installation of officers of the Bnai Brith Boro Park Lodge No. 1421 and the Boro Park Chapter No. 331 (woman's group) which was held at the YMHA of Boro Park on Monday, April 25, 1955. The officers listed on the invitation, all Boro Park residents at the time, are the following:

Boro Park Lodge

President - Paul E. Zittell
1st Vice President - Jacob Weinberg
2nd Vice President - Ben Coopermon
Treasurer - Dr. Benjamin Scheiman
Secretary - Reuben Cohen
Financial Secretary - Murray Boriskin
Chaplain - Hon. Abraham Sussman
Warden - Alfred Bennett

Boro Park Chapter

President - Mrs. Syd Seiden
Vice President - Mrs. Evelyn Eisen
Vice President - Mrs. Buelah Gershen
Vice President - Mrs. Mildred Fromme
Treasurer - Mrs. Ethel Gold
Recording Secretary - Mrs. Mollie Kalman
Social Secretary - Mrs. Bette Bennett
Financial Secretary - Mrs. Rose Siegel
Corresponding Secretaries - Mrs. Edith Berger
Mrs. Bea Gold
Mrs. Teresa Reisman
Mrs. Lucille Young

There were also a number of Trustees listed for both groups.

BOROUGH PARK HOMES

The following ads appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in 1898 promoting new homes in Borough Park. How things have changed.

Do you intend renting a home for the summer? Do you want to get away from the city?

We now have a proposition to make to homeseekers that is absolutely unprecedented.

We have all the benefits of a country home - shade trees, beautiful lawns, delightful breezes from the Ocean - and only 26 minutes from New York City Hall. Within easy reach of your business and where you can spend your evenings with your family. Such are Borough Park Homes. It will cost you nothing to visit the property and learn what this extraordinary offer is. Fare 5¢. WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Pres., 49th St. & New Utrecht Avenue, Brooklyn. Take 5th Avenue "L", Borough Park Divison

WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS announces that he is constructing 50 additional homes at Borough Park. These will be sold at cost. On and after Saturday, April 2, 1898, including Sundays, he will be at the office of the company from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eight home owners have already purchased. Investments not Speculations. Homes - not Houses. 250 homes now occupied by owners.

Office Building 49th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, Brooklyn.

Take Fifth Avenue Trolley.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

LEON J. HOFFMAN, Ph.D.

Dear Boro Park Community News:

The following is the "I Remember Boro Park" article you asked me to submit when we talked briefly at the Yeshiva Etz Chaim Reunion at the Menorah Temple.

I was born in 1939 at the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides) the third of three children. My two sisters were born 8 and 6 years before me. We lived virtually all the time on the corner of 11th Avenue and 53rd Street (1103). Rabbi Snow now lives there.

After attending Yeshiva Etz Chaim (I graduated in 1952) I attended Stuyvesant High School and graduated in 1956. Coincidentally, we not only had that wonderful Yeshiva Etz Chaim Reunion in September 1997, but two weeks later Stuyvesant H.S. held the 40th Anniversary reunion in Manhattan.

My father, Joseph Hoffman, was active for many years in the Yeshiva and in the formation of the new state of Israel. After serving as Treasurer of the Yeshiva Etz Chaim, he served as President for about four years. He also served as Vice President of the Boro Park Torah Center which was located on 49th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. That Torah Center or synagogue has alas been razed and in its place has been erected some meaningless-looking strip-mall sort of structure. Well so much for Eastern European Orthodoxy.

Rabbi Chaim Bialik was the Rabbi of that synagogue. His son Nathan Bialik continued in his father's footsteps and succeeded his father as Rabbi of that synagogue. I attended Rabbi Nathan Bialik's Boro Park wedding. Boro Park was a place unlikely to find reproduced anywhere in the civilized world.

Etz Chaim was one of the first Hebrew Day Schools in the world with the idea being to educate Jewish Youth (boys for the most part at that time) in the language of the Bible - Hebrew - heretofore considered forbidden. Previously Jewish Youth, it may be recalled, spoke Yiddish, and Hebrew was reserved explicity for prayers in the synagogue.

My sisters attended P.S.160 on Fort Hamilton Parkway and 51st Street, New Utrecht H.S., Brooklyn College and N.Y.U. Our mother, Rose, was the traditional housewife. I seldom remember coming home to a home without a parent there. When I walked home mid-day from Yeshiva, my mother was there with lunch.

Rabbi Moses Shulman was the principal of the Hebrew Department of the Yeshiva and Mr. William Kufeld (who I'm now given to understand held a Ph.D.) served as principal of the English Department for about 50 years. To this day Rabbi Shulman serves for me as a model for many things - a mentor, a guide, a smiling face, and an accepting one, but most of all a tzadik (righteous person). He was as righteous a man as I believe I have ever had the honor to know. I continue to use him as a model when delivering lectures pertaining to guides, mentors and distinguished models.

A different thrust had major influence in the way my life unfolded - my exposure to, and training in, classical music - as a (chamber music) cellist. After an early start (age 4) and coming from a somewhat musically supportive family, I eventually got moved along to some of the country's finest musical teaching situations, which to this day stand me in the very best stead. The Boro Park influences were large indeed. In particular there was another mentor - Myron Levite - who for 40 years was the conductor of the Boro Park Y.M.H.A. Orchestra. That orchestra rehearsed and performed regularly at the "Y" on 14 are and 50th Street. Myron (who died a couple of years ago) was an astonishingly energetic and "giving" musician. A violinist by training but his calling was conducting. He would think nothing of "rounding" up many of his "regular" players in his large (usually a Cadillac or Oldsmobile) car, (he was very short) and literally take us to rehearsal where no holds were barred. He exposed us to much of the world's great orchestral

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

music and he generated a fabulously loyal and commited group of friends/ musicians /colleagues. Many of us are to this day still in close touch . The likes of Robert Merrill (of Metropolitan Opera and New Utrecht H.S. fame) performed with our "Y" orchestra. We will never be able to adequately thank or measure the effect of Myron. My hope is to pass on, in my travels through the ~50 countries I have so far visited, what I was taught in my Boro Park Days - about Judaism, music and civilized living in a most unique community the likes of which may never again be seen.

Thank you,

Leon Hoffman, Ph.D.

In a follow up telephone conversation we learned that Dr. Leon Hoffman is now a clinical psychologist in private practice and resides in Chicago, Ill. His parents first moved to Boro Park in 1932 or 1933, from Jersey City, NJ a short time after their marriage. His mother (nee Lien) was brought up in Hoboken, NJ and was a pharmacist. His father, Joseph, was a distributor for Streits and Rokeach products and the business may have been the reason for their move to Boro Park.

Their first address in Boro Park was at 5110-11th Avenue from 1932 to 1935 (approx.). They then moved to 964-49 Street and finally moved to 1103-53 Street in 1939. Leon's sister Arlein (now Chetner) was a piano teacher at the "Y" working with Myron Levite. Leon's Bar Mitzvah took place at the Yeshiva Etz Chaim and the reception was at Menorah Temple.

Leon moved out of Boro Park in 1957 when he attended the University of Miami. His family moved about 6 months later and went to South Miami Beach. His father and partners purchased the Strathhaven Hotel in South Miaimi Beach in order to convert it into a Kosher hotel for middle income people. Leon indicated tht he had many fond memories of people and places in Boro Park and hopes that he and/or his sister will do a sequel to this article in the near future.

Ed: We would like to thank Dr. Leon Hoffman for his interesting contribution.

MORTON A.A. GROSS, D.D.S.

Dear Jacque Friedman;

I was born and raised in Boro Park. I left in November 1952 to enter the US Air Force and served in combat during the Korean War.

My dad, Dr. Ezekiel Gross, had his dental office in our home at 1102-56th Street from 1927 till 1963 when he passed away.

Although I had my office in Great Neck I still utilized his office two days a week until my mother, Tamara Abt Gross passed away in 1980.

My maternal grandmother's brother was among the early Jewish residents of Boro Park. His name was Raphael Bonime. His estate was located between 47th and 48th Street and between 14th and 15th Avenues (almost a full square block). He was one of the founders of the Israel Zion Hospital, Temple Emanuel and the YMHA on 14th Avenue and 50th Street. He passed away in the early 30's.

I was born on November 15, 1928 in the Boro Park Maternity on 15th Avenue and 45th Street. I graduated from Yeshiva Etz Chaim in June 1942. I was married to may wife Gerda Gruber Gross by Rabbi Harry Wohlberg of the Congregation Shomrei Emunah on June 17th, 1951. We have three sons and the eldest two were born in the Israel Zion Hospital. As we say "once a Boro Parker, always a Boro Parker"!

Sincerely,

Dr. Morton Abraham Abt Gross

In a telephone follow up conversation with Dr. Gross we obtained additional information. His mother, Tamara Abt came to Boro Park as a young girl in 1921 directly from Volozhin, Poland! She had some relatives in Boro Park. His father moved to Boro Park from East New York in 1927 when he was married. Dr. Gross mentioned that he has a letter written in 1935 from the Agudath Israel to his father, when they were organizing a branch in Boro Park, asking him to join and help them. The family belonged to Congregation Beth Israel, 11th Avenue and 56th Street, and attended that synagogue primarily as it was very close to home.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

In reference to the Raphael Bonime estate location, Dr. Gross explained an apparent discrepancy with a previous article on file saying that in later years the family sold the estate on 47th -48th Street and purchased a home at 1356-45th Street. He said that Mr. Raphael Bonime was a wealthy business man, in the corrugated paper box business. He was the first in Boro Park to own an automobile. He said the name Bonime was shortened from the original European name of Bonimovitch. Others in the family shortened it to Bunim. He said that Dr. Bunim was a relative of his and was the doctor who actually delivered him at the Boro Park Maternity which was previously called Doctors Hospital.

Ed: We thank Dr. Morton Gross for his interesting contribution.

COMET 1946

The Comet, the graduation Yearbook of New Utrecht HS contains the names and addresses of the graduates for that year. Looking through the Comet for June 1946 and the Commencement Exercises program for the same year. I came across and listed the names and addresses of many Boro Parkers. New Utrecht HS after all was the main high school for the residents of Boro Park at that time. It would be of historical interest to note and record the names of some of the officials of that time as well.

When all the gathered historical information will finally be stored in a computer hopefully soon (if we get the financial and volunteer assistance). All the factual information will be important and useful in completing the Boro Park puzzle.

The following is a list of some of the officials of that period:

Leo B. Ryan - Principal

Mary T. McGrath & Raymond L. Noonan - Assistant Principals.

Thomas J. Fitzpatrick - Teacher in charge of New Utrecht Evening HS.

Members of the Board of Education - New York City:

Andrew J. Clauson, Jr. - President

Joseph D. Fackenthal - Vice President.

Anthony Campagna, George H. Chatfield, James Marshall, Maximilian Moss and George A. Timone.

John E. Wade - Superintendent of Schools.

The following are the names of some of the graduates who lived in Boro Park. Are any of the names or address familiar to our readers?

Jerome Albert 1254-42 St.
Leonard Aliano 882-54 St.
Harvey Altschuler 908-46 St.
Kenneth Amster 5712 - 11 Ave.
Harold Anderson 3810 - 15th Ave.
June Asnien 3819-15 Ave.
Morris Auruch 1224-41 St.
Bertram Auerbach 1516-46 St.
Hedy Barasz 4304-16 Ave.
Adele Baron 1425-59 St.
Bertram Baxt 1768-55 St.
Robert Bella 1471-43 St.
Paul Bender 1014-46 St.
Nicholas Benvenuto 4533-16 Ave.
Gerald Bergman 1335-50 St.
Bernard Berkowitz 1235-55 St.
Bernard Berkowitz 1250-51 St.
Mac Bernstein 1031-54 St.
Marilyn Bernstein 1552-45 St.
Martin Bernstein 1418-40 St.
Arlene Bezahler 5200-15 Ave.
Marjorie Black 1670-50 St.
Lucille Blatt 1664-54 St.
Lea Blech 3513-12 Ave.
Herbert Bleck 1264-44 St.
Abraham Bober 864-49 St.
Harold Bohmerwald 931-47 St.
Pauline Bonanno 1321-54 St.
Eugene Bordwick 4901-14 Ave.
Angelina Brancaccio 1546-58 St.
Carl Bravstein 1285-52 St.
Monte Brick 1409-41 St.
Rebecca Brilliant 1414-47 St.
Muriel Brisman 1519-49 St.
Joe Brodie 4117-15 Ave.
Miriam Brown 1270-43 St.
Marvin Buchner 1874-47 St.
Anita Cammerano 979-42 St.
Josephine Canderozzi 1318-40 St.
Norma Caplin 1032-46 St.
Frances Capobianco 5713-18 Ave.
Rosina Capozzi 1236-38 St.
Pat Cappella 1301-57 St.
Phelomena Carlo 1658-59 St.
Irving Camo 4323-9 Ave.
Angelo Castiglione 4512-11 Ave.
Lawrence Chasan 1618-47 St.
Patti Chiaffarano 1125-58 St.
Anita Chugarman 936-43 St.
Daniel Cirillo 5809-11 Ave.

We hope to continue listing more names and addresses in future columns. Some of this information will be of interest to some people now, discovering who lived in their homes or streets at one time, noting the demographics of the neighborhood, etc. Of the 104 names reviewed so far, the above list of 50 names are from Boro Park (48%).

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF B.P.

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park. You can help in the research preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorablia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S. 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK IN THE NEWS MEDIA

Boro Park has been in the news media a number of times recently in regard to news events that have occurred in the neighborhood. However, a recent front page feature article in the New York Times, describing the changes in Boro Park, gives the community additional status and prominence. The world is finally beginning to recognize , what we residents have known all along, that Boro Park is indeed a unique and special (great) community.

The article entitled, "Orthodox Neighborhood Reshapes Itself" written by Deborah Sontag, New York Times Jan. 7, 1998, discusses the changes in housing construction, population, birth rate and way of life in the community. It includes a few historical facts which should be of interest to residents, former residents and history bugs.

The following are some of the information and facts mentioned in the article with some of our comments shown in brackets:

The article uses the spelling of "Borough Park" for the community, [whereas we now commonly spell it "Boro Park."]

The article describes Boro Park as the largest ultra -Orthodox Jewish community outside of Jerusalem. [Some consider it to be the largest including Jerusalem, if one compares it to an equal size area within Jerusalem.]

"Since 1990, the Building Department has issued more permits, 822, for private construction projects , : new homes and additions - in the Boro Park area than in any other residential neighborhood in Brooklyn." [The residents of the community appreciate the fact that it is a very desirable place to live for many people but certainly feel the congestion in living and parking space which has resulted.]

"Early in the century, the neighborhood was home to Jewish, Italian, and Irish families .... after World War II, many Holocaust survivors settled among the modern Orthodox Jews there, forming a nucleus of Yiddish speaking and religious Hassidim of various sects."

"As the Italian and Irish moved out to the suburbs, and many modern Orthodox to neighboring Flatbush and Midwood, that nucleus sprouted a new Old World in the heart of Brooklyn." [We should keep in mind that many Orthodox Jews moved to Boro Park from other changing areas in the city, such as Williamsburg, Brownsville, East New York, Lower East Side, etc. There were also many who escaped the revolution in Hungary in the 1950's and settled here. The change in the population was not the result of Holocaust survivors only.]

"Studying the neighborhood's fertility rates, the City Planning Department's experts on population.... calculated that the fertility rate in Boro Park was double that of the city as a whole." [We should keep in mind that the city as a whole also includes other Orthodox Jewish communities with high birth rates, and still the birth rate here is double that of the city.]

"Total population estimates vary. In 1990, the census counted about 50,000 people in Boro Park, the overwhelming majority of whom are Jewish. Community members believed the figure to be low then and far too low to represent today." [The information available to us indicates that the estimates should be double these figures at least. The problem is that the population figures depend upon which boundaries are used to define the Boro Park area. [See comments later regarding the boundaries of Boro Park.]

"Geographically, the community's heart lies between 12th and 18th Avenues and 40th and 61st Streets in southern Brooklyn." [The boundaries mentioned in this sentence, although the author is careful not to define it as such, are different than most other attempts to describe the boundary of Boro Park. The most authentic traditional boundary lines, according to the records of the Boro Park Historical society, are from 8th Ave. to 18th Ave. and form 37th St. to 60th St. On some streets the boundary extends to 19th Ave. There are

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

also some other minor variations to this by McDonald Ave. and Dahill Rd. There is no official or technical boundary line. As the Jewish community grew and individuals living in surrounding areas wanted to be part of this community, they called these areas Boro Park. The various population figures therefore depend directly on what boundaries are used for Boro Park.]

"There are very few Boro Park homes that predate World War II, which is extremely rare in a city where the bulk of the housing stock is pre-war." [Although there are many new homes in Boro Park, we can't agree with that observation or statement. There are some blocks that do have a majority of new homes; but on my block and the surrounding blocks, the vast majority of its homes are pre WW II. That would be true of the majority of blocks in Boro Park.] The article describes some aspects of orthodox Jewish life in the comminity very well and requires no comments. It shows a photograph of a woman, Nechy Kesserman lighting the Sabbath candles while her father Beryl Jachimowitz (of Eretz Realty) and her nephew Heshy Follman and his sisters watch. The article includes some comments from local individuals such as :

Abraham Biderman, an investment banker who served as Finance, Commissioner and Housing Commissioner under mayor Edward I. Koch; Rabbi Shlomo Stern who runs a school for retarded children; Rabbi David Grossman, the Chaplain at the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center; and Hershel Lieber, an accountant.

Bernice A. Blumer

Dear Dr. Kupist:

To begin with my mother Jennie Dill and father Sol Ashkenazy met in Boro Park. I believe it was in the old Young Israel Synagogue on 50th St. and 14th Ave. My mother had been a Boro Park resident before that. They were married in April 12, 1938.

I was born in Maimonides Hospital. My maiden name was Bernice Ashkenazy. My sister Adele is four years younger than me.

One of my fondest memories of Boro Park was of the sixth grade. Somehow the names and faces of these classmates stand out in my mind. I attended PS164 on 14th Ave. and 43 St., where Mr. Perlman and Ms. Cohen were then the principal and assistant principal. Mr. Benjamin Anker was my sixth grade teacher.

Some of my former classmates from sixth grade were as follows: my best friend was Geraldine Ireland, the others were Janet Ozer, Diane Grill, Gloria Shimenti, Laurence Solo, Arthur Levine, Arthur A., Carl Di Somma, Lewes Wolfe, Anita Port, Fenney Beal, Arline Kessler, Marie Salb, Dominica Cucite.

Other teachers at PS164 that I had were Ms. Rossman, Ms. Moore and Ms. Schifferdeeker. These were my second, third and fourth grade teachers. My aunts, uncles, sister Adele and cousin Bernice Schwartz have also gone to PS164.

Some of the stores on 13th Ave. that I remember were Woolworth, The Retail Market, Rennels Bakery, Allen Shoe Store, Hebrew National Delicatessen, and Wallach's Men's Store.

After school and on my days off from school my mother would often stroll with us to the 38th St. park from our house at 1360-44th St. An elderly sweet lady would always be there. Her name was Ms. Frankel, she had no children. This lady would always bring a pocketbook filled with candy which she gave out to the children. This was her life's pleasure. We would always find her in the back of the park swings.

Another incident I recall also took place at 1360-44th St., where we lived. We used to feed squirrels from our fire escape. My friend Jenny who lived in the next attached house at

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

1358-44th St. on the second floor, would join us in the fun. Whenever we finished our homework, this was our pastime. It happened one day that we didn't feed the squirrels. One squirrel ran into my apartment because he was looking for nuts. Boy did we have a tough time getting the poor thing out of our apartment.

In those days our family did not own a blender, therefore my mother would take us to a local candy store on the corner of 40th St. and 14th Ave. called "Dotty and Mom". We would bring along an egg or two, buy a malted and have the egg added to it. Boy was that a delicious treat.

Another candy store on the corner of 14th Ave. and 43rd St. was "Lenny's". At times a salesman from Duncan Yo-Yo Co. would come down to promote and sell Yo-Yo's. He showed tricks and organized Yo-Yo contests. Quite a crowd would appear on the corner to watch and participate.

Our family later moved to 1455-38th St. Some of my friends at that time were Carole Mintz, Carole Zuckerman, Juliet Fried, Gail Miller, Linda Mirra and Eileen Esposito. In the neighborhood I remember there was a set of twins, Bobby and Susan Schweitzer. They had a friend who lived near the park on 38th St. and 15th Ave.

After I graduated from PS164 I attended Montaulk J.H.S. on 16th Ave. and 43rd St. for one year. My teacher's name was Mr. Larry Long. There are only a few names of students that I remember from there, Rae Ann, and Brenda Schoen.

After Boro Park, my family moved to Manhattan in 1953 and now we live in Flatbush. These childhood memories will always be a special part of me. I was delighted to write this article and recall these memories.

Bernice A. Blumer

Comet 1946-cont.

We will continue to list additional names and addresses of students who graduated from New Utrecht H.S. in June 1946 and lived in Boro Park. We counted the names of the graduates and came up with the figure of 674 (that does not include the graduates of evening H.S.). A good portion of those students lived in Boro Park. If any of these names stir up old memories of Boro Park, please share them with our readers.

Annette Cohen 1630-41 St.
Elaine Cohen 1726-49 St.
Judith Cohen 1223-46 St.
Mildred Cohen 1146-50 St.
Frank Consentino 1747-59 St.
Grace Coller 4910-15 Ave.
Charles Crespino 1341-43 St.
Julian Daly 1213-40 St.
Seymor Dauber 1431 40 St.
Milton Davidson 4704 16 Ave.

Patrick De Cresito 1031-44 St.
Marion Dolores 5703-12 Ave.
Edith De Luca 1805-49 St.
Guy Di Cosola 823-42 St.
Elaine Ditchek 4217-16 Ave.
Arelne Dobres 1017-44 St.
Beverly Drespel 4910-15 Ave.
Elaine Ehrenfeld 1678-48 St.
Thelma Ehrlich 902-41 St.
Morris Eisner 5110-18 Ave.
Helen Elefant 1654-49 St.
Vivian Elinovitz 1127-43 St.
Bernard Ellenbogen 1027-44 St.
Eileen Eller 1255-10 Ave.
Rita Epstein 5102-10 Ave.
Ruth Erdman 1735-49 St.
Utta Falkowitz 1452-55 St.
Walter Feder 1037-51 St.
Evelyn Feinberg 1575-46 St.

Rhoda Fenster 1681-49 St.
Gloria Ferracane 1116-50 St.
Constance Fina 1047-55 St.
Deborah Fisch 1454-54 St
Arline Fishman 1239-49 St.
Gustave Fistel 1400-51 St.
Ethel Flax 1420-43 St.
Marie Flotteron 1165-46 St.
Judith Forman 1772-46 St
Mildred Foudin 1431-42 St.
Lila Fox 972-51 St.
Elaine Frank 1529-52 St.
George Frank 1541-59 St
Murray Fried 1541-59 St.
Anita Friedman 861-48 St.
Carolyn Friedman 1546-43 St.
Jerome Friedman 1169-48 St.
Melvin Friedman 1374-42 St.
Myra Friedman 1021-45 St.
Howard Frumin 1035-53 St.

The above list of 49 names, out of a total of 96 names that were reviewed for this installment, is equal to 51%. In the last issue, the Boro Park names equalled to 48% of the names reviewed, it may be fair to estimate therefore, that about 50% of the student body in New Utrecht H.S. at that time lived in Boro Park.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

DOROTHY PHILLIPS GEIGER

I was a mere one year old child in 1903, when I moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side. My parents, Pauline and Jacob Phillips, had decided to buy a two-family house at 1210 40th Street, in order to live near their cousins, the Beckers. With the birth of my sister Lucille in 1910, our family was complete.

In the early 1900's, there were more farms than houses in the 40's streets, at that time the Jewish section of Boro Park. My mother bought freshly laid eggs from a nearby farmer. Thirteenth Avenue was completely residential. In time, the houses from 39th Street up to 45th Street were demolished and stores were erected in their place.

The Culver Line ran at ground level along 37th Street. Since there were few houses in the area, my father was able to see when the train reached 13th Avenue. He would run to Fort Hamilton Parkway and 37th Street and board the train to his job in Manhattan, where he worked as a sewing machine operator for a ladies coat and suit manufacturer. In those days, trains were not yet heated and were cold in winter. Stations, however, were heated by potbelly stoves. (I might mention that, in the days before the establishment of the garment workers' union, a garment worker had to buy his or her own sewing machine and carry it back and forth to work every day.)

When I was six year old, I started school at P.S. 131, 43rd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. When I was in second grade, a new Public School, P.S. 164 was built at 4211 14th Avenue, and children who lived on 12th Avenue were transferred to P.S. 164.

My parents belonged to Temple Beth-El (the first synagogue in Boro Park), then located on 41st Street and 12th Avenue, around the corner from our house.

Boro Park was really like a park in those days! Starting in the 50s Streets every house was palatial, with large front and back yards. The Boro Park Clubhouse (demolished) was on 13th Avenue, 50th to 51st Streets. It was a beautiful building with a large wrap-around front porch and a semi-circular driveway for horses and carriages.

Bessie and Harry Cohen owned a two-family house next door to us. Bessie's sister, Dora and her husband, Louis Schenker, rented the ground floor apartment. The Cohens lived in the upstairs apartment. Sarah, another sister, and her husband, Jack Herlands, lived in a two-family house directly across 12th Avenue from the firehouse, which was (and is) at 4212 12th Avenue.

Sarah and Jack Herlands were exceptionally warm and kind, and the Schenker family was friendly. The Cohens, although not as outgoing as the Herlands and Schenker families, were also nice people.

Dora and Louis Schenker had four sons: David, Ed, Ben and Moshe. I later recommended Moshe for a job in the Israel Zion Hospital, where he worked as a guard for many years. Ed was a prominent certified public accountant. Dave and Bob, prominent corporate lawyers, headed their own law firm. During the 1930's, Dave was an attorney with the recently established Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sarah and Jack Herlands had four children. William Balfour and Herbert were lawyers. Lillian was a professor of English Literature at New York University, and Robert was a prominent Manhattan dentist. William B, was the New York City Commissioner of Investigation during Mayor LaGuardia's administration and later was a Federal Judge in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, where he served with distinction.

Bessie and Harry Cohen had four children. Morris was a doctor, a general practitioner, and maintained a practice in Boro Park until he retired in 1959. He was on staff of the Israel Zion Hospital and had his office at his home, a three-family stucco house on 46th Street between 15th and 16th Avenues (where the Cohen family had moved from 40th Street). Sigmund, the youngest (Jimmy) was a druggist, with a

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

store on the corner of 14th Avenue and 54th Street (now a small synagogue). Hymie was also a druggist and had a drug store in Bensonhurst for many years. Kate, a sweet and kind young girl, married Gustave Posner, a lawyer who lived with his family in Boro Park. Kate and Gustave had two children, Edward and Lucille.

As I mentioned, my family's first home was a two-family house at 1210 40th Street. In 1918 there was a world-wide influenza epidemic. I was suffering from this terrible disease when a fire broke out in our apartment. Since I was unable to walk, a fireman carried me out of our burning apartment in a featherbed. Everything in our apartment -- clothes, furniture -- was destroyed. The only thing that survived was the featherbed in which I was wrapped!

In 1925, my family moved to a rental apartment in a private house at 1148 46th Street. (The Schenkers had also moved and, coincidentally, now lived directly across the street from us.) In 1929, we moved to an aprtment at 1540 47th Street, a private house owned by my uncle, Morris Phillips.

Although my family wasn't Orthodox, I joined the Young Israel of Boro Park because my friends belonged. My best friends were helen Cranzler and Anne Dicker, my classmates at P.S. 164. We were in the same classes all through school and remained friends for life.

After I graduated high school in 1920, my first job was as secretary-bookkeeper at the Machzike Talmud Torah, 43rd Street between 13th and 14th venues. My job included entering marks on students' report cards. The principal was Samuel J. Borowsky, a wonderful man. However, I didn't feel safe working there because I was alone much of the time and the outer doors to the building were not locked.

In 1923, I therefore found a job at the recently established Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). I was secretary to Boris Fingerhut, the director. I remember Newman Dube, who founded the Israel Zion. My memories of him are particularly clear, since he visited the hospital frequently. Mrs. Dube was a charming woman and Mr. Dube was a kind man. He always invited the entire hospital staff to the Israel Zion's fundraising dinners. Ordinarily, people who attendedd the dinner had to contribute a minimum of $100!

I remember Dr. Greenberg, a nose and throat specialist, and Dr. Herman, a specialist in internal medicine. Dr. Herman's office was in his home, a large private house on 48th Street and 14th Avenue.

I was soon promoted to the job of admitting clerk. The work was stressful but I enjoyed the human contact. My next promotion advanced me to the position of social worker. In order to qualify for the job, I had to take a few clàsses at the New School For Social Service. As a social worker, I was at ex officio member of the Medical Board of Israel Zion and attended Board meetings.

In connection with my job as a social worker, during the 1920's I was on the staff of the Israel Zion sponsored Henrietta Aid Society and Rachel Aid Society. These ladies aid societies disbursed money, food for Shabbos (Sabbath), and clothing to poor families. I also advised patients, who needed additional time to recuperate about convalescent homes.

One day I visited some friends: Sadie, a schoolteacher, and her husband, Samuel Morrison, a dentist. The Morrisons lived in Boro Park and had two children, Edward and Richard. (In the 1960's, during Mayor Lindsay's adminsitration, Edward held an important job in City Hall.) Dr. William Geiger, who lived in Williamsburg, was also visiting the Morrisons on that day. We started dating, and of course, were married on November 3, 1929 at the Concordia Club, 49th Street and 14th Avenue. The stock market had crashed only a month before our wedding. A great many people, having invested all their money in stocks that were now worthless, became instant paupers. Many of our guests couldn't afford to buy us wedding presents!

As an employee of the Israel Zion Hospital, I used my contacts to have Will accepted on the medical staff. At the time I met Will, he was a general practitioner; later on, he became a pediatrician.

My husband's parents, the Geigers, had meanwhile moved to an apartment in a two-family house at 902 56th Street. Will had his office in his parents' apartment. After we were married his parents moved out of their apartment and we moved in. Will's office remained in our apartment. (In 1930, I resigned from the Israel Zion Hospital in order to work in my husband's medical office.) We lived at 902 56th Street until 1931, when we rented an apartment in the house across the street, 905 56th Street where Will also had his office. We bought the house in 1936.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Will and I had two children. Arthur was born in the Israel Zion Hospital in 1931, followed by his sister Betty in 1937. Both of my children attended P.S. 105, 1031 59th Street. Arthur became a bar mitzvah at Beth Israel of Boro Park, 5602 11th Avenue, where he had taken afternon Hebrew classes.

Betty married a doctor and now lives in New Jersey. Arthur, a podiatrist, is single and lives in Boro Park. He is a Doctor of Podiatry at Kings County Hospital and Assistant Clinical Professor at Downstate Medical Center on Brooklyn.

I have lived with Arthur since the death of my husband Will in December 1981.

My family was one of the first Jewish families in mostly Protestant Boro Park. It is almost 95 years since I moved to Boro Park in 1903! Will and I were married for over 50 years and were very happy. Our children are wonderful and we had many close friends. I was a member of the Boro Park Chapter of Hadassah for many years.

There have been many changes in Boro Park since the long-ago days when there were more farms than houses in Boro Park! But one thing has remained constant -- the love of family and friends by the people who live in Boro Park.

(Ed. note: the above article was prepared and submitted by Lucille Posner. We thank her for her interesting contribution.)

WILLIAM KUFELD (R.I.P.)

A number of obituary ads appeared in the NY Times on February 10, and 11, 1998 in memory of William Kufeld (R.I.P.). We are repeating the following ad which is Boro Park related. Several articles have been written in past columns about his father, Max Kufeld (R.I.P.) and family and about Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

"Kufeld - William. A long time friend, esteemed Board member and counsel to the Foundation. His integrity, skills and love of the Yeshiva where his late father served as Principal will be cherished. Sincere condolences to his family.

Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation

Pres. Jerome Hornblass"

Comet 1946-cont.

We will continue to list additional names and addresses of students who graduated from New Utrecht H.S. in June 1946 and lived in Boro Park. If any of these names or addresses stir up old memories of Boro Park, please share them with our readers. See one response after this list.

Rochelle Garcherth 1357-56 St.
Francine Garfunkel 1578-48 St.
Louis Gartenberg 5118-14 Ave.
Marvin Gartner 1425-51 St.
Victor Genco 5406-14 Ave.
Evelyn Gertner 816-47 St.
Ruth Gervasi 1027-44 St.
Eric Gewurz 4401-17 Ave.
Muriel Gilston 1108-56 St.
Ralph Ginzberg 914-47 St.
Edwin Gittleman 1581-53 St.
Janey Glass 966-51 St.
Helen Goffe 1011-44 St.
George Goffman 4902-16 Ave.
Bernice Goldberg 1817-50 St.
Hazel Goldberg 1436-46 St.
Leonard Goldberg 5810-15 Ave.
Florence Golden 1560-40 St.
Doris Goldman 902-44 St.
Arnold Goldstein 1243-48 St.
Herbert Goldstein 1148-51 St.
Gloria Goran 4809-14 Ave.
Lillian Gottesman 969-43 St.
Florence Gran 1624-48 St.
Leah Green 5316-14 Ave.
Cecilia Greenberg 5614-15 Ave.
Claire Greenberg 1168-53 St.
Theodore Greenberg 5501-15 Ave.
Herbert Greenfield 1689-49 St.
Lila Greif 1607-42 St.
Sue Gross 4820 13 Ave.
Estelle Grunther 956-44 St.
Anthony Gullo 1523-45 St.
Marilyn Halpern 1529-42 St.
Neil Handelman 1571-52 St.
Naomi Harbater 1500-49 St.
Warren Hecker 931-53 St.
Phyllis Hendler 1758-58 St.
Ruth Herman 1455-48 St.
Pearl Hirth 5323-13 Ave.
Melvin Hoffman 1428-43 St.
Joseph Holland 1523-44 St.
Albert Holtzman 1042-50 St.
Audrey Holtzman 1016-50 St.
Solomon Huriash 842-47 St.
Roslyn Hyman 1444-43 St.
Matthew Ilicete 1150-59 St.
Joseph Jacobs 1507-38 St.
Julius Jacobowitz 1047 50 St.
Lillian Jaffe 1420 43 St.
Robert Jones 1528-49 St.
Anita Kalish 1547-44 St.
Lenore Kane 911-46 St.
Gertrude Kaplan 1213 46 St.
Ruthele Kaplan 1453-44 St.
Seymour Kaplan 4514-10 Ave.
Jerry Karst 1338-45 St.
Beverly Katz 1429-47 St.
Gloria Katz 1464-42 St.
Rosalyn Katznelson 967-47 St.
Ruth Kessler 4600-14 Ave.
Barbara Kleigman 933-45 St.
Rita Klein 1621 53 St.
Abraham Kleinberg 1223-42 St.
Melvin Klipper 1668 43 St.
Rhoda Koenigsberg 962-43 St.
Ruthd Kottick 1435-42 St.
Theodore Kraft 1552-45 St.
Sheila Kraut 1241-39 St.
Sylvia Krigar 4519-10 Ave.
Florence Krinick 4020-9 Ave.
Albert Kronman 1059-58 St.
Albert Kruger 1531-41 St.

The above list of 73 names, out of a total of 120 names that were reviewed for this installment, is equal to 60.8%. In the three installments of names listed in this column to date out of a total of 320 names reviewed, 172 or 53.8% lived in Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Rebecca Brilliant

Dear Dr. Kipust:

In a list of some 1946 graduates of New Utrecht High School in the January "I Remember Boro Park" Column, I recognized the name Rebecca Brilliant. I remember her well. She and her parents lived at 1414 47th Street, a three-family house, next to the house of my best friend, Cynthia Budove. The Harris Family, Rebecca's cousins, lived on the ground floor of 1414 47th Street, and the Brilliant Family lived in an upstairs apartment: I knew the two Harris daughters, Hannah and Leah. Hannah, may she rest in peace, was a renowned teacher of Hebrew kindergarten who wrote several books on the subject. Leah recently moved to Jerusalem with her son and his family.

The Harris and the Brilliant families were Orthodox Jews and fervent Zionists. Mr. and Mrs. Brilliant had emigrated to Israel (then Palestine) in the 1930's with their three children, Rebecca and her two older brothers. Rebecca returned with her parents to the U.S. just before the start of World War II since many people were afraid that Germany would occupy Palestine. (Fortunately that never came to pass.) The Brilliant's two sons remained in Palestine. One son, Moshe, was an Israeli correspondent for The New York Times for many years.

Rebecca lived up to her last name -- Brilliant! She had a keen grasp of current affairs and was a brilliant student. Her father owned a wholesale fluorescent lighting company in Manhattan by the name of -- what else --Brilliant Lighting Works. At the same time that she went to New Utrecht High School, she also attended a Hebrew high school in Manhattan in the afternoons.

Rebecca belonged to Hashomer Hadati, an Ortohodox Zionist organization. After she graduated from high school, she became a member of a Hashomer Hadati kibbutz in Palestine (now Israel), where she taught kindergarten. (She now uses the name Rivka, the Hebrew of Rebecca.) Rivka married a Sephardi member of the kibbutz. Her father died a few years later and Rivka and her husband moved to the U.S.; her husband now manages her late father's lighting business. Rivka and her husband live in Forest Hills and have two grown sons. She works for the Board of Jewish Education, supervising the curriculum of yeshivas.

Lucille Posner

(Ed. note: We thank Lucille Posner for this contribution and for all her many interesting contributions to this column and the history of Boro Park.)

You can help in the research preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorablia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S. 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Boro Park Stereotype

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to see Dr. Philip J. Kipust's article entitled "Boro Park in the News Media", appearing in your February /March 1998 issue. However, in hoping to see the mainstream media's stereotypical portrayal of Boro Park challenged, I was somewhat disappointed.

While Dr. Kipust did a good job of clarifying various details, including the neighborhood's geographical boundaries, he did little to address the stereotype that Boro Park is a purely "Ultra-Orthodox" neighborhood. Of course, Haredim and Hassidim do comprise a majority of Boro Park's population-and it is largely their hard work and dedication that have made Boro Park such a thriving community.

However, many changes have recently occurred in Boro Park that were not addressed in either the January 7 New York Times article, or Dr. Kipust's critique of it.

1. A great number of Italian-Americans continue to live in Boro Park. Many of them stayed here (there are five Italian families in my apartment building alone), since through it's changes, Boro Park has remained a very safe, pleasant area to live, unlike many other Brooklyn neighborhoods. There are still a few Irish-Americans, too.

2. It is impossible to ignore the huge influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe through the '80's and 90's. Boro Park is now home to one of the largest Polish (gentile) communities in Brooklyn, as can be seen by the numerous Polish businesses on 13th & 14th Aves., New Utrecht Avenue and Ft. Hamilton Parkway. There are also large numbers of Russians (both Jewish and Gentile), and smaller numbers of Hungarians, Ukranians and the like.

3. Boro Park's Hispanic community has also swelled. Particularly the Mexican population has grown by leaps and bounds, as evidenced by Mexican restaurants, groceries and record stores in many locations between 8th and 14th Avenues. Boro Park is also home to a significant number of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Colombians, and others.

4. Also impossible to ignore is Boro Park's large Middle Eastern and Central Asian population (indeed, a recent New York Times article detailed Boro Park's growing Muslim community). Indians, Iranians, Pakistanis, and Turkish are now quite numerous. There is even a mosque at New Utrecht Avenue near 45th Street.

5. The massive growth of the Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese population speaks for itself. While this new Chinatown centers around 8th Avenue (generally recognized as the border between Sunset Park and Boro Park), a great many of these folks live in Boro Park between 8th and 12th Avenues, further adding to our neighborhood's cultural richness.

6. Thanks to Maimonides Medical Center, a number of doctors and other hospital affiliates have always chosen to make Boro Park their home. Perhaps this paved the way for the recent influx of a few young professionals into the area, fleeing the outrageous rents of neighborhoods like Park Slope and Cobble Hill. You can't beat Boro Park's combination of safety, low rents and proximity to Manhattan. (I, along with a couple of other tenants in my building, fall under this category).

7. Boro Park's Jewish community itself is highly diverse. Alongside the "Ultra-Orthodox" are still many Modern Orthodox, Sephardic & Yemenite Jews, and quite a few (mostly older) folks who are actually Conservative and even Reform Jews. There is still one Conservative synagogue (Temple Emmanu-El at 49th & 14th) and one Reform synagogue (Boro Park Progressive Synagogue on 46th between 15th & 16th). And there are the aforementioned Russian Jews (largely secular), as well as hard-to-categorize Jews like me (I am ethnically Jewish on my mother's side but not religious).

Boro Park is a shining example of cultural diversity, yet very few people outside of the neighborhood are aware of this fact; some people in the

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

neighborhood choose to ignore it. To me, the fact that Hasidic Jews, Polish Catholics and Iranian Muslims (and all the others) can peacefully coexist in one neighborhood is truly inspiring. I only hope that the cultural richness of Boro Park becomes more widely publicized.

Sincerely,
David Kent-Abbott

Ed: We thank Mr. David Kent-Abbott for his thoughtful and interesting comments about Boro Park. The NY Times article, as well as others, describe the Boro Park population as "the overwhelming majority of whom are Jewish". All seem to agree, as does Mr. Kent-Abbott, that "Haredim and Hassidim do comprise a majority of Boro Park's population". That is what makes the community so interesting and newsworthy. I don't believe anyone will describe the community as a "purely ultra Orthodox" neighborhood. However, if that impression has been left by the previous articles then Mr. Kent-Abbott's comments help to correct it. We welcome other comments or articles about the other ethnic groups in Boro Park.

Comet 1946-cont.

We will continue to list additional names and addresses of students who graduated from New Utrecht H.S. in June 1946 and lived in Boro Park. If any of these names or addresses stir up old memories of Boro Park, please share them with our readers. See one response after this list.

Leo Kupersmith 1327-46 St.
Joseph Kurtz 947-47 St.
Marie La Gamba 1137-50 St.
George Landau 1649-49 St.
Jacob Lask 5501-14 Ave.
Harriet Taub 4923-8 Ave.
Doris Lazarchuk 849-42 St.
Alice Leccese 1762-56 St.
Phyllis Leif 914-47 St.
Seymour Leifer 1555-53 St.
Edward Leipziger 956-50 St.
Stanley Lesser 4515-12 Ave.
Abraham Levine 916-46 St.
Lester Levine 1520-46 St.
Norman Levine 1362-46 St.
Sheila Levinthal 5502-14 Ave.
Marilyn Levy 1772-46 St.
Sheldon Liebowitz 1005-50 St.
Clementine Lipschitz 4705-15 Ave
Harold Litt 1505-41 St.
Bernice Lobele 1750-57 St.
William Lohrer 1632-45 St.
Barbara Lovette 1750-50 St.
Estelle Lucadana 1563-56 St.
Phyllis Lynton 1444-53 St.
Diane Mager 872-47 St.
Natalie Mankoff 1432-43 St.
Dolores Marion 5703-12 Ave.
Judith Marks 1360-52 St.
Blanche Marsh 1251-46 St.
Lorraine Massari 970-39 St.
Sylvia Mayer 1322-44 St.
Iris Medvin 5511-Ft. Ham. Pky
Irwin Meltzer 1551-49 St.
Sidney Merians 1425-51 St.
Perry Mermelstein 1574-56 St.
Edward Merrin 1344-46 St.
Rudolf Miele 1629-49 St.
Phoebe Miller 1600-55 St.
Bernard Mintz 5115-17 Ave.
Marilyn Mishkin 1528-49 St.
Isidore Morgenstern 1420-43 St
Shirley Moskowitz 1846-48 St.
Walter Mussachio 1243-54 St.
Roslyn Nassau 1430-47 St.
Bella Newman 4515-12 Ave.
Rita Novack 4611-12 Ave.
Eileen Ogurek 5100-15 Ave.
Fred Paglen 1610-42 St.
Vivian Papkin 1345-53 St.
Raymond Parks 1560-41 St.
Esther Parnes 1258-43 St.
Irwin Paskow 1015-50 St.
Martin Pearl 1220-55 St.
Ilona Penner 1334-48 St.
Robert Perry 1025-45 St.
Gloria Philipson 946-42 St.
Florence Phillips 4702-15 Ave.
Eileen Pincus 1434-47 St.
Herbert Pincus 3714-15 Ave.
Murray Pisetsky 832-48 St.
Pearl Pistreich 944-42 St.
Ilse Plapler 5101-13 Ave.

STUDENTS AT YESHIVA ETZ CHAIM, JUNE 1956



I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Eleanor Ploschek 1730-44 St.
Milton Plonitsky 1560-40 St.
Ruth Popover 1658-50 St.
Herbert Potoker 964-49 St.
Frances Presas 5411-Ft. Ham. Pkwy.
Joan Puglisi 1836-48 St.
Dolores Quinn 857-57 St.
Arthur Rabinowich 926-55 St.
Shirley Rabinowitz 1580-46 St.
Sonia Rabinowitz 1535-44 st.
Gloria Raeder 3819-15 Ave.
Patricia Ranucci 1016-50 St.
Theda Remz 1734-56 St.
Marion River 4309-13 Ave.
Ruth Rodner 4117-15 Ave.
George Roeper 4706-18 Ave.
Marilyn Rosen 4219-15 Ave.
Esther Rosenblatt 4509-14 Ave.
Richard Rosenburgh 4901-14 Ave.
Samuel Rosenfeld 1553-50 St.
Irving Rosengart 1472-43 St.
Enid Rosenthal 1656-49 St.
Doris Rosman 880-47 sT.
Ben Rosner 4206-15 Ave.
George Rubin 1236-49 St.
Charles Rusello 1144-53 St.
Paul Sacher 1148-47 St.
Joseph Sadow 1037-51 St.
Elaine Sakellariow 1815-50 St.
Evelyn Salkin 1445-56 St.
Leonard Saltz 1419-41 st.
Florence Sandoff 5301-13 Ave.
Bernard Sanford 5609-15 Ave.

The above information may also help you determine who lived in your house or on your street previously. We would be interested in knowing if any of these graduates still live in Boro Park and what they are doing now. We would like to publish these comments.

The above list of 96 names of Boro Parkers out of a total of 192 names that were reviewed for this installment, is equal to 50%. in the four installments of names listed to date in this column, 268 or 52% of a total of 512 graduate names reviewed lived in Boro Park. The final installment will appear in the next issue

What Happened to the Graduates Listed Above?

My wife and I were friendly with some of the graduates listed above and in the previous installments. We could shed some light on the question of "What happened to the graduates" in reference to those whom we know.

My wife was one of the graduates of that class and is listed as RUTH HERMAN 1455-48 St. Amongst those whom we know, she is the only one (to our knowledge) that is still living in Boro Park.

ESTHER PARNES 1258-43 St.- She married a Mr. Shmuel Reich who had a butcher store in Boro Park on 14 Ave. near 43 St. The entire family settled in Israel many years ago and still reside there. She is the grand daughter of the well known saintly Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes who was one of the early settlers in Boro Park. Some of her relatives still live in Boro Park.

ILONA PENNER 1334-48 St.

Ilona was married to Samuel Blech in 1950. He is the son of Rabbi Benzion Blech (RIP) a long time rebbe in Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz and Rabbi of the Clara St. Shul. They reside in Silverspring, MD. He is a retired chemist and judge of the U.S. Patent office in Washington, D.C. An article about Ilona appeared in this column several months ago.

EILEEN PINCUS 1434-47 St. Eileen is married to Rabbi Norman Strizower who was Rabbi of a shul in Brooklyn until his retirement. Eileen was a public school teacher in Brooklyn until her retirement.

Her brother Seymour and wife Marsha (Roth) Pincus still reside in Boro Park.

RUTH POPOVER 1658-50 St. Ruth married Harold Harris who was in construction business. They now reside in Florida.

We will discuss additional graduates of the class of '46 in the next issue.

CORRECTION

The sentence in the article by Dorothy Phillips Geiger in the April 1998 issue of the Boro Park Community News should be corrected to read:

Dave and Ben Schenker, prominent corporate lawyers, headed their own law firm.

Help Preserve the History of Boro Park

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park. TYou can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submittingd your own memories, photos and other memoribilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - forbusiness or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK LIBRARY CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear DR. Kipust:

Enclosed is a copy of an article that appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle (Home Talk Section) on December 7, 1932.

Since the Borough Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library located at 1265 - 43rd St., is currently (12/97 to 12/98) celebrating its 90th Anniversary as a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, I thought this article would be appropriate for your column at this time.

Yours truly,
B.M. SELEVAN

LIBRARY BRANCH 25 YEARS OLD

Borough Park Unit to Observe Anniversary This Friday

The Borough Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library will celebrate its 25th Anniversary Friday, Milton J. Ferguson, chief librarian, announced. This branch, which is located at 5211 13th Avenue, began as a small library organized and supported by residents of the neighborhood and became part of the Brooklyn system, December 9, 1907.

Three years previous to this, a library had been established in the Ridgewood Reformed Chapel which had been built in 1868 on the old Cowenhaven Lane, near 14th Avenue. When it was turned over to the Brooklyn Public Library in 1907 the event was celebrated with a formal opening of the new library "station". This was the beginning of library "station" work in Brooklyn which has continued to the present day, although most "stations" have grown into regular branch libraries as has Borough Park.

During the first month of operation an average of 64 volumes a day were loaned among the 229 registered borrowers. Borough Park Branch now has more than 12,000 registered borrowers and loans more than 600 books a day.

Borough Park became a regular branch library in january, 1911 and having outgrown its quarters was moved to 1325 56th St., in May, 1915, and in July, 1926, to its present location. The staff of the Borough Park Branch consists of Eleanor M. Haseloff, branch librarian, Klara K. Bickel, Elvira Otteson, Mary H. Short, Mrs. Dorothy Ford Crane, Virginia Manico.

Ed.: We thank Mr. B.M. Selevan for his timely and interesting contribution.

LIBRARY FOLLOW UP

The Boro Park Library moved from 5211-13th Avenue to its present location at 1265-43rd Street in 1955. In 1910 the circulation at this branch was 30,000. In 1968 the circulation reached 382,000. In 1997 the circulation was down to 330,675 and the library had 37,000 cardholders.

It is interesting to note the decline in circulation at the library during the past 30 years despite the fact that the population of Boro Park has grown significantly during that same period.

We discussed this question with library personnel and they suggested that the decline in circulation was due to the increased use of electronic access to library facilities. They pointed out that the increased use of copy machines, microfilm, microfiche, computers and internet have replaced book circulation to a great extent.

This writer suggests an additional factor, the change in population in Boro Park. The large Chasidic and Yeshiva population in Boro Park utilize the Jewish Youth Library and local synagogue and Yeshiva Libraries to a greater extent and depend less on the public library than the population in previous years.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

Comet 1946-cont.

This is the fifth and final installment of the names and addresses of the students who graduated from New Utrecht H.S. in June 1946 and lived in Boro Park. The names appeared in the Comet - the school's graduation yearbook.

Angelo Scarpa 1407-60 St.
Edith Schachner 1360-52 St.
Milton Schaffer 1639-55 St.
Adele Scharf 1421-53 St.
Harriet Schayer 1616-49 St.
Abraham Schechter 4123-9 Ave.
Roslyn Schechter 1022-44 St.
Richard Scher 822-50 St.
Rita Scher 922-44 St.
Mildred Schindelheim 1103-55 St.
Patricia Schneck 4421-8 Ave.
Beatrice Schneider 851-44 St.
Edna Schneider 829-45 St.
Murray Schneier 971-45 St.
Aaron Schwartz 1415-45 St.
Gladys Segal 1749-49 St.
Charlotte Sekulow 4608-10 Ave.
Richard Servidio 4914-9 Ave.
Valeria Shark 5411-Ft. Hamilton Py.
Helen Shatzman 1450-44 St.
Sylvia Short 1221-45 St.
Doris Seigel 1646-45 St.
Harriet Siegel 4109-15 Ave.
Murray Siegel 1349-55 St.
Sophia Silber 5000-15 Ave.
Murray Silberman 1379-45 St.
Elaine Silver 5115-18 Ave.
Judythe Silver 1206-55 St.
Bernice Silverman 5001-15 Ave.
Don Silverman 5016-10 Ave.
Jean Simone 1766-58 St.
Tina Sinisgallo 1133-55 St.
Joseph Slipowitz 4706-10 Ave.
George Slotsky 1402-40 St.
Roslyn Smilowitz 1536-51 St.
Marilyn Smolinsky 1612-46 St.
Estelle Sobel 1030-48 St.
Mary Sofia 1150-52 St.
Martin Sokol 1321-52 St.
Lester Solomon 5000-15 Ave.
Abraham Spector 1229-42 St.
Dorothy Statman 1017-45 St.
Arthur Stein 1103-55 St.
Edwin Stein 1466-49 St.
Arthur Stern 1454-45 St.
Naomi Stern 817-47 St.
Harriet Steuer 4217-16 Ave.
Harold Stock 1402-40 St.
Nathan Taffel 3917-15 Ave.
Wilbur Talisman 864-49 St.
Pearl Tannenbaum 817-46 St.
Marvin Teitelbaum 5604-Ft. Hamilton Py.
Evelyn Tepper 861-48 St.
Arthur Trachtenberg 1656-48 St.
Joyce Traub 949-53 St.
Martin Turk 5105-10 Ave.
Edith Turkish 1124-51 St.
Bernice Turner 1627-55 St.
Paula Unger 1168-52 St.
Vera Waicule 1327-46 St.
Myron Walashetsky 1439-43 St.
Marilyn Wank 1750-52 St.
Eleanor Wartels 1234-41 St.
Marilyn Wasserman 4910-15 Ave.
Natalie Wasserman 902-44 St.
Harriet Wasserstrom 4600-14 Ave.
Robert Weiner 1349-49 St.
Harriet Weiss 1349-45 St.
Gertrude Weisberg 5722-12 Ave.
Harold Weisman 1548-39 St.
Marvin Weitz 5516-14 Ave.
Sheila Welikson 3810-15 Ave.
Sydell Wels 1608-47 St.
Sylvia Wilkins 921-46 St.
Jean Wilner 1555-47 St.
Murray Wolf 1429-42 St.
Stanley Wolf 1335-40 St.
Betty Wolk 1379-54 St.
Stanley Yagoda 1230-48 St.
Sylvia Yampol 1444-43 St.
Florence Yarmolovsky 1059-50 St.
Janet Yodowitz 813-47 St.
Jean Yoskowitz 3817-13 Ave.
Gladys Zellerman 1465-51 St.
Franklin Zinavoy 1617-50 St.
Claire Zoref 965-51 St.
Phyllis Zwirn 1690-54 St.
Jean Rosenblum 927-56 St.
Lawrence Sperber 1014-55 St.
Harold Greenberg 1311-49 St.
Allen Horn 1666-50 St.
Frank Moscarella 5714-18 Ave.

We would be interested in knowing if any of these people still live in Boro Park and/or what they are doing now. See comments about several of these names later in the column.

The Above list of 94 names of Boro Parkers out of a total of 153 names reviewed for this installment is equal to 61%. In the five installments listed to date in this column 362 or 54.4% of a total of 665 graduates reviewed lived in Boro Park.

It would be interesting to find out currently what percentage of the graduates in N.U.H.S. live in Boro Park.

In 1946 there were no girl Yeshiva high schools in Boro Park and only one small boys Yeshiva high school (Yeshiva Toras Emes). Therefore, most of the boys and girls attended New Utrecht H.S. In addition, F.D.R. High School has opened since then and many Boro Park students attend that school. In the Orthodox Jewish community practically all the students, boys girls, attend Yeshiva high schools.

The difficulty in determining the number or percentage of current Boro Park students attending N.U.H.S. or F.D.R.H.S. is that the yearbooks for the past number of years do not list addresses any longer. I contacted a member of the faculty at N.U.H.S. who agreed to go through the names and addresses and give us only the statistical information. She was kind enough to do so for the graduation candidates for 1997. She found that there were 398 candidates for graduation and 31 or 8% lived in Boro Park. We see that the population of N.U.H.S. has fallen and the figures are in line with our predictions.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

FOLLOW UP OF SOME OF THE GRADUATES

We discussed some of the 1946 graduates, whom my wife and I knew, in the May 1998 issue. We will continue to discuss additional ones and indicate what happened to them. We would still like to know which of the 1946 graduates still live in Boro Park.

Lea Blech: 3513-12 Ave. married Harry First, an attorney. She also became an attorney and then a judge. they live in Riverdale, NY. Lea is a sister to Samuel Blech who was discussed in the last issue and in previous issues.

Rebecca Brilliant: 1414-47 St. (Rivka) was discussed in an article by Lucille Posner in the April '98 issue. Her married name is Behar and she lives in Forest Hills. She is a Phd. and works in the area of Jewish Pre-school education.

Elaine Ehrenfeld: 1678-48 St. is married to Manny Wohlman, a public school teacher. She became a social worker. They moved to Israel and settled there, many years ago, when they retired.

Helen Elefant: 1654-49 St. married name is Wolf. They live in Far Rockaway.

Deborah Fisch: 1451-54 St. married Rabbi Port and they live in Sayerville, NJ.

Sue Gross: 4820-13 Ave. Her father (RIP) was once the owner of the Gross Arlington Hotel in the Catskill Mountains. Her brother Rabbi Avrohom Gross was a former president of the Rabbinical Alliance (Iggad Harobonim). Sue (Shani) married Binyamin Kurtz (RIP). And they moved to Toronto, Canada. Sue became an educational director of Jewish schools. She still resides in Toronto.

Naomi Harbator: 1500-49 St. moved to Israel in 1950 and married Moshe Dison (RIP), a veterinarian. Naomi (Nechama) still lives in Israel. We wrote about the Harbater family in Boro Park in this column on more than one occasion.

Pearl Hirth: 5323-13 Ave. (Penina) lived a block away from the Boro Park library when it was located at 5211-13 Avenue and she worked there for a while as a librarian. She married Rabbi Samuel Smerling (RIP) who passed away a few months ago. She lives in Queens.

Gertrude Weisberg: 5722-12 Ave. (Libby) married Moshe Kazarnovsky and lived in Boro Park on 46 Street for many years. They moved to Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Harold Greenberg: 1311-49 St. was active in the Shomer Hadati in Boro Park. Harold's (Aaron) father (RIP) was the Sexton of Temple Beth El, 48 Street and 15 Avenue for many years. His brother, Rabbi Yitzchok Greenberg, is a well known Rabbi. His sister was married to a Boro Park medical doctor, Dr. Levine (RIP) and she still lives in Boro Park.

Hedy Barasz: 4303-16 Ave. was married to Samuel Soroka (RIP) and still lives in Boro Park right around the corner from where she lived then. At last we found one additional graduate who still lives in Boro Park.

Clementine Lipschitz: 4705-15 Ave. married Harold Bonime and lives in Flatbush

Sylvia Mayer: 1322-44 St. married a Boro Park man Hemmy Gittler and they now reside in Israel.

Sophia Silber: 5000-15 Ave. married name is Nemayer and she and husband live in Elkins Park, PA.

Betty Wolk: 1379-54 St. married name was Kaganoff. She was deceased at an early age.

Help Preserve the History of Boro Park

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Mrs. Schick worked very hard and very long hours, baking, selling and operating the growing business, while raising her family. The business grew, more products were added and soon the adjoining store was purchased to be used for Passover baking. As the four children grew older, Arthur the oldest, Ruth next and the twin boys Marvin and Allen in turn, helped in the business selling behind the counter and doing other needed chores. Arthur progressively carried the major responsibility of running the business.

When the children were fully grown and into their own families and careers, after 17 years in the store, Mrs. Schick sold the bakery in 1960. This columnist had the privilege of working for Mrs. Schick delivering wedding cakes and special orders, and was impressed by her intelligence, modesty, honesty, quiet manner and sensitivity to others.

The oldest son, Arthur, married Dorothy Bachman, a Boro Park girl. Her parents owned Bachmans Dept. Store, selling a variety of dry goods, located on 13th Ave. near 42nd Street. Some of the old time Boro Parkers may remember that store. Arthur and Dorothy went into the catering business and developed the famous Schick's Catering which is still well known in the Jewish community for catering elegant weddings and banquets in various hotels and halls. Although they moved to Flatbush, they operated a catering kitchen for many years in Boro Park on 39th St. Ruth married a Hebrew teacher and moved out of town. The twin boys Allen and Marvin became prominent college professors of Political Science and Sociology. Dr. Allen Schick is today a distinguished college professor in Washington, DC where he lives with his wife and family. Dr. Marvin Schick still lives in Boro Park with his wife and family and is also a prominent community activist.

The bakery was sold in 1960 to Mr. Moshe Braunfeld and Mr. Hyman Widowsky, brothers-in-law, and they have continued to run and expand the business since then, keeping the Schick name. Currently the bakery is owned and operated by the next generation, sons of the Braunfelds and Widowskys and has gained a national and even international reputation as a gourmet bakery for both Passover and all year products.

Mrs. Schick continued her residence in Boro Park living at 1528-52nd St. and finally at 1455-54th St. She continued an active life after the business was sold, reading and corresponding, doing charitable work in the community, helping family and friends in need, even baking for family and friends, but, as her son wrote, active "mainly in her fierce caring for the unfortunate". She has certainly left her mark with family and friends and on the history of Boro Park.

BORO PARK LIBRARY

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Since I applied for my first library card at the Boro Park Library when I was six years old, I enjoyed the article about the Boro Park Library in the June "I Remember Boro Park" column. In addition to the reasons given for the decline in circulation, I would like to point out the following. In former years, best-sellers and books of wide popular interest were sent to all, or almost all, branch libraries. Now only one or two branches have new books. Although reduced library hours were reinstated a few years ago, new books -- no matter how significant and appealing -- are simply not available for circulation. A strange ordering of City Hall's priorities, especially now, when there is a large budget surplus. Perhaps our top elected city officials are unacquainted with the value and pleasure of reading!

I would also like to mention that the article in the Brooklyn Eagle of December 7, 1932 states that the first home of the Boro Park Library was in the former Ridgewood Reformed Chapel near 14th Avenue. As regular readers of your column know, the correct name was the Edgewood Reformed Chapel, which the congregation sold to the Brooklyn Public Library after they built their new church on 14th Avenue and 53rd Street (now demolished).

Yours truly,
LUCILLE POSNER

Ed: We thank Lucille Posner again for her interesting contribution.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Borough Park, Then And Now

Neighborhood's little-noticed centennial offers a chance to reflect on growth and change.

SORAH SHAPIRO
Jewish Week Correspondent

There will be no street fairs or grand celebrations, and few residents have taken note of the milestone. But this year marks a century since William H. Reynolds, a former state senator with interests in Texas oil and Long Island real estate, began luring Manhattan tenement dwellers to the Blytheborne section of Brooklyn, renaming it Borough Park.

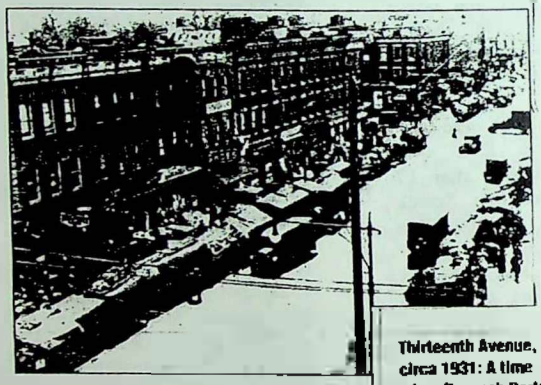
The formerly swampy area had been traded to Dutch settlers by the Canarsie Indians for some shirts, shoes, stockings, knives and scissors. "This piece of land lay fallow until it was inhabited by the Canarsie Indians," says Phillip J. Kipust, president of the Borough Park Historical Society, one of the few people taking note of the centennial.

It wasn't until the heavily Jewish, post-war population began streaming into the area that it became one of the city's most vibrant and densely populated neighborhoods. The evolution of Borough Park into the largest center of Orthodox Judaism in the world, according to Kipust, is attributable to its early history of charity and peace. A Borough Park native, he has watched it evolve for nearly 70 years.

"Although they were not religious, the Jews who first came here were very charitable," says Kipust. Later on, he added, "even though there were different groups and many branches of chasidim" in the neighborhood, "they always got along."

Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogues, though vying for members, coexisted without conflict. "Everyone who came here accepted the environment, adjusted to it and didn't try to change it. *Shalom* [peace] is a great blessing, and I think that's why Borough Park is blessed," he says.

According to Borough Park Assemblyman Dov Hikind, the neighborhood remains one of the most remarkable communities in the world for two reasons. "No other community has such a large cross-section of Jewish chasidic groups, who get along very well, and nowhere is there so much giving of one's self and for charity," he says, "because to the Orthodox, giving is as fundamental as eating kosher or keeping Shabbos."



Thirteenth Avenue, circa 1931: A time when Borough Park was only beginning to become Jewish.

Although it represents old world tradition in the eyes of many today, moving to Borough Park was the modern thing to do in the days before areas such as Midwood and Sheepshead Bay became heavily Jewish. The wealthier, more modern Jews from the Lower East Side or Harlem, some from the Bronx and other congested neighborhoods, flocked to what was considered suburbia. With its pushcarts and pickle men, it was Brooklyn's version of Orchard Street on the Lower East Side.

Unlike today, when the majority of its population is ultra-Orthodox, years ago religious Borough Parkers were embarrassed to be seen on the streets wearing yarmulkes and *sheitels* or wigs worn by married women. No one would dare walk on the street wearing a *talit*, as is common today. "Ours was the only house on the block that had a sukkah," said Kipust.

Temple Beth El, built in 1902, was one of the first Borough Park synagogues, and the famed Yossele Rosenblatt, Berele Chagy, the Koussevitsky brothers and Mordechai Hershman were the community's earliest cantors. Since there were no yeshivas, most Jewish kids attended public school.

Today Borough Park is the largest, most affluent and most diverse of the sizable ultra-Orthodox communities in the city. "It is the

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Borough Park, Then And Now

Neighborhood's little-noticed centennial offers a chance to reflect on growth and change.

Philip Kipust below, of the Borough Park Historical Society, has documented the change.
Photo below by Richard Levine



Orthodox," said Egon Mayer in his "From Suburb to Shtetl: The Jews of Borough Park" (1979), "who are the most visible segment of the community and who, therefore, define what it means to be Jewish in Borough Park."

Yet in a borough so rich in architecture, Borough Park is woefully bereft. But what it lacks in landmarks, it makes up for in its rich Jewish life. The neighborhood is home to several chasidic dynasties, some with followers numbering in the high thousands. It features an estimated 300 synagogues, 100 yeshivas, tens of thousands of yeshiva students, mikvehs, wigmakers, scribes, Hebrew book stores, kosher restaurants and groceries. (Where else can one find eight different brands of kosher frozen gefilte fish?)

Borough Park is a hubbub of commerce, with a strip of stores stretching on both sides of 13th Avenue from 36th Street to the high 50s. Patrons, especially the Orthodox, travel from far and wide for what seems obtainable — or worthwhile obtaining — only there.

This, coupled with the community's recent 45 percent population increase, contributes to driving and parking hazards on the avenues, its major thoroughfares. In fact, on some days, particularly before a Jewish holiday or on a Sunday, walking becomes a challenge. But in general, Borough Park is considered one of the safest neighborhoods in Brooklyn, if not in the entire city. Unlike other neighborhoods that are harrowed by drugs and crime, the major problems affecting Borough Park residents are a lack of open spaces, affordable housing and education; as well as unemployment, medical care and poverty.

As the hometown of Alan Dershowitz, Sandy Koufax, Danny Kaye and Buddy Hackett, Borough Park has become a tourist attraction and a source for hundreds of features in the New York Times, ranging from a front-page story on the housing market to features on wig businesses and lingerie shops.

But beyond being a source of curiosity, Borough Park has become perhaps the city's best example of how disparate neighborhoods coexist. "Borough Park is a vibrant, growing community, which draws strength from its great diversity," says Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. □

THE JEWISH WEEK OCTOBER 9, 1998

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 3, 1998

Jaque Friedman, President, welcomed the audience to the annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society. He expressed appreciation to Harold Fontek, Executive Director of the Boro Park YMHA/YWHA, for the use of the auditorium.

President Friedman reported that the Boro Park Historical Society recently received a $6,500 grant from New York State to establish a mini-museum of Boro Park history. Joseph Fuchs has been hired to organize the exhibit area of the museum. The Society's photographs of early Boro Park and Boro Park memorabilia will be on display. It will be necessary to make an appointment to visit the museum and to view the Society's archives. Mr. Friedman complimented Dario Marotta, the archivist, for his excellent work. The opening date of the museum will be announced and Public and private school principals in Boro Park will be informed that their classes can visit the museum.

