

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ORIGINAL BOARD MEMBER



Harry M. Goodman
in 1926

One of the more interesting and unusual projects of America's Bicentennial celebration is the collection of what are called "oral histories." To produce one, an interviewer goes out to the older members of a community or neighborhood and asks a number of predetermined questions about the way life was in the earlier days of those person's memories.

To commemorate our "semi-centennial", we visited the last remaining member of our original Board of Trustees, Mr. Harry M. Goodman. Accompanied by Martin Sonnenfeld, who was invaluable in helping to re-cast some of our questions and eliciting fuller answers, we entered the warm and gracious home of Mr. and Mrs. Goodman on a snowy day in December of last year.

In his 87th year, Harry Goodman began by telling us about the excitement that prevailed in the years just before, during and after the erection

of our building (1924-26) and of the character of the men and women who were the prime movers of this most significant time in our community's history. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Goodman for the time he spent with us and for his service to Brith Sholom over the years since he was elected to the Board of Trustees as a 37-year-old man. Here are our questions and his answer.



Aaron Potruch

1. What kind of man was our first president, Aaron Potruch?

Aaron Potruch was a major force in our organization. A builder who had lost all his money in New York, he came to Bethlehem and began to build homes and apartments. At the northeast corner at Main and Market Streets is one of his apartment buildings. Aaron was a small man who dressed very well. He always wore expensive clothes. He and his wife had four sons. Aaron Potruch died in the mid-thirties, 1935 or 1936.

2. How did the buildings of our Center/Synagogue affect membership?

The old Schule had about 40 members. With all the excitement and uniting spirit behind our effort, we were soon able to grow to 225 members.

3. Describe the feeling in the Jew-

ish Community at the time the building was begun.

It was wanted very badly. We had a very small synagogue on Carlton Street and the children went to cheder in a building on Adams Street. Most of us couldn't believe the size, scope or enormity of the project as it went up before our eyes. We were amazed and thought, "Nobody could have even dreamt of this."

4. What was the reaction of the non-Jewish Community?

Lots of local citizens and the Lehigh people watched our progress with interest. Mayor Yeakel and several others attended our 1924 cornerstone-laying ceremonies with pride.

5. How much were dues in those days?

We charged \$25.00 per family. For Hebrew school, it was \$1.00 a week, per child.

6. Who were some of our early clergy?

Rev. Abraham Gandel (Ann Weisz's father) was here before Rabbi Signer. He was our Moyel, our Schochet, our Bal Tifilin and much more. Mr. Abraham Weissman came next and remained for many years, during good times and bad.

7. What were some of the early problems?

The building was large and costly to run so we had problems with finances. It seemed that the Board of Trustees was "chipping in" at every meeting.

8. Describe a typical week's activities after the Center was built.

There was always something going on — card playing and other types of gambling, dinners, luncheons, adult classes, cheder, organizational meetings. Our caterer was Leo Stein, who was once located at the corner of

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RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ORIGINAL BOARD MEMBER

Packer & Montclair Avenues in the old Unity League building. Then, the Center was built, he moved in. He charged \$1.25 for a chicken dinner and \$1.00 for beef.

We had problems making the daily Minyon even then. Shabbos services began at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Cantor Dorfman had a fine voice. There were always Oneg Shabbats.

9. Did the non-Jews use the Center facilities?

Not originally, but an invitation was extended in the local papers. It still took a year or so before they came in. (One of the more well known early users was Congressman Fred B. Rooney who claims to have "grown up" in our building.)

10. What was Rabbi Signer like?

He was a fine, dignified man. Both he and his wife were very active in our community. His sermons were very good. Arriving in 1926, he left in 1928 when we couldn't offer him more money. (We had no rabbi between 1928 and 1933 because of the Depression).

