ADATH LOUISVILLE

THE STORY OF A JEWISH COMMUNITY



By

HERMAN LANDAU

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Herman Landau and Associates
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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Adath Louisville: The Story of a Jewish Community began with a request from Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith to write a lodge history for its 125th anniversary. Years earlier, while I was an active newspaperman, Dr. Israel Naamani, executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education, and a historian, suggested that I write the history of Louisville Jewry. His successor, Reuben Resnik, made the same suggestion, as did Rabbi Simcha Kling and others. With work, family and community interests to occupy me, I steadfastly refused.

When I started the B'nai B'rith project — which I thought would be relatively simple — I was appalled by the scarcity of dependable records. Lodge files had been lost in the 1937 flood and in being moved from place to place. Other organizations fared similarly. It appeared that a great loss of roots would result unless some action was taken.

I consulted Dr. Naamani, who by then was at the University of Louisville, and he agreed to be my editor. Over the years, having served on several boards and edited numerous house organs, I had accumulated substantial background material. My "reporter's notebook" is dependable even though exact sources are not identified. Dr. Naamani suggested that updating my files and making a few additions would result in a complete popular but authentic account. Dr. Naamani died in March 1979 and William Swartz, the Bureau's present executive director, kindly consented to serve as editor. He was assisted by Susan (Mrs. Jeffrey) Callen. Both deserve thanks for their arduous labors.

The research for this volume was a one-man enterprise and I alone accept blame for inadvertent omissions, although many persons assisted in supplying background. Special thanks go to my wife, Helen, and daughter, Rebecca Ann, for their constructive criticism; to Joseph J. Kaplan, Annette (Mrs. David) Sagerman and Irving M. Lipetz, who painstakingly read the entire manuscript; to Katie Heumann (Mrs. S.J.) Barry, who coined the title, and to my son-in-law, Steve Goldberg of South Bend, Ind., and to Mary Jones of the Federation, who helped prepare the manuscript. Alex Berman, Alexander Erlen, Clarence F. Judah, Arthur S. Kling and Pauline Pearson also gave me much time and insight. Others who helped included Mrs. Florence Bass, Sadie Baer, Jack Benjamin, Charles Bensinger Jr., Leslie Berman, Barry Bingham Sr., George Blue, Lewis D. Cole, Kenneth L. Chumbley, Rabbi Leonard Devine, James Dobson, Sara Dundon, Seth Eisenberg, Louise (Mrs. William) Flarsheim, Irene (Mrs. Irving) Frishman, Norbert Fruehauf, Leon Fuchs, Samuel Gordon (Rochester, N.Y.), Mrs. James Hertzman, Yetta (Mrs. Abe) Hoffman, Rose (Mrs. Abe) Jacobson, Dorothy (Mrs. Merle) Kaplin, William Kiel, Murrel D. Klein, Louis J. Kleinman, Rabbi Simcha Kling, Mrs. Rebecca Krupp, Mrs. Mildred Landau, Sara Landau, Jack "Sonny" Meyer, Rabbi Stanley Miles, Yandell O'Koon, Robert Paul, Dr. Martin M. Perley, Rabbi Solomon Roodman, James Rosenblum, Leon

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HERMAN LANDAU
November 10, 1980

PROLOGUE

The year 1978 marked the 200th anniversary of the founding of Louisville and about 150 years of Jewish life here. On finishing his term as president of the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville, attorney Stuart Handmaker had this to say:

"A community, like a child, passes through various developmental stages on its road to maturity. This year, at the tender age of 150, the Jewish community of Louisville has reached and crossed an important milestone along that road...

"We needed a way to say to the entire community — to Shively and to Prospect, to rednecks and to bluebloods, to the American Legion and to the River Valley (Club), 'Hey, we're here, and we've always been here, and we're going to stay here, and this is our city, too, and we're Jews. Not Hebrews, not Israelites, Jews.'

"We found the way. On the Belvedere. On Labor Day (1977) weekend. Square in the middle of the city. Nine thousand Jews sang and shouted and sold and serenaded. A hundred thousand Louisvillians heard and applauded and rejoiced with us...

"The Jewish Heritage weekend (a solo event repeated on Labor Day in 1978 and in conjunction with other groups in 1979 and 1980) accomplished a great deal in teaching non-Jews who we are, what we cherish, what we feel, and what we have contributed to the world around us."

The road to this communal maturity was long and hard. It goes back, as does any Kentucky history, to Daniel Boone.

Boone was commissioned in 1769 by Judge Richard Henderson of Virginia to explore what the Indians called Kentucke (the Dark and Bloody Ground). He opened the Wilderness Road and the tide of colonization moved west.

Boone, it seems, had Jewish contacts. In 1781 the firm of Cohen & Isaacs in Richmond, Va. employed him to survey some land. The famous explorer got six pounds as advance payment and signed a receipt for it. On back of this receipt, the original of which is in the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, is written in already-Americanized Yiddish: "Resit fun Kornel Bon for 10,000 agir lanit" (Receipt of Col. Boone for 10,000 acres land). A few years later the celebrated "B'ar Hunter" was commissioned by the same firm to seek out additional land on the Licking River in Kentucky.

Even before Boone appeared on the scene there was another Jewish interest in Kentucky. In the 1760s, Bernard and Michael Gratz of Philadelphia were engaging in world-wide commerce and their boats continued down the Ohio River into Indian territory, part of which has since become Kentucky.

The Gratz brothers helped outfit George Rogers Clark, whose expedition led to the founding of Louisville. Some of the goods shipped to Clark went to a Kentucky River landing in Owen County that is today the site of the little town of Gratz, Ky.

Joseph Simon, father-in-law of Michael Gratz, was a partner of John Campbell, and together they operated a large trading post at Pittsburgh. In rebuilding Fort Pitt and Fort Fincastle (Wheeling, W. Va.), Dr. John Connolly, Virginia's vice-regent and captain of militia, mortgaged to Simon & Campbell several thousand acres at the Falls of the Ohio. This included the original site of mainland Louisville, but it never remained in Jewish hands —Simon turned his interest in it over to others.

Michael Gratz' youngest son, Benjamin, settled in Lexington in 1819 and became one of Kentucky's foremost citizens. He was a trustee of Transylvania College (now University) for 63 years. He helped organize the Lexington Public Library and the Lexington & Ohio Railroad, becoming the railroad's second president. He was the first president of the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical Association. After his death in 1884, the faculty of the Kentucky A. & M. College (now University of Kentucky) unanimously voted to attend the funeral en masse in appreciation of his services in promoting higher education in the state.

But our aim is to look at Louisville, so let us turn back to it.

Our city — any city — is people. But people die and most are soon forgotten. It is the institutions they build that live after them. This is the record, reconstructed as closely as possible, of the Jewish community of Louisville and what it has accomplished since its beginnings in the early 1800s.

A community produces some great people, and also many more who lead full lives without achieving greatness. Some of these are to be found in these pages. The rest are those who lead everyday lives, who carry on the business of the world, who over the generations make up the minyanim (quorums) for daily synagogue services, who contribute to the United Jewish Campaign and other philanthropies, who play ball and swim, who attend plays and concerts and lectures. They, too, are an integral part of our community and deserve recognition, for without them there would be no community.

There presently are five congregations. In alphabetical order they are Adath Jeshurun (Conservative); Anshei Sfard (Orthodox); Keneseth Israel ("Traditional" with mixed seating); Temple Shalom (Reform), and The Temple, Adath Israel-Brith Sholom (Reform).

Germans Were Earliest Arrivals

Louisville's original Jewish inhabitants were of German origin, mostly itinerant peddlers who later settled down and became the founders of great business establishments. From time to time they were joined by others, sometimes a few at a time, sometimes in greater numbers as in 1848 and 1849. Along with this latter influx were Eastern Europeans, their number being large enough to result in formation of a "Polish congregation" just before the Civil War. But the German influence remained dominant, and the minutes of Temple Brith Sholom were written in German through the 1880s.

The Eastern European migration began in earnest in the early 1880s and

spilled over into Louisville. This brought a shtetl (religious village) atmosphere and along Preston Street Yiddish was heard spoken more often than English. This migration — which expanded to include Russians, Poles, Litvaks, Galicianer, Hungarians, Rumanians and others — continued until Congress set immigration quotas shortly after World War I. The Litvaks dominated in numbers. A few Sephardim arrived too. After the imposition of quotas in 1924, Louisville's Jewish community reached 8,500, with only a few continuing to immigrate.

During the 1920s and early '30s, Germans who saw the portent of the Nazi regime fled Germany. Before Germany halted emigration in the early 1930s a large number of such families came to Louisville. Some of these arrivals have made outstanding contributions to our communal life.* During this time, a national organization known as German Jewish Children's Aid brought children here, hoping to keep them in foster homes until their families could flee Germany. Three or four such children were placed in Louisville homes, but unfortunately, their families never arrived.

After 1948 there was another migration, which numbered 400 by the time it stopped in 1970. The majority of these were survivors of concentration camps. Another group of about 25 or 30 families, fleeing the Hungarian uprising of 1956, also arrived in Louisville.

In 1962 there were Cuban refugees, 35 or 40 Polish Jews settled here in 1970, and since 1973 several hundred Russian Jews have arrived. By 1980, the Russians accounted for 3.5 per cent of Louisville's Jewish population. Still another influx has been a dozen or more Israeli families, who form a close-knit, Hebrew-speaking group within the community.

It is worth noting that as the metropolitan area grows while the Jewish population remains static, Jews become a smaller and smaller percentage and their visible presence is diminished. A large part of today's population is not native to Louisville as a result of transfers of personnel by chain stores and corporations and the growth of college faculties.

Like any community, ours has had its share of criminals and rogues, even a few acts of violence. There are no statistics to compare Louisville's rates of divorce and intermarriage with the national pattern, but its percentage of synagogue membership seems higher. In recent years, there have been a number of converts, mostly marriage partners, to Judaism.**

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*One outstanding example is Frank Judd, who became controller of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, served twice as president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, and has been financial consultant to the Jewish Community Federation and County Clerk Bremer Ehrler.

**The national pattern, according to Bernice S. Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah, quoted by Max I. Dimont in *The Jews in America*: "Fewer than half of American-Jewish households belong to synagogues. Close to 40 percent of all Jews are marrying non-Jews (compared to 6 percent twenty years ago)... In recent years 10,000 young Jews have been enticed into joining evangelical sects... and other occult movements." Louisville has experienced some of this too.

Jews Survive Riots and Flood

Jews have encountered trying times during their 150 years here. There were outbreaks of anti-Semitism during the Know-Nothing riots of the 1850s, in the Ku Klux Klan eras of burning crosses after the Civil War and after World War I, during the Nazi era when such bigots as Father Charles Coughlin ran rampant, and later when there were sporadic outbreaks of swastika-painting on synagogues and other Jewish places. Despite the handicaps of deed restrictions, discrimination in employment, and unspoken quotas in medical and dental schools, the Jews of Louisville have won the respect of the community at large. Probable explanations are enlightened leadership, innovative programs, and attention to civic welfare.

A natural disaster that proved a trying time for everyone, no less for the Jews of Louisville, was the 1937 Ohio River flood. Jewish institutions and properties suffered heavily. The first floor and basement of Jewish Hospital, then at Floyd and Kentucky, were damaged and many records lost. The Standard County Club at River Road and Zorn Avenue suffered between $35,000 and $40,000 damage.* The YMHA's Camp Tapawingo on Upper River Road near Goose Creek was completely swept away. The YMHA building itself, at Second and Jacob, suffered $3,000 loss from damage to three handball courts and lost most of its early records, which had been stored in the basement. B'nai B'rith, Keneseth Israel and other organizations also lost their records.

The predominantly Jewish residential blocks of Madison Street (now Abraham Flexner Way) between Preston and Brook were above flood level and their normal crowding reached New York East Side proportions as families and friends from all over sought haven there.

A Jewish relief center was set up in the Uptown Theater at Bardstown Road and Eastern Parkway, that being the center of a large Jewish population. Lazar Kosher Sausage Company of Chicago sent in 200 pounds of salami. There also was a shipment of kosher foods from Cincinnati — 200 pounds of meat, 20 chickens, 900 pounds of salami, and bread. Ralph Persky, then the city's shochet, who later moved to Cincinnati, was aided by two Cincinnati residents. They had the aid of the Coast Guard, but even so lost half of the shipment on the way. Some of the food went to the Fuchs meat market on Preston, and persons in need of it were sought in a house-to-house canvass conducted by Rebecca (Mrs. Barnet) Linker and her brother, Sam Solovey. The remainder was taken to the home of Mrs. Louis Isaacs, 2110 Maryland Avenue, for Highlands residents, and to the Uptown Theater relief center.

Turning to the geographical, hardly anyone today is aware that Louisville once had a section called Jerusalem. Father Diomede Pohlkamp, in a 1946 book entitled *Butchertown of Yesterday*, said Spring Street led to it. A

*The club subsequently moved from that site, which it leased from Louisville Water Company, to its own premises on Brownsboro Road.

newspaper once said it got that name because several Jewish families lived in the area, but old-timers questioned that statement. Most likely, Pohlkamp wrote, it was named "for the farm of Jacob Schiebe, a native of France who for many years was a confidential valet of the Governor of Syria, who lived in Jerusalem. The former valet, after becoming a resident of Louisville, never tired of speaking of the glories of ancient Jerusalem and in consequence his quaint home with its small vineyard and kitchen became known as 'Jerusalem.'"*

The much-publicized Jewish presence in Louisville once led a caller to ask Poucher Coleman, city editor of The Courier-Journal, why there were so many Jewish names in the paper. His quick rejoinder was: "Because they do things."

Now let's look at some of these Jewish names and the things they have done.

One of the earliest Jewish personalities on record is Henry Hyman, who arrived with his brother about 1814. He got a tavern license in 1826 and in 1829 opened the elaborate "Western Coffee House & Hyman's Altar" on the south side of "Market House" between Fourth and Fifth.

Lewis N. Dembitz, a famous lawyer chiefly recalled now for his influence upon his Louisville-born nephew, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, wrote that prior to 1836 there were very few Jews here. "Between 1820 and 1840," he wrote, "a number of Jews became prominent in Louisville, but because of their intermarriage they became lost to their race."**

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*Butchertown was the scene of a "most stupendous fire" August 14, 1890, with a loss of $950,000. A packing plant and a Jewish-owned distillery burned. Kentucky Distillery Company, of which Julius Barkhouse was president, lost 1,120,000 gallons of whiskey valued at $616,097.

**One of these was Charles D. Jacob, born June 1, 1838 and "perhaps the most popular chief executive in the city's history" (George Yater, *Two Hundred Years at the Falls of the Ohio*). His father, John I. Jacob, an early Jewish settler, was a heavy investor in real estate and first president of the Bank of Kentucky. He married Lucy Donald Robertson and Charles was raised in his mother's faith. Charles became a councilman in 1870. Foes of Mayor John G. Baxter ran him as an anti-Baxter candidate in 1872. Jacob won by only 900 votes in a celebrated political battle. Jacob showed concern for the poor, public health, education, sanitation, fair elections and judicious use of public funds. After a second term he was succeeded by Baxter but was elected without opposition in 1881. During this term he set up the city's park system. President Grover Cleveland appointed him ambassador to Colombia but after two years Jacob returned home and in 1888 ran for a fourth term, defeating two other candidates by some 4,000 votes. He bought a 313-acre tract now part of Iroquois Park. It was called "Jacob's Folly" because of its distance from the city, and there was a great outcry over its cost. Jacob later built a boulevard to the park and his Grand Boulevard is today's Southern Parkway, which became the model for Eastern and Western Parkways.

Dembitz, in "Jewish Beginnings in Kentucky," noted that there were half a dozen Jews here in 1834 "as members of some sort of a Jewish benevolent society."* "In about 1838, a beginning of regular services was made in some dingy up-stairs room, and some sort of ritual bath was dug."

Louisville's first city directory lists the Israelite Benevolent Society. Officers were P.J. Johnson, president; J.C. Labatt, vice-president; F. Myers, secretary; J. Levine, treasurer; H. Hyman, David Lewis and J. Emanuel, trustees, and N. White, N.J. Ellis and J. Marks, Committee of Charity. The society did not appear in Louisville's second directory, published in 1836.

The Filson Club History Quarterly (Vol. 53, 1979, by Ira Rosenwaike) gives some biographical notes on these men. Phineas Israel came from England in 1817 and as an Indian trader was dubbed Johnson, which he added to his original name. He became an auctioneer. Labatt and Myers were clothiers on Fourth Street near Market. Labatt died in New Orleans in 1870. Jacob Levin (Levine) opened an auction house and once owned a dry goods shop on Fourth between Main and Market. Hyman apparently was the Henry Hyman who ran a tavern.

The Louisville Public Advertiser of January 8, 1830 carried an advertisement announcing the opening of a school on Main Street operated by Lewis C. Levin, then 22. Levin later won fame as organizer of a Native American Party and became a three-term Pennsylvania congressman.

The first Jewish marriage in Louisville probably was that of Albert J. Marks, a touring actor, to Eliza Levy, daughter of Sarah Levy, on April 4, 1825, according to Rosenwaike.

One historian dates the first organized services as 1842, on Main between First and Brook, with a Rev. M. Greinbaum in charge. Dembitz mentions that the synagogue appears for the first time in 1843 on the north side of Market near First, with the rabbi serving as "schochet." Still another account said the services were on the south side of Market near First and conducted by Rabbi Joseph Dinkelspiel, who later moved to Metropolis, Ill., across the Ohio River from Paducah, Ky.

None of the incorporators of Adas Israel, the parent of The Temple of today, was here in 1838 or 1839, so it may safely be said that the period between 1840 and 1843 was when the Jewish community became established in Louisville.

Ensuing chapters will trace the individual congregations, the educational institutions, the service organizations, and other phases of community life. Let us turn first to a general overview of religious and spiritual life in the community.

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*Dembitz also made these observations: "Intermarriage... followed naturally and the descendants of the earliest Jewish settlers of Kentucky are known only by their Jewish family names and their oriental features." Louisville's first directory, 1831, "shows hardly any Jewish names."

THE CONGREGATIONS

Chapter 1

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

The stories of the individual congregations do not cover the entire scope of religion in our community. In this chapter some of the tangents will be covered.

From time immemorial every community has prided itself on its natives who became rabbis. Louisville is no exception, with at least half a dozen to its credit. Among these were:

Alfred G. Moses, who followed in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Adolph Moses, the rabbi of Temple Adath Israel. After graduation from Hebrew Union College in 1901 he took a pulpit in Mobile, Ala.*

Louis I. Mann, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Mann, who at the age of 33 succeeded Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch at Temple Sinai in Chicago. During World War I he was religious work secretary for the Jewish Welfare Board at Camp Taylor.

Stanley Garfein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Garfein and a 1920 graduate of Louisville Hebrew School, who took a pulpit in Florida.

Henry M. Rosenthal, who was ordained in 1929 at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Milton Greenwald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Greenwald, who held a pulpit in Evansville, Ind. at the time of his death.

Maurice Kleinberg, who became the highest ranking Jewish chaplain in the armed services. A 1922 graduate of Louisville Hebrew School, he grew up at First and Main, where his father operated a tailor shop. He was ordained in 1934 at Hebrew Union College. In 1942 he left a pulpit in Santa Monica, Cal. He returned to the pulpit after World War II but re-entered the service in 1950, advancing to the rank of lieutenant colonel before he retired.**

Joseph Ginsberg, who was also a Hebrew Union graduate. After holding pulpits in Houston and Chicago he retired, only to take over a small congregation on Long Island in 1979.

Louis Rieser, whose parents were in the furniture business on Market Street, also a Hebrew Union graduate, headed Hillel at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, and in 1980 took a similar post at Emory University in Atlanta.

Benjamin Kreitman spent his boyhood in Louisville while his father was shochet at 407 S. Preston, during the 1920s. The family left here before

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*Alfred's sister, Octavia Moses, was an early member of the Neighborhood House staff.

**His sister, Miriam Kleinberg, an accomplished pianist, was musical director at Adath Israel for many years.

Benjamin entered seminary. Since his ordination he has become executive vice-president of the United Synagogue of America, parent body of the Conservative movement.

With the expansion of rabbinical horizons, Karin Amick gave up a job as assistant manager of a motel in fall of 1979 to enter a five-year program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. She said she wanted to be an assistant rabbi specializing in youth work, education and pastoral duties.

Another Louisville girl entered Hebrew Union College in fall of 1980. She is Rachel Hertzman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hertzman.

Various Groups Organize

Through the years, there have been various organized religious groups:

Shaar Hashomaim was organized by residents of Old Louisville when that neighborhood housed a large Jewish population. It never grew into a full-fledged congregation but for about a year held services in a rented store at Brook and Hill. Its High Holyday services in 1931 were conducted by Maurice Horvitz (then Horowitz).

The Highlands Minyan still holds Shabbat and holiday services at Four Courts. The group was organized in 1953 and for a long time furrier Joseph Yudofsky was its president. Originally the group met at the Louisville Jewish Day School when it was located on Douglass Boulevard but moved to Four Courts when the school sold its property. The Highlands Minyan grew out of a desire to hold services within walking distance of the participants' homes. Participants were required to be members of an organized congregation.

A Gemillas Chesed, or free loan society, was to be found in every congregation at one time. Many a now-prosperous family was launched in business with a small loan from one of these organizations back in the days when a mere $500 would serve as capital for a grocery or drygoods store. The Gemillas Chesed at Keneseth Israel, still in existence, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 1957. Its officers then were David L. Kahn, president; Abraham Zimmerman, vice-president; Harry Seligman, secretary, and Max O'Koon, treasurer. O'Koon had been treasurer at least since 1938, when the other officers were M. Shetzer, president; B. Levine, vice-president, and Julius Bass, treasurer. In 1940 its president, Julius Simon, reported loans of $5,700 were made in one year, of which $5,300 had been repaid. At the end of the year, 51 outstanding loans totaled $3,425 and total assets were $6,500.

The Vaad and Its Successors

One of the earliest organizations, going back at least to the turn of the century, was the Vaad Haer, which brought Rabbi A.L. Zarchy here to be citywide rabbi. A volunteer group, it served as overseer of kosher food facilities, operated the mikveh (ritual bath), and helped organize the Louisville Hebrew School. When the school was planning to build at 208 E. Walnut, a

separate Louisville Mikveh Society was organized, and the mikveh was housed in the basement of the building. It was hoped that revenue from the mikveh would help maintain the school but this did not come to pass. After Anshei Sfard moved to Dutchmans Lane, the congregation allotted space on its grounds for construction of a mikveh with half of the funds derived from sale of the Hebrew School.

The overseeing of kashrut is nominally under the supervision of the Vaad Hakashrut, successor to the old Vaad Haer. In the depression years of the 1930s it was known as the Chevra Machziki Hadas, an outgrowth of the Vaad Haer. The Chevra president was B. Rosenbloum and its secretary, Abe Lewis.

The present Vaad dates back at least to 1946. In that year the Vaad bought a poultry slaughterhouse on Preston Street. All congregations were asked to contribute proportionately and Keneseth Israel's contribution of $2,500 is recorded. Sam Goldstein was Vaad president.

The Vaad was incorporated June 19, 1947 with Sam Goldstein, Sam Baron and Ben Kraus as incorporators and Maurice Horvitz as notary public. Its bylaws, according to the Jewish Post and Opinion, stated that membership was open to members of the various congregations and that all of the Vaad's acts "shall be with the advice and consent of the Orthodox Rabbis of Louisville." A board of directors was to elect a president and a vice-president for one-year terms.

In 1948 the Vaad levied a tax of one cent a pound on kosher meat to pay for its poultry slaughterhouse and put a 5-cent charge on each fowl to pay for upkeep and to help support the Louisville Hebrew School. Each fowl would carry a metal ring to signify it was kosher. The Vaad brought A.J. Maranc from Minneapolis in 1964 to be the city's shochet.

In a letter to Stanley Bordorf, president of Adath Jeshurun, the Vaad said that at its annual general meeting on March 16, 1966 it was decided to enlarge the board of directors "to make it more fully representative" and that "in addition to the Kosher Meat Market Proprietors as members we also wish to add representatives from the consumers, the ladies." The letter asked Bordorf to appoint two men and two women representatives to the Vaad board. The letter was signed by Joseph Yudofsky, president, and listed Ben Kraus as treasurer.

The question of the Vaad's actual existence was raised in March 1978 by the Jewish Post and Opinion, which quoted members as saying the Vaad had not met in from 1½ to 3 years. On June 27, 1980, that newspaper carried a letter from Rabbi Irving Glickman which said "... there has been no meeting of the Vaad Ha'Kashruth for a number of years, contrary to regulations which call for, at least, an annual meeting."

The forerunner of the Vaad had brought Rabbi Zarchy here in 1903 to be the city's Orthodox rabbi and he served in that post until his death in 1932. In January 1933 Rabbi Benjamin Notelevitz was formally installed as Orthodox rabbi of Louisville, but unlike Rabbi Zarchy, who received all of his salary

from the Vaad and none from the congregations (except for a brief period when he was rabbi of B'nai Jacob), Rabbi Notelevitz also held the pulpit of Keneseth Israel.

In January 1940 Rabbi Notelevitz issued a warning, in Yiddish and English, to "beware of non-kosher products." He said that "in recent weeks, many who cater to the Jewish trade have flooded our community with so-called Kosher Style meat, delicatessen and other food products." He did not give details or specify incidents which brought on the warning.

Since World War II, this problem has been alleviated by food processors who mark their products with Ⓤ or "K", depending on whether they use the supervison of the Union of Orthodox Congregations or individual rabbis. In Louisville, Rabbi Solomon Roodman regularly inspects several food-processing plants on behalf of the Union. One of these is Reynolds Metals, to make sure no non-kosher oil is being used in making aluminum foil.

Two other organizations flowered here briefly. One was Chevra-Shass, organized in 1936 at which members of Keneseth Israel, Agudath Achim, Adath Jeshurun and others interested would study Talmud. J. Hildebrand was president; Isaac Lyon, vice-president; B. Rosenbloum, secretary; Gus Potosky, treasurer, and Rabbi Notelevitz, teacher. The second group was Hashomer Hadati of Louisville, founded in 1941 to support Orthodox Judaism and the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish national home. Its founders were Rabbi Benjamin Brilliant of Keneseth Israel and Dr. Eli Jaffe.

Kosher Meat Markets

There have been a number of kosher butcher shops, but when Stanley Goldberg closed his shop, Stan's, at 2423 Bardstown Road, it was the last survivor of the many that Louisville once had. With the closing of Stan's in 1979, Max Kreitman converted his Strathmoor Key Market into a kosher meat market, closing on Shabbat and holidays. Kreitman earned the approval of Rabbi Irving Glickman of Keneseth Israel, but Rabbi Solomon Roodman of Anshei Sfard refused to sanction the shop as a kosher facility. A few families that accepted Rabbi Roodman's ruling began ordering meat from Cincinnati and elsewhere, but for the most part, Max's (as it was generally known) remained the city's only kosher meat outlet until Josh and Jaye Sparber opened a delicatessen at 3949 Taylorsville Road in June 1980.

Years earlier, Mrs. Sparber's great-uncle, Charles Simon, had taken over the Feitelson delicatessen on Jefferson just east of Preston. When Simon moved to Florida, it became Greenwald's. Simon later returned to Louisville and reopened on Bardstown Road and Bonnycastle, by which time Greenwald's also had relocated two doors from Goldberg's meat market. When Simon retired, his place became Schneider's, which closed in the late 1960s. Before Simon's return to Louisville there had been two other Highlands delicatessens, Mose Speevack's at Bardstown Road and Speed and Jerome Binder's at Bardstown Road and Roanoke. Sam Deitz had one on Preston.

Stan Goldberg had purchased the shop from Abe Hoffman, who remained as a part-time employee. Hoffman, who wanted to retire, had operated the shop many years, having established it originally as a partnership with Sol Weinberg as successor to the I. Fuchs butcher shop on Preston just north of Walnut.

At the time Goldberg took over, another kosher market run by Hy Spikell on Taylorsville Road near Wallace has just closed, Spikell having retired and moved to California.

The area where Hoffman and Weinberg established their partnership was at the time the hub of Louisville's Jewish community. Morris Snyder formerly had owned a meat market at the southeast corner of Preston and Walnut. Sam Shrager then was in business on the west side of Preston just north of Jefferson, Julius Kramer had a shop on the north side of Market just east of Floyd, and the large Jewish community in the West End was served by A. Gurwitch at Seventh and Liberty.

Two advertisements that appeared in 1931 may be of interest:

Delicious plate lunches from 35 cents to 50 cents
Guthrie Kosher Food Shoppe — Philip Sheinberg, Proprietor
Second and Guthrie — City 4345

Wittenbaum's Special plate lunch
choice of meats and fish
choice of 3 vegetables — 30 cents
307 S. 6th St. — City 3311

The Shammas Was Important

During the shtetl era, one of the community's most important men was the shammas. Every congregation — even Adath Israel — had one. The shammas lacked social prestige but he was virtually indispensable to community life. In many instances he got no pay, subsisting on donations from persons who had occasion to call on his services.

When tragedy struck a family, the shammas was usually the first one summoned. He, in turn, broke the news to the rabbi. The shammas would drop all other duties, console the bereaved, and instruct them about the customs and duties of mourners. He often conducted services at mourners' homes. He also reminded everyone of yahrzeit dates.

For bar mitzvahs, weddings and other occasions, he did all of the detail work, and many a time it was his lot to round up a minyan for morning and afternoon services. When a stranger appeared, it was up to the shammas to welcome him and direct him to his proper place. If the stranger had no place to go, it was often the shammas who took him in for a square meal. When a meshullach (itinerant solicitor for a religious institution) arrived, the shammas

would accompany him on his rounds to make sure he contacted the "right people."

Congregations were smaller and lacked secretarial services, so it was up to the shammas to collect dues and keep whatever records were required. He read the Torah and often conducted services. He also was a counsellor, many persons deeming it unworthy to disturb their rabbi when they had a religious question. He was never too busy to help, even though he had a full-time job on his hands being janitor and custodian.

No congregation here has a shammas today. All depend on volunteers to fulfill the religious functions, the other chores being handled by secretaries and janitors.

Anshei Sfard has been without a shammas since the late 1970s. In its earlier years, on First Street, Nissan Klein* and later Abe Lewis served in that capacity.

Keneseth Israel lost its shammas when 80-year-old Ben Tandeta died in 1977 after serving the congregation 10 years. His predecessor was Max O'Koon, who took over from Simon Shavinsky. Before him came Louis Persky, whose tenure dated back to B'nai Jacob. Persky, a red-bearded man, always seemed like a tyrant to the boys of pre-bar mitzvah age when he tried to keep order during services. His son, Ralph Persky, was the city's mohel for many years.

Adas Israel's sexton during the 1850s was Louis Rosenfeld, but with the coming of Reform, the post was abolished.

Adath Jeshurun has been without a shammas since the death of Isadore Levitan in 1977. His predecessor was P.L. Kozlove, whose son, Julius Kozlove, later became president of the congregation. Kozlove, who died in April 1962, had a rather short tenure as shammas, a post he took over on the retirement of my father, O.H. Landau, who had held the office 35 years. Prior to that Landau had been shammas at Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, losing that post when it consolidated with B'nai Jacob to become Keneseth Israel. The original Beth Hamedrash Hagodol shammas had been David Davis, who died in January 1944 at the age of 90. Before the Landau era, Adath Jeshurun was served by Max Kaletsky, who was in his 90s when he retired.

A year or so after my father retired he moved to Four Courts and conducted services there. Sol Waldman, a volunteer, took over the services at Four Courts after my father's death in 1959 at the age of 92, four years after his retirement. While shammas at Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, my father also had been gabbai (major-domo) to Rabbi Zarchy. His ubiquitousness made him well-known. One incident illustrates the high regard in which he was held.

Shortly after Landau retired he went to New York. One day Dr. Joseph Rauch of Adath Israel called a son, saying he needed Mr. Landau desperately and was worried because he knew the man lived alone and did not respond to

*His sons were car dealers and bankers Harry, Sam and Isadore Klein.

his calls. Assured that my father was all right and just visiting, Rabbi Rauch exacted a promise that the retired shammas would be brought to him the very minute he returned. When my father did return he learned that Dr. Rauch depended on him alone to repair the broken roller on Adath Israel's Torah; nobody else would do.

Other Activities in the Community

Here are a few other incidents bearing on religious life in the community:

A Haggadah was issued by Lincoln Bank when it opened its new building at Fourth and Market about 1912. Another prayer book published here was prepared by the Jewish Social Service Agency in the 1950s for patients at Central State Hospital.

When B. Manischewitz Company was located in Cincinnati, its flour for matzos was produced at Louisville Milling Company on Floyd just south of Eastern Parkway.

When the Indiana Reformatory was located just across the river (now the Colgate plant) Dr. Joseph Rauch conducted services there in 1916. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services there were conducted by Philip D. Bookstaber, superintendent of the YMHA.

A citywide Religious Forum was held at Memorial Auditorium in 1930 and the Chronicler-Spokesman, edited by Rosalee Schulman (Mrs. Louis Herman), had this editorial comment: "Many of our people who attended that event remarked later that it made them proud to be Jews. Rabbi (Solomon) Bazell had given an admirable exposition of Judaism... It presented the rationalism of the Jewish mind and the ethical passion of the Jewish heart, and revealed the Jewish spirit in all its historic significance and vitality. There was hearty applause from the multitude of non-Jews present, and the Jewish listeners felt proud, proud to be Jews."

Joint Thanksgiving services date back at least to 1929 when Rabbi Solomon Bazell, Dr. Joseph Rauch and Rabbi J.J. Gittleman participated in a service at Brith Sholom. The service has continued yearly, with sometimes as many as five congregations participating.

A community event memorializing the 2,000,000 Jews then known killed by the Nazis was a Keneseth Israel "Service of Intercession" held May 2, 1943 in response to a Synagogue Council of America request to observe a period of mourning April 29 to June 9. All of the city's rabbis and Charles W. Morris, chairman of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, appeared on the pulpit. There were responses from Senators Alben Barkley and A.B. "Happy" Chandler and Representative Emmet O'Neal. The audience adopted a resolution asking that the United States approach the Axis through neutral governments to attempt to secure release of Jews; that Palestine be opened to all Jews who could be brought to the Holy Land; that a sanctuary be established for refugees in Allied and neutral lands and that the United States by its willingness to accept refugees present an example of humanitarianism to the

rest of the world, and that a system of feeding victims of Nazi oppression be organized without delay.

Since then, memorial services marking Holocaust Day have been held every year. In March 1978 a standing-room-only crowd attended a memorial at the Jewish Community Center for the 35 Israelis killed in a Palestine Liberation Organization attack in Israel. That service was sponsored by the Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Community Federation, the Center, and the city's five congregations.

Col. Morris Kleinberg returned to Louisville to speak at a meeting April 28, 1962 marking the centennial of the Jewish military chaplaincy. The public meeting at the Jewish Community Center also was sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section; Bureau of Jewish Education, and the Armed Services Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board. One of the sidelights of the meeting was presentation of a JWB citation to Dr. Martin Perley for his service as a military chaplain and as auxiliary Jewish chaplain at Fort Knox since 1948.

Originally military chaplains had to be ordained Christian clergymen but a New York rabbi prevailed upon President Abraham Lincoln to get Congress to change this law. A Philadelphia cantor, Jacob Frankel, was the first-full-time Jewish chaplain, commissioned September 18, 1862. The second was Rabbi Bernhard Henry Gotthelf of Adas Israel, who had held a pulpit in Philadelphia before coming to Louisville in 1861. Gotthelf's task was more difficult than Frankel's. He was responsible for 18 Army hospitals, including two in Indiana. He visited a different hospital each day, and since only two other chaplains were assigned to all these institutions, he ministered to non-Jews as well. An immigrant himself, he was conscious of the plight of large numbers of immigrant soldiers in Midwestern regiments, and in 1864 he obtained a leave of absence to collect funds and books to establish libraries in the hospitals. Two months later he reported to the surgeon general that he had collected about 1,000 books. Neither Frankel nor Gotthelf saw military action.

Another note on the Civil War period comes from *American Jewry and the Civil War* by Bertram Wallace Korn, stating that Louisville congregations gave $225 to the Lincoln Monument Association. Korn also quotes an anonymous letter to the Louisville Journal saying that Jewish smugglers were pouring into the area. A Dr. Felsenheld wrote in reply that "not a single Jew has settled here since the smuggling commenced."

A 1965 venture in adult education was undertaken jointly by Adath Israel, Adath Jeshurun, and Brith Sholom. There were classes in Hebrew, Bible, and customs and ceremonies, each session followed by a panel discussion on a current topic. Dr. Ezra Spicehandler of Hebrew Union College opened the series, called the Institute of Jewish Studies for Adults.

The Havurah movement came into vogue in the 1970s, and several groups have functioned since, meeting at intervals to discuss Jewish topics at various members' homes.

A permanent sukkah, made of iron pipe, was presented to the Jewish Community Center in 1977 by Mr. and Mrs. Allan Handmaker for use by the Center, the Day School, the Hebrew School, and other groups.

Religious leaders of all faiths organized the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community in spring 1979, commenting that "for the first time, the religious community in the Louisville area will have a common voice." It replaced the Louisville Area Interchurch Organization for Service and differs from it by including Jewish representation.

Still another interfaith group was organized in 1980, patterned after the Louisville Area Council on Religion and Race, a civil-rights organization of the 1960s. The new coalition, taking in blacks, whites, Christians and Jews, called itself the Louisville Area Council on Religion and Peacemaking. Peace issues and the threat of nuclear war were its main concern. Dr. Herbert Waller, rabbi emeritus of The Temple, was one of the organizers.

The Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary houses a museum of Palestinian antiquities, including a reproduction of a Dead Sea scroll. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary also has a collection.

A non-Jewish group is the Memorial Fund for the Beautification of Israel, whose members seek contributions for buying trees and plants for desert areas of Israel. Its organizer, Mrs. Carrie Minton, a member of the Evangel Tabernacle Assembly of God Church, said she got her inspiration from the Book of Isaiah: "... the desert shall rejoice, and blossom like the rose..." Joseph J. Kaplan assisted the group with legal matters.

Abraham Waldman, a shtetl patriarch who operated a dry goods store at Preston and Walnut, gave bar mitzvah training in the 1920s and 1930s to some 20 boys without charge. In 1980 these former pupils collected a fund to honor his memory with a kiddush at Keneseth Israel on the Sabbath closest to his yahrzeit.*

Thirty-one pupils graduating from five religious schools in 1974 decided to forego confirmation gifts in favor of a fund to be allocated to charities selected by the students. In 1980, there were 24 in Adath Jeshurun's confirmation class who took the same approach.

Stacy Garfinkel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Garfinkel, represented Louisville in the 1980 National Bible Contest in New York.

Moves Toward Religious Co-operation

A Louisville Council of Jewish Congregations, to work "hand in hand with the Louisville Board of Rabbis" and designed to provide a unified voice on religious and ethical matters, was organized in 1980. Barry Schermer was the first president, representing Adath Jeshurun, of which he also was president. The other congregational presidents on the council were Stanley

*Bess (Mrs. Sam) Harris, active in Mizrachi Women, is Waldman's daughter.

Sosowsky, Anshei Sfard; Harris Berman, Keneseth Israel; Seymour Krinsky, Temple Shalom, and Jacques Morris, The Temple.

This council was not the first attempt at obtaining intercongregational co-operation. An Intercongregational Committee of Louisville was in existence in 1941, at which time it issued the following statement: "We are much more concerned with the civic morale of the Jewish community than about any profit motive involved in acquiring additional members for congregations. We think the time is ripe for a revival or renaissance of Judaism. We feel that the synagogue should continue its role as the 'hub' of the Jewish community. The benefits and burdens of this institution are to be shared equally.

"We believe that our congregations have among other functions the duty of developing character and a sense of responsibility. Many parents are not affiliated and yet avail themselves of the services of congregations of their community. Why should this unhealthy condition be permitted to exist?

"No one is to be excluded or deprived of any religious services because of inability to assume the financial obligation. We feel that the best way of demonstrating and putting into effect one's willingness to be a part and parcel of his community is by affiliating himself with some congregation."

Cemeteries Have Long History

With the exception of Temple Shalom, every Louisville congregation owns and maintains its own cemetery.

In 1821, Cincinnati's Jews purchased a burial plot for $75 and in three years buried three Jews from Kentucky "and paid all costs to bring a fourth from Louisville, 200 miles away (by river)."

The earliest record of a Jewish cemetery was Adath Israel's, described in 1859 as located on "Preston, south of Kentucky." Actually, it was known as the Hebrew Cemetery and was at the southwest corner of Preston and Woodbine. That site was preempted for the right-of-way of Interstate 65 and the graves were moved to Adath Israel Cemetery on Preston south of Eastern Parkway.

Just west of Adath Israel's original cemetery was a plot owned by Adath Jeshurun at 316 Woodbine. The 1926 city directory listed it as "Adath of Sherrun."

Adath Israel purchased The Temple's present cemetery property in 1873 and that general area has become the site of all of the congregations' cemeteries since then. The other congregations bought their land at different times, but by 1920 the pattern was established.

Anshei Sfard and Keneseth Israel own sites on Locust Lane just west of Preston, while Adath Jeshurun owns the northwest corner of Preston and Locust Lane. Just north of Adath Jeshurun's was Brith Sholom Cemetery, now combined with adjoining Adath Israel's since the merger of the two temples. Agudath Achim had a small cemetery on the east side of Preston at Locust Lane and since its consolidation with Anshei Sfard the latter has maintained it.

At one time there was a Hebrew Schardein Cemetery on the south side of Wathen Lane west of Seventh Street Road. That became the site of the Seagram distillery about 1934 and those interments were moved to Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Schardein's Jewish section belonged to one of the predecessors of Keneseth Israel, although in 1920 B'nai Jacob had its own cemetery on Locust Lane.

The present B'nai Jacob property was due to the foresight of Myer Berman, proprietor of a clothing store. He saw the need for property in the Preston Street area for a cemetery and said he would buy it himself if the congregation didn't.

In 1978 there were negotiations between Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel over property which Adath Jeshurun wanted to purchase. The Adath Jeshurun Cemetery has been expanded at the Preston and Locust Lane site since it was originally located there.

Lacking its own burial grounds, Temple Shalom in 1979 arranged with Cave Hill Cemetery to set aside an area for its use. This type of shared space is the general practice in many other cities.

All of the congregations have set up perpetual-care funds for the upkeep of graves. In 1944 Keneseth Israel adopted a charge of $5 a year for all occupied graves or a payment of $100 into its trust fund. In recent years Adath Jeshurun has required perpetual care for all occupied graves and in spring of 1979 Anshei Sfard and Agudath Achim cemeteries instituted a $200 perpetual-care fee in the cost of grave sites.

Herman Meyer and Son conducts most Jewish funerals. On the average, there are about 100 Jewish funerals a year.

At the turn of the century the Jewish undertaker — that's what they were called then — was G.S. Rosenberg, a short, solemn man with a handlebar mustache. His home was at 1229 S. First and he rode in an elegant horse-drawn carriage. Upon his death the business was taken over by Herman Meyer, one of Rosenberg's old friends. Meyer had been a whiskey gauger until the advent of Prohibition and also had been in the shoe business. Following in Meyer's footsteps were his son, Emanuel Meyer, and later his grandson, Jack M. (Sonny) Meyer, whose wife, Janet Lyons Meyer, also is a licensed funeral director.*

The Meyers converted a large house on the 1500 block of South Third into a funeral home but outgrew these premises after World War II. In 1957 the business was moved to 1331 Ellison Avenue, a new building that since then has been enlarged.**

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*Sonny Meyer in 1978 was elected president of the Jewish Funeral Directors Association of America and his wife has been elected to the organization's board.

**Although Meyer has a virtual monopoly, there was at least one effort made to establish competition. In 1940 Morton L. Helman opened a funeral home at 1209 S. Third, but an unfortunate accident at his very first service created an unfavorable impression and Helman left Louisville.

For a long time it was a custom to visit bereaved families at the funeral home prior to the services. When the Louisville Board of Rabbis came into existence one of its first accomplishments was to put a stop to this practice, which the rabbis described as a pagan wake. This was in 1965. Now visiting is confined to funeral hours and to "shivah."

In their earlier years each congregation had its own Chevrah Kadisha, or burial society, which performed the ritual washing of the dead, but for several decades only Keneseth Israel's chevrah has remained in existence. It serves members of all congregations. The group works anonymously, but in 1964 the women in the chevrah were Mrs. Max Berkovitz, Mrs. David Karp, Mrs. Max O'Koon and Mrs. Charles Strull*, while the men were Sam Deitz, Abe Lewis, Max O'Koon, Charles Strull*, Ben Tandeta and Louis Weinberg.

Next we shall take up the congregations one by one.

*Not to be confused with Charles Strull the astronomer.

Chapter 2

THE TEMPLE

I. TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL 1842 TO 1906

Louisville started out as a village February 7, 1781 and became a city February 13, 1828. It had 7,063 inhabitants in 1827 and grew to 19,967 by 1835.

In its first half-century, Louisville occupied the area from Preston to 12th Street and between the river and Broadway (then Prather Street). Streets were laid out as far east as Wenzel, but the area was densely wooded and houses were few and far between. There was a free school in a church at Fifth and Green (Liberty).

In 1830, the year the Louisville & Portland Canal was completed, the pride of the city was a new school building just opened at the southwest corner of Fifth and Walnut. In 1840, the first gas lights dazzled the city, and the place to go was Mozart Hall at Fourth and Jefferson. Jenny Lind sang there in 1850.

The 1840 census listed the population as 21,210, broken down this way: 9,282 white males, 7,889 white females, 699 free colored and 3,240 slaves. (This adds up to 21,110.)

That year Louisville had 12 commercial houses dealing in "foreign trade," 270 retail establishments, three lumber yards, two flour mills, two tanneries, two breweries, a glass-cutting works, a pottery, two "rope-walks," seven printing offices and two bookbinderies. There were five daily papers, three semi-weeklies, and one periodical. Also, there were a college with 80 students, 10 academies with 269 students, and 14 schools with 388 pupils.

This thriving commercial center attracted German-Jewish immigrants, and the need for an organized congregation was born. Thus Adas Israel enters the scene and Louisville's Jewish community began to organize.

The Forty-Niners, on their way west, found few Jewish communities but Louisville was one of them.

For more than half a century, the Greek Ionic edifice on the west side of Third south of York which housed Temple Adath Israel was the most visible Jewish religious symbol in Louisville. The site for this imposing structure cost $17,500 and its original budgeted construction cost was $125,000. After Adath Israel and Brith Sholom merged early in 1977 to become The Temple, the building was sold to Greater Bethel Temple Apostolic Church.

Adas Israel, always looked upon as a bastion of Reform, started out as a traditional synagogue, the outgrowth of the early settlers' daily "minyan" (quorum for prayer). The congregation even conducted its own religious and secular school during the 19th Century. Dr. Isaac M. Wise, founder of the Reform movement in the United States, preached two sermons at Adas Israel

August 8 and 9, 1857 and introduced his new *Minhag America* prayer book, which was adopted here. Five years later sermons began to be demanded in English and German. In 1868, the congregation repealed a resolution which had made German the official language of its board. Friday night services were introduced in 1869. In 1876, the office of cantor was abolished and June 1891 saw the introduction of Sunday services.

In the words of one visiting rabbi, Joseph Krauskopf, in the early 1900s, the institution of a Sunday service "was your public declaration that you were not content with conducting a Sabbath service before a handful of the very aged or very young... And so you resolved to open wide the doors of your synagogue on the day on which not only the Jew is free to worship his God and to receive instructions in the history of his people, and in the aspirations of his faith, but on which also the non-Jew is free to hear what he needs to hear and to see what he needs to see."

How much the Sunday services influenced good will toward the Jews is questionable, but the Sunday services continued until well into the tenure of Dr. Joseph Rauch. Even so, extreme Reform was the congregation's guideline. Dr. Rauch became an early backer of the American Council for Judaism, although later he publicly broke with the anti-Zionist organization and became a supporter of Israel. But this is getting ahead of our story.

In the several years prior to 1842, religious services were held in the upper rooms of a boarding house on Market between Second and Third, owned by Abraham Tandler.

Writing in 1906, Charles Goldsmith, then president of Adath Israel, said of those earliest years, "it was necessary to rely upon the boys over 13 years of age to secure the required number for each service." Abraham Gerstle officiated as Chazan or Reader.

Chartered as "Adas Israel"

The attendance began to outgrow these quarters and steps were taken. On September 11, 1842, a charter for "Adas Israel" was obtained from the Kentucky Legislature, with the assistance of Abraham Jonas.* Jonas, a native of England who settled in Williamstown, Ky. in 1827, was the first Jew nomi-

*The charter for Adas Israel, officially dated January 13, 1843, lists these incorporators: Henry Maier Rosenthal, David Wise, Abraham Gerstle, Henry Goodman, Abraham Weil, Nathan Bensinger, Henry Bissenger, Jacob Wursburger, Moses Schwabacher, Sigmund Ullman, Abraham Schloss, Judel Backrow, Emanuel Stern, Sampson Gundelfinger, Henry Lieber, Fais Mark, Leon H. Weishart, Nathan Cerf, Jacob Hyman, Bernard Effenheim, Henry Selliger, Abraham Tandler, Joseph Greenbaum, Emanuel Bamberger, Mathias Zahl, Isaac Bamberger, Theodore Hausah, Isaac Roggesburger, Maier Kraft, Elias Hilp, Benas Marx, Simon Drumm, Wolf Stepacher, Simon Bamberger and Isaac Gumperts.

nated for Speaker of the Kentucky House, although he missed being elected.*

Adas Israel's charter called for parnas (president), treasurer, and secretary. Initiation fee was $5 and dues for married men for $6 a year. Members who were in arrears for one year or who married contrary to Jewish law were expelled.

According to Goldsmith's record, "the Parnas was supreme in authority, and upon notice from him, every member was required, upon occasion, to attend a funeral and both morning and evening services at the house of mourning for seven days, or subject himself to a fine of 25 cents and 12½ cents, respectively. On extraordinary occasions the Parnas could impose a maximum fine of $1 for absence, and he had the same powers if members talked, left their places, or interfered with any of the officers during service."

Shortly before his death in the early 1900's, A. Gerstle wrote an account of the beginnings of Adas Israel. Gerstle at one time was its president. Gerstle says that in 1838 three Bavarians — B. Gettinger, A. Kahn and W. Tandler — settled in Louisville. They found here a number of English Jews, among the family names being Eli, Hart, Hyman, Raphael, Jacob and others.

A Mrs. Crumlin from Philadelphia, according to Gerstle's manuscript, "was the first one dying in the Jewish community" and her burial was the first in the old Preston Street "graveyard." Immediately after her funeral, the site was purchased to be used as the Jewish cemetery. When Adas Israel was organized, owners of this ground donated it to the new congregation.

Shortly after the "three Bavarians arrived, the Sloss, Bensinger and Weis families moved here, as did Gerstle. With his aid, a room in the rear of Tandler's store was fitted up as a synagogue and "the first Jewish services were held in our city for the "great feasts of New Year" and Day of Atonement. Gerstle acted as Reader and a Mr. Straus, but recently arrived from Frankfurt-on-Main, delivered a lecture.

Gerstle states that the "main work of these men at that time was 'peddling' in Kentucky and Indiana." It was about two years later, by which time many more German immigrants made Louisville their home, that steps were taken to organize Adas Israel. One of the new arrivals was Abraham Tandler, who had brought with him a Sefer Torah. Tandler became the new congregation's first president.

A "fair-sized room" was rented "uptown," a Mr. Elsasser was engaged as minister, and Friday night and Saturday morning services were held regularly. Growing attendance necessitated larger quarters, so a larger building was obtained. Services were held on the second floor, while Mr. Greenebaum, the sexton, lived downstairs. Dinkelspiel was engaged as Minister and Reader,

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*Jonas helped Abraham Lincoln organize the Whig Party in Kentucky and in 1856 attempted to nominate Lincoln as the Republican candidate for President. Jonas later moved to Illinois and was in charge of arrangements for the Lincoln-Douglas debate in Quincy, Ill.

"he being a better Chasan (Reader) than Mr. Elsasser," according to Gerstle.

The early roster included such names as Emanuel Bamberger, Nathan Bloom, Emanuel Hirsch, A. Steinau, Samuel Ullman, Mark Straus, S. Goldberg, A. Sachs, A. Griffin, S. Rau, H. Fox, Isaac Wolf, R. Hirsch, A. Jessel, Kraft, Suskind, Starr, Klauber, Dr. Brandeis, Greenebaum, Bakrow, Stern, A. and S. Rosenbaum, L. Moses, more than one Grauman, A. Dinkelspiel, Fleischaker, Bierman and Mandel.

A Decision to Build

The congregation was meeting in rented rooms on Main near Brook, but by 1847 membership had grown to 76 and it was determined to build a synagogue. By April 1848, members had subscribed $1,200 and a lot was purchased on the east side of Sixth between Chestnut and Broadway. An agreement was made with the builder to pay him $1,500 during construction out of $2,000 to be raised from a mortgage, the balance of the cost to be paid in 6, 12, and 18 months without security. Every member was required to buy a pew for not less than $50, the pews to be sold at auction. A cornerstone was laid with great ceremony, but many members expressed dissatisfaction with the location. It was, they contended, too far from the business and residential sections.

At the height of this outburst, the president called a meeting at which he announced that he had succeeded in finding a lot on Fourth between Green (now Liberty) and Walnut, 50 by 200 feet, that could be bought for $2,750. Building stopped at once on the Sixth Street lot, it was sold, and the minimum price of pews was raised to $60. The Fourth Street site later became the property of the Louisville Free Public Library and after the library moved to Fourth and York it housed Kaufman-Straus Co.

The new temple was described by a chronicler of the day as "a frame house sitting back about 50 feet from the pavement, was well elevated, and reached by a double flight of stairs." Fire destroyed it in 1866.

Another description comes from Isaac Leeser, quoted in *Memoirs of American Jews, 1775-1865* and edited by Dr. Jacob R. Marcus (Jewish Publication Society, 1955). Leeser's comments, dated December 4, 1851, are:

"Adath Israel: We found the synagogue a beautiful building having a pretty portico and a convenient arrangement within. Only we regretted to observe that the work had not been well done and will require repairs before long. This is much to be lamented, as the congregation have made great efforts to erect a structure worthy of themselves; and, if we understand correctly, now owe only $4,000, for a cost of $20,000, the whole of which, if we err not, has been contributed by themselves, with, perhaps, the exceptions of (a) few small donations from elsewhere. We think that there are about 120 members; but the day we were there, the number present exceeded this greatly in the men's department, and the ladies' gallery was also well filled. If necessary, the seats could be greatly augmented, which would have been soon

required, had the persons favoring the Polish minhag (which differs exceedingly little from the German, to which the Adath Israel kahal belong) not separated lately to form a congregation of their own. But it gives us pleasure to state that the Rev. B.H. Gotthelf (of Adath Israel) assisted in consecrating the hall which they (the dissidents) occupy as a temporary place of worship, thus showing that the separation has not led to estrangement and ill will among the people. The dedication took place on the 21st of November, and we have been favoured with Mr. Gotthelf's address, which he delivered on the occasion...

"A school for religious education is much wanted at Louisville, and we have no doubt but the efforts will be made before long to establish one on a permanent footing."

The congregation organized a choir of boys and girls aged 9 to 12, advertised for a person to fill the position of "Chasan, Teacher and Lecturer, at a salary of $1,000," and voted to open a school as soon as a suitable teacher could be obtained.

With Rabbi J.K. Gutheim officiating, the new synagogue was consecrated in January 1849. Sale of the pews at prices ranging from $60 to $300 raised $7,886.50. Every member was compelled to close his place of business during the dedication exercises.

Congregational records state that one member threatened to burn down the synagogue if it installed an organ, and there was constant trouble over the qualifications of persons serving as shochet and the reliability of the city's butchers.

Adas Israel became headquarters for all Jewish communal and charitable work. In July 1849, its officers were empowered to delegate members to see to the care of the sick until such time as a society for this purpose could be organized. That August, it was determined to seek subscriptions for semi-annual remittances to Jerusalem through Sir Moses Montefiore.

In 1849, we are told in *Steeled by Adversity* by Salo Baron, a messenger rabbi came on behalf of 5,000 impoverished Jews in Jerusalem. "In Louisville, Aaron Selig's credentials were received by the trustees of the Congregation Adas Israel who laid the matter before the general meeting of the Congregation. Then a subscription was taken from the members to be paid and forwarded to Sir Moses Montifiour (August 13, 5609)." The Passover 1850 remittance from Louisville was $56. In one year, besides caring for its own poor, the congregation sent $100 to Jerusalem, $154 to New Orleans for yellow fever victims, and donated $119.75 to two strangers who had lost their wares in a steamboat fire.

In September 1849, the congregation employed B.H. Gotthelf of Philadelphia as "Chasan, Teacher and Lecturer" at a salary of $1,200. But Gotthelf was required to pay his assistants in the school, which was organized for teaching Hebrew, English, German, religion and elementary studies. Every member was required to help support the school and $700 was raised at once.

A year later, the school was dropped, a private school having been established by one Dr. Felsenheld. His school ran until December 1853 when it encountered financial difficulties. Its closing led the congregation to decide that as soon as $1,000 could be raised, its school would be reopened. On February 27, 1854, the congregation was advised of a $3,000 bequest from Judah Touro* and applied $1,000 of this toward the school. The school continued successfully until the building was destroyed by fire.

The decision of 1849 to keep the records in German stemmed from the large influx of Germans. This policy lasted 19 years.

In 1854, the congregation established a Relief Association, which was superseded by another group in 1876. For 1855, the Relief Association collected $1,143.78 and spent $1,036.28, while the school ran a deficit of only $255.90.

The congregation still could not afford a rabbi, although visiting rabbis graced the pulpit from time to time. Dr. Isaac M. Wise** of Cincinnati was a frequent visitor and was asked in 1858 to lecture once a month, but he found it impossible to do so.

The records show strong efforts during this period to introduce reforms and equally stiff opposition from those imbued with the Orthodoxy of their European homes. The ritual suggested by Dr. Wise won out in February 1855 and when a conference of Jewish congregations was called in Cleveland in October of that year, Adath Israel sent "Chasan, Teacher and Lecturer" Gotthelf as its representative.

Full-time Rabbi is Sought

It was in 1857 that the congregation gave serious thought to obtaining a full-time rabbi. An eloquently worded resolution describing a "qualified minister of character" was adopted. It proposed that "a suitable candidate" be elected for five years at a salary of $1,500, and if satisfactory, be offered life

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*Touro, a New Orleans merchant and philanthropist, died in 1854. Among his bequests was $143,000 to congregations in 17 cities, including Adas Israel in Louisville.

**Dr. Wise once was recruited for Adas Israel. His description of the incident, quoted in *Memoirs of American Jews, 1775-1865*, and dated March 1848 follows:

"Several days later, Mr. Schwab, now of Youngstown, Ohio, but then parnass of the Louisville (Ky.) congregation, visited me. 'You are the man for the young and energetic West,' said he. 'We have built a new synagogue in Louisville that is to be dedicated before Pesach (Passover). I want you to deliver the oration, and I assure you that the congregation will elect you at a good salary.' I was not disinclined to accept the invitation, although I gave no positive promise. I learned, upon careful inquiry, that the trip from Buffalo to Sandusky, Ohio would have to be made in a wagon, because navigation on the lake was impossible on account of the ice. This would have necessitated a long and tedious journey. Therefore I relinquished the idea of going to Louisville."

tenure. A cantor at a salary of $600 was also provided for. For reasons not in the record, ten years elapsed before the congregation elected Dr. Leopold Kleeberg as its rabbi and retained Gotthelf as cantor.

It was during a European tour in 1857 that Nathan Bloom and Emanuel Hirsch sought out Dr. Kleeberg of Elberfeld, Germany and offered him the post. He arrived in 1866. He was elected for a five-year term at $2,500, but this was raised to $3,000 the following year. Similarly, Gotthelf, engaged at the same time as cantor at $1,800 a year, had his pay raised to $2,100 the following year.

Joseph Cohen, brother-in-law of the rabbi, said that "one of the first acts of Dr. Kleeberg was to abolish the Jewish school. He rightly considered that in this land of freedom, where Jews and Gentiles had equal privileges, there was no need to isolate the Jewish children from their Gentile neighbors. He found the public schools in excellent condition and was instrumental in having the Jewish school discontinued, a step which proved a blessing for the Jewry of Louisville... The Jewish children carried off more school honors than their numerical strength would proportion for them. The religious school was continued on Saturday and Sunday morning."

In November 1859, Adas Israel held its first Thanksgiving service. Over the years, this service sometimes was held in connection with another group, as for instance in 1905 when the Unitarian Church of the Messiah joined in. But in recent years — for at least two decades — it has become an annual union service embracing nearly all of the Jewish congregations, each being host one year on a rotating basis.

Attendance at the congregational school had grown to 195 by 1863, and membership stood at 143. The need for larger quarters prompted a resolution in 1864 calling for construction of a new edifice. At this meeting, only $3,585 in donations and $4,270 in loans were offered.

Discussions for the future building and financing plans were still underway when fire destroyed the synagogue October 12, 1866.*

Temple Purchases New Site

Shortly after the fire, the building committee purchased the lot on the southeast corner of Sixth and Broadway as the site for a new building. This building subsequently served the congregation until 1906.

The building at Sixth and Broadway, completed in 1868, cost $144,000. For generations it was a Louisville landmark. Broadway was then a tree-lined street with handsome residences. Some years later, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was born, and it occupied three corners of the intersection at Fifth and Broadway. The building was sold to a Methodist church when Adath Israel vacated it and stood until about the time of World War II. The site is currently a parking lot.

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*The Louisville Theater, adjoining it on the north, also was destroyed. That year Louisville reached 100,000 population and had 1,000 Jews.

It was in 1873 that Adas Israel purchased 15 acres for its cemetery and allocated $8,500 to lay out roadways and beautify the grounds.

In 1876, the Hebrew Relief Association was served from the congregation.

Dr. Kleeberg held the pulpit 11 years. When the congregation voted to advertise for candidates, he resigned, and Dr. Emil G. Hirsch of Baltimore was elected as rabbi for three years, beginning his ministry March 1, 1878. A year later he was given a five-year tenure, and his resignation in August 1880 reportedly "caused so much disappointment and disillusionment that the future existence and welfare of the congregation was seriously in question."*

By this time Adas Israel, with 253 members, had become the second largest Reform congregation in the United States.

Dr. Adolph Moses was called from Mobile, Ala. to be the rabbi for five years, starting in September 1881. Moses was a doctor of medicine as well, having graduated from the old Louisville College with highest honors. He repeatedly was voted five-year extensions of his office. In 1891, the temple voted to increase his salary a second time, from $4,000 to $4,500. Rabbi Moses declined to accept the increase, declaring he already was getting enough money for his needs. The congregation presented him with a purse toward defraying the expenses of a second trip to Europe forced on him by his failing health. Ten days later he sailed for Europe to visit Carlsbad springs for his health and to see his old home in Germany.

During his administration, attempts to introduce Sunday services were voted down in March and June 1889, but the advocates of this move finally put it across in June 1891. The congregation continued to hold Sunday services for the next four decades.

The congregation in 1889 spent $4,000 for reconstruction of the temple and erected a $4,000 Sabbath-school building 1898.

Dr. Moses' poor health persisted and during 1899 and 1900 he grew more feeble, necessitating more frequent absences. During this time the pulpit was filled by faculty and students from Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati. Dr. Moses, hopeful of recovery, steadfastly refused permanent assistance, but was induced to yield in January 1901. On March 7, 1901 the congregation asked Dr. H.G. Enelow, then at Paducah, Ky., to become junior rabbi for three years at a salary of $2,500 a year.

Dr. Moses died January 7, 1902 after more than 20 years at Adas Israel.

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*It was after he had left Louisville that Rabbi Hirsch attained his reputation as the outstanding spokesman for the radical wing of Reform in the United States. He went to Sinai Congregation in Chicago in 1880, remaining until his death in 1923. For many years he taught rabbinic literature and philosophy at University of Chicago, which he helped to found. His forceful preaching and eloquent prose advanced the idea that the disciplines of "halachah" (the traditional way of life) yielded to the primacy of ethics. His central idea was that "The Jew was by history called to be the proclaimer of an ethical view of the universe and of man, of ethical monotheism."

Dr. Enelow succeeded Dr. Moses as full-time rabbi and the congregation began looking forward to the celebration of its 60th anniversary in 1903.

It was during Charles N. Goldsmith's term of office as president between 1898 and 1907 that the movement for a new temple began, and this opens a new chapter in the history of The Temple.

II. ADATH ISRAEL, BRITH SHOLOM AND MERGER

For many years individuals within both Adath Israel and Brith Sholom had favored merging the two, but by and large their ideas met with indifference. Changing conditions brought changes in sentiment, and in 1960 a vote on merger was taken at Adath Israel, the members splitting about 50-50 on the proposal. Sixteen years later the merger was accomplished, bringing into being The Temple, Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom.

First, let us pursue the stories of the two original congregations, starting with Brith Sholom. Then we'll return to the remainder of Adath Israel's long existence.

For 97 years Temple Brith Sholom was part of the city's religious and communal life. It played a dignified role — a small congregation characterized by a feeling of warmth and camaraderie. Finances, parking problems, membership dislocation and a search for community unity led to its merger with Adath Israel in 1977, just three years short of its 100th birthday.

Brith Sholom began in September 1880 with a meeting of 14 German Jews in Excelsior Hall at First and Market. They were dissatisfied with the mode of worship at Beth Israel Synagogue (later Adath Jeshurun). The founders of Brith Sholom wanted certain reforms in the ritual and felt that this could best be accomplished by organizing a new congregation. They elected H. Shoninger as president and Harry Klein as secretary. The minutes were kept in German. In fact, it was their dependence on German that kept them from joining Adath Israel, whose services were conducted in English.

Most of the ritual and sermons were in German, and from the outset reforms were introduced. An organ was brought in and men and women sat together. It was a Reform congregation in every respect except that the men still wore hats.

After a year in Excelsior Hall the fledgling congregation had raised enough funds to build its own house of worship, on First Street just south of Walnut. The building was dedicated in 1881. One of its earliest rabbis was Rabbi Emanuel Rosenfelder. The Rev. E.N. Meyers served as rabbi until 1885. The Rev. H. Kuttner, who succeeded him, remained until 1885.

Brith Sholom's next big step was to purchase land on Preston for a cemetery. The first burial there was on May 17, 1887, a short time after the property was acquired.

In 1892 Falk Vidaves became rabbi and further reforms were introduced. One of these, begun in 1893, was abolition of the practice of calling up members for Sabbath Torah readings.

In 1889 the Brith Sholom Ladies Benevolent Society was founded. It subsequently merged with an Adath Israel group and became Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society No. 1. A 1960 report claimed 509 members. Dues, its only source of funds, were $4 a year. Volunteers visited hospitals and Four Courts, and its sewing group made clothes for needy children. It contributed yearly to 18 local causes besides meeting emergencies. It was already a healthy teen-aged organization when the sisterhood was founded in 1906. The society observed its centennial with a musical revue at the Woman's Club on March 30, 1940. It finally merged with the sisterhood, which was founded as the Brith Sholom Ladies Auxiliary and whose first president was Mrs. Nat (Betty) Wile.

Sisterhood meetings originally were on the third Sunday of the month but husbands objected, so weekday meetings were instituted. As activities grew, conflicts in dates resulted. In 1927 the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations (now the Women's Committee of the Jewish Community Federation) sought to avoid conflicts and arranged for all of the local sisterhoods to meet on the first Monday of each month. This practice has continued ever since.

The Sisterhood, like most similar organizations, confined its efforts to temple projects, but in the early 1920s it did take an interest in youth outside the congregation. Under the guidance of Mrs. Morris Koch a foundation fund of $1,000 was set up to cover expenses of university students who became ill and needed help. This foundation operated at Jewish Hospital and when the need ceased, the accumulated funds were used to purchase an oxygen tent for the hospital.

In 1898 the congregation published its own prayer book, in Hebrew and English, for Sabbath and festivals. It was designated the first of three parts, but it is not known whether the other two sections ever were completed. The introduction to the 167-page book says this "is not a reformed prayer-book. The old liturgy has been abridged by omitting the parts of less devotional value, and made suitable for the use of American conservative congregations, like that of B'rith Shalom, at Louisville, Ky. These omissions, however, have been made with due regard to the 'Halacha,' or traditional law."

The congregation later adopted the Union Prayer Book of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. By the time a new prayer book was introduced in 1977, Brith Sholom had merged with Adath Israel and its old Union Prayer Books were acquired by Temple Shalom.

Lewis Dembitz, who once compiled his own American-style prayer book, was a lay reader at Brith Sholom.

Dr. Ignatius Mueller, a profound German scholar, became rabbi in 1895 and held the post 30 years, the longest tenure of any rabbi in Brith Sholom's history. By this time the congregation grew to 148 members, necessitating larger quarters. A church at Second and College, belonging to Fourth Presbyterian Church, looked like a good buy, and in 1903 Brith Sholom acquired it for $12,000. It sold its First Street property to Anshei Sfard.

Active in the building fund were A. Lederman, who from 1884 to 1894 was the congregation's second president; Louis Strauss, secretary; Morris M. Kling, secretary from 1889 to 1894 and later president; Hilmar Ehrman, who was president from 1905 to 1910; Simon Lion, secretary and later vice-president; Herman Meyer, who was secretary in 1894, re-elected in 1904 and who held the post until his death in September 1946.* Nat Hoenig was president from 1910 to 1913 and again from 1917 to 1919. He served continuously on the board for 42 years.

Brith Sholom gave Jewish-Christian brotherhood a big boost in 1908 when Second Presbyterian Church at the southeast corner of Second and Broadway was destroyed by fire. The church gratefully accepted Brith Sholom's offer to use its temple for services and on January 6, 1909 its minister and elders sent an eloquent letter of thanks.**

A momentous occasion was the dedication December 19, 1910 of the Frankel memorial organ during Rabbi Mueller's tenure. The organ was the gift of a niece, Mrs. Hannchen Fichtelberger of Augsberg, Bavaria, in memory of Abraham and Threse Frankel and their son, Henry M. Frankel.

In November 1912 Moritz Mayer, Jacob L. Isaacs, Leon Rosenbaum, Simon Lion and Edward Brooks introduced a resolution calling for removal of head coverings, but several years elapsed before the congregation would accept this reform.

The congregation became Reform officially when it joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1920. That fall William B. Schwartz, a Hebrew Union College senior, was elected assistant rabbi. A year later Dr. Mueller became rabbi emeritus and left Louisville. He died four years afterward. At this point Rabbi Jerome Rosen took over. He held the pulpit until 1926.***

Rabbi Rosen was succeeded by Rabbi Solomon N. Bazell, who served until 1943, then obtained leave to become a Navy chaplain in World War II. On leaving the service three years later he resigned and moved to Richmond, Va. to enter private business. Rabbi Bazell launched a biweekly series of Sunday morning sermons on radio station WLAP in October 1931. In an era when radio was in full swing, this series won widespread attention. The sermon series ran until the following spring.

Student Rabbi Alfred Barnstom led the congregation after Rabbi Bazell left, but he too became a Navy chaplain a year later. Another student rabbi, David Raab, took charge from 1944 through 1946.

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*In December 1945 the congregation honored Meyer on his 80th birthday, noting that he had been secretary more than 40 years.

**The rebuilt church got a new neighbor to the south when the YMHA built at Second and Jacob. The rebuilt church burned again — in 1955 — and met in the YMHA until it relocated on Brownsboro Road.

***He resigned to enter business and in 1937 was managing Mill End Shop at 310 W. Walnut.

In June 1946 the congregation elected Rabbi Martin Perley, who took over August 1, 1946 after 3½ years as an Army chaplain. He had become well known to many Louisvillians while Hillel director at Indiana University.*

Rabbi Perley organized a daily nursery school in 1949. He revived the Men's Club and the Youth Guild and in 1948 founded the Mr. & Mrs. Club, which played an active social role.

It was at the close of World War II that Brith Sholom realized it was getting too big for its benches. The city was spreading outward and the majority of Jews were living in the Highlands. A resolution was passed to sell the Second and College site and build in the Highlands but two years elapsed before action resulted toward this progressive move. In fall of 1947 Brith Sholom tried to buy Douglass Boulevard Christian Church property at Bardstown Road and Douglass for $229,000. The offer, accepted by church trustees, failed to win the required 75 per cent approval of the membership.

While seeking a site it was learned in 1948 that the Kentucky Home School at Cowling and Maryland was for sale. The location was considered most desirable and that November the site was purchased for $25,000. Approximately $7,500 was spent renovating the building and it was dedicated in June 1949 as Temple House.

A year before the purchase, in fall of 1947, a building fund had been launched under the leadership of Stanley Lowenstein, with Morris M. Kling and Zach Oppenheimer joining the effort later. This brought pledges totaling more than $96,000.

The religious school moved to Temple House in May 1949. About that time the Church of the Open Door offered $60,000 for the Second and College property and the sale was concluded in March 1950.

The congregation retained architects to design a temple for the Cowling Avenue site, to be built in two stages. The first would be a social hall which could seat 545. This would serve as a place of worship until the second structure could be erected. The temple itself was designed for 500 persons with accordion doors into the social hall. Ground was broken for the first unit April 16, 1950 and the $125,000 building was dedicated March 30, 1951. The second stage, the sanctuary, was completed five years later, with formal dedi-

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*This proved to be more than merely bringing a new rabbi to the city. The rabbi's wife, Maie Perley, an author, soon became a leader in the United Jewish Campaign and the Conference of Jewish Organizations. She headed the UJC Women's Division in 1953 and 1955 and was co-chairman with Helen (Mrs. Carl K.) Helman in 1954. She was appointed to the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal, the first Louisvillian so honored, and for years made campaign speeches in other cities. She wrote a play, "The Quilt," especially for Louisville's observance of the Jewish Tercentenary in America. It was performed March 8, 1955 at Memorial Auditorium before an audience of 1,700. She took up oil painting, which became her main preoccupation during a long illness. She died in 1976.

cation August 31, 1956.*

In the mid-1960s Dr. Perley resigned to become executive director of the city-county Human Relations Commission. Ten years later he retired from that post and was elected chairman of a new group, the Jefferson County Council on Aging. He took over this volunteer post in March 1978.

Dr. Perley's successor was Rabbi Leonard M. Devine, who came in December 1969 from a Chicago pulpit he had held 13 years. Rabbi Devine sought, in his words, "to infuse a new spirit and to make the temple grow again." He revived the temple Seder, inaugurated Bat Mitzvah (Debbie Shiffman was the first), returned to use of the tallit and some traditional forms, began Hakafot and Selichot services and instituted monthly Havdalah services with the aim of stimulating cultural sessions in the home.

It was during Rabbi Devine's administration that the merger with Adath Israel was consummated and he remained as one of a triumvirate of rabbis.

Brith Sholom (its earliest form was B'rith Sholom but sometime late in its life the apostrophe was dropped) over the years built wisely and well. Its Cowling Avenue sanctuary had an elegant simplicity and an atmosphere of warmth. After the merger it became The Temple's headquarters pending construction of the new building on Brownsboro Road at Lime Kiln Lane.

Now let us turn back to Adath Israel.

Adath Israel, 1906-1977

A handsome Greek classic stone building at 834 S. Third Street housed Adath Israel from 1906 to 1977. "The definite beginnings of the movement for a new Temple are hard to determine," Alfred Selligman wrote at the time of dedication of that structure, but sentiment had developed that the Sixth and Broadway location had served its usefulness. The building was considered antiquated and the location, Selligman said, "was becoming more and more undesirable."

In April 1903 the Adath Israel Sisterhood was organized. This, Selligman wrote, "gave the women... influence and leverage in matters congregational" and thereafter "the matter of a new Temple became and always continued a live topic."

An accident precipitated action. In February 1904 a leak in the roof caused a considerable portion of the auditorium's ceiling to fall, after which architects considered the entire building unsafe. While repairs were being made, Sunday services until fall of 1904 were held at Temple Brith Sholom. Friday night and Sabbath morning services were held in Adath Israel's own undamaged vestry.

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*Brith Sholom's move to the Highlands ended an old practice of referring to congregations by location rather than by name. Brith Sholom had been known as "Second Street." Similarly, one said "Third Street" for Adath Israel, "Brook Street" for Adath Jeshurun, and "First Street" for Anshei Sfard. Many persons did not even know the formal names of the congregations.

At a special meeting held March 23, 1904 a resolution was adopted declaring a new temple was necessary. Nearly a month later a Ways and Means Committee, headed by M.H. Flarsheim, recommended such construction at a cost not exceeding $125,000 for grounds and building. In December 1904 the Commiteee on Building and Site, headed by Ben Straus, negotiated purchase of 129½ by 200 feet on the west side of Third Street south of York for $17,500.

Not all of the members were satisfied, so a special meeting was called January 5, 1905 at the request of the disgruntled members. This meeting "was marked by the greatest interest ever manifested" in the congregation's affairs, the record states. A decision resulted to build a new temple and five of the dissatisfied members were added to the building committee.

The enlarged committee reported unanimously to a special meeting of the congregation on April 27, 1905 that the site selected "was the most suitable and available one" and that the temple, plans for which had already been accepted, be erected on this lot. Designed by Kenneth McDonald and J.F. Sheblessy, its cornerstone was laid July 31, 1905. The contract called for completion by May 15, 1906.

Dr. H.G. Enelow was in Europe when construction began and Rabbi Isaac Landman of Cincinnati conducted "simple but impressive" services. About 30 members advanced $50,000 toward the construction with the understanding they would be repaid from proceeds of the sale of seats and other temple funds. They received no interest. The remainder came from a mortgage with Louisville Trust Company. The contractor completed the building on schedule and Jesse Woodbury & Co. of Boston installed the organ.