Mr. Friedman noted that old photographs of Boro Park, Boro Park school yearbooks, and Boro Park memorabilia are sought. A copy can be made of an old photograph and the original returned to its owner.

ERIC IERARDI -- GUEST SPEAKER

Lucille Posner, Secretary, introduced Eric Ierardi, President of the Gravesend Historical Society. Born in 1950, Eric is the son of Italian immigrants. When he was in elementary school, he heard that the Gravesend Cemetery, dating from the 1600's, was abandoned and overgrown with weeds, with many overturned gravestones. He vowed that, if the cemetery was in the same condition when he was in high school, he would take on the job of restoring it.

In 1972, Eric established the Gravesend Historical Society. He was 22 years old and in his first year of college. At that time, dozens of descendants of the original settlers still lived in Gravesend. Eric contacted them and, enthusiastic about restoring the cemetery, the descendants donated money and old photographs of the cemetery. The photographs were invaluable in the cemetery's restoration. The descendants also volunteered their services to weed and repair the cemetery. The resulting newspaper publicity forced the New York City government (responsible for the cemetery's maintenance) to participate in its restoration. The then Brooklyn Boro President, Sebastian Leone, also became involved. Eric succeeded in having the cemetery declared a historic landmark. At a ceremony, attended by many politicians, a plaque was affixed to the cemetery gate. Eric began to lead walking tours of the cemetery and was appointed an assistant to the then Brooklyn historian, Dr. Joseph Palisi.

Eric has written two books on the history of the town of Gravesend. (His third book, which will be published in the fall of 1998, will include photographs of other Brooklyn neighborhoods.)

Lucille, after remarking that Eric lives with his wife and family in Gravesend and teaches social studies and science in a Gravesend junior high school, turned the meeting over to Eric.

Eric Ierardi gave a slide presentation about the history of Gravesend, one of the six original towns of what now comprises Brooklyn. Gravesend was the only town that was founded by a woman who came from England; the other five towns were founded by men who came from Holland. Unlike the other five towns, the official language of Gravesend wa English.

Eric said that, in addition to early Gravesend residents, some American Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the Gravesend cemetery. He observed that cemeteries -- the resting place of people who lived in times past -- are historic and should be maintained.

Eric said that his interest in the cemetery led him to research the history of the town of Gravesend. In 1586, Deborah Dunch was born in England to noble and politically progressive parents. Little Deborah received a good education and spoke and read Latin, French, and Italian. In 1609, when she was 23 years old, she married Sir Henry Moody, a lawyer with a manor house in Avebury, England and a town house in London. Lady Deborah enjoyed the high life in

I REMEMBER BORO PARK *(cont'd.*

London more than she enjoyed living among the country gentry. In 1632, Sir Henry died, leaving 46-year old Lady Deborah a wealthy widow with a son, Henry.

Dissatisfied with certain repressive policies of the English government, Lady Deborah and her son Henry left England. Their ship sailed from the port of Gravesend in England and arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638. While in Massachusetts, she began to give serious thought to her religious beliefs. She became an Anabaptist, a Protestant denomination that believes children should be baptized when they are old enough to understand what religion they were being baptized into, instead of being baptized soon after birth. Her beliefs conflicted with the established church in Massachusetts and she was excommunicated. She and her son decided to move to a more congenial place, and they left Massachusetts with a group of like-minded people. After traveling around, the group arrived in Fort Amsterdam (lower Manhattan) in 1643 and met with Governor Kieft. The Dutch, more tolerant than the English, welcomed the group. Nicholas Stillwell, an Englishman who lived in Fort Amsterdam, joined the group, bringing a few followers with him. After several months, Governor Kieft ceded Lady Deborah a large tract of land across the East River (in what is now Brooklyn) where, on December 19, 1645, Lady Deborah established the town of Gravesend, named in honor of the town in England where she embarked for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Eric pointed out that the Gravesend charter, guaranteeing religious freedom to the residents of Gravesend, was the first such document in the U.S.

A wall was erected around Gravesend, which was laid out in four squares; each square had ten house lots. Every family had their own plot of land, except Lady Deborah, who had a double lot. Each of the four squares had common ground in its center, where farm animals spent the night, safe from wild animals. Of the six Brooklyn towns, the plan of Gravesend was unique. Eric projected a slide that showed that the original town plan is still visible.

The town of Gravesend built a schoolhouse and a town hall. The Court of Sessions for all the Brooklyn towns was located in Gravesend.

Although it has gone through many renovations, Lady Deborah Moody's home still stands on its original site. However, because it has been renovated, a landmark designation cannot be obtained for the house.

Eric pointed out that, in 1664, British soldiers landed in Gravesend, chosen because it was the only English town in what is now Brooklyn. Gravesend was the only town that welcomed the English troops.

At the conclusion of his slide presentation, Eric distributed maps of Gravesend and threw the meeting open to questions. In answer to a question, Eric said that the northern boundary of Gravesend was where Foster and East 17th Street is now and the southern boundary was at the Atlantic Ocean.

Jacque Friedman, President, thanked Mr. Ierardi for his fascinating slide presentation, and commented that religious freedom is very important to people who do not practice the religion of the majority.

He invited people to volunteer their services to the Boro Park Historical Society and to become a member of the Executive Committee, which meets once a month. He thanked the members of the Society for their continuing support, which enables the Society to hold annual meetings. In addition, membership dues enabled the society to compile two books of "I Remember Boro Park" columns. They are available for reference at the Boro Park Library.

Annual membership dues are $5, $3 for retirees, and $10 for business and institutions. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for businesses and institutions.

Respectfully Submitted
Lucille Posner

Ed: In response to the question asked, "What does this have to do with Boro Park?" the Boro Park Historical Society points out that the history of neighboring communities is interwoven with our own history and we can learn from the activities of other historical societies. We thank Lucille Posner, secretary of the B.P.H.S. for her important contribution.

YESHIVA TORAS EMES KAMENITZ

Rabbi Elias Schwartz

Rabbi Elias Schwartz was the Hebrew principal and Dean of the Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz (YTEK) for over 50 years, until his retirement several years ago. YTEK, now located at 1650-56 St., is the oldest yeshiva in Boro Park that is still in operation. The only yeshiva that existed in Boro Park before YTEK was the Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park), located on 13th Ave. and 50th St., which closed in 1979.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

YTEK is now building in Flatbush and planning to move in the near future. Recording more of its history now seems all the more important. Since I was a student in that Yeshiva and a faculty member and principal of the high school from 1951-1969, its history has more personal interest and meaning to me.

In February 1985, I interviewed Rabbi Elias Schwartz in order to obtain more information from his personal memories, about the history of the schpol; but have never before recorded them in this column. Please keep in mind, as you read the information, that the time references are not current, but refer to 1985.

Rabbi Schwartz said that he started as a Hebrew teacher in December 1942 in the Yeshiva which was then called Yeshiva Toras Emes (YTE.) (The merger with Kamenitz did not take place until 1968). He said the school had 90 students then and about 35 were in the 5th grade. He was hired to teach the 6th grade and was the eleventh teacher for that class, that year. He had been a Hebrew teacher in a Talmud Torah for five years before coming to YTE.

The school was then in difficult financial circumstances. The hebrew teachers' salary at that time was $20 per week and the school owed the teachers about five months back salary.

In September 1943, a day before school opened, the president of the Yeshiva, Mr. Benzion Silber, called in Rabbi Schwartz and told him that the Hebrew principal, Rabbi Jacob Shapiro had resigned. He asked Rabbi Schwartz to ring the bells for school the next day, which meant to assume the responsibility for starting school.

Rabbi Schwartz then called an emergency meeting of the parents in order to avoid closing the school. At that meeting, a PTA was organized, Mr. David Jotkowitz was elected president and Rabbi Schwartz was appointed acting principal. Financial plans were made to raise money for teacher salaries and based upon those arrangements the teachers agreed to return to their classes. (This columnist at that time was a student in the first high school program that YTE started.)

In the early 1940's there were only two Yeshivas in Boro Park; although there were Yeshivas in other sections of the city. Rabbi Schwartz said that all the Hasidic children in the neighborhood then attended YTE. Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes, who was very interested in education, sent all his grandchildren to Toras Emes. The present Amshinover Rebbe in Bayit Vegan, Israel, was once a student in YTE, prior to that his great grandfather, Rabbi Shimon (obm) (Amshinover), who lived on 53rd St. and 14th Ave., had a long discussion with Rabbi Schwartz. He wanted to know if the school curriculum and environment was suitable for his great grandson. He asked Rabbi Schwartz what his educational goals were in YTE. "I told him," said Rabbi Schwartz, "My Rebbe, Rabbi Shlomo Heiman (obm) said that the goal in a yeshiva must be to develop in the child a love for studying Torah." Rabbi Shimon and his son-in-law Reb Meyeral, who became the next Rebbe, indicated approval of those goals.

Rabbi Schwartz pointed out that all of Rabbi Chaim Twersky's sons, the Chernobler's (obm) son, Rabbi Wohlberg's (obm) son, Rabbi Pinsker's (obm) grandsons, Rabbi Aaron Kotler's (obm) two grandsons and the children of numerous other prominent Rabbinical personalities attended YTE.

Rabbi Aaron Kotler (obm), Dean of the world famous Rabbinical Seminary in Lakewood, N.J., who lived in Boro Park at 4701-15th Ave., once called Rabbi Schwartz to his home to discuss educational policies at YTE. He said that, when he wanted to study Torah with his grandson, his grandson said that he couldn't study with him now because he has to do his English homework. Rabbi Kotler (obm) asked, what about Hebrew studies homework? He suggested to Rabbi Schwartz that he institute written Hebrew homework assignments as well, which he did.

According to Rabbi Schwartz, YTE had the first Pre-1A class in America. Some five year olds seemed to be too young, not ready to start first grade in either Hebrew or English subjects, so YTE established the Pre-1A class to prepare them for reading. The kindergarten classes were for four year olds. The public schools then did not have Pre-1A. Currently almost all Yeshivas have kindergarten and Pre-1A classes. The current "Head Start" programs in the public schools and yeshivas, Rabbi Schwartz pointed out, are really an outgrowth of the traditional early learning programs prevalent in the yeshivas.

When he first started as principal of YTE, Rabbi Schwartz said, the synagogues in Boro Park would not grant fund raising appeals for YTE, only to Yeshiva Etz Chaim. Gradually, as the school grew and developed, he was able to arrange for appeals, first by Cong. Anshei Sfard, then Cong. Shomrei Shabbos, then Cong. Sfas Emes, then Cong Bnei Yehuda, and eventually the other synagogues also.

Some of the important early period active workers and supporters for YTE that Rabbi

Continued

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

Schwartz recalled, in no particular order, were Ben Zion Silber, Shimon Waldman, Melvin Cohen, Gerald Cohen, David Jotkowitz, Deutsch family (Sol and David Deutsch were probably among the first graduates of YTE), Wolf family (owners of Joyva Halva) (Mrs. Wolf left money in her will for YTE), Leo Zelinger, Hyman Schiowitz, Gold and Reiss families. Leo Zelinger was unique in that he became active in YTE even before his children attended. Rabbi Schwartz realized that there were many more names that should be mentioned, but they didn't all come to mind at the spur of the moment and apologized for those names omitted.

In the early years of the yeshiva, the language of teaching and translating the Hebrew subjects was in Yiddish. Gradually, the language of instruction changed and it is now primarily in English.

Changes in the population makeup of Boro Park have also resulted in changes in the student population of YTE. The great increase in the Hasidic population in the community resulted in the development of numerous Hasidic yeshivas in Boro Park, which teach and translate in the Yiddish language. This naturally resulted in Hasidic students attending those yeshivas and a decline in the register of YTE.

The register of YTE elementary school reached over 800 when the yeshiva was located at 1315-43rd St. Many of the grades then had three parallel classes. The current registration is 650 for elementary, 200 for high school plus seminary. YTE also has an annex in Flatbush for about 100 primary grade students at the Avenue N Jewish Center.

Rabbi Schwartz added that YTE started an Honor Society called Segula about 20 years ago. This idea was recently adopted by Torah Umesorah - the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools' - as a National Honor Society for all yeshivas. The requirements for membership in Segula at YTE are 1. Good character 2. Good effort 3. Letters of recommendations from a neighbor, a synagogue Rabbi and last year's teacher. The student doesn't necessarily have to be the best scholastically as long as he is a good student and tries to the best of his ability.

Mrs. Kleinman, Rabbi Schwartz's secretary, previously lived in Boro Park. She said she frequently passed the present site of YTE about 30 years ago (from 1985) and remembers that chickens were raised there.

Following the interview with Rabbi Schwartz, I looked through old yearbooks and journals and obtained about 25 of them for the Boro Park Historical Society. I was also able to obtain a copy of the school's original incorporation papers completed on Feb. 21, 1934. The six officers listed on the papers are - David Dreher, Morris Goldstein, J. Biegeleisen, Rabbi M. Goldberg, Jonah Dubowsky and Max Aronowsky. The school was officially called Academy Torath Emeth. The notary public was Augusta Deutsch. The original papers were certified in 1949 by the Supreme Court of New York State and a certified True Copy established on 1/26/83 by Max Wasser, attorney at law.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF YESHIVA TORAS EMES KAMENITZ

The following is a brief chronological outline of the history of Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz which is based upon various sources including my

1929 - Academy Torath Emeth, as the school was first called officially, began in rented space in the Synagogue on 12th Avenue and 41st Street - the oldest synagogue in Boro Park - now called Cong. Anche Lubawitz of Boro Park. It soon moved to its own building, an old wooden private house at 1359 - 48th St. (now an apartment building).

1938 - The Yeshiva acquired and moved to new quarters, a former small private hospital at 4407 - 12 Ave.

1950-51 - The Yeshiva acquired and moved to new quarters at 1315 - 43 St., two buildings which formerly belonged to and were occupied by the Machzikei Talmud Torah.

1952-53 - The Mesivta of Boro Park High School, an offshoot of YTE was established and met in the Agudath Israel building 4511 - 14 Ave.

1968 - YTE and Kamenitz Mesivta H.S.-Isaac M. Lobel Institute-located at 960-49 St. (formerly the Mesivta of Boro Park H.S.) merged but remained in separate buildings.

1972 - Yeshiva and Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz (both elementary and high schools) moved to its present location, a new modern building at 1650-56 St.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK CENTENNIAL

The Boro Park Community celebrated a centennial last year (1998). It is just one hundred years ago that the name Borough Park was introduced and applied to this area.

One section of the area that is now called Boro Park, was originally named Blythebourne. It included, in the main, the area on both sides of New Utrecht Ave. and the streets in the mid fifties. That section was first developed in 1888 and its centennial was discussed in this column in 1987-88. The Boro Park post office still carries the name Blythebourne Station.

In 1898, ex-State Senator William H. Reynolds - a real estate developer - purchased undeveloped land adjacent to the Blythebourne section from 43rd St. to about 60th St. and called the new development "Borough Park." Reynolds sold lots and built and sold one and two family houses. Gradually the entire area, including Blythebourne, came to be known as Borough Park and shortened to Boro Park. The name was probably adopted from the advertising materials which featured the park-like quality of the area at that time.

We also celebrated another centennial last year, the city of Brooklyn became part of the City of New York in 1898 and Brooklyn became a borough.

The following is a sample of an advertisement which was used to promote the new land development of Borough Park. It appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in April 1898.

50 HOMES AT COST
TO FASTEN ATTENTION ON WHAT
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS
IS NOW DOING AT
BORO PARK
ON AND AFTER SUNDAY MAY 1, 1898
INCLUDING SUNDAYS, HE WILL BE AT
THE OFFICE OF THE COMPANY
FROM 8 AM TO 9 PM

TWELVE HOME OWNERS HAVE
ALREADY PURCHASED
INVESTMENTS - NOT SPECULATION
HOMES - NOT HOUSES
250 HOMES NOW OCCUPIED BY OWNERS
OFFICE BUILDING, FORTY NINTH ST
AND NEW UTRECHT AVE, BROOKLYN
TAKE FIFTH AVE. TROLLEY

MORE MEMORIES OF YESHIVA TORAS EMES (YTE)

We've carried items about the history of Yeshiva Toras Emes (YTE) the second oldest yeshiva in Boro Park, in these columns several times in the past. In the last issue (Oct. 98) we related some of the memories of Rabbi Elias Schwartz former Hebrew teacher and principal of the school for over 50 years, starting in 1942. In this issue, we would like to relate some memories of the earlier history of this yeshiva, from 1930 to about 1942, as reported by three former students, the Goldstein brothers.

The Goldstein Brothers

The three Goldstein Brothers that we interviewed, Daniel, Shlomo (Sol) and Shmuel (Samuel), were students in YTE during its early years. The yeshiva started in 1927 (incorrectly listed as 1929 in last issue) in rented space in the first synagogue in Boro Park on 12 Ave and 41 St. (then Temple Beth El, now Cong. Anche Lubawitz). In 1930, the school moved to its own building, a small wooden private house at 1359 - 48th St.

The Goldstein family moved to Boro Park in 1930 from Providence Rhode Island because the parents were interested in sending their children to a yeshiva and have them grow up in an environment which facilitated their religious observance.

Daniel Goldstien

Daniel Goldstein said he entered YTE in 1930 when he was in the second grade. The school was then located at 1359 - 48th St. He remembers the English principal, Mr. Moses, who died, and the principal who followed him, Mr. Leo Lipschitz. He remembers the Hebrew teachers Rabbi Weiss and Mr. Stamm. He recalls two Hebrew principals Mr. Heller and Rabbi Scheinberg. He also remembers a hurricane in the early 1930's when many trees were knocked down and the children had to plow their way to school through the fallen trees.

Shlomo (Sol) Goldstien

Shlomo (Sol) Goldstein believes that he started in YTE in 1931, first grade. He remembers the Hebrew principal Rabbi M Goldberg and Rabbi Jacobson. He also remembers the English principal, Mr. Moses and the acting principal after him, Miss Dubowsky (later - Nemiroff) who had been a teacher in the school. He still remembers vividly the funeral of

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

Mr Moses, who died from a foot infection, by cutting a callous from his foot with a razor blade. Shlomo remembers walking along 14th Ave. with his class following the funeral procession.

Some of the Hebrew teachers Shlomo remembers are Mr. Brick, Mr. Burchansky, Mr. Goodhart, Mr. Nachman Mandel (brother of Rabbi Manis Mandel) and Rabbi Weiss. The General Studies teachers he recalls were Miss Dubowsky (later Nemiroff), Miss Birkow, and Miss Heller.

Shlomo remembers Rabbi Avrohom Pam and Rabbi Harold Leiman, who later became two very distinguished Jewish scholars and leaders, who came to teach in YTE for a short time in 1935 or 1936. The school also held synagogue services for the students on Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

During those early depression years, most parents could not afford to pay tuition and those who did, paid very little. Consequently, the teachers were paid very minimal salaries and often were behind in payment many weeks or months because of the schools financial problems. As a result, Shlomo remembers that the teachers would strike sometimes in order to receive their salary. The children enjoyed those strikes, as it gave them extra days off from school and more time to play in the school yard.

Some of the games the children played in the yard or street in those years, according to Shlomo, were stick ball, punch ball, triangle, kick the can, ring-a-livio, soccer and tag.

He remembers walking to school daily (no school buses) from his home on 45th St near 14th Ave. He recalls that the yeshiva Hebrew classes were in session half a day even during July and August.

Shlomo said he remembers the first president of YTE, Mr. B Silber, who was a tireless, dedicated worker for the school. He also remembers the building's caretaker, Rev. Mendel Wachnan, who years later was the owner of a grocery store at 4600 - 16th Ave. This corner store later became a fish store, then Lion Press by Rabbi Flusberg and later Goldstein's Printing Shop, owned by his father Morris. That printing store is now owned by Shlomo's brother, Shmuel & Sons. Shlomo said he left YTE in the late 1930's and attended a yeshiva in Manhattan.

Shmuel (Samuel) Goldstein

Shmuel (Samuel) Goldstein, or Shmully as his friends call him, a younger brother, related some of his early memories of YTE. The Hebrew principals he recalls in his days at the Yeshiva, were Rabbi Jacobsen, Rabbi Korf, Rabbi M. Goldberg, Rabbi J. Shapiro and Rabbi Elias Schwartz. The later General Studies principal for over 35 years was Dr. Morris Mandel. The English teachers he recalls in the early days, were Miss Persky and Miss Heller. Several of his Hebrew teachers were Rabbi Danzig, Rabbi Blech and Mr. Krieger.

When he was a small child, Shmully remembers being called upon to speak at one of the Ladies Auxiliary affairs which was held at the park Mansion on 45th St. corner 16th Ave. - now Georgies. He remembers very vividly one day the principal, Rabbi M. Goldberg, walking into each classroom to show them a check, a contribution received from Mr. Irving Bunim, one of the well known Jewish philanthropers who lived in Boro Park, in the amount of $48. This was in response to an appeal by Rabbi Goldberg for funds to provide coal to heat the school, the amount contributed, $48, (a very large donation in those days) was decided upon by Mr. Bunim because that number was mathematically equivalent to the Hebrew word for heat or "Cham".

Shmully remembers the periodic visits to the school by Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, spiritual leader of Cong. Bnei Yehudah and chairman of the school's Board of Education. The Rabbi would visit the classrooms and speak to the students giving short sermons and pep talks. He also remembers being taken to school by his older brother on a sled after a heavy snowfall.

Another fond memory was that of the Weiss Photo Studio on the corner of the school, 48th St. corner 13th Ave., where Lanes was later located and now Boro Park Pharmacy. In the store window, Mr. Weiss had frequent showings of silent movies, which were a novelty then, such as Charlie Chaplan films and the like. The boys from YTE would pass the store on the way home from school in order to watch the movies. Many adults would stand and watch in fascination also.

Shmully recalled the school secretaries who played an important role in the life of the school and the students. There was a Miss Young, Miss Celia Roth, Miss Mildred Horowitz and Miss Elaine Gartenhouse.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

While the boys were playing during recess or lunch period, he remembers the principal walking around with a hand bell to signal the boys to line up or to be dismissed.

YTE Graduation 1935

Shlomo Goldstein gave me a copy of the 16 page graduation program entitled "Commencement Exercises of the Yeshivath Torath Emeth of 1935." The graduation ceremonies were held in Cong. Anshei Sfard on 14th Ave. corner 45th St.

The program booklet includes a list of the school's officers, messages from the two pincipals, a list of the 9 graduates (8th grade), a list of all the school's students (68), the six page script of a play written by Rabbi M. Goldberg, the Hebrew principal, entitled, "Yeshiva Boys of the Twentieth Century" and performed at the graduation, the graduation program, the school faculty and three pages of advertisements. Daniel and Shlomo Goldstein took part in the play.

One of the graduates listed there, David Twersky, is now a well known and revered Chassidic Rebbe - the Sqverer Rebbe of Boro Park, and also Dean of a large Yeshiva (Yeshiva Bais Yitzchok Squere of 1413 - 45th St.) and his wife is Dean of the companion Yeshiva for girls (Tomer Devorah H.S.).

The printing of the Commencement Exercises booklet was done by Morris Goldstein the printer.

The graduation program lists the names of the faculty in 1935 as follows:

Hebrew Department: Rabbi M. Goldberg, principal

Teachers: Rabbi Weiss, Mr. Burchinsky, Mr. Brick, Mr. Heller

English Department: Mrs. Nemiroff, Mr. Davis, Miss

The following ads with Boro Park addresses were included in the graduation program booklet.

JACK FEINMAN, PAINTS
4707 NEW UTRECHT AVE.
Winsdor 8-7600

DR HERMAN K LEOPOLD
SURGEON DENTIST
1309 - 48 St. WIndsor 6-0400

WHILE-U-WAIT - SHOE REPAIR
1312 - 44 St. CLOSED
SATURDAY- OPEN SUNDAY

S. COHEN - HEBREW BOOKS, TALESIM, TFILIN AND ALL RELIGIOUS ARTICLES
4304 -13 AVE. - FIRST FLOOR

DR. JOSEPH MURRAY
SURGEON DENTIST
1320 - 46 St. NEAR 13th AVE
AMbassador 2-2933

DR & MRS. JOSEPH BENSON
1358 43 ST
TEL. WIndsor 6-2638

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OLD BORO PARK SCENES

As a new feature of this column, we plan to publish photos of old Boro Park scenes on a regular basis. These photos have been made available courtesy of the Boro Park Historical Society Archives. We welcome your comments and contributions of old photos.

Boro Park Railroad Station

The Photo above, taken in 1908, shows the Borough Park (Blythebourne) railroad station located on New Utrecht Ave. and 54th Street. The trains ran along the ground then. The elevated train lines were first introduced in Boro Park in 1916. (Photo from Brian Merlis Arch.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ABRAHAM LASS AND EAGLE THEATER

Abraham Lass moved with his family to Boro Park from Williamsburg in the early 1920's and lived there until about 1930. His father bought a two-family house at 4803 15th Avenue. Mr. Lass and his family lived upstairs and his partner and his family lived downstairs. His father had a coat and suit business and his partner had a fur business.

Abraham Lass is a Past Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn and is a Past President of the High School Principals Association.

He is the author of *Dictionary of Allusions, New Guide to Better Writing,* and *Dictionary of Pronunciation.* He is the co-editor of *The Secret Sharer and Other Great Stories, 21 Great Stories, Masters of the Short Story,* and *The Mentor Book of Short Plays.*

Following is his account of playing piano in the Eagle Theatre, a silent movie house at 43rd Street and 16th Avenue (demolished). His article is reprinted from the January 1999 issue of *Reminisce* magazine.

Lucille Posner

THE MOVIE WAS SILENT... THE THEATRE WASN'T!

Playing piano for the Saturday movie matinee back in 1923 was not for the faint of heart.

By Abraham Lass

Fresh Meadows, New York

My career as a silent-movie pianist began in 1923 at the Eagle Theater, a sour-smelling establishment in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn.

On weekends and holidays, I did a 3-hour stint as "relief pianist" for a portly female piano teacher.

I was relieved, in turn, by the full-time pro - a thin, dour man in his 30s. He hated playing the piano, hated movies and hated the audiences - especially the kids. Being a kid myself (I was 16), I loved all of those things.

The Eagle Theater was a small boxy place. I sat at the piano up front, barely 15 feet from the screen and right under the apron of the small stage.

When I wasn't playing the piano, two sounds were prominent - the whirr of the projector and the incessant cracking of Indian nuts (the popcorn of its day) between the teeth of myriad Indian nut devotees.

There was nothing passive about those audiences, particularly the kids. To heighten the dramatic effect of tender love scenes or to provide live sound for Westerns or battle scenes, the older kids would fire off their Kilgore repeating cap pistols.

Warned the Hero

The younger kids, who identified with the hero in his struggle with bullying villains, were likely to call out hysterical warnings like, "Look out - he's behind the door!"

Other kids were kept busy reading aloud the florid subtitles to mothers or grandmothers whose English wasn't quite up to the challenge.

When the film broke (as it often did), there was an eruption of clapping, howling, banging, floor-kicking and whistling that the audience seemed to enjoy more than the movie itself.

Periodically, the theater's owner patrolled the aisles with a Flit gun, spraying a sickeningly sweet deodorant (the ventilation at the Eagle left much to be desired).

Then around 5 p.m., parents began wandering in, anxiously calling in the darkness for Sam, Harry or Charlie (who by then had seen two performances and part of a third).

On a typical afternoon, I supplied the music for a cartoon, serial, comedy, newsreel and feature.

Like most movie pianists, I never pre-viewed any of the pictures. Some producers provided musical cue sheets for their movies, but these were usually lost in transit or mislaid by the management - I rarely saw one.

Made Quick Decisions

Instead, I relied entirely upon my own musical resources. As each scene flashed on the screen, I had to decide what music to play for what was probably

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

about to happen (which often was not quite what I'd anticipated).

Fortunately, the subtitles and fairly broad acting telegraphed cues sufficient for me to hazard a good guess about the kind of music to fit the action.

In this game of "match the music to the picture", I had a lot going for me. First, I enjoyed it tremendously. Second, my piano teacher, a real martinet, had given me an excellent grounding in basic piano techniques.

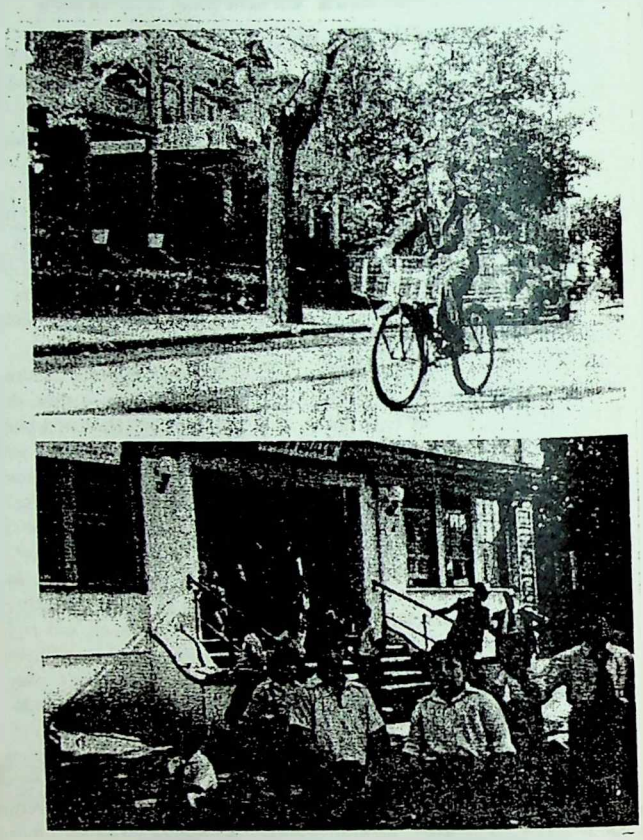
I could also play songs "by ear" and improvise music on the spot to fit various moods. My musical memory was good,and I had a broad repertoire of popular and classical music.

From 1923 until 1927, I improvised and composed my way through fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, snowstorms, typhoons and hurricanes. I supplied the sound track for innumerable love scenes, comedies, tragedies, escapes, pursuits and rescues.

It didn't matter whether a character was eccentric, sinister or lovable - I came up with a piece of music to match his or her mood.

A famous composer once said, "The silent movie needed music as a dry cereal needs cream." I'd have to agree... and for 4 delicious years, I kept that "cream" flowing.

(Ed: We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society, for her frequent and interesting contributions.)



Dear Dr. Kipust,

Enclosed are two photos of Boro Park taken in the late 1930's.

In one photo I am riding my bike on 45th St. between 14th and 15th Ave. The street looks very quiet, only two old model cars parked. The houses on the left, and the tree were probably demolished and replaced by new houses.

The second photo was taken in front of the then Yeshiva Toras Emes at 4407-12th Ave. before classes began or during recess. The two boys in the front are Privin (left) and Joseph Goldberg (right). Rabbi Shapiro (RIP) Hebrew principal and Rabbi Weiss (RIP) teacher, are talking at the top of the steps at the entrance of the Yeshiva. I can't identify anyone else. Perhaps you or one of your readers can.

Wishing you the best.

Sincerely,
Shlomo Goldstein
Baltimore, Maryland

(Ed: The man standing on the first step with back to us, it seems to me by his stance, is the teacher Mr. Brick. We thank Shlomo Goldstein for his interesting contribution.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

MESIVTA OF BORO PARK

Isaac M. Lobel Institute"

The following newspaper article appeared in the "World Telegram and Sun," sometime in 1956. We have the newspaper clipping but not the date.

JEWISH HS TO HONOR WAR HERO'S MEMORY

By Ronald Eckman, Staff Writer

The shell of a building, which for six years represented only the shape of a dream, is now being completed as a memorial to a Boro Park youth who was killed in action in World War II.

The building at 960 49th St. will house the Mesivta and High School of Boro Park, a Jewish parochial school for boys. It will be dedicated to Isaac M. Lobel, an Air Force lieutenant who was killed on a mission over the Phillipines in January, 1945. He was 22, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Lobell, 964 49th St.

Dedicated to Youth.

The school will also be dedicated to all Boro Park youths who gave their lives during the war.

Although the building is six years old, the proposal for a school is new. Originally the building was to be a community center, with special facilities for veterans. That project was never completed, and the building stood empty until late last year, when the rabbis in the neighborhood suggested a high school.

There are no other Jewish high schools in Boro Park and the proposal was greeted enthusiastically by the 30-odd congregations there and also received the support of the national office of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

Funds Raised.

Under the direction of Rabbi Lazarus Axelrod, a campaign for funds was begun and enough money has been collected to complete the building. When it is finished, in about three months, it will contain complete educational and recreational facilities for 200 boys, and will also be available as a community center.

Nor have the war veterans been forgotten. The school will offer special evening courses for these men and women, and the school will be open to members of all races and creeds.

Expansion Planned.

Even the completed building will not mean the end of the dream. Rabbi Axelrod said future plans call for a continuing expansion of the school. There is plenty of land around the building, he said, and wings will be added to the structure as needed.

A committee is now planning a formal ceremony to be held at the school in a few weeks.

The building discussed above was then donated to the fairly new Mesivta of Boro Park H.S. (M.B.P.)

1957 - the Mesivta of Boro Park completed the building at 960-49th St. relocated to it from its previous quarters in the old Agudah Israel building at 4511 - 14th Ave.

1959 - the Mesivta of B.P. merged with the Kaminetzer Yeshiva and formed the Kaminetzer Mesivta of Boro Park (H.S.) Isaac M. Lobel Institute.

1967 - the school merged with Yeshiva Toras Emes (Elementary School) and formed the Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz - Isaac M. Lobel Institute. Separate buildings were maintained by the elementary and the high school.

1972 - a new building to house both schools was completed at 1650 - 56th St. The two previous buildings at 1315 - 43rd St. and 960 - 49th St. were sold and both schools relocated to the new site where they are currently located.

This is now the oldest existing yeshiva in Boro Park.

Correction: In the last issue of this column (Feb. 1999) the article "Boro Park Centennial" incorrectly stated that Blytheborne was first developed in 1888. It should have stated 1886/87.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

RABBI MOSHE SHERER (RIP)

1922-1998

Boro Park has been the home of many famous personalities, individuals who were prominent leaders in various fields such as government, education, medicine, sports, philanthropy, business, the arts and religion. In most cases the famous individuals had lived in Boro Park at one time but moved to other communities before or soon after they reached prominence. The case of Rabbi Moshe Sherer (RIP) was different.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer was a widely recognized Orthodox Jewish leader, a noted and respected national and international figure, who remained living in Boro Park throughout his dramatic career. He had served as president of Agudath Israel of America, an educational and social service organization, since 1963 and before that as Executive Director of that organization since 1941.

The New York Times had a long obituary describing his career and accomplishments and another long article with photos describing his funeral in Boro Park. The funeral, probably the largest ever in Boro Park, took place on Monday, May 18, 1998. The Times article of May 19, 1998 said, "The mourners crowded the streets, stood on rooftops and sat in their living rooms to listen to eulogies, broadcast through the neighborhood by loudspeakers, for a man known for his tireless efforts to unite Jewish sects and to reach out to the secular world... Within hours of his death on Sunday afternoon, his followers had begun gathering on the streets around the modest brick building of Congregation Agudath Israel of Boro Park (4511 14th Avenue). By late yesterday, more than 20,000 had lined up to pay their respects."

Among those paying their respects at the funeral in Boro Park were Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Guiliani and numerous other government official and other dignitaries. The crowds grew so large that the police blocked car traffic from 13th Avenue through 16th Avenue, and 43rd Street through 50th Street.

The Times article points out that "Rabbi Sherer played a leading role in the rise of Orthodox Judaism's right wing, which has gained in influence and self confidence since the 1960's." He helped transform the Agudath Israel of America, an advocacy organization "from a small group into a formidable movement that claims one hundred thousand (100,000) members and has branches around the country." It's main office is located in Manhattan but it has a "Washington office that lobbies the government on religious issues.... It belongs to the Agudath Israel World Organization of which Rabbi Sherer was appointed chairman in 1980."

"In 1994, Rabbi Sherer delivered the invocation at the first inauguration of Mayor Guiliani of New York." On the day Rabbi Sherer died, the organization was scheduled to have its 76th Annual Dinner in New York and Vice President Al Gore was scheduled to receive an award and speak. A decision was made to go through with the dinner but in a subdued fashion. Vice President Al Gore did speak and received an award and the remainder of the program was devoted to appropriate eulogies.

"He wasn't a headline-maker", said Samuel C. Heilman, professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. "Instead," Professor Heilman said, "Rabbi Sherer worked quietly to keep the channels of communication open between Agudath Israel and other Jewish organizations."

Many newspapers and other periodicals throughout the world, serving the Jewish Community, carried stories and eulogies about his life and accomplishments. There will most probably be a full length biography of his life published in the future. A full discussion of his life and career are beyond the scope of this column. However, I would like to mention a few Boro Park related items and some personal memories of the man.

Rabbi Sherer In Boro Park

Rabbi Sherer and his wife Deborah moved to Boro Park in 1953 from Williamsburg and continued to live here ever since for over 45 years. Their first address was at 1626 52nd Street. Their son Shimshon and daughters Rochel and Elky were born, raised and attended schools (Yeshivos) in Boro Park. Many years later they moved to 1419 50th Street where Rabbi Sherer lived until the end.

The primary synagogue that the Sherer's attended was at the 14th Avenue Agudath Israel, the first and main Agudah branch in Boro Park. Through the years as the organization and membership grew, additional branch synagogues developed.

The following are the four Boro Park branches of Agudath Israel Synagogues and their locations.

1. Agudath Israel of 18th Ave. at 5413-18th Ave.
2. Agudath Israel of 14th Ave. at 4511-14th Ave.
3. Agudath Israel of 16th Ave. at 4909-16th Ave.
4. Agudath Israel of Boro Park West at 867-50th Street.

Some Personal Memories

I first met Rabbi Sherer in 1945 when he was Executive Director of the Agudath Israel of America. That was when I was in the process of being drafted into the U.S. Army near the end of World War II. A friend of mine, who also lived in Boro Park, recommended that I speak to Rabbi Sherer for religious guidance and suggestions on how to manage as an Orthodox Jew in reference to Kosher food and Sabbath observance in the army. Rabbi Sherer had some experience in this area of guidance. He gave me sound and sage advice and encouragement and arranged to have kosher food packages mailed to me in the army, one of the projects of Agudath Israel at that time.

In order to advance certain issues or introduce certain political candidates, Rabbi Sherer organized local parlor meetings, some of them in Boro Park, to which he invited Community leaders such as Organizational and institutional officers. As president of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers (AOJT) at that time, Rabbi Sherer invited me to a number of such meetings. The AOJT office was then located in the building of the Agudath Israel of 16th Avenue for several years. I remember vividly the parlor meeting arranged to introduce the then Congressman Hugh Carey, a good friend of Rabbi Sherer, who was then running for Governor of New York State.

In addition Rabbi Sherer was a strong supporter of the AOJT and its work. Despite his very busy schedule, he attended a number of AOJT dinners, was guest speaker at one of them and he invited me as President of AOJT to sit on the dais at the Agudath Israel of America dinner. He arranged a special meeting in his office with the then local State Assemblyman and State Senator and AOJT officers to help introduce legislation which would help Sabbath observers in the workplace by protecting their rights. He encouraged the work of AOJT. He was an excellent, polished and dynamic speaker, and very warm and friendly. He was always the gentleman with a hearty handshake and a warm smile.

I attended the funeral services for Rabbi Sherer, along with the estimated 20,000 others, and witnessed the sincere expression of grief and pain noticeable among the mourners lining 14th Avenue from 44th Street to 47th Street. The huge crowd included numerous Rabbinical leaders as well as Yeshiva students and teachers, businessmen, professionals and housewives from around the country who came to pay their last respects to the deceased.

Eulogies were delivered by leading Rabbinical scholars, Chasidic Rebbes and organizational leaders as well as by the son Rabbi Shimshon Sherer. The eulogies lasted about four hours and were heard not only by the people who were able to enter the building but also through the loudspeakers by those assembled in the streets on the rooftops and by the open windows. Following the funeral an entourage of over a thousand, with a police escort, accompanied the body to Long Island. I had never before witnessed such a large and long funeral in Boro Park.

Many mourning services and eulogies were held around the country and at the Agudath Israel Convention and Dinner. Additional services and eulogies will probably be held next month to mark the first Anniversary (Yartzeit) of his passing.

Rabbi Sherer is survived by his wife, the former Deborah Portman, who remains living in Boro Park, two daughter, Rochel Langer of Monsey, NY and Elky Goldschmidt of Brooklyn, a son Rabbi Shimshon Sherer of Flatbush and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

MIRIAM FREUND-ROSENTHAL

(RIP) 1906-1999

The following edited Obituary appeared in the New York Times on January 22, 1999. The article and the "Boro Park Connection" following it, were submitted by Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society and frequent contributor to this column. We thank her for her interesting contribution.

Miriam Freund-Rosenthal, 92, Zionist Leader

by Eric Pace

Dr. Miriam Freund-Rosenthal, a former national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, died on Saturday, January 16, 1999 at her home in Manhattan.

Dr. Freund-Rosenthal persuaded the artist Marc Chagall to create the stained glass windows for a synagogue in Jerusalem, endowed Hadassah educational seminars in the United States and Israel and wrote the book "A Tapestry of Hadassah Memories." She and her second husband, Harry Rosenthal, also endowed clinics and parks in Israel through Hadassah.

During her presidency, from 1956 through 1960, a second hospital was built for the Hadassah medical center in Jerusalem, in the Ein Kerem neighborhood. It was dedicated in 1960.

Dr. Freund-Rosenthal, whose doctorate was in history from New York University, was known as Miram K. Freund when she was Hadassah's president.

With about 300,000 members, Hadassah says it is the United States's largest women's organization, largest Jewish organization, and largest Zionist organization.

Before and after Dr. Freund-Rosenthal was Hadassah's president, she held a variety of other posts overseeing the organization's education and youth programs. She was also prominent in other Zionist and Jewish communal organizations.

In a volume of memories, "In My Lifetime" (1989), she tells of her visit with the violinist Isaac Stern to Chagall in France. The artist agreed to create the design for the stained-glass windows that were to be installed in the synagogue in the Ein Kerem hospital complex, saying, "I have always looked forward to a call from the Jewish people." Known as the Jerusalem windows, they have attracted immense numbers of visitors over the years.

Miriam Kottler Freund-Rosenthal was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Harry Kottler and the former Rebecca Zindler, and lived in Perth Amboy, N.J., and Harlem as a child. She received a bachelor's degree in 1925 from Hunter College and a master's degree and doctorate from N.Y.U. In 1935 she first visited what was then Palestime.

She taught in the New York City public school system for a decade and a half until the early 1940's, and was prominent in fund-raising for the founding of Brandies University, which opened in 1948.

Her other writings include the books "Jewish Merchants in Colonial America" (1939) and "Jewels for a Crown" (1963).

In 1927, she married Milton B. Freund, a financier active in Jewish communal and religious affairs, who died in 1968. She married Harry Rosenthal, a businessman in St. Paul in 1974. He died in 1989.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

BORO PARK CONNECTION

Harry and Rebecca Kottler and their daughters, including Miriam, moved to Boro Park in 1910, to a private house, 1325 47th Street. In 1927, Miriam married Milton Freund of Boro Park. They rented an apartment at Temple Arms, an apartment house at 49th Street and 14th Avenue, where they lived until 1941, when they moved to another Brooklyn neighborhood. Miriam Freund-Rosenthal, was a member of the Boro Park chapter of Hadassah, and later was the National President of Hadassah.

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OLD BORO PARK SCENES

Thirteenth Avenue Pushcarts

The above photo taken in 1931 shows the pushcarts lined up on both sides of 13th Ave. looking from 39th to 41st St.

Note the few scattered autos and trucks, the street lamp, telephone poles and lines. The vendors stood on the sidewalk selling their merchandise. At night the pushcarts were moved into large garages.

In 1935 the Thirteenth Ave. Retail Market was built to replace the pushcarts. Each vendor was permitted to rent a space in the market. The market has since closed down.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

RALPH BROTH

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Having been born and raised and still living in Boro Park, I enjoyed your articles especially the one about Abraham Lass.

Having graduated New Utrecht High School in 1956 and fondly remembering Abraham Lass as the principal there, I am wondering if that is the same person in your article, and if so, why wasn't there mention of New Utrecht High School in the article.

Since I was prompted to write to you, I dug up some old pictures and am sending this particular one as it shows the best view of the surrounding area. The photo was taken in the summer of 1939 in front of my house at 1235 - 43rd St. looking towards 13th Ave. The only car in the photo is just about opposite where the library is today. The street was then lined with large trees.

I remember well the "Bath House" before it was demolished and spent a lot of my childhood years playing in the empty lot before the library was erected on that site.



The child in the photo is yours truly. The little girl is my older sister, now living in Long Island. The two women standing are sisters of my father and the woman holding me was the wife of my mother's older brother. Words cannot express the sentimental value of the enclosed photo to me. Therefore, after using it in any way you wish, please return it in the enclosed stamped self addressed envelope.

Thank you and best of luck in your endeavors to remember Boro Park. Sincerely,

Ralph Broth
1235 - 43rd St.

After receiving the letter and photo, I called Mr. Ralph Broth to obtain more information about his family history in Boro Park and some personal memories.

Ralph indicated that he was born in 1938 in the same six family building in which he now resides. He has lived in the same building but different apartments, ever since.

Boro Park Residences

His mother, Anna Weisthal (RIP) moved to Boro Park in 1912 when she was 14 years old. She came to Boro Park directly from Austria to live with her married brother and family in the vicinity of Ft. Hamilton Pkwy and 52nd St.

Ralph's father Jacob Broth (RIP) moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1929 when he married Anna. Two children were born to them, Arlene, who is four years older, and Ralph. After their marriage, the Broths lived in three different residences in Boro Park. First at 1186 - 43rd St., then at 4219 - 12th Ave., across from the fire station, and finally at 1235 -43rd St.

When they lived across from the fire station,they experienced some difficulties. Every time the fire engines went to a fire call during the night, Arlene woke up crying from the noise. This encouraged them to move.

Both Ralph and Arlene attended P.S. 131 on 43rd St. and Ft .Hamilton Pkwy, then Montauk J.H.S. on 16th Ave. and 43rd St., and then New Utrecht High School (N.U.H.S.). Ralph says he remembers the principal Mr. Lass very well because the principal had helped him personally in several ways. He remembers one of his elementary teachers, Mrs. Fox, in 5th or 6th grade, because her nephew James, whom she visited occasionally on 43rd St. was his friend. He also remembers Mrs. Marion J. Veith, a teacher at N.U.H.S. who remained friends with his sister to this day. His sister Arlene was married in 1953 and moved to Marine Park and then to Freeport, Long Island.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

Changes in the Neighborhood

The following are some of the changes in the neighborhood tha

Ralph recalls. He remembers attending the Windsor, Radio and Normandie movie theatres in the neighborhood. The Radio, on 13th Ave. and 42nd St. showed Yiddish movies every Tuesday night and his parents loved to see them. They used to take him along when he was only two years old.

He remembers the public bath house all boarded up, where the library is now located and the liquor store, a few stores away, where the Simcha Car Service is now located (1275 - 43rd St.)

There was a public market on 12th Ave. between 43rd and 44th Sts. where Moznaim Publishing Co. is now located (4304 - 12th Ave.). The words "Retail Market" were engraved in cement above the market entrance. It later became a mattress factory and then the Hebrew book store.

There was a candy store on the corner of 43rd St. (4302 - 12th Ave.) which has since been converted into an apartment. Ralph remembers the owners of the candy store, first Archie and then Al.

He remembers Barnet's Drug Store on the corner of 44th St. and 12th Ave. owned by Barnet Lowenthal and later sold to Mr. Goodenstein. It was later converted to a factory. Now it's all boarded up and used as some kind of office.

He remembers the laundromat at the corner of 42nd St. and 13th Ave. It later moved to the middle of the block. He worked for that laundromat as a young boy of nine, delivering laundry, cleaning the machine filters and filling up bottles of bleach and blue from large drums. The owner Herb, also gave him free passes to the local movie theatres which the owner received for displaying the movie signs in his window.

Ralph said that he had attended classes at the Machzikei Talmud Torah then located at 1315 - 43rd St. He started when he was nine years old and after his Bar Mitzvah he continued for a few more months until he graduated. One of the boys in his Talmud Torah class told him about the job in the laundromat which he took. He also studied Hebrew as a foreign language at N.U.H.S.

Ralph said he attends services at the Yemenite synagogue on the corner of 45th St. and 12th Ave., which was once a Protestant church, with some Israeli friends who live near him. He attends services on the High Holy days, Simchat Torah and some other occasions.

His parents lived at his current address until they died. His father passed away in 1972 and his mother in 1985.

Ralph worked as a printer for a large company in Manhattan, but is now retired on disability. We thank Ralph for his interesting contributions.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society will again hold its annual meeting to which all in the community are invited. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. at the Boro Park YMHA, 4912 - 14th Ave.

The program will include a slide presentation by Peter G. Rose, food historian, on "Foods of the Native American and Dutch Settlers of the Town of Brooklyn," followed by an open discussion period about Boro Park. All are welcome, admission is free.

This talk is funded by the New York Council for the Humanities.

BOOK REVIEW

Brough Park - Centennial Edition 1898-1998
paperbound, circa 90 pages, glossy paper
by Oscar Israelowitz, Israelowitz Publishing, Brooklyn, NY 1998

reviewed by B.M. Selevan, chief researcher, BPHS

Oscar Israelowitz has upgraded his previous booklets on Borough Park with a larger, more colorful publication for the Centennial of the Borough Park development. He has added new photographs and a number of pages of historical maps that are interesting and informative.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

The book is marred, unfortunately, by a number of errors, major and minor, some of which I would like to point out here, as follows:

1. The author reiterates erroneous information from his previous works with regard to the beginning of the development of this area, e.g. stating that Blytheborne started in 1886 (correct date is 1887), and that Electus B. Litchfield was the son of Edwin C. Litchfield of Prospect Park fame (actually he was his brother). He also writes that the Blytheborne Company opened an office under the name 'West Brooklyn'. Actually, West Brooklyn was a distinct, neighboring (though somewhat related perhaps) development to Blytheborne.

2. The author states that Hassidim arrived in the neighborhood following World War II and refers to them as holocaust survivors. Actually, there was a Hassidic presence in the neighborhood many years before that, which has been documented in old newspaper clippings and interviews. This 'I Remember Boro Park' column has extensively discussed this topic in the past. The claim that the Lisker Hassidic congregation was the first hassidic congregation in the neighborhood in 1947 is not correct.

3. The 'Umbrella Oak' (p. 56) was actually the famous 'Umbrella Elm'.

There are a number of other errors, but the above strike me as the major ones.

Since people tend to believe whatever they read in books, we mention these errors in order to preserve historical accuracy.

Ed: We thank Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer in the BPHS for his interesting contribution.

NEW LUXURY HOTEL IN BORO PARK

The following are excerpts from an article that appeared in the New York Times, Real Estate Section, on Nov. 29, 1998. It describes the new Avenue Plaza Hotel being built on top of the old Chase Manhattan Bank and includes some Boro Park history worth recording for the future.

56-Room Hotel for Brooklyn

"A 56-room hotel is being built atop a former bank building in Borough Park, Brooklyn, designed to cater to Orthodox and Hasidic Jews. Marcel Glick, the Borough Park developer who is behind the project, said that he and his partner were investing $6 million in the hope that the six-story, 4,000-square foot structure at 47th Street and 13th Avenue will earn him more as a hotel than as rental apartments."

"Borough Park doesn't have a luxury hotel, and with all the visitors for bar mitzvahs and weddings we have here, one is sorely needed," said Mr. Glick, owner of Galaxy Realty. Park House, a renovated apartment building at 48th Street and 12th Avenue, is the only other hotel in Borough Park, where residents estimate that about 80 percent of the population are religiously observant Jews. Mr. Glick said that Orthodox visitors in Borough Park on the Sabbath, when they are forbidden to travel, often have difficulty finding lodging."

"Chase Manhattan Bank moved out of the building after its merger with Chemical Bank left the new company with duplicate facilities in Borough Park. Chase leased the building to Mr. Glick and his partner, Menachem Eatin, an Israeli developer, last year and gave them an option to buy on the condition that they did not put a competing bank there. Mr. Glick said that he and his partner were planning to buy the building for an undisclosed sum."

"The one-story 1920's Greek Revival-style bank building was preserved with its arches and columns. The upper floors were designed with the observant Jew in mind. The elevators are made to continually and automatically stop on each floor to avoid the need to press buttons on the Sabbath."

"Rooms will not have televisions, which are frowned on as spiritually undermining. Wash basins will be outside the bathroom, consistent with the Orthodox customs of cleanliness. The hotel's windows are designed to avoid forming crosses with the frames. Its restaurants will be vegetarian and kosher.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK CHILDHOOD FRIENDS MEET

Two interesting newspaper clippings about two Boro Park childhood friends who reunite, were sent to us recently.

The first article appeared in the Brooklyn Daily on Feb. 8, 1952 and the second appeared in Newsday on Nov. 1, 1998.

"Kids Find $150, Return it, Give Reward to School

(Brooklyn Daily - Feb. 8, 1952)

"Two Borough Park lads, Judah Munk, of 1566 46th St. and Leon Rosner of 4206 - 15th Ave. found a bankbook containing $150 in bills.

"The 13-year olds, enroute to Yeshiva Toras Emes religious school at 1315 - 43rd St. went to the Bay Ridge Savings Bank, found out the address of the bankbook owner and returned the money to him.

"Joseph Capicatia of 1217 - 48th St., overjoyed at the return of the money, gave each of the lads a $10 bill.

"The youngsters aware of the financial difficulties of their school presented the reward money to their rabbi for use by the school."

(The following photo caption appeared under the photo adjoining the article.)

Honesty

"Juda Munk and Leon Rosner, shown together below, hand over $20 reward money for returning $150 they found, to Kieve Stubenhaus, assistant principal of their religious school. (Staff photo by Ben Schif.)"

Follow Up

We interviewed Judah Munk recently about this article and he informed us of the long interesting follow up to this story. He also sent us a copy of an article "Finders Are Keepers" which appeared in Newsday on Sunday, November 1, 1998, written by Ed Lowe, which described the story and followup.

The story essentially is, as related in both articles, that Judah Munk and Leon Rosner were then, in 1952, 8th grade students at Yeshiva Torah Emes. It seems that the secular studies teachers were on strike that day because they hadn't been paid for a long time. The two boys decided therefore to stroll along 13th Avenue in their free time, when they discovered the money - $150 in bills. That was a lot of money then. They went to the bank to find out the address of the loser and then went home to report it to Judah's father. Rabbi Munk called and verified that Joseph Capicatia, a city bus driver of 1217 - 48th St. had indeed lost the money, notified him of finding it, and waited for him as he came running breathlessly over to the bank. He was really very grateful and gave the boys $20 in reward money.

Judah and Leon decided to donate the reward money to the Yeshiva to help meet the payroll. The Yeshiva administration was appreciative of this gesture and thought that publicizing it would teach a valuable lesson. They called a couple of newspapers and the Brooklyn Daily sent over a reporter and photographer. Both boys kept the newspaper clipping throughout all the years since then.

About eight years ago, Judah Munk, who now lives in Monsey, N.Y., came across the clipping and decided that he must try to locate his old good friend Leon . He said that they had been close friends in school but they went to different high schools and then Leon moved out of the neighborhood and they lost contact.

In order to try and locate his lost friend Judah obtained a list of all the Leon Rosners in the U.S. and mailed letters to each of them. When that was unsuccessful he decided to write to every L. Rosner but again received no response. He went through the same process again about a year ago but to no avail.

Then he remembered an old mutual friend and contacted him to ask if he had any information about Leon. The friend said no, but he remembered that his sister used to speak with Leon's sister. The friend's sister remembered that Leon had a brother who died in 1974 and had lived in Princeton, N.J. Judah called all the Rosners in Princeton and located a sister-in-law who said that Leon lives in Arlington, Va. and works for the National Health Institute. Judah called the institute and learned that they had no Leon but they did have a J.L. Rosner. "I called J. L. Rosner," Judah said, "and as soon as he spoke I knew that it was Leon. I gave him a hard time about changing his name."

Rosner explained that he hadn't really changed his name. He grew up knowing his English name as Leon and his Hebrew name as Yehuda Leib. He said that when he registered for the draft and took his birth certificate down to the board he first noticed, to his surprise, that his official English name was Judah Leon Rosner, when he went to college later and they asked for his official name he listed it as Judah L. and that remained with him professionally.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

An interesting sidelight to this story is that after their long telephone reunion, Judah and Leon made an appointment to meet in Washington in two months for the first time in 46 years. On the way home Rosner had to make two stops, one at Sears and then at a bookstore. At the bookstore he discovered that his wallet was missing. He called Sears and went back there but no wallet. He drove home and told his wife that they would have to cancel credit cards etc. Then he listened to his voice mail messages and heard one from a Dave Durchinski who said, "I found your wallet in the Sears parking lot. Everything is in it including the money."

Rosner went to pick it up and gave the a a check for $100 for his favorite charity. He also showed him the old newspaper clipping and said he had just spoken to the other Judah for the first time in all these years.

Some would explain this incident as an example of heavenly repayment for a similar good deed others would call it poetic justice.

Munk called me all excited about finally meeting his long lost friend. He said the reunion was an emotional experience for the two of them and they plan to keep in contact. Childhood friendships are indeed precious.

Rosner's Boro Park Memories

During a telephone conversation with J. L. Rosner he reminisced a little about his Boro Park days and said he remembered me as his science teacher in Yeshiva Toras Emes H.S. in 9th and 10th grades. He is now a research scientist at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md. He later sent me copies of several of his research papers on bacteriology that were published in scientific journals. Attached was a cute little note which read, "It was great talking to you. Here are some reprints of work that started in Borough Park."

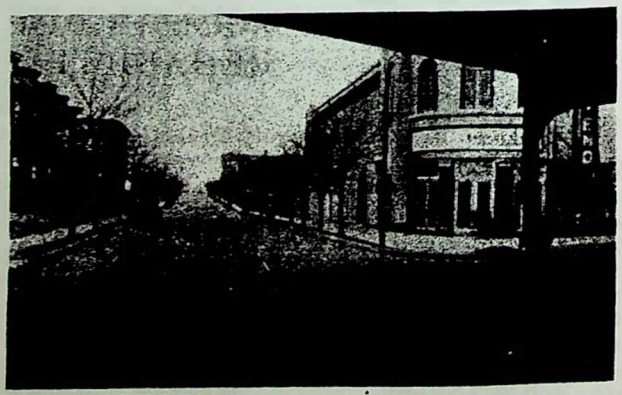
In response to my query about his Boro Park memories and family history Rosner shared the following information.

He was born in Israel Zion Hospital in 1939 (now Maimonides) and had only one Boro Park address at 4206 - 15th Ave. He lived there with his parents Max H. and Rose R., one older brother Benjamin and three older sisters. Benjamin attended Brooklyn College, moved to Bay Ridge when he was married in 1951 and died in 1974 at the age of 43 while living in Princeton., N.J.

Leon attended Yeshiva Toras Emes through the 10th grade and then went to Mesivta Chaim Berlin in Flatbush. In Toras Emes he recalled his principal was Dr. Morris Mandel, the assistant principal Mr. Stubenhaus, Mrs. Shirley Mandel taught him Algebra, and Mr. Kipust, biology.

He attended Columbia University in 1956 and then in 1960 went to Yale University Graduate School and earned his doctorate degree in 1965. Dr. Rosner (I should say now) was married in 1965 and moved to Silver Springs, Md.

In Boro Park, his younger sister attended Beth Jacob School and the older siblings attended P.S. 164, Montaulk J.H.S. and New Utrecht H.S. His family attended prayer services at Rabbi Simpson's Shule located at 1546 - 46th St. Leon said his father was a very devoted congregant of Rabbi Simpson. (Judah Munk then lived on the same block a few houses from the Shule.)



THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

Old Time Scenes of Boro Park

The photo showing New Utrecht Ave. and 52nd St. looking towards 12th Ave. was taken in 1919. The corner West End movie Theatre which was active from 1914 to 1930 (approximately). It is now the Armon Terrace Catering Hall.

Note the trolley tracks on the ground along New Utrecht Ave., the low street lamp (front left of theatre), the horse and wagon and the streets devoid of cars.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Leon mentioned a few Boro Park memories that came to mind. He remembers the early dismissal (half day) every Friday from Yeshiva and his helping at home in the preparations for the Shabbos (Sabbath). Because there were no supermarkets he recalls his need to shop at various different stores for different items. He recalls his fondness for stickball and the hours he spent playing it in the Montaulk school yard. He also recalled nostalgically the strong sense of community responsibility that people seemed to have then. "Any adult who knew my family felt that he or she could tell me to behave myself," Leon said, "and I would listen to them for fear they would tell my parents if I didn't."

Munk's Boro Park Memories

Judah Munk related some of his family history in Boro Park as well. He was born in Germany but fortunately his family escaped to London in 1938. His family father (Michael), mother (Martha), older brothers Eli and Yechezkel and younger sister Chanie came to Boston in 1941 and in 1943 moved to Boro Park. They moved to Boro Park because his father Rabbi Dr. Michael Munk was appointed to the position of Hebrew principal at the Beth Jacob School, 1371 - 46th St.

Their first apartment in Boro Park was at 1566 - 46th St. where they lived for many years. They then moved to 1671 - 52nd St. The boys attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and the sister attended Beth Jacob. His father was principal of Beth Jacob from 1943 until he retired approximately in 1965. Rabbi Munk (RIP) passed away in 1984 and Mrs. Martha Munk (RIP) passed away in 1998.

When Judah was married he moved to 1638 - 47th St and then to Monsey, N.Y. where he now resides. He now holds the position of First Vice President of Investments at Merrill Lynch.

Judah and his family belonged to and attended prayer services at the Agudath Israel 4511 - 14th Ave., and after his marriage at the Agudath Israel branch at 4909 - 16th Ave. His brother Eli Munk is the owner and director of the well known Camp Munk in the Catskill Mountains and still lives in Boro Park on 53rd St.

[ed. We thank Judah Munk and Dr. Judah I. Rosner for their interesting contribution to this history project.]

A BROWNSVILLER REMEMBERS BOROUGH PARK

Dear Dr. Kipust:

When I was growing up, we lived in Brownsville. My father's cousin and her husband, the Maskars, lived at 1689 - 46th St. in Borough Park. When we would visit them, we would take any of the three trolley lines that ran on Rockaway Avenue, the Ralph Rockaway, the St. John's Place, or the Wilson Avenue to the depot on Hegeman Ave. There we would change for the Church Avenue line and then again for the Gravesend-Church line.

The Maskars, Sonia and Simon live in an apartment facing 17th Ave. Opposite the home is the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit, then probably called the Church of the Holy Ghost. I remember one time when we were there we watched a very impressive procession in the yard, led by a priest dressed in red or maroon.

Another time, when we were no longer living in Brownsville but in Bushwick, my older brother, Ben, who by then was too old to visit relatives, stayed home while I went with my parents to visit the Maskars. When we arrived home, my brother told us that he had been listening on the radio to the football game played by The Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants. (Yes, they had had a Brooklyn Dodgers football team in those days, too.) He described how the Dodgers quarterback, Ace Parker, threw a pass to a receiver who was running toward the end zone. Before the announcer could report if the football was caught and a touchdown scored, the program was abruptly interrupted and a different announcer reported that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor! (December 7, 1941)

The football announcers did not know that the game had been interrupted, and my brother had to wait until that evening to find out if a touchdown had been scored. Hyman Finn

(Ed. We thank Hyman Finn for his interesting letter.)

HELP PRESERVE

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 7, 1999

President Jacque Friedman greeted the audience and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society. He also noted the presence of /Robert Buonvino, President of Friends of Historic New Utrecht and Vice-President of the Liberty Pole Association, and Kenneth Briggs, an officer in both of these societies.

President Friedman explained that, when the defeated English army sailed away from New York in 1793, many liberty flagpoles were erected. However, only the flagpole on the New Utrecht Reformed Church, 18th Avenue and 84th Street, is still there. (The current flagpole is the sixth replacement).

President Friedman pointed out that the early photographs of Boro Park on display around the room had just returned from a highly successful exhibit at the Boro Park Library. He announced that, in 1998, the Society established a mini-museum of Boro Park history, which can be viewed by appointment.

He asked Lucille Posner, Secretary and Acquisition Chairman, to introduce the guest speaker.

Ms. Posner commented that Boro Park is located within the area of the former Town of New Utrecht, one of the six towns that now comprise Brooklyn. She observed that the guest speaker was born in the city of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Mrs. Rose's parents passed on their love of cooking to their daughter, Peternella, who subsequently attended college (majoring in history) in the Netherlands and Switzerland. In 1964, she emigrated to the U.S. and settled in Rochester, New York, where she met her husband, Don Rose. The couple moved to the Hudson River Valley in 1974. Mrs. Rose shortened her name to Peter when she became a citizen of the U.S. At some point, she decided to combine her expertise in history with her interest in Dutch-American and Native American foodways. She has written two cookbooks, *The Sensible Cook* and *Foods of the Hudson*, and has lectured at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and the New York Historical Society in Manhattan. She is a trustee of Friends of the New Netherland Project, which raises money to translate the approximately 12,000 documents by early Dutch settlers into English.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mrs. Peter Rose

Mrs. Rose's slide presentation was on Foodways of the Native Americans and the Dutch settlers of New Netherland, which extended form the Connecticut River in the north to Delaware Bay in the south. It included New Amsterdam (now Manhattan) and the six towns of Brooklyn. Although her talk focused on the Iroquois tribe, she explained that all the Native American tribes had similar foodways, and remarked that food can be used to relate a people's history. She noted that the Passover *seder* is one example.

The period of Dutch settlement in America, although brief, left a lasting impression on the culture and foodways of the United States. The Dutch landed on the island of Manhattan in 1626 and, when the English conquered New Netherland in 1664, the 38-year period of Dutch rule was over.

Mrs. Rose showed a slide of the original 1626 contract between the Dutch and the Native Americans (now in the New York State Museum in Albany) for the purchase of Manhattan Island. She announced that the New York State Historical Society will have an exhibit, from September 21, 1999 to March 9, 2000, called $24: *The Legendary Deal for Manhattan.*

She pointed out that the English had settled in America to escape religious persecution. The Dutch, however, settled in America to make money by trading with the Native Americans for beaver pelts. (New York City was a commercial center from its very beginning.) Men's beaver hats were very popular in Europe at the time, and beaver fur brought high prices.

In New Netherland, the Dutch settlers were introduced to corn, a staple of the Native American diet. Native Americans used jawbones of deer to scrape corn off the cob, and then cooked the corn in about 40 different ways, including corn bread, corn soup, and corn porridge. They gathered wild fruits, nuts and vegetables. Raw fruits were

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

dried by their campfires and stored, along with nuts, to eat in the winters. Wild animals were hunted for food. Tribes that lived near the water (such as Brooklyn tribes) caught fish.

After encountering the Dutch settlers, the Native Americans incorporated Dutch foodways into their diet. In fact, by the 1800's, Native American recipes were almost lost from memory. Some Native Americans (particularly in upstate New York) began to collect their ancestors' cooking utensils and to write down their ancestors' recipes.

When the Dutch settled in America, the Netherlands -- unlike many other European countries, where wealth was mainly in the lands of the nobility -- had a large number of middle - and upper-class citizens. They were used to living well and eating well. Vegetables formed a large part of their diet. They enjoyed a salad made from raw, shredded cabbage, which we now call cole slaw, from the Dutch name.

Bread formed a major portion of the Dutch diet. Bread was so important that bakers in the Netherlands had to follow strict government regulations. Dutch settlers introduced pretzels, pancakes, wafers, crullers, and doughnuts to the American cuisine. At the same time, they learned to bake corn bread and corn porridge from the Native Americans. Unlike the Native Americans, the Dutch settlers ate their corn porridge with milk, as they had eaten their wheat porridge in the old country. Since there are many dairy farms in the Netherlands, butter, cheese, and milk form a large part of the Dutch diet.

The Dutch had enjoyed eating meat, poultry, and fish in the old country, and they did the same in New Netherland. In Brooklyn and New Amsterdam (Manhattan), rabbits and oysters were especially pleatiful. In fact, the word Coney, as in Coney Island, is derived from the Dutch word for rabbit.

At the conclusion of her talk, Mrs. Rose answered questions from the audience.

