Jewish Settlement In Sacramento

A Pictorial History

By Brett Wyatt

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BRETT WYATT, AUTHOR
MARLENE G. TONKIN, EDITOR



1922 Bris, from right to left, standing: Morris Opper, Rabbi Ephraim Brosin, Jack Forman, Morris Levy, Max Forman, Yutke Forman, Morris Goldstein, Sam Greenberg, Unknown, William Anapolsky, Unknown, Unknown. Seated: Unknown, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, Unknown, Unknown, Rose Linker.

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INTRODUCTION

This writing examines five periods of history concerning Jewish settlement in Sacramento. It begins with the first settlers in 1848 and ends at the time of my last writing, April, 1987. The expanse of 140 years has been divided into the following 5 time frames: 1848 to 1899, 1900 to 1919, 1920 to 1939, 1940 to 1959, 1960 to 1987.

The period of time between 1848 to 1899 undulates through the rough times of life in a frontier city. During this time Sacramento twice burned to the ground and was twice completely flooded. Bars, brothels and gambling halls could be found along the river's edge. This was the age of the horse and carriage. These pioneers witnessed the building of the first railroad in the west, from Sacramento to Folsom, which later connected to the transcontinental railroad.

Jewish settlers quickly established a minyan and bought a synagogue. Sacramento Jews were the first to own their own synagogue west of the Mississippi. They formed a benevolent society, built a cemetery, developed youth and literary groups and became involved in politics. Sacramento had its first Jewish mayor in 1892. The Jews prospered in number and opinions. The second group of Jews to form a lasting minyan began at the turn of the century.

Prosperity reigned king in turn- of-the-century Sacramento and immigrants came to the valley seeking it. Jewish emigre and relief societies met and greeted Jewish newcomers and settled them in town. Through the Chevra Kadisha both congregations, reform and orthodox, joined to purchase new cemetery grounds and relocate the old cemetery. New immigrants continuously infused the traditions of the old country into Sacramento Jewish lifestyle.

The twenties and thirties saw a new generation of Jewish residents. They were the natives of the land. Born and raised in Sacramento or some other United States city, the American Jew was a product of American and Jewish cultures. They joined community organizations, developed large enterprises, and gave generously to the synagogues. When the great depression came, they held together, protecting transients and residents from impoverishment.

The forties brought forward the "organic Jewish community" in Sacramento. The Jewish population rallied together to merge 17 independent Jewish agencies into one, unified community council. The formation of the state of Israel in 1948 led to a strengthening of Jewish commitment toward a common peoplehood. This spirit prevailed throughout the fifties, manifested in an organized and tightly-knit Community Council.

But the fifties also brought unforeseen tensions as the two congregations drifted further apart in identity and goals. The sixties brought with them the collapse of the Community Council and isolationism between the two congregations.

On another note, the newly-formed Jewish Federation, which developed from the community council, was able to sponsor many new organizations. The Jewish Community Relations Council, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, and Hillel House in Davis are three shining examples of the success of the Federation.

After ten years of mending relations, the two congregations found harmony during the seventies. Also, another reform congregation organized, as did a full -time Jewish day school and a Jewish retirement residence center.

The eighties have so far witnessed a tremendous increase in the size of the Jewish population in Sacramento, with estimates ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 . A new reform congregation organized in Citrus Heights, and the Jewish Community Center has had a dramatic increase in the number of people participating in combined Jewish community events. The community is still developing into new, organized structures. It has a strong sense of identity and a strong commitment to its future, built on a past of hope and resiliency.

Brett Wyatt
April 1987



Brett Wyatt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sources used for this text were varied and diverse. Published and unpublished works were utilized, including special publications as the B'nai B'rith Lodge Centenial, 1858 - 1958. The minutes book of the Jewish Relief Society proved invaluable for lending insights into the functioning of the Jewish community as a whole and the interplay of the two main congregations.

Taped interviews were also used to record personal accounts, or oral history. All of these accounts were verified by documents, books, or newspaper reports. My special thanks to : Oscar Blumberg, of blessed memory, Isadore Brosin, Arnold Feder, Ray Finegold, Bob Levi, Natalie Munk, Julie Nathan, and Jessie Yoshpe; to Sally Learner for her taped interview with Sam Finegold, of blessed memory. There are those individuals without whose help none of this text could have come together. Marlene Tonkin, author, set down the foundation of this text with her history of "The Sacramento Jewish Community," 1971, which covers the history of the community through the turn of the century. Marlene, a reading specialist and former English and history teacher, also took on the task of editing the text, for which I am indebted.

Marian Addis, keeper of the B'nai Israel Archives, was invaluable as a source for records and photographs unique to the Sacramento Jewish community. Carrying on the efforts of her husband, Leon, of blessed memory, she has preserved the few remaining glimpses of an exciting Jewish past.

Oscar Blumberg, of blessed memory, furnished photographs and stationery that have been used throughout the text. Isadore Brosin, Leo Fahn, Ann Levine, and Jessie Yoshpe each provided direction enabling work to progress without unnecessary delay.

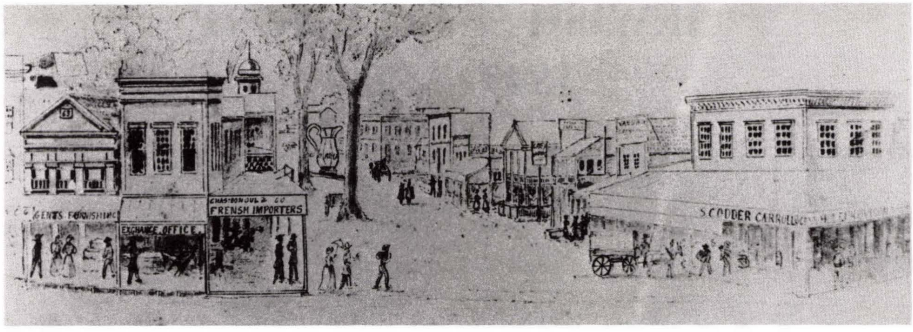
Special gratitude goes to Louis Brodovsky, Mark and Dianne Cohn, Leo and Alex Fahn, Dalton Feldstein, Cecil and Ray Finegold, Oscar Morvai, Sy Opper and Marlene Tonkin, who provided the initial financial support for publishing this endeavor.

Finally, there is my dear friend, Colin Swift, whose inner strength has brought me through every tribulation, and whose sense of esteem as a Jew has made me feel proud to finish this work for our people.

JEWISH SETTLEMENT
1849 to 1900



City of the Plains, 1857
George H. Baker
California Historical Society



Sacramento, 1852 South on 3rd Street
by Emil Lehman
California Historical Society

EARLY PIONEERING JEWS

In 1849, a small but dedicated group of Jewish Settlers could be found in shanty town called Sacramento by the river of the same name. Without a shul, they would meet on shabbat at different homes, but particularly they would meet at the home of Moses Hyman who lived on Front Street. Ashkenazi services were conducted by Mr. Wolf according to their forefather's tradition. There are reported to have been as many as 75 Jewish families, totaling 200 individuals, living in the vicinity of Sacramento who were present at the first High Holy Day services of 1849 and 1850.



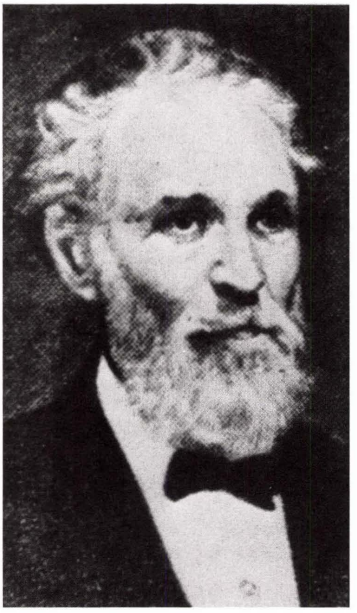
Sacramento, 1849
J. W. Woolridge
History of the Sacramento Valley

Moses Hyman was the first mohel for the Sacramento Jewish community. He had a home and jewelry-notion store at 56 Front Street. It is said that with the money he received for his services he bought a small tract of land on J street beyond 31st Street to be the first Jewish cemetery in Sacramento. He entrusted the land to the Hebrew Benevolent Society (lot number 4 in the square between 32nd and 33rd Streets.) Louis Schaul acted as trustee for the society. In 1924 the cemetery was moved to Stockton Boulevard and Lemon Hill Road. Schaul's son, Kaufman, was the first boy born in this Jewish community August 13, 1851.

The Jewish community was recognized by the *Sacramento Union*, which in 1851 reported that the Jewish New Year was observed by the 'Israelites,' who met in a building adjoining the Methodist Church.



Louis Sloss



Abraham Watters

There was more risk involved in mining than merchandising, and most of the Jewish men preferred to be with their families in cities and towns, opening mercantile businesses and participating in the growth of the cities in the Gold Rush region.

In 1849, when he was 26, Louis Sloss crossed the plains in a Conestoga wagon, bringing merchandise needed by the miners. He established the mercantile house of Louis Sloss and Company with Simon Greenwaldt in Sacramento at 124 J Street.

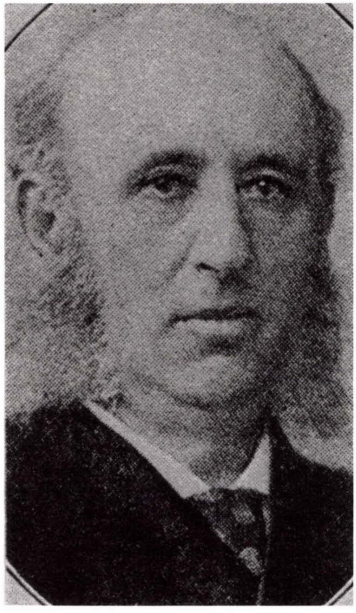
Abraham Watters was a passerby in Sacramento. The true "wandering Jew," Watters followed the Gold Rush to Sacramento where he and his brother, Ichel, purchased and renovated Sutter Hall as a recreation casino for sierra miners. Sutter Hall was one of many casinos and night clubs that dotted the bank of the Sacramento River. The Watter brothers stayed in Sacramento for about ten years before moving on to Salt Lake City.



Sacramento Waterfront, 1852
California Historical Society

Lewis Gerstle was an early Jewish prospector in Murphys before he moved to Sacramento and joined Louis Sloss, with whom he later organized the Alaska Commercial Company in San Francisco.

Jews of the Gold Rush days belonged to many societies and orders. Jews were especially important in the establishment of the Masonic order in the west. On April 19, 1850, on the third floor of the Sacramento Lodge known as the Red House, on 5th and J Street, a Grand Lodge for the Pacific Coastal region was signed into constitution. In May of the following year, Benjamin Hyman, a Jewish Mason in Benicia, was elected deputy grand master at the Red House. A year later, Hyman was elected to the post of Grand Master.



Lewis Gerstle



Benjamin Hyman

HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Hebrew and English Almanac for 1851 refers to Sacramento, 1850, as having "a temporary synagogue and a benevolent society, long established, and in a flourishing condition." The Hebrew Benevolent Society was established in 1850 to care for the sick and destitute. A. Brickner was its first president, G. Haines was elected president in 1852 and again in 1855, and other known pioneer officers were A. Mayer, S. Wand, Joseph Rosenheim, and N. Koshland, the latter an ancestor of the family now living in San Francisco. The Sacramento City Directory states their purpose: "Object—the alleviation of the suffering of the poor and the sick." The Society was reorganized at the turn of the century as the Jewish Relief Society in order to conform to civil law.

This same charity was extended to Sacramentans after the fire of 1852, to residents of Marysville after a terrible fire in the 1850s, and to Jews in lands as far away as Gibralter and Prussia.

Relief was sent to Jerusalem as early as 1860. A letter to Moses Hyman from Sir Moses Montefiore acknowledged a gift of six pounds sterling from the Sacramento Jewish community to the poor in the holy city.



Methodist Episcopal Church,
Parsonage and Classroom
7th and L Streets
Hal Altman

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL OWNS FIRST SYNAGOGUE

On June 4, 1852, Congregation B'nai Israel became the first congregation on the west coast to own their own synagogue.

The community had gathered together their resources, primarily through the Hebrew Benevolent Society, and purchased a former Methodist Episcopal church building for $2000. The consecration speech ended with the naming of the synagogue, "B'nai Israel," (Sons of Israel).

The building was originally prefabricated in Baltimore and shipped around the Horn to occupy a lot given by General John Sutter to the Church in 1849. In November, 1982, the new synagogue was destroyed by a fire that swept through Sacramento.



Black Tuesday, The Great Fire, November 2, 1852
California Historical Society



The Great Flood of 1850
California Historical Society



The foot of J Street during the flood of 1850
Courtesy Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sacramento

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1852

Flooding was common in Sacramento until the levees and streets were raised in 1865. The first great flood came through the city in 1850. After a fire swept through Sacramento, a flood followed in December of that year. The great flood of 1852 left the city in ruin. One Jewish entrepreneur, Bernard Marks, who is remembered as the founder of the Twin Cities between Sacramento and Stockton and the founder of the city of Fresno, wrote about the flooding while traveling through Sacramento on gold prospecting business:

"Many houses were still lying tumbled in every position. Some could be seen floating in the stream and others still had water up to the second story, being on low ground...families woke up and found themselves sailing down the river, and one young man who had converted a large dry goods box into a bedstead floated all night around his house."

THE 1850s

From 1853 to 1858 the synagogue occupied three different Fifth Street locations: between J and K Streets, between L and M Streets, and between N and O Streets. In 1857 the Hebrew Benevolent Society incorporated as the Congregation B'nai Israel with 36 members and 29 children in Sabbath School.



Original Charter of the Etham Lodge #37 of the International Order of B'nai B'rith

B'NAI BRITH

The Etham Lodge of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith #37 received its national charter on May 16, 1858. The Etham Lodge would grow, prosper and be renamed the David Lubin Lodge in 1922.

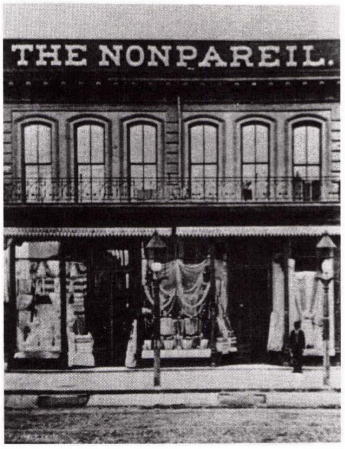
The Ancient Jewish Order of Kesher Shel Bargel was organized on February 22, 1865. Named Har Sinai, No. 5, it grew to 50 members in 1871, and to 75 members in 1875. Louis Elkus was an officer of the lodge. The lodge gave up its charter in 1879.



J Street, between 5th and 6th
California State Library (Nesham)

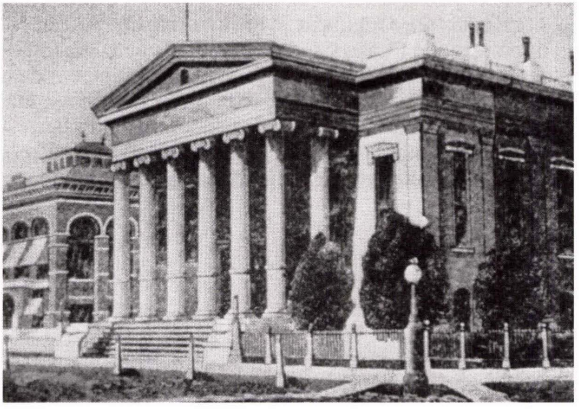
JEWISH BUSINESS IN SACRAMENTO

The Jewish businessmen advertised regularly in the local papers. As early as 1857 there were L. Herzog and Co., Importers and Dealers; L and S Wormser and Co., Importers and Dealers; Kohn and Brother, dealers in French, English, and American staples and fancy dry goods; E. B. Davidson, Bookseller and Stationer; and J. B. Starr, Auction Sales, to name a few. Even the kosher butcher, Mr. Droscher, advertised for the approaching Passover holiday, "Kosher meat, Fulton market, corner M and Fourth Streets...All orders will be promptly filled. The Rev. Mr. Stamper, minister of the Hebrew Congregation will attend, that everything will be conducted in a religious way."



The Nonpareil

The Sacramento dry goods store of Wasserman Davis and Company, the Nonpareil, was located on the northeast corner of J and 5th streets until 1894. Until 1891, it belonged to S. Lipman and Co. Lipman was a charter member of the Etham Lodge of B'nai B'rith in 1858. S. Wasserman was active in Congregation B'nai Israel. D.S. Wasserman was the founder of Capital Federal Savings of Sacramento.



The Old Capitol Building

ANTISEMITISM IN SACRAMENTO

The only overt acts of anti-Semitism publicized were in 1849 and 1855. One article, "Slippery Gentlemen," appeared in the *Sacramento Transcript,* November 9, 1850. There was a difference of opinion between a miner and a Jewish store owner on J Street regarding the value of some gold the miner brought in. The miner valued it at $5000 and the store owner placed its value at $443. The article implied that all Jews were cheats. The paper was not very popular and soon went out of business because of a lack of subscribers.



J Street, from the levee
Henley

From the Gold Rush years on, many groups tried to persuade the legislature to pass laws for temperance and Sunday closing. By 1855,the Senate and Assembly offered bills "for the suppression of amusements and business activity on the Christian Sabbath." On March 16, 1855, William Stow, Speaker of the Assembly, attacked the Jews as undesirable citizens. He was in favor of taxing them to such an extent that they would want to leave the state. The Sunday closing bill was passed,and it was not repealed until the legislative session of 1883. Fortunately, little effort was made in Sacramento to enforce the law. This was due in large part to a committee led by Mr. G. Haines who wrote an article which presented Jewish values in the *Sacramento Union,* March 18, 1855.

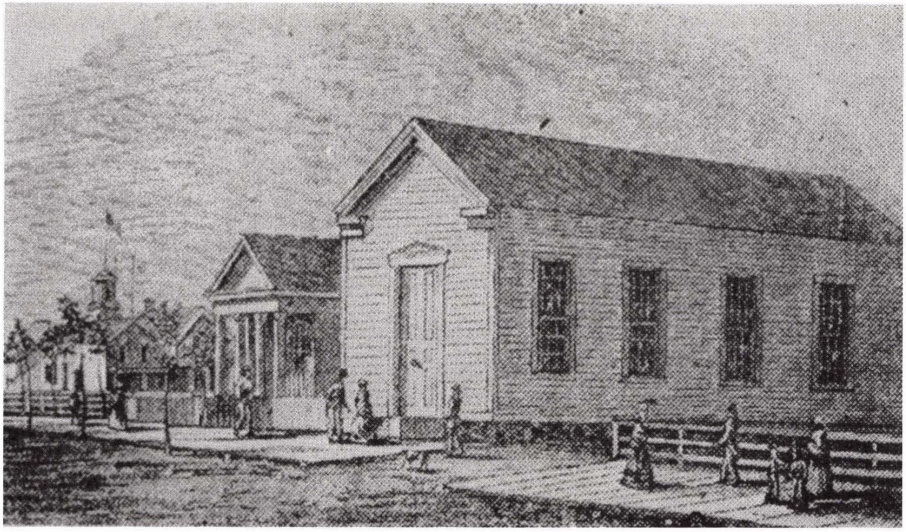


Front Street, 1856, by V. Hoffman
California Historical Society

GERMAN AND POLISH JEWS

Sometime in 1856, another congregation of German Jews was established. The German Jews and Polish Jews did not always agree on the choice of a minister or the degree of orthodoxy in the service. Historically, German Jews had reformed Jewish values, being a part of the humanist movement, or Haskalah, which swept through western Europe. Polish Jews led a more isolated existence, residing in the Pale of Settlement in the buffer zone between Poland and Russia. It was tradition which held the Polish Jews together.

In 1859 the *Sacramento Union* reported an account of "the recent inability of the German Jews and Polish Jews to agree on the choice of a minister. . ." and continues, "A movement has been made toward the erection of a Synagogue in which the German Jewish men have the choice of the minister. Rabbi Nuestadt acted as reader for the congregation of 23 members. The Congregation Chosen of Peace gained enough support to reduce the membership of B'nai Israel to 55 members. The congregation minutes of May 15, 1859, disclose the resignation of 20 men, including the minister, who then joined Chosen of Peace. The City Directory of 1861 records that the congregation either owned a building or at least had the furnishings of a hall valued at $1200.



The Temple B' nai Israel 1859 - 1861

A NEW BUILDING FOR B'NAI ISRAEL

The new building for B'nai Israel was purchased in 1858 from the Methodist Episcopal church on 7th between L and M streets. By curious coincidence this building was on the same site and purchased from the same church as the first synagogue, dedicated 7 years earlier. The building was described as a brown frame building, the interior of which was a room 30 by 60 feet with high walls of plain white mortar (*Union*, June 6, 1849) The building, with the gallery, could seat 300 people.



