

MY LIFE IN PROVIDENCE

BY DR. CARL JAGOLINZER WITH JENNIFER WEISS

JOURNEYS TO AMERICA

My parents, Philip and Kate Jagolinzer, had a long and difficult journey from Russia to the United States. Life in Russia during the late 1800s was quite difficult. Poverty, disease, and much anti-Semitism were coupled with political unrest and unreasonable demands upon the people. Jews were being blamed and tortured for government's failure within the system. The family story relates that, in 1885, when Philip and Kate were planning to be married, news leaked out that Russian soldiers on drunken sprees were going to massacre Jews in their area. In response to the unbearable persecution of Russian Jews, a wealthy philanthropist in a nearby country* had made secret arrangements for Jews to escape on a cattle ship to Argentina, where he had bought land. My father and mother married in haste and joined others on the four-week voyage to Argentina, where they settled in a small town named Moises Ville.

The Russian Jews were given barren plots of land where they were to build houses and create a new life. My father had some experience in shoeing horses and became the village blacksmith. Three sons, Harry, Joe, and Max, were born in Argentina.

The family lived in poverty and hardship but relative security until rumors began to circulate that danger was soon to come for the Jews. Acting quickly, my father and other men escaped on a ship departing for England. Weeks later, my mother and her three young sons, along with other families, were also helped to escape to England and were reunited with my father.

After a number of years, the Jagolinzers received the necessary papers and travelled to the United States. When the family arrived in Ellis Island, their Russian immigration tags and passports read *Yagol-Nitzer*, from *Nitzer*—river, and *Yagol*—the name of the debarkation point in Russia. The immigration authorities spelled that *Jagolinzer*, which became the family name.

After a short stay in New York, at last, in 1896, Philip and Kate Jagolinzer, grateful, tired, and ready to settle down, arrived safely in Providence, seeking the religious freedom and opportunity that friends said Rhode Island had to offer. Providence became their home and the home of many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

This article was compiled by Jennifer Weiss from the writings of Dr. Carl Jagolinzer and from interviews with his daughters, Marion Goldsmith and Lois Fain.

* Probably Baron Maurice de Hirsch. See "Jewish Farmers in Rhode Island and Nearby Massachusetts," p. 444, above.

CHILDHOOD

I was born in Providence on November 25, 1897, in a small house on Caswell Court, an alleyway from Willard Avenue to the corner of Prairie Avenue in South Providence. Later the family moved to the second floor of a six-family house at 279 Willard Avenue. After me, Blanche, Fae, and Charlie came along. We were five boys and two girls all together.

Our lifestyle and friends centered around other immigrant families and some friends from the old country. A few memories of my life as a young child remain clear in my mind even after all the years that have passed. My parents were Orthodox Jews. I must have been about five when they assigned a Rabbi-Teacher to undertake my early education. He was of a very cranky disposition, and I didn't take too kindly to him. My later educational experiences were likewise rather trying.

As a young child I was content with my life, despite the constant economic hardship that weighed so heavily on my parents. Things were very different. We had no electricity, light, power, radio, television, or refrigeration. It was a time of horse-drawn carriages, wood and coal heating, oil lamps, candles, and outdoor toilets. Those were difficult times for everyone, and yet we all stuck together and supported one another. Mama and Papa taught us each to care for the next younger child. There were many joys as well as difficulties. My mother was a very loving and caring woman, and Papa worked hard to provide for all of us. He was loaned a pushcart with two large wheels and peddled used articles on the streets of South Providence. He and his brother then opened a shop on Gay Street for blacksmith and carpentry services. Later, he left blacksmith work and opened a small neighborhood grocery store.

My father's income was meager and undependable but, in spite of the trying conditions here, we could not ignore the tragic news of relatives who were tormented by living conditions in Russia. My father wanted desperately to help bring these families to America. Our family was denied the full benefit of my father's earnings because of the pleading of relatives still in Russia for help paying for passage to America. He arranged loans from the Gemilath-Chesed (a Jewish group organization of the times that became greatly involved in family problems and settlements, among many other Jewish services). We younger children were expected to work and help out whenever possible, and I recall the small earnings my brothers and I contributed toward repaying these loans.

I considered it a big treat to help my brothers with their jobs. Harry sold Doughty's Famous Ice Cream from a horse-drawn wagon which he rode through the streets of Providence. When I was about six, I was taken along and helped him attract customers by clanging the bell and shouting "Here we are! Get it now; Doughty's Famous Ice Cream!"

Brother Joe worked for Golemba Grocery, at the corner of Willard Avenue and

Gay Street, and his salary was credited toward our family's grocery bills. He filled customers' orders and delivered them in a hand drawn cart. Sometimes he brought me with him. I was well paid with sweet tasting goodies and the joy of it.

As I got older, I began to work at my own jobs. I was a newspaper boy for a time. My interest in politics goes back to 1908 when I waited outside the offices of *The Providence Journal* at 4:00 a.m. for the election results. Later I was a shoe-shine boy. I made five cents a shine. That sounds like nothing now. It's hard to believe that in those days one dollar profit was a good day's work.

Back then, all family members were expected to contribute to the family income after they had finished grammar school. I dropped out of school at the age of 14 to go to work full time. That was the end of childhood for me.

WORK AND EDUCATION

My first job was at the Martin Copeland optical factory on Sabin Street, making nine dollars a week, working ten hours a day, six days a week. I carried my lunch most of the time, but sometimes I walked twenty minutes to my home in South Providence, ate lunch in twenty minutes, and walked back in the remaining twenty minutes of my lunch hour.

I quickly discovered that I truly enjoyed the optical work. That was my introduction to the field that I have been in ever since. Unfortunately, my newfound dedication interfered with my father's plan that I become a plumber, a profession he had chosen when I was very young in the hopes that I would have steady work and make a good living. So much for the best laid plans! By the time I turned sixteen, I was quite sure that plumbing wasn't the trade for me. Of course, I also didn't have any definite plans for continuing in optics. It took a great deal of work on my part, kindnesses from others, and just plain luck before I could officially call myself an optometrist. Back in 1915, that dream seemed to me an impossibility.

I left Copeland for a job with more money at the Stevens optical factory but I was fired when I was given some unfamiliar work and ruined it. Nevertheless, my boss at the optical factory, Mr. Howard Barney, encouraged me to pursue a more advanced career. He himself was an optometrist and a wonderful man who had a great deal of influence on my life. I like to think that he saw some potential in me that even I didn't know I possessed.

With Mr. Barney's encouragement, I borrowed bus fare from my brothers and went to Boston to visit the Massachusetts School of Optometry (now the New England College of Optometry) on Massachusetts Avenue. Dean Theodore Klein met with me. I left his office feeling overwhelmed by the work I would have to do, but very determined to succeed.

In order to attend optometry school, I first needed a minimum of two years of high school education. Back in Providence, I went immediately to see the principal of

Technical High School, Mr. Yager. It turned out that he was instructing a summer course in high school subjects at the YMCA, and he made it possible for me to attend and become his student. Mr. Yager helped me throughout the next year. I juggled study time and work time, since I needed a job in order to pay Mr. Yager for tutoring me. Needless to say, I was ecstatic when I received my high school certificate. It turned out that I had even advanced beyond the minimum two years of high school. I felt like a whole new world was opening to me.

So, with certificate in hand, I returned to Boston in the summer of 1916 and was accepted into the Massachusetts School of Optometry. I had to let Dean Klein know that financing school would be difficult. He was very helpful and made it possible for me to pay tuition in installments over a period of time. I was elated!

Twenty dollars my brothers gave me was all the money I had when I went to Boston in September of that year. I was lucky to have a friend from Providence who had moved to Boston some time before. He even shared his room with me so we would both have a place to sleep.

The next step, of course, was to find a job. I answered a newspaper ad and became a door-to-door salesman for the Fuller Brush Company. They wanted me to pay fifteen dollars for the set of sample brushes, much more than I could possibly give them at that time. Perhaps I looked like a trustworthy fellow, or maybe I was just lucky. In any case, they gave me a few brushes to start out. I made the rounds in different neighborhoods every day after classes. After a while, however, I found that I still wasn't making enough to get along.

The most obvious solution was to find another job. So I did. There was a restaurant near the school that was looking for a boy to help with the evening meal. The chef worked down in the basement, and food was sent up on a dumbwaiter. I took the food and handed it to the waitresses. As payment, I received my evening meal. And it wasn't just any meal. The chef took a liking to me and always sent up the best food in the restaurant. I was feeling pretty lucky.

Meanwhile, I was working hard at optometry school. My classes weren't too difficult for me. I studied anatomy, physiology, pathology, chemistry, and physics. The study of the human body had been completely foreign to me, and I was absolutely fascinated. I went straight through the two years of school and graduated in 1918. In 1979 I was honored at a special alumni award dinner as the oldest graduate of the college.