11. What was your early budget like?

The total budget was about \$20,000. (Editor's note: today, it's \$115,000!) Typical salaries were \$6,000 for Rabbi Signer, \$1,800 for Cantor Dorfman. By the way, there was some dissension over the size of the Rabbi's salary. (Editor's note: In proportion to today's budget, it would be \$34,500 per year!)

12. Who were some of the leading

women in the early days?

There were Rose (Mrs. Jacob) Beilin, my first wife Lynne, Rebecca (Mrs. Morris) Black, Dora (Mrs. Ted) Goodman, Katie (Mrs. William) Bornstein, Sadie (Mrs. Samuel) Stoumen, Rose (Mrs. Morris) Goldberg, Eva (Mrs. Ben) Goodman, and Cecelia (Mrs. Oscar) Brisker. And they did all sorts of things, from scrubbing floors, to preparing the Oneg Shabbats, to teaching in the Sunday School, to writing and acting in original dramatic shows.

13. What was a typical Trustees meeting like?

They began at 8:00 p.m. and usually lasted until 11:00 p.m. or midnight. Yes, they were too long. But some of us stayed around for a game of poker or pinochle.

14. How successful was UJA in the early days?

When there was money, it was given. The Depression was a real problem for most of our members. I was treasurer of UJA for almost all the years, until very recently.

15. Who organized the many committees of the early board?

It was mostly the work of Aaron Potruch who was a very organized man. Others who helped were Ben Goodman, Morris Black, Bill Bornstein, Robert Long and myself.

16. What were some of the more popular events?

Our annual ball was one; we netted \$6,000 on the first. The many dinners, Friday night services and Oneg Shabbats were others. There were, of course, the many holiday celebrations that brought our members together — Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Succos, Simchas Torah.

17. How did you feel during the building dedication?

I was very proud. It was a wonderful feeling to be a part of such a big event as a 35-year-old in 1924.

18. Why was the combination synagogue-center concept put forth?

Aaron Potruch insisted on it. He was from New York City where the idea was being used and he saw how important it was to combine the cultural with the religious. He also felt that we could also draw in the non-Jews of the area and share in the use of the buildings facilities.

The original cost he projected was \$150,000. In 1923, a meeting was held in the Globe Theatre and Wyandotte Hotel, where the first funds, \$55,000, were raised in support of the synagogue-center idea.

19. How was it like for the Center during the Depression?

It was tough. The bank was going to foreclose on our mortgage and then Lehigh University offered to buy the building for the balance of the mortgage — \$65,000. However, we called a series of meetings and raised money to make our payments. A number of people took out personal loans and signed notes.



HISTORY OF THE BRITH SHOLOM COMMUNITY 1964 - 1976

The story of our community has been written in several places. First, there was the booklet issued at the dedication of our building on Chanukah, 1926. Then, our first 25 years were recorded in the pages of our Silver Anniversary booklet, which came out in March 1950. The next occasion was the issuance of "A History of the Early Jewish Community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania," written in 1955 by Rabbi William Frankel. Finally, there was a booklet issued at the Rededication of our Center in April 1963, which covered our history from 1952 to 1963.

We are, of course, indebted to the people who scrupulously gathered and wrote these meaningful reminiscences of our community's past. Striving to be accurate, impartial and fair in the representations of our history is a difficult task. And those who are writing the history that follows can only appreciate and admire their work.

Following is a year by year chronicle of the more memorable occurrences in our congregation from 1963 to the present. Because of the tragic fire that took place on Chanukah of 1970, most of our records were lost. Therefore, the material present is the best we could locate from alternate sources.

1963 — March, final touches were being put on our renovated building by general contractor, Earl W. Ecker, Inc.

April, Rededication Service held on Friday, April 5, was conducted by Rabbi Frankel with Cantor David Kusevitsky. The **Youth Dedication Service**, a

cantata directed by Sam Popowcer, held on Friday, April 12.