An impressive commemoration service June 3, 1906 at Sixth and Broadway marked the termination of almost 40 years of occupancy. The pulpit was graced by members who had witnessed its dedication in 1868.

At the time, most members lived in the area bounded by Broadway, First, Hill, and Fourth. Simon A. Dreifus lived at 1525 Cherokee Parkway, Meyer Krakauer at 1434½ Everett Avenue, Gustave Meyer in Castlewood, Mrs. Alice Rodgers at 4011 Grand Boulevard (Southern Parkway). But for the most part everyone lived in a small area, now known as Old Louisville, which until after World War II was a center of Jewish population. By that time, the descendants of the original families had moved to the Highlands and beyond.

The Rauch Years

For several generations of Louisvillians, Adath Israel was synonymous with the Third Street building and the regime of Dr. Joseph Rauch, who came to Louisville in 1912. Originally chartered in 1843 as Adas Israel, it was designated Adath Israel in amended articles of incorporation dated November 29, 1904.

It will be recalled that Dr. Enelow had been elected junior rabbi in 1901 and had taken over upon Dr. Adolph Moses' retirement. Rabbi Enelow had come from Paducah, where he held the pulpit at Temple Israel, then about 30

years old and described by a contemporary publication as being in a "flourishing condition." Dr. Enelow conducted two services, one on Saturday and another on Sunday, until he resigned in 1912 to serve Temple Emanuel in New York.

The Sunday morning services continued until 1932 when a current of traditionalism arose in the Reform movement, and Friday night services were instituted. Discussing this move, Dr. Herbert Waller years later recounted this anecdote: During the heated discussions about changing services from Sunday morning to Friday night one member was adamantly opposed. Reminded that he did not attend Sunday services, so why should he object, he retorted, "I'd rather not come Sunday morning than not come Friday night."

Dr. Rauch came from Sioux City, Iowa, where he had held a pulpit seven years. For the next 45 years he was generally regarded as the personification of Temple Adath Israel and as the unofficial but authoritative spokesman of the entire Jewish community.

Dr. Rauch was short, lean, and walked with a slight stoop. He had thinning hair and an intense look piercing through dark-rimmed glasses. His voice was low and slightly gravelly. His oratory was not flamboyant but his words moved people and he quickly endeared himself to all segments of the community. His entire life was one of intensity. He'd sometimes start work in his temple office at 5 a.m.

One incident that illustrates his intensity and devotion to people occurred when he paid a sick call on friends who were not members of his congregation. It was about 10:30 on a Sunday morning. He had gone to the hospital, but on learning that the patient had been released, went to her home. A pleasant conversation with patient, rabbi, and husband ensued. Suddenly Dr. Rauch looked at his watch, exclaimed, "Oh, it's after 12 o'clock already and I have a wedding at 1," and dashed off.

Another incident recalls the high regard for his oratory. When Louisville's Roman Catholic Archbishop John A. Floersh was contemplating a big civic dinner to start fund-raising for a projected new hospital, only Dr. Rauch would fill the bill. Needless to say, the campaign succeeded, and Our Lady of Peace Hospital is a reality.

Besides administering his large congregation, Dr. Rauch found time to serve 17 years as president of the board of Louisville Free Public Library, four years as chairman of Louisville's Red Cross chapter, 12 years as one of University of Louisville's trustees, and for countless other civic projects.

Once asked what had pleased him most about his life in Louisville, he replied "my marriage to Miss Etta Rosenfelder."* Her father was Rabbi Emanuel Rosenfelder of Brith Sholom. They were married June 17, 1923.

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*Her sister, Annie Rosenfelder, was a teacher. In those days teaching was one of the few professions open to women and attracted a considerable number of Jewish girls whose parents could afford higher education for them.

Mrs. Rauch often shook her head over her husband's boundless energy, as did many other persons. Mrs. Rauch, who became blind, outlived the rabbi many years. She died March 6, 1980. There were no children.

It has been said that perhaps Dr. Rauch's greatest accomplishment was gaining acceptance as a Jewish spokesman and as a bridge between the general and Jewish communities in an era when Jews were looked upon as second-class citizens.

His name has been heard pronounced many ways but to him it was R-ou as in out—ch as in the Hebrew letter het.

He was so well-liked generally that on May 8, 1955 First Unitarian Church (Fourth and York) dedicated a stained-glass window in his honor.

The entire city felt shock when he died February 18, 1957 at the age of 76. Flags flew at half staff atop City Hall and the Courthouse. Mayor Andrew Broaddus issued a proclamation of sympathy, saying, "No individual I can think of will be more keenly missed."

"Civic leaders were stunned at the loss of the seemingly indestructible spiritual leader — who twice in the past eight years had recovered from heart attacks with the 'characteristic resiliency' he once attributed to Jews under persecution," The Courier-Journal wrote. Monsignor Felix N. Pitt, secretary of the Catholic School Board and who was better known than the archbishop himself, called Dr. Rauch "an untiring and unpaid public servant... a man who loved the people." Similar tributes came from the Rev. Wilfred Myll, an Episcopal leader; Dr. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Methodist Bishop William T. Watkins.

This man of such widespread interests also found time for the International Prison Congress, was one of three men who organized the first Community Chest campaign, and helped establish the World Union of Liberal Judaism. He addressed the union's opening conference in Paris in 1955 and was named its first honory life member.

He was born December 25, 1880 in Austria and came to Galveston, Texas alone when he was 12. He often said he was glad he became acquainted with the U.S. deep in the heart of Texas instead of on the Atlantic seaboard because it gave him a better perspective than most newcomers. United in Cincinnati with his family, he studied at University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College, then at University of Chicago, Columbia, and Cambridge in England. He earned doctorates of divinity and laws and a doctor of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary while he was rabbi.

Despite his scholarliness he never lost his light and informal touch. On his first day at the temple, he chatted with Sandy, the black janitor. Sandy didn't keep his impressions to himself but right away called a leading member of the congregation to say: "The new rabbi is here now. I've just talked to him and I think we're going to like him fine." Sandy was right. Thirty years later, in 1942, the congregation elected Dr. Rauch rabbi for life.

Dr. Rauch served as a goodwill ambassador from the Jewish to the Christian community, a Courier-Journal reporter wrote, adding: "Once he

was described as a 'fine Christian gentleman," and the description brought a gentle smile to his face." Frequently he filled Protestant pulpits. On one such occasion in 1951 he was heard at St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church by a committee from Winston-Salem, N.C. which informed Dr. Rauch that their Episcopal church needed a rector and asked him to take the post. Dr. Rauch replied that he had been elected for life at his temple and also that there were "some minor theological obstacles in the way of my taking the post."

The year before his death he conducted a service for Baptists in Israel at the invitation of a minister who had attended Baptist seminary in Louisville. Dr. Rauch, who had taken a seven-week overseas tour, said "I enjoyed holding the prayer service, but I want to add that I converted no one."

He was a member of WHAS radio's panel of three ministers who spoke weekly on "The Moral Side of the News" and frequently participated in radio and television panel discussions. Always outspoken, he once touched off a flurry of controversy by suggesting on "Moral Side of the News" that whipping be restored as a way of coping with juvenile delinquency. Another suggestion on this panel led to establishment of a Mayor's committee that helped bring Hungarian refugees here.

It was during his library-board presidency that segregation was abolished at the main library and later at its branches. On a visit to Jefferson County Jail he expressed shock at the number of young prisoners, with the result that Sheriff Bruce Hoblitzell Sr. gave him and three other clergymen deputy sheriff's badges to enable them to enter the jail at any time to help prisoners.

After World War I, Herbert Hoover, then the American relief administrator, sent him on an unattended investigation mission to Eastern Europe.

He went to Israel in its strife-torn days after World War II to see for himself what was going on. At first he was anti-Zionist, having helped Lessing Rosenwald establish the American Council for Judaism, which held that American Jews had only one loyalty — to the United States. But Dr. Rauch later found this approach to be in error when Israel proved to be the only haven for refugee Jews, and publicly disavowed his association with the council.

He was a member of the executive committee of the Southern Council on International Affairs. Here he advocated a blunt policy toward Russian communism, calling it "not only anti-religion, but anti-human." On another level of international affairs, he was elected first chairman of the University of Louisville's International Center when it was founded in 1951 and headed its Cultural Committee.

Dr. Rauch worked hard for better education, denouncing reactionaries' "witch hunts" in schools. He served in 1953 as co-chairman of a Citizens Committee for the Six-Year School-Building Program. This group played a large part in getting voters to approve a 50-cent property tax increase for the city schools. (At that time there were separate city and county school systems.)

Dr. Rauch lectured widely, from Amherst College in Massachusetts to the University of Mississippi. He was chairman of the advisory committee on

religion in the universal military training experiment at Fort Knox and in 1947 testified before a Congressional committee studying universal military training.

He was a member of the boards of the Jewish Welfare Federation and YMHA. He was on the executive committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and president of Hebrew Union College's Alumni Association. He also served as a vice-president of Blue Cross, was honorary chairman of the Fire Prevention Council, a 32nd degree Mason, an honorary life member of the Elks, and a member of Rotary, Quindecum, and Conversation clubs.

He even found time to write several books, among them a prayer book, a *Manual of Conversion*, and *The Meaning of Torah*, and to contribute to Jewish encyclopedias.

It was at a banquet November 29, 1942 marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of Adath Israel that Dr. Rauch was voted rabbi for life. In 1947 he was honored for 35 years of service. The congregation gave him a new Buick. His old car? He was driving a 1937 Packard, a 25th anniversary gift from the temple. He sold the Packard, giving half of the money to Hebrew Union College and the remainder to an Adath Israel fund for religious education.

A grateful community memorialized him by establishing two permanent institutions, the Joseph Rauch School for Retarded Children, in New Albany, and the Rauch Memorial Planetarium at University of Louisville. It is ironic that the rabbi, who was so unscientific-minded, should be remembered with a scientific institution, but the planetarium was dedicated in April 1962 in honor of "a man who always had his feet firmly planted on the ground, but a man whose eyes were always on the stars."

Even though civic duties took so much of Dr. Rauch's time, temple activities continued to flourish.

Some temple highlights during his administration were:

Publication of the monthly Temple Bulletin began in 1913. Three years later the Confirmation Reception was inaugurated, replacing affairs given by individual families. Shortly afterward the Saturday religious school was discontinued in favor of Sunday school. A Temple Youth Group stemmed from a merger of the Junior Congregation organized in 1917 and the Junior Sisterhood. In 1922 property south of the temple was bought for $25,000 (In 1911 a similar purchase to the north had cost $12,000). An Adath Israel alcove was established in the University of Louisville library in 1925 and $1,000 appropriated for books of Judaica.

Beset with financing problems during the depression, attorney Will Heidenberg, the president, called a special meeting and explained the need for funds. Every member present voluntarily increased his dues.

The first time a Jewish congregation was invited to attend a Christian church occurred in 1945 during Gilbert Ades' presidency. Fourth Avenue Methodist Church asked Adath Israel to a Brotherhood Service in February

and Adath Israel hosted that group in May, instituting a custom that has prevailed since.

In 1931 the temple was host to a joint meeting of all of the city's Jewish sisterhoods, an unprecedented event but one copied a number of times since.

Dr. Waller Arrives

With continued growth Adath Israel considered it wise to provide help for Dr. Rauch, so in 1947 it brought Dr. Herbert S. Waller here as assistant rabbi. The two became co-rabbis in 1955. Dr. Waller, a native of Memphis, Tenn., had been rabbi of Temple Israel in Columbus, Ga. from 1939 to 1947. He attended Southwestern University and University of Cincinnati and was ordained in 1939 at Hebrew Union College with highest honors. In 1949 he earned a doctor of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was designated associate rabbi.

Dr. Waller has served many causes outside the temple. He was a member from 1960 to 1966, part of the time as president of the Louisville Board of Education, on the board and executive committee of Children's Hospital, a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee, and on the Clergy Committee of Metro United Way.

One of his favorites is Louisville Youth Speaks, which he founded as a forum in which high school senior-class delegates discuss current topics. It was the first Louisville program that brought together black and white students.

Dr. Waller in 1964 helped the Conference of Jewish Organizations launch the Rabbinical Conference, now the Louisville Board of Rabbis, and has served as its president on a rotation basis. The Board of Rabbis, Dr. Waller explained, is a means of providing "closer co-operation, co-ordination and planning among all rabbis. It has given a voice to the religious leadership of the community." The board co-ordinates matters of religious concern and is the focal point for referrals of a religious nature. Unfortunately, the board has lacked unanimity due to personal differences between two of the rabbis which affected their attendance at meetings.

While dissension of this nature is taken for granted in most communities, it is out of character for Louisville, where all rabbis have been generally co-operative except for short periods of friction between Orthodox rabbis two generations earlier.

Dr. Waller has served on the board and as chairman of Kentucky Blue Cross, on the board and executive committee of Louisville's Red Cross, and on the Advisory Commission of the Louisville Museum of Natural History.

For years Dr. Waller was moderator of an interfaith panel discussion, "The Pastor's Study," on WLKY-TV, the first such TV program here, and followed in Dr. Rauch's footsteps to become a member of WHAS' TV and radio "Moral Side of the News." This panel allocates the funds contributed to WHAS' annual "Crusade for Children". Dr. Waller has served on the U.S. board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, as a member of the board

of alumni overseers of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and on the alumni board of the College Institute. He lectures for the Jewish Chautauqua Society at Bellarmine College, a Catholic institution, where he presents a 3-hour credit course each semester on "The History of Judaic Thought."

On December 1, 1950 the congregation obtained a permit to build a two-story religious-education building just north of the temple. Much debate over the site preceded that decision. The brick and concrete building contains 15 classrooms and cost $200,000. It was voted to name the chapel in honor of Dr. Rauch when the rabbi refused to let the entire building be named for him. Religious-school enrollment then was 230 but by 1955 had climbed to 315 and the congregation had 640 families as members.

In 1965 Adath Israel was the site for the opening of a three-congregational venture in adult education. Under the name of Institute of Jewish Studies for Adults, Adath Israel, Adath Jeshurun, and Brith Sholom presented a course of "Studies In Jewish Culture" which proved highly successful.

Adath Israel had brought Rabbi Chester Diamond to Louisville in 1963 to be its associate rabbi after the death of Dr. Rauch. On Friday night, August 25, 1967, he participated in a special service marking the 20th anniversary of Dr. Waller's arrival. In November 1975 he was named co-rabbi.

In 1966 B'nai B'rith obtained a trial grant of $1,000 from the Conference of Jewish Organizations to establish a Hillel counselorship at University of Louisville and Rabbi Diamond became part-time counselor. The Hillel program since then has grown and in 1978 Mrs. Ilana Liebermann became its first full-time director. She resigned in November 1980.

Adath Israel celebrated its 125th anniversary January 19 and 20, 1966 with special Friday night and Saturday morning services. These were some highlights in temple history recalled at that time: In 1920, Sisterhood won its first representation on the temple board. Two years later the temple purchased property south of its building and later converted it into parking space. Adath Israel conducted its first outdoor religious service at Covered Bridge Reservation, the Louisville area's Boy Scout camp, in 1954.

On November 4, 1971, Rabbi Diamond began a class in elementary Hebrew for mothers of children in the temple's religious school.

The following year Dr. Waller wrote a special worship service for the Sabbath between Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays. Its theme was the question of the relationship between religious identity and our common political heritage.

Rabbi Haskell M. Bernat, who had once served a short stint as an assistant rabbi at Adath Israel, returned to Louisville to address the congregation June 4, 1972 in his capacity as director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' Chicago Federation.

The board took note of the many events that interfered wtih attendance at services, and on September 12, 1972 adopted the following resolution: "All members of the Congregation are urged neither to extend nor accept invita-

tions which conflict with the hours of Temple services." All auxiliary organizations of the temple were urged to adopt a similar resolution.

Dr. Waller's 25th anniversary as rabbi was observed November 3, 1972. In honor of the occasion the congregation established an annual award at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dr. Waller considers as one of his greatest accomplishments the staging of an ecumenical peace service January 29, 1973 to mark the end of the Vietnam War. He enlisted eight other religious leaders in the Louisville area, and on a cold, rainy day 1,000 persons described by a reporter as "peacemakers" jammed Adath Israel to thank God that the war had officially ended.

Joan Riehm wrote in The Courier-Journal:

"The crowd was Christian and Jew; Catholic and Baptist, student and businessman, blue jeans and high heels, bald heads and long hair. They all squeezed into the polished pews of Adath Israel Temple, 834 S. Third St., and heard Roman Catholic Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough tell them: 'War is man's greatest and cruelest act of futility.'"

The Rt. Rev. C. Gresham Marmion, Episcopal bishop of Kentucky, reminded the audience that the struggle for peace was not over, and there were messages from Sister Mary Frances Lottes, president of the Senate of Religious of the Louisville Catholic Archdiocese; the Rev. Walter D. Bingham, moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for U.S. and Canada; Dr. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; the Rev. Ralph Weedon, presbytery executive, Presbytery of Louisville Union; the Rev. Antony Beauchamp, pastor of St. Michael Eastern Orthodox Church, and Dr. Waller. The audience included Third District Congressman Romano Mazzoli and Mayor Frank Burke.

"In 45 short minutes," Ms. Riehm wrote, "the war that has claimed American lives for 12 years was laid to rest. The burial was quiet, like the peace itself, but the feelings were firm. As Archbishop McDonough put it, paraphrasing Pope Paul VI: 'War? No... no more... Please God, never again.'"

In February 1973 Adath Israel adopted the Hebrew Union College pattern of Sephardic (Israeli) pronunciation for Hebrew used in worship service. That November saw Torah reading introduced as a regular part of Friday night services.

Harry Geisberg, president of Adath Israel, participated in the 1973 centennial in New York of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in the founding of which Adath Israel had taken part.

Shortly after a destructive tornado struck Louisville in the spring of 1974, Dr. Waller led a prayer on WHAS for the entire community.

In February 1975 the congregation began using the new Reform Prayer Book and formally adopted it exactly a year later.

The sisterhood in 1975 voted to become a sponsor of the Kentucky Coalition for Abortion Rights, and in another area of public concern, the temple joined in a "Louisville United Against Hunger" community rally on March 16 of that year.

Perhaps anticipating the merger that ultimately took place, a joint Social Action Committee was formed by Adath Israel and Brith Sholom.

Indeed, social action was nothing new for Adath Israel. In 1968 it was invited to participate financially, along with Protestant and Catholic groups, in an Urban Studies Council, to be conducted by University of Louisville for the area south of the business section between Broadway and the university campus. This later became the Neighborhood Development Corporation. The Conference of Jewish Organizations allotted $500 so that Adath Israel could represent the Jewish community in this project. Even though the temple subsequently sold its Third Street property, it has continued to be active in this urban-development movement.

An educational development that got under way in February 1977 was the development of adult Havurot groups, which 12 couples joined originally. The Temple Bulletin said those "participating will attempt to define a Jewish lifestyle and to live that life." Since then groups of six to eight couples have met once each month in various homes to discuss Jewish topics and Jewish life.

Anatomy of a Merger

Adath Israel merged with Brith Sholom in August 1976 and its 1976 annual meeting (the last before the merger) made Rabbi Diamond co-rabbi, "with the intention that he become Senior Rabbi whenever Dr. Waller becomes Rabbi Emeritus." This event was anticipated at the end of 1979 but came about in 1980.

There had been merger talk a generation earlier but Brith Sholom backed off at that time because of Dr. Rauch's insistence that the combined organization should be called Adath Israel.

All along, Adath Israel had noted the trend of families to move northward and eastward, and in 1967 purchased 10 acres at Brownsboro Road (U.S. 42) and Lime Kiln Lane.

A resolution on relocation was brought up at the annual meeting May 23, 1976 and a secret ballot brought 396 votes for and 136 against relocation. At the same meeting a resolution to set a $1,900,000 ceiling cost on any new construction was defeated by voice vote.

Officers referred to "static and now decreasing membership" as their motive in wanting to leave downtown and "get the temple closer to the members." At the time, of some 600 family members, 138 were living in the Highlands, 155 in Crescent Hill and Indian Hills, and 105 in the Glenview area.

The congregation decided to plan a $1,700,000 structure housing a multi-purpose auditorium, a 200-seat chapel, a kitchen, and 20 classrooms. A three-year building fund campaign was to raise $1,000,000, sale of the Third Street properties was budgeted at $425,000, and a mortgage would cover the remaining cost. The temple building, which had been placed on the National Register

of Historic Places in 1975, and adjacent properties were subsequently sold to the 750-member, black Greater Bethel Apostolic Church, then at 707 E. Breckinridge, for $424,575.

Temple Brith Sholom lacked parking space and its religious school building was deteriorating, while its members, too, were moving farther away. These factors fostered growth of merger sentiment, and by the summer of 1976 informal discussions had led to a formal merger proposal.

On August 4, 1976, Brith Sholom's board voted 39 to 4 for the merger and six days later Adath Israel's board agreed by 27 to 3. As its next step, Adath Israel held 22 parlor meetings at various members' homes to discuss desirability and possible advantages of merging.

Adath Israel held a special membership meeting September 17, 1976 and voted 481 to 17 for merger. Separately, also at a special meeting, Brith Sholom members voted 317 to 129 in favor of union. There were some hard feelings expressed at both meetings, with the result that some 40 persons who felt that the combined temple would be too big, too costly, or too far away, organized Temple Shalom. Several other dissenters joined other congregations.

The merger proposal called for a new board of trustees of 42 members and set the cost of the new building at $2,500,000.

At the time of the merger Adath Israel's minimum dues were $190 a year and Brith Sholom's $200, plus 12 per cent at each for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Drafters of the merger projected a budget of $328,400 for the year ending June 30, 1978 with a deficit of $8,400, and $396,300 for the year ending June 30, 1981. Philip Flarsheim was president of Adath Israel and Ronald Abrams was president of the 350-member Brith Sholom.

The first consolidated service was held Friday night, December 24, 1976 at Brith Sholom's sanctuary on Cowling Avenue. Separate services were continued for several months but on March 5, 1977 the first permanent joint services were held. The Cowling Avenue address became headquarters pending completion of the new temple.

The two sisterhoods were consolidated January 31, 1977 with Mrs. James Hertzman as president and on March 6, 1977 the religious schools were consolidated.

In planning the new temple, it was decided to include an Early Childhood Educational Center to provide all-week-long educational facilities for younger children. Despite the original intentions, by the time the contract was let to Al J. Schneider & Associates, the price of construction had risen to $3,600,000. The congregation subsequently had its two architects — Joseph & Joseph and Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp & Associates — add about $400,000 more extra features. A ground-breaking ceremony was held December 11, 1977.

For two years after the merger — in 1978 and 1979 — High Holyday services were held in Memorial Auditorium (which Congregation Adath Jeshurun had used similarly in the 1950s). The temple had planned to be in its new sanctuary in September 1979 but it was not ready, and Memorial Audito-

rium had to be used once more. Dedication ceremonies were scheduled in May 1980 but a carpenters' strike held up completion, and dedication took place in August 1980.

In August 1978 Dr. Waller was appointed by the State superintendent of public instruction to a committee of eight clergymen to help school officials comply with a new State law calling for placing the Ten Commandments in public schoolrooms. The Jewish Community Federation and Kentucky Civil Liberties Union attacked the law as a violation of constitutional separation of church and state.

A special service in September 1978 honored Dr. Waller for 30 years' service to the congregation, Rabbi Diamond 15 years, and Rabbi Leonard Devine 10 years.

The Temple has become the home of Troop 30, the city's second oldest Boy Scout troop and one of the oldest in U.S. The troop was 50 years old in 1971, having been formed originally at the YMHA and later having moved to Adath Jeshurun. The latest move was in spring of 1978. Arthur Fleischaker, troop committee chairman, said that when The Temple moved to Brownsboro Road, the troop would have a new neighborhood and a new area to serve.

Housed in a new building, The Temple, Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom looks ahead to the challenge of bringing into a new and growing area of the city a Jewish religious, cultural and social center as it embarks on the second half of its second century.

Chapter 3

CONGREGATION ADATH JESHURUN

A stronghold of the Conservative movement is Congregation Adath Jeshurun, currently with a membership of about 700 families. The congregation dates back to 1851, but no existing official records indicate when or why the change from traditionalism to Conservatism was made. It became Adas Jeshurun in 1894.

"Adath Jeshurun...began as Beth Israel in 1851, and dedicated its first building in 1857," says a 1966 Adath Jeshurun publication.

Beth Israel started as the Polish House of Israel and long afterward was known simply as the Polish synagogue. It received a charter in 1856 with a Dr. Bernell listed as its leader. Earliest record found of Beth Israel is the 1859 city directory, which lists it at 127 W. Green (now Liberty), on the north side of the street between First and Second. That directory lists as officers M.D. Levy, parnas (president); Louis Levenson, vice-president; Marks (sic) Levy, treasurer; Lewis N. Dembitz, treasurer; Abraham J.H. Bernal, cemetery sexton; John A. Jessel, Moritz Cohen and Herman Harris, trustees; J.G. Solomon, rabbi, residing on Market between Second and Third, and Louis Rosenfield, sexton.

The 1870 directory lists a Dr. L. Kleeberg as rabbi, and 10 years later, Rabbi E.N. Meyers, with A. Kohn as president. The congregation moved to Green near Preston when that area acquired a high density of Jewish population. In 1894 it adopted the name Adas Jeshurun and sold that building, acquiring a small red-brick building at Floyd and Chestnut, today the site of Children's Hospital.

"For years the membership remained small but devoted," a congregational historian wrote, "while the Conservative movement grew in this country. Adath Jeshurun thus was one of the pioneers in adjusting to the American environment while remaining loyal to Jewish traditions."

A 1901 publication said leaders of the congregation had been Rabbi Cohen, Dr. Rosenfield, Dr. Meyers and Dr. Hofield, and in describing the remodeled building at Floyd and Chestnut commented: "The ark is said to be one of the prettiest in the South."

From September 1888 until April 1891 Beth Israel's rabbi was Dr. F.S. Solinger. He went to Pittsburgh and obtained a medical degree while serving as a rabbi there. He later returned to Louisville to be rabbi at Adath Jeshurun while he practiced medicine, but subsequently moved to Chicago. In 1898 Adath Jeshurun had a cantor named Benjamin Wolfson.

Dr. Solinger was succeeded by Rabbi Abraham Nowak, who served until 1917 and was succeeded by Rabbi J.J. Gittleman.*

*Dr. Nowak afterward held pulpits in the East. He died in 1977.

On July 29, 1911, Adath Jeshurun gave a picnic at Shawnee Park for the benefit of its religious school. A reporter described it as "the oldest Orthodox congregation in the city," A.M. Jacobstein was president and J.H. Leventhal, superintendent of its religious school. At that period Sabbath schools were conducted not only at Adath Jeshurun but at Adath Israel and Brith Sholom as well. The Sabbath school continued until early in Rabbi Gittleman's administration, and a congregational Hebrew school met three times a week. The switch to Sunday schools took place in the 1920s.

The congregation experienced vast growth in numbers and prestige during Rabbi Gittleman's tenure. Rabbi Gittleman had an engineering degree from New York University, then attended Jewish Theological Seminary. His Louisville position was his first and only pulpit. He was made rabbi for life prior to his retirement in 1965. He died May 17, 1971 at the age of 78. Adath Jeshurun had some 50 families when he arrived, some 600 when he died.

Although a forceful speaker, Rabbi Gittleman was better known as a teacher and a diplomat than as a rabbinic scholar. Like his Reform colleagues, he too took on many civic duties outside the congregation. He was a panelist on WHAS' "Moral Side of the News" and active in the Boy Scout movement.

It was in 1917, under the leadership of Michael Switow, who owned a chain of movie theaters, that the growing congregation decided to build a larger synagogue in a more convenient location. The outcome was the domed structure at Brook and College and it was there that the explosive growth of Adath Jeshurun occurred.

During the patriotic days of World War I, Adath Jeshurun was the scene of an impressive flag service on February 22, 1918.

Just a few weeks later, on June 16, 1918, the cornerstone was laid for Brook and College. The building was dedicated September 7, 1919 but the first service there was held July 5, 1919. The dedication was an impressive event, with leaders of all segments of the community participating. Louis C. Grossman,* chairman of the Building Committee, turned the key over to President Switow. Rabbi A.L. Zarchy gave the invocation. Dr. Joseph Rauch of Adath Israel gave dedication speeches and Rabbi Ignatius Mueller of Brith Sholom offered the closing prayer.

The need for a community house was foreseen as early as 1921, and the congregation began to raise $20,000 for this purpose. In 1923 its school had 200 participants, divided into 11 classes, including a post-graduate class.

The Active Men's Club was founded in 1922, with Joseph Goldberg as first president. It continued until the early 1970s.

In 1925, faced with the pressure of an eight-grade Sunday school, the congregation added its community house, consisting of an auditorium, 11 classrooms, and a rabbi's study. For several years in the period around 1930

*Grossman's children, all of whom were later active in civic life, were Sidney, Maurice, and Ruth (Mrs. Roy K.) Diamond.

the congregation held duplicate High Holyday services in the community house, primarily for the benefit of its young adult members. Dr. J. Irwin Essig, a dentist active in many cultural activities, led these services.

Support of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, home of the Conservative movement, was always a part of Adath Jeshurun's program. An Armistice Day mass meeting in 1923 raised $15,000 toward the seminary's projected $1,000,000 endowment fund, Chairman M. Switow himself contributing $1,000. Rabbi Jerome Rosen of Brith Sholom spoke at the meeting.

Rabbi Gittleman's interest in Scouting led Adath Jeshurun to sponsor Troop 111 during the 1930s. It later merged with Troop 30.

The congregation held a 90th anniversary celebration in 1941.

Congregational growth after World War II necessitated renting Memorial Auditorium at Fourth and Kentucky for High Holyday services as the only way to accommodate the membership. This practice continued until the congregation built its Highlands synagogue. For these services the stage of Memorial Auditorium was graced with a reproduction of the synagogue's Bima (pulpit area) and Ark against a background simulating the marble of the Brook and College sanctuary.

A combination of growth and changing geography led the congregation to seek a site in the Highlands, then the area of highest Jewish concentration. The result was purchase of the 4½-acre Beard estate on Woodbourne Avenue for $59,150.

Several months after acquiring the property, the congregation in fall of 1951 opened its religious school in the remodeled Beard mansion with its highest enrollment ever.

A building fund was launched in 1953 under the leadership of Robert J. Berman and the $300,000 goal was oversubscribed. Berman led another drive in 1956 which added funds to enable the congregation to build its present sanctuary. It was dedicated September 20, 1957. It was designed to seat some 500, with a movable partition opening to the adjacent auditorium seating an additional 400. This accommodated the entire congregation at High Holyday services for a few years, but soon a need for additional space was felt. To solve a different kind of space problem a parking lot was added with funds voluntarily provided by the members.

After moving into the new building the congregation saw the need for giving assistance to Rabbi Gittleman and Rabbi Louis I. Lederman was brought in as assistant rabbi. He remained two years, after which Rabbi Morton (later Mordecai) Levy held the assistant's post three years. Rabbi Levy left Louisville in April 1964.

Rabbi Levy precipitated great dissension among members by suggesting that Adath Jeshurun withdraw its support from Louisville Hebrew School and conduct its own Hebrew classes. The congregation at times had its own Hebrew classes but strong community support for Louisville Hebrew School led Adath Jeshurun to discontinue employing its own Hebrew teacher. Meeting after meeting was held, advocates of both sides canvassed members, and

arguments pro and con filled the air, but Rabbi Levy's proposal was voted down by the members.

In October 1963 the congregation voted to proceed with plans for a new religious-school building, and by February of the following year had raised $225,000 for the purpose. In March 1965, while the building was under construction, the board voted to require every member to pay $250 over a period of five years. At the dedication February 13, 1966 the building was named the J.J. Gittleman Educational Center. Classes had begun there in the fall of 1965.

In one of the rare financial statements ever provided to members, President Stanley Bordorf on July 1, 1965 wrote that Adath Jeshurun's entire physical plant represented a total cost of $1,141,442.55, broken down as follows: Land, $59,492; synagogue building and furnishings, $658,876.03; parking lot, $17,782.91; office furnishings, $1,669.31; education building, $353,522.30, and furnishings for classrooms and auditoriums, $50,000. He said that on the basis of its membership of 560 families, "more than $2,000 has been spent on behalf of each family."

The congregation at that time had a 5¼ per cent mortgage for the unpaid construction costs, but the total was not disclosed. That same year the congregation boasted of having 17 religious-school teachers with three assistants, a nursery-school head and three other teachers, and two full-time maintenance employees. There were 348 pupils in the religious school, 45 in nursery school, 25 bar mitzvahs, two bat mitzvahs, 13 weddings, 400 sisterhood members, and 140 men's club members.

In addition to using the new building as a religious school, operation of a daily preschool for younger children was begun. These classes have continued ever since.

Dr. Simcha Kling, an intense, scholarly man, came from Greensboro, N.C. August 1, 1965 to be the new rabbi, the title of Rabbi Emeritus having been conferred upon Rabbi Gittleman. Kling's dynamic personality and his ability to expound Judaism in modern terminology made him an immediate hit. He was installed at a Friday night service September 17, 1965 at which a colleague, Rabbi Joseph Asher of Greensboro, was speaker. Rabbi Kling lost no time in launching the synagogue's fall activities.

Rabbi Kling, an ardent Zionist who had spent much time in Israel, immediately began the use of Israeli Hebrew in the service. He eliminated the repetition of Musaf (additional service) and encouraged the participation of younger people in leading the services.

The year that he arrived, New Year's Eve fell on Friday night. So, on December 1, he wrote to his membership: "In our culture, New Year's Eve is celebrated by partying, drinking and noise-making. Ordinarily, there is no objection to all that goes on even though it is a pagan celebration. But, when it conflicts with the sanctity of our Sabbath, it is morally and religiously wrong to follow the usual pattern...One must make a choice between two sets of values and whether you choose the Sabbath or New Year's Eve will tell more than any words you can utter what is important to you.

"If you decide that the Sabbath is less important, do not be surprised if your children some day tell you that Judaism is not important to them... This is one Sabbath when you should be present in the synagogue. This is one Sabbath that should not be publicly desecrated."

The service drew about 150, then considered a large audience for Friday night.

The congregation at that time was served by much-beloved Cantor Morris Pernick, who had come from Sioux City, Iowa, almost 25 years earlier. Cantor Pernick's two main interests were the Jewish National Fund and Jewish education. Unfortunately, his voice began to fail and in 1970 he took early retirement to live in Beersheba, Mr. and Mrs. Pernick's son and daughter having gone to Israel several years earlier.

Opening of the education building in 1966 improved operation of the religious school but it also alleviated the overcrowding that occurred during High Holyday services. It made possible the holding of duplicate services in the new building's Anne Lipski Auditorium. Ever since, members have had their choice whether to participate in the larger service in the main sanctuary and its companion Shapira Auditorium, or in the more intimate service in the Lipski Auditorium. Two rabbis and two cantors alternate between the two services. For a number of years Rabbi Bernard Och of Haifa has served as auxiliary rabbi for these services. Harold Katz, then executive director of the Jewish Community Center in Birmingham, Ala., served as auxiliary cantor several times.* More recently Sidney Baldwin, a knowledgeable member of the congregation, has officiated.

Upon settling in Louisville, Rabbi Kling turned his attention to adult education, launching classes in Jewish studies and Hebrew on Tuesday nights and Sunday and Thursday mornings. Unfortunately Rabbi Kling's own classes sounded the death knell for the three-congregational Institute of Jewish Studies launced the previous year. Without Adath Jeshurun's participation, the series reverted to routine adult education in the two Reform temples.

Rabbi Kling's classes differed from the usual pattern. Instead of starting off with big attendance and dwindling through the season, these classes grew in numbers week after week. The classes also drew non-Jews and people from as far as Elizabethtown, 50 miles away. This kind of interest continued through 1974, the year in which Rabbi Kling left to spend a sabbatical year in Israel.

While he was away the congregation was led by Rabbi Benjamin Englander, a retired rabbi who came from New Jersey to fill in.

The success of Rabbi Kling's classes brought Adath Jeshurun the 1967 Solomon Schechter award for excellence in adult education from the United

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*Katz years earlier had been program director of the YMHA. He married Lucille Bleiweiss of Louisville. Always interested in music, he organized and directed a strong YMHA chorus. He retired from the Birmingham post in 1978 and now lives in California.

Synagogue of America, the national organization of Conservative congregations. Since then Adath Jeshurun has received both this award and the United Synagogue's award for excellence in congregational music.*

As a replacement for Cantor Pernick, the congregation retained Cantor David Aptowitzer of Agudath Israel Congregation in Ottawa, Canada. He was due to arrive August 28, 1970 but due to illness decided at the last minute not to accept the Louisville post.

The congregation was successful in obtaining the services of Cantor Marshall Portnoy, a versatile musician and graduate of the cantorial school of the Jewish Theological Seminary. With his choir, he introduced much new music into services and has trained many young men and young women to read the Torah and to conduct services. In 1972 he launched the annual Festival of Music concerts to make observance of Jewish Music Month a big event. He also started imaginative Tisha B'Av services and entertaining Purim festivities.

Portnoy, who in 1978 was also named educational director, has played an intensive role in Louisville musical circles. Since 1974 he has written program notes for the Louisville Orchestra. In addition to a wide vocal range his talents include playing the guitar and piano.

To return to other congregational matters, we find that in 1974 the annual meeting voted to establish an endowment fund whose income could be used for synagogue purposes.

A festive Shabbat family dinner Friday night, April 25, 1975 honored 12 living past presidents and memorialized seven others who had died. The living past presidents were Max Waldman (died 1976), Murrel D. Klein, Robert

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*Rabbi Kling served on the Law Committee of the Conservative rabbinical association and has made strenuous efforts in behalf of women's equality in the synagogue.

Always championing the State of Israel and the Zionist movement, he wrote several books of biography of Zionist leaders, as well as *A Sense of Duty*, a guide for young people that was circulated widely by B'nai B'rith.

His interest in Zionism led to his being made a board member in December 1978 of the newly formed MERCAZ, the Movement for Reaffirmation of Conservative Zionism, and editor of its newsletter. MERCAZ was founded, Rabbi Kling said: "Because we were not a distinct party and worked through other groups, we were not able to introduce our special insights and have been discriminated against in Israel. Both the Reform and Conservative remain unrecognized (in Israel) because we have not been a party in an organization built on parties while the Orthodox, who do constitute a political party, have been part of coalition governments and control religious life.

"A year or so ago the Reform established a Reform Zionist party in order to have a voice in Zionist affairs and to fight for the rights of Reform Judaism in Israel ...MERCAZ...is a great step forward — for us of the Conservative movement as well as for Israel."

Several months later, Rabbi Kling announced that MERCAZ had enrolled 90 members in Louisville.

Berman (died 1979), Hyman Frockt (died 1978), Hyman Morguelan, Bernard Goldstein, Leon Shaikun, Harold R. Morrison, Alvin D. Younger, Stanley J. Bordorf, Stuart M. Schulman and Farrell E. Salzman.

In need of funds to pay for much-needed improvements to the building, which by then had become 20 years old, the board in June 1978 asked members to pay an additional year's dues over a three-year period. A new roof cost $30,000 and driveway repaving, $30,000. Remember the president's report in 1965 in which he listed the cost of the parking lot at $17,792?

Though concerned with a junior congregation, United Synagogue Youth, and other activities affecting young people, Adath Jeshurun did not neglect its college students who were away from home. In 1979 the congregation sent to 55 college students, children of members, Passover packages containing matzo, macaroons and candy.

Also in 1979 Adath Jeshurun staged a social that attracted 100 men, women and children among newly arrived Russian Jews. The party was an effort to acquaint the Russians with the synagogue and the community. Some who attended had never before been inside a synagogue and one guest told President Barry Schermer she had never had such a nice evening in 60 years. The Russians helped with their own party, four of them having spent the day at the synagogue baking goodies for the occasion.

At Shabbat services April 14, 1979 the congregation dedicated a Torah scroll that came from Congregation Adath Israel in Hopkinsville, Ky., which was disbanded after some 50 years' existence. Mose Bohn of Hopkinsville, Adath Israel's last president, participated in the dedication. Jewish families have all but vanished from the Hopkinsville area. Many had moved to Louisville and were members of Adath Jeshurun.*

Rabbi Kling represented the United Synagogue of America at a ceremony May 13, 1979 in Lexington, Ky., at which he presented a charter for a new Conservative congregation. The new group is using a Sefer Torah on loan from Adath Jeshurun.

In June 1979 Cantor Portnoy, as educational director, proudly announced that 12 members of the confirmation class were joining a United

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*Among the members with Hopkinsville connections were Mrs. Stuart Schulman, originally from Central City; Dr. Harold Klein, originally from Russellville; Mrs. David Cohen, mother of Thelma (Mrs. Aaron) Chase (active in Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood) and one of the Hopkinsville congregation's original members; Mrs. Ann Leah Ruby Blieden and her sister, Mrs. Shirley Ruby Greer, originally from Central City, and Mrs. Marvin Churney, Hopkinsville.

Speaking of Hopkinsville, for many years a former Louisvillian, Robert B. Sapinsley, a scion of the Shapinsky family, was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce there. His brother, Edwin Sapinsley, had been general secretary of the YMHA here before moving to Memphis to enter the motion picture distribution business. Two forebears of the family, Louis Shapinsky and Simon Shapinsky, had been presidents of Adath Jeshurun in its early years.

Synagogue Youth Israeli Pilgrimage to spend the summer in Israel. Another group went in 1980.

Despite a great backlog of traditionalism among many older members, there has been greater women's participation. As a result, an ad hoc committee was appointed in June 1979 to see what could be done in this area. The congregation had placed Bat Mitzvah in its Shabbat services as far back as 1970; prior to that, since the first Bat Mitzvah in 1958, the ceremony had been a minor addition to Friday night services. Educationally, boys and girls were treated equally, while women are counted in the minyan and called to the Torah. The new committee was instructed to study several aspects of participation in the home, in ritual, and in education, and to make recommendations to the board of trustees.

Rabbi Kling with his wife Edith, herself a capable teacher in congregational classes and at Louisville Hebrew School, and their three daughters have been staunch fighters for more recognition of women in Jewish life. Yet a hard core of traditionalism remains among the membership and the future of the congregation depends on how skillfully the board of trustees handles this situation in addition to its normal responsibilities of programming and financing.

Chapter 4

CONGREGATION ANSHEI SFARD

The wave of Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe in the 1880s brought record numbers to New York and Baltimore, and many of these newcomers found their way to Louisville, either following earlier relatives or in search of economic opportunity.

Among these were some from the south of Russia, from an area of Hasidism. The existing congregations failed to meet their religious standards, so they met in a private home in 1893 to hold Passover services. Thus was born Congregation Anshei Sfard.

On a sultry day in June of that year, Alex Speevack, Jacob Brownstein, Rubin Anis, Isaac Levitch, Henry Roniger and Marcus Schneider met with County Clerk George H. Webb and drew up articles of incorporation. They chose the Sephardic ritual used by the Hasidim, hence the name Anshei Sfard for their synagogue. Leon Yolles of Winona, Miss., whose family later moved back to Louisville, was one of the early members.

The articles of incorporation specified that the net capital worth of the nonprofit corporation would be $4,500, with a debt limit not to exceed $4,000.

The descendants of these families still are counted among Anshei Sfard's membership. One of these is Speevack's son, Dr. Maher "Babe" Speevack, a physician in Munfordville, Ky. Levitch's sons were Phil and Leon Levitch, and the family contributed funds that resulted in the Levitch Auditorium and the Levitch Lobby being named in the founder's honor. Two of Schneider's sons were Ben Snyder, founder of the department store chain that bears his name, and Mendel Snyder, in whose memory the Mendel Snyder Auditorium was named.

The congregation met upstairs in a private meeting hall on Seventh Street for its first High Holyday service. Nathan Baer, whose family still provides congregational leadership, was elected president.

Services were held at various locations, and soon the need for large, permanent quarters became recognized. Just a few years after Anshei Sfard was founded, Temple Brith Sholom was planning to move to a newly acquired building at Second and College. Anshei Sfard purchased the Brith Sholom property at 511 S. First and remained there until 1958.

In 1928, a social center and auditorium were added adjoining the main sanctuary, knitted together by an imposing entrance. The new facility enabled the congregation to launch a religious school, a sisterhood and a men's club. It was dedicated June 24, 1929. Congregational leaders then were P. Greenberg, president, and Rabbi Benjamin A. Cohen. The cost was $150,000.

Among older residents who remember when Madison Street was a beehive of Jewish activity, there remains a vivid picture of the alley just south of Walnut being used as a short cut from Brook Street to Anshei Sfard. It was especially welcome in cold, snowy winters and on rainy days.

During a period of growth preceding World War I the congregation felt that a single citywide Orthodox rabbi was unable to give Anshei Sfard all the services it considered needed, so the members brought Rabbi Z. Klavansky to Louisville.

Rabbi Klavansky held the pulpit 15 years, under trying circumstances. Old residents recalled that Rabbi A.L. Zarchy, who had been ministering to three congregations on a rotation basis, took unkindly to the idea of having a second Orthodox rabbi in the city. Though considered a saintly scholar, Rabbi Zarchy looked upon Rabbi Klavansky's arrival as an affront to his authority. Rabbi Zarchy, having by then been in Louisville a number of years, had a substantial and devoted following. This group began looking down on Anshei Sfard and snubbing Rabbi Klavansky. Only after a generation passed from the scene was the situation changed. Today, under the leadership of Rabbi Solomon N. Roodman, Anshei Sfard remains the city's only fully Orthodox congregation.

Rabbi H. Leibowitz followed Rabbi Klavansky. In turn came Rabbi W.W. Wulf and Rabbi Benjamin Cohen. In 1930 Rabbi Charles B. Chavel assumed office.*

Anshei Sfard marked its 50th birthday with an impressive program the weekend of February 19-21, 1943. Its membership roster then listed 186 names.

It was in the booming postwar years of the early 1950s that the forward march of Anshei Sfard was interrupted by a notice that the synagogue occupied part of the right-of-way for a new North-South expressway (subsequently built as I-65).

The board of directors took stock and noted that the Jewish community was fast relocating in the East End. The YMHA already had foreseen the necessity of relocating and had purchased 16 acres on Dutchmans Lane across from Bowman Field. Anshei Sfard in 1955 purchased 17½ acres adjoining the YMHA property. Subsequently the new Jewish Community Center built there purchased four acres from Anshei Sfard to use as ballfields.

The congregation decided to build a school building and a chapel, and a fund-raising drive was launched in February 1957. The response was considered overwhelming, with the result that groundbreaking ceremonies were held that same spring. The first phase of the future Anshei Sfard complex with completed early in 1958. Meantime, Sunday school classes were held next door in the Jewish Community Center.

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*Rabbi Chavel already had a reputation as a scholar at Beth Ha-Midrash La-Torah (Hebrew Theological College) of Chicago. He remained here 15 years, then went to New York, where he since acquired further luster as a scholar with his English commentaries and translations of the works of Maimonides and other Jewish classics. He was young and a far cry from the old-time image of a rabbi as a man who was always immersed in study and books. Rabbi Chavel was an ardent handball player and often could be found in a hot game at the YMHA.

Religious school classes, as well as Shabbat and weekday services, were transferred immediately to the new facility. By this time, the old synagogue at 511 S. First had been demolished. Because the Levitch Chapel held only 150 worshippers, accommodations had to be sought elsewhere for the High Holyday services. The Jewish Community Center allowed Anshei Sfard to use its auditorium for these services. The Center auditorium was used again in 1962 and 1963.

One of the colorful incidents in the congregation's history was a Torah Transfer Service conducted in December 1959 by Rabbi Roodman before an overflow audience at the old location. Three of the Torah scrolls were transported by limousine to the new Levitch Chapel. It was an inspiring scene as the Torahs were conveyed into the chapel amid song and prayer, following which the first official service was held in the Levitch Chapel.

Another moving incident occurred after the State officially acquired title to the First Street building in fall 1961. The bill of sale included a clause granting the owners the right to remove the Ark before demolition began. Max Yanoff volunteered to disassemble the Ark, which was then removed to Anshei Sfard Cemetery.

The entire building was demolished in 1962. One of the stone facings was saved by Dr. Harold Berg, a surgeon whose hobby is making mosaics, for inclusion in the new synagogue structure.

Anshei Sfard protested the price set by highway appraisers for its First Street property and took the case to court. The congregation won and came away from court richer to the tune of several thousand dollars.

The congregation continued its fund-raising efforts, and on November 11, 1962 held a ground-consecration ceremony on the lot adjoining the educational building. Earth imported from Israel was sprinkled on the site by pupils of the religious school and appropriate prayers offered.

A major fund-raising drive took place in February 1963 and ground was broken in June of that year. Joseph & Joseph Architects drew plans and Ale Bornstein & Son was awarded the construction contract.

In July 1971, Anshei Sfard merged with a younger congregation, Agudath Achim, which had been organized about 1922 by families living in the West End. It first met on Seventh Street, later on Sixth near Walnut, before moving to 11th and Jefferson. With the demise of mom-and-pop stores and the outward migration of Jewish families, Agudath Achim was unable to survive as a viable congregation.

Agudath Achim owned a synagogue at 1113 W. Jefferson. In April 1964 it was forced to sell it to the city's Urban Renewal Agency. The sale price was $55,000. Sam Rosenberg, secretary, said at the time that the congregation had hoped to find a new location, but this proved impossible.

Originally Agudath Achim had no rabbi, but Rabbi A.L. Zarchy, the city's Orthodox rabbi, included it in his rounds. Later there was a rabbi. In 1949 President Esor Deitz announced that Rabbi Louis Schechter, 31, of

Wichita, Kan., would come to Louisville. The congregation at that time had been without its own rabbi for 10 years.

A sad incident that occurred not long after the opening of Anshei Sfard's new sanctuary was the death of Maurice H. Goldberg, a stalwart of the congregation, during Yom Kippur services in 1972. He was stricken near the end of the day and died shortly afterward.

Anshei Sfard observed its 80th anniversary in 1973, making it an occasion for dedicating an educational wing to be known as the Max and Pearl Miehl Educational Center.

Rabbi Roodman, a man who compensates for his short stature by using long words, is known as a raconteur and humorist, and has regaled many an audience with his witticisms. He is what constitutional lawyers would call a "strict constructionist" in matters of religion. He shuns non-Jewish civic activities in favor of cultivating the religious vineyard. He was president of Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith and served as advisor to the Hillel unit at University of Louisville. He has taken it upon himself to supervise the city's kosher facilities and he represents the Orthodox union in the Louisville area.

On February 6, 1966 Anshei Sfard honored Rabbi Roodman on the 20th anniversary of his arrival, and 10 years later another gala dinner marked his 30th anniversary.

The congregation at one time had its own cantor. The last person to serve in this capacity was Cyna Barber, a shochet. He moved to California in the early 1960s. Since the fall of 1964, Myron Horvitz (elected president in 1978) has led the High Holyday services. Horvitz received his musical training under Cantor Abe Goldstein (who had been cantor at Keneseth Israel until his death at an early age) and a Cantor Goldring of Indianapolis.

Today about 300 members look to Anshei Sfard to uphold tradition.

Chapter 5

CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL

The handsome structure at 2531 Taylorsville road, with its semicircle of 12 uniquely Jewish stained-glass windows looks like the home of a large, affluent, and well-run congregation. It is Keneseth Israel, the largest assemblage of Orthodox families in the city. Its windows, each representing a different event in the Jewish calendar, are the original work of a local artist, William L. Fischer. Indeed, at this writing, the congregation is celebrating its centennial amid plans for expanding, preparing to build a new social hall and added kitchen and classroom facilities.

But outward appearances belie the long and often stormy history of Keneseth Israel, whose very consolidated beginning stemmed from a financial crisis.

To go back to its origin: "In 1840, the American Jewish community numbered approximately 15,000, ten years later 50,000, and by the outbreak of the Civil War 150,000," wrote Stanley Feldstein in *The Land That I Show You* (Anchor Press, New York, 1978). "On the eve of the great Russian invasion, in 1880, the total had grown to 250,000. By the time the second migration had subsided, American Jewry was transformed into a German community."

Louisville was no exception. The Jewish community of the bustling metropolis in the mid-19th Century definitely was German, primarily centered about Temple Adas Israel, and there were also some Polish families. The city began to attract more Jewish immigrants. The Lithuanian and Russian Jews who began making their way into the city in the immigration wave of the 1880s felt ill at ease in the synagogues they found here. Those congregations had introduced several deviations from traditional Judaism.

Primarily for this reason but also to retain East European associations, they began to hold services in a loft above a kosher butcher shop on Jefferson Street between Floyd and Preston, and on April 20, 1877 formally established B'nai Jacob Congregation.

Membership grew rapidly, and by 1887 a second congregation, Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, was in existence. Both prospered. B'nai Jacob in 1890 had a meeting place at 137 E. Market, with Rabbi M. Weinberg in charge. Five years later, led by Rabbi Solomon Scheinfeld, it occupied premises at 454 E. Jefferson. Beth Hamedrash Hagodol in 1895 was at 420 S. Floyd. Henry Shaknerovich was its rabbi, but he was succeeded in 1896 by Sundel Israel.

B'nai Jacob outgrew its quarters and on March 24, 1901 dedicated a new synagogue at 432 E. Jefferson, which remained its home until the birth of Keneseth Israel. In 1905, its sister congregation, Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, purchased a building at the northeast corner of Preston and Fehr (now Liberty) and remodeled it for use as a synagogue.

Orthodox life pulsated in the miniature shtetl along Preston Street as Eastern European Jews continued to move into the city. In 1903, when both congregations were seeking rabbis, the Vaad (which has continued in existence with several changes in name) brought Rabbi Asher L. Zarchy here from Des Moines to become Chief Rabbi of Louisville, not in charge of any congregation but rotating among the existing Orthodox congregations. Rabbi Zarchy held this post until his death in 1932, but unfortunately his writings and early records of the congregations have been lost.

Despite their growth, which resulted in part from the last large wave of immigration just after World War I, both congregations encountered financial difficulties. Leon Sher, a merchant tailor and longtime president of B'nai Jacob, overcame the rivalry between the two congregations and put across a merger proposal. Thus in 1926 Keneseth Israel was born, with Sher from B'nai Jacob becoming president and Abraham Zimmerman*, who had headed Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, as vice-president.

The merged congregation brought in Rabbi Albert N. Mandelbaum in 1927 to be its spiritual leader, and shortly after his arrival the services were consolidated in the Preston and Fehr building. The B'nai Jacob building was sold to a private club, later became St. Michael Eastern Orthodox Church, and subsequently was bought by the city and razed for the construction of I-65.

Rabbi Mandelbaum established a religious school and organized a Sisterhood. As he strove to build a strong congregation, the aging leaders split along ideological lines — the issue of congregational vs. shtetl dominancy — with the result that friction developed between Rabbi Zarchy and Rabbi Mandelbaum and never abated until Rabbi Zarchy died in 1932.

Keneseth Israel members early on decided it was time to erect a new synagogue. In October 1927 title was acquired to property on Gray Street between Preston and Floyd and a campaign meeting was held with 450 men and 300 women in attendance. That meeting raised $75,000. But before plans for the new structure became final, it was determined that the character of the neighborhood was changing, so a new site was found, at the southwest corner of Floyd and Jacob.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held July 31, 1928, and the cornerstone was laid in November of that year for a building designed by Joseph & Joseph, with Platoff & Bush as the general contractor.** Eleven months after the groundbreaking, the community center was opened, and shortly after-

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*Zimmerman, quite a learned man, operated a bookstore and though he lived to be over 100, was able to be active in the business until his death. His son, Phil, still operates the store in another location.

**The Courier-Journal sent a reporter named Sullivan to cover the ceremony. The chairman mistook the name to be Solomon and left him to fend for himself. Many of the talks were in Yiddish and poor Sullivan had a difficult time getting translations so he could write his story.

ward, the synagogue itself was opened. At the center's opening, bricks were sold at $5 each to help defray the cost of the $250,000 project. Formal dedication services were delayed, finally being held between December 27, 1929 and January 5, 1930.

By this time the country was in the throes of the Great Depression and even with a membership of 498 families, Keneseth Israel found itself in fiscal trouble. The constant pressure of finding enough money to operate left little energy for spiritual pursuits. Rabbi Mandelbaum tendered his resignation, but a congregational meeting 1930 refused to accept it. However, he left the city shortly afterward.

Rabbi Zarchy died in 1932 and in January 1933 Rabbi Ben Zion Notelevitz was installed as the chief Orthodox rabbi of Louisville, as well as acting rabbi of Keneseth Israel. A congregational publication noted that "his dual role as rabbi of the city and as acting spiritual leader of Keneseth Israel created dissension among the members." A telling note in the minutes states that when seeking a new rabbi, the congregation must only consider one who delivers his sermons in English." Rabbi Notelevitz had come from Sadover in Lithuania and gave Yiddish sermons.

While dissension smoldered within the community, the congregation decided to retain its own rabbi, and in September 1935 Rabbi Benjamin I. Brilliant arrived from Kingston, N.Y. to assume the pulpit.

Rabbi Brilliant's original contract, for two years, called for him to be "spiritual and social leader" for $40 a week, with four weeks paid summer vacation.

In an attempt to broaden the scope of Jewish education, the congregation in 1935 opened its religious school to children of non-members.

The congregation sold the Preston and Fehr property to the Volunteers of America and for a time its financial pressures were relieved.

Rabbi Mandelbaum meanwhile had filed suit against the congregation charging breach of contract. This suit was settled in 1936 but no terms were disclosed.

Bickering over their spheres of authority developed between the rabbis, and each had his own clique of adherents. A letter which Rabbi Notelevitz wrote to the Jewish Morning Journal in February 1937 requesting Jews of the United States to "help" Louisville's Jewish community, stirred a storm. The American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith took notice of the letter, with the result that a meeting of Louisville's Jewish leaders was called in the office of Charles W. Morris, chairman of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. Hot discussion ensued but no action was taken and dissension continued to plague Keneseth Israel for two decades.

On the positive side in 1937 was a joint service on March 5 at which Keneseth Israel was joined by Congregation Anshei Sfard, whose rabbi was Charles B. Chavel, and Agudath Achim, represented by Rabbi E.M. Bleiberg.

Another forward step was the discontinuance that year of public appeals for funds during services.

Acrimony persisted within the community. President Sam Goldstein was quoted in The Spokesman March 26, 1937, as saying that "after many conflicts and because of harsh words from the pulpit, it was decided by the board of directors not to allow Rabbi Notelevitz to speak in Keneseth Israel." At a later board meeting, The Spokesman said, Rabbi Notelevitz's chair was ordered removed from the pulpit after Mrs. Notelevitz had interrupted the service "with a spontaneous speech in behalf of her husband." Rabbi Notelevitz protested to the Rabbi Elchanan Yeshiva in New York, which ultimately ruled that he was the senior rabbi at Keneseth Israel and that his chair should be restored to the pulpit. The seminary was induced to hold another meeting in New York to consider withdrawing Rabbi Brilliant's semicha (ordination), but this tactic failed when younger rabbis on the faculty protested.

On March 28, 1937, Rabbi Brilliant was given a five-year contract with an increase in pay. About this same time, President Sam Goldstein called a special meeting of the congregation, at which the policy was adopted that "the synagogue would at all times consider itself an autonomous body responsible only to its own conscience and to the religious precepts of its faith."

Not long after this incident Rabbi Notelevitz left the city. He had been paid by the Vaad Hoir and there has never been a "chief rabbi" since. The Vaad has continued in existence under changes in name, but for the last decade it has held no regular meetings or elections.

After World War II another dispute arose which threatened to destroy Keneseth Israel. A younger element within the congregation began pressing for mixed seating. Traditionalists fought the proposal. In spring 1950 "sit-down strikes" by women disrupted services. On one Sabbath some women were so adamant about entering the men's precincts during services that police had to be called. In June 1950 a resolution to build a mechitzah (partition) was unanimously adopted by the board and there was a threat to ask the courts for an injunction to halt the sitdowns. Rabbi Brilliant refused to continue services while women sat downstairs.

Harry Simon, a traveling salesman* who was leader of the opposition to mixed seating, became so outspoken that the congregation expelled him from membership. Simon and his attorney, Maurice Horvitz, claimed they were abused at meetings and one time ejected bodily, suffering some physicial injury. (Simon was a prolific writer of letters to the daily papers on Jewish topics.)

Simon filed suit for $100,000 against the congregation and its 24 trustees, charging he was expelled "without a hearing." The Jewish Post said Simon blamed the loss of "a good deal of business" and the need for medical treat-

*Not to be confused with another Harry H. Simon, a Farm Credit Administration accountant and twin brother of pharmacist Alex Simon.

ment on the dispute and its aftermath. He said he suffered "bodily and mental ills."

"The leadership of the Louisville Jewish community, apprised of the imminent filing of the suit, sought vainly to avoid a public fight," the Jewish Post reported. Clarence F. Judah recalls the episode this way in "Unity In Community":

"The Conference (of Jewish Organizations) was called in as mediator in the hope that it might prevent unfavorable publicity in the public press stemming from lawsuits and members' denunciations of other members.

"Chairman (J. Marshall) Bensinger and the writer, both representing the Conference, attended an unforgettable standing-room-only Keneseth Israel meeting. It was only our presence on the podium that tended to calm some of the participants and to make possible compromises which later proved generally acceptable. The Conference representatives carefully avoided taking sides but asked for calm discussion and for deliberate and careful decisions.

"When Charles W. Morris, the former Chairman of the Conference, was retained by the congregation in a lawsuit brought against it by one of its resigned members, hard feelings were engendered. Sad to say, these have not entirely disappeared from our community even today (1974). Mr. Morris felt that by accepting the case he would be in a position to work out compromises satisfactory to both sides, but the viewpoints were too divergent to make this possible."

The Jewish Post also said it was during the course of this dispute that Rabbi Brilliant, according to Simon's suit, "upheld the wealthier members and began a campaign of systematic abuse, vituperation and slander of the objecting members, most particularly, this plaintiff," Lengthy stories of the filing of the suit were carried in both daily newspapers.

Simon's suit never came to trial. Depositions filed in Jefferson Circuit Court recounted the slanderous language that was used, and Simon finally accepted a settlement of several thousand dollars. Simon gave the money to the fund for starting the Louisville Jewish Day School.

The Jewish Post of September 1, 1950 wrote: "A mechitzah of red plush on chromium stands has been erected. Despite the presence of the partition, many women continue to sit upstairs in the balcony separately from the men, in accordance with traditional practice. Attendance at a recent Saturday was around 125, almost as many women upstairs as downstairs.

"It was reliably reported that the congregation contains an element which still feels that the erection of the mechitzah was a mistake. Some 12 men who used to attend Saturday services regularly at Keneseth Israel now attend services at Louisville's other Orthodox synagogue.

"It is presumed that the mechitzah will satisfy the women who objected to separate seating."

While the mixed-seating controversy was the cause celebré of the entire Orthodox community, Alex I. Bass, one of those who refused to countenance mixed seating, was elected president of the congregation. Rabbi Brilliant, who

at first had opposed mixed seating, was won over by the opposition. President Bass was snubbed by the rabbi at a confirmation ceremony and shortly afterward a new election was called by the board, by now dominated by mixed-seating advocates. Louis T. Roth, an accountant, was elected president. After this rebuff, Bass' family and several other families left Keneseth Israel.

The congregation's official history has this to say:

"The dispute over the mechitzah disrupted the congregation far more seriously than the official minutes indicated. The rabbi was reaffirmed as the sole authority to speak on this religious matter. However, the bitterness which had been generated resulted in a serious challenge to the pulpit, personal vindictiveness and an ugly lawsuit. The mechitzah remained and various resolutions were adopted, some later followed and others disregarded, and many respected members felt they could not remain under such conditions and withdrew from the congregation. Rabbi Brilliant himself fell victim to this period and accepted a post in the Bronx."

Among the dissidents, Horvitz left the congregation and joined Anshei Sfard. (Horvitz' son, Myron Horvitz, became Anshei Sfard's president in 1978.)

Rabbi Brilliant left in September 1952 after 17 years at Keneseth Israel. On September 4 of that year, a special meeting of the general membership voted a change in seating and decided to seek a new rabbi. The mechitzah disappeared and the congregation, heretofore styled Orthodox, ever since has called itself Traditional. One rabbi in later years rationalized the congregation's mixed seating by saying he was ministering to the 10 men (the traditional minyan quorum) in the first two rows; the rest of those present were "visitors."

The arrangement adopted at a special board and membership meeting November 6, 1952 called for separate sections for men and for women but permitting mixed seating on the remainder of the first floor and the balcony. The west side was set aside for men, the east side for women, with the center mixed, subject to approval of the spiritual leader. This arrangement met "wholehearted approval" after the first few weeks.

Amid all the controversy, there were some constructive developments. In 1951 the congregation purchased 76 by 190 feet west of its building, making its total frontage on Jacob Street 276 feet and giving it more parking space. The following year, bus service for religious school pupils was instituted, at 15 cents a round trip, accommodating 60 children. In April 1954, under leadership of Mrs. William B. Schwab,* Keneseth Israel organized what it called the first Jewish Girl Scout troop here. And that same year, as acting assistant scoutmaster at Troop 196, Stuart Herzberg became the first Jewish Boy Scout in Louisville to qualify for the Ner Tamid award.

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*Her husband, a rabbi, taught at Louisville Hebrew School and later took a pulpit in Lexington, Ky.

Cantor Meyer Elias meanwhile had been engaged after Abe Goldstein died unexpectedly at a comparatively early age. Cantor Elias had been in a concentration camp and later in Rome. He held the position until his death in August 1980.

Rabbi Baruch Rabinowitz arrived in 1954 from Augusta, Ga. to be the new spiritual leader. One of the messages that came to his installation was a cable from Jerusalem: "We shall always remember the great service of Rabbi Baruch Rabinowitz for Freedom Cause and Liberation Fighters." It was signed by Menachem Begin, then little known outside Zionist circles.

Rabbi Rabinowitz conceived the idea of publishing a translated prayer book and entered into a contract with a New York scholar to co-author and produce *A Transliterated Machzor for the High Holidays.* The congregation paid out $1,500 for the publication costs and was to get a royalty of 9 per cent on sale of the first 1,000 copies, 11 per cent for the next 1,000, and 13 per cent for all above 2,000. The project flopped and the congregation was sued by the New York agent, but the case was finally settled by payment of $175 in October 1955. Rabbi Rabinowitz was praised in the congregation's official history for "his forthright sermons and warm personality," but a question arose as to his Orthodox rabbinical qualifications and rather than submit to inquiry, he resigned and left the city.

In the spring of 1954, the ceiling collapsed in the main sanctuary, just two days after several hundred persons had attended Passover services there. A neighbor reported to President William Benovitz that he heard "a big noise" inside the building and the collapse was discovered. The congregation sued two insurance companies for $32,000 but received only $1,000 in settlement, from which it had to pay a $200 attorney's fee plus another $10 for expenses incident to the case. But the collapse had one beneficial effect. A campaign among members raised sufficient funds to repair the damage and install air-conditioning, along with other refurbishing of the building.

In 1956 Rabbi Milton H. Polin came from Cheyenne, Wyo. to lead the congregation. He instituted a strong educational program and moved the congregation to more activity. Thus the need to provide more adequate facilities began to challenge the members.

"Should the congregation add to its beautiful synagogue at Floyd and Jacob or build anew in a different location?" is the way the official history posed the question. "For at least a decade Jews had been settling around the confluence of Bardstown and Taylorsville Roads and they justifiably demanded that their synagogue follow suit. A special meeting was called and 80 per cent of those present voted to embark on a total building program in the East End."

The congregation purchased property on Taylorsville Road just east of Valletta for $67,000. There were legal obstacles to overcome, but the 4.6 acres finally acquired proved to be within a two-mile radius of three-fourths of Keneseth Israel's members. There was an appeal for funds. Thomas J. Nolan & Sons drew plans for an educational center, and a contract was awarded to

Platoff Construction Company. On June 9, 1963 ground was broken and the congregation moved in February 1964, even before the building was completed. The Floyd and Jacob property was sold to a black congregation.

While services were held in the educational building, the congregation continued to solicit for its building funds and conducted weekly bingo games to raise money to proceed with construction of the main sanctuary.

Rabbi Polin resigned in October 1966 after 10 years in Louisville, to accept a pulpit in St. Louis, and Rabbi Stephen Marcu succeeded him in April 1967. He left three years later to take a position in Kansas City, Mo. and Rabbi Irving P. Glickman came from Winnipeg, Canada in March 1971.

Meanwhile Joseph & Joseph Architects had designed the new sanctuary and a contract was let to I. Bush & Sons. Ground was broken in June 1969. First services were held in the new building March 27, 1971 and formal dedication ceremonies were held November 19-21, 1971.

In 1976, the congregation launched a new building fund, this time planning a new auditorium suitable for medium-size group meetings and nursery school, an expanded and remodeled kitchen, a new women's lounge with facilities for brides and attendants, additional classrooms, an area for meetings and adult classes, a Pullman kitchen, an expanded men's lounge, and a new rear lobby and coat room. No target date has been set for this project, whose cost in mid-1979 was estimated at $500,000.

The congregation holds late Friday night services monthly, and since Rabbi Glickman's arrival the practice of having Bat Mitzvah ceremonies on Friday night was instituted. Three years earlier the congregation opened a pre-school.

From 1932 until 1969 or 1970, Max O'Koon was executive director of the congregation, and members noted with pride that he "carried in his head" all of the facts involved in administration of the congregational property and its cemetery. Since his death, Leon C. Sherman* has held this post.

A dinner June 8, 1980 inaugurated the congregation's "centennial year," honoring original Keneseth Israel families and those who had been with its predecessor congregations. The year 1980 was chosen because it marked 100 years since unity talks were held with a group that had organized Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, even though no merger resulted at that time.

Keneseth Israel is the home of the Chevrah Kadishah (burial society), which is coordinated by Leon C. Sherman. Its 1979 members included Abe Lyons, David Kahn, Daniel Openstone, Jonathan Levin, Sarah Strull, Davida Levin, Celia Ginsburg, Sarah Person, Rosalee Krupp and Gertrude Feldbaum.

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*Sherman is a retired Post Office employee, having attained the highest rank of any Jewish employee in Louisville's postal administration. He was once considered in line to be postmaster, but political influences stood in his way. His son is attorney Erwin A. Sherman, who is active in B'nai B'rith and other community affairs.

The congregation also maintains the Gemilas Chesed, a free-loan society to serve those in need. David Kahn was in charge in 1979.

The congregation's membership is about 470 families, and on the High Holydays it accommodates 1,050 persons. Despite the conflicts which have shaken it through the years, Keneseth Israel has a loyal core of members who are looking forward eagerly to the completion of their proposed new and expanded facilities.

Chapter 6

TEMPLE SHALOM

When Temple Brith Sholom and Temple Adath Israel decided to merge, there were a number of persons who felt they would have "no place to go." So in October 1976, forty-three persons organized Temple Shalom. Since then the fledgling Reform group's membership has grown to about 70 families.

Milton Greenbaum was elected the first president. He was followed in office by Dr. Leonard Klein, elected in 1978. Dr. Klein, who had been first vice-president and chairman of the religious committee, performed the new congregation's first wedding ceremony when David Rosenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rosenberg, married Martha Gatz at Gardencourt in June 1977. Seymour Krinsky became president for 1979-80.

Temple Shalom at first held Friday night services in the Jewish Community Center, utilizing guest speakers and with a student rabbi coming from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati every other week. This space arrangement did not prove satisfactory to the Center and the Temple membership, so Shalom sought other space. Since midsummer 1979 its services have been held in a chapel at Bellarmine College.

Rabbi Stanley Miles, who is married to a Louisvillian, the former Sheila Abramson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Abramson, came here August 1, 1978 to be the congregation's first full-time rabbi. With his arrival the congregation started Sunday school and adult classes in Hebrew and Jewish studies.

The congregation negotiated with Cave Hill Cemetery to set aside a site for Jewish burials, Shalom being the only Louisville congregation not owning its own cemetery.

Separate from his temple duties, Rabbi Miles has been conducting Shabbat morning services at Shalom Tower. In his short time here, Rabbi Miles has become active in many areas of community life. He has been teaching at Louisville Hebrew School, was co-chairman of the Jewish Film Festival and is secretary of Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

EDUCATION

Chapter 7

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION

At least two decades before Jewish communities everywhere began to pour funds into Jewish education Louisville was already thinking about it.

The Conference of Jewish Organizations in April 1943 granted $500 to bring Dr. Emanuel Gamoran from Hebrew Union College to study the city's Jewish educational programs and to recommend ways of improving these on a basis of communal responsibility. Charles Strull headed a committee to work with him. The committee also included Arthur S. Kling and Alexander W. Erlen. Dr. Gamoran's study, unfortunately, had to be shelved due to wartime demands on Conference funds.

Four years elapsed before anything was done, despite prodding by Kling, who was a most insistent proponent of ideas for the community's benefit. At the Conference's 1947 meeting the recommendation of Strull's revitalized Jewish Education Committee was adopted and $10,000 from the United Jewish Campaign was earmarked for the establishment in 1948 of a Bureau of Jewish Education. The Bureau's functions would be:

1. To establish a Talmud Torah in a convenient location.

2. To establish a college of Jewish studies to train religious-school teachers and give continuous education to them and Hebrew-school teachers, to inaugurate courses in Jewish studies for youth and adults, and to develop courses that would broaden parents' Jewish interests.

3. To plan a community-wide system of Jewish education through a director who would be principal of the Talmud Torah, co-operate with existing congregational schools, advise the YMHA on educational programs, and direct the college of Jewish studies.

The search for a director proved a difficult and exacting task for the committee, which represented all ideologies in the communtiy. Reform members feared an Orthodox director would be too dogmatic to satisfy their needs, while Orthodox leaders demanded a director who would meet their ideological standards. The result was a compromise — the Bureau director would not be principal of Louisville Hebrew School, but the school would receive funds to employ its own principal. The search took nearly a year.

As it turned out, the committee made an excellent choice, bringing Dr. Israel T. Naamani from San Francisco to be the Bureau's first director. He managed to satisfy all elements of the community and later did become principal of the Hebrew School. When he resigned as director his successor also became the principal.

In 1949 Dr. Naamani began teaching part time at University of Louisville. This precipitated discussion concerning his role as Bureau director. Com-

pelled at last to make a choice, he decided that he preferred to teach and resigned as Bureau director in July 1964.*

Not long after the Bureau was established, a public-relations problem developed. Dr. Naamani was often asked by teachers and principals in public schools to develop material for Chanukah programs and to participate in them. After much discussion among Conference leaders a policy was adopted that the Bureau director should discourage joint Chanukah-Christmas programs since they violated the First Amendment principle of church-state separation and that he should not prepare or participate in such programs. This policy still remains in effect.

The Bureau published teachers' manuals, songsheets and materials for special observances and developed into a resource and information agency on Jewish topics for the entire Greater Louisville area.

Dissatisfied with the quality of information on Jewish topics, the Bureau in 1958 began publishing a BJE Newsletter. It continued until Dr. Naamani left the Bureau. The Newsletter went to board members of congregations and service agencies. It covered a variety of topics in a sprightly manner.** The first issue, for instance, asked "Who Is A Jew?" and presented views of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel's deputy minister of religion and its minister of interior, a Hebrew University professor, the American Council of Judaism, and Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the

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*Dr. Naamani continued as "consultant" but remained on the university faculty until his death March 5, 1979 at the age of 66. He once headed the political science department but quit that post because of ill health. He was considered an expert on the Middle East and on relationships between politics and religion. He was president of the Association of Professors of Hebrew and editor of its prestigious journal, *Hebrew Abstracts.* He visited the Shah of Iran in 1965 on an undercover mission for the State Department and in 1978 visited Jordan's King Hussein to gather material for a book. He arrived in Iran the day the Romanian ambassador was due, was mistaken for the ambassador, and was given a 21-gun salute.

A native of Russia, he had lived in Palestine 10 years. He played basketball at Marquette University, where he received an undergraduate degree, and remained a lifelong sports fan. He later studied at University of Chicago and received a doctorate at Indiana University. He was a prolific writer, turning out Sunday articles for The Courier-Journal and some 300 articles in Hebrew and English for scholarly journals. He wrote several books, among them *Israel: A Profile* published in 1972 and *Israel: Its Politics and Philosophy* in 1974. (This very book is largely due to his motivation.)

**Dr. Naamani was short of stature but long on wit and his puns and witticisms enlivened many an otherwise dull meeting.

Reconstructionist movement. One edition, while the Dark Continent was making headlines, carried this:

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS

RESURGENT Africa is now in the news. Who was the greatest and most influential man born on that Continent? Got you stumped? Look it up in your "chumash," the Five Books of Moses.

The Bureau celebrated its 10th anniversary November 16, 1958 by bringing Dr. Gamoran back to Louisville to review a decade of progress. These are some of the Bureau's accomplishments in that period:

Religious (Sunday) schools: Consultative service, with as many as 54 individual conferences with teachers during a school year; instructional materials for classrooms, assembly programs, manuals, songsheets, visual aids and classroom visits.

Teacher training: Ten annual city-wide conferences with average attendance of 78; a dozen orientation meetings for new teachers; six formal classes of 12 or 18 sessions each in teaching techniques, and workshops.

Louisville Hebrew School: Administration and supervision, progress evaluation, and instructional materials.

Adult education: Classes in Jewish history; Bible, Talmud, customs and ceremonies, Hebrew and Yiddish; total enrollment, 525.