After graduation, I enlisted in the Navy for a short time and then, after World War I ended, worked as an intern for an already established Providence optometrist, Dr. Silva. Internships weren't even required back then, but I wanted to learn everything I could. Optometry was more like a business than a profession in the early 1900s. It was practiced in jewelry stores and department stores. In previous years,

eyeglasses had even been peddled from door-to-door. People would try on different pairs of glasses and pick one that seemed to help them see better. Thank goodness things have changed so much since that time!

CAREER AND FAMILY

With my diploma and a few years of internship experience, I felt ready to move out on my own. I rented a store on Broad Street and fortunately did well enough to think of marriage to my sweetheart, Dorothy Schneidman. I had first met her when she was fifteen. My father had purchased a grocery store, and I delivered groceries to her family's home. I was just a kid, and not too bright in the ways of love. It took some time before I realized how much I loved her, but once I smartened up and figured it out, I was the happiest man alive. We married in 1920 and shared a wonderful life together, raising our two beautiful daughters, Marion and Lois. My Dorothy inspired me always and helped me to rise above the feelings of discouragement that sometimes overtook me.

During those years right after our marriage, I continued to make progress in my profession. I closed my Broad Street office in the mid 1920s and took over the optical department of the largest department store in Rhode Island, The Outlet Company. I felt that this move would provide more security for my family. Over the years, I was fortunate to be able to build my department from one optometrist to a very successful organization with four optometrists. I was also able to start a weekly radio program, "The Importance of Good Eyesight," on Station WJAR that provided the public with information about the importance of protecting eyesight and the wonderful functioning of the eyes. The program continued for many years, and I wrote the weekly scripts. I felt I was doing important work, and the income was very good.

Nevertheless, I was dissatisfied with the commercialism of optometry in a department store and longed to re-establish myself in a more professional environment. With this goal in mind, in 1938 I found a suitable office in the Woolworth Building on Westminster Street and once again worked independently. I felt good about raising the professional standards of optometry. I moved my office to East Providence in 1947 and remained there until retiring from optometry in 1977 at the age of 80.

Through my 55 years in practice as an optometrist, I was privileged to watch the progress of optometry from a commercial business to a respected profession. I am proud to think of the role that I played in this transformation, both in my private practice and as a public official. Governor Case of Rhode Island appointed me to the State Board of Optometry Examiners, where I also served as chairman and remained for 21 years, being reappointed by four successive governors. I also served for a time as the President of the Rhode Island Optometric Association. I have found my profession to be very rewarding, and I marvel still at the unexpected opportunities

that enabled a boy who quit school at age 14 to become eventually a successful optometrist.

RETIREMENT

That was all many years ago, of course. After I retired from optometry, I felt restless and looked around for other things to do. My first project was at The Jewish Home for the Aged. I like to be with people, and many of the people there are much in need of someone to be with. We talked. Some of the men and women rarely saw their families and simply sat in their rooms alone day after day. Often, I listened and they talked, relieving the tension in themselves by sharing their thoughts and memories.

A few years later, I went to the Jewish Community Center and shared with the director my plan for a new project. That was the beginning of FRIEND TO FRIEND. I led weekly discussion groups for the people who came to the Center for meals. We discussed Israel, the relationship between elderly people and their children, Jewish problems, and then their own personal problems. Although I am no longer a part of it, that program is still a part of the weekly schedule at the Center, and I hope that people continue to benefit from it.

I have been a very fortunate man. I loved my wife Dorothy, and we shared a wonderful relationship until I lost her in 1945. I am so grateful for our two beloved daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and for the fulfilling years with my second wife, Rose Gorman Kestenman, with whom I shared later years of my life until she died. Although I have experienced the loss of many of my loved ones, they are very much alive in my heart. I wish to recall lovingly my deceased brothers and sisters, Harry, Joseph, Max, Blanche, Fae, and Charlie, as well as our wonderful parents.

Brother Harry, the eldest, provided us all with guidance and support. He shared my interest in optometry. For Joe also, I felt great affection and esteem. He originally worked at the Providence Public Market, but later became interested in art studies. His employer made it possible for him to attend the Rhode Island School of Design, and he received great honors for his artistic work and for the development of his unique philatelic art form.

As my immediate senior, Max had a profound influence on my life. He had exceptional learning ability from an early age, wrote fluently in Yiddish, recited from the Torah, and excelled in cooking Jewish favorites. Dear sister Blanche's birth brought great joy to the family. She was made to feel like a princess and considered it her special station to serve Mama, our queen.

Fae also assumed much responsibility in our home. She always had the honor of braiding our *hallah*.* Her marriage to Ben Woolf was a wonderful event, and their

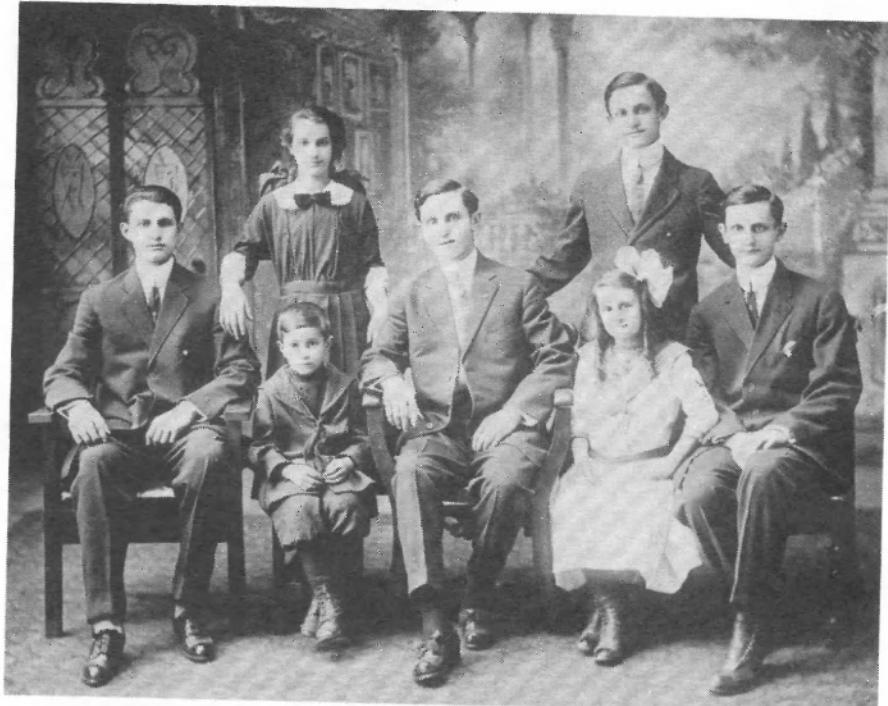
* A loaf of yeast-leavened egg bread, often braided (Hebrew)

homes in Cranston and Narragansett were often the centers of family gatherings. Fae emerged in her middle years as an outstanding creative artist.

Charlie, my youngest brother, was idolized by us all. He was never without friends and became an active community member, serving as Kiwanis Club president and president of Pawtucket B'nai Brith. He, too, was an optometrist by profession.

My brothers and sisters, their wives and husbands, and our parents, are joined in my memories by my beloved Dorothy, and Rose. Though they are no longer with us, they live on through the children and grandchildren who succeed them and honor their memory. The Jagolinzer Family Society commemorates them and records our history, with four generations participating. Our past, the joys and struggles, live on in our togetherness today and in the stories we tell.

So I have told some of the stories that remain most vivid in my mind, from a life that has been full of wonderful moments. I feel very grateful. The joys have certainly outweighed the sorrows. I guess I must have done something right!



Jagolinzer family, children of Philip and Kate Jagolinzer, circa 1910. Seated, l. to r., Joseph, Charles, Harry, Fae, Max. Standing, l. to r., Blanche and Carl.

Harry and Elizabeth Beck,
early 1940s.



David Goldman, compositor at
The Providence Journal, setting type,
March 1952.

HARRY S. BECK AND OTHER JEWISH PRINTERS

BY ELEANOR F. HORVITZ

One of the earliest Jewish printers in Rhode Island was Harry S. Beck. Born in a small village in the southwest Ukraine, Russia, in 1884, Beck was apprenticed while in his teens to a commercial printer and learned to set type in five languages — Ukrainian, Hebrew, Russian, German, and Yiddish, though he might not have been conversant in all these languages.

At the age of nineteen he emigrated to the United States. Like so many other young men of the period, he escaped Russia by crossing rivers, bribing guards, until he was able to take a ship at Rotterdam for New York. Upon arrival, he went directly to his uncle, Simon Horenstein, who lived in Providence. With Beck's knowledge of typesetting, he had no problem obtaining work. While employed in several printing shops, he taught himself English and became proficient in the language. By 1907 he was in a position to open his own little business, H. Beck & Company. The print shop was located at 295 North Main Street¹ in a two-story building on the site of the Roger Williams Spring. Nearby at 303 North Main Street was the tobacco business of Hyman Katz, at whose establishment the Hebrew Free Loan was organized.