Flood of 1862, M and 16th Street
Frank S. Christy (McGowan)

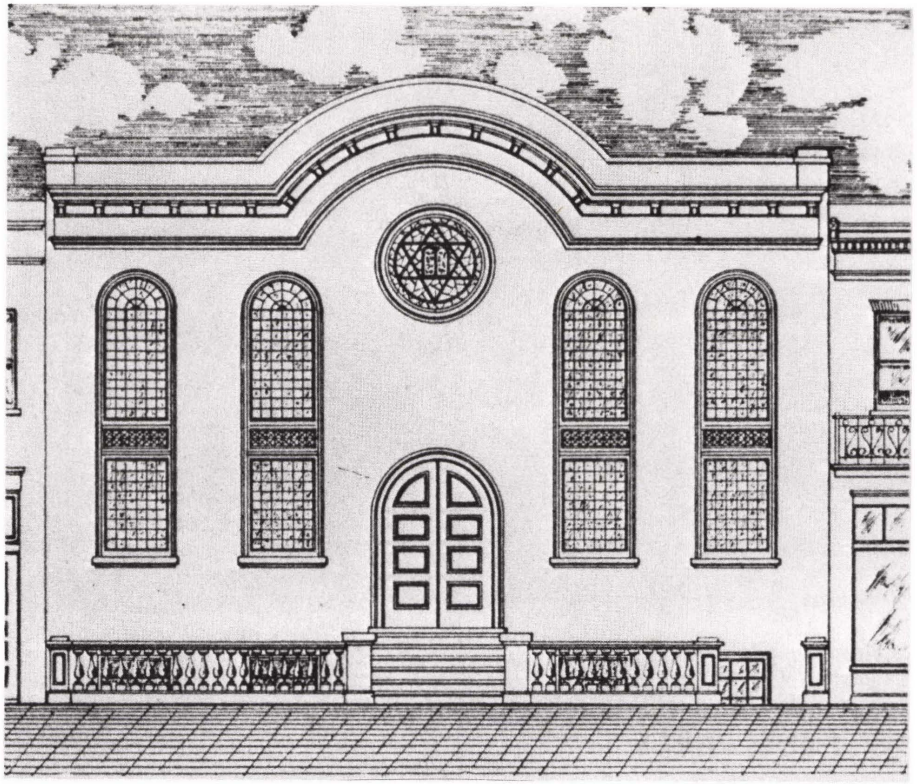
THE CEMETERY, SOCIAL CLUBS AND NATURAL CATASTROPHY

The Hebrew Ladies Society of Sacramento was officially formed on March 7, 1858. By 1859, when the new Synagogue was consecrated , Sacramento Jewry was organized into a Hebrew Benevolent Society, Young Mens Hebrew Benevolent Society, Etham Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Hebrew Ladies Society, Congregation B'nai Israel, and Congregation Chosen of Peace.

In 1860 the cemetery purchased by Moses Hyman was organized into lots by the Hebrew Relief Society into. There were evergreen shrubs and flowers on the cemetery grounds. It was enclosed by a brick wall on which stood a wood fence, and a chapel was built. All this was accomplished for $3000.

After bad floods in the winter of 1861-62, a tragic fire the following summer destroyed the B'nai Israel building. The congregation rented various halls, one of which was Grahams Hall. They even used one of the rooms of the Courthouse and the Assembly and Senate Chambers.

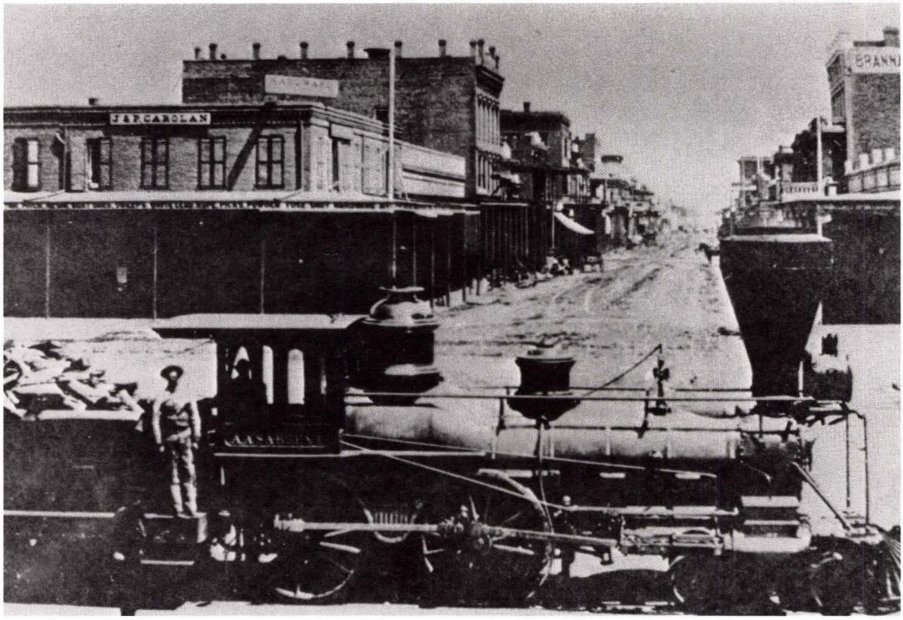
The fire that destroyed the B'nai Israel synagogue united the two congregations, B'nai Israel and Chosen of Peace. Both traditions were practiced under the same roof until the turn of the century.



The Sixth Street Temple B'nai Israel
1864 - 1904

THE SIXTH STREET TEMPLE

In 1863, under the ministry of Rabbi M. Silberstein, the congregation purchased the building belonging to the Presbyterian Church on 6th Street between J and K Streets for $5,500. The dedication ceremony was a gala event. The music was specially arranged by M. N. Jacobs, a congregant noted for his musical talent, and the choir was led by Prof. Hugo Manfield. Rabbi Stamper succeeded Rabbi Silberstein from 1865 to 1868, Rabbi Lowenthal came afterwards, officiating for the next 11 years.



Intersection of Front and J Street
Henley

MR. LOUIS ELKUS

The congregation was fortunate to have for its president, Louis Elkus, a man of such great presence and ability that he was kept in office for 31 years until his retirement in 1891.

During the nineties, the Sacramento Jewish community engaged in social activities to an unusual degree. In the late 70s, Mr. Elkus was the sponsor of the Youths' Literary Society which met at his home on Sunday afternoons. Daniel Hyman and Albert Elkus were among the officers. A Dramatic, Musical, and Literary Society called the "Cantaleta" flourished in the early 80s. All of the Elkus family and Rebecca Joseph were among the 27 members of that Society.



K at Front Street, 1870
Photographer: A. J. Russel
California Historical Society

The Eureka Social Club also flourished during the seventies and eighties. Comprised largely of congregation members, the club had rooms of its own, first at the south-east corner of 2nd and K streets and later on J between 5th and 6th streets. Each year the club would hold an outstanding masquerade ball, either at Turner Hall or at "The Pavillion." These balls were always proclaimed "the success of the season." The Eureka Social Club gave benefits for the temple, as did the Etham Lodge B'nai B'rith at its annual picnics.

OBSERVATIONS OF A SACRAMENTO JEW, 1867

The following letter was sent from Sacramento by a resident of that city and published in *The Hebrew Observer of Sacramento* March 1, 1867, page 4:

"It may not prove altogether uninteresting to your numerous readers to learn that in spite of the high stage of water, and the low range of the levee, together with the threatening elements which speak loudly through the windows of heaven which are quite ajar — that this city of the plains is not only alive in the interests of Judaism but is actually marching onward in a manner worthy of the imitation of other interior congregations which have had less of water and fire to contend against.

"That we have as a fine model of a synagogue as there is on this coast, no one who has looked at the stately house of worship - so unique and inviting - can deny; but we have particular reason to be proud of the tabernacle erected for the B'nai Israel as the structure is out of debt, owing altogether to the indefatigable efforts of its managers, chief of whom is L. Elkus, Esq., president of the congregation . . . Service is held at our synagogue every Friday evening and Saturday morning, and the attendance is good.

"We have the good fortune to have a rabbi from New York, Rev. William Stamper . . . He is a good Hazan, an excellent teacher, and above all a gentleman of rare virtues and equanimity of temper."



Rabbi M. Gerstman with confirmation class of 1880

THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN SACRAMENTO

Rabbi Isaac M. Wise of San Francisco, instrumental in the development of the Reform movement in America, visited Congregation B'nai Israel in 1877 and remarked that at the Saturday morning service he attended there were 10 men including himself, 5 boys, and only one lady. The congregation had been experiencing times of "bare minyans" or no minyans at all.

An account of the Jewish community in Thompson and West's *History of Sacramento,* 1880, tells that the pulpit of Congregation B'nai Israel was held by Rabbi Gerstman, and in that year the congregation changed from Orthodox Judaism to "Reformed Israelites." It was Rabbi Gerstman who introduced the Reform prayerbook of Isaac M. Wise, *Minhag America,* and made other reforms to the structure of the service, such as shorter services in English and the use of an organ.

During 1880 the community released the shochet (kosher butcher) who came once a week from Oakland. A story is told that only one calf was killed by the shochet in any week, yet one week Mesdames Joseph, Ahpel, Hamburger and Elkus all bought calves tongues for dinner, which brought about the decision to release the shochet.

Rabbi Lowenthal officiated for the holidays of 1880, and early in 1881, Rabbi Jacob Block was brought to B'nai Israel from Little Rock, Arkansas. The congregation ran a Hebrew school at the old schoolhouse on O between 7th and 6th streets. Ninety-nine pupils enrolled in Sabbath school. One of the teachers was Rebecca Joseph. Rebecca is remembered for her literary abilities. She would write beautiful poems for High Holy Day and other special services.



Miss Sophie Price, 1900
Congregation B'nai Israel Archives

HEBREW SCHOOL AND JEWISH TEACHERS

Miss Sophie Price was born in 1872, the youngest of nine children in the Sacramento home her father bought in 1860 from B.F. Hastings, pioneer banker. The Stanford family was among her neighbors. Her father was a California pioneer who came west in the Gold Rush of 1849 and first opened a general merchandising business in Placerville; the medium of exchange was gold dust. Later he went to Woodland where he owned property which was to become the Burns Hotel. Upon his arrival in Sacramento he was employed by F. Chevalier and Co., a famous wine and liquor importer of that day. Sophie Price left her impresions of life in Sacramento in her book *A Sacramento Story.*

Miss Sophie was a public school kindergarten teacher for 30 years and the founder in 1935 of the Capitol Division of the California Retired Teachers Association. She established the first manual training class in Sacramento schools. At her suggestion, a cabinet maker from John Breuner's was invited to teach. Long active in Congregation B'nai Israel and Sisterhood, Miss Sophie and her mother, Eva Price, are memorialized in the Temple Price Youth Fund.

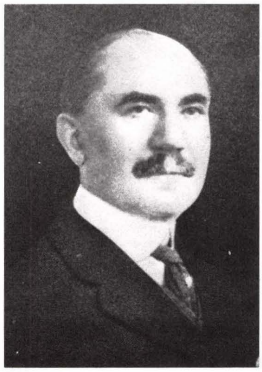
RABBI LEVY

Rebecca Joseph is quoted by Rabbi Rheinhart in 1927 in reference to the Temple in the 1880's: "I remember it as a congregation whose hearts burned with religious zeal." She is commemorated in Sophie Price's *The Sacramento Story* in which Sophie wrote about "The Festival of Flowers." Rebecca was asked to write a poem for the opening ceremony for a testimonial reception to Margaret E. Crocker by the citizens of Sacramento on May 6, 1885.

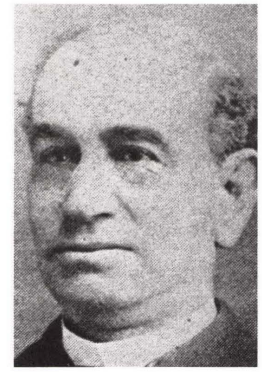
From 1888 to 1889 the congregation was without a rabbi. Samuel Morris is remembered for keeping the Temple paperwork in order during that year.

Rabbi Joseph Leonard Levy was brought to Sacramento from London in September, 1889. Harris Weinstock was responsible for bringing Rabbi Levy.

Samuel Mooser, known for his great, personal effort on behalf of the temple, stated that after Rabbi Levy delivered his first sermon, he was branded by the orthodox as "an outcast from Judaism." After such remarks, Rabbi Levy went to see every orthodox member personally and, in time, established good rapport throughout
light of Judaism." (Rhinehart) He was invited throughout Sacramento to deliver lectures at various church functions and civic gatherings.



Harris Weinstock

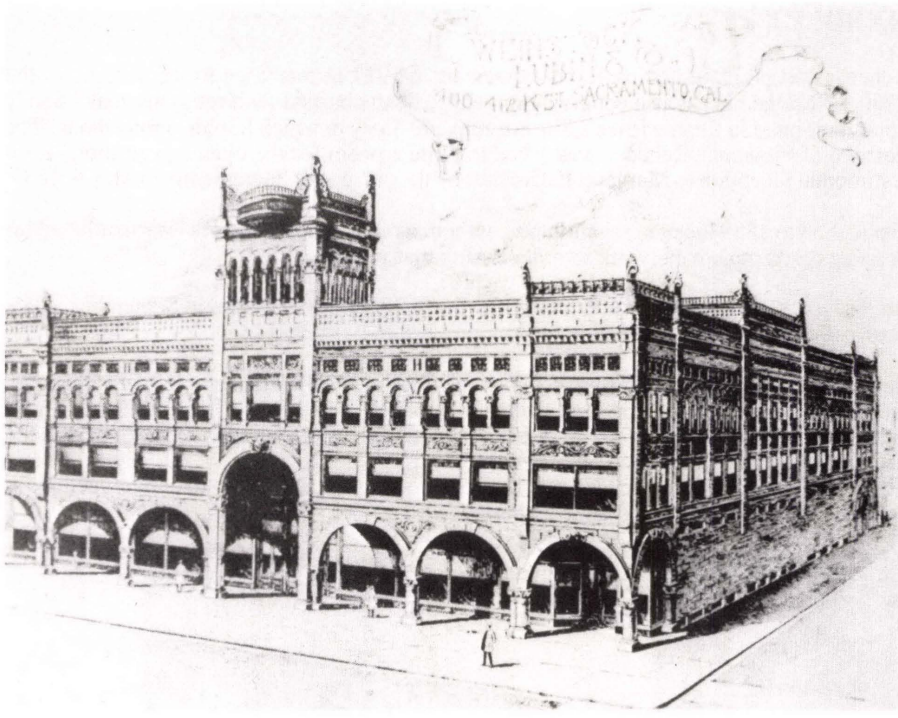


Louis Elkus

HARRIS WEINSTOCK

Louis retired from the Temple presidency in 1891 when Harris Weinstock assumed the position, keeping it until 1897. Weinstock tried to increase the membership and income of the congregation. Thirty-eight members more than doubled their dues and the membership grew to 107 members.

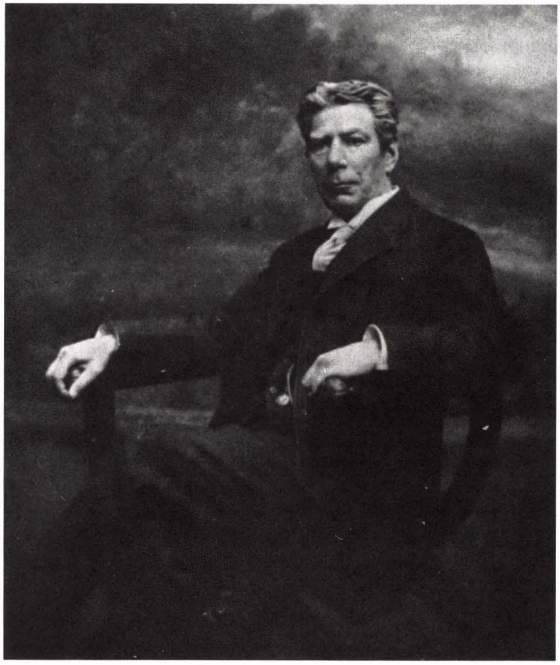
Weinstock, born in London in 1854, achieved substantial success as a Sacramento merchant with his half-brother, David Lubin. In 1887 Harris Weinstock was named to the board of trustees of the California State Library and was later appointed to a trustee's seat for the City of Sacramento. In December, 1894, he was a member of a local Federation of Religious Beneficence. This group was determined to rid Sacramento of the professional beggar. In return for four hours labor breaking rock, this federation provided a man with 3 meals a day and a nights lodging, allowing him several hours each day to look for another job.



Weinstock - Lubin & Company, 1891
Western States Jewish Historical Society

In 1913 President Woodrow Wilson appointed Weinstock to the United States Industrial Relations Commission. Weinstock was instrumental in establishing California's Farmers' Marketing Association, of which he was the first director. He was on the executive board of the National Civic Federation, vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society of America and was founding president of the Commonwealth Club of California. Weinstock was also founding member of the Sutter Club of Sacramento. Much of Weinstock's work can be seen as his effort to bridge the gap between Jews and Gentiles. His ideas can be read in his book, *We Jews and Jesus*.

Weinstock was married to Barbara Felsenthal of San Francisco and later established the Barbara Weinstock Lectureship on Morals of Trade at the University of California. Harris Weinstock died August 22, 1922.



David Lubin
Agresti



Weinstock Lubin and Co.
Sacramento, 1894
Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly

DAVID LUBIN

In 1874 David Lubin came to Sacramento from San Francisco, having been dissatisfied with the method of business there. Lubin did not agree with the policy of haggling with each customer over the price of goods, so he set out to open a retail store offering one, fixed price for all goods.

David Lubin found a place at 100 K Street, between 4th and 5th Streets, over a basement saloon. The area was 10 feet wide by 12 feet deep and was separated from a chinese laundry by a thin partition. Three other saloons were on the other corners. His store was called the "Mechanics Store, D. Lubin, One Price." He sold all kinds of clothes, mostly to miners buying their goods in Sacramento. His business prospered, and his half-brother, Harris Weinstock, came from San Francisco to be his partner. Lubin's desk was a packing box with a covering of oil cloth. The counters were also packing boxes. Lubin's bed was under the counter.



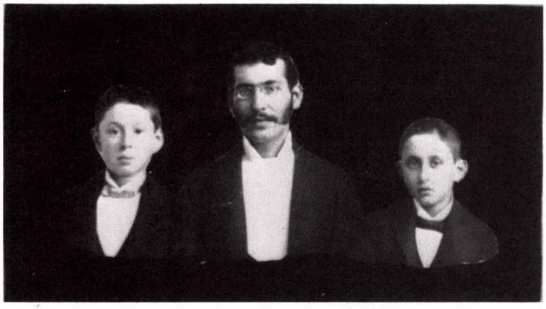
Crocker Art Museum
Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Lubin was active in the Sacramento community. He was president and founder of the California Museum Association,to whom Mrs. Margaret Crocker presented the Crocker Art Gallery to the City of Sacramento at the Flower Festival in 1885. Mrs. Crocker gave credit for the donation to David Lubin who first made the suggestion to her. The Crocker Art Gallery was the first art museum to be established west of the Mississippi River.

In December, 1890, Lubin became interested in colonizing Russian Jews in California. He corresponded with Rabbi Isaac M. Wise in San Francisco to achieve this goal. A committee, formed in Sacramento, met in B'nai B'rith Hall in San Francisco to establish a society to better the conditions of the Jews in Russia. Lubin was chair of that committee and raised a large sum of money through contributions. A colony of Russian Jews were brought over and settled on co-operative farms near Twin Cities.

In 1900 David Lubin published a book, titled *"Let There be Light."* This was a well received philosophical discourse on the nature of mans interactions with himself and his universe.

In 1905 Lubin founded the International Institute of Agriculture. He was able to convince King Victor Emmanuel of Italy of the importance of man supplying food and clothing for the people of the earth without their being exploited by middlemen and speculators. During World War I, the Institute supplied fundamental crop information to the Inter-Allied Food Commission. In 1946 the Institute was merged into the United Nations as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Rabbi Abram Simon, Robert Asher and Earnest Gattman, 1895
Congregation B'nai Israel Archives

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL IN THE 90s

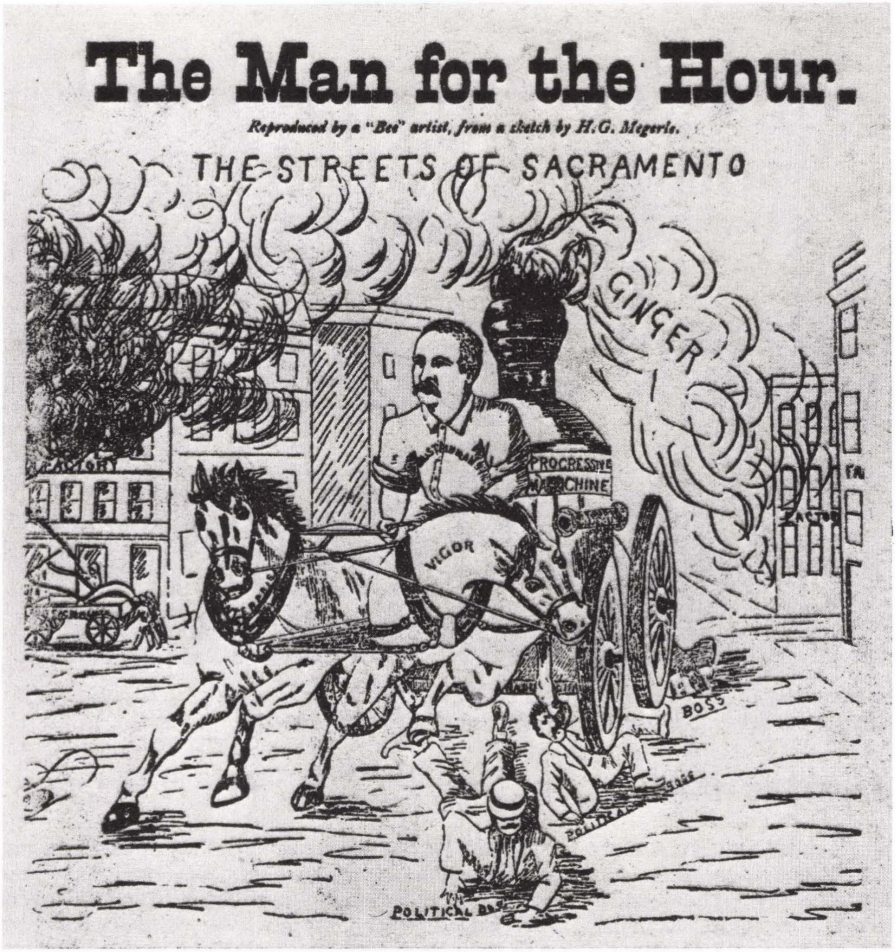
In 1893 Rabbi Levy was called to Philadelphia, replaced for the year by Rabbi Barnett Ellis, under whose ministry the congregation adopted The Union Prayerbook.