Memorial Service (Warsaw ghetto Uprising, 20th anniversary) held on Sunday evening April 21. **A Banquet** honoring Rabbi & Mrs. Frankel, rededicating the Center and giving thanks to those who worked so diligently, with guest speaker, Dr. Max Arzt, Vice Chancellor of the Seminary, was held on Sunday evening, April 28. **An Open House**, to which community-at-large was invited for a look at our renovated facilities, occurred on Wednesday, June 5.

June, Jack Shaffer elected president, succeeding Dr. Harold Glazier. Jack previously served as first vice president, on Rebuilding Committee, Chairman of the Building Fund Drive.

Picnic in the Poconos held at Pinemere Camp by Men's Club.

October, testimonial to sister/brother team of Jean Deutch and Morris Mindlin held in tribute to their lengthy and devoted service to the Center.

November, Center play, "Come Blow Your Horn," presented.

1964 — March, Anniversary Ball moved to Hotel Bethlehem; 125 couples attended a fabulous affair; chairman is Marty Sonnenfeld.

June, Jack Shaffer re-elected president.

Rabbi William Frankel leaves Bethlehem after 13 years for a pulpit in Wilmette, Illinois.

August, Rabbi Raymond Leiman begins 1½-year term.

1965 — June, Marty Sonnenfeld elected president, formerly served as Building Chairman, vice-president, Men's Club president, etc.

November 20, Center play, "Anniversary Waltz," presented.

1966 — May 7, Anniversary Dance, The Great Society Ball, is held.

June, Marty Sonnenfeld re-elected president of board.

Camp Retnec, the Center's day camp, which operated for years in Hellertown, ends with our joining the Easton Center's superb day camp in Williams Township. Effort is to the credit of Ruth Wilansky, who worked long and hard to make it a success. Our first campers are 12 in number. Four of the counselors are from Bethlehem.

August, Rabbi Max Wasser is welcomed to Brith Sholom as Rabbi/Center Director.

October, Marty Sonnenfeld and Board of Trustees installed.

November, Chaim Potok, Rabbi and writer of "The Chosen" (not yet published) speaks at Adult Activities series.

1967 — May, celebrated Israel's 19th anniversary with extensive program; JWB traveling exhibit, Elly Stone concert, talk by Rabbi Silver.

June, Peter Weinberg elected president. Previously served as

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HISTORY OF THE BRITH SHOLOM COMMUNITY 1964 - 1976

vice president on Building Committee.

June, war broke out between Israel and her Arab "neighbors". We hold a rally on June 7 and send a busload of members to Washington, D.C. the next morning to join Jews from the U.S. and Canada in a mass rally at Lafayette Park, across from the White House.

Center's "Picnic in the Poconos" held at Pinemere Camp.

Youth lounge refurnished through the generosity of Dr. & Mrs. Edward Cook. Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Cook contribute the funds to refurbish the nursery school room.

October 29, five of six original trustees still living are honored at Annual Installation Dinner. Rabbi Frankel invited back as main speaker. Five men are: Morris Black, Abe Glaser, Harry Goodman, Nathan Kroope, and Morris Goldberg. Due to illness, Boyd Silverberg does not attend.

1968 — Series of eight lectures exploring religions of the world held. School board candidates' night held in late October.

Teens and tweens, under Elaine Weiner, visit Masada exhibit and UN in trip to New York City.

June, Peter Weinberg re-elected president.

October, Abba Eban visits Bethlehem under auspices of Lehigh University's Blaustein International Lecture Series.

November, Rabbi Allan Miller

of Reconstructionist movement, gives Friday night lecture-discussion.

1969 — **April**, annual Father-Son banquet catered by Men's Club.

June, Men's Club Picnic at Pinemere Camp rained out.

Jerry Hausman elected president. Previously served as vice president and other duties as Trustee.

October, here began a series of events that lasted through the rest of the year: a hayride, a square dance, Shirley Berman's Cabaret nite, a play on race relations and lectures by Rabbi Allan Miller and Dr. Harold Gordon.