JEWISH UNION PRINTERS

As a confirmed believer in the labor union movement, Harry Beck soon joined Local #33, the Providence branch of the International Typographical Union. Evidence of his membership in the "Book and Job" section of the branch is recorded in the 1907 anniversary book commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Union,² as follows: "H. Beck & Co., 191 North Main Street, a new comer in Providence."³

In this same listing are the names of other journeymen printers who might have been Jewish:

Joseph Ehrlich of "Russian Poland," born in 1884, learned in the art of printing in that country. Participated in the printers' strike for an eight hour day.⁴

Marcus Koppelman, born in Odessa, Russia, November 22, 1873. Worked in Providence on *The Telegram*.⁵

Karl Lisker, born in Russia October 26, 1884, lived at 192 Lippitt Street. He became an apprentice at J. C. Hall's, where he learned the art of printing, in 1901.⁶

Charles Manshell, born in Skala, Austria, in January of 1879. In 1890 he learned to be a printer, and he became member of Local #33, Book and Job Section, in 1903. He opened a small printing shop at 19 Mill Street in Providence, made a short-lived move to 339 North Main Street, and in 1901 opened a larger print shop at 115-119

Eleanor F. Horvitz is Librarian-Archivist of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

Pine Street under the name of Sun Printing Company. He had an "extensive plant with the largest cylinder press in the city. ... Mr. Manshell is one of the most enterprising and energetic master printers in the city and the large and increasing business of the Sun Printing Co. is ample evidence of his keen sagacity and sound business sense. To Mr. Manshell principally is due credit for the demand for the union label among the large Hebrew population of the city. The Sun invariably advertises as a union printing house; it granted the eight hour day January 1, 1906, and Mr. Manshell still carries a card, although doing very little work at the case in recent years."⁷

The Providence Typographical Union #33 anniversary book describes the problems encountered by members of the Union. One of the most momentous events in the fifty-year history was the prolonged strike for an eight-hour work day. For years printers had attempted to establish an eight-hour day by contract with employers. They finally succeeded in the newspaper field, but the book and job master printers, who traditionally received lower wages, had more difficulty in attaining a shorter work day. The International Typographical Union gave 18 months notice of a national strike, but the United Typothetae of America opposed them since they did not want to relinquish the 54-hour week. The strike, both national and local, began in 1905 and was remarkable for the stubbornness and endurance of the combatants. Finally, in 1907, the book and job printers won their fight in some areas of the country but not in Rhode Island at that time.⁸ The Providence Typographical Union was Rhode Island's oldest union, having been chartered in 1857.⁹

H. BECK & CO., PRINTERS

According to the Providence City Directory for 1912, H. Beck & Co. had relocated to 128 North Main Street. Maurice Beck¹⁰ describes his father's role as a union printer and the shop as he remembers it:

Dad's printing shop was a small job shop on the second floor of 128 North Main Street. ... On small blotters used for advertising purposes appears the phrase, "H. Beck & Co. Printers since 1908." It was a Union shop and practically all work bore the Union label. He was a member of the Typographical Union as well as proprietor of the shop, a unique labor-management arrangement worked out by the International Union with printers/owners.

The shop consisted of an office, a bindery, a composing room, and two press rooms. The bindery had a multigraph machine for impressing letters, work space for assembling printed documents, space for gluing pads, etc. The composing room held the cabinets of type to be handset and a cutter/trimmer. A large flatbed press and job presses for hand-fed work were split between the two rooms. A high speed, vertical and automatic press, manufactured by Miele, was the "profit center" of the operation. The hand-

set type consisted of various type faces and sizes in English, as well as in Hebrew and Yiddish.

The staffing of the Beck printing shop, according to son Irving,¹¹ varied over the years. In addition to Harry S. Beck as proprietor and printer, a secretary-bookkeeper was an essential member of the staff. A pressman delivered orders and filled in with bindery work and other printing operations. When an additional pressman or printer was needed, he would be obtained from the hiring hall of the Pressman's Union or the Typographical Union. Occasionally an outside salesman would be utilized on a commission basis.

Maurice Beck said that he fitted into the "Jack of all Trades" category when he helped his father during his high school years. Irving Beck remembers that on Saturdays his father and Leo Cohen¹² worked on a publication called "This Week in Providence." They distributed it free of charge in hotels and other areas where tourists and visitors could be found. This publication, compiled by Celia Helford, was a good indicator of places to visit, restaurants, advertisers, and places of interest in the 1920s.

Dr. Beck reminisced about some of the men who worked for his father. There was an employee named Henry Norfolk, whom he called a "Fabian Socialist." Norfolk, listed as a journeyman in the Printers and Printing book,¹³ was born in Kirkstall, England, in 1864, learned printing in Leeds, England, was admitted by card to the Union in 1901, and participated in the strike for the eight-hour day.

Dr. Beck also remembers a pressman, Barney Hoffman, who was German, and a young boy, Louis Sacarovitz, who was called a "Printer's Devil," that is, someone who does all kinds of work. (Sacarovitz died recently at the age of 83.)

David Goldman, another man who worked for Harry Beck, was born in Russia in 1887 and came to Providence in 1901 after first working in Brockton, Massachusetts. He left H. Beck & Co. for *The Providence Journal* in 1917 and was probably the first Jewish compositor there. He became a very important official in the *Providence Journal* graphics art department and in the Union, holding many prestigious appointments: vice-president of the Providence Typographical Union, member of the Executive Committee and vice-chairman of *The Providence Journal* chapel (union chapter), delegate to the International Typographical Union, and delegate to the New England District Convention and Rhode Island State Branch of the A. F. of L. As a very active Union member, Mr. Goldman fought for a retirement plan for *Providence Journal* employees. He died in Providence in 1952.¹⁴

A good friend of David Goldman and a fellow-worker in the graphics department of *The Providence Journal* was Abraham Markowitz.¹⁵ Mr. Markowitz stated that his friendship with David Goldman dated back to 1929, when they printed a small weekly newspaper for Joseph Finkle, editor and founder of the *Jewish Herald*. Mr. Finkle did not have a printing press of his own and used the Cooper Press, owned

by Myer Cooper, whose daughter, Pauline Chorney, was secretary of the business. Goldman and Markowitz set the type.

Markowitz, too, was a member of Local #33. He worked for several printing shops, including the Oxford Press. In 1948 he was hired by *The Providence Journal* and was in charge of its composing room for 38 years. Of the 240 people who worked as printers for the newspaper, only four were Jewish.

Conditions were excellent, Mr. Markowitz explained, for union printers. They were paid well. A printer could always earn more on a large newspaper than in a printing business because the newspaper was a closed shop with a contract in which every man received a set wage. A worker might earn more, but never less, than the set wage. In 1976 Markowitz retired with fond memories of his interesting and creative work at the *Journal* and also of the camaraderie among his fellow workers. "We were like family," he said.

Unlike the sophisticated printing at the *Journal*, at H. Beck & Co. jobs were set by hand. Larger jobs were set in linotype by companies that specialized in setting linotype for the trade. After the type was set and used by Beck, it was sent back to the linotype company for re-melting and re-setting. Beck, aware of the high salary paid to the linotype operator, \$100 per week in those days, suggested that his son choose that career. Irving Beck chose a career in medicine instead. (Linotype work was eventually phased out with present technological advances.)

The variety of printing undertaken by Harry Beck was great. As his son Maurice wrote,

Business came from many networks, including the extended family, friends, political associates, political candidates, organizations, state government, and unions. On the political side, the Union label was a distinct asset, since candidates, regardless of party affiliations, considered the label to be essential for their campaign literature. Political printing included posters, pamphlets, bumper stickers, and novelty items. Dad had built up a good working relationship with the staffs of Senator Theodore Francis Green and United States Attorney General J. Howard McGrath during the period when each was Governor.

Another area of significant return was called "state work," i.e., various public documents, regulations, etc. This was usually obtained through the bidding process and required (through practice or statute) the Union label. I presume that small jobs did not require the bidding process.¹⁶

Maurice Beck also remembers specific jobs such as an item printed during the Depression, lottery type tickets printed on a press that could be fixed to imprint successive numbers. One series of tickets was called "watch deals" and was printed for a local jeweler, with the prize being a watch.

Harry Beck also printed the Temple Emanu-El bulletins as well as other organizational newsletters until he retired.

Harry Beck had competition from other union shops, from big plants to one-room, one-person basement shops. They bid, as did he, on jobs such as pamphlets, advertising, and patriotic booklets for use in schools in observance of Rhode Island Independence Day. Jewish and non-Jewish printing shops vied with Harry Beck for business. However, only one other printer was as unique as H. Beck & Co. Isadore M. Zaidman, owner of Liberty Printing Company, and Harry Beck could both set type in Yiddish. (Liberty Printing, 394 North Main Street, first appeared in the Providence City Directory for 1926.)