Harris Weinstock and Mr. L. Heilbron conducted services during the interim of 1894 when the Temple was without a rabbi. The congregation was still divided on several issues of halachic observance, seating themselves on alternate sides of the building. When Rabbi Abram Simon arrived in 1895 he found himself before not one, but two congregations.

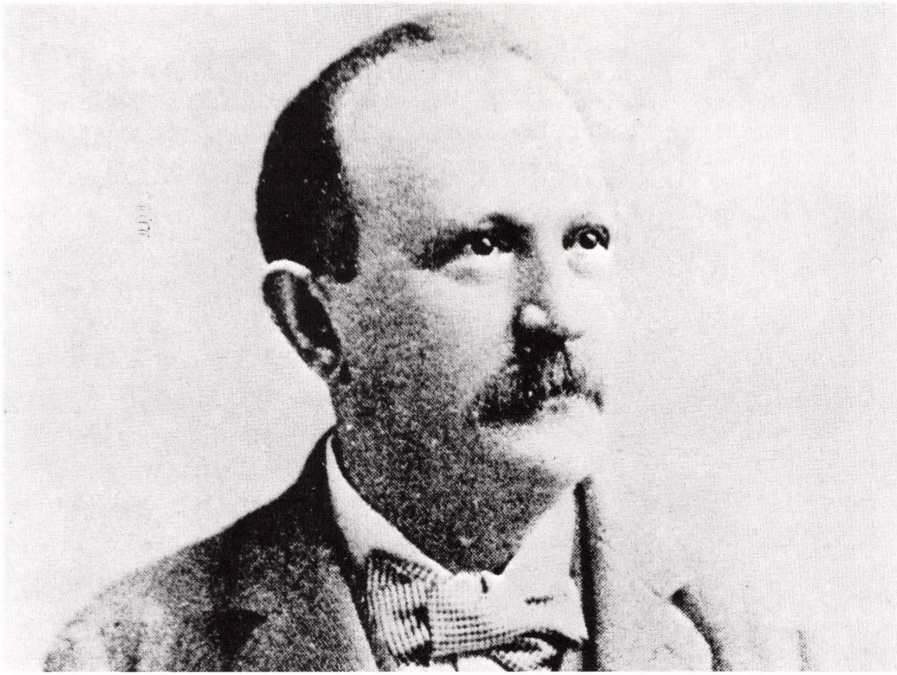
Congregation B'nai Israel became a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on November 4, 1895. Rabbi Simon held the divided congregation together and reorganized the Hebrew Benevolent Society which had disbanded shortly before he arrived.

The Hebrew School had 65 pupils enrolled in 1900, with Misses Alice and Helen Weinstock and Lizzie Zemansky as teachers. Mrs. Simon organized the Ladies Auxiliary; and a reading circle was formed and held regular meetings.

Rabbi Simon was one of the founders of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in Sacramento, acting as secretary for 4 years. Rabbi Simon left Sacramento in 1899 for Omaha, Nebraska, going on to become the national president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Rabbi Simon is also noted for his efforts in preserving the early Jewish history of Sacramento.



The Man for the Hour
Mayor Ben Steinman, 1892
Sacramento Bee



Ben Steinman 1847 - 1914
Mayor of Sacramento Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly

BEN STEINMAN

Ben Steinman settled in Sacramento in 1857. He became president of the Capital Light and Heat Company, the first of its kind in Sacramento.He was president of Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank, and president of the Union Building and Loan Association. He was elected two terms as Sacramento County Supervisor and, in 1892, was elected to a four year term as Mayor of Sacramento. He was well-known for enacting public works programs during the depression of the mid-1890's. His wife, Fannie Sachs, was active in the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society.



Temple Girls: May Tickner, Helen Weinstock, Grace Dawson, Jessie Mott, Grace Knowlton, Jessie Ewing, Clara Durbrow, Nanette Birdsall, Sacramento, March 28, 1897. Congregation B'nai Israel Archives

SACRAMENTO, 1897

The following report was published in Anglo-Jewish weekly Emanu-el in San Francisco, June 11, 1897:
"The Synagogue for the congregation B'nai Israel was Sunday morning the scene of the most noteworthy ceremonies of our religion—that of the confirmation into the faith of the fathers, conferred upon young children. Coupled with the ceremony was the observance of the feast of Shabuoth, or Pentecost. The temple was crowded to the doors at the services, which were conducted by Rabbi A. Simon, assisted in the festal ceremony by H. Weinstock, president of the congregation, and Albert Elkus, vice president...

"There were seven confirmants: Pearl Coleman, Katie Simons, Phoebe Litzberg, Esther Nathan, Carrie Salomon, Estella Insberg and Albert I. Elkus.

Mr. Weinstock spoke of the privileges granted by the Declaration of Independence, which stamped out tyranny. . .He told the children that they should be mindful also of the privileges which the Jewish religion conferred . . .

"He said that it lay within the scope of the children to make the world, and the circle in which they moved, better for their existence . . .

"The ceremonies concluded with an address and blessing by Rabbi Simon, who spoke with much feeling, saying that the parents of these children, whom they had tenderly nurtured, must surely be happy and proud to see them here, a guarantee that they would preserve and spread the Jewish religion after the older generation had passed away."



Albert Elkus

THE ELKUS FAMILY

The Elkus family continued to be a driving force in the Temple through the turn of the century. In 1897, Albert Elkus, son of Louis, became President of the Temple, a position he would hold until 1915.

A native of Sacramento, Albert was active in civic life. He served as mayor of the city for four years, president of the city board of trustees, a member of the city charter committee, and director of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Albert operated a men's haberdashery at the corner of 9th and K . His motto was "Everymans size is odd but we can fit them all." Albert served as the president of Congregation B'nai Israel for 28 years, following the 31 year term of his father, Louis Elkus.

Bertha Kahn Elkus married Albert Elkus in Oakland in 1882 and was a resident of Sacramento for 56 years. She was considered Sacramento's " patron saint " of music. She was the founder of the Sacramento Chapter of the American Red Cross and served as its first president. She was also state vice-president during the Spanish-American war. She served as president of the Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood and was one of the early presidents of the musical Saturday Club in Sacramento, being made honorary president in her later years.



Elkus' Store
Sacramento History Center

Primary sources for this section were as follows: Rabbi Rhinehart's 1927 compilation called the "Diamond Jubilee" for Congregation B'nai Israel. Marlene Gaines Tonkin's 1969 monograph titled "The Sacramento Jewish Community From the Gold Rush to the Twenties," which can also be found published in the *"Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly."*

Hal Altman's *"The Pioneer Jewish Community of Sacramento,"* was published in the Far Westerner. Various other citations were found in the *"Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly"* and Agresti's book , "*David Lubin."* Information about B'nai Israel, Kesher Shel Barsel and one B'nai B'rith lodge also was found in Thompson and West's *Sacramento County.*

It may be of interest to note that much of the detail that is known about early Sacramento comes from Rabbi Rhinehart's work. He cites Rabbi Simon as his primary source of direction. Hal Altman, a past resident of Sacramento, did extensive research on the early Jewish history; but upon his death he bequeathed his collection of documents to the University of the Pacific library in Stockton, California.



View northwest from Capitol Dome, 1897
California Historical Society

Both Hal Altman and Marlene Tonkin sources had information regarding the antisemetism. The colorful stories were mostly from Rabbi Rhinehart.

Marlene Tonkin's work can be found throughout these pages. Her monograph covered many of the letters and documents found in the Judah P. Magnes Museum in Berkeley.

The Western States Jewish Historical Society, led diligently by Mr. Norton B. Stern, has many fine photos and vignettes on diverse parts of early Sacramento Jewry. Particularly noteworthy is the letter dated 1897. Most of the other photos were found in the Congregation B'nai Israel archives, The Sacramento Historical Society, and in the texts of McGowan, Woolridge, Nesham, Henley, and the Public Administration Service, whose citations can be found in the bibliography.

A truly witty and lighthearted reading experience can be found in Sophie Price's *"A Sacramento Story."* Furthermore, the reader should be urged to look more deeply into the life of David Lubin. His life led him in many different directions and his personal vigor allowed him to make many changes in both International and Califonia agriculture. Here was a Jew who lived a personal "tikkun." He gave of himself to a world unready for his foresight.



Old Sacramento, 1870
California State Library

Until 1893 Congregation B'nai Israel was primarily an Orthodox assembly. Little was done to emphasize the differences between the Polish and German Jews. It is the author's opinion that they struggled to stay under one roof. Other works, especially an unpublished report at the Sacramento History Center, dramatize their differences. This author chooses to point out their strengths.

After 1893 the changes brought about by Rabbi Levy put an insurmountable schism between the two groups. As we will see in the next chapter, a new minyan arose in Sacramento to serve the need of the more observant Polish group. It may be noteworthy to point out that the German reformists were a minority in 1859, but by the turn of the century, the reform movement had gained a substantial majority in the congregation, a result of their isolation from other Jews, living in a bustling, brawling, trading town like Sacramento.

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY
1900 - 1919



The New York Store of William Anapolsky



Mr. and Mrs. Morris Levy



A. Mooser, Sam Mooser, Mrs. Helena Nathan

COMMUNITY LADIES

On March 16, 1900, a tremendous gathering assembled for a tribute to Mrs. Rosa Nathan, affectionately known to the community as Grandma Nathan. Rabbi Voorsanger of San Francisco, after attending her 80th birthday party, wrote in the *Emanu-El* of the day on what he thought was "probably the largest Jewish assembly Sacramento has seen (in honor of), the pet of the Jewish community of Sacramento . . . a matriarch . . . (and) . . . helper of large numbers."

Another community favorite was Mrs. Morris Levy (Annie). During the Feast of Tabernacles (1900), the Sukkah erected at her home was visited by large numbers of the congregation. She was remembered as an outstanding example of religious piety. Annie was one of the founding members of the Temple Sisterhood of B'nai Israel.

The Levys came to Sacramento in 1906, after the great San Franscico earthquake. Morris owned a pawn shop on K Street, where most of the other Jewish merchants set up shop. In 1930 he acquired interest with his brother in a five story hotel with the Metropolitan Chain Store beneath. Bob Levy, Morris' son, was instrumental in the formation of Temple Beth Shalom in 1973.

From 1900 to 1901 Rabbi William Greenberg oversaw Congregation B'nai Israel in deadlock between the orthodox and reform members. The following year Rabbi Bernard Kaplan came to the pulpit and stayed for 2 years before moving on to Connecticut.



Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Markowitz

THE FOUNDING OF MOSAIC LAW CONGREGATION

The turn of the century would mark many changes in Sacramento Jewish life. The San Francisco Jewish newspaper *Emanu-El* (October 19, 1900) made reference to the congregation Chevra Torat Moshe, which grew to become a conservative congregation known today as Mosaic Law. A small group of eastern European Jews had met continuously throughout Jewish settlement in Sacramento, even after the fire of 1861.In 1890 members of Congregation Torat Moshe met in the back of a store owned by Jacob Bloomberg at 214 K Street. It is probable that the departure of Rabbi Simon, of B'nai Israel, left a void that was not readily filled. Many dissatisfied orthodox Jews came over to the small minyon of Chevra Torat Moshe.

On February 27, 1900, Congregation Chevra Torat Moshe (Mosaic Law) formally organized. S. Poska and M.S. Wahrhaftig were president and secretary, respectively. The name, Chevra Torat Moshe, was chosen by Wahrhaftig, who was known to be a Hebrew Scholar.



Inside of the New York Store, William Anapolsky (left)

Because of limited funds Mosaic Law Congregation held its minyan services in members' residences or public halls for High Holidays. The congregation opened a Hebrew school and hired a teacher and a shochet.

In 1912 the minyan met in the shop of Manuel Greenberg. During the High Holidays the congregation would rent the Knights' of Pythias hall at 9th and I Streets. The membership grew to about 40 but later suffered reduction, at which time the school teacher and shochet had to go.

In 1913 membership was enlarged by a group of congregational leaders. Foremost among them were Max Levy, his brother Morris Levy, A. J. Markowitz, Manuel Greenberg, Oliver Goldblatt, and Laz Bloomberg. Minyans were held in the back of Morris Levy's store. They asked for the cooperation of several families newly settled here, such as the Abramsons, Anapolskys and Greenblatts.



Oak Park Department Store of Isador and Sabina Cohn (left)

NEW FAMILIES IN A CHANGING JEWISH COMMUNITY

New families, which would have important roles in the development of the Jewish community of Sacramento, arrived from Europe at the beginning of this century. The Anapolskys, Fahns, Finegolds, Greenbergs, Levys, Merksamers, and Oppers all arrived from Europe about this time.



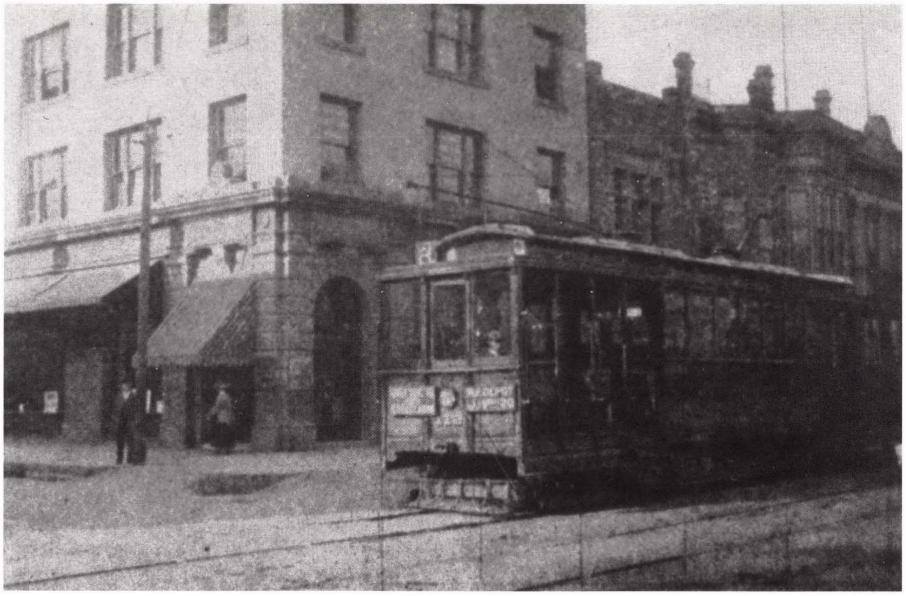
The Anapolskys, from left to right:(top) Barney, Joe, Louis, Solly, William, David (bottom) Milton, Miriam, Leah, Ida, Bessie, Louis, Phillip, (front) Silvan

THE ANAPOLSKYS

Dave Anapolsky came to the United States from Ikanarinaslav, Russia, in 1900 through Ellis Island. He sold clothes door to door from New York to Roseville, California, where he got a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

From there he moved to Sacramento, bringing his father, Julius, his mother, Leah, and his brothers, William, Solly, Louis, Joe, and Barney. They all went into the habadashery business. William Anapolsky ran the New York Store, Julius had Julius Clothing, and Louis and David operated Capital Clothing.

Julius Anapolsky was a lover of sports. He boxed at the L Street Arena, which stood where Macy's stands today. He also managed an amateur baseball team in Sacramento and refereed at Folsom Prison. He sponsored the "Winners League," which was Sacramento's first '49er football team fan club. Solly Anapolsky continued sponsoring it after Julius' death.



South-west corner of 7th and J Streets, 1919
Courtesy of Frank S. Christy

Phillip Anapolsky, Louis' son, recalled the old PG&E gym down by Fifth Street where the AZA would meet for basketball. Notable school-age youths of the time are Mark Goodson, the television game show producer, and Herb Caen, of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. These two have their childhood roots in Sacramento.

One small vignette from Phillip was going to shul for Hebrew study. Rabbi Brosin was leading the shul at the time and was known for his old style of teaching. Phillip would leave his house at 1137 42nd Street and walk to the street car stop at 46th and J Street. The car ran to Alhambra Blvd. From there he would walk to shul. Hebrew class was held upstairs in the shul. There he, Cecil and Ray Finegold, Leo and Alex Fahn, Isadore Brosin, and other young boys would sit and memorize verse. All of the men remember not only the long street car ride, but also the long ruler of Rabbi Brosin that would whop them if they did not pay attention.

Phillip's Grandfather, Abraham Silverstone, was one of the pioneers who came around the Cape by ship, arriving in San Franscico's Barbary Coast. He came to Sacramento around 1902 as a cigar maker. At that time cigars were all made by hand and by special order. A man would place his order for a particular size and style cigar and then watch it being made behind a glass window. Abraham was a member of the minyan of Chevras Torat Moshe before it became known as Mosaic Law.



The Fahn Family. Left to right: Hannah, Joseph, Hirsh, Ernest, and Sarah (Kamil)

THE FAHN FAMILY

Isadore Fahn was the first member of the family to arrive in 1912. He set up shop as a fur trader in a tin shack along the Sacramento River. Eleven years after his arrival in the valley, Isadore brought his brothers Joseph and Ernest Fahn from Germany. The brothers became peddlers in Sacramento. From buckboard to Model T, they drove down the dirt roads of the city of Sacramento shouting "rags, bottles and sacks!" People came out of their homes and shops to sell their sacks to these Jewish men who, in turn, would recondition them for resale to make an honest dollar.



Sacramento Bag Company

Once Joseph Fahn had secured a living in the valley, he sent for his wife, Charlotte, and two sons, Leo and Alex. The family arrived in Sacramento in August, 1928. Joseph bought a blower for cleaning sack cloth and hired ladies to mend used bags to sell to local farmers to package their grain. Business was conducted from the tin shack by the American River until fire burned it to the ground in 1931. The Fahns moved to a leased site and set up shop as the Sacramento Bag Manufacturing Company.

Meanwhile, Mervin Fahn, the son of Isadore, went into the bakery business and now operates the Muzio Bakery in Sacramento. All of the Fahns have been active in the Jewish Community, in Mosaic Law Congregation and in the Jewish Federation of Sacramento. Leo and Alex have both been presidents of Mosaic Law and the Jewish Federation. Leo was a past president of the David Lubin Lodge.



Mr. and Mrs. Morris Opper



Sy Opper

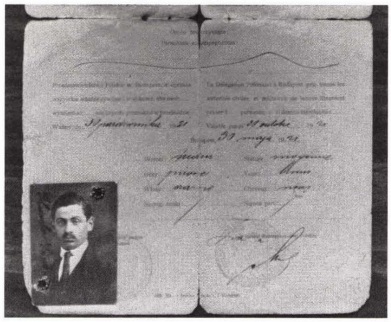
THE OPPER FAMILY

Morris Opper came to Placerville in 1903 from Vilna, Poland, with his wife Hannaleika (Annie). He tried his luck at mail order and then decided to become a painting contractor in Sacramento. Business was good and Morris began to speculate in real estate. He lost much of his property in the 1929 crash, including a 12-unit apartment complex at 8th and O, known to have had the first steambath in Sacramento.

Sy Opper, the son of Morris, recalls that his mother took in many Jews who came into town without family. The Oppers are renowned for their good will in caring for needy Jews. Blanche Goldstein spoke of them as "souls of hospitality." Scarcely a Shabbat would pass when the Oppers would not have guests to their home at 419 15th Street. Morris Opper was active in Mosaic Law. His son, Sy, became president of Temple B'nai Israel, the David Lubin Lodge of B'nai B'rith, and the Sacramento Jewish Federation. He was also City of Hope "Man of the Year" in 1971.



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Finegold



Sam Finegold' s passport

THE FINEGOLD FAMILY

Mrs. Harry Finegold (Minnie) arrived in Sacramento near the turn of the century. She rented clothing lockers to migrant workers for a few pennies a day. From this start she and her husband opened a general and used merchandise business in 1915. They helped bring out Harry's sister Sabrina Finegold Cohn, her husband, Isador, and their children, Sherry, Margie, and Mark; and brother, Nathan Finegold.

Sam Finegold came to this country in 1921 from Poland and went into business with his parents, Minnie and Harry Finegold. Harry died in 1924, and Sam continued to operate the business with his mother. The company began selling mining supplies and cashing in gold for miners. This business grew into Finegold's Restaurant Supply Company and Finegold's Coins.

Sam came from a chassidic community in Poland. Shortly after his bar mitzvah he was forcefully conscripted into the Russian army where he could no longer practice the traditions of his people. Sam's son, Ray, said that his father was spiritually crushed. He cut off his pais as he felt he had been cut off from the Jewish people.

When Sam arrived in Sacramento he set out to build and strengthen the Jewish community. He joined the orthodox congregation, Mosaic Law, became active in the Chevra Kadisha, the Jewish Emigre Society, and was a founder of the Jewish Federation.