Women's holiday institutes (cosponsored with synagogue and temple sisterhoods, Hadassah, and Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations) in which some 700 persons learned about the origin and significance of holidays, customs and ceremonies, home decorations, traditional chants, holiday recipes and menus.

Melaveh Malkot: These were a series of 12 Saturday evening cultural programs bringing out the beauty of the traditional ushering out of the Shabbat, sponsored in co-operation with B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, Hadassah, Labor Zionists, Louisville Hebrew School, Mizrachi, Mizrachi Women, Vaad Hakashruth, and YMHA, with attendance exceeding 700.

Public lectures: 44 lectures and panel discussions, including a Yiddish film series. Topics included "The Moral and Spiritual Values in Public School Education," "Dissidents in Jewish History," "Israel and the Middle East" and "The Jews of Russia." Total attendance was more than 1,600.

Dramatic expositions: "The Living Bible," readings from the Book of Genesis with dance and music* background; "The World of Sholom Aleichem," "Bialik Alive" and others, in co-operation with Heritage Theatre, the Jewish Community Center's Modern Dance Group, and the JCC Chorus.

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*In the musical field Dr. Naamani's wife, Zehava, has been one of the community's most dynamic members, teaching music at Temple Adath Israel and Louisville Hebrew School and organizing the musical portions of innumerable programs for organizations and public ceremonies.

Jewish Book Month and Jewish Music Month observances were staged in co-operation with the Jewish Community Center.

Near East Institutes at University of Louisville: Top Israeli and Arab diplomats, religious leaders, civic personalities and authorities from seven colleges and universities participated. The Bureau also provided guidance for undergraduate and graduate theses in Near East and Judaic studies at U of L, besides assisting in developing such courses at University of Kentucky and participating in a UK conference on language education.

Study Redefines Bureau's Role

A thorough study of the relationship between the Bureau and the Louisville Hebrew School was begun in 1960 by the Social Planning Committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. In its final report, dated March 23, 1961, the committee said the study resulted from a Bureau request that an administrative assistant be obtained for its director, who also was acting as Hebrew School principal.

The study reviewed the scope of the then 52-year-old Hebrew School, and noted that Dr. Gamoran in his 1944 report had recommended that the Bureau director also serve as Hebrew School principal. Its study also defined the role of the Bureau, saying in part:

"The Board of Directors of the Bureau is composed of official representatives of all the congregations, the Hebrew School, the Jewish Community Center, the Conference of Jewish Organizations, all of the Rabbis and members-at-large.

"The Bureau is financed entirely by the Conference. Its budget in 1948 was $10,945 and at present it is $16,187. Its staff consists of the Director and his Secretary."

The committee said that in employing the director he was notified that the "major work of the Bureau will be in the promotion of adult education.... In addition, services would be offered to the various religious schools and the Hebrew School, all of whom would be autonomous and would not be under the authority of the Bureau of Jewish Education."

The committee reviewed the teacher-training programs conducted by the Bureau and its other services to the religious schools and added: "All of the Rabbis, when interviewed, felt that more teacher training and recruitment by the Bureau would be helpful."

It noted that in youth education the Bureau "has worked with the Jewish Community Center staff and camping personnel in the development of programs and program material for clubs and camps. There is a general feeling that more work needs to be done in this area."

Further, the committee noted that "the Bureau has been most active in adult education," and reviewed its classes in various topics, its Jewish culture series on timely subjects, consultation with individual parents on Jewish educational material, TV and radio programs presented on "The Lure of the Library" and at holiday periods.

"Practically every group in the Jewish community has been served in program planning and materials," the Social Planning Committee continued. "Information and material has been given to many non-Jewish organizations and individuals, for the Bureau serves as a reference service on Jewish subjects. The (Bureau) library checked out over 5,000 items in 1960."

Then: "The Bureau Director has also served as acting principal of the Hebrew School since 1955, having administrative assistance three of these years. Members of the Bureau's Board and most of the people interviewed feel that the Bureau program has been curtailed by this arrangement...In the course of our interviews it became apparent that the preference was for a full-time principal for the School as originally arranged when the Bureau was established."

The Social Planning Committee, headed by Herman Handmaker, recommended "that a full-time principal be employed by the School and that the Bureau serve in a consultative capacity as it does to other organizations." The committee noted that "financing may be a serious problem since it will involve an increased cost of operation of from $10,000 to $12,000 a year. If the financing of the full-time principal cannot be worked out it is then recommended that a full-time administrative assistant to the Director...be employed...(at) an expenditure of from $4,000 to $8,000 a year."

The Conference accepted the recommendations of its Social Planning Committee and agreed to provide half of an anticipated $10,000 salary, with three congregations — Adath Jeshurun, Anshei Sfard, and Keneseth Israel — sharing the additional $5,000 cost prorated on the basis of the number of students from each of the congregations.

Concerned with overlapping programs and conflicts, the Bureau in 1960 appointed Mortimer Goldsmith,* Dr. William Simon and me to a committee to assess the situation. The committee's final report said: "We do not believe there can be too much education, but it seems apparent that competition for audiences leaves gaps in subject matter or assumes that quantity equals quality." To overcome this the committee made two recommendations:

1. That the Bureau call together the program chairman of each programming group in the city in May or June to discuss plans for the coming year. This would bring to light overlapping in content, shortcomings in the over-all picture, provide for arranging joint enterprises, and make possible a cataloging of coming events to attract the entire community.

2. With respect to national programming, the Bureau should ask the Conference of Jewish Organizations to recommend that the various agencies use existing channels for consultation to effect results similar to those sought on a local level.

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*Goldsmith, an official of the Levy Bros. clothing firm, became active in the Jefferson County Council of Muncipal Governments and headed that organization at one time.

Years went by before this proposal bore fruit. In 1977 the Jewish Community Center's Adult Activities Committee brought together 11 agencies, including the Bureau, as the Community Program Council. This council staged three joint programs in 1977-78, enlarged to four for the 1978-79 season.

A highlight of 1963 was a correspondence course in Jewish history in co-operation with Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith. The textbook used was *Great Jewish Personalities in Ancient and Medieval Times* published by B'nai B'rith. Monthly reading assignments, lesson summaries, questions, and further reading suggestions were worked out and participants answered questions, asked their own questions, and made comments by correspondence. The only charge was $4 for the book. While the response could not be called overwhelming, it was satisfactory and the project would have continued had not Dr. Naamani resigned as Bureau director in mid-1964.

In fall 1964, reporting to the Bureau board in his capacity as consultant while a personnel committee conducted a search for a new director, Dr. Naamani elaborated on some Bureau accomplishments:

Formation of a Principal's Council, composed of principals of all of the religious schools, resulting in three workshops; bringing of Dr. Edward Horowitz, nationally recognized New York teacher of Hebrew, to Louisville to meet with teachers of the Hebrew School and Louisville Jewish Day School; activation of Chug Ivri, a Hebrew-speaking club; launching of the Jewish Luncheon Club, and guidance in reactivating a Hillel unit at University of Louisville.

That winter the Bureau and the Center jointly staged a gigantic Book Fair to mark Jewish Book Month. Several hundred persons saw the adult and children's exhibits, there was a concert by the Center's orchestra, and Manheim Shapiro was guest lecturer. Certificates were presented to all children who participated in an arts-and-crafts program and competed in a Jewish Book Month poster contest.

A discussion of standards for private Hebrew teachers at the December 15, 1964 board meeting led to a motion that a committee be setup to study standards of Jewish education in the city.

Annette (Mrs. David) Sagerman* was engaged as administrative assistant while Dr. Naamani was part-time consultant. She held this post several years,

*Mrs. Sagerman, described by friends and acquaintances as "all heart," proved ideal for this assignment. In her former capacity as administrative assistant to the JWB-USO she had gotten to know every facet of the community, not to mention making important contacts at Fort Knox and in the larger civic community. Friendly and talkative, she always knew the right person for a particular assignment, yet never pretended to be a "know-it-all" and always was willing to listen to ideas and comments. Throughout her career she was outspoken, even when dealing with the military's high brass. They never frightened her, and she once told a friend that the only person she was afraid of was Arthur Kling, who headed so many committees with which she worked closely over a period of years.

giving it up to become Adult Program Director for the Jewish Community Center.

In 1965 the Bureau provided space in its library for memorial shelves honoring Charles Strull, one of the Bureau's founders. The Conference of Jewish Organizations provided funds for books on Jewish immigration, general immigration, and Jewish life in U.S., these topics having been of particular interest to Mr. Strull.

The Naamani Study

That same year Dr. Naamani gave the Bureau a paper entitled "Jewish Education in Louisville," summarizing a cursory study he made. In brief, these were some of his findings:

"...with the limited time in the Jewish school, the teacher cannot hope to serve the perennial Jewish ideal of the intellectual. Yet the abandonment of the intellectual ideal is the first defeatist step leading to assimilation." Also, a "most significant aspect of Jewish education in the United States is the improper balance between child and adult education. We have stressed elementary education and neglected the youth and grown-up. It is easier to deal with the little ones."

Dr. Naamani said Jewish education "muffed a tremendous opportunity right after the establishment of the State of Israel when the Zionist groups — and non-Zionist groups — looked for a program, searched for new goals; when money was available; when support could have been elicited for a bold and imaginative program for Jewish education and culture. A sweeping, all-enveloping, breath-taking plan at that time would have freed Jewish education from its present-day strait-jacket."

The local situation, he commented, "is merely a reflection of the national picture, although in some areas we are weaker and in others we are much stronger than most communities."

He described the Sunday school as a "much maligned institution but considered many of the uncomplimentary remarks about it unjustified, making these recommendations: Promotion should not be automatic, laymen and teachers rather than the rabbi should evaluate academic progress, teachers' salaries should be raised so they would attain professional dignity, thus attracting more qualified teachers, and extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts, music, dancing, journalism and the like should be introduced to provide for the creative Jewish self-expression of the pupils."

As for the Louisville Hebrew School, he noted that it has become "a community-wide expression" attracting Orthodox, Conservative and Reform pupils without compromising any of its original ideals. "Some of the classes in the Hebrew School compare very favorably with classes in the public schools and with classes in the better Hebrew Schools of Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Columbus, Atlanta, etc." He noted a trend toward congregational schools and the reasons in favor of them, but concluded that a central

community school's "advantages are quite obvious. The standards are higher; the costs are lower — there is the elimination of the waste of duplication; the school can employ fewer but better teachers... There is opportunity for more extracurricular activities in the central school" and the fact that Louisville's Hebrew School is housed in the Jewish Community Center "makes it possible for 87% of Hebrew School to participate in wholesome recreational and physical activities, under proper, professional supervision."

After recounting the pros and cons of day schools, he commented:

"In Louisville the Day School has had its ups and downs. It has made heroic efforts to keep on going, despite tremendous financial and personnel difficulties. As of now its academic record is probably higher than in previous years. But registration has dropped off — from a peak of about 85 at one time to about 58 at the present time. The dropping off in school population, ironically, had a salutary effect on the academic standing." Among the problems, he noted personnel turnover, uneven abilities in the Hebrew department with the "English department stronger than the Hebrew.," small kindergarten classes, the drying up of sources of student supply, lack of full community acceptance, and financial difficulties.

These were his conclusions about the Bureau itself:

"...the major contributions of the Louisville Bureau are that it succeeded in attracting the finest Jewish lay leadership in the city; that it asked and received the counsel and the cooperation of all the Rabbis serving congregations in the city, that it created a community climate conducive to Jewish education; that it vested Jewish learning with elements of prestige. All this was accomplished without the imposition of points of view or of dogmatic programming. Both policy and planning were flexible enough to meet many immediate and changing needs without laying a heavy hand on the future.

"The Bureau is stronger now than ever before in that it has the solid backing of practically every group in the community. It would seem that many of the problems today facing the Jewish community of Louisville can be solved by central planning, at the request of the interested parties. Such planning will help bring order in a somewhat confused situation caused by new forces, new trends and changed conditions...Such planning may go a long way towards formulating a bold and an imaginative, a vertical and cross-section program of action...for the building of a well-integrated, wholesome Jewish community."

The Dinsky Report

A short while after submitting his report, Dr. Naamani, plagued by ill health and desiring to continue his teaching at the university, resigned as Bureau consultant. The Social Planning Committee, headed by Joseph J. Kaplan, decided to proceed with an in-depth study of Jewish education in the community. The American Association for Jewish Education agreed to send one of its foremost experts, Dr. Samuel Dinsky, to conduct the study at an estimated cost of $2,000.

"The choice of Dr. Dinsky was a most fortunate one," according to *Unity In Community* by Clarence Judah. "His thorough knowledge of the subject, his unusual personality which made him acceptable to all segments of the community, and his great sense of humor and understanding of local problems, made him a most welcome visitor throughout the many months of his study."

Dr. Dinsky had the help of more than 400 men and women in gathering his material, and his recommendations, somewhat amended, finally were approved by the boards of the Bureau, the Hebrew School, the Day School, the Jewish Community Center, and all five congregations.

His major recommendation was that the Bureau find a director who also would be Hebrew School principal and consultant to the Day School and to the congregations' religious schools. The Center would assume responsibility for community-wide cultural and religious programs for adults while the Bureau concerned itself primarily with children and youth. The Bureau director also would be available as consultant to the Center.

Dr. Dinsky found "that 85 percent of Louisville's Jewish children of all school levels, except the senior high school, attend the One-Day Religious School only. There is no organized religious education program at all on the senior high school level."

Since Dr. Dinsky's report the Bureau organized a High School of Jewish Studies. (William Swartz launched it during his administration.) Originally set up in 1976-77 with a $16,500 budget, it had $7,000 earmarked for it in 1979 from United Jewish Campaign funds. (The Bureau's allocation from the UJC by 1979 had risen to $61,000.) Attendance at the high school has been made a requirement for confirmation in all of the city's religious schools. There are many elective courses, taught by rabbis, professional teachers and informed laymen. The courses themselves, selected by the students, are of a high quality, but unfortunately the attitude of a great many of the teenagers seems to be, "Aw, it's something we have to do to graduate." It had 172 students in the fall of 1977.

The problem of reaching teenage and pre-college youth has not been solved.

Reuben Resnik came to Louisville as executive director in time for the 1967-68 season, the Bureau's 20th year. He took over as principal of the Hebrew School and began promoting the type of programming that Dr. Dinsky had recommended.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force

Resnik, who had held a similar position in Buffalo, N.Y. before coming to Louisville, proved to be more of a scholar than administrator. One of his successful program innovations was conducting a series of Ulpanim in which adults could learn to speak and use Hebrew in short order. Under his jurisdiction, quality standards in the Hebrew School continued to improve, and extensive promotion of the Bureau's library got under way.

Resnik attempted to make the bureau an umbrella agency, seeking to work out joint personnel practices and guidance and to institute joint hiring of teachers. The Bureau began reviewing the Day School budget, but other aims were not achieved until Bureau Director William Swartz was made director of the Hebrew School, Day School, and High School of Jewish Studies in spring of 1980.

The Jewish Community Federation and all groups concerned with education set up a Blue Ribbon Task Force on education with Frank Judd as its chairman. This group made a report in 1976.

That same year Mrs. Sagerman left the Bureau to join the staff of the Jewish Community Center William Swartz was brought in as Hebrew School principal. He became acting executive director of the Bureau six months later when Resnik resigned in 1977 due to ill health. After a short time as acting director Swartz was promoted to executive director. Retired, Resnik moved to Sherman Oaks, Calif.

In April 1977 a Joint Personnel Committee was set up under Bureau leadership. The committee would have one member representing the Bureau, two each from the Hebrew School and the Day School, one from the high school, the Bureau director, and the school principals. The committee's goal was to seek joint standards that would enable the Hebrew School and the Day School to seek out and employ teachers jointly as a means of obtaining better faculty. The committee, led by Dr. Theodore Schramm, discussed employment practices, grievances, dismissal procedures, interviewing and placement, and salary scales. However, the Day School's Orthodox tendencies prevented the Joint Personnel Committee from becoming totally effective.

A study made in 1976 by the task force was followed up August 1, 1977 with a report by Gail (Mrs. David) Fleischaker (who later became Bureau president), entitled "Library-Judaica Resource Project." It envisioned reorganization of the Bureau library, cataloguing it professionally, and utilizing the services of a combination librarian and resource person for adult programs within the community. The Endowment Fund of the Federation agreed to contribute $7,500 for such a project for each of two years, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Judd volunteered to add $1,000 to this each year.

The Bureau focused attention on the library, and its use has expanded both for public circulation and as a research facility. The library always has been cramped for space. In 1978 the Bureau added a professional librarian, Evie (Mrs. Charles) Topcik, and through her efforts the library's use and usefulness have been broadened considerably. After Mrs. Topcik was employed she was able to get several CETA workers to assist her in cataloguing the library during the 1977-78 season. Mrs. Topcik brought many innovations, especially programs aimed at children. The library set aside a children's corner for pupils in the Day School, which also is housed in the Center. She conducted story hours and summer reading programs. Through her efforts volunteers were recruited to staff the library from 9 to 9 every day, until 1980 utilizing one paid part-time worker, Mrs. Jennie Feldbaum.

The Bureau set up the Jewish Resource Center in August 1978 to provide teaching aids for teachers in religious schools and other programming. Debbi Bergman, who conducted this center, also was on the staff of the Louisville Hebrew School part-time. The Resource Center got funds from the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section. Ms. Bergman was married (to Michael Hott) while in Louisville and left the Resource Center in spring 1979. It continued with Marsha Beck Roth in charge.

In spring of 1978 the Bureau presented a revised teacher accreditation program which met acceptance by all schools affiliated with the Bureau. Dr. William Orbach, a University of Louisville professor, headed this study. The program called for salary standards and continuing education, aimed at greater professionalization for teachers in religious schools. Courses were arranged in conjunction with the university, one of these being the expansion of Hebrew, with Zehava Naamani as the Hebrew teacher.

The Principal's Council has conducted a Community Bible Contest among pupils of religious schools and in 1978 added a first — a community song festival, in honor of Israel's 30th anniversary, held at the Center in May 1978.

Home Start was begun in fall 1980. It consists of a series of mailings in the weeks preceding Jewish holidays to families with children aged 3 to 7. Each mailing is a "how to" kit of stories, games, recipes, songs and historical and background information designed to help parents participate with their children in enriching holiday observance in ther homes.

For the 1979-80 school year Edwin Frankel was employed under a joint arrangement to be a part-time teacher in the Day School and assistant to the principal of the Hebrew School and the Hebrew high school. Frankel's successor has become co-ordinator of the Day School's Hebrew department.

A new era opened in 1980 with co-ordination of the Day School, the Hebrew School and the High School for Jewish Studies under supervision of William Swartz, the Bureau's executive director. The plan carries out recommendations made by the task force on education. Under the new plan, the Day School has a teacher-coordinator for its Hebrew Department and one for secular studies, both of whom report to Swartz. Under his direction, personnel and activities of all three schools will be co-ordinated. The Day School approved the plan March 9, 1980, the Hebrew School acted on it the following night, and the Bureau board approved it March 17.

Chapter 8

LOUISVILLE HEBREW SCHOOL (Talmud Torah)

"Ice Cream, soda water, ginger ale, pop;
Talmud Torah, Talmud Torah, always on top."

With this school cheer spurring them to victory, the baseball team of the Louisville Hebrew School defeated the Frank Fehr Juniors by a score of 17 to 11. The date was July 11, 1921.

Here was a school with spirit. True, many of the boys and girls were unwilling pupils, yet they maintained an *esprit de corps* that belied their tedious rote learning in classes they attended 1½ hours a day six days a week. In summer they had outings, and the school held annual picnics at Summers Park at the end of Southern Parkway, or at Sennings, also at the edge of Iroquois Park. For these they chartered a trolley car so they could go as a group.

Despite the lack of modern teaching methods, the boys and girls who attended the Hebrew School at 208 E. Walnut (Muhammad Ali Boulevard) came away with a knowledge of the language, prayer book, Bible, and Jewish history. No English was permitted inside the building; many decades before the state of Israel, the school decreed a "speak Hebrew only" policy. Remarkably liberal for that era, the school brought together pupils from Reform, Conservative and Orthodox families.

The decline in intensity in Jewish education set in during the late 1920s when congregations began accenting their individual Sunday schools. Families moved away from the midtown area and school hours got longer. Radio also took its toll. Nevertheless, for its first three decades, the Louisville Hebrew School provided an intensive Jewish education unequalled until the Louisville Jewish Day School was founded 30 years later.

Religious education wasn't always so well organized.

True, there was some religious teaching ever since Adas Israel was chartered in 1843. Ten years later there existed a full-fledged Jewish parochial school. The Jewish Frontier in the 1950s published this historical note about the school:

"At a public 'exposition' by the students in 1853, in an effort to raise funds for the financially unstable institution, one pupil for a $5 contribution performed the feat of naming all the United States Presidents to date, their exact term of office, their Vice-Presidents, their Secretaries of State, and the Chief Justices. $3 elicited a recitation of the Declaration of Independence, etc. In the Hebrew part of the 'exposition,' a student enumerated for $3 the major and minor Prophets of the Old Testament."

The institution folded the same year, and with its passing Jewish education fell into a decline in Louisville.

The teaching of children fell to itinerant "melamdim" with the outcome that boys grew up learning how to pronounce the Hebrew prayers without understanding them and girls got no formal training whatever.

Harry Starr, a bearded patriarch who lived at 628 E. Chestnut, was probably the last of these teachers. He remained active until about the time of World War II.*

A small Hebrew school was conducted by Jacob Rosenthal in his home on the east side of First Street between Walnut and Liberty, opposite Neighborhood House. Rosenthal, a slight man with a long white beard, was nearing his 100th birthday when he was knocked down by a bicycle and suffered fatal injuries.**

The scene now shifts back to the turn of the century. A little Hebrew school was set up at the original Beth Hamedrash Hagodol in a tiny building across Jefferson Street from Congregation B'nai Jacob. There was one teacher and perhaps 10 or 12 children, under the supervision of Rabbi A.L. Zarchy.

To seven or eight thoughtful men of the community, the situation was intolerable. For them Jewish education was something more meaningful than rote learning for just a few children. They wanted something better, something that would serve the community well.

These men met and expressed their intention "to offer to the Jewish public a modern and efficient Jewish Hebrew school, with a definite program." They soon translated their dream into a school building, estimated to cost about $50,000, into which the school moved a year or two after being established in 1908.

The founders included Rabbi Zarchy, who was the city's Orthodox rabbi; Benjamin Mayer Kaplan, J.D. Wolkow and his son-in-law A.I. Shaffet, Julius Bass and Sam Shenson. From the school's very inception until his death many years later Shaffet was chairman of the board of education, and the high standards he set remained in effect. For example, in a school where attendance was purely voluntary, as many as 30 students were "flunked out" in one year.

The school in September 1913 brought Isadore Sperling from the University of Alabama to be its principal. Full of ambition, Sperling not only managed the school but also conducted a Friday night Bible class and a Zion Sunday School. He also taught a night class in English for foreigners. Sperling

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*Three of his grandchildren still living in Louisville are Carolyn (Mrs. Nat) Shapin, a piano teacher; Dr. William Simon, a dentist, and Rose (Mrs. Stanley) Sosowsky, There are four great-grandchildren, Larry Shapin, Joe Wall, Wendy Sosowsky and Jay Sosowsky.

**His grandchildren include the large Leibson clan of lawyers. The oldest of these was Oscar Leibson, once a law partner of Charles W. Morris. One of Oscar's younger brothers, Julius Leibson, served as a judge of Jefferson Circuit Court and a nephew, Charles M. Leibson, later was elected to a similar judgeship.

left three years later to go to San Francisco. He later studied law and at the time of his death was making his home in Birmingham, Ala.

The school continued to grow, and its 1922-23 report showed receipts of $14,106.58, expenses of $13,758.14. There were 700 subscribers contributing to support of the school and 168 pupils. There was a branch at the YMHA at Second and Jacob and talk of opening another at Agudath Achim Synagogue, 11th and Jefferson, to reach boys and girls living at a great distance from Brook and Walnut.

In 1921 Rabbi Joseph Saltzman — then plain Maar (Mr.) Salzman — arrived on the scene. Newly arrived from Russia, he learned from relatives in Cincinnati that a teaching job was open here, but he had to spend a long, hard week of interviewing to convince his Louisville employers that he was the man they needed. Convince them he did. But even more significantly, he convinced the pupils, bringing a sympathetic and stimulating approach. He succeeded so well that he stayed on the job until 1963, after which he retired quietly and with no fanfare, despite his 40 years of service as teacher, teacher-principal, and principal.*

Saltzman came to Louisville already married, and his wife, Leah, began teaching at Louisville Hebrew School in the 1930s. She was one of the few women ever privileged to attend a Russian gymnasium (the equivalent of junior college) and carved out a niche as a beloved teacher on her own. She was still teaching when she became ill and died in 1965.

Rabbi Saltzman acquired a reputation as perhaps Louisville's best Talmudist, but he found time for other studies as well. He received a bachelor's degree from University of Louisville in 1932, also studied music, and played the violin for a number of years in the Louisville Civic Orchestra. He wrote articles in Hebrew and English and during the Nazi period he wrote letter after letter to the daily newspapers, often a lone voice in the wilderness crying out about the treatment of Jews in Germany. He helped Dr. Israel T. Naamani organize Chug Ivri, a Hebrew-speaking group, some 20 years ago.

During the 1920s when the Zionist movement was accelerating, the New Palestine (now the American Zionist) was distributed to pupils, who were encouraged to urge their parents to contribute to the Jewish National Fund and other Palestine projects.

Every now and then there was an assembly with a speaker or for some special occasion. One of the most memorable of these was for a visit of Chaim Nachman Bialik, the celebrated Hebrew poet, to Louisville in the mid-1920s.

The 1920s were not without their financial problems and there was a constant battle to meet the school's payroll. The valiant women of the Ladies Auxiliary held the school together with funds raised at picnics, raffles, sales of embroidery, and even out-and-out "schnorring" (begging). Most active at this

*Salzman qualified as rabbi in Europe but did not get the formal title until he appeared before a panel of rabbis in New York some three decades ago for an intensive examination.

time were Mrs. Ralph Persky, Minnie Ginsberg, Mrs. Morris Jaffe and Mrs. Morris Lipetz.

Most of the boys and girls of that day put in a long school day, public school and then Hebrew School, and did homework besides, but there were some discipline problems. A few unruly boys used to climb out the second-story windows and the teachers were unable to cope with them.*

In 1929 Principal David I. Cedarbaum wrote in The Chronicler, "...we may safely say that 1,500 children in Louisville receive no Jewish education whatsoever. The number of young people in Louisville who have passed in their Jewish studies beyond the point of facile reading in the prayer book...is woefully small." Cedarbaum deplored the fact that "at the present time there exists probably no form of organized instruction for any group but children of elementary school age. Of these, about 250 attend the Talmud Torah." And, he added, "there are possibilities for an intensive Jewish training."

Cedarbaum's comments came at a time when congregational Sunday schools were coming into vogue, cutting into the Louisville Hebrew School's student body and diluting parental interest in the community school. This, combined with the deepening depression, brought on one fiscal crisis after another, and the school's financial health has never since been fully regained.

A Yom Kippur appeal in five synagogues in September 1931 resulted in raising $1,250 to keep the Talmud Torah open. Adath Jeshurun raised $750; Keneseth Israel $325; Shaar Hashomaim $120;** Agudath Achim $100, and Anshei Sfard $75. Brith Sholom made an appeal but collected no funds. The school's president, Jack Badesch, blamed the depression for cutting subscriptions to the school.

An open letter to the community from Principal Maurice Cornfield in September 1931 complained that too few girls were attending Louisville Hebrew School and pointed out that the future depended on Jewish mothers. Years later, the school organized a girls' class at the YMHA.

In February 1942 a branch was opened in the Uptown Theatre building at Bardstown Road and Eastern Parkway. At that time Jack Badesch, president, said, "We are particularly proud of the girl students because there is a crying need in Louisville for more Hebrew education of its Jewish daughters." A year later another branch was established at Keneseth Israel. In 1950 the school rented space now occupied by a Louisville Free Public Library branch at Bardstown Road and Douglass Boulevard. Teaching there was an alumnus, Erwin Sherman, son of one-time president Leon C. Sherman and who later also became president.

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*Former pupils recall that one of the delights of Hebrew School was going to Simon's grocery at the corner of Brook and Walnut for crackers and a pickle. "It was great," one recalled, "if you had a nickel."

**No other documentation on Shaar Hashomaim has been found. It was a short-lived attempt to form a neighborhood congregation, such as was done again in the early 1950s in a rented store at Brook and Hill, and which lasted about a year.

In 1943 the Conference of Jewish Organizations brought Dr. Emanuel Gamoran here to study the city's education problems. (Details are in the chapter on the Bureau of Jewish Education.)

The outward population movement had a deleterious effect on enrollment at the 208 E. Walnut building, with the result that a new crisis was developing. Congregations Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel were conducting their own Hebrew schools, making further inroads. The small enrollment in separate schools and the high costs of obtaining competent teachers handicapped their operations. Enlisting the aid of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, Abe Pozitzer, the dedicated president of the Hebrew School, formed a committee that included representatives of the concerned congregations, the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Community Center, and the Conference. Under the capable chairmanship of Joseph J. Kaplan,* a decision was reached that Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel would discontinue their separate schools and rejoin the community school. The congregations also agreed to contribute a share of the tuition costs for children of their own members.

School Moves to the Center

This gigantic effort, resulting in a rejuvenated community school, enabled the Louisville Hebrew School to move closer to where the children were. The school opened its 1955-56 school year in the new Jewish Community Center on Dutchmans Lane three months before the building was formally dedicated. The second floor was designed to provide classroom space and a principal's office, and classes have been conducted at the Center ever since. Since the mid-1970s the classes have been shared with the Louisville Jewish Day School, which uses them mornings.

Now without a building of its own, a question arose as to use of gifts and bequests to it for which the donor had not specified any use. Because no great capital fund was needed, school officials, after consultation with the Conference of Jewish Organizations, decided that all unrestricted gifts or bequests of $250 or less be applied to the school's operating budget.

The school celebrated its 50th anniversary June 1, 1958 with a dinner attended by 250 persons at the Jewish Community Center. The program — directed by President Alex Berman and jubilee chairman Fred Goldberg — honored seven living past presidents: Jack Badesch, Morris Borowitz, Louis Brownstein, Hyman Cohen, Harry Platoff, Abe Pozitzer and Leon C. Sherman.

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*Kaplan, law partner of philanthropist Ben F. Washer, was the son of Julius Kaplan, a merchant who headed the Hebrew School many years, and grandson of founder Benjamin Mayer Kaplan. He worked his way through Washington & Lee University by washing dishes. He was the first graduate of Talmud Torah to become its president. He later served as president of the Jewish Community Center and the Conference of Jewish Organizations in addition to participating in many other civic activities.

Taking over in July 1959 as president, Joseph J. Kaplan made a statement attributing the success of the institution to the co-operation of the parents and the community. He likened it to the afternoon schools conducted by the Chinese living in this country.

"We can all take pride," he commented, "that among Jewish children, as with the Chinese and the Greeks and the other nationalities having such schools, where morals is part of the curriculum of a group culture, juvenile delinquency is virtually nonexistent."

But despite his optimistic outlook, Kaplan found difficulty in balancing the school's $41,000 budget. He asked the Conference of Jewish Organizations to lend the school $7,000 to pay teachers and operating expenses until the end of its fiscal year August 31, promising personally to head a drive to bring up the school's membership income from its low point of $4,000. Kaplan's successful drive netted $16,000 and the loan from the Conference reserve fund was repaid in four years, although when Kaplan left office membership income again took a downward trend.

In 1961 the Social Planning Committee of the Conference of Jewish Organization gave its scrutiny to the school, recommending a full-time principal.

The school in 1962 requested Conference assistance in planning a retirement fund for Rabbi Joseph Saltzman, who was leaving after 40 years as a teacher and principal. The school had recently completed negotiations to sell its building on Walnut Street for $43,500, but half the proceeds had been committed to the Vaad Hakashrut, which had agreed to build and operate a new mikveh. The Jewish Community Center claimed the remainder on grounds that it was then housing the Hebrew School. Joseph Kaplan, acting as intermediary between the boards of the Center and the school, won approval for establishment of a trust. Proceeds from these invested funds go to the Hebrew School's retirement program, with the stipulation that should the school ever cease to be a community school, the funds in the trust are to be turned over to the Jewish Community Center.

In 1964 the Social Planning Committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations asked for a full study of Jewish education in Louisville. The result was that Dr. Samuel Dinsky came to Louisville to make this study. (His findings are detailed in the chapter on the Bureau of Jewish Education.) The major impact of his study upon the Hebrew School was that the Bureau of Jewish Education's chief executive would serve as its principal, a practice carried out since.

Just a year later, Congregation Adath Jeshurun, in a letter to its members signed by Alvin D. Younger, president, announced that its board "voted to continue our affiliation with the Louisville Hebrew School and not to establish Hebrew instruction in our educational program. The Board did this in order to maintain the cooperation of the Jewish community in Hebrew education and to give the Louisville Hebrew School the opportunity that it needs for the further development of its standards." That fall the school announced

it had enrolled 47 new pupils, of whom 29 were girls, and that there were 15 pupils in its graduating class.

The school's Parent-Teacher Association early in 1964 adopted a resolution lamenting that "the absence of planning" had resulted in bar mitzvah becoming "a demoralizing and down-grading factor in the area of Jewish education, that "the introduction of monetary motives has cheapened bar mitzvah" and that valuable time for instruction in Hebrew and religious disciplines had been "surrendered to meaningless 'showmanship'." The PTA recommended adoption of a city-wide code of bar mitzvah standards to be binding for all participating congregations, that all bar mitzvah students be trained under auspices of the Hebrew School, that bar mitzvah candidates have a minimum of four years of Hebrew education at either Hebrew School or its equivalent, and that bat mitzvah for girls be encouraged under similar regulations. Much of this program subsequently has been put into effect.

One of the scholastic achievements during 1964 when Harry Loewy was principal was publication of a Hebrew newspaper as a class project by the girls' study group.

The school went through another fiscal crisis in 1965, at which time Anshei Sfard and Keneseth Israel voted to continue their support for three years while Adath Jeshurun obligated itself for only one year. Rabbi David Rutman came to Louisville as the new principal that fall, but he suffered a nervous breakdown and had to be replaced.

In October 1967 the school elected its third alumnus as president, Irving M. Lipetz.* He succeeded Erwin Sherman.

In 1967 a $2,000 scholarship was established in memory of Phil B. Levitch, the money to be invested and the proceeds used to help pay the tuition of a boy or girl whose parents were unable to pay. Levitch died March 20, 1967 while president of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. He had headed the 1960 United Jewish Campaign. He was the first and only lifetime member of the board of Anshei Sfard for a number of years and had served on the boards of the Jewish Community Center, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Hebrew School.

A "first" occurred July 17, 1978 with the election of Maura (Mrs. Gerald) Temes** as the school's first woman president.

In 1977 the school instituted Camp Ivri, a week-long program to make up for days lost to winter snow. Sixty pupils attended. The American Association for Jewish Education commended the camp as a "creative communal pro-

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*Lipetz became president of the Bureau of Jewish Education and was vice-president of Brith Sholom when it merged with Adath Israel. He has been a member of the Jewish Community Center board. Retiring in 1980 after 39 years in the Louisville Social Security office, of which he was operations supervisor, he was elected president of the Kentucky Association for Older Persons. Joe Mann was elected KAOP treasurer and Joseph Gale a KAOP board member at the same time.

**Dr. Gerald Temes was general chairman of the 1980 United Jewish Campaign.

gram" and it was made a regular summertime feature. It offers an informal setting for learning Hebrew, including an enrichment program, private instruction, athletics, arts and crafts, and dramatics.

The school celebrated its 75th anniversary with a gala dinner-dance December 13, 1979 at Keneseth Israel.

The school continues to serve the community, and several of its graduates have become rabbis. The value of a community school in contrast to synagogue-oriented education has been restated by Rabbi Solomon Roodman. Writing in his Anshei Sfard congregational bulletin in 1965, he said:

"The congregational school is symptomatic of the great danger which presently confronts the American Jewish community. Judaism was always more than a synagogue-centered way of life... Unfortunately, in the past several decades, the synagogue has assumed the same role that the church plays in the Christian community... If Judaism is to remain the way of life it was meant to be, it is vital that the synagogue be saved from its current success. The congregational school whose primary objective is to give added incentive to the centrality of the synagogue poses a foremost threat to genuine Jewish survival and should be contested with the same zeal and fervor as are manifested by those who have enthroned the synagogue as royal potentate of Jewish life."

This is indeed praise for the vision of the men who founded the Louisville Hebrew School three-quarters of a century ago.

Chapter 9

LOUISVILLE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL (Eliahu Academy)

Nearly half a century had elapsed since the establishment of a community Talmud Torah (Louisville Hebrew School) when 22 persons met on a hot June night in 1953 on the porch of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yudofsky's home. They had a dream, the establishment of a Jewish day school.

The founders were Ray Baer, Herman Gordon, Maurice Goldberg, Mrs. Hinda Goldstein, David Kramer, Mrs. Sam Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Lerner, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Pozitzer, Isaac Rothschild, Morris Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Speevack, Ben Mazin, Rabbi Solomon Roodman, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Yudofsky, and the hosts.

The group pledged "their time, efforts, and resources" toward founding the Louisville Jewish Day School. Speevack donated a considerable sum of money that enabled the group to purchase a residence at 2228 Douglass Boulevard. This was the school's home for a dozen years.

At the suggestion of Rabbi Roodman, the school was named Eliahu Academy, in memory of Speevack's father, Eliahu Speevack.

The school opened in September 1953 with 21 pupils.

The pioneers faced a long, hard fight. They had to beg parents, "Give us your children; we promise you it's not going to be a ghetto school. Yes, your children will relate to other children, both Jewish and non-Jewish, after leaving our school." They took pride that "no child was ever turned away for inability to pay."

This early group dug into their own pockets deeply, but they also conducted an endless round of fund-raising projects — plaques, raffles, ad books, cafeteria suppers and so on.

Rabbi Theodore Charner arrived to be principal and he and his wife, Ida, both taught. Secular subjects were taught by Jewish and non-Jewish teachers. Rabbi Charner made a great impression, and there are those who say he was the best principal the school ever had.

It was a long, uphill struggle before the school could win community acceptance, but it persisted, growing slowly and at length obtaining some financing from the Jewish Community Federation. For 1979, the Federation raised its allocation to $50,000, up from $37,000 only two years earlier.

But even with its growth, the Day School's entire existence has been beset with financial and personnel problems.

In the beginning, some parents sent their children to Day School because some of the public schools lacked kindergartens. In later years, some parents sent their children to Day School to avoid busing, and it even drew a few disciplinary cases. Parents of those children wanted the Day School's almost individual instruction.

Within six years enrollment had risen to 86, of whom 48 came from Orthodox families, 25 from Conservative, and 13 from Reform.

The Day School has always looked upon Speevack, who served several terms as president, as its true founding father. Besides working nonstop at home on behalf of the school, he would travel to New York to interview prospective teachers.

Rabbi Roodman became the first chairman of the school's board of education, which laid down foundations still followed today in regard to curriculum, enrollment requirements, and a liberal scholarship policy.

Julius Simon also worked heart and soul to keep the fledgling school in operation. A quiet, gentle, unassuming and learned man, he never backed away from a fight when principles of honesty and justice were involved. A story is told about the time word reached him that Louisville laymen were being referred to as "Kentucky mules" as the result of some conflict. On his next trip to New York, he sought to see the head of a yeshiva (seminary). He was told the head rabbi was too busy and was asked to leave his name. He said he could not return and "just tell the rabbi that one of the Kentucky mules is here to see him." Simon got his audience immediately and set the record straight.

Another founder, Morris Simon, donated the first desks for the classrooms, as well as playground equipment, and personally provided scholarships for children whose parents could not afford tuition. One of his overriding interests was music, and he took it upon himself to provide after-school violin lessons for the second grade to supplement the school curriculum. He found a teacher and even managed to locate child-sized violins for each child. The school boasted in one of its publications that "one of these little students grew up to be a serious musician who played for the Louisville Civic Orchestra."

Two years after its founding, the Day School submitted its first request to the Conference of Jewish Organizations for financial support. Many meetings and much discussion later, the Conference Executive Committee unanimously concluded that "too small a segment of the community will, or can, take advantage" of Day School services. It took six years before Conference financing was obtained.

One proposed fund-raising plan failed to get off the ground due to objections raised by the Conference in 1960. The school planned to publish a telephone book listing all Jewish residents and containing advertising. The Conference opposed it as an invasion of privacy, group commercialization, and possible creation of a "sucker list." The Conference said it sought to avoid implying through such a list that Jews are apart from the remainder of the community. After hearing the Conference viewpoint the Day School dropped the project.

By 1961 the school had enrolled several children from Reform congregations and asked the Conference for $6,000 to meet its deficit. Conference leaders once more debated the pros and cons of day schools, but when discussion brought out the fact that $3,500 of the deficit resulted from scholarships given to children whose parents could not afford full tuition, they

decided that the community had a responsibility to make education available. They voted for an annual grant to cover these scholarship cases, allocating $3,500 initially. Clarence F. Judah, in *Unity In Community*, wrote that "the debate on this question occasioned some of the most spirited and, at times, vitriolic discussion which we have ever had in Conference meetings." He records that the decision led some persons to withdraw their support from the United Jewish Campaign for several years, adding "Thankfully, these were only a tiny minority."

Rabbi Simon Murciano became principal beginning with the 1962-63 school year, adopted the Sephardit pronunciation of Hebrew and placed more emphasis on conversational Hebrew.*

The school's children started their own paper, "Eliahu Edits," giving them an opportunity to express themselves in Hebrew and English.

In what he called the first formal principal's report to the school's trustees in September 1974, Rabbi Murciano reviewed the progress of his pupils, based on a 10-month study. These are his findings:

"The results have been very encouraging. The scholastic records of the Academy graduates are, on the average, better than the scholastic records of public school children. Forty-four per cent of our graduates ranked higher scholastically than children coming from public schools. Eliahu Academy graduates participated in a variety of extra-curricular activities in junior high school and were members in practically every club offered in junior high school."

Eliahu Academy at that time had six grades. It now has nine.

Rabbi Murciano added that his "study showed that one-half day of instruction in general studies prepared our graduates as well (as), if not better, than other students receiving a full day of instruction."

A weekly afternoon class was begun in September 1961 to give the school's graduates an opportunity to continue their Jewish education. Later there were two such classes, enrolling nine boys and six girls.

Free adult classes, sponsored by the school's PTA and conducted by the principal, were initiated in 1962. These classes even drew attendance from a few non-Jews.

During Rabbi Murciano's administration a Pen Pal club was organized. Pupils in the intermediate grades exchanged letters in Hebrew with Israeli boys and girls.

For the summer of 1963 a play school was set up, called Gan-Gannon. It held sessions five days a week on school grounds for pre-schoolers.

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*In January 1963 Rabbi Murciano received accreditation from the State Department of Education as a principal of elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, and in August 1964 he received a Certificate in Advanced Studies in Education from University of Louisville.

In February 1964 the school closed a fund-raising campaign with a total of $10,000, or less than half the goal it had sought. Another fund-raising campaign was held two years later, seeking $30,000 to pay teachers' back salaries and outstanding bills to carry the school through the next fiscal year. The school obtained about $10,000 in pledges due to be paid by June 1, 1967.

In 1965 the Social Planning Committee of the Conference completed its own study of Day School operations and recommended that the Conference continue its financial aid, as funds became available, to help the school's new leadership toward attainment of a viable institution. This had the effect of obtaining more UJC funds for the school but at the same time some supporters of the school seized upon the opportunity to trim their own support for it.

Inadequate financing led the school to sell its Douglass Boulevard building and classes were moved into the educational wing of Anshei Sfard, which meanwhile had been built on Dutchmans Lane. This followed the Jewish Community Center's rejection of the school's request for space there in 1967. Anshei Sfard's quarters proved inadequate for the school's needs, and this time an arrangement was made to utilize classrooms in the Jewish Community Center. These had been used by the Louisville Hebrew School since the building was opened in 1955. The Center had a ticklish housekeeping problem in cleaning up the classrooms used by the Day School in time for late-afternoon Hebrew School use, but it worked out the logistics, and the Day School has thrived ever since inside the JCC building. Moving into the Center also provided easy access to the Bureau of Jewish Education's library. A few years later when the Bureau added a librarian to its staff, special shelves were set aside for use of the Day School children.

The school overcame a scholastic crisis one year by employing a Baptist minister as principal. After several years as principal, Samuel Gordon* resigned suddenly. There being no time to recruit a suitable Jewish principal, the school found a quick replacement at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The bearded Baptist made a quite favorable impression during the year he enabled the Day School to comply with state law requiring a full-time principal.

At a banquet marking the school's 25th anniversary it was proudly noted that attendance for the 1977-78 school year was 150, with still more predicted for the following year. Officials of the school acknowledged that an important factor in this growth has been the support of the Jewish Community Federation. They also noted that the school was allied with the Bureau of Jewish Education in working for over-all education in the community.

After a quarter of a century of striving to win full community acceptance the school's image was tarnished in April 1978 by the firing of its principal,

*Gordon, a former public-school principal, opened a bagel shop and later went into wholesale baking and kosher catering.

Rabbi David Levin, at the end of his first year, although his contract had another year to run.* The Jewish Post and Opinion reported that the vote for canceling the contract was 17 to 8 and that the vote "was prompted by complaints from teachers about some aspects of the administration" of the school. The board's decision was announced in a letter to parents from Dr. S. Philip Greiver, president, which stated that Rabbi Levin "will not be returning to our school as prinicpal for the 1978-79 school year," but would finish out the current term. The newspaper account said three teachers had threatened to resign if Rabbi Levin remained. The firing led Milton Russman, a Jefferson County school principal, to resign from the Day School board, and Rabbi Irving P. Glickman also was quoted as saying he disagreed with the action.

The school suffered another setback in public relations when it adopted a more Orthodox stance under Rabbi Abraham Atkin, who replaced Rabbi Levin. This resulted in at least one Conservative family taking its children out of the school. One often-voiced complaint has been that the Day School called itself a community school yet in its operation remained Orthodox-oriented.

The Day School got a new look in March 1980 when William Swartz was made the school's director in addition to his duties as the Bureau of Jewish Education's executive. The school staff was augmented with two co-ordinators, Gedaliah Alchadeff for Hebrew studies and Dr. Marilyn Kapel for general studies.

A "Revised Philosophy Statement" adopted by the school September 30, 1980 states that the school is open for pupils from kindergarten through eighth grade regardless of financial circumstances and "seeks to provide excellent learning opportunities in both general and Judaic studies." It strives to foster "independent creativity and critical thinking" through "a variety of learning environments" to meet "the individual needs of each student" and to encourage "a positive self image and a positive attitude toward learning." The statement concludes by saying that "Eliahu Academy views the home, the synagogue, and the community as partners in the learning process, and strives to involve them all in the education of its students."

There is rabbinical solidarity among Rabbis Solomon Roodman, Simcha Kling and Irving Glickman for staunch support of day-school education. They feel that giving general and Hebrew education in one school achieves a maximum of educational benefits in a minimum of time.

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*Rabbi Levin, who moved to Seattle, filed a suit for $100,000 against the school in February 1979, charging the school "maliciously and without justification" terminated his contract. The suit said the action had permanently damaged Rabbi Levin in the employment market. The case had not come to trial at the time of this writing.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Chapter 10

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The day-to-day meeting place for the Jews of Louisville is the Jewish Community Center. Its program covers all age groups and all interests, from browsing in the library to strenuous racquetball. It has been a home to such diverse ideologies as the Louisville Jewish Day School (Traditional) and Temple Shalom (Reform). Nearly every Jewish organization in the city meets there, and some others, such as the Civil Air Patrol and the State Highway Department, have enjoyed its hospitality too. Such wide acceptance did not come overnight; it is the product of more than a century of service.

The Jewish Community Center, originally Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA), officially regards its beginning as the time of incorporation in 1890, but actually it goes back to 1862. This startling fact was brought to light by Joseph J. Kaplan during his term as president.

Louisville was the seventh city in the country to organize a YMHA, Benjamin Rabinowitz wrote in *The Young Men's Hebrew Associations 1854-1913* published in 1947. Preceding us were Baltimore in 1854; Augusta, Ga., 1857; Buffalo, 1858; Cleveland, 1859; Richmond, Va., 1960, and Syracuse, N.Y., 1861. Organized chiefly as a literary and charitable society, Louisville's group held together about four years and was reorganized in 1868. Another reorganization occurred in 1870. Rabinowitz wrote: "This time the association continued for four years. Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise reported that he addressed the Louisville Association in 1873 at which time its objective was to build up a library on Jewish matters."

That hope of 1873 has been realized in the Israel T. Naamani Library operated by the Bureau of Jewish Education in the Center. With several thousand volumes and a professional staff, it serves as a resource and research facility for the entire metropolitan area as well as making available books of Jewish interest for free circulation.

Going back to the 1870s, that was the decade of expansion when the YMHA fostered religious and general lectures, fairs, Jewish balls and banquets. The association at the time said one of its missions "is to unite on a common platform the young men of the different synagogues and nationalities." The YMHA remained largely a domain for Louisville's old German Jewish families until its scope broadened when it built at Second and Jacob in 1913 and opened its doors to all servicemen during World War I. Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, described as "the father of the association," delivered the opening lecture in a course offered by the YMHA in 1878.

The first attempt at a national association was made in 1880 in Philadelphia, and Louisville was part of it. In 1881 Louisville was one of nine YMHAs

represented at a convention in Newark. Cyrus L. Sulzberger was the national president. The national association was reorganized in 1890 in Cincinnati and I.W. Bernheim of Louisville was elected a national director the following year. In 1892 Louisville sent Bernheim, Henry Levy, Joseph Block and Julius Meyer to the St. Louis convention.

The Land That I Show You by Stanley Feldstein records a different sequence for establishment of YMHAs, but there too Louisville ranks seventh: Philadelphia in the 1850s; New York, 1851; Baltimore, 1854; New Orleans, 1855; Richmond, 1856; Augusta, 1857, and Louisville, 1862. Of these, only New York's and Philadelphia's became permanent, thus making Louisville's the third oldest center in the nation.

At any rate, Louisville's YMHA was one of the first to have its own building, to have a physical education instructor (1890), and a paid executive, Samuel Kaufman, the financial secretary. Kaufman continued to be known as "financial secretary and custodian of the building" and held that office until 1910. Louisville started gym classes for women in 1891. New York instituted them the following year.

Rabinowitz' book develops the background that from the beginning, Louisville's leaders recognized the community relationship and place in total community service. He wrote, "The St. Louis YMHA of 1880 and the Louisville YMHA of 1890 admitted Christians to full membership, a practice which continues in both organizations. The Louisville YMHA also opened its gymnasium in 1891 to non-members, upon payment of a special fee ($3)."

(In recent years, non-Jewish membership has run to as much as 20 to 25 per cent of the total enrollment of 2,200 families.)

The first meeting that led to the 1890 incorporation was called by I.W. Bernheim on January 14, 1890. Meeting with him in the vestry of Temple Adas Israel at Sixth and Broadway were Louis Barkhouse, Nathan Block, Julius Barkhouse, Joseph Cohen, Jacob H. Flexner, Benjamin Hirsch, Dave Greenwald, A.L. Dembitz and Herman Morris. A second meeting, on January 20, 1980, drew at attendance of nearly 200. Louis Barkhouse was temporary chairman and Herman Morris, secretary. At the second meeting it was decided not to use the originally planned name, Jewish Young Men's Association, but Young Men's Hebrew Association. And instead of the proposed dues of $9 a year, it was decided to charge $6.

On March 9, 1890, the first permanent officers were elected.*

The YMHA's first big entertainment was a picnic June 26, 1890 at Phoenix Hill Park. At the outset physical training activities attracted the greatest interest. A site on the east side of First Street north of Chestnut was acquired and a $3,500 gymnasium was constructed. The first meeting in the new building was held January 22, 1891 but the building itself was popularly referred to

*The officers were: I.W. Bernheim, president; Herman Morris, vice-president; Alfred Selligman, secretary; S.J. Grauman, treasurer, and directors, Siegel Bronner, Louis Barkhouse, A.L. Dembitz, Ben Flexner, Irwin Hess, Ben Hirsch and Siegel Kaufman.

for many years as the gymnasium. A gift from I.W. and Bernard Bernheim in 1895 enabled the YMHA to erect a three-story addition in front of the gymnasium and this served until the Second and Jacob building was opened. The place the YMHA won in the community is expressed in *A History of the Jews in Louisville* (1900), which said "that not only the younger generation, but the long established citizens of Louisville are interested in it . . . and there is little doubt that the association is of great importance in the Jewish life of the community."

At the start of the 20th Century, the YMHA began co-operation with the Newsboys' Home and the Neighborhood House, and in 1901 began its first class, with Dr. H.G. Enelow teaching Jewish history. There was talk of a swimming pool as early as October 1901, at which time athletics was the most popular activity.* There were big gym classes and public gym exhibitions.

The library was started in 1903. Two years later the YMHA set up a budget system, probably the first systematized financial control by any Louisville organization, while Ben F. Washer was president.

One of the highlights of 1905 was an entertainment commemorating the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Jews in America. The following year saw the beginning of English classes for New Americans.

The growth of activities led to a feeling that expansion was needed. Public theatrical performances, strawberry festivals, excursions on the river, dances, and minstrel shows were given to raise funds, and in 1909 the expansion plans took a real step forward with launching of the $75,000 "Greater Building Fund" that raised $77,844 to help build at Second and Jacob.

It was in the two decades between 1910 and 1930 that Louisville became established firmly as "the place" for other community centers to seek their executives.**

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*The pool materialized in 1955 when the YMHA moved to Dutchmans Lane.

**Louisvillians recruited to head other centers included Herman Passamaneck, who went to the Kansas City YMHA and later to the Pittsburgh YM & YWHA; Herbert Kohn, to Nashville, Tenn., and Benjamin A. Roth, to Birmingham. Miss Minnie Passamaneck, to Hartford, Conn. and later to Rochester, N.Y. (after retirement she returned to Louisville); Nathan Leibson, to B'nai Jeshurun Center, Newark, N.J., and David Dressler, who became head of the Jewish Community Center in Gloversville, N.Y.

Among those who got their early training on the YMHA staff and later attained top leadership positions elsewhere were Robert H. Weiner, executive director of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Washington; athletic director Harry Shapiro, who left to head the Chattanooga, Tenn. YMHA; Harold Katz, who succeeded Roth in Birmingham; Sol Margolin, Kansas City, and Alan Kottler, Fort Worth, Texas.

A 1931 Chronicler-Spokesman editorial, taking note of Ronetta Mayer's resignation after nine years as girls secretary to take a New York position, commented: "The Louisville YMHA has furnished more executives to Jewish community centers than any other YMHA or similar institution in the United States. This statement was confirmed by Louis Kraft, official of the Jewish Welfare Board, visiting here" that week.

The YMHA began publication of Twice-A-Month on January 1, 1901, "in the interest of the Jewish community in general, the Young Men's Hebrew Association in particular." Eruditely edited, and containing Jewish news of local and national interest as well as YMHA announcements, it continued for two years. The Chronicler, a monthly, was begun in 1913 and had a more literary format than Twice-A-Month. Sudden drop in advertising revenue during the depression led to demise of The Chronicler; it was merged with The Spokesman and taken over as a private business enterprise.

Here are some notes from the first Chronicler, March 1913: On February 23, the Sunday School conducted by Louisville Zionists presented a Purim play. Dr. I.N. Bloom spoke on sex hygiene to the boys on February 14 and planned a similar session for the girls later, and the editor commented: "The YMHA . . . is always on the alert to help raise moral standards." A Dramatic Society was formed, its first production a musical comedy staged at Macauley's Theatre. Another editorial comment: "Won't someone volunteer to create a new substantial orchestra?" (A few years later Morris Simon did, but that's another chapter.)

Also in 1913 there began the movement to organize centers, and Louisville joined in establishing the Council of YMHA and Kindred Associations, which later developed into the National Jewish Welfare Board.

In 1913 was born the YMHA summer camp, but its operation was spasmodic until 1924 when several men pledged personal funds to help purchase 12½ acres on River Road about half a mile from Charlesgate Station on the Prospect interurban line about eight miles east of Louisville. Permanent buildings were added from time to time and five additional acres were purchased later. The camp had housing and dining hall facilities for overnight campers and about a dozen families built their own summer cottages at the site. The camp in the mid 1930s was valued at $60,000, not including the privately owned cottages. Named Camp Tapawingo, it grew into a powerful activity and served as the "YMHA out of doors" until the 1937 flood permanently impaired its usefulness. After the flood the site was leased to the Sea Scouts and later sold.

The Second and Jacob Era

The new building at Second and Jacob was dedicated with great fanfare February 16, 1915. The first floor had offices, a library and auditorium. The second floor contained meeting rooms and a gymnasium and there was a third-floor lodge hall.* In the basement were handball courts and a meeting

*In 1916 regular users of the lodge hall were Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith; Mystic Lodge, Knights of Pythias; Phoenix Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, one of three exclusively Jewish Odd Fellows' lodges in U.S.; Kentucky Council Royal Arcanum; Workmen's Circle; Dreyfus Lodge, Order of Knights of Joseph; Loraine Lodge, IOOF; Louisville Zion Society; Blanche Mitchell dancing class, and two locomotive engineers' lodges.

room where dinners could be served. It was truly a great day when President Benjamin S. Washer* presented Mayor John H. Buschemeyer and Lt. Gov. E.J. McDermott to address the formal opening. The dedication was a week-long event, with formal dedication Tuesday night, a reception and dance Wednesday night, a Thursday athletic and basketball night, a talk by Dr. Joseph Rauch on "The Jewish Essentials of YMHA" on Friday night, and "The Slaughter," described as "a Jewish photo play," presented Saturday and Sunday nights for the benefit of Jewish sufferers in the war zone, World War I already having broken out in Europe. For the next four decades, 729 S. Second remained the "Jewish address" in Louisville.

In 1916 the YMHA conducted a Friday night Bible class with an enrollment of 15, and a Zionist Sabbath School, with an average attendance of 75, met there at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday. That same year saw expansion of YMHA services with formation of a Vocational Guidance Bureau which provided an employment service at a time when Jews faced great discrimination in the job market.

World War I found Louisville's YMHA outstanding in service to Army and Navy personnel. (This work is described separately in chapter 12.)

The YMHA moved intensively into the field of girls' activities, with addition of a girls' worker to the staff. Minnie Isaacs was the first girls' secretary, followed by Gertrude Cone in 1919. Mrs. J.B. Judah and Mrs. H.E. Ottenheimer helped establish such groups as the Girls' Civics Club, Emma Lazarus Circle, WTMH Club, and others.

Adequate funding had become a problem, and in 1919 the YMHA took what its leaders called a "courageous" step of raising dues from $9 to $12. Some help came through formation of the Community Chest (now Metro United Way) December 27, 1923. The YMHA and the Jewish Welfare Federation became charter members. David C. Liggett, director, wrote at that time: "The Jewish people of Louisville are well represented on the boards of directors of the (40) constituent agencies and of the Community Chest." Among members of the first executive committee were E.S. Tachau and Edward Sachs. The Community Chest grew out of the 1917-18 "War Chest" in which the Jewish War Relief Committee, American Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, and YMCA pooled their efforts. In 1918 a Federation of Social Agencies, later changed to the Welfare League, was formed, with the Jewish Welfare Federation (now Jewish Family and Vocational Service) as a charter member. This led to formation of the Community Chest itself, whose 1923 drive raised $373,000 from 35,000 donors.

A Courier-Journal article in 1923 listed membership at 1,500, with 1,085 persons enrolled in various group activities. For men there were the 10-year-old Kadimah Club, a men's current-topics supper club; Athletic Club, Quo-

*Not to be confused with another attorney, Ben F. Washer, who headed the YMHA from 1901-1905.

rum, Optimi, Brandeis, Bon Temp, and Boy Scouts. Women had a Civics Club, Ahmsae, Fidelis, Choral Society, Sewing Group, Domestic Science, TTBW, Embroidery Group, Letovah, JUG, Normal Y Club, Optimists, Peptimists, Hi-Y, Girl Scouts and Junior Chorus. There also were dramatics, orchestra and scores of gym and social activities.

These were some of the 1923 events recorded in The Chronicler:

1. The YMHA's annual Sukkot Festival on September 26 broke all records. Approximately 700 attended. Charles W. Morris was chairman, Rabbi J.J. Gittleman spoke, there was music, and a movie, "The Eternal Struggle," was shown.

2. Regarding the new camp: "The difficulty of negotiating the bad road from the Smith farmhouse to the camp is being solved by thoroughly repairing that road so that all may travel it with full security."

3. Yiddish Social and Literary Club: Dr. Joseph Rauch was speaker for a George Washington program February 25, 1923.

4. Brandeis Club: "On Sunday, February 25th, the Brandeis Club went on a hike and we were within one half mile of the meeting place of the Klan. We were not invited to attend and feeling insulted, did not favor the Klan with our opinions. Nevertheless, we had a good time. Our camping place was Willet's Woods. The only mishap was when Theodore Berman (who became a pharmacist) tried sliding on his face in preference to riding in the truck. The hike was enjoyed by all." David Dressler was president of the club (he later became a New York State corrections official and wrote authoritative books on prisons).

The 1920s were a period of extraordinary growth, both in scope of activities and in reaching into all segments of the community. These years were marked by Sunday afternoon socials, by the growth of music and by the explosion of athletics. (Music and athletics are dealt with in separate chapters.)

In 1929 there was a move to change the name to the YM & YWHA, but Charles W. Morris, who had been president from 1920 to 1923, killed that idea. He said that if a change in name were to be made, Jewish Community Center would more correctly denote the place of the YMHA in the community. Two decades later, when a new home for the YMHA was built on Dutchmans Lane, the name suggested by Morris was adopted.

In 1929, it was noted in YMHA records that "dues were dropping off with all too significant regularity." A meeting was called March 24 at which leaders of the Jewish community, Charles W. Morris reported, "expressed their confidence in the YMHA and its destinies, and their desire to see its activities enlarged in scope and intensity." A membership campaign was launched April 8, with Louis Cohen as general chairman and Mrs. Alvin Roth as women's chairman.

Success of the membership campaign resulted in resumption of The Chronicler after a two-year lapse, with Dr. J. Irwin Essig as editor. Absence of The Chronicler had resulted in an information gap for the Jewish community and its return was widely hailed.

While the financial picture continued to deteriorate as the nation moved into depression, activities continued to grow. The Meet-A-Body Club for singles made its debut October 27, 1929 with an attendance of 75 and with Gertrude Fox as chairman. In 1930 a New Year's Eve Dance was announced, replacing similar events formerly sponsored by the Athletic Club. It was hailed as "a great success." An intercongregational oratorical contest was scheduled March 18, 1931, open to one boy and one girl between the ages of 14 and 18 from each congregation. In January 1931 a class in show-card writing and window-trimming was begun, with Leon Feitelson as instructor. Also in January 1931, Kadimah Club announced record attendance to hear Neville Miller, dean of the University of Louisville Law School (and later Mayor of Louisville).

A fire that broke out the night of February 11, 1931 razed five cottages at Camp Tapawingo. The cause was unknown and damage was estimated at $10,000. The Chronicler-Spokesman reported the fire started "in the neighborhood of the cottages of Emil Ortner and Ben Klein, and spread to the adjoining cottages of Max Frockt, Kaplan Memorial Cottage, and the Berman Cottage. The owners decided to rebuild at a time when prices of building materials were exceptionally low." The account said it was the first fire in six years at the camp and that "tramps may have been the cause."

YMHA Almost Closes Down

The worsening fiscal picture prompted a number of organizations to co-operate in 1930 to stage a community carnival for the benefit of the YMHA. Its success led to a second carnival the following year. The plight of the YMHA brought this editorial comment in The Chronicler-Spokesman on February 6, 1931: "It is regrettable that an institution such as the YMHA must maintain a consistent struggle for mere existence."

The very existence of the YMHA hung by a slender thread. An emergency meeting of the entire Jewish community was called in September 1931. Debate raged over whether to close YMHA. The decision reached was to continue operation by increasing an existing mortgage by $13,000 through inclusion of previously unmortgaged camp property. The board earlier had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a mortgage. The new mortgage covered the year's deficit and provided $2,600 cash, which was sufficient to carry the YMHA to 1933. The mortgage was arranged by Sol Levy, a director of Liberty Fire Insurance Company. Several members objected, saying the mortgage would create a debt without providing for repayment. A pro-mortgage motion by Ben S. Washer, seconded by Col. Fred Levy, passed "overwhelmingly."

President Louis Cohen (who had been general secretary from 1917 to 1920) explained the purpose of the mortgage. Charles W. Morris, chairman of the finance committee, traced the YMHA's financial structure back to 1926. A special financing measure had to be adopted that year to keep the agency in

operation. Cohen said the YMHA had given Louisville's 10,000 Jewish citizens a social center for 42 years and they paid less than 90 cents per capita toward its support. He said 50,000 visited the building and camp each year and took part in activities. The meeting resulted in voluntary raising of dues by many who attended. Sol Levy added $100, while 22 persons pledged increases of $10 each and five others, $5 each.

Still the pressure did not abate. President Cohen announced in October 1931 that the "situation is more acute than ever. 1. We need more members. 2. Our members must pay their dues. The YMHA must live within its income. Activities will be curtailed and expenses reduced to achieve this result."

General Secretary Maurice F. Grossman* (he held that post from 1930 to 1935) reported active membership then of 830 — 557 men and 273 women. He also gave these attendance figures:

Athletic department: handball players, 50; businessmen's volleyball class 20; high school boys class, 20; junior boys class, 30; senior men, 30. Sunday afternoon intramural basketball, 68; Rep basketball, 30; ladies morning gym class, 40; junior girls, 30; high school girls class, 12; senior girls class, 15; athletic total, 335.

Some of the other activities were Meet-A-Body every other week, 100; social and literary activities, minstrel show and dance, and Thanksgiving Eve dance; Kadimah Club, men's supper discussion group, alternate weeks, 250; Player's Club, three one-act plays seen by 550 persons; orchestra, nine concerts, 4,500 persons; discussion group, 15; Hebrew class, weekly for four months, 140; Girls Department clubs and activities, 6,000 during year. Total 1930-31 attendance was estimated at 33,360.

New squash and handball courts were added in 1935 and two years later the Day Camp, later known as Camp Ricarree and now Camp Gilgalim and Camp Kton Ton, was born. In 1938 membership reached an all-time peak of 1,150 thanks to a successful membership drive and the Sidney D. Handmaker

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*Grossman started a career of public service as a charter member of Boy Scout Troop 30 at the YMHA and for the remainder of his life was active in scouting. He helped Louisville B'nai B'rith, of which he once was president, raise funds to build a meeting facility at Covered Bridge Reservation, a facility which his farsightedness had helped lead the Old Kentucky Home Council of the Scouts to buy. Scouting awarded him its Silver Beaver. At one meeting he had to call for burn ointment because he was so wrapped up in planning for Troop 30's 60th anniversary that he let his cigar burn down and singe his fingers. Grossman also was active in Jewish Hospital, the Community Chest, and Adath Jeshurun. His love for B'nai B'rith came from his father, Louis C. Grossman, an insurance agent and past president of Louisville Lodge. He also was a charter member of Daniel Boone Chapter of DeMolay. After resigning his YMHA post, Grossman overcame severe illness, lived in Lexington for a time, and overcame another severe illness but never lost his good cheer. He returned to Louisville and operated a department store in Middletown until his retirement. Grossman died September 16, 1977 at the age of 74 and B'nai B'rith set up a camp-scholarship fund in his memory.

Memorial Lounge was dedicated. That same year saw the beginning of Camp Tall Trees at Otter Creek Park as a replacement for flooded-out Camp Tapawingo.

The question of community support for the YMHA continued to come up, and Dr. Joseph Frehling, YMHA president and one of the few physicians active in community life, complained at several meetings of the Conference of Jewish Organizations that a substantial number of persons prominent in the community failed to support the YMHA. This resulted in the Conference and the YMHA asking the National Jewish Welfare Board to survey the YMHA and its relationship with the community. Dr. Mordecai Soltes came to Louisville in fall of 1937 to conduct this survey. Since then, YMHA leadership and support have come from all segments of the community.

In 1938 a $500 bequest from the estate of Miss Carrie Hirsch enabled the YMHA Forum to get under way. It filled a gap left when the Louisville Public Forum, originally sponsored by the University of Louisville Alumni Association, foundered during the depression. The YMHA Forum presented outstanding speakers and panel discussions year after year, and within a few years had broadened into the Jewish Public Forum, a co-operative group of 20 organizations.* As an example of the type of programming, the 1948-49 season brought to Louisville Max Lerner, noted man of letters; Walter White, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Chicago Round Table of three distinguished professors then prominently featured on NBC radio — Prof. Louis Wirth, ex-Louisvillian Dr. Louis Gottschalk, and Prof. Maynard C. Krueger. A 1950 speaker was Maurice Samuel.

War clouds in Europe brought resumption of the draft, and the YMHA immediately became home away from home for Jewish servicement. (Chapter 12 details this massive community program.)

In summer of 1942, Lawrence Koch, executive secretary, entered the armed services. Alexander W. Erlen, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation, became temporary head of the YMHA as well. This arrangement proved highly satisfactory to both agencies.

Growing pains in the 1940s caused the Second and Jacob building to burst at the seams with its regular program plus the extensive burden of hospitality to servicemen. President Sidney Appel, Arthur S. Kling and James Levy looked ahead, planning for a new center that would be the

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*Co-sponsors for the 1948-49 season, besides the YMHA, were Adath Jeshurun Men's Club, Adath Israel Sisterhood, Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood, Anshei Sfard Sisterhood, B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, Brith Sholom Sisterhood, Brith Sholom Men's Club, Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section and Evening Group, Hadassah, Hadassah Business & Professional Group, Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society, Jewish War Veterans; Keneseth Israel Sisterhood, Labor Zionists, Louisville Conference of Jewish Organizations, and Zionist Organization. Season tickets for five presentations were $3.

ultimate in community facilities. The YMHA obtained Conference of Jewish Organizations permission to conduct a fund drive, and the Conference permitted Clarence F. Judah, its executive director, to serve as its professional head. Dann C. Byck, Sidney Rosenblum and James Levy were the top leaders in the 1944 campaign for $250,000. They raised $290,000. It proved to be the first of several fund drives before the new Center became a reality.

With a $290,000 kitty as a nucleus, the YMHA started planning for the future. There was at this time a sizable Jewish population in the area just south of the YMHA. This was before the era of suburbanism and there were many businessmen downtown who used the YMHA during lunch hour and immediately after business hours. These considerations led to a decision to build downtown. Ben F. Washer offered to donate a tract on Kentucky between Fifth and Sixth Streets for use as an athletic field, which led the YMHA to purchase the southwest corner of Fourth and Kentucky, across from Memorial Auditorium. Fortunately, before going ahead with a new building, an extensive community-wide survey was made, with Ferd Weis Jr. as chairman. The survey, assisted by the National Jewish Welfare Board, determined decisively that the population trend was outward from center city, postulated what types of programming would best serve the community and suggested that the new building, to be renamed the Jewish Community Center, also house other community agencies, especially the Louisville Hebrew School, which was losing its home due to expressway construction.

The survey touched off a new round of site selection, and many possibilities were considered. One site for which serious negotiations were conducted was the Protestant Orphans Home on Bardstown Road, now the site of Mid-City Mall. The Center also sought property on Norris Place, owned by the Catholic church, but was turned down so that the site could be used for a brand-new school, Bellarmine College. Finally, 16 acres were found on Dutchmans Lane, and these were purchased. More acreage was available, but funds were inadequate, so the deal turned out to be shortsighted. Congregation Anshei Sfard purchased the adjoining acreage and a few years later resold part of that to the Center for more than the entire tract would have cost originally. In 1978, the Center yielded part of that site for construction of Shalom Tower.

There were cries that the Dutchmans Lane site was "too far out," but far-seeing Center leaders produced Chamber of Commerce predictions that in the 1960s the center of Louisville's population would be at Bardstown Road and Douglass Boulevard. Also, two congregations had relocated in the Highlands and others were casting eyes in that direction.

Now that there was a site, what about building? The National Jewish Welfare Board was consulted on plans to incorporate the suggestions made in its survey. The Building Fund stood at $655,000 — the original $290,000 plus 10 per cent of each year's United Jewish Campaign for five years under an agreement reached with the Conference. But by the time the plans were

drawn, it was estimated that a suitable building would cost $1,250,000. Inflation was partly to blame.

Schreiber and A New Building

Amid all the planning begun after the 1944 building fund campaign, Lawrence Koch, back from the war, resigned to take a position with the American Jewish Committee. A new executive director was needed, but this time no search committee was needed. The community virtually drafted Aaron Schreiber, who had come to Louisville as director of the JWB's Army Fifth Corps Area program. Schreiber's skillful leadership of the USO-JWB program and his calm, easy-going personality made a profound impression, so there was no discussion on seeking out another candidate for the job. Schreiber held the executive's post from 1946 until he retired in 1973. He managed the transition from cramped quarters into a new building and kept alive the personal touch that had always characterized the YMHA at Second and Jacob. People expected to see Schreiber around, and he always was. He lived a mile away, and frequently walked from his home. He rarely made public statements, but managed to cool it when rival factions threatened to get board meetings off their course. Besides being an asset to the Jewish community, he served his professional colleagues well, having been president of their local association and serving on advisory boards to governors and mayors. He spent countless hours training a staff for the California Community Center when public officials began turning their attention to the needs of inner-city blacks, and without Schreiber's assistance it is doubtful whether that agency at 1600 W. St. Catherine Street would ever have been launched successfully.

While looking forward to future construction of a new home, the YMHA reached a milestone in 1950 — its 60th anniversary. A season of extensive programming ensued, beginning with a George Washington Ball and ending with a banquet April 16 at which Irving Edison of JWB spoke. The slogan for the anniversary year was "Going like 60 in '50!" Lewis D. Cole was president and the YMHA boasted a full-time staff of eight.*

Ten years later the Center had 2,040 members (7,214 individuals), dues income of $123,795, a budget of $258,860, and a staff of 12.

As a public service, the YMHA in 1951 published a directory of organization presidents.

In 1954, after having received a total of $371,000 from the United Jewish Campaign, the YMHA embarked on its second fund-raising project, with Dann Byck, Sr. again as general chairman. The goal was $350,000, with the intention of beginning construction the following spring. Under Byck's successful guidance, the drive ended up with approximately $550,000.

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*Aaron Schreiber, executive director; Maurice Richlin, athletic director; Pauline Pearson, business manager; Estelle Handler, youth activities; Ronetta Mayer, public relations; David Sagerman, adult activities; Margaret Friedlander, dance instructor, and Madeline Bernstein, secretary. Also, Selma Erlen was women's athletic director.

Shortly before launching the fund drive, another "first" occurred at the YMHA. Abe B. Berman (a pharmacist) was elected president. Berman was the first of the boys who had grown up in the YMHA to reach its top leadership. Berman grew up in a large but poor Orthodox family and his attainment of the presidency shows how democratic the agency had become over the years and how it permeated community life.

Construction began. Plans called for a two-story building that would house an auditorium at one end and a large gymnasium at the other, with a library on the first floor and meeting rooms on the second. Also, for the first time in history, there would be swimming, with indoor and outdoor pools. The building also would house classrooms of the Louisville Hebrew School. There was parking space for 200 cars and ample space for day camp and other outdoor activities.

The nursery school formerly conducted at the Jewish Children's Home at 1128 S. First was transferred to the Center. The teachers were Mrs. Ruth Loewenfeld, who had taught at the downtown school; Mrs. Marion Moore and Mrs. Helen Thompson. Dwindling enrollment and operational losses led the Center to discontinue these classes in 1970.

Construction was far enough along by late summer of 1955 for the Louisville Hebrew School to start its 1955-56 school year in the new facilities, but it was three months before the building actually was formally opened the weekend of December 10-11, 1955. In his capacity as vice-president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, Charles W. Morris presided at the Saturday night program. President Joseph J. Kaplan gave a welcome address and Dr. Solomon Rosenberg lit Chanukah candles. Another program, with Samuel D. Gershovitz, the JWB's executive vice-president, as speaker, was held Sunday afternoon. Rabbis from all the congregations participated in the two days of ceremonies.

The new building lacked some things, such as a theater-auditorium, but it was a tremendous success. The location proved within easy reach and the swimming pool made a big splash. The athletic facilities were so good that many non-Jewish families joined, and the building that was designed to serve 5,000 members soon was serving 7,000. Because not all of Louisville's Jews supported the Center with memberships, others had to be taken in. The surge in membership required addition of a swimming pool for children, more parking space and lighting. Besides the Louisville Hebrew School, the new building also housed the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Three years after opening the new building, the Center had to seek more funds and launched a $200,000 Fulfillment Drive with Sidney Rosenblum as chairman. Among the reasons given for needing more funds were changes that had to be made in the building, purchase of additional land when reconstruction of Watterson Expressway (I-264) sliced off a corner of the Center's property, and failure to realize as much as anticipated from sale of the old building at Second and Jacob. An appreciative community gave $257,812.

One of the programs that mushroomed with opening of the new Center was senior citizens activities. A Golden Age group begun by Mrs. Elsie P. Judah* and Ronetta Mayer and which Selma (Mrs. Arthur) Kling mothered for many years had met Sunday afternoons for a long time at the old building. Now it blossomed into Club 60, a veritable beehive of activity, with arts and crafts, discussions, sightseeing trips, singing, dancing and dramatics. As it grew, the Council of Jewish Women joined in supporting it jointly with the Center. Club 60 formed the model for Senior House and other senior centers.