President Friedman thanked Mrs. Rose for her informative and enlightening talk, which had been received enthusiastically by the audience. He thanked Harold Fontek for the use of the Boro Park Y's auditorium, and thanked the audience for their interest and participation.

President Friedman said that the members of the Executive Committee of the Boro Park Historical Society are researching the history of Boro Park. He urged anyone who is interested in serving on the Executive Committee, which meets once a month, to contact him.

He said that membership dues in the Boro Park Historical Society are $5.00 a year, $3.00 for retirees, $10.00 a year for business institutions, $100.00 for life membership, and $200.00 for life membership for businesses and institutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucille Posner

(Ed: We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for this and other interesting contributions.)

OLD MEMORIES OF BORO PARK

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I remember "the old neighborhood", as the saying goes, being 1459 - 42nd Street, my first home. The neighborhood even back in the 1940's and 50's looked like the Lower East Side - women screaming out of windows (our "Interoceanic Communication System" as we used to call it) kids turning on fire hydrants in the Summer, push carts, the Ragman who lived down the street from us saying "I cash clothes", the watermelon man calling "wah-de-meylons, they are 25" (25¢). The ice man who delivered ice for our ice box as we didn't buy a modern refrigerator until 1952, the merry-go-round man, the fish peddlar and the scissors grinder.

I got my first haircut at Goldman's Barber Shop on 15th Ave. and 41st Street next to the stocking store and across the street from the Windsor theatre where we used to go every Saturday to see Tarzan, other serials and the 15¢ cartoon matinee each week.

Our transportation, as a youth, gave us the old wooden three car green platform culver Local which ran from Coney Island to Chambers Street. We'd take it to Coney Island during the Summer, or to Avenue P to visit my uncle Dr. Herman Leser who introduced my father to my mother in 1935. On 16th Avenue we had the Cortelyou Road electric bus (B23) which we'd take to Flatbush Avenue to stop at Sears Roebuck or Macy's. On 13th Avenue we had the B16 Fort Hamilton Parkway bus which we'd take to Ocean Avenue and walk to Prospect Park. Or the rickety old buses on 18th Avenue which we'd take to visit.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

my mom, family or my sisters would take to Brooklyn College. We also had the city's last three trolley lines - Church, McDonald and Coney Island Avenues. The Church Avenue trolley would take us to Aunt Kitty's or cousin Charlotte on Utica Avenue. The McDonald Ave line also took us to Prospect Park (the other side) or Coney Island, and the new trolleys which went to the other lines when a bus took its place in 1955. Two years later, no more trolleys or even electric buses. For downtown or Manhattan service we used the F train at Church Avenue, then the last stop, when we'd get seats. Try it now that the F goes to Coney Island and the Culver is gone.

I remember our stores, Schechters Grocery Store on our block, Pechters Candy Store, Nemlins across the street, Martel's next to the Windsor along with Olins Bakery. Thirteenth Avenue was our shopping center with the 13th Avenue Retail Market, The Toy Center, Brills Greeting Cards, Woolworths, Kresge's, Crawford's, Beckers, Ripleys, Wallachs, "Silver Rod Drugs," Henry's Custards, Hanscomb Bakery and many others including the Sun Shai Kai Chinese restaurant. Today only Wallachs stands. All the other stores are gone and were replaced.

I went to PS 164, Montaulk J.H.S. and New Utrecht H.S. as did my older brother before me. My first day in Kindergarten under Mrs. Grossman was scary as she was a veteran of the days when teachers were allowed to hit kids. She ruled with an iron hand and a wooden ruler as well. The school itself looked scary, like a castle, armory or fortress as it probably was until it became a school. Our nurse Miss O'Brian was equally scary. She was the same type as Mrs. Grossman and took our temperature you know where. She made us pass cleanliness inspections and if we failed we'd be sent home as some of my brothers friend's were. But there were good memories too with unforgettables such as Miss Cohen our beloved Assistant Principal, Miss Boschen our oldest teacher, a real lady of legend. Miss Malone our gym teacher and she had the build for it, Mrs. Pinto our music teacher, Mrs. Snow who ran the yard and safety patrol and finally Mrs. Frohler our graduating teacher.

In Montaulk we had Mr. Rothschild, the principal, and teachers such as Miss Young (who could forget her?) Miss McMichel (was she tough!) and the legendary Mr. Lombardi.

When my mother died of cancer in 1955 it seemed the whole neighborhood as well as all of Brooklyn itself died. Buses replaced the trolleys and electric buses, new buses replaced the older ones. The F train replaced the Culver line, the Franklin Ave. Express became a shuttle, and Dodgers left Brooklyn and many Coney Island Attractions closed. Even the neighborhood died as stores closed and people moved out.

New Utrecht H.S. was my first out of the neighborhood, taking the Culver Shuttle to 9th Avenue station, changing for the West End Local on the express track to 62nd Street, a short ride with the breeze hitting my face, then the West End Express on the local track to 79th street. The return trip was local only no express service to 9th Avenue.



OLD SCENES OF BORO PARK

Electric Bus running along 16th Avenue in the 1950's. Note poles extending from roof of bus touching and gliding along the overhead electric cables which supplied power. Bus seems to be located on 16th Avenue between 51st and 52nd Streets.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

I had some good and memorable teachers there too. Our principal was Mr. Hirsh, formerly of Lafayette H.S. who replaced Mr. Lass who went to Lincoln H.S. My official teacher was Mr. Felcher, my gym teacher. My grade advisor was Mrs. Wolfson, my biology teacher was Mr. Isaacson. Other teachers included Mrs. Goldenson, later the girl's dean. Mr. Goldberg, the locker room teacher and his assistant Mr. Hess, both gym teachers, Mr. Welton the guidance counselor.

Let's not forget our dietician Dr. Klushin who ran the cafeteria and was assisted at times by Mr. Rizzo my senior year gym teacher who ran our graduation exercises. Other teachers included Mr. McDermitt our swimming teacher ("Good morning to you" he used to sing in the "altogethers"). Mr. Goodman, the math teacher who ran our assemblies and the unforgettable Mr. Waldbaum who taught history in our Senior Year.

We had "Senior Day" when Buddy Hackett (formerly from Boro Park) appeared at our Senior assembly and sang. On Senior Day we were allowed to take over classes and be "teacher for a day". Although we were told anyone old enough to be a senior is old enough to do extra homework by Messrs. Waldbaum, McDermitt and Rizzo. In their classes, business as usual!

Upon Graduation we moved to 1129 43rd Street and I entered the job market. We moved then to 3820 - 13th Avenue and 1355 - 57th Street. My father died there in 1981 at age 74, the last survivor of his family, leaving just me and my older brother, Leny, of our family.

In 1995 a fire destroyed my apartment but killed my brother, Isaac, 60 who had a weak heart - leaving authorities to wonder if the fire or his heart killed him. I was relocated by the Red Cross to my current address the Central Queens YMCA in Jamaica.

My overall memory of Brooklyn has always been good. In hoping to find a new job and move back to Brooklyn, hopefully, for my health, to Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay or Brighton Beach. My old building at 1459 - 42nd Street has a new landlord replacing Mrs. Falone and her daughter and is being renovated. The landlord said the building still needs a lot of work and was surprised when I told him I lived there for 18 years. The neighborhood itself is dying and being rebuilt.

I wish everyone of you readers the best.

Very Truly Yours,
Martin Gangursky

(Ed: We thank Martin Gangursky for his interesting contribution)

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

MEN'S HATS IN BOROUGH PARK OVER THE YEARS

Dear Dr. Kipust,

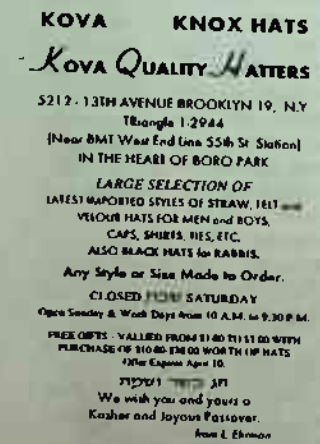
I happen to have come across, some months ago, an advertising piece for the local 'Kova' hat store (located at 13th Avenue between 43rd & 44th Streets) which appears to be in the area of 40 years old (I make that guesstimate as to its age based on the pre zip code (started in 1964 I believe) postal code being used and the fact that the telephone exchange is given using a word [TRiangle], as was done around that time).

It caught my attention and got me thinking about the topic of man's hats over the years in Borough Park.

Firstly, I will mention for the benefit of our younger readers, that prior to 1960's or so, almost all men wore hats in the streets - whether Jew or non-Jew - usually some type of fedora (an Italian word I believe, for a certain style of hat - see dictionary for more information about the word).

In the 1960's these hats went out of style for most American men, especially the younger ones. Some have tied this change to the John F. Kennedy's ascendancy to the Presidency of the USA. He, as one of the youngest Presidents ever, brought a youthful spirit into office and, as it is told, made the bareheaded look popular for men. Be that as it may, there were still some die-hard holdouts who still clung to the tradition of wearing hats. Some of these maybe were just older people who were loath to suddenly change. Others, like some residents of Borough Park, clung to the hat wearing tradition because of reasons related to their religion. For that reason, to this day, of all groups of males in the country, it would seem that Orthodox Jews are one of the leaders in terms of hat wearing for males.

I made some interesting observations from the four sided small folder of the hat store, which consists of one side advertising the various Kova business offerings and the remaining three sides printed with various Hebrew blessings/prayers.


KOVA KNOX HATS

KOVA QUALITY HATTERS

5212 - 13TH AVENUE BROOKLYN 19, N.Y.
TRiangle 1-2944
(Near BMT West End Line 55th St. Station)
IN THE HEART OF BORO PARK

LARGE SELECTION OF
LATEST VAPORIZED STYLES OF STRAW, FELT and VELOUR HATS FOR MEN and BOYS,
CAPS, SHIRTS, TIES, ETC.
ALSO BLACK HATS for RABBIS.

Any Style or Size Made to Order.

CLOSED NOW SATURDAY
Open Sunday & Week Days from 10 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.

FREE GIFTS - VALUED FROM $1.00 TO $3.00 WITH PURCHASE OF $10.00, $20.00 WORTH OF HATS
(Offer Expires April 10.

חג כשר ושמחה
We wish you and yours a
Kosher and Joyous Passover.
from L. Ehrman

Observations/Comments

1) The name of the store comes from the Hebrew word for hat.

2) I guess then, as now, the heart of Borough Park was either very large or there were differing opinions as to its location.

3) At that time, straw hats were more popular than before.

4) At that time, a black hat was seen as the type of hat for a Rabbi, not for the general public. Nowadays, that seems to have changed to a substantial degree among the local population.

5) At that time, evidently, Knox was the leading hat brand in this area. Other popular companies over the years have been Stetson and Borsalino. I think the latter (an Italian import) is the most popular of the three now. Perhaps the cache of the Italian name and of being an import are factors contributing to it, perhaps quality, too.

6) Kova hat store has been in Borough Park for some time and may be the current men's hat store that has been here longest.

7) Prices then were a lot lower than they are now.

Final Observation/ Conclusion

Mens hats, in Borough Park, have, for the most part, seemingly moved from the realm of being a fashion statement or part of being a man, to the realm of religion.

Also, nowadays, in addition to stores like Kova, Bencraft (a reknowned Haberdasher of the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn who in recent years opened a store in Borough Park),

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

and others, who sell more Western styles of hats, there have grown a number of stores which specialize in the different hat styles for some hassidic groups and the various fur hats that some of them wear on the Sabbath and Holidays. For the various reasons we have touched on, Borough Park is now a leader in the area of male headwear, as it has been for some time.

FOLLOW UP ON KOVA HATS

In order to obtain additional information about hats and the Kova hat store, we called one of the current proprietors of the store, Mr. Aaron Ehrman.

He indicated that the first Kova hat store was opened in Boro Park approximately in 1955 at 5212 - 13th Ave. The business remained there for only about one year and then move to 4707 - 13th Ave. He explained that in those years, 52nd St. was not in the heart of the business section, especially not for hats The business remained at the new location for about 15 years and then moved to 4311 - 13th Ave. It remained there for about 15 years as well, and then moved to its current location at 4317 - 13th Ave., where it has been for approximately 13 years.

The first Kova hat store was opened by his father Lipa Ehrman (o.b.m.) who passed away in 1975. The business has since been owned and operated by the two sons Yankef and Aaron Ehrman.

In 1955 when Kova started, there were several haberdashery stores in Boro Park that also sold hats; there was S. Weiss that sold Stetson hats, there was Al-Hy, Moe Penn (Stetson Hats), Waldman, and one haberdashery store that sold Adam hats, a cheaper brand. Each store featured a different major brand and Kova then featured Knox hats. He said that outside the orthodox Jewish community, the stores feature basically western hats. Straw hats are very much on the decline. Kova now features Roche hats mainly and also Borselino and some Stetson hats.

The Boro Park Yellow Book for 1999 lists the following additional men's hat stores. Bencraft Hats at 4202 - 13th Ave.; Boro Park Hatters at 4317 - 14th Ave.; Crown Hatters at 4406 - 16th Ave.; Hat Warehouse at 5304 New Utrecht Ave. and Regal Hats Store at 1577 - 49th St.

[Ed. We thank Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for his interesting article and Mr. Aaron Ehrman for his information.]

RECENT DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following are edited extracts from death announcements of prominent Boro Park personalities in the Jewish community, which appeared in the Jewish media recently. Undoubtedly, other prominent personalities have passed away and if such information comes to our attention we would like to include them in future columns.

Grand Rabbi Moshe Stern The Debreciner Rav

Grand Rabbi Moshe Stern, the Debreciner Rav (o.b.m.) passed away on August 4, 1997 at the age of 83. He was the Rabbi of Cong. K'hal Yesodei Hatprah located at 4919 - 16th Ave. He was a revered scholar and leader, and the author of various scholarly halachic (Jewish law) books amongst them his notable Beer Moshe. He was widely sought after for legal decisions and advice in all fields of Jewish law. He also presided over the highly respected Debreciner kosher supervision.

While very much the scholar, Rabbi Stern was known for his simplicity in living and his humility towards his fellow man. He would sit by the phone and answer complex questions of Jewish law any time of the day and was literally available to the public for counseling 24 hours a day.

He is survived by his wife, Rebetzin Malka; three sons Rabbi Shlomo Zvi, Rabbi Avrohom of Boro Park and Rabbi Yosef Meir of Monsey; and three daughters - Mrs. Gitty Klein of Boro Park, Mrs. Miriam Zusman of Montreal, and Mrs. Yudith Hager of Monsey.

The funeral services were held at his shule at 4914 - 16th Ave. and the avenue was closed off to accommodate the large crowd assembled. Many eulogies were delivered by leading Boro Park Rabbinical figures including Rabbi Simcha Bunem Ehrenfeld (the Matesdorfer Rav), Rabbi Yakov Perlow (the Novominsker Rebbe), and the deceased's son, Rabbi Shlomo Zvi Stern. The residence of Rabbi Stern was at 1514 - 49th St.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Rabbi Edgar Gluck, who was active in making funeral arrangements, thanked the then newly appointed Police Chief of Brooklyn South, Patrick Brennan and Captain Donald O'Donnel of the 66th Precinct for the order, respect and dignity shown at the funeral.

(Jewish Press Aug. 8, 1997)

Rebetzin Zisel Bick

Rebetzin Zisel Bick (o.b.m.), the widow of the illustrious scholar and Rabbinical leader, Rabbi Moshe Bick (o.b.m.), passed away on Aug. 5, 1997 at the ripe old age of 87, in her residence at 1547 - 55th St. The funeral services took place at that address and the interment was at Beth David cemetery in Elmont, L.I.

Rebetzin Bick was involved in numerous charitable work all her life in addition to assisting her prominent husband in all his Rabbinical endeavors.

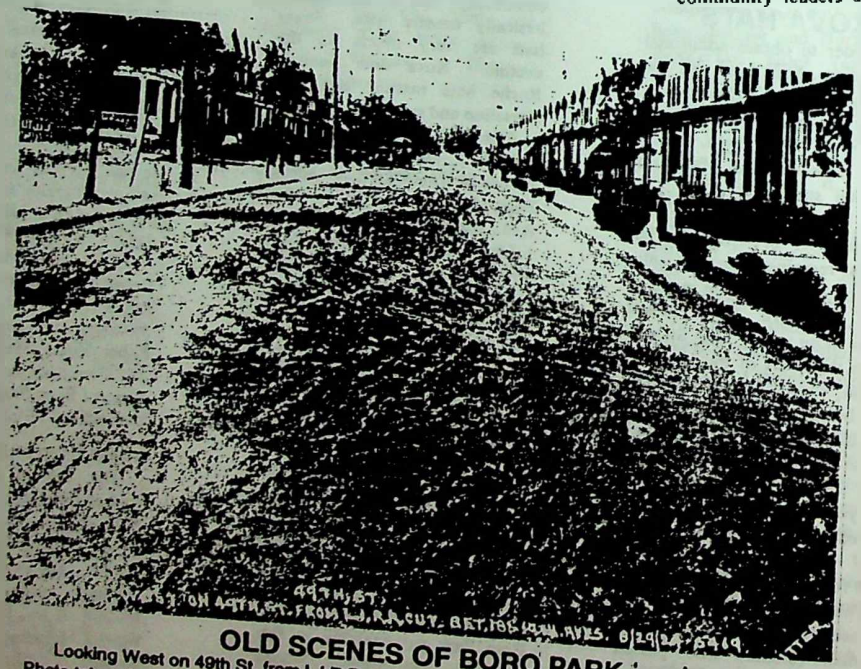
At the time of her passing, Rebetzin Bick left 52 grandchildren and over 100 great grandchildren. Her children are

Rabbi Shaul Bick, Rabbi Avrohom J. Bick of Cong. Bnei Moshe in Boro Park, Rebetzin Chana Spiegal, Rebetzin Riva Friedman and Rabbi Y.M. Bick (o.b.m.)

(Jewish Press Aug. 22, 1997)

Rabbi Levi Krupenia

Rabbi Levi Krupenia, Rosh Hayeshiva (Spiritual head) of Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz in Boro Park, went to his eternal rest on March 15, 1998 at the age of 84. Up until his last moments he retained full lucidity and shortly before his demise he gently and lovingly admonished his family gathered around his bed not to grieve but to accept heaven's decrees with joy. At the funeral, in the yeshiva building at 1650 - 56th St., the building was overflowing inside and outside with hundreds, perhaps thousands of colleagues, students, parents, Rabbi's community leaders and friends.



OLD SCENES OF BORO PARK

Looking West on 49th St. from L.I.R.R. cut between 18th and 19th Avenues, towards 18th Ave. Photo taken August 28, 1924.. Note telephone poles carrying telephone wires overhead before they were placed behind buildings; street not paved yet; old model auto; plenty of space to park; first house on left looks like 1866 - 49th St., houses from there to L.I.R.R. cut not built yet.

(N.Y.C. Municipal Archives)

[Ed. note: Street lamp on left in front of 1866 - 49th St. This columnist was brought up at 1864 - 49th St. (next house) and remembers playing "Hide and Seek" and other street games by that lamp post and its replacements.]

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

who came to express their sorrow and veneration for this great Talmudic Sage and teacher. This columnist who had the merit and pleasure of working together with Rabbi Krupenia for many years at the Yeshiva was present at the funeral and moved by the numerous eulogies (about 4 hours) and obvious expressions of sorrow, respect and loss.

Rabbi Krupenia was born in 1914 and spent his childhood years in the town of Slonim in Russia. At the age of 15, he was accepted to the famous Mirrer Yeshiva in Poland and studied under some of the greatest Talmudic scholars of the time.

He survived the Holocaust fortunately by escaping with the Mirrer Yeshiva students to Shanghai where they remained and studied until the end of World War II. At the end of the war, Rabbi Krupenia learned, to his anguish, that his entire family had perished in the Holocaust.

In 1947 Rabbi Krupenia emigrated to America from Shanghai with a large number of Mirrer Yeshiva students. In 1950 he married the daughter of the world reknowned Talmudic scholar, Rabbi Reuven Grozovsky. Upon arriving in America, he became active in helping to establish Yeshiva Bais Hatalmud and Yeshiva Kaminetz.

In the early 1960's the Kamenitzer Yeshiva combined with the Mesivta of Boro Park, then located at 960 - 49th St., where Rabbi Krupenia was appointed the Rosh Yeshiva (Head of the Yeshiva) and served in that capacity until his demise. his last residence was at 1648 - 56th St. next door to the Yeshiva.

(Yated Neemon Mar. 27, 1998)

The Kamenitzer Yeshiva combined with Yeshiva Toras Emes in 1968 and both schools moved to their new and present location at 1650 - 56th St. in 1972/73.

Rebetzin Chaya Hinda Rokeach

Rebetzin Chaya Hinda Rokeach, (o.b.m.) the Bercher Rebetzin, passed away in March 1998 at the ripe old age of 102 (almost 103). She was the wife of the Bercher Rebbe, Grand Rebbe Tzvi Elimelech Rokeach, (o.b.m.) who passed away in 1964.

The Bercher Rebbe was the spiritual leader of the Congregation Bnei Yesoscher, which moved to its present location at 5402 - 16th Ave. in 1955. The Bercher Rebbe's son, Rabbi Menachem Rokeach, is currently the spiritual leader of that Congregation.

The Bercher Rebetzin, who lived in the apartment above the shule, was active in running the affairs of the synagogue and in counseling numerous people who consulted her, until just a few weeks before her passing. At her 100th birthday, a grand kiddush (celebration) was given by the congregation and more than one thousand followers, relatives and friends from Boro Park and Flatbush, came to pay their respects and wish the Rebetzin continued good health.

On March 18, 1999, the congregation hosted a first anniversary (Yahrtzeit) memorial dinner and conference of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, in memory of the Bercher Rebetzin (o.b.m.). Among the prominent guests present from the Boro Park area were Dr. William Stern (the shule's president), Rabbi Yoshua Lustig (of Cong. Bnai Israel of Linden Heights), Rabbi Nachum Zvi Josephy (of Beth Medrash Hagodol of B.P.), Rabbi Jacob Klass (of the Jewish Press), Rabbi Herschel Kurzrock (of Young Israel of Kensington), Rabbi Hillel Litwack (of Ezras Torah) and Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem Rokeach.

This columnist remembers when Rabbi Menachem Rokeach as a young teenager was featured as a boy chazan (cantor) and conducted Sabbath services at Cong. Anshei Sfard at 45th St. and 14th Ave., as well as other synagogues. That was in the mid 1940's when it was an unusual phenomenon for a young teenage boy to be so well versed in the liturgy words and music of the Sabbath services. The synagogue was full to capacity with worshipers eager to hear the sweet melodic voice of the boy cantor from Williamsburg who led the service in Boro Park on that Sabbath.

(Jewish Press April 2, 1999)

Correction

Article by Martin Gangursky in Oct '99 column should read "In 1995 a fire destroyed my apartment..."

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THE TOWN OF NEW UTRECHT

The Borough of Brooklyn was, during the colonial period, divided into six towns. The present area of Boro Park is, located primarily in the area which belonged to the Town of New Utrecht. The six towns were organized into the city of Brooklyn in 1834 and into the Borough of Brooklyn, when it became part of the City of New York, in 1898.

The Boro Park Historical Society was therefore interested in receiving the brochure of the recently organized "Friends of the Historic New Utrecht" and is planning to cooperate with them in some of their activities. After all we do share a common history. We therefore bring to your attention the following contents of their brochure.

Friends of Historic New Utrecht

Dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and historic sites associated with the old village and town of New Utrecht, organized in 1657 by Jacques Cortelyou.

Established in 1994 and incorporated in 1997, the Friends of Historic New Utrecht is an organization of concerned volunteers whose mission is to insure that the remaining artifacts, structures and sites associated with the early Dutch and with Colonial New Utrecht are maintained and not lost forever.

The village of New Utrecht was located in the area that is now generally bounded by 16th to 18th Avenues, along the broad main street that is now 84th Street, in Brooklyn, NY. The town of New Utrecht was located had been purchased from the Canarsie and Nyack natives in 1652 for 6 shirts, 2 pairs of shoes, 6 pairs of stockings, 6 adzes, 6 knives, 2 scissors and 6 combs.

New Utrecht was granted status as a village and town in 1657. Under the leadership of Jacques Cortelyou, nineteen families received grants of fifty acres each. Although many familiar Dutch names were inhabitants of the town over the years, (Benson, Cropsey, Nostrand, Van Pelt, Van Brunt and DeSille, to name a few), none of their homes remain

Only the New Utrecht Reformed Church on 18th Avenue and 84th Street continues as a direct link to the early Dutch history, in that the stones of which it was built are the very same ones that made up the original octagonal church first constructed by the settlers in 1700. Along with a few caretully preserved artifacts from that earlier structure (which had originally been located at the other end of 84th Street and 16th Avenue), only the adjoining cemetery at that original site also remains. The earliest confirmed interment was in 1654.

The remaining historic structures within the purview of the Friends of Historic New Utrecht are later additions to the town's history, but which retain historical significance or interest of their own. These include:

-The Mileston marker on the site of the now demolished Van Pelt Manor House at 81st Street at 18th Avenue, which, throughout the colonial era, served as a distance signpost for all travelers along the old Kings

-The Victorian red brick Parish House built for the Reformed Church in 1892.

-A wood framed Parsonage built in 1906.

-The sixth in an unbroken succession of what is the only remaining continuously in use Liberty Pole still standing from that November 25th in 1783 when the citizens of New York erected flagpoles throughout the city to fly the Stars and Stripes flag of the new nation, as it celebrated the evacuation of the British after their defeat in our War of Independence.

Historic New Utrecht is a site of particular appeal to those who are interested in the early history of our country. It was not only one of the very first settlements in New York, but also the principal landing site and base of operations for the first British invasion of the colonies, later known as the Battle of Long Island. Veterans of every American war lay beside the early Dutch settlers in our historic cemetery, including the Battle of Brooklyn war hero General Nathaniel Woodhall. Another famous General, then President George Washington, is also associated with the town of New Utrecht. His visit on April 20, 1790 would be the highlight of every person's memory in New Utrecht for generations to come.

Much more can be told; and even more, we are sure, is yet to unfold. It is the intent of the Friends of Historic New Utrecht to promote and educate our neighbors throughout Brooklyn and beyond, about the wonderful history of this site. To share with them the stories and artifacts by means of guided tours, exhibits, lectures and other events. As part of this endeavor,

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

it is also the goal of the organization to raise sufficient funds to maintain and repair the surviving structures wherever appropriate, and to ensure adequate signage and awareness of Historic New Utrecht.

Although the 18th Avenue structure had been certified for inclusion in the National Register in 1980, the Cemetery, inadvertently, was omitted from the submission. One of the current efforts of the Friends of Historic New Utrecht is to address that oversight. You can help

RECENT DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued from last month.)

The following are edited extracts from death announcements of prominent Boro Park personalities in the Jewish Community which appeared in the Jewish media recently. Undoubtedly, other prominent personalities have passed away and if such information comes to our attention we would like to include them in future columns.

Rebbetzin Rachel Wertheim a.h.

On December 30, 1998 the learned and prominent Rachel Wertheim a.h. died in Jerusalem. She was the widow the late Rabbi Dr. Aaron Wertheim, author of "Law and Custom in Hasidism" and Rabbi for over 50 years (starting in 1932) of Congregation Bnai Israel of Linden Heights located at 4502 - 9th Avenue. She was over 95 years of age at her passing.

Like her husband she was the scion of famous Hasidic Rabbis. She descended from the Hasidic dynasties of Chernobyl and

Zlotchov and her geneology traced back to the Baal Shem Tov.

She was a very learned woman, a graduate teacher, who knew Hebrew fluently and was at home in Hebrew literature. (This was quite rare in the years before the establishment of the State of Israel). It was greatly due to her influence that their home became a meeting place for Rabbis, scholars and writers and religious personalities from Israel visiting New York. In the Congregation Bnai Israel, she was the forefront of many communal activities and charitable drives.

In 1994 she settled in Jerusalem, the land and culture to which she had been attached all her life.

Rabbi Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky a.h.

Rabbi Dr. Joseph Kamintetsky a.h. passed away in March 1999 at the age of 88 while residing in Jerusalem. He was the Founding National Director of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools in America and Editor of the "Jewish Parent" magazine and Editor of the book Hebrew Day School Education - An Overview.

He dedicated his life to the furtherance of Jewish education and creating new Jewish Day Schools across the United States. He revolutionized Jewish Education in America. When he started as National Director of Torah Umesorah in 1948 there were a total of 39 Jewish Day Schools in the U.S.A. When he retired in 1980, due largely to his efforts, there were over 600 Jewish Day Schools with a total enrollment of over 160,000 students. (New York Times - March 26, 1999; Yated Neeman March 26, 1999).

Dr. Kaminetsky moved to Boro Park in 1941 when he married Shulamith Lefkowtiz, a Boro Park girl. Their last address in Boro Park was at 1466 - 54th Street until 1980 when they settled in Israel. Dr. Kaminetsky published an interesting article entitled "Boro Park" in "Jewish Life" magazine in October 1953 which captured and described Jewish life in the community at that time. Excerpts from that article and comments were reprinted in this column in November and December of 1981.

Memorial services (Shloshim) were held on April 25, 1999 at Congregation Shomrei Emunah - 14th Avenue and 52nd Street, where Dr. Kaminetsky had been a very active member for many years. This columnist attended those services to pay last respects to a man he admired. Eulogies were delivered by Rabbi Yakov Pollack, the Rabbi of that Congregation, Rabbi Amos Bunim, Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetsky (no relation), Rabbi Joshua Fischman (the current administrator of Torah Umesorah), Rabbi David Kaminetsky, (a son) and a grandson.

Rabbi Dr. Jospeh Kaminetsky a.h. was very active in the Shulamith High School for girls, the first Jewish Day School for girls in the U.S.A. Shulamith School started in Boro Park in 1929 and grew to be a major and prominent institution. The school moved from 1353 - 50th St. to Flatbush in 1980, and started a high school as well.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

Dr. Kaminetsky served on the school's Board of Education for many years. The Shulamith School has created a special Memorail Award in his memory which will be presented to his daughter and son-in-law, Rabbi Mayer and Mrs. Nechama Steinhardt at the School's Annual Dinner in January, 2000.

The following are two brief excerpts from the letter mailed by the Steinhardts to their friends and relatives in relation to the memorial award presentation.

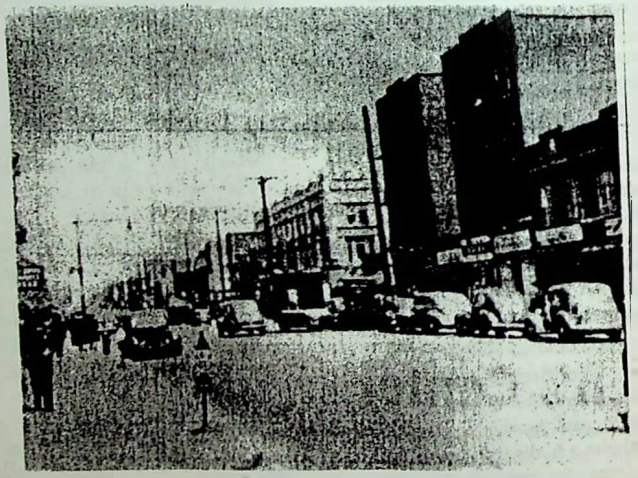
"As you know, my father, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky z"l, was a very special man. Education was his passion, and Yeshiva education for every Jewish child in the United States was his dream. As National Director of Torah Umesorah, he devoted his life to fulfilling that dream, and the effects of his success are a living monument to his long, accomplished life."

"....upon his death, which took place on a clear, beautiful day in Jerusalem, our family began a very emotional odyssey. From all over the world, from Yeshivot throughout the United States, from all different types of Jews, we received condolences. We heard anecdotes, history and personal experiences from people whom he touched directly and indirectly. We were surrounded in the love that Klal Yisroel (the Jewish community) felt for the husband, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who was so fondly called "Dr. Joe."

During the week of mourning (shiva) a commemorative gathering was held at the Bnai Israel synagogue. Rabbi Yoshua Lustig, the current Rabbi of the Synagogue, and Mr. Benjamin Chupak, a former President of the Congregation spoke about the late Rebbetzin Rachel Wertheim a.h.

(Jewish Press, Feb. 5, 1999)

Ed: Rabbi Aaron Wertheim zt"l performed the marriage ceremony for this columnist and his wife in January, 1951.



OLD SCENES OF BORO PARK

Thirteenth Avenue and 49th Street, looking towards 48th Street in 1940. Note the following: 1) Two way traffic on 13th Avenue then; 2) Bus stop signs used then; 3) Telephone polls and wires running along 13th Ave.; 4) Street lights used then; 5) Auto models and size, with "Running Boards"; 6) Bay Ridge Savings Bank (left rear) on corner of 48th Street. It later became Anchor Savings bank and is now Dime Savings Bank; 7) Apartment building on right side with space between two towers. That space was since filled with additional office space; 8) Vertical sign on left in front of "Meyers Ice Cream Parlor", which reads "Soda".

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Max (Mordechai) Lewko a.h.

Max Lewko a.h. (1908-1999) passed away on Feb. 9, 1999. The funeral services took place at Jeffers Community Chapels located on Ft. Hamilton Parkway (corner 47th St.) Eulogies were delivered by his son-in-law, Rabbi Aharon Ziegler, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Agudath Achim, 867 - 50th Street; Son-in-law Rabbi Shmuel Bramson of Silver Springs, MD; four grandsons and one great grandson. This columnist who knew M. Lewko for over 40 years, attended the funeral services. Max Lewko was one of the great leaders of Hapoel Hamizrachi - the world religious zionist organization (now called Religious Zionists of America) and a dynamic spokesman for Religious Zionism here in America. No Major policy decisions were enacted at conventions or conferences without the input of Max Lewko. When Israeli government officials who drove through New York with police escorts happened to be in Boro Park, it was to Mr. and Mrs. Lewko's apartment that they came.

Mr. Lewko was a prolific writer. He wrote articles and essays which were published in many Jewish and Israeli newspapers and magazines explaining and defending Religious Zionists positions. Although he ran a business as a means of livelihood, his main focus, energies and dedication were to this organization and what it stands for.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewko moved to Boro Park in 1962 (approximately) and lived at 1426 - 47th Street. He attended services mainly at Congregation Machzikei Talmud Torah, on 14th Avenue, corner 47th Street, but he was also a member at Congregation Anshei Sfard, Young Israel, Beth El and Shomrei Emunah

(Jewish Press, Mar. 12, 1999)

CORRECTION

In the last issue the article on "Men's Hats in Boro Park" was written by Mr. B.M. Selevan whose name was inadvertantly left out.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Real Estate Values in 1911

As I was perusing through some of the archives of Boro Park I came across an old tax map of Brooklyn, prepared by the Department of Taxes and Assessment, which shows the assessed land values of each block for the year 1911. I looked at the streets of Boro Park to see what the land was assessed at then and how they compare to current values.

The figures on the map show the assessed value per front foot of normal lots, 100 feet deep. In order to make the figures more meaningful I converted those figures to show the assessed value of a city lot, or a piece of land 20 x 100 feet. Below are a number of samples of Boro Park assessed land values in 1911 for different locations. The differences in value shown maybe due to the location or to the fact some properties were already developed with buildings, or both. The map did not indicate if the land was vacant or developed.

Location	Value of 20 x 100 lot
13th Ave. btwn. 39th & 41st Sts.	$1500
39th St. btwn. 13th & 14th Aves.	$900
40th St. btwn. 13th & 14th Aves.	$1000
45th St. btwn. 15th & 16th Aves.	$1000
52nd St. btwn. 15th & 16th Aves.	$1000
56th St. btwn. 15th & 16th Aves.	$850
50th St. btwn. 17th & 18th Aves.	$700
18th Ave. btwn. 47th & 50th Sts.	$1400
60th St. btwn. 15th & 18th Aves.	$1100
15th Ave. btwn. 47th & 55th Sts.	$1200
Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. btwn. 39th & 48th Sts.	$2000
New Utrecht Ave. btwn. 47th & 50th Sts.	$3000
9th Ave. btwn. 52nd & 60th Sts.	$900

We see that the values then, based upon location, do not coincide with current values.

A real estate broker that I spoke to indicated that the current values of land for empty lots, in Boro Park are about the same as for lots with old houses on them. The current values for a city lot of 20 by 100 feet, depending upon location in Boro Park, would vary between $250,000 to $350,000. But he pointed out that we must keep in mind that the value of the dollar was much greater in past years.

It may be of interest to point out that the map also showed the area between 55th & 58th Streets and between 18th & 19th Aves., most of which is now the 18th Ave. park, was in 1911, the site of the "Disciplinary Training School".

Dry Goods Bill of 1932

In our archives we also came across a bill for items at "Blums Childrens Wear" located at 4719 - 13th Avenue. The phone number was Windsor 6-7275 and the bill or statement was made out to Mrs. Harbater (we wrote about this family in the past) who lived at 4903 - 17th Avenue, and was dated June 13, 1932

The items listed and prices are as follows:

1 pants	$ .69
3 Union Suit @ .39¢	$1.17
5 waists @ .39¢	$1.95
4 panties @ .45¢	$1.80
4 u.suits @ .39¢	$1.56
3 blouses @ .49¢	$1.47
	$8.14
Gown	$ .69
Pajamas	$ .79
	$10.12

(Received payment 9/7/32)

Where "Blums Childrens Wear" was located at 4719- 13th Avenue we have currently "Little Loungers" and "The Bag Store". Incidentally this is only a few doors away from the current location of the Boro Park Historical Society at 4707 - 13th Avenue.

Fire in Coney Island

We found a letter dated July 13, 1932 with the following letterhead: The "Boro Park Post" published by Brooklyn Community Newspapers, 4523 - 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Telephone, Windsor 4-300. Robert Gottlieb, Managing Editor, Lee M. Brandt, Business Manager.

We found a photo copy of the first page only, typed, which reads:

"Dear Moe (Harbater)

Quite some doings in your home town tonight - old Sol not

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

giving forth enough heat, apparently, and the folks down at Coney Island being all hot and bothered, the boardwalk went up in flames. Some three to four square blocks were in ruins resultant from those flames.

Fire engines from Greater New York, and even from Bayside, L.I. were there. One fellow came down in an absolutely new bathing suit, and went home in borrowed overalls. Storekeepers were handing out nickels for carfare, but then the B.M.T. rigged up some scheme. They assigned eight of the ten cars they use in a train during rush hours, and only those whose clothes were burned and were forced to ride home in their bathing suits were permitted to ride on these cars. Down at Union Square (14th St.) the I.R.T. permitted these same unfortunate joy-seekers to transfer to their trains free, gratis and for nothing. So what?

Stories as to the origin of the fire, are as diversified as women's fashions. Some claim, a few urchins started a fire with a few pieces of wood, before you could say boo (!) (all in test of course!); others hold, that the fire started in the rear of a stand on the boardwalk, and since all the stands are of wood, there was a rip-roaring blaze on their hands; and still others maintain that the fire resulted from some sort of combustion, or whatever it is. At any rate, they had a gorgeous set of blazes down at Coney Island today...."

The American Revolutionary War and Boro Park

Few people are aware of the fact that Brooklyn played a crucial role in the American Revolutionary war or the War for independence, and that Boro Park played a minor role in that war as well.

When the British troops landed on the narrows of Brooklyn and marched to the site of the crucial Battle of Brooklyn they marched along what is now 18th Avenue and through Old New Utrecht road towards Prospect Park. Parts of Old New Utrecht Road are still intact from 52nd street until 48th Street between 17th and 18th Avenue and near 36th Street and 14th Avenue. A small piece is also still found on 16th Avenue, cor-



OLD SCENES OF BORO PARK

Photo taken April 1979 of Yeshivah Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park), first Yeshivah in Boro Park, located on 13th Avenue between 50th and 51st street. The building was originally built and used by the Borough Park Club House. Yeshiva closed and building demolished in 1979/80 and is now the site of Solomon Plaza stores including Eichlers, Berkshire Bank, Montgomery Stationery and Copy Corner.

Note two way traffic on 13th Avenue then.

(courtesy of Boro Park Historical Society)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

ner of 44th Street, where the corner forms a small triangle. The original road was built over by Montaulk J.H.S. on 16th Avenue and 43rd St. and by homes built on the land.

There is an organization that is now attempting to plan the "Brooklyn American Revolution Heritage Trail" and commemorate Brooklyn's role in that war. The Heritage Trail will most probably include Old New Utrecht Road as was indicated by our discussion with the Vice Chairman.

The following letter pertaining to that project was received by the Boro Park Historical Society and is self explanatory.

FIRST BATTLE REVIVAL ALLIANCE HERITAGE TRAIL COMMITTEE

A New York State Education Corp.

Dear Colleague:

As a leader in commemorating Brooklyn's past, we know you will be interested in planning the *Brooklyn American Revolution Heritage Trail*. Our borough's role in the war for independence is woefully underappreciated. Unlike Boston, we have not focused public attention on the crucial events of that time. FBRA believes that it is high time that this be done not only to ensure that the world remembers how Washington saved the Revolution here, but also to raise Brooklyn's profile.

We believe that the course of the Battle of Brooklyn, from the British landings on the Narrows, along their routes of advance and encampment, to the numerous sites of engagement, should be linked together so that both New York and visitors can grasp the scope and scale of what occurred. Few realize that what is today New York City was subjected to a cruel occupation which included the destruction of much of the city and the deaths of thousands of American soldiers aboard prison ships.

The Trail will connect to the existing one in Manhattan and to a statewide effort under development under the sponsorship of Governor Pataki.

It will be anchored by two extant sites: the Old Stone House, the Vechte-Cortelyou House, built in 1699 and reconstones, now operated as a museum and interpretive center by this organization. Battle Pass in Prospect Park is preserved almost as it was in 1776. This was the site of the crucial engagement when the British and Hessians caught the Colonial Army within pincers and sent those who survived fleeing. We are working with the Park administration on this segment of the Trail.

Other sites would include Brooklyn Ferry, from which the Continental Army was evacuated, the British landing sites in Gravesend and Bay Ridge, the Martyrs Monument in Fort Greene Park, the site of the prison ships and prisoner burials in and around Wallabout Bay in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the Liberty Pole at the New Utrecht Reformed Church.

We need your help in locating other sites, especially existing remnants of the war. You know your areas better than we do, but to assist in the process, we are developing a map of the roads that existed in 1776 superimposed on a modern street map to aide in pinpointing exact locations. Under the leadership of our professional archeologist, Dr. William J. Parry, we plan to utilize modern technology to locate human and other physical evidence of the war. At Prospect Park and the Navy Yard we will seek remains of the American soldiers who may be buried there, along with foundations of structures such as the Valley Grove Inn and Redoubt that witnessed the battle. We are seeking foundation support for this effort as well as for explorations of the burial site of the Marylanders around Eighth Street and Third Avenue.

A self-guiding pamphlet is under development showing the train routes and highlights, for use by both individuals and to supplement group tours.

For further information, please call me, thank you very much, Sincerely, Robert Furman, Vice-Chairman, (718) 851-0902"

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219

Dear Member and Friends: Report of the past year, 1999.

We continued improving the Mini Museum and had many more people coming to see our exhibits. May we remind you that everyone is welcome and we urge you to come and bring your friends. Please call (718) 854-1033 for an appointment.

We had our exhibit at the Brooklyn Branch of the Public Library on 43rd st. right here in Boro Park. We received many nice comments on the pictures that were shown.

We are working more with other groups that participate in the history of Boro Park. Most recently the town of New Utrecht area had a parade and encampment and the flag was raised at this encampent. We will continue to work with the Friends fo Historic New Utrecht. The Original Town of New Utrecht was organized in 1657 by Jacque Cortelyou.

Dr. Philip J. Kipust in the Feb., 2000 issue Boro Park Community News has a great article on the Historic Town.

Unfortunately one of the best workers, DARIO MAROTTA, retired. He had done outstanding work on our archives and helped set up in our files a tremendous amount of information about community organizations in the Community. We are desperately looking for someone with computer familiarity to scan our documents. We hope that someone will volunteer some free time or would work for a reasonable salary to do this work.

ON BEHALF of all the members and friends of the Boro Park Historical Society we humbly say thank you and want all to know about the tremendous work of this inspiring member. In addition Dario made several monetary donations that were of tremendous help in the maintenance and running of our society.

We urge you to please keep up your dues and the dues are still the same. $3.00 yearly for Seniors. Regular Dues $5.00 for individuals and $10.00 for organizations. If you elect LIFE membership its $100.00 for individuals and $200.00 for organizations.

Sincerely, Jacque Friedman, President

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Looking for Kobe Descendants

Dear Dr. Kipust:

In feudal times under the Austria-Hungarian Empire the people in the foothills of the Julian Alps (Slovenia) could not buy land and family land could not be split up therefore many people emigrated to "Amerika".

One member of our family lived at 1633 42nd St. and was still using the Austro- Ungari spelling Kobbe as that empire tried to change village, city, and family names to conform to Austro-Ungari languages and tried to germanize the slovnes into speaking german.

My father told me of an "uncle" who went to N.Y. and of other "uncles" who went to "Amerika" but because the mailman in his village was stealing letters from America which usually contained money, the outcome of those uncles became lost. My father often pondered aloud about what became of them and he'd repeat their last destinations: New York; Calmut Michigan; Bute Montana; Arizona; Panama; eastern seaboard state; Oregon.

"Boro" means "pine tree, fir tree" in slovenian and russian. "kobe" means some thing like sportshorsemen in russian.

In order to find the missing relatives I also wrote to Panama. I was informed that a John C. Kobe who worked as a postal clerk in Brooklyn transferred to the isthmus of Panama and resigned May 20, 1914 on the date of 42 day paid holiday leave and that the previous year he returned to Brooklyn on vacation leave. Their information gives that he was born in Brooklyn and that his father was also a John Kobbe which in slovenian would have been Ivan Kobe. It stated he was 33 years old when he went to Panama, allowing he was born in 1877.

In the village, my father asked his father why he gave a foreign word as a name for the new horse and my grandfather had laughed and said that all the horses in New York are called Barney. My father had also said that my great grandfather also visited New York and wore a funny hat when he returned to the village. Since my grandfather was named Ivan (John) I believe it was my great grandfather's brother who lived at 42nd street with the family that included his son " Panama John".

I wrote to 1633 42nd street and happily found the new owner to be interested in the history of their home. They sent me three wonderful photos of the home. He also sent me two copies of Boro Park Community News from which I have the feeling the home may be one of the last of the farm houses of the area as farming is what the emigrants from the village knew best, and my great grandfather's brother may have been a farmhand and then a farm owner just as other uncles and my father, an emigrant, had become in Canada.

The reason my father and two brothers came to Canada was because another last letter stated one of the cousins working on farms in Arizona was shot by his employer when his end-of-season pay was due him.

I was unable to find family descendants in New York or Calumet as my father became ill and my time went to his care, but I knew there were some, as the families were large at that time.

I live in my deceased father's home built in 1917, at 418 8th St., Nanaimo, B.C. Canada in case any family member wants to reach me.

I was impressed with the community spirit shown by the news letter and felt the essence of the old farm community it had once been and send every good wish for it to continue and success to the preservation of the history of Boro Park.

Sincerely,

Annie K (Kobe) McPherson

[Ed.- We would like to thank Annie K. (Kobe) McPherson for her interesting letter and geneology. We ask our readers who may have information about any of the descendants to write to her or to us]

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

Two Former Stores on 13th Avenue

While looking through some home papers I came across two old bills from stores on 13th Avenue., no longer in existence, but probably still remembered by many Boro Parkers.

One was a bill from Home Beautiful Inc.-Decorators. Makers of Fine Upholstered Furniture - the store was located at 4612 13th Ave... Telephone GE d ney 6-6468. The bill dated 1-29-64. was for a cocktail table. a round table and two oblong tables. The total bill was $356 and the sales tax was $14.24 - still 4% then.

Currently the business at the premise is Brush Strokes, dealing with art. The upstairs premises are occupied by the P'tach office, an organization devoted to helping children with learning difficulties.

The second bill was dated 5/76 and was from Tip Top Housewares & Hardware- "Everything for your home," located at 5116 13th Ave..., Tel.. 436-1312. The bill was for crystal glasses.

In 1976 Tip- Top was a very large double store. On the premise now we have a small Tip Top Houseware Store and Tiny Town Children's Wear and Broadway Fashions. Upstairs the premises are used by Leasement Car Leasing , Short -Stop Inc., and Williamsburg Car Leasing, according to the telephone directory.

Corrections

Dear Dr. Kipust,

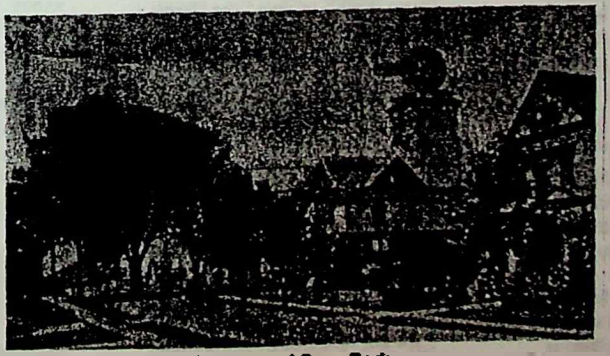
I wish to note the following corrections to your column of Feb '00.

1) It says " the six towns were organized into the city of Brooklyn in 1834...." it should read "1894".

2) In the article about Rabbi Joseph Kaminetsky A.H. it says " Eulogies were delivered by.... Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetsky (no relation) ....." Actually they were distantly related according to the book Memorable Encounters written by the late Rabbi Dr.. Joseph Kaminetsky and distributed by ArtScroll.

B.M. Selevan

[Ed. Sorry for the typo error on the date, it should be 1894. We thank B.M. Selevan, an officer of the BPHS for his correction and contribution.]



Old scenes of Boro Park

Photo taken circa 1902 of 13th Ave... between 55st. and 56st. Tall structure in distance is water tower, before Boro Park received its water from the city the water tower supplied the neighborhood with water from a well. (courtesy - Lydia Litchfield Von-Weiberg).

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Your Column of Oct. '99 showed a photo of two women alighting from an electric bus on 16th Ave... between 51st. and 52st. in Brooklyn, N.Y. Both women wear cloche hats. The caption states the photo was taken "in 1950's". I have a photo of my mother taken in 1932 wearing a cloche hat in Winipeg, Manitoba (suburb) Anada. I was a teenager in the 1950's , cloche hats were not worn then. I think your caption should have read " in the 1930's".

Annie Kobe McPherson
Nanaimo, B.C. Canada

[We thank Mrs. McPherson for her interesting contribution. We appreciate receiving corrections as well as general comments. That's one way we can help to keep our historical information accurate. Although our archival records had the caption for the photo as 1950's, it could very well be that the reader is correct. We know that the electric buses ran along 16th Ave... from early 1930's' 'till the 1950's.]

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Since the history of the Town if New Utrecht is an important part of the history of Boro Park, I feel it is important to correct and clarify statements in the *I Remember Boro Park* column of February '00.

Boro Park is not located "primarily" in the area of the Town of New Utrecht, but is located *entirely* in the area.

Six towns comprised the area that is now Brooklyn. Each of the towns was settled at varying times after 1626. All of the towns were farming towns. Five of the towns were settled by the Dutch, except Gravesend, which was settled by an Englishwoman, Lady Deborah Moody. The first Dutch farmers came to New Utrecht in 1647. In 1654, New Utrecht was officially established by Jacque Cortelyou, a schoolteacher. New Utrecht was named after the city of Utrecht in The Netherlands.

Each of the other five towns was incorporated , at varying times, into the Town of Brooklyn, which eventually became a city. The town of New Utrecht was incorporated into Brooklyn in 1894. In 1898, Brooklyn was incorporated into the City of New York.

Up until the early 1900's, there were still Dutch farms in Boro Park. In fact, the farmhouse of Garrett Cowenhoven (whose descendants the Boro Park Historical Society has located) was only demolished in 1927.

Yours truly,
Lucille Posner

[Ed- Since the Eastern fringes of what is now called Boro Park were not entirely included in the Town of New Utrecht it was safer to say "primarily". WE thank Lucille Posner, an officer of.the B.P.H.S for her interesting contribution.]

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Mike Getz

Mike Getz was brought up and still lives in Boro Park. He is now in the process of writing a book of his memories of growing up in the community. He grew up in the 40's and 50's between 52 and 58 Sts. He has written six books in the past, including one on Ebbets Field and the Brooklyn Dodgers. He is an avid athlete and sports enthusiast. Mike Getz will be one of the featured speakers at the upcoming "General Meeting" of the Boro Park Historical Society scheduled for June 12, 00 at the YMHA. The following are a few excerpts from his book- "Brooklyn Dodgers And their Rivals" written in 1999. Montaulk Press, Parkville 11204.

"My First Game"

"I was not quite twelve years old when my father took me to my first major league game on Sunday, September 9, 1950. It was two days before school started at P.S. 223, otherwise known as Montauk Junior High School. We lived in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn. Dad did not own a car, so we traveled by train to get to the Polo Grounds in Manhattan-just one subway stop before Yankee Stadium-to see the Brooklyn Dodgers play the New York Giants."

"Famous Numbers"

"Brooklyn fans were the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and devoted fans in the world. They knew the uniform numbers of the players, the individual stats, and even the names of the player's wives. All over Borough Park, Bensonhurst, and Bay Ridge, boys and men of all ages would hang around corner candy stores on a summer Sunday evening , talking and arguing baseball, while waiting for the early one-star edition of the Daily News to arrive with the stories and box scores of the games played that afternoon. In 1950, not everyone had a TV set, so the games on the radio were very important. No team in history had as many well-known uniform numbers on the ball field at the same time as did the Brooklyn team of the 1950's. Hodges wore number 14; Robinson made number 42 famous; Pee Wee was always number 1 in the hearts...."

"Our Gang"

"Early Saturday morning, May 26, in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, a bunch of preteen kids from Fifty-second Street and Eighteenth Avenue packed lunches. We took the Sea Beach subway to Coney Island and switched to the Brighton line to get to Ebbets field. Our group of eight boys and two girls joined the line outside the bleacher wall and mingled with the other fans prior to the game between Brooklyn and the Boston Braves. As the line moved, we heard a loud woman's voice behind us. We later found out it belonged to Hilda Chester , considered the number one Brooklyn fan. She was carrying what appeared to be a frying pan and planned to make a lot of noise for the Dodgers once she got inside the park. What a game it was, the kind a twelve-year-old could never forget. With the Dodgers down 12-5 in the bottom of the ninth, there were no runners on base and two outs. Duke Snider hit a long drive to left-center that seemed to be heading right for us. The ball landed in the stands below and to the right for a home..."

"Radio Games"

"After school, many of us walked home from Montauk Junior High, which was located on Sixteenth Avenue and Forty-third Street in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn. Quite a few kids my age lived on my block - Fifty-second Street off Eighteenth Avenue - about three-quarters of a mile from school. There were eleven four-story apartment buildings in the immediate vicinity, including five on my block. We never had a shortage of players for neighborhood teams of any age. The junior high kids cut through Old New Utrecht Road, a diagonal , partially paved area of about eight blocks that ended on Fifty-second Street. We then cut left and crossed Eighteenth Avenue. There we split up in order to go home and change our clothes . We came back out on the street to play punchball or touch football. In the evening, we did our homework while listening to the radio or watching television. In 1951, the Brooklyn Dodgers games were telecast on Channel 9. The Giants shared Channel 11 with the Yankees."

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

General Membership Meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society

The General Membership meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society is scheduled for Monday evening June 12, 00, 7:30 P.M. at the YMHA of Boro Park 14 Ave. and 50 St. One featured speaker will be Mike Getz, author and resident of Boro Park. THe meeting will include audience participation of Boro Park memories.

Yeshiva Honors its Alumni

On Sunday, November 14, 1999 the Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation honored four outstanding alumni of Yeshiva Etz Chaim , also known as the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park.

Honorees Stanley Bienenfeld, Dr. Philip Felig, Cantor Solomon Mendelson and Dr. Zalman Schrader were cited for outstanding contributions to Jewish life, successfully synthesizing Torah values in their personal and professional lives.

Yeshiva Etz Chaim was created at a time that often found Jews the victim of discrimination. Jews were excluded from positions in many proffesions and schools. As a result, many people chose assimilation over the religious piety of parents, grandparents. In Brooklyn a few stalwarts began building the first day school in the United States to be based on the idea that in America, a young man could go to college succeed in the secular world while simultaneously maintaining a committed Torah lifestyle.

For 64 years, the Yeshiva's magnificent building, on 13th Avenue in Boro Park, served as the educational home for thousands of children from early childhood through eighth grade. Students were privileged to study under superb teachers in both secular and Judaic studies. According to longtime Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation President Judge Jerome Yakov Hornblass, "graduates of the yeshiva have become leaders in business, philanthropy , educators, science, law, medicine and of course rabbis."

With the school's closing in 1980, the Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation was established by alumni to continue the yeshiva's traditions. The Foundation supports numerous yeshivot kitanot and other institutions, upholding the yeshiva's commitment to the ideals of Judaism.

Religious Institutions no Longer in Boro Park

The following list of religious institutions was gathered in 1986. These institutions were functioning in Boro Park in 1959 but were no longer in existence in Boro Park in 1986. There are undoubtedly additional religious institutions (churches, Synagogues, religious schools etc.) that could be added to this list for year 2.000. Perhaps some of our readers can provide information to add to this list .

Religious Institutions (1959 - not here 1986)

•Roman Catholic Monostary Confraternity of the Precious Blood 5300 - Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. •Ascension Lutheran- 1271 51st. •Edgewood Reformed Church - 14th Ave & 53st. •Fifth Church & Reading Room- 4419 12 Ave •Shulamith School for Girls- 1353 50 st. •Hebrew School Temple Emanuel- 14 Ave. & 49st •Infants Home of Brooklyn- 1358 56st. •Edgewood Child Care Center- 5302 14th Ave. •Beth Rivkah Kindergarten & Happy Play School- 4720 15th Ave. •Zionist Organization of Boro Park- 1223 45th st. • Salvation Army- 4124 8 Ave. (Scandinavian Branch) •Talmud Torah Beth Israel- 5602 11 Ave •H.N. Bialik Folkshul- 4720 16 Ave. •Talmud Torah B nai Israel of Linden Heights • Boro Park Educational Center, Labor Lyclum, and Workman's Circle Jewish Schools- 1377 13th Ave. •Boro Park Jewish Center- 1445 50 st. •Yeshiva Etz Chaim 5012 13th Ave. (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) •Machzikei Talmud Torah & Hebrew High School- 14th Ave. & 47st. •Mesivta of Boro Park 4412 14 Ave. •Sholam Alechem Folkshul No. 34- 5013 10th Ave. • Talmud Torah Shomrei Emunah- 1363 50st.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can nelp in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired, or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Current Historical Change in Boro Park

The following are a few recent changes in Boro Park that have historical significance. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to contribute additional items of historical change.

Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz Moving to Flatbush

Currently the oldest existing Yeshiva in Boro Park, Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz (YTEK), is about to move to Flatbush. The present building of YTEK, located at 1650 55st., built in 1973, was sold to Yeshiva Tiferes Elimelech located at 5801 16th Ave. The sale took place over a year ago but the move couldn't be completed until the new building in Flatbush was completed.,

According to Rabbi Yaakov Zelinger, the Dean of YTEK, a number of unexpected construction delays prevented an earlier planned move but he was hopeful that the move to the new building on Ave,. N. and E. 19 st. would be completed before the end of the current school year in June, 2,000. Rabbi Zelinger indicated that the move was necessary to accommodate the Yeshiva's student body which is mainly from Flatbush, and the requests of many alumni, living in Flatbush, who wish to send their own children to the school.

Actually the first Yeshiva to open in Boro Park was Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) which started in 1916, but they closed in 1980. YTEK, which started in the mid 1920's, was the second yeshiva to open in Boro Park, but is currently the oldest existing one here. The third Yeshiva type school to open in Boro Park was Shulamis Institute for Girls which moved to Flatbush about 20 years ago. These schoo changes are results of the changing population in Boro Park over the past century.

We've written about YTEK numerous times in this column because a good deal of Boro Park history, available to this columnist, an alumnus of that Yeshiva himself, was associated with the school.

Temple Emanuel Sold

Temple Emanuel, the only conservative synagogue ever in Boro Park , located on the corner of 14th ave. and 49st. was recently sold. It was purchased by the Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn, a girls school. The Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn (B.Y.O.B.) under the leadership of Rabbi Y. Balkany, Dean, is located at 1362 49st. in th e Samuel Fine Center, in the building adjacent to Temple Emanuel. That building had been purchased from the Temple many years ago.

Rabbi Balkany plans to use the temple building to expand his school and also plans to establish an Orthodox Synagogue on the premises.

Temple Emanuel is one of the oldest and most impressive synagogue buildings in Boro Park. Its cornerstone was put down in 1906 and the building was completed in 1908. Rabbi Binyomin Kretzman is the current Rabbi. This change is another example of the changing population in Boro Park.

Old New Utrecht Road Secured By New Yeshiva

Yeshiva Ger, the new high school branch of Yeshiva Yagdil Torah, recently opened on the corner of 52St. and OLD NEW UTRECHT Rd. the main entrance of the new Yeshiva is on OLD NEW UTRECHT Rd. This old historic road, which dates back to pre-Revolutionary War days. originallv stretched from 18 ave and 53St. to Church ave near 36St. Little by little parts of the road were built upon so that now only a few small remnants remain. The largest remaining piece runs from 52 St. near 18 ave. to 48 st and 17 ave.

In past years numerous attempts were made by builders, institutions and home owners along the road to acquire parcels of the property on this historic road and build on it, eroding it further. The new Yeshiva Ger will now help preserve at least part of the historic Old New Utrecht Road.

New Construction on Old New Utrecht Road

There is a small remnant of Old New Utrecht Road still in existence on 16 ave corner of 44t St. The few houses on that corner are built on an angle facing the small remnant of Old New Utrecht Road.

One of these houses, on the corner of 44 St. (1607 or 1609) has recently been thrown down and a new building, probably a Yeshiva will be built on that location. The new building will most probably include and be built upon a piece of the vestigial remains of Old New Utrecht Rd.

45 St. One Way Direction Changed

Drivers in Boro Park are familiar with the fact that 45th St. between 12th and New Utrecht Aves. (N.U.A) has been a one way street going in the opposite direction of the rest of 45St. i.e. going one way from N.U. Ave. to 12th Ave.

A few weeks ago, after all these years, the direction of this street was changed and 45 St. is now a one way street going from 12th Ave to N.U. Ave.

However when reaching N.U.Ave. one must make a right turn. Many motorists will find this change in direction very convenient.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

Old Newspapers Clippings of Boro Park

The Boro Park Historical Society archives include many clippings of old newspaper articles about Boro Park. These articles were researched and taken primarily from the old former Brooklyn Eagle newspaper. We plan to include periodically some samples of these articles which highlight some historical events and will give us an understanding and feeling of the times, the language, the interests the politics and the activities.

The following five items were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer and researcher of the B.P.H.S. they were originally published in 1920 and 1921 in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper.

Complete Plans for Merger of Israel and Zion Hospitals

Amalgamated institution will have new building on tenth avenue is announced. The Israel Hospital, 1246 42d ST. and Zion Hospital, 2140 Cropsy ave. have been amalgamated into the United Israel-Zion Hospital, and a new hospital building on 10th ave. will be the result. Negotiations for merging these two organizations have been going on since May, 1919, and announcement that the amalgamation has been completed was made today by Newman Dube, president of the Israel Hospital.

The amalgamation committee consists of Herman Nenderland, chairman; Philip Cedar, Israel Friedman, Max Helman, Issac Ipp, M. Napelbaum, and Nathan Schoenfeld, representing the Israeli Hospital and Leo D. Greenfeld, chairman; Mrs. Fanny Abrahams, Amber Dann, Issac Dishy, William Mentlik, Rabbi M. J. Peikes and Joseph Pines, representing the Zion Hospital.

In arranging the regular details Meier Steinbrink acted as the attorney for the new hospital. Mr. Herrick represented the interests of the Israel Hospital and Mr. Marks represented the interests of the Zion Hospital.

The United Israel-Zion Hospital is expected to be one of the largest, best equipped and modern hospitals of its kind in Brooklyn, and will meet a pressing need for further hospital facilities here. Contracts for the construction have been awarded and the erection of the building is in full progress, under the direction of the building committee, of which Gustave S. Roth is chairman. Louis Allen Abramson is the architect

(1920 - Bklyn Eagle)

Lay Cornerstone For New Chapel

McNamee Principal Speaker at Holy Ghost Foundation. Banquet follows.

Brooklyn, the City of Churches," has added to its list one more church. Though its cornerstone was laid yesterday afternoon, it won't only be a short time when worshippers will flock to its doors. This new edifice will be known to all Catholics in Brooklyn as the Chapel of the Holy Ghost. It will be located at the corner of 46th st. and 17th ave.

At 4 o'clock the Right REV. Mons. Joseph McNamee, rector of St. Teresa's R. C. Church, lifted the trowel and placed in position the cornerstone of the chapel. Surrounding him at the time of this solemn ceremony were priests of practically every church within radius of three miles, the Rev. John J. O'Neill, rector of the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 41st st. and Fort Hamilton Parkway, sponsor of the new edifice, and his parishioners numbering more than 1,000.

The Fife, Bugle and Drum Corps of St. Catherines's School played the national anthem. Mons. McNamee was the principal speaker.

Following the ceremonies attending the laying of the cornerstone Vicar General McNamee and a large number of visiting priests were the guests of Father O'Neill at a banquet given in the rectory of St. Catherine of Alexandria's Church. Among those who attended this function were the Rev. Matthew Tierney, rector of the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Fort Hamilton Pkwy and E. 3rd Street; The Rev. William Gardiner, rector of St. Finbar's, Bay 20th st. and Bath ave. the Rev. Patrick Cherry, rector of St. Micheal's, 4th ave. and 42nd st.; the Rev Martin Fitzpatrick, rector of St. Agatha's, 50th st., near 7th ave.; the Rev. Eugene J. Donnelly, rector of the Church of St. Athanasius, 62st and 22 ave.; the Rev. Patrick Heegan, Redemptorists Fathers, 69th st. and 5th ave.; the Rev. Charles Nolan and the Rev. Joseph Downey, who are conducting a mission at St. Catherine of Alexandria.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Boro Park Club House:(Photo circa 1912) Located on 13th Ave. spanning block between 50st (on right) and 51st. Served as social club and Social Hall for community. Purchased by Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) in 1920 and renovated in 1923. Demolished in 1960. Note 13th ave. unpaved then. (Collection: the New York Public Library.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Lay Cornerstone of New Synagogue

Eminent speakers and impressive music marked the ceremonies held at 56th st. and 11th ave., Borough Park, yesterday afternoon, when the cornerstone of the synagogue of Talmud Torah Congregation Beth Israel was laid.

Judge Mitchell May, District Attorney Harry Lewis and Boro President Reigelmann were among the speakers at stressing the important part played in the life of the community by its religious organizations.

Louis Brown, chairman of the day, who as chairman of the building committee has been one of the hardest workers for the new congregation, introduced the speakers and spoke of the plans for the new building. Rabbi Pikus of the Temple Torah, Rabbi Maluzstein and Rabbi Levine of Yonkers made brief addresses, and two choirs under Cantor Cantor and Cantor Gold sang several selections.

The trustees of the new synagogue include Benjamin Gelb, Samuel Beaver, Harry Seid, Lois Bellos, Max Seibling and Morris Jacobson. Morris Samuels is president of the synagogue, the other officers being Eli Leesuer, Henry Rosenberg, Nathan Rogers and Henry Rogers.

(1921 - Bklyn Eagle)

Plan Weizmann Reception

Plans for the reception of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zion Organization, when he visits Boro Park on Tuesday, June 21, were brought almost to their final stages at a meeting of the reception committee at the Y.M.H.A. Building, 4910-14th ave last night. Every Jewish organization in Boro Park is to participate in the reception and a meeting of all of the organization is planned for next Tuesday evening. At that meeting a committee of ten will be appointed for each organization which will act as the arrangements committee for the final plans. They will meet on the Thursday following.

It will be the function of this committee to work among the Jewish families of the section in an effort to raise funds to present a testimonial to Dr. Weismann together with a substantial check on behalf of the Zion Movement.

(1921 - Bklyn Eagle)

McDougall Estate To Sell 560 Lots and Improved Property

Tract in New Utrecht section to be auctioned in Academy of Music. Winfield S. McDougall, executor of the Estate of the late Stewart McDougall, has authorized Bryan L. Kennelly to sell at absolute auction 560 lots on Fort Hamilton Parkway, new Utrecht ave, 8th 9th and 10th aves, and from 42nd to 46th st., inclusive, at the Academy of Music on the evening of June 23 and 24 at 8 p.m.