After a severe illness in 1941 from which he miraculously recovered, Harry Beck continued to run his shop for the next ten years or so, after which he operated on a free-lance basis, taking orders from old customers and placing them for commission with other companies.

HARRY S. BECK — His LEGACY

The short obituary which appeared in *The Rhode Island Herald*¹⁷ after the death of Harry S. Beck on March 1, 1968, in no way reflected the kind of man he was.

Harry Beck was a Socialist, and he was an ardent union man. His son Maurice conjectures that Beck's business might have suffered because of his political views. "I remember hearing people in the community refer to him scornfully as 'Beck the Socialist,'" Maurice remarked. Son Irving has his own interpretation of the effect of his father's strong beliefs in the Union. He said his father received many orders for jobs because Jews were oriented toward Union printers and wanted the Union label on their printing work. He also received work from the Socialist Labor groups.

Irving Beck tells of one incident which emphasizes his father's devotion to unions. When the Hebrew Bakers Union went on strike against Korb's Bakery Company, which was not unionized at that time, Beck became angry with his wife for buying a loaf of bread at the bakery because of the strike and because the bread wrapper did not carry a union label.

Harry Beck's relationships with his employees were very warm and understanding. His employees stayed with him for long periods of time. His son Maurice never remembers his castigating any of the employees, although he was often frustrated by things that went wrong. His customers also seemed to be friendly and respectful, adding to Maurice's pride in his father.¹⁸

Leo Cohen gave this impression of Harry Beck: "He was a very, very nice man. Not outspoken but very calm and quiet. He was much older than I, so naturally he wasn't a buddy. But later when I was in the printing business, he gave me a lot of advice."¹⁹

Harry Beck's relationship with his children and grandchildren was that of an understanding and rational father and grandfather. Edith Beck, wife of Irving, considered her father-in-law to be an extremely gentle and concerned parent and grandparent. She recalls an incident that illustrates Harry Beck's relationship with one of her daughters. Louise attended John Howland Elementary School on Cole Avenue, near the Sessions Street home of her grandfather. Her grandmother had died, but her grandfather often made lunch for her, which, Edith remarked, "were terrible lunches," but that did not prevent Louise from walking to his house and bringing her girl friends with her. Harry Beck made sandwiches for them all.²⁰ The oldest child of Irving and Edith Beck, Steven, had a very close relationship with his grandfather, who often took him to the State House and introduced him around to important officials when he picked up and delivered printing.

Harry Beck took an active role in a variety of organizations: Workmen's Circle, of which he was secretary for many years; Jewish Socialist Bund, Labor Zionists, and the School Board of Temple Emanu-El. He also was a member of a fraternal organization, the Knights of Pythias.

From their father, Harry Beck's three sons inherited his scholarship, zest for knowledge, and propensity for high standards of academic work. While a teenager in Russia apprenticed to a printer, Beck delivered playbills for future performances to the theater attended by Russian officers. He often stayed on to watch the performances and thus became acquainted with Shakespeare and the great Russian playwrights. He was cast in the mold of the European intelligentsia and often was accused by his wife of being an elitist.²¹

Beck enjoyed participating in intellectual exchange. A group of men met at his home, where, sitting around a table and drinking tea, they exchanged political, philosophical, and literary points of view. One of the men was Samuel Woodhead, who had emigrated from England. They had met at the Keystone Oil Company, run by a Mr. Edelstein. Mr. Woodhead was the bookkeeper, and Harry did the firm's printing. The two men had much in common, for Beck was a Socialist and Woodhead had been interested in the Socialist Labor Party in England; they also both enjoyed literature and philosophy. Each man had a child working at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. Irving Beck was an intern; Edith Woodhead was a nurse. Through their fathers' introduction, they eventually married.

Harry Beck was a vociferous reader in English and Yiddish. According to Irving Beck, his father's primary addiction was to Maimonides, whom he read in the original Hebrew.²² His interest in literature was well known. His employee Henry Norfolk gave Beck a book of Byron's poems and made up a special bookplate for it. Upon his father's death, Irving Beck found the volume. Earmarked was a page with Byron's poem about the sorrow of a husband for his departed wife. Harry's wife, Elizabeth (Temkin) Beck had pre-deceased him. The story of Elizabeth Beck,

who was the only girl in a family that had nine living sons, is one which deserves to be told on its own some day.

An interesting anecdote is told about Beck's love of literature. His two older sons have as middle names the names of noted writers. Maurice's middle name is *Peretz*, and Irving's is *Addison*. About the latter name there is a difference of opinion as to its origin. Maurice thought that Irving was named for the famous English essayist, Joseph Addison., but Irving has another theory. A bibliophile, he enjoys perusing old book catalogs. While doing this, he discovered an author named Irving Addison Bacheller who wrote early in the 20th century. The titles of two of his collections of short stories were *Lizzie and Harry* and *Later Stories of Lizzie and Harry*. It might have been a coincidence, but Harry Beck was married to Elizabeth, always called *Lizzie*, and their firstborn child might have been given the same two first names as the author.

Not only was Harry Beck interested in reading, but he also enjoyed writing. He translated from Yiddish the autobiography of his mother, Etta Beck. He wrote poetry in the style of e. e. cummings, usually with Russian, Israeli, or contemporary American themes. He took extension courses in writing at Brown University. He filled his retirement years writing poetry and occasional short stories. He sent his poetry to his grandchildren to critique and made use of their suggestions.

A recollection from Dr. Maurice Beck was of his father telling of a goal he would have liked to achieve — running a job printing operation and editing a weekly newspaper. For his sons, Harry Beck was committed to the goal of sending each of them to college and arranged his finances to make that possible. From his earliest days, Maurice Beck remembered his father bringing home samples of items he had printed. "He held these up as products that he took great pride in. This helped to imbue in us a recognition of the importance of quality. Dad was of the highest character in his relations with family, friends, and the community. He was universally perceived as a kindly man."²³

Dr. Aaron Beck reminisced about his relationship with his father.

In my preteen days he strongly encouraged my interest in science and bought me my first microscope at the age of eight and later a folding camera. These were significant gifts in the days of the Depression. He used to say that the Talmud states that a father should teach his son three things: a trade, how to read the Torah, and how to swim. He taught me how to set type and how to swim, and if not how to read the Torah, the love of knowledge and wisdom contained in it.²⁴

Perhaps Harry S. Beck, the printer, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend is best epitomized on this tombstone: "A Man of Letters."



NOTES

- ¹ According to Providence City Directories for years 1908, 1909, 1910, and 1911.
- ² *Printers and Printing in Providence 1762-1907*, prepared by a committee of Local #33 as a souvenir of the 50th anniversary of the union, p. 201.
- ³ The Providence City Directories listed the address as 295 North Main Street.
- ⁴ *Printers and Printing in Providence*, *ibid.*, p. xxxi.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. xl ix.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. li.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 199,200.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 187.
- ⁹ *A History of Rhode Island Working People*, edited by Paul Buhle, Scott Molloy, Gail Sansbury, Regine Printing Co., Inc., Providence, R. I., 1983, p. 63.
- ¹⁰ Information in letter from Maurice P. Beck, September 19, 1990.
- ¹¹ Taped interviews with Dr. Irving A. Beck March 26 and October 11, 1990.
- ¹² Leo Cohen became a printer, together with his brother, J. I. Cohen, around 1930. Their first shop in the Grosvenor Building was flooded in the 1938 hurricane. After J. I. Cohen's death Leo continued the business on his own as Cogen's Printing Services at 135 Washington Street, Providence.
- ¹³ *Printers and Printing*, *ibid.*, p. lxiv.
- ¹⁴ Information from Beatrice Feldman Goldman, daughter of David Goldman.
- ¹⁵ Telephone interview with Abraham Markowitz, October 7, 1990.
- ¹⁶ Letter from Maurice Beck, *ibid.*
- ¹⁷ *Rhode Island Herald*, March 8, 1968.
- ¹⁸ Letter from Maurice P. Beck, *ibid.*
- ¹⁹ Taped interview with Leo Cohen, May 19, 1990.
- ²⁰ Taped interview with Edith Woodhead Beck, October 11, 1990.
- ²¹ Interviews with Dr. Irving Beck, *ibid.*
- ²² *Ibid.*
- ²³ Letter from Maurice Beck, *ibid.*
- ²⁴ Letter from Dr. Aaron T. Beck, October 29, 1990.

PAWTUCKET-CENTRAL FALLS HADASSAH
THE EARLY YEARS

BY DOROTHY K. BERSTEIN

Hadassah, with 385,000 members nationwide, is the largest Jewish organization in the United States and the largest Zionist organization in the world. In Israel, Hadassah maintains a network of projects in health care, career education, youth welfare, and land reclamation. In the United States, Hadassah sponsors programs in Jewish education, governmental affairs, and leadership development. 1990 marks the 65th anniversary of the Pawtucket-Central Falls Chapter of Hadassah.