Sam married Esther Radinsky in 1924 and they had four children: Emilie Finegold Yaffe, Ray Finegold, Cecil Finegold, and Bennie, who died of leukemia at a young age.



Ray, Sam and Cecil

Sam Finegold was president of the Home of Peace Cemetery Association after Laz Blumberg died. Sam over saw the building of the cemetery chapel, a mausoleum, and a caretaker's home. Max Smith, a carpenter, helped build the cemetery chapel. Al Dreyfus designed the mausoleum. The caretaker's home was built by Oscar Morvai. He was president of the Jewish Relief Society until its incorporation into the Jewish Federation in 1968. Sam Finegold was remembered by Arthur Nathan, secretary of the Jewish Relief Society, as a man of great generosity. Sam Finegold was involved in the various expansion projects of Mosaic Law since his arrival in Sacramento.

His sons, Ray and Cecil Finegold, have continued in their father's tradition. They were instrumental in the purchase of the Federation building on Wyda Way and the Mosaic Law site on Sierra Blvd. Ray and Cecil are active members on the Mosaic Law Board and are active in the Home of Peace Cemetery Association.
Sam worked hard for the Chevra Kadisha. Perhaps it was Sam's desire to absolve himself of that part of his life spent in the Russian army. It is said that the greatest mitzvah is the burial of the dead. When one takes care of the dead one *can not* in any way expect something in return, so it must be from the heart.

At that time the Chevra Kadisha had no mortuary to prepare deceased Jews for traditional burial. An account by Sam Finegold, taped by Sally Lerner, describes the ritual bathing and wrapping. The bodies were taken to the home of a member of the Chevra Kadisha where a room was specially dedicated for the ritual bathing of the dead. The bodies were wrapped in white linen and taken to the Home of Peace cemetery for burial.



Oscar Blumberg
Temple B' nai Israel Archives



Oscar and Belle Blumberg at
Santa Cruz

OSCAR BLUMBERG

Oscar Blumberg came to Sacramento on November 10, 1914. A postal service employee, Oscar Blumberg joined Temple B'nai Israel and, in 1916, joined the Etham Lodge of B'nai B'rith #37. He was Lodge president in 1919 and secretary from 1920 to 1959. He was a member in good standing in these organizations from 1916 until his death in 1987.

Oscar Blumberg was secretary of the Home of Peace Cemetery Association from 1933 until the late seventies. He also served as secretary of District Lodge #4 of B'nai B'rith, secretary of UJWF campaigns during the forties, and secretary of Temple B'nai Israel. Blumberg is credited for the organization of the Emigre Committee which helped bring over German Jews during the thirties. He was also responsible for the Hebrew Free Loan Society of Sacramento.



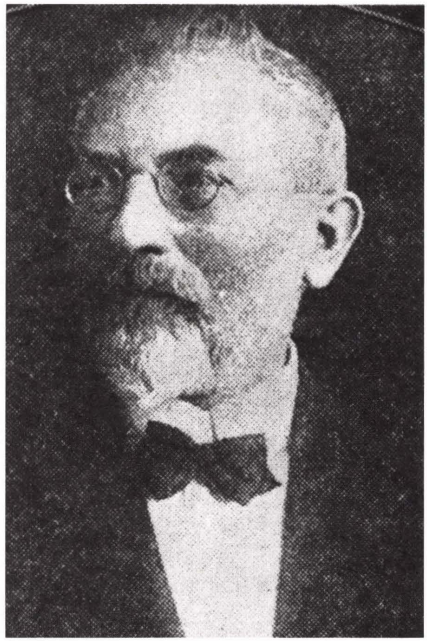
15th Street Temple B' nai Israel

In 1927 he was appointed to the position of supervisor of the State Capital Postal Station, Branch 77. Thirty years later, he was appointed Assistant Postmaster. Oscar Blumberg was involved in the United Crusade and Red Cross campaigns for the post office and was a member of the Union Lodge of the Masons, and Scottish Rite. Oscar Blumberg was of local National Federation of Post Office Clerks and Postal Supervisors. Also, Blumberg was California State President of Postal Supervisors. (1972 David Lubin Lodge)

His wife, Belle, was the daughter of Sara and A.J. Markowitz, who were invaluable members of the Jewish Relief Society and Mosaic Law.



Rabbi Montague N. A. Cohen



Albert Bonnheim

A NEW BUILDING FOR B'NAI ISRAEL

In 1904 Rabbi Montague N.A. Cohen came to Congregation B'nai Israel. The 6th Street Temple had grown too old to use and the congregation was in need of a new facility.

The cornerstone of the 15th Street Temple, which was located at 1421 15th, was laid on December 1, 1904. The property, building, and equipment cost $16,000, all raised in donations without any indebtedness. The congregation purchased a lot on 15th Street, between M and N Streets. For several months between the transition from the 6th Street Temple and the 15th Street Temple, Rabbi Cohen conducted services in the IOOF Hall.

The Temple was completed on April 16, 1905. The dedication was given by Rabbi J. Voorsanger of San Francisco, and a hymn was sung by Mrs. Porterfied, with words written by Rebecca Joseph Grandwhol. In 1905 Rabbi Cohen led the congregation in the formation of the Temple Circle. He was assisted by Albert Bonnheim. The club met on alternate Sunday evenings, affording members pleasant hours, the opportunity to display amateur talent, and to hear notable speakers. Together, Rabbi Cohen and Bonnheim established a Temple library.



David Lubin Elementary School

SCHOOLS DEDICATED TO JEWISH RESIDENTS OF SACRAMENTO

The city of Sacramento named the Joseph Bonnheim Elementary School at 7300 Marin Avenue in memory of Joseph Bonnheim, Albert's son, who died at an early age. Sacramento also has the David Lubin Elementary School and the Isador Cohen Elementary School.



Isador Cohen

ISADOR COHEN

The Isador Cohen Elementary School was dedicated in his honor on September 10, 1968. Cohen migrated from Germany when he was seventeen. He was a baker in New York, and saved enough money to pay his way to California in 1863. Arriving in San Francisco, he sold fruit in theater lobbies.

He left San Francisco and opened a cigar and fruit store in Sacramento. Cohen then went into a carpet and oil cloth business with his brother, Benjamin, for nine years and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe. He finally settled in Sacramento as a cigar merchant at 326 J Street. He was particularly generous to orphans, and it is reported in the *Sacramento Bee* that "to the children of the orphans' home he was affectionately called 'Uncle Isador'."



Rabbi and Mrs. Fried
Temple B' nai Israel Archives

B'NAI ISRAEL: A NEW RABBI AND RENEWED ACTIVISM

Rabbi Michael Fried came to B'nai Israel in 1908 and continued his Sacramento ministry until 1925. The congregation had become more stable because of the establishment of Chevra Torat Moshe (Mosaic Law).

In 1916 Samuel Stone was the Temple president; Leo Garfinkle was vice-president; Isador Cohen was treasurer and Leon Salomon was Secretary. Mrs. Irma Wahrhaftig was an officer of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Mr. H.A. Binder became the president in 1917. He conducted services when Rabbi Fried was called to do welfare work for the war effort. It was Mr. Binder who was responsible for the great protest demonstrations against the pogroms which followed the war (June 25, 1919). He also helped to organize hospitality for those Jewish soldiers stationed at Mather Field.



"Bircher Temple" (1939) Original building of the Mosaic Law Congregation. (Sold to the CME Church)

MOSAIC LAW: A NEW RABBI AND THE FIRST SYNAGOGUE

Mosaic Law lost the services of their first rabbi, Rabbi Rosen, in 1915 and hired Rabbi Alfred Arndt. That same year the congregation established a ladies' society, an entertainment committee, and a building committee. High Holiday services were held at the Pythian Castle Hall.

The Mosaic Law Sisterhood developed from the Ladies' Society in 1916. The Sisterhood was instrumental in raising funds for the first synagogue of the congregation.

On November 16, 1916, A. J. Markowitz was elected president of the congregation, a position he would hold for life.



Looking west from 9th and J Street, 1911
McGowan

The Mosaic Law congregation bought a lot on 8th Street, between N and O from Lizzie Martino for $4725.00 on February 26, 1917. In April of that year, the treasurer, Charles Callet, died. Oliver Greenblatt assumed the position of treasurer. Morris Bloomberg, Max Forman, William Anapolsky and Harry Goldstein were the trustees.

When Isador Cohen died in 1919, he left his estate to Mosaic Law. Part of the money from his estate went to pay for the building of the synagogue. The 8th Street Synagogue was completed in 1919 for approximately $2200.00. Max Kaufman was in charge of the building project and is credited for its timely completion. By the end of the year, Mosaic Law had a building in which to worship and had grown to 62 members. Rabbi Arndt died at the end of that year and Rabbi Lou Lewis was retained until a permanent rabbi could be found.



Inside of the Oak Park Department Store of Isador and Sabina Cohn

This section is primarily a transcribed oral history. The author taped many conversations with Oscar Blumberg, Isadore Brosin, Ray Finegold, Walter Goldblatt, Bob Levy, Natalie Munk, Julie Nathan, Charles Nadler, and rerecorded both an interview and speech given by Sam Finegold. Other interviews with Leo Fahn, Sy Opper, and Phillip Anapolsky were not taped, but the notes have been stored by the author for future reference.

Oral history is not new to the Jewish community; however errors can be made. The statements of these people were cross-referenced not only with each other, (with varying degree of correlation) but also with: The *Sacramento City Directory*, to verify date of arrival; The minutes book of Mosaic Law Congregation, which was itself a tremendous resource kept by a very articulate Mrs. Wahrhaftig. (Although Mr. Wahrhaftig was the secretary, it is her handwriting in the minute book.); and Rabbi Rhienhart's "Diamond Jubilee."

The information about Isador Cohen came from the *"Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly,"* which is an invaluable source for anyone delving into the history of the Jews west of the Mississippi.

The interview of Sam Finegold, by Sally Lerner, was most dramatic and heartfelt. The Chevra Kadisha is not an often-noted society in Jewish literature or conversation. The author found Sam's life to be exemplary as a traditional Jew. He gave of himself to those in need. In a taped speech of Sam's this author found both fascination and humor in his dialect. He spoke an immigrant English, translated from Polish and brought into it a strong and witty assembly of words. Yet within these words is an entire story of a people who would build a strong and unified Jewish community during the twenties.

SACRAMENTO, 1920 TO 1939



Days of '49
Sacramento, May 23 to 28, 1922 Right to left: Harold Levy, Mae Fannie Mendelson, Morris Levy, Annie Levy, Dora Alderson, Robert Levy, Mae Margolis



Harry Garfinkle's Family

THE JEWISH RELIEF SOCIETY

The Hebrew Benevolent Society was reorganized as the Jewish Relief Society on December 6, 1920 at a meeting held in the vestry room of Congregation B'nai Israel.

Present at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Binder, Albert Elkus, a Mr. Davis, Harry Garfinkle, Rabbi and Mrs. Fried, Mrs. A. J. Markowitz, Max Simon, a Mr. Kubel, Helena Nathan, Mrs. Gus Marks, a Mr. Brown and Miss Jeanne Barach. Later in the year Harry Goldstein joined the membership committee.

In its early years the society gave generously to many different community organizations. Typical examples of their generosity are found in the June 6, 1921, minutes where the society voted to grant $25 to a local person, $150 annually to the Los Angeles Consumptive House, and $10 to the Salvation Army Fund. Money was also given to the National Conference of Jewish Social Service.



Simon J. Lubin



House of Simon Lubin

Simon J. Lubin was the native born son of David Lubin. A Harvard graduate, Simon Lubin headed Weinstock-Lubin & Co. in Sacramento. He served on the Sacramento School Board in 1911 and headed the commission of Immigration and housing of the State of California from 1913 to 1923. Simon Lubin was instrumental in developing new trade corridors between California and South America by forming a regional citizens council. It was through his efforts that the Pan American Institute of Reciprocal Trade was created in 1930. After two years of presiding over the Institute, he became the director of the Department of Commerce of the state of California.

Sacramento continued to give generously to the relief of Jews overseas. Simon Lubin led a campaign in 1922 to raise money for the European Relief Fund. The Jewish Relief Society records state that $300 dollars (a large sum for the 20's) was given to the relief fund on March 20, 1922, at the bequest of Simon Lubin.

Elections for the Jewish Relief Society were held on December 13, 1922. Mrs. Gus Marks was elected president, a position she would hold for life. Mr. Max Simon and Mrs. A. J. (Sarah) Markowitz were elected as first and second vice-presidents, The recording secretary was Mrs. Jeanne Abrams, formerly Miss Barach (who had recently married Mr. Abrams), Mrs. Max Simon was financial secretary, Mrs. Albert Elkus was the treasurer, Mrs Helena Nathan), Mr. A.J. Markowitz, and Mr. Ed Goldberg were the trustees. Other members of the relief society included Mrs. M. Fried and Mr. and Mrs. Isador Brown.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE No. 4, BNAI BRITH

COMPRISING THE STATES OF ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, IDAHO, MONTANA, NEVADA, OREGON, UTAH, WASHINGTON AND THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICERS:
HERMAN LEWKOWITZ, PRESIDENT . . . . . PHOENIX, ARIZONA
HOWARD H. DESKY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT . OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
OSCAR A. MATHEWS, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
HARRY K. WOLFF, P. G. P., TREASURER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
EDWARD A. ZEISLER, P. G. P., SECRETARY, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY ƒ 593 MARKET STREET ƒ GARFIELD 4505-6 ƒ SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

GRAND LODGE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

OSCAR BLUMBERG, CHAIRMAN
P. O. BOX 3
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

DAVID FERTIG
PORTLAND NO. 65

ABE S. GOLDMAN
SEATTLE NO. 503

MOE GOLDMAN
BEAR FLAG NO. 846

AARON GORDON
HUNTINGTON PARK NO. 1112

JOSEPH HERMAN
LOS ANGELES NO. 487

MICHAEL KOHN
GLENDALE NO. 1255

MAURICE SPIEGLEMAN
CULVER CITY NO. 1334

ARTHUR S. WOLPE
LOS ANGELES NO. 487

THE DAVID LUBIN LODGE

In 1922 the Etham Lodge of B'nai B'rith changed its name to the David Lubin Lodge, honoring David Lubin who died in 1921. The decision to change the name was upheld at the 1922 District Grand Lodge meeting held at the State Capitol in Sacramento.



District Grand Lodge #4
Sacramento, 1922



Rabbi and Mrs. Ephraim Brosin

RABBI EPHRAIM BROSIN

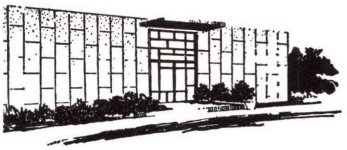
In 1922 Rabbi Ephraim Brosin became the spiritual leader of Mosaic Law Congregation. He was a man of great learning and charisma, affecting not only his congregation, but the entire Sacramento Jewish community.

He received his ordainment at the Reb Isaac Elchanan Yeshiva in Lithuania. Later this yeshiva became the Yeshiva University of New York, which he also attended.

He came to Sacramento with his wife Sarah Goldberg and their two children, Isadore and Eleanor (Setzer). He was one of the founders of the Sacramento chapter of the Zionist Organization of America and was its secretary for many years. He retained his position at Mosaic Law until his retirement in 1940.

HOME OF PEACE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC.

(Chevra Kaddisha)



6200 STOCKTON BOULEVARD AT EL PARAISO AVENUE
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95824

ADDRESS ALL
MAIL TO
P.O. BOX 3
SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95801

PRESIDENT
SAM FINEGOLD
3004 HUNTINGTON RD. 95825
487-1025 or 441-6931
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
OSCAR MORVAI
5500 MADISON AVE. 95841
332-7684
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
IRVING RICH
23 LAKESHORE CIR. 95831
428-5081
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
BERNARD MARKS
9025 TALISMAN DR. 95826
363-3800
SECRETARY
OSCAR BLUMBERG
2762 11TH AVE. 95818
455-0396
TREASURER
MORRIS B. ROTHHOLZ
ASSISTANT TREASURER
WM. BRODOVSKY

•

DIRECTORS
JOSEPH BLOOMBERG
RAYMOND FINEGOLD
MICHAEL GROSSMAN
JUDAH A. JACOBSON
ARTHUR NATHAN

Stationery from the Home of Peace Cemetery Association

THE HOME OF PEACE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The community had outgrown the use of the old cemetery bought by Moses Hyman. On February 2, 1921, Mosaic Law formed a cemetery committee which became active with the Chevra Kadisha. During the year this committee worked with a similar committee from Congregation B'nai Israel to come to an agreement on the purchase and maintenance of one common cemetery for all Jewish people in Sacramento.

Talks broke down completely by April, 1923. The problem was resolved by a proposal to give equal shares in the cemetery to both B'nai Israel and Mosaic Law. With this agreement, the Home of Peace cemetery Association was incorporated in 1924.

On March 7, 1924, an election was held by the new organization with Julius Guttman as president, Isador Kubel, vice president, Oliver Goldblatt, treasurer, Isadore Cohen, secretary. Max Forman, Henry Haas, Morris Levy, Gus Marks, Max Simon, and Max Smith were the board of directors.

Hal Altman recorded that "Examination of the minutes . . . reveals the same selfless devotion to duty of present day officers as those of the past."

He credits Isadore Kubel and Oliver Goldblatt with the active management of the organization until their deaths, when Laz Bloomberg and Sam Finegold assumed the responsibility. Further investigation shows continuous service by Morris Rothholz, Oscar Blumberg, and Oscar Morvai.



"Trip to San Francisco"

THE HEBREW FREE LOAN SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

Jewish community protocol during the twenties is exemplified in a discussion between community members who wanted to form the Hebrew Free Loan Society of Sacramento and the members of the Jewish Relief Society on December 10, 1924. The need for a free loan society was brought foward by a request of a Mr. Parnus. He had a small business between 9th and 10th near O Street. Parnus asked for a loan of over $200 from the Jewish Relief Society to expand his business.

Mrs. Gus Marks suggested that in making loans of this nature, the Relief Society was getting away from the purpose of relief; that it would be better to have a separate loan fund especially for these cases. Mr. A. J. Markowitz told the society of plans to start a free loan society in Sacramento along the lines of one successfully functioning in San Francisco. Mr. Markowitz thought that the Society might possibly loan the new loan society $1000 toward this fund. A tabling motion was made by Oscar Blumberg to consider this question some time in January.

WM. B. BERMAN, President
P. O. Box 926 Main 2015
2623 San Jose Way Cap. 6467

OSCAR BLUMBERG, Secretary
1609 - 28th St., Main 9030-J
P. O. Box 3

Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Masonic Temple, 12th & J Sts.

OSCAR A. MATHEWS, Monitor
M. GREENBERG, Vice-President
O. GOLDBLATT, Treasurer
P. DAVID, Ass't. Monitor
H. B. HAAS, Warden
RABBI N. M. GOLDBURG, Guardian

Trustees:
B. ANAPOLSKY ABE M. ESTESS
MORRIS B. ROTHHOLZ

David Lubin Lodge No. 37, B'nai B'rith

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

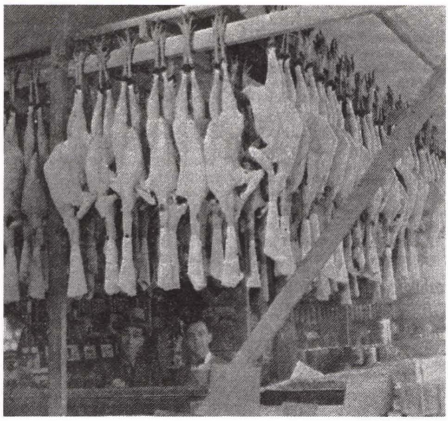
Stationery of the David Lubin Lodge

On January 21, 1925, the Jewish Free Loan Society asked for a $1500 loan to help it start. Oscar Blumberg spoke "on behalf of the Free Loan Society and explained that some misunderstanding had arisen regarding that society, that it was not a restricted Jewish organization, that it was neither reform nor orthodox, but both. The idea of the new society is not to help strangers, but to help those already established in business in Sacramento by giving them a boost when needed. The plan of the Hebrew Free Loan Society was to loan money without interest to be paid back in small sums."

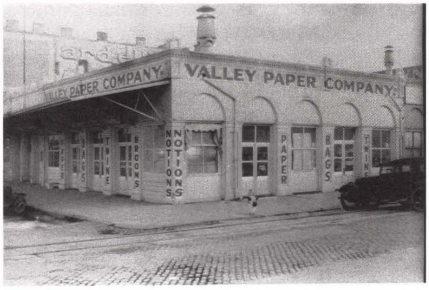
Oliver Goldblatt spoke along the same lines showing how the new organization would meet needs presently neglected. Albert Elkus was not opposed to the Free Loan Society, but rather to the Jewish Relief Society funding this other agency. Mr. Elkus stated he could not see the necessity of the Society giving $1000 at present, especially since $750 had already been donated by members of the Jewish community of Sacramento. As he stated, "If $750 has already been subscribed by a portion of our Jewish community, scratch the other shoe for another $750, and you will have $1500 with which to start. If you need more money later, then will be the time to come to the Society for a donation."
This motion was seconded and carried. The final note to this important meeting was from Max Simon who suggested the Society have a downtown office as a Jewish center, and that the Society pay for this office.



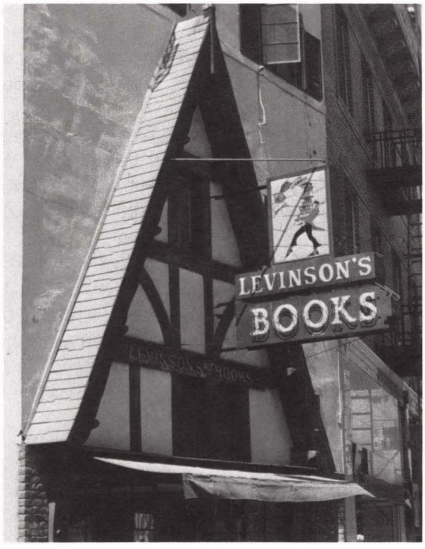
Metropolitan Chain Store, Levy Family



J. Schwab Grocery and Poultry
Jack and Sam Schwab



Valley Paper Company
Brodovsky Family



Levinson 's Bookstore, 10th Street



Tower Records, Broadway

JEWISH MERCHANTS

There were many Jewish businessmen in Sacramento during the 20's. Max Forman operated a clothing store between 4th and 5th Streets. So, too, did Gus Marks, Max Kaufman, and Sam Greenberg. Louis Rosenberg had a tailor shop that he rented from Laz Bloomberg. Francis and Joseph Farber owned a grocery store on J Street.

Samuel Merksamer started Devon's Jewelers in 1929. Some good men of Mosaic Law started Morris Levy in his second hand store, which later became the site of Lena and Morris Goldstein's second-hand store. Levinson's Bookstore was started by Mollie and Samuel Levinson. Today it is managed by Eric Levinson.

The Tower Theater was built in 1938 by the Blumenfeld family of San Francisco. That year Clayton Solomon opened the Tower Cut-Rate Drug store in that building. In 1941 Russell Solomon, Clayton's son, opened a record business in the front of his father's store. He began by selling used juke box records on a table. From this small beginning his business grew into what is known today as Tower Records and Tower Books. Tower Records is the largest volume retail record and tape store in the world.



Sacramento, aerial view from over the river
McGowan

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

The issue of a centralized downtown office for Jewish affairs was brought up again at the meeting of the Relief Society in March, 1925. After designating money to be given to the Denver National Hospital, the relief board heard Max Simon's suggestion for a central "Jewish Welfare Board, or office to pool all Jewish Activities." A Mrs. Davis opposed this idea, saying that it was not feasible for a small town. She did endorse a local "Jewish Community Chest" to relieve the great waste created by numerous solicitors.



The Brodovsky Family: Mike, Louis, Etta, Hyman, and Daniel

THE BRODOVSKYS

Hyman Brodovsky, the third son of Velvel and Etta, moved from a small village near the border of Lithuania and Latvia to Canada in 1896. His parents had arranged his wedding with Rachel Zelbovitz and sent him out of the country before he could be forcibly conscripted into the Russian army.

Hyman and Rachel lived in Arborg, near Winnipeg, until, in 1923, a fire swept through their town, destroying their store. They moved to Oakland with their sons Michael, Daniel, and Louis. Their oldest son, William, stayed in Winnipeg.

They remained in Oakland for five years before moving to Sacramento in 1928. Hyman and his sons went into the upholstery business in a shop at 2921 J street. They moved the store to the corner of 11th and J and then sold it to purchase the Valley Paper Company in 1934.

That same year Louis Brodovsky married Dorothy Tennebaum. They have two children, William and Allan, who have become active in the Jewish community. Four years later, Michael Brodovsky married Edith Landis. Their two daughters are Carol Anne and Sue Ellen. The family kept the Valley Paper Company until 1970, when Louis sold it to make profitable real estate investments in South Land Park.

Hyman and Rachel were active in Mosaic Law Congregation, and in the Chevra Kadisha. Michael was also active in Mosaic Law and in the Zionist Organization of America. Edith Brodovsky organized Mosaic Law's Sunday School program where she also taught.



William Berman

THE BERMANS

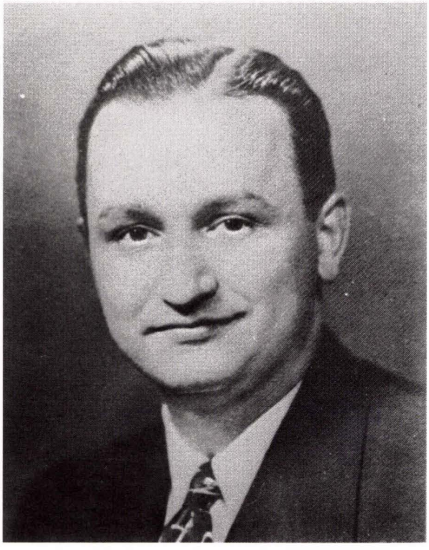
Cousins William and Ted Berman came to Sacramento from Minneapolis in 1926. They left the well organized Jewish life of Minneapolis, where their parents were very active, to strike new roots in the small town of Sacramento. The two men established the Pacific Fur and Wool Company on Front Street.

In 1928 they brought their brides, Zetta and Tobie, from Minneapolis. William became very active in Jewish community affairs. He sang in the temple choir and taught Sunday School at B'nai Israel. William and his sons, John, Harriet, and Daniel, blew the shofar at Congregation B'nai Israel for fifty years, (1932-1982). William Berman was a past president of B'nai B'rith and served as temple president from 1943 to 1946.

William Berman's daughter, Jessie Yoshpe, an active member of Hadassah, remembers when her father became the founding president of the Jewish Community Council of Sacramento in 1948. She says that her father had been deeply inspired by the ideas of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, especially the concept of the organic Jewish community, which he envisioned as the goals of the Jewish Community Council.



Dalton Feldstein



Harry Tonkin

DALTON FELDSTEIN

Dalton Feldstein has been a dynamic figure in the history of Sacramento Jewry, having been honored on many occasions for his generosity and service to the Sacramento Jewish and civic community.

In 1935 Feldstein left the Chrysler Motor Company and formed his own business, the Dalton Motor Company, in Sacramento as a distributor for DeSoto, Plymouth, and Chrysler cars. In 1940 he added the Dalton Leasing Company to his operations.

HARRY M. TONKIN

Harry Tonkin came to Sacramento in late 1944 and organized the Beacon Distributing Company, wholesale liquor dealers with branches in Reno and Santa Rosa. He remembered Myron Nathan asking him to join Congregation B'nai Israel when dues were $30 a year. He and Dalton Feldstein developed a strong friendship which made itself felt in the fund-raising drives they worked on together.

United Jewish Welfare Fund

of Sacramento and Superior California

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Stationery from the United Jewish Welfare Fund

MRS. C. K. (ELLA) McCLATCHY AND THE JEWISH RELIEF SOCIETY

The Jewish Relief Society reported 101 members on March 16, 1926. The Relief Society contributed $500 to the Home of Peace cemetery Association to be used for exhuming unknown bodies from the old cemetery. The Relief Society also helped families who could not have their loved ones moved from the old cemetery to the new location. By 1927 all but 300 bodies had been relocated to the new cemetery. The Relief Society took the financial obligation to relocate one half of the remaining bodies.

Mrs. C. K. McClatchy, wife of the editor of the *Sacramento Bee*, donated generously to the Jewish Relief Society. Her donation, recorded January 23, 1928, was very large, and it was her request that the money go toward the relief of children. Monies spent for 1927 had been directed to The Sunmount Preventorium, The Free Loan Society, the Red Cross for relief of North Sacramento flood victims, general relief, foreign relief and administrative expenses.

B'NAI B'RITH AND THE JEWISH WELFARE FOUNDATION

Albert Elkus led the 1927 fund-raising drive for overseas needs, and that same year B'nai B'rith past president, Sol Nathan, gave an impassioned speech at the B'nai B'rith installation pleading for a Jewish Community Center.

Two-hundred and thirty-two contributers pledged $14,310. Payments were made over a three year period.

In 1928 a committee of B'nai B'rith called together the Jewish groups of Sacramento to form a Jewish Welfare Federation for national and overseas causes.



The first members of the Sacramento Jewish Athletic Club. From top , right to left: Moris Stein, Dave Rosenberg. Sanford Kaufman, Morry Weinberg, Shirley (Bill) Abramson, Jack Forman, Morry Greenberg, Aaron Forman, Sam Osofsky.

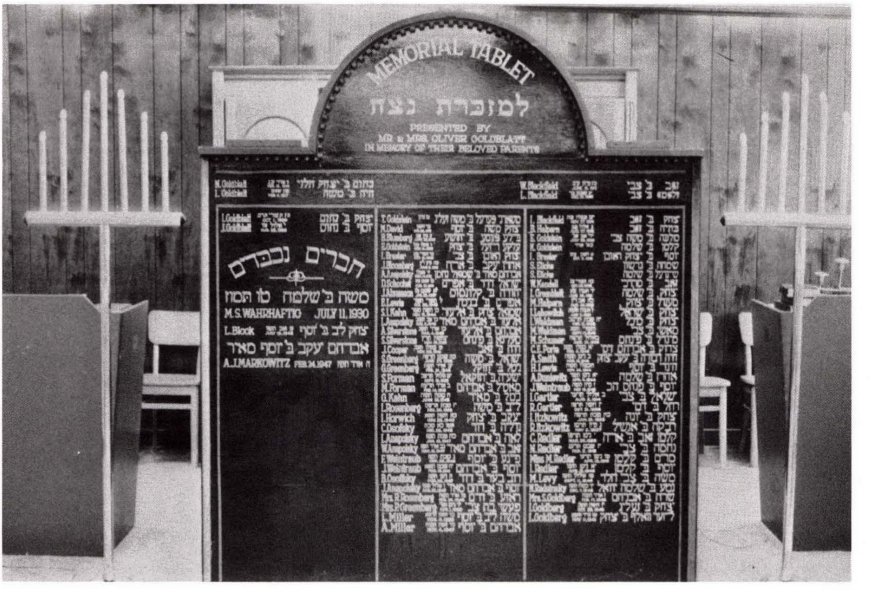
AZA AND BBG

The Sacramento Jewish Athletic Club began around 1923. The boys met at the 8th Street Synagogue and would play basketball at the PG&E Gym. They were the precursor of the AZA in Sacramento. Rabbi Harold Rheinhart and Hiney Finklestein founded Aleph Zaddik Aleph (AZA) in Sacramento in 1927. Isador Brown was the first advisor and Paul David was the first Aleph Godol (president). AZA was involved in many athletic events, competing against other youth organizations in Sacramento. The original AZA members of the Sacramento chapter were: Robert Abramson, Jerome Berry, Paul David, Sam David, Robert Levy, Aaron Foreman, Meyer Goldberg, Theodore Markowitz, and Dave Rosenberg.

The Junior B'nai B'rith Girls Auxiliary, No. 7 (BBG) was organized in 1930 by Mrs. Ann Kubel. Mrs. Ida Bodewig was the first president. Girls between the ages of 15 and 21 could join BBG whose primary function was to help the local B'nai B'rith chapter in fundraising activities and, like the AZA, provide leadership training for its members.



Rabbi Harold Rheinhart and confirmation class of 1927. Left to right: Laura Levinson, Ruth Helen Lubin, Rabbi Harold F. Reinhart, Clara Teitelbaum, Henry Irving Hornstein. Congregation B'nai Israel Archives



Memorial Tablet of the 6th Street Synagogue
Congregation Mosaic Law

MEMORIAL TABLET AT THE 8TH STREET SYNAGOGUE, MOSAIC LAW

On August 6, 1930, Mr. M.S. Wahrhaftig died, leaving Mosaic Law without a secretary. He was remembered with great dignity in the minutes and his name appeared in bold print on the memorial tablet, located in the entry hall of the 8th Street Synagogue.

RABBI NORMAN GOLBURG

Rabbi Norman Golburg came to B'nai Israel in 1930. He was the first rabbi to be elected as chaplain of the legislature under Governor James Rolph. Rabbi Goldburg cofounded the Sacramento Religious Fellowship with Catholic Archbishop Armstrong and was founder and president of the Council for Civic Unity. He was president of the Sacramento Lions Club and was elected to Who's Who in America in 1939.

It was Rabbi Golburg who donated the two candelabra flanking the pulpit at Congregation B'nai Israel. They had been a gift to him from former State Treasurer Gus Johnson.



Mary Salomon and Irma Wahrhaftig



Ann Kubel

The Mary Salomon Auxiliary NO. 15, B'nai B'rith, was founded in December, 1919 with Mrs. Sarah Markowitz as its first president. Little was recorded about the women for whom the organization was named. Pictured above, she was honored by a birthday pageant in February, 1937, which most of the Sacramento Jewish community attended.

The Mary Salomon Auxiliary raised money for many charitable events. Its primary fundraising events were benefit card parties, dances and an annual rummage sale.



Members of the Mary Salomon Lodge
Standing, left to right: Unidentified, Idel (Kirshbaum) Opper, Lillian Carrol, Gertrude Samoville, Unidentified, Shirley Weinberg. Seated, left to right: Beulah Melvin, Francis Farber, Annie Kaufman, Sadie Matthews.

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge #4 was held in Sacramento June 26-29, 1937. Hosted by the auxiliary, it was a grand and wonderful event. Dancing and entertainment were provided nightly, with an informal dance starting things off on Saturday at the Hotel Senator. Sunday ended with supper and entertainment at William Land Park. On Monday a testimonial reception was given for Albert Elkus, 1887 District 4 president. After a luncheon at the Elks Temple, KFBK radio broadcast an evening speech by Mrs. Goldie Speyer, president of the women's group. The convention ended Tuesday evening with a Banquet and Formal Ball at the Memorial Auditorium. Organization of this event was by Oscar Mathhews, Anne Kubel, and auxiliary president, Gertrude Samoville.



Hadassah members on the steps of the Capitol, Back Row, left to right: Lucille Brown, Naomi Weinberg, Irma Wahrhaftig, Anne Forman, Mollie Levinson, Iris Rudnick. Front Row, left to right: Sadell Belson, Felicia Israel, Lena Wandel, Blanche Goldstein.

SACRAMENTO HADASSAH

The Sacramento chapter of Hadassah was formed in 1931. The 1948 Hadassah yearbook reads:

"Henrietta Szold, beloved founder of Hadassah, has left her imprint on the lives of Palestinian Jewry and in the hearts of American Jewish women. Inspired by such a leader, Sarah Berman gathered a representative group of Sacramento women in January, 1931, and together they formed the chapter."



Stationery from the Sacramento Auxiliary Jewish Consumptive Relief Society

A few years after the Sacramento chapter of Hadassah was formed, Sarah Berman (William Berman's mother) traveled to Palestine. Her feelings were expressed in an excerpt from a letter as follows:

"Zionism is changing the country. They tell me that the squalor among the Arab lower classes is not nearly as bad as it was ten years ago. . .with the Hadassah Infant Welfare nurse I visited some homes of poor Jews in the Old City. What I saw shocked me beyond measure. Yet these people. . . Jews from Kurdistan, Bokhara and Yemen — lived in worse poverty in the countries from where they came. . . it is for the children of such homes that Hadassah is doing its works. It is for these women that we are raising our few meager dollars."

Among the charter members was Gladys Gisser. Mrs. Gisser recalled a large preliminary gathering in the old Elks Temple. Mrs. Harry Harris of San Francisco gave an inspiring speech to prospective members. Sadie Herz, who had been a Hadassah member in San Francisco, was elected the first president of the Sacramento Hadassah which numbered twenty women.

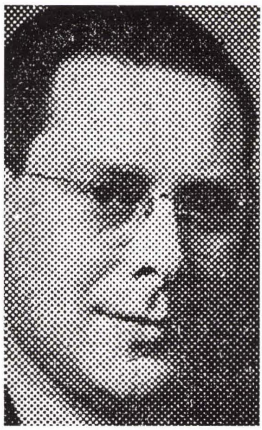
Sacramento Hadassah membership now numbers more than seven hundred. It continues in its efforts for the state of Israel, for the Hadassah Medical Organization, and to improve the quality of Jewish-American life. Special mention should be made of Ruby Steinberg, past president of Sacramento Hadassah, whose efforts have made Sacramento's Hadassah a stronger and more effective Jewish organization.



Morris Rothholz



Seymour Lewis



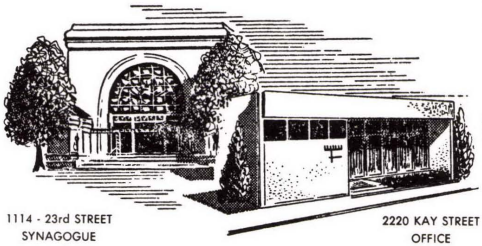
Oscar Matthews

THE UNITED JEWISH WELFARE FUND

In 1933 the David Lubin Lodge of B'nai B'rith issued its Diamond Jubilee Book. The Lodge called for a "unified Jewish community" and a "federation to provide a community center and a Hebrew school." Oscar Matthews, the 1933 David Lubin Lodge president, authorized a committee to investigate the proceedure used in other cities for united fund raising.

One year later, the Jewish Welfare Federation was established in Sacramento in 1934, largely through the efforts of the B'nai B'rith Lodge.

In 1935 the first United Jewish Welfare Fund (UJWF) drive was organized through the Sacramento Jewish Welfare Federation with Morris Rothholz as chairman. Fifteen national and overseas agencies were included for a total fund-raising of $5,000. From 1936 to 1947 unified fundraising was done through a UJWF committee, no longer under B'nai B'rith leadership. Dr. Seymour Lewis, Oscar Matthews, and Walter Merksamer were among those who acted as campaign chairmen during the first years of the UJWF Drives. In 1939 22 agencies benefited from the Jewish Welfare Federation to the extent of $10,000.



1114 - 23rd STREET
SYNAGOGUE

2220 KAY STREET
OFFICE

MOSAIC LAW CONGREGATION

2220 KAY STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816

PHONE 444-8220

JUDAH A. JACOBSON
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SAM FINEGOLD

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Seymour Bradus, M.D.
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Alex Fahn, P.P.
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Cecil Finegold
Herzl Friedlander, M.D.
Reuvin Ginsburg
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Philip Levy, M.D.
Allen Newman
Joseph Papo
Elliot D. Pearl, P.P.
Leo Shapiro, P.P.
Lewis Stein P.P.

SISTERHOOD
REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Gerald Flamm



23rd Street Synagogue, Mosaic Law Congregation



Inside the 23rd Street Synagogue, Mosaic Law Congregation

MOSAIC LAW'S NEW SYNAGOGUE

In 1938 Mosaic Law Congregation purchased a new synagogue at 1114 23rd Street. It was bought from a Christian Science Congregation who built it in 1928. The building had permanent seating for 360 people with room for an additional 100 more in the vestry. Behind the synagogue was a 3200 square foot social hall and kitchen and social hall providing room for up to 275 people for dinner. The former synagogue building on 8th Street had been sold to the Colour Methodist Episcopal Church (CME).



Groundbreaking for the new wing at the 23rd Street Synagogue, Mosaic Law Congregation. Right to Left: Mayor Azevedo, Hyman Brodovsky, Sam Finegold, unidentified youth



Community Dinner for Hyman and Rachel Brodovsky inside the new wing, Mosaic Law Congregation



Finegold Store during the Depression



Weinstock's,
Downtown Sacramento

DIFFICULTY IN THE DEPRESSION

There were bitter confrontations between the Jewish Relief Society and the Community Chest of Sacramento. During the thirties, the Jewish Relief Society, designed to offer food, housing, and vocational training to Jewish refugees escaping persecution from Eastern Europe, faced financial difficulties during the depression years. The Community Chest, also short of funding, was not understanding of the needs of transient Jews.

The poor relations were compounded in a report by Mr. Jenkins and Judge Pullon of the Community Chest that the Depression had financially depleted the Chest and that the Relief Society should cut back its expenses by sending its transients to the Community Chest headquarters for food and lodging. William Anapolsky, who had been faithfully serving the community by giving aid directly to Jewish transients, objected to this request. He said that it would be quite unfeasible to send Jewish transients to such a place. The Relief Society, in its diligence to respect the religious convictions of any Jewish transients, sent the Orthodox Jews to members of the Mosaic Law Congregation to maintain the mitzvah of keeping kosher. Reform Jews were sent to the homes of members of Congregation B'nai Israel.

This section owes much of its insights to the skilled hand of Mrs. Irma Wahrhaftig. She kept beautiful minutes for the Jewish Relief Society which captured not only the facts, but the spirit of every meeting. Within those minutes the author found joy and lamentation, confusion and leadership. Disagreements between orthodox and reform Jew had no place at these meetings. The Relief Society had more pressing issues at hand; namely, the wave of Jewish immigrants coming to make a new home in Sacramento.

Irma also transcribed many of the minutes for Mosaic Law Congregation. The cross indexing of these two documents was especially important in examining the Home of Peace Cemetery Association.

A large section of the lighter part of the thirties came from a yearbook kept by Gertrude Samoville when she was president of the Mary Solomon Auxiliary. This was nicely complimented by newspaper clippings saved by Walter Goldblatt, son of Oliver Goldblatt.

This author also relied on oral history. Louis Brodovsky, Leo Fahn, Walter Goldblatt, Blanche Goldstein, Morris Goldstein, Bob Levi, Jessie Yoshpe, Marlene Tonkin, Oscar Blumberg, and Julie Nathan provided some information for this section. Especially helpful was Morry Greenberg for background abut the Sacramento Jewish Athletic Club.

The story of Dalton Feldstein came from the *Sacramento Bee*. Information about Hadassah came from their yearbook and Jessie Yoshpe. The history of the Jewish Community Council came from the minutes of the Jewish Relief Society, a pamphlet from William Boxerman, and Jewish Federation records.