This is one of the largest tracts of improved vacant property located in the boro and the largest group of Brooklyn lots offered at auction in some time. The lots are on the line of the New Utrecht subway to Coney Island and the present West End line of the R.R.T. and on Fort Hamilton Parkway.

The property is improved with sewers and sidewalks and is graded, paved and has curved roadways. These improvements were made under direction of the city engineer at the expense of Mr. McDougall, and have been accepted by the city.

Included in the sale will be two 3 story brownstones, 2 family dwellings situated on 44th st.; also four apartment houses at the corner of 44th st. and Fort Hamilton and New Utrecht aves.

Surrounding the property in the property to be offered are a score of apartment houses and many include buildings now in the course of construction nearby.

The late Stewart McDougall bought the property about 43 years ago, when it was farm land, from the Baron Roosevelt and Beliknapp families. He was attracted to the locality by the view of the harbor and surrounding country. He had seven Neighbors at the time and the nearest school was a mile away. Since then marvelous changes have taken place. The section is thickly populated and there are eight schools and churches of all denominations near the property.

(1921 - Bklyn Eagle)

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You can help in the research, reservation and promotion of his community by submitting our own memories, photos and ther memorabilia. You can elp also by becoming a member f the Boro Park Historical ociety - only $5 per year ($3 etired or student) $10 - for usiness or organization, or by naking a contribution. Send naterials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following minutes of the annual membership meeting of the B.P.H.S. were prepared and submitted by Ms. Lucille Posner, secretary of the Organization.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

President Jacque Friedman welcomed the audience, and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society, and Lee Anne Infantino, a teacher at P.S. 105, 1031 59th, St. Lucille Posner, Secretary and Acquisitions Chairman of the Society, introduced guest speaker, Mike Getz. In 1930, Mike's mother, Rose Palter, moved to Boro Park (966-51st Street) with her mother. In 1937, Rose married Joe Getz at the Plaza Restaurant, 47th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. The young couple's first home was at 983 57th Street, in the apartment of Rose's sister, Esther Kolodny. Mike was born in 1938, and in 1942, Mike and his parents moved to 52nd st. and 18th Avenue. After Mike married Virginia in 1966, he bought a house at 58th Street near 21st Avenue, where he still lives. Tragically, Virginia died of cancer in 1994. During Virginia's illness, Mike visited Virgina in the hospital, and there met Lois, a childhood friend and respiratory therapist in the hospital. Lois and Mike were married in 1995. Mike has six published books to his credit, including his most recent book, *The (Brooklyn) Dodgers and Their Rivals*. He is currently writing *Brooklyn Boy*.

MIKE GETZ Guest Speaker

Mr. Getz said that about 40 of his relatives lived in Boro park and both he and his wife, Lois, were born in Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). Lois' family owned their own home at 18th Avenue and 58th Street (not far from where Mike and Lois live today). Mike had first met Lois in 1949, when they both had attended the same Boro Park Yiddish School. Mike recalled Dr. Benjamin, Lubitz, a prominent Boro Park doctor, and Dr. Otto Napelbaum, his family dentist. Rabbi Aronson gave private Hebrew lessons to Mike, to prepare him for becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* (son of the covenant). As a boy, Mike delivered groceries for Louis Rovinsky, the owner of a small grocery store on 52nd Street and 18th Avenue. Mike worked from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM every Saturday, and earned $5 a day plus tips - a good salary for a youngster in those days. He recalled The Book Center, 53rd and 13th Avenue, a second-hand bookstore, and a good source of second-hand comic books. He remembered seeing ex-President Harry Truman, who visited Boro Park in 1960 to campaign for John F. Kennedy for president. Mike displayed a baseball uniform that he had worn when he belonged to a teenage Boro Park softball team. At different times, he was a member of the Falcons and the Cobras, two ball teams. The Falcons "hung-out" on 17th Avenue and 53rd Street. He also played softball for the Royals.

At the conclusion of his talk, he threw the floor open for comments by the audience. Someone lamented the recent demise of the Famous, a dairy restaurant on 50th Street and 13th Avenue. There was mention of Whitey's Bar and Grill, 50th Street and New Utrecht Avenue (a "hang-out" of comedian Buddy Hackett), and Meyers Ice Cream Parlor, on 13th Avenue, where Buddy Hackett also "hung-out". Someone else recalled the long-gone trolley cars on New Utrecht Avenue. Mike displayed two books he wrote about baseball. Anyone who was present at the annual meeting is entitled to buy *The (Brooklyn) Dodgers and Their Rivals* for $5. less than the list price, no tax or charge for postage. For full details, contact Mike Getz. The book would make a good present for a baseball fan.

President Friedman thanked Mike Getz for his interesting talk, which had been greatly enjoyed by the audience.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

LEE ANNE INFANTO spoke briefly about the 75th anniversary of the present building of P.S. 105, and thanked the Society for its help in researching the school's history. A 75th anniversary party was recently held at a restaurant for the teachers, and a party for the pupils was recently held at the school.

President Friedman announced that the Society has received a grant from New York State for the mini-museum. The museum, which has displays of old photographs of Boro Park, old year books, and other items, can be visited by appointment.

He announced that anyone who is interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the Society, which meets once a month, should contact him.

President Friedman thanked the audience for attending the meeting on a rainy night, and thanked the members of the Boro Park Historical Society for their on-going support. Dues are $5 a year, $3 a year for retired people, and $10 a year for stores and institutions. Life membership for an individule is $100, and $200 for stores and institutions.

Ed: We thank Lucille Posner for her interesting and important contributions to this column and to the Boro Park Historical Society.

OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF BORO PARK

The following three articles, originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1923, were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan , an officer of the B.P.H.S.

IMPOSING TEMPLE TO BE DEDICATED BY BOROUGH PARK JEWS ON MAY 13.

The officers and members of congregation Beth-El of Boro 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 Motorcar Parade will be held at 1 o'clock on Sunday, May 13 from the Hebrew Institute on 13th Avenue and 50th Street. At 2 o'clock the builder, IL Willner, will hand over the key to Morris Kulok. Many prominent Rabbis high city and state officers and members of Judiciary have accepted invitations to be present. Cantor Mordechai Hershman will officiate. On Sunday evening the banquet will be tendered to the officers and members. On Monday evening, May 14 the Young Folks League of temple Beth-El will entertain and a dance will wind up the evening. On May 15the Sisterhood will be sponsors for a Concert to be rendered by the Cantors Association of America. Cantor Mordechai 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 25 men.

The arrangement committee for the dedication comprises H.I. Barnett Chairman; I. Andrea, secretary: M. Aronson. D. Becker. M. Bergman. M. Beinenstock, R. Brinberg, J. Dorfman, Dr. A. M. Edelman. Treasurer: L. Flaxman. L. I. Frank, S. Kabalsky, I. Karp, W. Kornblum, L. Kramer, M.



Loew's Boro Park - New Utrecht Ave. corner 51st Street. (circa 1950). Post Office now located on this site. Theatre was built in 1921 and had a total seating capacity of 2,600. (Courtesy B.P.H.S.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Kutok, A. Levin, S. A. Levy, M. Meiselman, M. Mapelbraun, W. Packela, L. Rosenzweig, A. Schlifien, S. J. Silverman, S. Soroko. A. Wohl, S. Streiser, H. Wilner.

CANTORS FEATURE BETH-EL SERVICE

Cantors, the jewish orthodox singers in the temples, came voluntarily in a body 120 strong from Manhattan last night to the dedication service held at the temple Beth-El of Boro Park. Prof. Zavel Zilbert is director of the Cantor's Association which includes in its membership some of the best singers in the country. The audience that heard this remarkable musical program numbered nearly 3,000 all gathered to celebrate the completion and the dedication of their temple, which has been in process of construction since 1920. Fifty percent, or $26,000 of the $50,000 to be raised last evening was collected in cash for the temple's fund. The Sisterhood of Beth El donated $5,000 in addition to $2,000 cash and the furnishing of two rooms in the building. Mr. Kullock gave $3,000 for the key to the Temple. The young People's League gave a $1,000 canopy for use in rituals, in addition to $250 in cash. A marble tablet to be erected in the lobby of the temple will bear the name of the donors of $1000 or more. The Sisterhood holds the control of the Golden Book of Life, which bears the names of generous benefactors to the temple's fund. Moses Napelbaum, the vice president of Temple Beth-El, publicly thanked the members of the Building Committee, the Sisterhood, the Young People's League, the Trustees and other members for their devotion and earnest labor on behalf of the building's completion.

(1923 Brooklyn Eagle)

BORO PARK THEATER BOUGHT BY LOEW

LEVY BROTHERS, BUILDERS, SELL HANDSOME PLAYHOUSE VALUED AT $750,000

The Boro Park Theater, one of the finest playhouses in the boro, situated on the block bounded by New Utrecht ave., 12th ave., 51st and 52nd sts., in the busiest section of the district, has been purchased by the Marcus loew Theatrical Enterprises Inc., from the Levy Brothers, who built the theater. The property, which covers over 13 and a half city lots and includes the theater, an office building and nine stores, was valued at $750,000. The theater is one of the many handsome buildings in the boro., devoted to moving pictures and vaudeville built by Levy Brothers.

The theater and business block was part of the tract of 100 lots acquired in 1919 by the Levy Brothers from the Realty Associates. The builders entered the Boro Park field about 10 years ago, and built many small homes and apartments in the section, where they later established the present business block in which the theater is the central feature. The theater was completed two years ago and has been successful from the opening night. It seats 2,500 persons and is the second theater sold by the operators in the past few months. They sold the Fifth ave. theater, which they built about 12 years ago. They still retain the Ridgewood and Redford Theaters. Levy Brothers were located at 189 Monague st. for a number of years. They moved to the Knickerbocker building in Manhattan about a month ago to larger quarters. The operators have figured in many deals involving property in the garment center.

(1923 -Brooklyn Eagle)

SEEKING FAMILY OF DR. HARRY MILLER

We were approached by individuals who are seriously seeking the whereabouts of Dr. Harry Miller and/or his family. The Doctor's Office (and residence) was located at 4712 12th Ave. untill 1959 (approx).

If anyone has any information about teh family, where they moved to from Boro Park ar where any members are located today please call Frieda Givon at 718 633-5309 or the newspaper. Any informaton will be greatly appreciated.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting your own memories and family history in the community. you can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only $5 per year ($3 for students or retired people). $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr (1905 - 2000)

Much has been written about the passing of Rabbi Dr. Israel Eliezer Schorr (OBM), one of the prominent Jewish Rabbinical leaders of Boro Park and the USA. Since his life and career were so interwoven with Boro Park we would like to summarize and preserve some of the historical aspects of his life related to Boro Park.

The funeral took place on Sunday April 2, 2000 (Deceased March 31) at the Young Israel - Beth El synagogue on 15th Avenue corner 48 St., where he had been the respected and beloved spiritual leader for close to 63 years. The papers estimated that about 3,000 people participated in the funeral although there had been very little publicity, no signs, no flyers, no loudspeakers informing the public. This columnist attended the funeral after accidentally hearing about it by a passing comment of a neighbor.

The largest synagogue in Boro Park was full of people upstairs, downstairs and in the hallways, and people were gathered in the street on 15th ave, which was closed to traffic, listening to the many eulogies through the loudspeakers. Most of the speakers and newspaper eulogies pointed to his brilliant mind, talmudic scholarship insatiable love of learning, coupled with kindness, tenderness and humor.

At 95 he was still an active Rabbi and lectured daily to large groups, until the very end. He undoubtedly set some kind of a longevity record. He was an active Rabbi in the Boro Park community for 73 consecutive years and Rabbi of Beth El for 63 of those years. I don't know if there is another Rabbi or clergyman of any faith throughout the country who can beat that record for longevity in a single community or individual institution.

This columnist interviewed Rabbi Dr. Schorr (OBM) briefly in 1981 and carried some information about him in this column of Oct. 1981. The following information was gathered from that interview and from the various articles and obituaries that appeared in the Jewish Press and N.Y. Times.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Eliezer Schorr (OBM) was born in 1905 in Galicia, Poland. He was recognized at an early age as a genius and child prodigy. At the age of 16 his name already appeared in published Halachic Responsa. In 1926 he married Bertha Diamond who had been raised in Philadelphia but had come to Galicia to attend a relative's wedding.

In 1927 he and his new wife emigrated from Kocov in Galicia, where he had been a Dayan (Rabbinical Judge), to America. He was granted a Visa to come to the USA at the invitation of congregation Tifereth Yisroel to serve as their Rabbi. Congregation Tifereth Israel Anshei Sfard was located on Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 57th St. and served a membership of some 65 families. This was one of the rare cases in those days of a new immigrant coming directly to Boro Park.

He was later appointed as the Rabbi of a chasidic shule on 12th Ave and 37 st.; that building is now being used as a plumbing supply business. In 1931 he was appointed Rabbi of Cong. Beth Israel of 11th Ave and 56th St. Then in 1937 when the pulpit of Temple Beth El became available Rabbi Schorr was elected to that position where he remained to the very end.

When Rabbi Schorr first came to America he wore the traditional chasidic clothing and long curled payos (side curls) but he could not speak any English. He applied himself industriously with his brilliant mind, and read the N.Y. Times daily looking up each word for meaning, usage and pronunciation. He was later accepted to and attended Columbia University Graduate School of English Literature where he ultimately earned a Ph D and became a professor of the subject for a short time. In addition to his erudition in Talmud and Bible he was also known for his enormous knowledge of philosophy, the arts and sciences and English Literature.

The Schorrs lived in the apartment building at 4800 14th ave probably for the past 63 years (perhaps another record of sorts). They had one daughter Golde (Gail) who attended Shulamith School in Boro Park. She was married to a Dr. Lawrence Horowitz and they reside in Lawrence N.Y.

Among the Rabbi's numerous titles and positions, were those of president of the Boro Park Board of Rabbis for many years and president of the Hapoel Hamizrachi national organization (now R.Z.A.) for many years.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

At the funeral services, chaired by David Silverman, Honorary President of Beth El eulogies were delivered by many prominent Rabbis, relatives and by leaders of the community. The casket was carried through the streets of 15th Ave followed by a large procession and finally driven to and interred in Beth David Cemetery in Elmint, N.Y.

Additional memorial services were held at the Young Israel - Beth El on Sunday May 7 and additional eulogies were delivered by many prominent Rabbis. Many distinguished personalities from government, community and rabbinate were in attendance.

Young Israel - Beth El of Boro Park

A few words of historical backgrounds are in order here about the synagogue itself even though much has been written about it in these columns in the past.

Temple Beth El was the first synagogue in Boro Park. It was originally established in 1902 and its first building was built in 1906, at 12 Ave corner 41 st. The original building is still in use and is called congregation Anche Lubawitz of Boro Park. The new Magnificent building of Temple Beth El, at 4802 15 ave. was built in 1920. It is a masterpiece of moorish design featuring a magnificent dome, acoustical engineering perfection and seating capacity of over 1400 in the main sanctuary.

In 1980 (approximately), the name of the synagogue was changed from Temple Beth El to Congregation Beth El in order to avoid any confusion about its religious affiliation. Then in 1988 it merged with the Young Israel of Boro Park and its new official name became Young Israel - Beth El of Boro Park. After the merger, Rabbi Moshe Snow, who was formerly the Rabbi of the Young Israel became the associate Rabbi of the merged synagogue. After the passing of Rabbi Schorr, Rabbi Snow assumed the fall spiritual leadership of the synagogue.

The current presidium of the shule consists of Zvi Lazar, Joseph Piontica and Jack Weinstein. The chairman of the board is Mortimer Chrein and the cantor Ben Zion Miller.

Boro Parkers on Cape Cod

Whenever we travel to other communities, in the USA, or other countries, we make it a point of interest to inquire about present or former Boro Parkers. We are almost always surprised to find some Boro Parkers amongst our fellow travelers and amongst those people with whom we came into contact in the communities we are visiting.

We recently went on a delightful tour of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Plymouth Mass. with a company called "Touring Friends Ltd". Amongst the over 50 participants in the tour, there were 13 present or former Boro Parkers, including my wife and myself. We were able to obtain the following bits of related information.

The tour directors and leaders of this trip. Leah (nee Edelstein) and Harvey Krasnow are former Boro Parkers. Leah was born in Boro Park in Israel Zion Hospital while her family lived at 1610 43rd St. Her family then moved to 1564 50th St. (demolished). When Leah married Harvey Krasnow they lived at 4901 14th Ave for five years until they moved to Far Rockaway. Leah's mother Henia Edelstein still lives in the Tel Aviv building at 1528 49th St. Her father Zalman (RIP) was deceased in 1984. Leah grew up in Boro Park and attended Shulamith School, Central H.S. and Brooklyn College. She taught science at Seth Lew JHS for a few years and then went into the field of Gerontology.

Harvey grew up in Boston. In New York he was a teacher in public high schools then became assistant principal at Westinghouse H.S. in Brooklyn. He is now retired from public education and serves as High School Principal at Mesivta of Long Beach. While he lived in Boro Park he attended services at the Agudath Israel of 16th Ave.

The bus driver (Monsey Trails Co.) Yakov Shtauber, is a former Boro Parker. He lived with his parents Efraim and Miriam Shtauber at 1563 46th St. until his marriage. He now lives in Flatbush but his parents still live at the same address.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

The four participants who are present or former Boro Parkers were: Judy Markowitz who now lives on 54th St. and is a retired public school teacher. She has been mentioned in this column in the past. Jack and Sandra Lebowitz. Jack was born in his home on Gravesand Ave. (now McDonald) between Ditmas and Cortelou. he lived in Boro Park on 18th Ave. all his life except for the 3 1/2 years he spent in the U.S. Airforce during WWII. He was the proprietor of Colonial Decorators on 18th ave near 47st until Feb '93. Jack's father Emanuel (RIP) opened that business in April 1924.

Mrs. Weichman and her two daughters were on the tour. They now live on 41 st.

Eileen Scheff (Maiden name Rosenfeld) was born in Boro Park and lived at 4701 10 ave. She now lives in Flatbush but has been working in Boro Park at the Kolel Supermarket 1325 39 St. for the past 10 years.

Helen Ditchek who now lives in Flatbush was born in Boro Park. Her maiden name was Zaremsky and the family lived on Ft Hamilton Pkwy and 56 St. She said her family lived near the Shule where Rabbi Israel Schorr had his first Rabbinical position in Boro Park, on Ft. Hamilton Pkway and 57 st. From there the family moved to 1546 45St., in the same house as her cousin-Ista Gordon, where they lived for four years. They then moved to 1571 46 st, second house from the gas station located there then, (now Independence Savings Bank). They lived here for four years and then moved to 5002 Old New Utrecht Rd. in 1944. Her father Samuel Zaremsky (RIP) had a men's clothing store on the Lower East Side and was deceased in 1966. Her mother Bertha (RIP) was deceased in 1972.

Herb Foster of Martha's Vineyard

We met Herb Foster when we visited the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. He was president of the Center and was speaking to our group about the center and about Jewish life in the area. After he spoke I went over to him to ask him where he was from because he didn't speak with a local dialect. He said he was originally from Brooklyn N.Y. I asked which section of Brooklyn he was from. He said he was from a small section called Boro Park and "Did you ever hear of it?" After I convinced him that I heard of it and that I also was from Boro Park and considered Boro Park to be one of the most important communities in Brooklyn and perhaps in the entire U.S.A. he related some of his Boro Park background to me.

His first address in Boro Park was at 1012 57 St. and then moved to 57 St. near 15th ave. He lived with his parents Max and Sadie Finkelstein (RIP) who worked in the Garment Industry and were deceased in Boro Park. Herb remembered that his Bar Mitzvah took place at Cong. Beth Israel on 11th Ave. and 56 St. He attended P.S. 105 and Shallow J.H.S. He was active in the Boy Scouts at the YMHA, and his scout master was Abe Hershkowitz, before Abe became teh Director of the YMHA. When he grew older Herb became a teacher and administrator in the NYC Public School System where he worked for 17 years. He worked in various "600" schools and taught Jr. Guidance classes- programs for emotionally disturbed children.



60th Street, looking from 17th Avenue to 16th Avenue, 1923. Note the early car models, the parking spaces and overhead telephone cables. (courtesy of Municiple Archives)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

He left Boro Park in 1958 when he became a college professor at the University of Buffalo. That was about all the information I could gather in the little time we had. However Herb Foster did explain that his name was originally Finkelstein. When his brother changed his name to Foster, for professional reasons, he thought it would be more convenient and practical for both of them to have the same family name so he changed his as well.

It is interesting to note the high percentage of present or former public school teachers (including this columnist) who were from Boro Park and on this trip.

Old Newspaper Clippings

The following three articles, originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1922, were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer at the B.P.H.S. It may be of interest to note some of the differences and similarities to today's problems, activities and use of language.

Coal Chief Duitz Assures Boro Park of Fuel Supply

We have stopped Coughing by Peddlers, He tells Welfare Association. The residents of Boro Park and vicinity who attended a meeting at the Hoffman Mansion, 50th st. and 15th Ave., last night were heartened to by the announcement made by Martin M. Duitz, the new Fuel Administrator for the district, that "the coal situation, as far as Boro Park is concerned, is working out very well., and in a very few weeks the people of this community will have sufficient, or at least some, coal in their cellars to carry them through a critical period."

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Community Welfare Association of Boro Park and the Boro Park Democratic Association's relief committee. The object was to receive request for coal, and to hear any complaints. More than 200 persons visited the headquarters during the evening and all were present during the talk given by Mr Duitz. "I want to take advantage of this opportunity," he said, "of telling the people of this district what they may expect in the way of coal relief. I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Desbroock of Desbrook & Co. for the able assistance he has given me in taking care of deliveries. If all the other coal men would act as he has, this situation would be greatly facilitated.

The Fuel Administration is working hard and doing all it can, but has a big job on its hands, and is doing all that is possible during this trying period. I am going to take up the matter with them this week and that is the reports that the Commonwealth Fuel Company and Burns Bros. are delivering two and in some cases as many as four tons of coal in one week to some people, while others who need it more have difficulty in getting any.

Another practice which I think we have effectively put a stop to is extortion by peddlers From now on the peddlers who have been the biggest gougers will have to take a back seat as far as this section is concerned. It has been the practice for these men to hang around Desbrook's yard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and as many as 200 clogging up 53rd street from 15th to 18th aves.. trying to get coal from this yard which they retail at $16 to $25 a ton, while others delivered loads to individuals for which they charged as high as $10 per ton for carting.

"Mr. Desbrook and myself took up the matter and have agreed that these peddlers must first deliver three loads for us before they receive one for themselves. The results is that we delivered coal to about 200 more families yesterday."

"To those who already have plenty of coal in their cellars, I wish to inform you that we investigate each case, having a special investigator for the purpose, and those who are most in need will be saved. There is no use trying to get this committee to give you what you don't need.

"I have requested Boro President Riegelmann to limit traffic on 53rd street, as deliveries may be facilitated and with the congestion caused by...

(1922 - Brooklyn Eagle)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Jews Dedicate New School in Boro Park

The dedication of the New Jewish school, the Machzike Talmud Torah, at 1319 43rd st., Boro Park, took place yesterday afternoon before a large gathering of Jewish citizens of the neighborhood. United States Senator William M. Calder and Boro President Edward Riegelmann, who were invited to attend the exercises, sent regrets at their inability to attend. Considerable enthusiasm for for the school's growth was shown, and a fund of several hundred dollars was a subscribed to the school's building fund.

A procession of the 900 scholars of the school, who carried Jewish and American flags, was an interesting feature of the of the afternoon's program. The key to the new building was presented by the chairman of the building committee. Max Helman, and accepted by the president of the Talmud Torah , I.L. Marks. The chairman of the arrangements committee, Jacob Neinken, and the Rev. Dr. Z. H. Maallansky made addresses. The closing prayer was offered by Rabbi M. J. Peikes.

The new building is ready for occupancy and will accommodate 400 pupils. It stands beside the old school, which will be occupied as formerly. It is estimated that a total of 1,500 pupils will soon be enrolled in the two buildings. (1922 - Bklyn Eagle)

Graft Charge Made In Move To Block Big New Apartment

Residents Offered $3,500 profit to stop building company wants $20,00 is claim. On behalf of himself and 50 other property owners in. the neighborhood of 15th ave. and 53rd st., Martin M. Duitz today came before justice Fawceit in Supteme Court with an application for an injunction to prevent the G. & H. Building . Co. from proceeding with the construction of a 43 family apartment house.

Grover M. Moscowitz, attorney for Duitz, told the court that the proposed apartment, the foundation of which has been laid; was springing up in the midst of private residences, many of which $100,000 or more. The work has been rushed pending final outcome of a petition by the residents to change 15th ave. into a zone which would make apartment houses a violation and a recommendation had been made to the city plan committee that the very part where the apartment is being erected be eliminated.

When Mr. Moscowitz asked for a postponement of the hearing, an attorney representing the G. & H. Company, the name said to be the initials of men named Grossman and Holland, insisted vigorously, that the hearing proceed forthwith. Mr. Moscowitz then told the court that the neighbors of the proposed apartment house had offered to buy out the prospectors interests.

(1922 - Brklyn Eagle)

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting your own memories and family history in the community. you can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only.$5 per year ($3 for students or retired people). $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Manny & Elaine Wollman

On November 15, 2000 my wife and I participated in a get together to greet Manny and Elaine Wollman - old friends and former Boro Parkers - who were on a visit from Israel. A group of twenty five of the Wollman's old friends met for dinner at the Garden of Eat-In restaurant on Ave. J and E. 14 st.

The Wollman's moved to Israel twenty years ago and live in Gilo, Jerusalem, an area currently under attack by the violence of the Palestinian "intifada." They described the political situation in Israel and the death and destruction caused by the Palestinian violence.

Afterwards, I interviewed the Wollmans briefly about their Boro Park background and memories. Elaine said that she was born in Boro Park, in Israel Zion hospital. Her grandparents Charles Louis (Chaim) and Saly Schlesinger moved to Boro Park in 1918 from Manhattan and lived at 1610 48th Street. Her grandparents had a butcher store on New Utrecht Ave between 47th and 48th st. which was later taken over by Sam Friedman (the Torah reader in the Young Israel of Boro Park for many years). Her grandfather opened a second butcher store on 16th ave between 55 and 56th st. He was one of the founding members of Cong. Bnei Judah at 16th ave and 53rd st. and Yeshiva Etz Chaim on 13th Ave. and 50st.

Elaine's parents William and Bertha Ehrenfeld were married in the Temple Beth El on Dec 6, 1925 and were one of the first couples to be married in that Shule not long after it was built. The Schlesingers had ten children brought up in Boro Park, the sons attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim. The Ehrenfelds first lived in the apartment above the butcher store on 16 ave near 55 st, then moved to 57st. between 15 and 16th ave., then to 1610 48st. and finally to 1676 48th st.

William Ehrenfeld worked as a conductor on the BMT train line now called the "B" train. He retired as a city transit worker in 1968. They moved to Miami Beach Florida in 1970, after selling their house in Boro Park. William passed away in Florida in 1982.

Bertha Ehrenfeld then moved to Israel in 1983 and lived their until her recent demise July 20, 2000 at the ripe old age of almost 97 years, perfectly alert until the very end.

The Ehrenfelds had two daughters Sybil Vogel and Elaine Wollman. They both live in Jerusalem Israel. Sybil's husband Dan was a professor at Stern College and former president of the Young Israel of Boro Park.

Elaine attended P.S. 180 at 5601 16th ave, then Montaulk J.H.S at 4200 16 ave. and then New Utrecht H.S. She played in the orchestra at N.U.H.S. and YMHA. She also attended Hebrew School at Talmud Torah Tiferes Elchonon (at Cong. Bnei Judah) then Machzikei Talmud Torah at 1315 43 st. and then at Marshaliah Hebrew High School which met in the building of Machzikei Talmud Torah.

Elaine served as a girl scout leader and Day Camp Counselor at the YMHA of B.P. She studied at Hunter College and earned a degree in music and Physical Education. She worked at H.A.S.C. as a music therapist and social worker. She received her Masters degree in Social Work from Columbia U. School of Social Work. Her specialty was group work with the elderly. Elaine and Manny were married in June 1954 and first lived in Flatbush.

In 1957 they purchased a house and moved there, at 1818 48st., where they lived until 1980 when they went on aleya to Israel.

Manny was a public school teacher and served at P.S. 217K in Brooklyn. He was also a U.S War Veteran of WWII. He was a member of the Marcus Smolowitz Post of the Jewish War Veterans in Boro Park. In fact while living in Israel Manny serves as the commander of the Jewish War Veterans Post 180 and the chairman of the Retired Teachers Association of the UFT in Israel. While in B.P. Manny attended services at the Young Israel of Boro Park and at Ohel Abraham Mishkon Yosef at 4907 18th ave and at Rabbi Felders Shule at 4901 18 ave.

Elaine worked as a Social Worker and was an accomplished Musician playing the double base viola. She was an active member of the Hana group of Emunah Women. In Israel she also did some social work with the elderly. She now continues to play her double base viola in Israel.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

The Wollman's have four children, Surila Lebowitz, Dr. Miriam Pollack, Dr. Simcha Elyashiv and Abraham Wollman. they all live in Israel. The Wollman's are available to greet and welcome any old friends who wish to visit in Israel.

Dear Dr. Kipust

The following obituary appeared in The New York Times of September 19, 2000.

"KNAPP, Emily Litchfield, 90, of Miami, died September 17th, daughter of Norman and Cora Snowden Litchfield. she was a librarian in Fairfield, CT, a children's librarian for the New York Public Library System, and the Fifth Avenue School, East Northport, NY. She lived for many years in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y."

Emily, Litchfield Knapp was the great-granddaughter of Electus B. Litchfield, who founded Blythebourne in 1886. In 1898, the settlement of Boro Park was founded in the same area and soon engulfed the town of Blythebourne, whose name survives in the name of the local Post Office.

Emily Litchfield was also, the grand-daughter of the Reverend Robert Bayard Snowden, rector of St. Jude's Episcopal Church.

The Boro Park Historical Society extends sincere condolences to Emily Litchfield Knapp's daughter, Emily Willis, and to her entire family.

Lucille Posner

(ED: We thank Lucille Posner, an officer of the B.P.H.S. for her interesting contribution)

Old Newspaper Clippings

The following four articles, originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1924, were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer at the B.P.H.S. It may be of interest to note some of the differences and similarities to today's problems, activities and use of language.

Lay Cornerstone at St. Catharine's

The cornerstone of the new Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 41st. and Fort Hamiltion Parkway, was placed in position yesterday afternoon by the Rt. Rev. Mons. Joseph MacNamee. An impressive sermon was preached by Mons. John H. Healy of Manhattan. The band from St. John's Orphan Home played before and after the ceremony.

Yesterday's event was due to the untiring work of the rector of the church, the Rev. John J. O'Meil who has ministered to the spiritual needs of the parish for 22 years.

The church is expected to be completed by September, 1925, and will cost approximately $425,000. The work is being done under the direct supervision of Emile G. Perrot, the architect.

(Brooklyn Eagle,1924)

Run on Bank Ends; $450,000 Paid Out, Controller Says

Boro Park Institution, With $11,000,000 Assets, Again Functioning Normally.

Branch of the Municipal Bank; 13th Ave and 56th st., practically ended today when a line of 60 depositors withdrew their funds. In all, $450,000 was withdrawn from the bank, according to Controller James C. Hasle. Yesterday $90,000 was paid out, the former customers carrying away their money mostly in $1 bills.

Today the National Surety Company sent a check to the bank covering the shortage laid to Victor Schwartz, former manager. The bank with assets amounting to $11,000,000, is again functioning normally.

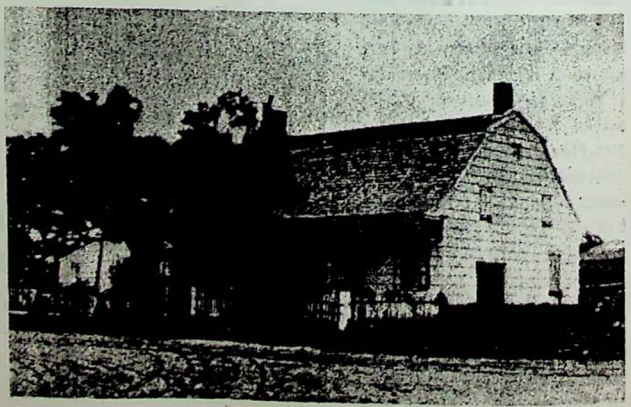


Photo: Cowenhoven farmhouse, Old New Utrecht Rd & 49 st. circa 1890. (courtesy of Boro Park Historical Society archives, donated by Catherine Cowenhoven)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Asked if the Municipal Bank officials would prosecute, President Barnett today said that he and the other officials of the bank would positively prosecute to the fullest extent.

(Brooklyn Eagle 1924)

Boro Park Folk to Demand More Police Protection

Residents Declare They are Unable to Leave Homes Unprotected While Absent.

Declaring that the burglary "industry" in Boro Park has developed to such proportions that residents of the section are afraid to leave their homes unprotected at any time. Joseph Side announced yesterday that the recently organized Civic Association, of Boro Park of which he is president will soon hold a mass meeting in an effort to obtain adequate police protection.

"We need relief and are going to demand it in no uncertain terms," said Mr. Side. "Our community is one of the wealthiest in the city and, paying heavy taxes, we are entitled to protection by the police. We intend to get it immediately."

The organization will make a specific request for the erection of a police booth in the neighborhood. There have been more than 100 burglaries and nine holdups in the section in the last year according to Mr. Side. The condition has become so acute he stated , that drastic action is

(Brooklyn Eagle 1924)

Score Park Plan; Ask More Police

Three Bold Robberies Cited to Prove Need

The smoldering indignation of residents of the Boro Park section against the alleged abusive treatment" accorded them by city authorities and officials was fanned into a red-hot spirit of public opinion by the oratory of the speakers at a meeting held last night in Schwartz's Hall, 52nd st. and New Utrecht ave. The meeting was attended by about 450 persons to "protest against a heavy assessment for a park at New Utrecht ave. between 58th and 59th st. which is to be assessed on a local area as absolutely unnecessary and an imposition on our now overburdened tax payers."

"We don't want a park. Give us a station house instead." Thundered Alphonse Hirsch, counsel for the newly formed Boro Park Taxpayers Association.

"The greatest crime in the history of New York State was committed right in this neighborhood because we are deplorably lacking in adequate police protection. The murder of the West Bank messengers on the New Utrecht ave. elevated station might well have been avoided had there been sufficient bluecoats here to install a respect and dutiful regard for law and order," he asserted.

The speaker cited three bold robberies that had occurred in the Boro Park section recently.

A representative from Boro Park President Reigelmann's office, who was recognized in the rear of the hall, was requested by James Kicoyne, chairman, to come to the front so that he "might the better hear the citizens."

About 500 signatures were secured last night to a petition that will be presented to the members of the Board of Estimate next Tuesday morning, protesting the park action.

Opportunity was taken to voice complaints at the meeting against many of the alleged abuses of the other city officials. Particularly anger was voiced against the long delay at registration and election booths, because of the failure of the Election Board to apportion sufficient election district captains.

Complaint was also made against the lighting and mail service. The meeting was closed with a collection to defray expenses for the battle at next week's board meeting.

(Brooklyn Eagle 1924)

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

THE BROOKLYN AMERICAN REVOLUTION HERITAGE TRAIL

By Robert Furman

The Germans came marching up the New Utrecht Road. No one turned out to cheer them on. They and their allies had landed at the Gravesend shore and at Denyse's ferry on the 22nd. thousands strong, and encamped at Gravesend Village, and proceeded north. When the invaders reached Church Lane, they headed east and halted at Flatbush Village. They were mostly Hessians and Scots Highlanders. When the Whigs at Valley Grove Pass discovered them, skirmishing ensued, resulting in many houses being burned.

A couple of days later, a British force followed the same route but bore left when they reached the crossroads where New Utrecht forked into Martense Road. They marched along below the Heights of Guan, scaring the local population. The forward units reached the Red Lion Inn where the Gowanus and Martense Roads met, and the Rebels in that area began fighting back.

This is not the scenario of a bad World War II film. This actually happened, not in 1942, but in 1776. And if some of the names are familiar, it is because the events occurred in the rural and agricultural Kings County of that time, one that was inhabited by Dutch and British farmers and their slaves.

These were the opening moves in the Battle of Brooklyn, the largest battle of the American Revolution, when 35,000 invaders faced 15,000 Continental army soldiers under George Washington. And while we lost the battle, we frustrated the British bid to win the war by evacuating our army to Manhattan.

Every part of Brooklyn was affected by the invasion, as families divided between Whig and Tory. Simon Cortelyou, a scion of the prominent family that produced George B. Cortelyou, a cabinet member in Teddy Roosevelt's administration, disgraced his rebel relatives by fighting for George III. He lies with them in Barkaloo Cemetery at Narrows Avenue and McKay Place in Bay Ridge.

While urbanization has obscured many of the places that saw what was obviously the most important event in Brooklyn's history, every now and then on pokes its head up through the geometric street grid that covered over the hills, valleys, marshes and creeks where Native Americans once roamed.

Borough Park's remnant of that time is the Old New Utrecht Road, which today is mostly Eighteenth Avenue, but veers off to the west at 53rd Street. Gradually, most of it has been de-mapped, ceded to private owners, but some of it remains at the southern crossroads and at 39th street, which was Martense Lane, and Church Avenue.

A stroll through Green-Wood Cemetary will remind you that the past is not gone, as you visit the Alter to Library, on Battle Hill, the highest point in Brooklyn, where the Statue of Liberty faces in honor of the first blows for freedom struck by the newly independent United States, as will a visit to numerous other hallowed grounds such as Battle Pass in Prospect Park or Flatbush Reformed Dutch Church.

We urge you to join the Boro Park Historical Society in supporting the *Brooklyn American Revolution Heritage Trail* , which will bring history to life for ourselves, our children and curios visitors by saying "This happened here, and if you look, you can still see its leavings." Contact Bob Furman of First Battle Revival Alliance

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Goldstein -Schaum Wedding

On November 22, 2000 I attended a wedding of two "true blue" Boro Park families. Goldstein and Schaum. The groom Elyahu Goldstein and the bride Chaya Schaum are both fourth generation Boro Parkers. The wedding took place in a Boro Park wedding hall, Ateres Chaya, and the over 500 guests present looked like wall to wall, past and present Boro Parkers.

Ateres Chaya hall is located in an historical Boro Park building on 14th Ave. between 53rd and 54th st., formerly P.S. 103, the first public school built in Boro Park. The hall itself was built on the former school yard or playground of that school.

We've carried articles in the past about, and from the Goldstein family (Goldstein Press 4602 16th Ave). Moshe (Morris) RIP and Chaya (Ida) RIP Goldstein moved to Boro Park from Providence, Rhode Island in 1930 and lived at 1443 45th st. Mr. Goldstein established a printing business and printing press in the basement of his house. He moved the business to the store at 4604 16th Ave in 1956. His son Shmuel (Samuel) learned the business and took over in 1961 when his father retired. Moshe and Chaya moved to Israel in 1962. The store was expanded to include the adjoining store at 4602 in 1965.

Shmuel's son Aron, father of the groom now manages the business. The Goldstein press is most probably the oldest printing business in Boro Park still in operation.

The parents of the groom, Aron and Gitel (nee Turec) were married in 1977 and live at 901 50th St. The Grandparents Shmuel and Toby Goldstein live at 1739 47th St.

Both Aron and his son Eliyahu - the groom attended the Yeshiva Karlin Stolin at 1818 54th st. and Yeshiva High Schools and post high schools outside of Boro Park. Aron's daughters attended Beth Jacob of Boro Park.

Aron has been an active member of Halzolah Volunteers (Emergency Medical Service) for the past nine years as a paramedic. He took care of the Bobover Rebbe (O.B.M.) for the last 17 months of his life providing emergency assisted care. He is also a member of the Agudath Israel of 9th Ave.

The bride, Chaya Schaum, daughter of Philip and Barbara, traces her Boro Park lineage to her maternal great grandparents, Nathan (Nachum) and Yetta Haim. The Haim's moved to Boro Park from the lower east Side of Manhattan, in 1923, to 46th Street between 12th and 13th aves. Nathan Haim, a customer peddler, was one of the original members of Cong. Shomrei Shabbos located on the corner of 13th ave and 53rd st.

Yetta Haim's maiden name was Greenfield and she was part of the well known large Greenfield family of early Boro Park. The Haims raised seven children in Boro Park. The son's attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim and one daughter Miriam, grandmother of the bride, attended public school as there was no girls yeshiva in those years. Miriam attended Pershing J.H.S. and New Utrecht HS. She also attended afternoon Machzikei Talmud Torah, then at 1315 43 St.

Miriam married Jacob (RIP) Gold in 1938 and lived in the apartment house on 52nd and 14th Ave. Jack and Miriam Gold raised three children in Boro Park who were born in Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides). Avi and Saul attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and Barbara, mother of the bride, attended Shulamit School for girls. Jack Gold had a necktie business in the Lower East Side, he was deceased in Nov. 1976. Jack and Miriam Gold lived at 1333 51 St. where Barbara was born, then at 1324 52 St., then at 1360 46th St., where Barbara was married. Miriam Gold now lives at 4800 14 Ave.

Barbara married Phil Schaum, a Williamsburg boy, on Sept 11, 1963 and lived at 1347 48 St.. In 1976 they moved to their present apartment at 1566 45 St. the address from which the bride, Chaya was born at Maimonides Hospital. Chaya attended Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn (1362 49 St.) then Machon Hilda Bim HS and Seminary at 1680 42 St. She now works as an assistant kindergarten teacher at Yeshiva Torah Temima and attends Touro College for a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Phil Schaum and Shmuel Goldstein are both long time active members of the 16th Ave Agudath Israel at 4911 16th Ave.

Barbara Schaum said she remembers when Boro Park had many beautiful large homes with large lawns and there were many places in the street to park cars.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

She also remembers when Beth Jacob Elementary School was built on the corner of 46th St. and 14 Ave., right across the street from where she lived. She remembers the very large house on the corner of 14 Ave. and 46 St. which was thrown down to make room for the school. She also recalls that the corner house had a large two story garage which reminded her of a farmhouse. Mrs. Schaum also remembers the delightful walks with her mother, window shopping in the elegant shops along 13th Ave. In those days there were no gates on the store front not even at night so the merchandise was in full view.

TERESA STERNE (RIP) 1927-2000

The New York Times of Dec. 12, 00 carried an obituary entitled "Tereasa Sterne, 73, Pioneer in making classical Records". She had died in her home in Manhattan on Sunday Dec. 10, 00. She had been suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The obituary was written by Anthony Tommasini, who also wrote an article about her in the N.Y. Times of July 31, 00, entitled "A Scene-Stealer Behind the Scenes! Teresa Sterne, Musical Prodigy, Sacrificed her own an so others might be heard"

No where in either article however, did it mention that Ms. Sterne, called Tracy by her friends and colleagues, was brought up and lived in Boro Park almost all of her life. In fact this column carried a few articles about and from Ms. Sterne and her Boro Park memories. Tracy was also active, during her last few years, on the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Board, and traveled in from Manhattan, until prevented by her illness, to attend BPHS meetings.

The Sterne family first moved to Boro Park in 1930 from Bedford Styvesant when Tracy was 3 years old. The family consisting of Tracy's father, mother, maternal grandmother, aunt and two uncles moved to the stucco house at 1657 49th St. Tracy loved that house and fondly described the architecture, the stained glass windows, the interior and exterior detailed structure and decor, the dark grained oak wood shipped directly from Norway etc. in her articles. When her family passed away, one by one, and Tracy who was never married, was left alone, she decided to sell her house so that she could spend her time in Manhattan where her work and associates were now located. In 1995 she finally sold the house and was very sad when the house at 1657 49th St. was thrown down by the new owners and a new home (not yet finished) built in its place.

The following are a few excerpts from the NY Times Obituary.

Ms. Sterne was born in Brooklyn on March 29, 1927 to a very musical and cultured family. "Her mother was a cellist who gave up her career to nurture her musical daughter. Her father, a violinist, deserted the family when she was 14. Her paternal uncle, Robert Sterne, a professional violinist, became an important mentor".

"From the age of 10, she was educated at home by private tutors, living with her mother and a beloved aunt in "a kind of aristocratic poverty", as she once told a friend. In 1939, when she was 12, she made her professional debut as a pianist playing Grieg's Piano Concerto with the NBC Symphony Orchestra at Madison Square Garden. The next year she played T' Chaikovsky's Piano Concerto with the New York Philharmonic at Lewisohn Stadium, winning cheers from the audience and glowing reviews from the critics. Her career as a prodigy flourished."

"But after such a rarefied and isolated upbringing., Ms. Sterne felt that she lacked the pragmatism and confidence to pursue a professional career. Wanting experience in the real



Webster Pond, located by 10th ave, 48 and 49 Sts, circa 1901. First building of Israel Zion Hospital built on this site. (Picture Donated by Maimonides Medical Center to Boro Park Historical Society).

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

world, she became a secretary, soon winding up in the offices of the powerful manager Sol Hurok, where she nurtured the careers of the other young artists. A series of administrative jobs, including assistant to the director of Vanguard Records, led to her hiring by Nonesuch."

Ms. Sterne became director of Nonesuch Records from 1965 to 1979 and was very successful in turning a small company into one of the most adventurous companies in the music recording business. Although she gave up public performance as an adult she maintained close ties with the artists, composers and performers of her day. She nurtured relationships with performers, encouraged them and involved herself with promoting their careers.

This year, Robert Hurwitz, director of Nonsuch since 1984 and "a great admirer of Ms Sterne, issued a two disc recording in tribute to her, containing highlights from favorite albums she had produced and live recordings of performances she gave in her early years as a piano prodigy."

Ms. Sterne, who never married, leaves no immediate survivors. Her good friends and neighbors in Manhattan, who took such good care of her during her fatal and debilitating illness, are planning a memorial service for her. In comments she made to her friends she had indicated that she planned to leave her assets for scholarships for young musicians.

Old Newspaper Clippings

The following two articles, originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1921, were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the BPHS. It may be of interest to note some of the differences and similarities to today's problems, activities and use of language.

SELL CORNERSTONES AT TEMPLE EXERCISE

Two for New Beth-El Edifice in Boro Park Brought $4,000 Each - Throng at Ceremony.

A distinct innovation appeared in the program for the laying of the cornerstones of the new Temple Beth-El, 15th ave. and 48th st., Boro Park, yesterday afternoon, when the cornerstones facing 15th ave. were sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kulack and Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Nelselman for $4,000 each. The purchasers obtained the privilege of laying the stones and will have the further distinction of having their names inscribed thereon.

Scores of automobiles formed the procession that moved from the old temple at 12th ave. and 41st st. to the new site, where the ceremony took place. Moses Napelbaum, chairman of the building committee, made the introductory address, introducing the various speakers and officiated as auctioneer during the sale. Rabbi Hirschowitz of Temple Beth-El offered prayer. I. J. Zevin, a journalist, who writes under the name of Tushrak, was the first speaker introduced. He told of the development of the Boro Park section during the past 12 years and the prominent part played in this development by the Beth El congregation. According to Mr. Zevin the Temple Beth El has been responsible for the many Jewish institutions that have sprung up in the Boro Park section of the late years. The wealth of its members has made possible the schools, hospitals and other institutions in this section of Brooklyn. He spoke of the outward movement of some building activities along 15th ave. which made a new location for the temple desirable.

Others who spoke briefly were Rabbi Pikes, M. Bienenstock, president of the Beth El congregation, Jacob Lieberman, former president of the congregation, Rabbi Gordon and Rabbi B. Reuben Weilerstein of Temple Emanuel, Boro Park. The Rev. Jacob Rapaport, cantor of the congregation Beth El officiated during the ceremonies of laying the two corner stones. Musical numbers interspersed the speaking. (Brooklyn Eagle 1921)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

PROTESTANTS SEEK TO UNITE CHURCHES AROUND BORO PARK

Pastor Kemm says This Would Eliminate Waste of Money And Man Power

The Rev. Ezra Burdette Kemm, pastor of the Boro Park Christian Church, 45th st. and 12th ave. has originated a movement to unite the various Protestant churches of Boro Park in order "to eliminate the sinful waste of money and man-power" and to avoid multiplication of church forces.

In order to carry into effect this proposed plan, a commission on organic union has been formed. The members held their initial meeting a few days ago in the lecture room of Mr. Kemm's church. Clarence B. Caterer, superintendent of the Sunday School of the Boro park Congregational Church, was appointed chairman of the meeting and Charles J. Lieder of the Boro Park Christian Church acted as secretary. representatives of four local churches were present at the meeting.

Following a discussion as to possibilities of the effect of union of the churches of the section, it was decided that he representatives present report back to their respective churches the sense of the meeting, and that each church should then appoint a committee to act upon a permanent commission to consider the question of the union. It was decided that this commission would meet in the Boro Park Baptist Church on Thursday evening, July 1.

The plan and scope of the proposed Commission on Organic Union were briefly outlined by Mr. Kemm, the originator of the movement. He gave his personal ideas of what the United Church of Boro Park would mean to the section. He declared that owing to present conditions in the community present church properties should be sold and a modern church plant erected in a central location with up-to-date equipment. One preacher, he said, should be called to fill the pulpit, thus releasing five men for needy fields elsewhere. Two pastoral helpers were also urged by the speaker to assist in calling and social phases of the church work. This would also release a number of teachers for the large Sunday School of the combined church and would furnish sufficient helpers for every phase of the church work.

The representatives of the various churches present at the meeting were Clarence B. Cuterer, Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Hackett, Boro Park Congregational Church; G. Hamilin, Edgewood Reformed Dutch Church; Mr. Mielsen and the Rev. M. C. McQuillian of the Boro Park Baptist Church, the Rev. Ezra Burdette Kemm, Mr. Mitchell and Charles J. Lieder of the Boro Park Christian Church.

(Brooklyn Eagle - 1921)

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following article, about the late Rabbi Mordechai Aharon Kaplan (O.B.M.), was researched and written by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS). We thank Mr. Selevan for this extensively researched and interesting article and for all his past contributions to the history of Boro Park.

Rabbi Mordechai Aharon Kaplan z"l - Fifty years since his passing. Portrait of a leading Rabbi of early Borough Park

One of most prominent Rabbis in the early years of Borough Park's development as a renowned Jewish community was Rabbi Mordechai Aharon haKohen Kaplan. He served as Rabbi of Congregation Bnai Yehuda (Sons of Judah - of 5311 16th Avenue) for almost twenty-five years - from 1926 until his passing in 1951.

In this article I would like to look back at his life, as well as touch on some aspects of Jewish life in Borough Park years ago.

Rabbi Kaplan was born in a shtetl in Minsk province in Russia in 1889. He was orphaned at a young age from his mother, whose parting words for him were to go and study in the great Yeshivas. He studied in a number of famous Yeshivas, such as the Yeshiva of Rav Leib Bass in Minsk, and the Yeshivas of Bobroisk, Slutsk and Mir, where he excelled in his studies. In 1970 he emigrated to America and enrolled in Yeshiva Rabbeinu Yitzchok Elchonon from which he left with rabbinic ordination. Interestingly, the texts of his ordinations from two Rabbis in the spring of 1909 are reproduced at the end of his first sefer (book), "Ruach Haeis", printed in 1920. The first one is from the famed Gaon Rabbi Avraham Aharon Yudelevitch z"l, author of teshuvos (responsa) "Bais Av" and other works, and the second from Rav Shmuel Tzvi Wein, formerly Rav of Vizhan. Interestingly, both ordinations comment favorably on his speaking ability / power of drash (homiletic exposition) something to my knowledge not commonly seen in texts of ordination - in addition to certifying his fitness as a leader in the legal areas of Judaism (halacha).

His first Rabbinic position was at Congregation Bnai Yaakov (Sons of Jacob) in the East New York section of Brooklyn for approximately five years, followed by a ten year stint at Congregation Nachlas Tzvi in the Harlem section of Manhattan, where he gained renown as an outstanding speaker and community leader. In 1920 a book of his addresses transcribed by an admirer was published under the title of "Ruach Haeis". In 1923, in a notable step, Rabbi Kaplan published a book in Yiddish and English on the topic of Taharas Hamishpacha (family purity), a topic/ area that suffered (and still suffers) from great misunderstanding and neglect. This is particularly notable in my opinion, as while his other two books were collections of his addresses / or sermons, which was not uncommon for a Rabbi to issue, this book was in an area in which he was taking up a significant challenge (see "The Mikvah in America" by Joshua Hoffman in "Total Immersion: A Mikvah Anthology" by Rivkah Slonim [Aronson publishing] for more on this). This seems to show pioneering spirit and activist bent, with his trying to explain, in modern terms, this fundamental of Judaism and fight for it's continuation in the new world. It seems he was somewhat of a pioneer in this area (in later years this area was worked on by others, including notably, a Rabbi David Miller from California and Dr. Jacob Smithline of Borough Park).

In 1926, before Rosh Hashana, he was chosen to be the Rabbi of the new Congregation Bnai Yehuda in Boro Park. The congregation had been founded a few years before and had dedicated it's new building in 1924. A Rabbi M. Weinberger had evidently officiated as Rabbi Briefly, before Rabbi Kaplans arrival, but it appears that it was just on an ad-hoc basis.

Newspaper advertisements in the Yiddish press trumpeted the new up and coming Rabbi's coming to the blossoming Jewish Community of Borough Park. Already at that time, it seems, he had gained a reputation as one of the rising stars on the Rabbinic horizon.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

In 1928 his largest book (sefer) (over 350 pages), called "Der Amerikaner Redner" consisting of deroshos (homiletic addresses) in Yiddush, was published. Looking through these addresses, one can get a taste of Rabbi Kaplan's powerful religious oratory. It comes through the pages - to this day.

Interviews

I spoke to a number of people who remembered Rabbi Kaplan, to try to supplement and place into context the information I and gained from printed sources about him with personal recollections.

A recurring theme in almost any conversation I had with people about Rabbi Kaplan was his great oratorical prowess. Almost everyone I spoke to about Rabbi Kaplan z"l remarked about his great oratory and how they recalled the Shul being "packed" when he spoke (in the Yiddush language) in particular on Shabbos afternoons.

I spoke to Mr. Arthur (Aharon ben Ze'ev halevi) Steinmetz several times and he was very helpful and encouraging with regard to this article. He grew up in Congregation Bnai Yehuda and recalls Rabbi Kaplan fondly. My deep thanks to him. He recalled how, when he was a youngster, his father (who was a board member of the congregation) once brought him up to Rabbi Kaplan's residence, on 54th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues, to have him tested on the chummash (Bible) he head studied in Yeshiva. He also recalled his bar mitzvah, when he delivered a "pilpul" to the congregation (he recalled the opening of his address) in Hebrew(the language in which he was instructed in Yeshiva Etz Chaim) and Rabbi Kaplan responding to him in kind (in Hebrew) following his address. He also recalled how Rabbi Kaplan memorably, year after year, led the congregation in the neila (closing) prayers concluding Yom Kippur, a time of great emotion and religious feeling, and the Rabbi's perfect Hebrew diction - how he enunciated every word with great precision, pronouncing each syllable. He also recalled Rabbi Kaplan performing his marriage during World War Two: during a break he was given from his service in the armed forces.

Mr. Jack Nelson (RIP) (who came to Boro Park in 1944 from Washington, DC and operated a grocery store) recalled his passing a few years ago, how the Shul was packed when Rabbi Kaplan spoke and how it entered a period of decline after his passing.

I spoke to Rabbi Kaplan's daughter, Mrs. Klugman, who recalled a number of things about her father. She recalled people coming to their house regularly to have Rabbi Kaplan settle disputes and make sholom bayis, peace, (even from as far as California on occasion!). She recalled as a youngster sometimes being in bed when her father had people over to settle disputes and hearing people shouting and thinking they were shouting at her father. Perhaps he followed in the footsteps of his Biblical namesake Aharon Hakohein in terms of trying to settle disputes. She also mentioned that he was even included in some of the "Who's Who" books - an indication of his prominence - and in fact one of the things mentioned in an entry about him is a connection with a Jewish conciliation court of America.

He was very active in the cause of Jewish education. He was head of the vaad hachinuch (educational board) of Yeshiva Toras Emes and on that board of Yeshiva Etz Chaim (the first two Yeshivas in Boro Park) and I think was involved in Shulamis - the first Jewish Day school for girls in the USA - as well as being involved with the Talmud Torah (afternoon Hebrew School of this Congregation for children who went to public school. He would often remark how he wanted to perpetuate Judaism through education of the youth.

He was also Rabbi of Israel Zion (and later Maimonides) hospital, was involved in the Vaad Hakashrus of Boro Park, Vaad HaRabbonim of Boro Park, active in the Agudas HaRobbonim of the USA and Canada, as well as being a well-known speaker.

Activist for Shemiras Shabbos

(Shabbath observance)

He was an activist in the cause of shemiras Shabbos in those very difficult years. At the time almost all local stores were open in Shabbos. "Blue Laws" added to the difficulties Sabbath observers faced, along with various other pressures that are almost inconceivable to some today. The five day work week, legislation protecting rights of Sabbath observers and various government programs we take for granted today, did not exist then.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

Going through old newspapers I saw a number of events through the years by Rabbi Kaplan for this cause. From the 1920's (I recall seeing an item from then re a meeting at the shul for this cause) all the way to 1950 (an advertisement in my possession from the "Morgen Zhurnal (Morning Journal) newspaper of April 7, 1950, p 12 publicizing, mass meetings across the city for Shmiras Shabbos lists Cong. Bnai Yehuda as the address for the Boro Park area with Rabbi Kaplan as chairman), this was an area in which the Rabbi involved himself strongly.

Mrs. Belle Haimes recalled how her husband, Harry Haimes (RIP) worked on a committee with Rabbi Kaplan to try to convince the owner of a candy store near Cong. Sons of Judah to keep his store closed on the Sabbath by offering to compensate him for his lost revenue, circa 1950.

In December 1944, Rabbi Kaplan was given a "life contract" by his Congregation. A news story from the Brooklyn Eagle in my possession describes that event in significant detail.

He was a frequent speaker at various gatherings - his name appears often in reports about various events. Also interesting is that he spoke on the radio in the 1920's I saw a newspaper advertisement to this effect from then - he was to speak on WMCA radio) - in the very early years of commercial radio - for Jewish causes.

In 1951 Rabbi Kaplan fell ill, and after about a week, passed away on the 16th day of Shvat (February 1, 1951). Obituaries of him appeared in the Yiddush Press as well as newspapers, such as the New York Times and Brooklyn Eagle. He was greatly mourned at a large funeral. His granddaughter, Mrs. Barbara Rothman, recalled that 16th Avenue was closed for the funeral cortege (presumably a much less common event then than today). She also recalled his close relationship with Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr z"l., of Congregation Beth - El of Boro Park. She said that Rabbi Kaplan was very helpful to Rabbi Schorr in his early years in America and Rabbi Schorr recalled that gratefully many years later even mentioning it when eulogizing one of Rabbi Kaplan's daughters eight years ago, when he remarked that he never thought he would be paying back Rabbi Kaplan by eulogizing his daughter.



Window display at Boro Park Library, 5211 13th Avenue, 1938. The women standing in the window, dressed in an American Indian costume, is Helen P. Bolman, branch librarian. Building seen is a reflection seen through window.
From Collection of Brooklyn Public Library

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Also interesting was that a gathering was held in the Congregation on the first anniversary (yohrzeit) of his death, which seems to be another event indicating his prominence. While large funerals occur at times, memorial gatherings a year later are much less common.

I think that both for historical and religious reasons we should remember those who paved the way for us. For religious reasons there is an element / concept of hakoras hatov (recognizing and being grateful for things that we benefited from). I know of a case where a Congregation still makes a yearly commemoration for their Rabbi, from the early 1900's on his yohrseit (anniversary of death). I think that is so especially for a long serving and pioneering Rabbi - (as opposed to a more transient and less serving one perhaps).

May his soul be bound with the bounds of everlasting life.

P.S. I would like to thank many people who assisted me in preparation of this article . Special thanks to Judaica and Hebraica expert Rabbi Eliezer Katzman, for supplying me with copies of all three of Rabbi Kaplan's books.

B.M. Selevan

FINK PRESS

The Fink Press, located at 4920 16th Ave. maybe the oldest established business on 16th Ave. in Boro Park. Isaac Fink opened his first store at 5112 16th Ave. in Nov. 1949 and moved to his present location in 1965, for a total of over 51 years of printing business on 16th ave.

Isaac and his wife Toby Fink were Holocaust survivors, were married in the D.P. Camps o f Europe and came to the USA, and Boro Park in Oct. 1949. They first lived at 1572 55 st. and in 1954 moved to their present address at 1444 49 st.

They first arrived in the US with their nine month old son Leon. Their other children, Hindy and Eli were born in Boro Park.

Leon (RIP) attended Yeshivah Toras Emes in B.P. and then R.J.J. Yeshivah in Manhattan and then Mirrer Yeshiva in Flatbush. He also attended Yeshivah Torah Vodaath where he obtained smicha or rabbinical ordination. Leon later became a doctor of optometry but sadly was deceased last year, in 2000, leaving a wife and 5 children living in Flatbush.

Hindy attended Beth Jacob school and then Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn HS (Rabbi Balkany) and then Brooklyn College. She is married to Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, prominent Jewish community leader and businessman. She is currently the chairman of the Speech Therapy Dept. at Touro College and lives in Flatbush.

Son, Eli attended Yeshiva Toras Emes, then the Yeshiva in Scranton for High School and then Yeshiva Ohr Torah in Israel. He now works in the field of computer science and lives in Boro Park with his parents.

Mr. Fink related a few of his memories of changes on 16th ave. He remembers Rabbi Kaplan Rabbi of the cong.. Bnei Yehuda 5311 16th Ave. before Rabbi Kirzner. He attended his sermons in Yiddush sometimes. He remembers Cantor Neches who was Chazan Sheni in that shule. But Mr. Fink said he personaly attended services at Rabbi Parness' shule at 5510 16 ave. upstairs, top floor. He also belonged to the Agudath Israel of 14th Ave. near 46 st. That building was sold about a year ago to the Viener Yeshiva. The Agudah is building a new building on 50 st. between 15 and 16 Ave on the property that they purchased from Mr. Bodenheimer.

Some of the changes in businesses on 16 ave. that Mr. Fink recalled were the food market between 52 and 53 streets where the Lakewood minyan is now located. On the corner of 52 st. there was Marcus Candy Store; Sheinberg Grocery Store was on the corner of 55 st.; current premises of Rabbi Bick's shule on 55th st. between 15 and 16 ave. was formerly a nursing home; Barnets drug store was on the corner of 51 st.; the former apartment building on the corner of 52 st. was the Pupa Yeshiva and now Lubavitch.

He pointed out that the printing business has changed dramatically. Now printing is done mostly by computer or lasers. No more lineotype or Lud Low or hand type. Now we use offset or copy machines for the printing itself. The printing business has declined a great deal because every office now has a

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

(cont'd.

computer and does a great deal of its own printing. The printing business, he indicated, is now mostly commercial - envelopes, letterheads, receipts, invitations etc. As we look back over the years we see many changes in the types of businesses and stores in the community.

Old Newspaper Clippings

The following article, originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1944, was researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan an officer of the BPHS. It may be of interest to note some of the differences and similarities to today's problems, activities and use of language.

RABBI KAPLAN HONORED BY CONGREGATION

Rabbi Mordechai A. Kaplan received a life appointment as spiritual leader of the Congregation Sons of Judah and Hebrew School at installation ceremonies held yesterday in the temple, 5311 16th Ave.

In describing his plans for the future of the congregation, Rabbi Kaplan, who has been its head for 18 years, stated that he was keenly intrested in developing the Hebrew School: "My chief aim in life is to perpetuate Judaism through the youth," he said.

A contract stipulating the terms of the appointment was presented to Rabbi Kaplan by Samuel Goldin, former President of the organization. Goldin signed the document during his term of office.

A war bond was presented to the rabbi by Mrs. Minnie Cohen of the ladies auxiliary and Mrs. Mildred Kramer of the sisterhood who represented the congregation.

Bennet Simon, a student at the Hebrew School, and Israel Hut, 90, oldest member of the congregation, also presented gifts to Rabbi Kaplan.

Among the speakers honoring the rabbi were Jacob I. Polstein, former President of the Kings County Lawyers Association; Rabbi Abraham Jofen, Dean of Yeshiva Beth Joseph; Municiple Court Justice Daniel Gutman and Dr. Isaac Alkelei, chief Rabbi of Yugoslavia. About 1,000 persons attended the ceremonies.

(Brooklyn Eagle June 1944)

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Joseph Rabinowitz

While visiting some relatives in Kew Gardens Hills, Queens, I happened to be seated next to Mr. Joseph Rabinowitz, a former Boro Parker. I took advantage of this opportunity to interview him about his family history and memories of Boro Park.

Joseph, as a young boy, escaped from the Holocaust in Europe with his family. They traveled through several countries where they lived for brief intervals until they escaped to Cuba in 1943. They lived in Cuba for five years and came to the USA in 1948.

Joseph and his older brother Jack were born in Vienna, Austria. Joseph was born in 1938 the year the Germans invaded Austria. His younger brother, George was born in France and his sister Matti, the youngest child, was born in Cuba.

The father Benedict, the mother Alice, and the four children lived in Havana, Cuba until 1948 when and where the father died of a heart attack at the age of 46. Since then, for over 50 years, Joseph said he was never permitted to return to Cuba. In 1999 he was permitted for the first time to visit his father's grave.

When his mother and four children emigrated to the USA in 1948 they first settled in Boro Park because his mother's brother Leopold Grunhut and family lived there. They sub-let one or two rooms from a family David and Yanka Penner on 48 st. between 13 and 14 ave. They lived there with them for a while and then moved to their own apartment at 1285-52 st., above a store.

In order to support the family the mother started a small catering business, working from her home, called Mrs. Rabinowitz Catering. Joseph remembered storing the dishes in one room of their apartment.

After a couple of years his mother started a crystal and gift shop from her home. She was encouraged to do so by her brother Mr. Grunhut who was an importer of crystal glass from Czechoslovakia. They used the two rooms facing 13th avenue for their business. They carried on there business from their home for a year or two and then moved to a store across the street, 5115 13 ave.; the store was called Rabinowitz Gift Shop. After a few years his mother moved the business to 4603 13 ave.

In 1956 the family moved to 1648 48st. The two older brothers attended Yeshiva Torah Voddath in Williamsberg and lived in the dormatory. The younger brother George attended Yeshiva Toras Emes.

Since the children were not interested in continuing the business it was sold in 1970 (approx.) to Mr. Flohr. Flohr's Gift Shop is now located there. When Mrs. Rabinowitz first sold the business she remained on as a saleslady for the Flohr's Gift Shop.

Joseph studied accounting at Bernard Baruch College as did his older brother and is in accounting business today.

Joseph moved out of Boro Park when he married Rivkie Steinmetz from Washington Heights. He lived in Washington Heights, N.Y. for about one year and now lives in Queens.

Joseph's oldest brother Jack passed away in 1983 at the age of 46, the same age as their father when he passes away in Cuba. George is also an accountant and lives in California. Sister Matti married Mechel Gross of Boro Park and moved to Kew Garden's, Queens.

After the children were married his mother moved to an apartment house at 4910 15 ave. She passed away in 1994 at the age of 81 due to a heart attack. Eulogies were delivered by the Debreciner Rav, the previous Mattesdorfer Rav, and Rabbi Munk, all of B.P. as well as others.

Mother's nephews, Kalman and Simcha Grunhut are in the Astor Chocolate Business. Kalman still lives in Boro Park.

B.P. MEMORIES

Some Boro Park memories that Joseph shared include the folowing

• When his family came to B.P. they attended prayer services at the Debreciner Rav Rabbi Moshe Stern. At that time this synagogue moved about 5 or 6 times to different locations until they came to the current permanent quarters at 4914 16 ave. For a while they used a store front on 18 ave near 44 st; for a while they used a room in the Beth Jacob school then located at 1413 45 st. and other locations.

• The Rabinowitz family also attended prayer services frequently at the Agudath Israel at 4511 14 ave. Some of his friends from that synagogue now live near him and attend services with him in Kew Gardens Hills. One of them is Willie Rosenfeld whose mother owned a children's clothing store on 16 ave between 51 and 52 st.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

• He enjoyed the Friday night program when the 5 large shuls in Boro Park had joint lecture programs with the Rabbis of these shuls alternating as speakers and each would speak in a shul not his own. He said he looked forward to these programs and remembers Rabbi Swift and Rabbi Schorr.