December 31 - January 1, New Year's Dance by Men's Club, "Un bal de rouge et noir".

1970 — **February 21**, another "husbands-cook-for-wives" affair, Frank Flandorffer, guitarist.

April 7, Father-Son Banquet held awarding Will Rosenberg and Maurice Phillips for their service to Men's Club over the years.

Mrs. Samuel (Lena) Berenson honored at a Torah Fund Luncheon by Sisterhood.

May, Barry Blinderman and Robbie Freeman conduct an original "rock" service at the Sisterhood Sabbath.

Annual mother-daughter dinner revived by Sisterhood.

After much work by Sisterhood members, including Ann Fink

and Ann Goldberg, the Brith Sholom library was re-opened.

June, Samuel Sheckter elected President of the Board of Trustees after years of service as Treasurer of Board, UJA treasurer, Jewish Relief Fund, Israel Bonds, etc.

December 19, it is 7:00 a.m. on a Saturday just four days before Chanukah, when a fire is discovered in our building. Arson is shown to be the cause, but the cost is more than the \$300,000 that will be needed to repair the damage. There is wide-spread dismay and discouragement and we've lost years of records and historical relics beyond monetary value.

1971 — Much of our activities during the year are curtailed due to the fire. Sabbath and daily minyon services, Hebrew school and part of the Sunday School are shifted to Agudath Achim Congregation's building on Linwood Street. (We shall always remain in their debt). The rest of the Sunday School classes are held at Northeast Junior High School, which also hosts our Sunday athletic programs.

June, Sam Sheckter re-elected president.

1972 — Our first year in the newly restored building. Sam Sheckter calls for fuller participation, thanking those who put in so much effort in the arduous task of rebuilding.

March, Sisterhood sponsors a Monte Carlo Night to raise funds

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HISTORY OF THE BRITH SHOLOM COMMUNITY 1964 - 1976

for the Center.

Over-50 Leisure Club established. Meetings held twice monthly. First president is Mack Feigenblott.

June, Sam Sheckter re-elected for third year, a first for a Brith Sholom president.

October, Elihu Flax begins as Cantor and Sabbath School teacher.

November 8, Sisterhood travels to Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

1973 — January, Board of Trustees decides, with regret, not to renew the contract of Rabbi Wasser and asks the Seminary to begin sending us candidates for our pulpit.

February, Arthur Black, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Black and grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Morris Black, returns from 7½ years as prisoner-of-war in Vietnam.

March, series of events to celebrate Israel's 25 years of Independence is planned and held. Includes visit by Israeli Consul from Philadelphia, ceremony at City Center Plaza, exhibit/auction of Israeli Art, special services and dinners.

June, Art Schachter elected president. Previously served as Men's Club president, and a Turstee—recording secretary, Adult Activities and Youth Chairman.

August, Rabbi Joe Chernikoff begins two-year contract.

September, decision made to

move Sunday School to Saturday and re-name it "Sabbath School". Move made to strengthen dwindling attendance at Junior Congregation.

Role of women in synagogue ritual strengthened by the granting of high holiday ark openings; followed by giving of "Aliyot" to women at Sabbath and holiday services.

October 6, war erupts in the Middle-east again, as Egypt and Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur.

Joint social affair held with Congregation B'nai Abraham in Easton.

1974 — December 31 — January 1, New Year's Eve affair revived; music furnished by Los Ponchos.

Sunday-Funday program continues under Sheldon Lehner Arline Pollack. From 40 to 60 youngsters attend regularly.

May, Sisterhood receives vote on Board of Trustees. Revisions of Bar and Bas Mitzvah procedures proposed to Religious School Committee. Some are adopted by Board of Trustees.

June, Art Schachter re-elected president.

July 18, Cecilia Brisker dies.

September, Men's Club re-activated by Dr. Barry Kelner. Series of breakfasts planned.