We finish the thirties with tenous relations between the Jewish community and the Community Chest. We also see the beginning of the Jewish Community Council taking form. Both of these issues will resolve in the pages to come, as the Jewish community grows closer and forms stronger cohesion between its many factions.

FORMING A COMMUNITY COUNCIL
1940 - 1959



First board of the Sacramento Jewish Community Council
From left to right: Nora David, Rabbi Irving Hausman, Lila Guttman, Bill Berman, Lou Brodovsky, Rabbi Louis Kaufman, Bette Rothchild, Touby Berman, Oscar Blumberg, Leo Fahn, Irv Kabakov, Judah Jacobson, Ted Markowitz, Lee Shapiro, Myer Goldberg, Nathan Forman, Dan Goldstein, William Boxerman, Bud Levitt.



USO Dinner - Dance - right to left: Ann Levy, Belle Blumberg, Oscar Blumberg, Ethel Goldwater, Sylvia Shemansky, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Goodman.
(Congregation B' nai Israel Archives)

THE WAR YEARS

Rabbi Norman Goldburg was called into the Army in 1940. Congregation B'nai Israel brought Rabbi Feinsilver, a pacifist rabbi, to lead the congregation during Rabbi Goldburg's absence. After the war Rabbi Goldburg decided to continue his service in the Army. Both he and Rabbi Feinsilver resigned from B'nai Israel. In 1946 under the leadership of William Berman, the congregation hired Rabbi Irving Hausman.

During the war, both Mosaic Law and B'nai Israel reached out to the Jewish servicemen stationed at Mather Field. Working with the USO, the Temple provided many social activities, dances, home hospitality and holiday services for Jewish airmen.



The Temple Ladies, USO Dinner - Dance
(Congregation B'nai Israel Archives)
Left to right: Silvia Lipp, Janice (Green) Blumberg, Maxine Galin, Miss Estelle Cohn, Ellen Jacobs, Mrs. Ralph Goldman, Emily (Finegold) Yaffee, Joyce (Moskowitz) Siskin, Marge Blumberg, Tobe Goldman, Faye Pinsler.

The Jewish Relief Society continued to provide for Jewish families and transients in Sacramento. William Anapolsky reported that in 1940 the Society had given aid to 755 men, 14 families and 16 children.

The Relief Society showed its support to the war effort by transferring many of its liquid assets into war bonds. The restricted flow of immigration created by the war and the volunteers joining the United States Armed Forces resulted in a tremendous decrease in the number of cases assisted by the Relief Society. Only 338 transients were helped in 1942, including 9 families and 15 children.

The Relief Society also shared with the Chevra Chadisha the responsibility of the burial of indigent Jews. It was the policy of the Relief Society to pay for graves and the Chevra Chadisha to pay for funerals.In this way the Jewish community not only supported the living,but also provided a resting place for the dead.



Mosaic Law Congregation outreach to Mather Field (left: Willie Weiss)



Stationery, David Lubin Lodge

CREATING A COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Jewish community of Sacramento put much of its energy into the organization of the Jewish Community Council during the forties. A centralized fundraising organization, the Jewish Community Council was a response to the need to consolidate fundraising into one, effective campaign. In 1941 the Jewish Welfare Union Board invited Samuel C. Holcewberg and Dr. Samuel C. Kohs, field representatives for the United Jewish Welfare Fund, to establish a representative welfare council for Sacramento and Superior California. The same year, the Jewish Welfare Fund of Sacramento formally adopted a constitution outlining community direction and values. It took four more years of continued debate and cooperation before a meeting was called to form a council.

Representatives of various groups met to talk about a community council in October, 1945. The meeting went on record as favoring "the employment of an Executive Director whose function it shall be to reorganize the Welfare Fund and to initiate a program looking toward the early establishment of a Sacramento Jewish Center."



Isador and Myron Nathan with Laura and Marsha Friedman

JEWISH RELIEF SOCIETY

A special meeting of the Jewish Relief Society was held September 20, 1943, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Anapolsky to mourn the death of the late, beloved Mrs. A. J. Markowitz who had served as the president of the society. Oliver Goldblatt became the new president of the Jewish Relief Society.

In 1945 the war ended, marking a turning point for the Jewish Relief Society. During 1944 Mr. Anapolsky reported that the Society had helped 150 transients, including 4 families and 5 children. The need for the Relief Society to aid Jewish refugees was beginning to diminish. During the remainder of the forties, special large contributions were received from Mrs. Moloney and Miss Eleanor McClatchy in memory of their mother, Mrs. C.K. McClatchy and her special efforts to give relief to poor children of all faiths, creeds and races.

A special meeting was held March 31, 1947, to mourn the loss of William Anapolsky. Present at the meeting was his wife, Ida, who brought all of the records which her husband kept for 16 years. Myron Nathan moved that a special tribute be spread upon the minutes to remember the efforts of Mr. Anapolsky and that a resolution be made in his honor. Afterwards, Mrs. Goldblatt stated the necessity for a new first vice-president to fill the role of dispensing relief to the transient. Oscar Blumberg nominated Sam Finegold to hold that position. Both Myron Nathan and Lazarus Bloomberg seconded the nomination and Sam Finegold was unanimously elected.



Groundbreaking for Congregation B'nai Israel, Riverside Blvd.

PLANNING THE RIVERSIDE BOULEVARD TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

B'nai Israel had outgrown the 15th Street Temple. In 1947 Dalton Feldstein directed the planning for the new temple, including an adjoining religious school and adequate parking space. Blueprints for the new Temple were accepted from the Sacramento architectural firm of Koblik and Fisher. (William Koblik was a member of B'nai Israel.) The new Temple's site was several acres on the southwest corner of Riverside Boulevard and 11th Avenue, where the former Riverside Plunge once stood. A two-story frame house and garage on the site were sold and removed in winter, 1952-53. The building drive was spearheaded by Rabbi Hausman, Dalton Feldstein and Harry Tonkin. Mr. Tonkin had been Temple vice-president for 7 of the 9 years that Dalton was president. As a team they saw the new temple dedicated on April 2, 1954.



Congregation B' nai Israel, Riverside Blvd.



First Organizational Meeting

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 1947 Jewish Welfare Fund committee put into its 1948 budget a provision for a campaign director. William Boxerman was hired as the first professional campaign director of Sacramento. After a successful 1948 campaign, Boxerman was asked "to serve as director of the Council-to-be and to perform all functions necessary for its creation." That summer the Council committee drafted a constitution and requested that all of the Jewish organizations select four representatives to ratify the document.

1946 Campaign

UNITED JEWISH WELFARE FUND

of Sacramento and Superior California

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Supporting **$100,000,000** *United Jewish Appeal of America*

Stationery, 1946 UJWF Campaign

Organizational meetings for the Jewish Community Council were held on August 29 and October 10, 1948. On August 29, delegates from the 17 eligible Jewish groups in the city met to consider a constitution which would serve as the basis for the first representative central agency for Jewish activities in Sacramento. This constitutional conference established the Jewish Community Council. A packed house of representatives debated many issues, especially that of the need for a Jewish Community Center.

The "Gist of It" reported that: "Interest ran high on council election night (October 10). Offices were hotly contested; the meeting was adjourned at two in the morning." The council had formally come into being, with a charter membership of 17 Jewish groups. Its purpose had been defined very broadly and encompassed every conceivable phase of Jewish community activity.

An office was established at the California Fruit Building. A new staff went to work compiling the first complete Jewish roster of those who desired to identify with the Jewish community.

Overseas aid was paramount to the Jewish Welfare Fund, especially in the light of the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons still in Europe. Enthusiasm for the campaign increased with the formation of the new State of Israel. The 1948 campaign received contributions from 852 individuals, netting a record of $107,617, up from $64,889 in 1947.



First volunteer office staff of the Jewish Community Council
Right to left: Nora David, Nicki Goldstein, Sylvia Fahn, Jeanette Lewis, Mae Kaufman, Zetta Berman, EstelleDiamond.



Joseph Papo

New people were pouring into Sacramento at the end of the war. One new resident, Joseph M. Papo, moved from San Francisco with his wife Beatrice, and two children in March, 1950, to become Executive director of the Jewish Community Council and UJWF.

The Jewish Community Council captured many lives with its different activities. Theater, dance, music, politics, and other community events were all brought together under one roof. The community achieved tremendous cohesion during these years as everyone worked for a common cause.



Sacramento Eagle Theater

THE ARTS AND LECTURES SERIES

The Arts and Lectures Series, chaired by Leo Shapiro, brought various Israeli speakers and guest performing artists such as Michael Loring, and Michel and Friedman, a comedy team.

The Artist and Lecture series began with a grant from the newly formed executive committee of the Jewish Welfare Fund. Over 300 season tickets were sold during the first year. Most of the events are reported as having "standing room only" in the old Sacramento Eagle Theater. In 1951 the Israeli Philharmonic, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, performed in the Memorial Auditorium, quite an achievement for the small, but vigorous, Jewish community in Sacramento.



Jewish Welfare Board and USO Committee planning for Servicemen
Standing, left to right: Mrs. D. Hart, Roslyn Brosin, Joe Papo
Seated, left to right: Albert Dreyfuss, Sylvia Shemansky, Alvin Landis

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The DeWitt General Hospital in Auburn was served by the Committee for Personnel Service. The Committee was chaired by Mrs. Irma Wahrhaftig, with Mr. and Mrs. Max Strassberg of Auburn as members. The Committee held religious services and social functions for Jewish patients. The Straussbergs had formerly handled the services on their own, but the Auburn community need was felt by those in nearby Sacramento and the JCC was put to action.

The Jewish Community Council came to the service of any Jew who was in need. At Folsom Prison, services for Yom Kippur were held by Dr. Rudolph I Coffee, the Jewish chaplain for Folsom and San Quentin prisons. Joseph Papo, the director of the JCC, Al Caplan, Morry Einhorn, Sam Fraser and Jerome Melvin went to the prison on Yom Kippur to assist with the services.

The Sacramento Jewish Community had been serving America's Jewish soldiers since World War I. The Council's JWB-USO committee worked on plans to hold a seder and provided home hospitality to Sacramento Jewish servicemen.



Council Drama Committee: Standing, left to right: Chairman Isadore Brosin, Joseph M. Papo, Herbert Stiller. Seated, left to right: Miss Kay Lang, Mrs. Ted Berman, Mrs. Irving Goldstein.

A drama committee was formed to provide an outlet for local community talent. Isadore Brosin, the committee chair said, "The creation of a dramatic committee makes it possible for the JCC to offer our community a leisure-time activity of great cultural and practical value."



Mosaic Law Women's League

The Community Calendar committee was formed to organize the times and dates of the growing number of monthly events. Mrs. Abe Goldwater chaired the committee with Mrs.



The Jewish community in action. Seated left to right are Judah Jacobson, Sam Fraser and Max Scholter. Standing left to right are Simon Gartler, Leonard Friedman and Nathan Forman.

LIST OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

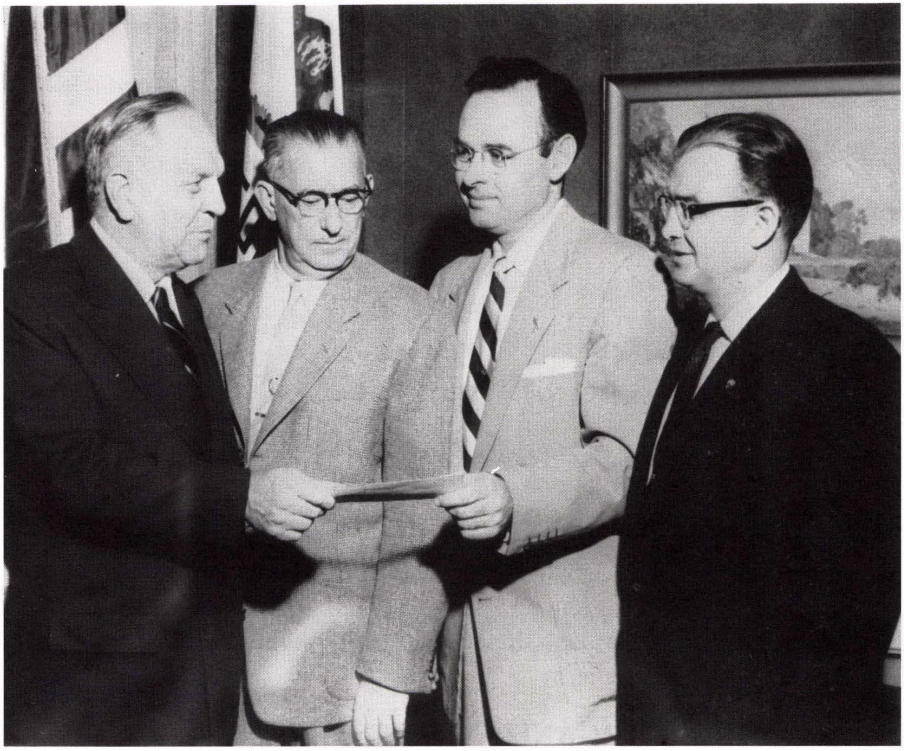
The community calendar listed a wide range of Jewish organizations such as Mosaic Law Womens League, David Lubin Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith Women, Mosaic Law Men, Temple Sisterhood, Jewish Young Adult Council, Theta Delta Xi Sorority, Temple Brotherhood, and the Zionist Organization of America.

On July 7, 1949, Leonard Friedman, organized a major blood drive for the State of Israel. That year also saw "The Caravan of Peace" passing through Sacramento. The Caravan was an Israeli public relations event which exhibited Jewish ceremonial objects confiscated by the Nazis during the war. The exhibit was held at the Crocker Art Gallery.

Leonard Friedman and his wife, Joan, moved to Sacramento in 1946. He was a municipal judge in 1959, a superior court judge in 1961, and was on the State Court of Appeals from 1962 until 1978. Currently Friedman has a private practice in Sacramento.

Friedman was on the County Adult Services board working on a county system for the aged. He was president of the Sacramento Regional Foundation, president of the Sacramento Symphony Association, president of Congregation B'nai Israel, and president of the Zionist Organization of America.

He was vice-president and founder of the Commission for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries and Pioneer Memorials. Both he and Danny Goldstein worked to gain title to some of the old cemeteries in Grass Valley, Nevada City, Placerville, and Sonora.



Governor Goodwin Knight presents service award to Jewish community members Oscar Blumberg, Leo Fahn and Jack Feldman

THE SACRAMENTO PRESS AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Sacramento press was very supportive of Jewish causes in 1949. A survey taken of all local press identifies 461 separate articles written in an 18 month period.

The radio was a popular communication medium of the fifties. Scheduled radio interviews of local Jewish leaders were commonly heard on the air. Passover broadcasts by the American Jewish Committee could be heard on KXOA. Other Jewish programming was heard on KROY. When Leo Lania, a popular overseas correspondent, came to Sacramento, the JCC arranged airtime on KROY to discuss the plight of the displaced persons (DPs) of Europe. Other programs, such as "America in Israel" by Allen Sloan were broadcast over Sacramento airways.

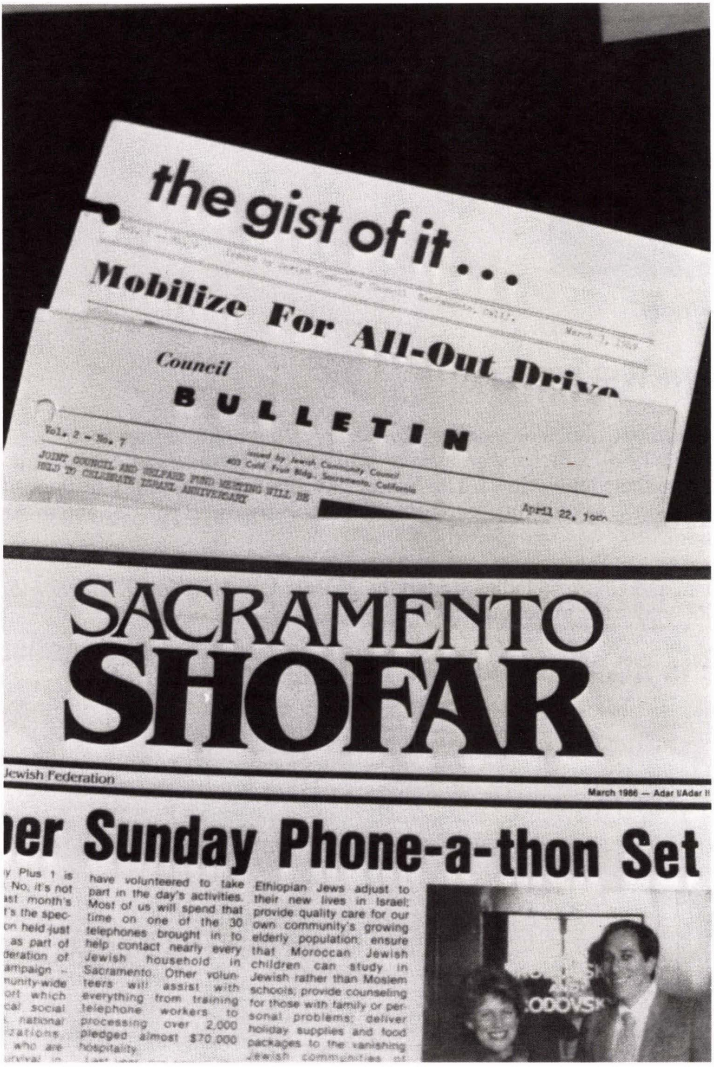


Isadore Brosin

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

The first Jewish Community Council newsletter, *The Gist of It*, has many stories about those changing years of 1947 - 1949. Articles were written which filled the hearts of Sacramento Jewry with desire to help their fellow Jews. The Sacramento Jewish community responded vigorously, borrowing money to send emergency aid to the the displaced persons and to the emerging State of Israel.

In 1949 Isadore Brosin and Charles Nadler started the Mosaic Law newsletter, *The Scroll*, which continues today under the same name.



Sacramento Jewish news bulletins

THE COUNCIL BULLETIN

In 1950 the JCC Publication Committee and Editorial Board was founded to work on the *Council Bulletin*. *The Gist of it* was renamed *The Council Bulletin*. Today, the Jewish Federation publication is known as the *Shofar*. Mrs. Paul Guttman was appointed to head the committee with the assistance of Mrs. Nathan Forman and Alvin Landis. The first editorial board was comprised of Harold Altman, Mrs. Paul David, Mrs. Rudy Israel, Rita Labovitz, Irwin Lichten and Mrs. Arnold Zimmerman.

FUNDRAISING DRIVES

Today's United Jewish Appeal "Super Sunday" is taken from the UJWF "C-Days." The Cash Day of 1950 was headed by Paul David. The opening day breakfast was hosted by Middle East war hero, Captain E.R. Ben-Dror. Enthusiasm was high and the drive was very successful. "C-Days" continued until the sixties when the Sacramento Jewish Federation was organized. The purpose of "Super Sunday" remains the same: to be a single, federated fund-raising activity for local, national, and overseas needs of the Jewish people.



John Wise and Seymour Lewis

The Jewish Community Council served the needs of Sacramento and Superior California. Superior California refers to the area north and east of Sacramento as far as the California border. As part of that mandate, the JCC held their kick-off drive for the 1950 UJWF in Marysville. The guest of honor was Sutter County businessman John A. Wise. Wise, a resident of East Nicolaus, was presented with a certificate of merit for his outstanding contributions to the Jewish Community by Syd Kahn, William Berman and Harry Tonkin.



The Thursday Club, 1950

FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD

The Jewish Community Council Day Camp of 1951 was a big success. The children's camp was held at William Land Park where the children participated in field sports, games and fun. When it was too hot, the children were taken to the Riverside Plunge, which used to stand where the B'nai Israel parking lot is today. Frank Goldstein was the chairman of the camp, and Isadore Brosin was the head counselor. In all, 96 campers were enrolled that year, averaging 16 children a week. This community activity is still sponsored by the Jewish Federation and is called "Camp Shalom." In 1985 Camp Shalom enrollment totaled over 200 campers, with an average of 35 campers each week, under the direction of Colin Swift.

The Thursday Club was a Senior Citizens Club formed in 1951. Each Thursday night Sacramento Jewish Seniors met at the Temple B'nai Israel to play cards, bingo, watch movies and join in lively evening discussion. The Thursday Club was directed through the Leisure Time and Recreational Activities Committee of the Jewish Community Council chaired by Mrs. Aaron Gourse.

IDENTIFYING ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES BETWEEN JEWISH AGENCIES

William Berman, first president of the Sacramento Jewish Community Council, appeared before the Jewish Relief Society on January 16, 1950. He explained the objectives of that organization, of which the Jewish relief Society was a member, asking if the society, in common with others, would accept the JCC's offer of co-operation and assistance and make use of its office and its facilities and their executive director, when he was chosen. Mr. Berman voiced the desire of the JCC to help in the aid of transient problems which, to some extent, he addressed as community problems. His offer was accepted by the Society.

THE ANN LAND MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The minutes of the Jewish Relief Society, February 25, 1952, acknowledged that Sam Finegold was appointed by the Sacramento City Council to the Ann Land Memorial Commission. It was also noted that there was little need for family care, but that transient cases contined. Because of the reduced need, Sam Finegold moved that the $100 entrusted to him be put into the checking account of the Society and be used toward the purchase of State of Israel bonds.

Mrs. Ida Anapolsky continued to oversee especially difficult cases of aid to transients. Rabbi Ephraim Brosin and Mr. Leo Kaby handled the financial support needs of the few religious transients.



Francis Farber

THE RED FEATHER SERVICE LEAGUE

The Community Chest had begun a new sub-organization called the Red Feather Service League among its member agencies. Local leaders of the Jewish organizations were invited to attend a meeting to facilitate a rapid development of this organization.

Mrs. B. Friedberg, president of Temple Sisterhood, Mrs. Harry Garfinkle, president of the Jewish Community Relations Association, and Mrs. Joseph Farber, President of both the Mary Salomon Chapter of B'nai B'rith and Mosaic Law Women's League attended that meeting. It was decided that the Jewish Relief Society name its chapter The Star of David.

In 1953 the Community Chest and the Community Welfare Council merged as the United Crusade. The merger caused a lot of confusion as to the future role of the Jewish Relief Society and all of its affiliates, such as the Sacramento Jewish Emigre Society whose purpose was to teach English and United States culture to Jewish emigrants.



Opper Family, Left to right: Gail, Estelle, Shelley, Arland, Michael, Morris, Annie, Sy Opper and Sophie Dubosky

In 1953 after an uncertain community vote of confidence in the continuation of the Jewish Community Coucil, Joseph Papo resigned as director. The vacancy remained until 1954, when Charles Shafrock was selected as the new director. The campaign chairmen were usually voted in as Jewish Community Council president the year following their term. This insured a continuity of goals and a positive association with the Jewish community. This was the case with Alvin Landis (1952-1954), William Belson (1954-1956), Frank Goldstein (1956-1958) and Sy Opper (1958-1960).



Art Nathan



Julie Nathan

On January 1,1955,Mrs. Irma Wahrhaftig retired as secretary of the Jewish Relief Society.On June 14 of that year Arthur Nathan agreed to become secretary for the Society and Irma Wahrhaftig was elected to the board of trustees.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

The 1956 UJWF drive demonstrates the rapid growth and expansion of the Jewish community. Zetta Berman,general chairperson,called on the prominent women of Sacramento for the first luncheon drive May 9,1956.There were two divisional commitees,the City division,serving the inner city,chaired by Mrs.Sy Opper and Mrs.Dan Goldstein,with Mrs. Nathan Forman,Mrs. Irving Hausman and Mrs. Alvin Landis as acting coordinators.The Town and Country division,serving the suburbs,was chaired by Mrs. Ira Klein and Mrs. Daniel Yoshpe,with Mrs. Shubert Constantine,Mrs.Robert Ficher and Mrs. Leo Fahn as coordinators. The new Town and Country division was indicative of the dispersal of the Jewish community into the suburban areas of Sacramento during the fifties.



Committees of the Women's Division
Standing left to right: Lila Guttman, Gloria Constantine, Zetta Berman, Sarah Schwabb
Sitting: Jessie Yoshpe, Ruth Klein, Lilian Gandelman, Marie Allen



Left to right:
Estelle Opper,
Sissy Goldstein



Left to right:
Jacky Fischer, Ruth Klein
Jessie Yoshpe

THE JEWISH RELIEF SOCIETY FACES PROBLEMS IN THE FIFTIES

More cutbacks were made in the allocations received by the Jewish Relief Society from the United Crusade. Sam Finegold pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the amount of aid given to the Jewish Relief Society compared to aid given to other relief organizations. Once again the Society would be faced with the task of justifying their proper allocation from the United Crusade

The allocation from the United Crusade had been cut 40% in 1956. The minutes of the Relief Society stated that the cut was the result of pressure put on the society to merge its accounts with the Jewish Community Council, and to follow the regulations of the United Crusade. Much of the conflict was rectified by March, 1957, at a meeting of the Jewish Relief Society held at the Mosaic Law Synagogue. The crusade allocation was fully restored. Attending the meeting was William Berman who praised the society for its efforts over the previous year and asked that a letter be sent to the United Crusade office clarifying the relationship of the Jewish Relief Society with the Jewish Community Council.

Sam Finegold advised the board at a meeting held in 1958 that not all of the occasional late night calls he received were emergencies. He said that in the future these cases should be directed to the Milner Hotel where he had arranged for a night's lodging, and that under no circumstances would funds be dispersed until a more appropriate hour the following day.



IRMA WAHRHAFTIG

The following year the annual meeting was held at Sam Finegold's store on K Street. Mrs. Irma Wahrhaftig, who died in 1958, was remembered for her fine services to the Jewish community.

Irma Wahrhaftig was born in Folsom, the daughter of Edward and Auguste Levy. The family home and father's shop can still be seen there. Her father settled in Shingle Springs, El Dorado county, in the early 1850's and later moved to Folsom, where he opened a cigar store.

Mrs. Wahrhaftig taught school in Folsom, Hobart Mills, Nevada County, and the Oak Park District of Sacramento before she married in 1908. She was president of Hadassah and the Temple Sisterhood, a member of the Ann Land Memorial Fund Commission and of the Eastern Star and Rebekah Lodge. Her husband, Moses Wahrhaftig, was a founder of Mosaic Law Congregation and a Sacramento attorney who died in 1930. Her son, Felix Wahrhaftig, went on to be a distinquished attourney in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and a president of the Sacramento Jewish Federation.

COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION

Mark Cohn, who had been the advisor of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization from 1953 to 1958, led a drive to incorporate the non-affiliated Jewish organizations of Sacramento into one central organization named the Community Center Association. The idea, long in waiting, did not have a solid support agency behind it.

In 1958 the Sacramento BBYO disbanded, as did many other of the Jewish Community Center's organizations. In 1962 the Jewish Community Council disbanded, putting an end to the Community Center Association. Today the Jewish Community Center Association works through the Jewish Federation of Sacramento implementing the goals set by Mr. Cohn.



Comic Strip, The Flying Tigers

TIM MARKS

Many Jewish families came to settle in Sacramento after World War II. A large wave of new migrants came with the opening of the Aerojet plant in the Sunrise area of Sacramento. Tim Marks moved to Sacramento with his wife, Libby, in 1959, to work for Aerojet. He received national acclaim as a pilot in the China Air Task Force. Known as the "Flying Tigers," this squadron flew air support for the Chinese during the war in the Pacific. Tim Marks flew many daring missions and was shot down in enemy territory. This story was popularized in comic magazines.

Tim Marks served on the education board of the Bureau of Jewish Education and was vice-president of Congregation B'nai Israel.



View northwest from Capitol Dome, 1955
California Historical Society

Much of this section can be credited to the records lent to the author by Jesse Yoshpe. Her copies of the community bulletins were invaluable for tracing the activities of the many organizations in the Jewish Community Council. Also, a pamplet by the first JCC director, William Boxerman, added further cross-referencing to the development of the Council.

The Jewish Relief Society minutes were primarily filled with recordings of dwindling transactions, as the ravages of war in Europe had brought Jewish immigration virtually to a halt.

The Congregation B'nai Israel 175 year aniversary book was most useful in writing about its history. It can be found at the Libraries at the University of California, Davis and Sacramento State University.

Information about Leonard Friedman was supplied by him and checked through other sources. The late Oscar Blumberg was particularly helpful in this section for the many entertaining photographs he kept of the Congregation B'nai Israel events, as well as the stationery used in both this and the previous section. His contribution of stationery is particularly fitting for a man who was the secretary of so many organizations.

After such tremendous success, we find the Jewish Community Council in complete disarray. This was unfortunate timing, especially in a period of large population growth for the greater Sacramento area. In the face of this crisis we find one man whose brief participation in Sacramento Jewish affairs gave the community a base on which to reassemble itself. The man was Irma Wahrhaftig's son, Felix.

PRESENT DAY SACRAMENTO



Children of the Shalom Day School



Felix Wahrhaftig

DISSOLUTION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Felix Wahrhaftig was president of the Jewish Community Council from 1960 to 1962. The board of the Jewish Community Council decided that it could not function as an umbrella agency for all of the different Jewish interest groups of Sacramento as called for by its constitution. The Jewish Community Council dissolved in 1962; Felix Wahrhaftig drafted the new constitution, reorganizing the Jewish Community Council into the Sacramento Jewish Federation. The Jewish Federation was to co-ordinate Jewish Organizations. Its primary purpose is to raise funds for local, national and overseas needs, and to serve as a planning agency for the Sacramento Jewish Community.



Collage of Jewish Community Events



B'nai B'rith bowling team, 1960. Left to right: William Berman, Aaron Forman, Paul David, Dave Rosenberg, Leo Shapiro.

The reorganization of the Jewish Community took its toll on the annual campaign drives. By 1960 the annual campaign took in just over $60,000, or half of what was raised durung the early fifties. From this, the community donated one-half to the United Jewish Appeal, sent a small portion to national Jewish agencies, and paid for a campaign director and office space. The Jewish Federation was located in a small office on K Street between 23rd and 24th.



Cantor George Wald and Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkrantz

RABBI JOSEPH EHRENKRANTZ

Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkrantz came to lead the Mosaic Law Congregation in 1960. Rabbi Ehrenkrantz was the first rabbi since the retirement of Rabbi Brosin to capture the hearts of Mosaic Law Congregation. He was able to communicate effectively to both young and old. He developed a successful youth program and united a rapidly growing congregation. In 1967 Rabbi Ehrenkrantz received the Israeli Medal of Freedom from General David Elazar, former Chief of the Northern Command of the Israeli Army. Rabbi Ehrenkrantz retired in 1972 and was honored at a testimonial dinner at the grand ballroom of the Senator Hotel on December 9. At this writing he is rabbi emeritus for Mosaic Law Congregation.

Cantor George Wald came to Mosaic Law in 1965 and developed an excellent relationship with Rabbi Ehrenkrantz, the congregation, and the community.

THE JEWISH FELLOWSHIP OF DAVIS

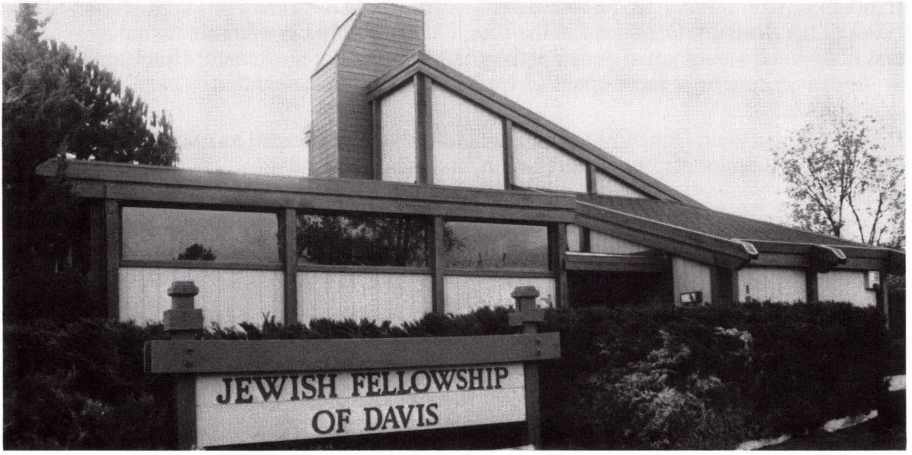
During the 60s, a small but diverse group of Jews met in each other's homes to observe Shabbat, celebrate holidays and share each other's simchas. Marvin Goldman and Sterling Chaykin committed themselves to bringing about a formal organization of this fledgling Jewish community. They named this organization "The Jewish Fellowship of Davis" in order to embrace all of the diverse beliefs of the community.

Ernest Biverstein, Jay Halio, and Joel Kalb gave direction for religious practices and rituals in the years before the fellowship could find a full-time rabbi. The Fellowship obtained its first Torah from Sam Weiss, the father of Mrs. Marvin (Joyce) Goldman.

The Fellowship was a "congregation on wheels," thanks to Marvin Goldman's "shulmobile," a green station wagon containing a portable Ark and a box of prayerbooks. The early 60s brought informal rabbinic expertise through Rabbi Betzalel and Debbie Porten. "Buzzi" was a professor of oriental languages who taught Hebrew at the University of California campus. Together they developed a Sunday school curriculum and founded Torah study groups before making aliyah to Israel. Later, Rabbi Jay Hellman, an Air Force Chaplain stationed at Travis AFB continued the Torah study groups.

The Jewish Fellowship of Davis formalized a constitution and by-laws during the early 70s. A Jewish section of the Davis cemetery was also established at this time. The Fellowship was meeting in rented facilities and had begun a building project which, thanks to the efforts of Fellowship presidents Gerald Adler and Marilyn Groth, was completed and dedicated on Labor Day, 1972. Among the unique features of the Fellowship building is the Ark preserved from the Homewood Terrace, a Jewish orphanage in San Francisco which no longer exists. The building is located at 1821 Oak Avenue in Davis.

In 1983, the Fellowship hired Bonnie Koppell, a reconstructionist rabbi, as its first full-time spiritual leader. She stayed until 1985, after which the Fellowship hired a series of interim rabbis while grappling with the need to affiliate. After many long deliberations and community votes, the Fellowship joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in May, 1986. In 1987, the Fellowship hired Rabbi Jeffrey Ronald to be the spiritual leader to its current membership of 125 Jewish families.





Past Presidents of the David Lubin Lodge
Standing, right to left: Peter Greenstein, Charles Wiseberg, Abe Osofsky, Sy Opper, Morry Einhorn, Leo Fahn, Harry Slaff, Louis Samoville, Louis Brodovsky, Dr. Aaron Gourse, Victor Lewis, Dave Kaufman. Seated, right to left: Nathan Forman, Paul David, William Berman, Dr. William Mendelson, Abe Estess, Morris Rothholz, Oscar Blumberg.

RABBI AKIBA AWARDS

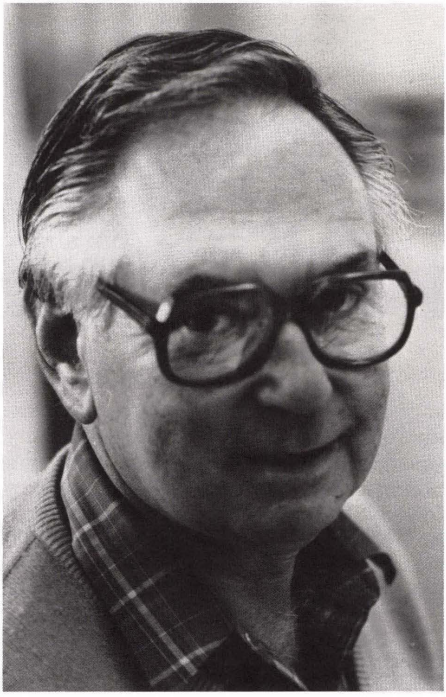
District Grand Lodge #4 gives the Rabbi Akiba award to members of B'nai B'rith who show exemplary degrees of goodwill and tzedakah. Seven men in Sacramento have received this honor: Myron Nathan, Morris Goldstein, Sam Finegold, Mark Cohn, Morris Rothholz, Abe Melner, Bernard Marks and Richard Kriger. In 1968, Kriger was the last Sacramentan to receive this award.



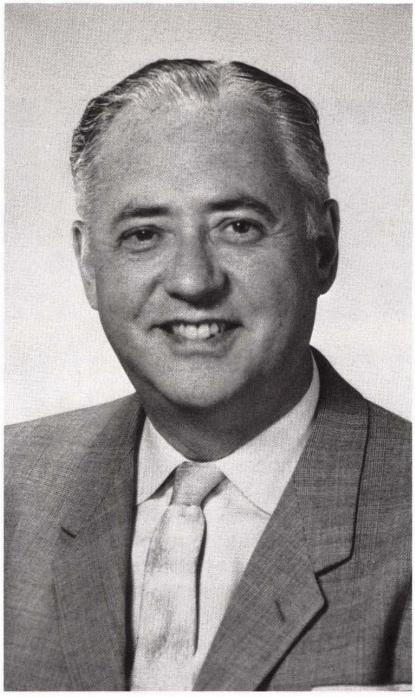
Hillel House, 328 A Street

HILLEL HOUSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Hillel House at the University of California at Davis grew out of the Jewish Youth Fellowship, a 20-member student group which began meeting in 1960. Dr. Larry Rappaport, Faculty Advisor to the JYF, together with UCD students, approached B'nai B'rith David Lubin Lodge to seek assistance in establishing a Hillel Counselorship at UCD. The rationale was that, as the campus was growing rapidly and there was no Jewish facility in Davis, it was essential to provide a "home" where students could meet friends and be exposed to Jewish religious, social and cultural values in a warm atmosphere. Because of financial constraints, the Lodge was unable to provide funding. At this point Milton Levison came into the scene. Through Milton's dedicated volunteer efforts a small house on the edge of campus at 328 A Street was bought from Mary Davis, a sympathetic friend. Hillel House was established in 1965.



Larry Rappaport

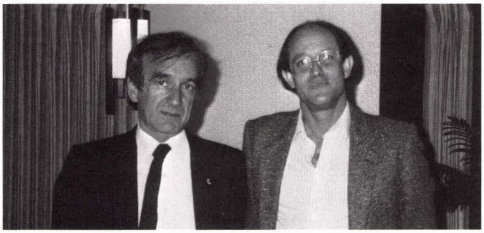


Leonard Finder

Rappaport was asked by The Sacramento Jewish Federation to serve as Counselor, which he did for 10 years, with the invaluable support of Levison and Nathan Rothberg, then Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, and succeeding presidents and members of the Federation. Roz Levy, the first woman President, was particularly supportive as she continued to seek new funds and make improvements at Hillel. B'nai B'rith, while only occasionally able to provide direct funding, frequently sponsors improvements and new construction.

The program focus was on outreach: Friday night services, social, educational and cultural events, and classes and speakers with special emphasis on Israel. Peak enrollment approached 100 by 1975 and many more students and adults attended special events. For example, the Leonard Finder Memorial Lecture Series, which drew crowds of up to 800 at Freeborn Hall on the UCD campus, sponsored such notables as Elie Weisel, Chaim Potok, Dennis Prager, and Max Dimont. Throughout this decade the Finder Memorial has brought out to Davis Abba Eban, Yehuda Amichai, Elie Weisel, and Julius Lester.

The Leonard Finder Memorial Lecture Series is funded throught a foundation set up by Ann Finder Levine in honor of her late husband, Leonard Finder. He was the publisher of the Evening Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire. He moved to Sacramento and became the publisher and chief editor of the Sacramento Union.



Elie Weisel and Colin Swift



Milton Levison

Tom Frankel was interim counselor for one year in 1970-1971. After 1976 Rappaport was followed by: Yael Mayer, who focused on political issues; Helen Stein, who created a warm social atmosphere and, while tending to the traditional Hillel functions, emphasized women's issues; Elanna Sherman, who was deeply concerned about student welfare; Veronica Kaufman, who emphasized Israeli affairs; and Colin Swift, director since 1985. Swift, a professional counselor, brought renewed vigor to the House and expanded its functions. Hillel House is now used by hundreds of students. It offers Jewish studies, social events, leadership training, community services, and kosher vegetarian meals to university students, a volunteer service provided by Shoshana Zatz.

In recent years several Federation and B'nai B'rith Lodge members have volunteered their time and effort to improving the physical and economic status of Hillel. Most notable among them are Sam Edelstein, Leo Fahn, Irv Levine, and Brett Wyatt.



Leo Fahn

END OF THE JEWISH RELIEF SOCIETY

The Jewish Relief Society continued to serve Sacramento until 1968, when Sam Finegold suggested that the Jewish Relief Society be disbanded and its functions be absorbed by the Sacramento Jewish Federation. The number of transient cases had dropped to only a few. The need for the Jewish Relief Society, as it was set up, had ended.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

In 1968 the JCRC, Jewish Community Relations Council, was started in Sacramento by Leo Fahn, Leonard Friedman, Blanche Goldstein, Lawrence Karlton, and Charles Nadler. According to Linda Brodt, the present chair of the Sacramento JCRC, the organization functions as the political "watchdog" branch of the Jewish Federation. The JCRC consists of four committees: Israel Affairs, Oppressed Jewry, Public Schools, and Public Affairs. The JCRC works to raise public awareness to problems specific to the Jewish people and to uproot antisemitism whenever it appears.

THE ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING (ORT)

ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training, was organized in Sacramento in 1969 by its founding president, Lee Katz. ORT operates vocational and technical schools worldwide. The schools, supported by donations from ORT members, are seen as the achievement of the mitzvah to help someone learn an occupation so that the person can be independent. Sheila Swift, chair of the Sacramento Coordinating Committee, reports that there are 3 local chapters of ORT, a daytime chapter, an evening chapter and a newly formed Davis chapter, with a combined membership of over 400 women.



Steve Bialostok and Carry Cohn of Shalom Day School

THE BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION

The Federation preschool was established in September, 1972, by Nate Rothberg, the director of the Sacramento Jewish Federation, assistant director Madeline Phillips, and president Roz Levy.

From this start an afternoon Hebrew school was established by pooling the Hebrew programs of Mosaic Law and B'nai Israel. The Hebrew program was held at the new school building of Mosaic Law. Dr. Stuart Steinberg was called upon to direct this venture and Rabbi Emeritus of Mosaic Law, Joseph Ehrenkrantz, was asked to settle ideological differences. This program was so successful that the Sacramento Jewish Federation, under Nate Rothberg's guidence, organized the Bureau of Jewish Education of Sacramento in 1975. Dr. Steinberg was the first president; Gideon Goren was the first director.



Irv and Ann Levine



Irv Levine at Soviet Jewry rally in front of State Capitol Bldg., December 8, 1987 Sacramento Bee

In 1978 the Sacramento Jewish Federation bought a school building on Wyda Way from a Baptist church. Ephraim (Fri) Spivek was the director of the Federation. The property was found by Merv Ezray, who approached Alan Brodovsky with the idea of buying it for the community. Alan Brodovsky, who was president of the Federation board at the time, coordinated this purchase. The property was a trustee sale and the community needed $300,000 cash in only a few weeks. About thirty individuals pledged $10,000 each. Alan recalled that about 250 people met in the school gym to decide whether or not the property would be bought. With an overwhelming, positive support, the school building was purchased. The school building provided space for a long-awaited Jewish Day School, Jewish Community Center and Federation office.

Shalom Day School opened in September, 1978. Irving Levine was the first president and Dr. Stan Halpern was the first director. The school provides day care for infants and toddlers, and classes for grades kindergarten to six. At the present time there are over 250 Jewish students enrolled at Shalom Day School.



The Four Robinhoods, December 25, 1964. Left to right: Mark Cohn, Ken Cayocca, Cecil Finegold, Lou Morris.

THE FOUR ROBINHOODS

Sometimes the efforts of a few dramatically affect the lives of many. Such is the case of the Four Robinhoods. Ken Cayocca, Mark Cohn, Cecil Finegold and Lou Morris have been giving happiness to underprivileged children since 1954.

These four men have hosted Christmas and Halloween parties for children from Sacramento Childrens' Home, Stanford Home, and Saint Patrick's Home. Mayor Richard H. Marriott declared Sunday, August 25, 1968, Robinhood Day on a city proclamation dated August 23, 1968.

In 1971 a group of 60 "Merrymen" pledged their support for the continuing efforts of the Four Robinhoods.

Other groups benefited by the Robinhoods are: Singlemen's Center, United Christian Center, Camellia City Center, Washington Neighborhood Center, Stanford Settlement House, and 42 orphans in Vietnam.

Mark Cohn and Cecil Finegold are members of Mosaic Law Congregation. Ken Cayocca and Lou Morris are members of the non-Jewish community of Sacramento.



Les Finke (microphone), and Shalom Day School children at Albert Einstein Residence Center

THE ALBERT EINSTEIN RESIDENCE CENTER

Concurrent with the establishment of Shalom Day School was the building of the Albert Einstein Residence Center. Les Finke was the first and current director. The Einstein Center offers low cost housing to seniors who want the friendly surroundings of Jewish life. The project was sponsored, in part, by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The remaining cost was met through a fund-raising drive led by Harry Tonkin. The entire Sacramento Jewish community joined to raise over $600,000 for its elderly. This permanent endowment continues to help the elderly Jewish community.

The Einstein Center has 78 rooms with 80 residents in a relaxed, dormitory atmosphere. The Einstein Center was completed through the efforts of Leonard Freidman, Marvin Ezra and Oscar Morvai.

Another permanent endowment was started by Fritz Kahn. Overseen by the Jewish Federation Foundation, it has over one million dollars, thanks in large part to Cecil and Ray Finegold.



Congregation Beth Shalom

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

Congregation Beth Shalom formally organized as the Sacramento Jewish Fellowship, a reform congregation on December 9, 1973. The new congregation grew out of Congregation B'nai Israel shortly after the departure of Cantor Eli Cohn. Services were held in an office owned by a congregant unitl a meeting hall was purchased at 525 Fulton Avenue. From its original 80 members, the congregation has grown to over 200 at this writing. The congregation is currently led by Rabbi Kalman Dubov.



Rabbi Lester Frazin and children

RABBI LESTER FRAZIN

Rabbi Lester Frazin was invited to the pulpit of Congregation B'nai Israel in November, 1973. The Rabbi commuted from his pulpit in Rockford, Illinois, for one week each month for six months, after which he formally took the duties of Rabbi for Congregation B'nai Israel. Membership has grown in the last ten years of Rabbi Frazin's service, expanding from 325 families in 1973 to over 700 families in 1987. Rabbi Frazin has continued the B'nai Israel tradition of serving the community. He is a past president of the Interfaith Service Bureau of Sacramento, and Chaplain of the Senate of the State of California.

The growth of Congregation B'nai Israel has led to a new building expansion project headed by Milt Levison. The project will add a new wing to the building, increasing the Temple's capacity to serve its congregation and the Jewish community. Levison prevailed upon Harry Tonkin to assist with the major gifts campaign. The total building campaign brought $1,800,000 in pledges, a record fund-raising drive for the Sacramento Jewish Community.



UJA Mission to Israel
Top, left to right: Unidentified, Miles Miller, Henry Rudinsky, Unidentified, Bob Zeff, Cantor George Wald, Nate Rothberg, Ray Finegold, Sam Finegold. Bottom, left to right: Jay Hoffer, Stewart Steinberg.

COOPERATION BETWEEN MOSAIC LAW AND B'NAI ISRAEL

During the seventies, Mosaic Law and B'nai Israel jointly sponsored several community activities. The Israeli Expo was held May 27 and 28, 1973, to celebrate Israel's 25th birthday. The play "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat," was one of the featured events of the fair. Another joint activity was a political protest of the November 4, 1974 appearance and recognition of the PLO before the United Nations General Assembly. That day was proclaimed a day of fasting by Rabbis Goldman and Frazin, to begin at sunrise and continue through the day with study and discussions based on Jewish laws concerning violence.

The UJA sponsors annual missions to Israel for congregants and donors to see where their money is spent. From February 1 to February 11, 1975, Rabbis Joseph Goldman, Rabbi Lester Frazin, and Joseph Freedman went to Israel on a mission led by Sam Anapolsky.

Throughout the seventies, both congregations joined in annual song festivals performed by the children. These were held at Congregation B'nai Israel at Riverside Blvd. until the sanctuary of Mosaic Law was completed. Afterwhich the festivals were held at either site.



Just starting, new site for Mosaic Law Congregation's Synagogue, Rabbi Ehrenkrantz (left), Alex Fahn (right).

Sacramento Chapter of The National Council of Jewish Women was organized in the late 50s.

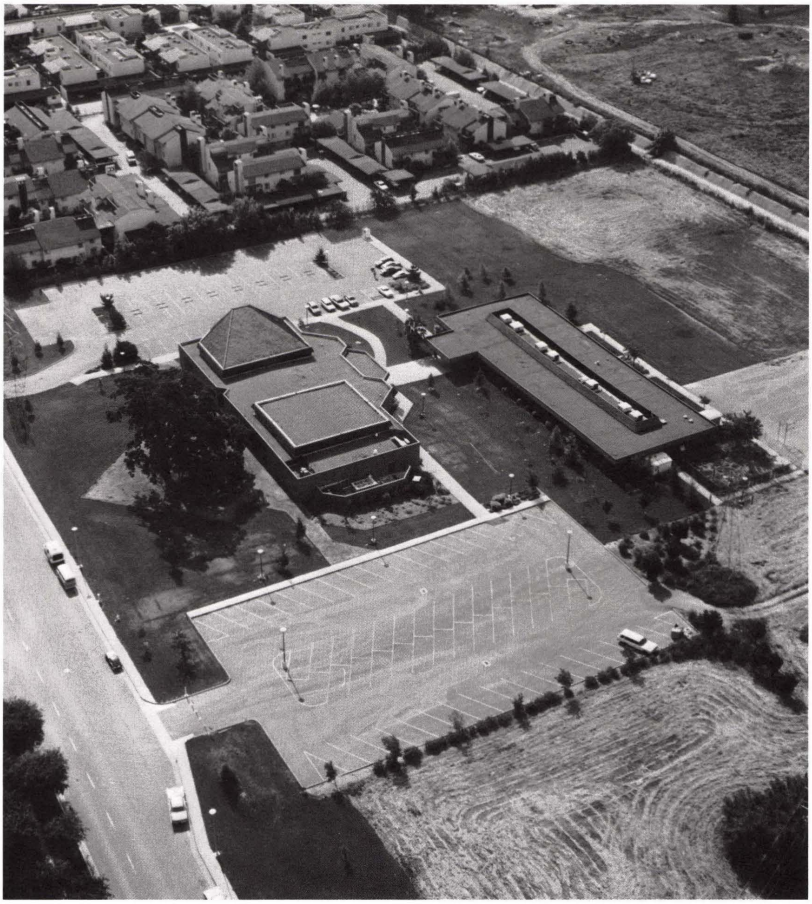
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

The National Council of Jewish Women is a volunteer organization dedicated in the spirit of Judaism to advancing human welfare and the democratic way of life. Through a coordinated program of education, services, advocacy and social action, NCJW works in the Jewish and general communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

In Israel NCJW is committed to helping disadvantaged children through its Ship-A-Box program and the work of the NCJW Research Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Locally, the Sacramento Chapter prepares a Chanukah party yearly for seniors, does hypertension screening for the elderly, and has developed and published a booklet on child safety.



Groundbreaking at Mosaic Law Congregation's new site. Left to right: Sam Finegold, Morton Friedman, Earnest Fahn, Stanley Gale, Louis Brodovsky.



Airphoto, Mosaic Law Congregation's Synagogue on Sierra Blvd.

THE SIERRA BOULEVARD SYNAGOGUE OF MOSAIC LAW CONGREGATION

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new school building of Mosaic Law was held Sunday, February 21, 1971. It began with Charles Nadler's proclamation "Sons and daughters of Israel: A Torah Scroll has arrived at its new destination." A Torah Scroll then was passed from hand to hand, to the Holy Ark, constructed for the occasion by Sam Zelvin. The old site at 23rd and K Streets was officially vacated in October of that year.

After years of preparatory work, the cornerstone laying ceremony for the new sanctuary was held on September 22, 1974, at 11:00 a.m. The new sanctuary of Mosaic Law was completed in January, 1976. The dedication ceremony for the new synagogue was held Saturday morning, January 17, 1976, at 10:00 am. An evening dinner-dance followed at 7:30 pm. The final cost of the new sanctuary and social hall was $600,000.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Tonkin

SACRAMENTANS OF THE YEAR

In 1982 Harry Tonkin was named "Sacramentan of the Year" by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Tonkin was also co-founder of Sacramento's Comstock Club, past president of Goodwill Industries, and past director of Jesuit High School, Christian Brothers School and Sacramento Society for the Blind. At this writing he is a director of the Sacramento Savings and Loan Association.

Mr. Tonkin died August 8,1987. He was posthumously inducted into the Sacramento Business Hall of Fame and named philanthropist of the year by the American Society of Fund-Raising Executives. In May, 1988, a new vocational rehabilitation building of Goodwill Industries will be named after him.

The new chapel at Congregation B'nai Israel has been named the Harry M. Tonkin Memorial Chapel.

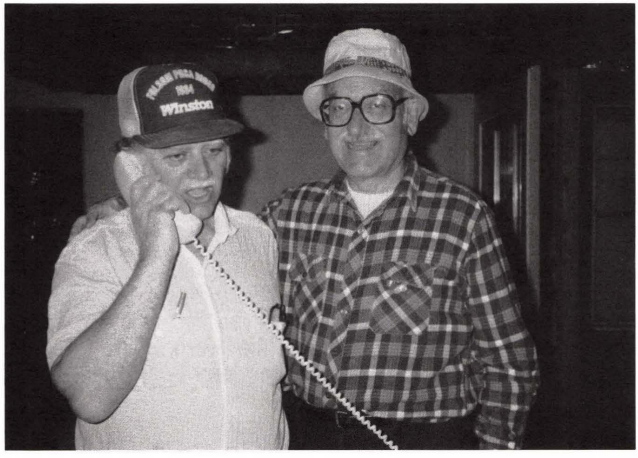
In 1986 Dalton Feldstein was selected as "Sacramentan of the Year." This adds to his honors as the 1960 United Way "Man of the Year" and recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award. Governor Earl Warren appointed him a director of California State University at Sacramento. Dalton was chairman of the Federal Grand Jury and served on the County Grand Jury. At this writing he is a Trustee and Fellow of Brandeis University, has served as Trustee on the board of Jesuit High School and is a member of the distinquished Host Committee which stages an impressive annual breakfast meeting for leading California citizens.



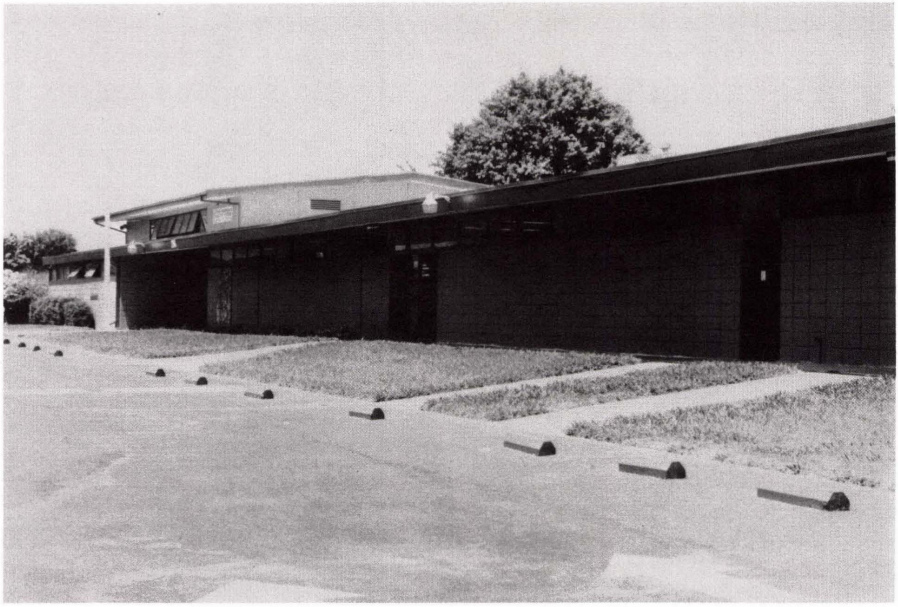
Rabbi Stuart Rosen in front of KITC

KNESSET ISRAEL TORAH CENTER

Knesset Israel Torah Center started from a minyan led by Rabbi Yoseph Polstein. Rabbi Polstein came to Sacramento to work for the Bureau of Jewish Education as a Hebrew teacher in the spring of 1982. He is Orthodox. On Shabbat he would have a minyan of observant Jews at his home. After six months the minyan chose to call itself Knesset Israel Torah Center.



Oscar Morvai and Charles Nadler



Federation Building on Wyda Way

ARNOLD FEDER

Arnold Feder came to Sacramento in 1981 to be the director of the Jewish Federation. Feder is working toward what he calls "a dynamic Jewish existence." Jewish Family Services, a community support organization, is one step in Feder's plan. He is also behind the expansion of the Jewish Community Center Association. Largely defunct since the dissolution of the Jewish Community Council in 1962, the revitalized Jewish Community Center Association offers a wide range of activities for Jews of all ages.

Knesset Israel's goals were to study, teach, and live by the laws of the Torah. Rabbi Polstein left the minyan in 1984 and was followed by Rabbi Stuart Rosen.In 1985, Knesset Israel bought a house on 1024 Morse Avenue and began rebuilding it to serve as a shul. This was accomplished through the efforts of Charles Nadler and Oscar Morvai. Knesset Israel continued to meet in the Federation living room, in the building on Wyda Way, while the new shul was being built. The shul was completed Shavous, 1986. Rabbi Rosen is a contemporary religious Jew. He espouses the mitzvot of the Torah , allowing both learned and novice to find the Torah.

SUNRISE JEWISH CONGREGATION

Sunrise Jewish Congregation organized June, 1983, to meet the needs of the growing northeastern corridor of Sacramento County. It is currently holding services in the Fairvale Baptist Church in Fair Oaks.

CONCLUSION

At a time when assimilation is eroding the strength of the Jewish people, they must look to one another for strength and community. We have seen how the solidarity of the Jewish community brought vitality to its members and cohesion to the community. We have also seen how dissent among community members caused the community to stumble. The author is of the opinion that each Jew should live each day as if at Sinai, each day as if embarked on a road to freedom; each day as the pioneering Jew of the Gold Rush; each day as one community, Kol Israel.

Sources for this last section included several anniversary booklets listed in the bibliography, as well as records in the files of the Jewish Federation on Wyda Way.

One of the best kept contemporary archives is the collection of *The Scroll* kept at Mosaic Law. Most of the documented history used in this section is from that reference.

Also used were interviews with Marvin Goldman, Larry Rappaport and Marilyn Groth concerning the Jewish Fellowship of Davis. Both men were also helpful with the background on Hillel House of Davis. Milt Levinson was also a source used for Hillel information.

References for the BJE included their own anniversary booklet and a short article prepared by Sigmund Miller.

The information about Harry Tonkin and Dalton Feldstein can be found in the *Bee*. The author interviewed Arnold Feder and Les Finke and also spoke with Oscar Morvai while Knesset Israel Torah center was being built.

If there are any comments or discoveries made by the reader, the author can be reached through the Jewish Federation of Sacramento located at 2351 Wyda Way.

Appendix A

Past Presidents of Congregation B'nai Israel

1852	Alexander Myers
1853	A. Andrews
thru	George Aronson
1860	Moses Kohn
	Louis Sloss
	Jacob Greenebaum
	M. Marks
1861	Louis Elkus
thru	
1890	
1891	Harris Weinstock
thru	
1896	
1897	Albert Elkus
thru	
1915	
1915	Samuel Stone
1917	H. A. Binder
1919	Max Simon
thru	
1925	
1926	Albert Elkus
1933	Isador Brown
1936	Harry Kaufman
1942	William Berman
1946	Dalton Feldstein
1955	Harry M. Tonkin
1956	Manuel Shwartz
1958	Leonard Friedman
1960	Albert Dreyfuss
1961	Leonard Friedman
1962	Theodore C. Zeman
1963	Rudolf Michaels
1965	Sydney Brash
1966	Robert L. Novack
1968	Dr. Martin Asch
1969	Dr. Martin Asch
1970	Robert L. Novack
1971	Sy Opper
thru	
1973	
1973	Millard Tonkin
thru	
1975	
1975	Irving Levine
thru	
1977	
1977	Herbert Cohen
1978	Irwin Weintraub
thru	
1981	
1982	Robert Lauer
thru	
1984	
1984	Dan Garfain
thru	
1985	
1985	Robert Harris
to	
present	

Appendix A, continued

Rabbis of Congregation B'nai Israel

1853	Abraham Galland	1893	Barnett Elzas
1859	Samuel Peck	1895	Abram Simon
1860	Simon Rosenthal	1900	William Geenberg
1861	R. M. Cohen	1902	Bernard Kaplan
1862	M. Silberstein	1904	Monteque N. A. Cohen
1865	M. Stamper	1908	Michael Fried
1868	H. P. Lowenthal	1924	Harold Rheinhart
1879	M. Gerstman	1930	Norman Goldburg
1881	Jacob Bloch	1941	ALexander Feinsilver
1885	G. Taubenhaus	1948	Irving Hausman
1888	(without a rabbi)	1965	Cyrus Arfa
1889	Joseph Leonard Levi	1968	Amiel Wohl
1973	(without a rabbi)		
1974	Lester Frazin		

Appendix B

Past Presidents of Mosaic Law Congregation

1916 - 1940	A. J. Markowitz
1941 - 1948	Simon Gartler
1949 - 1951	Louis Brodovsky
1952 - 1954	Judah Jacobson
1954 - 1956	Louis Brodovsky
1956 - 1958	Leo Shapiro
1958 - 1960	Lewis Stein
1960 - 1962	Leo Fahn
1963 - 1963	Lewis Stein
1964 - 1966	Alexander Fahn
1966 - 1968	Elliot Pearl
1968 - 1969	Judah Jacobson
1969 - 1971	Lewis Stein
1971 - 1972	Elliot Pearl
1972 - 1975	Charles Nadler
1974 - 1975	co-president Dr. Robert Zeff
1975 - 1977	Arlene Pearl
1977 - 1979	Morton Friedman
1979 - 1981	Morton Ehrlich
1981 - 1983	Kenneth Goore
1983 - 1985	Marvin Kamras
1985 - 1987	Steven Polansky
1987	Frank Gumpert

Appendix B, continued

Rabbis of Mosaic Law Congregation

1915	Rabbi Rosen
1915 - 1920	Alfred Arndt
1920 - 1941	Ephraim Brosin
1941 - 1944	Pinchas Katz
1944 - 1945	Nathan Bernstein
1945 - 1946	Alex Y. Klein
1946 - 1948	Louis Kaufman
1949	(without a rabbi)
1950 - 1953	Marvin Bornstein
1954 - 1959	William Fertig
1960 - 1972	Joseph J. Ehrenkrantz
1972 - 1985	Joseph J. Goldman
1985 - 1987	David Spritzer
1987 -	Lionel Moses

Appendix C

Presidents of the Jewish Federation of Sacramento

1946 - 1948	Morris Rothholz
1948 - 1952	William Berman
1952 - 1953	Alvin Landis
1954 - 1956	William Belson
1956 - 1957	Frank Goldman
1958 - 1960	Sy Opper
1960 - 1963	Felix Wahrhaftig
1963 - 1965	Dr. Seymour Lewis
1965 - 1966	Irvin Frankel
1967 - 1969	Arthur R. Soltar
1969 - 1970	Jack H. Brandwein
1970 - 1972	Milton Levinson
1972 - 1974	Roslyn Levy
1974 - 1976	Oscar Morvai
1976 - 1978	Alan Brodovsky
1979 - 1981	Frederic A. Kahn
1982 - 1983	Alex Fahn
1983 - 1985	Irving Levine
1985 - 1986	Arlene Pearl
1986 - 1988	Kenneth Goore

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