• Joseph said that the first time in his life that he ever saw snow wa in B.P. when he was about 10 years old. When he breuthed in the outside cold air and saw what looked like smoke coming out of his mouth it frightened him at first.

• The first time he ever saw a chasidic striemel was in Boro Park. His uncle took him to visit the previous Chuster Rav and was curious about what he was wearing on his head. That streimel didn't look like the ones chasidim wear today.

• Joseph said he always was fond of Boro Park. When he came to visit his mother he always said that B.P. was a beautiful place to live in and he still thinks so.

TERESA STERNE (RIP)

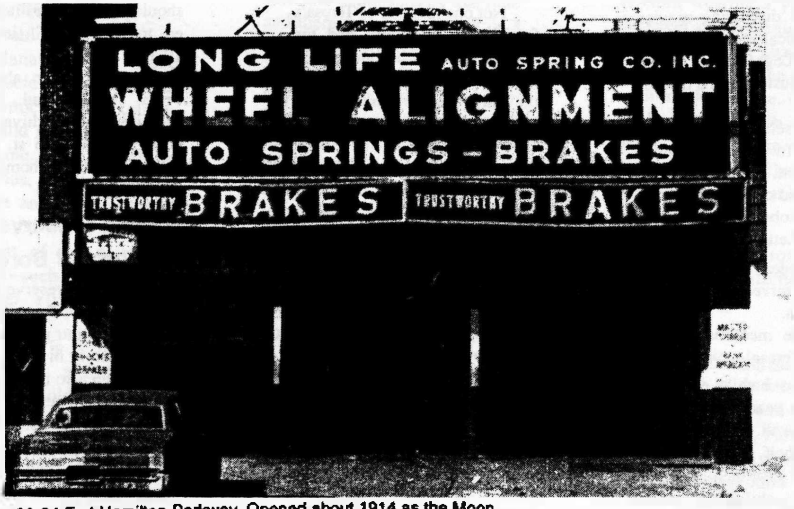
(Ed. - The following article written by Ms. Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Hist. Soc., highlights the memorial services held for the late Teresa Sterne (RIP), which she attended. This column has featured articles by and about Mrs. Sterne in the past. We thank Ms. Posner for her numerous interesting contributions to this column and the history of B.P.)

In 1930, Teresa Sterne was three years old when she moved to 1657 49th Street, a one-family house that her family had just bought. In 1939, Teresa made her professional debut as a pianist. She performed in prestigious concert halls and received glowing reviews. A child prodigy, major newspapers printed articles about her.

When she became an adult, Teresa decided against pursuing a career as a pianist . In 1955, she moved to an apartment in Manhattan. From 1965 to 1979, she was the director of Nonesuch Records. Her records of composer Scott Joplin's music revitalized interest in ragtime music. During her tenure, she produced about 500 records, including classical music and music of the early 1900's. She was the first person to send musicologists to foreign countries, such as Tibet and India, to record folk music.

In November 1999, Teresa was diagnosed with Lou. Gehrig's Disease, for which there is no cure. Before she died on December 10, 2000, she stipulated that there be no funeral service, but indicated that she had no objection to a memorial service.

Her memorial service was arranged by several of her close friends. It was held on March 29, 2001 (Teresa's 74th birthday) and was attended by about 200



30-04 Fort Hamilton Parkway. Opened about 1914 as the Moon Theatre. 400 seats. Name changed to the American Theatre in 1925. Closed in 1931. 1979 photo shows current use as an auto repair shop. (B.P.H.S. Archives)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

people: her friends, musicians she recorded, and music lovers whose lives had been enriched by her recordings. The memorial service consisted of musical performances by some of her recording artists, interspersed with brief eulogies by groups of four people. Excerpts from eulogies follow:

• Teresa was a unique person. Although highly verbal, she retained her personality even when the disease caused her to lose the power of speech.

• She was a complex individual, a little difficult at times, particularly in demanding nothing less than perfection from her recording artists. One musician recalled an incident when he was in her office and Teresa was berating him for not achieving perfection. While he was in the office, a booking agent phoned Teresa and criticized the musician's ability. Teresa praised the musician to the sky!

• With great taste and wide knowledge of music, she made the right decisions on whom and what to record.

• She had many interests, and enjoyed discussing movies and the political scene.

• Her Legacy lies in the wonderful music that she recorded.

• She selected the name Nonesuch for her recording company from the label on her favorite brand of mincemeat.

• In October 2000, she was awarded a Letter of Distinction by the Modern Music Center, where she served on the Board for six years.

At the memorial service, photos of Teresa - ranging from her career as a child pianist to her mature years - were displayed on a wall. Below the photos, on a shelf, lay a recently released CD (that includes some of Teresa's childhood piano recitals). Next to the CD lay a stack of Teresa's famous (to her friends) recipe for mandel brod (almond bread). A wine and cheese reception followed the memorial service!

Throughout all her years in Manhattan, Teresa still thought of the house on 49th Street as her home, coming back frequently to visit and paying for repairs and housecleaning. Around 1993, Teresa joined the Executive Committee of the Boro Park Historical Society. She wrote several articles about her years in Boro Park, many of them focusing on her house, which she described with great love. She described the dark wood of which her house was constructed and recalled that, when she was a little girl, she sat on the stairs made of golden oak and glazed at the beautiful wood paneling that formed the doors and walls. She wrote of the house's 44 windows, from which you had a view in all four directions. On her last night in her house, she sang a Yiddush lullaby to the house - one that her grandmother had sung to her - in fond farewell.

Not one member of Teresa's family was left alive, and the house may have become a substitute for her family. In 1995, the day finally came when, because of reduced finances, Teresa had to sell the house. Although the new owner had originally intended to live in the house, his wife's poor health didn't allow him to do so, and the house was soon demolished, much to Teresa's great distress.

During her illness, Teresa had around-the-clock nursing care but was able to live at home. When her illness was first diagnosed, she appointed her friend Norma Hurlburt as her health proxy, to make decisions when she was no longer able to do so. During her illness, her upstairs neighbor and friend, Allen Dickstein, stopped by frequently to visit. One of her friends invited her to dinner every Thanksgiving. And let us not forget the 200 people who attended her memorial service.

Teresa, if you'd only known - with friends like those, you really don't need family!

Lucille Posner

COLONY SHOP

We recently found an old bill from the "Colony Shop", dated May 13, 1965. The store was located at 4804 13 ave.

The bill was for a white beaded bag (a ladies bag) and priced at $17.00 plus tax. The Colony Shop sold ladies items such as gloves, pocket books, scarfs etc.

Located at this address currently we have two shops; Europian Designer Fabrics and Hi Baby Inc.

CORRECTIONS

Two corrections were brought to our attention by Mr. Shmuly Goldstein of Goldstein Press re; the March 01, issue.

1) The article about Rabbi Mordechai Aharon Kaplan should read "In 1907 he emigrated to America..." (instead of 1970).

2) The article about Fink Press should read, "Current premises of Yeshivat M'kor Chaim at 1571 55 st. was formerly a nursing home..." (not Rabbi Bick's Shul)

Help Preserve the History of Boro Park

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting your memories and family history in the commnuity. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only $5 per year ($3 for students or retired people). $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS * JUNE 2001

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

RABBI YOSEF YITZCHOK PARNES (O.B.M.)

The Tzadik of Boro Park

Boro Park is probably the largest Orthodox and Chasidic Community in the United States today, perhaps even in the world. It probably has more Yeshivos and synagogues (shuls) than any other Jewish Community and the largest Orthodox population. One could walk throughout Boro Park and have difficulty finding an open store on Shabbos. The streets on Shabbos are quiet with hardly a car passing.

It wasn't always that way. In the first half of this century, especially before WWII this community had a very small percentage of Orthodox Jews and almost no chasidim. It had very few Jewish schools or shuls. What brought about this change from Jewish religious wasteland to Orthodox Jewish Center?

One could offer various valid explanations for these changes - sociological, historical even economical. One explanation we could suggest might be due to some early Tzadikim (saintly, pious, individuals) who settled here and had important influences on the religious development of the neighborhood. One such Tzadik was Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes (O.B.M)

Boro Park is a relatively new community, a little more than 100 years old. During its early years as a community it was very sparsely populated, consisting mainly of farmlands and undeveloped areas. It was a suburb, at first attracting the more affluent families who were escaping from the congested quarters of other heavily populated areas of the city to the more comfortable country like, or park like living of this newly developing neighborhood.

The 1920's was a period of rapid growth, when many Jews moved into Boro Park. The movement was facilitated by the growth and extension of public transportation making the area more accessible. By 1930, it has been reliably estimated, more than half of the Boro Park population of about 50,000 was then Jewish. The other half was mainly Italian and Irish. Yosef Yitzchok Parnes moved to Boro Park from the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1923.

In order to fully understand and be able to evaluate the influence and contribution of the man one must understand what Jewish life was like in Boro Park in 1923 when he arrived. The large synagogues were already built and established by that time and there may have been 2 or 3 small shuls. There were as yet no chasidic Rebbes in the community. On Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur the synagogues were filled to capacity and many additional high holiday services were held in rented quarters in order to accommodate the overflow crowds of worshippers. But on the usual Shabbos and other holidays the synagogues were not even half full. There were additional early Saturday services in the synagogues on Shabbos and Holidays in order to accommodate those who had to go to business or work but still wanted to attend services or had to recite Kaddish for a departed parent.

There were several Talmud Torahs (Hebrew afternoon schools) in Boro Park at that time, usually affiliated with a synagogue but there were also a few privately operated. There was one Hebrew Day School or Yeshiva in operation then called the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park or Yeshivat Etz Chaim. This school at that time emphasized teaching Hebrew language and culture. This was probably the first Hebrew Day School in the USA.

All the stores and businesses were in full operation on Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Thirteenth Ave on Saturdays was almost as busy as it is today on Sundays. Only butcher stores and maybe a handful of other stores throughout Boro Park were closed on Saturdays. It was very difficult, almost impossible for one to obtain employment if he didn't work on Saturdays.

One would never see a man or child wearing a yarmulke in the street and certainly not a talis (prayer shawl) or chasidic clothing. It was rear to see a yarmulke even inside a house. One would rarely hear a Jewish or Hebrew name mentioned in the street. Some Jews even changed their family names so that it wouldn't sound Jewish.

This is the environment into which Yoseph Yitzchok Parnes moved.

Family Background

In order to understand the person motivation and behavior of Yosef Yitzchok Parnes it is necessary to get a glimpse into his family background. He was the only son of the wealthy businessman Avrohom Yehoshua and

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

wife Tema from Dukla, Galicia (Poland). His very arrival into this world, his family says, was brought about through a miracle and blessing of the Sanzer Rebbe, the Divrei Chaim.

Avrohom Yehoshua and Tema previously had ten children who did not survive. When she became pregnant again this time they both journeyed to the Sanzer Rebbe to request a blessing from him so the that they have a child who would live. They went to this holy man close to his time of prayer and begged and pleaded at length. She said she wouldn't leave until the Rebbe granted her request. The Rebbe went through some motions and expressions which seemed to indicate anger and denial but when th e couple left the room, the chasidim outside who heard the words of the Rebbe and were familiar with the Rebbes ways in these matters, joyously wished them Mazel Tov. They remarked "we wish we could be helped the way you have been". Within a few months Yosef Yitzchok had been born and survived.

The child was born in the month of Teves 1874 during the week in which the Torah reading deals with Joseph (Yoseph), therefore upon the advice of the Rebbe they named the baby Yoseph and Yitzchok after an uncle. Shortly after this the Sanzer rebbe was called to his eternal abode and Yosef Yitzchok forever called himself a Sanzer chasid (disciple) right from his mother's womb. He then attached himself to the Rebbe's son, Rebbe Yechezkel Shraga of Shiniver.

Several other supernatural incidents occurred to him during his years of growing up and studying Torah. He was later married to Faiga Freyda Horowitz, a descendant of the famous Rabbi called the Shloh. She was a very pious woman and a holy helpmate to him throughout their life together.

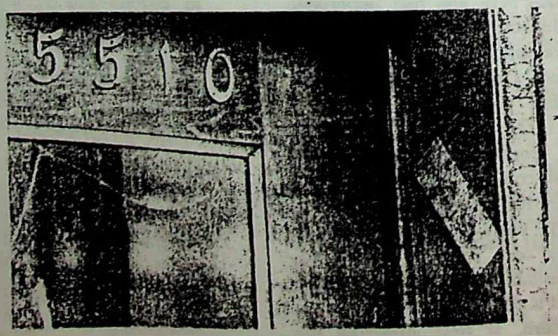
Yosef Yitzchok went into business and became a successful and wealthy merchant. However the wheels of fortune turned and he became very poor, so poor that he decided he must go to America in order to earn a living. He went to seek advice from the Dumbrover Rebbe, one of the few Rebbes at the time before WWI, who permitted his chasidim (disciples) to emigrate to America. The Rebbe sent him off to America in 1908 with his blessings and assurance that with Heaven's help he would be able to maintain his spiritual level even in America.

After a short stay Yosef Yitzchok wrote to his Rebbe complaining that he was afraid to remain in America because of the weak religious environment and yearned to return to Galicia. However the Rebbe prophetically advised him against returning and advised him to bring his wife and children over to America.

The Rebbe told Yosef Yitzchok that he was confident that he would be successful in that country because of his self sacrifice for his religious principals and he won't be influenced by his environment negatively. Yosef Yitzchok obeyed every word of the Rebbe and while in America encircled himself with a small group religiously strictly observant people in order to avoid the influences of the irreligious environment. He never went to visit any of the sights, never went on vacation but lived his days and years in piety and servitude to G-d. He didn't depart from the teachings and traditions of his pious parents and Rebbe one drop, one iota.

This example will help to illustrate his tenacious and strict adherence to his religious teachings and observance. His father became very ill in Galicia and he yearned to visit him and see him before it was too late. However, when he was told that he must take a photo for his passport, he refused. He never permitted a photo to be taken of him throughout his life because of his

Photos taken in 1979 of 5510 16 ave, Pames residence and shule. Store then rented used as "16 Ave Market" selling chickens and eggs. Rt - see metal plate over recessed mezuzah on door post. (courtesy B.P.H.S. arcives)



Pames House Mezuzah 5510 16 ave.

(cont'd.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-

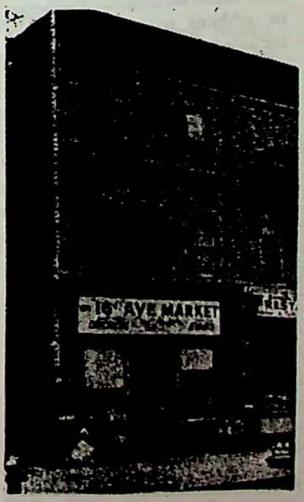
strict religious interpretation and observance. He therefore wrote to his father and asked what to do. His father responded and said that he understands and forgives him and advised him not to depart from his traditions and not to take a photo. The father and son bridled their feelings and never saw each other again. This is but one of numerous examples of his dedication and self sacrifice to perform, all of the biblical commandments to the fullest degree.

When his family came to America in 1911 they settled on the Lower East Side as was common then for most of the Jewish immigrants. He was interested in earning a modest living in order to provide a simple dwelling and other necessities for his family and enable him to give generously to charity. When his family first arrived he lived with his wife and eight children in a humble apartment on the top floor, without heat. When he wasn't able to pay the rent he and his family were mercilessly put on the street. There were no welfare or other government programs then to provide for the poor and needy. He then raised his hands to Heaven and declared, "Almighty, I served you in wealth, thank G-d I can also serve you in poverty." A merciful man soon took pity on the family and offered him a roof over his head in the cellar of his house. Some years later he lived on Lewis St. between Broom and Delancy Sts. and established his own shule there.

In Boro Park

Yosef Yitzchok Parnes moved to Boro Park with his family of eight children in 1922 or 23 for reasons which are not quite clear. He purchased a house at 5510 16 ave. which has a store and two stories above it. He immediately established his own shule on the top floor, in accordance with the strict religious regulations or halochos and all who attended had to walk up two flights of stairs. He maintained the store for himself where he and his wife sold some dry goods and notions in order to support themselves very modestly.

Rabbi Parnes immediately built a mikvah (ritual bath) for himself right behind his store, This may very well have been the first Mikvah in Boro Park. He never used electricity in his home on Shabbos, he would light long candles for light. When refrigerators came into use he would turn off his refrigerator for Shabbos and the ice man would deliver ice to his house every Friday for use in keeping his food cold. He wore white garments (Bekish), white socks and a shtreimel on Shabbos. Keep in mind all these were taking place in the Old Boro Park described previously.



5510 16th ave
Parnes House

On Shabbos, from Friday night to Sat. night he tried not to speak at all. When absolutely necessary he would say a few words in Hebrew. The day was devoted to prayer and study. He was a very beautiful Baal Tefilah (cantor) who led the prayer services, all of his life, until the last few years of his life. However, he would never accept any payment for these services.

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Parnes passed away in 1967 on the Hebrew date of 28 Nissan at the ripe old age of 93, having lived in Boro Park over 44 years.

Anecdotal Glimpses of the Man

In order to understand this man more fully; to help gain more insight into his character, piety, life style, and personality, two main sources of information were used: One was a series of interviews with several close relatives and friends and the second was a book called Michtav LeDovid, written in Hebrew by three grandsons Menachem Mendel, Nachman Tzvi and Binyamin Beinish Parnes which include a brief biography of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok at the end. These interviews were done by this columnist many years ago and many of the interviewees are no longer alive.

Miriam Rosenblatt

Miriam Rosenblatt, (O.B.M.) a daughter, pointed out that her father would not permit anyone to call him Rabbi. He insisted that he be called Mr. Parnes. She remembered that after he moved to Boro Park, people from his former shule on the Lower East Side, missed him so, that they traveled every Saturday night to his shule in Boro Park to visit him. Traveling then from the Lower East Side to Boro Park by train was quite a long and complicated trip in

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

those days. When they came they "stayed" for the traditional sat. night meal called Melave Malka. Mrs. Rosenblatt added that she cooked the Melave Malka meals each week. Her "chosen" (Fiance) at that time also visited her on Saturday nights and joined in at the Melave Malka. She said her father once advised his newly married son to donate all his wedding gifts to a very needy charity. The son did so and went into business and was very successful.

Mrs. Rosenblatt related an interesting incident. Once he noticed from the back windows of his house on 16th ave. that a small child, about 2 years old, of a neighbor, an Italian family, was crawling on the window sill next to an open second floor window. Under the open window was an open cellar door with iron steps. Rabbi Parnes ran from the mikvah (ritual bath) wrapped in a bath towel, all the way up to the neighbors apartment and saved the child who already had one foot out of the window.

The child's mother had gone to the grocery store and left

when she returned she almost fainted from the fright of the incident. She thanked Rabbi Parnes and said he was sent by G-d.

When the child grew up he would say, "That Rabbi saved my life." The Italians in the neighborhood had the highest respect for Rabbi Parnes and called him a saint.

Mrs. Rosenblatt also said that her parents wanted their children to live with them for one or two years when they were first married. They had a special 3 room apartment set aside for that purpose. "My father's word was holy to each child," she said, "they did whatever he requested. The love and respect for the parents by his children was tremendous, very unusual."

"I remember the incident of an Italian lady who came to our house selling notions. The woman looked hungry so the first thing I did was offer her something to eat. I gave her two sandwiches. She seemed famished and was so thankful she kissed my hand. That I learned from my parents to be kind to every living creature, even animals, any of G-d's creatures. My father looked like an angel and people who knew him respected and revered him."

Necha Neiman

Another daughter, Necha Neiman, (O.B.M.) recalled that on Shabbos, "We used no gas or electricity. We ate only cold food on Shabbos. She also reminisced," Many people used to come to my father for advice about marriage, about potential matches of couples, about business matters about religious matters and other things. He was very honest and in all his dealings. They had one price for all in their Dry Good Store. I remember for example, that he sold two pairs of socks for 25¢ but one pair he would give for 12¢. When he measured material or ribbons to sell he always included a little extra just to make sure that he was giving an honest measure.

Velvel Parnes

Velvel Parnes, a grandson, recalled the atmosphere of Shabbos evening prayers (Mincha) and the evening Shalosh Seuda meal in the shule. These took place in complete darkness because they used no electricity on Shabbos and the long candles had already burnt out. "What an atmosphere; what respect and awe everyone had for my grandfather," he recalled. "He never accepted money from anyone for favors or advice or blessings."

"In later years, he continued, "he owned a share in his son's business in the Ladies Garment Center called "Liberty Belts" and used his share of the income entirely for charity. He helped bring back many lost Jewish souls to their religious roots. He also had a song positive religious influence on his own children and grandchildren.

Judah Biston (O.B.M.)

Judah Biston (O.B.M.) said his parents were very close to Rabbi Parnes, they felt like family. They were greatly helped by Rabbi Parnes' blessings and advice. He said Rabbi Parnes would get insulted if someone called him Rabbi, my name is Mr. Parnes" he would say.

Judah continued "I remember taking Rabbi Parnes to the bank before Chanukah. It was the First National City Bank on 13th ave. and 55 st. Rabbi Parnes always made his own wine. He brought some wine for the bank manager as a gift for Chanukah. When Rabbi Parnes walked into the bank all the people who were sitting stood up for him and bowed their heads out of respect."

"He wore a white Kapatah (robe). He would never permit any photos taken of him and would tear up any films, and pay for them, if photos were taken of him. He had his own mikvah in which he bathed daily. It was ice, cold in the winter."

Judah's mother had once been a dressmaker and she used to make all of Rabbi Parnes' clothing, made of silk, in order to avoid the religious prohibition of Shatnez (mixing of wool and linen.) In those days there were no Shatnez labs to test for shatnez and no way to test store purchased clothing.

"Many people came to Rabbi Parnes for charity or blessings or advice. He was very warm and friendly and spoke to each person with love and compassion. He always looked for the merit, the good side of a person," Judah continued.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Judah recalled that Rabbi Parnes had a special metal plate put over the mezuzah on his front door. The mezuzah was recessed in the door post. (see photo)

Pearl Bodner

Pearl (Parnes) Bodner, a granddaughter living on 44 St., remembers her grandfather fondly. She recalled, as a child, going there for the holidays of Simchat Torah. Her uncles came in from distant places for th holiday, bringing toys for the children. She remembered her grandmother to be an immaculately clean person and her grandfather although he wore special clothes was always [illegible] She said her grandmother always chided us not to throw crumbs on the floor.

She remembered Aunt Nechi getting married on a Friday afternoon in grandfathers backyard and the wedding meal was a Melava Malka meal Saturday night in grandfathers shule.

She said, "Grandfather made his own Garlic fish and gave it out to all his children for Shabbos. He was always involved in helping people and attracting them to their Jewish roots and maintained very high religious and ethical standards."

She remembered going along to pick up milk from the Balsam farm as there was no Cholov Yisroel (kosher milk) for sale in any of the stores. She said "grandmother made her own cheese, butter, chalos and most other prepared foods," because they wouldn't eat store purchased processed food. In those days there were no kosher supervising agencies.

Temmy Beck

Temmy (Gluckowsky) Beck, an other granddaughter, who was brought up in Boro Park but now lives in Flatbush, recalls that her grandfather was a very colorful person. "He looked so royal so princely and people came from all over to see him. When they left they backed away respectfully."

She said, "He had loads of patience and would always answer my questions with love and patience. He was a very charitable man and gave a lot of money to charity. I remember that he always prepared one dish himself in honor of Shabbos."

"When I was about to be married to my war pilot husband" she added, "my parents were opposed to the marriage: we went to my grandfather, the Patriarch of the family for his advice. He gave his blessing and said it would be good. It turned out to be very good."

She said people came to him from all over for blessings or advice because of illness, family or financial problems or couldn't have children and many were helped.

Temmy reminisced fondly, He knew eight languages but he also knew th e language of each heart. He understood each child's own personality and needs, encouraging one with a little bribe, one with an intellectual argument and one with a kiss."

Rabbi Elias Schwartz

Rabbi Elias Schwartz who was Principal/Dean of Yeshiva Toras Emes for over half a century said that Rabbi Parnes was very much involved in the establishment and development of Yeshiva Toras Emes in the

in furthering Jewish education and sent all of his Boro Park grandchildren to Yeshivas Toras Emes.

Once, Rabbi Schwartz said he went to visit Rabbi Parnes on an issue related to Toras Emes and was amazed to find that his shule was on the top floor. Rabbi Schwartz added that he doesn't think the world or individuals really knew Rabbi Parnes or recognized his greatness. He considered him to be a holy man, hidden Tzadik.

Heshy Parnes

Heshy Parnes, a grandson, and well known in the Boro Park Jewish Community for his charitable work, gave me a copy of the book, Michtom LeDovid, mentioned earlier, and filled in a few items about his grandfather. When asked why his grandfather decided to move to Boro Park originally he said he could only guess that he may have been concerned about his children's development and may have thought he would be able to control the environmental influences better in a new, less congested area. He added that his grandfather never went on vacation, never left his house except for performing a Mitzvah or on important occasions. Rabbi Parnes would get involved in Jewish Community Projects in order to make sure that all religious laws were upheld. Although he prayed in his own shule generally, when Yeshiva Toras Emes started services and needed to have a minyan (a quorum of ten adult men) he took a cab daily to pray with them as a sign of support and aid. When someone opened a small shule near him Rabbi Parnes went over to him in the middle of the night to offer him financial and other support even though he might be competing for the same people. Rabbi Parnes considered himself

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

a Sanzer Chosid.
Heshy Parnes also indicated that his grandfather would eat no meat because he wanted to be absolutely certain about the highest standard of kashrus of any food he ate. He ate chicken but had the shochet (slaughterer) come to his house to slaughter the chicken in front of him. Grandmother made all the food even ground pepper, they wouldn't buy any processed food.
The shule at 5510 16 ave is still in operation and family members live in the building. They still have a built in succah, 2 rooms, in back of the store with built in heat. He said his grandfather would move in and live there for eight days.

Personal Memories and Concluding Comments

When I was a young boy attending Yeshivas Toras Emes, I remember seeing Rabbi Parnes when he came to visit the Yeshivah Toras Emes on one occasion. He was taken to the different classrooms by the principle so that he could observe the children learning. Toras Emes was them located at 4407 12 ave.

The principle at that time was Rabbi Shapiro. Several of Rabbi Parnes' grandchildren were in my Hebrew class, namely Yisroel Rosenblatt (O.B.M.), Avrohom Rosenblatt, and Yaakov Gluckowsky (O.B.M), and his visit might have been more memorable to me for that reason. I remember that he looked so regal; tall and slim and all dressed in white.

I also know of Rabbi Parnes because my father and grandfather had attended services at his shule on occasion and my father had visited Rabbi Parnes for advice and blessings.

The Rosenblatt's mentioned above at that time lived in the apartment house on 43 st corner 12 ave (prob 1203 43st), the Gluckowsky family lived on 15 ave near 43 st.

There are still a number of descendants of Rabbi Parnes living in Boro Park. There are eleven names listed in the Boro Park telephone directory with the surname Parnes (note spelling). There are a few grandchildren with surname Neiman. Two of them are the owners of Perfect Locksmith at 5113 13 ave; one operates a locksmith store at 5510 16 ave the original Parnes residence. Granddaughter Pearl Bodner lives in B.P. and grandson Rosenblatt lives in Flatbush. There are many great grandchildren and other relatives of various names also living in Boro Park.

Because of his strong religious dedication and self sacrifice and because of his loveable and respectable personality and all his efforts, Rabbi Yosef Yitzhok Parnes undoubtedly was an important influence in the religious development of this community.

DEAR DR. KIPUST

I just learned that Joseph Dube, age 102, died in March of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was the son of Newman Dube, who founded the Israel Zion Hospital in 1919 (now Maimonides Hospital) and the Park Surgical Company (New Utrecht Avenue and 50th Street in 1930. Joseph Dube worked in Park Surgical until his retirement in 1985, when he was 86 years old.

His father, Newman Dube, died at the age of 101 and worked in Park Surgical Company until the very end. Although completely blind, he felt that working keeps a person interested in life.

Joseph Dube lived in a retirement facility in Tucson, Arizona since 1995. He kept busy with his combination hobby and mitzvah - installing doorbells for other senior citizens.

The Boro Park Historical Society extends condolences to his brother, Daniel (who at the age of 92, still works at Park Surgical). his son, Donald, and his three grandchildren.

Lucille Posner

(Ed. We thank Lucille Posner an officer of the B.P.H.S. for her interesting contribution).

Help Preserve Boro Park History

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting upir memories and family historyin the community. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only $5 per year ($3 for students or retired people). $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

Thank You
Dr. Philip J. Kipust
Outstanding Article
Jacque Friedman
Publisher

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 4, 2001

Jacque Friedman, President of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) welcomed the audience to the meeting and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society.

Lucille Posner, Secretary and Acquisitions Chairman of the BPHS, introduced guest speaker, Robert Furman. Mr. Furman moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn in 1968 and now lives in Kensington, adjoining Boro Park. He became interested in the history of World War II in elementary school. Gradually, he became interested in the history of earlier times. His area of expertise is old maps.

About five years ago, while on a tour of Prospect Park, he was surprised to learn that Battle Pass, which runs through Prospect Park, is the only presumed battlefield of the American Revolutionary War in a large American city. However, the site is not well marked. Mr. Furman decided to try to rectify the situation.

He found out that, in 1995, Congress had appropriated $10,000 for an archeological survey of the Marylander Burial Site at 3rd Avenue and 8th Street. At the time, no human remains could be detected. It is hoped that, with the use of new archeological technology, human remains and/or artifacts will be detected.

Governor Pataki expressed an interest in developing heritage trails of the American Revolution in all five boroughs of New York City. To this end, Mr. Furman researched old maps of the Battle of Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Country Clerk's office, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and the Brooklyn Public Library. He identified the exact route that the American and British soldiers took on their way to the Battle of Brooklyn. He is the President of Brooklyn Heritage, Inc., which has received support from members of the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly.

Robert Furman Guest Speaker

Robert Furman displayed an old map of the Battle of Brooklyn. In 1776, what is now Brooklyn consisted of six towns (consisting largely of hills, woods, and farms) with a total population of about 5,000. The Town of Brooklyn was the most populous. George Washington, Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, realized that the British would try to occupy Manhattan and split the colonies in half at the Hudson River. This would greatly weaken the Continental Army. To prevent this, General Washington moved his army from Manhattan to Brooklyn, the logical place for the British to land their forces.

At the time, England had the largest navy in the world. English battleships reached the Narrows in July 1776 and landed about 40,000 soldiers in Staten Island and from there landed the soldiers at Greavesend Bay and (what is now) Bay Ridge. Since 15,000 American soldiers were in Brooklyn, The Continental Army was outnumbered by almost three-to-one. British troops, unopposed, marched down Old New Utrecht Road, passing through (what is now) Boro Park, on their was to the Town of Flatbush and Gowanus. The Main part of the British forces marched down Kings Highway.

The goal of the Continental Army was to prevent the British from occupying (what is now) Brooklyn Heights where they would be able to fire their cannons at Manhattan. The Continental Army had erected forts at various points along the shore of Brooklyn Heights and Wallabout Creek.

On August 26 and 27, 1776, General Howe divided the British Army into three parts. One part began to fight near (what is now) Greenwood Cemetery, to fool the Americans. Actually, the British wanted to get around Jamaica Pass. The Americans had foolishly neglected to guard Jamaica Pass and were surrounded by British soldiers, who took possession of the Old Stone House at (wnat is now) 3rd Avenue and 8th Street). The Old Stone House was attacked about five or six times by a regiment of 400 soldiers from Maryland (probably the best trained American troops in Brooklyn at the time). As a result of the

(cont'd.)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK...

attack by the Maryland troop, the Continental Army was able to retreat toward Brooklyn Heights. But the Maryland troop paid dearly for their bravery. Of the 400 men in the Maryland regiment, about 256 men were killed; the rest were able to rejoin the Continental Army. In all, about 1,500 American soldiers were killed in the Battle of Brooklyn, more than in any other battle of the American Revolution.

General Washington held a council of war in Brooklyn Heights and the decision was made to evacuate the Continental Army to Manhattan. This took place during the foggy night of August 28th.. The Continental Army lit campfires to fool the British Army into thinking that they were still encamped. Then every available rowboat in Brooklyn Heights was commandeered by the Continental Army. All night long, the American troops were ferried across the East River to Manhattan by soldiers from Massachusetts, who were fishermen and therefore skilled rowers. By daybreak, General Washington and the Continental Army had escaped over the East River and were in Manhattan. Mr. Furman pointed out that, if the American troops had not escaped to Manhattan, the British would have won the Revolutionary War at its very start! The escape is comparable in importance to the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk to England at the start of World War II.

He said that 500 American soldiers were killed and buried in (what is now) Prospect Park and commented that A National American Revolutionary War cemetery might be established in Prospect Park. The burial sites will first have to be identified. Mr. Furman pointed out that the original topography of Brooklyn still exists in Prospect Park and Greenwood Cemetery

He said that a movement is underway to establish a Brooklyn Heritage Trail and place markers at important Revolutionary War sites.

Concluding Remarks

President Friedman thanked Robert Furman for his interesting and stirring account of the Battle of Brooklyn, 1776, and expressed the hope that the Brooklyn Heritage Trail would be established.

Tom Prendergast, Official Photographer of the BPHS, commented that, on their way to the Battle of Brooklyn, the British marched past the Wykoff - Bennett farmhouse on Kings Highway. The farmhouse still stands, is a private home, and is described by Gertrude Ryder Bennet in her book, Living In a Landmark. He noted that several Dutch farmhouses still stand in Brooklyn.

Lucille Posner pointed out that, as the British marched down Old New Utrecht Road, Dutch farmers in the area fled. The occupants of a farmhouse at (what is now) 54th Street and 18th Avenue got into a wagon, prepared to flee. They were Nelje Cowenhoven (widow of Nick Cowenhoven), her baby, and her father-in-law, Garret Cowenhoven. Suddenly Nelje handed the baby to her father in law, ran back into the farmhouse, and emerged with a large mirror! The family drove her off. Lucille thanked the audience for attending the meeting and pointed out that without an audience there would be no meeting. She announced that the Boro Park Historical Society had recently become an affiliate of the Historic New Utrecht Association. Tom Prendergast said that the Association was holding a three-day event on June 8,9, and 10, to mark the anniversary of the raising of the American flag on the flagpole in front of the New Utrecht Dutch Reform Church on 84th Street and 18th Avenue. When the British lost the Revolutionary War and sailed back to England in 1783, churches in Brooklyn and Manhattan raised American flags on their flagpoles. Of all the flagpoles, only the one in front of the Dutch Reform Church on 84th Street and 18th Avenue still stands and has flown an American flag continuously since 1783! He said the celebration would include re-enactment by Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers, a memorial service, and a parade. Everyone is welcomed to attend. President Friedman said that volunteers, who can organize and file archival materials and scan materials onto a computer, are needed to serve on the Executive Committee. He thanked the members of the BPHS for their on-going support. Dues are $5 a year, $3 for retirees, and $10 a year for businesses and institutions. Life Membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for businesses and institutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucille Posner

(Ed.) We thank Ms. Lucille Posner, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society for this and for her many other interesting contributions.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

READERS COMMENTS RE: RABBI YOSEF YITZCHOK PARNES (O.B.M)

In the June 2001 issue of this column we had a long article about rabbi Yitzchok Parnes (O.B.M.). The following are some of the oral and written comments receive from readers.

Jacque Friedman, publisher of this paper, indicated that he received a number of calls from readers, requesting extra copies of the newspaper.

Yitzchok (Irving) Selengut

Yitzchok Selengut 45 st. said that he attended a recent wedding of Steven (and Rona) Budow - a great grandson of Rabbi Parnes, and numerous copies of the newspaper (BPCN) were available for the guests. The parents of the groom are Marvin and Shulamith Budow. Shulamith (Gluckowsky) Budow is a granddaughter of Rabbi Parnes.

Mr. Selengut said that his mother Emily Selengut (O.B.M.) was a first cousin to Rabbi Parnes and whenever she visited him she was always treated with warmth and respect. He also sid that Rabbi Parnes had been the Sandek at his bris (the honored position given to someone to hold the child during the circumcision) and he was also named Yitzchok after the same person. The Selengut family moved to Boro Park in 1954.

Arnold Klapper

Arnold Klapper, proprietor of Clear-View opticians 4601 13 ave. said that when he was a small boy in 01949, and for several years after his family lived at 1572 55 st. He and his father used to attend services at Rabbi Parnes' shule around the corner. Mr. Klapper said "Rabbi Parnes was very distinguished looking and made a beautiful appearance. His face glowed and one could see his deep piety on his face."

Mr. Klapper also commented that the landlord of his house then was Mr. Julius Fuchs whose married daughter Mrs. Henny Katz and family still live in that house.

Binyamn Kaplan

Rabbi Binyomin Kaplan of 1502 44 st., proprietor of Williamsburg Seforim Bindery at 1475 43 St. said he attended Mesivta Bais Torah H.S. which was located on the corner of 54 st and 16 ave. (5402 16 ave) Where the Bertch shule is now located. The Roshei Yeshiva or principals were Rabbi Mordechai Yaffe (OBM) and Rabbi Meyer Mintz. That was in the early 1950's. Rabbi Kaplan indicated that he remembers Rabbi Parnes attending the daily morning (Shacharis) services in the Yeshiva probably to lend support to this new Yeshiva.

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchoik Parnes

Dr. Philip Kipust is to be commended for his very interesting and thorough article on Rabbi Parnes. Dr. Kipust even interviewed Rabbi Parnes' children and grandchildren for their memories of their father and grandfather!

Dr. Kipust and I, both longtime Boro Park residents, agree that, in the past, most Jewish residents were not Orthodox. Even then, however, there were more Orthodox Jews living in Boro Park than in most other Brooklyn neighborhoods. I saw many - although not as many as now - men and boys wearing yarmulkes in the street. With the exception of one Conservative and one Reform synagogue - both still in operation - all the other synagogues were Orthodox, even if most of the residents were not.

Dr. Kipust says that a few pious individuals set an example for non-Orthodox Boro Park Jews to increase the level of their observance. I - born in Boro Park to a Conservative family - say that people did not become Orthodox - they simply moved away! Their houses and apartments are occupied by Orthodox Jews who moved to Boro Park, probably because of the large number of existing Orthodox synagogues, kosher butchers and bakeries, etc.

Dr. Kipust said that the non-Jewish residents of Boro Park were mainly Irish and Italian. however, many German Americans lived in Boro Park. I remember a few, including a little boy, Freddie, and Mrs. Menken, a piano teacher who lived on 51st Street between 14th and 15th Avenues. The German - Americans built the Lutheran Church on the corner of 13th Avenue and 51st Street (demolished). Gradually, the German-Americans moved away from Boro Park.

Lucille Posner

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Shmuel Goldstein

Shmuel Goldstein of Goldstein Press at 4602 16 ave. questions the statement in the article. "Rabbi Parnes immediatly built a mivkah for himself (ritual bath) right behind his store. This may very well have been the first mikvah in Boro Park."

Mr. Goldstein said the first public mikvah in Boro Park was located at 1255 43rd St where the Boro Park Public Library is now located. It also served as a Public Bath House. He said the mikvah was already in operation when his parents arrived in Boro Park in 1930, but he doesn't know if it was in operation in 1923 when Rabbi Parnes moved to Boro Park and built his mikvah.

Personal Comments

We would like to thank all those who called and wrote for their interesting contributions to the history of Boro Park. We will be happy to include other contributions in future columns. Perhaps one of the relatives can write about descendants of Rabbi Parnes.

I did not include the names of the eight children of Rabbi Parnes in the original article and would like to include them here, in order of age, the oldest first.

1. Yissocher 2. Cheskel 3. Leibish 4. Dovid 5. Moshe 6. Leah (Gluckowsky 7. Miriam (Rosenblatt) 8. Necha (Neiman).

In response to some of the comments I would like to point out that things changed with time. When I spoke about wearing yarmulkas in the street I was referring to the 1920's and 1930's. In those years boys didn't wear yarmulkas in the street. Religiously observant boys usually wore caps or little beanies made by cutting the crown off from a man's felt hat, turning up the edge all around and scalloping the edge. Then they would make several diamond shaped holes on top. I remember as a young boy I would never go out in the street with a yarmulka on. There may have been some instances when men or boys were standing outside the shule during the holiday services, when the Rabbi was speaking etc. wearing yarmulkas. Things changed gradually after world war II in the mid forties.

I remember once interviewing an old time Boro Parker and asking him about the changes he's seen in the community and he quipped. " when I first came to Boro Park I was afraid to walk out in the street wearing a yarmulka, now I'm, afraid to go out without one."

Another point is that even though most of the Jews in Boro Park were not fully religiously observant they considered themselves Orthodox in the sense that they belonged to and attended Orthodox Shules for services. In other neighborhoods such as the Lower East Side, Williamsberg and Brownsville, for example, there were many more religiously observant Jews than in Boro Park.

It is true that many non observant Jews moved out of the community and more religiously observant and chassidim moved in to Boro Park. One of the reasons why many moved away and others moved in was because the neighborhood was changing and becoming more religious minded. Rabbi Parnes definitely had an influence on many of the people that were in contact with him. Over the years I was told of many cases of Jewish people that personally became religiously observant because of the influence of Rabbi Parnes. These individual changes gradually influenced institutions, shuls, organizations and other individuals having an accrued effect on the neighborhood. This of course was only one of the many religious influences on the community.

Thank You
Dr. Philip J. Kipust
Outstanding Article
Jacque Friedman
Publisher

CORRECTION

The following sentences in the article on Teresa Stern by Lucille Posner, in the May 2001 issue were incorrectly printed and should read as follows:

A wine and cheese reception followed the memorial service. I felt Teresa's presence and knew she would have thoroughly enjoyed the memorial service!

Help Preserve Boro Park History

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting upir memories and family historyin the community. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only $5 per year ($3 for students or retired people), $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ANOTHER PIECE OF OLD NEW UTRECHT RD. RELEGATED TO HISTORY .

The historic Old New Utrecht Road, which was used by the British troops during the American Revolutionary War to march to the important historic Battle of Brooklyn, stretched through Boro PArk from Church Ave. near 36 st. till 18 ave and 53 st. and then along what is now 18th ave. into Bensonhurst. Over the years parts of this road were acquired and built upon so that now parts of this road are covered by Montaulk J.H.S. playground, congregation Emunas Yisroel of 4316 16 ave, Holy Spirit School at 1668 46 st. and a number of private houses. A section of this road still remains now between 48th and 52 streets (between 17 & 18 avenue) and a small piece on the corner of 44st and 16 ave.

That corner piece on the corner of 44 st. & 16th ave is now about to be built upon. It was purchased together with the three adjoining houses by the Yeshiva Bais Hillel of Krasna located at 1623 44 st., just a few houses away. The Yeshiva has already demolished the houses and plans to build a new Yeshiva building on that property.

Early this year Mr. Robert Furman, Director of the Brooklyn Heritage Trail Inc. and active member of the Boro Park Historical Society Exec. Bd., recommended that we get permission to perform tests and excavations on the site of this piece of Old New Utrecht Road, before it is built upon, to determine if there are any artifacts or historical remains buried on this site. Permission was obtained from the Yeshiva and a team of archaeologists from Brooklyn College Archeological Research Center worked on that site with appropriate instruments and equipment to obtain historical information. The first official report from the research center was submitted to the B.P.H.S. and follows.

Excavations on Old New Utrecht Road Borough Park, Brooklyn

"On June 27, 2001, the Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center conducted archaeological test excavations at the site of the section of old New Utrecht Road. This site was located at 44th Street and 16th Avenue, in front of 1606 44th Street, in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, New York. Currently awaiting construction the site area was occupied by three two story houses along the line of the old road, and not north-south with reference to the modern Borough Park grid. The line of the road had been brought to our attention by the Borough PArk Historical Society, whose president Jacque Friedman, we thank for getting us permission to test here. The Historical Society was also responsible for procuring the assistance of Jerry Sawyer, whose electro-resistivity of the site on June 17 was the first step in testing the existence and integrity of its archaeological resources.

The purpose of the BC-ARC field testing was to excavate a small bit of the site to determine whether the road still existed, and if so, what its condition was. The electro-resistivity survey had indicted an anomaly (a sharp change in the subsurface soil layers) about two feet down across the proposed roadbed. Therefore, on June 27, Dr. H. Arthur Bankoff, with a crew of eight diggers, laid out two 1 x 2 meter (E-W) trenches separated by a meter baulk across the roadbed, which ran from north to south. After mapping the site of the trenches, digging commenced at 10 AM , and continued until 5 PM.

Both trenches showed essentially the same stratigraphic profile: about 10 cm of topsoil overlying silty clay subsoil. At approximately 20 cm below the lower limit of the topsoil, there was a stratum in which river cobbles(water-worn, roughly spherical or ovoid, 10-15 cm in diameter) were found mixed with clinker and ash. The cobbles were not found in any particular order, nor was their distribution continuous. Below the thin stratum of cobbles, the soil turned sandier, although still retaining its yellow color. No artifacts were found in this lowermost stratum, and it was taken to be the native soil of the site.

It is quite likely that the layer of cobbles at the interface between the subsoil layer and the

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (cont'd.

undisturbed native soil is the anomaly that was distinguished by the remote electro-resistivity sensing. This might be presumed to represent the remains of a badly-disturbed cobbled road surface. There is no way of ascertaining when this surface dates to; artifacts in the layer of cobbles and that above it date to the 19th - 20th centuries,. The artifacts are currently in the BC-ARC laboratories being cleaned and stabilized, and will be returned to the Borough Park Historical Society as soon as this and an inventory are completed. Most of the recovered artifacts are small pieces of pottery and glass, although quite a few marbles, both old and new, were found, indicating perhaps that this front yard of the houses had been used as a play area for a rather long period of time.

H. Arthur Bankoff/ July 2, 2001. Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology.

OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

The following three articles originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1924 and 1925 were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the BPHS.

It may be of interest to note some of the similarities and differences with todays problems, activities and use of language

Playground Plan Beaten; Boro Park Zone Change Wins

A large delegation of citizens from the Boro Park section appeared today before the Committees on City Plan to oppose the laying out of a playground bounded by New Utrecht ave. 58th st. at 59th st. and 14th ave.

Alderman James F. Kiernan and Kenneth Sutherland were the spokesmen for the group. They presented a petition containing the names of 1,000 residents of their section urging the committee not to take any further steps toward the acquisition of the proposed park.

The committee decided to send in an unfavorable report on the park proposition.

At the request of Alderman Kiernan the committees adopted a resolution recommending an amendment to the zoning law changing from an unrestricted to a residence district. 51 st. from 18th ave. to 21 st ave. ; 50th, 51st and 52nd sts. from the railroad cut to Dahuill rd. to 54th st.; Dahill rd.. fro. 20th ave. to the northerly side of 53rd st., and Avenue J from Gravesend ave. to Dahill rd. (Bklyn Eagle 1924)

Residents Will Fight for Park in Neighborhood

Boro Park Split over proposed Park Site-Rival Factions Act.

The proposed park site in Boro Park to be bounded by New Utrecht ave., 42nd st., 10th ave. and 43rd st., has caused residents to divide into two factions.for and against the project and resulted last night in the decision of the Linden Heights Neighborhood Association to send five of its lawyer members to appear before the Board of Estimate on Nov. 14 and fight for its adoption. This was decided at a meeting last night at Schwartz Hall, New Utrecht ave and 52nd st., when it was learned that the opponents to the proposition, the Boro Park Taxpayers Association, at a meeting in the same hall on Monday night, decided to send a large delegation to the Board to fight the project.

Plans were also made to canvas the entire neighborhood with a petition which will show the community demand for the park. The petition will be circulated by the women members of the association who plan to appear before the the Board also to drive home the community need for park space in this section. It was also decided to adopt a suitable set of resolutions recording the association's indorsement of the proposed park site, its need and advantages it would bring to Boro Park. "Our primary aim," said Francis J. Berman, vice president of the association "is to secure a place where mothers

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

can find a spot of sunshine and fresh air in which to go with their babies and children. Boro Park is rapidly becoming a section of young married couples with one or two children who live in apartments where landlords will not even permit mothers to stand in front of their homes with baby carriages."

"Opposition to the park by the taxpayers is penny wise and pound foolish," said Dr. Frederick M. Margaretten, president of the association, who presided. "For the sake of as little as a $4 assessment, these people , who live in homes of their own with front porches, back yards and grass plots, and do not realize the need for a park of the kind proposed, are willing to fight the project and deprive children of needed sunshine and fresh air. The $4 assessment may change in a few years to one of $100 for jails and institutions to house children who because of improper surrounding such as adequate park space provides will grow up a detriment to society. The taxpayers need not worry about the assessment: they will easily make it up in the rents they charge us. We will be the ones to pay for it anyway."

A committee was also appointed to secure the provision of sufficient funds to carry on and extend the local public library. (Bklyn Eagle 1924)

Close Shop One Day, Merchants Urged

Co-operation is urged at Dinner of 13th Ave. Ass'n

A get-together was given last night by the Thirteenth Avenue Merchants Assoc. at the Crystal Palace, 4214 14th ave., in a renewed effort to bring better co-operation among the merchants of the avenue and to initiate a movement for a day of rest for all business men of that section. More than 200 members and guests attended.

State Senator Philip M. Kleinfeld, who was the first to speak after the dinner, told the merchants that as members of a growing and important community they owe it to themselves to plan to close shop at least one day a week for the good of their health and to conform with thier religious principals. He said that whether it should be Saturday or Sunday they should decide themselves.

Other speakers who were introduced by the toastmaster, Benjamin Sherman,. Max Perlman, Harry Aaron, Sam Gordon, Henry Bernstein, S.M. Creedman and Louis Rudnick, who was chairman of the arrangements committee.

S.M. Creedman A.M. Rogel and William Goldstein were each presented with a fancy lemonade set in token of their efforts for the association.

Branch banks in Bay Ridge were represented at the dinner. Those institutions which sent representatives were the State Bank, the Irving Bank-Columbia Trust Company, the East River National Bank and the Municipal Bank. (Bklyn Eagle 1925)

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.



Universal movie theater, New Utrecht Avenue and 46th street. Boro Park's Largest and most beautiful movie house, it opened October 9, 1927 and showed silent films (at that time). The interior design by John Eberson featured walls built to look like Spanish buildings, a ceiling painted blue like the sky, with white clouds which, when spot-lighted, gave the illusion of movement.

Lowe's purchased the Universal theatre in 1929 and renamed it the "Lowe's 46th Street.: it is now the property of Regal Furniture 4515 New Utrecht Avenue. Courtesy of collection of Dario Marotta.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK AND BORO PARK

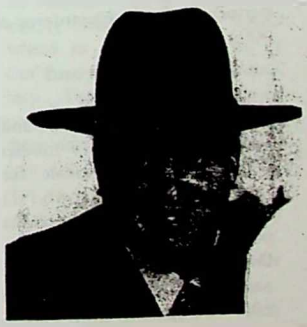
The evil and brutal terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001 against the USA will certainly go down in history as another day of infamy. The other infamous day occurred on December 7, 1941 when the American Navy and Army were attacked at Pearl Harbor.

This evil and depraved terrorist attack against the World Trade Center and Pentagon building, in which close to 6,000 innocent people were ruthlessly murdered - cremated, was really a wicked attack against the American way of life, against humanity, against freedom and democracy.

Boro Park was affected by this cruel attack in a general way, like all of America, but also in some specific ways. In general Boro Parkers felt the sadness of this tragedy, the sympathy and empathy with the families who lost loved ones, the devastation to our economy and transportation; but also the patriotism and unity and the resolve of the American people to overcome.

Specifically, there was some loss of life to Boro Park families and to fire fighters of the local fire station and some loss of business and jobs. Also on Sept. 12, the next day, Boro Parkers woke up to find their cars and streets covered with a thin layer of dust and debris from the explosion and fire at the World trade Center. Some Boro Parkers volunteered their time and services through Hatzola and other volunteer groups to help in the rescue efforts. Boro Parkers also joined other Americans in displaying American flags and joined in prayers for the government and victims

Several of those killed or wounded had ties to Boro Park. We are not familiar with all those victims and would welcome receiving additional information about them to include in future columns and in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society. The names of those killed that we are aware of are Shimon Dovid Biegeleisen, (RIP) Avrohom Nesanel Ilowitz (RIP) and Nancy (Chana Perel) Morgenstern (RIP). The two individuals slightly wounded during rescue efforts were Rabbi Edgan Gluck and Shammai Goldstein of Hatzolah. In this column we will focus on Mr. Biegeleisen and his family history in Boro Park.



Shimon Dovid Biegeleisen
1959-2001
Victim of World Trade Center
Attack Sept. 11, 2001

Shimon Dovid Biegeleisen (O.B.M.)

Shimon Dovid Biegeleisen, or Shimmy as his relatives and friends affectionately called him, had a very long and strong historical connection to Boro Park. His family and this columnist also enjoyed a long and close friendship for more than 60 years. Although we have written about the Biegeleisen family in the past we will attempt to briefly describe the cruel attack and then update his family history in Boro Park.

Mr. Biegeleisen 42, was the vice president of Fiduciary Trust International with offices on the 97th floor of 2 World Trade Center (South Tower). After the first plane crashed into the North Tower, Shimmy called home to assure his wife Miriam and parents that he was OK since the plane hit the other building. He said he was going to leave the building nevertheless. Moments later the second plane crashed into the building that Shimmy was in, filling his office with black smoke and intense heat. Shimmy called home several times. A close friend in Hatzolah tried to advise safety procedures to help him breathe and try to escape. He tried to reach the roof, tried to break a window for air but fire engulfed him all around. He called several times asking his friends to promise him they would take care of Miriam and his children. He began to recite the 24th Psalm in Hebrew. In the process however, the building collapsed and the last sounds were a loud shriek.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Family History in Boro Park

The Biegeleisen family is well known in the community primarily because of their Hebrew book business, selling Hebraica and Judaica. At one time this business was carried on from their home in Boro Park, but eventually moved to a larger commercial quarters on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and then to their current store at 4409 16th Ave.

Shimmy's grandfather, Mr. Yisroel Yakir Biegeleisen, first moved to Boro Park, together with his parents, Yosef Chaim and Chana Shayndel, two sisters and one brother, in 1920. the family was brought to these shores by Yakir's uncle Alter Shimon Reiter. Their first residence was at 1475 47th Street. It was a common practice in those years for relatives to help bring their families to America to escape from persecution and hardships in the Europian countries.

Mr. Y. Biegeleisen recalled that in the 1920's there was only one elevated apartment building in Boro Park located on 14th Avenue and 49th Street, across from Temple Emanuel.

In 1922, he moved to 4513 13th Avenue, above a store and in 1924 moved to 1146 47th Street. He started his business in his apartment in 1923.

He returned to Galicia, Poland in 1926 to marry his cousin Leah Zilbiger and returned to live at 1222 45th Street, where their first son, Shlomo was born. In 1932 the family moved to 1216 51st Street and in 1933 they moved to 1427 53rd Street, where their second son, Moshe was born.

The Biegeleisens carried on their Hebrew Book business from their home until 1950 when they opened a store in the lower East side of Manhattan. They lived on 53rd Street for 23 years, until their children were married, and then moved to 1358 47th Street. They moved their business back to 4409 16 ave. in 1980. Yakir Biegeleisen was deceased in 1980 and his wife Leah was deceased in 1995. Shlomo and Moshe Biegeleisen were born in Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides) were brought up in Boro Park and live here almost all their lives. They attended Yeshiva Toras Emes.

Yakir Biegeleisen was an active officer in Yeshiva Toras Emes during its early years and was president of the Belz institutions. The family are all very active Belzer Chasidim. Younger son Moshe is married to Bracha (formerly Singer) and have six Children. One of his sons is a partner in Eagle Electronics at 5003 13 ave.

Gina Rosenmund Biegeleisen

Gina (Regina Rosenmund) Biegeleisen, Shimmy's mother, was one of the fortunate survivors of the Holocaust who settled in Boro Park. She and her parents Rabbi Elkana and Dvorah Rosenmund (RIP) fortunately escaped from Austria in 1939 and came to Boro Park in 1940.

They first lived with her aunt and uncle, Popover family at 1658 50 st. Gina started school at PS 180 - 56th street and 16 ave. They lived here until her father, a Hebrew teacher, was able to obtain a job in Philadelphia and they moved there. He was also principal of a Yeshiva in Lakewood.

In 1945, soon after the war, her father was offered a position in New York so they moved back to Boro Park. they lived at 5205 13 ave. Above a store and next to the then Brooklyn Public Library, Boro Park Branch. Rabbi Rosenmund served as instructor at Stern College for many years.

When they moved back to Boro Park Gina just started high school so she attended New Utrecht H.S. and then Brooklyn College. She lived at the same location until her marriage to Shlomo Biegeleisen in 1952. Gina's parents then moved to 1320 51st st. where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Her father was deceased in 1981 and her mother Devorah in 1983.

When Gina and Shlomo were first married they moved to Ocean Parkway. In 1957 they moved back to Boro Park to 1634 53 st. where they have lived ever since

Shlomo and Gina had three children, Shelly, Yosef and Shimmy. Shelly attended Shulamith and the boys attended Yeshiva Toras Emes in their elementary school grades. All three were married from their present address. Shelly married Ezra (Shlomo) Berger a Boro Park resident. He also attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and then Kamenitzer H.S. He is an attorney now. After their marriage they lived on 50 st., between 12 and 13 ave and then moved to Flatbush.

Yosef is also an attorney. He married Devora Gross and they now live in Lawrence, N.Y.

Shimmy was a computer programmer. He married Miriam Stern in 1980 and moved to Flatbush. All five of their children, however were born in Maimonides Hospital in Boro Park.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Shlomo Biegeleisen has been attending prayer services at Cong. Chasidei Belz at 4814 16 ave. since the Belzer Shule first started in Boro Park in 1957. Now the Cong. Chasidei Belz has purchased land for a new main Synagogue on 15 ave between 50 st. and 51st Street. the property that formerly belonged to Dr. Wehl (RIP)

Newspaper Articles

Articles about Shimmy Biegeleisen and the World Trade Center tragedy appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the Jewish Press, NY Daily News, Hamodia, The New York Times, Hamachne Hachareide, and others.

Memorial Services in his memory were held on Sept. 25 and Oct. 29, at Masores Bais Yaakov on Ocean Ave. Memorial Services were also held for the employees, family and friends of Fiduciary Trust Company International at a church in Manhattan.

The articles and speakers related Shimmy's special qualities and unique personality. The Fiduciary Trust Company memorial literature described him as follows.

"Shimmy Biegeleisen was one of those rare souls about whom it is said. He didn't have a bad bone in his body. Always smiling, Shimmy had a magnetic appeal that made him an instant friend to everyone he met. His genuine caring, unique devotion and willingness to help made him beloved by the many, who called him their best friend.

"Despite his fun-loving nature, Shimmy was an unusually intelligent, talented and responsible individual whose abilities earned the respect of his co-workers who appreciated his integrity and dedication. And yet, Shimmy was a deeply spiritual person whose religious observance always took precedence and whose devotion to his Judaism was both unwavering and uncompromising

"Finally Shimmy was a family man. Beloved husband and father of five beautiful children, he took special care of his in-laws and parents and was a source of wisdom, advice and emotional support for siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. He will be sorely missed."

The Jewish Press article included the following:

"Shimmy was everybody's best friend. His house was always open. People came in and others left, as through a revolving door. his easy laugh and outgoing personality were magnetic. Anyone with a problem or simply needing a favor knew where to turn, The words "I can't" were not in his vocabulary... From the multitudes of people who came during Shiva there emerged countless heretofore unknown stories of charity that was given quietly, of self sacrifice that was not publicized of sacrifices of time and convenience that he would not permit to be told.

...."Shimmy attended Yeshiva Toras Emes and later graduated from Mesivta Chaim Berlin H.S., where he continued study after graduation. His involvement in Chaim Berlin continued on the Dinner Committee, as well as Journal Chairman. When his daughters were ready for school, he became the driving force in the funding of Masores Bais Yaakov, (where the memorial service was held). His involvement in so many other institutions geared his life into a breathtaking pace. He also carefully guarded and actively participated in his family's tradition of Belzer Chasidus. He never missed a Belzer function. He spent his last Rosh Hashana in Belz in Jerusalem and already had airline tickets to be there this year as well."

The periodical Hamachane Hachareide article included the following:

"He worked for almost twenty years at Fiduciary Trust at the World trade Center. He served as Vice President of the company, a prestigious high position, and as chairman of his department. His gentile co-workers, who came to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved family, expressed the highest regard for Mr. Biegeleisen. They had no previous contact with an ultra orthodox Jew and now they had nothing but endless praise for him. He wore his yarmulka proudly at all times and this earned him their deepest respect.

They said it was a pleasure in todays day and age to see a person who was so obviously proud of his religion, who always acted in a most refined and exemplary manner, and they said, what a great loss it was for all of them."

Temple Emanuel End of an Era

Temple Emanuel of Boro Park, the boroughs first, and Boro Park's only Conservative Temple, has closed its doors. The temple located on 14th ave. corner 49 st. was first established in 1904 by a group of wealthy Jews in Boro Park. The current large and impressive building was not built until several years later. The cornerstone was put down in 1906.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

The conservative synagogue had been planning its final closing services during the past two years and scheduled it for the High Holidays of 2001 that just past in October. The Temple had been declining in membership and attendance as the population of Boro Park changed. The membership declined from a high of 800 to its recent figure of 100. The final services were performed by the Temple Cantor Albert Kutner with choir accompaniment and a farewell sermon was delivered by Rabbi Binyomin Kreitman, the Temple spiritual leader.

Its past spiritual leader, Rabbi Boruch Silverstein, who led the congregation for 40 years (starting in 1946) was one of the leaders of the national conservative movement. He also served as President of the N.Y. Board of Rabbis. The Temple also featured a number of famous cantors in the past including Cantors Zarvel Kwartin and David Kusevitsky who served about 38 years. During its hey days the Temple also sponsored a thriving Hebrew school and participated in the establishment of many community organizations and projects such as Israel Zion hospital (now Maimonides), Infants Home and YMHA.

In 1960 the Samuel Fine Center and Religious School Building was constructed adjacent to the synagogue. For a number of years now that building at 1362 49th st. has been the home of the Bais Yakov of Brooklyn and Seminary under the leadership of Rabbi Balkany. Rumors have it that the Temple itself was recently purchased by that school.

In 1979 when the Temple celebrated its 75th anniversary it commissioned Mr. Alan J. Gerber, then member of community school Bd 20 (which includes Boro Park) to write the history of the Temple for its 75th Annual Dinner Journal. From this journal and from notes in our files we were able to gather the following few bits of historical information about the Temple.

Past presidents of the Temple included Samuel Fine, Max Krantz, Irving H. Fine, and Samuel Frederick Placer (oldest president of the Temple, installed as President in 1983).

Miriam Krantz, wife of Max served as president of the Sisterhood. Dr. Miriam Freund - Rosenthal, who was a past national president of Hadassah, moved to B.P. on 1910 and married Milton Freund at Temple Emanuel, in 1927, where her family attended services. Daniel Dube, owner of Park Surgical at 5001 New Utrecht Ave., which has been in business in Boro Park since 1930, served on the Board of Trustees and as president of the Young Folks League.

Samuel Frederick Placer, Pres. of Temple, was born in 1908, moved to Boro Park in 1934 when married to Mollie in the Temple. Cantor Benjamin Levitt served as Cantor at wedding and at Temple. The Temple Arms, an elevated apartment building located on 14th ave and 49 st. was built in 1927. It derived its name from the fact that it is located across the street from Temple Emanuel.

Jack Manzar moved to Boro Park in 1908, at one year of age. In preparation for his Bar Mitzvah in 1920 he attended Hebrew school at Temple Emanuel, "his father's synagogue". The class was taught by the Shammos (Sexton) Mr. Schneiderman. He said "only boys studied Hebrew in those days".

In 1904 when the Temple was first organized, the following government elected officials were in office. Theodore Roosevelt was president of the U.S.A., Benjamin Odell was Governor of New York State and George B. McClelan was mayor of New York City. That was also the year of the first World Series Games and the first New York city Subway train.

We welcome additional information about the Temple or any other historical information about Boro Park.

Correction

The following sentences, which appeared in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society in the September issue, should be corrected to read: Suddenly Nelje handed the baby to her father-in-law, ran back into the farmhouse, and emerged with a large mirror! The family then drove off.

Help Preserve Boro Park History

You can help preserve the history and pride of Boro Park by submitting memories and family history in the community. You can also help by joining the B.P.H.S. Dues are minimal only $5 per year ($3 for students or retired people). $10 for business or organizations. Life membership is $100 for individuals and $200 for business or organizations.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

MIKE GETZ

A recent book, Brooklyn Boy, A Memoir - was recently authored and published by Mike Getz. The book includes a number of references to Boro Park where Mike was born and raised. Mike, a member of the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Board, was guest speaker at the society's annual membership meeting in June 2000.

In 1930 Mike's mother, Rose Palter moved to Boro Park (966- 51st) with her mother. In 1937, Rose married Joe Getz at the Plaza restaurant on 47th St. between 12th and 13th avenues.

Mike has six other published books to his credit, all about baseball. His latest before Brooklyn Boy was Brooklyn Dodgers and their Rivals 1950-52. Mike has also contributed to a number of magazines and newspapers including Baseball Digest, Baseball Bulletin and Diamond Report. Mr. Getz is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and is listed in Who's Who in U.S. Writers, Editors and Poets.

Brooklyn Boy is a memoir of his life from his birth in 1938 to his marriage in 1966. There are stories about family, school, sports, movies, music, jobs, celebrities, the army and courtship. In photos and prose the author paints a vivid picture of Brooklyn in those glory days.

The following are a few excerpts from the book which refer to his life in Boro Park:

"Mom and Dad discovered each other in 1936. Dad was a thirty-year-old bachelor and Mom was already thirty-seven. It was at a going-away party for a distant cousin of my father that they met. Mom had been engaged about fifteen years earlier (1921) to some guy named Herbert, but that wasn't to be. When she met my father, they hit it off pretty well and got married on May 30, 1937. The wedding took place at the Borough Park Plaza Restaurant on Forty-seventh Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Avenues in the heart of Brooklyn."

"For the record, I came into the world on Thursday, December 29, 1938, at eight-forty A.M. 'Just in time for breakfast,' my dad would always say. I weighed in at a solid seven pounds, two ounces. Dr. Irwin Haiken delivered me. I don't remember a darn thing about that day. My mom would turn forty a few months later, so I guess I just made it. When I was brought home from Israel Zion Hospital a few days later, naturally I was made a fuss over by my grandmother (mom's mom); my mother's older sister, Esther; her husband, Dave; their three children, Arnold (17), Isobel (11), and Marcella (4); and, of course, my parents, Rose and Joe Getz. That made nine of us living in Aunt Esther and Uncle Dave's second-floor apartment of a two-family house on Fifty-seventh Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway in Brooklyn."

"When Grandma took sick, a nurse came to live with us, making it ten people in the house my mother was already living in before she married my father. He was barely making a living as a coffee salesman, so they couldn't afford a place of their own. Uncle Dave, the other breadwinner in the house, was working as a house painter and paper hanger. Somehow we all managed. At the time, a gallon of milk went for fifty cents and a loaf of bread was a dime."

"In February 1939, Grandma passed away at the age of seventy six. The former Ida Schwartz (1863-1939) was buried in Brooklyn in Washington Cemetery a few rows in back of her husband, Morris Palter (1860-1929). It was thirty-three years later that I wound up living across the street from the cemetery."

"Most of my aunts and uncles settled in Borough Park. From this family of Morris and Ida Palter came seventeen grandchildren (my sixteen first cousins and myself). Since Mom's much older sister, Rae, had her first child in 1904, my cousin Beatrice and I were thirty-four years apart. And since my father was born in 1906, my cousin was actually two years older than my father. My mother was one of the few who completed a high school education. She graduated from Bay Ridge High in 1916."

"During the time that my father was in the army, my mother and I would often visit her brothers, sisters, and a few cousins in Borough Park. There would sometimes be a card game going on. The card players would stop between games and ask me to sing 'Mairzy Doats' or 'Swinging on a Star' or 'Surrey with the Fringe on Top.'

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Then, they would each give me a nickel or a dime for each song I sang. I usually got carried away and started singing all the army, navy, and marine songs. My mother would sometimes remind me years later, 'First they paid you to sing; then they paid you to shut up.'