Henrietta Szold founded the national Hadassah organization in 1912. Among the early Rhode Island Zionists who heard her speak at the National Zionist Convention in 1924 was Julius Robinson, a delegate and secretary of the Zionist Organization of Pawtucket and Central Falls. At that time Zionism and Hadassah had not become fashionable. Only dreamers and idealists, who themselves never expected to see a Jewish state in their lifetimes, were concerned with Palestine. Hadassah, though, was beginning to attract thoughtful Jewish women.

A mass meeting was held on December 18, 1924, in the vestry of the Ohawe Sholam Synagogue in Pawtucket, sponsored by Julius Robinson for the purpose of organizing a Pawtucket and Central Falls chapter of Hadassah. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Julius Robinson [Sophie], who introduced Mrs. Archibald Silverman [Ida] of Providence, Rhode Island, an action committee member of national Hadassah. She graphically described the need for such a chapter and promised to bring the local group a flag from Palestine if the membership reached 100 when she returned from her planned trip.*

The following reports of Hadassah meetings are from handwritten minutes in a "Standard Blank Book" [a hard cover ledger record book] kept by Hadassah secretaries and now in the archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. The original founding minutes of the new organization list the officers elected in December 1924: Mrs Julius Robinson, president; Mrs. H. Friedman and Mrs. S. Kaufman, vice-presidents; Mrs. Joseph Percelay, treasurer; Mrs. Ann Frucht, financial secretary; Miss Manya Kaufman, recording secretary; and Anna Brill, corresponding secretary. Committees were named for sewing, milk bottles, assistance (hospital), membership, hospitality, and program.

The very first board meeting of the new organization was held January 1, 1925. In addition to the above mentioned officers, those who attended were Mrs. J. Chernack, Miss Ruth Robinson, and Miss Ida Eisenberg. It was decided to have a

*Editor's Note: No record could be found documenting receipt of a flag.

committee draft a constitution, and Ida Eisenberg was named chairman.

On January 28, 1925, a combined meeting of the newly born Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah and the Men's Zionist Organization was held. Mr. David Rosulskv presided, Lester Friedman played a few violin solos, and Miss M. Kaufman sang a group of Yiddish songs.

At the next Hadassah meeting, on March 14, Mrs. Kaufman and Mrs. Chernack were selected to be delegates to the Boston Regional Convention. Members donated cloth, thread, and tape to the sewing committee, and "a little bazaar was held." The first report of the financial secretary was given. The organization had \$106 in its treasury, and \$80.50 was sent to the New York organization. "\$17 was realized from the Bazaar."

The work was difficult, Mrs. Robinson's report stated in 1925. The community had to be educated, and money was scarce. It was a real effort to keep the organization alive. Mrs. Robinson realized that to keep women interested they had to have a specific job to do; so the first project was sewing. A few women met in different homes, creating the spirit of sociability that has lasted even until today. The women made hospital shirts, every stitch by hand. The National Office of Hadassah commended the new chapter for its fine work.

In those days women did not have cars, and the members walked many miles collecting bottles and boxes filled with donations of nickels and quarters. They had no set monetary quotas, but they worked to raise money through rummage sales, home and public bridge games, Pesach [Passover] and pajama parties, grab bags, and food sales. The first chapter also formed cultural groups to discuss current events and read papers on Jewish personalities and affairs. However, the December 19, 1927, minutes record that "The cultural class which was held was not very successful as a very small number of ladies attended."

In January 1926 it was decided to borrow \$150 from the treasury to buy cloth. At a whist game on February 26, \$42.50 was earned. A penny luncheon yielded \$19.15, and at the February meeting \$1.90 was collected to cover the costs for coffee and cake. In March a speaker from Boston who had just returned from Palestine was presented with a bouquet of flowers. A Bible study group was formed at this meeting, and a silver tray was raffled off to earn \$8.15. In April of 1926 it was decided to hold all the meetings in the vestry of the synagogue instead of in private homes.

Mrs. Robinson served as president until February 1927, when Mrs. Shepherd C. Kaufman [Adele] stepped in for one term. Her pet project was the Jewish National Fund, and on many a Flag and Flower Day she could be found in the synagogue vestry sending out her teams to collect donations. Typical in these early years were fund raisers such as "Package Parties," bridge parties, rummage sales, food sales, "Penny Luncheons," and "Dutch Suppers." A bridge held in Barrington during the

summer of 1927 earned \$46.50 for the organization. Junior Hadassah was organized the evening of October 26, 1927, and Miss Manya Kaufman was elected president.

Mrs. Robinson was again coaxed into becoming president in 1928 and was installed on January 31 by Mrs. Sheer, president of Providence Hadassah. Mrs. Robinson read a card to the members reporting that "the shipment [shirts, clothing, and sheets] sent a short time ago arrived in Palestine in good condition." The chapter was given a quota of \$1000 for funds for the national organization, which now had 274 new chapters. It was reported that a federation of women's clubs was to be formed, with Mrs. Albert the first hostess and Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Kaufman, and Mrs. Max Karlin representing Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah.

At the February 1928 Hadassah meeting a linen shower was held for donations of towels, pillow cases, and sheets for "the hospitals in Palestine." The chapter made donations to the Hadassah Emergency Fund and the United Palestine Appeal. Raising money through Jewish National Fund boxes was also a project in 1928. Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. J. Chernack were delegates from the chapter to the Zionist Convention in Boston. Combined cultural classes were held by the chapter and the local National Council of Jewish Women. Jewish National Fund collection boxes were also a Hadassah project in 1928.

Mrs. Maurice Friedman was elected president in 1929 and served until 1931. From December 1928 to October 1929, according to the minutes, member participation was waning and there was little activity except for the second annual bridge held in January with Mrs. Harry Tesler as chairman. In October, thirty-six members attended the meeting, and there was a resurgence of activity. Mrs. Friedman represented the chapter at the annual Hadassah convention in Atlantic City in November.

A mass meeting of all Jewish organizations was held on November 14, 1929, in the Pawtucket synagogue vestry. Speakers included Joseph Chernack, president of the local Zionist district; Rabbi A. I. Schasgal, and Rabbi Israel M. Goldman of Temple Emanu-El, who spoke about his recent visit to Palestine. Mrs. Archibald Silverman, vice-president of the national Zionist organization, spoke about "The Roll Call," a campaign to enlist members. One hundred and fifty people promised to enroll at \$1.00 a person and to get every Jewish man and woman to enroll. The following Jewish organizations then existing in the Pawtucket and Central Falls area volunteered members for a committee to try to enroll every non-Zionist member in The Roll Call: Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah, Ladies Aid, Council of Jewish Women, Congregation Ohawe Sholam, and B'nai Brith.

Mrs. Israel Miller [Celia] served as president of the Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah from 1931 to 1933, speaking and using the Yiddish language throughout the meetings. A Pesach party was held at which Sholom Aleichem was read in the original Yiddish.

From 1933 to 1936 Mrs. Robinson took over and was president for the third time. Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah was growing, and financial quotas from national were being met. Mrs. L. Miller, delegate to the national convention in Washington reported that Pawtucket-Central Falls was one of 29 chapters in the entire country named to the Honor Roll. The Hadassah-Rothschild University Hospital was being built, and the local organization worked hard to raise money for this project. At the October 1934 meeting "An appeal from the Miriam Hospital was read asking the ladies to either bring sheets or cash." The literary group met often, reviewing books and studying Jewish history. A "Propaganda Class" was formed, and "only those who are willing to go out to speak are eligible to join."

Mr. S. Cokin spoke at the October 1935 meeting about his journey from Haifa to Egypt to Jerusalem. Members at the November 25 meeting "were urged to listen to Miss Szold, who will speak on the radio from Palestine on Sunday, November 30." The first *Oneg Shabbat** was held in the Ohawe Sholam Synagogue. A Hadassah Sabbath was held to celebrate Henrietta Szold's 75th birthday on December 20, 1935. Miss Szold wrote a letter, from the *S. S. Lafayette*, on January 23, 1936, to Mrs. Shoolman, thanking the members of Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah for contributing to the planting of 1500 trees in Palestine in honor of her birthday.

... in my name you are restoring a piece of the land to fertility and beauty.
I have thus been made part and parcel as it were of the land of our heroes
and prophets and of our holiest aspirations. From the point of view of
nature and from the point of view of history, you have incorporated me into
something fundamental, something which in human parlance may be
called eternal.

If this characterization of the act recommends itself to you as true and
pregnant, then it should indicate my appreciation thereof, an appreciation
beyond words.