But the activity of Club 60 did not stop development of services to senior citizens. In the mid 1970s, a somewhat younger group started Kedem Club, which also has a full program of activity. And in 1978, spurred by Arthur Kling, a Retired Active Men's Society (RAMS) came into being with regular Thursday afternoon get togethers and card games.

In the annual report for 1958, Executive Director Schreiber commented on the national recognition accorded Louisville's Center since its opening. He reported "receiving requests from many Centers throughout the U.S.A. asking for information concerning how we planned, built, financed, operated, and programmed for such a building and membership. The National Jewish Welfare Board has bragged about us — citing our Center as one which planned wisely. The queries still come in daily . . . we can have a sense of pride that we have helped other communities in developing their new buildings and program. Both Joseph J. Kaplan, our President, and Arthur S. Kling, our Past President and former chairman of our Expediting Committee for the new building, have made numerous trips to other communities telling the Louisville story. Dr. Bernard Karp, the Executive Director of the Providence, Rhode Island Jewish Community Center, sent out promotional material for his contemplated new building by featuring the story of the Louisville Center."

The Ottenheimer Award

Also noted in the 1958 annual report was a $25,000 bequest from Blanche B. (Mrs. H.E.) Ottenheimer, who had moved to Cleveland. Half of the income from the gift was to be used for the Center, the remaining half to be given annually to an outstanding member of the community. The will stipulated that a city-wide committee make the selection and that the award be presented at each annual meeting of the Center. Since its establishment, the Ottenheimer

*Mrs. Judah died in 1972 and left a $3,000 bequest in the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation. Her son, Clarence F. Judah, designated the proceeds as the Elsie P. Judah Award to be made annually to a Club 60 member for meritorious service.

Award has become one of the most prestigious of all civic awards in metropolitan Louisville.*

The Midwest Section of the JWB had been granting scholarships to social-work schools for a number of years. One of three awarded in 1958 went to Gary Schreiber, son of the executive director. Gary Schreiber later became executive director of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Center.

The JWB encountered financial problems and instituted a "fair share" plan putting communities on a quota basis. Louisville joined in, but another effective fund-raising plan originated here. Arthur S. Kling, long active in JWB affairs, especially in the Midwest region, in 1956 launched JWB Associates, whereby interested persons would make annual contributions toward the JWB budget. He named Louisville's group the Charles W. Morris Chapter of JWB Associates, Morris having been a national vice-president of the JWB. For a number of years, under Kling's aegis, the local JWB Associates awarded a plaque each year to the outstanding volunteer worker at the Center. Many of its recipients "graduated" to even higher community responsibilities.

A September 1961 analysis of membership showed 2,086 families, embracing 6,951 participating and 384 nonparticipating individuals, a total of 7,335. Of these 143 memberships accounting for approximately 600 individuals were partial or full scholarships. Actual participants broken down by age groups were: children up to five, 455; children 6-11, 1,143; junior high pupils, 563; senior high students, 432, and adults, 2,919.

One of the unusual programs of 1961 was a panel on "Jewish Youth on Trial," presented in cooperation with the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Five years after the new building was opened, the Center launched an intensive self-study to determine which goals were not being achieved and how such achievement might be attained.

A 1963 decision by the United Service Organizations (USO) cost Louisville the services of Samuel Gordon, who had represented the USO-JWB here many years. With financing from the Conference of Jewish Organizations, the armed services program was turned over to the Center and Annette Sagerman, who had been Gordon's administrative assistant, was chosen to supervise the program. In her latest capacity as adult activities supervisor (1980) she continues to maintain close liaison with the Jewish chaplain and other officials at Fort Knox and to oversee whatever programming might be needed.

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*Recipients of the award have been Mayor Charles Farnsley, 1960; Lyman Dawson, 1961; Dr. Phillip Davidson, 1962; Dean Marlin M. Volz, 1963; Helen (Mrs. Dann C.) Byck, 1964; Barry Bingham Sr., 1965; Dr. C.H. Parrish, 1966; Monsignor Alfred S. Horrigan, 1967; Lee B. Thomas Jr., 1968; Arthur S. Kling, 1969; Dorcas Ruthenberg, 1970; Lewis D. Cole, 1971; Dr. Woodrow Strickler, 1972; J. Van Dyke Norman, 1973; John H. Hardwick, 1974; Fanny Rose (Mrs. Irvin S.) Rosenbaum, 1975; Lyman Johnson, 1976; Clarence F. Judah, 1977; Sister Eileen Egan, 1978; Maurice D.S. Johnson, 1979; Sara Landau, 1980.

An active Radio Club for men and boys had been in existence for several years under the leadership of Joe Brownstein. In September 1963 the club obtained a license for its own ham radio station.

The 1964-65 season was an intensive one, marking the Center's 75th anniversary. There were many special events, highlighted by a glittering anniversary ball January 30, 1965. Ten sessions of discussions on contemporary problems, co-sponsored by the Center and the Bureau of Jewish Education, included famed sociologist Dr. Manheim Shapiro as one participant. Prefacing his 75th anniversary remarks, President Morris Kling said: "More leisure time, more older adults, more stresses and strains on our youth, due to the pace of our present society, create an ever-increasing challenge for us who are charged with the responsibility of our Jewish Center program. However, we do owe a duty to pay tribute to those people who, over a period of 75 years, delivered to us... the wonderful Center that we now have." The Center's budget for the anniversary year was $285,162.88, of which $14,585 came from the United Jewish Campaign and $70,500 from the Community Chest.

There was a movement launched just prior to this to set up a regional camp with Louisville, Cincinnati and Columbus sharing in the cost. Louisville, pleased with Camp Tall Trees for overnight camping, decided not to join the project. In the 1967 season, Tall Trees was renamed Camp Ben F. Washer, in tribute to Washer's benevolence, and an enlarged camping program at Otter Creek was made possible. The camp operated successfully for several seasons, with vacancies being filled by campers from other cities, but changing life styles made it unfeasible to continue. The attrition was due partly to rising costs of operation, fewer campers, and more interest being shown in summer trips to Israel and the like. As a result, the Center discontinued its overnight camping program during the 1970s and expanded its day-camp activities.

Thanks to a bequest and other funds, an additional room was built during the 1965-66 season. The closed-in terrace became known as the Patio Room and has paid for itself hundreds of times over in usefulness for small and medium-sized meetings, receptions, staff and other conferences, a monthly art show, and countless other activities.

In 1966 an agreement was sought for the Louisville Jewish Day School (Eliahu Academy) to have classroom space in the Center. As a result, since 1970, the Day School has shared classrooms with the Louisville Hebrew School, whose program begins after regular school hours. The same year, space was made available to the Jewish Vocational Service for a part-time program serving teenagers.

The board during the winter of 1967 gave the go-ahead to building two additional handball courts, above the original ones, at a cost of some $40,000. The board also voted to construct two additional tennis courts, and at the same time engaged in intensive study of a projected additional swimming pool, which later also was constructed, to relieve congestion at the original

pool. The handball courts finally were completed in late 1969 at a cost of $92,000.

It's 1968. The State of Israel is 20 years old. The Center joins with the Conference of Jewish Organizations in sponsoring a community-wide celebration on May 5.

Memorial to the 6,000,000

Some time earlier, the Conference of Jewish Organizations was asked to consider a local memorial to the 6,000,000 Jews who died at Nazi hands. The discussions were revolving around the possibility of a suitable sculpture on the Center's grounds, but Joseph J. Kaplan came up with another suggestion. He proposed a colorful mural depicting Jewish history from the Holocaust through unification of Jerusalem after the Six-Day War. Dr. Harold Berg, a surgeon whose hobby was making mosaics, responded with enthusiasm, and enlisted artist Joe Rigsby to help with the design. Mr. Kaplan provided funds for the mosiac, which now graces one wall of the Center's Rebecca and Barnet Linker Auditorium. Dr. Berg's expressive artistry has won national recognition and the message of the mosaic is conveyed again and again to the thousands who use the auditorium.

A lifesaving event of 1970 was a $50,000 bequest from J. Graham Brown which enabled the Center to make repairs to its building without resorting to a separate fund drive. Brown's will had directed the funds to the Conference of Jewish Organization for "building or remodeling of buildings." The Conference, having no physical structure of its own, complied with the will by turning the funds over to the Center.

The plight of Soviet Jews began to be known during 1970, and the Center staged a rally for Soviet Jewry in October to acquaint Louisvillians with the situation. Cooperating in the rally were the United Synagogue Youth of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and the Community Relations Council of the Conference of Jewish Organizations.

Metro United Way in 1977 gave the Center $5,000 toward the $14,000 cost of installing two emergency exits to comply with fire regulations. In October 1977 an elevator with separate outside entrance was installed to facilitate access to the building by handicapped persons and senior citizens. Community Development funds helped finance the elevator project.

Over the years staff changes had occurred from time to time, usually due to resignations to accept better positions elsewhere. While the emphasis since the 1930s had been on professionalization, circumstances and fiscal problems brought on the appointment in 1962 of Jack Benjamin, who had been active in the Center since his arrival in Louisville as a youth, as Adult Department supervisor. He had spent considerable time with Heritage Theatre and on the Center's board of directors. He later was made director of building and membership, upon the retirement of Maurice Richlin, and Annette Sagerman became adult program supervisor.

The serenity of staff changes became a thing of the past early in 1977. The first upheaval was the sudden decision of Ben Rothstein to take early retirement, a move apparently brought on by the board's dissatisfaction with finances and staff supervision. Rothstein had come to Louisville as assistant executive director and moved up when Aaron Schreiber retired. The departure of Rothstein left the staff in turmoil, but the program continued on schedule and to the casual observer the Center was doing business as usual.

Alan Kottler, who had been on the staff 12 years, became acting executive director, but resigned when it became apparent that he would not get the post permanently. After six months as acting director he left Louisville in mid-January 1978 to become executive director of the Dan Danciger Jewish Community Center in Fort Worth, Tex.* Benjamin resigned at the same time, to enter business.** Another departure was that of Tony Mann, who left after 10 years on the staff to be physical education director at a new center in Dayton Ohio.

Raymond G. Kalef came from Detroit in mid-January 1978 as executive director. He resigned April 25, 1979, becoming executive director of an adoption agency. Meanwhile Drew Staffenberg of the Center staff took over as acting director and later was promoted to assistant director.

Pauline Pearson retired, and a tribute to her was a big part of the 1978 annual meeting. She started with the Center November 11, 1941, holding in turn the posts of secretary, bookkeeper, office manager, and office manager and comptroller. She was Girl Friday to five executive directors and 12 presidents, three building-fund drives, and 10 membership campaigns. But no matter how important the person making a request or seeking information, it was always Pauline Pearson who fielded the request when it came down to the nitty gritty of the Center's everyday operations. How she managed to keep track of a myriad of details about program, people and finances down to the very last penny always mystified those with whom she worked. Every fall she would disappear from her office — drafted by the Community Chest to do the inside work on its annual campaign. Her Center career was by no means her first. She grew up on Madison Street when it was Louisville's ghetto, had to have a job when she finished school, and became a cashier at Klein Grocery

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*Kottler's departure also cost the community the services of an active volunteer, his wife Marjorie Kottler, who had founded the Louisville Chapter of Women's American ORT and served as its president and later on its national board. ORT, one of the original beneficiaries of the United Jewish Campaign, is internationally famous for its occupational therapy and rehabilitation and training programs in Israel and among distressed Jews in other countries.

**Benjamin in 1980 became business administrator of The Temple.

Company,* Preston and Jefferson. Not simply a cashier, but "the cashier," a most taxing assignment. Later she worked for Keneseth Israel Synagogue and for a time for auctioneer Abe Slung. For many years there was hardly any large public affair held without Pauline Pearson and Annette Sagerman manning the reception desk. Since retirement Miss Pearson has been active in many volunteer projects, she was 1979 chairman of the women's division of Bonds for Israel. She was one of two honored at the Center's 1980 annual meeting as "Volunteer of the Year." The other was Leon Fuchs, orchestra manager.

With Kalef's departure, search for a new executive director was launched. But the Center had to be kept operating, so Pauline Pearson and Alexander W. Erlen, who meanwhile had retired as executive director of the Jewish Social Service Agency, were called in as part-time consultants until a new executive director could be retained. Adolfo (Al) Cheistwer arrived from St. Paul in November 1979 to fill this post.

The Teen-Age Clubs

Until now we have concentrated on the adults, but there is another big area of activity embracing young people. Classes and activities of all kinds have been held for children and junior high groups, while the teen-agers participate mainly through clubs.

The pattern of teen-age clubs grew up over the years and today nearly 90 per cent of the Jewish high school students in Louisville participate in the Center's program. At one time there were seven boys' clubs and four girls' groups, but declining teenage population and lack of adult volunteer leaders have brought the number down. The clubs had their own Teen-Age Board, Club Council, and Presidents' Council at various times to co-ordinate activities under supervision of a staff worker. One of the sore spots over the years has been the bid system under which each club once a year selected its new members. Every boy and girl waited anxiously on Bid Day in hope that the club he or she wanted would proffer an invitation to join. If not, it was a sad day. A certain degree of snobbery or cliquishness was ingrained in the system, and parents and teenagers alike complained about it, but despite hundreds of hours of meetings and conferences, no other system was ever devised. During the late 1950s there was a disciplinary problem among some of the teen-agers, which resulted in Pi Tau Pi, the local chapter of a national group, leaving the Center. Today, there is a Pi, the only Center club not part of the B'nai B'rith

*Klein was the original discount grocer. Located in the Haymarket area, the store did a land-office business. In the same area were Vine, just across Preston Street; Aaron Karl at Floyd and Jefferson, and Belker, on Jefferson between Preston and Floyd. These stores provided employment for many Jewish girls, who usually were able to move into better-paying jobs elsewhere after gaining a little business experience.

Youth Organizations. At one time there also was a girls' Sigma Theta Pi chapter here too. Each of the clubs had about 30 to 40 members.

For many years, one of the outstanding program staged by the teenagers was the Quiz Bowl, patterned after a popular broadcast show. Sam Gordon, area director for the USO-JWB, was the original quiz-master, and there was spirited competition as club teams vied for first place. Another highly successful teen program is Skit Nite, which has been going on for a quarter of a century. A theme is chosen each year, and one boys' group and one girls' group pair up to write, produce and stage their own skits. The shows are well-attended, and the gate receipts bring in about $1,000 a year, all of it for the United Jewish Campaign. The teenagers also organize their own Youth Division canvassing for the UJC. The 1979 Skit Nite subject was "Wouldn't It Be Funny If?" and Amitie girls teamed up with Pi boys in "If Money Could Talk." The result was a French franc, an English pound and a U.S. dollar cavorting on the stage.

The oldest among the clubs was Louisville Chapter of AZA, founded in 1929. It simply "fell apart" in the mid 1970s after a long record of producing young leadership. Attorney Bernard Goldstein, who in the 1930s was a district field secretary for AZA, was one of its early members. For a time several AZA chapters were supervised by Joe Bliss, but later all youth groups came under full supervision of the Center. Vinson AZA 917 started its Sweetheart Dance in 1957. It became a big social event every year, but besides social events the clubs engaged in fund-raising, athletics, and other pursuits, and brought back many awards in regional and district BBYO competitions. Members of Gamma Kappa donated $2,500 raised through the sale of cards before that club disbanded at the end of the 1978-79 school year. The club had established the Ellen Faye Garmon award in memory of one its members after her death in 1968, to honor an outstanding girl worker who has not attained leadership position. Louisville Lodge No. 14, B'nai B'rith, continued this award.

The Center revived community-wide cultural programming in July 1977, through the efforts of Joan Stein, chairman of adult activities, and Annette Sagerman, adult supervisor. Three programs were staged. The following season, 11 organizations joined in a Community Program Council* and the program was expanded the following season.

More Interest in Israel

Eli Chechik arrived August 1976 to become community shaliach under an arrangement worked out with the Center and the Jewish Community Federation. Chechik was to stay two years, but he so endeared himself to the com-

*Co-sponsoring organizations were Adath Israel-Brith Sholom Congregation, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith Louisville Lodge, B'nai B'rith Women Emma Lazarus Chapter, Bureau of Jewish Education, Keneseth Israel Congregation, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, Temple Shalom and Temple Shalom Auxiliary. Hadassah joined later.

munity as a speaker, resource person, and information service on Israel that his term was extended another year. With regret both from the community and on his part, he returned to Israel. He addressed teachers' institutes, visited 40 or more schools, spoke to civic groups and had a 30-minute TV show on WAVE dedicated to Israel's 30th anniversary. He sparked interest among teenagers and grownups as well in spending time in Israel. A new shaliach, Amos Von Raalte, arrived in fall 1979.

Chechik's stay in Louisville added a new dimension to the Center's program. It placed more emphasis on Israel. Another move was toward more community programs marking events of major importance. Israel's 30th anniversary in 1978 was marked by a weekend of entertainment, displays, athletic competitions, and a Bible contest, all of which drew an overwhelming response. Another memorable public event was a Holocaust memorial service April 23, 1979, presented in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Six hundred persons packed the Center lobby were a replica of Yad Vashem was set up. On Memorial Day 1979 the Center sponsored a Walk for Israel, which drew 300 hikers and 200 volunteers. Nearly all finished the 14-kilometer course and the event raised $6,500 for the United Jewish Campaign. Phyllis (Mrs. Stuart) Grossman, who was so successful in stage-managing Jewish Heritage Weekend, was coordinator for the project. The walk was repeated in 1980.

There were other Israeli contacts too. Dr. Benyamin Neunerger of Haifa spent Feb. 12-26, 1978 here as Israeli scholar-in-residence and two years later Michal Smoira Cohn came here in a similar capacity. For Israel's 31st anniversary, the Center staged a Maskit Art Fair which brought Mrs. Ruth Dayan, founder of Maskit, to Louisville.

In 1978, David Kling, a past president, became the first life member, representing a $7,500 contribution to the Center. It was hoped this would be the first of many in this category. And the following year, David Jones, president of Humana, Inc., made an unrestricted gift of $50,000 in honor of two colleagues, Charles Weisberg, a past president of the Center, and Lewis Bass.* Despite this, Center finances have not kept pace with inflation, with the result that President Joseph Fineman wrote members in April 1979 that the Center had a deficit for the first time in its history and requested that several hundred families become "fair share" members to help pay the actual cost of services. He gave figures showing a family membership ($210) actually costs the Center $400.

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*The Center's club program depended on a corps of volunteer advisers, among whom Charles Weisberg and his wife Marian were among the most dedicated. Weisberg teamed up with Lewis Bass in 1950 and built Bass & Weisberg Inc. into Louisville's largest real-estate firm. It has eight offices and 125 sales agents and in 1979 grossed $75 million in sales. Bass retired from the firm in 1980 and sold his interest to Weisberg's two sons. Bass was a University of Louisville quarterback in the 1940s and served on the board of the Better Business Bureau.

Growing interest in senior citizens resulted in obtaining funds for an adult lounge which was opened November 21, 1978. The funds came from the Jewish Community Federation's Council on Aging and a Federal grant. The Center's interest in senior citizens has proved no barrier to its other activities. In recent years there was instituted a baby-sitting service for mothers attending Center activities, and classes have ranged all the way from belly dancing to talking Yiddish. There even was a class in Russian, begun in 1979.

To many persons, the Center has become a way of life. For instance, there is Louis J. Kleinman, who was editor of The Chronicler in the 1920s and who has remained active as a mainstay of Club 60.* There is Abe Jacobson, longtime set builder for Heritage Theatre, who became first president of the RAMS (Retired Active Men's Society) when that group started in 1979. And there are many others.

The Center once conducted extension programs when circumstances dictated. It has noted the growing move northeastward and has discussed a possible need for extension services in that area. But with Shalom Tower at its side, a new era of service is beginning and the Jewish Community Center more than ever before will be the Jewish center of Louisville.

*Kleinman received the 1980 Elsie P. Judah award.

Chapter 11

JEWISH HOSPITAL

Louisville's Jewish community has many flourishing institutions and organizations, but in terms of growth none has been so spectacular as the Jewish Hospital. The hospital observed its 75th anniversary in 1980 and its growth has been as great in public recognition as in mere numbers of patients. In 1905, the hospital's first year, it served 107 patients, while in 1978 it had 17,874, of whom only 4 per cent were Jewish.

The Jewish Hospital Association was organized with 50 members February 4, 1903 and incorporated April 1, 1903.* Distiller Samuel Grabfelder, the original chairman, was elected president and contributed $7,000 to the new venture. Mrs. Grabfelder added another $1,000.

The organizers sought to meet the need of Jewish patients for a place where they could get proper attention and to provide a place for Jewish doctors to practice and further their medical education.

An understanding of the founding fathers' concern requires a look at conditions which existed then. Jewish doctors, though few in number, were denied staff privileges in most hospitals, Louisville being no different in this respect than most cities.**

On the other side of the coin were the needs of the Jewish community itself. There actually existed two Jewish communities. One was the merchant class, members of old German families who were the original Jewish settlers in Louisville, for the most part practicing made-in-America Reform Judaism. At the same time, there was a large number of Orthodox Jews who lived in a more ghetto-like manner. These were mostly of Eastern European origin, part of the flood tide of immigrants that began in the 1880s and continued until shortly after World War I.*** These newcomers, speaking Yiddish and halting English wanted to observe dietary laws whether ill or not. The "German Jews," while looking down socially on the East Europeans, nevertheless organized many philanthropies. The plight of their ailing immigrant brethren, stemming from religious desires and difficulty in communicating, moved their charitable feelings and thus the idea of a Jewish hospital was born.

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*Signers of the incorporation papers were Samuel Grabfelder, Solomon Hilpp, Leon Sher, Abraham Rothstein, Alfred Selligman, Louis (Lewis) Dembitz, Charles Goldsmith, Simon Shapinsky, Bernard Bernheim, Aaron Reichman, Louis Straus, Emil S. Tachau, Edward Grauman, and Jacob Hertzman.

**The fact that discrimination on hospital staffs existed naturally lacks documentation, but remember that until quite recently, Red Cross Hospital was the only Louisville hospital in which black physicians could practice.

***Irving Howe, World of Our Fathers (New York, 1976), and Oscar Handlin, The Uprooted (Boston, 1952) movingly document these migrations.

President Grabfelder reported soon after incorporation that $26,800 had been subscribed to a building fund and $20,520 collected. Another $4,000 was pledged in annual subscriptions for maintenance. The funds raised enabled the group to purchase a lot 145 by 160 feet at the northwest corner of Floyd and Kentucky streets for $4,500. The cornerstone was laid December 13, 1903 and the building wad dedicated May 15, 1905.

The new building boasted six wards and eight private rooms. It cost $26,456. The hospital's first administrator was paid $60 a month. Rates were $21 per week per room plus $5 for use of the operating room. Two years after the hospital was opened the cost of operating it was $1,194, while total receipts were $1,157.

Mrs. Lula D. Krakauer, who later was superintendent of the Federation of Jewish Charities, was quoted during the hospital's early years as saying:

"The hospital was launched by men who for years had hoped and planned for a hospital where indigent Jews would receive medical care in an environment where there would be a sympathetic understanding of the patient, his habits, and customs, and where persons of any creed would be received as free or pay patients.

"Such was the concern of the board for the comfort and care of patients that it was decided that no superintendent should be employed who could not speak German, and after quite a bit of effort Miss Minnie Haman was chosen for the position."

In 1908 it was decided to erect an addition to double the bed capacity. The board voted for six additional wards for women and borrowed $28,500, of which $6,500 was used to pay off an existing mortgage. The high cost of maintenance created deficits year after year, and in 1908 the hospital affiliated with the then-new Federation of Jewish Charities. This agency was given control of admission of all charity patients and all social-service work growing out of hospital cases. The federated charities, a member of the Community Chest, handled the hospital's funds, a practice which continued until 1926. By that time the hospital's deficit had grown to such an extent that the organization felt it could no longer ask the Community Chest to continue financing it.

The late 1920s saw a decided decrease in Jewish charity services and the thought of closing the hospital was considered. A mass meeting was held and it was voted that the hospital continue to operate independently, as it has ever since. A campaign at that time netted pledges of $12,000 yearly for support of the hospital.

President Charles Goldsmith's annual report for 1908 noted with pride that a three-room children's ward accommodating eight patients had been equipped. The hospital then had a capacity of 60 beds. In 1978 it had 412 beds. The 1909 receipts for rooms and services amounted to $10,433.93 and there was a debt of $28,000.

Steady Increase in Patients

Goldsmith noted "a steady increase from year to year in the total number of patients and also a most gratifying increase in the number of those who are treated free of charge — or at a nominal price." He listed the year's total at 461, with 7,464 treatment days. Of these, 173 received 3,251 days of treatment either free or at reduced rates, the percentage being 35 per cent free and 9 per cent at reduced rates. Total expenses for the year came to $17,026.23, and Goldsmith calculated the cost of treatment per day at $2.29. As of December 31, 1909 there were 12 patients in the hospital — two private, two ward patients, and eight charity cases.

On April 1, 1909 Miss Katherine Daum, R.N., came from German Hospital to become superintendent and to put Jewish Hospital on a real professional footing. Her accomplishments are borne out in the hospital's present reputation as one of the biggest and best, if not the best, in Louisville.* The Jewish Hospital School of Nursing was founded in 1909, after Miss Daum's arrival.

In March 1911 Bernard Bernheim donated property adjoining the hospital on the west as a site for a nurses' home. In 1918, brothers I.W. Bernheim and Bernard Bernheim gave $100,000 for a new hospital with the stipulation that the money could not be used until the principal amounted to $125,000.

In late 1928 it was decided that the time was propitious for building a new wing and remodeling the old institution. The Bernheim gift, plus $10,000 bequeathed by Samuel Grabfelder and $5,000 from the estate of William Moorman, together with accumlated interest, gave the hospital a nucleus of $175,000. When the building was near completion, a campaign for equipment was staged and in a few days $75,000 was subscribed for this purpose. The remodeled building was opened to the public December 15, 1929. The handsome Bernheim Nurses Home adjoined the hospital, whose capacity was 88 beds and 12 bassinets.

The hospital suffered extensive damage in the 1937 flood. All of its early records were lost. All patients had to be evacuated and afterward $30,000 was raised in voluntary contributions for repair of flood damage.

In 1944 planning began for a new Jewish Hospital. By that time, 88 per cent of the patients were non-Jewish but major financial support still depended on the Jewish community, just as it does today. Over the years the Jewish physicians' practice had broadened and they brought their non-Jewish

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*The medical staff in the early years was small but included some famous names: Dr. I.A. Lederman, dean (eye, ear, nose, and throat); Drs. J.A. Flexner (father of Dr. Morris Flexner, the famed diagnostician of a later generation), F.W. Fleischaker, Leon L. Solomon, and Siegel C. Frankel, internal medicine and neurology; Drs. Sidney J. Meyers and DeWitt Henry H. Wolfe, obstetrics; Dr. Florence Brandeis, pediatrics; Dr. Leo Bloch, gynecology; Drs. I.N. Bloom and Herbert Bronner, genitourinary and skin, and Drs. Lee Kahn and Oscar E. Bloch, general surgery.

patients to the Jewish Hospital too.* Meanwhile the hospital itself was keeping in the forefront of medical development, thus enhancing its prestige in the metropolitan area.** A measure of this standing is the fact that there are between 1,300 and 1,400 practicing physicians in Jefferson County, of whom only 170 are Jewish, yet Jewish Hospital's roster of active, courtesy, and consulting medical staff listed 623 names and took up four pages of fine print in the 1978 annual report.

Birth of the Medical Center

Money-raising began even before plans were made regarding location and size of a new hospital. In 1946 this campaign raised $800,000. There also was a $200,000 bequest from the estate of Isadore Hirsch. The plan adopted about that time was to build a 125-bed hospital for $750,000. A number of sites were considered, and the possibility of locating near General Hospital, Children's Hospital and a new Rehabilitation Center to form a midtown medical center was formulated. Such a medical center was being advocated by the Louisville Area Development Association. Hospital trustees in 1949 decided to locate the new hospital in the medical center and become affiliated with the University of Louisville School of Medicine. The university agreed to condemn the land at the northeast corner of Brook and Chestnut where the hospital now stands. The hospital made a gift of $70,000 to the university to cover this cost and the land was leased to the hospital for $1.00 a year.

The hospital meanwhile continued to operate in its deteriorating and cramped quarters at Floyd and Kentucky. In 1948 the hospital became an affiliated member of the Conference of Jewish Organizations (now the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville), the last major agency in the community to join in.

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*In the first part of the century the few Jews who applied to medical schools were admitted and it was not until college enrollments mushroomed after World War I that quotas became common. Persons closely connected with the University of Louisville School of Medicine have told me there was no actual quota but because so many applicants were from New York and Ohio, it was natural for those Jewish boys to lose out when admission preference was given to residents of Kentucky. Alumni who cannot be quoted by name have insisted to me that Louisville's medical and dental schools had a 10 per cent quota for Jewish students.

**Virtually every edition of the quarterly Jewish Hospital Journal records some new medical development, either in ideas or equipment, being put to use. Jewish Hospital pioneered in use of computerized axial tomography (CAT Scanner), and The Louisville Times of November 10, 1979 reported the regional health-planning board, Kentucky Health Systems Agency-West, had recommended approval for purchase by the hospital of a $128,000 electron microscope and for two other Jewish Hospital projects — an $846,000 renovation of dietary areas and $498,000 for elevator construction.

Because the hospital was meeting its deficits through annual membership drives, it did not seek to become a beneficiary of the United Jewish Campaign. But when decreased patient income in 1949 caused a larger than usual deficit, the hospital requested financial aid. The Conference (which conducted the United Jewish Campaign) granted a total of $53,014 in four years — 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1955. The hospital has not required such assistance since moving to Brook and Chestnut. In 1952 the hospital received a federal grant of $384,065 under the Hill-Burton Act and construction began that year on a 118-bed hospital costing $2,649,473. The new facility was opened February 14, 1955.

While the hospital was under construction a dispute arose with the Conference. Some staff physicians thought that the planned 118 beds were not enough and decided to act on their own, preparing to sign notes and to ask others to do likewise to borrow funds for constuction of an additional floor. The Conference felt this would damage a drive then scheduled for funds to build a new YMHA. It developed that Hill-Burton funds had been reduced from a 2-to-1 ratio to 1 to 1, so the hospital already was in need of additional financing. Negotiations between hospital and Conference officials resulted in an agreement that the hospital could hold a campaign to raise $700,000 but not before January 1, 1957 to avoid conflict with three-year pledges made in the YMHA drive. Hospital bank loans were to be limited to doctors and board members, who would have to pay interest on those loans themselves, not using funds from the 1957 drive. It was stipulated that money collected in the 1957 drive must be used to pay off outstanding debt and not to cover any new loans. In addition, the Conference would make no commitment to cover any future hospital deficits, for fear that the hospital would become too large for the community to support.

A 1956 request by the Jewish Community Center (formerly YMHA) to hold a third capital fund drive for its new building was turned down by the Conference of Jewish Organizations for the benefit of the hospital. Because the hospital had been given permission to hold its drive in 1957 with pledges payable over two to three years, the Center was told to forego its drive until after September 1, 1958 so as not to interfere with the hospital's collection of funds.

The hospital by mid 1956 saw a need for futher expansion* and launched its drive for $700,000. Work began in 1960. This added two floors and 134

*The Brook and Chestnut building was opened on an integrated basis, and the demand for bed space by black patients was one of the factors contributing to the need for expansion. Prior to 1951 blacks were admitted only to Red Cross and Louisville General hospitals.

Paradoxically, there was a time when the highly Jewish area around Preston and Walnut depended on a black physician, Dr. William L. Pickett, who was graduated from University of Louisville before Kentucky enacted its Day Law. He had an office at Preston and Fehr (now Liberty) next to Simms drugstore. Sometimes the immigrants managed to pay him as much as 50 cents for an office call!

beds, raising the hospital's capacity to 252 beds. Due to declining use of its obstetrical facilities, the hospital in 1967 discontinued such service. Open-heart surgery, kidney transplants, and growing hand-surgery service filled the additional beds this made available.

These specialties have taken over such a large part of the hospital's facilities that some physicians complain it is ceasing to be general-service hospital.

Further Expansion is Needed

Another expansion plan took root in spring of 1968. It envisioned adding 140 beds toward an ultimate goal of a 700-bed hospital. With Conference approval, the hospital conducted a $2,000,000 campaign among Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Louisville between June 1, 1969 and November 15, 1969. As of June 30, 1970, the building fund stood at $1,672,323, of which $190,950 was pledged by hospital trustees, $375,696 by its medical staff, and $33,000 from its Women's Guild.

Begun in summer of 1970, the eight-story addition, subsequently named the Wheeler Tower,* was completed in 1974, giving the hospital a 413-bed rating, although a total of 441 had been planned. the other 28 beds had to await further expansion of the hospital's nuclear medicine, radiology, food service, and educational facilities. Wheeler Tower gave the hospital new and larger central services, including laboratories, emergency, outpatient, central supply, dietary, medical records, and pharmacy departments, as well as 12 new operating rooms. The intensive care and coronary care units were enlarged to a 24-bed nursing unit. Several years later, a registered nurse familiar with all of the city's hospitals told me that Jewish Hospital's coronary care unit was by far the best in the area.

Total cost of the Wheeler Tower project was set at $11,766,100, financed by a $1,059,800 Federal grant and $7,000,000 of borrowed funds. The hospital had on hand $1,706,200 to apply to the total outlay.

In 1969 the hospital's annual report noted these educational accomplishments: The hospital was used for some of the training of student nurses from Catherine Spalding College; co-operation continued with University of Louisville in training laboratory technicians; there was a housekeeper's training program; specialized training was sponsored for nurses in intensive-care and coronary-care units, and participation in the Protestant chaplain training program for this area continued. University of Louisville medical-school juniors and seniors get a regular part of their clinical training at the hospital, and it is a training center for interns and residents. Also in 1969 the hospital sponsored organization of the Louisville Medical Research Foundation, which hospital president Mason C. Rudd described as "a unique facility in the community." The foundation fosters basic and clinical research. Rudd also

*In memory of Otis L. Wheeler, who died in 1970 after 19 years as director of the hospital.

commented that a large number of members of the clinical faculty of the university's medical school had joined the hospital's medical staff.

A valuable adjunct is the 800-member Women's Guild. Besides working at the information desk, the gift shop, or taking the shopping cart to patients on the floors, the Guild in 1969 added a new service, called patient assistance, assigning a volunteer as a go-between with members of the family of a patient in the emergency room. The Guild also operates Reach to Recovery, which visits patients in Louisville hospitals and in their homes. Hospital volunteers helped set up Reach to Recovery chapters in Carrollton, Paducah, and Henderson.

Also under aegis of the Guild is the Candy Stripe and Junior Med program, now 20 years old. A number of youngsters have spent summers as hospital volunteers in this program, and some have been led by this association to enter nursing and medical fields.

Jewish Hospital in 1970 opened a new tissue-typing laboratory, the only one of its kind in Kentucky, for typing and matching body tissue of prospective donors and recipients of organ-transplant patients. Another new development that year was installation of an electroencephalography laboratory for recording electric currents in the brain as a diagnostic tool. The hospital that same year completed arrangements with the University of Louisville School of Medicine to establish the Thomas Cardiovascular Laboratory in the hospital for diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering heart disease, and made plans to establish a pulmonary function laboratory for treatment of lung disorders.

A new medical library, largely due to a gift of funds from the Women's Guild, opened in spring of 1974 in spacious quarters adjacent to the doctors' lounge, and with a librarian in charge.

On November 18, 1974, surgeons performed the 1,000th open-heart operation at Jewish Hospital. They proudly announced a zero mortality rate for 50 such patients in the preceding two years, although the mortality rate in other parts of the country has run as high as 30 per cent.

In 1976 a decision was made to go ahead with construction of a 500-space parking garage on property just north of the hospital. This property had been leased by the hospital for several years and used as a parking lot. Another decision that year was to construct a three-story addition that would include an expanded physical-therapy department, an educational center and auditorium, additional office space, expanded dining-room facilities, enlarged storage, and 10 private patient rooms. Some of the existing four-bed rooms are to be converted into private and semi-private rooms and when the entire project is completed, the hospital should be at its licensed capacity of 441 beds. ground was broken December 20, 1977 for the addition, located at the corner of the original hospital building and costing $3,000,000.

A hospital publication in fall 1977 stated the addition was expedited through the sale of nearly $16,000,000 in Jefferson County municipal bonds, which enabled the hospital to refinance its 1970 issue of $7,000,000 at a saving

of $685,000. The refinancing also made it possible to buy the land for the five-level garage and proceed with its construction, provide for purchase of a computerized axial tomography total body scanner for the department of radiology, purchase the equipment for the new addition, and acquire a computerized medical management system. The addition was scheduled to be completed in late 1979, but was not ready until 1980.

The hospital's trustees in 1978 worked out an agreement to increase sharing of services with Norton-Children's Hospital across Chestnut Street, and a pedestrian walkway connecting the two institutions was built.

Another recent innovation was participation in the Louisville Medical Center Group Purchasing Program, which saved the associated hospitals nearly $500,000. The hospital also acquired a warehouse on Story Avenue.

The new garage was opened June 8, 1978. It cost $1,240,000. It is connected to a two-level garage that had been acquired previously at 222 E. Muhammad Ali Boulevard (Walnut Street).

The Women's Guild presented the hospital with $20,000 at its September 27, 1978 meeting, the funds to be used for a closed-circuit television system to provide patients and staff with educational and entertainment programs.

The hospital won national attention in winter of 1978-79 when a National Broadcasting Company film crew came to Louisville to film a half-hour segment of NBC's "America Alive." The program, which was seen at midday in an estimated 14,000,000 homes across the country, concerned Dr. Harold Kleinert, renowned hand surgeon,* and implant patients.

The 1979 annual report listed 5,090 kosher meals served to patients, down from 5,354 the year before. Kosher meals, available on request at the time of admission, have been available since the hospital moved to Brook and Chestnut. As for other meals, the hospital provides 24-hour food service available to employees, staff, and visitors.

During 1979 the hospital started construction of the walkway across Chestnut Street. Its cost, estimated at $700,000, was shared by the two institutions. Spanning Chestnut Street at second-floor level, it is 400 feet long and 10 feet wide. It is used for transporting patients, equipment and supplies. Officials hope it will expand opportunities for sharing of services, among them dietary, EEG, materials management, pharmacy, and others. A joint committee estimated savings through shared services will amount to $200,000 yearly once the plan is in full operation. A new corporation, Multi-Hospitals Inc., controlled by the two hospitals, owns and operates the passageway.

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*The famous hand-surgery team of Drs. Kleinert, Joseph Kutz, Erologan Afasoy and Graham Lister (later joined by Dr. Thomas Wolff) was listed among the 2,500 best doctors in U.S. in a 1979 book, *The Best Doctors in the U.S.: A Guide to the Finest Specialists, Hospitals and Health Centers,* by John Pekkanen. Also listed was Dr. David Neustadt, a specialist in arthritis and author of a book on that subject. His wife, Carolyn Neustadt, has been a United Jewish Campaign leader and a member of the United Jewish Appeal's National Women's Cabinet.

3 More Stories Added

Never content with being static, Jewish Hospital at the start of 1979 asked permission to add three stories, housing 20 beds, to the three story addition already under construction. It obtained preliminary approval from the Kentucky Health Systems Agency-West, the Federally sponsored agency which plans health care for Western Kentucky. Approval was granted despite some health planners' complaints that the Louisville area is glutted with unused hospital beds. Jewish Hospital's application said it wanted to eliminate crowding, and Henry Wagner, executive vice-president, said Jewish Hospital had been more than 90 per cent occupied for the previous five years. He said physicians still were trying to obtain beds at the hospital for their patients. Wagner explained that open-heart surgery had increased 600 per cent in five years and hand surgery increased 100 per cent in the same time, while some kidney transplants had to be postponed because of lack of space.

In April of 1979 Jewish Hospital filed a friend-of-the-court brief stating it opposed Jefferson County's abortion-control ordinance. Suit had been filed challenging the ordinance, which would allow abortions during the first three months of pregnancy but would not permit abortions at any hospital receiving county funds except to protect the mother's health. Although aimed at Louisville General Hospital, the ordinance affected Jewish Hospital because it was partially financed by Jefferson County municipal bonds.

In July of 1979 the hospital reported a total of 394 employees had made suggestions in the first phase of a cost-saving effort named Operation Squeeze that would reduce hospital costs by $110,000.

During 1980, Jewish Hospital scheduled a community celebration marking 75 years of service to the Louisville area.

Chapter 12

JEWISH FAMILY AND VOCATIONAL SERVICE

With consolidation of the Jewish Social Service Agency and the Jewish Vocational Service, which became effective March 1, 1978, all of the Jewish community's social-service activities came under one roof. The new agency, the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, has the professional staff to work with the Council on Aging and the New Americans committee of the Jewish Community Federation and with other agencies that require the services of a casework agency. The merger was an effort to eliminate duplication and to free staff to develop new programs to meet changing conditions and new lifestyles.

The merger was the latest phase in the tradition of Jewish community aid for the poor in its midst. In 1832, ten years before Congregation Adas Israel was chartered, Louisville had an Israelite Benevolent Society. As the focal point of Jewish life, Adas Israel became headquarters for whatever social-service work was needed. In 1854 the congregation established a relief association, which five years later went under the name of the Hebrew Poor Fund Association. Its officers were Abraham Gerstle, president, and A. Samuelson, secretary, and it met every Sunday morning at the temple. This group was replaced by another relief association in 1876.

Another group on the scene early was Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society No. 2, organized December 8, 1851 "to dispense charity to non-members wherever it is needed and to aid and assist its own members." A 1901 record shows the chapter had 100 members. Two years before the founding of this society the temple had voted that its officers do what they could to help the sick and the needy.

The Louisville Hebrew Society

Years later, another women's group functioned within the Orthodox community for more than two generations. It was a little-known but highly dedicated group known as the Louisville Hebrew Society*, whose main function was the support of poor Jewish families here. Its long-time president was Mrs. Rachel Hertzman. For the 35 years between 1921 and her death in March 1956 Mrs. Sarah Frehling was president.

For the most part the ladies of the Louisville Hebrew Society were products of the European shtetl who brought their philanthropic ideas with them. The beneficiaries were known only to the leaders of the group. At first they

*The organization originally planned to use "Benevolent" in its name but dropped it because of possible confusion with the earlier women's benevolent society.

received grants of $3 monthly, later raised to $5. There were special gifts for Passover and other holidays. The dues were $3 a year.

As social-service work became more organized, the Jewish Welfare Federation (now Jewish Family and Vocational Service) took over more and more of the caseload. The women then turned their efforts to care of the aged and were active in starting the short-lived home at Brook and Chestnut. When the Louisville Hebrew Home (Four Courts) was organized in 1949, the Louisville Hebrew Society gave it $1,000, virtually the society's entire treasury. After Mrs. Frehling's death the society disbanded, giving the Louisville Hebrew Home all of its assets, which consisted of $275 and a $100 Israel bond. This gift was earmarked for the purchase of a special hospital bed for the new home.

Mrs. Louis Isler was longtime treasurer. Later Mrs. Maurice Simon held that office. Mrs. Ricca Sessmer was secretary and later also served as treasurer. Among the active women in the group were Mrs. Rena Greenberg, Mrs. Sarah Meyers, Mrs. Sarah Bass and Mrs. Lena Salzman.*

The Lodge Era

The mid-1800s saw the period of ascendancy of the lodges, which also functioned as relief agencies but for the most part were self-help groups. In 1859 and 1860 we find three such groups, all meeting at Adas Israel: Har Moriah Lodge 14, B'nai B'rith; Hebrew Nechomoh, and Hebrew Meshiphath Nefesh.**

In 1895 we find four other fraternal orders: O.K.S.B., Louisville No. 113, at 451 W. Jefferson; Brothers of Hebrew Association, meeting at the Music Hall; and two chapters of the Independent Order of Free Sons of Israel, Gideon No. 78 at 133 W. Market, and Cremieux No. 74 at 451 W. Jefferson.***

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*Although hardly above poverty level herself, Mrs. Salzman, widow of a tailor, was a veritable dynamo forever scurrying around raising funds for various charitable causes and helping others. She lived on Jewish Madison Street. Her son was Morris Salzman, active in the YMHA and founder of the insurance agency now headed by her grandson, Farrell E. Salzman.

Another go-getter of that era was Madison Street's Mrs. Louis Solovey. She was in her 90s when she died, active until the very last.

**Officers of these were: Har Moriah (which still exists as Louisville Lodge No. 14, B'nai B'rith): M. Rosenfield, president; Isaac Bierman, vice-president; William Kriegshaber, secretary. Hebrew Nechomoh: R. Freiberg, president; S. Breiman, secretary. Hebrew Meshiphath Nefesh: M. Godshaw, president; M. Strauss Jr., secretary.

***Presidents listed for these groups: O.K.S.B., I. Rosenbaum; Brothers of Hebrew Association, Sam Ranzal; Gideon, S. Sagalowsky, and Cremieux, Jacob Kuhn.

The influx of East European Jews after the 1880s required that some efficient means of caring for their needs be developed. The result was formation of the United Hebrew Relief Association of Louisville. It received a charter from the Kentucky General Assembly April 29, 1890 empowering it "to relieve persons in the Jewish race or faith who may be in distress."*

Federation of Jewish Charities

Other single-purpose societies had grown up meanwhile, and at the turn of the century, proposals were made to consolidate their efforts. Eleven local and four national institutions sought to eliminate duplication and improve services. This move led to formation January 3, 1909 of the Federation of Jewish Charities,** now the Jewish Family and Vocational Service.

The first year's receipts were $42,262.01 and disbursements, $42,073.42, leaving a balance of $88.59. General relief took 57.18 per cent of the first year's budget, the biggest two items being 26.72 per cent distributed through the United Hebrew Relief Association and 22.91 per cent to Jewish Hospital. Tuberculosis was a big hazard in those days, the next largest item on the budget being 5.48 per cent for the National Jewish Hospital at Denver and almost one per cent to the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society. Of the remainder, 14.23 per cent was for "educational" uses, which included Neighborhood House, and 13.2 per cent for "national institutions." The founders envisioned a broad program, and set up 11 committees in addition to the usual administrative committees.***

President Emil S. Tachau's first report reads like it might have come from today's Cash Collection Committee of the United Jewish Campaign: "About $1250 has been lost to the Federation this year through people failing to pay

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*Incorporators were David Sachs, Simon Maas, Abraham Rosenbaum, Emile Frank, Louis Barkhouse and William Rosenberg.

**The original federation represented a joint effort by the United Hebrew Relief Association, Jewish Hospital Association, Hachnosath Orchim Society, Russian Refugee Relief Association, Widows and Orphans Society, Hebrew Ladies Sewing Circle, Ladies Society B'rith Sholom, Temple Free Kindergarten, Neighborhood House, Philanthropic Committee of Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Orphan Asylum of Cleveland, Ohio; Sir Moses Montefiore-Kesher Home, Cleveland; National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, Denver, Colo., and Jewish Consumptives Relief Society, Denver. Some of these agencies still exist, in one form or another. Officers were Emil Tachau, president; Edward Sachs, vice-president; Milton W. Barkhouse, treasurer, and Garfield A. Berlinsky, superintendent and secretary.

***These committees and their chairmen were Education and Entertainment, Dr. (Rabbi) H.G. Enelow; Immigration and Removal, G.S. Rosenberg; Juvenile Welfare, Henry Klauber; Civic Needs and Law, Alfred Selligman; Labor and Employment, Fred Levy; Tenements, Sylvan W. Kahn; Visiting, Mrs. L.A. Dreifus; Medical Supervision, Bernard Selligman; Pensions and Loans, Abraham Levy, and Inter-Relation, Edward Grauman.

their subscriptions and of the 133 delinquents, there are many financially able, but who make unjust complaints the basis for excuses not to pay.

"Our budget is made each year based on the promises of our subscribers, and it is unfair to the Federation (of Jewish Charities) for people to obligate themselves and then violate that obligation. At least 80 per cent of our subscriptions have been received by mail and as we have no collector, our Subscription Committee has been compelled to collect this difference, when their time should have been given to seeking new subscribers. It is to be hoped that each subscriber will without unnecessary delay remit his subscription on receipt of bill."

As more immigrants continued to pour in, the slum conditions under which the new arrivals had to live appalled community leaders, which led Emil Tachau, chairman of the federation's education committee, to propose on May 31, 1911, that an independent committee sponsor summer outings for Jewish children. That summer, outings were held every Sunday and Wednesday in a grove at Fostoria on 18th Street Road (now U.S. 31W). The record does not show how many took part. In the first half of August, the Fresh Air Home at Pewee Valley was turned over completely for the use of 75 Jewish mothers and their children, described as "friends of the Neighborhood House." The announcement said "an effort will be made to conform to the dietary laws."*

Jewish Children's Home

The steady arrival of immigrants brought the community a new problem, that of homeless children, especially among large families when the parents became ill or disabled. To meet this need, the agency founded the Jewish

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*The 1910 annual report of Neighborhood House tells how this came about: "Jewish Week at the Fresh Air Home was the outgrowth of a conversation with a tired Jewish woman who badly needed the fresh air of the country for herself and her delicate baby, but was unable to accept the benefits of the Home on account of the diet. It was finally agreed that if the meat and bread were bought at Kosher stores, the dishes washed with soda, and no ham, bacon, or lard used, several families could enjoy the benefits of the Fresh Air Home who otherwise would have been debarred. This privilege was extended to a second week and was pronounced a great success. Jewish families went other weeks also."

Tuberculosis was then a prevalent disease and a major cause of death. At one time there was a city of tents in Iroquois (then Jacob's Park) serving as a tuberculosis hospital. Garment workers were especially susceptible to the disease and a large majority of the Jewish immigrants worked in clothing factories, which constituted one of Louisville's major industries. One of the largest of these was Neptune Manufacturing Company. M. Fine & Son operated a large shirt factory in New Albany. Among the successful entrepreneurs were Moses Rothschild, Simon Shapinsky (grandfather of Nat Shapin and Mildred S. Landau) and Fred Landau (father of Sara and Mathilda Landau).

Children's Home in 1908. Two years later it was moved to an eight-room building at 223 Jacob. That same year, 1910, Annie Nevils came to the home as matron. She had been a nurse for 11 years in the home of E.S. Tachau, and intended to work for "only a few days." Instead, this stalwart English woman made a life work of the home, from which she retired only a few years before her death. The home moved to 1135 S. First in August 1921 and for the remainder of its existence was located there. The First Street property came from a donation of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hoffheimer, former residents of Louisville, which enabled the Jewish Welfare Federation to buy the three-story building. The home won a splendid reputation.

In 1933, after the need for a children's home had abated, the children's home became the Jewish Home for Convalescent Children and provided convalescent care to children regardless of creed or color. It was believed by social workers to be the only institution of its kind. Changing needs led the Jewish Social Service Agency to close the home November 1, 1975 after it had provided some seven decades of service to the city. Arrangements were made with the Home of the Innocents to continue to provide necessary convalescent care for children.

The home was the site of the first Jewish Nursery School (co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section), with Ruth Bamberger Loewenfeld as teacher. The school was transferred to the Jewish Community Center in 1955.

Dr. Martin J. Harris, the home's longtime pediatrician, was honored for his services at the Jewish Social Service Agency's 59th annual meeting in 1967 and again some 10 years later.

Jewish Welfare Federation

As the Jewish community grew, so did its needs, and in 1918 the loose Federation of Jewish Charities became the Jewish Welfare Federation. Soon afterward this agency helped organize the Community Chest. Charles Strull served as the Jewish Welfare Federation's chief executive. After his resignation, Mrs. Lula D. Krakauer took over. She held that position until 1938 when Alexander W. Erlen came to Louisville.

The early 1920s were another period of immigration, which brought the agency problems of Americanizing the new arrivals, finding them housing and placing them in jobs or getting them set up in business. All this was in addition to the responsibilities of social-service work already being handled by the agency. Both the YMHA and Neighborhood House conducted English classes for the new arrivals.

Depression brought still another spate of problems. The Jewish Welfare Federation called a special meeting May 28, 1931 to consider the problem of Jewish transients, who were moving about the country in great numbers in search of work. Besides the agency's board, those who attended were the rabbis, representatives of each congregation, and the YMHA's general secre-

tary. Mrs. Krakauer described an "urgent need of concerted action to deal with this growing and burdensome problem." The decision that resulted was that all transients, no matter to whom they would apply, would be referred to the Jewish Welfare Federation. Where overnight shelter was required, the transients would be sent to the home of Morris Obrisky on the 300 block of East Madison, and this practice continued for many years.

Transients weren't the only problem exacerbated by the depression. An announcement in September 1931 said the Jewish Welfare Federation "is having many requests for used clothing from our less fortunate brethren in the city." Donations of clothing for men, women and children were requested. Donors were asked to bring them to the agency's offices, then at 215 E. Walnut.

The agency had been located at 529 S. First in the years just before and after World War I, but moved to 215 E. Walnut (Muhammad Ali Boulevard) when the Family Service Organization acquired a large building. When Family Service and the Children's Agency merged to become the Family and Children's Agency, the Jewish group moved to the Republic Building at Fifth and Walnut. It was housed there for several years before moving in 1962 to the Community Chest (now Metro United Way) building at 118 S. Second. There it remained until completion in 1979 of Shalom Tower, its present home.

Early in the 1930s Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith began conducting its annual Fresh Air Fund to send underprivileged Jewish boys and girls to summer camp operated by the YMHA, later the Jewish Community Center. The task of determining who was eligible for camp scholarships fell to the Jewish social-service agency. In all of the years that the program has been conducted, identities of the beneficiaries of the Fresh Air Fund have remained confidential. The influx of Russian families in the 1970s plus increasing costs have made it necessary to raise more money and the 1979 goal of the Fresh Air Fund was $8,000.

Jewish Vocational Service

By 1938 a need for some type of vocational guidance had become necessary. Young people were having difficulty in planning their careers and universities had undercover quota systems which prevented them from attending the school of their choice.

Now we come to the story of the Jewish Vocational Service, which owed its existence to a committee formed in 1938. This committee, representing the Jewish Welfare Federation, B'nai B'rith, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, and the YMHA, began a study of the problem.

While this study was in progress, Maurice F. Grossman sought the aid of B'nai B'rith in setting up an employment service in Louisville. Max F. Baer, chief of vocational services for B'nai B'rith in Washington, wrote Grossman on April 17, 1941, saying: "My off-hand opinion is that the Jewish community

of Louisville is probably too small to support a Jewish vocational service agency with a professional staff." The record shows how wrong Baer was. Baer thanked Grossman for his "efforts to establish a vocational service program in Louisville." But that wasn't the first such effort of its kind. The YMHA in 1916 had set up a Vocational Guidance Bureau that operated until World War I took the men into the Army. And the Jewish Welfare Federation from time to time had engaged in job quests for some of its clients.

Grossman's failure to interest B'nai B'rith did not deter Louisville. A committee made up of Arthur S. Kling, Joseph J. Kaplan and Moses Master consulted with Alexander W. Erlen, the social-service agency's executive, and convinced the Conference of Jewish Organizations that the problem demanded attention. The four-agency committee was the result.

The Conference allocated $4,500 from the 1943 United Jewish Campaign and shortly afterward — in October 1943 — the Jewish Vocational Service was in business. Harold Temin was its first executive, working out of a cubbyhole office in the YMHA lobby. Crowded, it moved to the Fincastle Building at Third and Broadway.

The Dobson Years

After about two years, Temin was succeeded by David Dobson, who remained in charge until he retired in 1977 about a year before his death. Under Dobson's direction, the agency expanded and moved to the Republic Building. Years later it moved to a suite adjoining the Jewish Community Federation in the Marion E. Taylor Building at Fourth and Liberty.

Executive Director David Dobson, whose career spanned 31 years with the agency, was known as "Mr. JVS" to a generation which stretched from the veterans of World War II to the influx of Soviet Jews and Vietnamese refugees of the 1970s.* Dobson retired in 1977, less than a year before the Jewish Vocational Service and the Jewish Social Service Agency merged to become the Jewish Family and Vocational Service. He died March 13, 1978 at the age of 63.

During his service Louisville was the smallest Jewish community in the nation to have a professionally staffed vocational service.

Expanded services brought the need for a full-time psychologist, and one was added to the staff in 1947, thanks to an additional grant of $1,800 made by the Conference. In the latter part of 1948 the JVS requested funds for a part-time worker to locate jobs for Jewish unemployed, but the Conference turned this down. By this time JVS had moved into the field of seeking employment as well as career planning and aptitude testing.

*Dobson's knowledge of the educational and occupational fields led the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, banks and industries to consult him. He often appeared as an expert witness in court cases to evaluate workmen's compensation and personal injuries. He was active in the Louisville Personnel Association and other professional groups. By avocation he was a gardener.

Budgetary demands made it necessary for JVS to begin charging fees in 1955, although any client who could not afford to pay would receive its services free. The fees were based on ability to pay, up to a maximum of $150, and the plan worked so well that the rates were not raised until 1969.

Because JVS offices were downtown and the teenagers it served congregated at the Jewish Community Center miles away, it was decided to open a part-time program at the Center to reach the young people more effectively. The Conference considered this a good idea and provided additional funds for this expansion of service, which proved highly successful.

On its 25th anniversary the agency reviewed statistics. The case load in 1944, its first year, was 209. That figure since had more than doubled, to 503. The agency passed the 500 mark in 1958, with 345 getting counseling and 159, job placements. For the quarter-century the agency handled 7,790 cases, of which 5,630 were for testing and counseling and 2,160 for job placement. (The 1979 case load was about 700.)

The degree of success which the agency had attained was brought out in a study conducted by the Jewish Occupational Council in 1972. The study resulted from a suggestion made by JVS' president, Edward A. Rothschild. The Jewish Community Federation of Louisville approved the idea, with the result that Bernard S. Rosenthal, executive director of Cincinnati's JVS, came to Louisville to survey the agency.

The survey found there were approximately 400 Jewish students of high school age in the community and JVS was serving 110, describing this figure as "by far the highest percentage of any JVS in the country." For the fiscal year covered, JVS collected $14,757 in individual counseling fees and $1,200 in government fees out of a total agency budget of $40,688. Only New York City's Federation Employment and Guidance Service "collected more fees last year than did the Louisville JVS," Rosenthal found. Jewish clients made up 50 to 65 per cent of the average annual case load of some 500 over the previous years. Half of the agency staff's time was spent in counseling the 14-to-18 age group that made up 40 per cent of the case load, and college counseling covered 150 in the 18-to-22 age group, 70 per cent of them Jewish. Another 75 persons sought counseling and 30 needed employment. There were about 100 young adults aged 23 to 30, half of them Jewish, with 45 seeking counseling and 55 placement. Seven persons over 30 sought counseling and 35 sought employment. Of this group 85 per cent were Jews.

The survey noted that the high school group, accounting for the largest amount of the agency's time, needed educational counseling, career guidance, and discussion of academic difficulties. Consultations were held in the JVS office and at the Jewish Community Center, where JVS personnel also spoke to youth groups. Students in the 18-to-22 bracket were clients, the report noted, because they were attending college without direction regarding a career, felt they had chosen the wrong college or wrong course of study, did well in high school but were having trouble in college, or were high school graduates who did poorly and needed direction.

Rosenthal found the JVS "rated from good to excellent" by every professional he consulted here. These included agencies that either worked with JVS or referred clients to it. Among them were the Jewish Social Service Agency, Jewish Community Center, Community Chest, Louisville Board of Education, and the State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. The State agency frequently sent clients for a diagnostic review that called for interviewing and testing. Reaction of lay persons ranged from excellent to poor, although "mostly positive." But the survey noted that "as a result of services offered to problem youngsters who were helped to achieve and 'make something of themselves'" the JVS has made "a very significant contribution" to the community.

One thing the survey found was that Louisville's JVS differed from the majority of similar agencies in not having a sheltered workshop, there being no rehabilitation facilties in Louisville's East End where most of the Jewish community was residing. The suggestion was made that JVS explore with the State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, which with the Federal Government would be a large source of fees, the possibility of setting up such a workshop either at Four Courts or on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center to serve "the aged and other Jewish chronic, psychiatric or severely physically handicapped individuals." No action resulted.

One undercurrent of opinion disclosed by the survey* was considerable community sentiment that a separate JVS was not needed and that economies could be effected by merging JVS with the Jewish Community Center or the Jewish Social Service Agency. This feeling stemmed partly from financial considerations and partly from the fact that the agency was serving such large numbers of non-Jewish clients. Growth of this sentiment finally led to the merger, effective March 1, 1978, with the Jewish Social Service Agency.

One of JVS' most successful innovations has been its annual College and Career Conference, an all-day event at the Jewish Community Center for high school students and their parents. Professionals from various occupational groups would be on hand to help students make decisions about college and careers. Parents could attend sessions to learn about graduate and undergraduate-school admissions, financial aids, and emotional adjustments involved when a son or daughter left for college. There was an outstanding keynote speaker each year, and the 1979 speaker was Dr. S. Norman Feingold, national director of B'nai B'rith Career and Counseling Services in Washington. The 1979 session, which drew an attendance of more than 200,

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*Dr. Martyn A. Goldman was JVS president at the time the survey was completed. The local committee that assisted in making the survey included Morris M. Kling, Jay M. Jacobson, and Marshall M. Jacobson, executive director of the Jewish Community Federation.

Jay M. Jacobson, son of Abe and Rose Jacobson, became so interested in Jewish community affairs that he gave up business and took a position with the Jewish Community Federation of Minneapolis.

listed about 60 professional speakers on medicine, allied health fields, law, business administration and various types of business, education, creative arts, architecture, engineering and other fields of science, and vocational and technical fields. Also in 1979, for the first time, there was a special session for students undecided about a career, led by Allan Steinberg, director of counseling at Jefferson Community College. There were representatives from local and out-of-state colleges, including Ivy League schools.

During the 1970s the arrival of many Russian Jews placed a new burden on the Jewish Vocational Service, but in spite of language barriers and other complications jobs were found for them.

After Dobson's death, Robert Tiell, who had been staff psychologist nearly 10 years, became acting chief of the agency. Since the merger he has headed the vocational service section of the Jewish Family and Vocational Service.

Changing Patterns

Now, to resume our chronology of the Jewish Welfare Federation:

In 1939 the Conference of Jewish Organizations looked into Louisville's allocations to National Jewish Hospital in Denver, the Cleveland Orphans Home (now Bellefaire), the Montefiore Home for the Aged in Cleveland, and Leo N. Levi Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark. Louisvillians who needed tubercular care, arthritic treatment, a home for elderly parents or a place for orphans were sent by the Jewish Welfare Federation to one of these four institutions. The Community Chest in the past had approved Jewish Welfare Federation grants to these agencies because such services were not available in Louisville.

As Louisville's use of these facilities dwindled and because of closer Community Chest scrutiny of allocations, the Jewish Welfare Federation in 1940 asked the Conference of Jewish Organizations to assume responsibility for the bulk of these funds and to ask the Community Chest to pay only the actual cost of service rendered to Louisville residents. This amounted to not more than $2,000 a year. National Jewish Hospital subsequently withdrew as a United Jewish Campaign beneficiary and Bellefaire, a treatment center for emotionally disturbed youngsters, receives payment whenever a Louisville child is sent there. Establishment of Four Courts eliminated Louisville's use of Montefiore and grants to it were discontinued. Leo N. Levi Hospital voluntarily asked to be dropped as a beneficiary and in 1950, after reduction to $500 of the $1,400 allocation for National Jewish Hospital, that institution also dropped out.

Along with its other responsibilities the social-service agency played a large role in the resettlement of refugees from Nazi Germany before and during World War II.

In 1951 the Jewish Welfare Federation became the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA).

The Erlen Years

For JSSA's 60th anniversary in 1968, the agency paid tribute to Alexander W. Erlen, who had been its executive for half of the life of the agency. Erlen had come to Louisville in 1938 from Cleveland, where he was a supervisor for the Jewish Social Service Bureau. During World War II he had to add to his duties the reponsibility of acting as executive secretary of the YMHA, which he did with great success until war's end. In 1946, he became community co-ordinator as well, taking on the responsibility for community relations and social planning for the Conference of Jewish Organizations. It was in this capacity that he played a leading role in launching the meetings which led to formation of the Jewish Vocational Service, the Louisville Hebrew Home, and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Erlen, whose humble manner soon made him Louisville's beloved "Al," early on became eagerly sought out by laymen and his professional peers for counsel. His approach was keyed to education and he sought to bring about an atmosphere in which the community would develop its own new ideas. He was on the boards of most of the city's Jewish agencies and also of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union. He was local chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and served on the executive committee of the Health and Welfare Council of the Community Chest and the Kentucky Welfare Association. Al was first president of the Kentucky chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and once headed an advisory committee of the Louisville Board of Education on family life and sex education. He became active in the civil rights movement and was looked upon by the Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as a strong supporter.

Erlen retired in 1978 after 40 years of service, but remained active on the Council on Aging of the Jewish Community Federation, on the board of the Kentucky Youth Research Center, which provides preschool, day care, and health services in various areas of the state, and a number of other organizations concerned with individual and community social services. At its own 85th anniversary meeting in 1978 the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section presented him with its Hannah G. Solomon award as "an outstanding person who has made a significant contribution" to community life.

Erlen recruited highly qualified social workers for his staff and some of these made outstanding contributions in their field. Among them were Louise Meyers (Mrs. Henry) Plaut, who became executive director of Senior House; Sherwin (Bud) Spero, who worked with high-risk infants at University Hospital, and Leroy Joseph, who founded and became executive director of Bridgehaven, a readjustment center for former mental patients.

At JSSA's 62nd annual meeting in 1971, JSSA announced two new programs in addition to its already long list of services. These, President Lewis D. Cole said, "were counseling with teenagers at the Jewish Community Center and social-service assistance to the Louisville Hebrew Home."

Service to New Americans

An activity that has gained increasing attention in recent years is service to New Americans. Such services had been given intermittently over the years as needs arose, but the community gained a new awareness of the problem in the 1960s with arrival of Cuban refugees. In 1970, four families arrived from Poland. The Jewish Vocational Service that year proudly announced that it had been successful in finding employment for 400 New Americans since 1948. Naomi (Mrs. Boris) Pressma became chairman of the National Council of Jewish Women's Committee for New Americans, co-ordinating activities with the JSSA, the Jewish Community Center and the JVS, aided by a grant from the United Jewish Campaign. Many women became interested in this work and Selma (Mrs. Arthur) Kling devoted the rest of her life to it. But the major thrust of the effort fell to the JSSA, and since its merger with JVS, to the JFVS. In 1971, there were five new families, and the number has grown rapidly ever since. In 1978, the arrivals averaged two a month, and this number was doubled in 1979.

During 1978, National Association of Jewish Vocational Service figures ranked Louisville ninth in the number of Soviet Jewish arrivals per 10,000 population — a higher ratio than New York, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans and other cities. These arrivals made Louisville work overtime to find apartments, furniture and other necessities, and employment. Stephanie Speigel, acting head of the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, found that Louisville took to the task and that adjustment has been good on both sides. Louisville's response was even called No. 1 in the country by Gaynor Jacobsen, executive director of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), at the 1979 annual meeting of the JFVS, its first annual meeting since the merger of JSSA and JVS. English classes have been provided five days a week for the newcomers since early 1979, and Jack Rosenberg and Sam Perelmuter of Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith, along with other volunteers they recruited, spent countless hours transporting the new arrivals to classes, on shopping trips, and to medical and dental appointments.

The tornado that struck Louisville on April 3, 1974 affected one out of every 30 families in the storm area. A B'nai B'rith lodge in Cleveland sent a truckload of furniture, appliances and supplies to assist Louisville families, the Jewish Post reported. Disposition of the material was placed in the hands of the Jewish Social Service Agency.

In 1975, the agency had another resettlement responsibility — three Vietnamese families who arrived in Louisville in February. Since then it has helped several more from Southeast Asia. Some Federal funding has helped in this and the agency's other resettlement work.

During the 1970s, the agency began looking toward programs that would help the public attain a better life style. One of these, in 1977, was three sessions called "Designs for Living," aimed at older persons and those who had parents over 60. Co-sponsoring the series were JSSA and JVS, with assistance from the Council on Aging of the Jewish Community Federation. The topics covered financial and estate planning, new life styles and living patterns, and a review of legislation aiding older persons. In 1979, the agency further enlarged this program by adding a full-time family-life specialist to its staff. In August, six sessions for senior adults began. Planned for fall were sessions for children of aging parents, parents of teenagers, and the teenagers themselves. Previously, there had been workshops once a year on pre-retirement planning, sponsored by the Council on Aging.

On March 1, 1978 consolidation of the Jewish Vocational Service and the Jewish Social Service Agency became effective. Stephanie Speigel, acting head of the JSSA since the retirement of Al Erlen the previous year, was named director of the Jewish Family and Vocational Service in January 1979.

Enlarging its annual College and Career Day, the Jewish Family and Vocational Service joined in spring 1979 with the Jewish Community Center, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Hillel to hold a Mini-College and Career Fair as part of a four-week series. The first three sessions covered various aspects of college life and career selection, while the final sessions were devoted to the ADL and campus anti-Semitism.

The Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies in January 1979 honored attorney Shelton R. Weber for distinguished service as he ended a two-year presidency. Weber, while JSSA president, had helped to organize the national association in 1972.

A JFVS subcommittee on homebound services in February 1979 announced plans for delivering quality services to homebound and elderly persons. Noting that the older population tends to be isolated due to lack of transportation and absence of family, the subcommittee sought to organize a volunteer-based social contact and service system. This was aimed at giving elderly access to community activities, transportation to doctors, legal services, adequate foods, and human contact. The committee utilized existing services, such as Meals on Wheels, but enlisted Temple Youth Group members to pay Sabbath calls, BBYO members to do spring clean-up chores, and volunteers during Louisville's snowbound period to purchase and deliver groceries to isolated persons. Another service was Telecare, making regular contact with persons living alone.

As the agency held its first annual JFVS meeting June 18, 1979, its sights were set on moving to its new office on the second floor of Shalom Tower. There, near the Jewish Community Federation and next door to the Jewish Community Center, the agency gained an opportunity to keep in closer touch with the needs of the community, thereby being enabled to make quicker and more adequate response to those needs.

Chapter 13

JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

I. THE CONFERENCE, UNITED JEWISH CAMPAIGN, AND FEDERATION

Community co-operation in Louisville stemmed from World War I, first with looking after soldier welfare and next with raising funds for Jewish relief in war-torn Europe.

The ultimate development has become the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville. Through its United Jewish Campaign it raises more than $2,000,000 a year for local, national, and overseas needs. The Federation in addition provides central planning, engages in community relations, arranges civic observances, builds housing for the elderly, and facilitates the absorption of immigrants.

But several decades passed before all this was attained. Prior to World War I two communities existed side by side, the Orthodox and the Reform. In the early years of the century the Reform-dominated YMHA and Congregation Anshei Sfard were on the same block, yet actually were poles apart. A decade later Dr. Joseph Rauch of Temple Adath Israel became a bridge between the enclaves, but it took the wise leadership of men such as Charles W. Morris to cement the gains.

An early co-operative effort came about when the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) sought to raise a sizable Jewish War Relief Fund in 1922-23. A Kentucky quota was set at $150,000. Louis Cohen* was named director and Col. Fred Levy** became state chairman. Active in the campaign was Charles W. Morris, then a young attorney.

In April 1926 Lewis W. Cole was chairman of a campaign that had a goal of $150,000 for Jewish communities in Russian and Palestine, for the Jewish Welfare Board, and the National Jewish Hospital. It was oversubscribed by $5,000.

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*Cohen as a young man worked at the YMHA, becoming its general secretary. He left in 1920 to become an insurance agent. His chief interest gravitated toward B'nai B'rith, in which he attained leadership in Louisville and in district lodges. A member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, he was active as well in many other facets of community life.

**Levy was a member of the Levy Bros. clothing-store family, but his broader business interests were in the motion picture industry, in which he attained national prominence. He later lived in Hollywood. He became a member of the board of directors of the American Jewish Committee, the only Louisvillian then active on the national scene. His success in fund-raising made him a natural to be chairman of the first United Jewish Campaign in 1934. The goal was an astounding $25,750, and $25,027 was actually raised from 1,705 donors.

Charles W. Morris

Federation in Louisville is a monument to Morris. He foresaw the need for a strong community organization, got it off the ground, and as chairman dominated it for 16 years. Even though he was considered dictatorial by some, in the end his leadership proved wise, and gradually the organization became more and more democratic.

Morris came to Louisville as a teenager and became a lion in the thriving Junior Social & Literary Society at the YMHA. In those days JS&LS was THE gathering place for the younger set, and Morris was debater, author, playwright, actor, and humorist. For years he wrote the mock trials staged annually at the YMHA and enjoyed working backstage designing and building scenery for little theater groups. He was a Roosevelt liberal on social welfare and worked endlessly with people to get a reasoned approach to problems. He was always ready to listen to rich and poor alike in his unceasing striving and more co-operation within the community. His soft drawl stemming from his boyhood in Glasgow, Ky. made him a powerful and much sought-after orator. A successful attorney, he became a powerful voice in Democratic politics and in national Jewish circles. It is generally conceded that nobody has fostered more ideas than Morris for the betterment of the Jewish community.

Morris was a masterful fund-raiser, as evidenced by the steady growth of the United Jewish Campaign. In 1941 he organized the Joint Defense Appeal as the fund-raising arm of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and served as its chairman while this alliance existed. Morris also was a powerful voice in the American Jewish Committee and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Morris died in December 1961. The Conference of Jewish Organizations which he had founded established a permanent memorial in the University of Louisville library in the form of a section containing books on human rights and civil liberties, which Morris had always championed.

Louisville Conference of Jewish Organizations

In the 1930s Adolf Hitler rose to power and the world learned he meant what he said about eliminating the Jews. This terror spread in depression-ridden America, and American Jews turned to fighting among themselves in confusion and desperation. Charles W. Morris saw that something had to be done lest the Jews of Louisville become involved in similar infighting.

On February 19, 1934 he called together 36 persons; 26 attended the meeting. They allied themselves as the Louisville Conference of Jewish Organizations, elected Morris as chairman and Max Waldman, an accountant, as secretary-treasurer. The Conference decided to have one campaign for funds each year for the local agencies affiliated with it. Invitations were sent to the Jewish Hospital Association, Young Men's Hebrew Association, and Jewish Welfare Federation as the local organizations, and American Jewish Commit-

tee, American Jewish Congress, American Joint Distribution Committee, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Agency for Palestine, and B'nai B'rith as national groups.* Those who attended the original meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Cole each paid $1 and this $26 became the first assets of the new Conference.

Although intended primarily as a fund-raising agency, the Conference from its earliest days found itself dealing with various problems in a manner that led to the development of today's broad-based and wide-ranging Jewish Community Federation of Louisville.

When Col. Fred Levy accepted chairmanship of the first United Jewish Campaign in 1934, he named Lewis W. Cole as chairman of large givers, Louis Cohen as head of individual subscribers, and Minna (Mrs. Lewis W.) Cole** as chairman of a ladies' committee to solicit widows, single women, and small businessmen in outlying areas. Levy set up a young people's division, one of the first of its kind in the country, with Lewis Opper as chairman.

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*The 36 invited to the original meeting were Moses W. Ades, Simon Ades, Rabbi Solomon N. Bazell, Victor J. Burger, Dann C. Byck; Rabbi Charles B. Chavel, Louis Cohen, Lewis W. Cole, Dr. Morris Flexner, Rabbi Jacob J. Gittleman, Norton L. Goldsmith, David J. Gradman, Herman Hindel, Isadore Hirsch, Ben S. Klein, Mrs. Morris Koch, Joseph Lang, Tony Levitan, Arnold Levy, Fred Levy, Sol Levy, Barnet Linker, Charles W. Morris, Henry Mueller, Rabbi B. Notelevitz, Mrs. H.E. Ottenheimer, Rabbi Joseph Rauch, Edward Sachs, Bernard Selligman, Joseph Selligman, Mrs. Allan Shapinsky, Charles Strull, Sam J. Switow, E.S. Tachau, Max Waldman and Ben S. Washer.

**Minna Dreyfus Cole died Nov. 26, 1978, aged 89. A memorial resolution of the Jewish Community Federation referred to her as "the Grand Lady of Louisville Jewry" and "a beloved leader in her own right." Her other community interests included the Travelers Aid Society, the Deaf Oral School, Temple Adath Israel, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Social Service Agency and Jewish Vocational Service. Council gave her the Hannah Solomon Award in 1975 and JSSA and JVS made her a lifetime board member. She had been a Gray Lady at the Fort Knox hospital during World War II. Her career started as a kindergarten teacher. She and her husband were founders of Steiden Stores, later sold to Winn-Dixie.

The Coles' only child was Lewis D. Cole, who has served on the boards of many local and national organizations. At middle age he retired from business to devote his full time to philanthropic work. A list of the organizations he has served would take up several pages. He became chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council in 1973, probably the highest national post attained by a Louisvillian, and the group held its national convention in Louisville. In 1978 he was elected chairman of the board of trustees of Spalding College, the first Jewish board chairman of that Catholic institution. He has been honored with the Ottenheimer Award. Cole has told friends that of all the work in which he has participated, his most rewarding experience came while serving as president of the YMHA while it was observing its 60th anniversary with the slogan "Going Like 60 in '50".

Jean (Mrs. Lewis D.) Cole, was a longtime president of the Girl Scouts.

As needs grew and brought demands for raising more money, UJC leaders developed new techniques. With the thought that publicly recording campaign gifts might encourage others to be equally generous, the Conference in 1937 decided to publish an annual yearbook. Only six persons that first year asked to be listed anonymously. Needless to say, this book became widely read.* In 1939, facing a goal of $70,000, Chairman James H. Levy** began holding parlor dinners in private homes for small groups of special contributors. The results were considered sensational and a similar policy spread to most other Jewish communities in the nation.

Another innovation was the Women's Division. This division attained such importance that in 1955 it was reorganized as the Women's Year-Round Committee. It now functions as the Women's Committee of the Jewish Community Federation with its own president and broader responsibilities.

In 1947 another new dimension was added when Chairman Norbert Friedman established trade and professional divisions. The campaign that year raised $612,000.

Louisville considered that an all-time peak, but in May 1947 the United Nations voted to partition Palestine and set up Jewish and Arab states. The United Jewish Appeal set a goal of $150,000,000, of which Louisville's quota would be $1,000,000. Louisville raised only $801,000, but the national goal was reached and Israel survived. This was the largest UJC total until 1967***, a decline in giving having begun in 1949 despite Israel's success in absorbing thousands upon thousands of displaced Jews.

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*Publication continued in 1945. Mechanical problems developed from the extra line in the 1946 campaign plus a second campaign held that fall, so the book was discontinued. Afterward, gifts since the high mark of 1948 declined appreciably and the campaign organization felt that publication of these reduced gifts might harm the drive. In 1961 donations were again headed upward and some of the new leaders felt that their contributions should set an example and be recorded publicly. But by 1971 several hundred persons had asked that they not be listed in the book and it has not been published since then.

From 1946 to 1973, the primary publicity medium of the Conference was the Kentucky Edition of the National Jewish Post. I had been editor of the yearbook and was publicity chairman of the Conference for the entire time this arrangement was in effect.

**Also a member of the clothing-store family.

***The 1967 campaign raised a satisfactory $597,000 by March but in May of that year the Six-Day War erupted. At a special meeting, the Conference executive committee decided to hold an emergency drive with a goal of $1,000,000. Bernard Barnett and Stanley Yarmuth conducted a campaign of unparalleled dimensions and in four weeks $1,008,000 had been pledged.

Barnett, head of a large law firm, developed business interests in Israel and visits there several times a year. He became one of the largest contributors to the Louisville

(Footnote continued on next page.)

Conference Responsibilities Broaden

An increasing number of meshulachim (messengers) had been visiting Louisville each year and individuals' gifts to these solicitors for various charities were deletrious to the campaign. The rabbis were consulted and Chairman Morris came up with a recommendation in 1938. The Conference would allocate $3,000 from UJC funds each year and in return for a lump sum, each meshulach would agree not to make individual calls in the city. This plan has worked reasonably well ever since.

That same year — 1938 — saw another milestone in Conference-Orthodox community relationship. Rabbi Benjamin Notelevitz asked that all UJC dinners and luncheons be kosher to encourage Orthodox men and women to attend. The Kentucky Hotel (Fifth and Walnut) and its Jewish manager, Samuel Friedman, were persuaded at Morris' urging to experiment with kosher food for the opening dinner of the 1939 drive. The hotel received $300 from the Conference for a new set of dishes to be kept under lock and key for the use of the UJC and other kosher affairs. Later a similar arrangement was made with the Henry Clay Hotel (Third and Chestnut), owned by Col. Fred Levy and his family. Within the next year or two, all campaign functions became kosher and most other community organizations soon followed suit. This practice generally remains in effect but deviations have caused problems at times.

The start of World War II brought the problem of caring for servicemen and $500 was allocated to the newly formed Louisville Army and Navy Committee. The work grew and at its peak the UJC was providing $15,000 for this purpose.

The advisability of seeking non-Jewish gifts to the campaign was broached in 1953. It was decided that the return would not justify the adverse public relations that might result. However, the UJC in recent years has received some non-Jewish gifts, some of them voluntary and some brought in through highly selective solicitation.

The YMHA in 1946 and 1947 had planned a second building fund to enable it to go ahead with plans for a new building, but each year it was

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campaign and a prominent fund-raising speaker for the United Jewish Appeal nationally. Barnett is an expert on tax and revenue matters and has served on advisory groups to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue. In March 1980 he and his wife Marian were presented the American Jewish Committee's National Human Relations Award at a ceremony in Palm Beach, Fla. Mrs. Barnett has been a UJC worker, on the boards of Jewish Hospital and Jewish Vocational Service, and a member of the City-County Human Relations Commission.

Yarmuth, son-in-law of banker Samuel H. Klein, was a young, enterprising businessman who built up a large industrial conglomerate, National Industries, which was absorbed by an Atlanta firm after Yarmuth's death at an early age.

persuaded to wait became of emergencies in Europe and Palestine. In 1948 the YMHA felt it could wait no longer. Discussions led to an agreement that the YMHA would not conduct a building fund drive in 1948, in return for which the Conference would provide $500,000 from the UJC at the rate of $100,000 a year for five years, starting in 1948. National United Jewish Appeal leaders objected on grounds this would not attract additional contributions and would siphon off funds from UJA. The objection proved well-founded, because the campaign that year realized only $801,000 of its intended $1,059,000 goal.

Seeking to dramatize Israel's reception of 200,000 immigrants, the United Jewish Appeal sought to make 1949 the year of "The Greatest Homecoming in History" with a goal of raising $250,000,000. The UJA arranged for seven special trains, called a "Caravan of Hope," to visit cities in all 48 states. On April 14, 1949 the train came to Louisville. More than 1,500 walked through it during its three-day stay at Union Station (10th and Broadway). James Kasdan was chairman of arrangements and Fred Switow represented Kentucky. The two coaches were filled with battle flags, coins, stamps, a copy of Israel's Declaration of Independence, photographs of battle scenes and pictures of boatloads of arriving immigrants. Two Haganah heroes, Capt. Jacub Wayland and Lt. Hertzela Chalfon, fresh from the battle front, arrived with the train. They got a warm reception from several hundred persons, among them UJC Chairman Norman Epstein, UJC Women's Chairman Mrs. Alex Hertzman, Conference Vice-President Lewis W. Cole, and an honor guard of 20 members of the Jewish War Veterans post.

A precedent was set in fall 1949 with the first gift of stock in payment for a campaign pledge. The Conference adopted a policy, to which it has since adhered, that such stock would be sold immediately so as not to involve the Conference in speculation.

Annals of the UJC record a dispute that arose in 1950 with the United Jewish Appeal over the percentage Louisville would turn over to the UJA from our campaign. A four-man UJA delegation visited Louisville to meet with Conference leaders. Moses Leavitt, executive head of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, asked that Louisville allot 73 per cent. The Louisvillians objected and offered 53 per cent, the UJA having received a little more than half of Louisville's 1949 total. A vitriolic discussion ensued, but everything was ironed out when Clarence F. Judah, executive director of the Louisville Conference, talked with his professional counterparts in the New York UJA office. It developed that UJA actually wanted a percentage of the balance remaining after campaign overhead, and Louisville's offer of 60 per cent of the gross, rather than 53 per cent of the net, was accepted.

In 1954 Israel's financial plight was precarious because of the tremendous immigration since 1948. The UJA asked communities throughout U.S. to borrow $75,000,000 to be repaid over a five-year period from funds raised in annual campaigns. Louisville, asked for $300,000, borrowed this amount from Liberty National Bank. It was repaid in two years.

At the end of 1955 the UJA created its first Special Fund, with a goal of $25,000,000, to rescue North African Jews. Louisville accepted a $119,000 quota and launched a two-card campaign, with the stipulation that anyone giving to the Special Fund had to equal or exceed his previous year's pledge to the regular UJC. Two-card or two-line-card campaigns have been conducted since then for a number of special purposes, the latest being UJA's gigantic Project Renewal in Israel.

A year later, immigration had increased so dramatically that the UJA asked Louisville to reborrow the $300,000 it had finished repaying and to borrow an additional $150,000. Louisville agreed and borrowed the larger sum from Liberty National Bank and the smaller amount from Citizens Fidelity Bank.

A program of great importance in 1958 was the launching of leadership development courses.

An interesting public meeting in January 1963 stemmed from the participation of several Louisvillians in a UJA Study Mission to Israel. The travelers served as a panel reporting on their observations. Since then the mission program has grown, and currently there are several missions each year for men, for women, for young people, and for couples, with an ever-growing response among Louisvillians.

The Yom Kippur War which broke out October 6, 1973 had its repercussions here. It coincided with appointment of Naomi (Mrs. Boris) Pressma as the first woman general chairman of the UJC. The war moved Louisvillians as never before, and Louisville had its first $2,000,000 campaign.

We have seen how the fledgling Conference which launched a fund-raising effort for a handful of causes has grown into a $2,000,000-a-year campaign serving some 40 beneficiaries. We shall look now at the development of the parent agency itself.

Development of the Conference

The Louisville Conference of Jewish Organizations, with a few changes in constituent agencies, continued to function for 20 years, meanwhile broadening its interests to include refugee resettlement, community relations, and social planning. Today it is the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville.*

*It was incorporated in 1954 as the Conference of Jewish Organizations of Louisville, Kentucky, with the same constitution and bylaws. This pattern continued until September 30, 1971 when the name was changed to the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville to keep in step with other communities in the nation. The Federation adopted a statement of purposes broadening its scope. The executive committee became the board of directors with 24 members instead of 18, and there were to be two full-time professionals on the staff. All donors of $10 or more to the United Jewish Campaign would be Federation members eligible to vote for members of a delegate body which would in turn elect the directors.

The Conference set out from the beginning "to unify local agencies and groups into one harmonious organization, representative of all shades of Jewish opinion; to conduct a single united campaign including the local operational quotas of all constituent organizations." Besides Chairman Morris, Max Waldman was secretary-treasurer, Lewis W. Cole was vice-chairman, and the executive committee included the officers plus Louis Cohen, Victor J. Burger, Rabbi Solomon Bazell, Blanche (Mrs. Herbert) Ottenheimer, and Joseph Selligman.

Sidney Handmaker was named campaign director and permanent secretary. A practicing attorney, he was employed on a part-time basis. He died in the summer of 1937 at an early age but already highly respected in his profession and in the Jewish community. Years later his son, Stuart Handmaker, also an attorney, became president of the Federation and a most forceful community leader.*

Sidney Handmaker's successor was Clarence F. Judah, a young attorney in Charles W. Morris' law firm. He gave year-around attention to fund-raising and it was during his long administration, aided by Alexander W. Erlen as community co-ordinator, that the Conference greatly expanded its sphere of influence. In 1974 an 1975 he headed the United Negro College Fund in Kentuckiana. His community services have brought him the Ottenheimer Award. For the 40th anniversary of the Jewish Community Federation in 1974 he wrote "Unity in Community" as the organization's official history.

A policy decision made in 1934 called for local agencies to submit their budget requests 60 days prior to the campaign, although this has been amended to stay as far in advance of budget hearings as possible. It was the idea of Rabbi J.J. Gittleman, first chairman of the Budget Committee, a post he held until his death in 1971.

Toward More Representation

As the conference neared its fifth anniversary in 1939, it was thought to be working well but it was not truly representative of the community. At Chairman Morris' suggestion a special committee was appointed and these recommendations resulted:

1. These local organizations or national groups with local chapters would elect or appoint one representative each: Hadassah, YMHA, B'nai B'rith, Histadrut, Mizrachi, Council of Jewish Women, Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations, Jewish Welfare Federation, Louisville Hebrew School, Jewish War Veterans, and Zionist Organization of America.

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*In fall 1980 Stuart Handmaker was made a vice-president of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. He also is active in the Council of Jewish Federations.

2. A Louisville resident should be selected by each of the following national organizations: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal, National Coordinating Committee, Anti-Defamation League, American ORT Federation, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, National Jewish Welfare Board, and National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

3. Each congregation should elect or appoint one representative, and each pulpit-holding rabbi would be a member.

4. Ten members at large would be selected by the outgoing Conference.

5. Professional heads of agencies would be ex-officio members without power to vote. Provision was made for honorary members, a secretary and a treasurer, with voting power.

6. All terms were for one year except that rabbis would remain as long as they continued in their pulpits.

Late in 1943, as a result of discontent with the various Jewish defense agencies, the Budget Committee was enlarged to 30 and broken down into local, civic protective, overseas, cultural and religious, and miscellaneous-agency subcommittees. This committee studies local budgets in detail and uses services of the Council of Jewish Federations for information on national agencies' needs. Eleven years later, after several thousand dollars had accumulated due to favorable collections, some budgeting changes were made. The Conference decided to set up a reserve fund that would provide for any emergency that might arise, while the Budget Committee would allocate only the money raised in the annual campaign. Grants by the executive committee from the reserve fund were limited to $5,000 for any one purpose but the entire Conference had authority to vote larger sums when needed. This turned out to be a farsighted decision and made possible quick funds for a number of unforeseen events. It also became the foundation for the present Endowment Fund.

In 1946 the Conference engaged Alexander W. Erlen as community co-ordinator on a part-time basis. Erlen was executive secretary of the Jewish Welfare Federation. The move kept Erlen in Louisville and the co-ordinator's position proved most useful over the years. That same year the Conference, until then housed in Morris' law office, moved into its own office space in the Marion E. Taylor Building (Fourth and Liberty).

In 1950 Chairman Morris stepped down after 16 years and J. Marshall Bensinger was elected chairman. Bensinger had been United Jewish Campaign chairman eight years previously at the age of 29. He died a few years after taking office and the community lost one of its brightest leaders.

A most productive program launched in fall 1958 was leadership development. Arthur S. Kling, the community's innovator, was chairman. He arranged a series of weekly meetings for 35 young men and 33 young women, who met separately. The work of the Conference and of the local agencies was covered in detail. Today's leadership stems largely from the inauguration of this program.

The Conference devoted its 1960 meeting to honoring Charles Strull for more than 50 years of service to immigrants. At the time of World War I Strull was directing the Jewish Welfare Federation. Later he entered the mortgage business, but his office was always open to persons who wanted letters written in Yiddish or some other language to relatives abroad, or to send remittances overseas. Strull was a man of outstanding intellect, an ardent Zionist, and in addition to Jewish affairs, had a passion for astronomy. He was the city's outstanding astronomer and with each change of seasons wrote a lengthy letter in The Courier-Journal explaining the celestial mechanics. He died in 1964 and his extensive library was left to Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Another highlight of 1960 was establishment of the Lewis W. Cole Young Leadership Award in memory of a founder and longtime vice-president of the Conference. Minna Cole, in establishing the award four years after her husband's death, provided for sending some budding leader under the age of 40 to the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations each year. The first recipient was Naomi Pressma.*

In 1971 Clarence F. Judah retired as executive director, a post he held 34 years, and became director of the Federation's Endowment Fund. He was succeeded by Marshall Jacobson, who left after three years to accept a post with Cleveland's Federation. During Jacobson's administration the Federation launched Community as a biweekly newspaper for the entire community and which includes Centerpiece, the house organ of the Jewish Community Center.

Norbert Fruehauf came here in 1975 from Milwaukee to be the executive director. Since his arrival, the Federation has built Shalom Tower with its 150 apartments for senior citizens and housing offices of the Federation, the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, and the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section. Under his guidance, Federation activities in the fields of civil rights, service to the aged, reception of New Americans, programming for Jewish Heritage Weekend and other public events have been expanded.

Jewish Refugees

When the Conference was born in 1934, its first problems other than fund-raising stemmed from the feeble efforts of German Jews to flee from Nazi terror. At the request of national leaders, a committee headed by Victor J. Burger was set up to seek temporary foster homes for German Jewish children. Louisville agreed to accept six or eight children, but by 1937, only three had arrived and the committee disbanded in 1939.

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*A similar fund was set up in memory of Phil B. Levitch, a Conference president, by his widow following his death in March 1967. It provides income which sends a rabbi to the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations each year.

Early in 1934 a Jewish Refugee Committee was appointed to look after adult and family groups. Charles Strull headed this committee until his death in 1964. The Jewish Welfare Federation helped find housing and jobs and the YMHA conducted English classes. Strull announced in 1937 that 29 families had reached Louisville and were self-supporting. One of these had been loaned $750 by the Conference to start a new business.

Worsening conditions in Germany in 1938 made it evident that greater immigration was necessary if Jews were to survive. The National Refugee Service called upon communities to obtain affidavits from non-relatives stating that a new arrival would not become a public charge. During 1941 there were 10 persons settled in Louisville by this procedure. That same year 19 persons reached Louisville from France. Strull reported on April 30, 1942 that approximately 400 refugees, mostly from Germany, but some from Austria, Czechoslovakia, France and Italy, had arrived and settled in Louisville. From 1948 through 1972, records of the Jewish Social Service Agency indicated 406 individuals arrived.

The next big wave of immigration began in 1973 when Russia began letting Jews leave. In the first four years of the program, Louisville resettled 31 families from Russia and planned for 24 during 1978, but the Federation reacted to a growing situation by doubling this quota, and during the 1978-79 fiscal year 140 Russians arrived. The influx led the Federation to set up a community-wide committee headed by Boris Pressma, to enlist volunteers and to co-ordinate the work of the Jewish Family & Vocational Service, Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Community Center and other agencies involved. The Federation allocated $28,000 for resettlement, more than twice the amount spent just a few years earlier. Some resettlement funds also have come from a Federal program called a "Block Grant" beginning in 1978.

Social Planning and Other Committees

In 1952 the Conference established a Social Planning Committee under the chairmanship of attorney Herman G. Handmaker. It was charged with advance planning to meet local social-welfare needs, with reviewing the operations of all agencies in this field, and with tackling mutual problems relating to local social-welfare needs. Previously such matters had been handled one at a time by separate or ad hoc committees.

In its first five years the Social Planning Committee accomplished such tasks as working with Four Courts for extension of its services to include care for the chronic ill, with the Jewish Community Center regarding completion of its new facilities, and with Jewish Hospital on its expansion plans.

During Stuart Handmaker's term of office as Federation president this group was merged with the Budget Committee and began functioning as the Planning and Budgeting Committee. Attorney Allan B. Solomon became its chairman in 1979. The change was effected because social planning so often is related to budgetary considerations.

In 1957 a permanent Community Relations Committee was created, with Edgar M. Bottigheimer as chairman. This group also replaced the separate committees that were set up for each individual task and thus proved able to accomplish more. Since then the committee has been expanded into the Community Relations Council.

Shalom Tower

Few people took an interest in the senior citizens back in the 1930s when Selma (Mrs. Arthur) Kling and Elsie P. (Mrs. Leon) Judah pioneered in the establishment of Club 60 at the YMHA. The next major step in this field was Four Courts. The Federation has taken considerable interest in the aging and one of its most outstanding accomplishments has been the construction of Shalom Tower. This handsome addition to Louisville's skyline along the Watterson Expressway contains 150 apartments for senior citizens.

It was in 1976 that the Federation set up a Council on Aging to assess the needs of Louisville's Jewish senior adults. Its findings resulted in organization a year later of a Housing Committee to deal specifically with funding and construction of Shalom Tower. So rapid was this committee's progress that Federal funding was obtained under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 housing program, construction was begun, and the first tenants moved in less than a year later. Ground was broken September 28, 1978 and the first residents moved in September 10, 1979.

Shalom Tower was built next to the Jewish Community Center. Thirteen stories high, it contains 144 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom apartments, a number of them specially equipped to accommodate handicapped persons.

Since its opening, Shalom Tower has begun a community life of its own. Herman Gordon operates a kosher commissary in the building. There is a part-time activities supervisor, and Rabbi Stanley Miles of Temple Shalom conducts Sabbath morning services. Its residents have easy access to the Jewish Community Center for its programs and for the daily kosher lunches served there.

When it opened, Shalom Tower charged $305 a month for apartments, with Federal rental subsidies available for couples who had less than $10,000-a-year incomes. Several hundred persons applied long before construction got under way and even after it opened there were more names on the waiting list than the total number of apartments in the building.

An executive board of 17 members representing Jewish agencies is responsible for the over-all budgeting and management of Shalom Tower. This group is headed by William Levy, a building-materials dealer and a vice-president of the Jewish Community Federation, as president. Levy did yeoman work in the entire process of developing Shalom Tower, from the

original inception of the idea through its planning and financing stages, and its quick construction through use of prefabricated units. People marveled at the rapid pace of the construction once ground was broken.

A number of special groups were set up under the Federation and the Council on Aging, headed by James A. Hertzman. These included a Committee on Housing for the Elderly and a House Steering Committee, both headed by William Levy; a Housing Finance Committee, headed by Frank Judd; a Housing Resident Criteria Committee, headed by Farrell E. Salzman; a Housing Legal Committee, headed by Shelton R. Weber, attorney and past president of the Jewish Family and Vocational Service; a Housing Construction Committee, headed by attorney Allan E. Handmaker; a Housing Program Committee, headed by Jane (Mrs. Lloyd) Greenebaum, then president of the Kentucky Association for Older Persons; an Office Planning Committee, headed by Toni (Mrs. Martyn) Goldman, Federation vice-president; Research and Survey Committee, headed by Miss Minnie Passamaneck and utilizing services of members of the National Council of Jewish Women; Shalom Tower Transition Volunteers, headed by Jane Greenebaum and Pauline Dobson; a Dedication Committee, headed by Laura M. (Mrs. Jay) Koby. The Jewish Family and Vocational Service and the Jewish Community Center also had a voice in the planning stages, the Center having turned over one of its baseball diamonds as the site of the building.

The Council on Aging went into a long list of topics during the planning of the $4,000,000 Shalom Tower project, studying the pros and cons of wishes and needs of older adults, long-range community planning, National Jewish Welfare Board comments and experiences of other communities, access for older adults to transportation, communal involvement, shopping, security, synagogues, recreation, and medical and health services; the impact on general programming and older-adult programming at the Jewish Community Center, the need for expanded space at the Jewish Community Center and its loss of some of its grounds, the cost of land, and suitability of various sites.

Nearly a year after its opening, Shalom Tower seemed to bear out the sentiments expressed during the planning stage by the Council on Aging: "Independent and dignified life for our parents can occur. It is our responsibility to create an environment which is satisfying and meaningful."

Public Events

In recent years the Federation has shown more interest in public events, although it had lent its sponsorship to special events as far back as 1953. In that year preparations began for a nationwide celebration of the tercentenary of Jewish settlement in America, and Charles Strull was appointed chairman of a committee to plan for Louisville's observance.

For Louisville's observance of the 300th year since Jews first settled in America, Strull's committee arranged a number of events, which included: An art festival, a joint affair embracing all women's organizations, preparation of

a history of Louisville Jews by Dr. Israel T. Naamani of the Bureau of Jewish Education, proclamations by the Governor and Mayor, a program of Jewish music by the Louisville Symphony Orchestra then housed at the YMHA, and the performance of an original play written and produced by Maie (Mrs. Martin M.) Perley.

Dr. Jacob Marcus, renowned Jewish archivist, came from Cincinnati as guest speaker to open the observance in Louisville on October 17, 1954, at the annual meeting of the Bureau of Jewish Education. On March 8, 1955, "The Quilt," a historical pageant written by Mrs. Perley, was performed, with a large cast. It was described in Clarence F. Judah's *Unity in Community* as "truly... a tremendous evening, enjoyed by all, and... a landmark in the history of our community."

But probably nothing ever attempted in the Jewish community matched Jewish Heritage Weekend, staged over Labor Day in 1977 as part of a series of ethnic weekends sponsored by the Louisville Heritage Commission. The Jewish participation was the responsibility of Stuart and Phyllis Grossman, and they marshalled the resources and co-operation of virtually every Jewish group and hundreds of volunteers to provide entertainment, food, and educational displays for a two-day extravaganza which drew 115,000 people to the Belvedere. It was said to be the largest crowd ever seen assembled at the riverfront plaza. The Sunday part opened with the sounding of the shofar. From then on, there was entertainment of all kinds through the day, featuring local entertainers and visiting troupes such as the "Sabra Dancers" and "Chosen Children." Labor Day saw much the same kind of performances, interspersed with more Jewish music and climaxed by a Louisville Orchestra concert. There was a continuous "fiddler on the roof" providing atmosphere, in addition to booths specializing in Jewish foods, a book sale, and exhibits of photos and Jewish memorabilia. Various organizations had their own booths, offering literature on their own programs and Jewish life in general.

Jewish Heritage Weekend was repeated in 1978, again with phenomenal attendance and public interest. For 1979 the weekend was combined with other groups in an over-all public festival, with Stuart Yussman directing the Jewish presentation. Still another format for the weekend series was used in 1980, with Stuart and Phyllis Grossman again in charge.

Heritage Weekend won for Louisville the coveted William J. Shroder Award, which was presented to the Jewish Community Federation at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. Heritage Weekend elicited this comment from Ron Abrams, chairman of the Community Relations Council of the Federation: "Jewish Heritage Weekend, from a community relations standpoint, was again the most successful, dynamic learning experience offered to the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. How does one evaluate the good that comes out of 120,000 people for two full days observing learning about, and enjoying our Jewish heritage?"

Among other public events which the Conference, and later the Federation, sponsored were observances of Israel's anniversary, a peace rally in 1979

to celebrate the historic agreement between Israel and Egypt, presentation of actor-guitarist-raconteur Theodore Bikel for its own 40th anniversary, a memorial service after the Israeli athletes were killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics, and bringing famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal to Louisville under sponsorship of the Bureau of Jewish Education for 1979 Jewish Book Month.

Other Areas of Service

The Federation has provided funds which made it possible for a "shaliach" (cultural ambassador) from Israel to be stationed at the Jewish Community Center.

In 1978 the Federation joined with the Kentucky Oral History Commission and the University of Louisville Archives to tape oral histories of about 100 longtime and knowledgeable residents. Carolyn (Mrs. David) Neustadt headed this project.

Paralleling the Lewis W. Cole Memorial Award, in 1977 a Joseph J. Kaplan Award was established in honor of the former Federation president, lawyer and civic leader. Its first recipient was Richard Bergman, who has become Louisville's foremost expert on the Holocaust. The 1978 recipient was Maura (Mrs. Gerald) Temes, the first woman president of Louisville Hebrew School.

Another Kaplan fund was set up by Robert Kaplan of Owensboro and Birdie May (Mrs. Norman) Banks, brother and sister of Joseph Kaplan. Proceeds of this fund purchase books for the Hillel chapter's library at University of Louisville.

A fund whose income provides a young adult, student or teenager with a trip to Israel for a summer of study is the Edward S. Klein Fund, set up in memory of his brother by Harry Joseph Klein and Mrs. Klein.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton J. Garon gave the Endowment Fund securities valued at approximately $100,000 in March 1980. The Garons will be able to recommend grants to eligible charities from the income from this gift.

Another area of Federation service involves carrying on a series of dialogues with black leaders through the Community Relations Council. Also, in the fall of 1978, there was a dialogue with Louisville's large Lebanese community.

The Federation has co-operated with the Kentucky Trades Union Council (AFL-CIO) in a series of events which culminated in dedication of an equipped electronics laboratory through Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation, at a vocational school in Israel in mid-1979. Lewis D. Cole, a past president of Louisville's community organization, attended the dedication ceremony with a delegation of Kentucky trade-union leaders.

With representation from all segments of the community, an enlarged professional staff, and offices in Shalom Tower on "Louisville's Jewish campus," the Jewish Community Federation has become a vital force involved in all areas bearing on the quality of Jewish life in Louisville.

II. THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The Women's Committee of the Jewish Community Federation, under bylaws adopted in June 1979, is "a permanent year-round organization .... for creative and in-depth education" for understanding the Jewish community and for providing "continuity and development of leadership." The committee also undertook to carry out the women's role in the United Jewish Campaign and other appropriate tasks assigned to it by the Federation. Every woman who contributes to the UJC becomes a member of the committee.

To accomplish these tasks, the Women's Committee has its own board of directors and its own set of officers: a president, an education vice-president, a campaign vice-president who is chairperson of the Women's Division of the UJC, a community resources vice-president, and a secretary.

This well-knit, comprehensive, go-getting group is a far cry from its antecedents, the Louisville Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations and the Women's Year-Round Committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations.

The Louisville Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations was a loosely organized asssembly of representatives of all local Jewish women's groups. It was organized September 26, 1922 "for the purpose of promoting a better understanding between the Jewish women's organizations of Louisville." It was a clearing house for meeting dates, and one of its earliest — and lasting — accomplishments was the establishment of the first Monday of each month as sisterhood meeting day.*

Its first president was Mrs. Allan Shapinsky, who later became its secretary. One of the last surviving founders of what is today's Jewish Community Federation, she died September 7, 1977 at the age of 96.

In 1948 the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee launched a nationwide drive called SOS (Supplies for Overseas Survivors), seeking food, bedding, medicines, and clothing for Jewish families in Europe and Palestine. A quota of 20,000 pounds was given Louisville, and the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations undertook to raise it, under chairmanship of Mrs. Harry Resnick. Some 300 to 400 men, women and young people made house-to-house collections, with headquarters at Adath Jeshurun, then at Brook and College. When Louisville's shipments were tallied, they came to an astounding 35,000 pounds.

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*First chairman was Mrs. Herbert Ottenheimer, and Bertha Brooks was secretary pro tem. Organizational representatives were Mrs. Allan Shapinsky, Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood; Mrs. Herman Mayer, B'rith Sholom Benevolent Society; Mrs. Richard Kaufman, Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society; Mrs. Barnet Linker and Mrs. Charles Strull, Hadassah; Mrs. Jerome Rosen, B'rith Sholom Sewing Circle, and Mrs. Jacob Zellner, Council of Jewish Women.

In 1959 the Conference of Jewish Organizations established a Women's Year-Round Committee after attempting for two or three years to convince Louisville women of the importance of a year-around program of campaign planning and education. The Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations objected, arguing that a new committee would duplicate its work and that a second organization was not needed.

Fannie Rose (Mrs. Irvin S.) Rosenbaum, who had worked actively in UJC women's campaigning, was invited by the United Jewish Appeal to be the first Louisville woman on a UJA women's mission to Israel. Mrs. Rosenbaum returned home full of enthusiasm and during the next few months spoke at almost 100 meetings, large and small, Jewish and non-Jewish. She became head of the new Women's Committee, and as the women became more aware of their role in the community, the committee began to broaden its scope.

The Women's Committee became the women's arm of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. It took over arrangements, menus, attendance and reservations for its parent Conference's dinners and other programs. It planned and staged several all-day institutes to educate women in campaign needs and the necessity for training volunteers to serve local agencies. For several years the committee conducted women's leadership training courses and managed the women's portion of the UJC, gradually gaining great acceptance within the community.

Mrs. Rosenbaum, while chairman of the Women's Year-Round Committee, kept suggesting that the time had come to extend its role beyond fund-raising and that it should attempt to educate women about local Jewish services and problems. She asked that the group be officially renamed the Women's Committee of the Conference, and proposed a new statement of principles and purposes to govern her committee.

The statement said: "The Women's Committee is a group dedicated to the recognition and appreciation of women's role as citizens responsible for civic standards and progress and designed to provide opportunity for women to participate in total community planning and leadership."

The statement continued that the committee should conduct a program of education for better understanding of local, national and overseas needs, leadership training, and fund-raising. "Fund-raising is an integral part of a good community organization," it said, but fund-raising "without knowledge, stimulation and motivation is sterile and impractical" and "fund-raising without planning is futile; but planning without fund-raising is fatal."

A program launched in fall 1963 was an annual newcomers' party in a private home for those who had moved to Louisville. Lay and professional heads of each agency described the various services available within the community. The meetings followed this format until fall of 1977, at which time the reorganized Women's Committee appointed an active Shalom Committee headed by Helen (Mrs. Irving) Friedman and later by Jaye (Mrs. Josh) Sparber. They expanded this program to include pot-luck suppers and socials at which newcomers could get acquainted.

At one such party, Gail (Mrs. Neil) Schwartz, president of the Women's Committee, gave an orientation talk. This brought from one of the guests, Marvin Gordon, who had come from Succasunna, N.J., the response that he found "a sense of belonging" pervades Louisville's Jewish community and that he was made to feel at home here, a far different attitude than he would have encountered in the East had the situation been reversed.

Another innovation of the women's group that has had far-reaching consequences was a 1966 suggestion by its chairman, Inge (Mrs. Curtis) Ehrlich, that graduates of its leadership training courses be placed on the boards of local agencies as observers. In that era before women's rights were taken for granted, it was difficult for women to find places on agency boards. Mrs. Ehrlich suggested that it would be helpful if these young leadership trainees had the opportunity as observers to learn what goes on inside each agency. The plan was approved and two years of trail found it quite successful and beneficial. Only Jewish Hospital, for reasons of its own, turned down the request. The trainee observers have matured to become part of the community's top leadership.

The maturing of the Women's Committee led a group to seek a merger with the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations. As of 1964, the women's conference included Adath Israel Sisterhood, Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood, Anshei Sfard Sisterhood, B'nai B'rith Women 261, Brith Sholom Sisterhood, City of Hope, Four Courts Auxiliary, Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society, Jewish War Veterans, Keneseth Israel Sisterhood, Louisville Chapter of Hadassah, Louisville Women's Committee of Brandeis University, Mizrachi Women, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, and Women's Guild of Jewish Hospital.*

The merger was effected in May 1970 and the new group, a committee within the Conference of Jewish Organizations, became the Federation of Jewish Women.** Margot (Mrs. David) Kling was president the first two years, followed by Gita (Mrs. Eugene) Comer.

In 1977 the committee organized a President's Council, embracing all Jewish Women's organizations, to serve the respective presidents and "create greater unity in the total community." Mrs. Bess Caller, an active Hadassah worker, was appointed first chairperson of the council. Its first program was a workshop on parlimentary procedures designed to "enable anyone to chair a meeting effectively." A similar course was given in 1980.

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*Presidents after Mrs. Shapinsky were Mrs. Morris Koch, Mrs. Lawrence Grauman, Mrs. Robert Simons, Mrs. Frank Garlove, Mrs. Carl K. Helman, Mrs. Abe Baer.

**The group that labored so persistently to bring about the merger included Mrs. Rosenbaum, Mrs. Curtis Ehrlich, Mrs. Baer, and the president of the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations, Mrs. Martin Lewis.

In her 1977-78 report as president, Mrs. Schwartz boasted these Women's Committee accomplishments:

"This year the President's Council has made great strides ... The Shalom Committee has held many functions to bring newcomers into the community; the United Way committee did a fine job raising funds for (Metro) United Way; the Israeli Committee working with the Jewish Community Center did a fantastic job in seeing that the needs of Israelis at Fort Knox were taken care of; and the Volunteer Committee is off to a beginning with the hopes of providing a general volunteer pool for the total community." In addition there was a "very successful Assertiveness Training Workshop for all women in the Jewish community."

With an eye toward education and fund-raising, the committee scheduled an overnight retreat for women January 17-18, 1978 at Brown County, Indiana "for fun, facts and friendship." There were seminars, speakers, workshops, and entertainment. The project was so successful that it has been repeated since.

An event of 1979 was a Media Day in which representatives of 18 Jewish women's groups were brought together to meet with newspaper and magazine personnel and radio and TV news people to exchange ideas. The purpose was twofold: to acquaint the local media with the Jewish women's organizations and their programs, and to enable publicity chairmen to learn how to use the media in publicizing their organizations. The chairman of the day, Stella (Mrs. Arnold) Parris, reported the response was "overwhelming."

The committee added to its functions a speakers' bureau which answered requests for presentations on varied topics, and a newsletter, "Kentucky Woman," which it distributed in Community, the Federation newspaper. In October 1980 "Kentucky Woman," edited by Helen Sweitzer, became a regular page in Community.

In addition to its welcome parties, the Shalom Committee in 1979 placed 25 to 30 persons in homes for Seder and on other holidays, and delivered wine, challah, and Shabbat candles to new families.

Mickey (Mrs. Gerald) Baron (daughter of Mrs. Bess Caller), the 1979 president, announced in June that plans for the future included programs for children 7 through 13 about the community and the campaign, joint study groups for women's organizations, a program on energy and its special meaning for American Jews, and a program for professionalization of volunteers.

The Women's Committee also produced an educational manual for campaign workers.

Over the years, the committee's outstanding accomplishment has been in fund-raising. In 1979, under the chairmanship of Marcia Schuster, the Women's Division produced an all-time record of $303,293 for the United Jewish Campaign. This figure included a 58 per cent increase over the previous year for the Young Women's Division.

This is a far cry from the early 1960s when the women were eyeing

$100,000 as a nearly impossible goal for them. In 1962 Mrs. S.T. Fish Jr. led the women over the top and raised $100,031.

The UJC Women's Division first got under way in 1939 under the leadership of Beck (Mrs. Alex) Hertzman and Mrs. Lillian Lipski (then Mrs. Joseph M. Frehling) and obtained $22,099 from 1,278 contributors.

Once before, in 1948 coinciding with the founding of the State of Israel, the women did pass the $100,000 mark, Mrs. Frank A. Garlove leading them to a total of $106,228. But that year was an outstanding exception in fund-raising, among men as well.

The women's 1949 total dropped back to $94,320 in 1949, but in nearly every year since then, the Women's Division has gone onward and upward.

Louisville organized its UJC Women's Division six years before the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal was created. James H. Levy, that year's general chairman, saw not only the women's potential through the additional gifts from women, primarily wives who had never before been solicited, but also the importance of the indoctrination these women would receive through working and contributing.

Levy's premise — that indoctrination of the women would be carried over to the men of their families — was borne out over the years.

Mrs. Hertzman and Mrs. Frehling put forward the principle that women's giving should be "plus giving," not taken from, but added to, the gifts of their husbands. The women that first year — 1939 — raised an astounding 21.6 per cent of the UJC total.

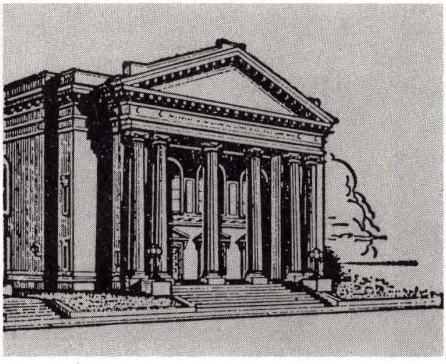
Clarence F. Judah, executive director of the Federation, said in 1974, on the 40th anniversary of the Federation, that 35 years the women had raised "more than $3,500,000, or 15 per cent of the total raised in Louisville during the UJC's entire existence. This is well above the national average." He recalled the year the Women's Division of Cleveland "received national recognition because it raised 11 per cent of that city's total. When we jokingly made the comparison with the ladies of that community, that our women had raised over 18 per cent of Louisville's total, their only response was, 'This simply means that your men are not contributing enough.'"

The UJA National Women's Division recognized Louisville's leaders, and placed Maie C. (Mrs. Martin M.) Perley on its board, utilizing her for campaign speeches in many cities. She was followed by LaVerne (Mrs. Frank A.) Garlove, and later Fanny Rose Rosenbaum became a national vice-chairman. Other Louisvillians have served since.

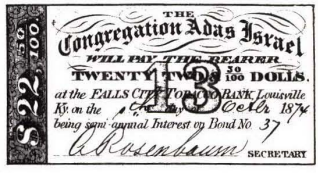
President Baron noted in her 1979 annual report that the Women's Committee "has become recognized in the community as an umbrella organization for all Jewish women" and concluded:

"It is the aim of the Women's Committee to help the Jewish women in Louisville be prepare to live and work in the 'real world', to make major community decisions, and to participate on an equal level with all community leaders."



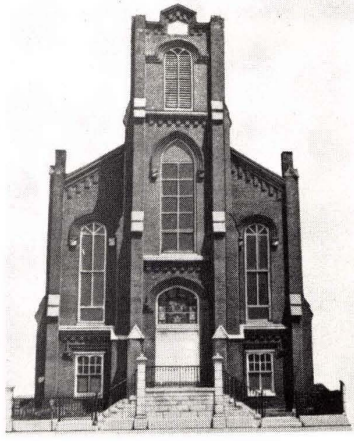


Temple Adath Israel was at Sixth and Broadway (above) from 1868 to 1906 and at 834 S. Third (left) from 1906 to 1980. Below is an interest coupon from an Adath Israel bond dated 1874.

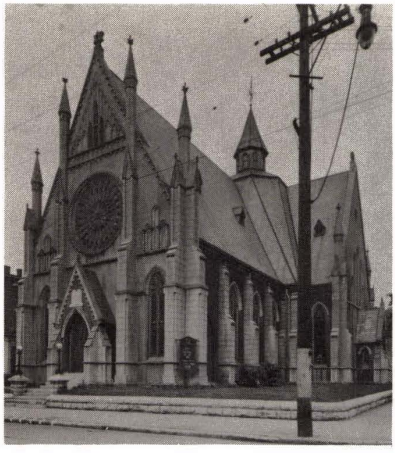


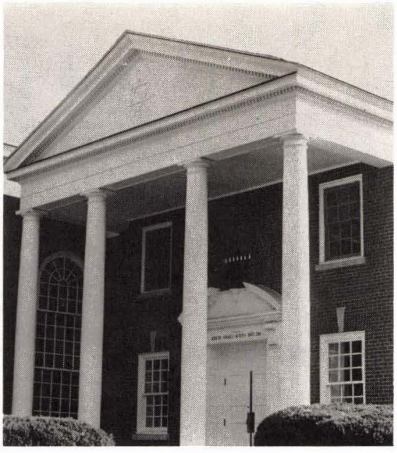


B'nai Jacob



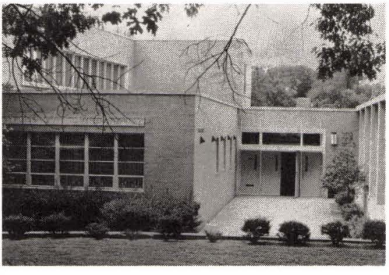
Beth Hamedrash Hagodol



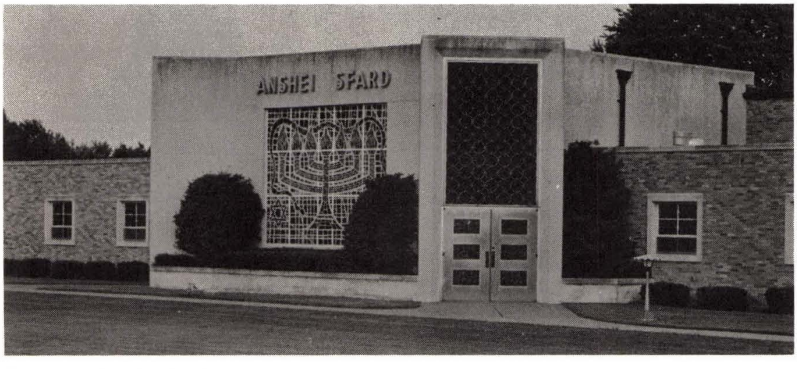


Temple Brith Sholom was at Second and College (left) until moving to Cowling and Maryland (right). The latter building became the first home of the merged Adath Israel-Brith Sholom.





Adath Jeshurun's dome (left) created a Brook and College landmark. In 1957 the congregation moved to 2401 Woodbourne (right).



Congregation Anshei Sfard on Dutchmans Lane.



Congregation Keneseth Israel on Taylorsville Road.



Charter members of the Conference of Jewish Organizations as they appeared at the 20th anniversary meeting. Front, left to right: Moses W. Ades, Mrs. Allan Shapinsky, Mrs. Morris Koch, Charles Strull. Back row: Charles W. Morris, Dann C. Byck, Rabbi J. J. Gittleman, Max Waldman, Louis Cohen, Tony Levitan, Barnet Linker, Sam J. Switow.



Lewis Dembitz, lawyer and Jewish scholar.



Justice Louis Brandeis grew up in Louisville.



Dr. Joseph Rauch, longtime rabbi of Adath Israel.



Arthur S. Kling, "idea man" of the community.

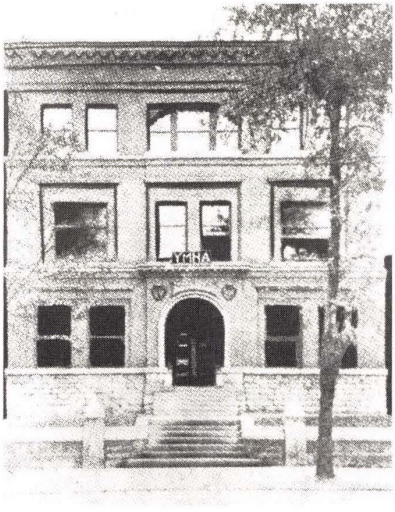


At the 1903 groundbreaking for the Jewish Hospital (shown below) were the original board of directors: From left, Simon Dinkelspeil, Leon Sher, Rabbi A.L. Zarchy, Unidentified, Dr. H.G. Enelow, Alfred Selligman, Lewis Dembitz, Emil Tachau (rear), Charles Goldsmith, Rabbi Ignatius Mueller (rear), architect J.C. Murphy, Aaron Reichman, Edward Grauman (rear), architect D.X. Murphy, Abe Rothstein.

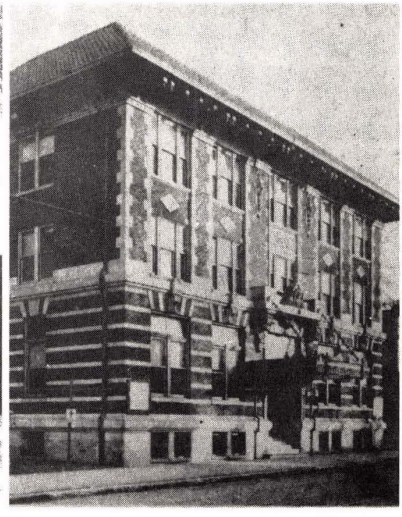




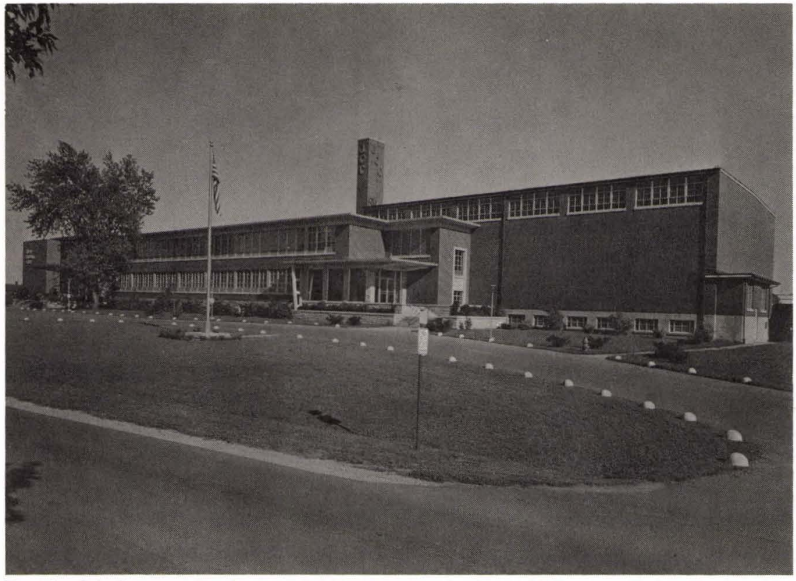
Jewish Hospital at Brook and Chestnut is the cornerstone of Louisville's midtown Medical Center.



The first YMHA was on First between Walnut and Chestnut.



The YMHA at Second and Jacob was a beehive for four decades.



The Jewish Community Center at 3600 Dutchmans Lane. Below are the earliest presidents of the original YMHA.



I.W. Bernheim, first president, 1890-1898



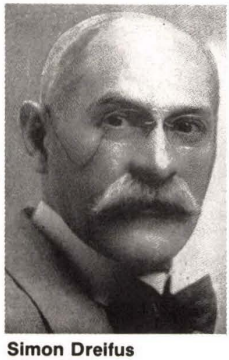
Norton Goldsmith 1898-1900



Alfred Selligman 1900-1901



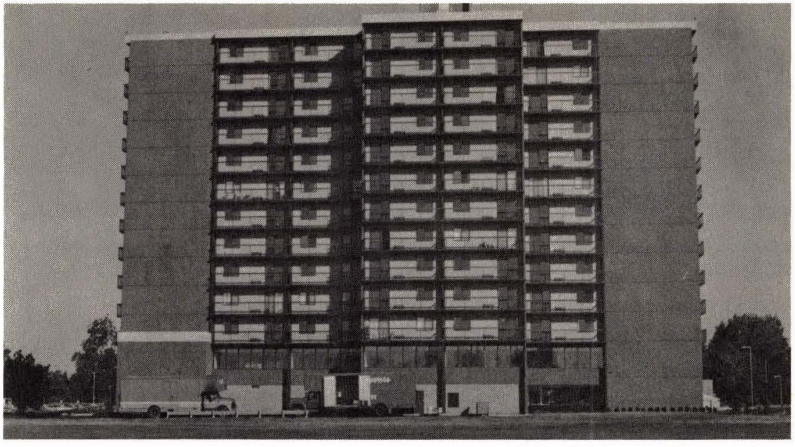
Ben F. Washer 1901-1905



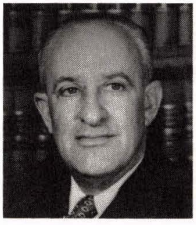
Simon Dreifus 1905-1907



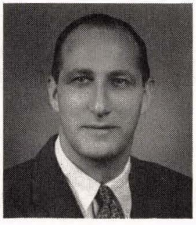
Dr. I.N. Bloom 1907-1909



Shalom Tower, completed in 1979, contains 150 apartments for senior citizens and headquarters of the Jewish Community Federation and the Jewish Family and Vocational Service. Federation presidents are shown below.



Charles W. Morris
1934-1950



J. Marshall Bensinger
1950-1952



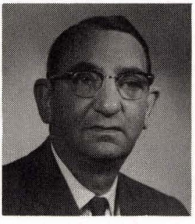
Samuel J. Beierfield
1952-1955



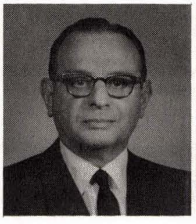
Lewis D. Cole
1955-1957



Norbert Friedman
1955-1960



William S. Heidenberg
1960-1962



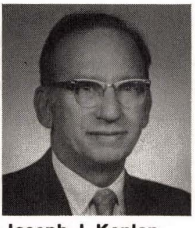
Herman G. Handmaker
1962-1964



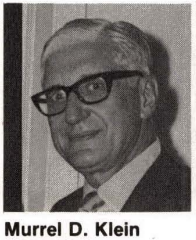
Hugo Taustine
1964-1966



Phil B. Levitch
1966-1967



Joseph J. Kaplan
1967-1969



Murrel D. Klein
1969-1972



Fanny Rose Rosenbaum
1972-1974



Farrell E. Salzman
1974-1975



Stuart Handmaker
1975-1978



Frank Lipschutz
1978-



A delegation of Louisvillians met the United Jewish Appeal's "Caravan of Hope" on its arrival at 10th and Broadway in 1949.



Four Courts, the Louisville Hebrew Home, occupies estate of former mayor Leland Taylor at 2100 Millvale Road. In July 1980 ground was broken for an addition that promises to double the home's capacity.

Considering how many graduates of its leadership training courses have risen to the presidency of various organizations and become campaign and Federation leaders, it seems that the Women's Committee is well on its way toward achieving that goal.

III. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Today civil rights are taken for granted, thanks to human-relations commissions, equal-opportunity laws, and court rulings stemming from the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Especially responsive to possible threats to Jewish interest are the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Community Federation and the ADL Council, the local arm of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The two groups work hand in hand and have the cooperation of the police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

But things were not always so. In years past there was no central agency to speak for the Jewish people or to guard their rights. It was a case of every man for himself.

One trying time for the Jews of Louisville was during the ascendancy of the Know-Nothings (the Grand Council of the United States of North America), which preached anti-Catholicism in the streets. Foreigners, particularly Germans, were favorite targets.

"Violence became a standard tactic," wrote Nathan C. Belth in *A Promise to Keep* (Times Books, New York, 1979), breaking out in many cities in the election year of 1854. Louisville was not immune, and the Bloody Monday riots of August 6, 1855, resulted in 20 deaths on the day of election of a Governor (George Morehead) and members of Congress. The riots broke out in the First and Second Wards, the intersection of Shelby and Green (Liberty) Streets described by George Yater in *Two Hundred Years at the Falls of the Ohio* (Heritage Corporation of Louisville and Jefferson County, 1979) as the likeliest spot for the beginning. "Soon Know Nothing mobs were raging through the East End pursuing hapless Germans on the streets," Yater wrote. There were Jewish stores scattered through this area and doubtless they did not come through unmolested, although the records do not single out Jews.

A Civil War incident that reached national proportions was General U.S. Grant's order of December 17, 1862 expelling Jews from Western Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Louisville's Jewish community was incensed, but with no communal machinery available, only individual protests could be made. It was the outcry by the then-young B'nai B'rith and a few outspoken rabbis around the country that prompted President Abraham Lincoln to annul Grant's decree.

The practice of fire insurance companies in the 1860s of discriminating against Jews met with protests in Louisville.*

Discrimination was persistent. Employment ads specified that no Jews need apply. So did rental ads. Jewish physicians were barred from hospital staffs, which led to Jewish Hospital being born in 1903. Social discrimination brought about the founding of the Standard Country Club and YMHA (now Jewish Community Center).

Twice-A-Month on March 1, 1901 commented about the practice of The Courier-Journal (and other newspapers) singling out persons as Jews in news stories. The practice was stopped several years later.

In the 1920s there was alarm in Louisville's Jewish community when the resurgent Ku Klux Klan held meetings and cross-burnings.** Although no major violence occurred, there was nobody to raise a voice in behalf of Jewish rights. How different is the situation today!

One victim of discrimination was Emil Ortner. When the motor car was new, he jumped into the automobile business and built up a large Ford dealership, but Henry Ford in his Dearborn Independent days of the 1920s revoked the franchises of Jewish dealers. The firm Ortner founded is still in business today.

In the mid-1920s, George Colvin became president of the University of Louisville. Outspokenly anti-Semitic, he began to purge the faculty of Jewish professors. One of the first to be fired was Dr. Louis Gottschalk, who went to University of Chicago in 1927 and became one of America's outstanding historians. Sara Landau, then an instructor in economics and adviser to

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*"Early in 1867, the long-standing and wide-spread practice of fire insurance companies in New York and elsewhere of discriminating against small Jewish merchants was brought into the open and became a public issue ... resolutions, indignation meetings, boycotts, and cancellations of policies were organized in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Richmond, Va., Louisville, Ky., Chicago..." — *A Documentary History of the Jews in the United States,* edited by Morris U. Schappes.

**Louis Merenbloom, in whose honor his home town of Corbin, Ky. staged a Louis Merenbloom Day in 1958, used to tell about a Ku Klux Klan parade once held there. As the robed and hooded Klansmen marched by, Merenbloom, standing on the sidewalk, greeted one after another by name. The next day one came into his store and asked how Merenbloom was able to recognize them. "That was easy," he answered, "you all bought your shoes in my store." Merenbloom lived in Corbin 45 years. He also operated the town's movie theater. He moved to Louisville and was active in Club 60 until his death.

women, remained about a year, but when Dean Warwick Anderson was fired, she saw the handwriting on the wall and resigned.*

During the Klan's ascendancy, Mayor Huston Quin and members of the Board of Public Safety said there was no place in Louisville for the Ku Klux Klan. The statement was made in denying a minister the right to hold a meeting in a downtown church for the purpose of explaining Klan doctrines.

The statement "did not mince words," a reporter of that day wrote. Attorney Joseph Selligman was member of the board who joined in signing the statement, which said: "It is well known that in various parts of our country masked bands of terrorists, alleged to be operating as Klansmen, have commited such outrages as flogging, tarring and feathering and even murdering citizens who fell under their displeasure ... The Klan has justly laid itself open

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*Sara Landau first began doing volunteer work helping immigrants on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women. Her mentors were a Mrs. Klauber, Elsie (Mrs. Leon) Judah and Blanche (Mrs. Herbert E.) Ottenheimer. She taught English on a one-to-one basis and helped prepare them for citizenship. This was in the 1920s. Shortly before new immigration restrictions were to go in effect, Ruth Meyers, then girls' secretary of the YMHA, was scheduled to go to New York as Council's representative to meet immigrants prior to the deadline. Miss Meyers eloped and the task was given to Miss Landau. "We would meet the boats," she reminisced. "Immigrants whose families did not meet them directly were assigned to us; the Jewish women to me, the Catholic women to the representative of that group, and the Protestant women to the representative of the YWCA." Her report covering August 1922 lists 32 case visits, 13 receptions at the dock, four visits locating relatives, and nine office visits.

At the end of that summer she returned to Louisville and became girls' secretary of the YMHA. She resigned in 1924, after once having been prevailed upon to stay, due to "arduous duties" as instructor at University of Louisville. The Chronicler said that under her direction the girls' secretaryship "was brought to its highest development in the history of the" YMHA. While girls' secretary she represented Louisville at a national conference on "The Cause and Cure of War," where, at a White House reception, she met Eleanor Roosevelt, "who singled me out for a brief conversation." She saw Mrs. Roosevelt on a number of occasions afterward.

Sara Landau has participated in civil-rights activities ever since. One of her most intensive efforts, assisted by attorney Herman Handmaker, was to rescue Nora Samuelli, who became a woman without a country after Romania revoked her citizenship because she had worked as a secretary in the U.S. legation there. In 1963 they succeeded in getting Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.) to prod Congress into acting, and Miss Samuelli was enabled to start life anew in Paris.

Sara's sister, Mathilda Landau, taught first grade at George W. Morris School for many years. Once, in New York, she was recognized in a restaurant by a former pupil. She could not recall his name off-hand but said to him, "Tell me what seat you were in, and I'll know your name."

Sara Landau received the 1980 Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award at the Jewish Community Center.

(Sara and Mathilda Landau are not related to me.)

to the suspicion and charge of intending to terrorize those who come under its proscription ... There is no place in a law-abiding city like Louisville for such an organization." The board also said that any Klan activities in Louisville not only would be viewed askance by City officials but would be sternly suppressed. Thanks to this attitude, Klan activity died out, not to be revived until many years later.*

From its very beginning in 1934, the Conference of Jewish Organizations found itself embroiled in protecting Jewish rights and its Community Relations Council is an outgrowth of this work. The rise of anti-Semitic organizations influenced the Conference to bring to Louisville Richard E. Gutstadt, national director of the ADL, as speaker for its first United Jewish Campaign. Louisville then was feeling the ripple effect from Father Charles Coughlin's radio broadcasts, William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirts, and the German-American Bund, all spewing anti-Semitism.

In the first five years of the Conference, between 1934 and the outbreak of World War II, its executive committee met two or three times a month because of the need to take quick action regarding anti-Semitic incidents, speakers, and events. Sometimes half of the 15 or 20 items on the agenda fit this category, says *Unity in Community* by Clarence F. Judah.

One incident directly involved Charles W. Morris, Conference chairman. One of his clients was George K. Bodenschatz, whose brother was a general in Adolf Hitler's army. The Louisvillian and his wife made numerous trips to Germany, which they followed up with speeches justifying Hitler and his treatment of the Jews. Morris severed his law firm's connection with Bodenschatz and his Superior Welting Company, and kept a record of their activities. After Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Bodenschatz were convicted of aiding the enemy and imprisoned for the duration of World War II. The FBI used Morris's files to help the prosecution.

Throughout the 1930s, the Conference was kept busy writing letters, obtaining speakers, and otherwise trying to counter the anti-Semitic wave. Rabbi Solomon Bazell and Louis Cohen were especially active in this work, assisted from time to time by Dr. Joseph Rauch, Joseph Lazarus, and Rabbi J. J. Gittleman. But the major burden was carried by Chairman Morris.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews was formed in New York in 1928, but almost 10 years elapsed before its influence began to be felt in Louisville. In 1938, a Louisville committee was formed, with Morris representing Jewish interests, Patrick H. Callahan the Catholics, and Thomas

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*Joseph Selligman, who with his brother, Alfred Selligman, headed one of Louisville's most prestigious law firms, was one of the Republican leaders who praised the fusionist efforts of 1905 to clean up politics in Louisville. This was when Robert W. Bingham (father of Barry Bingham Sr. and grandfather of Barry Bingham Jr.), who later became president and publisher of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times, was serving as the court-appointed Mayor of Louisville. The Selligman brothers were leaders in B'nai B'rith and active in many other aspects of Jewish life.

Floyd Smith the Protestants. The Louisville chapter of NCCJ was chartered in 1940 and has functioned ever since. Every year it recognizes persons who have accomplished outstanding interfaith work.

Morris became a national vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, which also is devoted to protecting Jewish rights.

Four of the 13 founders of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union were Jewish. A civil-liberties presence in Kentucky dated back to the 1930s and attorney Grover Sales had helped the American Civil Liberties Union for two decades before the Kentucky chapter was founded in 1955.*

The Kentucky Civil Liberties chapter observed its 25th anniversary November 16, 1979 with special tribute to the founders and to Louis Lusky, a professor of law at Columbia University who was recognized along with the founders because of his intense interest in the KCLU.** He handled KCLU's first case. Lusky was honored in May 1980 as a "Distinguished Alumnus" by the Woodcock Society, the honors society at University of Louisville. The Jews among the founders were Arthur S. Kling, Maie (Mrs. Martin) Perley, Dr. Louis Kesselman and Edgar A. Zingman.***

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*Sales took an interest in civil rights and consumer protection long before those causes became popular. In 1930, while practicing law at the age of 43, he made a personal one-man protest which resulted in *The Merchant of Venice* being removed from Louisville Male High School's compulsory curriculum. The school then had a large Jewish student body and was known widely for its classical curriculum and scholastic excellence. Principal J.B. Carpenter "had never thought of the matter in the way that Sales presented it."

A Harvard Law School graduate, Sales had a varied career that included serving as judge pro tem in all branches of the Common Pleas Division of Jefferson Circuit Court. He was president of the Family Service Organization, the Louisville Public Forum, the Lotta Fund for the Aid of Discharged Convicts, secretary-treasurer of the Fresh Air Home, and director of the Legal Aid Society. He helped organize the Morris Plan Industrial Bank, of which Jesse Streng became president.

**Lusky did outstanding legal work during KCLU's formative years. He was law clerk to Justice Harlan F. Stone for two years after graduation from U of L and Columbia Law School and practiced law here from 1947 to 1963. He has been on the Columbia law faculty since 1963. Along with others, he is the author of *Southern Justice* (1967) and *By What Right?* (1975).

***Kling long served as one of the main "idea men" of the Jewish community. Once a Teamsters Union organizer, he ran for Mayor as Socialist Party candidate in the 1930s. He helped bring into being a number of community-service organizations. He was president of the Jewish Community Center and later of the Kentucky Association for Older Persons, which he helped organize. His work in the field of the aged made him widely known as "Mr. Senior Citizen of Kentucky" and he served as chairman of the Combined Committees on Aging. Kling's ideas led to organizing the Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish Vocational Service, Louisville chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, and Jewish Welfare Board Associates. B'nai B'rith honored him and his younger brother, Morris Kling, with its 1978 national Humanitarian Award.

(Footnote continued on next page.)

Community Relations Committee

In 1957, the Conference of Jewish Organizations decided the time had come to use a more intensive approach than ad hoc committees on civil rights and appointed its first Community Relations Committee "to consider and take appropriate action in matters concerning specific problems of discrimination and/or anti-Semitic activities; to consider and participate in community programs to improve community relations and to consider and initiate activities designed to better community relations." Edgar Bottigheimer was its first chairman. Since then broadened in membership and scope, this has become today's active Community Relations Council.

It was at this committee's urging in April 1963 that the executive committee of the Conference urged passage of a City public-accommodations ordinance. Jewish support for this ordinance led to an outbreak of swastika painting on synagogues and elsewhere, but the police handled such matters discreetly and the incidents subsided.

One CRC battle came when the Gideon Society offered to distribute bibles in the public schools. The Conference committee convinced school officials this had religious overtones and the project was never carried out. Other school matters monitored by the CRC involved Bible readings (since outlawed by the courts) and the scheduling of major school events on Jewish holidays.

(Continued from page 159.)

Morris Kling attended Jefferson School of Law and became active in community affairs after joining the family business about 1925. He was president of Brith Sholom and the Jewish Community Center, 1962 general chairman of the United Jewish Campaign, on the board of the Jewish Community Federaton, and has worked with Metro United Way, Boy Scouts, National Conference of Christians and Jews, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, and KCLU. His humorous touch has made him a much sought-after toastmaster and speaker.

Kesselman came to University of Louisville as a National War Labor Board economist during World War II. He was a member of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and National Academy of Arbitrators. He served on both the Louisville and the Kentucky Civil Service commissions and twice was a Fulbright lecturer. He was a U of L professor of political science at the time of his death in 1974.

Zingman, a partner of Wyatt, Grafton and Sloss, not only was a charter member and later chairperson of the KCLU but served on the national board of the ACLU. His law practice has made him one of the nation's outstanding authorities on newspaper and libel law. He has been active in the Health and Welfare Council and was president of the Kentucky Society of Hospital Attorneys.

Chairperson of KCLU's anniversary was Suzy Post, who served as chairperson of the chapter and on the ACLU national board. Daughter of Morris and Betty Kling, she is married to attorney Edward M. Post, who also has been active in civil-liberties litigation. Among other activities he served as president of Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

Dr. Perley and Human Relations

The field of human relations so captivated Dr. Martin Perley that he resigned as rabbi of Temple Brith Sholom to make it a career. His first involvement in this area came about in 1951 as chairman of the committee against Gideon Bibles in the schools.

Four years later, Bruce Hoblitzell, then sheriff and jailer, organized a civic relations committee of ministers that instituted services and began counseling prisoners (none of them Jewish, Dr. Perley noted cheerfully). When Hoblitzell became Mayor in 1957, he appointed a four-member Civic Relations Advisory Council, headed by Dr. Philip Davidson, president of the University of Louisville. This council suggested an advisory commission on human relations made up of four Jews, four Protestants, four Catholics, and four blacks. This group worked on employment, housing, and public accommodations, seeking desegregation by voluntary methods. Frustration set in after two or three years, so the group recommended an ordinance to give clout to equal-rights moves. This was the era of sit-ins, and about this time the office of a State Commissioner on Human Rights was established.

William Cowger became Mayor in 1961 and a City Human Relations Commission was established with Marlin Volz, dean of the University of Louisville Law School, as chairman. Dr. Perley was co-chairman of its religious groups committee and a Quaker, Mansir Tydings, was executive director. Perley's committee wrote a statement emphasizing that human rights had a religious basis, and after much lobbying, the commission succeeded in obtaining passage of a city public-accommodations law in 1963. Three years later, an equal-employment law followed.

A National Conference on Religion and Race had met in Chicago in 1964 and a local group formed here. Dr. Perley was elected chairman and in 1965, it was incorporated as the Louisville Area Council on Religion and Race. Its purpose, The Courier-Journal said March 8, 1965, is to "promote good will among all people and to increase the influence of religion in ending all forms of racial discrimination."

The group had hardly organized when the rioting broke out in Selma, Ala., resulting in the death of the Rev. James Reeb, a Boston Unitarian minister, and others. Three days later, on March 12, 1965, the Council held a special meeting at Temple Brith Sholom protesting the "brutality and violence" in Selma.

As president of the Council, Dr. Perley organized a march, in which some 3,000 blacks and whites participated, Sunday, March 14, 1965, supporting civil rights demonstrators in Alabama. The 90-minute demonstration, free of incidents, ended in front of the Jefferson County Courthouse. There was a silent prayer for victims of the violence, and Dr. Perley said at the rally on the courthouse steps that it was of special significance: "In Selma, Ala., citizens of that community have been forcibly restrained from approaching their county courthouse, but we meet here not only without restraint but with the fullest

cooperation of our county government." The Courier-Journal reported that those taking part included Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, the Rev. A.D. Williams King, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Louisville and brother of Martin Luther King; the Most Rev. Charles G. Moloney, auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, and the Rt. Rev. C. Gresham Marmion, Episcopal Bishop of Kentucky. The Catholic Record said 65 priests and 175 nuns were in the group. Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.) had notice of his support for the march published in the Congressional Record and presented to President Lyndon Johnson a petition signed by 4,000 Kentuckians asking an end to voting discrimination.

The Council voted to make promotion of open occupancy its first project. It appointed Minx (Mrs. S.P.) Auerbach* chairman of a "task force" to hold informational programs in churches and synagogues, working with an "Action Committee" headed by a Bellarmine College professor and using materials prepared by the National Council of Jewish Women. The Council on Religion and Race also recommended that all congregations in the city get pledges from firms with which they did business that they practiced fair employment. The Council set aside April 25, 1965 as Home Visitation Sunday for Negroes and whites to visit in each other's homes.

The Conference of Jewish Organizations helped finance the Council in co-operation with the Louisville Area Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Louisville. The Council subsequently employed a full-time executive director and moved to the West End, but after some five years it disintegrated.

Dr. Perley's activism had exhibited itself earlier when Temple Brith Sholom, at its 84th annual meeting January 26, 1964, passed a broad civil-rights resolution urging its members who were in business to make a "conscious, positive effort to introduce Negro employees into the work force" and provide them with training for better jobs. The resolution also advocated open occupancy, urged members not to invest in financial organizations that practice discrimination and not to frequent private clubs that refuse membership on racial grounds. Support of civil-rights legislation also was urged. A Courier-Journal editorial two days later called Brith Sholom's action "a specific, practical approach that other religious bodies would do well to consider ... We are dealing with a moral issue, and one with which religious institutions should be gravely concerned." The temple in May 1965 gave $500 to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Martin Luther King Jr. was president and Ralph Abernathy treasurer.

The year 1966 was marked by open-housing demonstrations in Louisville. The Republican-led Board of Aldermen rejected an open-housing law and

*Mrs. Auerbach headed the Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign in 1956, 1960 and 1961. She later became consumer affairs advisor to Mayor Harvey Sloane, leaving to take a similar post with County Judge Mitch McConnell after his election in 1977.

Louisville failed to get a Model Cities grant.* The Human Relations Commission, by this time having become a city-county agency, was in turmoil. It fired Tydings and tried to function without a director. At lunch one day with Monsignor Alfred F. Horrigan, a commission co-chairman, Dr. Perley half-jokingly said he would take the job as director. There had been some dissension in Brith Sholom over its rabbi's extensive involvement in civil rights, with the result that when the Human Relations Commission drafted him as its executive director, Dr. Perley resigned from the pulpit. His first task was to represent Louisville at the funeral of Martin Luther King. Eight weeks later — on May 28 — the West End riots broke out. This was a period of great tension, and with his militant black assistant, Eugene Robinson, Dr. Perley organized crisis teams of clergymen to be at hospitals, City Hall, and other strategic spots to keep a calm atmosphere. One problem Dr. Perley had to combat was that Bishop Eubank Tucker, a highly respected black leader, opposed Robinson. Dr. Perley and his aide constantly had to combat rumors of brutality, going on television, getting the city to move police out of the tension areas, and initiating truce talks. One young looter was killed, and it appeared the riots were about to break out again, but Dr. Perley prevailed on the looter's mother to make a public appeal for calm, and the city cooled off. Jewish businesses in the affected area suffered tremendous losses. Many never reopened.

At this time, a student confrontation occurred at the University of Louisville, and with Dr. Perley's efforts, a black studies program was instituted. Other crises in which he was involved included school busing and attacks by hate groups. He also joined in a move that resulted in abolishing Saturday primary elections. His agency collected 17,000 signatures in a campaign against bigotry.

It was toward the end of his career with the commission in 1976 that the Jewish Community Federation expanded its Community Relations Council, Dr. Perley resigned from the commission in June 1977 and immediately jumped into organization of the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community, which elected him vice-president. The Kentuckiana Interfaith Community replaced the old Council of Churches and the nine-year-old Louisville Area Interchurch Organization for Service. The new organization differs from its predecessors by including Roman Catholic and Jewish representation. The latter, besides Dr. Perley, comes through appointment of a representative by the Jewish Community Federation. The group is the first of its kind in the United States, Dr. Perley said. Since his retirement, Dr. Perley has taken over chairmanship of the Jefferson County Council on Aging, a merger of three groups — the Mayor's Advisory Committee, the County Advisory Committee on Aging, and the Greater Louisville Area Council of Senior Citizens Clubs.

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*The Louisville Area Council on Religion and Race at one time did get a Federal grant to establish white-black dialogues.

"Crisis in Our City"

On the heels of the racial turmoil of the mid-1960s, there came the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (the Kerner Report) and the Conference of Jewish Organizations decided to act. The West End riots had been highly damaging to Jewish businesses, and it had become evident that there was a need for education both in black and Jewish communities and for a means of furthering cooperation between the two.

The Conference adopted a resolution calling on all of its constituent organizations to contribute their experience and resources to promote specific projects aimed at alleviating poverty-related problems, The Louisville Times reported on June 25, 1968. One of the steps taken by the Conference was to employ Julia Kern to work out intergroup cooperation and projects.

The Conference, through its Community Relations Committee, enlisted representatives from 47 Jewish community organizations to participate in a one-day institute, "Crisis in Our City; Call to Action." Ben Rothstein, executive director of the Jewish Community Center, was borrowed by the Conference to lay the groundwork for the institute, held September 29, 1968 at the Center and Anshei Sfard Synagogue. After opening remarks, the group broke up into workshops devoted to education, housing, social services, and economic opportunity. Each workshop made recommendations concerning its own phase of the problem. These had tangible results; among them formation of a businessmen's committee offering advice to black enterprises, tutoring in schools, and other programs.

Community Relations Council

Over the years, the committee, restructured as the Community Relations Council, has grown more active. In conjunction with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Ecumenical Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville it conducted a public meeting December 4, 1978 making Human Rights Day and dedicated to prisoners of conscience such as Anatoly Shcharansky and others.

Working closely with the CRC has been the local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League.

Jewish interest has not gone unnoticed among blacks. At the Kentucky conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in fall 1979, a resolution was adopted calling for "a continued positive relationship between black and Jewish citizens." Clarence Matthews, writing "Black Perspective" in The Louisville Times, November 9, 1979, said:

> "At first glance, the resolution seems unnecessary. There hasn't been much friction in Kentucky between blacks and Jews. The opposite has been true — they have joined hands in the civil-rights

movement and cooperated in other matters ... Adoption of the resolution by the mostly black NAACP is significant because of strained relationships between blacks and Jews that erupted nationally following the resignation of Andrew Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations ... Some blacks blamed Israeli intelligence and Jews for Young's resignation."

Jews have been active in financing and supporting both the NAACP and the Urban League since they were organized. After the Young incident, there has ensued a series of dialogues between black and Jewish leaders arranged by those organizations and the CRC.

In recent years, the Community Relations Council has expanded its activities considerably. Some of the activities it embraces are: Speakers' Bureau, Media Relations, Interfaith and Interethnic Relations, Public Affairs, Public Schools, Jewish Heritage Weekend, Church-State Relationships, Israel Affairs and Soviet Jewry. Its biggest success undoubtedly has been Jewish Heritage Weekend.

A CRC program planned as a one-time event has become an annual program. This is the Public School Teachers' Institute, now three years old. One such session brought together 275 teachers who attended lectures and workshops to learn at first hand who and what Jews are, what Jews do, and why.

The CRC has joined with the National Conference of Christians and Jews to hold rallies in support of human rights during Brotherhood Week. It also has helped arrange other public programs, such as a memorial service at the Jewish Community Center after the PLO had massacred 34 Israelis and an American, as well as meetings and letter-writing campaigns in behalf of Soviet Jews. Under the guidance of Richard Bergman it has maintained a program of community education on the Holocaust. The CRC also keeps in close touch with governmental representatives on local, national and state levels.

One battle won by the CRC was a fight against a 1978 state law providing for posting the Ten Commandments in every schoolroom. Dr. Martin Perley and four other persons filed suit challenging the law as interfering with separation of church and state. The CRC also filed a petition in the case. In spring 1980 Kentucky's highest court upheld the law but the U.S. Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional in November 1980.

The CRC's Public Affairs Committee played a major role in the evolution of the Louisville Area Interchurch Organization for Service into the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community.

Today, thanks to the watchfulness of Louisville's ADL Council and the Federation's Community Relations Council, Jewish rights are under vigilance as never before.

Chapter 14

LOUISVILLE HEBREW HOME (Four Courts)

Concern for the elderly was voiced long before the Louisville Hebrew Home (Four Courts) was incorporated in 1946. Changing life styles led a number of persons to conclude that a problem was developing and made an attempt to establish a home for the aged in the late 1930s. The old Netoffsky residence at 128 E. Chestnut (one of the Netoffsky daughters taught fifth grade many years at George W. Morris School a block away) had been converted into a nursing home. A group interested in a Jewish home took over and opened it January 1, 1940, but there were too few persons seeking such services then and too little money, so the project was short-lived.

Yetta (Mrs. Abe) Hoffman, who was secretary, said a linen shower was held to get supplies for the home, but despite this and the efforts of the Jewish Welfare Federation the project "didn't get off the ground."*

During the summer of 1943, the Jewish Hospital and the Jewish Welfare Federation called attention of the Conference of Jewish Organizations to the fact that the Jewish aged had inadequate care and deplorable facilities. Most of the homes which could be found for them were dilapidated and lacked social services and kosher food. The Conference asked the Jewish Welfare Federation to consult with the Community Chest on grounds that this was not solely a Jewish problem but a total community responsibility.

Two years later the Jewish community did tackle the problem. A mass meeting was called by Herman Handmaker, president of the Jewish Welfare Federation. The outcome was the establishment of a temporary steering committee to develop facilities for the Jewish aged and chronic ill. Its first meeting was December 10, 1945 at the YMHA. Five days later the group met again and proceeded with formal organization. Carl K. Helman (who remained in office 30 years) was elected president; Julien Greenfield and Irving Kahn, vice-presidents; Gary Shapira, treasurer; Mrs. Alex Berman, recording secretary, and Mrs. Norbert Friedman, corresponding secretary.**

There was considerable discussion over selection of a name. Minutes record "the general feeling that the word 'home' and phrases 'Jewish Aged' or 'Home for the Aged' should be eliminated if possible." The matter was put in

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*Besides the officers those at the steering committee meeting were David Bass, David Benovitz, Maurice Garfein, Herman G. Handmaker, Isadore Ignatow, Mrs. Barnet Linker, Emanuel Meyer, Max Lipski, Gus Potosky, Mrs. M. Switow, Charles Slung, Rabbi Benjamin Brilliant, and Rabbi J.J. Gittleman.