"Right before school started in the fall of 1948, I went back to Fort Hamilton Parkway to live with my mother's sister, Aunt Esther, and her husband, Uncle Dave. My mom had a very large tumor growing in her stomach and needed an operation to have it removed. This was to be followed by a lengthy period of recuperation in some type of rest home. My dad couldn't take care of me because he was usually working nights selling coffee, tea and other items to the restaurants and bars. Besides...he could never get out of bed in the morning to get me over to school. Before Mom went into the hospital, many people thought she was pregnant. She looked very young, but she was almost fifty at the time."

I had to transfer from P.S. 121 on Twentieth and Fifty-third Street to P.S. 105 on Tenth Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street. I missed my friends from the old school but quickly made new friends upon entering the fifth grade."

"I was really missing mother very much, but with an aunt, uncle and three cousins around, I never lacked for love and attention. My cousin Marcella was almost fourteen at the time and finishing her final year at Pershing Junior High. Cousin Isobel was twenty-one and attending Brooklyn College several nights per week while also working, and cousin Arnold was at work most of the time and getting quite involved with politics. Arnold got me interested in the 1948 presidential election and I stayed up really late on election night for the battle between Harry Truman and Thomas Dewey. Dewey was ahead when I finally fell asleep, and it looked like he would win. What a surprise when I woke up the next morning to find out that Truman was elected president of the United States."

"Late in 1949, Mom and Dad felt it would be a good idea for their son to start getting a Jewish education. In a few short years I would be making my Bar Mitzvah. They enrolled me in an after-school Hebrew program in a storefront school on Eighteenth Avenue and Fifty-fourth Street. I went there a few days a week for about two hours. It was there that I met a very cute eight-year-old girl named Lois, who in time captured my heart. I was ten years old at the time. We attended different public schools and we only stayed at this after-school program for a short time, but she somehow made a big impression on me. Lois and I were married forty-six years later."

"After I left the Hebrew School on Eighteenth Avenue, I went to a storefront school on Sixteenth and Forty-eighth Street to further my Jewish education. Then it was time to go for private lessons. Throughout 1951, Rabbi Aronson worked with me to prepare me for my Bar Mitzvah. If you'll pardon the expression, the rabbi had the patience of a saint. The Congregation Ohel Abraham on Eighteenth Avenue and Forty-ninth Street welcomed me on January 5, 1952. I don't know if anyone noticed, but when I made my thank-you speech, I said the same paragraph twice.

The next day, a reception was held for me at the home of Rabbi Schraeter on Fourteenth Avenue and Fifty-fourth Street. All my aunts, uncles and cousins were there."

Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation Office Moves Out of Boro Park

The Yeshiva Etz Chaim of Boro Park, also known as the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park was the first Yeshiva in all of Brooklyn and the second in the United States. It started in 1916 and closed its doors in 1979. It was located on 13th Avenue, on the full block between 50 and 51 streets. We have written about this school a number of times in the past.

When this Yeshiva closed its doors in 1979, because of the changing population and needs of the community, it established the Etz Chaim Foundation, a

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

39th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, 1911. The Standard Cafe is now occupied by a printer. The other buildings on the left have been demolished and new buildings have been built in their place. The bakery building on the right has been demolished. The West End train ran on the ground at that time. The train is seen curving from 37th street onto New Utrecht Avenue.

Collection of the Brooklyn Historical Society

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

philanthropic organization, using the money it received for its building to further Jewish education programs and schools. It maintained an office in Boro Park at 4702-15th Ave all these 22 years since. Very recently, the Etz Chaim Foundation moved its office to Flatbush. It will combine office space with the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers (A.O.J.T.), another organization that started in Boro Park.

Last year, approximately 200 graduates of this Yeshiva gathered at a luncheon held in Manhattan to reminisce about the "good old days" in Boro Park. Jerome Hornblass, president of the Yeshiva Etz Chaim Foundation, proudly pointed out that "the Yeshiva had a great impact on the shaping of the American Jewish community. Its graduates not only became leading educators, attorneys, businessmen, doctors, engineers and researchers, but also played a significant role in our synagogues, educational institutions and community activities."

He also pointed out that several Etz Chaim alumni died serving in the American armed forces during WWII and some died fighting with the Hagana during Israel's war of Independence, including the well known hero Moshe Pearlstein.

Another Etz Chaim graduate and former Boro Parker, Zachary Baumel, was captured by the arab forces in Lebanon in 1982 and no information about him or his whereabouts was forthcoming from the arab forces to this date.

The four alumni honored at this luncheon were Seymour Reich, Esq., (Past President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations), Rabbi Jeremiah Wohlberg, Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller and Norman Weisman (Vice President of the Foundation).

Also cited were Mitchell Mann, Luncheon chairman, Rubin Markowitz, Journal Chairman and Jennie Rosenzweig, Executive Secretary. Judge Jerome Hornblass, president of the Foundation and former New York State Justice of the Supreme Court received a special award.

P.S. 131- 100th Birthday

Dear Editor,

To all Alumni of P.S. 131, 4305 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Bronklyn, NY 11219. We are planning many wonderful events this coming school year for our "100th Birthday Celebration." We would love to have you join us for all, or at least some of our Birthday Events.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact: P.S. 131, "100th Birthday Committee," c/o Mrs. Elaine Cooper Simon, 4305 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11219, or call any of the following and leave a message including your name, address and telephone number and we will get in touch with you: Mrs. Elaine Cooper Simon 718-256-3696; Mrs. Dianne Simon Franklin 718-259-2658 or Mrs. Deena Lacher Berger 718-449-1726.

Elaine Cooper Simon

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THE ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IN BORO PARK

The following is a speech delivered at Kingsboro Community College by Ms. Rashi Stolzenberg as part of a course requirement to describe a community.

This report was delivered on Dec. 1, 1987 and the figures, information and description may have changed in the almost 15 years since then. Ms. Stolzenberg is an assistant principal in a public elementary school and lives in Flatbush. We thank her for her interesting contribution.

This time of year Brooklyn is alive with glittering lights and richly decorated store windows. But in one section of Brooklyn there are almost no Christmas decorations at all. Boro Park, Brooklyn is predominatly inhabited by Orthodox Jews. The rebirth of Orthodox Judiasm in America is most evident in Boro Park. With a population of about 55,000 Orthodox Jews, it is the largest Orthodox Jewish Community in America.

The term Orthodoxy is very broad. Traditional Orthodox Jews tend to affiliate with small congregations and to follow a strict interpretation of the 613 commandments. Modern Orthodox Jews, who affiliate with large congregations, tend to have a more lenient approach to the 613 commandments. Among the Chasidic Jews, Jews who follow a particular Rebbie, there are distinctions made on the basis of dynastic allegiance. There are more than 20 Chasidic dynasties in Boro Park.

Boro Park caters to the needs of its orthodox residents. Most of the food stores sell only kosher products. Men's stores carry traditional black clothing. Women's stores sell high neck, long sleeve dresses. This is mandatory garb for Orthodox Jewish women. There are numerous bookstores which sell bibles, prayer books, and texts on Jewish law. A multitude of stores sell such items as menorahs, skullcaps, and candelabras.

Thirteenth Avenue, the "main street" in Boro Park, is alwayss crowded with modestly dressed women pushing baby carriages. Men in side curls and beards rush through the streets on their way to synagogue, to the study hall, or to work. And there are children everywhere. Orthodox Jewry frowns on birth control.

Boro Park has approximately 200 synogogues; only 2 ar not orthodox. There are 45 religious schools. Since communication between boys and girls is discouraged, the sexes attend separate schools. Most marriages are arranged.

There are poor Jews in Boro Park. But there are also very rich ones. The majority, however, are comfortably middle class.

Boro Park wasn't always the largest center of Orthodox Jewry in America. How did it evolve into what it is today?

Boro Park was settled in the 1920's by upwardly mobile second and third generation immigrants. It was a suburb which contained gardens and parks and had a country like atmosphere. Boro Park was always considered a Jewish neighborhood.

By 1930 it had about 60,000 Jews. Their homes, lawns, and synagogues symbolized material achievement. Yiddish fell into disuse. Jewish children attended public schools and received religious instruction at Hebrew Schools in the late afternoons or evenings. Although all the institutions were traditionally Jewish, the buildings were expensive, imposing structures.

The residents prided themselves in their Americanism, their financial success, and their general modernness. Boro Park was the fulfillment of the American promise: a home one could call his own, a neighborhood in which one could take pride, neighbors with whom one shared common interests.

The early Jewish residents were eager to leave behind the immigrant ghettos and the traditions and rituals that they associated with these ghettos.

Their Boro Park synagogues contained pews and ornaments. Officers and clergy dressed formally. Although Boro Park residents insisted on remaining Jewish, their religious practices were secondary to them.

Boro Park changed very little from the depression until the end of World War II. However, the young people who came of age after World War II were better educated and surpassed the achievements of their parents and grandparents. As Boro Park became more urban, the young affluent people moved to more suburban communities.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

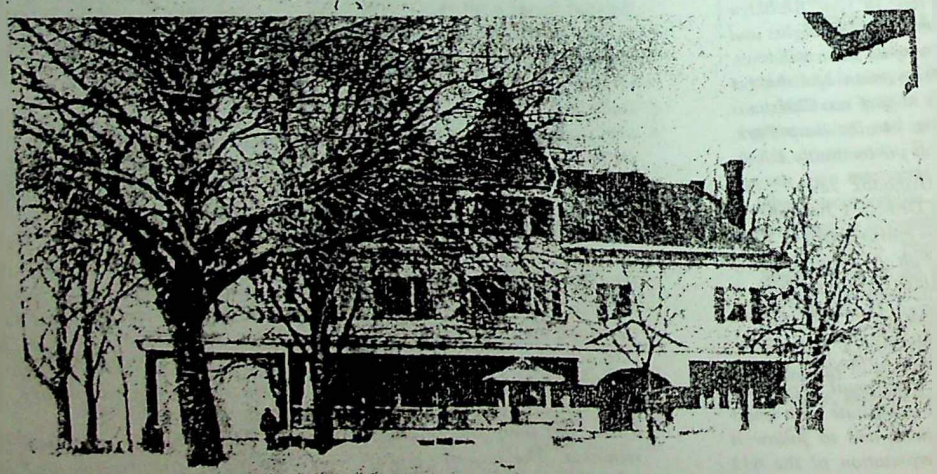
During this period and during the 1950's Jewish immigrants from war torn Europe replaced these residents. Most of those immigrants were orthodox.

During the late 40's,the 50's, and the early 60's , Williamsburg and Crown Heights were the most important Orthodox Jewish Communities in N.Y..C.

In the 60's, however, other ethnic groups began moving into Bronklyn in large numbers many moved into Williamsburg and Crown Heights. The sheltered cloistered environment of the Jews in these areas was being changed by their new neighbors. They were faced with the prospect of living in an ethnically integrated neighborhood or moving. Those who could afford to, moved. The majority-- to Boro Park. Most of the Orthodox institutions of Williamsburg and Crown Heights were transplanted to Boro Park . Many Chasidic Rabbis and their followers moved there as well. And Boro Park became what it is today.

I visited Boro Park last Friday. In the early afternoon the sto- were starting to close. The owners were leaving early in order to prepare for the Sabbath. Schools were being dismissed. On the eve of the Sabbath yeshiva students have a half day of school. Women were hurrying to do last minute shopping. I stopped at a bakery. Everyone was buying chalot(Sabbath bread). Many people were speaking yiddish.

Was I really in America? Boro Park seemed no different than the most religious neighborhoods in Israel. Orthodox residents of Boro Park seemed totally submerged in the observance of Jewish law and ritual. And this fervent commitment to Judaism is what makes Boro Park a unique and awesome experience.



HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

Home of the GERRET PETER COWENHOVEN family at 18th ave. and 51 st. during a snowstorm, during the early 1900's. Courtesy of Catharine Scarborough of Wilmington, Delaware. Copyprint and submission by Tom Prendergast.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

MORE ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK

In a previous column, Dec.2001, we discussed the Boro Park involvement and losses in the infamous attack of 9/11 on the World Trade Center. Another tragic loss was brought to our attention as reported in the New York Times of Oct. 2001.

"Mr. Angelo Amaranto, 60, of Borough Park, Brooklyn, worked on the 87th,89th and 91st floors of 2 World Trade Center," said his daughter, Rosanna. A native of Salerno, a city in southern Italy, Mr. Amaranto loved to provide for his family. He had three grandchildren. 'He showed his love through work and buying gifts', said his daughter, who lives upstaires in the family's house."

Angelo Amaranto left his job as a janitor at the Nasdaq and went to work at the twin towers, in the same capacity, in 1973, when the World Trade Center was completed.

His wife Maria said he loved those buildings and at the start, for the first two years had to work nights but it was worth it. The phone directory lists the address of Angelo Amaranto as 1255-59st.

We welcome additional information about the World Trade Center disaster as it relates to Boro Park.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPTURE OF WILLIE SUTTON

Feb. 18th, 2002 was the 50th Anniversary of the legendary capture of the famous bank robber, Willie Sutton. Mr. Sutton was then 52 and was on the F.B.I.'s most wanted list ever since he escaped from a Pennsylvanian prison five years earlier. He was called a "gentleman bandit" who had robbed numerous banks without ever firing a shot or hurting anyone and had escaped from prison three times.

His career came to an end that Feb. day in 1952 when he was identified on a subway train leaving Dekalb Ave Station by a a Boro Park man, Arnold Schuster. Mr. Schuster, 24, lived on 45th St. near 9th ave and worked in his father's clothing store in Boro Park.

When Mr. Sutton left the train Mr. Schuster followed him and reported him to the police. It was only after some doings that the plolice finally arrested him, and the papers were filled with the exciting story.

Tragically however, Arnold Schuster was gunned down and viciously killed on March 8, 1952, while he walked near his home, at 913-45st. He lived at 947-45st. Mr. Sutton claimed he knew nothing of the murder and had nothing to do with it. He was in fact quite upset that a young man was killed because of him. The police suspect that Mr. Schuster was murdered by one of the mob bosses. Mr. Sutton remained in jail until 1969 and died in 1980.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

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DISTRICT 20 ANNOUNCES APPLICATIONS

Community School District 20 announces Prekindergarten Applications are now available at all District 20 public elementary schools.

Children born in 1998 are eligible. Information about the program is attached to the application.

Deadline: Friday, April 12, 2002 by 3:00 p.m. Inquiries: (718) 234-8304.

Cathy Gustaitis, Director

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

The following three articles originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper in 1925 were researched and submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan, an officer of the B.P.H.S

It may be of interest to note some of the similarities and differences with todays problems, activities and use of language.

K. OF P. GIVES PICNIC FOR CRIPPLED TOTS

Boro Park lodge takes 80 to prospect park

Eighty crippled children, 50 girls and 30 boys, were made happy yesterday afternoon by a picnic in Prospect Park, which was given for them by the Boro Park Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. The kiddies were brought in 30 motor cars by members of the lodge from a branch of the Boro Park Infants' Home, 731 E. 9th street, Manhattan; escorted by motorcycle policemen.

The procession included members of the Pythian Sisters, Temple No. 95 of Boro Park; eight nurses from the home, a band, and professional entertainers. At the park picnic grounds 2 basket luncheon was served. Souvenirs included sewing boxes for the girls and harmonicas for the boys, were given out and everyone had as much ice cream, cake and soda water as he desired.

The committee in charge of the outing included Paul Waldman, past councellor of the Boro Park Lodge; George Levine, chancellor commander; Irving Blank, chairman of the welfare committee and Mrs. Max Perlmutter, president of the Pythian Sisters.

(Brooklyn, Eagle 1925)

SAYS JEWISH PUPILS ARE FORCED TO SING SONGS OF GENTILES

Rabbi Abels Also Scores Study of "Libelous Slander" in "Merchant of Venice"

Rabbi Moses J. M. Abels of Cedarhurst, L.I speaking last night at the regular monthly meeting of the Men's Club of Temple Emanuel 14th Ave. and 49th street, made a fiery protest against the "forced singing of Gentile songs by Jewish children in the public schools of this country." He also deplored the present school curriculum which he charged, forced Jewish children to learn by heart the speech in "The Merchant of Venice" in which Portia heaps defamative upon Shylock. He labeled this speech a "vile and libelous slander upon the Jewish race" and urged all present to protest to the Board of Education.

Rabbi Moses replaced Max D. Steuer, who had been announced as the speaker of the evening but who was unable to attend because of illness.

Max Perlman presided.

(Brooklyn, Eagle 1925)

GARBAGE PILES IN STREETS ROUSE BORO PARK FOLK

Menace health, Says J. Bernard Brophy - Laura Promises Relief.

"Conditions in the streets of Boro Park have become a health menace to the community." said J. Bernard Brophy of 5708 New Utrecht Ave, a representative of the Boro Park Tax payers Association, late yesterday. "Our streets are littered with rubbish. Garbage collection is a thing of chance. Sometimes it is a week between collections and ashes remain in unemptied cans for 10 to 12 days at a time."

Voicing a scathing denunciation of Deputy Commissioner Laura and the Brooklyn Street Cleaning Department, Mr. Brophy went on to say that ashes, and garbage and refuse lay about the streets before Friday's snow and that its non-removal had created a danger to the health of the residents of his section. "Who known but that this frightful condition of the street's may not bring on an epidemic? he added.

An investigation was made by The Eagle before the storm on Friday and several photographs were taken. The conditions stated by Mr. Brophy were found to be true,.

On 45th street not far from MR. Brophy's home, the sidewalks were found littered with rubbish and trash, most of which had been blown from unemptied trash cans and from garbage containers which stood in front of each house. It was apparent no collections had been made for some time.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

A great heap of street sweepings and rubbish was found collected at a point on 50th street, near New Utrecht Ave. Several street sweepers dumpcarts had been emptied here and the refuse wagons had made no collections in days.

Other streets in the section on Friday when the storm came showed similar signs of neglect. Waste paper was flying about, trash cans spilling over with the accumulation of weeks stood like sentinels in the snow piles at the curbiongs. And garbage was found frozen in pails alongside of other pails overfilled and but icy lumps from exposure to the weather.

Although on certain streets some collecting by wagons of the Street Cleaning Department was observed. The force at work was plainly inadequate and the efforts of the cleaners but scratched the surface.

Mr. Brophy declares that one of the faults of the present system of collecting in Boro Park lies in the fact that many of the wagons collecting ashes and garbage in other districts have then to make collections in this section. "These wagons are full when they get here," he said, "and the men cannot put refuse and garbage on carts that are full already."

Mr. Brophy is planning to call upon Health Commissioner Monaghan if conditions do not change for the better at once.

"You can guarantee to Boro Park that there will be no more cause to complain," declared Commissioner Laura of the Street Cleaning Department yesterday. "I am putting on75 additional men in this section at once, and there are 50 more trucks now available since the first of the year under the budget allowance.

"Just the minute we were about to put these trucks and men to work, the snow came down. We are concentrating our work now on clearing the snow, but then , once this is cleaned up we will clean up the ashes and garbage in Boro Park.

"Tell this community for me, said the Deputy Commissioner, "there will be more trucks and more workers, and I guarantee them better service hereafter."

(Brooklyn, Eagle 1925)

HOUSES - BEFORE AND AFTER

Since the start of this column in 1978 and the establishment of the Boro Park Historical Society in 1979, one of the historical projects undertaken has been the photographing of the buildings in the community. Many private homes, stores, schools, synagogues, churches and other businesses and institutions were and still are being photographed. In addition many old photographs were purchased from historical archives, libraries or private collections and some were donated by readers and institutions.

We have witnessed numerous changes in the housing stock of this neighborhood. A New York Times article of January 7, 1998 pointed out that since 1990 the Building Department has issued more permits for private construction projects - new homes and additions - in the Boro Park area than in any other residential neighborhood in Brooklyn. We have all seen the phenomenal rate of new home construction in the community, almost every block has some new homes, many blocks have a majority of new houses.

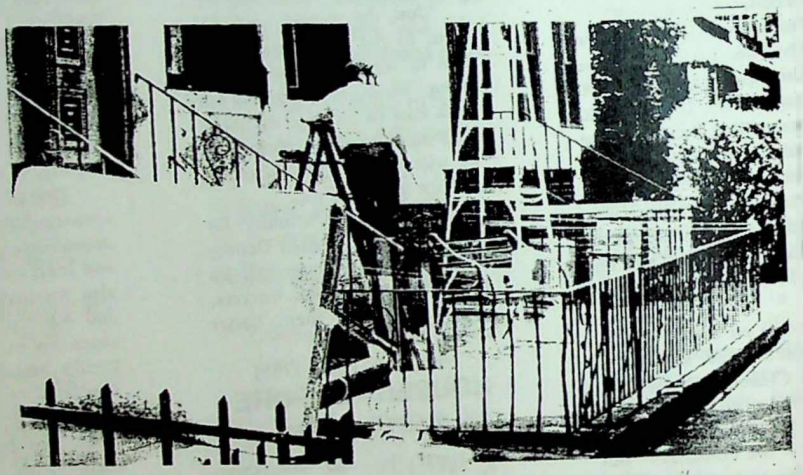
This ongoing boom in new construction demonstrates the desirability of this neighborhood and increased value, but it has also resulted in more crowding and other problems. In many cases, for example, where a one family house stood fifty years ago on a lot of 40' by 100' the house was demolished and in its place two houses were built, each with three or four apartments or stories. This added substantially to the crowding of the neighborhood to the increased number of cars and related parking and driving problems.

As one feature of this column we plan to publish periodically photos of buildings "Before and After" so we can see the changes of architecture and construction that has taken place. Where possible and available we hope to include some historical information about the buildings and residents. We also invite readers to submit photos and information about them such as names of residents, year constructed or renovated and related information, some basic information was taken from the telephone directory.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

PHOTOS - BEFORE AND AFTER

The "Before and After" photos included here show the following houses from left to right: 1558, 1552, 1548, and 1544 45st. the early photo was taken by Gloria Tucker Greenhut, a neighbor, in 1978, and submitted to the B.P.H.S. The later photo was taken in 2002 by Phil Kipust.



Before: Photo on left taken 1978 of L. to R. 1558, 1552, 1548, 1544-45st. After: Photo on right taken 2002 of same houses.

See



additional information in column above.
Photo credits. Before-Gloria Tucker Greenhut
After - Philip J. Kipust

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

1558: This house was constructed in 1922. In 1978 the owners were Phil & Ruth Kipust, living upstairs and the tenants living downstairs were Adolph and Esther Bernstein and family. The house was renovated in 1980 as seen in the later photo. The owners are the same but the tenants are new Rabbi Yitzchok and Mrs. Rena Yarmush and family. The man on the ladder, doing repairs is Phil Kipust.

1552: This house was similar to and constructed at the same time period as 1558. The owners in 1978 were Rabbi and Mrs Yehuda Leib Nekritz the Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshiva Beth Joseph. The tenant downstairs was Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchak Perris a Rebbe in Yeshiva Karlin Stolin.

The new 3 family building shown in the later photo was constructed in 1992. The owners are Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Freund who are the owners of Freunds Fish market on 15th Ave corner of 43rd Street; the two tenants are Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph Stern and Rabbi Gosef Fixler.

1548: This house was constructed in 1919. The owners at the time of the first photo were Alexander and Etta Gordon. The house was owned before by Etta Gordon's parents Mr and Mrs. Isaac Aronowitz who moved in there in 1920 while Etta was a young child. Etta is undoubtedly the longest living resident on the block and maybe in all of Boro Park. The early photo shows the house largely covered by leaves the later photo shows the small house squeezed between the two new larger buildings. No major renovations were done on the house the current tenants upstairs are Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Lipshitz.

1544: This house is similar to and was constructed in 1919 at the same time as 1548. The owners in the early photo were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gerstner. The later photo shows a new three story house constructed on this listed site. The current residents listed are Mr. Morris Freund, Mr. and Mrs. Nechemia Galger and Mr. and Mrs. Yoely Mermelstein. Mr. and Mrs. I Berger.

Besides the new construction in the later photo we also notice the elimination of the tree, the hedges and other green plants, which represents another change in the features of Boro Park.

OLD TIMERS

The following letter to the Editor of "Old Timers' appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle on Sunday July 18, 1948.

BOROGH PARK'S FIRST MOVIE PALACE WAS AN ICE CREAM PARLOR , IT SEEMS

Editor - Old Timer

Recently I have not noticed any letters from the Borogh Park section of the great Borough of Brooklyn.

Borough Park as I remember it, was a community of attractive houses and most importantly good families - excellent families.

It was a great place for children to romp and play as the dangerous automobile was not the prevalent thing it is today. As a consequence the children developed some all around athletes. An outstanding athlete was the late S. Howard Voshell He was one of the greats of tennis players. An excellent baseball and football player too. The Borough Park Tennis Club had other outstanding players such as Willoughby Jennings, Howard Murphy and Arleigh Pelham to mention but a few. The greatest baseball pitcher developed was Penn Finlayson. Other good players I recall were Milton Grieshack, killed in World War I, Art Bradley, Hackmeister and Will Brophy. Some of the youngsters were really wonderful baseball and football players as well. The nice, clean green fields provided the proper grounds for these competitive games.

Steven's Drug store was a highly regarded establishment and the busy Dr. Stevens was never too busy not to have a chat of an evening with his friend, counsellor Van Thon.

Toujes was the leading grocer and the handsome bearded son standing in a h orse drawn delivery wagon going at a fast clip was a great vigorous picture.

Connally Brothers ran a bake shop close by Stevens Drug Store. They started to build houses in a small way and gradually became builders on a large scale. One of the brothers

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

is now, I believe, president of a bank. They used to bake in the cellar those days. I can see him now in my mind's eye emerging from the cellar with a large tray of freshly baked good things. He had red curly hair.

A fine family typical of the section were the Nolans. I recall besides the parents five boys and two girls. They lived on 55th Street between 14th Avenue and New Utrecht Ave.

An old time family in Borough Park were the Johnsons. They lived on 56th Street and later 55th Street. Mrs. Johnson taught in P.S. 103. There was a daughter Agnes and three sons, Jeff, Lester, and the oldest son, whose name I cannot recall.

The Taylors lived in a mansion on 15th Ave. Between 49th Street and 48th Street. The Sages also had a fine house on the same Avenue.

The Beavers occupied the large red house on 15th Ave the grounds running from 50th Street to 51st Street. If I recall correctly they lived previous to that, in Blythebourne close by Frances de Chantal Church. Across from the Beavers was the Baron Family. Harold Baron was a good soccer player. I seem to be concentrating on 15th Ave. So as long as I am at it I shall mention a few other families, Voshell, Powell and Lawler. I just happened to think the elder Beavers daughter is in some way connected with the city in an elective office. She is, I think on the City Council. I can't recall her marriage name. (this refers to Councilman Genevieve Earl - ED)

Edna Murphy the moving picture actress who married Mervyn Le Roy lived with her parents and sisters, Edith and Estelle and brother Bernard on 55th Street between 15th and

Come to mind the first place to show moving pictures - Barry's Ice Cream Parlor. Price of admission a 5 cents soda with a big scoop of cream.

The first straight moving picture theater was built and run by Capt. Roser on 56th Street and New Utrecht Ave. and named "The Rose." Captain Orser was a veteran of the Boer War. He was a distinguished looking gentleman. Fred Robichon used to sing at "The Rose". And a good singer he Al and an older brother who was a lawyer. They had an exceptionally pretty sister. I wish that some other Borough Parkers would write to "Old Timers." EX BOROUGH PARKER

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.



Hanna Scherer, a performance improvement specialist at Maimonides Medical Center, was honored recently by IPRO, an independent health care evaluation organization. Dr. John Quinley, IPRO vice president, presented Ms. Scherer with the "Excellence in Health Care Quality Improvement" award for her outstanding service.

FREE!!
Annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society. *Memories of Boro Park* by guest speaker, PROF. BERTRAND AGUS. MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2002, 7PM Auditorium of the Boro Park YM/YWHA, 50th St. and 14th Ave. • Audience Participation

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
June 3, 2002

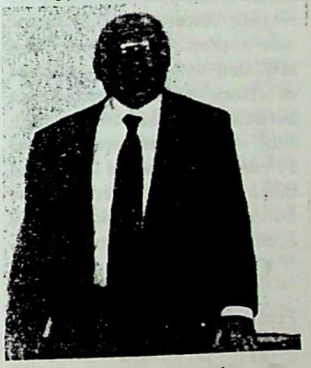
President Jacque Friedman welcomed the audience and noted the presence of Ira Kluger, Co-President of the Canarsie Historical Society. He said that the Boro Park Historical Society has a mini-museum in its office on 13th Avenue, which can be visited by calling 854-1033 and making an appointment.

Lucille Posner, Corresponding Secretary and Acquisitions Chairman of the Society, introduced Prof. Bertrand Agus, the guest speaker. Prof. Agus' mother, Edith Marinbach, moved with her family to Boro Park from the Bronx in the early 1920's and his father, Haim Agus, moved to Boro Park from (then) Palestine in 1927. Dr. Haim Agus, a general practitioner, had an office in Boro Park from 1947 until he retired in 1976. He died in 1981.

Prof. Agus was born in 1940 in the Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides Hospital), as were Saul and Stephen, his younger brothers. Prof. Agus is a prominent rheumatologist with an office in Manhattan, and Stephen is a prominent lawyer who lives and has an office in Manhattan.

Guest Speaker
Prof. Betrand Agus

Prof. Agus expressed pleasure at being back in Boro Park. He said that he had visited the site of the family home, 1365 48th Street. The house has been demolished and three houses now occupy the site. He recalled playing Stoop Ball and King/Queen. Both of these games were played with a Spalding ball, which Brooklynites referred to as a Spaldeen. He also recalled playing Ring-A-Levio. Children often played these games for hours, until mothers literally dragged them home for lunch and supper.



PROF. BERTRAND AGUS.

Then, as now, several generations of a family lived in Boro Park, which encouraged closeness between generations. Prof. Agus' grandfather lived on 55th Street and 17th Avenue and other relatives lived on 12th Avenue. He usually visited his relatives on Saturday afternoons.

His paternal grandfather had been a *shochet* and a *rabbi* in Europe and, as a result, his father received a good Jewish education and was well versed in the *Talmud*. His paternal ancestor, Yomtov Lipman Heller, was learned in the *Torah* and the *Talmud*. A *megillah* was written about him. Children in his family still read aloud a paragraph of this *megillah* every year around Purim.

When Haim Agus arrived in the U.S., he found a job and studied English at a night school. When he mastered the English language, he enrolled at evening classes at New York University. He had worked as a *shochet* in Europe (which entailed examining the organs of dead animals to see if the animal was fit to be certified kosher) and that led to his interest in anatomy and subsequently medicine. He was accepted into a medical school - even though, in those days, medical schools in the U.S. had quotas for Jews. In 1941, after he graduated from medical school, he was drafted into the army and served in the medical corps. His wife and young son moved to Tennessee to be near his army camp. After the war, Dr. Agus and his family moved to an apartment in a building at 5115 13th Avenue that was owned by his grandfather. It was there that his father opened his medical office in 1947.

Dr. Haim Agus was a remarkable man. His day never ended. In 1972, he was still making house calls, even though other doctors had long since given up making house calls by that time! Although he was not fully observant, he was always influenced by his religious upbringing. He spoke literary Yiddish, a pure Yiddish with no English words. One of his father's brothers was an Orthodox rabbi who taught Jewish history at Yeshiva University; another brother was a Conservative rabbi.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Prof. Agus attended Etz Chaim Yeshiva, even number side of 13th Avenue, 50th to 51st Street (now demolished) for a year before transferring to the Flatbush Yeshiva.

He recalled a candy store on 13th Avenue and 49th Street that had a TV set, where people gathered to watch baseball games. Sandy Koufax, the famous pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers, lived on 48th Street, down the block from Prof. Agus' home. On several occasions, the great Koufax took part in the boys' softball games.

Prof. Agus learned to swim in the pool of the YM/YWHA on 14th Avenue and 50th Street. He knew Alan Dershowitz, who lived on his block, who is now a law professor at Harvard University and a prominent defense lawyer. Even as a boy, Dershowitz was something of a rebel.

After his talk, Prof. Agus asked for comments and/or questions from the audience. In answer to a question, he said that his mother was a receptionist in his father's office. Someone recalled Vim's, an appliance store on the even number side of 13th Avenue that had a TV set in the window. TV was still in its infancy and people stood outside of Vim's to watch TV. Prof. Agus recalled Rothstein's Dry Goods Store on the odd number side of 13th Avenue, and 39th St., Blatt's 4 cents and 9 cents store on the odd number side of 13th Avenue, between 50th and 51st Streets; and Bunnyland, a clothing store for young children, which is still in existence. He recalled Skilowitz Delicatessen on the even number side of 13th Avenue between 49th and 50th Street, and an appetizing store on the corner of 13th Avenue and 50th Street (even number side). [The appetizing store, now under different ownership, has relocated to New Utrecht Avenue and 50th Street.]. Moshe Kousevitsky of Temple Beth-El was a famous cantor with a powerful and sweet singing voice. Mr. BernKnopf was another great cantor, who affiliated with the Young Israel of Boro Park, 50th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. Prof. Agus remembered Samuel Friedman, a learned man and butcher, who certified that an animal had been slaughtered according to kosher laws.

Concluding Remarks

President Friedman thanked Prof. Agus for his interesting talk and thanked the audience for their ongoing support of the Society. He said that annual membership dues are $10, retirees $5, business or an organization is $200.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCILLE POSNER

Ed: We Thank Lucille Posner, Corrosponding Secretary, for recording, compiling and submitting the procedings of the Annual Meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society.

Follow Up Interview of Prof. Bertrand Agus

After the presentation and meeting we interviewed Prof. Bertrand Agus (B.A.) to fill in some additional information about his family's Boro Park history.

He said the original family name, when his father came from Poland, was Agushewitz. While his father Dr. Haim Agus(H.A.) was attending medical school his professor advised him to shorten his name, which he did legally , to Agus.

His family lived at the following three addresses in Boro Park: 1927 to 1941 at 12th Ave. and 53rd St.. 1946 to 1948 at 5115- 13th Ave; 1948 to 1976 at 1365-48th St.

From 1941 to 1946 his father served in the U.S. Army as a medical doctor and the family traveled with him.

In the 1930's it was difficult for Jewish students to get into medical schools in the U.S. so many went to study at medical schools in Europe. His father (H.A.) was one of the fortunate ones who was admitted to N.Y.U. medical school.

While in medical school (H.A.) had to overcome many difficulties and make special arrangements in order to fulfill his religious obligations to observe the Jewish Sabbath. The medical school was open on Saturdays and students were obligated ot attend classes. His father would walk to the school in Manhattan to attend classes on Saturdays but did not write or do other prohibited activities.

In the army, his family was stationed in Tennessee for a long period of time and he remembers that there were no Jewish families living in the community. His father was also in Europe at the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

His father, Dr. Haim Agus, was a gifted writer and the family is considering publishing a book of his letters and writings. He (H.A.) was a descendent of the famous sage, Rabbi Yom Tov Lipman Heller whose book he translated into English. The book was called Megilot Eva.

In 1947 there were a number of cases reported of polio and there was a scare of a Polio outbreak. In 1948-49 there was a scare of a Small Pox outbreak. everyone was required to get a vaccination against these diseases. He (B.A.) remembers lines of people in the street waiting to get their shots. It was during this time that his father's medical practice developed. His father spoke Yiddish, Hebrew and Italian and was thus able to communicate with his various Boro Park patients. All the people in the community seemed to be very neighborly and friendly in those days.

Prof. B. Agus said he was baseball minded while he was growing up. He was under the impression or myth , that everyone in Brooklyn was dodger fan and those who weren't were at risk of life. In 1946 he remembers attending a game at Ebbets Field between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Pittsburg Pirates. Sandy Koufax, the famous baseball player, lived on his block. He remembers that one year a world series game was scheduled for Yom Kippur and Sandy refused to pitch on Yom Kippur. B.A. said he and the other Jews were very proud of him.

B.A. said his Bar Mitzvah was celebrated at the Menorah Temple Hall on 14th Ave. and 50th Street.

Dr. Haim Agus was basically an internist and specialized in abdominal medicine. He retired in 1976 and moved to Manhattan. He passed away in 1981 due to heart failure. His wife Edith helped him in his work by answering the phone and serving as his receptionist. She was very good at it. She was also involved in several Jewish organizations including Maimonides Hospital. She still resides in Manhattan.

Prof. B. Agus said his family usually attended services at the Young Israel then at 1363 - 50th St. and on some occasions attended Cong. Beth El , on 15th Ave. and 48th St., to listen to cantor Kousevitsky. B.A. sang in the shul choir for a while. He said that Sam Friedman, the Kosher butcher and Baal Koreh (Torah Reader) at the Young Israel for many years, was his teacher for torah reading. His father's brother, Dr. Irving Agus, was chairman of the Department of Jewish History at Yeshiva University.

Several people in the audience remarked that they were former patients of Dr. Agus and remembered him well and fondly.

Edward Silver

After the General meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society, I briefly interviewd Mr. Edward Silver, one of the people in the audience.

His family moved to Boro Park, from the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1914.. His parents Joseph and Julia first moved to 9th Ave. and 39th St. His maternal grandparents Solomon and Katherine Margaretin also moved to B.P. in 1914 from the Lower East Side and their first residence was at 45st ST. between 12th and 13th Ave.

Edward and his six other siblings were all born in Boro Park.. They were, in order of birht, Rosalind Friedman, Ruth Frommell, Beatrice Horowitz, Helen Gooderman, Evelyn Ross, Edward Silver, and Gladys Freilich.

In 1922 his family moved to 1551-53rd St. and in 1938 they moved to Prospect Heights. His father was a painter and decorator.

Edward attended PS 180 on 16th Ave. and 56th St. until class 4A and then transfereed to Yeshiva Toras Emes. He remembers his teachers in Toras Emes, Rabbi Goldberg, principal, Mr Bohensky and Mr. Bryk. His English teacher was Mrs. Dubowsky (Nemeroff). There was no Yeshiva H.S. in Boro Park then he attended Alexander Hamilton H.S. then Jefferson H.S. at night and then in 1943 he was drafted inot the army.

His Bar Mitzvah was held at Cong. Anshei Sfard, at 14th Ave. and 45th St., downstairs.

Another Boro Park Casualty of Terrorism

Joseph Leifer, an American tourist to Israel, and resident of Boro Park, was one of the many people trapped in the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, Ben Yehudah pedestrian mall in December, 2001.

He was injured by the bomb shrapnel and required surgery two times, but fortunately survived.

During his hospital stay in Jerusalem he was visited by New York Governor George Pataki and New York City Mayor - Elect (then) Michael Bloomberg, who were then visiting Israel. That was an experience Leifer called "an inspiriation".

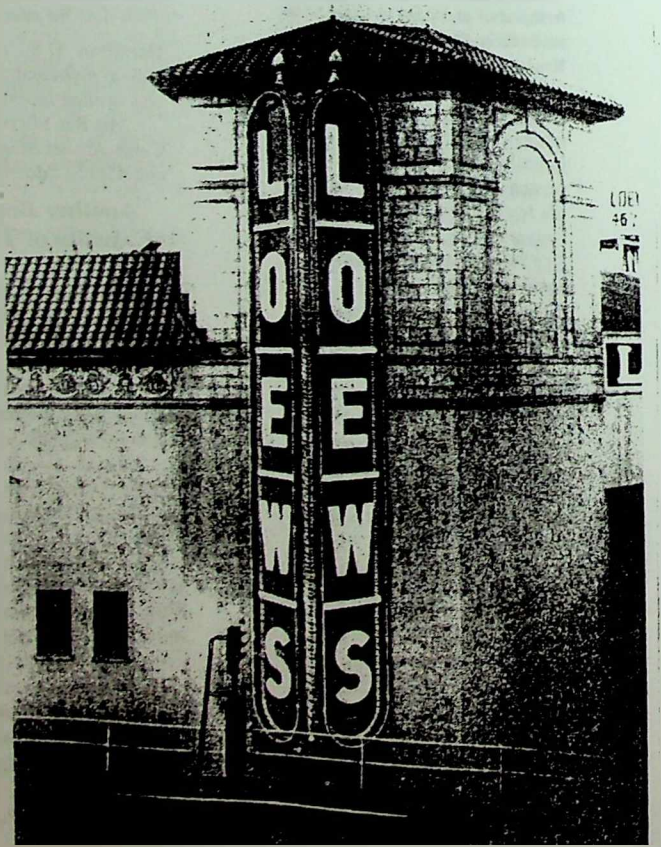
Leifer suffered severel muscle damage in both legs and is now home in Boro Park recuperating.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

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Loew's purchased the Universal theater in 1929 and renamed it the Loew's 46th Street Theater, located on 46th St. and New Utrecht Ave. It is now the location of Regal Furniture.

Photo donated to Boro Park Historical Society by Dario Marotta.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

SHOMREI HACHOMOS - ORTHODOX CHAPELS

I recently (Oct. 2002) passed Shomrei Hachomos - Orthodox Chapels located at 1215 - Ft. Ham. Pkwy, and decided to go in to inquire about the historical change. This building was previously owned and operated by Ceraso Gennarelli Funeral Home until last year (2001).

The office staff Mr. Avrohom Folger and Mr. Shaul Ginsberg were able to give me the following information. The owner of Shomrei Hachomos is Mr. Moshe Spiegel who lives in Israel and specializes in funerals that have burials in Israel, although he does burials in America as well. He has been in the business for over 30 years.

In response to questions about changes made in the building or in the operation of the funeral home, I was informed of the following.

The seating capacity remains the same, about 400 people. The size of the lot 11,000 sq. feet or 100 by 110 feet also remains the same.

The funeral home has an apartment upstairs where the previous owner lived. They said that the Italians have a tradition that the owner of the funeral home lives in the building. That apartment is now used for other purposes.

The building didn't have a refrigerator for the bodies because previously all the bodies were embalmed before burial. Now a refrigerator was installed. The new owners built a Tahara room where the bodies are cleaned or purified according to Jewish Law. The new owners also added a special room for Kohanim so that they may enter the building during funerals. The offices remained essentially the same. One of the workers in the funeral home told the new staff that his son-in-law was buried through this chapel over 30 years ago.

I looked around the outside of the building to see if there was a corner stone with information about when the building was built but couldn't find any.

If any of our readers could supply information about the Ceraso Gennarelli Funeral Home we would appreciate receiving it and would like to include the information in future columns.

ELTON THEATRE

Right behind the Shomrei Hachomos/Ceraso Gennarelli chapels, on the corner of New Utrecht Ave. and 43 St. (between 43 &42 St.) is the site of the former Elton movie theatre. I went to look at the building which is now all bricked up, except for a doorway. I rang the bell and spoke to the owner Mr. Tenenbaum who said the building was now used for a factory and he was unaware of its previous use as a theatre or anything about it.

Looking through my old columns of "I remember Boro Park" I located three letters submitted by readers with some information about the Elton Theatre.

In a column that appeared in June 1985, Mr. Emanual Schwartz wrote "the Elton movie on 43 st. and New Utrecht Ave. was built in 1926. This movie was built on the site from which two wooden frame houses were lifted and replaced on two new foundations on 42 st. The first movie shown in the Elton was Potamkin. The building is now occupied by a leather manufacturer."

Another letter was submitted by Mrs. Henrietta M. Spiegel, who lived then at 960-43 St. and included in my column of Sept. 1989, which said.

"I remember in 1926, on New Utrecht Ave. and 43 St., two one family houses being lifted off their foundations and moved to a new foundation on 42 St. between New Utrecht Ave. and Fort Hamilton Parkway. I also remember the Elton movies being built on this lot from which the two private houses were removed."

Mrs. Lila Lichtenfeld in 1991 recalled the Elton "where one saw silent movies."

ODDS AND ENDS

While checking through my notes I came across items submitted a long time ago but never published. The following three items are here included but readers are advised to keep in mind that they were submitted many years ago.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

OLYMPIA BORO PARK ATHLETIC CLUB

Dear Dr. Kipust,

In connection with the Article appearing in the Jan 1988 issue of the B.P.C.N. relative to the Olympia Boro Park Athletic Club, baseball team, shown here is the box score of the game played at the Yankee Stadium in Sept. 1930. This article appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle. Also shown was a photo of the 1929 championship team.

Dominic Suplina

Boro Park Players Defeat Olympic A.C., 9-5. After Losers Gain 2-0 Lead.

STAGE 5-RUN RALLY IN 4TH

Game Between Brooklyn Teams Played to Arouse More Interest In Amateur Baseball.

The Olympia Borough Park A.C. defeated the Olympic A.C. baseball team, 9 to 5, at the Yankee Stadium early yesterday afternoon. The contest between two of the leading Brooklyn amateur nines, both of which are members of the Brooklyn Intercommunity Baseball League, was arranged in an effort to create more interest in amateur baseball.

Five runs in the fourth inning clinched the victory for the Olympia Borough Park A. C. defending champion of its group. The Olympic A.C., runner up for the title last year, got off to a two-run lead in the first inning, but the winners evened matters in the second. A run in the third put the Olympic A.C. ahead and then the victors staged their five-run rally in the next frame. The losers tallied two more in the sixth and the victors retaliated with two more in the seventh and final inning.

Erlanger, first baseman of the Olympia Borough Park A.C. was the batting star for the winners, hitting a triple and single in four times at bat. The two other extra-base hits of the contest, both triples were made by Sadallah, of the Olympia Borough Park A.C. and Reiss of the Olympic A.C.

YIVO Launches Zamler Project in Hasidic Communites

For the first time in decades, the YIVO Archives has organized a grass roots collecting program modeled on YIVO's classic *zaml* (collecting) work of the 1920's and 30's Titled " *Zamler* Project: Neighborhood Prayerhouses and Synagogues in the New York Area," the project will first survey the hundreds of prayer houses or shtiblekh founded over the past 50 years by-survivors-of European communities. Focusing on a select group of prayer houses, workers will gather documentation reflecting the histories, diverse geographical origins, European roots, Hasidic ties, if any, and the rich mosaic of customs and traditions transfered by their founders to American soil. The materials will be deposited in the YIVO Archives, cataloged and made available to the public.

Work has begun in Borough Park, a predominantly Hasidic neighborhood, with hundreds of shtiblekh bearing the names of hasidic dynasties or those of towns and cities in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Ukraine and Rumania. Most of these prayer houses were founded circa 1938 by refugees from Nazi persecution. Congregants include founding members, their children and grandchildren. Among them are yeshiva students, teachers, rabbis, businessmen, teachers, rabbis, businessmen, plumbers, electricians, caterers, housewives, shopkeepers and computer programmers.

The work will center on interviews with congregants who will relate first-hand experiences about the history and religious traditions of their community. Holocaust survivors in particular are expected to provide moving narratives in Yiddish.

and historical information about the prayer houses. In light of the lack of systematic archival documentation on many prayer houses, the interviews will create a core of source materials.

Project archivists will also collect written or printed materials generated by the congregations, including wedding and bar mitzvah invitiations, photographs and announcements of lectures and charitable events. Posters which are regularly hung on building walls and relate to cultural, spiritual, commercial and educational life of the community will also be gathered.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, a resident of Brooklyn, New York, has been appointed archivist for the project. Mr. Heschel brings considerable experience conducting Yiddish language interviews. A student of yeshivas in Jerusalem and New York, Mr Heschel has studied the history and customs of religious Jews, including Hasidim, and has a deep knowledge of the published literature on the subject. Mr. Heschel has also delivered lectures on the Holocaust based on his own fieldwork.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Mr. Heschel, whose interview will be conducted primarily in Yiddish, will collect information on the establishment of the prayer house in New York, the founding members, the fate of the original community during the Holocaust period, nusakh and usual customs, size and membership of the congregation, special melodies, languages spoken, Torah classes given, weekly learning schedules and methods of learning used. Other functions of the prayer house, such as free loan services and support for charitable causes, will be explored and documented. In addition to the interviews, field recordings will be made of nigunim (melodies) sung at the religious gatherings.

The interviews will comprise a collective narrative reflecting the community's spiritual and historical perspectives. They will also provide the scholarly community with authentic archival sources on Jewish Ethnography, including Jewish customs, Hasidim, Yiddish language usage, immigrant history and Holocaust studies. Like YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Archive, generated in the 1980's , the new archive will reflect an immigrant group's link with its European past. Not least of the project's objectives is the recording of Yiddish language interviews with survivors who never before shared their experiences.

Although the project started in Borough Park, it eventually will cover the entire New York area.

The YIVO Archives welcomes prospective participants in this project. Readers familiar with shtiblekh suitable for inclusion in this project are encouraged to contact Fruma Mohrer, YIVO's Associate Archivist and Project Director, at (212) 294-6143.

Shlomo (Sol) Goldstein

Shlomo (Sol) Goldstein, an old time Boro Parker who now lives in Baltimore, has submitted a number of items of his Boro Park memories, to this column in the past.

Another memory he still cherishes was that of the Lechem Onyim Society (Bread for the Poor Society). It was very active in Boro Park during the Depression years, from 1933-1940. The headquarters of this organization was located in the Linden Heights center, 9th Ave. and 45th St. The members would collect food and money from private individuals and business people and distribute it each week to poor families for the Sabbath.

He recalls several active dedicated people, angels of mercy, involved in this charitable project. They were Mrs. Perlberg, Mrs. Horowitz who lived on 46 st between 14 & 15 Aves., Mrs. Ottenstein who lived on 45 st. between 13 & 14 aves. and Mrs. Sores. The Rev. Morris Finkelstein, Sexton of Cong. Anshei Sfard (14 ave corner 45 st.) was also very Active in this project.

CORRECTION

The follwing sentences were left out of the minutes of the annual meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society, as printed in the September 2002 issue of the Boro Park Community News.

"Saul Agus is a prominent gastointestinal specialist with an office in Manhattan."

"Prof. Augus recalled attending bar mitzvahs in the Menorah Temple on 14th Avenue and 50th Street."

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

NO TUNNEL - NO FERRIES
NO ODORS

BOROUGH PARK

Direct Communications to
New York City Hall Every Two Minutes

We ask you to look and examine every other section of New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey, first. Then come to Borough Park, day or evening, and examine the 100 homes now building.

WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS,
PRESIDENT

49th St. and New Utrecht Ave.
Borough of Brooklyn.

Take 5th Ave and Borough Park Car.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following family history about the Katz family was written and submitted by Mr. Sidney Katz in 1987 (approx.) at the time he lived at 1557-45th street.

Some readers may remember Mr. Katz as the owner of the grocery store on the corner of 15th ave. and 41st street. A children's tailoring store Jeno J. Sohowitz 1482-41st street, is now at that location.

We have not had any contact with the family since they moved in 1987 and could not fill in any missing items.

THE KATZ FAMILY

By Sidney Katz

Elias W. Katz

Elias W. Katz, my saintly father was born in the shtetl of Horezyna midway between Lemberg and Cracow in the Galicia section then under the rule of the Austrian Empire and is now Polish territory.

He emigrated to the United States with his wife, my saintly mother and 2 sons and 2 daughters in 1903 and settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. I came along in 1907.

He worked as a presser in a men's clothing factory.

On Rosh Chodesh Sivan in 1911 my mother (A"H) died. In 1913 my father married my stepmother who came with a daughter to live with us.

My father was a member of the kortchiner chevra which later joined with the Reisher(Rzezow) to be known as the Reisher-Kortchiner Chevra. He was also a member of the Chevra Mishnayos. He was a Bal Tefillah who led services in the shul on Rosh Hashana, and my brother, and I were his choir. My father had a clear melodious voice and was well-liked by the congregants.

We moved to 1010-57th street at the beginning of 1930. After I married, he moved to 1349 57th street, then to 1805-49th street, to 5316-16th Ave. and finally to 4017-15th Ave. Following the split up of his business in 1935 he made a trip to Israel where he stayed a couple of months. When he returned he went to work for a colleague in the textile business. He retired in 1941 at the age of 70.

As he lived practically across the street from my grocery store located on the corner of 41st street and 15th ave., he would come in daily and try to make himself useful while being as unobtrusive as possible. Few people could pass him by with his gentle mien without engaging him with a few kind words.

He died of cancer at the age of 83 on the third day Chol Hamoed Pesach in 1955. May he rest in Heaven.

Sidney Katz

Sidney Katz, was born on March 1, 1907 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Hebrew schooling was at the Zhitomer Talmud Torah on East 4th street and after graduating went to Yeshiva Isaac Elchanan, at that time situated at East Broadway and Seammel Street. English schooling at P.S 15 on East 5th street then P.S.188 on East 3rd and Lewis street. High School at DeWitt Clinton then located at Amsterdam Ave and 59th street. Graduated June 1924.

Necessity required him to seek employment. He worked at various jobs related to the textile industry. When his father and a business associate decided to go into the textile business he was invited to join the corporation. A fine trade was built up during the depression years of 1930 to '35 but his father who was a very mild-mannered person could not get along with the temperament of his business associate who was a very volatile person and decided to get out.

Turning back to 1930, Sidney met and fell in love with the girl he was destined to marry and live with for more than 50 blissful years. Her name was Helen Holland. He visited her at her home and met her parents who were a kindly orthodox couple. They looked favorably on him and on Saturday evening Dec. 19, 1931 they were married in her parents home at 4510 Ft. Hamilton P'kway. Incidentally his Aufruf was at a shul, Cong Tiferes Yisroel, then situated on Ft. Hamilton P'Kway between 56th and 57th streets and the now renown Rabbi Israel Schorr who had newly come from Europe was Rabbi at this shul and spoke at his Aufruf and the Rabbi who married them was the saintly Yekutiel Aryeh Kamelhar of blessed memory.

Returning to the time when his family left the Lower East Side their first move was on Jan. 1, 1930 to 1010-57th street in Boro Park. At the corner was Samber's butcher shop, across from them was a drug store and around the corner was the aforementioned shul.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

After their wedding they lived with his wife's parents, at 4510-Ft Hamilton P'Kway. About a year later his wife was expecting their first child and they went looking for an apartment with larger rooms to accommodate a crib. They moved around the corner to 1020-45th street together with her parents where their first born son arrived on June 27, 1933. The circumcision (brist) was on July, 4 which was when the family photo was taken.

Credit should also be given to the photographer, a friend of the family, now long since departed, who had a studio close to the 45th street entrance of the Ft. Hamilton P'Kway station of the West End Line.

There were hard days for Sidney and Helen. Jobs were scarce and his wife had to help out by going to work. They had to bring their infant over to Sidney's sister Frieda to take care of him while they went to work or looking for work. They lived from hand to mouth at that time. When his father-in-law passed away in July 1934 they moved to 838-44 street then in 1935 to 4905-18 Ave. For a while he went to work for his brother-in-law in Asbury Park in his hardware and locksmith shop where he gained experience which eventually led him to open his own hardware and key shop on Bath Ave. in Bensonhurst where they lived from 1940-1942. But bad luck was still hounding then and as the country began tooling up for the coming war effort, hardware was coming under rationing and was being doled out on an allotment basis. As he had practically no seniority in the hardware business he could get no allotments. He sold out whatever he had to the local hardware retailers who were glad to get it at the prices he had paid. That's when he went to work in defense.

In October of 1948 Sidney took over the grocery store at 15th Ave and 41st street from Jack Friedman. His landlord, Frank Ratzken had been the original owner of the store. He was there for 18 long hard years but at least with the aid of Helen by his side they made a living there. In October 1966 he sold the store to Sam Ganz and having meanwhile taken civil Service exams with the Federal State and city, he got his first call from the P.O. night shift. Six months later when he was offered positions simultaneously by the State and City he decided to take the City position where he worked for six years during which time he took promotional exams which brought his level up from Sr. clerk to Administrative Assistant. In June 1973 he retired and has been so ever since which gave him the opportunity of going back to school to get his college education. He received his Bachelor of Arts on May 27, 1979 from the downtown campus of the college of New Rochelle.

His wife Helen also went to work for the City in 1970 and retired in 1976. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December 1981 although she was already terminally ill and on August 7, 1982 while he was sitting by her side holding her hand she expired and the light went out of his life.

During this critical period of selling out he was already working the night shift in defense. His wife was in the 9th month with their second child, they had to find a new place to live as they had to get out by the end of the month and his mother-in-law was taken to the hospital where she was destined to die. His niece and his wife's sister went looking for an apartment for them and found them the apartment in which he lived till 1987. They moved into 1557-45th street on June 1, 1942 and their second son Howard was born on June 7. It was a hectic period. On May 22, 1945 their third son Alan was born. All 3 sons, at different times, went to P.S.164, Montauk, and New Utrecht High. Robert went on to Brooklyn College. Howard to R.C.A. College of Electronics and ALan to Pace where he made his CPA. All three sons received their Jewish education at Machzike Talmud Torah (1315-43 street) where they graduated and went on to Herzeliah Hebrew High School for advanced study. They all had their Bar Mitzvah at First Cong. Anshe Sfard of Boro Park on 45th Street and 14 ave.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Harry & Miriam Holland

Harry and Miriam Holland, my father-in-law and mother-in-law both now deceased, came to this country with their family of 5 daughters in 1920. They were preceded by their son Philip, by a few years, who saved up enough money to send for all of them. Both father and son were watchmakers who brought their craftsmanship to their country from their town of Wyazkow, Poland. As earlier mentioned the senior Hollands and their daughters lived at 4510 Ft Hamilton P'Kway. He was a member of a shul which I believe was called Community of Boro Park and was located I think at 1327-41st street but is now occupied by a different shul.

The son Philip Holland married Lilly Saramsky. The Saramsky clan occupied three 2 family homes on 46 street between 9th and 10th Ave. His father-in-law, the senior Mr. Saramsky was a mashgiach a learned man in Talmud and taught a class on Saturday afternoons at the shul on 9th ave. between 45th and 46th street that for some strange reason was built below the street level. His wife Mrs. Saramsky was the sister of Mr. Itzak Cantor, who was the mohel at the Bris. He was also chazan.

Leah and Max Katz

Leah Katz, and her husband Max, who was my oldest brother moved to Boro Park in 1921 where they bought a home at 954-58th street. My brother had been an insurance agent with New York Life and when he died in 1924 Leah took over his agency and worked at it with vigor in spite of being left with two small children to take care of.

She was an ardent Zionist as was my brother. She was active in many organizations. She was one of the founders of the Bnos Yerushalayim. She was a friend of Henrietta Szold. She was president of the Rachel Chapter of American Mizrachi Women.

She was president of the Ladies auxiliary of Shomre Emunah. I don't know how many more activities she was involved with.

After my brother died she sold the house on 58th street and bought a six family house at 1349-57th street where she lived from 1924 to 1936. She then made several moves from 57 street to 5015-15th ave., in 1942 moved to 1454-48 street. Finally in 1963 she bought an apartment in Bayit Vegan in Jerusalem where she was also active in organizational work. In 1979 having reached an age of 86 or 87 she was no longer physically able to keep house for herself and was staying in Nevei Simchah, a hospital home where she was being taken care of.

Her older son, Hyman studied at Yeshiva Yitzchok Elchanan and Yeshiva Etz Chaim of Boro park where he graduated. He also studied at the Theological Seminary where he got his (Semicha) ordination. He was also a Hebrew teacher. But then he joined the Lincoln brigade, those revolutionaries who fought in Spain and lost his life. What a waste!

His younger brother, Aaron also studied and graduated from Etz Chaim. He took over the burden of the insurance agency and he handled all types of insurances.

He was the Director of the National Committee to Re-open the Rosenberg Case NCRRC and when necessary traveled extensively to lecture on the subject and went to lobby in Congress when events called for it.

Mildred & Philip Rabinowitz

Mildred Rabinowitz, my wife's sister who married Philip Rabinowitz, six months after my wife and I were married, lived in Boro Park at 942-42nd street until 1973 when they left for Israel to join their daughter and son-in-law in Tsfat and have made it their home since. Philip died in Tsfat in 1976. Malka, as Mildred calls herself now does volunteer work at the hospital in Tsfat. She also has a married daughter and husband and grandchildren living in Coram, L.I.

Robert Katz

The most important member of the group, Robert the one for whom this occasion was all about and who was probably being nursed while this picture was being taken, went on, after his education described previously, to study photography, got a job with IHAS and went around with their public relations man to cover important events. Public relations interested him more than photography and he gave up the job at IHAS and went to work as public relations man for American Society.

Among others he also did P.R. work for Yeshivah University.

In 1959 he married a beautiful Boro Park girl, Beverly Gerstal. They moved to Rome, Italy where they lived for many years and where he was a well known author on such books as "Death in Rome", "Black Sabbath", "Fall of the House of Savoy", "Days of Wrath" and others. Some of his books were made into movies.

They have 2 sons, Stephen and Jonathan, the former a graduate of the University of Chicago, the latter attended Bard College. They both had their Bar mitzvah at Cong Beth El of Boro Park, Stephen in 1971 and Jonathan in 1976.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Frieda & Adolph Spratzer

My sister Frieda and her husband Adolph Spratzer, came to Boro Park with their family of 4 sons and a daughter to 1432-43rd street, a building(formerly a tenement) recently renovated and now goes by the name of the White House.

When my sister lived there in the '30's and '40's she had a good neighbor and friend there Mrs. Bloom. She was the mother of the noted Jeremiah Bloom and his brother Judge Bernard M. Bloom.

Of my sister's 4 sons, three served in the army and one in the navy. Thank G-d they all came through O.K.

Her daughter Sylvia and her husband Joseph Sherl then moved to 1442-41 street.

Pauline & Abraham Kartagener

My sister Pauline and her husband Abraham Kartagener, both deceased lived at 1616-45th street. They are survived by one son who served overseas and was a participant in the Normandy invasion and later the Battle of the Bulge and thank G-d he was able to come home and tell about it. He then joined the Fire Department and served for many years. Tragically, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Berkowitz who lived in the building on the corner of 16 Ave and 47th Street perished when a fire engulfed their house and they were trapped. He was not on duty at the time and learned about it when it was all o v e r.

About 1980 he retired from the Department having attained the rank of Battalion Chief.

Ed: We thank Mr. Sidney Katz for his interesting and extensive family history.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Raymond Kipust

I am a brother of Phil Kipust, the writer of this column. Our grandparents, Elias and Ida Kipust (RIP), originally moved to Boro Park in 1921 to 1864-49th Street. They and our parents lived in Boro Park for the rest of their lives. However, for a brief period of time, for about one year in 1933-34, during the depression years, my parents Max and Fannie Kipust (RIP) and my siblings moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where I was born.

I was born Jan 20, 1934 at Jewish Maternity Hospital Lower East Side NY. Our family moved back to Boro Park in September 1934 to 1358-44th Street. In 1939 our family moved to 1315-42nd Street. In 1941 after my grandmother Ida Kipust passed away, we moved to my grandparents house at 1864-49th Street to be with my grandfather Elias Kipust.

I lived there till I was married in 1955. After my marriage we rented an apartment at 1419-47th Street and then at 1528-49th Street, (Tel Aviv apartment house). In 1960 we purchased our first house at 1433-57th Street (3 family unit). One year later we purchased our second house at 1739-47th Street (2 family unit) and sold the first. We lived there till 1968 when we moved to Teaneck NJ. We now reside in Los Angeles, CA. I attended elementary and High School at Yeshiva Toras Emes at 4407 12 Ave. and then NYC Community College .. and Brooklyn College where I received AAS and BS degrees, and became an engineer.

During my youth, starting at 12 years old, I was a handy man doing all sorts of household repairs. I worked in many many homes in Boro Park. In fact I was the first to kosher stoves and ovens for Pesach using a gasoline blow torch. Blow torches were later replaced by propane torches. I purchased my supplies from Gold and Reiss Hardware 4209-13 Ave. Shulman Hardware 4816-16th Ave, Eisenberg hardware 4912-18th Ave. Boro Park Hardware 59th Street 14th Ave. LB Electric Supplies 5201 New Utrecht Ave. and Foster Lumber 47th and McDonald Ave.

Some of my other part time jobs were to deliver prescription orders for Firestein's Pharmacy 49th Street Corner 18th Ave., work as salesman at Becker's clothes 43rd Street and 13 ave. during holiday season; and deliver wedding cakes for Schicks bakery from 1952 to 1960 while attending colleges.

I remember the big snow storm in 1947(26 inches). The 49th street bus didn't run for a week I had to walk to school from 18th AVe and 49th Street to 12 ave. and 44th street. The snow started on Firday and it snowed through Saturday. We lived on a dead end street 49th between 18th and 19th ave. Snow removal trucks were so busy on main streets that they couldn't get to the side or dead end streets. Sunday morning all the neighbors got together to shovel the snow so the oil trucks would be able to deliver. All the neighbors came out, people from one end of the street to the other, to shovel snow. It was a great gesture of community cooperation. We worked all day. Some snow was shoveled between the cars. Manhole covers were removed and snow was shoveled into the street manholes. When the street was cleaned we asked the sanitation snow plow to break through the high snow pile from the avenue into the street there weren't many cars on the streets then.

As a youngster I attended services at congregation Ohel Abraham Mishkon Joseph 4907-18th Ave. and Young Israel 1353-50th Street, as a married man I attended Machzike Talmud Torah Congregation 47th Street and 14th Ave.

I remember going to local movie theaters the Culver theater at McDonald Ave. and 18th Ave. The Windsor, the Marlboro, the Loews 46th Street and the Loews Boro Park.(New Utrecht Ave and 51st Street where the post office is now located.)

As a young boy, of about 8 or 9, I remember walking from school 44th street and 12 ave., to have lunch at the Tel Aviv Deli 49th Street and 13th Ave.

After WWII I remember when the Transit Authority connected the IND D line at Church Ave. to the BMT Culver Line at Ditmas Ave. A shuttle was run from Ditmas Ave to 9 th Ave stations to provide service to the existing culver line stations at Fort Hamilton and 14th Ave. Years later the shuttle was abandoned and those stations were taken out of service.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

As a young boy I remember going to Coney Island in the summer time in the open air box trains. No glass windows just openings with protective metal slats. The conductor stood between two cars and operated manual gates for passengers to board and deboard.

Growing up my family didn't have a car, telephone or television. We used buses and trains for transportation; the corner drug store's publice phone booth for phone service and listened to the radio and read newspapers.

After WWII my brother returned from serving in the armed services and purchased a car and had a telephone installed in our home. We purchased a TV in the early 1950's.

We played with marbles, and soda bottle caps and even made wagons using carriage wheels. We made wood pistols and rifles from orange crates. We made scooters from metal ball bearing skates as wheels. 2x4 as the foot rest and orange crate as the handles.

I recall going to the Boro Park Library in a store, located on 13th Ave and 52nd Street and then when the library moved to 43rd stret and 13th Ave.

During WWII we had a victory garden in our backyard. We grew vegetables. That was the patriotic thing to do to help the war effort. Our street also had several scrap metal drives. Homeowners brought all sorts of discarded metal such as broilers, typewriters and bicycles to a central location for the government to pick up.

Ed: We Thank Ray Kipust for his interesting memories and contribution.

Historical Dates

Many dates related to recent Boro Park history have crossed my desk and may be of interest to readers and to future writers and researchers. In order to preserve this information we plan to list some of them from time to time with some brief information, and keep them recorded for our historical archives. Some of these items may be incorporated in full articles in the future.

There are certainly other significant historical dates which have not come to our attention and we would welcome input, including corrections, from our readers. Please address all correspondance to either the Boro Park Community News or to my house address 1558-45th Street, Brooklyn, N Y 11219.

1892 -St. Frances de Chantal Church was founded in 1892. It is the oldest church in Boro Park and located at 1273-58th Street. Fr. Andrew Kurowski is the Pastor.

1902 -Temple Beth-El founded in 1902 is the oldest synagogue in Boro Park. It moved to its present location at 15th Ave. corner 48th Street in 1920. The corner stones, one in English and one in Yiddish read, "1920 - Temple Beth-El of Borough Park. Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kulick - Mr. and Mrs. Morris Meiselman." Rabbi M. Snow is the Current pulpit Rabbi.

1907/51 - Cong. Agudath Achim in Boro Park, also known as Aguduth Israel of 9th Ave. is one of the oldest congregations in Brooklyn. first organized and incorporated in 1907. It was orginally located on 5th Ave. and 47th Street., then on 4th Ave. and 54th Street. In 1951 the shul built its present building at 867-50th Street.

Agudath Achim recently merged with Cong. Agudas Avrechim, the Aguduth Israel branch of Boro Park west, on 9th Ave. Rabbi Elazer Yona Ginsberg Currently serves as the Rabbi and Mr. Nuta Kranz, serves as president.