Mrs. Charles Shoolman [Anita] was elected president in 1936 and served until 1939. The first annual Donor Luncheon was held at the Narragansett Hotel in Providence on April 27, 1937. Entertainment included piano solos by Anita Percelay and harp solos by Vivian Place. The major address was given by Frieda Silbert Ullian, and Sadie R. Goodman was the luncheon chairman. The Ad Book was 10 pages long with 63 ads, and 72 donors were listed in the "Roll of Honor." Listed in the book were 120 "Precious Jewels," children and grandchildren. Mrs. Shoolman's message in the Ad Book was that "it gives me a great deal of pleasure to know that during my administration the Donors Luncheon has at last become a reality.... It is my hope that in the future this event will become a permanent part of our Chapter's Annual Program and that we continue to serve our people and our Homeland through Hadassah."

* lit., "Sabbath delight," a Sabbath celebration (Hebrew)

The most recent Donor Dinner was held on May 14, 1990, with an Ad Book of 236 pages with 477 ads, 120 names of "Tomorrow's Leaders" (children only), and almost 200 donors.



REFERENCES

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Scroll, Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah, 1949.

Handwritten minutes of Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah, contained in "Standard Blank Books," December 18, 1924, to May 23, 1933, Volume 1, and January 31, 1934, to April 26, 1937.

Letter from Henrietta Szold, January 23, 1936.

All these items are in the archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT 1163

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The National Detective Agency

BERNARD M. GOLDOWSKY, Superintendent

(Formerly with Pinkerton's National Detective Agency)



**GENERAL
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If you are not in a mood to throw your money away on experiments **See Us**

If you have already done so and failed to get results **See Us**

If you believe that it is cheaper, in the long run, to engage reliable people to do your work at a possibly higher rate than others who take work for anything they can get in order to "pull your leg" charge, then **See Us**

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West - 582	



PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Industrial Trust Co. Building, 49 Westminster St.

Advertisement, Providence City Directory, 1908. Most certainly composed without benefit of an advertising agency.

REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS
MY FATHER AND THE EARLY LABOR MOVEMENT IN RHODE ISLAND
BY SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, M.D.

In browsing through some recent papers in the *Notes*, I came upon the following paragraph in a November 1988 article titled "Jews in Rhode Island Labor: An Introductory Investigation," by Professor Paul M. Buhle:¹

In a short time [after the formation of the International Jewelry Workers Union during World War I], 3 to 4,000 workers joined the union in Providence and the Attleboros [also centers of jewelry manufacturing]; the most important jewelry workers' strike in New England history [1917-1918] began at Ostby & Barton Co. [at 118 Richmond Street in Providence, one of the larger manufacturing jewelers in the state]. Again [labor] history might have been made, all the more so because Providence would become the costume jewelry capital of America. But again, and for the last time in Rhode Island jewelry [industry] until the 1940s, jewelry workers had gone all out without improvement of conditions or pay. Employers successfully responded to the threat with firings, police attacks, and blacklisting of union members. In some cases, health standards would remain dangerously low until the passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act of the 1970s. It was a Jewish defeat without question [Jews and Italians had largely been the organizers of the Rhode Island local]

There was at least one Jew who was on the other side of the issue (not counting the Jews in Providence who were themselves manufacturing jewelers).

Since my father's records were destroyed upon his death in 1936 because they were considered to be too sensitive to preserve (certainly a most unfortunate decision), it would not be known what part my father played in this episode, if I were not to reveal it while I am still viable. My father was a colorful figure, previously described in some detail in these *Notes*.² An article in the Providence *Sunday Journal Magazine* of December 23, 1990 titled "Private Eyes" was a further reminder of my father.³ It described the current activities of private detective Charles Magee of Providence. Like my father he was trained by the Pinkertons, and, again like my father, he smoked large cigars. (My father eschewed tobacco in later life when he was stricken with angina pectoris, the bane of smokers.) Unlike Magee, my father never accepted divorce cases, apparently a significant part of Magee's business.

My father had operatives working in the jewelry industry, both in connection with private retainers and pursuant to his association with the Jeweler's Protective Association, the affiliate of the New England Jewelers and Silversmith's Association, organized to detect and prevent pilfering of gold, silver, and platinum, much used in the local shops in those days.

Let me revert now to the strike at Ostby & Barton's. My father was a staunch conservative Republican, unlike the majority of Jews of the period. Union "busting" was still a respectable practice among the entrepreneurs of those days. fifteen years before the beginning of the New Deal and its protective labor laws. One of my father's operatives working for Ostby & Barton had a mission beyond the detection of thievery. Now long deceased, his name was Harold K. Berntsen. He was listed in the city directory as *insurance agent*, which surely was a cover. He was a strongly built Norwegian, who as a young man had sailed in the merchant marine of his native land, attested to by the colorful tattoos on his powerful forearms. With a rich Scandinavian accent, taciturn but kindly, he was a faithful and loyal servitor until my father's death in 1936. His primary endeavor during this period was labor espionage. I remember, then barely in my teens, bits and pieces of conversation at home about these activities. (As a matter of course we were never allowed to discuss my father's business affairs outside the home.) The crowning irony of this story is that Berntsen was popular with his fellow workers and actually became a union officer. It is not now surprising in retrospect that there were "firings" and "black-listing" of union activities. To my knowledge it was never suspected who the culprit was who was leaking the union's secrets to the bosses.



NOTES

¹ Buhle, Paul M., "Jews in Rhode Island Labor: An Introduction," *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, Vol. 10, No. 2, November 1988, pp. 146-156.

² Goldowsky, Seebert J., "Bernard Manuel Goldowsky—1864-1936," *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, Vol. 6, No. 1, November 1977, pp. 82-101.

_____, "Get That Crook," *ibid.*, pp. 102-116.

_____, "The Mysterious Mr. Brown," *ibid.*, pp. 117-128.

³ Barry, Dan, "Private Eyes," [Providence] *Sunday Journal Magazine*, December 23, 1990, pp. 9-12.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

BY SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, M. D.

Recent acquisitions in the library of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association containing items of Rhode Island interest and a listing of the items:

1. *Around the World and Beyond, with Side Excursions in the Realm of Humor and Philosophy*, by Max L. Grant. Exposition Press, New York, 1971, 112 pages. Publication was supported by the Max L. Grant Foundation.

Verse, commentaries, and travel notes by Max L. Grant, who gained prominence in the Rhode Island community as the manufacturer of coin boxes for public transit, vending machines, and automatic toll collectors.

2. *History of the Jews in America*, by Deborah Pessin, illustrations by Ruth Gikow. Published by Abelard-Schuman, New York and London, 1957, and copyrighted by The United Synagogues of America, 287 pages.

Pages 48-55. Relates the story of the Jews in Colonial Newport. Contains names of many of the local Jews of the period and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem on the Touro Synagogue.

Pages 74, 91. Further mention of Aaron Lopez.

Pages 117, 136. Describes the philanthropies of Judah Touro and his burial in Newport.

3. *Jews on the Move: Implications for American Jewry and for Local Communities*, by Sidney Goldstein. Reprinted from *The Jewish Journal of Sociology*, London, England, Vol. XXXII, No. 1, June, 1990, 30 pages.

Based on a comparison of studies of the Jewish population of Rhode Island carried out by the author and others in 1963 and 1987 and other sources. Data projected to the national Jewish population.

4. *The Democrats and Labor in Rhode Island, 1952-1962*, by Jay G. Goodman. Brown University Press, Providence, R. I., 1967, 154 pages.

There is no particular focus on Rhode Island Jews, but the author, chairman of the government department at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, is Jewish.

5. *Jewish Continuity and Change*, by Calvin Goldscheider. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1986, 196 pages.

The text analyzes transformation and cohesion in the Jewish community.

Pages 42, 136-141. The Rhode Island data are discussed.

6. *The Elect, Rhode Island's Women legislators, 1922-1990*, by Emily Stier Adler and J. Stanley Lemons. Published by the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies, 1990, 262 pages.

The names pertinent to Rhode Island Jewish history are Arline Ruth Kiven, Linda Kushner, Victoria Lederberg, and Lila Sapinsley.

7. *Blue and White*, the 1909 class yearbook of Hope High School, Providence, R. I., 78 pages plus an advertising section, unpage.

The recognizable Jewish names among the graduating class are Matilda Cohen, Sadie Goldberg, Sarah Gorman, May Anna Guny, Minnie Levin, Abraham Luber, and Norman Stephen Taber.

8. *Greater Providence, Fulfilling its Destiny*, by Ann L. Dunnington. Windsor Publications, Inc., Chatsworth, California, in cooperation with the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the City of Providence, 1990, 248 pages, album format.

The purpose is largely promotional. A number of Jews, Jewish businesses, and Jewish organizations can be identified in the text, captions, and extensive index.

9. *Why Providence?*, by Alfred M. Weisberg. Pamphlet, published by the Providence Jewelers Museum, 1988.

The question is asked, "How did Providence become the jewelry center of the United States?" and covers the history of the first 100 years. Manufacturing jewelers in 1857 and 1884 are listed. S & B Lederer Company is noted in the latter group.