**The other officers were Dr. Frank Pearlman, president; Mrs. Harry Berman, vice-president; Mrs. Florence Bass, recording secretary, and Mrs. Anna B. Shapira, treasurer. Board members were Rabbi Benjamin Brilliant, Rabbi Charles B. Chavel, Rabbi B. Notelevitz, Jacob Levy, Dr. Max Bornstein, H.S. Horen, I. Schlossberg, Sidney Passamaneck, Joseph Friedman, H. Parris, Mrs. I. Cohen and Mrs. B. Fehr.

the hands of a committee of three — Rabbi J.J. Gittleman, David Benovitz and David Bass — and incorporation under the present name resulted. The founders unanimously adopted a resolution "that the organization serve the aged, chronic and convalescent insofar as necessary and insofar as these groups are not served satisfactorily by other organizations in the community." Many years later, these principles became Government standards. Another committee was appointed to meet with Jewish Hospital regarding its plans to care for the chronic ill and convalescents.

The founders discussed raising either $100,000 or $50,000. They had no definite information on the number to be served, except that a Jewish Welfare Federation questionnaire in May 1945 listed 11 men and nine women as well aged and two men and five women as chronic ill. After discussing establishment of a regional home, the minutes record, "the general consensus of the meeting was that Louisville should start its own home to serve local people."

The new group's letterhead read: Temporary Committee for Organizing a Jewish Old Home, 641 W. Main St. Saul B. Ades, Rabbi Benjamin B. Brilliant, Rabbi J.J. Gittleman, Julien H. Greenfield, Mrs. Barnet Linker, Gary Shapira, Mrs. Michael Switow."

In October 1946, bowing to the wishes of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, the home's directors postponed their capital-fund drive until 1948 due to "the critical and almost hopeless condition of European Jewry" and the necessity for supporting the United Jewish Campaign.

Looking to the future, the board appointed a temporary campaign committee December 9, 1946 and assigned it a goal of $150,000. A site committee reported on a tract 150×200 in a semi-central location, but the directors agreed that the "Home should be either within walking distance of the synagogue or in some outlying area where adequate grounds could be purchased at a price which would not be prohibitive."

Four Courts, the estate of former mayor E. Leland Taylor, came on the market, and this splendid home and surrounding acreage on the edge of Cherokee Park were purchased for $60,000. Between 1,000 and 1,500 persons attended a dedication ceremony in September 1949 and 600 women joined the new Ladies Auxiliary. On October 5, 1949 the home opened with 10 residents. The building contained a chapel, for which a Torah had been contributed.

President Helman announced at the time of the opening that $143,000 had been pledged and $110,000 collected, all of which was committed to purchase of the property, remodeling and refurnishing it. In his long association with the home, Helman is credited with having raised $287,000.

The directors estimated operating cost per person would be $125 per month, based on 20 people and using other homes' experience as a guideline. This would mean an operating budget of approximately $30,000 a year. They planned a membership drive and sought life members who would pay $1,000 each as a nucleus for a permanent endowment fund.

Israel Silverberg, the first executive director, reported a month after the opening: "The guests are happy and gaining weight. The admissions commit-

tee interviewed 23 out of 24 applicants processed by the Jewish Welfare Federation. Fifteen residents were admitted and nine did not enter the home for physical or personal reasons. Dr. Harold Kramer, the Home's physician, holds clinics at the Home three times weekly, and is on emergency call. Morris Rost, a resident, died suddenly Nov. 4, 1949, and was buried in Adath Israel Cemetery. The Home could fill its bed with chronically ill but facilities in the Home are inadequate at this time to service these cases. Female residents are busy with sewing, knitting and crocheting. Male residents will soon repair and paint toys under supervision of the Council of Jewish Women. Expenses for October 1949, $2,292.39. Monthly per capita $152.82. Salaries $1,133.62, food $629.32, general expenses $528.85."

Records show that on February 13, 1950 there were 10 women and eight men in the home.

Several years elapsed before the problem of the chronic ill was dealt with satisfactorily. In 1955, on recommendation of the Social Planning Committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, the home agreed to alter its second floor to provide eight beds for chronic patients. The Conference agreed to pay up to $6,000 a year toward any deficit resulting from this service. In 1960 Four Courts added a nursing wing.

Silverberg left after 12 years as executive director. He was succeeded by Herman Margulies, who resigned in July 1964, after which Silverberg returned for a short time. Adelaide Shultz then took over.

In July 1978 it was announced that the previous fiscal year's deficit was $58,000. The home's 1979 budget was $438,000, and that year's average occupancy was 38, with a waiting list for the 27 beds in the chronic-care section, which has Medicare-Medicaid certification. Dr. Harold M. Kramer has remained as staff physician, assisted by Dr. Armond T. Gordon.

Early in 1979 the home got good grades from Kentucky Medical Assistance Program representatives who reviewed the facilities. Mrs. Shultz commented that while the home once had considerable independence, it is now subject to a wide range of governmental regulations. Under her administration, a residents' council was established to air compliants and grievances.

On July 13, 1980 ground was broken for the home's first major expansion since the nursing wing was built. It should double capacity to a total of 75 beds with all levels of nursing care. The first plans proved too expensive, calling for ultimate replacement of the old mansion with new construction. A later and less expensive proposal called for utilizing a small section of the original building. The home over the years had accumulated a capital fund for improvements, but this would cover only a small portion of the cost as a result of the inflation of the 1970s.

Four Courts had sought a City of Louisville bond issue to help finance the $2,200,000 project but Jefferson Circuit Judge Benjamin F. Shobe ruled in May 1980 that such bonds would be unconstitutional.

The Four Courts Auxiliary has had as many as 1,200 members. It has

provided linens and kitchen equipment, and has conducted a crafts shop for the residents.

Shabbat and holiday services are conducted by the Highlands Minyan. O.H. Landau conducted the services during his four years of residency at the home and Sol Waldman afterward took charge until his death, although he was not a resident of the home.

In 1974 Dr. Meyer Goldstein became president when Carl K. Helman became chairman of the board, a position created to honor his long service. Two years later Dr. Harold Klein succeeded Dr. Goldstein and Sam Stern became president in 1978.

Chapter 15

SERVICE TO MILITARY PERSONNEL

I. WORLD WAR I

"Khaki-clad worshipers were much in evidence in our temples during the war. Very few houses in Louisville failed to house at least one boy from Camp Taylor or Camp Knox.* It was even necessary to convert the YMHA into a dormitory to accommodate some of the large number that came to Louisville for services. Mrs. Mose Grabfelder headed the committee in charge of this work."

This is how Tony Levitan** started one of his 10 Years Ago columns in The Chronicler during the late 1920s.

When World War I broke out, Louisville's Jewish community lost no time and spared no effort in responding to the country's call. There was a rush of volunteers. Men and women competed to sell Liberty Bonds. Entertainment for servicemen was organized and home hospitality was boundless.

At the time of World War I there was no National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) or United Service Organizations (USO). There was a National Council of Young Men's Hebrew and Kindred Associations that had been formed in 1913. JWB was founded by the American Jewish community in 1917 at the request of Secretary of War Newton D. Baker and Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels to meet the religious and welfare needs of Jews in the American armed forces. Louis Cohen,*** then secretary of the YMHA, went to New York as one of 21 persons who met to organize JWB. It was not until 1921 that JWB merged with the earlier council to become the national association of Jewish community centers. Benjamin Seelig Washer, prominent

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*Camp Taylor embraced the area roughly between Preston Highway, Watterson Expressway, Poplar Level Road, and Audubon Parkway. Camp Knox, on U.S. 31-W, was started during World War I, after which the Army abandoned Camp Taylor and converted Knox into present-day Fort Knox.

**Levitan, a tobacco and candy wholesaler, was active in YMHA athletics, B'nai B'rith, and other community endeavors.

***Cohen was a "shining example to every man or women who aspires to real and lasting leadership," said a resolution on his death passed by the Conference of Jewish Organizations, of which he was a founder. He began as an assistant to the general secretary of the YMHA, became general secretary, a board member, and president. As president of Louisville B'nai B'rith "he played an important role in the growth of that organization, especially in the field of civil liberties, human rights, and the fight against intolerance and anti-Semitism," the resolution said, adding that Cohen's armed service work in both world wars was "far above and beyond the call of duty or conscience."

attorney and 1911-20 president of the YMHA, attended that organizing conference.

Camp Taylor mushroomed in 1917. Jewish soldiers in great numbers, many of them poor in English, were among the recruits rushed in for hasty training before being sent "over there." Many of these were immigrants who had poured into New York, Baltimore and other Eastern cities in the massive wave of immigration in the first two decades of the 20th Century.

Here was a need to be filled. The YMHA saw this need, and acted. It organized a Soldiers and Sailors Committee. It sent Alvin Linker* to Camp Taylor to see what he could do for the religious and welfare needs of the Jewish servicement.

In just 90 days, a Welfare Hut had been built. In it were four rooms, one for each of the agencies serving as a morale arm — the Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, the YMCA, and the YMHA. When JWB was formed, it assumed the YMHA's morale duties.

Arthur S. Kling was then attending Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Hebrew Union suspended its classes due to the war and Kling became a JWB representative. He had four weeks training, then was stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

JWB transferred Kling to Louisville in the midst of the flu epidemic. The flu at that time was moving northward, and Kling recalls that there were 11,000 men in camp, of whom 7,000 were hospitalized. He recounts tales of having visited many ill persons and learning of their death only a short time later. The epidemic was so severe that whenever a soldier was hospitalized, his family was notified at once, so small were deemed his chances of survival.

While the flu raged, the men were confined to camp, and this put a burden on Kling and his fellow morale officers. There were hardly any Jewish chaplains in those days.**

The flu abated in time, and the Jewish doughboys came to town. The Jewish community responded magnificently, as it did again a generation later.

The YMHA opened its gymnasium to serve as a dormitory, and every weekend 80 to 100 men filled its cots. They got breakfast, too, every Sunday morning, as well as supper on Sunday night, all prepared by volunteers. There was a big dance every Saturday night, and many a Louisville girl ended up with marriage to someone she met at these affairs. Many a Louisville family

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*Linker, who headed Linker Distributing Company in later years, was the older brother of S. Harry Linker, who also became a community activist.

**No Jewish chaplain corps existed until Morris Lazaron, who graduated from Hebrew Union College in 1916 or 1917, organized the first Jewish chaplains' training school.

had its origin this way, a pattern that repeated itself during World War II. Betty (Mrs. Jacob) Ades* was in charge of the Sunday suppers.

In due course, as welfare services became better organized, a separate hut was built at Camp Taylor for the JWB. Inside it displayed a Star of David flag. One Army officer complained about the absence of an American flag, to which Kling, long noted for his acerbic manner, responded that "we don't have to tell anyone we're Americans, and we're proud of being Jewish."

With the coming of the armistice in November 1918, the Army released the men at Camp Taylor as rapidly as possible, ending an era of patriotism, Liberty Bond drives, backyard victory gardens, and hospitality.

II. WORLD WAR II AND USO-JWB

When war clouds began to gather over Europe in the late 1930s the United States reinstituted the draft and many Jews entered the armed services, either as draftees or volunteers. Louisville's proximity to many military bases brought the problem of servicemen's morale and welfare back to the doorstep of the Jewish community.

The lessons learned from having coped with this problem successfully during World War I were not lost on Louisville, and the community acted. The Louisville Army and Navy Committee was formed, with Louis Cohen, by now a successful insurance agent, as chairman. Katherine (Mrs. Lawrence S.) Grauman was co-chairman. At the start of 1941, most of the work was carried on at the YMHA, then at Second and Jacob.

The Conference of Jewish Organizations (now the Jewish Community Federation) allocated $500 to start the first year's work, but as the needs mushroomed, this grew to an allocation of $15,000 a year from the United Jewish Campaign.

In time, every Jewish organization in the city came to the aid of the Armed Services Committee, and the activity of three decades earlier was repeated on an even larger scale.

The YMHA gymnasium once more became a dormitory, with an annex for 80 to 85 at Keneseth Israel (then at Floyd and Jacob) from 1942 to 1945, for soldiers with weekend passes. Sunday brunches and dinners were served by the hundreds, thanks to the assistance of a large corps of dedicated women volunteers. Dances and parties were arranged, and the Louisville belles became hostesses, outshining their elder sisters and mothers who had welcomed the doughboys of World War I.

"The example set in Louisville will hardly go unnoticed throughout the country," Simon Slavin, one of the first USO-JWB workers here, correctly prophesied in the Rosh Hashana edition of Keneseth Israel News in 1942.

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*Mrs. Ades was active in Hadassah and for years led Aunt Betty's Buds, a Young Judea group, at the YMHA.

How pervasive this work became was brought out fully in an incident nearly seven years later when a soldier named Ed Lavelle, from Pennsylvania, walked into the YMHA and became the center of attention. No matter that he was Irish. He got an accolade because he was guest No. 50,000 of the Louisville Army and Navy Committee.

Registration for the draft had hardly begun when Louisville's quick-thinking citizens recalled World War I, and on November 10, 1940 Louis Cohen, on the basis of his World War I experience, was named head of a committee to explore the needs and to adopt a tentative program to meet the emergency. Cohen called several conferences of key people and this led to a general meeting of representatives of every Jewish organization in Louisville.

It was on Sunday, January 26, 1941 — nearly a year before Pearl Harbor — that the Louisville Army and Navy Committee was established, with ties to the National Jewish Welfare Board, as the official body to represent the entire Jewish community in handling the soldier program.

The first permanent officers were Louis Cohen, chairman; Miss Sadie Baer, secretary, and Lewis D. Cole, treasurer. Afterward Mrs. Lawrence S. Grauman was elected co-chairman in charge of all women's activities. Mrs. Ethel Handmaker Emmerglick became vice-chairman, and later Mrs. Jacob Levy and Julien H. Greenfield were elected vice-chairmen. Tony Levitan became treasurer when Cole enlisted in the Army. Mrs. Morris Koch, who served so capably in the 1917-19 program, bore the unofficial title of "adviser" to the committee. The committee established ties with the Louisville Service Club and the Louisville USO Council when those bodies were activated.

Lawrence Koch (son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Koch), general secretary of the YMHA, was appointed director of the local committee and the YMHA building was made its official headquarters.

The first official welcome to the men in uniform was in the form of a supper Sunday, February 9, 1941. It was served by Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith and attended by more than 100 men representing the first contingent of inductees. The guests heard talks by Army and Navy Committee members who described the activities planned for them. By the time the Sunday-night supper program ended June 30, 1946, there had been 280 such meals with a total attendance of 37,500.

The committee's call for volunteers met with instant response from every segment of the Jewish community and during the peak of the work between 1943 and 1945 the organization had 750 individuals serving on almost 50 active committees. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Jewish men and women were regularly stationed at military posts here during this period. These included Fort Knox, Bowman Field Air Base, Nichols Hospital and the Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot.

A typical weekend at the YMHA meant serving 1,000 servicemen and women at Oneg Shabbats, brunches, suppers and luncheons; accommodating 250 men in a dormitory (an overflow dormitory was provided by Keneseth Israel); attendance of several thousand at religious services, musical programs,

dances and parties, variety shows, and the rendering of personal services to uniformed personnel and their families.

This is the impressive list of organizations that had active roles in the program at the height of World War II:

Adath Israel Congregation, Sisterhood, and Men's Club; Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Sisterhood, and Active Men's Club; Agudath Achim Congregation; Anshei Sfard Congregation, Sisterhood, and Men's Club; AZO (Pharmacy fraternity) Auxiliary; B'nai B'rith Louisville Lodge No. 14, B'nai B'rith Women's Chapter 261; Brith Sholom Congregation, Sisterhood, and Men's Club; Jewish Hospital; Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society; Jewish Vocational Service; Jewish Welfare Federation; Keneseth Israel Congregation and Sisterhood; League for Labor Palestine; Louisville Chapter of Hadassah and Business & Professional Hadassah; Louisville Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi; Louisville Conference of Jewish Organizations; Louisville Post 179, Jewish War Veterans, and Ladies Auxiliary; National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section and Evening Group; Standard Country Club; Talmud Torah (Louisville Hebrew School) and Ladies Auxiliary, and the Young Men's Hebrew Association with all of its affiliated groups.

In all, from time to time, there were 11 full-time staff members of the Jewish Welfare Board stationed in Louisville. With this as a focal point, when JWB formed its national Army and Navy Committee, it asked attorney Charles W. Morris, chairman of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, to be its chairman for the Fifth Corps Area, the military designation for Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and some adjacent areas in Tennessee. Louisville provided him with an operating organization that served as a pattern for other communities throughout the area.

The committee did not confine its activities to Jewish men, and on some occasions there was between 25 and 40 per cent non-Jewish attendance at dances, suppers and dormitories. In later years, the armed services program unconsciously (and perhaps unwillingly) brought integration to the Jewish Community Center (previously the YMHA) when a GI brought a black buddy along for a Sunday-morning swim in the then-new pool.

Speaking of integration, Samuel G. Gordon, longtime, USO-JWB area director here, commented:

"Ever since President Truman's executive order the Army had been integrated. When I talked to these officers, suggesting that a busload of trainees be brought to Louisville as a relief from the intensive training schedule, these knowledgeable officers said in effect that they would not have their men separated in town, black to one club, whites to another. The rising demand for integration disturbed the Louisville Service Club. A meeting was held. I volunteered to collect reports on practices and took pictures at the Indianapolis Service Center which showed black couples on the dance floor."

At first, Fort Knox was used as a replacement and training center where most men were not stationed permanently. This made it necessary to devote time to men newly inducted who were homesick and in need of home contact

to bolster their morale. The committee also saw to religious services, reached individuals in need of readjustment due to induction and visited those in hospitals. Greetings were sent to GIs' families when necessary and arrangements were made for home hospitality for Passover Seders and High Holyday visits.

Sleeping accommodations in the gymnasium cost 35 cents, the prevailing rate for all similar agencies in the city, and sold out so often that it became necessary to double the dormitory facilities. The YMHA gym and third floor, equipped by JWB, cared for 100 men. Keneseth Israel offered its community house and Temple Adath Israel provided space in a building north of its building on Third Street. These facilities all told housed 223 men, about 10 per cent of the soldier sleeping facilities in Louisville.

All of the local rabbis responded when the occasion arose to provide religious services and eagerly went to Fort Knox, Nichols Hospital, and the air base at Bowman Field at scheduled intervals.

Early in its existence the committee set up a Soldier's Personal Problems Committee, headed by Alexander Erlen, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation. This committee handled the difficult personal problems that arose in military service or in relations with families back home. Another committee was set up to find jobs for wives of servicemen, and at one time 33 wives were on its list. A Family Contact Committee also arranged special parties and socials for service wives and their husbands. On one weekend visiting GIs consumed 3,000 cookies, all baked by members of a cookie committee.

Sunday mornings would find a long line awaiting a breakfast of scrambled eggs, hot bagel, lox, doughnuts and coffee. The girls of Hadassah's Business and Professional Group prepared these and sometimes served as many as 350 at a time. Later, as demand dwindled, a smaller group of volunteer women took over and such breakfasts continued to be served until early in the 1970s.

Instead of participating in organized activities, some of the weekend visitors "just wanted to talk" to someone, and men of maturity were always on hand. One of these, Morris Simon, of local music-circle fame, never missed a weekend during the entire wartime period.

A corps of hostesses was organized, and sometimes as many as 100 attended dances at Fort Knox and Bowman Field several times weekly. One of the committee's big headaches was getting these girls home safely, considering the difficulties of wartime transportation.

No Jewish holiday was ever overlooked and home invitations were extended for all such occasions. Perhaps one of the largest Seders in the nation was conducted by the local community. For that event 350 men sat down to a meal beautifully prepared. A Jewish chaplain, assisted by local rabbis, officiated, and four non-Jewish chaplains attended.

These are some of the committees and functions active during World War II:

A Bowman Field Friday Night Refreshment Committee that entertained at the air base following services, under sponsorship of Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood.

The Bugler, a monthly paper for members of the Louisville Committee, and Let Freedom Reign, a paper published by the Letovah Club, a YMHA girls' group, recording the doings of Louisville men and women in service. At one time it had a world-wide circulation, being mailed to all Louisvillians in service whose addresses were available.

The Cookie Jar supplied cookies every Saturday and Sunday.

An Emergency Loan Fund operated to tide over soldiers in emergencies, subject to repayment when convenient.

An Entertainment Committee staged shows, dances, socials and other events at various locations at regular intervals.

A Fort Knox Friday Night Refreshments Committee entertained after services at the post chapel every Friday night, under auspices of Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary.

A Laymen's Religious Committee cooperated with rabbis and post chaplains to provide speakers and arrange services.

A Music Room Committee provided good music for those who wanted it. It helped develop music appreciation through classical records and gave frequent concerts whenever talent was available. Recordings were made to enable service personnel to "talk to the folks back home."

Evening Group of the National Council of Jewish Women took care of after-service refreshments at Nichols Hospital.

A Radcliff Advisory Committee cooperated with the JWB field representative on activites at the USO clubs in Radcliff and Elizabethtown, Ky.

A Voluntary Service Committee provided shaving supplies and other necessities to men who needed them. Sunday afternoon tea dances, receptions and similar activities also were arranged.

An activity which won wide popular acclaim through its concerts was the USO Symphony Orchestra. This group was under the chairmanship of Morris Simon and directed by Jacques L. Gottlieb, the JWB field representative at Fort Knox and later in Louisville. It provided an opportunity for 60 soldiers and civilians to develop their musical talents and gave concerts for patients at Army hospitals and camps.

Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith was responsible for many activities. It served as host at Radcliff USO every Tuesday night and provided hospitality service inside the YMHA for visitors.

The Business and Professional Group of Hadassah was a loyal band who got up at the crack of dawn for several years in a row to serve the famed Sunday breakfasts. Miss Sadie Baer, Miss Rose Jacobson,* and Miss Rose Salas were the chairmen.

*Not to be confused with Rose (Mrs. Abe) Jacobson.

The first JWB staffer assigned to Louisville was Raymond Fisher. His tenure was short, as he was soon drafted. Others here were Murray Leventer, Simon Slavin, Mrs. Margaret Friedlander, Leon M. Schulman, Jacques L. Gottlieb, Bert Horowitz, Joseph Masch, Miss Helen Schultz, Aaron Schreiber, Abraham Eisenberg, and Samuel G. Gordon.

Gotlieb's death in 1946 was a shock to Louisville. In 3½ years he had become part of the community life and made a lasting impression in the city's cultural life. He conducted the YMHA Orchestra. He had been assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C. by the JWB at the time of his death.*

After leaving Louisville, Simon Slavin commented on "the selfless devotion of some 400 or 500 volunteers" here, saying: "After leaving Louisville I had occasion to visit some 50 communities and can say, with all honesty, that nowhere could I find a more enlightened leadership and greater adherence to ideals of service. For breadth of vision and understanding, Louisville's scores of volunteers have no peers... Here is an example of an entire community united in a functional service, guided by the sole interest of the men and women in uniform...."

The wartime chaplains stationed in the Louisville area were Rabbis Max Braude, Hirsch E.I. Freund, Dudley Weinberg, Eric Friedland, Jesse J. Finkle, Eugene J. Sack, W. Gunther Plaut, Aaron Walden, Morris E. Eson, Albert M. Lewis and Joseph B. Messing.

The JWB staff workers and the chaplains were made to feel they were part of the Louisville community. One staff worker who did stay was Aaron Schreiber, who became executive director of the YMHA.

Another JWB staff worker who made a lasting impression was Samuel Gordon, whose 17-year tenure in Louisville ended when the JWB closed its Louisville USO operations January 11, 1964.

Gordon supervised USO-JWB operations in the Louisville area through changes of name and program, through the cutbacks in armed forces after World War II and their expansion again during the Korean War and part of the Vietnam War. Since his departure, an Armed Services Committee has continued to function here under direction and funding of the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville. It maintains close ties with the military

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*Louis Kraft of New York, executive director of the National Jewish Welfare Board, commented at the time: "I knew Jacques Gottlieb for more than 30 years, and worked closely with him for a good part of that time. I remember how he went through the wards of the military hospitals in the last war, playing his violin, and accompanied by his wife, who was an accomplished musician, a singer, and an organist. They were an unusual team ..."

John M. Hennessy, a prominent Catholic layman and member of the Louisville USO Council, said of Gottlieb: "The passing of a man of such admirable genius, of which he gave so generously, is a loss not only to those of the Jewish faith but to the USO throughout the world. Indeed, the realm of music has suffered an irreparable loss."

through Annette (Mrs. David) Sagerman, who first came to JWB as a secretary in 1943, became Gordon's administrative assistant, and who now is supervisor of adult programming for the Jewish Community Center.

Gordon's main task was to make a smooth transition from wartime services to peacetime service. He succeeded admirably, thanks to his humor and wide range of knowledge. His immense know how, made him quizmaster at the Jewish Community Center's weekly Quiz Bowl and a popular emcee.*

Perhaps Gordon's proudest accomplishment in the years he spent here was organizing the USO Show Committee. It was so thoroughly organized that he proudly remarked: "It can operate almost by itself." It had a regular schedule of show dates at Fort Knox plus numerous invitations from far-off installations. Actually, the committee was the brainchild of Morris Simon, its spark plug and longtime manager. Leo Baron, one of Simon's associates through the years and master of ceremonies for one of the troupes, said "Simon realized the necessity for entertaining the soldiers at Fort Knox. He made the rounds of vocal and dancing schools recruiting the best talent available. He had the uncanny ability to recognize superior talent. Morris loved the arts and people so much this became his life. His interest in the Show Stars had a dual purpose — to entertain soldiers and also to develop latent and worthy talent."

The Show Stars were organized February 22, 1942 and scheduled four shows at three clubs each month. Thousands of volunteer entertainers in the quarter century of the Show Stars' existence entertained a million servicemen. In the six years between 1960 and 1966 the unit entertained 240,000 servicemen and women with an annual budget of only $800. In those years Mrs. Ruby Dimond was producer and Mrs. Kay Mazey troupe chairman and mistress of ceremonies. Gordon and Simon prided themselves on attracting professional talent as well as amateur volunteers, and many who got their first taste of the stage through this troupe later turned professional. The shows usually were given on Sundays, with the Army providing transportation to take musicians, dancers, comedians, and other performers to camps and hospitals. The performers would zip from place to place all day Sunday, while GIs literally hung from the rafters in some places to see the performances.

Gordon organized a USO Committee in Louisville and similar committees in the area he supervised. A Courier-Journal editorial commended him

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*In 1955 Mike Kaufman, editor of The Jewish Post, called Gordon "a newspaperman, shipping clerk, cart-pusher, teacher, street laborer, painter, paperhanger, lawyer's clerk, science-fiction writer, photographer, and hi-fi enthusiast. He's a scholar, as well."

If any subject arose in which Gordon lacked knowledge, he at once acquired at stack of books on the subject, and in short order became a self-taught expert. A smallish, bald man, with black mustache and piercing but expressive eyes peering through thick glasses and enveloped in a cloud of smoke from an old pipe, Gordon moved to Rochester, N.Y. after his Louisville post was abolished.

for this and noted the organization's usefulness. National recognition came to his work here when the national USO Donut Queen was chosen from Louisville's Junior Hostess Corps.

In 1950 the Second Army recognized the USO troupe with certificates of merit for 52 entertainers who had given up to eight years of service at Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, Lexington and elsewhere. Nearly half of these later found a niche in professional radio, television, or orchestras.*

Fort Knox had lots of boys from the East who were accustomed to kosher food, so every Tuesday and Thursday the Mizrachi Women went to the Radcliff USO Club and cooked kosher suppers for them. The menu was determined by what was available in those days of rationing.**

On Friday nights the Jewish War Veterans and its Auxiliary served salami sandwiches after services at Fort Knox. This practice was continued after the war, with other organizations volunteering. The GIs got an occasional treat when B'nai B'rith as host provided corned beef. (A few laymen attended these suppers to show hospitality. At one such occasion I was seated next to a Catholic chaplain who told me he had grown up in Brooklyn and went to seminary there, and that before he came to Fort Knox he did not know there were any Jews outside New York City.)

The soldier service program was leveling off in 1946 and funds were cut back after the war, but Jewish personnel remained at Fort Knox. In 1949, volunteers gave 7,000 hours, of service and attendance at JWB Armed Services Committee functions totaled 40,000, according to a report Sam Gordon gave to Charles W. Morris and Gen. Eugene Oberdorfer, the area chairmen. Gordon, from his Louisville office, at that time was responsible for Louisville, Fort Knox, Camp (now Fort) Campbell, Scott Air Force Base, and Memphis Naval Station. He organized local committees similar to Louisville's near all of these institutions.

Gordon added this note: "Peacetime USO was reactivated, precisely in 1949, because the draft was reinstituted. Fort Knox and other basic-training centers suddenly swelled with recruits.

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*One who joined the troupe in 1949 and kept on entertaining for Four Courts, Club 60, Veterans Hospital, Mizrachi and synagogues was Henry Rosmarin. He and his wife Janet arrived in 1948, three years after being liberated from concentration camp. Born in Polish Silesia, he was 13 when Nazis invaded. A walking skeleton weighing 87, he said he survived by playing in the prison-camp band. Rosmarin attended a Vienna music school before coming here to join his brother, Max Rosmarin, remodeling homes. Max was killed in a truck accident in 1979. When Rosmarin moved to California in 1980 Louisville lost a popular entertainer who played harmonic and guitar and sang Yiddish songs.

**These soldier suppers entailed some sacrifice from housewives. At a time of meat rationing, Morris Simon would stand at the door of a kosher butcher shop and actually confiscate orders to feed the GIs.

"Fort Knox got its young men from Ohio and Northern Indiana. Public officials of cities in that state, mayors, supervisors of towns, family were invited to Fort Knox to view the improved conditions in which the men trained — curtains on windows (not seen before), tablecloths in mess halls, the large number of intelligent and articulate officers, West Point graduates, sergeants in charge of actual training astonishingly restrained, particularly in language."

The World War II USO disbanded March 31, 1950, but this had no effect here, the JWB taking over the program completely, along with a reorganized USO, and continuing the Tuesday and Friday night programs at Fort Knox.

With the coming of the Vietnam War, Arthur Kling made an appeal for funds to keep the program going.

In 1964 the USO withdrew from the scene and funds have been provided locally ever since.

Today the Louisville Jewish community still maintains close contact with Jewish military personnel through the Jewish chaplain's office at Fort Knox. This is done through the Jewish Community Center's Armed Services Committee, whose longtime chairman has been Doris (Mrs. Theodore) Meyers.

At the 1978 convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board in Montreal, Capt. Michael Miller, then the Jewish chaplain at Fort Knox, won second place for the best newsletters on military posts.

One final note on wartime activities: In World War II, 725 Louisville Jews saw service and 16 of these were killed in action.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter 16

B'NAI B'RITH

In October 1852, Louisville had a population of only 48,000, of whom 350 were Jews. A handful of these, "full of the spirit of benevolence, brotherly love and harmony," organized themselves as Har Moriah Lodge No. 14 of the then nine-year-old Independent Order of B'nai B'rith.*

Eight years later, on May 13, 1860, another handful with similar sentiments got together as Mendelssohn Lodge No. 40. The installation speaker was listed simply as "Bro. I.M. Wise" of Cincinnati. This was Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of Hebrew Union College and the Reform movement.

The two lodges were merged February 22, 1904 and have been a part of Louisville's civic life ever since as Louisville Lodge No. 14, currently the second oldest B'nai B'rith lodge in the country.

Among the presidents of Har Moriah Lodge were two illustrious personalities, Lewis N. Dembitz and Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch.

B'nai B'rith in its early days was concerned primarily with fraternal and welfare matters, but did not neglect cultural pursuits. From time to time Mendelssohn and Har Moriah lodges would sponsor a musical event or lecture to which the entire community was invited. The two lodges also were instrumental in the founding of local Jewish welfare organizations.

At the 1863 district convention, a young man named Benjamin F. Peixotto proposed establishment of an orphanage to care for children of Jews who had been killed in the Civil War. His plan to tax members $1 a year won

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*B'nai B'rith goes back to a meeting of 12 men in New York in 1843. They planned an organization to make "Judaism honored and respected" and to influence "all who should come to America in the future." There were only about 20,000 Jews in the entire country, most of them in New York.

B'nai B'rith lost no time in tackling the big problem of protecting the right of Jews. In February 1851 President Mosely Ezekiel and two other officers wrote to Secretary of State Daniel Webster protesting a treaty with Switzerland whose provisions granted "privileges exclusively to Christian citizens of this republic." The Senate deleted the objectionable parts before ratifying the treaty, thanks to the stand taken by B'nai B'rith.

Another B'nai B'rith protest that got results was its complaint against Gen. U.S. Grant's 1862 order that Jews were to be removed from Tennessee and Kentucky.

approval and in 1868 the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Home was opened.* Today it survives as Bellefaire, an institution for emotionally disturbed children.

B'nai B'rith continued to speak out in behalf of Jews everywhere and to broaden its philanthropic endeavors. In 1913 it launched the Anti-Defamation League to fight discrimination and to battle for civil liberties for all.

While B'nai B'rith grew into a more potent force nationally, so did Louisville Lodge No. 14 climb in stature in the next few decades to become one of the city's most outstanding civic institutions. In the 1920s, every young man considered it a distinction to attain the age of 21 and be eligible to join B'nai B'rith.

It was during this period that stalwart leadership developed, and no two more dedicated young men than Tony Levitan and Louis Cohen were to be found in B'nai B'rith. Together they masterminded the district conventions held in Louisville in 1930 and again in 1947.

Their 1930 arrangements committee sounds like a roster of Who's Who in the Louisville Jewish community, starting with Maurice F. Grossman as convention secretary. Others who helped were Max Waldman, Percival H. Cohen, Louis C. Grossman, Stanley Garfein, Hyman Jacob, Murrel D. Klein, Joseph Lazarus, Abe Linker, Dr. Herman B. Strull, Joseph Selligman, Ben Shapero, Joseph Goldberg, Rabbi J.J. Gittleman, Rabbi S.N. Bazell, Rabbi Joseph Rauch, Rabbi A.N. Mandelbaum, Ben Klein, Col. Fred Levy, Barnet Linker, Sol Levy, and, this being before the advent of the Women's Lodge, Mrs. Alvin Cohen to be in charge of entertaining the visiting ladies. I, at that time a member of Louisville's brand-new AZA chapter and working for The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times, was publicity aide.

Impressive as it was, the 1930 convention was by no means the first District convention held here. Louisville held that honor in 1860, 1874, 1882, 1887, 1899, 1907, 1919, 1947, 1957, and 1978.

The 1947 convention again found Tony Levitan and Louis Cohen on the scene as co-chairmen. The 1957 chairman was Hugo Taustine.

Louisville did more than serve as convention host. It was always active in District 2 affairs. In recent years, Irving Friedman and Erwin Sherman have ranked high in District Grand Lodge councils, but Louisville had its share of district presidents, beginning with William Kriegshaber in 1864-65. Other Louisvillians who held that office were Jacob F. Bamberger, 1867-68; S. Ullman, 1876-77; Nathan Bloom, 1880-81; Joseph E. Meyers, 1889-90; N.L. Goldsmith, 1908-09 and Joseph Selligman, 1918-19. Friedman became president-elect in 1980.

In November 1929, B'nai B'rith organized Louisville Chapter 107, AZA. Aleph Zadik Aleph, forerunner of the far-flung B'nai B'rith Youth Organiza-

*Among the wards of the orphan home were James G. Davis, who later became president of Louisville Lodge; Pacy Davis and Benn Davis.

tions, was then fairly new. The chapter remained active, although reorganized several times, until fall of 1977 when it was disbanded for reasons unknown.

AZA charter members were William Silverman, Sidney Baer, Saul Waxman, H. Solomon Horen, Al Pearlman, Sam Golden, Bernard S. Berman, and I. Not charter members but added soon afterwards were Leon Seidman, Stanley Badesch, Leon Shaikun, Joseph Ginsberg, Sam Weinberger, Julius Kaufman, Robert Cohen, Leon Goldstein and Henry Jacob. Several B'nai B'rith presidents and other officers developed from this group.

During the period of AZA expansion Bernard Goldstein, a veteran of Louisville AZA, became district field secretary. Goldstein later served on the B'nai B'rith district board of governors and held other district offices. An attorney, he also served as president of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Joe Bliss spent nearly two decades as BBYO supervisor and liaison man with the Jewish Community Center, of which he was a board member. In 1964 the BBYO convention in Louisville honored him with a plaque for 16 years' service in the youth field. Bliss is a social worker for the Veterans Administration.

In 1936 Louisville Lodge took a hard look at Jewish education and decided something needed doing in that field. Under the capable chairmanship of Tony Levitan, the lodge organized a "College of Jewish Studies." It arranged for a season of well-planned lectures, classes, and programs on various phases of Jewish culture, open to everyone in the community. Rabbis, university professors and knowledgeable laymen comprised the faculty. The participants were to choose three subjects from a long list of topics. Everything seemed rosy. Advance registration pointed to a tremendously successful program, but along came the flood of January 1937. Everyone in the city was too busy afterward overcoming the effects of the flood with the result that the program never succeeded in getting started.

In the mid-1930s, when dynamic Irvin L. Levitan (younger brother of Tony Levitan) was secretary of the lodge, he decided some means of regular communication with members was needed. In that period, before the competition of radio and television, the lodge presented a monthly program, sometimes with a guest speaker, sometimes dealing with a local event, and once a year with a panel discussion involving all of the city's rabbis. All of these programs were well-attended, often filling the YMHA auditorium to capacity (it held about 300).

Secretary Levitan, on his own initiative, mimeographed notes about lodge activities and members' doings, calling them B'nai B'rith Briefs. The title stuck, and a few years later the lodge made it a printed bulletin, thanks to the help of Pacy Davis and James G. Davis and with me as editor. Today it is published every other week during the lodge activities season.

A B'nai B'rith project that goes back half a century is the Fresh Air Fund, a summertime appeal for funds to pay for sending Jewish boys and girls to camp.

After the death of Maurice F. Grossman, his family and friends launched the Maurice F. Grossman Youth Scholarship Fund. The proceeds will go to Louisville Lodge's youth program for scholarship aid to young people who would like to attend one of the B'nai B'rith camps in Wisconsin or Pennsylvania. Funds also will be allotted for defraying expenses of worthy youths to regional and district BBYO conventions.

World War II brought new demands on Louisville Lodge. One outstanding facet of its work was obtaining gifts of blood for the Red Cross Blood Bank. The spark plug of this project was Jack M. Lynch, a Main Street wholesaler and indefatigable past president of the lodge. B'nai B'rith was so active in signing up blood donors that a Louisville Board of Trade solicitor, discouraged at meeting so little success, finally asked: "Who's this guy Benny Brith that manages to cover Louisville so thoroughly?"

The lodge worked hand in hand with the local office of the USO-JWB toward easing the lives of the Jewish servicemen stationed in the Louisville area. The lodge was host for Friday night suppers at Fort Knox and Sunday brunches at the YMHA and later the Jewish Community Center. It also sent volunteer workers to the Veterans Hospital. One of the most dedicated of these was Hugo Kohlman, longtime secretary of the lodge.

In the postwar period bowling came to B'nai B'rith, and Louisville Lodge was quick to organize a bowling league of its own. It expanded to take in Bluegrass Lodge, a new B'nai B'rith lodge. Among the pioneers in the bowling movement who won national recognition for their efforts were Louis Perlin, Steve Brody, Hugo Kohlman and Joseph Levine. The Greater Louisville Bowling Association honored Levine with its presidency, but Joe, better known as "Yush," has another distinction — for more than two decades he has been first to pay his B'nai B'rith dues, except for one year when he was upstaged by another member.

Over the years the presidency of B'nai B'rith held great prestige. During the World War I era attorney Joseph Selligman was president. He later headed the district. Rabbi J.J. Gittleman and Rabbi Solomon N. Roodman each spent a year at the head of the lodge. For a later generation, the lodge became a training ground for the community's future leaders. Farrell E. Salzman was one of these. After serving as president of Louisville Lodge he went on to become president of the Jewish Community Federation.

Some past presidents grow more active as the years go by. Robert R. Koloms, general chairman of the lodge's 125th anniversary in 1977-78, is an example. Others, like Erwin Sherman and Irving Friedman, not only remain active but also become active in District 2 as well. Presidents traditionally hold office for only one year. Exceptions in recent years were Dr. I. Michael Gross and Jerry Abramson, who were chosen for two years. With the advent of many new and younger members, it remains to be seen how leadership develops in the future.

One of Louisville Lodge's little known but highly coveted awards is the Rebecca and Barnet Linker Brotherhood Award, given each year to a Univer-

sity of Louisville undergraduate student for activities in the field of brotherhood. The student is chosen each year by the campus interreligious council, which includes students and faculty members. There have been Jewish, Catholic and Protestant and white and black recipients of this award over the years. For a time the lodge presented this $100 award, but several years ago, thanks to the late S. Harry Linker, the Linker family endowed the project.

In 1958, Louisville Lodge brought together representatives of a number of organizations and congregations who selected a Jewish community "Man of the Year." They chose Norbert Friedman, a businessman who in his career headed the Jewish Community Center, the Conference of Jewish Organizations, and the United Jewish Campaign. Senator Jacob Javits of New York was guest speaker on that occasion. Each year since, the same procedure has been followed, although the dinner honoring the "Man of the Year" has been combined with the installation of B'nai B'rith officers.*

Louisville Lodge has always wholeheartedly supported the work of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Its members have worked publicly on its behalf and privately in gathering information useful in furthering ADL's fight on discrimination. When ADL set up its Ohio-Kentucky region with headquarters at Columbus, Ohio, Louisville was represented, and every year has seen one or more Louisville B'nai B'rith members active on its regional board. The work of ADL has grown to such an extent that a Louisville ADL Council was set up a few years ago.

Attorney Alan N. Linker headed this council and later was elected president of ADL's Ohio-Kentucky Region. The regional convention was held in Louisville in 1980, the first time it ever met outside Columbus. At the B'nai B'rith District 2 convention here in 1978, Erwin Sherman was elected the eight-state district's representative to the national commission of the ADL, the first Louisvillian so honored.**

As part of the District 2 convention, national B'nai B'rith awarded its 1978 Gold Medallion for Humanitarianism to Arthur S. Kling and Morris M. Kling. It was the first time this award had gone to anyone from Louisville and also the first time the award had been made to two brothers.

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*Recipients of this award have been Arthur S. Kling, 1959; Joseph J. Kaplan, 1960; Phil Levitch, 1961; Morris M. Kling, 1962; Lewis D. Cole, 1963; Hugo Taustine, 1964; Rabbi J.J. Gittleman, 1965; Boris Pressma, 1966; Fannie Rose Rosenbaum, 1967; Max Waldman, 1968; Edward J. Winkler, 1969; Murrel D. Klein, 1970; Sam Fishman, 1971; Sam Steinfeld, 1972; Sam Rosenberg, 1973; Erwin A. Sherman, 1974; Farrell E. Salzman, 1975; Naomi Pressma, 1976; Samuel A. Stern, 1977; Charles L. Weisberg, 1978; 1979, Bess Caller, and 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Friedman.

**Sherman also has served on the national commission for Israel and on other national B'nai B'rith commissions.

For a number of years Louisville Lodge made an award each year to the city's most outstanding policeman, but administrative difficulties within the Police Department made it impossible to continue this project.

Of philanthropic endeavors over the years, there has been an almost endless list. The lodge ran campaigns to collect shoes for needy children, runs a Deed of the Month program that accomplishes such things as taking underprivileged youngsters to sports events and the like, has assisted Four Courts (Louisville Hebrew Home) fund-raising projects, and has provided Passover and Chanukah services and treats for Jewish patients in Central State Hospital.

Every time Federal Court holds citizenship proceedings, B'nai B'rith is on hand to welcome the new citizens with a flag pin. This patriotic gesture by Louisville Lodge rated Page One recognition by The Courier-Journal for B'nai B'rith and its representative, Abe Linker, on Thanksgiving morning 1977.

B'nai B'rith also co-operated with local attorneys in providing a manual of instructions for persons chosen to serve on the grand jury.

A series of Sunday brunches has become the most popular programming feature in recent years. Now held in co-operation with the Jewish Community Center, the once-a-month bagel-and-lox brunches provide a forum for all kinds of happenings and ideas. For many years the candidates of both major parties — running for Governor, U. S. Senate, House of Representatives, County Judge, and Mayor — have appeared at these brunches prior to primaries and general elections to subject themselves to hard questioning by the audience. On two occasions in 1977 attendance was so great when candidates for Mayor and County Judge appeared that the brunches had to be moved into the Jewish Community Center's large Rebecca and Barnet Linker Auditorium.

More than once Louisville Lodge has won district awards for membership and as best all-around lodge. It was best lodge three years in a row, in 1977, 1978, and 1979.

In 1963-64, more than 50 families enrolled in an experimental home study session in the field of adult Jewish education. The textbook used was Volume I of the B'nai B'rith Great Book series.

In the 1970s all of the teen-age social clubs at the Jewish Community Center became B'nai B'rith Youth Organization groups. The boys' clubs became part of AZA, while the girls' groups became affiliated with B'nai B'rith Girls, founded sometime after AZA.

Maurice Grossman, a past president of the lodge and father-in-law of then-President Erwin Sherman, was honored in 1963 for his 45 years of service in Boy Scout activities. The lodge has received many awards for its efforts in scouting.

Bluegrass Lodge, made up of men mostly younger than those in Louisville Lodge, flourished for some 15 years, but in 1980 consolidated with the older group.

B'nai B'rith Women

Women came to B'nai B'rith in May 1939 when Tillie (Mrs. Louis) Cohen organized Women's Chapter 261 and became its first president. There were about 40 members.

For two decades it has presented "Dolls for Democracy," which offers a vivid lesson in civil liberties and combating prejudice, at schools, churches and other groups. The chapter for many years conducted an annual bake-off, which at times attracted as many as 100 entries in various categories, as a fun-day rather than as a fund-raiser. The rising cost of ingredients during the late 1970s curtailed entries and killed the project.

Funds raised by the women support the same services as the men's lodge with one additional project: the women are the chief support of a children's home in Israel for emotionally disturbed boys, a project launched in 1948 at the invitation of the Israeli Government. One of the big fund-raisers for Chapter 261 is an annual notebook-calendar.

The original women's chapter never acquired a name, but got a younger sister in Emma Lazarus Chapter 1514. Marci (Mrs. Alan) Hyman was its first president. For the most part, its membership consists of a group of younger women.

Chapter 17

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN LOUISVILLE SECTION

In 1893 some women from the early Jewish families, finding themselves more established in American life and with more leisure on their hands, founded the National Council of Jewish Women (Council). For those days and times, it was a daring concept — a group of women "dedicated to furthering human welfare in the Jewish and general community locally, nationally and internationally" through a program of education, service and social action.

There were some women in Louisville who liked this idea and in 1895 they received a charter for the Louisville Section. They chose as their first president Mrs. J.B. Judah, who served until 1910.*

From its start, the Louisville Section began co-operating with existing organizatons. In 1896 it worked with Temple Adath Israel at the Industrial School, which was housed on what is now Belknap Campus.

The following year, Council co-operated with Neighborhood House in maintaining the city's first kindergarten and the first free public baths. In 1898, the women made garments for surgeons in the Spanish-American War.

A philanthropic committee was formed in 1898 and that year Council assisted Temple Free Kindergarten and began Bible study circles. The 1900-01 activities year found Council supplying milk for Temple Free Kindergarten. That same year a fund was established to care for Jewish women in hospitals.

When the Jewish Hospital Association came into being in 1903, Council pledged $100 yearly to the hospital, and held its first Strawberry Festival to raise money for philanthropic work. Council's next big project was to help recruit truant officers and in 1904 it began making monthly contributions to Travelers Aid. Another first was setting up a temple directory in the city's hotels.

In 1903, a year after the death of Dr. Adolph Moses, rabbi of Temple Adath Israel, Council published a book of his papers entitled *Yahvism and Other Discourses.* It contained an introduction written by his successor, Dr. H.G. Enelow.

For two years, Council operated a cooking school at Neighborhood House. Next it turned its attention to libraries, creating a traveling library and sending nine libraries to Kentucky mountain towns.

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*Mrs. Judah, one of the most active clubwomen in Louisville, was the wife of J.B. Judah, superintendent of Kaufman-Straus Co., long the city's No. 2 department store. For at least two generations, as the store's official greeter, Judah *was* Kaufman-Straus, which was located on Fourth Street where Temple Adath Israel once stood. Clarence F. Judah, who was longtime executive director of the Jewish Community Federation, was a nephew.

The influx of Eastern European Jews began to swell in those years. Many girls were finding jobs in department stores, and Council found teachers for them, set up a Continuation School for those who wanted further study, and launched an immigrant aid program to care for Jewish girls coming from Eastern ports. A West End Settlement was begun in 1907 on Seventh Street, which by then had become a tiny enclave of recently arrived Jewish immigrants.

In 1910 the busy clubwomen turned their attention to lawmaking, setting up their first Legislative Committee and following it up with study groups. In 1915 the group organized child welfare work in Louisville's public schools.

Boys and girls attending school had no lunch facilities. Council saw a need, and acted. Mrs. Judah got her women to supply equipment to enable rural schools to serve hot lunches.

An even bigger school lunch program was born in 1914 when Council established a kosher "penny lunch" at George W. Morris School at Floyd and Chestnut. Nearly all of its student body came from Orthodox homes, many of them near poverty level, and the families warmly welcomed the opportunity for their children to get peanut butter sandwiches or cookies and milk or hot chocolate for one cent each. A fund was set up so that even those who could not afford to pay would receive their lunch money from the school principal. The school lunch program was expanded to other schools, and in the depression 1931-32 school year Council served 27,734 warm, sustaining lunches.

For five years, between 1915 and 1920, Council concentrated on efforts to promote slum clearance, decent housing, abolition of child labor, anti-lynching laws, and public-housing programs. In time, all of these objectives became public policy.

After World War I, many more Jewish families arrived from Europe and Council saw the need for English classes. On May 10, 1922 it organized an English class at Neighborhood House for women and girls. The class met weekly, its earnest scholars ranging in age from 11 to 49. As part of their indoctrination into American life, the class members were taken to the city market (then centered at Floyd and Jefferson), the Public Library, Jewish Children's Home, and Cherokee and Iroquois Parks.

Perhaps a word is in order here about Neighborhood House, then located on the west side of First between Walnut and Liberty. It was a recreational facility open to everyone, and it served Jews, Italians, Syrians, and any other whites who lived in the inner-city area. Ray Baer, the city's most outstanding athlete, worked there for a time as a counselor. To many a Jewish child of that day, Neighborhood House was a wonderful place to play except for the risk now and then of being called "dirty Jew." For some who lived in substandard housing, a hot shower at Neighborhood House was a great delight. Women could find sewing and cooking classes and other activities there. The area just east of Neighborhood House had a large concentration of Orthodox Jewish families and Congregation Anshei Sfard was just down the street. The European-trained Orthodox, among them Rabbi A.L. Zarchy, the Orthodox

rabbi of the city, looked down upon Neighborhood House and discouraged its use, possibly fearing it would wean youngsters away from Judaism, but the teenagers found it a delightful oasis. Naturally, in that era, it was all white. Shifting population finally took its toll of the agency's usefulness and about the time of World War II it moved to West Market Street and still later to Portland, where it still carries on its work as a Metro United Way agency.

For its annual meeting May 1, 1923 at Temple Adath Israel, Council served a penny luncheon. It was a duplicate of the lunch which the organization sponsored for pupils at George W. Morris School. Mrs. Milton Bensinger and Miss Margaret Marx were chairmen of the lunch program.

Acting on a report made by its Committee on Education the following month, Council members visited the principals of Morris, Vocational (later Ahrens Trade High School), and George D. Prentice Schools. Prentice, at Sixth and Walnut, served the Jewish children of the Seventh Street Jewish enclave.

The women were given the names of 41 boys and girls at Prentice School who were considered possible failures. A committee of 15 teachers was organized and before classes were begun that November, all of the parents had been visited and asked to cooperate by encouraging the children to remain after school twice a week to receive whatever help was necessary. Of the 41 who attended Prentice, 33 passed, four failed, and four skipped a grade. Selma (Mrs. Arthur) Kling was chairman of this project and was succeeded the following year by Mrs. Morris Flexner.

In 1934 Council organized a New American Committee and put Mrs. Kling in charge. Ever since, through the tide of Jews fleeing the Nazis, the arrival of displaced persons after World War II, and the influx of Russian Jews in the 1970s, Council has assisted in the reception and integration of new immigrants. Mrs. Kling made it her lifetime work and it is impossible to describe her dedication to this project. Her death was a severe blow, but Council members schooled by her have carried on ever since. Council operates the Nearly New Shop, a second-hand clothing store, as a fund-raising venture. The shop also plays a role in outfitting arriving immigrant families.

The Nearly New Shop was established at 632 E. Market in 1956 and has been a mainstay of Council fund-raising. It merchandises furniture, clothing, and household accessories. Jean (Mrs. David) Traub was its first president and Helen (Mrs. Carl K.) Helman its first chairman. The shop lost the use of the building in 1980 and was closed pending renovation of another building which had been donated for its use by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lenkoff.

A 1938 innovation was Council's workshop, designed to give newcomers a chance to earn their own money. Council also organized a nursery school in co-operation with the Jewish Social Service Agency at Jewish Children's Home at 1128 S. First.

By 1941 more and more women were working, so to accommodate them in its program, Council launched its Evening Group.

Council study groups in the 1950s led to a pilot project at General Hospital (now University Hospital). It marked the first time volunteers were used in psychiatric wards and led to establishment of a halfway house, which subsequently developed into a separate agency, Bridgehaven.

The same decade saw Council join with the Jewish Community Center in conducting Club 60, a year-around program keeping senior citizens busy four days a week. Council also provided funds to set up Senior House, a pioneer city-wide recreational facility for senior citizens. (The first executive director of Senior House was Louise Meyers Plaut. She died in 1978 at the age of 68.)

A project which won national recognition was carried out in Louisville schools. It started with Talent, Energy, Ability, Maturity (TEAM) using older citizens daily at two junior high schools. Not long afterward a full-scale remedial reading program was launched, emphasizing "Higher Horizons" first in junior high, then in an elementary school. Council members also played a big part in starting the Head Start program, working with the Community Action Committee.

After it had been in operation five years, the Louisville program, called "Equal Opportunity for All," was awarded the 1964 William J. Shroder award by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Council was nominated for this honor by the Conference of Jewish Organizations.

The program was deemed No. 1 in the nation among cities with less than 40,000 Jewish population pioneering in the progress of social welfare. Minx (Mrs. S.P.) Auerbach was president of the Louisville Section. It was a proud moment for her and for the entire Jewish community of Louisville when the award was presented to her at the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in St. Louis.

Council at that time was carrying out four services in the public schools, a Senior Service Corps to serve a deprived area, a broad effort to fight the "school dropout" situation and to encourage further education, and a large-scale public airing of the problems of discriminatory housing.

The school program covered these elements:

1. Remedial reading programs for fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School using Council volunteers and financial assistance.

2. A reading program at Jackson Junior High School to broaden cultural horizons. "Explorers Clubs" in groups of ten, using slides, records and other visual aids, opened new vistas for those black children. Field trips brought out the fact that some of the children had never been downtown, less than a mile away.

3. A reading progam for fifth and sixth grades at Dann Byck Elementary School, accompanied by field trips, carried out by teachers but financed by Council.

4. Industrial field trips for the ninth grade at Jackson Junior High School to study job opportunities for black youth and stressing the need for education and training.

The Senior Service Corps utilized the skills of a specially recruited group of senior citizens to serve youth in an area of the city where such services were of vital importance. The older adults at the same time gained a feeling of usefulness to society.

The campaign against school dropouts was highlighted by a city-wide "Keep Them In School" institute October 18, 1963 and sought to encourage other groups to undertake similar programs.

The housing program was begun as a six-week Council study, but was taken over by the Religious Groups Committee of the Louisville Commission on Human Relations. It studied in depth patterns in housing discrimination and how the trend might be changed.

A Council highlight of 1964 was a discussion series in cooperation with the University of Louisville on "The Immovable Middle Class" embracing three sessions: "Poverty and Prejudice," "Better Schools for Whom?" and "The Neighborhood Crucible of the Future."

"Have you had any personal experience with poverty?" is the question that started off one of the discussions. It ended on this note: "Perhaps, in providing a number of things for our children — suitable companions, grass and trees for play, bicycles — we have been depriving them in the realm of values. It's difficult in a community where everyone is alike and everyone values material comforts to give children an undistorted sense of human values."

In October 1977 Council gave $2,000 to the Council on Aging of the Jewish Community Federation to help it purchase a freezer to use in the kosher lunch program at the Jewish Community Center. The Mayor's Contingency Fund provided the remainder of the money. The lunches are served to senior citizens five days a week, at little or no cost to the recipients.

Other projects of Council during the last two decades:

1. A visual screening project developed in conjunction with the City-County Department of Health.

2. A pioneer tutoring program in two Jefferson County schools, using PTA volunteers.

3. Providing the impetus to help establish a Federal co-ordinated community child care program, giving $6,000 toward its first-year budget.

4. Establishing a Senior Information Referral Service in co-operation with other organizations.

5. Providing $10,000 to start Senior House West in the city's Portland area.

6. Appropriating seed money which enabled California Day Care Center to get Federal funding. Council volunteers serve on its board and work with children in this deprived area centering around 17th and Kentucky.

7. Helping other organizations establish a shelter house for runaways.

A big event of 1977, and since repeated, was a Jewish film series, co-sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education. The Vogue Theatre was rented for five Monday night showings of Jewish films. It drew capacity audiences.

A fairly new Council group is the Moonlighters, who wound up their first season in April 1979 with a dinner. The Moonlighters find ways in which evening group members can augment the services provided by the daytime members.

A large fund-raising venture is Fashion Encore, launched in 1975 and which has attracted wide attention. The women assembled gifts of "gently worn" clothing and other articles and the first year's sale netted $7,000. Four years later, Council realized $40,000 from the venture. The Courier-Journal report on the 1979 sale, for which some items were new merchandise donated by merchants, included "50 tuxedos at $25 each, Gant shirts at $3.50, a Geoffrey Beene man's vested suit at $45, and a seven-eighths-length mink coat, yours for $750." The sale was held at Executive West Hotel October 21 and 22. The women began collecting clothing in May. They rented a warehouse, from which more than $2,000 worth of merchandise was stolen and they had to go back to members for more donations. The funds raised are channeled into inner-city care at California Area Child Development Center, Shelter House for runaways, Club 60, Kentucky Youth Advocates, the New Americans program, the Environmental School, the Jewish Resource Center, a student loan fund, and tutoring in the schools.

In recent years Council has presented the Hannah G. Solomon Award, named for Council's national founder, to persons who have made a significant contribution to community life.*

Council's early membership consisted almost entirely of Reform women from German Jewish families, but over the years its membership has broadened to embrace a cross-section of the entire Jewish community and a number of non-Jewish members as well. It has grown from a handful in 1895 to an organization now nearly 900 strong, still pursuing the principles laid down by its founders.

With the expansion of its activities, Council found that a central headquarters would be desirable, so in 1978 it opened an office in Room 210 at 317 Wallace Avenue, in St. Matthews, with a part-time secretary in charge. In 1980 the office was moved to Shalom Tower.

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*Solomon Award recipients: 1966, Jeanne Frank; 1967, Betty Jane Fleischaker; 1968, Til Meyers; 1969, Helen Helman; 1970, Minx Auerbach; 1971, Maud Fliegelman; 1972, Louise Flarsheim; 1973, Fanny Rose Rosenbaum; 1974, Minna Cole; 1975, Arthur and Selma (Mr. and Mrs.) Kling; 1976, Carolyn Neustadt; 1977, Jane Greenebaum; 1978, Alexander W. Erlen; 1979, Carolyn Balleisen.

Chapter 18

ZIONISM IN LOUISVILLE

I. LOUISVILLE CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

"She was born amid controversy and ridicule, being accused of nurturing an impossible dream of nebulous fancies which would never be attained....."

— Ruth Aschkenasy on Hadassah's 50th Anniversary.

Minnie Isaacs, Betty (Mrs. Jacob) Ades and Rebecca (Mrs. Barnet) Linker went to Chicago for the 22nd annual convention of the Zionist Organization in September 1919. The spirit and personality of Henrietta Szold made a profound impression and they returned home determined to give Louisville women the opportunity of partaking in the pioneer health work in Palestine. Thus was born Louisville Hadassah. Today it numbers more than 1,000 members — including a few men "associates."

On November 5, 1919, twenty women from six organizations met, and Louisville Chapter of Hadassah was started*. Its first public function was held at the YMHA following a dinner at Scher's Restaurant (Third and Market). Sadie Baer kindled Chanukah lights at that affair, and 60 years later she still was active in Hadassah.

Hadassah's main thrust has been in raising funds for various services in Palestine, later Israel. There were an annual donor affair for child welfare, the Baby Fund, the Milk Fund, annual linen shower to provide linens for hospitals, silver teas, Jewish National Fund blue-box collections, tree plantings in Israel, sewing circles, art fairs, and so on. Hadassah today operates a resale shop (the Purple Plum), conducts study groups, and participates in community and civic events. It operates the Suzanne Linker Cantor Memorial Fund for Cancer Research.

The advent of the working woman about the time World War II broke out resulted in formation of the Business & Professional Group in 1941. Currently it is 120 strong.

Another spin-off was the Anne Frank Chapter, launched by a group of younger women. When it reached a membership of 1,000 during the 1950s, Hadassah tried splitting Louisville Chapter into three groups, known as Kadimah, Shalom, and Tikvah, but the women were used to working together, and the single-chapter program prevailed. There also was a Junior

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*The 15 women recorded as charter members were Betty (Mrs. Jacob) Ades, Sadie Baer, Jennie Borenstein, Sylvia (Mrs. J.J.) Gittleman, Birdie (Mrs. Lee) Goldberg, Lizzie Isaacs, Minnie Isaacs, Rose (Mrs. Max) Isaacs, Mrs. Max Lebovitch, Rebecca (Mrs. Barnet) Linker, Esther (Mrs. Max) Shaffet, Mary (Mrs. Charles) Spiegel, Gussie (Mrs. Charles) Strull, Annie (Mrs. Michael) Switow, and Sadie (her real name was Sarah — Mrs. I. Leo) Wolkow.

Hadassah for the up-and-coming future members. For many years Mrs. Ades was mother to Aunt Betty's Buds, a popular girls' club at the YMHA. Later, a Young Judea thrived for a time at the Jewish Community Center.

One of the highlights of Hadassah's existence was the visit of Henrietta Szold to Louisville in 1924.

In May 1923, the struggling chapter staged an entertainment that resulted in collection of 344 sheets and pillowcases for Palestine hospitals. In 1924 the chapter had 300 members and that year it: made and shipped to Palestine approximately 400 garments; sent a large shipment of sheets and towels to hospitals there as proceeds of a Passover entertainment; raised approximately $3,000 in May, $450 more at a picnic in July, and $800 at a rummage sale in November; gave to the Infant Welfare Fund and the Milk Fund for Palestine; adopted an orphan in Palestine for whose support individual members contributed, and protested the Johnson immigration bill then before Congress.

Each year since 1963, the Suzanne Linker Cantor Memorial Fund has enabled an Israeli physician to pursue research into cancer. Suzanne Linker Cantor, vice-president of Louisville Hadassah, died May 15, 1961 at the age of 32. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Linker and grandaughter of Rebecca and Barnet Linker. The research award represents the interest on funds stemming from contributions in Suzanne's memory and from sale of memorial and anniversary cards.

A Hadassah event of 1973 was a Mini Israeli Film Festival staged in co-operation with the Adult Activities Committee of the Jewish Community Center as part of Israel's 25th anniversary year. Its success led to another film festival the following year.

Hadassah's study groups, dealing with such topics as Jewish attitudes on marriage and divorce and democracy's Hebrew roots, have been conducted on a cooperative basis for the last dozen or so years. Other women's groups joining in sponsorship are B'nai B'rith Women No. 261, Brandeis University Women, Louisville Mizrachi Women, National Council of Jewish Women and Louisville chapter of Women's ORT.

The Purple Plum at Bardstown Road and Bonnycastle was opened in 1972, Hadassah for the preceding 20 years had operated a resale shop on East Market Street. The Purple Plum, managed by Miriam (Mrs. Mike) Sherman, has been a steady revenue producer for Hadassah projects.

In co-operation with the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, the chapter in 1979 embarked on a new venture in community service, its volunteers operating a telecare project at the Jewish Community Center. Telecare, part of a citywide project, phones elderly persons on a regular schedule to check on their well-being.

Formation of the Business & Professional Group (better known as B&P or the Evening Group) came at a time when servicemen began flooding the Louisville area. For four years, the B&P volunteers, working hand in glove with the USO-JWB Louisville Armed Services Committee, served Sunday

morning breakfasts to as many as 150 GIs. On one occasion, before Shavuot, these active women made 500 cheese blintzes for their GI guests. Sadie Baer* recounted once that one of the interesting sidelights of the breakfast program was receiving letters from soldiers' parents saying they did not know there were any Jews in Louisville!

II. OTHER ZIONIST GROUPS

Despite Hadassah's size and scope, it is by no means either the sole expression of Zionist sentiment in Louisville nor is it the oldest.

In the last few years there has existed an active chapter of Mizrachi Women, which for its size has done considerable fund-raising for Mizrachi projects in Israel. Two years ago it sought to enlist the aid of the men by launching Chesed Mizrachi Men, with Irving Gerstein, a newcomer to Louisville, as its first president. Mizrachi is the American branch of the National Religious Party of Israel. Years ago there had been a men's Mizrachi chapter here also.**

A number of Louisvillians hold membership in the old-line Zionist Organization of America but no formal organization has existed since Charles Strull was its active leader. Strull, Mose W. Ades and I. Leo Wolkow organized Louisville's Zionist chapter. In the 1950s and the 1960s there was an active Labor Zionist group, but the loss of its leadership, chiefly Frank and Ruth Fonaroff broke up its formal organization.

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*Sadie Baer, a sister of Nathan Baer (one of Congregation Anshei Sfard's pioneers), became active in Zionist work as a teenager. At 16 she became leader of a Young Judea group called the Brandeis Girls. Also as a teenager, she was secretary of the Jewish National Fund Committee. She was secretary pro-tem at the founding of the Louisville Hadassah chapter but having just graduated from high school and taken her first business position, was unable to accept an office. She became a charter member of the B&P and has held regional Hadassah offices. She also became active in the Girls Department of the YMHA and in dramatics there. Later she was chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Louisville, and in 1956 was the club's "Businesswoman of the Year," the only Jewish women among 58 businesswomen similarly honored. She was office manager of the Jewish Hospital at Floyd and Kentucky for six years, during which she was considered the voice of and chief troubleshooter for the hospital.

**Mizrachi's spark plug has been Bess (Mrs. Sam) Harris. Her father, Abraham Waldman, was a pious owner of a drygoods store at Preston and Walnut when Jewish life centered about that corner. Mr. Waldman for years gave bar mitzvah training without charge to boys in the Orthodox congregations which later became Keneseth Israel. Mrs. Harris has displayed a persistence and a flair for public attention which has kept Mizrachi Women more in the public eye than its mere numbers would. She was a 1922 graduate of Louisville Hebrew School.

As early as 1903 there was a Louisville Zion Society which met at the YMHA. In 1913 the Federation of American Zionists (today's Zionist Organization of America) held a convention in Cincinnati, and a number of Louisvillians made the trip by boat to attend. Jacob DeHaas, secretary of the Zionist Organization of America, came to Louisville to address a dinner given by the Louisville Zionists May 25, 1919.

In 1913 the Zionists began their annual Flower Day at Lag B'Omer to garner funds for the Jewish National Fund. Before Cantor Morris Pernick of Congregation Adath Jeshurun moved to Israel in 1970 he was active in staging an annual dinner and fund-raising event for the Jewish National Fund. The JNF has been relatively inactive in recent years, although Hadassah continues to collect from Blue Boxes Hadassah, B'nai B'rith and other organizations promote the planting of JNF trees in Israel.

In 1946, Louisville's JNF had raised $25,000 toward a $50,000 goal for Nachlat Zarchy, an Israeli settlement named in memory of Rabbi A.L. Zarchy.

A successful Zionist and Hadassah project was a five-day campaign from February 18 to 23, 1923, on behalf of the Palestine Foundation Fund. Rabbi Samuel Sale of St. Louis came to speak and $12,000 was raised. Hilmar Ehrman was chairman; Michael Switow, treasurer; Joseph Goldberg, director, and Mrs. Jacob Ades, Hadassah president, was women's chairman.*

Many years before World War I there was another group here called the Louisville Jewish Congress Committee. Its officers were Simon Shapinsky, chairman; Jacob Bornstein, vice-chairman; Alfred Levy, secretary, and Bernard Schneider, treasurer. Its directors were A. Lerner, N. Tarbis, H. Cohen, S. Moot, Isadore Baer, M. Epstein, Myer Berman, Rabbi Abraham Nowak, M. Rassiner, J.D. Wolkow, Louis Isaacs, A. Speevack, W. Smith, M.A. Schneider and J. Epstein. No records were found indicating its purposes or length of existence.

The Balfour Declaration boosted Zionist membership, but during the depression interest flagged, and The Spokesman in April 1937 reported that a campaign to enroll 100 new Zionist members was a "total failure." On June 3, 1942, a well-attended Mizrachi meeting here passed a resolution favoring separate Jewish military forces to fight with the British in Palestine.

David Lloyd George visited Louisville in 1923 and local Zionists sent greetings, which were read to him by Charles Strull, thanking him for the Balfour Declaration issued in 1917 while he was Prime Minister, and expressing hope that its "aim and purpose" .... "will be carried out." The letter was signed by Strull, Alfred Brandeis, M.W. Ades, Simon Shapinsky, Hilmar

*M.W. Ades at that time was chairman of the Kentucky Zionist District. He was followed in office by Samuel Levy. Other officers were Lee Goldberg, vice-chairman; Joseph Goldberg (Lee's brother), secretary, and Sam Bordoffsky, membership chairman.

Ehrman, Rabbi A.L. Zarchy, and Rabbi J.J. Gittleman on behalf of the Zionist organization, and by Mrs. Jacob Ades and Minnie D. Isaacs on behalf of Hadassah.

The year 1931 was marked by considerable Zionist activity here. On February 2, 1931 the Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America and the "Central Conference of Rabbis" joined with 12 other organizations urging the U.S. Senate to back membership in the World Court. On May 4, 1931, Mizrachi called a mass meeting at Anshei Sfard "for the purpose of reawakening of general Jewish public interest in matters of Palestine among Louisville Jewry." Speakers were Rabbis A.N. Mandelbaum and Charles B. Chavel.

In July 1931 Louisville Zionists urged a "coalition executive" for the Zionist Congress scheduled in Basle, Switzerland. Mose W. Ades said Dr. Chaim Weizmann should be included, and Dr. Roy Diamond,* president of the Kentucky Zionist Organization, said a coalition executive "is most desirable" in view of Weizmann's resignation. Rabbi A.N. Mandelbaum, a member of the national committee of Mizrachi, said "Great Britain has not lived up to its pledge made in the Balfour Declaration; perhaps the coalition executive will be able to secure more concessions from them." Ades wanted the congress to try to force Britain to acceed to the spirit of the Balfour Declaration. The World Zionist Executive urged Jews everywhere to observe Louis D. Brandeis' 75th birthday November 13, 1931.

Morris Rothberg, representing the Jewish Agency, spoke here November 23, 1931 to open a $7,500 drive for Palestine.

On June 3, 1942 a well-attended Mizrachi meeting here passed a resolution favoring separate Jewish military forces to fight with the British in Palestine.

While Zionism in its earliest days was winning support, there also was plenty of opposition. Stanley Feldstein, in *The Land That I Show You*, wrote that "Hebrew Union College was the citadel of a fight against Zionism" and in 1907 three of its professors were fired by President Kaufmann Kohler, whom Feldstein describes as "the most outspoken anti-Zionist in the reform camp." Feldstein continues:

".... Isaac W. Bernheim, of Louisville, proclaimed in a letter to the Central Conference of American Rabbis and also in a speech before the Union of American Hebrew Congregations that Zionist 'nationalism' could be interpreted by non-Jews as disloyalty to the United States. 'Zionism,' he declared, 'political or otherwise, of the imported or domestic brand, is not a thing to our liking, nor can it ever receive our support. Here is our Palestine, and we know no other.'

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*Diamond's wife was Ruth Grossman Diamond, a community activist and sister of Maurice F. and Sidney Grossman.

"To assure that Christian America would recognize the difference between 'loyal, anti-Zionist Jews' and those who advocated the dual allegiance inherent in Zionism, Bernheim suggested that the terms 'Jew and Jewry' be replaced by 'Israelite' and that Reform Judaism be renamed 'The Reformed Church of American Israelites.' Only in this way, he asserted, would it be possible for the Reform movement to prove that 'we are American by nationality, that our longings are not for an Oriental Palestinian homeland, that our hearts are here, our homes are here — here in America."

Objecting to U.S. policy announced in November 1947, a meeting of prayer and protest was held April 8, 1948. Those present called for a reversal of the U.S. policy and demanded "a Jewish state in '48" under the United Nations. All of the city's rabbis participated except Dr. Joseph Rauch, who was out of the city.

The newest addition to Zionist ranks is MERCAZ, the Movement for Reaffirmation of Conservative Zionism, started in 1979 with Rabbi Simcha Kling as a national board member and editor of its bulletin.

Chapter 19

STANDARD COUNTRY CLUB

Most cities have their Jewish country clubs, and Louisville is no exception. A letter sent to prospective members in 1978 said the Standard Country Club was 104 years old, but other records show the organization was founded in 1883 and incorporated in 1885.

J. Stoddard Johnston, Louisville's historian of the 1890s, wrote that the Standard Club (Country did not get into the name until years later) occupied "an elegant clubhouse on (the east side of) Fifth Street between Walnut and Chestnut and is an admirably conducted institution. There are few finer, in proportion to the size of the city and the size of the club itself, in the country. It has a magnificent ballroom."

After World War I the club really became a country club, moving to River Road on Zorn Avenue. That site, leased from the Louisville Water Company, provided space for a clubhouse and golf course. Unfortunately, it was subject to annual flooding from the Ohio River, so in 1950 the organization began construction of a new clubhouse on Old Brownsboro Road (KY 22) about 12 miles east of the city. This facility was opened in 1951.

In its present location, the Standard Country Club claims to have "the finest facilities of any country club in this general area." Besides a clubhouse with party rooms it boasts "a golf course second to none in the state," a supervised tennis program, a well-stocked lake, and a swimming pool. Besides its own social life, the club has been the site of numerous community affairs, including meetings of United Jewish Campaign and B'nai B'rith.

Chapter 20

BOY SCOUTS

Enthusiasm for the Boy Scout program swept the country in the decade after the movement was born in 1910 and on January 25, 1917 Troop 30 was organized under sponsorship of the YMHA. This troop has survived several reorganizations to become the second oldest troop in Louisville and one of the oldest in the nation.

U.S. entry into World War I gave the new scouts of Troop 30 much to do. First off, the 25 boys in the troop decided to have backyard gardens and in that wartime summer there were 18 successful ones. One of the gardeners, Saul Ades, became Louisville's first Eagle Scout.

In November 1917 S. Harry Linker* helped his troop attain second place in the city in the sale of Liberty Bonds. The city's Scouts lined up 1,939 subscriptions for $55,900 and Troop 30 accounted for 218 of these totaling $25,500.

Troop 30 boys also became proficient in first aid, under the tutelage of Charles Lorber, assistant scoutmaster, who was stationed at Camp Taylor. Benjamin A. Roth, scoutmaster, once recalled that Troop 30 was called upon often to demonstrate first aid at many wartime meetings, some of these even being called by the military and attended by officers of Allied armies.

Three years later when a tornado hit New Albany, Troop 30 was called on to help search for bodies and to serve coffee to other rescue workers.

For a time, there was another Jewish-sponsored Boy Scout unit, Troop 111 sponsored by Adath Jeshurun. Its scoutmaster was Maurice F. Grossman, who had been a charter member of Troop 30. During the depression it merged with Troop 30.

Later, Keneseth Israel sponsored Troop 196. In 1942 the troop, then only three months old, sold $4,150 worth of War Bonds. Ira L. Nathan was scoutmaster.

During the 1950s, Troop 30 moved to Adath Jeshurun and more recently to The Temple, its latest home.

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*Linker, who died in 1977, was president of Union Trust Company and active in many Jewish and civic endeavors. He was a son of Rebecca Solovey Linker and Barnet Linker.

Chapter 21

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

A group that flourished for a time but which has become inactive in recent years is Louisville Post No. 179, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and its Ladies Auxiliary, organized in 1938. The national group, founded April 13, 1896, claims to be the oldest veterans' group in the nation.

Founders of the Louisville post were Sam Blach, Danny Cohen, Hyman Frockt, Max Goldberg, Morris Green, Herman Hoffman, Isadore Levitan, Sol Mendelson, Israel Shuster and Joseph Taub. There were 55 members in all.

The JWV and its auxiliary have worked with other veterans' and Jewish groups and have conducted philanthropic activities of their own. The auxiliary has concentrated on serving patients at Veterans Hospital, through visits and holiday and birthday parties. Both before and after World War II when many Jewish servicemen were stationed at Fort Knox, the auxiliary sponsored three Sunday brunches a year and co-operated in other ways with the USO-JWB. The women prepared 175 to 200 sandwiches every Friday for the Oneg Shabbat at Fort Knox.

The last elected commander was Sam Stern. Previous holders of the office were Hyman Frockt, Max Goldberg, Herman Hoffman, Earl Grabfelder, Harry C. Resnick, Isadore Levitan, Harry Kastan, I.B. Sticker, Louis Brownstein, Irvin L. Wasserman, Percy Friedlander, Ben Carmen, and Edwin I. Baer.

Auxiliary presidents during its first 25 years were Emma Levitan, Tobie Wittenbaum, Esther Kastan, Gertrude Brownstein, Martha Fine, Miriam Sticker, Grace Cohen, Dorothy Kastan, Hannah Bronstein, Martha Gordon, Esther Michael and Betty Schneider.

The last large public meeting of the two groups was a banquet October 27, 1963 at the Jewish Community Center to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Chapter 22

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Brandeis University was named for former Louisvillian Louis D. Brandeis, the first Jewish justice of the Supreme Court, so it was natural that the university would find support here as soon as it was organized in 1946. Its national women's committee was founded in 1948.

The Louisville Women's Committee of Brandeis University is a group of about 375 energetic women. It holds a yearly book sale to augment other funds it raises to support the university's library. Its other activities include a yearly tea and study groups.

The library, incidentally, was a gift of Jack Goldfarb, who built up a large textile operation, Union Underwear Co., in Kentucky before going to New York. Goldfarb never forgot his Kentucky connections and for a number of years his contribution was the largest credited to Louisville's United Jewish Campaign.

Louisville's Brandeis Women celebrated their 30th anniversary in 1977 by bringing Dr. Abraham L. Sachar, chancellor and first president of Brandeis, to Louisville for several public addresses. Joan (Mrs. Arnold) Lynch that year was national recording secretary.

Attorney Herman Handmaker organized Louisville Friends of Brandeis University. Handmaker died in 1963, but the group he founded staged a community dinner in the fall of 1967 to mark the school's 20th anniversary. Morris Kling served as chairman, with Samuel L. Greenebaum Jr., Joseph J. Kaplan, David Shapira and Samuel Rosenstein* as co-chairmen.

*Rosenstein, originally an attorney in Frankfort, Ky., in 1968 was appointed a judge of the U.S. Customs Court in New York and after retiring from the bench made his home in Florida. He was general chairman of Louisville's United Jewish Campaign in 1958.

LIFE AND ACTIVITIES

Chapter 23

ATHLETICS

Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, who spent two years at Temple Adath Israel and who in 1887 became, at $12,000, the highest paid rabbi in the world, is listed in University of Pennsylvania records as having participated in the first football game ever played there. That was on December 9, 1871, seven years before he came to Louisville.

Records don't say whether Rabbi Hirsch continued to be interested in sports, but athletics did attract many followers in Louisville. So much so that the original YMHA on First Street was long referred to simply as "the gym".

Over the years sports has been such a popular part of the YMHA (now the Jewish Community Center) program, that at times some have complained that athletics overshadowed other activities. Be that as it may, YMHA sports progressed from early interest in gymnastics to cross-country running to varsity basketball, handball, racquetball, tennis, swimming, Little League baseball and intercity competition with teams from other centers. Amidst all this interest nothing has ever equalled the tenseness and excitement of basketball during the 1920s and 1930s when the Major Falls City League was at its pinnacle and the YMHA Reps took on college teams. More on this later.

Louisville's most beloved athlete undoubtedly was Ray Baer. He is a local legend. Ray was born in Louisville May 7, 1905, and grew up in a large family, the son of tailor Nathan Baer, one of the pioneers of Congregation Anshei Sfard. Today, the congregation has a Ray Baer Memorial Fund.

While most Jewish boys of that era went to Louisville Male High School, Ray chose DuPont Manual Training High. Manual in 1923 considered him the greatest athlete in the school's history and he won the Yale Cup for excellence in character, leadership, scholarship, and athletics. He was an all-state tackle two years and made the all-Southern team. Although he stood 5 feet 10, weighed 190, and was considered a big hulk of a man, Ray in his sophomore year made the basketball team, captured all-state honors three consecutive years, and played on the 1921 and 1923 championship teams, as captain in 1923. He held city high-jump honors three years and captained a 1923 track team that was considered the best in Manual's history. Nor was his interest

entirely athletic — he was a good scholar and speaker and won several oratorical medals.*

At Michigan, Ray made the varsity as a sophomore in 1925. That team captured the Big Ten title. Coach Fielding Yost called it the best team he ever had and called Baer its best lineman. Benny Friedman wrote in 1963: "Ray was the best college lineman I ever saw. He never got the credit due him because unfortunately for Ray, Benny Osterbaan and myself were at Michigan at the same time."

Baer financed his college education by washing dishes.

Following graduation he returned to Louisville and coached an independent basketball team. In 1929 he became line coach at University of Louisville, later returned to Manual as assistant coach and became head coach, a job he held a dozen years. In 1946 he became head coach at St. Xavier High School, where he became popularly known as Father O'Baer. Stricken with multiple sclerosis, he was forced to step down in 1951 and he died a few years later. He is honored with a plaque in the Jewish Community Center gymnasium and with an annual Ray Baer sportsmanship award to a youngster at the Center.

Among the sports awards given Baer were honorable mention, Grantland Rice All-American team in 1925, 1926, and 1927; honorable mention, Associated Press All-American team, 1926; William Roper All-American second team, Col. A.M. Weyland All-American third team, and Associated press All-Western Conference first team, 1927.

Many other athletes were products of YMHA training and M.C. "Doc" Isaac, longtime physical education director, was a popular and much beloved figure.

The Chronicler in 1913 reported "a great revival in wrestling," with "Strangler" Lewis, Jack Stone, Ed Adamson and others who trained at the YMHA, as instructors. And on March 29 of that year, an "HA" track team participated for the first time in a Louisville Amateur Athletic Federation meet held at the Armory.

One of the athletes of that era was Sidney Appel, whose specialty was tennis, which did not become a YMHA sport until the organization moved to Dutchmans Lane. Appel held city and state titles but lost the Southern championship to Cy Smith. Appel was the last of five Louisvillians to remain in the tournament. Years later Appel, by then a successful clothing merchant, became president of the YMHA.

Cross country became a popular sport and the YMHA sponsored an annual Thanksgiving Day run. A big event for many years, it was taken over by the City but lack of entrants in 1931 led to its cancellation. In 1921 the

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*Ray's younger brother Abe was the only other athlete in the family, and captained the 1926 Manual football team. Abe took over his father's tailor-trimming business and coverted it into a unique institution, Baer's Button Store, known far and wide. Another brother, Sidney, became an attorney and served in the Kentucky General Assembly, and the youngest, Sylvan, became a physician in Denver, Colo.

YMHA sponsored the city's first 10-mile race, down Broadway and back, with George Georgantus, Ben Liebschutz, Leon Levitch and John LaPorte as its own entrants. (Georgantus, LaPorte and later, O'Mara White, were the most outstanding, but not the only, non-Jewish boys who participated in "HA" sports.)

But it was basketball that captured the greatest attention. It was an era before bigtime college sports and words fail to bring out the excitement and gala atmosphere of the crowd that always packed the tiny spectator area of the Second and Jacob gym to root for the "HA" in Major Falls Cities League and other games. Quite often there was a big Saturday night dance following the game.

These are some scores from the 1923 season: Michigan 32, YMHA 19. Vanderbilt 31, YMHA 25. Nashville YMHA 42, Louisville YMHA 27. Georgetown College 21, YMHA 26. It was not an impressive season but it didn't discourage the "HA" boys. The YMHA players who vied with these college teams included Capt. Tony Landenwich, Gerald Meyers, Poachy Marks, Herman Shapinsky, and Harry Joseph Klein.

One of the basketball players, Herbert Kohn, described as "one of the best men ever developed by the Athletic Club," became general secretary of the Nashville YMHA March 1, 1924.

The Athletic Club of those days was a real powerhouse at the YMHA. It staged after-the-game dances and acted as a booster society generally. Its annual "Vodvil and Dance" was one of the gala occasions of the 1920s. The general chairman of its 1925 event was Maher Speevack, aided by J. Stuart Simons, musical director; Louis Kleinman, publicity; Isaac Liebschutz, tickets; Harry Salzman, refreshments; Sidney D. Handmaker and Milton Robenson, dance, and Sidney Lyons, program. Act I presented Phil Balson, Louis Levin, Irvin Goldstein and Sid Miller as the "4 Flushers" in "harmony, more or less." Violinist Morton Morganstern, with Lewis Palay at the piano, appeared in Act 2. The YMHA Players, directed by Louis M. Roth, gave "Gimme Them Papers" with a cast consisting of Max Gawronsky, Louis M. Roth, Isaac Gradman, Mrs. Arthur W. Scher and Esther Goldstein. Act 4 was a ventriloquism show with Benjamin A. Roth and his pal Jerry. Also on the program were Hannabel Hyman, described as the "high priestess of syncopation" and the Banjo Boys, names not listed.

For the 1919-20 season, the coach of the YMHA basketball team was Frank L. Marx, who starred on the courts at Louisville Male High School, the YMHA, and University of Kentucky.

The 1921 team won the Falls Cities championship with a record that stood unequalled for nine years. This team, coached by Nathan Marlin, won 15 games and lost five, only one being lost to a league opponent. Jake Grauman was manager and team members were Abe Berman, Bill House, Capt. Herman Shapinsky, Julius Joseph, Alvin Linker, Edwin Shapinsky, Babe (Maher) Speevack, and Ted Annon.

The YMHA in 1922-23 won the league championship but two defeats kept it from the Falls Cities championship.

With 19 wins and no defeats, the 1930 team that won the Falls Cities ran up what the March 1930 Chronicler called "a spotless record that is unparalleled in local basketball history." On this team were O'Mara White, Sam Handmaker, Harry Klein, Capt. Gus Morguelan, Abe Baer, Murrel D. Klein*, Coach Poachy Marks, Jacob Morguelan, Alvin Pearlman and Raphael Slung. The manager was Isadore Levine.

Poachy Marks, whose real name was Maurice P. Marks, was an all-star athlete at Louisville Male High School in the early 1920s. As halfback, despite a broken arm, he played in the traditional Thanksgiving Day game against Manual with his arm in a sling. Despite his brilliant sportsmanship, Manual won, 7 to 0. Marks starred on the YMHA Reps basketball team from 1926 through 1931, the last four of those seasons as coach-player.

These were the teams the HA Reps defeated in that great 1930 season: Southern Bell Telephone, 34-17; Speed, Ind., 50-31; University of Louisville, 36-18; Catholic Community Center, 44-25 and 30-28; Jeffersonville Elks, 36-26 and 38-27; Trinity, 30-22 and 61-35; Calumet, 41-32 and 33-22; University Club 29-17 and 66-32; Kirschbaum of Indianapolis (now that city's Jewish Community Center), 49-37; Mackin, 43-29 and 36-31; Knights of Columbus, 41-39 and 42-39, and Birmingham YMHA, 40-29.

Gus and Jacob Morguelan were two of six brothers who were introduced to basketball at the Neighborhood House. Their parents, Rose and Nathan Morguelan, had a drygoods store at Campbell and Walnut. Gus, the oldest, participated in all four major sports at Manual and made the all-state team. the Morguelans played for the YMHA for the next several years in the Major Falls Cities League. Four of the brothers made the "HA" varsity team, the Reps, and there was a time when five of the six brothers played as a team at one time on the YMHA floor. The lineup was Gus and Jake, forwards; Zimmie and Lee, guards, and Morris, Center. Morris was all-state high school center in 1931.

An all-time YMHA basketball team was named in 1931 with Nathan Marlin and Gus Morguelan, guards; Judy Joseph, center, and Poachy Marks and Tony Landenwich, forwards. Honorable mention went to Harry Klein, O'Mara White, Alvin Linker, Sam Handmaker, Bill House and Frank Marx. Abe Berman, the first of the boys who grew up in the YMHA to become its

*Murrel D. Klein became an outstanding community leader. He came from Mississippi. He was a baseball pitcher and at 6'2" was one of the biggest men in the Major Falls Cities Basketball League in 1925. He later was a top bowler in the B'nai B'rith league. He wrote sports for the Herald-Post and became an insurance executive. He served as president of Adath Jeshurun Congregation and as 1969-72 president of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. Known as an outstanding fundraiser, he also has been active as the YMHA's athletic commissioner and in B'nai B'rith, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Four Courts, an Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the United Jewish Campaign.

president, at the time described Captain Marlin as "the best basketball man that ever played around the Falls Cities... For a running mate, we have Gus Morguelan. The combination is just about unbeatable."

Local basketball at that time was given extensive coverage in the daily newspapers, with the result that the YMHA gained a wide reputation.

In October 1931 Abie Levy, undefeated city lightweight, started a boxing class at the YMHA. Abie Levy was the ring name of Gabriel M. Cohen, one-time Herald-Post reporter who became publisher of the National Jewish Post. Levy had just returned from the ring. A boxing class had been held previously while Art Scher was athletic director.

Handball was always a popular "HA" activity, although the Second and Jacob building originally had only two courts. Two more were added later. One of the outstanding handball players was Jack Goldstein, who won the state AAU handball championship in 1950 for the 13th time. Two years later he won the Southern Handball Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn.

Jack, a real-estate man who died in 1978 at the age of 68, grew up at Brook and Market and played his first handball at Floyd and Market against the wall of a wholesale grocery establishment. He became adept at dodging the horses and trucks and later began playing four-wall handball at the YMHA. He also became a championship racquetball player. When he first attained championship rank, some unpleasant incident soured him on the YMHA, and although he retained his membership, he moved his training to the YMCA.

A bumper year for Jewish athletes was 1931, with four Jewish boys adorning the basketball teams of Male High and Manual. Capt. Dan Linker led the Male High team to four wins in Kentucky while losing one game to Jeffersonville High. Other team members were Dave Gradman, who also was a star halfback, and Alvin Bronstein*, whose diminutive frailty used to be a standing joke. That same season Manual was depending on Morris "Toots" Morguelan, the youngest of the Morguelan clan. Toots was elected all-state center at that year's state tournament in Lexington.

Emanuel Feitelson made a name for himself in Manual athletics, especially football, in 1934.

Sports Personalities

Among outstanding high school athletes of the 1920 were Harry "Skillet" Miller, who was small but fast, Louisville Male High football and YMHA athletics; Edward Platoff, a Manual sprinter; Nathan Kupp, a Male High half-miler; Emanuel Snyder, Male High runner, and Joe Snyder, Male High sprinter. (The Snyder brothers' father was kosher butcher Morris Snyder.) Maxie Davis was a Male High and University of Kentucky football star in the 1930s.

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*Alvin Bronstein in 1974 became executive vice-president of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council. He is now retired.

Harry Cohen was a coach at Male High before becoming athletic director of the YMHA.

Sidney Brownstein was an outstanding high school athlete who became one of the first casualties of World War II. He was killed in a training accident at Fort Knox.

An outstanding girl athlete at the YMHA was Blanche Bronstein (now Blanche Pasternak), sister of Alvin, David and Nathan Bronstein and of Clara Bronstein Larner, widow of Martin Larner, Indianapolis. Blanche was on the physical education staff of the Rochester Jewish Community Center.

Sports took on an entirely new look when the Jewish Community Center moved to Dutchmans Lane. There was indoor and outdoor swimming, and a troupe called Neptune's Daughters* made quite a splash with its water ballet. Tennis courts and baseball diamonds were part of the new site, leading to greater intramural and outside competition. Basketball took on a new image, with intramural leagues and competition against teams from other Jewish centers. Louisville served as host to seven teams in an invitational tournament in April 1978. Washington won, but that same year brought Louisville its third straight victory in the Jewish Welfare Board's Midwest Regional Tournament at Milwaukee.

In 1960, less than five years after the Center moved to Dutchmans Lane, outdoor handball courts were built, thanks to a gift from Judge Ben F. Washer. The dedication brought a turnout of more than 400 persons.

Not long afterward, a second outdoor swimming pool was built behind the original pool in an effort to combat overcrowding.

Joe Goodman, athletic director from the time of the opening of the Dutchmans Lane building until he suffered a heart attack in 1978, once described the Center's athletic program this way: "We attempt to instill in our members a strong desire to win, but also how to be courteous in winning and gracious in defeat....The sportsmanship of many will be influenced by the type of sportsmanship you display. We trust it will be of the type that will contribute to the educational values of these events."

The intensive physical education program attracted many non-Jewish members, and the non-Jewish membership has run as high as 25 per cent.

Aside from the YMHA, there were many other outstanding personalities in various phases of athletics.

Abe J. Roth was a University of Kentucky football star before World War I. He later operated a drygoods store at 411 S. Preston.

Dr. Herman B. Strull, a physician and brother of astronomer Charles Strull, used to swim the Ohio River regularly when the YMHA operated Camp Tapawingo on Upper River Road. In later years he made it a point to swim across the river and back at least once a year.

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*With the growth of competitive swimming in the area most meets were scheduled on Saturdays and Neptune's Daughters left the Center. As many as 30 were in the troupe, according to Janice Chandler, the Center's aquatics director.

A colorful figure on the local scene for many years was Lou Palmer, an up-and-coming lightweight boxer during the 1920s who was forced to quit the ring in 1929 due to a non-boxing accident which left him blind. His acquaintances were legion, and he supported himself by peddling copies of *"Old Favorites,"* a booklet of poems, songs and recitations. He traveled all over the country.

Richard Renneisen, a Courier-Journal columnist, wrote in 1939: "In the police reporters' room at the City Hall, we've seen Lou (always in gray cap, gray clothes, and carrying a knapsack) come in out of an icy Christmas blast, greet all concerned, sit down to the phone and dial a list of his friends. Wishing each a merry Christmas, and chuckling the while, Lou might have been some tycoon who's just had a grand Christmas dinner and was feeling on top of the world."

In 1951, Palmer was robbed of personal papers and a small amount of change on afternoon at the Public Bath House, 219 S. Preston. The papers included letters from Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

Palmer was always seeking contributions to some charity, although his favorite was the Catholic Little Sisters of the Poor. When the Louisville Board of Trade announced a Friendship Train in 1947 to alleviate distress overseas, Palmer walked into the board's office with $1 to be the first contributor. Louisville's goal was a freight car filled with 2,000 cases of macaroni at $2.20 a case.

His personal life remains a mystery, but he never forgot his Jewishness. He would show up at a minyan every now and then, at least often enough to become quite friendly with O.H. Landau, longtime shammas and venerated religious functionary of the Jewish community.

Norman Klein was active in athletics at Manual and University of Kentucky. He was killed in an airline crash August 11, 1968.

There were out-of-town stars on University of Louisville basketball teams, two outstanding ones being Sam Mantell and Alex Grosza. Mantell returned to his native Cleveland, but Grosza became coach at Bellarmine College for a time.

Louis Perlin, one of Louisville's early promoters of bowling, helped organize the B'nai B'rith Bowling League locally and nationally. He died in 1977 at the age of 89. Perlin was a dealer in office furniture. His great interest in the sport paved the way for the Greater Louisville Bowling Association to elect B'nai B'rith bowler Joe "Yush" Levine its first Jewish president, for 1959-60.

Another colorful personality, although not active as a participant, was Israel Goodman, a newsstand operator who cultivated friendships among sports writers and personalities in many fields of sport, especially racing and baseball. The latter was his main hobby and he frequently wrote letters to newspapers on sports topics. Known far and wide as just Izzy, he died in 1978 at the age of 85.

A youth who was active in the Jewish Community Center's teenage program, Mark Blieden, won the Outstanding Athlete Award at Kentucky Country Day School, where he played varsity football, basketball and soccer. In June 1978 The Courier-Journal named him the outstanding soccer player in the state. He is the son of real-estate broker Bert L. Blieden.

A Louisvillian made an impact on the baseball world.

It was a one-time Louisville distiller — Barney Dreyfuss (1865-1932) — who started the World Series. Dreyfuss at 17 came to U.S. from Germany and went to work for relatives at a distillery in Paducah, Ky. A doctor suggested outdoor activity for his health and he took up baseball, organizing a semi-pro team and playing second base himself. The distillery moved to Louisville in 1888 and Dreyfuss moved with it. He purchased part ownership of the Louisville Colonels and became president in 1889. The following year Louisville was eliminated from the National League when it cut back from 12 teams to eight, but Dreyfuss loved baseball and bought into the Pittsburgh Pirates. By 1901 he had gained full control. Pittsburgh won the pennant that year and the next two. After the 1903 season, Dreyfuss challenged Boston of the upstart American Leagues to a post-season series, a historic move because other National League owners were bitterly fighting the rival league. Boston won the first modern World Series but Pittsburgh's players fared better because Dreyfuss donated his share of the receipts to them for their loyalty. During his reign Pittsburgh was in the first division 26 times. Dreyfuss also led the fight to get a single commissioner to govern baseball. He groomed his son, Sam, to take over the Pirates but Sam died of pneumonia in 1931. His father never recovered from the shock and died the following year. A Sporting News editorial said "Dreyfuss was the last of the generation of history makers."

THE ARTS

Chapter 24

I. MUSIC

Music, literature, and the performing arts have always loomed large in Jewish culture, and Louisville is no exception. Not only has Louisville's Jewish community been a consistent supporter of the arts, but a number of musicians, actors and writers have been among its native sons and daughters. However, the Jewish community's biggest contribution to Louisville's cultural life has been the Louisville Orchestra.

The orchestra is the outgrowth of a small group of musicians assembled at the Young Men's Hebrew Association in 1916 by Morris Simon, of whom a University of Louisville historian wrote: "The idea for the original Y.M.H.A. orchestra had come from Morris Simon, who managed the orchestra from its inception until his death in 1959. He was not a musician but had a wide knowledge of musical repertoire."

Simon, a bachelor businessman, grew up in the YMHA. He spent a great deal of time as a volunteer in various capacities, later became a lifetime board member, and was known as its unofficial greeter. Although he never lost his foreign accent, he was able to establish rapport with almost everyone, and during the soldier influxes of two world wars he served as host and adviser to countless persons. He even financed many a struggling student.

It was said of Simon that he couldn't "carry a tune in a basket or play a single note on any instrument," yet The Courier-Journal headed his obituary, "City's Mister Music Dies." When he was hospitalized in July 1959, just three months before his death, it was the first time in 42 years he had missed a rehearsal of one of the musical groups he had spawned. The orchestra taped the concert and sent it to his hospital room.

The Courier-Journal said of him: "Noting the city's failure to maintain a professional symphony, Simon decided to build the orchestra with the city's own talents, made up of business and professional men, students, housewives, and a few professional musicians who wanted to help."

With his own funds he provided many of the instruments used in the orchestra. At one time there was no bassoon in Louisville, so Simon purchased one for one of his promising musicians named Albert Schroeder. He bought an oboe for Joe Hitz. During the depression there were times when he had to reclaim some instruments from pawnshops before a concert.

After the Louisville Orchestra became a professional group in 1938 he organized the Louisville Civic Orchestra at the YMHA. His motivation was that it would combine total resources of the community, muster proper financial resources, and serve as a showcase for aspiring players' talents.

He was honored May 21, 1959 with a tribute dinner at the Jewish Community Center and was given a plaque for his work with orchestras.

Another accomplishment was Simon's establishment of the USO Show Stars, which came into being February 22, 1942, and which entertained a million servicemen in its quarter-century of existence.

One of the things that motivated Simon's formation of an orchestra was the career of Sol Marcosson, described by a music critic as "a distinguished Louisville violinist" as one of the chief soloists at a Chautauqua Day concert at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, N.Y. on July 18, 1901. Simon saw that a hunger for music existed when 10,000 persons attended a concert in Cherokee Park in the summer of 1909. That concert was paid for by I.W. Bernheim and J.B. Speed. Another thing was the organizing of the Louisville Symphony Sextette at the YMHA in 1916 by Leonard M. Shapoff. That group gave six concerts. But mostly it was Simon's lifelong love for music.

Simon's fledgling orchestra had little going for it save its members' dedication. As Rubin Sher, a latter-day conductor of the orchestra's successor, the Jewish Community Center Orchestra, once told an audience: "We hope you enjoy our concert, but even if you don't, we want you to know we are playing because we enjoy it."

After World War I there was another orchestra known as the Jewish Arts Club.* That group joined with the Louisville Conservatory of Music, Alma Stedman School of Music and National Council of Jewish Women to present Louisville's first Music Week. A public performance was staged April 8, 1923. Besides music, Council women presented a play, "Out of the Heart," depicting the cruelty of war. Charles W. Morris was chairman of the event. The violinists included Morris Perelmuter, who later achieved fame as Morry King. While still a student, Perelmuter represented Louisville in a national high school orchestra in Detroit.

The YMHA orchestra designated itself the YMHA Little Symphony and under that name gave its first concert May 17, 1926.** Simon was manager and Howard K. Koch, conductor. Koch, born in 1908, was a violinist. He later became head of the Suffolk Conservatory of Music, Bay Shore, N.Y., and conductor of the Bay Shore Symphony on Long Island. Jay W. Fay, supervisor of music for Louisville Public Schools, later served as conductor.

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*In the orchestra were violins, Meyer Green, Morris Perelmuter, Mendel Gold, Philip Plascko, Frances Rethwisch, Lillian Goldberg, Joseph Saltzman; flute, Theodore Solinger; clarinet, Albert Schroeder; piano, George Blusinsky.

**The Little Symphony roster at its first concert: Violins, Morris Perelmuter, Meyer Green, Morton Marganstern, J.C. Shacklette, Joseph Saltzman, Max Black, Hugh Dumas; viola, Fred W. Jaehne; cello, Nathan Zimberoff; bass, J.W. Johnson; piano, Oleta Albertson; harp, Rosalie Speckert; flute and piccolo, Theodore Solinger; oboe, Joe Hitz; bassoon, Lawson Whitesides, J.W. Fay; clarinet, Albert Schroeder, John Peake; horn, Edward Dumas; cornet, Edwin Bell, Gordon Haist; trombone, Jake Seligman; drums and tympani, Leslie Boyer.

Better known to Louisvillians is Koch's older brother, Herbert Koch. As WHAS organist for 17 years he became widely known as just "Herbie." He was Temple Brith Sholom's organist for many years and composed a number of liturgical pieces. One of these, "Sabbath Eve Service," was published by Bloch Publishing Company in 1944, dedicated to the temple, its rabbi, Solomon N. Bazell, then serving as a Navy chaplain, and acting rabbi, Alfred Barnston. Koch left Louisville to become carillon player at Stone Mountain near Atlanta.

Louisville Civic Arts Association

In 1929 the Little Symphony presented an Educational Concert Series at the YMHA and made plans to expand into the YMHA Symphony. Under its new name, the symphony began rehearsals August 5, 1931 as an integral part of a newly formed Louisville Civic Arts Association. Other components were the Louisville Chorus and the Anne Bullitt Brewer Ballet. Joseph Horvath was conductor of the orchestra, which sometimes had as many as 90 pieces. The Civic Arts Association was an outgrowth of the Educational Concert Series which the YMHA had presented free for four seasons. Seven concerts were scheduled the first season, at which time Simon remarked that it would be "the most ambitious and significant cultural program ever attempted in Louisville." Formation of the Civic Arts group culminated a 16-year-long effort by Morris to expand Louisville's musical horizon.

The first concert in October 1931 brought ecstatic reviews. Sam Hyman* wrote a review in The Chronicler-Spokesman saying:

> "Those who had previously heard the orchestra were not surprised ... But the many who heard it for the first time were astonished and amazed that Louisville should possess within its own ranks a symphony orchestra so competent, so finished, so professional in performance and so satisfying ... The following day those who viewed the projected program with frank skepticism were praising the orchestra in ecstatic terms."

The Courier-Journal's critic said "it was the best and most successful orchestral effort in Louisville history," the Herald-Post said the orchestra

*Sam Hyman became dramatic critic of the Herald-Post after graduation from University of Louisville. He opened his own public-relations agency later and successfully promoted the Community Concert Series. He was most skillful at writing press-agent copy which could not be cut, and spent two seasons on the road as advance agent for S. Hurok's enterprises. He and Simon were close friends but professional antagonists and worked unceasingly for the YMHA orchestra, but Hyman had a streak of paranoia that almost led to the death of the orchestra in 1960 and which in time left him virtually friendless except for Simon and one or two others. He became editor of the Kentucky Jewish Post and died in obscurity, even though in his prime he was recognized as a genius in advertising and public relations. He also wrote under the name Edward H. Holmes.

richly deserved the right in every sense of the word to the name Louisville Civic symphony, and The Louisville Times regarded the concert as a landmark in Louisville musical history.

A landmark it turned out to be. The first programs said "The Louisville Civic Arts Association, Louisville's Own Great Series, presents (the) Y.M.H.A. Symphony, 'The Civic Orchestra.'" By the spring of 1932, the orchestra was billing itself as the Louisville Civic Symphony Orchestra.

The Civic Arts Association's first program, dated October 19, 1931, noted that the performers received no remuneration and that the YMHA paid the director a nominal salary and provided a place to practice. It said:

> "The Y.M.H.A. Symphony represents the most sustained and enduring orchestral attempt in Louisville history and one which few cities in the United States can match. It has come to its present state of high repute through 16 years of professional growth. Immeasurable praise is due to the Y.M.H.A. which nurtured the orchestra until it grew to the point where musical competency and the momentum of community appreciation carried it to the Memorial Auditorium stage and made it Louisville's own orchestra. Should this series to be successful, the orchestra likely will be named the Louisville Civic Symphony."

Conductor Horvath was leader of the company band at Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company. He had been the Army's youngest bandmaster at the age of 18 in World War I. The Army gave him musical training at the Panama Conservatory of Music but his lifelong dream had been to conduct a symphony orchestra. Manager Simon was dedicated enough, but his accent, his foreign appearance and his lack of sophistication motivated against him. A musical historian euphemistically expressed it this way: "The comment of many of those who heard this orchestra was that Mr. Simon was overambitious. He expected the musicians to learn many works above the abilities of amateur players."

In 1932, a University of Louisville Orchestra existed and an attempt was made to seek a merger. But, the historical account continues: "The time was not right. Joseph Horvath and Morris Simon were unwilling to relinquish their tenuous hold on the dream they both had sought for 20 years ... The musicians at the University were unwilling to become a part of the Civic Symphony because of what they considered gross inadequacies in the director and manager. Personal aspirations and petty jealousies were still too obvious for a reconciliation."

The university symphony received an anonymous gift which enabled it to continue its concerts at Memorial Auditorium under its former conductor, E.J. Wotawa, while the Civic Arts Association continued on a very rocky path. In the fall of 1935, the association ignored the idea of a merger and tried

to rally support for its orchestra and Horvath. This was in the midst of the great depression and funds were hard to come by.

For its 1936-37 season, the Civic Symphony brought Vladimir Bakaleinikoff from Cincinnati as musical director for three of its five concerts, Horvath becoming associate director. The budget was $5,523.10 and the symphony ran a deficit of $1,905.81, making it obvious that some drastic changes would have to be made if the orchestra was to survive. They were.

The first change was the election of Dann C. Byck*, a businessman, as president of the Civic Arts Association, and it was announced that the first step would be to hire a conductor. This announcement led Simon to sever all ties with the association and he invited the musicians until then associated with him to a rehearsal at the YMHA on September 15, 1937. Simon's letter, dated August 27, 1937, invited all whose "ambition is to profit Louisville and Louisville musicians as we have in the past, not entirely in money, because we all have none this year, but in inspiration, in helpfulness and in a richer musical and spiritual attainment." Many who played for Horvath followed Simon back to the YMHA and the second YMHA orchestra, still in existence as the Jewish Community Center Orchestra, was born. Horvath left the Civic Arts Association October 9, 1937, and the co-operative Civic Arts Association disbanded soon afterward.

Groundwork for Louisville Orchestra

The University of Louisville's historian summed it up this way:

"The Y.M.H.A. Symphony has made a big contribution to the musical life of the city. Through it the first attempts at a civic orchestra in 25 years were made. This effort laid the groundwork for the founding of the Louisville Orchestra. Over the years it has provided a place where the amateur musician of the community could enjoy participation in an orchestra. It is still the oldest continuously performing orchestra in Louisville."

During this period, Fanny Brandeis wrote the program notes for the orchestra. Since 1974 these have been written for the Louisville Orchestra by Marshall Portnoy, cantor of Adath Jeshurun.

In 1937 the Civic Arts Association brought Robert Whitney in as a conductor, and in 1942 changed its name to the Louisville Philharmonic Society. In 1949, it became the Louisville Orchestra. Upon Whitney's retirement, the orchestra in 1967 employed Jorge Mester, 32, who had been born in Mexico City to Hungarian-Jewish parents, as conductor. Mester then was a member of the Juilliard faculty. Mester left Louisville in 1979.

*Dann C. Byck, founder of Byck's, a women's fashion chain, was an indefatigable civic worker, as was his wife, Mary Helen Byck. In 1954 he led the YMHA's first building fund to a successful conclusion.

The Philharmonic in 1947 again turned to Dann Byck, this time to try to rescue the orchestra as chairman of a Louisville Philharmonic Progress Fund with a goal of $150,000. The goal was not reached but the orchestra's deficit was wiped out.

In 1959 Sidney Harth resigned after seven years as concertmaster to take a similar post with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He was replaced by Paul Kling of Indiana University, who remained here until 1976. In 1968, the orchestra brought in its first associate director, Yoav Talmi, 26, an Israeli. The following year Talmi organized the Kentucky Chamber Orchestra among 30 persons from the Louisville Orchestra. Horvath and Whitney were not Jewish, but the orchestra always had Jewish personnel and many Jewish performers such as violinist Itzhak Perlman among its soloists over the years.

While the Louisville Orchestra today is without Jewish leadership, it does have strong Jewish support, and the list of its patrons is liberally sprinkled with Jewish names. The same goes for other performing arts groups here, the Kentucky Opera Association and the Louisville Ballet, as well as the Fund for the Arts, the joint fund-raising arm of some three-dozen artistic and performing arts groups. Whitney's history of the Louisville Orchestra, written in 1977 for its anniversary, fails to mention that its real origin was the YMHA Orchestra. His explanation to the writer was that his interest went back only to the time when he arrived in Louisville.

After the separation from the Civic Arts Association the YMHA Orchestra went its own way, again under Horvath's direction and with Simon as manager, its members playing for the fun of it and giving three or more free concerts a year. In 1955, with the opening of a new building, the YMHA became the Jewish Community Center and the orchestra likewise changed its name. But not all was sweetness and light. After Simon died, Sam Hyman became the orchestra's guiding spirit. But Hyman found it difficult to cooperate with others and friction developed between him and Aaron Schreiber, the Center's executive director. Hyman persuaded Horvath and a number of other musicians to pull out and set up an independent group, the Louisville Civic Orchestra. A board of directors was formed, met January 8, 1961, and voted to sever all connection with the Center, to move into other rehearsal quarters, and to maintain an independent, non-profit entity. The Louisville Civic Orchestra continued on an erratic course for several years. In December 1963 it opened what it called its "48th season" at GE Monogram Hall. Lacking any solid financial support, it finally fell apart and Horvath must have been a sad man indeed at the time of his death. Horvath left his entire music library to the JCC Orchestra.

The Center Orchestra took off in new directions under a new director, Rubin Sher, who served from Horvath's departure until 1976. Sher played in the YMHA orchestra at the age of 14. So did Joseph Bein. Sher was a violinist in the Louisville Orchestra and a music teacher in public schools. He also gave private lessons. A total departure from the usual picture of a stuffy director, Sher prided himself in the "fun of it" approach to playing music. He directed a

youth orchestra at the Center and founded the Louisville Youth Orchestra, which he conducted for 18 years. Later he organized and served as co-director of the Southern Indiana Orchestra in New Albany. In 1976 he launched the Floyd County Youth Symphony with 35 boys and girls. The group, still under his direction, now has 102 members. His efforts won the attention of Friendship Ambassadors, which sent him on a mission to China in February 1979. Accompanying him to China was his son, Michael Sher, chairman of the music department of the Half Hollow school system on Long Island in New York. Six months later, he was invited to take his Floyd County Youth Symphony to Romania, and the orchestra members raised $80,000 for that three-week trip.

When Simon became ill, one of his proteges, Leon T. Fuchs, assistant manager, took over as manager and has held that post ever since. Fuchs was honored in 1980 as one of two JCC volunteers of the year. Once before he had been similarly honored by JWB Associates. Like Simon, he has rarely, if ever, missed an orchestra rehearsal.

With Sher's departure due to pressure from other activities, Joseph Klan, until then the concertmaster, became conducter of the Center Orchestra. Klan, one of the many non-Jewish musicians who have played with YMHA and Center musical groups ever since 1915, has been summer director and substitute for Sher for the preceding five or six years.

Musical Personalities

Here are some random notes about the Louisville Jewish community's musical past:

Rose Lee Bein (later Mrs. Sam Lerman) won first prize in statewide piano and her brother, Joseph Bein, won first prize in violin at the Kentucky State Federation of Music Clubs in Hopkinsville April 21-23, 1930. Their parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bein. Joseph became a faculty member of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Morris Perelmuter had won first prize in violin in this same competition in 1926.

Edwin Franko Goldman, famed band leader and composer, was born in Louisville in 1878, but his family moved away when he was 2 years old.

One of Louisville's outstanding vocalists was Mme. Cara Sapin. Born Carrie Rothschild in Greenville, Ohio, she was 7 when her parents moved here. She studied piano but had a beautiful contralto voice. One music historian recalls that "by 1900 as Mrs. Carrie Rothschild Sapinsky she was listed as one of the most prominent singers in church choirs, soloist with the Philharmonic Society of Louisville, and sang the lead role in 'Judith' in 1904." She studied in Paris and Berlin and was a member of the Hammerstein and Dippel Light Opera Company and the Boston Opera. In 1919 she began teaching at the Louisville Conservatory of Music. She sang at least one engagement with the Metropolitan Opera and in concerts elsewhere. She later taught at the University of Louisville, and a year after her death October 3,

1950, a nearly life-sized statue of a reclining woman, entitled "Reminiscence," was placed at the university's music school in memory of her and two other renowned Louisville musicians, Karl Schmidt and Frederic Cowles.

One of her pupils was Sara Lee, then Sara Liebovitz, who came to the Conservatory as an accompanist. She became interested in studying voice in 1920 and 1921. After her mother died, she moved to New York, where she was teaching voice as recently as 1974.

At the age of 20, Walter Damrosch came here to conduct the orchestra at the Southern Exposition between 1883 and 1886. His father had been engaged to direct but died shortly before opening time and the son took over. Joseph Horvath once studied under Damrosch.

An eight-week lecture series called "The Wonderful World of Music" was cosponsored by the Jewish Community Center and the University of Louisville early in 1964. Among the speakers was Dr. Gerhard Herz, professor of music history. Dr. Herz, considered one of its greatest assets by Louisville's music community, came to Louisville as a result of Nazi persecution*. In fall of 1979, Dr. Herz received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete a reference catalog on Johann Sebastian Bach sources in the United States.

Louis Moseson, a retired retailer, took up cello at the age of 40 and in 1979 organized a chamber orchestra for older persons. His first rehearsal at the Kling Center, 219 W. Orsmby (it was named in honor of Arthur S. Kling), attracted 13 string players. Moseson took over the Moseson & King clothing store at Fifth and Walnut after his father's death and operated it many years, but decided on early retirement. He has been active in many of the arts, among them serving on the board of Actors Theatre and doing photography of professional caliber that produced many picture pages for The Louisville Times. Conducting the chamber orchestra was another first for Moseson.

Louisvillian Ray Parnes became principal trombonist and personnel manager for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He was first introduced to music in Louisville public schools at the age of 8 by playing a tonette that cost $1.25. He played in the YMHA Orchestra while attending high school and university.

Jan Garber, famed band leader, told his audience at the opening of a movie house here in 1928 that he had attended school at Floyd and Chestnut (George W. Morris School) at one time.

Emily Dembitz (1865-1962), daughter of Lewis Dembitz, was a noted music teacher here in her day.

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*Refugees from Germany enriched Louisville in many fields. Dr. Justus Bier was an art historian at University of Louisville and wrote about art for The Courier-Journal. Another popular professor was Dr. Edmond Schlesinger. Many Germans who chose Louisville as their home also became successful in business and other professions.

Morris Perelmuter (stage name King), now a resident performer in Las Vegas, owns a Stradivarius violin which is on permanent loan to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. When Perelmuter was an impoverished student, Morris Simon bought him a suit of clothes and otherwise aided him financially. He was but one of many whom Simon assisted during decades of volunteer service at the YMHA. Perelmuter also received some financial assistance from the National Council of Jewish Women. He was scheduled to return to Louisville to present a concert in October 1980 marking the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Community Center.

The Jewish Community Center Orchestra gave a concert October 12, 1980 in memory of Morris Simon. Some of his former proteges returned to Louisville for the occasion — Howard Koch as guest conductor, Morry King as violin soloist, Joseph Bein, also a violinist, and Rose Bein Lerman at the piano. A fund was raised to endow an annual Simon memorial concert. The Center auditorium was jammed and people had to be turned away as a grateful community gathered to honor the man who did so much to make Louisville a musical city.

For several years after World War II there was a YMHA Chorus, directed by Harold Katz, but it disbanded after Katz left the city. Katz married Lucille Bleiweis of Louisville.

II. DRAMA

Although its most significant cultural accomplishment has been in music, our Jewish community has been active in drama as well.

The YMHA always had an active theater group, but like most amateur theater groups, it has been cyclical in nature, perhaps depending on who was available as director.

In the 1920s, after the decline of the Junior Social & Literary Society, Charles W. Morris, who had kept it so active in theatrical production, graduated to the big league — the YMHA Players. For a number of years he wrote an annual mock trial which it staged.

During this period one of the directors was Benjamin A. Roth, who had the benefit of some years' experience on the vaudeville circuit. Roth was a ventriloquist, but not Louisville's sole artist in this arcane field. Ted Tenenbaum, who had married Minnie Roth (a cousin of Ben Roth), also practiced this art and when sons Morris and Morton were born the youngsters were included in the parents' act. Later, Tenenbaum operated a drygoods store at 944 Baxter Avenue, then moved to Santa Monica, Calif., where he died. Mrs. Tenenbaum still was performing in late 1980 for senior citizens groups in the Los Angeles area.*

*Morris Tenenbaum became an accountant in Miami and Morton Tenenbaum is a school administrator in the Los Angeles area.

Roth served in the Kentucky House of Representatives, but his main interest was the theater. He raised the YMHA Players to a height of excellence that won the admiration of critics for the daily papers. He left in 1927 to become executive director of the YMHA in Birmingham, Ala.* Roth died in 1974.

The YMHA Players declined during the depression. The troupe was revived as the Ahmy Players, and when the Jewish Community Center building was completed in 1955, became Heritage Theater. There have been good seasons and bad, but a small, dedicated group of theater buffs has kept Heritage active. There have been some ambitious productions and some outstanding individual acting, but on the whole there has been a dearth of Jewish material, due chiefly to the lack of availability. The major production of Heritage's 1980 season was a musical revue, based on an original script by Hyler Paran, covering the history of the Jewish Community Center and produced especially for the Center's 90th anniversary.

A Center innovation of the 1979-80 season was a Children's Theater, under the direction of Joyce (Mrs. Darrell) Murphy, a former TV actress who had also appeared in Heritage Theater roles. In 1980 a Junior High theater group was also launched and produced an original play that summer jointly with the Children's Theater.

The 35-year-old Louisville Children's Theatre (an independent organization) became Stage One Children's Theatre in the 1978-79 season when Moses Goldberg came to Louisville to be its director. He transformed it from an amateur community children's theater to a full-fledged professional company. Goldberg's original play, "Analysis of Mineral #4," was selected for presentation at Kennedy Center in Washington in summer of 1980 as a special children's project.**

III. AUTHORS, JOURNALISTS AND BROADCASTING

Just as they have been active in other cultural fields, Louisville's Jews have been writers of books too. A number of rabbis have written books, as have many of our college professors. Some authors, such as Lewis Dembitz, have been mentioned previously, but here are other publishing highlights involving Louisvillians:

Louis Sheaffer won the 1974 Pulitzer Prize in biography for *"O'Neill, Son and Artist"* and has been working on still another volume about Eugene O'Neill, the renowned playwright. Sheaffer grew up as Lewis Slung, son of

*In 1928 he married Dora Landau, daughter of O.H. and Rebecca Landau. She headed the United Jewish Fund of Birmingham, which she helped organize, until her retirement about 10 years before her death February 22, 1979.

**Goldberg is a nephew of Zera (Mrs. Irving) Lipetz.

Abe Slung, who operated a shoe store at Sixth and Market. He became a reporter on the Brooklyn Eagle and was its drama critic at the time the newspaper folded. His work as drama critic sparked his interest in O'Neill.

In 1850, Henry Clay Lewis, son of a Jewish immigrant who attended medical school during the 1840s, published the *Louisiana Swamp Doctor,* about Southern folk humor.

A posthumous volume was *Yahvism and Other Discourses,* written by Rabbi Adolph Moses and published in 1903 by the National Council of Jewish Women. Dr. H.G. Enelow, Rabbi Moses' successor, wrote an introduction.

Mrs. Maie Perley was already a successful author when she came to Louisville in 1946, having written *Without My Gloves,* a best-selling satirical impression of her experiences since coming from Australia in 1938. She became involved with the Louisville Urban League and helped establish the Southern Police Institute. She wrote *The Quilt* and wrote book reviews for the daily newspapers.

A best-seller that appeared in 1956 was *Love and Knishes* by Sara Kasdan. A housewife, businesswoman and participant in amateur theater, she turned out a humorous guide to Jewish cooking that has run through several editions and has become a classic. Five years later she turned out *So It Was Just A Simple Wedding* and in 1968 wrote *Mazel Tov Y'all,* both of which combined humor with special recipes for special occasions. Her literary success took her to the National Jewish Welfare Board's lecture circuit for a time.

Stuart Berg Flexner, who received an M.A. in English at University of Louisville, wrote the highly acclaimed *Dictionary of American Slang,* which has gone through three editions since 1960. As Random House's senior vice-president, he was responsible for the Random House dictionary. He left the firm in 1972 to write full-time. His successful slang dictionary was followed by *I Hear America Talking — An Illustrated Treasury of American Words and Phrases* in 1976, covering the relationship of language to American history.

A literary figure of the early 1900s was Mrs. Ida Goldsmith Morris. One of her works was *A History of the Jews of Louisville* published in 1901.

Brith Sholom Sisterhood in 1933 published *Results* by Blanche Kahn Ehrman.

David H. VanDamm, president of Kentucky Home Mutual Life Insurance Company, who retired in 1972 and died in 1978, once owned a bridge club in New York and wrote a book on bridge.

Nettie Yanoff Schwartz, a native Louisvillian, in 1972 wrote *Painting With A Needle,* an introduction to creative stitchery. It was published by Doubleday & Co. Her stitchery has been the subject of shows at the Arts Club of Louisville and Jefferson Community College.

Among the college professors, highly technical volumes have been produced during the 1970s by Mario Paz, professor of engineering at University of Louisville's Speed School, and Manuel Schwartz, mathematics and physics professor at U of L.

A Yiddish poet of renown was I.J. Schwartz, who lived in Lexington. According to *Jewish Publishing In America* by Charles A. Madison, Schwartz (1885-1973) came to the United States in 1906. "Strongly motivated by the Hebrew poetry of Yehuda Halevi and Chaim Nachman Bialik*, he tended to write with peace and nobility of the Sabbath spirit," Madison says. In Lexington, "he became strongly impressed by the grandeur of the American landscape and the spirit of American poetry." He translated his own verse into Hebrew. *Kentucky,* written in 1925, sang of the life of Negroes, Southern whites and Jews "with strong sensuousness, fresh observation, and sympathetic insight," Madison observed.

To encourage writing of plays, Ted Heideman in 1979 established an annual $1,000 prize for a new one-act script. The award is made through Actors Theatre of Louisville. Heideman came to Louisville in 1966.

In the field of visual arts, C.J. Pressma operated the Center for Photographic Studies for eight years, but in 1978 abandoned innovative photographic education because of persistent financial problems. Pressma's parents are Boris and Naomi Pressma.

Journalism and Journalists

Along with their interest in other cultural fields, Jews have taken to journalism, both general and Jewish.

Jewish journalism in Louisville dates back to the turn of the century when the YMHA began publication of Twice-A-Month, a small but well-edited record of YMHA happenings, community events, personal notices, and news about Jews throughout the world, plus comment on topics of the day. It was supported by advertising and existed for two years. Nothing in existing records indicates why it was discontinued.

Also in 1901 a New Orleans publisher produced a book of biographies of prominent Jewish men and women. Only a handful of copies exist. There was a sketchy history of Louisville's Jewish community, the rest of its pages containing "puff sheet" biographies and advertisements.

The only other known histories of Louisville Jewry also are short. One was written by Lewis Dembitz during the 1800s, another about 75 years later by Dr. Joseph Rauch, and still another by Dr. Israel T. Naamani for the celebration of the Jewish Tercentenary in 1954. Still another sketch, written by Werner Weinberg, who was a Hebrew teacher at Adath Jeshurun, was serialized in the Kentucky Jewish Post in 1952.

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*Bialik came to Louisville on his American tour in the 1920s and visited the Louisville Hebrew School. Other authors of note, usually on speaking tours, also visited Louisville. Maurice Hindus appeared at Temple Adath Israel March 26, 1931, and Nobel prizewinner Isaac Bashevis Singer spoke at the Jewish Community Center November 28, 1966.

Jewish journalism on a permanent basis got its start when the YMHA launched its literary monthly, The Chronicler, in 1913. In addition to a major essay or two, it listed YMHA activities and brief items about the community. It was supported by advertising. For many years this was Louisville's only Jewish publication, and in 1925 and 1926, under the editorship of Louis J. Kleinman,* The Chronicler attained a high degree of literary excellence. He was its sports editor the preceding two years.

In 1930 Sol Schulman, then with two years' experience as a Courier-Journal reporter, launched a monthly newspaper as a project for the post-graduate Sunday school class he was teaching at Adath Jeshurun. Assisted by me, then also a member of The Courier-Journal staff, the class produced The Spokesman, reporting on local and national affairs. It appeared for eight months before the effects of the Great Depression began to take their toll.

About that time neither The Chronicler nor The Spokesman could derive sufficient advertising revenue to continue publication and the future for both looked grim. Gabriel M. Cohen, who had worked for The Louisville Times and later for The Herald-Post, came upon the idea of combining the papers to make them a profitable venture. He arranged a merger and soon afterward The Chronicler-Spokesman made its appearance, with Cohen as owner-publisher. Cohen's father, I. Cohen, operated a department store at Sixth and Market and wanted his son to enter the business, but Gabriel was steadfast in his love for journalism. Cohen saw an opportunity to take over The Jewish Post, a fledgling weekly published at Indianapolis by one Leonard Rothschild. Upon moving to Indianapolis, he converted The Chronicler-Spokesman into the Kentucky Edition of the Jewish Post. It still appears weekly as the Kentucky Edition of the Jewish Post and Opinion.

Cohen, a staunch advocate of a free press, in contrast to federation-owned newspapers, with his knack for accenting the controversial and ability to line up a strong stable of columnists, built the National Jewish Post into a feisty, outspoken journal. He merged it with Opinion and developed regional editions, much like the Kentucky Edition, for Indianapolis, St. Louis, Chicago

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*Kleinman was a brilliant young student who finished law school before the age of 21. He went to work for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad and was superintendent of mail transportation at the time of his retirement 49 years later, in 1967. He remained active in the YMHA and at Temple Brith Sholom, where he taught Sunday school and ran the library for many years. He wrote and took part in many serious and humorous productions for religious and other occasions, especially for Club 60, in which he was still active in the 1980s, and has been a volunteer for many other enterprises. Known for his wit, he also is a caustic critic of mismanagement of public affairs. He received the Elsie P. Judah Award in 1980 for service to the aged.

Kleinman was married to Blumie Krentzman, who also deserves a place in Louisville chronicles. She was an early president of Hadassah, also active in the YMHA, and served as the informed consultant on many fund drives, including the YMHA, United Jewish Campaign, and Jewish Hospital. She died in 1974.

and elsewhere. He has attracted an influential and loyal readership with a national circulation of some 15,000.

The Kentucky edition has had its ups and downs, depending on business conditions and the ability of its editor. It has a fiercely independent editorial policy but has suffered from turnover in personnel.

From 1946 on, the Conference of Jewish Organizations arranged for every donor to the United Jewish Campaign to receive the Jewish Post's Kentucky edition. In return for this blanket-subscription purchase The Post promised to devote its front page to the UJC during campaign season and to carry other material which the Conference (later the Jewish Community Federation) considered important. The rising cost of subscriptions, some differences of policy, and the difficulty of communicating with The Post's management in Indianapolis brought an end to this arrangement in 1973. There had been frequent discussions as to whether the Jewish Post was serving its intended purpose and it was only after considerable deliberation that the Federation decided to publish its own newspaper.

Thus was born Community, which has appeared biweekly since 1973. Alice P.L. Schwartz, wife of a Louisville Times reporter, Beryl Schwartz, was the first editor. She resigned when Schwartz was transferred to Washington.

The Federation determined from the start to make Community a house organ as well as a journal of record for the entire Jewish community of Louisville. Its current circulation is more than 4,000. For a long time it carried no advertising, but rising costs dictated a change in policy in the fall of 1979.

The decision to accept advertising brought a shrill outcry from Gabriel Cohen, who complained that Federation competition would kill the Kentucky Jewish Post and lead to the death of a free press. Nearly a year later, his complaint has proved unfounded. The Kentucky Jewish Post, under aggressive editorship of Lois Katz, continues to thrive, although with reduced circulation. For the most part, different types of advertisers seek out The Post and Community.

In 1952, I launched an experiment in Jewish journalism, publishing Jewish Events every two weeks. It was an accordian folder written in news-digest style and illustrated. The editor, as publicity chairman for the United Jewish Campaign, was aware of the differences between the Conference and The Jewish Post, and hoped to find a substitute which could serve as the Conference's house organ. It failed to accomplish that objective, but a loyal readership enabled it to survive two years without advertising. Rising costs and pressures upon the editor's time led me to turn its mailing permit over to Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith, which has published its lodge news as Jewish Events-B'nai B'rith Briefs 20 times a year ever since.

Even before the coming of Jewish Events, there were a number of house organs, some of which appear regularly, others sporadically. Every congregation publishes its own bulletin, sometimes augmented with weekly postcards. Hadassah publishes Highlights, the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section publishes a regular bulletin, and Jewish Hospital in 1975

established a quarterly journal. Dr. Israel T. Naamani produced a Bureau of Jewish Education monthly newsletter, and in 1979 the Bureau's Naamani Library began issuing a library bulletin. Club 60 and Kedem Club at the Jewish Community Center turn out mimeographed monthly newsletters for their members.

The demise of The Chronicler left the YMHA without a house organ, and during the mid-1930s it began publishing a monthly leaflet-sized YMHA News. When the YMHA became the Jewish Community Center in 1955, the publication was enlarged as the Center Bulletin, with me as its editor.

With the birth of Community in 1973, the Center began utilizing the middle pages as Centerpiece. These four pages, sometimes more, form a regular part of Community. The Center in 1980 signed up Connie Handmaker as its first communications director and began issuing Update between Centerpiece appearances.

Jewish participation in general journalism has always been great.

In 1935 a weekly newspaper for the South Central section of Louisville was established, with about 5,000 circulation. Called The Louisville Resident, it had a three-person editorial board, two of whom were Mildred Shapinsky and Leon G. Schlossberg. The venture was short-lived. Schlossberg became manager of radio station WGRC and later left Louisville.

Mildred Shapinsky married my brother, Joseph Landau. He spent four decades on the staffs of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times. For a long time he headed The Courier-Journal's copy desk and later was editor of its Sunday magazine. During World War II and until 1946 he edited the European edition of Stars and Stripes in Pfungstadt, Germany. He also taught political science at University of Louisville and wrote many articles and book reviews. His activities included talking on Judaism at various churches. He died in 1976.

I entered the newspaper business in 1928 and retired half a century later while makeup editor of The Louisville Times. Since retirement I became chairman of the Jewish Community Federation's Publications Committee and a member of its board and served on steering committees for Jewish Heritage Weekends and Jewish Hospital's 75th anniversary year.* Involvement with Jewish community life began with becoming a charter member of Louisville AZA. This led to editing YMHA publications and B'nai B'rith Briefs and at times, even The Jewish Post, and then came election to the YMHA board of directors. In 1960 JWB Associates named me the Jewish

*My newspaper experience covered 25 years in various capacities on The Courier-Journal before moving to The Louisville Times. In other fields, I served on the boards of the Bureau of Jewish Education and Louisville Hebrew School, on the Conference of Religion and Race's publicity committee, and currently represent the Federation on Ecumedia of the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community. Other activities are membership on the governing council of the American Association for Jewish Education and former membership on the Ohio-Kentucky regional ADL board.

Community Center's volunteer of the year. Aaron Schreiber, the Center's executive director, wrote in a 1957 Center Bulletin that "the amount of work Herman Landau has done for the Center is tremendous," that the Center "and a thousand and one others are always calling on him for professional consultation" and that "if you've ever heard the phone ring at his home, you'd think he runs a public information bureau."

A company rule in 1972 concerning possible conflict of interest forced resignation as publicity chairman for the Federation and United Jewish Campaign. This also ended 27 years on the Center's board. Two years later Clarence F. Judah wrote in *Unity In Community* that "Mr. Landau had rendered competent and sacrificial service to the Conference (of Jewish Organizations) and to this writer for more than 25 years ... The Federation's new staff, as was this writer, must be grateful for his ready assistance and advice (including this very manuscript*). He certainly must be recorded as one who served 'beyond the call of duty.'"

At the request of Dr. Gerald Temes, general chairman, I turned out eight issues of Campaign Update, a sprightly information bulletin for workers in the 1980 United Jewish Campaign, as well as several editions of Behr Facts, named for Women's Chairman Carole Behr, for the UJC Women's Division.

Lewis Conn founded The Jefferson Reporter, a weekly based in Buechel and serving the eastern end of the county. After building it up successfully he sold it to Landmark Publications and Scripps-Howard Newspapers later acquired it. Conn then started the Kentucky Business Ledger, a monthly tabloid devoted to commercial and financial news, and in mid-1980 it seemed to be enjoying a healthy existence. Conn's son, Peter Conn, once editor of The Jefferson Reporter, was State Commissioner of Human Resources during the administration of Gov. Julian Carroll from 1975 to 1979.

Another Jewish-owned publishing venture still thriving in 1980 is Louisville Today, a slick monthly launched in 1976 by John Yarmuth and owned by Sadose Corporation (which stands for sons and daughters of Stanley and Edna Yarmuth).** Its 1980 circulation was 15,500. Yarmuth also was publishing another monthly called City Paper, devoted to local features.

Two Louisville greats in the field of journalism were Arthur Krock and Isaac F. Marcosson.

Krock (1884-1976) was a Washington columnist for The New York Times who knew and reported on every President from William Howard Taft to Lyndon Johnson. Born in Glasgow, Ky., he first went to Washington in 1909 for The Louisville Times and The Courier-Journal, and in 1915 became edi-

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**Unity In Community.*

***Stanley Yarmuth, father of John, married Edna Klein, daughter of banker Samuel Klein, and put together a conglomerate known as National Industries. He unsuccessfully tried to acquire control of Churchill Downs through stock purchases. Though it could not be proved, the prevalent rumor was that Yarmuth lost out because he was Jewish.

torial director of both papers, serving as editor in chief of The Times from 1919 to 1923. His 1918-19 articles on the Versailles Peace Conference were widely syndicated and he played an important role in persuading the conference to hold meetings in public. In 1927 Krock went to The New York Times, first as member of its board of editors, from 1932 to 1953 as its Washington correspondent and from 1953 until 1967 as a Washington commentator. He won several Pulitzer prizes and was the author of several books, both autobiographical and dealing with the political scene.

Marcosson (1877-1961) was on The Louisville Times staff from 1894 to 1913, then joined World's Work and the Saturday Evening Post. It was with the latter that he gained national prominence as a political writer. He too wrote several books dealing with politics and international affairs.

Louisville's daily newspapers always had a good sprinkling of Jews on their staffs. Emanuel Levi, a law partner of Judge Robert W. Bingham, became general manager of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times when Bingham bought the newspapers. He left in 1933 to become publisher of the Hearst newspaper in Chicago. Advertising and business staffs likewise employed many Jews. In fact, in his nearly half a century on The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times, this writer never encountered any anti-Semitism on the part of management or executives.

For a long time Harry Bloom was the erudite editor of the Evening Post until it was merged with The Louisville Herald in 1925, after which he joined The Louisville Times.*

In the late 1920s and early 1930s Samuel E. Hyman was a beehive of activity on the Herald-Post staff, serving as drama critic, movie critic, book review editor, and overseeing the entire cultural input of the newspaper. He later published the weekly Highlands Herald.

For many years Albert Y. Aronson was the crusty managing editor of The Louisville Times. He was succeeded by Norman Isaacs, who came from the Indianapolis Times. During his Indianapolis days Isaacs was identified with the Jewish community, but ignored Jewish contacts in his later years. He became executive editor of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times, but left to become associated with Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

One of Louisville's most beloved newspapermen was Sol Schulman, who died in 1980 at the age of 74, ten years after his retirement. He had spent 42 years on The Courier-Journal staff and was its business editor. He had been a traveling salesman and while on the newspaper staff studied law. He engaged in private law practice for a time and once published a weekly newspaper, The Pleasureville News, in Henry County, while still working on The Courier-Journal.

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*His wife, Leah Bloom, who survived him by many years, was a piano teacher of some local renown.

Benjamin S. Washer, who became one of the city's most prominent attorneys, landed a reporter's job on The Louisville Herald in 1902 while still a law student. He moved up to rewrite man, city editor and managing editor in rapid succession, but resigned in 1909 to practice law.

Over the years the Fourth Estate has continued to attract Jewish youngsters, some of them native Louisvillians and others from distant cities who find Louisville offers a desirable professional challenge and a pleasant place to live.

Radio and Television

Like print journalism, radio from its very infancy attracted Jewish journalists and performers, although no Jewish ownership. The same applies to television.

Louisville has produced no outstanding performers in this field, although the city proved a stepping stone for William Small, now head of NBC News. Small came to WHAS in the 1950s, became news director, then went to CBS. In 1974 he was made second in command of CBS News as senior vice-president, and later became CBS' top representative in Washington. He left about a year later to join NBC when Fred Silverman began overhauling that network. Small was national president of the Society of Professional Journalists-Sigma Delta Chi in 1974-75 and has written several books.

Milton Metz, who came to WHAS from Cleveland and married Miriam Saltzman, daughter of Rabbi Joseph Saltzman, has had an outstanding career as announcer and talk-show host. Another television personality who has built up a large following is Ken Rowland, longtime news anchor man for WLKY-TV.

From time to time there have been Jewish newsmen with the local stations, although none has remained here. Among disc jockeys, where there also is a large turnover, Louisvillian Joel Sonnheim has performed for more than a decade under the name of Dave Adler before becoming production manager for WAVE in 1980.

Another recent recruit to the air waves is Ted Fleischaker, who gave up his position as editor of Community when the University of Louisville opened WUOL-FM, to become the good-music station's operations manager.

Chapter 25

THE PROFESSIONS

I. LAW AND POLITICS

Law, politics and public service have attracted Jews since the city's earliest days. As far back as 1840 one early settler, John I. Jacob, served on the City Council.

There have been many distinguished attorneys, such as Lewis Dembitz, the brothers Alfred and Joseph Selligman, and Bernard Barnett. D.A. Sachs was an authority on bankruptcy law and William S. Heidenberg made a name in criminal law. Still other lawyers have been mentioned earlier in connection with their other civic interests.

Heading any list of distinguished Louisvillians is Louis D. Brandeis. He was born in Louisville November 13, 1856, the son of Adolph and Frederika Dembitz Brandeis, who had come to Louisville five years earlier. Their home has been described as "a center of the cultural life of the city."

Brandeis was named for an uncle, Lewis M. Dembitz (1833-1907), a Louisville lawyer who became a legend in his own time. Dembitz, a native of Prussia, came to this country at the age of 16, studied law in Cincinnati, and lived in Madison, Ind., where he engaged in the newspaper business. Later he took up the practice of law in Louisville.*

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*Dembitz, a man of great learning, became known widely as "the Jewish scholar of the South." Dembitz wrote an Americanized prayer book called *Jewish Services in the Synagogue and Home* and for many years his monograph on early Jews in Kentucky was the only historical record of Jewish life here. In 1889 he wrote *Kentucky Jurisprudence* and later, other law books. As a delegate to the 1860 Republican convention he made a speech nominating Abraham Lincoln for President. Until 1894 he remained a staunch Republican, but split with the party over free trade and joined the Democrats. He was described as "a living university" and made languages his hobby. He knew 12 languages, with Hebrew and Arabic as his favorites. His law colleagues "generally conceded that he was the most astute among the colleagues of his day," according to a contemporary chronicler. He drafted the first closed-ballot law, was a contributing editor to the Jewish Encyclopedia, and was a stand-in rabbi. His public service included four years as city attorney for tax cases and after the Civil War he was a member of a committee which organized the Louisville Library Association.

Dembitz had a reputation for being absent-minded. One of the apocryphal stories about him tells of the reminders he used to write to himself. One night he wrote, "Trousers on chair, shoes on floor, Dembitz in bed." Once he is said to have met his son in court with this greeting: "Hello, young man, how's your father?" Still another tale has it that when he saw the sign on his office door saying "Back at 12:45 he waited 15 minutes for himself!

Brandeis' parents and Dembitz sympathized strongly with the abolitionist cause and imbued him with humanitarian ideals. Brandeis received little formal Jewish training. At age 20 he was graduated from Harvard Law School with the highest honors in its history. He practiced law afterward in Boston, becoming known as "the people's attorney." In 1914 he wrote *Other People's Money,* which influenced President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 to nominate him to the Supreme Court. Brandeis was confirmed as the nation's first Jewish justice to sit on that court, but not without a strong fight in the Senate.* His interest in Jewish affairs was stirred in 1910 when he was called in as a mediator in a strike involving Jewish garment workers. Shortly afterward he turned his attention to Zionism and served as chairman of the Provisional Committee for General Zionist Affairs from 1914 to 1918.

Brandeis was the most outstanding American leader of Zionism at the time of World War I, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise said of his leadership: "... what enriching years they were and how inspiring to his colleagues. He was our leader in the most critical years of American Jewish history ... I can affirm ... that since the days of Herzl, Brandeis was indisputably and incomparably our greatest Jew. I think not of his gift as an economist, or even his genius as a statesman, least of all his boundless personal generosity. Rather do I think of the spirit he brought to our cause that I can best describe by using the Hebrew noun Kedusha — holiness."

Brandeis helped win U.S. approval for the Balfour Declaration and founded the Palestine Economic Corporation, but split with Chaim Weizmann in 1921 over methods of developing Palestine. Nevertheless he remained an ardent Zionist until his death in 1941. His decisions had a profound influence on American law, and Brandeis University was named in his honor when it was founded in 1948.

Brandeis developed an active interest in the University of Louisville library and School of Law in 1924 and presented the school with collections on sociology, economics, fine arts, and World War. He gave U of L money to bind and catalogue pamphlets and other works. The ashes of Brandeis are buried at the U of L law school.

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*"There is no more sordid chapter in the history of bigotry in the American bar than the lynching party organized by the leaders of the profession against the elevation of Louis Brandeis to the Supreme Court in 1916. The Brandeis case is historically important in any study of the birth of decency and equal opportunity in the profession of law because it was the most conspicuous, although far from the last, rear-guard action of the elitist bar to keep 'foreigners' off its sacred turf. It is ironical that the saintly Brandeis was attacked not in his professional attainments — which were virtually conceded — but in his character, by the hired hacks of an industrial and commercial system just beginning to emerge from its most predatory and anti-social period." — *The Witness Who Spoke With God and Other Tales From the Courthouse* by Milton S. Gould, senior partner in the New York firm of Shea and Gould (Viking Press, New York, 1979).

An early-day politician was Aaron Kohn, who was born here in 1854. In four years as prosecuting attorney for Jefferson County he handled 98 cases, obtaining 93 convictions. From 1860 on he served three terms as alderman and in 1894 was a member of the City's Board of Public Works.

Lafayette Joseph was attorney for the Louisville school board, City prosecuting attorney, an 1879 member of the City Council, and in 1880 was president of the Council's lower board. About this same time Louis Barkhouse, a distiller, served seven years as a member of the Louisville school board. Somewhat later, Alfred Selligman was a special judge in Circuit Court.

One of the outstanding lawyers at the turn of the century was Norton L. Goldsmith. He attended University of Louisville and shared offices with Benjamin S. Washer. At the time of his death in 1911 it was reported that "during his entire practice he had never lost a criminal case." Washer, also a prominent attorney, had been a reporter while studying law and quickly rose to be managing editor of The Louisville Herald. Washer served as president of the YMHA and headed its campaign that resulted in building at Second and Jacob.

Lawrence Grauman is believed to have been the first elected Jewish judge of Jefferson Circuit Court. Julius Leibson later was elected a judge and after his retirement, his nephew, Charles M. Leibson, made a successful race for the office. In July 1980, Charles M. Leibson received the Outstanding State Trial Judge Award from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Earlier in the year, during his fourth year on the bench, he was named by the Louisville Bar Association as judge of the year.

Samuel Steinfeld was the first Jewish judge elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals. During his term of office he served as chief justice on a rotation basis. He earned a reputation as Louisville's outstanding zoning lawyer and in 1972 was named Kentucky's outstanding jurist by the Louisville Bar Association. He is a past president of the Jewish Community Center.

In 1919 Benjamin A. Roth was elected as a Republican member of the Kentucky House of Representatives. He had studied law but was not a practicing attorney. A cousin, Louis M. Roth, was a City Councilman in the 1920s.

A lawyer-politician was Lawrence Leopold, who headed the Democratic organization during the 1920s.*

Joseph G. Sachs sponsored a bill which resulted in creation of the State Fish and Game Commission. An attorney of note, he died in 1921 at the age of 60.

Another attorney of note was Samuel S. Blitz, who served as president of the old City Council. He died in 1943.

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*His son, Bob, killed on the U.S.S. Arizona at Pearl Harbor, was Louisville's first casualty of World War II. His daughter, Helen, was women's editor of The Louisville Times.

A number of Jewish candidates took part in the 1931 August primary, which a local commentator called "the most heated campaign in recent Louisville political history." Three thousand Jewish votes were expected. Charles Ryan and Hubbard Petty were bitter enemies and opponents for the office of sheriff in 1930. Petty won that race and the two united against a common antagonist, William B. Harrison's faction. The city was predominantly Republican and the winner of the primary was virtually assured victory in November.

On the Petty-Ryan slate, Phil Fleischman sought to become candidate for 54th District State Representative, Leonard Perrin tried for the 51st District nomination, and Tony Levitan ran for 10th Ward alderman. On the Harrison slate, incumbent Herman Handmaker won nomination for the 54th District House seat and I.L. Shulhafer won nomination for Fifth Ward Alderman. Independent Maurice B. LeJeune unsuccessfully sought to become Sixth Ward Alderman.

Handmaker's distinguished career closed when he died of a heart attack in January 1964, while president of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. A Herman G. Handmaker Memorial Lecture was set up at the University of Louisville Law School.* The Conference established a human rights memorial library in his honor at the University of Louisville.

Other distinguished lawyers in the Handmaker family were Herman's brother Sidney, who died at an early age in 1934 while part-time secretary of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, and Sidney's son Stuart, who became president of the Jewish Community Federation of Louisville.

Known as the "lawyers' lawyer" was Lawrence Grauman, for many years a judge of Jefferson Circuit Court. Born in 1897, he was graduated from Jefferson School of Law in 1916. He was elected City prosecuting attorney in

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*Dean Harold G. Wren wrote: "This series of lectures honors a distinguished Louisvillian and a great cause to which he was devoted. Herman G. Handmaker, an alumnus of the 1924 class of the School of Law of the University of Louisville, served his community well as a lawyer, as an assistant county, and as a state legislator. But the outstanding successes he attained as a lawyer never diminished his interest in and generosity to the unfortunate. His great interest and dedication, outside of his law practice, was in the field of human relations."

At the time of his death Handmaker also was chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Division of the Louisville Human Relations Commission. He was a longtime member of the YMHA board. He had served on the Citizens Lay Advisory Board of Bellarmine College, co-chairman of Louisville Associates of Brandeis University, a member of the executive committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, president of the Jewish Social Service Agency, and vice-president of Four Courts. DeMolay awarded him its Legion of Honor in 1924 and President Harry Truman gave him a citation in 1946 for his service on the President's Citizens Food Committee. Brandeis University made him one of its fellows. One of Handmaker's causes was the cause of Nora Samuelli, referred to on another page.

1927 but subsequently lost to Clarke Otte in a hot race for Commonwealth's Attorney. Grauman was looked up to by his colleagues on the bench as the man who knew the law better than anyone else. For a long time he taught Sunday school at Temple Adath Israel, of which he was a trustee. He also was a member of the board of the Jewish Welfare Federation and active in Masonic, Scottish Rite, and Kosair lodges.

Louis Brownstein won the annual oratorical contest in the senior division at Jefferson School of Law in May 1931. Brownstein had won the junior division prize the previous year. The 1931 junior division winner was H. Solomon Horen, who a few years later served a term in the State House of Representatives. He ran again in 1936 but was defeated by Leon Shaikun. Horen in 1957 became the first Jewish president of the Kentucky Association of Trial Attorneys.

Shaikun, a Democrat, later moved up from the House to the State Senate. When elected he lived at First and Brandeis, and his district encompassed a sizeable Jewish population. With the shift of population, he moved to St. Matthews but kept a "voting address' in his old neighborhood. His tenure was challenged, but a court ruling enabled him to keep his Senate post. In his several terms in the General Assembly he became a powerful figure, especially in the field of liquor legislation. After leaving the Senate, he served as lobbyist for liquor and beer interests, with such great influence that as recently as the mid-1970s the vice-president of a large corporation told me he was astounded to learn that "Leon Shaikun was the man you had to see to get a beer license in Louisville."

Carl Schneider served in the State House of Representatives in the late 1930s.*

H.A.I. Rosenberg earned a reputation as a maverick but ran as an independent candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1950. He sold Bibles to finance his campaign.

Samuel M. Rosenstein was admitted to the bar in 1931, was elected secretary of the Kentucky State Bar Association in 1934 and reelected 18 times. He was made a lifetime honorary member by the association in July 1950. Rosenstein was appointed a judge of the U.S. Customs Court in New York until his retirement. Now a senior judge, he sits on call from the Supreme Court.

From 1947 to 1972, Leon Seidman served as general counsel and a board member of Goodwill Industries.

*His daughter is Naomi (Mrs. Boris) Pressma.

Ben F. Washer served as president of the YMHA* from 1901 to 1905 and for the remainder of his life was a consistent contributor to it. He left one-third of his residual estate to the Jewish Community Center, which received more than $200,000, the largest bequest ever made to a Jewish organization here.

Long associated in law practice with Judge Washer was Joseph J. Kaplan, whose civic activities brought recognition from the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1977 and Bonds for Israel in 1980.**

Samuel Steinfeld won a reputation as Louisville's outstanding zoning lawyer and later was elected the first Jewish justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, of which he later became chief justice. In 1972 he was named Kentucky's outstanding jurist by the Louisville Bar Association. Steinfeld is a former president of the Jewish Community Center.

Two young attorneys recognized as outstanding persons in 1978 by the Kentucky Junior Chamber of Commerce are Alan J. Farber and Jerry Abramson. A year afterward, Farber, 35, was named one of ten "Outstanding Young Men in America" by the U.S. Jaycees.

Farber, who lives in an electrically powered wheelchair of his own design, was an assistant Commonwealth's attorney. In June 1980 Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. appointed him a District Court judge for Jefferson County. He won election to the judgeship in November 1980.

An ardent AZA worker, he was driving to a regional meeting between his second and third years at University of Louisville Law School in 1966 when an automobile accident snapped his spinal cord and took away the use of his arms and legs. Surgery in 1975 restored partial use of his right hand.

Despite his handicap, Farber finished law school, did a year of postgraduate work at University of Chicago Law School, and spent five years as a law professor at Catholic University in Washington before returning to Louisville.

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*It was during Washer's term of office that the YMHA pioneered in launching physical education classes for girls and women. When the YMHA moved to Dutchmans Lane he provided playground and field equipment for the new Center. He purchased a plot at Fifth and Kentucky which he intended giving to the YMHA when it planned to build at Fourth and Kentucky prior to deciding on the Dutchmans Lane site. The Kentucky Street property was given to the City of Louisville, which maintains it as the Ben F. Washer Park. One of the final honors paid to Washer — whom everyone knew as Judge Washer — was being made honorary chairman of the United Jewish Campaign in 1964, just a few days before his death at the age of 90.

**Kaplan has served as a member of the Library and Probate Committee of the Louisville Bar Association and has represented Louisville on the National Jewish Welfare Board. He was a co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews chapter and served as president of the Jewish Vocational Service, Louisville Hebrew School, Jewish Community Center, University of Louisville Law Alumni Foundation, and the Jewish Community Federation. He is a former member of the SS. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital board, a former member of the executive committee of the Louisville Bar Association, and a past lay advisor for Ursuline College.

Farber once was a ventriloquist and magician for the USO. His mishap made him an activist on behalf of the rights of the handicapped. He once boycotted performances at Memorial Auditorium despite his love for the arts because it had no wheelchair ramp. A ramp has since been installed. In 1979, he was given the Mizrachi Women's Humanitarian Award. He was a founding member of Hillel at the University of Louisville and its first president and has served on the board of the Louisville Jewish Day School.

Jerry Abramson served on the Board of Aldermen during the administration of Dr. Harvey I. Sloane as Mayor, but chose not to run again despite his popularity in Democratic circles. He was 1979-80 president of Louisville Lodge of B'nai B'rith. In a speech to the Jewish Affairs Luncheon Club (sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education) in fall of 1979, he discussed Jews in politics. He said Jews have not been greatly involved as political office-holders or political appointees; Jews have always supported leftist and liberal causes, and Jews have never organized for solely political purposes except when they perceived a danger to Jews outside the U.S.

Shortly after Brown's election as Governor in 1979, he appointed Abramson as his general counsel. Abramson took a leave as partner in Greenebaum Doll & McDonald to accept the position.

For a time in late 1979, there appeared the prospect that Louisville might get its first Jewish mayor, with Abramson running as a Democrat and attorney John S. Greenebaum as the Republican candidate. Greenebaum's sister, Jane Greenebaum Eskind, ran as Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator in Tennessee in 1978 but was defeated by the Republican incumbent, Senator Howard Baker. Greenebaum's father, Samuel L. Greenebaum, was a prominent lawyer and civic leader, and his mother, Doni Greenebaum*, once was president of the Louisville League of Women Voters. John Greenebaum never before sought elective office but did serve on the Louisville Water Company board by appointment of Mayor Sloane. At any rate, other politicians became interested in making the race, and by mid-1980 less talk was heard about the possibility of a Greenebaum-Abramson race.

First appointed to the Board of Aldermen to fill a vacancy, Allan Steinberg ran for a full two-year term in 1979 and won. For a time, between his appointment in July and the end of Abramson's term in December 1979, Louisville had two Jewish aldermen. Steinberg, a counselor and associate professor at Jefferson Community College, is an ardent preservationist and was founder and first president of the Louisville Historical League. The Louisville Jaycees gave him their "Outstanding Young Man" award in 1971. He has been on the boards of the Louisville Mental Health Association, the Louisville and Jefferson County Heritage Corporation, the Louisville Urban League and the Jewish Vocational Service.

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*She was a daughter of Alfred Selligman.

Dr. Joel Goldstein, a University of Louisville political science professor at University of Louisville, made an unsuccessful race for alderman in 1979. He has been active in Republican Party circles.

A number of Jews have sat on the bench in Police Court, either by election or appointment. Among them have been Hugo Taustine, a past president of the Conference of Jewish Organizations; Edwin I. Baer and Leon Eichenholz.

II. MEDICINE AND CIVIC LIFE

Madison Street runs right through Louisville's downtown Medical Center. The 200 and 300 blocks between Brook and Preston were once an almost exclusively Jewish domain.* Jewish Hospital bought and demolished the two-story, brick, two-family row houses on the south side of Madison between Brook and Floyd as the site for its new hospital, and bought land across the street on which it subsequently built a five-level garage.

In November 1978 the Board of Aldermen renamed those two blocks Abraham Flexner Way, honoring a distinguished member of a distinguished Louisville family.

Abraham Flexner (1866-1959) was born in Louisville, the son of Morris Flexner, an immigrant from Bohemia. He studied at Johns Hopkins University and after graduation in 1886 taught Latin and Greek at Louisville High School until 1890. Then he founded a unique college preparatory school which dispensed with rules, examinations, records, and reports. "He could have made his fortune in this forever," was the comment made years afterward by Mrs. Carolyn Weiland, librarian at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center. "There was no other school like this in Kentucky at the time. But he realized the need to further educate himself." So Flexner gave up his flourishing school in 1905 to earn an M.A. at Harvard University and an Ll.D. at Berlin University in Germany.

Flexner's review of higher education, *"The American College,"* published in 1908, attracted the attention of the Carnegie Foundation, which commissioned him to study medical schools in the United States. His 1910 report, *"Medical Education in the United States and Canada,"* a critical analysis of 154 medical schools, brought about fundamental changes in all aspects of medical education in the United States despite the fact that he was not a physician. He followed this with an analysis of European medical schools in 1910-11 and advanced still other educational ideas. His last major accomplishment was the founding, organizing, and direction (from 1930 to 1939) of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. (The institute's most distinguished member, of course, was Albert Einstein.)

*See Appendix.

Flexner is memorialized in a mosaic, 11 feet by 4½ feet, in the second floor Dean's Foyer of the University of Louisville Medical School. The work of Dr. Harold Berg, it was dedicated September 19, 1978. Besides a likeness of Flexner, the mosaic depicts medical scenes both before and after his revolutionary 1910 report.

The mosaic is but one of many made by Dr. Berg over the last two decades. Jewish Hospital has two — one in the operating room suite and one at the Abraham Flexner Way entrance. But more about Dr. Berg's hobby later.

Simon Flexner (1863-1946), was the oldest of five Flexner brothers, who besides Abraham were Bernard, Washington, and J.A. Flexner.* Simon became a physician and was director of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research from 1903 to 1935. On August 19, 1911 he was awarded the Cameron Prize in practical therapeutics, having discovered a serum for checking the death rate from cerebro-spinal meningitis. He is credited with authorship of 350 scientific papers.

Jacob A. Flexner became a physician in Louisville. He was a family doctor and paid many a house call with no compensation other than a glass of hot tea. He was remembered as a kindly gentleman who served as physician, adviser, social worker, and psychiatrist to the families he tended.**

Long before there was a Jewish Hospital, Dr. I.N. Bloom was one of Louisville's leading civic lights. He was born in Louisville in 1858. At the age of 30 he was elected a school trustee, serving until 1892 and returning to that office from 1908 to 1910. During his second term he was president of the

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*Bernard Flexner (1865-1945) became an outstanding Zionist leader. He practiced law in Kentucky for a time after receiving his degree from University of Louisville but moved to Chicago in 1911 and to New York eight years later. He was much concerned with social welfare and labor problems. He was chairman of the Juvenile Court Board in Louisville and organized the first Juvenile Court in Chicago. He was a member of an American Red Cross mission to Romania in 1917. Taking an active interest in Zionism, he became counsel to the Zionist delegation at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. When the Palestine Economic Corporation was founded in 1925 he became its first president and later chairman of the board, a post he held until 1944.

Washington Flexner (1896-1942) organized the Lincoln Printing Company in Chicago in 1915. The firm became the largest financial printing company in the United States.

**Two of his children were Morris Flexner (1890-1969) and Jennie Maas Flexner (1882-1944). Morris Flexner studied medicine and became one of Louisville's most outstanding diagnosticians. He joined Douglass Boulevard Christian Church, where he was referred to as "our Jewish parishioner." Morris Flexner's son, Dr. John Flexner, joined the staff of Vanderbilt University's medical school. Jennie Flexner headed the reference department of Louisville Free Public Library. She later became reader's adviser for the New York Public Library. She was considered a pioneer in modern American librarianship and wrote several books on her profession.

Louisville Board of Education in 1908 and 1909. In 1910 he again was elected president, holding that office through 1912 and serving on the board until 1914. He also served two terms as president of the YMHA. An elementary school was named for him.

Another busy physician was Dr. F.S. Solinger. He came to Louisville as rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, from 1888 to 1891. He went to Pittsburgh and after obtaining a medical degree there returned to be rabbi at Adath Jeshurun (originally Beth Israel) while continuing to practice medicine. He later moved to Chicago.

Dr. Joseph Frehling, a native of Louisville who became an outstanding surgeon, devoted heart and soul to the YMHA, becoming its president. He and other civic leaders such as Charles W. Morris fought bravely to keep the YMHA from foundering during the great depression of the 1930s.

Dr. Harold Berg is another activist. Besides making mosaics, he has been on the board of the Jewish Community Center and has headed many Center activities and other civic functions. His Holocaust memorial mosaic is in the Center's auditorium. He has presented mosaics to every congregation, to churches, Norton-Children's Hospitals, Red Cross Hospital, and community centers. Dr. Berg does a lot of research once he has arrived at a concept for a mosaic, then collaborates with artist Joe Rigsby of Murray State University on a working drawing. "Most of the work is done before you put the first mosaic piece in place," Dr. Berg said of his art, which uses pieces from Italy, Mexico, and other places. The hardest part of his task, he says, is finding the exact color of glass fragments needed. Berg's mosaics have attracted nationwide recognition.

Dr. Eli Goodman calls himself a "plain country doctor" and bases his practice in Charlestown, Ind. but is very much a part of Louisville's Jewish community. In 1977-78 he was the first Jewish physician to become president of the Indiana State Medical Association. There is hardly a civic endeavor in his area that does not find Dr. Goodman actively participating. He was a leading organizer and fund-raiser for the North Clark Community Hospital, serving an area which had lacked hospital facilities. He is a member of Jewish Hospital's medical staff and a board member of the American Physicians Fellowship, an organization of 8,500 physicians whose goal is to help Israel become a major world medical center. To fight anti-Semitic slurs he founded The Leader, a weekly newspaper for north Clark County (Indiana), with Margaret Goodman, his wife, as publisher. Mrs. Goodman died in October 1980. Through his shop he has subsidized B'nai B'rith Briefs and assisted with publication of Community. He also finds time to support the United Jewish Campaign, Bonds for Israel, B'nai B'rith, and other services.

Other active physicians include Dr. Abraham Rosenstein, who was president of Louisville Hebrew School; Dr. Philip Greiver, who headed the Louisville Jewish Day School, and Dr. Gerald Temes, who was general chairman of the 1980 United Jewish Campaign. The first physician to head the UJC was Dr. Irvin S. Rosenbaum in 1963.

There have been public-spirited dentists too. Dr. J. Irwin Essig was one of the early presidents of the Bureau of Jewish Education. He conducted High Holyday services at Adath Jeshurun when separate services were held in the 1930s and took part in many YMHA activities. Dr. Isadore Goldstein also was a Bureau president and his brother, Dr. Meyer Goldstein, has given a great deal of time to Four Courts. Dr. Ivan Marks served as president of Keneseth Israel.

III. PHARMACY

The large, stately gingko tree stands on the southwest corner of First and Chestnut Streets. Behind it once stood a two-story, columned building that housed the Louisville College of Pharmacy.

Sometime in the 1950s the college found it impossible to survive as an independent school. Overtures were made to the University of Louisville but it wasn't interested. The college fell into the hands of the University of Kentucky, which moved it to Lexington.

The presence of the College of Pharmacy explains a phenomenon that strikes many newcomers to Louisville — the large number of Jewish pharmacists.

Between the two world wars, it was easy on a family's budget to send a son to pharmacy school. He could live cheaply at home and work part-time in one of the many neighborhood drugstores. Thus a great many Jewish boys gravitated into pharmacy, setting up their own businesses on getting a few years' experience after graduation.

The presence of many Jewish pharmacists led to formation of a strong chapter of Alpha Zeta Omega, the Jewish pharmacy fraternity. It and its companion women's auxiliary were highly active in many civic and philanthropic endeavors. Both carried on a busy social program.

Today, with fewer and fewer pharmacists, the chapter remains, although its activity is a mere shadow of its former self.

AZO in 1946 held its national convention here and elected Maher Passamaneck as its supreme directorium, the equivalent of president. At the same convention, AZO presented $500 to Hadassah and pledged to provide $15,000 toward construction of a pharmacy building in Jerusalem.

Maher Passamaneck's brother, Sidney Passamaneck, also was active in AZO. For a long time he operated Model Drug Store at the corner of Bardstown Road and Eastern Parkway. Another active member was Zach Oppenheimer, who once was president of Temple Brith Sholom.

Chapter 26

PEOPLE

We have examined the organizations that make up our community, but a city, of course, is more than organizations. It is people. Many besides those already mentioned have played a role in Louisville's life. Space prevents a complete listing but there are enough examples to show the breadth of Jewish activities.

Unique among Jewish communities is Louisville's attitude toward its professional workers. It takes them into its bosom and the result is an impressive record of tenure. In the field of social work there have been Alexander W. Erlen, who came to the Jewish Welfare Federation in 1938 and retired 40 years later from an agency much broadened in scope; David Dobson, who headed the Jewish Vocational Service 31 years, and Aaron Schreiber, who spent 27 years as executive director of the YMHA and Jewish Community Center. Although a native of Louisville and therefore more inclined to remain here, Clarence F. Judah found the post of executive director of the Conference of Jewish Organizations so challenging that he held the post 34 years.

On the religious scene, Rabbi J.J. Gittleman was at Adath Jeshurun 48 years, Dr. Joseph Rauch guided Adath Israel 45 years, Dr. Ignatius Mueller was at Brith Sholom 30 years, and Rabbi A.L. Zarchy was citywide Orthodox rabbi 29 years. Still active are Rabbi Solomon Roodman, in his 33rd year at Anshei Sfard; Dr. Herbert Waller, who became rabbi emeritus in 1980 after 32 years in the pulpit of Adath Israel and The Temple, and Rabbi Chester Diamond of The Temple, now in his 18th year. In education, Rabbi Joseph Saltzman was teacher and principal of Louisville Hebrew School for a total of 42 years.

The Zarchy Era

The golden age of Louisville's shtetl spanned the three decades during which Rabbi Zarchy reigned as the community's Orthodox leader. Rabbi Zarchy, who died June 24, 1932 at the age of 69, held no pulpit, but he was "the rabbi" as far as the city's four Orthodox congregations were concerned. At the time of his death Keneseth Israel had its own rabbi but Rabbi Zarchy held the title of rabbi emeritus.

Rabbi Zarchy was of slight build, with a forked gray beard, and was every inch the scholar. His sermons were Yiddish discourses given at Shabbat afternoon services. He attended the congregations on a rotation basis. On holidays or special occasions he did deliver brief talks, but his main preoccupation was with study, preservation of kashrut and religious observance, and community welfare.

He was active in many spheres and rarely appeared in public without his "gabbai" (administrative assistant or major-domo) at his side. For years my

father, O.H. Landau, served in this capacity, with little or no remuneration. For that matter, even the rabbi's salary was far below what today is considered the poverty level.

Rabbi Zarchy came here from Des Moines in 1903 after holding a pulpit there 10 years. He was ordained in 1891 in Wolozin, Russia and became rabbi of a synagogue in Brooklyn. Perhaps his greatest monument is the Louisville Hebrew School, which he helped organize. Having no children of his own, he referred to its pupils as "my children" and he visited the school every other day. Even though it was in the midst of the Great Depression, more than $1,000 was pledged to the Hebrew School in his memory at his funeral.

Besides supervising the congregations, the Hebrew School, and other religious organizations, the rabbi was busy as counselor, arbiter of disputes, and fountainhead of religious information. One duty that took him away from home at intervals was supervising the kashrut of Crisco, made in Cincinnati, and one of the first mass-produced items in America to bear a kosher certification. He also provided a "mashgiach" (inspector) to supervise the milling of flour for matzos. O.H. Landau usually was entrusted with this task.

Rabbi Zarchy was active on the board of directors of the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

It would be an understatement to say that an aura of sadness prevailed when the community lost its longtime leader. The funeral was at Keneseth Israel and The Courier-Journal reported that all seats on the main floor and balcony were occupied, "aisles were almost filled and sidewalks were crowded." Police estimated the funeral procession was almost two miles long. The news account also said:

"Despite intermittent rain, pallbearers composed of rabbis and pious elders of the Jewish community carried Rabbi Zarchy in his coffin from his home ... to the synagogue. Several hundred persons walked behind them. The journey from the residence to the synagogue was marked by stops at the Louisville Hebrew School and at Anshei Sfard Synagogue ...

"The honor of being carried such a great distance by religious men is accorded only to the most righteous. En route by automobile from Keneseth Israel Synagogue to Keneseth Israel Cemetery, the procession was routed to pass Adath Jeshurun Synagogue and Agudath Achim Synagogue."*

*At the funeral Rabbi Ephraim Epstein of Chicago referred to Rabbi Zarchy as "the foundation" of the Louisville Hebrew School and as "the tongue of Louisville Jewry." Rabbis Eleazer Silver of Cincinnati and Samuel Katz of Indianapolis also delivered eulogies. Five cantors participated in the service — Abraham Partnov of Indianapolis, M.I. Seligman, Isadore Schlossberg, Nathan Klein and Ralph Persky.

Many public gatherings were called off or postponed as a result of the rabbi's death and he was buried in the only mauseoleum permitted at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.*

Rabbi Zarchy's passing marked the end of an era. In its wake came the dissolution of the shtetl and the fragmentation of the Orthodox Jewish community.

Business Life

Among the professions which have attracted Jews are accounting, social work and teaching. Some persons in these fields have been mentioned earlier, but many others also have contributed to community life.

The first Jewish settlers having been peddlers, it was natural for them to move into the business life of the city, beginning with Henry Hyman's tavern on Market Street in 1816.

One of the oldest continuously operated businesses in the city is Bensinger's, still in the hands of the founding family. Nathan Bensinger opened his furniture store near Second and Main in 1866, and the business is now being operated by Charles Nathan Bensinger Sr., the third generation, and Charles N. Bensinger Jr., the fourth generation. The store observed its 113th anniversary in October 1979, and it is believed that only Levy Bros. and Lemon & Son are older, Lemon's going back to 1828 and Levy's (which was sold in 1979) dating back to 1861. Charles N. Bensinger Jr. was a board member of Temple Adath Israel, both before and after its merger with Brith Sholom, for six years.

Two brothers, Henry and Moses Levy, opened their men's clothing store in 1861 in a 30-foot-square room in a four-story building at Third and Market, ultimately expanding to occupy the entire building. That building was razed and in 1893 the existing towered, five-story building, designed by C.J. Clark and Arthur Loomis in Richardsonian-Romanesque style, was completed. In 1978 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, but the store itself closed at the end of 1979. The business now operates in suburban locations.

For several generations Levy's was the outfitter for the men and boys of Louisville, but in 1979, President Henry A. Levy, announcing sale of the firm to Farrar-McWill Inc., said "there just aren't any more Levys. We're the third generation and there's no one in the fourth generation who's interested." At the time, principal stockholders of the firm besides Henry were his cousins, Stuart and James H. Levy, and his sister, Mrs. Bernard Steiner of Birmingham, Ala. Henry's son, Richard, the firm's secretary-treasurer, left Louisville in 1979 to work for a New Jersey firm.

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*Mrs. Zarchy died June 12, 1944. Her family included a brother, Jacob Fishman, distinguished Yiddish writer who was editor of the Morning Journal in New York.

In a letter to The Courier-Journal, Frederick Levy Jr. of Santa Monica, Calif. took issue with Henry's statement. He wrote that "my father, Col. Fred Levy, was head of the business for almost 50 years and until his death, the business was on the upgrade." Frederick Jr. said he had "other interests since bringing the L.A. Rams to Los Angeles and did not have time to devote to the operation of Levy Bros." so he sold his stock but still retained "a small part of the property at Third and Market." He also said he has other interests in Louisville, such as the Speed Building at Fourth and Guthrie, and gets to Louisville "at least once a year," adding that "my heart has always remained in the city where I was born."

At any rate, Levy's, whose revenues were reportedly $6,000,000 a year, was one of the first of the large downtown stores to go into the suburbs, opening a store on Shelbyville Road in 1955, although that store was closed about 20 years later. Levy's made Confederate uniforms during the Civil War, but former Mayor Charles P. Farnsley has been quoted as saying that the store sold more Confederate uniforms after the Civil War than during it. Because Louisville was a supply center for the Union Army, it wasn't until after the war that the Levy brothers had contact with Southern soldiers, and the store then became the nation's largest supplier of Confederate uniforms for those attending the many postwar reunions and encampments. One of the second-generation Levys, James H. Levy, who died in 1964 at the age of 67, was an active board member of the YMHA. Many members of the family were active in retail merchants' organizations, which they headed at times, and the present Stuart Levy is the only Jewish director of the Louisville Automobile Club.

One large department store was Herman Straus at Fourth and Market. Its owner started the business with $6,065 in the mid-1800s but it failed to survive the great depression of the 1930s.

Henry Kaufman came to the United States in 1871 and to Louisville in 1873. In 1880 he joined a partner in business on Jefferson Street and in 1888 located the Kaufman-Straus Co. on Fourth Street between Liberty and Walnut. The store, on whose site Temple Adath Israel once stood, was destroyed by fire in 1891 and rebuilt the following year. Kaufman-Straus had a long existence as Louisville's No. 2 department store with a large and devoted following. It was sold in the 1960s to L.S. Ayres & Co. and subsequently closed with the decline of downtown merchandising. Kaufman's partner was Benjamin Straus, who was born in Kentucky in 1856. The store building at 427 River City Mall, designed by Mason Maury and built in 1903, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Lee Loevenhart, born in 1844, lived in Lexington 30 years before coming to Louisville and opening Loevenhart's, a men's furnishings store, at Third and Market opposite Levy Bros. Although never as large as Levy's, it developed a certain prestige and still is being operated at a suburban location.

Another prestigious men's store that existed for half a century was Louis Appel Company, next door to Kaufman-Straus. Sidney Appel, who headed

the firm in its last years, was a tennis star and promoted tennis long before that sport became professionalized. He also was a president of the YMHA and on its board of directors many years.

The Distillery Magnates

At the turn of the century the whiskey business, in which I.W. Bernheim and Bernard Bernheim made their fortunes, attracted many Jewish entrepreneurs.

I.W. Bernheim was born in Germany in 1848, came to this country in 1867, and turned peddler. A year later he became a bookkeeper in Paducah, Ky. and learned the distilling business. He became the nation's largest distiller of Kentucky whiskey and in 1888 bought the Pleasure Ridge Park Distillery. In 1903 he organized Bernheim Distilling Company, capitalized at $2,000,000. The property subsequently was acquired by Schenley Distillers.

Bernheim took an active role in community affairs and philanthropy. He became first president of the YMHA. Local legend has it that he offered to build the entire Jewish Hospital if it were named for him but was turned down. In 1896 he was made an honorary member of the Commercial Club, a singular honor for a Jew. His benefactions include the Jefferson Monument at the Courthouse in 1899; a bust of Abraham Lincoln to the State of Kentucky in 1910; the statue of Lincoln at the Louisville Free Public Library in 1922, and a library to Hebrew Union College (Cincinnati) in 1917. His most lasting memorial is Bernheim Forest, a nature preserve of 10,000 acres in Bullitt County. Supported by an endowment augmented by public contributions, it is free and open to the public and since being opened in 1950 has attracted 4,000,000 visitors. Bernheim moved to Denver and died there in 1945.*

Bernard Bernheim, three years younger than his brother, came to U.S., in 1870 at age 19, three years after I.W. Bernheim arrived.**

Another successful distiller was Samuel Grabfelder, who in 1901 became first president of the Kentucky Children's Home Society. He also served as

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*His family consisted of four sons and three daughters, all of whom left Louisville. Grandson I.W. Burnham II, now an Episcopalian, is chairman of Drexel, Burnham, Lambert in New York and chairman of the I.W. Bernheim Foundation.

**Bernard Bernheim's children were Frank D. Bernheim and Ethel Bernheim Haas. She made her home in Cincinnati but after her husband's death returned to live with her bachelor brother. Frank D. Bernheim had a daily routine, walking from his downtown home to Citizens Bank, his chief occupation being clipping coupons. When Frank was in his 70s he and his sister toured Norway. On returning to New York they went to a Broadway show and during the performance Frank collapsed and died of a heart attack. Only two persons appeared at Pearson's funeral home, one of them being Robert Paul, who joined I.W. Bernheim's service in 1926 as a secretary and remained to manage the Bernheim Forest properties until his retirement 46 years later. Frank's instructions had been that no rabbi should officiate, nor should there by any Jewish charitable bequests.

president of the National Hospital for Consumptives at Denver and of the Old Folks Home in Cleveland.

Present-day distillers are the Shapira brothers, who own Heaven Hill Distillery near Bardstown, Ky. One of five brothers, Gary Shapira (1901-1960), was a large benefactor of Four Courts, having served on its board from the time of its founding until his death. He was its treasurer at the time he died. Another charitable interest of his was Kosair Crippled Children Hospital.

Other Retailers

In addition to their distillery interests, the Shapiras operate a chain of 14 dry goods and general stores known as the Louisville Stores, scattered through Kentucky. The first store was opened by their father as Max Shapira and Sons in Springfield, Ky. The other sons were Mose, George, David and Ed Shapira. After Mose died, George, David and Ed continued to manage both the distillery and the chain of stores. David was a longtime board member of Adath Jeshurun and his wife, Ann, headed its Sisterhood.

Another retailer operating in many Kentucky towns is Lerman Bros. The chain of 21 stores was founded by Nathan Lerman, who died in 1978 at the age of 84. Lerman came from the Ukraine in 1917 and started the stores with his brother, Sam Lerman. Since his death the business has been operated by a son, Arthur J. Lerman. Sam Lerman was an active Zionist and from 1955 to 1961 was a member of the executive committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations.

For 42 years the Abramson family — Morris A. and Ruth Melman Abramson — operated a department store in Taylorsville, Ky. From time to time, other Louisville Jewish families have operated stores in Shelbyville and other nearby towns.

The story of retailing in Louisville would not be complete without mention of Byck's, a chain of quality women's clothing stores still flourishing in 1980. Dann Byck came from Atlanta in 1902 and opened a shoe store on Market Street. In the 1920s his son Dann joined the firm and the store began offering women's clothing. Mary Helen Byck ran the business for 2½ years during World War II while her husband, who had become Dann Byck Sr., was in the Army. She took it over again after his death in 1960. The store had a couple of sites on Fourth Street before moving into its present headquarters at 532 River City Mall in 1924. Then it branched out into suburban operations, with three stores and four Red Cross shoe stores. Byck's has remained a style center and has bucked the trend of disappearing locally owned department stores and specialty shops. Dann Byck Sr. was an outstanding civic leader and managed the second and highly successful fund-raising drive for the Jewish Community Center in 1954. He was president of the Board of Aldermen under Mayor Farnsley and a leader in the Democratic Party. His wife was co-chairman of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Cam-

paign in 1941 and 1942 with Mrs. Lillian Lipski. Dann Byck Jr. and his brother-in-law, Stephen N. Goodman, joined the firm in 1958. Dann left the firm in 1980 and moved to New York. In 1978, at the age of 46, Goodman, who married Betty Byck, was president of the firm. A longtime official of Byck's was William Flarsheim, an outgoing person who took up driving a cab after his retirement as a way of keeping active. His wife, Louise has devoted her life to Temple Adath Israel Sisterhood and the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section. Their son, Philip Flarsheim, a banker, was president of Temple Adath Israel. Mary Helen Byck was a daughter of Cyrus Adler, whose Adler Manufacturing Company, occupying an entire block at 29th and Chestnut, flourished for many years. The firm made pianos and then radio cabinets, but was liquidated sometime after World War II. In 1979 Mrs. Byck was elected chairman of the Board of Overseers of the University of Louisville. Mrs. Byck's other interests include the arts, open housing and Planned Parenthood.

The only locally owned department store now is Ben Snyder, a chain founded in 1910 and still family-owned. Ben Snyder had a brother, Mendel Snyder, who made a fortune just after World War I selling surplus military goods. He became a large benefactor of Congregation Anshei Sfard, which named its social hall the Mendel Snyder Auditorium in his memory.

With the advent of the chain-store era, much Jewish personnel has been transferred to the city at the managerial and buyer levels. Some of these have become part of Louisville's communal life.

In the jewelry field, Vic Lorch, on Market east of Fourth, enjoyed a long and prestigious reputation. A generation later Will Sales expanded from a single store at Fourth and Liberty into a chain operation, which was sold to a New York firm after his death.

Manufacturing and Wholesaling

In 1881 David Hirsch organized Hirsch's Cider and Vinegar Works. This has since grown into Paramount Pickles, doing a nationwide business. A recent head of the firm has been Lewis Hirsch, who served from 1952 to 1955 on the executive committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations. He also was active in the American Council for Judaism and other organizations.

Another Louisville success story, on a smaller scale, is Linker Bros. Three brothers, Harry, Wolf, and Ben Linker, came from Warsaw about 1909 or 1910 and started a bakery at 1129 W. Market, where it is still housed. Linker's rye became a staple not only among Jews but throughout the city and in recent years the firm, operated by inlaws who bought out the Linker interests after the founders' deaths, now concentrates on restaurant and commercial trade rather than Jewish baking. For many years, in the 1920s and 1930s, one of the city's most colorful and best-known characters was Sidney "Shimkey" Lyons, who made house-to-house deliveries by wagon for Linker's. From time to time during the shtetl era there were other Jewish bakeries in the city —

Fliegel's at Floyd and Market, Goldberg's at Preston and Madison, Goldstein's at Preston and Market, Diamond's on Finzer Street, and one operated by a Mr. Rabinowitz.

Another Linker enterprise is also a success story. Polish-born Barnet Linker,* 18 years old, arrived in Louisville in 1894 in the middle of a December blizzard. He brought with him a rare skill, the ability to hand-roll a cigar. His product was called the Linker stogie, sold at three for a nickel, and gained a national reputation. By 1918, his firm had switched from manufacturing to distributing, and today the Linker Distributing Company carries not only cigars but 4,999 other items as well, and grosses an estimated $7,000,000 to $10,000,000 a year. The firm changed its name from Linker Cigar Company in 1969 when it moved from 122 S. Sixth to its present location at 431 E. Liberty. The business is now in the hands of the third generation, with grandson Robert Linker as president. Sidney Grossman married Ada Sarah Linker, daughter of the founder, and at the time of his retirement was chairman of the board. Barnet Linker was known for his philanthropies, and the Jewish Community Center houses the Barnet and Rebecca Linker Auditorium. Stuart Grossman, son of Sidney Grossman and a cousin of the Linkers, was associated with the firm but took over an offshoot of the firm, Spot Distributing Company, after the death of its founder, Tony Levitan. Grossman, assisted by his wife Phyllis, has participated in many spheres of activity and he even headed a national trade association during the 1970s, but the couple made its biggest mark in the community by their successful organizing of the Jewish Heritage Weekends and the Jewish Community Center's 1979 Walk for Israel. The walk, for the benefit of the United Jewish Campaign, has become an annual event.

Still in the business of making things is the Louisville Manufacturing Company, located at 301 S. 30th since 1947. The company was founded in 1939 by three brothers, Emanuel J. Lipschutz, Sidney Lipschutz, and Nathan Lipschutz. Emanuel J. Lipschutz served on the board of the Jewish Community Center for many years. He retired several years before this was written and went to live in Florida, but remains a director of the firm. His son, Frank J. Lipschutz, is currently president of the company. The firm started out as the Louisville Cap Company, originally making baseball headgear, hunting and fishing caps, and military caps, but after the Korean War found a new and profitable niche — making promotional or advertising caps. The firm turned out about 5,000,000 caps in one year and its 1977 business was reported to gross $10,000,000. In the late 1960s the firm opened another plant in Salem, Ind. Frank Lipschutz in 1978 was elected president of the Jewish Community Federation after successfully serving as chairman of the United Jewish Campaign. In 1978 he was elected to the board of directors of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) along with Louisvillian Lewis D. Cole. Another

*Harry, Wolf and Ben Linker were his nephews.

family, the Heidemans, hold an interest in the company, Ted Heideman and his son, Michael Heideman, being vice-presidents. The Heideman family has been so involved in all facets of Jewish community life that B'nai B'rith in 1980 gave the group its first International Family Award. The presentation was made at a cocktail party at the Standard Country Club. The Heideman family consists of Theodore and Marion Heideman and their sons, Michael (Mickey) and his wife Carol*, and Richard and his wife Phyllis. Richard Heideman is an attorney.

Next door to Louisville Manufacturing Company on the east is the headquarters warehouse of the Kling Company. The firm started as the Kling Stationery Company, founded at Sixth and Main by the father of Arthur S. Kling and Morris Kling. The two brothers, who have appeared repeatedly in these pages, built the firm into a large wholesale distributing firm plus a chain of variety stores under the name Dimeco. Since the retirement of Arthur and Morris Kling, the business has been managed by Robert Kling, son of Morris, and David Kling, son of Arthur. David Kling, who is both a pilot and scuba diver, was president of the Jewish Community Center for three years during the mid-1970s. Margot (Mrs. David) Kling was on the board of the Conference of Jewish Organizations.

Another large manufacturing business was Enro Shirt Company, founded in 1919 by brothers Herman, Bernard and Sidney Rosenblum. Their shirts, pajamas and men's apparel won a national reputation. Bernard and Sidney were longtime board members of the Jewish Community Center among other civic endeavors. Two flagpoles and a plaque were erected at the Eastern Parkway entrance to Cherokee Park in memory of Sidney in April 1964, shortly after his death. Herman's son, James Rosenblum, joined the firm in 1959 and was its president at the time it was sold to Wilson Brothers in 1970.

Since the business was sold, James has devoted his full time to civic pursuits. In 1976 he was appointed to the Kentucky Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and in 1979 became its chairman. His interest in civil rights made him an early member of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union board, a 35-year member of the board of the Urban League and once its board chairman, and vice-chairman of the Louisville and Jefferson County Human Relations Commission. He was president of the Rotary Club of Louisville. When the Neighborhood Development Corporation was founded by a group of churches to rehabilitate downtown properties, he represented Adath Israel and became president of the corporation. His wife, Beverly Weil Rosenblum, has been active in the League of Women Voters since 1946 and served as president of the Louisville and the Kentucky leagues.

Mrs. Rosenblum's father, Leo Weil, established the Fulton Fish Market, which became the largest wholesaler of fish in this part of the country. After

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*Carol Heideman was the first president of the Louisville Chapter of Women's American ORT.

his death in 1978, James Rosenblum and Weil's daughter Marilyn Nathanson and her husband, Mickey, expanded the firm. Weil's twin brother, Ted Weil, was for a long time national advertising manager of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times.

Auto Dealers and Bankers

As noted previously, Jews had become pioneer automobile dealers. One of these, Abraham Levy, headed the Kentucky Automobile Company. He died in 1911 at the age of 63, having been president of Temple Adath Israel and an organizer of Louisville's co-ordinated Jewish charities.

Another new-car pioneer, Harry J. Klein, died in 1979 at the age of 90. In 1916 he was distributor of Graham-Paige, Jewett, and Essex, doing business as Klein Motor Company at Brook and Broadway. In the 1920s he started the Motor Car Finance Company and later owned Ace, King and Queen used car lots. During World War II he was in charge of the scrap-metal drive, a member of the board of the Office of Price Administration, chairman of the Rationing Board, and a member of the Selective Service Board. Associated in the automobile business with him was a brother, Isadore Klein, who died in 1978 at the age of 77. Isadore Klein was a longtime officer of the Bank of Louisville, of which another brother, Samuel H. Klein, is chairman of the board and Isadore's son, Bertram Klein, is president. Bank of Louisville, fourth in size among Louisville's seven commercial banks, is the only bank with Jewish ownership and management.

In 1934 Harry Joseph Klein*, David Kasdan and Louis Cohn organized the Royal Bank, later Royal Bank & Trust Company. Kasdan later sold his interest to Florence B. and Jack Simon of Cincinnati, who moved to Louisville. Simon became president, succeeding Harry Joseph Klein. Isadore and Sam Klein purchased Cohn's one-third interest. In 1955 the bank placed its stock on the open market. About 1967 the Royal Bank and the Bank of Louisville — which originally had been chartered as the Morris Plan Industrial Bank, headed by Jesse Streng and with Grover Sales as one of its organizers — merged, becoming Bank of Louisville-Royal Bank and Trust Company, and currently doing business as Bank of Louisville.

Harry Joseph Klein, who had been a basketball star and coach for the YMHA Colts, Cubs, and Reps, created the Marjorie L. and Harry J. Klein Philanthropic Fund with the Jewish Community Federation. Jack Simon is a former board member of the Jewish Community Center and of an organization for retarded children. Both Harry Joseph Klein and Simon have been generous contributors to the United Jewish Campaign.

Samuel Klein headed the Louisville Derby Festival Committee and he and his wife were known for the lavish Derby Eve parties they gave until 1978. He is a trustee of the University of Louisville, has been a trustee of Bellarmine

*Not to be confused with Harry J. Klein who died in 1979.

College, and in 1979 was elected chairman of the Salvation Army's advisory board, on which he had served since 1968. He became a member of the Salvation Army's national advisory board in 1976. (Also in 1979, Stuart Levy was named to the Salvation Army's board as a new member.).

Until a few years ago, Jews were scarce in the brokerage field, but Milton S. Trost became chairman of Stein Bros. & Boyce. When that firm merged with Bache & Co. in 1970 he became a partner and vice-president of the new firm. Trost moved to Palm Beach, Fla. in 1974 and died there six years later at the age of 85. In 1956 Mayor Andrew Broaddus made Trost head of the Committee of 100 to study merger of Louisville and Jefferson County governments. Among civic groups of which he was president or a board member were the United Jewish Campaign, Jewish Hospital, Standard Country Club, Child Guidance Clinic, Louisville Park Theatrical Association and Louisville Theatrical Association. He headed the Louisville Zoological Commission during the development and opening of the zoo in the 1960s. He headed the Ohio Valley group of the Investment Bankers Association in the 1950s and was on the national groups's board of governors.

With the rising influence of women in business, Mrs. Marjorie Caplan carved a niche in the brokerage field, in 1980 becoming a vice-president to J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons Inc. A longtime member of the board of Temple Adath Israel, she is believed to have become the first woman officer of any congregation here when she was elected the temple's treasurer.

Another Louisvillian who made a mark in the field of finance was Gustav Flexner, who in 1915 organized what is now the Greater Louisville First Federal Savings and Loan Association. Fighting an uphill battle in what was then a new concept in thrift institutions, Flexner saw the firm grow into Kentucky's largest savings and loan association before he died. When radio came into vogue, he was one of the first to seize upon its advertising possibilities and was his own announcer, introducing the musical programs his firm sponsored and reading his own commercials on the air.

Heavy Industry Too

Although for the most part engaged in the usual run of business and professional life, let it not be thought that Jews have overlooked heavy industry. Jacob Bornstein founded a construction firm about 1890. It still operates as Ale Bornstein Inc., named for the son who managed it until his death in 1977. The third generation, in the person of Donald Bornstein, now operates the firm. Ale Bornstein was a longtime member of the Board of directors of the Jewish Community Center and Donald Bornstein served on the Adath Jeshurun and JCC boards.

There was hardly a Jewish construction project in the city in which Bornstein did not have a hand, unless it was the Platoff Construction Co. This firm was started just before World War I as a partnership between Harry Platoff and Isadore Bush, with offices above the drug store at Preston and Walnut,

then the heart of the Jewish community. Some years later the partnership was dissolved, and two firms resulted, both of them undergoing great expansion. After Harry Platoff s death, sons Edward and Alvin Platoff carried on the business. Edward Platoff died in the early 1970s. In 1980 his daughter, Marcia Platoff (Mrs. Lloyd) Schuster, was elected a vice-president of the Jewish Community Center, after many years of activity as a leader in the United Jewish Campaign and the Women's Committee of the Jewish Community Federation. She was launched on her public-service career after a Conference of Jewish Organizations leadership-training course in 1968 by becoming an observer to the Jewish Community Center's board of directors under a Conference-sponsored program.

Yandell Bush carried on the construction business after his father's death. One of the firm's last major construction projects was the sanctuary of Keneseth Israel, ground for which was broken in June 1969 and which was dedicated in November 1971. Some years later Yandell Bush retired because of illness and sold the business.

There were other Jewish builders, although on a smaller scale, two of the best known of these having been Herman Waldman, who specialized in remodeling store fronts, and Sam Rosenberg, who built homes, in the years before and after World War II.

During the late 1920s another Bornstein family, that of Maurice Bornstein, came to Louisville and organized the Bornstein Electric Company. Edward Bornstein has conducted the firm since his father's death in the 1970s. Other major electrical contracting firms have been Tri-City Electric Company, organized in the 1920s by Max Broida and which once occupied the old YMHA building at Second and Jacob, and Herbert E. Ottenheimer's Home Electric Company on Third between Market and Main. Ottenheimer, whose slogan during the 1920s was "Let us YR4U," sold the firm to his employees but went back to work for them. After his death, his wife, Blanche B. Ottenheimer, civic leader and founder of the Ottenheimer Award, moved to Cleveland. My brother, Jacob Landau, operated an electrical business specializing in motor rewinding after World War I but moved to the East in 1924.

Another firm that had a hand in many Jewish enterprises was Joseph & Joseph, architectural firm founded by Alfred S. Joseph and still carried on by a son.

A structural-steel firm operated by Bernard Selligman, brother of attorneys Joseph Selligman and Alfred Selligman, was Snead Architectural Iron Works, which dated from the turn of the century until about the time of World War II.

Still another major enterprise in its field is Abram Roofing Company, founded in 1888 and still carried on by grandchildren, Morris Judah and his family.

As in most Jewish communities, many became dealers in scrap. In 1905 Morris and George Klempner founded Klempner Bros. which remains a large

enterprise now in the hands of the fourth generation. Irving Klempner is president and his nephew, Andy Klempner, vice-president. The secretary-treasurer is Jack Klempner, brother of Irving, who has engaged in many fund-raising activities and been active in Congregation Adath Jeshurun. He is married to Janis Klempner, a former head of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign.

Louisville Scrap Material Company was founded in 1882 as S. Weber & Sons. In 1913 the property was rented by David Blusinsky, William Blusinsky and Harry N. Cohen. William Blusinsky moved to Cleveland and in 1924 George Blusinsky entered the business with his father and uncle. Meanwhile, David Blusinsky, Cohen and others organized a paper recycling firm to handle paper, and in 1930 Cohen left the scrap firm to devote full time to the paper business. Cohen died in 1964 at the age of 74. David Blusinsky's son-in-law, Leon Ades, became a partner in the scrap firm. David died in 1934. Ades suffered a heart attack in 1966 and retired. Two sons of George Blue (shortened from Blusinsky), David and Bruce, joined the firm, David handling the ferrous scrap division and Bruce the non-ferrous. The company, long established at 125 N. Preston, in 1979 purchased National Distillers' property at 1373 Lexington Road for its non-ferrous division. The company shares an auto-shredding plant on River Road with Klempner Brothers. Miriam (Mrs. George) Blue was 1972 general chairman of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign and has been active in Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood.

Originally started in 1900 as a scrap-metals firm, Jacob Levy & Bros. has become a large dealer in building materials. Since 1965 when Philip Levy became president of the firm, it has expanded into three stores. Philip Levy, the current president's grandfather, founded the firm as Philip Levy & Sons and upon retirement about 1910, turned the business over to his sons, Jacob, Harry, Victor, Sam and Nathan. After World War I, the brothers scrapped the junk business and began selling war surplus, then turned to building materials. The three surviving brothers, Jacob Levy, who was president; Victor, vice-president, and Sam, secretary-treasurer, all retired in 1965 and since then the third generation has been in charge of the firm, which was incorporated in 1964 with, in Philip Levy's words, "a lot of cousins" as part owners. Victor's son, William G. Levy, still an executive of the firm, became a vice-president of the Jewish Community Federation and headed the planning that resulted in construction of Shalom Tower.

About 150 years ago Simon Goodman started trading in furs. Harry Goodman, Stephen Goodman, and Simon Goodman, three successive generations, carry on the trade. The firm, now S. Goodman & Sons, is the parent company of two other fur traders, one of them the L.S. Dinkelspiel Company, which also originally was owned by an old Jewish family. Isaac Rosenbaum came from Germany as a peddler in 1872, buying wool, hides and roots on his route between Louisville and Paoli, Ind. In 1889 his firm built a large building on Market between Floyd and Preston which still bears the ornate inscription: "Isaac Rosenbaum & Sons." The firm was liquidated 25 years ago but at one

time it was the largest wool dealer in the South, handling 6,000,000 pounds a year. Isaac Rosenbaum, grandson of the founder, was still carrying on a part-time business as a ginseng dealer in 1980, at the age of 81. The fourth and fifth generation Rosenbaums are doctors.

A Variety of Pursuits

At one time, Louisville was a center of film distribution, but in the 1930s the film exchanges moved to Indianapolis and Cincinnati. One of these exchanges was headed by Lee Goldberg, who relocated in Cincinnati. A brother, Joseph Goldberg, was an advertising man active in B'nai B'rith and congregational affairs.

Many persons defy classification, but no history would be complete without a representative sampling of interesting people.

Mrs. Jeanne Frank in 1978 became the first women to head a County cabinet department when she was selected to head the Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is a former president of the Louisville Section, National Council of Jewish Women. One son, Edward Frank, is a juvenile probation officer. She is the widow of Dr. Edward C. Frank, who was executive director of the now-defunct Region 8 Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board. He died in 1972.

Frank and Ruth Fonaroff, who came to Louisville in the 1930s from Baltimore, were ardent Zionists and Jewish National Fund workers. Fonaroff was on the executive committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations from 1956 to 1962. Mrs. Fonaroff, who survived her husband by many years, was also active in Hadassah. She taught chemistry at University of Chicago, Goucher College, and University of Louisville. She received the first Woman of Valor Award given by Bonds for Israel and she and her husband were honored at a 1962 Bonds for Israel dinner. She died in 1980 at the age of 80.

An art teacher and artist of some fame and who also taught art was Miss Beatrice S. Levy. She died in La Jolla, Calif. in 1974. She and her parents are buried in Adath Israel Cemetery. Her grandfather, from Germany, landed in New Orleans in 1849, working his way north on a boat. His name had been Steinfels but became Steinfeld in U.S. He lived in Cynthiana, Ky. before and during the Civil War, then moved to Paris, and about 1870 moved to Louisville so the children could have better schooling. Her grandmother's brother was Lazarus Steinfeld, the grandfather of Samuel Steinfeld.

Miss Eva Bandman, niece of Judge Ben F. Washer, was a benefactor of the Jewish Community Center and honorary board member. During her lifetime she gave land for public parks because she said, "I love the city and I love parks." A park on Upper River Road, for which she gave 17 acres in 1953, is named for her. Along with Judge Washer, she had given the City about 25 acres for parks between 1950 and 1960. She always shied away from personal publicity, saying she was interested only in the work she was doing. She died in 1964 at the age of 76.

Several members of the Kozlove family have been known as outstanding bridge players. One of them, Larry Kozlove, at the age of 32, became a member of United States team in the Olympiad, the world-championship bridge tournament, at New Orleans in 1978. The previous year he was on a team that finished second in competition for the Springold Trophy at the summer North American championships in Chicago. Kozlove has amassed more than 4,400 master points in his bridge career. He is manager of a Citizens Fidelity branch bank.

In 1942 a girl named Gita Levinstein won a $75 defense bond by taking first place in a citywide oratorical contest on "Bond Purchases" that was sponsored by the Kentucky Bankers Association. She grew up to become Gita Comer, and in 1978 became head of the Louisville office of Bonds for Israel. She is the widow of Eugene Comer, who had operated a pharmacy at 18th and Broadway.

Jane (Mrs. Loyd) Greenebaum turned over the presidency of the Kentucky Association for Older Persons to Irving M. Lipetz in 1980. A former president of the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, she became interested in the elderly when the section asked her to represent it on the board of Senior House. She has been on the board of the Family and Children's Agency, is a former president of the Consumer Association of Kentucky, and is a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations on use of Federal grants. She helped Arthur S. Kling set up the Kentucky Combined Committee on Aging to lobby in Frankfort. Her husband was director of purchases for American Air Filter Company prior to his retirement in 1967.

Lipetz retired in 1980 after 39 years in the Louisville Social Security office, of which he was operations supervisor. He was one of the few alumni of Louisville Hebrew School to become its president and also served as president of the Bureau of Jewish Education. He was vice president of Brith Sholom at the time it merged with Adath Israel and was on the boards of the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Welfare Board-USO, and professional societies.

A daughter of grain merchant Alfred Brandeis (brother of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis) was Jean (Mrs. Charles G.) Tachau. Like the Tachau family into which she married, she abandoned Judaism (one son, Charles B. Tachau, became an Episcopal minister). She was a pioneer in promoting birth control and child welfare in Kentucky. She helped organize the Kentucky Birth Control League in 1933 and its clinic led to the Planned Parenthood movement. In the 1920s she was a social worker with the Children's Protective Association. Later as a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Welfare she drafted the child-welfare laws which Kentucky adopted in 1954. She was chairman of the Health and Welfare Council

of the Community Chest, president of the Family and Children's Agency, a member of the Save the Children Foundation, and chairman of the Juvenile Court Advisory Committee. She died in 1978 at the age of 83.

Eli H. Jaffe, son of an optometrist who came from Lithuania about 1905, and who also studied optometry, was more interested in working on lenses than prescribing them. He found a partner and started Economy Optical Company with $1,000 in cash and a $4,000 inventory. In 1956 he started his present firm, Dispensers Optical Service, a wholesale manufacturer of eyeglass lenses and distributor of frames. The business does some $3,000,000 in sales each year. Jaffe was once president of the Louisville Hebrew School and a vice-president of Adath Jeshurun.

Sam Fishman, who served on the executive committee of the Conference of Jewish Organizations in 1970 and 1971, operated a large grocery business in Jeffersonville, Ind. He retired at an early age to become a full-time philanthropist, although he retained business and banking interests in Jeffersonville. He has been a large contributor both to Jewish and non-Jewish enterprises.

For many years The Courier-Journal staged an oratorical contest for high school students on the Constitution. The first time a Jewish subject was introduced into the competition by Esther Lenkoff, representing Louisville Girls High School, she won the $50 district prize, then went on to win the state finals at Paris, Ky. Her state prize was $200. For a number of years secretary at Adath Jeshurun, she married an out-of-town resident and left the city. Her brother, Leon Lenkoff, has built up a large firm, Stry-Lenkoff Company, publishing educational materials.

Abe Zimmerman, a patriarch of the Orthodox community and longtime president of Congregation Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, operated a bookstore and remained active in the business after he passed the age of 100. One of his sons, Alec Julius Zimmerman, was considered a prodigy. He had been an instructor in chemistry at University of Kentucky for 12 years at the time of his death in 1931 at the age of only 34.

Ruth Shapinsky was on the staff of Neighborhood House in 1908 when the Consumers League of Kentucky launched an investigation into conditions of working women in industry. She took a piecework job shelling nuts, working three nine-hour days with only a 20-minute lunch break, so she could testify in the case.

Also on the Neighborhod House staff was Dena Parris, who later became Mrs. Hugo Taustine.

Several Louisville families have had a practice of frequent reunions and annual family picnics, but perhaps none has equalled the record of Our Family Club, which takes in some 40 members of the O'Koon, Weinberg, Shaikun and Bush families. The club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1978, with William Silver as president. In addition to meetings, the members plan trips together and make contributions in the club's name to Israeli and local philanthropies.

The name O'Koon seems Irish, but the family traces the name to a grandparent who had been head fisherman in a Baltic village and was called something like Akun, the name of the area's fish. When he came to U.S., the immigration officer, unable to transliterate the native language, made it O'Koon. The name belongs exclusively to Louisville, except for a few members of the family who have moved away from the city.

The Berman family regularly attracted from 130 to 150 persons to its annual reunions but the gatherings ended four or five years ago due to lack of interest on the part of younger members of the family.

By now we have seen that Jews have participated in all walks of life in Louisville. Even prostitution can be included. The Chronicler-Spokesman in 1931 told of a 19-year-old Jewish girl, a former department store clerk, arrested twice as a prostitute. The paper quoted her as saying "I'm not ashamed; no Jewish friends feel disgraced because of me. I have no Jewish friends." The paper went on to say she had been unable to get work because of the depression and "promised to leave the racket for a desirable job if someone will help her find one. Charity is refused because of pride."

Editorializing on the situation, The Chronicler-Spokesman said:

"Disgrace is not felt so keenly among strangers.

"As long as the YMHA is allowed to function, it will continue to develop the right kind of friendships through the right kind of entertainment and the right kind of clubs in the right kind of meeting place. As long as the YMHA is allowed to function, the employment bureau of its girls' department will be instrumental in preventing idleness of girls who, without such assistance, might succumb (God forbid) to a don't-give-a-damn attitude ... Who will undertake to estimate the value of a 19-year-old girl's future and happiness? Who will undertake to estimate the value of the service which our YMHA renders? Who will say that the YMHA should not have more support during these hard times than ever before?"

The record does not state what became of the girl. But the YMHA was enabled to weather the depression and grow into a great Jewish Community Center because Louisville's Jewish community always has been the kind of community that builds not only for itself but for future generations.

APPENDIX

A. MADISON STREET AND THE SHTETL

It's now Abraham Flexner Way, but 60 and more years ago it was just plain Madison Street. Before Jewish Hospital took over the area it was the last vestige of a Yiddish shtetl.

During the years of mass immigration it was easy to go into business on a shoestring. As a result, Market Street became filled for miles with small Jewish-owned shops of all descriptions. Jewish mom-and-pop grocery stores sprang up all over town, especially along West Walnut, West Jefferson and West Market.

The shtetl centered around Preston Street, from Market almost to Broadway. A smaller version, with its own kosher butcher shop run by the Gurwitch family, existed along Seventh Street between Market and Broadway.

The shtetl's northern anchor was B'nai Jacob Synagogue, on Jefferson Street's south side where the North-South Expressway (I-65) now crosses. Around the corner, at Preston and Fehr (now Liberty) was Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, where the squeal of heavy inter urban cars rounding the corner would often disturb the worshippers. During the 1920s, the two merged to form Keneseth Israel.

At the edge of this shtetl were two other congregations, Adath Jeshurun, housed in a little brick building at Floyd and Chestnut where Children's Hospital now stands, and Anshei Sfard, on First Street south of Walnut, a site now also obliterated by the I-65 expressway.

Just a few doors from B'nai Jacob was Feitelson's Delicatessen, later Charlie Simon's and still later Greenwald's, where one could sip a glass of tea, find all the Yiddish papers, and gossip or discuss politics and synagogue affairs for hours on end. Another important gathering place, especially on Friday afternoons, was the public bathhouse on Preston just north of Jefferson.

The expressway and urban renewal combined to change the character of the area, but the Jewish-owned shoe stores have survived in a unique cluster between Liberty and Market Streets. Twelve stores, dealing mainly in shoes but also handling handbags and accessories, have made the area known as "the shoe street of Louisville."*

Near the north end of this axis was Sam Shrager's butcher shop, and a block east, on Market near Floyd, was Julius Kramer's butcher shop. The center pivot was Preston and Walnut (now Muhammad Ali Blvd.), with Morris Snyder's butcher shop (later Fuch's) on the southeast corner. Bakeries, too, were near by, and the infant Louisville Hebrew School, with the city's mikveh in its basement, had a handsome building at 208 E. Walnut. That yellow-brick, two-story building also fell victim to I-65 where it crossed Walnut and part of the site is now Jewish Hospital's garage. Also on Walnut, just west of Preston, lived the revered "City Rabbi" A.L. Zarchy. He later moved to Chestnut, east of Preston.

The two blocks of Madison Street, now the Medical Center's Abraham Flexner Way, were virtually 100 per cent Jewish. Some of the kids were lucky enough to escape to Neighborhood House on First Street to play, or to get into a ball game on the lot adjoining the Louisville Hebrew School, but for the most part, the playground

*The 12 shops were Schlossberg's, 203 S. Preston; Strasberg's, 209; the Boot Strap, 200; Watterson Bootery, 331; Goldstein Brothers, corner of Preston and Jefferson; Mel Golde Men's Shoes, 205; Sam Pozitzer, 201; Travers Shoe Store, 211; Williams Shoe Center, 223; Goldy's Shoe Mart, 339; Potters, 204, and Sam Wittenbaum, 219.

was the middle of Madison Street, despite constant interference from passing interurban cars. Many an outstanding citizen proudly traces his roots to "Madison Street."

On the south side were about a dozen two-story brick houses, all alike, and built for two families each with a common wall between. Some were chopped into flats and occupied by three or four families. Each had a tiny plot of grass in front, inclosed by iron fences that fell prey to the voracious scrap drive of World War II. These are some of the families who once lived on Madison Street:

	1900	1920	1925
200		Charles Wells	
		Mannie Oppenheimer	
201		Julius Shapinsky, grocery	Abe Menzin, grocery
202		Herman Hindel	
204	Joseph Joshberger	Louis Waxman	Barnett Lowich
		David Nathan	J.W. Weinberger
206		Nathan Wolff	
		Morris Zaffran	M.B. Lipsky
207		Jacob Siegel, contractor	Isadore Leifer
			Morris Seifer
208		Robert Schwartz	
		Hyman Goldstein	
210	Nathan Meyer	A.S. Gordon, coal	Joseph Spielberg
212		Solomon Menzin	
213		Michael Weinberg	Louis Person
		Mrs. Rebecca Goodman	
214		Irwin Salzman, tailor	
215	E.M. Rosenfelder		
216			Adolph Jacob
			Ethel Jacobstein
217		Alex Gradman	Louis Klein
		Yetta Jacobstein	O.H. Landau (1926)
218		Jacob Leibson	
		Adolph Rosenfeld	
220			Samuel Moses
			Joseph Saltzman
			Max Pearson
221		Jeremiah Graf	Jacob Berman
222		N.H. Schulman	Nathaniel Baker
		Samuel Krebs	A.A. Goodman
224		Samuel Levine	
226		S.M. Seidenman	
228	Sigmund Joseph	Solomon Solovey	
229		H.S. Rogoff, peddler	
		William Schulman	
230		Joseph Goodman	Rebecca Berman
			Reb Morguelan
		Moses Passamaneck	Alex Gradman
231		Myer Dicter	Louis Weber
		H.B. Kaplan	
232		Myer Berkovitz, peddler	Dee Schwartz, peddler
		Joseph Spielberg	Morris Bailen
233	Sarah Berenbaum	Rosa Bronstein, music teacher	
234		Alex Simon	Emil Klempner
		Samuel Taustine	Harry Bronstein
235		Simon Baer	Simmie Baer
		Henry Kemper	Charles Balson
			Rev. Nathan Wolf
236		Lasser Benomovitz (Benovitz), peddler	H.W. Klempner
237		Abraham Rogowsky	Samuel F. Fox
239		Isaac Pushin	Max Applebaum
241		Isaac Miller	Ida Schapoff
245	Isaac Lobred	Harry Levy	
247		Adolph Jacob	Morris Goldberg
		Isadore Leifer	
249		Bessie Moss	Samuel Krebs
		Louis Rogowsky	
		Samuel Schuster	
251		Louis Kaufman	A.H. Dreyer
255	Frank Sagalowsky		

The 300 block of East Madison had homes only on the north side, the old City Hospital being across the street. In 1900, Isaac Sagalowsky lived at 325, but 20 years later, there were more Jewish families; 303, J.D. Wolkow, A.I. Shaffet; 305, Wolkow & Sons brass foundry; 313, Samuel Albert, Max Applebaum; 315, Louis Benomovitz (Benovitz), Jacob Morguelan; 319, Edith Koppleman, David Wasbutsky; 321, Morris Lipetz, paperhanger; 323, Jennie Goodman, dressmaker; Mrs. Goldie Isserson; 325, Abraham Salas, Joseph Wasbutsky; 327, Julius Bass. In 1925, the 300 block also housed Morris Obrisky, Harry Osbaum, Isadore Loeb and Alex Shostle.

Life in those days had a small-town aura, with nearly everyone and everything being in walking distance. The small shops attracted a goodly share of outside trade, both white and colored (they weren't called blacks in those days except for "schwartz" in Yiddish), but in street and store, Yiddish was more likely to be heard than English.

Many families lived at or close to the poverty level. For example, a letter in The Chronicler-Spokesman in September 1931 "solicits trade in the way of dairy products for Mr. (W.M.) Schlossberg, 228 East Madison. He is unable to work due to an accident in which he lost part of his right hand. He had been in wholesale dairy products but now cannot lift heavy dairy cases and seeks individual patronage."

A counterpart to the Preston Street shtetl but smaller was Seventh Street, from Market to south of Chestnut. Here, too, was a concentration of immigrant Jewish families, small stores, and a complement of kosher restaurants, a butcher shop, and for a time, a synagogue.

At the southwest corner of Seventh and Cedar, recalls Sadie Baer, whose family originally lived in that area, was a building owned or managed by Mrs. Bessie Fehr which contained a great number of immigrant flats. It was known in the neighborhood as "Castle Garden," recalling the immigration station where newcomers arrived in New York.

The Council of Jewish Women conducted a West End Settlement at Center (now Armory Place) and Walnut. It had night classes in English, day classes in basket weaving and sewing, calisthenics, and play space for children. The average daily attendance was some 40 children. In a report dated January 21, 1911 Mrs. Mathilde G. Levy, Council president, said the work was done with a $500 appropriation from the Federation of Jewish Charities, of which $380 went for salaries. Miss Alice Flexner and Miss Corinne Bamberger were the paid workers. The committee in charge consisted of Mrs. M. Krakauer, chairman; a Mrs. Gosling, Mrs. Fanny Wolf, Mrs. A. Lapp and Mrs. Isaac Trost.

Outings were arranged during the summer, and some 40 to 50 children were taken by interurban car to a Jewish-owned farm at Pleasure Ridge Park. One of the foods served to the children was "big slabs of pumpernickel."

A news item dated May 17, 1911 reported that while M. Schlosky was showing a gas stove to a customer in the secondhand store of his son-in-law, Morris Monsky, 711 W. Market, the stove exploded and set fire to the store, causing damage of $1,000.

The Seventh Street shtetl had a vibrant life, but there was constant mingling of families with the Preston Street area. Progression to better living standards, changes in business patterns, and urban change finally led to the demise of both shtetl areas.

B. OLD LOUISVILLE FAMILIES

Temple Adath Israel held its last service March 4, 1977 before merging with Brith Sholom. At this service, there were descendants from 29 of the 77 families who founded Adas Israel in 1842. Here is the list:

1842 FOUNDER	MEMBERS IN 1977
I. Bachrach and E. Haus	Jean Traub, N.C. Frankel
Emanuel Bamberger and Moses Schwabacker	Susan Hammel
Emanuel Bamberger	Edward Rothschild and children, Peter, Diana, Edward II, Nancy
Nathan Bensinger	Ann Levine and children, Vicki, Benjamin, David, Lawrence
A. Dinkelspeil Sr.	Minna Cole, Lewis D. Cole
N. Elsasser and M. Grunebaum	Lloyd Greenebaum
B. Fleischaker	Peggy Kasdan
L. Frank	Ray Grab, Evelyn Meyer, Harry Lee Meyer, Andrew and Thomas Meyer, Harriet Kessel, Brian Bloom, Kori Bloom; Louis, Julie, Michael and Meg Waterman; Charles V. Lorch, Michael Lorch, Minna Louise Teiser, William L. Teiser
L. Godshaw	Marcia Hertzman and children, David, Rachel, Jean
M. Goldberg	Dorothy Sternberg, Maurice Sternberg
M. Grunebaum and John Jessel	Jane Greenebaum
Samson Gundelfinger	Frank Fleischaker, Anne Sternberg; Fran, Billy and Susan Sternberg; Karolyn Feltenstein, Stuart Levy Jr., Henry Levy, Richard Levy, Adam and Jay Levy, Jane Weinberg and Amy Weinberg, James H. Levy Jr., Mary Hemberger, James III and Lisa Levy
Theodore Hausah	Irma Lee, Janet Brooks, Jane Brooks
Elias Hilp and Hannah Hilp	Dorothy Simons, Lois Slung, Melissa and Larry Slung, Henry Altman Sr., Henry Altman Jr., William, Kerri and Laurie Altman
Jacob Heyman	Emma Kay David and children, Edward Stanley and Peggy David
M. Kraft	James S. Levy, Markham Levy
S. Lieberman and L. Ochs	Ray Fineman
M. Lieber and B. Sachs	D.A. Sachs III
Emanuel Stern	Florinne Starr, Louise Plaut, Joan Klein, and Randy Klein
A. Tandler	Ann Friedman and children, Robert, Richard and Beth
B. Uffenheimer	Sadie Unrich, Eugene Unrich
I. Wurtzburger	Adele Linker, Steven Linker, Merideth Linker
John Jessel and Isaac Joseph	Lawrence Koch, Mildred Goodman and grandchildren, Carol and Scott Goodman

Compiled by Joan Klein, chairman, final service; Sylvia Waller, Louise Plaut, Dorothy Simons, Philip and Lois Flarsheim, Mortimer and Jane Goldsmith.

C. PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS

CONGREGATION ADATH ISRAEL

1842-46	A. Tandler
1847	Joseph Abraham
1848	A. Schwab
1849	S. Ullman
1950-51	M. Straus
1852	A. Gerstle
1853	M. Lieberman
1854-56	M. Straus
1857-58	A. Gerstle
1859-60	S. Maas
1861-62	Em. Hirsch
1863-64	M. Goldberg
1865-68	Jacob F. Bamberger
1869-73	Nathan Bloom
1873-76	S. Ullman
1876-77	Levi Bamberger
1878-81	S. Ullman
1881-83	Julius Barkhouse
1883-85	Samuel Henle
1885-88	Louis Barkhouse
1889-93	N.F. Block
1893-97	Samuel Grabfelder
1897-07	Charles Goldsmith
1907-09	Louis Barkhouse

1909-11 Abraham Levy
1911-14 Dr. Charles J. Rosenbaum
1914-17 Alfred J. Selligman
1917-20 Ben S. Washer
1920-23 William Trost
1923-26 Isadore Hirsch
1926-29 Emil Steinfeld
1929-32 Lewis W. Cole
1932-35 Charles W. Morris
1935-38 William S. Heidenberg
1938-41 Melvin S. Meyers
1941-44 Stuart G. Levy
1944-47 Gilbert S. Ades
1947-50 Frank W. Fleischaker
1950-53 Sol W. Marx
1953-55 Sam Levy
1955-57 Samuel H. Klein
1957-59 Charles V. Lorch
1959-61 S. Arnold Lynch
1961-63 Stuart G. Levy Jr.
1963-65 Harold Rosen
1965-67 Mortimer Goldsmith
1967-69 Arthur A. Klein
1969-71 Howard Hess
1971-73 Dr. Samuel S. Gordon
1973-75 Harry Geisberg
1975-76 Philip Flarsheim

TEMPLE BRITH SHOLOM

(early records unavailable)

1951-53 Stanley B. Loewenstein
1953-56 Joseph Fleischaker
1956-59 Zach Oppenheimer
1959-61 Morris Kling
1961-64 Ed Winkler
1964-66 Sidney Baer
1966-68 James Davis
1968-69 Zach Oppenheimer
1969-71 Sam Fishman
1971-73 Milton Berman
1973-75 Leslie G. Aberson
1975-76 Ronald Abrams

THE TEMPLE, CONGREGATION ADATH ISRAEL BRITH SHOLOM

1976-77 Ronald Abrams, Phil Flarsheim
1977-79 Dr. Leonard A. Goddy
1979- Jacques Morris

CONGREGATION B'NAI JACOB

Leon Sher

CONGREGATION BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODOL

Abe Zimmerman

CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL

1926-31 Leon Sher
1931-32 Wolf Smith
1932 Max O'Koon
1933-43 Sam Goldstein
1943-47 Alex Berman
1947-48 Louis N. Schuster
1948-50 Sol Goldberg
1950 Alex Bass
1950-52 Louis T. Roth
1952-53 Morris Kleinman
1953-55 William Benovitz
1955-56
1956-57 William Benovitz
1957-58 Leon C. Sherman
1958-59 Hyman Gurwitch
1959-61 Ike Gumer
1961-71 William Kiel
1971-73 Mayer Shaikun
1973-74 Dr. Ivan D. Marks
1974-75 Ben Shavinsky
1976-77 Stuart Yussman
1978- Harris Berman

CONGREGATION ADATH JESHURUN

(early records unavailable)

1918-29 Michael Switow
1921-31 Sol Goldstein
(Each served various years)
1931-35 Simon Ades
1935-38 Max Waldman
1938-40 Murrel D. Klein
1940-43 Sol B. Winer
1943-46 Irvin Kahn
1946-49 Fred Switow
(son of Michael Switow)
1949-51 Robert J. Berman
1951-53 Hyman Frockt
1954-55 Hyman Morguelan
1955-58 Bernard S. Goldstein
1958-60 Leon Shaikun
1960-63 Harold Morrison
1963-65 Alvin D. Younger
1965-67 Stanley Bordorf
1967-69 Albert Gordon
1969-71 Stuart Schulman
1971-73 Farrell E. Salzman
1973-75 Julius Kozlove
1975-77 Sidney Winer
(Son of Sol B. Winer)
1977-78 Donald Stern
1978-80 Barry Schermer
1980- David Carney

CONGREGATION ANSHEI SFARD

Early years: Simon Fliegel, David Lynchiz, Benjamin Cohen, Jacob Brownstein, Nathan Baer, P. Greenberg.

1939-43 Louis Brownstein
1943-44 William Sexter
1944-46 Isadore Ignatow
1946-48 Carl K. Helman
1948-50 Ray Baer
1950-52 Sam Cohen
1952-67 Herman Wasserman
1967-77 Coleman Friedman
1977-79 Myron L. Horvitz
1979- Stanley Sosowsky

TEMPLE SHALOM

1976-78 Milton Greenbaum
1978-79 Dr. Leonard Klein
1979-80 Seymour Krinsky

YOUNG MEN'S HEBREW ASSOCIATION

1890-98 I.W. Bernheim
1898-00 Norton Goldsmith
1900-01 Alfred Selligman
1901-05 Ben F. Washer
1905-07 Simon Dreifus
1907-09 Dr. I.N. Bloom
1909-10 Nathan Kahn
1910-11 Dr. Herbert Bronner
1911-20 Benjamin S. Washer
1920-23 Charles W. Morris
1923-26 Col. Fred Levy
1926-28 M.F. Marx
1928-30 Arthur Fleischaker
1930-36 Louis Cohen
1936-40 Dr. Joseph Frehling
1940-46 Louis Appel
1946-48 Arthur S. Kling
1948-51 Lewis D. Cole
1951-56 Abe B. Berman

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

1956-58 Joseph J. Kaplan
1958-60 Samuel Steinfeld
1960-63 Norbert Friedman
1963-66 Morris M. Kling
1966-69 Boris Pressma
1969-72 S. Arnold Lynch
1972-76 Charles L. Weisberg
1976-78 David Kling
1978-80 Joseph H. Fineman
1980- Frankye Gordon

JEWISH HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

1903 (Temp) Charles Goldsmith
1903-04 Samuel Grabfelder
1905-11 Charles Goldsmith
(unavailable)
1941-43 Bertram H. Straus
1944-47 Milton S. Trost
1948-52 Saul B. Ades
1953-55 Mrs. Edgar M. Bottigheimer
1956-58 Harry J. Klein
1959-61 Mrs. Edgar M. Bottigheimer
1962-64 Mrs. Joe H. Greenstein
1965-67 William M. Flarsheim
1968-70 Mason C. Rudd
1971-72 Lewis D. Cole
1973-75 Robert H. Loeb
1976-77 Charles A. Hertzman
1978-80 Robert H. Loeb

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

1934-50 Charles W. Morris, chairman
1950-52 J. Marshall Bensinger
1952-55 Samuel J. Beierfield, president
1955-57 Lewis D. Cole
1957-60 Norbert Friedman
1960-62 William S. Heidenberg
1962-64 Herman G. Handmaker
1964-66 Hugo Taustine
1966-67 Phil B. Levitch
1967-69 Joseph J. Kaplan
1969-72 Murrel D. Klein

JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

1972-74 Fanny Rose Rosenbaum
1974-75 Farrell E. Salzman
1975-78 Stuart Handmaker
1978- Frank Lipschutz

JEWISH FAMILY AND VOCATIONAL SERVICE

(Federation of Jewish Charities, Jewish Welfare Federation, and Jewish Social Service Agency, predecessor agencies. No dates available.)

E.S. Tachau
Arnold Levy
Victor Burger
Herman G. Handmaker
J. Marshall Bensinger
Lewis D. Cole
Lewis Hirsch
Henry Levy
Joseph Medalie
Robert Loeb
Shelton Weber
Julian Shapero
Howard Markus
Mitchell Charney

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION

1948-50 Arthur S. Kling
1950-53 Dr. J. Irwin Essig
1953-55 Norbert Friedman
1955-57 Max Waldman
1957-59 Mortimer Goldsmith
1960-61 Bernard S. Goldstein
1961-62 Alex Berman
1963-65 Charles V. Lorch
1965-67 Dr. Isadore Goldstein
1967-68 Frank Judd
1969 Dr. Felix Bronner
1969-71 Dr. Milton Ament
1971-74 Irving M. Lipetz
1974-76 Mrs. Samuel Gordon
1976-78 Frank Judd
1978-80 Gail Fleischaker
1980- Larry Steinberg

LOUISVILLE LODGE NO. 14 B'NAI B'RITH

(Early records and dates unavailable)

Leslie Aberson
Jerry Abramson (1980)
Saul M. Anhouse
Rabbi S.N. Bazell
Alex Berman
Bernard S. Berman
Robert Berman
Morris B. Borowitz
David Carney
Dr. Armand Cohen
David Cohen
Louis Cohen
Leonard Cole
James G. Davis
Dr. J. Irwin Essig
Robert H. Fine
Bernard Fox
Henry S. Frank
Irving Friedman
Rabbi J.J. Gittleman
Bernard S. Goldstein
Julien Greenfield
David J. Gradman
Dr. I. Michael Gross
Maurice Grossman
Sidney Hildebrand
Maurice Horvitz
Robert Koloms
Joseph Lazarus
Irvin Levitan
Tony Levitan
Jack M. Lynch
Rabbi Abraham Nowak
David O'Koon
Sidney Passamaneck
Dr. Milton B. Pearlman
Edward M. Post
Harry Resnick
Rabbi Solom Roodman
Dr. V.B. Rosenbaum
Alvin S. Rosenberg Jr.
Stanley J. Rosenthal
Farrell E. Salzman
Leon Seidman
Michael G. Shaikun
Erwin A. Sherman
Dr. Jacob Stein
Dr. H.B. Strull
Hugo Taustine
Max Waldman
Alvin Wax
Sol B. Winer
Albert S. Wolder
Sylvan Wolder

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

1919-21 Bettie (Mrs. Jacob) Ades
1921-23 Ida (Mrs. Sam) Bordoffsky
1923-25 Sarah (Mrs. Louis) Isaacs
1925-27 Rebecca (Mrs. Barnet) Linker
1927-29 Sarabelle (Mrs. Mose) Ades
1929-31 Miss Jennie Borenstein
1931-33 Hannah (Mrs. Louis) Perlin
1933-35 Ethel (Mrs. I. Chas.) Elman
1935-37 Edith (Mrs. Alex) Berman
1937-39 Yetta (Mrs. Max) Waldman
1939-40 Jeanette (Mrs. David) Cohen
1940-42 Shirley (Mrs. Julien) Greenfield
1942-44 Blumie (Mrs. Louis J.) Kleinman
1944-45 Bess (Mrs. Joseph) Goldberg
1945-48 Charney (Mrs. Irvin) Sotsky
1948-50 Dorothy (Mrs. C.E.) Dickstein
1950-52 Hilda (Mrs. David) Bordorf
1952-54 Ida (Mrs. Abe) Baer
1954-55 Helen (Mrs. Joseph) Shapero
1956-57 Adele (Mrs. David) Greenberg
1957-61 Betty (Mrs. Morris) Kling
1961-62 Pearl (Mrs. Max) Miehl
1962-64 Shirley (Mrs. Julien) Greenfield
1964-66 Sarah (Mrs. Morris) Pernick
1966-68 Mrs. Bess Caller
1968-70 Inge Ehrlich (Mrs. Pat Goldberg)
1970-72 Mrs. Gita Comer
1972-74 Joan (Mrs. Jacob) Stein
1974-76 Phyllis (Mrs. Stuart) Grossman
1976-78 Shirley (Mrs. Theodore) Schramm
1978-80 Anita (Mrs. Melvin) Zeiden
1980- Mrs. Roz Slyn

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN LOUISVILLE SECTION

1896-10 Mrs. J.B. Judah
1910 Mrs. Henry Klauber
1910-12 Mrs. L. Levy
1912-16 Mrs. R.D. Bakrow
1916-19 Mrs. H.E. Ottenheimer
1919-21 Mrs. Alfred Joseph Sr.
1921-23 Mrs. Jacob Zellner
1923-25 Mrs. E.H. Wehle
1925-31 Mrs. J.M. Fuhrman
1931-34 Mrs. E.C. Kaufman
1934-36 Mrs. J.M. Fuhrman
1936-39 Mrs. J. Harry Rosenbaum
1939-42 Mrs. Herman Handmaker
1942-45 Mrs. J.M. Fuhrman
1945-48 Miss Jessie Grauman
1948-51 Mrs. J.M. Bensinger
1951-53 Mrs. Carl Helman
1953-55 Mrs. Betty S. Fleischaker
1955-57 Mrs. David S. Traub
1957-59 Mrs. M.T. Fliegelman
1959-61 Mrs. Max Bornstein
1961 Mrs. Lewis Hirsch
1961-63 Mrs. Edward Frank
1963-67 Mrs. S.P. Auerbach
1967-69 Mrs. S.T. Fish
1969-70 Mrs. Lloyd Greenebaum
1970-73 Mrs. David Neustadt
1973-75 Mrs. Berel Abrams
1975-77 Mrs. Ronald Abrams
1977-79 Mrs. Bert Emke
1979- Mrs. Larry Steinberg

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Community
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This listing is both by names and subject matter. Not all names are Jewish, and separation would be an impossible task. Some subjects, such as Religious Schools, could be further explored in chapters on individual congregations.

Agencies are referred to by past and present names.

Some individual names appear to be duplicated, but they are separate individuals, some contemporary and some at different times.

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