1916/77 - Cong. Beth Medrash Hagadol was established in 1916 as part of the Infants Home and Synagogue of Brooklyn at 1358-56th Street. (now Mishkon Home). In 1977 Rabbi Nochum Zvi Josephy became the spiritual leader of the congregation, now located at 1276 - 41st Street. He is also vice president of the Igud Harabanim, the Rabbinical Alliance of America. Shabsi Kohen is current president.

1940 - Rabbi Yitzchok Horowitz, The Melitzer Rebbe (RIP) first moved to Boro Park and opened a synagogue in his home at 1237-50 st., which is now an apartment house, in 1940. He then moved to 1453-50 st. Boro Park in those years had very few Hasidic Jews. In 1944 he moved to the West side of Manhattan. His son Shmuel Horowitz moved back to Boro Park in 1965 to 1714-47 st.

The aged Melitzer Rebbe moved back to Boro park in 1976 to 1706-47 st. and passed away in 1979. Shmuel Horowitz (RIP) the son recently passed away Feb. 2002.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

1941 - Rabbi Yitzchok Twersky(RIP),the first Skverer Rebbe in Boro Park passed away in 1941. He arrived in America in 1923 went to the Lower East Side then to Williamsburg and later settled in Boro Park. His shul was and still is locted at 1334-47th Street. His young son, David Twersky(19), became the Skverer Rebbe after his passing.

1946 - A to Z luggage at 4627 - New Utrecht Ave., was first established in 1946. It was operated in Boro Park for 56 years by the Feller Family. The business closed in July 2002.

1969 - Ohel Children's Home and Family Services, now located at 4510-16th Ave., opened its first home, a group residence for boys with emotional and developmental disabilities, in 1969.

1978 - Bais Ezra, a division of Ohel, opened its first residence in Boro Park, serving women with moderate and severe developmental disabilities in 1978.

Ohel has grown tremendously and now employs a staff of 800 which oversees the care of 3,000 clients daily in facilities in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. Ohel operates over 20 programs and services including Foster Care, Residential Rehabilitation for adults and children, Programs for the Developmentally Disabled, Preventure Care Treatment, Lifetime Care Foundation etc.

The current officers of Ohel, which still maintain its main offices in Boro Park are Moishe Helman, Pres.; Moshe Hertz, Pres. Bais Ezra; Ronny Hirsh, Pres. Liftime Care Foundation; Mel Zachter, Chairman Exec. Committee; Morris J. Zakheim, chairman of the Board; and David Mandel, Cheif Executive Officer.

1991 - The Gorlitzer Beis Medrash - synagogue was completed in 1991. Rabbi Yitzchak Dov Jungreisz, the Gorlitzer Rebbe and son-in-law of the previous Gorlitzer Rebbe, was designated to serve

become a very active and popular facility in the neighborhood. Plans are being proposed for its expansion on the adjacent lot which it has purchased.

1999 - The Avenue Plaza Hotel, located on 13th Ave, and 47th Street., on the site of the previous Chase National Bank, was first opened in 1999. It has since become an important meeting place for dignitaries and organizations.

Aug 3, 2000 - Rabbi Shlomo Halberstam(RIP), the Bobover Rebbe passed away at Maimonides Medical Center on Aug. 3, 2000 at the age of 92. He was the dynamic leader of the largest Hasidic group in Boro Park which operates the largest synagogue and a number of yeshivos for boys and girls. The Bobover Rebbe survived the Holocaust where most of his family was killed. He arrived in America in 1946 with one surviving family member, his son Naftoli Zvi. He first established a shul and Yeshiva in the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In 1954 he moved his complex to Crown Heights and in 1967 the Rebbe moved his establishment to Boro Park.

The Main Bobover synagogue is located on 15th Ave. between 47th and 48th streets. There are several Bobover Yeshiva buildings on 48th street between 15th & 16 th Ave. Many years ago that block was designated Bobover Promenade, with that street sign permanently displayed.

The funeral may have been the largest in Boro Park. In an outpouring expression of respect and admiration, an estimated 50,000 people filled the building and the surrounding streets. 15th Ave. was closed off from 46th astreet to 50th Street during the funeral services. The Rebbe was succeeded by his son Rabbi Naftoli Zvi Halberstam.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

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July 25, 2001 - Rabbi Binyamin Paler (RIP), Rosh Hayeshiva of Yeshiva M'Kor Chaim in Boro Park, passed away on July 25, 2001 at the age of 92. The Yeshiva M'kor Chaim Located at 1571-55th Street includes a High School and Seminary. Rabbi Paler, a noted talmudic scholar, was a holocaust survivor who fled the Nazi's with the Mirrer Yeshiva students to Shanghai and after the war to New York.

2001 - The Women's League Community Residences, founded in 1978 in Boro Park, dedicated the Rebetzin Yehudis Perlow children's residence at 622 E. 5th Street, Brooklyn. The Women's League was founded and was headed by Mrs. Jeanne Warmar and currently operates 28 facilities.

The dedication was an expression of gratitude to Rebetzen Perlow(RIP) who served as the agency's president from 1986-98. She was the wife of Rabbi Yaakov perlow, the Novominsker Rebbe who is also the Rosh(president) of Agudath Israel of America and of the Yeshiva Kol Yehuda. The Novominsker Shul and Yeshiva are located in a converted apartment house at 1569-47th Street. A large property on the corner of 60th street and 17th ave., formerly a nursing home, was acquired and being developed for the

Sept 2001 - Cong. Bnei Israel of Linden Heights, located on 9th Ave. and 46th street, announced the appointment of its new congregational Rabbi, Rabbi Gershon Tannenbaum, as of Sept. 2001. The synagogue was first organized in 1924.

The previous Rabbis of this shul were: Rabbi Yaakov Rabinowitz (RIP) (1886-1943) who served from 1924-1932, Rabb Dr. Aaron Wertheim (RIP) (1889-1986) who served from 1932-1985), Rabbi Mendel Rokeach, who served from 1986-88 and Rabbi Joshua Y. Lustig, who served from 1988-2001. Mr. Abraham Yakob was president at the time.

Oct. 2001 - Temple Emanuel, Boro Parks first and only conservative Temple, closed its doors after the High Holidays in October 2001. It was founded in 1904. The membership of the synagogue gradually thinned from a plateau of 800 member families to under 100 due to the population changes in the community. Its closing pulpit Rabbi was Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman.

November 10, 2001 - A fire destroyed the synagogue, called Rupshitzer Beis Medrash, located at 1875-53rd Street, on Friday Night November 10, 2001. It also destroyed the family residence, in the same building, of Rabbi Chaim M.Y.M. Rubin, the Rophitzer Rebbe and his family. The entire family was safely evacuated and the Torah scrolls kept in a fireproof safe was saved. Temporary arrangements were made for services and study groups including the use of a mobile home type structure parked in front of the burned structure, while reconstruction efforts are underway.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK CHRONOLOGY

In the last issue (March 2003) we listed a number of significant dates, obtained from clippings that have come to our attention, related to Boro Park history. In the following Boro Park chronology we are listing significant dates of early Boro Park history, many of which have already appeared in past articles.

1657 - Establishment of Town of New Utrecht.

1864 - Opening of Brooklyn, Bath & Coney Island Railroad.

1868 - Edgewood Chapel established.

1885 - Reorganization and improvement of Brooklyn, Bath & West End Railroad.

1886 - West Brooklyn development started.

1887 - Blythebourne development started.

1889 - Blythebourne Post Office established. Electus B. Litchfield, founder of Blythebourne, dies.

1891 - Edgewood (Dutch) Reformed Church formed from earlier Edgewood Chapel.

1892 - St. Frances de Chantal R.C. Church started.

1894 - Town of New Utrecht annexed to City of Brooklyn.

1898 - William H. Reynolds, ex-State Senator, forms Boro Park Company to develop the area.

1890's-1900's - Many Protestant Christian churches started in area.

1901 - Fifth Avenue electric elevated trains began operating on West End surface line.

1902 - St. Catharine of ALexandria Church started. Frist Jewish congregation, Temple Beth-el, started.

1904 - Temple Emmanuel started.

1907 - Dedication of Temple Beth-el.

1908 - Congregation Shomrei Emunah started.

1910 - Machzikei Talmud Torah started.

1911 - Monastery of the Precious Blood opened. New Utrecht Dispensary, forerunner of Maimonides Medical Center, opened.

1915 - First Congregation Anshe Sfard of Boro Park started.

1916 - West End elevated above street and connected to new Fourth Avenue subway.

1918 - Boro Park Y.M.H.A. opened.

1919 - Israel & Zion Hospital merge to form the new United Israel-Zion Hospital.

1920 - Boro Park Club House becomes Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

1920's - Large -scale construction of apartment houses, schools and movie theatres.

1924 - Infants Home of Boro Park opened.

1927 - Start of construction on massive new Menorah Temple.

1928 - Frank Uale, famous gangster, gunned down in Boro Park area.

1931 - Boro Park police station opened.

1937 - Boro Park Jewish Center opened on former Boro Park Community Church site.

1939 - Thirteenth Avenue Retail Market opened to eliminate street pushcarts.

1949 - New 66th Precinct police station opened.

1955 - New Boro Park Public Library building opened.

1950's - Chassidic groups begin to settle in Boro Park.

1977 - Opening of new Blythebourne Station of the U.S. Postal Service.

1978 - "I Remember Boro Park" column started.

1970's-1980's - Chassidic and Orthodox Jewish groups dominate Boro Park area. Establish a large number of yeshivas and synagogues.

1979 - Boro Park Historical Society started.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Dear Jacque Friedman,

Reading about another Synagogue in your current "Community News", I wondered if you knew the history of the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue.

The Progressive Synagogue was founded in 1919 at this address. It flourished and the plan was to move to Flatbush; at Ave. I and Ocean Avenue, which would be larger, "modern" and more congenial.

However, when the time approached to move, ten families refused and instead, bought the building in 1954. They named the new congregation Boro Park Progressive Synagogue, Congregation Bnai Sholom. Its first president was Alex Hollander, and it is still in existance at 1515-46th street.

Our best wishes to you for a Happy Passover.

Sincerely,
Adelay Liss. Sec'y
Boro Park Progressive Synagogue

P.S. We are enclosing our personal check to Beth Shifra for their dedicated Passover program.

Ed.: We thank Ms. Adelay Liss for her interesting contribution.

Old Newspaper Clippings of Boro Park

The following three articles originally published in the Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper in 1925 were researched and submitted by Mr. B. M. Selevan. an officer in the B.P. H.S.

OLDEST BROOKLYNITE DIES AT AGE OF 104

Boro Park Mourns loss of Mrs. Rebecca L. Brill

Brooklyn's oldest resident, Mrs. Rebecca L. Brill, aged 104 and two months was buried yesterday in Bethel Cemetery, and the children and grownups of the Boro Park section whom she was wont to delight with her tales of long ago are mourning her loss.

Mrs. Brill died Friday afternoon and the funeral services were held yesterday from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lena Bernstein, 1347 79th st. She was the mother of eight children. Three children, 23 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren survive her.

Her spirit never aged with her body. A year ago, at the age of 103 she startled her friends and relatives by sending for a barber and having her hair bobbed insisting that she was as modern as any flapper.

"My mother was a hearty eater all her life." said Mrs. Bernstein. "She would think nothing of eating as many as ten times a day. She always had candies, cakes and fruit of various kinds at her elbow. She drank liquor in her day and always took life easily."

"She retained her sight until she was 98. Her hearing never failed her and her vocal powers were retained by her up to the time of her death."

(1925 - BKLYN EAGLE)

K. OF P. GIVES PICNIC FOR CRIPPLED TOTS

Boro Park Lodge Takes 80 to Prospect Park

Eighty crippled children, 50 girls and 30 boys, were made happy yesterday afternoon by a picnic in Prospect Park, which was given for them by the Boro Park Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. The kiddies were brough in 30 motorcars by m embers of the lodge from a branch of Boro Park Infants' Home, 731 E. 9th st., Manhattan; escorted by motorcycle policemen.

The procession included members of the Pythian Sisters, Temple No. 96, of Boro Park; eight nurses from the home, a band and professional entertainers. At the park picnic grounds a basket luncheon was served. Souvenirs, including sewing boxes for the girls and harmonicas for the boys were given out and everyone had as much ice cream, cake and soda water as he desired.

The committee in charge of the outing included Paul Waldman, past chancellor of the Boro Park Lodge; George Levine, chancellor commander; Irving Blank, chairman of the welfare committee, and Mrs. Max Perlmutter, president of the Pythian Sisters.

(1925 - BKLYN EAGLE)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

GARBAGE PILES IN STREETS-ROUSE BORO PARK FOLK

Menace Health, says J. Bernard Brophy - Laura Promises Relief.

"Conditions in the streets of Boro Park have become a health menace to the community", said J. Bernard Brophy of 5708 - New Utrecht Ave., a representative of the Boro Park Tax -Payers Association, late yesterday.

"Our streets are littered with rubbish. Garbage collection is a thing of chance. Sometimes it is a week between collections and ashes remain in unemptied cans for 10 to 12 days at a time."

Voicing a seathing denunciation of Deputy Commissioner Laura and the Brooklyn Street Cleaning Department Mr. Brophy went on to say that ashes, and garbage, and refuse lay about the streets before Friday's snow that its non-removal had created a danger to the health of the residents of his section. "Who knows but that this frightful condition of the street's may not bring on an epidemic?" he added.

An investigation was made by the Eagle before the storm on Friday and several photographs were taken. The conditions stated by Mr. Brophy were found to be true.

ON 45th st., not far from Mr. Brophy's home the sidewalks were found littered with rubbish and trash, most of all which had been blown from unemptied ash cans and from garbage containers which stood in front of each house. It was apparent no collection had been made for some time.

A great heap of street sweepings and rubbish was found collected at a point on 50th st., near New Utrecht ave. Several street sweepers dump carts had been emptied here and the refuse wagons made no collection in days.

Other streets in the section on Friday when the storm came showed similar signs of neglect. Waste paper was flying about. Ash cans spilling over the accumulations of weeks stood like sentinels in the snow piles at the curbings. And garbage was found frozen in pails alongside of other pails overfilled and with icy lumps from exposure to the weather.

Although on certain streets some collecting by wagons of the Street Cleaning Department was observed. The force at work was plainly inadequate and the efforts of the cleaners but scratched the surface.

Mr. Brophy declared that one of the faults of the present systems of collecting in Boro Park lies in the fact that many of the wagons collecting ashes and garbage in other districts have then to make collections in his section. "These wagons are full when they get here," he said, "and the men cannot put refuse and garbage on carts that are full already."

Mr. Brophy is planning to call upon Health Commissioner Monaghan if conditions do not change for the better at once.

"You can guarantee to Boro Park that there will be no more cause to complain." declared Commissioner Laura of the Street Cleaning Department yesterday. "I am putting on 75 additional men in this section at once, and there are 50 more trucks now available since the first of the year under the budget allowance.

"Just the minute we were about to put these trucks and men to work, the snow came down. We are concentrating our work now on clearing the snow, but then, once this is cleaned up who will clean up the ashes and garbage in Boro Park.

"Tell this community for me," said the Deputy Commissioner. "there will be more trucks and more work, and I guarantee them better service hereafter."

(1925 - BKLYN EAGLE)

Ed.: The above article reminds us of some of the conditions we faced during the recent major snow storm.

Corrections:

1. In the issue of March 2003, the caption under the photo ad was omitted, it read "The following ad appeared in the Bkln Eagle in 1898."

2. The Gorlitzer Beis Medrash Location was committed in the 1991 date entry it is located at 1471-42nd St.

3. In the 1940 date entry it should read "Shmuel HOrowitz" (RIP) the son, recently passed away in Feb. 2003."

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

P.S. 192-80th Anniversary

P.S. 192, located on 18th Ave. between 47 and 48 Streets, is now celebrating its 80th Anniversary and will have special celebration activities at the school on June 13, 2003. Our records indicate that the school was constructed during the year 1922 and 1923 and completed in 1924.

When the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) was contacted recently by the principal, Mrs. Basya Weinstein, for historical information about the school and the neighborhood, we looked through our archives and also looked through the previous articles of "I Remember Boro Park" for information to assist the school in this project.

(The following is an excerpt from an interview with Guy Granato, president of Music is Therapy, which was printed in this column in 1979.)

"Guy was born in Italy, moved to Chicago and came to Boro Park in 1928 at the age of 14. he first lived on Gravesand Ave. (now called McDonald Ave.) near Ave. F. He attended Montauk JHS which was then located in the public school on 18th Ave and 48th street. (now P.S. 192). Following that he attended and graduated from Brooklyn Tech H.S. became a musician and then an orchestra leader."

(The following is an excerpt from an interview with Jack Fogel (R.I.P) which was printed in the column in 1981.)

"Jack Fogel's parents Louis (R.I.P.) and Gertrude (R.I.P.) first moved to Boro Park in 1920 from th Bronx. Jack, the second of four boys, was born in Israel Zion Hospital (Now Maimonides) in 1924. Jack also recalls the annex of New Utrecht H.S. which was housed at P.S. 192, 18th Ave and 48th St., on the top floor. His older brother Murray attended there."

(Excerpts from interview with Carmine Burzumato, printed in this column in 1982.)

"Carmine Burzumato, the person interviewed, is an old time Boro Parker. His Grandparents Carmine and Giovanni (Gene) Burzumato, purchased a three family house in Boro Park (1734-45 St.) in 1923,and his parents Dominick and Lillian and daughter moved into one of the apartments. Carmine was born in that house in 1924 and three sisters after him were also born in that house. They were not born in the hospital; a midwife or doctor came to the house to deliver them.

"Carmine attended P.S. 192 (18th Ave and 47th St.) then Montauk JHS, New Utrecht H.S. and Brooklyn College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1948 and was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in 1945."

"What was uppermost in Carmines mind was his fond memories of the warmth and closeness of his friends and neighbors in those days. The different religions and ethnic groups, seemed to get along very well. They were friendly and neighborly people. All the people seemed to socialize and get along well with each other, there were no difficulties or group strifes. There were also no robberies, acts of destruction, delinquency or other crimes by teen agers. There was mutual respect for each other and each other's properties "The Culver theatre on the corner of McDonald Ave. and 18th Ave. where the bank is now, was there as far back as he could remember. The Garden theatre on New Utrecht Ave. near 45th St., provided three full m ovies, 2 cartoons, a serial and news, plus a candy bar, all for 5 cents - five hours of entertainment during the afternoon..."

SCHOOL DAYS

"He recalls his teachers in P.S. 192, Mrs. Hinchey, first grade, Mrs. Blakesburg, 2nd grade; the Downey sisters for 3rd and 4th grades; Mrs. Fink, 5th grade; and Mrs. Moose in the 6th grade. Only one teacher ever kept him back; that was Mrs. Moose in the 6th grade. She did so she said in order to straighten him out and make a man out of him. They developed a friendship after that and he continued to keep in touch with her. While he was in service she sent him many packages."

(Excerpts of article written by Thelma [Klein].Fox and printed in this column in 1985)

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

"To begin with, many people who moved to Boro park only within the last 15-20 years have asked me how this name came to be applied to our neighborhood since whatever few playgrounds we have, can in no way be considered parks. My standard reply is 'You should have lived here', and then I go on to describe to them how Boro Park looked in what I call 'The good old days'....."

When I was a child, most of the houses were one or two family homes, each surrounded by a garden. To compare the gardens in Boro Park today to those that existed then, is an impossibility because we had many Mansions with such imposing gardens, that they resembled parks, and thus the name Boro park, was both apt and fitting."

"I could for instance tell you that across the street from my parents home on 17th Ave. between 49th and 50th streets, there was a residence which took up half the block. It consisted of a mansion, with a beautiful garden, completely protected by a five foot wall. After the owners, Mr. and Ms. Godoff died, their three children had the entire property razed and built an apartment house in its stead at 4910-17 ave...."

"I think that your readers will find it unusual that I, as a 6 year old, had to walk from my home to 18th Ave. and Ocean Parkway to go to P.S. 134, the nearest school to my home at that time. Mr. Morey was the principal. I later attended Montauk JHS., where Mr. Ludwig was the principal, then on to New Utrecht HS with Dr. Potter as the principal. From there I went to Hunter college from which I graduated and became a substitute Elementary School Teacher. I taught in P.S. 103 on 14 Ave and 53rd street, P.S. 160 on FT. Hamilton Pkway and 51st street and P.S. 180 on 16th Ave and 56th St. perhaps some of your readers had me as their teacher."

"Speaking of schools, Dr. Kipust would like me to clarify why I had to go to P.S. 134 on 18th Ave. near Ocean Parkway, when P.S. 192 on 18th Avenue and 48th Street was so much closer to my home. P.S. 192 opened in 1924, a year after I entered the first grade in P.S. 134. Why then you might ask wasn't I transferred to that school? After much research and many calls to the Board of Education, I was told that it was the policy of the System not to transfer pupils if they had an older sibling in their original school. SInce I did have an older sister attending P.S. 134 with me, I had to continue at that school until my graduation from the 6th grade. It was then that I was permitted to go to P.S. 192, which maintained a Junior high school - grades 7-9, on its upper floors. I entered into the "R.A. - R.B. Program" which means rapid advance and I completed the 7th and 8th grades in one year, rather than the usual two years. When I was in the 9th grade, Montauk Jr. High School was completed on 16th Avenue and 42nd Street. I can remember that all the upper grade children marched to Montauk Jr. High, with the teachers and principals showing us what route to take when we were transferred to the new school. This occurred in 1930, and I was in the first graduating class from the 9th grade. It was after this move, that P.S. 192 became a full-fledged elementary school, with classes from Kindergarten through 6th grade.

P.S. 192 CELEBRATES ITS 80TH BIRTHDAY

P.S. 192 in Borough Park, Brooklyn is commemorating 80 years with a week long retrospective. The school, which was constructed in 1922-1923 has been studying 80 years of education, clothing, dance, music, culture, transportation, and the neighborhood. Students will be creating exhibits of their research, which will be displayed from June 10th through June 13th.

On June 11th, a life-sized model of a space shuttle erected by our Young Astronauts Club will be made available to the entire school for exploration and discussion. The club will also simulate a shuttle mission for the student body to participate in as well.

The festivities will conclude Friday June 13th at 10:15 with an assembly highlighting immigration through the years and a tree planting ceremony. Guests will include local officials and past alumni, who attended the school when it first opened its doors.

For more information call: (718) 633-3061

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

In my previous column when I mentioned the Boro Park schools in which I taught, P.S. 164 on 14th Avenue and 42nd street was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Perlman was the principal at that time and Miss Cohen (who could forget her) was the assistant principal. My cousin Gertrude Feller Arkin (Aunt of the actor, Alan Arkin) taught there too."

(Excerpts from letters sent by Dr. Kenneth H. Keller, president of University of Minnesota, printed in this column in 1987.)

"Memories of growing up in Brooklyn and in Boro Park are warm and still clear. I am happy to provide you with a little more information about it."

"I was born on october 19, 1934 in Boro Park - indeed I believe at Israel Zion Hospital (Now Maimonides) the dedication of which is printed on the newsletter you sent to me. I lived in Boro Park all through my youth, first in an apartment building at 654 Dahill Rd., then in a three family home at 1771-46 st. and finally in a two family home my father bought at 5906-15 ave."

"I attended elementary school at P.S. 192, Junior High school at Montauk, and High School at Stuyvesant. These were the days when the Culver line still ran, that took us to W. 8th at Coney Island every day in the Summer. We spent our Saturdays at Culver theatre or the Walker theatre and most afternoons playing punchball on 46th street and 17th ave."

(Excerpt from article submitted by Dr. Barnett Zumoff, Endocrinologist, printed in this column in 1992.)

"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 Stella, and my half-brother, Nathan, had moved from Philadelphia to Boro Park - to 1042 45th Street, an apartment house - the previous year..."

"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 woman and pleasant. After her marriage her name was Mrs. Donnelon. Then there was Mrs. Moose, my fourth grade teacher - a very good teacher, who unfortunately had buck teeth..."

"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. 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 mumbeledty 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 potsy, a game in which squares were marked off with chalk on the sidewalk..."

"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 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."

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

(Excerpts from article submitted by Theresa Sterne (R.I.P.) and printed in this column in 1993.)

"In 1930, my family bought a beautiful private house on 49th Street between 17 th and 16th Avenues, where I grew up and lived until the mid-1950's 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 1914, 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 some one 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 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 Presidents FDR's speeches and fireside 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..."

"In the mid-1930's when I entered first grade ("1-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, know to be a 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

continued

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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."

(Excerpts from interview of Leslie Grosshandler, printed in the column in 1994.)

"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 in the block near them, on 56th st. between 15th and 16th ave. Leslie remembers when as a young boy Buddy Hacket wanted to beat him up, and a group of his friends protected him...."

"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 located in the top two floors of the school (now P.S. 192) on 18th ave and 48th st. When he was 16, his family moved to 1845-50th st."

THIS COLUMNIST

Finally, this columnist must admit to having attended P.S. 192 for Kindergarten and part of the first grade (1932-33), after which the Kiput family moved to the Lower East Side for about one year. While attending P.S. 192 the family lived at 1864-49th St.

I remember having and hearing about the teacher Mrs. Hinchey. The kids were afraid of her and referred to her as Hinchey Pinchey.

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

You can help preserve the pride and history of Boro Park.

You can help in the research, preservation and promotion of this community by submitting your own memories, photos and other memorabilia. You can help also by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society - only $5 per year ($3 retired or student) $10 - for business or organization, or by making a contribution. Send materials to B.P.H.S., 4707 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Rabbi Chaim Moshe Yehuda Blau zt"l 1912-2003

Rabbi Chaim Moshe Yehuda Blau zt"l, a world reknown Talmudic Scholar and researcher, and Rabbi of Congregation Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh of Boro Park, for approximately 35 years, passed away on May 5, 2003, at the age of 90.

Rabbi blau was born in Isamburg, Germany in the Fall of 1912 to his parents Rabbi Yirmiyahu Hakohen and Leah Blau. His outstanding diligence, perseverence and scholarship, in his Talmudic studies, were apparent at an early eage. At the age of 19 he became a student at the famous Mirrer Yeshiva in Poland and remained a loyal and devoted student of that Yeshivah even after his marriage and the yeshivas flight, during the Holocaust of WWII, across Poland, the USSR, Japan and its arrival in Shanghai, in 1941. The Yeshivah remained in Shanghai until the end of WWII. He arrived in the USA with his family in 1946.

Rabbi Blau first settled in East New York, Brooklyn, where he served as Rabbi of Cong Ahavas Achim for 20 years. When the neighborhood population changed, and the synagogue closed, he moved to Boro Park, with his wife Chana Chaya Henna and four children, two of whom were born in Shanghai.

In order to help further his continued Talmudic studies, a primary aim of his life, and at the same time provide a modest livelihood for his family, Rabbi Blau decided to use his Talmudic knowledge to further those ends. He was aware that there was numerous unpublished original manuscripts, written by many Rishonim (Talmudic scholars of the 12th and 13th centuries), that were either lost, destroyed or languishing in the archives of Jewish and non-Jewish libraries around the world. So in the late 1940's Rabbi Blau embarked on a career to research, dicover, identify and publish those manuscripts which had been unavailable to present day scholars. He corresponded with libraries around the world, ordered photocopies of manuscripts or microfilm and studied them very carefully, word by word and day by day. During this 50 year effort he succeeded in discovering, identifying, editing and publishing over 40 volumes of books that were all hut lost to modern scholars. With the publication of each new volume he would travel from city to city in the U.S.A., to expain and sell his books to Rabbis and individuals who would have an interest in the books and/or in helping to further his work.

In the Cong. Avrohom utzvi Hirsh (4320-16h ave.) Rabbi Blau was instrumental in instituting a number of changes to upgrade the level of the services and the study groups. He was a strong advocate for high quality and special care in the writing of Torah Scrolls, mezuzahs and Tefilin. Due to his lectures and urging the shul undertook to raise the money and hire a special scribe to write three new toral scrolls.

In Boro Park, Rabbi Blau and family lived at 785 E. 2nd Street and 1459 - 40th Street. In 1982 he lost his wife, Chana Chaya Henna due to illness.

He remarried the former Eta Anshacker in 1983. Rabbi Blau was survived by his wife Eta; 2 sons Rabbi Meyer Blau and Rabbi Rooven Blau; and 2 daughters Nechama Kastel and Rochel Elishevitz.

Cong Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh

Every School, religious institution, organization, business and family has a history. Some are longer than others, but each history is noteworthy and adds to the total picture, total history. We would be interested in receiving information about any of these histories, relating to Boro Park, to include in these columns and eventually to the total history of Boro Park. Information may be sent to my attention at the newspaper or to 1558-45th street Brooklyn, NY 11219.

Due to the fact that Rabbi Blau served as Rabbi at Cong. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh for about 35 years, and I have attended services there for almost 34 years and served as Gabbai at that congregation for over 20 years, I decided to write about the history of that congregation located at 4320 - 16th Ave. (corner 44st.) That shul was first organized in 1968 by Mr. Jacque Friedman, publisher of this newspaper. "The Boro Park Community News, and current president of the Boro Park Community Council," and Boro Park History Society.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Jacque Friedman first moved to Boro Park from the East New York section, in 1965, to 1529 - 44th Street. At first he walked very often on Saturdays to his old Synagogue the Young Israel of New Lots, in order to help provide a Minyan (quorum for services) during its declining days, until it closed completely.

The new synagogue was first named congregation New Lots because it was established as an attempted replacement of the old Young Israel of New Lots which had been located in the East New York section of Brooklyn at Hegeman and Sheffield streets. Jacque had been an officer of the old synagogue and arranged for its sale and then decided to continue the congregation in Boro Park where he now lived.

Mr. Friedman rented a small store at 4320 16th Ave for $60 per month. He single handedly approached individuals, some who had been members of the old shul and had moved to Boro Park, and some new ones, and invited them to attend services at the new, but modest rented quarters. He frequently stood outside the synagogue and invited passers by to come in to help fill the quota of 10 for a minyan needed for services. Soon after the new shul started, Jacque noticed Rabbi Blau attending services and invited him to assume the position of Rabbi, which he did. Rabbi Blau continued to serve as Rabbi of the congregation until his passing in 2003.

Jacque applied to the National Council of Young Israel for permission to have a Young Israel branch of the new synagogue. Permission was denied because there was an existing Young Israel branch in Boro Park close by.

After a few years, the double building which housed the synagogue, at 4320 - 22 -16 ave, was up for sale at a very reasonable price. The building also had another store which was rented to Doris Beauty Parlor and two stories of apartments above each store. The officers and members decided to purchase the building they raised the needed capital for a down payment and received a mortgage from the previous owner and purchased the double building in 1969.

As Cong. New Lots grew in membership, the members decided to enlarge the synagogue. They arranged with Dorus Beauty Parlor to relocate, broke through the wall and doubled the shuls capacity in 1972.

A few years later, in 1975, at the urging of Rabbi Blau, the congregation undertook another capital improvement campaign to increase the capacity of the shule by renovating the basement. In the basement they built another study hall, a kitchen and a bathroom.

In order to raise additional funds for renovations and expenses, the name of the synagogue and some other dedications were sold. The name of the synagogue was purchased by two people. Jacque Friedman purchased the name in memory of his father Avrohom and Label Drebin, current president, purchased the name in memory of his father Tzvi Hirsh. The synagogue was then officially renamed Cong. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh in 1975.

More recently, in 1997, the synagogue sold its upper two floors on each building to a builder who built a hotel called Mosaic Suites. He built two additional floors above the old building and renovated the old apartments and the outside of the building.

When Rabbi Blau passed away in May 2003, the membership voted to appoint Rabbi Noson Goldberg, as the new Rabbi. Rabbi Goldberg and his family had been attending services and leading services at Cong. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsh for about 20 years. Rabi Goldberg was delivering the sermons and leading the study groups in the synagogue on a voluntary basis, during the last few years, whenever Rabbi Blau's illness prevented him from attending.

Rabbi Noson Goldberg and family first moved to Boro Park in 1978 from Crown Heights. He had purchased Jacque Friedman's house at 1529 - 44th Street. When Jacque moved to Flatbush. Rabbi Goldberg moved to Boro Park in order to accept a position as Rebbe (Teacher) at the Yeshiva M'kor Chaim at 1571-55th Street. He now serves in the position of supervising Rabbi a an OU Kosher facility.

The past presidents of Cong. Avrohom UTzvi Hirsh, listed in order and with approximate dates are:

Jacque Friedman 1968-1974

Pesachya(charles) Ackerman 1974-1995(deceased)

Dr. Shimon Meth 1974-1976(deceased)

Label Drebin 1976-Present.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

YOUNG ISRAEL BETH-EL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Dear Dr. Kipust,

In response to your request, I am enclosing a copy of the YIBP - Beth El Keystone Centennial Journal's historical article which the synagogue officers and cantor asked me to research and write.

This YIBP - Beth El Journal was distributed at the first of a series of centennial commemorative concerts and receptions which were professionally videotaped and attended by a capacity crowd at the landmark synagogue on March 1, 2003.

I am also frequently asked to give talks and interactive "buzzes" on this and other famous "faces & places" in Boro Park's past, most recently, during a large Passover program held at the Sheraton Danbur.

I gratefully acknowledge that some of my useful information was found in the informative 2 volume "I Remember Boro Park" a compilation of articles writeen by yourself.

Keep well to do all your good work.

Joseph (Yossi) Fuchs.

YIBP - BETH EL CENTENNIAL:

The First and a Foremost Shul in Borough Park

by Joseph B. Fuchs

Vice President, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers and former Director, the Borough Park Historical Society

Our Torah mandates "Zichor Yimos Olam..", "Remember our past" and Hakoras Hatov, rendering recognition to our pioneering shuls. So hop aboard the time trolley, taking us back past the Farm Fields to the Borough Park of 1902, which then was truly one big park with parking!

From the archives of the Borough Park Historical Society, it records establishment of Borough Park's very first *mossad* (institution) and shul, Congregation Beth-El, at the intersection of 12th Avenue and 41st street. This lovely little sanctuary still functions to this very day. Over the next few years, our records specifically document how many pioneering Beth-El members moved on to create many major new shuls, Maimonides Medical Center and the first Yeshivos in Borough Park - indeed Beth-El was the Mother of many *mosdos* here!

During this early era,one of the first branches of this great national movement, the Young Israel of Borough Park opened its doors in 1917. It especially helped spiritually save our young, with its extensive youth programs. Over the years, YIBP was led by leading luminaries as Rabbi Shmuel MIrsky and YB'L, the Present Head of the Chicago Bais Din, Rabbi Gedalya Schwartz.

With tremendous growth, Congregation Beth-El embarked on exponential expansion. In 1923, the shul completed construction of its present almost 2,000 seat architecturally and acoustically breathtaking shul topped by its illuminated 80 foot high Magen David dome. Papers reported this to be the largest and loveliest shul in the entire U.S., which was inaugurated by a parade, 120 cantors ensemble, the NYS Governor and a host of major religious, political and social leaders.

Since then, over the generations, it has been an awesome Oneg Shabbos to be inspired by the talks and tefillos of world-class Rabbonim and Chazonim. Many of us rmember the unforgettable Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr, who served the Borough Park community for a record 60+ consecutive years. We also recall how our davening *kavanos* (concentration) and emotions were heightened by the shul's legendary chazzonim: Mordechai Hershman, Berele Chagy, Moshe Koussevitsky, Moshe Stern and the Chazzan with the shul's longest tenure (since 1982),the present world-acclaimed Ben Zion Miller, all enthralling golden voices, accompanied by stunning double-symphonic choirs.

This institution, was further fortified by the YIBP-Beth El merger, the marriage of a great shul with a great movement, as the First (since 1902) and a Foremost Bais Mikdash Me'at! In the future, when time and space permit, we hope to talk and write in detail about the great many magnificent moments of the shul, which are forever enshrined in our memories and in the Historical Society archives. Congratulations on a century of inspirational spiritual service!

[Ed: We thank Mr. Joseph (Yossi) Fuchs, an officer and former director of the Boro Park Historical Society for his interesting contribution.]

continued

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

JEWS OF BROOKLYN

Jews of Brooklyn is a book published in 2002 by Brandeis University Press (university press of New England). It includes a number of individual articles edited by Ilana Abramovitch (manager of curriculum in New Yorks museum of Jewish Heritage) and Sean Galvin of Laguardia Community College, CUNY.

The inside flap says, amongst other things "In Jews of brooklyn, over forty historians, folklorists, museum curators, musicians and ordinary brooklyn Jews with something to say about egg creams and Brooklyn accents present a vivid, living record of this astonishing cultural heritage.

When I perused this 355 page book I obviously was interested in items dealing with Boro Park. There are a number of articles, personalites, items and dates referring specifically to Boro Park and many items about Brooklyn in general, which are related to Boro Park history as well. articles specifically about Boro Park include:

1) "My Mother's Borough Park" by Michael Taub

2) "A Hasidic Woman in Borough Park" by Renata Singer

3) "A Brookln Accent: Borough Park in the 1940's" by George Jochnowitz.

The book includes a feature called "Time line of selected Jewish Brooklyn Events or People." The following are a few of the items included which are directly or indirectly related to Boro Park history.

1657- Dutch town of New Utrecht formed. (New Utrecht was one of the five towns of Brooklyn in which Boro Park Developed.)

1867- Prospect Park opens

1876- Ocean Parkway, a toll parkway ...opens for travel between Prospect Park and Coney Island.

1883- Brooklyn Bridge is completed

1897- Brooklyn Public Library is formed.

1904-08 - Peak period of Jewish immigration (640,000 enter USA)

1909-Manhattan Bridge opens

1913-Ebbets Field Stadium for Brooklyn Dodgers opens.

1917-Max Kufeld becomes principal of Etz Hayim in the new Jewish community of Boro Park, a Jewish public day school "first Hebraic all-day school."

1936-IND Subway opens in Brooklyn

1955-Brooklyn Eagle shuts down after 114 years.

1964-Verrezano Narros Bridge Opens.

1985-Borough Park: estimate of general population 203,000 (Jewish: 63,400 or 31%)

1999- controversial killing of Gidone (Gary) Busch in Borough Park by NYC Policemen.

2000-Death of Grand Rabbi Shlomo Halberstam, A Holocaust survivor who nurtured post war rebirth of Bobov Hasidic sect in Brooklyn (boro park).

One feature of the book "selected bibliography and recommended reading", has the following Boro Park related listings"

Kipust, Dr. Philip J. 1988. I Remember Boro Park vol I & II Brooklyn: Boro Park Historical Society, Ltd.

Mayer, Egon, 1979. From Suburb to Shtetl: The Jews of Boro Park. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Beleove - Shalin, Janet Sera. 1989 " A Quest for Wholeness: the Hasidim of Boro Park." Phd. diss Cornell University UMI Microfilms

There are two other PH.D. diss., listings about the Bobover Hasidic Community, and numerous general listings about other communities and about Brooklyn in general which may include items about Boro Park. I found at least one article that quotes my article in "I Remember Boro Park."

The book itself is interesting and includes much historical and discriptional information about the various communities in Brooklyn and their population. However I felt that the description of the community history and population of Boro park, especially the current hasidic Jewish community, was inadequate and not balanced.

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BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4707 13th Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11219
718-854-1033 • 718-436-7729

Thank You Dr. Philip J. Kipnis

for your excellent article on the anniversary of PS 192 48th St. and 18th Ave. Boro Park

WE ARE FIXING UP OUR MINI MUSEUM AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP PLEASE CALL US

- OPEN INVITATION to all community organizations and individuals to join in our NEW MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN - JOIN TODAY!
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BE A COMMUNITY SPONSOR call Jacque Friedman @ (718) 854-1033
WHY NOT SET UP A FOLDER ON YOUR ORGANIZATION

Moving or want to throw away old papers or journals or pictures of Boro Park?
DO NOT THROW THESE MEMORABILIA DOCUMENTS OR PAPERS AWAY - DONATE THESE VALUABLE ITEMS TO HELP SHARE THESE VALUABLE ITEMS WITH THE COMMUNITY
We pick up with a Smile. Remember Boro Park is you and your history is important

Volunteers are always needed - are you retired - donate a little time YOU are needed.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

YOUTH GROUPS IN BORO PARK

The following article, published in the Brooklyn Eagle on May 19, 1947, was submitted by, Mr. B.M Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. The Yeshiva Toras Emes, mentioned in this article, the second oldest Yeshiva in Boro Park, had moved to several locations after 4407-12 Ave. and has recently relocated to Flatbush. We note, as we study the history of Boro Park, that many community issues repeat theinselves. We thank Mr. Selevan for his interesting contribution.

RABBI ASKS SCHOOLS AID IN CURBING CHILD GANGS

Rabbi Elias Schwratz, dean of Mesivta andYeshiva Toras Emes, urged a mass meeting last night to press for the opening of all public school playgrounds and gymnasiums as means of combating anti-Semitic acts which he laid at the door of "emotionally and socially maladjusted gangs of youngsters" in Borough Park.

Rabbi Schwartz listed 41 acts "name calling, threats, rock throwing, beatings and several extortions" turned up in the survey. All he said, were committed against the boys in his care at the school 4407 12th Ave.

The meeting was held at the First Congregation Anshe Sfard, 14th Ave. and 45th Street.

Rabbi Schwartz urged the use of all public school playgrounds and gymnasiums in the area during the afternoon and early evening hours.

Insisting that adequate recreational facilities in the area would discourage the formation of "gangs" and provide an outlet for the energies and emotions of the nieghborhood's children, Rabbi Schwartz declared:

"We believe that if we can nip these acts of the child, we can prevent the germ of anti-Semitism" from infecting the individual as he matures.

Boy, Sister hit on way to temple

Typical of aggressions against Jewish children in the section, he listed instances of an 8 year old boy striking another boy and his sister while the latter were on their way to the synagogue. Another child the rabbi continued , was asked if he wanted to a join a club and was later thrown forcibly into a bush.

Money was demanded of a 6th grade pupil at school. Rabbi Schwartz related, "and he was beaten up when he refused."

Offers Plan to Staff Playgrounds

Referring to his proposal that existing Boro Park recreational facilities be kept open longer hours. Rabbi Schwartz suggested that counselors to staff the playgrounds and gymnasiums be recruited from among the public schools regular teachers and that they be paid for their services with city funds.

In connection with the Yiddish school's pending $250,000 building fund drive, Rabbi Schwartz revealed if the estimated 100,000 Jewish families in Boro Park raise the $30,000 currently "in the bank" to $50,000 during June Isaac Shalom, president of the institution will personally match the sum with another $20,000. The campaign will officially open in September.

HISTORICAL BRIEFS

There is a huge old sycamore tree in Boro Park, in front of the home of Mrs. Josephine Mazzulo at 1557-45 St. It may be the largest tree in Boro Park. I measured the girth or circumference of the tree trunk on Oct 21, 03. It measured 131 inches (almost 11 feet) at a height of 48 inches from the ground. At a height of 24 inches from the ground the girth measured 150 inches (12.5 feet). Since the age of the tree is related to its girth, it may also be the oldest tree in the neighborhood. If anyone is aware of a tree which is larger or older please let us know.

Washington Mutual Savings Bank at 4724-13th Ave. (corner of 48th St) still has the words "Bay Ridge Savings Bank" engraved in stone high up on the front of the building. The Bay Ridge Savings Bank moved there in 1927 and in 1968 it became the Anchor Savings, Bank.

The Plaza Hotel on 13th Ave corner 47 St. was formerly the Chase Manhattan Bank and before that, starting in 1927 it was the home of the "Municipal Bank."

St. Francis de Chantal is the oldest church in Boro Park. It is located on 57th St and 13th Ave. and was founded in 1892.

The corner stones on Temple Beth-El, the oldest synagogue in B.P. (now Young Israel Beth-El of Boro Park) read as follows:

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

1920
Temple Beth-El of Boro Park
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Kulok

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Meiselman
Temple Beth-El of Boro Park
5680 (in hebrew letters)

the synagogue itself was first founded in 1902 on 12th ave. and 42nd street and later moved to 15ht ave. and 48th street.

The Post Office. Blythe Bourne Station, located on 51st street and New Utrecht Ave. had the following sign after it was built.

"This building is dedicated to Public Service"

1977

Jimmy Carter
President of the United States

Binyamin F. Bailer
Postmaster General

Dr. Mark J. Wallfield

Dr. Mark J. Wallfield was a well known and respected Pediatrician in Boro Park. His office was located on the corner of 50th Street and 15th Ave. (approximately 1471 - 50 st.) His father was also a prominent Pediatrician in Boro Park with office located on 46th St. between 12th and 13th Ave.

The followign two obituaries appeared in the N.Y. Times of October 28, 1987.

Wallfield - Dr. Mark J. Boro Park Pediatrician for over 60 years. Beloved husband of the late Harriet, devoted father of Rose V. Hanson and Maida and Alan Weissman. Cherished grandfather of Jessica Lynn and Steven Michael. Dear brother of Susan Spool and the late Marie Ross. In lieu of flowers, contributions to your favorite charity would be appreciated. Services at Forest park Chapel, Queens Boulevard at 76th Road, Forest Hills, Thursday, October 29 at 1:30 pm.

Wallfield - Mark, MD. The Department of Pediatrics, Maimonides Medical Center, deeply regrets the passing of Dr Mark Wallfield, a long-time member of our Department who will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues.

Felix Feldman, MD
Director of Pediatrics
Maimonides Medical Center

Sol Schwartz

Sol Schwartz (RIP) founder of Atlas Vacation Service passed away in Israel, in April, 2000, at the age of 82:

Born in Koshitza, Czechoslovakia. Mr. Schwartz escaped the Nazi Holocaust by fleeing to Portugal. His daring escape has been recorded for posterity at the Yad V'Shem Holocaust Archives.

He emigrated to the U.S. in 1939 and trained as a Cantor. In 1947 he married his wife Betty and moved to Boro Park and was installed as the Cantor of Congregation Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph 4907-18th Ave., in the same year. He remained in his position as Cantor of the Congregation for 25 years and also served as president for several years.

Mr. Schwartz was involved in numerous vacation enterprises. He operated several glatt kosher hotels in the Catskill Mountains. He was among the first accredited Shomer Shabbos Travel Agents in New York. He started Atlas Travel Service in 1948.

In 1972 he and his wife emigrated to Jerusalem, Israel, where he continued to be active in the Atlas Vacation Service until 1978.

While in Boro Park Mr. Schwartz and his wife were active in several communal and charitable organizations.

Shevi Gross

The following are exerps of an article, written by Shevi Gross 8th grade student, in the graduation yearbook of the Yeshiva of Spring Valley girls school, of June 2000.

"My grandmother, Ruth Shulman Bachrach (obm) usually called Bobby, was born on the third night of Chanuka in 1916 in Spring Valley, N.Y. where her parents lived."

"Bobby grew up during very hard times in the United States. It was the Depression years and later World War II. Bobby's parents, Reuven and Bessie Shulman lived in Spring Valley where they made and embroidered tablecloths. They did very well until the Depression, when Bobby's father lost the business. His wife Bessie went into the insurance business and Reuven sat and learned....."

"My grandmother learned all about Yiddishkeit from her parents, and her grandmother, Mrs. Chana Newstadter who lived in Boro Park. Bobby always told us that on Pesach there was nothing kosher to buy so her father would take prunes, make prune jelly, and do most of the cooking so they wouldn't eat chometz."

"During this time in America it was hard for Orthodox Jews to be Shomer Shabbos, because if you didn't work six days a week, including Shabbos, you didn't find a job. That was why since Bobby's father owned a business, they were able to be Shomer Shabbos."

"Bobby was very smart in school and got straight A+s. She went to Hunter College in New York City. At that time it was an all girls college, and was very hard to get into ,

cont'd

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

During her college years she lived in Boro Park with her grandmother whom she called Bobby Chana. Bobby Chana, originally from Russia, was widowed when she was in her early 30's. She had three girls: Lilly, Bessy and Dora. Bessie was Bobby's mother. They lived in a huge house on 17th Avenue between 48th street and 49th street. the house still stands today. When Bobby Chana died in 1971 she was 102 years old. She requested in her will that the house be made into a yeshiva, and that is what it is today, Yeshiva Chasam Sofer."

"Bobby was one of the group of young adults who started the Young Israel of Boro Park, which was part of starting the first minyan in Boro Park in 1930's and 40's.

" Bobby had one sister who also joined in the Young Israel group. Both sisters eventually met their husbands at the Young Israel." Bobby told me that during this time there was no one to go out with since there were so few orthodox men around."

Dr. Selma Wehl

(the following are exerpts from an article written by Arnold Fine, in the Jewish Press of Sept. 6, 2002, based upon the book "House calls to Eternity" by Rabbi Yaakov and Haddassah Wehl 1987.)

" There may be hundreds, if not thousands of individuals in Brooklyn's Boro Park, who are familiar with Dr. Selma Wehl's name. Dr. Wehl was a pediatrician whose name has become synonymous with the highest standards of medicine, integrity, compassion, dedication to patients and devotion to Torah. Until her passing on April 2, 1987 when she was nearly 90 years old, she worked six days a week, 14 to 16 hours a day. For 45 years her office at 5015 -15 Ave. in Brooklyn pulsated with sounds of crying infants, as she selflessly served the community day and night.

Dr. Wehl was a brilliant student and daughter of a rabbinical family in Hamburg, Germany, where she grew up influenced by the teachings of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, that one may combine "Torah im Derech Eretz" - Torah jointly with the pursuit of worldly knowledge. In fact in Hamburg there were approximately three dozen religious doctors and dentists at the time.

She and her husband, Reb Aaron Wehl, who married in March of 1936, forged a life based on total adherence to Torah and wholehearted commitment to patients....

As World War II boomed on the horizon, the Wehl's miraculously escaped Germany to America at the beginning of 1939."

"Thus it was in middle age, Dr. Wehl was no longer a doctor. Before practicing medicine in the new country, she had to learn English and pass tests to become accredited...

She and her husband were penniless. She was told that she had three strikes against her and therefore would never succeed. "you are a woman. You are a foreigner and you plan to observe the Shabbos" Many people could not understand that she did not have office hours on Shabbos. At that time Shabbos was the biggest business day in Boro Park.

Dr. Wehl was not deterred. She studied intensely while working as a practical nurse and cleaning woman, washing linens and diapers, and scrubbing floors. In 1941, she earned her American medical license, and in 1950 she became a Diplomate and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and staff member at Maimonides Hospital.

On Lag B'Omer, 1948, a new era started, when the Wehls celebrated the housewarmning of their new house at 5015-15th ave. From her medical office in this house she was to loyally and selflessly treat three generations of patients... Dr. Wehl, the woman with "three strikes agains her", became a legend in her time.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Dr. Philip J. Kipust



BORO PARK DEDICATION

Anthony J. Brizzi Place

On November 8, 2003, the corner of 40th street and Fort Hamilton Parkway was named "Anthony J. Brizzi Place" at a special dedication ceremony. Mr. Brizzi (RIP) was the owner and operator of the Brizzi and Sons Funeral Home at 3913 Fort Hamilton Parkway.

Anthony was born in Boro Park, in his home at 3921-Fort Hamilton Parkway to his parents Joseph and Emma, on Sept 7, 1934 and died on May 30, 2000. He lived on top of the funeral home.

The following is copy of the dedication brochure distributed at the ceremonies:

Anthony J. Brizzi "Butch" was born and raised in Boro Park. He was the youngest of 10 children. Anthony's father was the founder of Joseph A. Brizzi & Sons Inc. Funeral HOme, which has been family owned and operated since 1922.

As a young boy, Anthony watched his father's tireless devotion to the people of Boro Park. Regardless of money, race, or religion, Joseph ensured that anyone who requested his services would be treated in a dignified manner.

Through the 2nd generation, Anthony carried on his father's ideology. He became an active member of the community, taking part in many organizations such as: Usher Society of St. Catharine of Alexandria Church, Council of Neighborhood Organizations, Community Board 12, Admiral Dewey Knights of Columbus and sponsored numerous baseball, softball and basketball teams.

As well as Anthony's devotion to the Boro Park Community, he also was dedicated to his family which consists of his wife Amelia "Nina," and his 3 daughters Denise, Donna and Dina. He believes in strong family values, which were cultivated when he was a young boy.

In true family tradition, Anthony had endeared himself to the community and his many associates. Without a doubt, there is no one who can state that they were ever refused assistance if they requested it of Anthony. A true indication of a man's worth is how people feel about him as a human being. Anthony's legacy will be carried on through his family.

Memorial Mass 10:30 am
St. Catharine of Alexandria Church
Officiated by
Rev. Msgr. Curran
Dedication 40th Street as Anthony J. Brizzi Place (corner of Fort Hamilton Pkwy)

Guest Speakers
Marty Markowitz
Borough President

Bill DiBlasio
Councilman

Marty Accetta
CONO Executive Director

Priscilla Cleano
Past District Mgr Community Board 12

Joseph Pielluceri

Family Spokesperson
We would like to express our sincere gratitude for everyone's participation in this momentous occasion.

The Brizzi Family

The above information was submitted by Rabbi Yisroel Orange a friend and business associate. We thank Rabbi Orange for his interesting contribution.

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

OUR SHUL PHOTO

OUR SHUL
Cong. Bnei Yehuda, Boro Park,
5311-16th Ave.
Photo Montage, 1990,
by Harris RUbin

The photo below, entitled "Our Shul" is an artistically created composite photo of Congregation Bnei Yehuda (sons of Judah), of Boro Park. This synagogue, dedicated in 1924 is located at 5311-16th Ave. The photo "created" by Mr. Harris Rubin (RIP) is an aerial Photo Montage taken on Purim morning 1990 showing the interior of the shul giving it a three dimensional effect.

The first spiritual leader of his shul was Rabbi Mordechai Aaron Kaplan (RIP), who served until his demise in 1951. He was succeeded by Rabbi Eliezer Zev Kirzner who served until his demise in 1991. He was succeeded by his son Rabbi Dr Yisroel Meir Kirzner. Other historical information about the synagogue has appeared in these columns in the past.

Photo Donations

The photo mentioned above was donated to the Boro Park Historical Society recently by Mrs. Esther Rubin in memory of her husband Harris, the photo will be displayed in the "mini - museum of Boro Park" by the historical society. The BPHS invites its readers and other residents to donate photo of important buildings in the community for historical preservation. Photos donated tot he historical archives will be used for display, publication and preservation. Unfortunately, many old photos are forgotten about and discarded after a person is deceased. We invite officers of organizations and institutions, as well as residents, to donate photos of their buildings.

Harris Rubin

Harris Rubin (RIP) the "creator" of the above mentioned photo montage, was deceased in July 2000.

Harris and Esther Rubin moved to Boro Park in 1951. They first lived in Williamsburg where they were married in 1943, then in 1949 moved to Bensonhurst and after two years moved to Boro Park. In Boro Park they first lived at 1369-51st where they lived for seven years then purchased a home at 1666-51st where they lived for 26 years and then moved to their current address at 1618-48 st. in 1984.

Mr. Rubin was interested in photography. He was very talented and artistic. He was a talented watchmaker a trade that he learned in his youth in Europe. In his later years he was in the wholesale Jewelry business. His brother, Sol Rubin, is a professional photographer and lives in Boro Park.

Harris and Esther were very involved in Community Organizations and projects. Harris was one of the original founders of Ohel Home in Boro Park and served as chairman of the Board for eleven years. He was the Honoree at the first Ohel Dinner. He was also very active in Cong. Bnei Yehuda and served as Vice President and in other positions. He was very close to both Rabbi Kirzners. He also served on the Community Mental Health Board of Maimonides Hospital for many years.

Esther Harris, in addition to helping her husband in many of his communal activities, was also active in AMIT, and was a volunteer for many projects of Ohel.

Congregation Avrohom Utzvi Hirsch - Addendum

In this column of September 2003 we included an article about the history of Cong. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsch, the synagogue located at 4320-16 ave. One of our readers and member of the congregation suggested that the article should have included names of the several yeshivos that utilized the premises of the synagogue for their school and contributed towards the operation of the building. All the Yeshivos, except for two, were for older students post High School. The two exceptions Yeshiva Hamatmonim and the current Yeshiva Shir Chodosh, were for high school students.

OUR SHUL Aerial Photo-Montage from mid-late 1960s

continued

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

The following are the name of the Yeshivas and their leaders, in the order of their presence. The dates are not available.

Yeshiva Bais Torah - Rabbi Mordechai Yoffe (obm)

Yeshiva Nachlas Leviim - Rabbi Pinchos Kahn and Rabbi Faivel Cohen

Yeshiva Hamatmonim - Rabbi Gedalia Max Rabbi Ephraim Padawar and Rabbi Morgan

Yeshiva Shir Chodosh - Rabbi Naftali Langsam

Vasiken Minyan (sunrise services) Started by Rabbi Yakov Stefansky now Rabbi ChaimYosilovsky

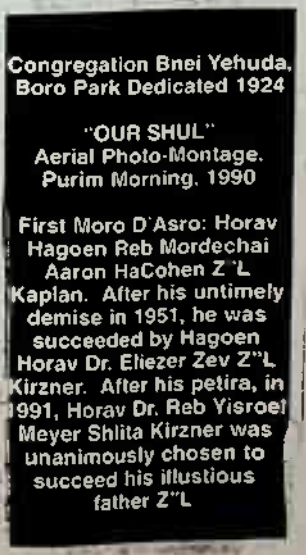
A Tree Grows in Boro Park

In this column of Nov. 2003, we reported about a large sycamore tree which we suggested may be the largest and oldest in Boro Park and requested information about other large trees.

Mr. Israel Bader of 1665-42 St. claimed that he knows of a larger tree in the back of his house. The tree is actually on his adjoining neighbors property, in back of the house of 1673-42 st. Mr. Bader's house was built in 1903 which is one hundred years of age and probably one of the oldest standing houses in Boro Park. His property includes a piece of the historical Lott Lane, which ran through part of Boro Park.

I went over to the house and Mr. Bader and I measured the tree at a height of 32 inches from the floor the girth or circumference of the tree measured 14 feet. At a height of 77 inches from the floor it measured 16 feet 2 inchs. At this point one of the brances begins to bulge out. Mr. Bader estimates the height of the tree to be about 70 feet. So far this tree seems to be older and larger than the one mentioned in the previous column, in front of 1557-45 st.

Mr. Bader indicated that his two neighbor's houses, on both sides of him, are scheduled to be demolished and new houses built on the land. When that happens in the near future, this tree, as well as others on the properties, will probably be thrown down.



Congregation Bnei Yehuda, Boro Park Dedicated 1924

"OUR SHUL"
Aerial Photo-Montage. Purim Morning. 1990

First Moro D'Asro: Horav Hagoen Reb Mordechai Aaron HaCohen Z"L Kaplan. After his untimely demise in 1951, he was succeeded by Hagoen Horav Dr. Eliezer Zev Z"L Kirzner. After his petira, in 1991, Horav Dr. Reb Yisroel Meyer Shlita Kirzner was unanimously chosen to succeed his illustious father Z"L

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Recent School Visit

The Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) frequently receives calls from people seeking information about Boro Park. Some are from College Students working on reports or dissertations, some are from elementary or high school students learning about their community and some are from teachers seeking information.

We try to be helpful if we can and depending upon the request often refer individuals to the two volumes of the book "I Remember Boro Park", by Dr. Philip J. Kipust which can be found in the public library; Boro Park, Midwood and Grand Army Plaza branches. the books have an index in the back listing names and places mentioned in the articles in alphabetical order. Last year we had a request from a teacher at PS192, on 18th Avenue and 47th Street, to visit the school which was celebrating its 80th Anniversary and speak to her 4th grade class about Boro Park history. We did that and wrote about this in a previous column.

In March of this year, we were invited by a teacher in a girls school, to speak to her 3rd grade class about Boro Park. We accepted the invitation by the teacher, Mrs. Rivkie Raitport, to speak to her 3rd grade class at Bais Yaakov of Ger located at 1975 - 51st Street. We spoke about the early history of Boro Park and responded to their questions about housing, population, schools, prices, clothes, games etc. The principal Mrs. Wosner asked if I would be willing and able to visit the school again in the near future and speak to some of the older students to which I consented.

More about Schools in Boro Park

In 1985 I did a study of the schools in Boro Park, both public and private. Some information accumulated from this study was included in previous articles. The nine public schools located in Boro Park were and are in the main part of School District 20 of the New York City Board of Education. There once was a tenth school, PS103 located on 14th Avenue and 54th Street which was sold by the city and is now a Satmar Girls Yeshiva and popular wedding hall. The other nine public schools located in Boro Park and the names of the principals in 1985 are as follows:

1985-Listing:

PS48 - 18th Ave & 60th Street
Mr. Thomas Hiller

PS105 - 1031 59th Street
Ms. Margaret Flanagan

PS160 - 5105 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy
Mr. Barry Mintzer

PS164 - 14th Ave & 43rd Street
Mrs. Judith Stewart

PS180 - 5710 16th Avenue
Mr. Marvin Grosskopf

PS131 - 4305 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy
Mr. Louis Staiano

PS192 - 18th Ave & 48th Street
Mrs. Bernice Jaffe

JHS220 - Pershking J.HS
9th Ave & 49th Street
Mr. Arthur R. Flannery

JHS223- Montaulk J.HS
16th Ave & 42nd Street
Ms. Mary F. Butti

The Community Superintendent of District 20 at that time was Dennis M. Fleming.

Heritage and History

Supt. Fleming at that time gave me a copy of Heritage and History, which is a collection of selected student compositions from the various schools in the district related to their studies of local history, This booklet was volume II printed, by mimeograph machine, in May 1977. The editor in chief was George J. Hoffman and the Co-editors were Thomas J. Hiller and Vito Gennaro.

The principals of the various public schools listed in the booklet for 1977 were as follows.

PS48 Thomas J. Hiller
PS105 Margaret Flanagan
PS160 Arthur Simon
PS164 Joseph Tedeseki
PS180 Rosemarie Carpitano
PS192 Rose R. Wolfe
JHS220 Arthur Flannery
JHS223 Mary Butti

In his preface to the booklet Supt. Fleming states: "The articles in this booklet capture elements of local history. Part of the research is from resource books and part of it is from original sources - people who lived in and around the areas at different periods of the districts history. I am confident that this has given our students the feeling that they are living history."

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

The following are a few selected articles from the booklet written by the children in the community.

The Montauk Indians:

By 1776, the Montauk Indians had settled in central and eastern Long Island. They were members of the Algonquin tribes. Two of their most notable leaders were Pequot and Narraganset.

The Montauks lived in wigwams. Wigwams were made out of a round wooden structure with a semi-circular roof. The Montauks made wampum which was used for several things including money and beads.

The promontory at the western tip of Long Island is named after the Montauks, Montauk Point. Also, Montauk Point State Park, a state park is named after the Montauk Indians. Both places are about 115 miles east of Manhattan. Finally, my school is named after the Montauk Indians, Montauk J-223. These indians who are so much a part of New York's history and who lived as far back as the 16th century in New York are today very few in number. Over the past 300 years or so, many have been destroyed by war and disease. Others have lost their identity as Montauk Indians through intermixing with other Indian tribes.

Today, traces of the Montauk Indians might be found on the Shinnecock Reservation on Long Island.

Adam Simonoff
Class 9SPF J-223

Our Brooklyn:

Long before Brooklyn was called Brooklyn, and before any white man lived here, there was a peaceful and friendly tribe of Indians called the Canarsees. In the year 1524, the first white man most likely to have landed in Brooklyn around Fort Hamilton, was an Italian navigator, Giovanni de Verrazano, who came in the name of France. When he went back to France, the king didn't do anything about the discovery.

In 1609, an Englishman named Henry Hudson, sailed past the shores of Brooklyn in his exploration for the Dutch. As a result of his voyage, the Dutch sent over thirty families to New Netherlands. This area included much of what is now New York, New Jersey and Delaware. New Amsterdam which is now Manhattan was bought from the Indians by Petter Minuet.

In 1664, three armed British frigates sailed into what is now Gravesend Bay and dropped anchor in between Fort Hamilton and Coney Island. The British Commander ordered the Dutch to surrender the colony of New Netherlands. The Dutch wouldn't fight. New Amsterdam and New Netherlands were surrendered to the British. The name of the area was changed to New York, in honor of the Duke of York.

Brooklyn, Long Island and Manhattan were still in the hands of the British unit the Revolutionary War ended. When this happened, the people of New Utrecht fired a cannon, and put up a Liberty Pole in their celebration. The liberty pole still stands in Brooklyn at Eighty-fourth Street and Eighteenth Avenue. President Washington visited this very spot in 1790.

Andrea Cerrachio

Brooklyn (Our Home):

Brooklyn, WOW, what a wonderful place!
Largest borough in all New York State.

Teacher said with a peculiar grin,
T'was the Dutch who found Breukelen,

And since 1636, this broken land
Has grown together just grand.

By 1834 into a city it grew
But, alas, New York was growing too;

And then came the years 1898,
When Absorption as a borough became Brooklyn's fate;

Still, as a borough it continuously grows,
And when it will stop nobody knows.

Felicia P. Paulakos
Class 9SPS J-223

America 23 Years from Now

In the year 2000, I think America will be run completely by robots and computers. Computers will take the place of American workers. Can you imagine a computer doing your homework? In some ways it would be nice; in others, it wouldn't.

America will be free of cars; space ships will be used instead. These ships will run on solar energy... Instead of traveling to different countries, maybe we will be going on trips to other planets like Saturn or Jupiter. And, that will be a wonderful experience...

Collette Tabeck
6-415 PS204

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

An Interview With My Grandfather - Alfonso Genovese

Alfonso Genovese came to this country in 1923. At that time, there wasn't any welfare and no unemployment benefits. Everyone who was here had to work hard to earn a living.

In 1929, the Depression came, work was even harder to get and money was even harder to earn.

In 1932, F.D. Roosevelt was elected President of the United States. He made many changes to help all of the people. World War II started in 1941 and ended in 1945.

From that time on, progress began in America. People started to work, little by little, until the country reached a point where everyone was earning a living and all those that wanted to work had a job.

You may think times are hard now, with the high cost of living and the many problems many of us face each day. I think life was much harder many years ago.

In 1923, when you first came here, were there any automobiles? Not too many cars were on the street at that time.

How much did gasoline cost at that time? Gasoline was eleven cents a gallon and there was no tax, not even an eight cents sales tax.

How do you feel about prices of things today? Did you think they are reasonable?

Compared to today, things cost very little. I think people had more of a chance to advance themselves.

How much was the trainfare? The trainfare was only five cents. Today, we have to pay fifty cents for a ride on buses and trains. The workers always kept the trains clean. There were motormen to stop crimes. Trains aren't as clean and they are not as safe.

What kind of work did you do?

I was working for the Park Department from 1937 until February 1, 1964, when I retired from the Park Department.

Do you think you improved yourself by coming to America?

Yes. I worked hard and earned an honest living for my family and myself. America was very good to me in many different ways. I have a lot to be thankful for. this country with all its faults has been good to me!

Barbara Buono
Class 4-409 P-105

Battle of Long Island

If you go through Brooklyn Heights now you don't see any sign of where Washington's 19,000 men waited for the British to attack. Their retreat had been cut off. They knew they were outnumbered.

On August 22, 1776, the British moved 20,000 out of a possible 32,000 men to Long Island.

On August 27, the British attached the Americans in what is now Prospect Park. Despite brave fighting, the Americans lost 1,012 and the British 378.

Washington knew he had lost and it would be useless to fight more. On the stormy night of August 29-30 the Americans managed to escape from Long Island.

If you go to Prospect Park now you don't see anything that reminds you of one of the most historic things in the history of New York.

Scott Kaplan
Class 6-5 PS104

I remember it well

Before I get into details, let me introduce myself. I really don't have a name but you can call me Memory if you like. I am very old, and I exist although I can't be seen. I am strolling in Prospect Park, thinking how peaceful it is. But it wasn't always this calm. I remember a time when troops flooded this place and nothing was at rest.

The day was August 27, 1776. The English were trying to capture New York City as a British fort. Here in Brooklyn, Lord Howe and his men were fighting a winning battle against the colonists. By the noon of the day, the colonists had been driven back to Brooklyn lines, having lost 1,200 prisoners, 400 soldiers, and 30 guns. The British had won the Battle of Long Island. All of this is a very vivid memory to me. In fact, thinking back I can still hear the drums and fifes and I see and hear the guns. I hear the loyal cries of the outnumbered patriots.

In the twentieth century as I go leisurely through the park, I see children playing and grownups chatting among themselves. Perhaps they don't know they're on battle grounds. Maybe this battle will be our little secret forever.

Emily Vickery
Class 6-5 PS104

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

People, Places and Things; Then 1776, Now 1976, and The Future Too

You know America is the best.
You know it from North, South, East and West.
The people have been famous here.
The places too, far and near.
The Statue of Liberty is quite a sight.
So people come to see it day and night.
From then (1776) till now we've been the best.
We wont give up, not yet.
America is 200 years old now.
So all its proud people take a bow.
Then everyone on our earth,
Will know about our country's birth.

Trudy Braham
Class 5-328 P200

In 1776

People's feelings were mixed.
Freedom meant a fight.
to the end with all our might.
We won and so today
We are free in almost every way.

Michael Alan Molinari
Class 1-211 P179

Brooklyn - Transportation Then and Now

In 1776 the horse was the main source of transportation. Ships sailed the harbor, but they were nothing like the ships we see today. It was in 1831 that the rails were laid for New York's first street railway. It consisted of coaches pulled by horses. In Winter sleighs were used. then came an exciting day when engines replaced the horses to pull the coaches. I'm sure they had no idea back then what an important role railways would play in making New York the important center it is today. Did you know that the first elevator was built in 1852 and was called a vertical screw railway? The Brooklyn Bridge was finished in 1883 with a railway running across it. In the late 1800's tugboats, barges, and ferryboats made the harbor a busy place.

The early 1900's, horses had nearly disappeared. Cars, buses and trucks scurried about. Tunnels were being constructed. Then a young man named Lindburgh flew the Atlantic in a plane - airports sprung up.

Today the New York harbor buzzes with excitement. Our tunnels and bridges keep industry booming. Air travel is swift, profitable for industry, and pleasant for travel. We the young people of today will soon grow to be old New Yorkers. We will make the new New York of tomorrow.

Thomas McKenzie, 5-423

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Prof. Egon Mayer 1943-04

We recently received a copy of the Brooklyn College Magazine, Spring 04 edition. It included an Obituary of the late Prof. Egon Mayer (RIP).

Prof. Mayer was the author of the book From Suburb to shtetl, the Jews of Boro Park, 1979, among his other credits.

We have written about him and included several excerpts from his book several times in past years. Several chapters included in this book are, 1) The Decline and Resurgence of Jewish Traditionalism; 2) A Social History of the Jews of Boro Park; 3) Demographic Characteristics of the Jews of Boro Park.

After his escape from Europe, during the Hungarian Revolution, and immigration to the US in 1956, Dr. Mayer and his family lived in Boro Park. He and his younger brother George were outstanding students of Kamenitzer Mesivta High School then located at 960 49 St., where this columnist then served as principal of secular studies. After publication of his book Dr. mayer sent me a copy with the following inscription, "To Mr. Kipust with affection and gratitude. Egon 6/12/80".

The book and the fond memories of Egon will long be cherished by this columnist.

The following is a reprint of the Obituary which appeared in the Brooklyn College Magazine.

Egon Mayer, 67

On January 30, 2004, Brooklyn College lost one of its most renowned scholars and beloved professors. Egon Mayer, the chairperson of it Sociology Department, died at his home in Laurel Hollow, NY of cancer of the gall bladder. He was 59.

For more than a quarter of a century, Mayer examined some of the most heated subjects in modern Jewish life. Concentrating on the religious habits of Jews, his research examined everything from how many were lighting candles on Friday night to the difficult subject on interfaith marriage. Mayer, who combined an old-world bonhomie with steely dedication to his profession, tackled his subject head on and was revered for his scholarship, fairness, and compassion.

Born in Switzerland and raised in Budapest, Mayer immigrated with his family to the United States during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. He received his BA from Brooklyn College in 1967, his MA from the New School for Social Research in 1970, and his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 1975. On the faculty since 1970, Mayer became chairperson of the department in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Kramer Mayer; his daughter, Daphne; two stepdaughters, Rena Fox and Danielle Kramer; his mother, Hedy Mayer; and his brother, George.

Excerpts

The following are a few excerpts from the book From Suburb to Shtetl that have not appeared in this column before. They are from chapter two entitled "A Social History of the Jews in Boro Park".

Interested readers may obtain a copy of the book from the local library.

"In this chapter we shall trace the evolution of the Boro Park Jewish community. Our objective here is to inform as well as to convince. We shall try to bring to life the process through which this unusual community has developed. At the same time we shall try to make plausible the direction of development suggested by our title.

"Boro Park before Jewish Settlement"

"In his history of Brooklyn, Henry Stiles offers the following account of the origins of the territory known today as Boro Park (Map 1): "On the 10th of September, 1645, a tract of land on the bay of the North River between Coney Island and Gowanus, and forming the present town of New Utrecht, was purchased from its native inhabitants for the West India Company," The local Indians - the Canarsee - gained from this transaction "a quantity of shirts, shoes, stockings, knives, scissors, and combs." The town of New Utrecht itself was established by one Cornelius van Werckhoven, a member of the Dutch West India Company, on the basis of a petition granted by Governor Peter

(cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Stuyvesant in August of 1657. Available records indicate that the territory of New Utrecht was divided into twenty plots, fifty acres each, and apportioned among nineteen families of Dutch colonists. One of the plots, the twentieth, was reserved for the poor. Although initially a sparsely settled agricultural territory, the area acquired more population and prestige in subsequent centuries. At the beginning of the twentieth century, residents reported that it was "one of the most beautiful residential communities in America." They also boasted of some historic notables."

"General Robert E. Lee planted a tree near St. Johns Episcopal Church when he was vestryman of the church from 1842 to 1844. In this same church General Thomas K. (Stonewall) Jackson was baptized. Lee and Jackson were both stationed for a time at Fort Hamilton."

"The area appears to have included among its residents some of America's first and most respectable settlers. Jews came considerably later."

"Another contemporary observer reports that 'Boro Park, newest of three communities in the New utrecht area, is largely the product of the real estate boom of the 20s.' Another account in the Brooklyn Eagle fills in some of the details.

"About the turn of the century trolleys were running on New Utrecht Avenue from 39 st to Bath Beach.. McDougall's farm with the mansion and the windmill was on the hill west of the West Brooklyn Station 44th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, and the Blythbourne station was at 55th St and New Utrecht Ave.

The space between the West Brooklyn and Blythbourne stations and between New Utrecht. Ave and 15th Ave became known as Borough Park. The ex-State Senator, William H. Reynolds, a real estate man developed Borough Park in collaboration with Edward Johnson, a builder".

"By coincidence, the name Borough Park surfaces in popular usage and newspaper articles at about the same time Jews began to settle there. Perhaps for this reason Boro Park has always been considered, at least by Jews, as a Jewish neighborhood."

Jews and Suburbanization

The socialist Jewish novelist Michael Gold recounts his visit to the area in the twenties:

One Sunday we travelled to Borough Park to see the house and lot Zechariah was persuading my father to buy... The suburb was a place of half-finished houses and piles of lumber and brick. Paved streets ran in rows between empty fields where only the weeds rattled. Real estate signs were stuck everywhere. In the midst of some rust cans and muck would be a sign, "Why Pay Rent? Build Your House in God's Country." We came at last to Zecharia's. It was a large green house bulging with bay windows and pretentious cupolas. As we entered, there whined from within a petulant female voice, "Have they wiped their feet, Zechariah?" Mrs. Cohen, a fat, middle aged woman, lay on a sofa. She glittered like an ice cream parlor.. her bleached yellow hair blazed with diamond combs and rested on a pillow of green velvet. She wore a purple silk waist, hung with yards of tapestry and lace. Diamonds shone from her ears; diamond rings sparkled from every finger. She looked like some vulgar, pretentious prostitute, but was only the typical wife of a Jewish

In a subsequent passage of Jews Without Money we find the fictional Zechariah urging the authors father to stake his claim to a piece of Boro Park real estate:

Look, Herman, it's the best piece of property in Brooklyn! In five years it will be worth double the price! It is because you are my foreman, and I want to make a "mensch" out of you that I am giving you this chance. All the refined businessmen are moving here?

"Zechariah was, of course, correct. A great many of the successful businessmen did move to Boro Park. By 1930 its Jewish population was approximately 60,000, consisting a little over 50 percent of the neighborhood. The other half was made up of Irish at one end and Italians at the other. More important than the "Jewish density" of the area. however, was its cultural ambiance. Both Jewish and other ethnic residents of the area were on the beginning runs of the Americana ladder of success. COnsequently, their homes, their lawns, their synagogues ane their other public institutions tended to symbolize their material achievements. Yiddush was falling into disuse, the synagogues took on the architecture and decorous atmosphere associated with places of Christian worship, and Jewish education was relegated to an "after school affair" for most of the Jewish

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

children in the area. The majority of the homes were single, or at most, two family dwellings. surrounded by generous gardens. The public buildings that dotted the community landscape, such as Temples Emanuel-El and Beth -El, the Sephardic congregation, and the YMHA, were imposing and expensive structures. One of the first boys yeshivos (all day Hebrew schools), Etz Chaim, founded in 1917 and closed in 1979, was a converted country club in the heart of the community, on Thirteen Avenue. While all these institutions proclaimed the traditional Jewish loyalties of the Boro Parkers, they proclaimed with equal vigor the pride the residents felt in their "Americanness," their financial success, and their general modernness."

Brooklyn on Tour

In my files of Boro Park I came across a map entitled "Brooklyn on Tour", described and subtitled as "The all in one map and guide to Americas favorite hometown... 10 self - guided walking and driving tours plus history, facts, festivals, shops and restaurants."

The map was published as a public service by the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden in Cooperstown with the Fund for the Borough of Brooklyn, Inc. It was copyrighted in 1984 by the Fund for the Borough of Brooklyn Inc.

Of interest is the fact that Boro Park was listed as one of the tours; was clearly displayed on the large map; and described as "Sunday Shopping". It may also be of interest to our readers to note some of the changes that have taken place, primarily in the stores, during the past 20 years. The following is the description of Boro Park included on the tour maps.

"In recent years, the Orthodox and the Hasidic Jews, the most visible population groups in Boro Park, have turned 13th Ave into a bargain-hunting district (closed Saturday) that rivals the lower east side. 13th ave., especially on Sunday, is full of families from every neighborhood who come here for the high quality electronics, clothing, luggage, housewares and Jewish religious items at near wholesale prices. There are several banks on 13th Ave. that have Sunday hours just like the shops.... Looking for cameras, computers or stereo systems? Focus Electronics might be your first stop.. For designer clothes, S & W is well known for carrying such labels as Christian Dior, Yves St. Laurent and Calvin Klein. Men looking for suits by Halston, Pierre Cardin, etc. might try Mandels next door. Wonderland is noted for its selection of children's wear. Mildreds is a favorite for linens. And right before Jewish Holidays, as well as other times, shoppers flock to G & Sons for special Purim, Passover and other religious household goods.

You don't have to visit Boro Park on Sunday to sense its unique character. The large number of Hasidism here originate from the small East. European villages (shtetls) and the men still wear the long black coats and round fur hats that have been a tradition for 200 years. nearly every block has a Jewish religious school or house of worship. The huge, former Menora Catering Hall of 14 ave., which once belonged to the Masons, is now the Bobover School for Girls. the Mercas tashmishei Stam on 16th ave. employs several scribes who prepare hand written religious and personal articles. Still another special place is the Jewish Youth Library on 51st st. with books in English, Hebrew and Yiddush on Jewish themes. There are separate hours for boys and girls and it is open to visitors.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

Hungry? You can find Hungarian, Middle Eastern and Chinese food, pizza and delicatessen specialties on 13th ave. all of them Kosher"

*"Can-Taam Kosher Chinese Restaurant, 4813 13th Ave.

*Grand Sterling, 4921 13th Ave., every object made in precious metal.

*Kosher Pizza, 4810 13th Ave.

*Mandels, 4215 13th Ave., fine men's clothing 435-6695.

*Nu-Mode Fashion, 5215 13th Ave., discount designer clothes.

*S & W Clothing, 4217 13th Ave., women's designer clothing. 438-9679.

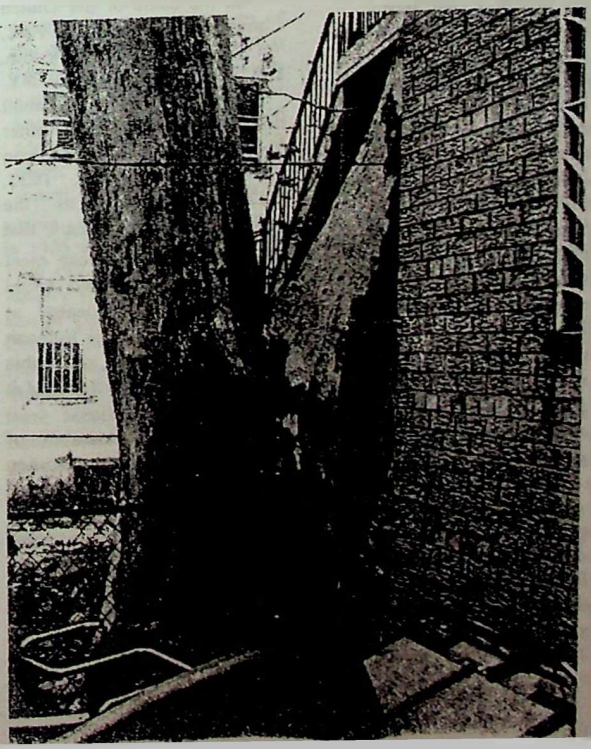
*Wonderland Children's Wear, 5309 13th Ave., 435-4040."

*Focus Electronic, 4523 13th Ave 871-7600.

Largest Tree in Boro Park

In our column of Dec '03 we wrote about a tree reported to us by Mr. Israel Bader which may be the largest and oldest tree in Boro Park. The tree is located in back of the house at 1673 42nd St. At a height of 32 inches from the floor the girth or circumference of the tree measured 14 feet. At a height of 77 inches from the floor the girth measured 16 feet, 2 inches. At this point some of the branches begin to bulge out.

Mr. Bader was kind enough to take photos of the tree and submit them to us, a copy of which is shown below.



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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following interesting and well researched article, about the early history of KOSHER supervision in Boro Park, was written and submitted by B.M. Selevan, an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society.

The Vaad HaKashrus of Borough Park and Rabbi M.J. Peikes

An interesting chapter in Borough Park history can be written about the Vaad Hakashrus (kosher certification board) of Borough Park, which came into being over eighty years ago. Over the years I have come across and gathered bits and pieces of information about it, which have enabled me to piece together a picture of it and it's history, which I can now share with the readers of this column.

It was the early 1920's. Borough Park was growing by leaps and bounds. The population had surged after the West End (now the D train) elevated train line was opened, providing quick service to Manhattan, in 1916, and after restrictions were eased allowing the building of many apartment houses. Many of the newcomers were Jews, and Borough Park became one of New York's foremost Jewish communities. Reliable sources of kosher food were necessary for such a population.

In early 1922 an announcement appeared in a Yiddish newspaper (Yiddishes Tageblatt, January 6, 1922, p.10) (all translations are mine) announcing 'good news for the holy Kehilla of Borough Park'. It went on to say that 'after much effort we have succeeded in establishing a vaad hakashrus of Borough Park. The following Rabbis were elected for this purpose - Rav A. Hershowitz (I believe he was Rav of Cong. Temple Beth-El at that time), Rav. A. Gordon, Rav S.M. Shapiro, Rav Y. Sommer, Rav E.M. Finkelstein (affiliated with First Congregation Anshe Sfard I believe), and Rav M.J. Peikes (affiliated with Cong. Shomrei Emunah), chosen for head of the vaad.

These worthy Rabbis will, from today on, stand guard over all matters of kashrus and all matters of the (Jewish) faith in Borough Park.

In the name of the United Congregations of Borough Park, (signed) George R. Rubin, 1627-53rd street, Brooklyn, NY.

Later that month, a small notice appeared in another Yiddish newspaper (Der Morgen Zhurnal, January 27, 1922, p.13), announcing to the butchers of Borough Park that those that think they can meet the standards of the Vaad should go to it's office located at Congregation Shomrei Emunah where a committee of rabbis would sit, signed by Rabbi M.J. Peikes, chairman.

An article a number of months later (Der Morgen Zhurnal, October 22, 1922, p.9) shed additional light on the new organization. The article stated that the genesis of the Vaad was in the Shomrei Emunah congregation, which, despite being smaller than other local congregations, has great accomplishments to it's credit. When it's members saw that there was a situation of hefkeirus (lawlessness, lack of sufficient control) with regard to local kashrus, they (specifically mentioned are members Messrs. Roth, Weinstein, Harris, Hochstein and Bennett) organized a vaad hakashrus. Later on other local congregations joined in the effort and the vaad was strengthened. A committee of Rabbis was appointed under Rabbi M.J. Peikes. The vaad had five mashgichim (kosher supervisors) keeping watch over butchers, delicatessens, chicken markets, shochatim, wurst stores and the like. Kosher signs were issued by the vaad which were changed monthly, each time to a different color. There was no charge for the signs. If something out of order was found, the signs were taken away by the Vaad.

The Rabbis also decided she'eilos (questions of Jewish law) and din Torahs (offered a Jewish court service to judge various cases) as well as collected charity and accomplished much. It was held up as a model for others who wanted to form such an organization and was praised by great Rabbis. The cost of such an endeavor was said to be $10,000 annually, of which $1500 was donated by Cong. Shomrei Emunah, $1000 by Cong. Anshe Sfard, with other Congregations and individuals donating lesser amounts to reach a total of $6000 income. The hope was expressed that people would pitch in for the remaining $4000 needed. The officers of the Vaad were Louis Hochstein, chairman

cont'd.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

; Mr. Enkin, V.P. ; Mr. Marrow, treasurer ; Counselor (G.R.) Rubin from Cong. Sons of Judah, treasurer. While the aforementioned sums don't seem too large in our present day context, at that time they were the equivalent of much larger sums today.

Presumably, thereafter it was seen that there was a need for additional fundraising, so shortly afterward, in February 1923, an article in Der Morgen Zhurnal (February 18 or thereabouts) appeared with some new information. It told about the organization, stating that the growth of the local Jewish population made such an organization particularly necessary. Whereas in past years the smaller population was served by kosher butchers and the like who they knew personally and relied on, the increase in the population brought many new vendors offering such products, who were not known to the locals, necessitating the Rabbinical supervision of the vaad. Local congregations had increased their contributions for it. Cong. Shomrei Emunah was now contributing $2000 annually, Cong. Anshe Sfard $1500, Temple Beth El (prior to the official grand opening of their new Shul at 15th Avenue and 48th street) $1000, Machzike Talmud Torah Shul $500, Bnei Yehudah Talmud Torah (also prior to the official dedication of it's Shul) and Cong. Anshe Lubavitch $300 annually, adding up to a total of $4600. A number of private individuals contributed as well.

To raise more funds, the chief activists for the vaad arranged a gala cantorial concert as a fundraiser. Keep in mind that that period was part of 'the golden age of Chazonus (cantorial religious music)' and that certain other modern types of entertainment and leisure activities (such as radio, television, movies and jets to warmer climes) were either non-existent then or in their infancy. Congregation Anshe Sfard offered use of it's Shul free of charge for the cause, and it's choir director, Mr. Liov, also enlisted to help with the effort. The melech hachazonim (king of the cantors) Chazan Reb Yossele Rosenblatt and the famous Chazan and menagen Chaim Shulsinger of Congregation Shomrei Emunah were featured performers, who generously donated their services for the great cause. The concert was Tuesday evening February 20, 1923.

While I don't have detailed information about the results of the concert before me, I think it can safely be assumed that it was a rousing success. In subsequent years the Vaad arranged additional similar concerts. It seems that they were perhaps annual events. I have copies of advertisements for such events in 1926 and 1928 as well. The 1926 one (Yiddishes Tageblatt, January 15, 1926, p.10-11) was also at Cong. Anshe Sfard and featured four chazonim and a choir, including famed Chazan Mordechai Hershman. In 1928 there seems to have been a significant stepping-up of the campaign, as reflected in a large and fiery advertisement (Morgen Zhurnal, March 25, 1928, p.14) calling on the local Jews to rise up and support the vaad in it's battle on behalf of kosher food and against various unscrupulous vendors who would feed the local Jews non-kosher food. It seems that the Vaad encountered resistance at times from the merchants it watched over (see e.g. account in Morgen Zhurnal, March 15,1929, p.13, for one example). A huge royal concert was advertised with the King of cantors, Chazan Yossele Rosenblatt, to take place in the large Elton theater at New Utrecht Avenue and 43rd street on Monday evening April 9, 1928 (chol hamoed Pesach) at 8pm. Also featured along with him were his son Henry Rosenblatt, Chazan Shmuel Molovsky of Cong. Bnei Yehudah, young violinist Sammy Kramer, young wunderkind pianist eight year old Jakilla Segal, to be accompanied by Abie Elstein on the piano. Tickets were $1 and $2 and available at the office of the vaad at Congregation Shomrei Emunah and at Cong. Anshe Sfard.

On March 15, 1929, Rabbi M.J. (Meir Yehoshua) Peikes, leading Rabbinical figure of the Vaad, passed away. Presumably the Vaad continued to function afterward, though for how long and on what scale I do not know. It seems that Rabbi Peikes was quite an activist Rabbi. He has been mentioned in this column in the past, but I would like to say some more words about him here at this time.

Rabbi Peikes was born in Europe and came to the USA in the 1800's. He served as Rabbi of Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun on the upper east side of Manhattan (which is still in existence today under Rabbi Lookstein) from 1885 to 1903, at which time he was replaced with an English speaking spiritual leader (evidently he was basically a Yiddish speaker). For a while afterward, evidently, he was involved in the jewelry business with a son, manufacturing gold chains. An

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

interesting advertisement of his business in a Yiddish newspaper, a copy of which is in my posession, stresses their integrity and how their 14 karat chains and bracelets could be relied upon to be as they are labelled (Yiddishes Tageblatt, Sept. 18, 1910, p.8, for example). The business was located on the lower east side of Manhattan. I don't have exact information, but I would guess that Rabbi Peikes moved to Borough Park around the teen years of the last century. In the 1920's, when Borough Park was undergoing rapid growth, he was often mentioned in newspaper accounts relating to Jewish institutions there. He had a strong connection with Congregation Shomrei Emunah. It seems that he served there in a Rabbinical capacity (for an account of interesting episode involving him there, see "A modern heretic and a traditional community : Mordecai M. Kaplan, Orthodoxy, and American Judaism", by Jeffrey S. Gurock and Jacob J. Schacter, Columbia University Press). However, his activities encompassed the whole community and were not limited to just that congregation. Thus, when he passed away, thousands attended his funeral, which stopped at various Borough Park Shuls and was described in a Yiddish newspaper as the largest funeral Borough Park had ever seen.

As mentioned before, it seems that he was quite an active man who led a multifaceted life. In addition to regular Rabbinical activities, he was active in the Vaad Hakashrus, charitable activities and commerce.

I have some early photos of him from when he was serving as Rabbi in Manhattan, but not later ones from the Borough Park period. Perhaps one day some such pictures will come to light. Just recently two of the Rabbi's daughters, who lived in Borough Park for many years, passed away. It is questionable if there is anyone around who still remembers him to fill us in about his interesting life.

Hopefully the above will give people a better picture of and appreciation for the early days of Borough Park, when Orthodox Judaism had to fight difficult battles at times. The Jewish community of Borough Park was not built in one day and it therefore behooves us to be grateful for the pioneers who laid the foundation for it's later remarkable growth.

In our past two columns we had photos and some discussion about trees in Boro Park. The following submitted article includes some history or and advice about care of trees in Boro Park.

Street Trees - To Do And Not To Do by Mr. Etz

Recently many new trees have been planted in Borough Park and around the city. A local city councilman has been promoting tree planting in his newsletters, touting great benefits it could bring.

What is missing, however, is a realization that these trees (especially young ones) do not grow up all by themselves, need follow up care and cannot tolerate abuse indefinitely. The NYC DPR (Department of Parks), which has jurisdiction over all street trees (including those planted by private parties at their own expense) has a limited budget and only provides minimal and occasional care. Many years can pass before they attend to trees with non-emergency problems. Without help from ordinary citizens, trees can have a tough time surviving in the rough urban environment around us.

In that vein, I would like to offer a number of tips for those interested in helping the trees.

DO NOT cement around a tree right up to the trunk. It can kill the tree, by blocking necessary water and air from the roots (for an illustration of this, see a London Plane tree in front of the Bobov Cong. at around 1533-48th street).

DO NOT cement parts of the tree pit unnecessarily, even if not all the way up to the trunk. Generally, the bigger the tree pit is, the better for the tree. The smaller it is, the less water and air for the tree, generally speaking.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (cont'd.

DO NOT block the tree pit from rainwater in various ways. This is a growing problem in the area. People are putting blocks or other various (e.g. plastic) solid enclosures around tree pits. While they mean well, this is usually bad for the tree, as it blocks rainwater running off the sidewalk from entering the tree pit and can create semi-drought conditions for the tree. If an enclosure must be made, make certain that it contains holes at ground level to allow rainwater to enter (beware however, salt in the winter and other injurious pollutants entering the pit) or that it is a fence that is not a solid wall around the pit.

DO NOT pack the soil in the tree pit down too hard. The tree likes a looser soil which can easily absorb water and oxygen.

DO NOT add soil to the pit and raise it's level. This hurts the roots and possibly the trunk as well.

DO NOT prune a tree if you are not certified to do so. You could cause significant injury to it if you don't know what you are doing. Also, it's illegal to do so.

DO water the tree when there is no rain for a while, especially, if the tree is young and not established. A deep watering should be given rather than brief sprinkling on the surface.

If you have problems, contact a tree professional, the Department of Parks or an organization like Trees NY (www.treesny.com).

On a historical note, I will state that the types of street trees in Borough Park have changed alot in recent years. In the not too distant past the trees were mostly Norway Maple and London Plane trees. Now those two species are rarely planted. Instead, there is a greater variety of trees, such as flowering pears, various types of oaks (e.g. pin oak, shingle oak, red oak, etc.), honeylocust, hornbeam, ginkgos (to see female ginkgos bearing fruit, take a walk to 53rd street between 19th and 20th avenues), chokecherries, dawn redwood and other types of maples. Many of the old Norway (and silver) maples have been cut down, though many London plane trees survive.

If you have questions or comments you can write to Mr. Etz c/o the Boro Park Community News.

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INDEX

A

Abraham Lincoln H.S.	95
Academy of Music	132
Academy Torah Emeth	91
Agudah Israel of America	98
Agudah Israel of 18th Avenue	99
Agudah Israel of 14th Avenue	99, 107, 154
Agudah Israel of 16th Avenue	99, 107, 145
Agudah Israel of B.P. West	99
Agudah Israel Synagogue	68, 91, 98, 199
Agus, Prof. Bertrand	186
Allen Shoes	71
Allin, George A.	14
Altar to Liberty	144
Amaranto, Angelo	181
America	41, 158, 159, 201
American Flags	140
American Legion	37
American Revolutionary War	121, 163, 164, 167
American Revolution Heritage Trail	122, 144, 163
American Theatre	155
Anabaptist	89
Annual Meeting	26, 54, 103, 108, 123, 133, 163, 186
A.O.J.T.	99, 178
Apartment Houses	21, 172, 230
Aquitania, Cunard Liner	1
Archeological Survey	163, 167
Armon Terrace	38, 55, 106
Aronowitz Grocery	56
Ascension Lutheran Church	128
Ateres Chaya Hall	145
Atlanta, GA	25
Austria	41, 102
Axelrod, Rabbi Lazarus	97
Avenue Plaza Hotel	104, 200

B

"B" Train	26, 27, 141
Bachman's Dept. Store	85
Bader, Israel	221, 229
Baim and Blank	21, 22, 65
Bais Yaacov H.S.	21

INDEX

Bankoff, Prof. H. Arthur 167, 168
Barkaloo Cemetery 144
Bar Mitzva 16, 20, 64, 103, 133, 138
Barnet's Drug Store 103
Barr, Abraham 19
Barry's Ice Cream Parlor 186
Bath Beach 26, 227
Battle Hill 144
Battle of Brooklyn 116, 121, 122, 144, 163, 164, 167
Battle of Long Island 116, 224
Battle Pass 163
Bay Ridge 163
Bay Ridge H.S. 175
Bay Ridge Savings Bank 105
Beal, Ruth W. H. 14
Beavers, George W. 11
"Before and After" Photos 183, 184
Beigeleisen Hebrew Books 41
Belgium 20, 23, 41, 61
Bennett, Gertrude Ryder 164
Bensonhurst 11, 17, 24, 45, 74, 167
Berle, Milton 22
Berlin, Germany 20, 41
Bernstein, Adolph & Ester 16
Beth David Cemetery 44, 137
Beth Israel Synagogue 75
Beth Jacob of B.P. 145
Beth Jacob School 107, 145, 207
Beth Jacob Seminary 56
Beth Moses Hospital 17
Beth Rachel School 34, 38
Bialik, Rabbi Chaim 67, 201
Bialik, Rabbi Nathan 67, 200, 201
Bible 67, 136
Bick, Rebetzin Zisel 114
Biderman, Abraham 71
Biegeleisen Family 172, 173
Biegeleisen, Gina 41
Biegeleisen, Shimon David 171, 173
Bikur Cholim 17, 19, 62
Billard Academy 49
Blatt, William 62

INDEX

Biatt's Dept. Store 17, 62
Blackout 22
Blau, Rabbi Chaim Moshe 210
Blech, Ilona Penner 23
Blech, Rabbi Ben Zion 23, 79
Blizzard of '47 4, 5, 6
Bloomberg, Mayor Michael 189
Blue Laws 17, 150
Blythebourne 11, 12, 14, 26, 28, 86, 92, 97, 104, 142, 186, 227
Blythebourne Post Office 55, 142
Blythebourne R.R. Station 94
Blythebourne Water Tower 125
B'Nai Israel of Linden Heights 62, 117, 118
Bobover Rebbe 145, 201
Bobover School for Girls 228
Bonime, Raphael 68, 69
Boro Historian 88
Boro Park 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 37, 38, 42, 44, 45, 51, 56, 60, 61, 70, 75, 80, 81, 84, 92, 94, 98, 105, 116, 136 146, 151, 157, 206, 226
Boro Park Baptist Church 148
Boro Park Board of Rabbis 136
Boro Park Boundaries 77
Boro Park Centennial 86, 92, 97
Boro Park Christian Ch. 146
Boro Park Chronology 202
Boro Park Club House 11, 17, 73, 121, 131
Boro Park Community Council 210
Boro Park Community News 18, 40, 53, 79, 210
Boro Park Company 12
Boro Parkers 18, 32, 43, 60, 68, 86, 137, 141
Boro Park Hardware 198
Boro Park Historical Society 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 28, 30, 35, 39, 40, 48, 51, 54, 55, 70, 80, 86, 87, 88, 89, 100, 103, 109, 116, 120, 123, 127, 134, 146, 156, 162, 163, 167, 175, 183, 210, 213, 214, 222, 225
Boro Park History 19, 20, 44, 54, 76, 88, 106, 109, 123, 213, 230
Boro Park Jewish Community 226

INDEX

Boro Park Jubilee 14, 15
Boro Park Maternity Hosp. 68
Boro Park Orthodox Community 179
Boro Park Pharmacy 93
Boro Park Post 64, 120
Boro Park Public Library 26, 29, 35, 40, 80, 82, 85, 89, 108, 151, 163, 166
Boro Park Real Estate Values 120
Boro Park Theatres 55, 135
Boro Park Voice 17
Borough Park 12, 66, 70, 86, 87, 92, 193
"Borough Park Centennial Edition" 103
Borosky, Samuel J. 74
Boy Scouts 138
Brandeis University 100
Brenda's Dress Shop 21
Brill, Rebecca L. 203
Brilliant Lighting Works 76
Brilliant, Rebecca 76, 82
Brinberg, Mrs. Etta 84
British Troops 163
Brizzi, Anthony J. 218
Brizzi & Sons Funeral Parlor 218
Brodie, Rabbi Moshe 19
Bronx 60, 86
Brooklyn 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 45, 55, 60, 70, 92, 95, 100, 116, 163
Brooklyn Bath & C.I.R.R. 26
Brooklyn Bath & W.E.R.R. 27
Brooklyn College 4, 23, 29, 33, 36, 41, 49, 67, 106 137, 152, 167, 168, 198, 226
Brooklyn Co-ordinating Council 54
Brooklyn Daily 105
Brooklyn Doctors' Hospital 207
Brooklyn Dodgers 27, 127, 188
Brooklyn Dodgers Football Team 107
Brooklyn Eagle 11, 14, 25, 66, 85, 92, 130, 132, 134, 135, 139, 140, 142, 143, 147, 148, 151, 153, 168, 182, 183, 185, 203, 215, 227
Brooklyn, Greenwood & Bath Rd. 26
Brooklyn Heights 163, 164
Brooklyn Heritage Inc. 163

INDEX

Brooklyn Historical Society 35, 163
Brooklyn Navy Yard 25
"Brooklyn, Our Home" 223
Brooklyn Public Library 12, 80
Brooklyn Tech H.S. 30, 205
Brooklyn Union Gas Co. 26
Brookdale Hosp. 56
Brooks, Max L. 14, 15
Brophy, Bernard J. 204
Broth, Jacob & Anna 102
Broth, Ralph 102
Bunim, Irving 93
Bunnyland 47
Buonvino, Robert 108
Burns Bros. Coal 139
Bus & Trolley Fares 13
Bushell's Dress Shop 47, 65
Bushwick 107
Burzamato, Carmine 205

C

Calder, Sen. William M. 140
California 2
Camp Munk 107
Canada 61, 82
Canarsie Hist. Soc. 26, 54, 108, 133, 163, 187
Canarsie & Nyack Natives 116
Canarsie Indians 86
Candy Stores 30, 42, 49
Cantorial Concert 231
Cantors' Assn. of America 134
Carey, Gov. Hugh 99
Car Service 4
Catholic Churches 14
Catholics 78
Catskill Mountains 61, 82, 107
Ceraso-Gennarelli Funeral Chapel 191
Chagal, Marc 100
Challas 84
Chanukah 160
Chase-Manhattan Bank 104
Chasen, Morris 19

INDEX

Chasidic, Jewish Groups	87
Chasidic Rebbe	21, 99
Chavkin, Darla	38
Chavkin, Rabbi Roy	35, 39
Chemical Bank	104
Cherbourg, France	1
Chertoff, Naomi	64
Chicago	68
Chinatown	77
Chinese	77
Christian families	29
Church Avenue	110
Church Avenue Trolley	110
Chupak, Benjamin	118
City Hall	85
City University of NY	98
Cleveland Browns	32
Clara St. Shul	23, 79
Cohen, Dr. Morris	3, 73
Cohen, Hyman	74
Cohen, Samuel & Anna	30
Cohen, Sigmund	4
C.O.J.O.	13, 218
Colonial Decorators	138
Colony Shop	156
Columbia University	106, 136, 141
"Comet", Graduate Yearbook	69, 72, 75, 78, 81
Community Board	13
Community Center	97
Community National Bank	62
Comunity School Board	174, 181
Concordia Club	74
Con Edison	5, 26, 40
Coney Island	16, 25, 26, 27, 109, 120, 132, 198
Congr. Agudath Achim	119
Congr. Anche Lubawitz	91, 137
Congr. Anshei Sfard	1, 90, 94, 115, 119
Congr. Avrohom Utzvi Hirsch	210, 211, 219
Congr. Beth-El	134, 212
Congr. Beth Israel	68, 132, 136, 138
Congr. B'nei Yehuda	17, 90, 141, 149, 151, 219, 220, 221
Congr. Chasidei Belz	173

INDEX

Congr. B'nei of Linden Heights 201
Congr. B'nai Yaacov 149
Congr. Machzikei Talmud Torah 119
Congr. Nachlas Tzvi 149
Congr. Ohel Abraham 176, 198
Congr. Shomrei Emunah 1, 21, 64, 65, 117, 119, 230
Congr. Shomrei Shabbos 21, 90, 145
Congr. Tifereth Yisroel 136
Congr. Yeshivah Yavne 13
Continental Army 144, 163, 164
Copy Machines 80
Cortelyou, Jacques 116
Cortelyou, Simon 144
County Clerk's Office 163
Court of Sessions 89
Cowenhoven, Garret P. 164, 180
Cowenhoven Farm House 142, 180
Cowenhoven Lane 80
Cowenhoven, Nicholas 164
Crown Heights 201
Crown Kosher Caterers 21
Crystal Palace 169
Cuba 154
Culver Line 6, 26, 27, 57, 73, 109, 227
Culver Theatre 46, 198, 205, 207
Czechoslovakia 41, 154

D

Dahill Road 12, 13, 53
Debreciner Rav 113
Dec. 7, 1941 107
Del Valle, Cezar 51, 54
Denyse's Ferry 144
"Der Amerikaner Redner" 150
Depression 193
Dershowitz, Alan 87, 188
Diamond cutting 23, 61
Diamond, Joseph & Morris 32
Dime Savings Bank 37
Disciplinary Training School 120
Ditmas Avenue 12

INDEX

Doctors' Hosp.	69
"The Dodgers & Their Rivals"	133
Doormen	21, 24
Do's & Don'ts for trees	232, 233
Drazin, Rabbi William	19, 23, 62
Dube, Daniel	162
Dube, Joseph	17, 162
Dube, Newman	17, 74, 162
Duitz, Martin M.	139
Duncan YoYo Co.	72
Dutch	86, 126
Dutch Settlers	108, 109

E

Eagle Electronics	172
Eagle Theatre	95
Earle, Genevieve Beavers	14
Early views of B.P.	26
East New York	70, 149
East River	169
Eastern Europe	77
Ebbets Field	55, 189
Edgewood Reformed Church	29, 38, 80, 85, 128
Edison, Thomas	54
Egypt	10, 61
Ehrman, Aaron	113
Election Board	143
Elheller, Hyman	19
Electric Busses	109, 126
Electric Trolley Cars	27
Electronic Access	
Elton Movie Theatre	191, 231
Enclyclopedia of NYC	12, 14, 28
England	23
Erasmus H.S.	29, 64
Etz Chaim Foundation	176
Europe	10, 11, 16, 42, 61, 152, 226
Evans, Gloria E.	25

F

"F" Train Station	110

INDEX

Famous Restaurant	22, 48, 65, 133
Farbstein, Ruth	22
Far Rockaway	137
F.D.R. High School	81
Ferguson, Milton J.	80
Fertility Rate	70
Fiduciary Trust Co.	173
Fifth Church of Christ	128
Fink, Isaac & Toby	152
Fink Press	152
Finn, Hyman	107
First Battle Revival Alliance	54, 122, 144
First Congr. Anshei Sfard	7, 19, 23, 44, 62, 65, 215
First Congr. of Kensington	13
First National City Bank	160
Fischler, George	21
Fischler, Susie Yaroslawitz	20
Fischman Rabbi, Joseph	19, 20
Five & Ten Cent Stores	17
Flatbush	16, 21, 22, 23, 25, 42, 55, 70, 83, 90, 117, 129, 137, 141, 152, 163
Flatbush Avenue	55, 109
Flatbush Reformed Church	144
Fleming, Dennis M.	222
Fluorscent Lighting	76
Flusberg, Rabbi Avrohom	16
Fogel, Jack	205
Fontek, Harold	88
Forest Hills	76
Fort Amsterdam	89
Fort Hamilton	227
Fort Hamilton Parkway	67, 73, 102, 132, 136, 155, 191, 218
Foster, Herb	138
Fox, I.J.	31
Fox, Thelma	205
France	20, 23, 61
Freund Fish Market	185
Freund, Moshe	185
Freund, Dr. Miriam	100
Fried, David	20
Friedman, Jacque	26, 27, 28, 35, 54, 55, 88, 89, 108, 123, 133, 162, 163, 164, 166, 188, 210, 214

INDEX

Friends of Hist. New Utrecht 108, 116, 123
"From Suburb to Shtetl" 87, 226
Fuchs, Joseph 88, 212
Funeral 98
Furman, Robert 122, 144, 163, 164, 167
Furman, Samuel 19
Fuss's Delicatessen 6

G

G&H Building Co. 140
G&S Dept. Store 39
Galaxy Realty 104
Galicia 136, 157
Gangurskly, Martin 111
Garden Theatre 46, 205
Gas Lamps 32
Geiger, Dr. William 74
Geiger, Dorothy Phillips 73, 79
General Howe 163
Genovese, Alfonso 224
Gerber, Alan J. 174
German-American 1
German Army 1
Germany 1, 20, 76, 107
Gershon, Rabbi Moshe 19
Gerstner, Jack 185
Gestapo 20
Getz, Mike (Author) 127, 133, 175
Ginsberg, Issac 19
Giuliani, Mayor Rudolph 87, 98
Glick, Marcel 104
Gold, Rabbi Wolf 64
Gold & Reiss Hardware 35, 198
Goldberg, Privin & Joseph 96
Goldberg, Rabbi Noson 211
Golden, Howard (B.P.) 228
Goldstan, Leah Harris 38
Goldstein, Daniel 92, 94
Goldstein Press 7, 23, 93, 145, 166
Goldstein-Schaum Wedding 145
Goldstein, Shmuel 7, 23, 92, 145, 166

INDEX

Goldstein, Shlomo	92, 94, 96, 193
Goldstein's Bakery	22, 47
Good Humor Man	208
Gore, Al (V.P.)	98
Gowanus	163
Granato, Guy	205
Grand Army Plaza	35
Grand Sterling Silver	84
Gravesend	88, 89
Gravesend Avenue	17
Gravesend Bay	163
Gravesend Cemetery	88
Gravesend Hist. Society	88
Greater N.Y. Savings Bank	26, 51, 54
Greek-Revivel Building	104
Greenberger, Isidore	19
Greenfield Family	145
Greenpoint Savings Bank	16
Green-Wood Cemetery	63, 144, 163, 164
Grocery Store	42
Gross-Arlington Hotel	82
Grosshandler, Leslie	209
Gross, Dr. Morton A.	68
Gross, Shevi	216
Grossman, Rabbi David	71
Grossman, Morris	19
Grozovsky, Rabbi Reuven	115
Grunberg, Armand Paul	61

H

Habonim Center	33
Hackett, Buddy	4, 28, 87, 111, 133, 209
Hadassah	38, 64, 75, 100, 101
Hagana	178
Halachic Responsa	136
Halberstam, Rabbi Shlomo	200, 201
Hatzolah Ambulance	48
Hatzolah Volunteers	145, 171
Hapoel Hamizrachi	136
Harbater Family	10
Harlem	64, 86, 100, 149

INDEX

Harris, Hannah	38, 76
Harvard University	188
Haseloft, Eleanor M.	80
Hasidic Community	77
Hasidic Jews	78, 86, 228
Hassidim	104
Hebrew	24, 67, 76, 103, 150
Hebrew Academy	64
Hebrew Books	41, 172
Hebrew Institute	10, 11, 38, 131, 157
Hebrew National Deli	71
Hebrew Schools	21, 24, 29
Hebron	10
Hect, Rabbi Shalom	16
Hecht's Hebrew Book Store	16
Held, Dr. Isadore	2
Heilman, Prof. Samuel C.	98
Herbst Optician	37
Henrikson, Esther	63
Herlands Family	2
Herlands, Jack & Sarah	73
Herlands, Jacob	2
Herlands, William B.	2, 3
Hershkowitz, Abe	138
Heschel, Abraham Joshua	192, 193
H.I.A.S.	23
High Holy Holidays	19, 103
High School of Music & Art	30
Hikind, Dov (Assemblyman)	86
Hirschbein, Yitzchok	19
Hirt, Pearl	82
Hispanic	77
"History of Boro Park"	8
"History of Kings County"	226
Hitler, Adolph	1, 41, 208
Hoffman, Leon J.	67, 68
Hoffman Mansion	139
Holland, Harry & Miriam	196
Hollander, Solomon	17
Holocaust	3, 20, 23, 25, 42, 61, 62, 70, 115, 152, 154, 201
Holy Ghost Church	107, 120

INDEX

Holy Land 10
Holy Spirit Church 107
Holy Spirit School 53, 167
Home Beautiful (Furniture) 125
Homeopathy 3
Home Talk 10
Hornblass, Jerome 75, 128, 178
Horowitz, Rabbi Yitzchok 199
Hoshell, Samuel 11
Hudson River 1, 163
Hungarian Revolution 22, 226
Hungary 77
Hunter College 100, 141, 206
Hunts Foods 2
Hurok, Sol 147
Hurwitz Studio 53

I

"I Cash Clothes" 109
Ice Boxes 51, 109
Ice Cream Parlor 30
Icemen 109
Ierardi, Eric 88
Independence Bank 56, 138
Independent "F" Line 6, 26
Infantile Paralysis Epidemic 11
Infantino, Lee Anne 133, 134
Infants Home 174, 203
Influenza Epidemic 74
Internet 80
"In My Lifetime" 100
"I Remember Boro Park" 12, 13, 35, 38, 40, 52, 67, 76, 85, 89, 104, 191, 205, 213, 222
"I Remember Brooklyn" 28
Irish 12, 14, 70, 77, 157
Irish-American 77
Irving Berlin Musical 3
Irving National Bank 32
Isaac M. Lobel Institute 91, 97
Israel 10, 38, 39, 42, 60, 67, 76, 82, 100, 117, 141, 145, 191
Israel Hospital 17, 130

INDEX

Israel-Zion Hospital	2, 17, 18, 31, 48, 67, 68, 73, 74, 106, 130, 133, 137, 141, 146, 150, 162, 174, 175, 187
Israelowitz, Oscar	18, 103
Italian	27, 46, 47, 70, 88, 157
Italian Families	29, 45, 77
Italy	11, 181

J

Jamaica Pass	163
Japan	63
Japanese	107
Jeffers Community Chapels	119
Jerusalem	10, 38, 43, 61, 62, 70, 100, 118, 141, 201
Jewish	29, 64, 70, 157
Jewish Culture	33
Jewish Flags	140
Jewish History	189
Jewish Life	226
Jewish Press	114, 136, 173
Jewish Studies	98
Jewish War Veterans	97, 141
Jewish Week	86
Jewish Youth Library	80, 228
Jews	1, 27, 41, 45, 46, 76, 118, 134
"Jews of Brooklyn"	213
Joseph, Rabbi Zev	62
Journal-American	64
Judaism	149

K

Kalmanowitz, Louis	1
Kamenitzer High School	42, 226
Kamenitzer Mesifta	91, 97, 115
Kaminsetsky, Rabbi Joseph	117, 118
Kaplan, Rabbi Binyamin	165
Kaplan, Rabbi Mordechai Aharon	93, 149, 152, 153, 219
Kartagener, Abraham & Pauline	197
Katz Family	194
Katz, Max & Leah	196

INDEX

Katz, Robert	196
Katz, Sidney	194
Katzman, Rabbi Eliezer	152
Kaye, Danny	87
Kemm, Rev. Ezra B.	148
Keller, Dr. Kenneth H.	207
Kennedy, Pres. John F.	112, 133
Kensington	163
Kent-Abbott, David	78
Kibbutz, Chofetz Chaim	42
Kingsboro Community College	179
Kings County	144
Kings County Hosp.	75
Kings Highway	164
Kipust, Dr. Philip J.	18, 40, 76, 86, 87, 123, 162, 165, 166, 184, 213, 214, 222
Kipust, Philip & Ruth	16, 185
Kipust, Elias & Ida	198
Kipust, Max & Fannie	198
Kipust, Raymond	7, 198, 199
Kipust, Ruth Herman	79, 83, 84
Klaus, Samuel	19
Klein, Mendel	
Kluger, Ira	26, 54, 108, 133, 163, 187
Knapp, Emily Litchfield	142
Knights of Pythias	182, 203
Knox Hats	112
Kobe Decendants	124
Koehler Farm	17
Koch, Mayor Edward I.	71
Kofman, Irrael & Amalie	15, 16
Kolel Supermarket	138
Kosher	20, 84, 99, 104, 229
Kosher Signs	230
Kosher Supervision in B.P.	230
Kotler, Rav. Aaron	39
Kottler, Harry & Rebecca	101
Koufax, Sandy	87, 188
Kousevitsky, Moshe (Cantor)	86, 188
Kova Quality Hatters	112
Kowenhoven Lane	17
Kramer, Rabbi Emanuel	18
Kresge's Five & Ten	17, 47, 65

INDEX

Kreistein, Shlomo 19
"Kristalnacht" 20, 41
Kron. Zev 19
Krupenia, Rabbi Levi 114, 115
Kufeld, Max 34, 75, 83, 84
Kufeld, William 67, 75
Kusevitsky, David (Cantor) 174, 212
Kwartin, Zarvel (Cantor) 174

L

Labor, Lyceum 128
Ladoulis, Nicolette 8
Lady Deborah Moody 88
Lafayette High School 111
LaGuardia Community College 213
LaGuardia, Fiorello 2, 73
Lakewood 37, 42
Landmark 88
Lane's Drug Store 65
Lass, Abraham 95, 102
Laundromat 103
Lechem Onyim Society 193
Lee, Gen. Robert E. 227
Leiman, Rabbi Harold 93
Lenny's Candy Store 72
Leone, Sebastian (B.P.) 1
Levine, Dr. Morris 61, 67
Levite, Myron 135
Levy Brothers 119
Lewko, Max (Mordechai) 108, 122
Liberty Pole 1
Libman, Joseph 35
Library of Congress 15
Lieberman, Abraham & Rifka 42, 43, 60
Lieberman, Edith 111
Lincoln H.S. 168
Linden Heights Assn. 22
Linden Dress Shop 65
Lippman, Joseph 47, 52, 56
Liss, Adelay Bakst 48
Liss, George 142
Litchifield, Norman

INDEX

Lobel, Issac M.	97
Loew, Marcus	55
Loew's Boro Park Theatre	36, 37, 46, 49, 52, 134, 198
Loew's 46th St. Theatre	36, 46, 49, 52, 170, 190, 198
London	107
Long Beach	137
Long Island	16, 45
Los Angeles	7, 56, 64, 198
Lower East Side	23, 41, 56, 86, 102, 145, 159, 166, 198, 232
Lubitz, Dr. Benjamin	133
Lustig, Rabbi Yoshua	118, 201
Lutheran Church	165

M

Machon Bais Yaacof	145
Machzike Talmud Torah	17, 74, 91, 103, 128, 140, 144, 198
Macy's	109
"Magic Garden"	57, 58
Maimonides Hospital	19, 48, 60, 67, 71, 106, 145, 150, 162, 172, 187
Maimonides Medical Center	2, 8, 17, 77, 146, 186, 201
Mandel, Dr. Morris	93, 106
Mandelbaum. Yossele	19
Manhattan	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 18, 23, 27, 46, 52, 64, 67, 72, 73, 76, 77, 83, 84, 86, 98, 108, 146, 155, 163, 164
Manhattan Bridge	1
Mapleton Library	35
Marboro Theatre	198
Marcus' Luncheonette	30, 37
Marcus Smolowitz Post	141
Markell's Shoes	48
Markowitz, Judy	29
Markowitz, Marty (B.P.)	218
Marotta, Dario S.	12, 35, 40, 50, 88, 123, 170, 190
Martha's Vinyard Hebrew Center	138
Martin, Rabbi Bernard D.	23
Marylanders Burial Site	163
Maskar, Sonia & Simon	107
Massachusetts Bay Colony	88
Mayer, Egon	87, 226
Mazel Tov	158

INDEX

McDonald Avenue	17, 26
McDougall Estate	132
McDougal's Farm	227
McDougall, Stewart	132
McPherson, Annie Kobe	124, 126
Melave Malka	160
Menorah Bowling Academy	49
Menorah Hall	19, 49, 228
Menorah Temple	29, 36, 49, 68
Merrill, Robert	68
Mesivta of Long Beach	137
Mesivta of B.P. High School	97, 115
Metropolitan Geriatric Center	71
Metropolitan Opera	68
Mexican	77
Meyer's Ice Cream Parlor	30, 65, 133
Mezuzah	157
Miami Beach	68
Michaelson, Abraham	19
Midwood	29, 45, 70, 86
Mikvah	149, 159, 166
Milan, Italy	3
Miller, Ben Zion (Cantor)	137, 212
Miller, Dr. Harry	135
Miller, Hillel	63
Mini-Museum	40, 88, 108, 123, 134
Minsk	149
Mirrer Yeshiva	115, 152, 210
Mishkon Home	48
Modell, Arthur	32
Modern Music Center	156
Monastery	128
Monsey, N.Y.	16, 105, 137
Montauk Jr. H.S.	3, 21, 24, 29, 47, 48, 50, 56, 72, 102, 106, 110, 141, 167, 206, 222
Montauk Indians	223
Moon Theatre	155
Morocco	10
Mosaic Suites (Hotel)	211
Mosque	77
Movie Palaces	55
Mr. Etz, tree expert	232
Municipal Bank	142, 143

INDEX

Munk, Jadah	105, 107
Munk, Rabbi Dr. Michael	107
Museum of Jewish Heritage	213
Muslim Community	77
Muslims	78

N

"N" Train	26
Nadler, Harry	19
Napelbaum, Dr. Otto	133
N.A.S.A.	62
National Health Institute	105
National Surety Co.	142
Native Americans	108, 109, 144
Neighborhood Playhouse	
Neinken, Jacob	32
Nelsenius, Edna	50
Nelson, Jack	150
New Hampshire	14
New Jersey	52
Newman, Charles & Ruth	53
Newsday	105
New Utrecht	26, 108, 116, 126, 226, 227
New Utrecht Avenue	18, 26, 27, 29, 38, 46, 52, 77, 92, 94 106, 132, 133, 227
New Utrecht H.S. Graduates	69
New Utrecht H.S.	10, 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 41, 67, 68, 72, 76, 78, 81, 102, 106, 110, 144, 172, 206
New Utrecht Liberty Pole	116, 206
New Utrecht Milestone	116
New Utrecht Reformed Church	108, 116, 164
New York City	22, 27, 41, 45, 47, 56
N.Y.C. Community College	198
N.Y.C. Government	88
New York State	88, 108, 134, 163
N.Y. Daily News	30, 173
N.Y. Graphic	64
N.Y. Historical Society	108
N.Y. Post	30, 64
N.Y. Times	38, 64,, 70, 75, 76, 77, 78, 87, 98, 100 104, 117, 136, 142, 146, 151, 173, 183

INDEX

N.Y. Univeristy 2, 26, 67, 73, 100, 188
Nickelodeon Theatres 54
"Nickel Pickle" 22
Nonesuch Records 147, 155
Nordlicht, Milton 12
Normandy Theatre 46, 49, 103

O

Ocean Parkway 42
Offenbacher, Dr. Richard 1
Offenbacher, Louise 1, 2
Ohel Children's Home 44, 200
Old Boro Park Photos 8, 9, 18, 34, 37, 38, 43, 64, 78, 83, 84, 86, 87, 94, 96, 101, 102, 106, 110, 114, 118, 121, 125, 131, 134, 138, 142, 146, 151, 155, 158, 159, 170, 177, 180, 184, 190, 220, 229
Old New Utrecht Road 25, 53, 121, 129, 142, 144, 163, 167
Old Stone House 54, 163
"Old Timers" 1, 185
Olympia A.C. 192
One Way Street 129
O'Neill, Rev. John J. 130, 142
Open-Air Movies 55
Orchard Street 86
Orthodox 3, 24, 29, 36, 41, 56, 70, 74, 76, 81 87, 98, 157, 165, 166, 179, 228, 232
Orthodox Shules 166
Oskosciewicz, Ken 26
Ossie's Restaurant 83
"Our Brooklyn" 223
"Our Shul" (Photo) 220

P

Paler, Rabbi Binyamin 201
Palestine 10, 11, 39, 61, 76, 100
Palisi, Dr. Joseph 88
Pam, Rabbi Avrohom 93
Parker, Dorothy 14
Park House Hotel 104
Park Mansion 93

INDEX

Park Surgical Co.	17, 162
Parks Dept.	33
Parnes, Esther	79
Parnes, Rabbi Yosef Y.	79, 90, 157, 159, 165, 166
Parry, Dr. William J.	122
Passover Holiday	51, 84
Pataki, Gov. George	98, 163, 189
Pearlman, Barbara	29, 33, 36, 39
Peddler	17
Peer, Aviezer	19
Peikes, Rabbi M.J.	230, 231, 232
Penner, Ilona	79
Penner, Yanka	23
Pershing Jr. H.S.	145, 222
Philadelphia	23, 41, 56, 83
Photo Archives	5
Photo Exhibit	26, 50
Piano Player	95
Pierce, Jan	39
Pierson, John T.	11
Pincus, Eileen	79
Pinksy, Rabbi Meyer	19, 23
Plawes, Joseph	19
Plaza Restaurant	133, 175
Plaza Theatre	55
Poland	3, 10, 39, 41, 61, 115, 136
Police Athletic League	33
Police Station	29
Polish	41, 77, 78
Pool Parlors	49
Pool Rooms	46
Popover, Ruth	79
Poris, Helene	3
Posner, Gustave & Kate	74
Posner, Lucille	2, 4, 14, 24, 27, 28, 30, 38, 39, 48, 50, 52, 54, 55, 62, 63, 75, 76, 82, 85, 88, 89, 95, 96, 100, 108, 126, 133, 134, 142, 146, 155, 156, 162, 163, 164, 165, 187, 188
Post Office	37, 134
Prendergast, Tom	164
Progressive Synagogue	48, 77, 203
Prohibition	53
Prospect Park	1, 12, 25, 104, 144, 163, 164, 182, 203

INDEX

Protestant	75
Protestant Churches	14, 103, 148
Public Schools	4, 6, 50
Public Schhol #48	222
Public School # 103	3, 4, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 38, 50, 64, 145, 206
Public School # 105	75, 133, 134, 138, 176, 222
Public School # 131	73, 102, 178, 222
Public School # 160	67, 206, 222
Public School # 164	47, 56, 71, 72, 73, 74, 106, 110, 207, 222
Public School # 180	29, 33, 41, 42, 64, 141, 172, 206, 222
Public School # 192	24, 48, 65, 205, 206, 214, 222
Public School # 220	222
Public School # 223	29, 222
Purim	12
Push Carts	101

Q

Queens	23, 35

R

Rabbi Bick's Shule	152
Rabbi Issac Elchanan Inst.	10
Rabbi Simpson's Shule	106
Rabbinical Supervision	231
Rabinowitz Gift Shop	154
Rabinowitz, Joseph	154
Rabinowitz, Philip & Mildred	196
Radio Theatre	46, 107
Rapid Transit Fares	13
Red Lion Inn	144
Refrigerators	51
Regal Furniture	38, 170
Regina Pacis Center	53
Religious Zionists of America	119
Rennel's Bakery	71
Retail Market	101
Revoluntionary War	88
Reynolds, Sen. William H.	11, 12, 66, 86, 92, 193, 227
Richman, Lucille	48
Riegelmann, Edward (B.P.)	140, 143

INDEX

Rokeach, Rabbi Menachem	115
Rokeach, Rebetzin Chaya Hinda	115
Romema, Palestine	10
Rose, Mrs. Peter	108
Rose, Peter G.	103
Rosenblatt, Yoselle (Cantor)	19,65, 86, 231
Rosengarten, Mr. & Mrs. Sam	16
Roser, "Capt." J.	186
Rosenthal, Miriam Freund	100
Rosh Heshonah	51, 157
Roth, Abraham	19
Royal Navy	25
Rubin, Harris	219
Rubinstein & Klein, furniture	38
Russia	35, 63, 77, 149
Rutgers University	226
RX Unlimited	17
Ryan, Leo B.	69

S

Sabbath	104, 193
Sabbath Observer	20, 99
Saidlower, Irving	20
Salk, Dr. Jonas	34
Salvation Army	128
San Francisco	44
Sanitation Dept. Office	7
Satmar Hasidim	34
Sawyer, Jerry	167
Schechtman, Harry	17
Schertz, Morris	19
Schick, Dorothy & Arthur	84
Schick, Dr. Marvin	84
Schick, Mrs. Renee	84
Schick's Bakery	84
Schick's Catering	84
Schorr, Rabbi Israel	136, 151, 194, 212
Schwartz. Emanuel	51, 191
Schwartz, Rabbi Elias	89, 91, 92, 161, 215
Schwartz, Sol	216
Schwartz's Hall	143, 168

INDEX

Schwartzchild, Selig 1
Sea Beach Line 26
Sears Roebuck 109
Segula Honor Society 91
Selengut, Yitzchok 105
Selevan, B.M. 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 28, 50, 80, 103, 104, 113, 119, 125, 130, 134, 139, 142, 147, 149, 152, 182, 203, 215, 230

September 11, 2001 171
Seth Low Jr. H.S. 137
Sfardishe Shule 19, 23, 228
Shabbat 1
Shabbos 35, 150, 151
Shanghai 63, 115, 210
Sheepshead Bay 51, 86
Sherer, Rabbi Moshe 98, 99
Shomer Shabbos 17, 35
Shomrei Hachomas Chapels 191
Shomrei Hadas Chapel 84
Shomrei Emunah 21, 29
Shulamith School 21, 34, 42, 55, 83, 117, 118, 136, 150
Shulman, Rabbi Moshe 67
Shulman, Sylvia Cohen 30
Shuster, Arnold 181
Siegmeister, Elie 32
Silberstang & Silberstang 16
Silber, Ben Zion 90
Silent Movies 93, 95
Silver, Edward 189
Silver's 30
Silver Rod Drug Store 65
Silver Spring, MD. 23
Silverstein, Rabbi Baruch 174
Simchat Torah 103
Singer, Rabbi David 19, 62
Six Towns 26
Sixty-sixth Police Precinct 33
Skilowitz Deli 20, 48
Slocum, Frank E. 11
Smithline, Dr. Jacob 149
Snow, Rabbi Moshe 137
Snowden, Rev. Robert B. 14, 142

INDEX

Solomon Plaza	17
Sontag, Deborah	70
Spiegel, Henrietta	191
Spiegel, Moshe	191
Spinell, Harriet	61
Sprague, Frank	26
Spratzer, Adolph & Frieda	197
St. Catharine of Alexandria	130, 142, 218
St. Frances de Chantal	14, 186, 199
St. John's Episcopal Ch.	227
St. Jude's Episcopal Ch.	14, 142
Staten Island	163
Statue of Liberty	144
Stein, Shirley (Spitz)	15
Steinmetz, Arthur	150
Stern, Isaac	100
Stern, Grand Rabbi Moshe	113, 154, 212
Stern, Rabbi Shlomo	71
Stern, Rabbi Shlomo Zvi	113
Sterne, Teresa	6, 8, 24, 58, 59, 60, 146, 155, 166, 208
Steven's Drug Store	185
Stiles Hist. of Kings County	226
Stone, Darla	39
Street trees in B.P.	232
Stuyvesant H.S.	30, 56, 67
Subway	6
Sukkahs	86
Sunday School	24
Sunset Park	45
Suplina, Dominic	192
Surgical Supply	17
Sutton, Willie	181
Sydney, Australia	19
Synagogue	1, 19, 29, 100, 136

T

Tabori, Rabbi Zevi	19, 62
Talmud Torah	21, 24, 32, 38, 90, 128, 132, 150, 157
Talmudic Scholar	23, 115, 201, 210
Tarlow, Benjamin & Fannie	15, 161
Tarlow, Irwin	56
Teen-agers	50

INDEX

Tel Aviv	10
Tel Aviv Restaurant	20, 21, 22, 198
Television	21, 22, 52, 104, 198
Temple Arms	101, 174
Temple Beth-El	1, 29, 31, 34, 39, 73, 82, 86, 134, 135, 137, 141, 147, 151, 199, 228
Temple Emanuel	1, 2, 24, 29, 36, 53, 61, 65, 68, 77, 128, 129, 172, 173, 182, 228
Tennis Club	185
Thanksgiving	22, 24, 54
"The Blythe Bourne"	14
Thirteenth Ave.	1, 47, 73, 86, 101, 145
Thirteenth Ave. Merchants Assn.	169
Thom McAnn Shoes	48
Tip Top Housewares	125
Tomer Dvora School	94
Torah Umesorah	117, 118
Touro College	145, 152
Transit Authority	9
Trolley Cars	26, 27, 66, 133, 227
Trolley Mail	17
Truman, Pres. Harry	133
T.V. Guide	30
Twersky, Rabbi Dovid	94, 200, 201
Twersky, Rabbi Yitzchok	200
Tzadikim	157

U

U-Boats	41
Umbrella Elm	104
United Congregation of B.P.	230
United Israel-Zion Hosp.	130
United States	1, 20, 23, 27, 39, 61, 84, 100, 118, 136, 210, 226
Universal Theatre	55, 170, 190
U.S. Army	26, 35, 60, 99, 188
U.S. District Court	3, 73
U.S. Patent Office	23, 26, 79

V

Vaad Hakashrus	230

INDEX

Van Pelt Manor	116
Variety Corner	7
Verschleiser, Jack	44
Victorian House	24
Victory Garden	56
Vienna	11,41, 44
Vietnam War	26
Vilna, Lithuania	63
Vitagraph Studios	55
Vitascope Projector	54

W

Waldbaum's Supermarket	37
Walker Theatre	207
Wallachs	71
Wallfield, Dr. Mark J.	216
Wall Street Journal	173
War of Independence	116
Washington Cemetery	175
Washington, D.C.	23, 54, 79, 98, 105, 108
Washington, Gen George	116, 122, 144, 163, 164
Wax, Daniel	56
Wax, David & Riva	56
Webster's Pond	17, 146
Wehl, Dr. Selma	217
Weiss Bakery	22
Weiss Photo Studio	93
Weiss, Rabbi Berel	56
Weizmann, Chaim	132
Wertheim, Rabbi Aaron	117, 118, 201
Wertheim, Rebbetzin Rachel	117
West Brooklyn	104, 227
West End Bank Robbery	143
West End Line	17, 26, 29, 132
West End Theatre	55, 106
West End Train	32, 177, 230
Westinghouse H.S.	137
Whitey's Bar & Grill	133
Who's Who Books	150, 175
Willamsburg	12, 15, 20, 28, 30, 39, 70, 95, 99, 116
Willis, Emily	142
Windsor Theatre	46, 52, 103, 198

INDEX

WMCA-Radio 151
Wohlberg, Rabbi Harry I.
Wollman, Manny & Elaine 141
Wolf, Ernest 20
Wolf's Grocery 20
Women's League 201
Wonder Store 39
Woodhall, Gen. Nathaniel 116
Woods, Granville 26
Woolworth's 17, 43, 47, 60, 65, 71
World Series 22
World Telegram & Sun 97
World War I 1, 158, 185
World War II 3, 4, 19, 20, 25, 26, 35, 39, 55, 56, 60, 61, 63, 65, 70, 71, 97, 104, 115, 138, 141, 144, 150, 157, 163, 166, 199, 210
World Trade Center 170, 181
World Zionist Org. 132
Wyckoff-Bennett House 164

Y

Yale University 106
Yampolski, Pearl 22
Yankee Stadium 192
Yarmulka 21, 24
Yarmush, Rabbi Yitzchok 16, 185
Yarolslawitz, Marcus 21
Yarolslawitz, Sabena 24
Yavne Rabbinical Seminary 12, 13
Yemenite Jews 47, 77
Yemenite Synagogue 39, 103
Yeshiva Bais Hillel 167
Yeshiva Bais Yitzchok Squere 94
Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel 39
Yeshiva Etz Chaim 1, 11, 17, 22, 34, 38, 63, 64, 65, 67, 75, 78, 121, 127, 131, 141, 150, 157, 176, 185, 228
Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway 13
Yeshiva Ger 129
Yeshiva Karlin Stolin 145, 185
Yeshiva Slobodka 10
Yeshiva Torah Vadaath 152

INDEX

Yeshiva Toras Emes	7, 16, 21, 23, 34, 39, 42, 44, 60, 63, 65, 79, 81, 89, 90, 91, 94, 96, 105, 107, 114, 129, 150, 152, 161, 162, 198, 215
Yeshiva University	187, 189
Yeshiva Zichron Meilech	13
Yiddish	47
Yiddish Press	149, 230
Y.I.V.O. Archives	192, 198
Y.M. - Y.M.H.A.	17, 29, 36, 47, 49, 61, 65, 68, 83, 88, 103, 132, 138, 186, 188, 212
Y-Symphony Orchestra	61, 67
Yom Kippur	22, 150, 157, 174, 189
Young Folks League	134
Young Israel-Beth El	119, 136, 137, 212
Young Israel of B.P.	21, 36, 38, 49, 65, 71, 74, 198, 212
Young Professionals	77

Z

Zahler, Harry	19
Zamler Project	192
Zigler, Rabbi Aharon	119
Zilbert, Prof. Zavel	134, 135
Zion Hospital	17, 130
Zionist	10, 33, 38, 76, 100, 132
Zion Talis Co.	20
Zittell, Arthur & Anna	64
Zittell, Paul	64
Zoldan's for Men & Boys	5, 11
Zumoff, Dr. Barnett	207