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 6, 1990

The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association was called to order at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island at 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, 1989, by Benjamin Eisenberg, Co-chairman for the day. Mr. Eisenberg welcomed everyone and introduced President Robert Kotlen.

Mr. Kotlen announced the completion of the work of the Long-Range Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Ruth Fixler. The Association will begin to implement the recommendations of the Committee. One of the recommendations was to form a Finance Committee; Aaron Cohen has been appointed chairman.

Mr. Kotlen announced that the Association now has a copy machine, purchased through a generous gift from the Jacob Goodman family. Copies are available for a 25 cents fee. He asked the members to note the outstanding display of posters of the American Yiddish theater. They were brought by Bernard Wax, Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, from the Posner collection.

Kotlen reported that the Association has four new Life Members and 28 new Annual Members, for a total of 576 members, and that the Association is now an institutional member of the American Jewish Historical Society.

A motion was passed to waive the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting.

The Treasurer's report was read by Dorothy Horowitz, Treasurer, and approved. A copy of the Annual Financial Statement of 1989 and the budget for 1990 is on file with this report.

Eleanor Horvitz, Librarian-Archivist, reported that two landmark businesses have closed their doors. Channel 10 is preparing a documentary on the Outlet Company and is using some of the Association's material. Roitman's Furniture Store is closing and is donating historical items to the Association. The Association has received plaques from Hasbro, Inc., and memorabilia from members. The Rhode Island Historical Society borrowed five photographs for its exhibit on "Lives of Rhode Island Women."

Judith Cohen, Editor of the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, reported that the next issue will include an article on Jewish farmers and asked the members for suggestions and articles for future issues. Bernard Bell requested information on early Brown University Jewish graduates.

The Nominating Committee report was read by Stanley Abrams in the absence of Geraldine Foster, Chairman. The slate of officers for the coming year is as

follows: President, Robert A. Kotlen; First Vice President, Stanley Abrams; Second Vice President, Bernard Kusinitz; Secretary, Caroline Gereboff; Associate Secretary, Charlotte Penn; and Treasurer, Dorothy Horowitz. The other members of the Executive Committee are listed in the report attached to the secretary's report. Since there were no counter-nominations, the President asked the Secretary to cast one ballot in favor of the slate. It was so moved and voted.

The chairman introduced Samuel Friedman, Chairman of the Anniversary Committee of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue, who extended an invitation to the members to attend the celebration which will take place in Newport August 18-20, 1990, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the letter written by President George Washington to the Touro congregation.

Marilyn Eisenberg, Co-chairman of the Annual Meeting, then introduced Bernard Wax, Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, who gave the 20th Annual David Charak Adelman lecture, entitled "Laughter and Tears: The Importance of the American Yiddish Theatre." Mr. Wax described with humor and nostalgia the importance of the Yiddish theatre to the immigrant generation in helping them adjust to their new life in the United States.

After a question and answer period, Chairman Eisenberg thanked the Annual Meeting committee, Geraldine and Warren Foster, Stanley Abrams, Lillian Schwartz, Dorothy Horowitz, Samuel and Lynn Stepak, for their efforts. She mentioned the availability of past issues of the *Notes*, the note-cards, and membership applications at the registration table.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. A collation and social hour followed.
Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Gereboff, Secretary

NECROLOGY — 1990

ADLER, CELIA E., born in Providence, a daughter of the late Jacob and Minnie (Manshel) Ernstof.

Mrs. Adler was a 1925 graduate of Brown University and was active in the Pembroke Club of Providence. She was a board member of many organizations, including the American Association for University Women, the Girl Scouts of America, the Child Guidance Clinic, the Jewish Community Center, Hadassah, Brandeis University Women's Association, Temple Beth-El Sisterhood, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and The Miriam Hospital Women's Association. The Rhode Island Section National Council of Jewish Women, on whose board she served, honored her in 1985 for distinguished community service. Mrs. Adler also held membership in several historical societies.

Died in Providence on September 4, 1990, at the age of 87.

ESPO, HARLAN JOEL, born in Pawtucket, a son of the late Morris and Mildred (Goldis) Espo.

Mr. Espo was the former owner and operator, with his late brother, Irving, of Morris Espo & Co., a news dealership in Pawtucket, and also owner and operator of the former Providence Textile Company. In 1979 he joined the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co. as a trust administrator and estate planner, and in 1984 he transferred to the Company's Palm Beach, Florida, office.

He was a 1948 graduate of Brown University. Active in many organizations, he served as president of the Jewish Community Center and president of Hillel of Brown University and was a member of the Jewish Welfare Board, New York City, and the Rhode Island School of Design. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, having served in the Pacific theatre of war.

Died in West Palm Beach, Florida, on September 27, 1990, at the age of 65.

GALKIN, ANNA, born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harris and Esther Kenner.

Mrs. Galkin held membership in the Order of the Eastern Star, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Hadassah, and The Miriam Hospital Women's Auxiliary. She was also a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood.

Died in Providence on February 21, 1990, at the age of 94.

GOLDMAN, GEORGE W., born in Providence, a son of the late James and Frances (Levy) Goldman.

Mr. Goldman was president of Providence Window Cleaning Company for 21 years and was also founder and president of the Richmond Sanitary Supply Company before retiring three years ago.

A 1943 graduate of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, he served in the Army during World War II as a lieutenant.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, its Men's Club, and other organizations such as Redwood Masonic Lodge, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Providence Hebrew Day School.

Died in Providence on January 3, 1990, at the age of 68.

GOLDOWSKY, BEATRICE, a lifelong resident of Providence, a daughter of the late Bernard M. and Antoinette (Lotary) Goldowsky.

Miss Goldowsky was office manager for the late Dr. Maurice Adelman for more than 50 years before retiring 15 years ago. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, and the Jewish Home for the Aged Women's Association. She was a volunteer for the Rhode Island Lung Association for 15 years.

Died in Providence on January 9, 1990, at the age of 86.

GREENBERG, SARAH H., born in Poland, a daughter of the late Tobia and Eva (Zawatsky) Strick.

Mrs. Greenberg was a founding member of Temple Torat Yisrael, first president of its Sisterhood, and an honorary life trustee of the Temple. She was a member of Hadassah, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and Pioneer Women. She received the "Woman of Valor" award from the Israel Bond Committee.

Died in Providence on September 25, 1990, at the age of 80.

JOSEPHSON, EDWIN, born in Newport, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Israel J. Josephson.

Mr. Josephson succeeded his father as president of the Narragansett Clothing Co. and held that position until his retirement in 1968. He was also an incorporator of the Newport Hospital and the Savings Bank of Newport.

Active in many organizations, Mr. Josephson was a charter member of the Newport B'nai B'rith in 1924. He was a past president of the United Jewish Appeal in Newport, past director of the Newport Chamber of Commerce, and

a member of the Newport Lions club.

Mr. Josephson served as president of Touro Synagogue from 1970 to 1972 and was a trustee of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue.

Died in Newport on November 18, 1990, at the age of 89.

KAY, MILTON C., born in Albany, New York, a son of the late Abraham and Bessie (Silverman) Kay.

Mr. Kay and his brother, Barney Kay, were co-owners of Kays-Newport Shoe Stores in Providence, Newport, and Boston for more than 50 years.

He attended Union College, Schenectady, New York, and Brooklyn Law School.

Active in several organizations, Mr. Kay was general solicitation chairman for the Red Feather Fund (now the United Fund), a vice-president of the Jewish Community Center, and founder of Camp Centerland of the Jewish Community Center. He was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Brotherhood, of The Miriam Hospital, and other organizations.

Died in Providence on May 20, 1990, at the age of 76.

KROLL, SANFORD I., born in Providence, a son of the late George and Rose (Rothman) Kroll.

Mr. Kroll was president of Lincoln Controls, Cranston, before retiring in 1982. He was a 1948 graduate of Colby College. An Army veteran of World War II, he served in the European theatre of war.

A past vice-president of Temple Emanu-El, he also served as president of the Solomon Schechter School and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

He was a member of the Executive Committee and the Publications Committee of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

Died in Boston on September 20, 1990, at the age of 65.

LEWIS, DR. A. BUDNER, born in Wales, a son of the late John and Goldie (Jagoda) Lewis.

Dr. Lewis was a periodontist for many years before retiring in 1988.

He was a 1928 graduate of Columbia University, George Washington University with an associate's degree in dentistry, and Tufts University Dental School with a D.M.D. degree. In 1933 he became the first licensed periodontist

in Rhode Island. He was an Army captain during World War II. He was an instructor in Oral Pathology at Rhode Island State College and a clinical lecturer and instructor at Tufts University. Other positions held by Dr. Lewis were as consultant at Rhode Island, The Miriam, Roger Williams General, and St. Joseph Hospitals. He also was a periodontist at the Veterans Administration Regional Medical Center, Providence.