1975 — January, Jewish Community Council organized again.

February, Rabbi Chernikoff notified his contract will not be

renewed. Seminary asked to send new candidates.

March, membership joins Miller Blood Bank; thanks go to Georgia Larky and Nan Bauder.

April 11, Abe Glaser dies.

June, Marty Sonnenfeld brought back as president after eight-year interval, during which he also served as treasurer and vice-president of board.

August, Rabbi Allen Juda engaged as spiritual leader. Elliott Gershenson hired as part-time Center Director.

September 11, Morris Black dies.

December 24 - 25, about 12 Center members including the Rabbi and wife Toby, go to St. Luke's and Muhlenberg hospitals to relieve Christian workers for their holiday celebration.

1976 — January 23, reception for Rabbi Allen and Toby Juda and Elliot and Allyson Gershenson was held after Friday night service.

January 31, Men's Club hosts 63 at "Husbands-Cook-for-the Wives" affair. Chef Willie Rosenberg again a smash hit.

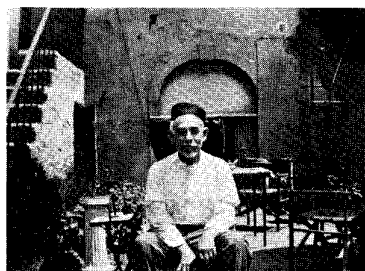


PEOPLE AND EVENTS THAT MADE OUR CENTER

These next pages are a collection of stories, occasions and photographs of the various events and individuals both living and dead which formed Brith Sholom's character over the years. No chronological order has been followed, but we hope that the story this material tells will bring back the flood of memories which make our community's years come alive.

REVEREND ABRAHAM GANDEL

by Harold Glazier



I would like to reminisce, and reflect upon the life of a truly saintly individual, Rev. Gandel, the father and father-in-law of Ann Gandel Weisz and William Weisz respectively. Rev. Gandel's life in our Community is clearly tied to my early life in Bethlehem. Thus it is with great nostalgia that I remember this fine person.

The Gandel family arrived in Bethlehem in the years prior to World War I. As was the case in small communities during this period of American Jewish life, Rev. Gandel had to be a "jack of all trades". He was our Moyel, Schochet, our Torah reader, did his share of the shachris davening, read from the Megillah on Purim, and shared the chanting on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. He performed many more mitzvahs, which I'm sure could be added to the list.

He was a humble person who performed his duties without fanfare, and with great sincerity. Using present day vernacular, one would have to say that he was a "low key" person — low key that is, until one was faced with a religious question (or any question concerning human nature) that required interpretation. You see, Rev. Gandel had that uncanny ability to make sense out of nonsense. He also had a great ability to make relevant to the times many interpretations which some of his colleagues would have stated more dogmatically. He was extremely liberal but traditional. One felt that he always combined common sense and good solid Talmudic background in his decisions.

I recall one member who was ill asking him about a borderline food for Passover. Rev. Gandel replied, "Wen mir darfen, Ken mier essen". Even my father, who was basically not a very demonstrative individual, had not only great respect but an uncanny love for this man. I can very vividly remember the expression on Rev. Gandel's face when he was asked for an interpretation of an especially ticklish question. A slight smile would appear, sort of a saintly glow, his small eyes would twinkle, he would stroke his small neatly groomed white goatee and out would pour his answer.

He was a man with a deep conscience and concern. After he performed circumcisions, he would always worry about the health of the child and never feel at ease until he was assured that everything was going to be perfect. After all, there was no sulfa or penicillin in those days.

Those of you who had the pleasure of Rev. Gandel's years in Bethlehem will recall his beautiful and strong voice. His Torah reading was always flawless and meaningful. Like his son-in-law, Bill Weisz, he remembered everyone's Hebrew name. And I recall, with goosebumps, how excited I would be when I would be greeted by this pious man with the words, "Hell, Tsvi Hirsh".

Rev. Gandel had little concern for financial success. He did not pass out cards as some contemporary Moyels do. He would rather have gone out with some member of the community and collect money at Passover so less fortunate scholars would have sufficient money for matzah. As for his own needs, people in the community have told me how he would gravely refuse a donation at a cemetery service or on other occasions.

I remember vividly how throughout his life he was plagued by diabetes. As Rev. Gandel grew older, the effect of this debilitating illness became more acute. As often happens, eyesight is impaired and in Rev. Gandel's case, this became quite a dilemma. You see, he felt it was of the utmost importance to read the Torah without error. When he found himself struggling with his vision and when it became difficult for him to focus on the fine script in the Torah scrolls, he reluctantly decided on his own to give up this lifelong love. To complicate matters, it soon became necessary to remove Rev. Gandel's leg because of increasing age and poor circulation.

One might now conclude, "So ended a most pious and beneficial life." Physically, it did, but spiritually his legacy has been carried on by a wonderful daughter and son-in-law. We often refer to the phrase found in one of our psalms, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh..." I'm inclined to believe that when the soul of Rev. Gandel physically departed from this earth, William Weisz was purposely brought to Bethlehem by some immortal power to fill in the gap formerly held by his dear father-in-law.

LOU MAKAGON

by Harold Glazier



In 1934, during the heart of the worst depression in our country's history, a young man from the city of Pittsburgh began his job as Youth Director of our Center. Our Center Board, throughout its history and even in times of deep financial crises, has recognized the importance of a competent youth director. Well, they certainly landed a "gem" when they hired Lou Makagon.

When I was asked to comment about "Mac", my mind began doing tricks: I thought of dozens upon dozens of stories and experiences related to his presence at our Center. For Mac's experiences were my experiences. I was a youth throughout his association with our Center.

Mac was truly a great guy. He was not an athlete in the concept of today's super-star. Since he excelled in swimming, everyone of us was taught the fundamentals of this sport right in our own pool. The fact is, Mac was a Middle-Atlantic breast stroke champion when he attended the University of Pittsburgh. Few people remember this but Lou was also a champion walkathon competitor. Not an exacting sport, it was, however, very gruelling. Also, because he excelled at Arts and Crafts, it was natural in later life that he open "Mac's Hobby Hall."

Mac could tell the best "tall stories" of any guy I've ever met. He told them all with a straight face. His jokes; however, were the corniest this side of the Mississippi. Above all this, Mac was a real person who instilled honor, fair play and sportsmanship in all of us. He also had a great love and affection for young people. This affection was mutual for we loved and respected him as much as he did us.

Speaking of love, during this period, we had a very competent secretary in our Center office. Her name happened to be Gertrude Goodman. Well, need I say more? Within a short time, we, that is all the kids at the Center, attended a wedding in our sanctuary. What a natural! Our secretary and our youth director became man and wife. I'll never forget that wedding. All of the kids — Mac's devoted friends — had a great time.

Like all young married couples, Gert and Mac had to look for greener pastures, for the pastures were none too green during the Thirties at Brith

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lem and current progress of one of the children.

"Case No. 3. Joseph, a boy of fifteen years, I found in a very deplorable environment living with parents who themselves were the objects of charity. This boy was suffering from an incipient case of tuberculosis. I took him to the local State Clinic, where Doctor Schmoyer ordered that he be taken to Mount Alto Sanitarium. The clothes necessary for this case I gathered from the Third Street merchants, who responded very graciously. The entire cost to the association for this case, including transportation, was \$12.00.

"After a period of two months at Mount Alto, Joseph was discharged as cured, and my last report as to him was to the effect that he was employed in an honorable position."

Cecilia closed this report of 45 years ago with her famous quote from the words of Abraham Lincoln, "I planted a rose where only thistles grew before." The years that followed saw her devote herself even deeper to the betterment of human life.

Orphaned children found comfort, unfortunate adults were given new opportunity, the sick and needy received care and new hope, and Jewish students at local colleges found a home away from home. Those who received the bounty of Cecilia's good works were many. But the greatest benefit was to those of us who were fortunate to work with her and learn from her. We honor her memory when we, too, try to "plant a rose where only thistles grew before."

LENA BERENSON



One of the most familiar faces at our women's organizations over the years of our Center's existence was that of Mrs. Lena Berenson. Here she is, extreme right, back in April 1956, with a group of B'nai B'rith Women. The task was making compresses for the local county Cancer Society. Others, from the left, are Mrs. Fanni Schoekel, Mrs. Amelia Fraivillig, Mrs. Julia Fatorsky and Mrs. Rae Cohen.

"GAY NINETIES" PARTY



Back in 1940, the Sisterhood sponsored this party. The picture was taken in the lobby outside the Center auditorium. The people, left to right, front row: Eddie Goldberg, Ben Gandelman, Ben Glazier; middle row: Myrtle Goodman Corbman, Lil Zevin, Essie Eisenberg, Lucille Krasner, Bobby Herzon; top row: Jean Margolis, Louise Nunes Comens, Harold and Esther Hirshberg, Rose Beilin, Ben Black, Rae Bass.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES



Aaron Potruch, first president, wields a golden shovel as ground is broken for our building in early 1924. Other were identified by Mrs. Samuel Cohen of Lebanon, (Abe Glaser's daughter, Natalie, who also furnished our cover photo) are, left to right, front row: Abe Glaser, John Hartman, Morris Black, Frank Stone; second row: Morris Goldberg, (two unidentified men), Anton Sell, (one unidentified man), Rev. Gandel, Sam Weisenberger, Mr. Potruch, Harry Goodman, Jacob Beilin, Robert Long, William Bornstein.

ABE GLASER



Many of us will remember Abe Glaser, who passed away on April 11, 1975. An original member of our Board of Trustees and a president, his concern for the community and our Center ended only with his death. The memory that will occur to most of us is his presence at our annual membership meetings. He stood up and spoke his piece during Good & Welfare year after year. And the message Abe Glaser conveyed was that we should find some way to

come together again and revive the fine spirit that prevailed during our Center's early days.

Two suggestions Abe Glaser made were (1) that we should call a meeting of all remaining ex-presidents and founders to help this institution he loved and (2) that at future annual meetings we serve food, such as hot corned-beef sandwiches to get a better turnout of members. Whether one agreed with specifics of his suggestions, one could not disagree with his motivation.

We paid tribute to Abe Glaser at the annual meeting following his death in 1975. If we could continue to think of him during these annual meetings, which he attended so faithfully, we would be giving proper due to his concern for all of us.

JACK SAURINA



By his own "admission", Jack Saurina has been with our Center for 35 years. Now a retired school teacher and still a local boxing referee, Jack is, perhaps, the most beloved person at Brith Sholom. To the youngest children, he is probably the first acquaintance they make when they come to Sabbath or Hebrew School. As they grow older, he is the one who dispenses the sodas and lends the nickles and dimes to those who don't have "sufficient funds".

To earlier users of our building, Jack will be remembered for his duties as lifeguard for the pool, the job he initially was hired to do. But he has also done such things as teach boxing to our Sunday-Funday boys.

But most of us will remember Jack for the amazingly relaxed, competent and resourceful way he has helped us through the years. Whether it was setting up for a party, cooking a meal, decorating a room, running a projector, finding a lost item, lending a sympathetic ear or simply keeping the building clean and in working condition, Jack was always there.

If any one person can be an institution, Jack Saurina is. And the reason, which must have been obvious to the thousands of public school students he taught over the years, to his children and relatives, and to the people he has worked with over these past years at our Center, is that Jack cares. If these words convey the thought that we care about Jack Saurina, they have done their job.

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