Dr. Lewis held memberships in many dental and honorary societies such as the American Academy of Periodontists, the American Academy of Oral Pathology, the American Academy of Oral Medicine, New England Society of Periodontists, the American and Rhode Island Dental Associations, and the Beta Sigma Sigma Honorary Dental Society. He also served as a past president of the Providence District Dental Society and the Rhode Island Children's Dental Society.

Died in West Palm Beach, Florida, on April 11, 1990, at the age of 84.

LOVETT, RAUL L., a lifelong resident of Providence, he was a son of the late Samuel and Jeanne (Millman) Lovett.

Considered Rhode Island's preeminent workers' compensation lawyer and champion of union causes, Mr. Lovett received his B.A. degree from Emerson College and his law degree from Boston University in 1960.

Mr. Lovett was known for his flamboyance as well as his astuteness as a lawyer. He was one of the pioneers in promoting commercial advertising by lawyers, both in print and on television.

A member of Temple Beth-El, Mr. Lovett belonged to several Rhode Island law organizations. He served as a volunteer in the Israeli Army for a month in 1984.

Died in Providence on January 24, 1990, at the age of 55.

PRITZKER, DR. SAMUEL, born in Kiev, Russia, a son of the late Nathan and Sophie (Skomoroff) Pritzker.

He was an anesthesiologist at The Miriam Hospital for 35 years before retiring in 1974. A 1927 graduate Brown University, he received a medical degree from Tufts University Medical School in 1931. During World War II he served with the Army Medical Corps as chief of anesthesia for the 185th General Hospital in England and held the rank of colonel.

He was a member of many medical societies, including the American Medical Association, the Rhode Island Medical Society, and the Providence

Medical Association. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and a fellow of the American College of Anesthesiologists.

Dr. Pritzker served as president of Temple Beth-El for three years and was elected a life trustee. He also was elected a life trustee of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish Community Center. He was past chairman of the doctors' division of the United Way.

Died in Providence on October 17, 1990, at the age of 85.

SCHWARTZ, ESTHER IPP, born in Paterson, New Jersey, daughter of the late Bernard and Annie (Salkowitz) Ipp.

Mrs. Schwartz in 1957 was elected vice-president of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue National Historic Shrine, Inc., and was in charge of restoring Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. She worked for over three years directing the restoration, often traveling from her home in New Jersey and spending three days a week in Newport. She also undertook historic research to assure the integrity of the restoration work. She spent many days in New Haven, Connecticut, doing research in the Yale University Library on the history of Touro, mainly using the Ezra Stiles papers, and discovered a previously unknown sketch of the Synagogue's ark by Stiles. When restoration started, the chandeliers in the Synagogue were black and were believed to be wrought iron. Mrs. Schwartz took the chandeliers home to New Jersey and spent weeks of laborious cleaning and polishing, discovering that the chandeliers were brass, darkened by years of accumulated candle wax and soot.

The Newport Historical Society gave Mrs. Schwartz its Antiquarian Award Gold Medal in recognition of her "intelligent and untiring efforts toward the restoration of Touro Synagogue." Her article "Restoration of the Touro Synagogue" was published in the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, Volume 3, Number 2, October 1959, pp. 106-131.

Mrs. Schwartz was one of the early advocates for the establishment of the Museum of American Folk Art, New York, and a member of its Board of Trustees. She was a founding member of the Friends of the American Wing and the William Cullen Bryant Fellows of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, serving as chairman for three years in the 1960s. She and her husband, Samuel Schwartz, who was co-owner and then owner of Cadillac Textiles in Cumberland, Rhode Island, for many years, donated many priceless objects from their collection of Americana to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mrs. Schwartz was also a founding member of the boards of trustees of the Yale University Friends of American Art; the National Museum

of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, Pa., and the Library Associates of the University of Delaware. She was the first woman officer of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Died in Paterson, New Jersey, July 5, 1988.

SHARP, DR. EZRA A., born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Fannie Sharp.

A practicing physician in Providence for 60 years before retiring in 1989, Dr. Sharp graduated from Harvard College in 1921 and received a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1921. He also received a master of science degree from Yale University.

Dr. Sharp was a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member of the American Society of Internal Medicine, the American Physicians Fellowship, the American and Providence Medical Associations, and the Rhode Island Medical Society.

Died in Providence on March 25, 1990, at the age of 88.

WAKSLER, JOSEPH, born in Kiev, Russia, son of the late Jacob and Fanny Waksler.

He was an industrial supplies salesman for the Simon Supply Co., Fall River, before retiring in 1975. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Died in Providence on March 11, 1990, at the age of 90.

ERRATA AND ADDENDA

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3, Part B

"Jews in the Jewelry Industry"

Page 299, Lines 15-16, should read "The Blacher Brothers partnership of Harry and Benjamin Blacher was organized in 1911 ..."

Page 308, lines 1-2, should read "Jonas Goldenberg ... came to the United States ... with his younger brother, Irving ..."

"Jewish Family Service — A Retrospective"

Page 334, Endnote 22, should read "Speech delivered at the 1945 Annual Meeting of the Ladies Hebrew Aid Society of Pawtucket by the president, Bessie Sholes Lipson."

"The Brown Connection"

Page 357. Professor Sidney Goldstein of Brown University pointed out a connection of a Rhode Island rabbi to the academic community of which the author was unaware. Add the following entry:

Temple Torat Yisrael
RABBI SAUL LEEMAN — Providence College, special lecturer in Religious Studies, 1968-1983;
Brown University, adjunct lecturer in Judaic Studies, 1985-1989.

"The Miriam Hospital: 65 Years of Caring"

Comments by Seebert J. Goldowsky, M. D., Editor Emeritus of the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*.

Physicians had an important role in the early development and success of the hospital; yet none is mentioned until the appointment of the late Dr. Alexander M. Burgess as Director of Professional Education in 1952, a quarter of a century after the opening of the hospital. Doctors Robert Davis, F. A. Simeone, Stanley Aronson, and Herbert C. Lichtman, also mentioned, were given full-time appointments in 1966-1967 when an affiliation with Brown University was contemplated.

I shall not attempt to mention all of the scores of physicians who have worked at the hospital during its formative years, but it seems worthwhile to indicate the leaders in the early days. The *First Anniversary Issue [Report] of The Miriam Hospital* (1927) lists the complete staff. In this publication no chiefs of service were indicated, but the heads of departments (sometimes two or three) were designated as "visiting physicians" or "visiting surgeons." Chiefs, however, had been appointed by the time this writer joined the staff in 1936. The officers of the Staff Association in 1927 were Charles O. Cooke (general surgeon), president; Frank McEvoy (general surgeon), vice president; Nathan A. Bolotow (ear, nose, and throat surgeon), secretary; and Banice Feinberg (pediatrician), registrar. At that time Dr. McEvoy, a graduate of the Mayo Clinic system, was probably the best trained surgeon in Providence. Dr. Cooke, more of the old school, was a senior

surgeon at Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Feinberg had received training at the Floating Hospital (Tufts affiliated) in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Bolotow had taken postgraduate courses in ear, nose, and throat.

The visiting physicians in internal medicine were Doctors Burgess and Max B. Gomberg (general practitioner). The leading pediatricians were Dr. Maurice Adelman (trained at Children's Hospital in Boston) and Dr. Feinberg.

The visiting surgeon in gynecology and obstetrics was Ira H. Noyes. In ear, nose, and throat, the visiting surgeons were Nathan A. Bolotow, Benjamin S. Sharp, and Herman A. Winkler (trained at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston). Dr. William B. Cohen was physician in dermatology. Physician in x-ray was Simon A. Albert, an associate of the distinguished and respected radiologist, Isaac Gerber.

Dr. Cooke resigned from the staff in the early days, and Dr. Gomberg died in 1934. During this period Doctors Burgess and McEvoy became the first Chiefs of Medicine and Surgery respectively. Dr. Burgess was succeeded by Dr. Louis I. Kramer and Dr. McEvoy by Dr. Eske Windsberg. Dr. Kramer was succeeded in turn by the late Dr. Ezra A. Sharp, a graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School and of the residency program in Medicine at Yale. Samuel D. Kennison and Samuel Starr were visiting physicians in neuro-psychiatry. Dr. Kennison, a Navy veteran, was also hospital pathologist. Space does not permit the naming of the several assistant visiting physicians and surgeons, although most were familiar figures in Providence and became senior members of the staff in later years.

Two errors in the text warrant notice. With respect to the building of the Summit Avenue facility, the author states (p. 363): "Plans called for the renovation of the existing building [the Orphanage building] and the addition of a third floor." In fact, a new three-story building was constructed and attached to the Orphanage building, while the old building (a non-fireproof structure) remained at two stories.

On page 362 the author notes that the Summit Avenue structure received "high ranking" by the "American College of Surgery." This presumably was meant to be the American College of Surgeons, which at that time accredited hospitals. The College later joined with the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association to form the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals.