B'NAI ABRAHAM AND YEHUDA LAIB FAMILY SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1997

ORGANIZED 1901
OFFICERS

Mrs. Sol Reinberg (Ruth)  
3103 Marnat Road  
Baltimore, MD 21208  

President  
410-484-1929

Mrs. Raymond Silverman (Sylvia)  
Bartonwood Apts.  
2903 Fallstaff Rd., #108  
Baltimore, MD 21209  

President  
410-358-5175

Mrs. Nathan Feldman (Betty)  
4410 Evamay Road, 1A  
Baltimore, MD 21215  

Recording Secretary  
410-484-7851

Mrs. Samuel Berzofsky (Jeanette)  
14 Warren Park Drive, A-1  
Baltimore, MD 21208  

Corresponding Secretary  
410-484-2846

Mr. Herbert Yatovitz  
6605 Edenvale Road  
Baltimore, MD 21209  

Financial Secretary  
410-486-7643

Mr. Jonah Labovitz  
6802 Cross Country Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21215  

Treasurer  
410-358-1928

BULLETIN COMMITTEE
Mrs. Sol Reinberg (Ruth) Editor  
Mrs. Samuel Berzofsky (Jeanette)

FOR THE ANNA & MYER SMITH MEMORIAL CARDS
Mrs. Frances Ludman  
4215 Crest Heights Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410-358-1170

WASHINGTON
Ms. Janice F. Goldblum  
3601 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Apt. 207  
Washington, D.C. 20016 - 202-363-8449
A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Members,

For all of our family members, both here and abroad, we would like to extend our wishes for a L'Shana Tova - a Happy, Healthy and a Peaceful New Year 5758. As we go into our 97th year of existence, we hope that all of our members will continue their interest in our unique Family Society. We have a new young officer, Jonah Labovitz, who became our treasurer some months ago. We hope that his efforts will be recognized and other young members will follow suit. In order for our Family Society to continue we need "young blood" to take an active interest. We hope to hear from family members about all their important events.

Sincerely,

Ruth S. Reinberg
Sylvia S. Silverman

MEETING OF THE B.A.Y.L. FAMILY SOCIETY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1997

A regular meeting of the B.A.Y.L. Family Society was held on Sunday, September 14, 1997, at the Suburban Orthodox Synagogue in Baltimore, MD. Refreshments were hosted by the grandchildren of the late Ruchel & Max Silverman as follows: Lynn & Richard Dopkin, Phyllis Flaxman, Suzanne & Mervyn Hurwitz, Paula Sicker, Bernard Silverman and Rebecca Tucker. Sylvia Silverman, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 2 P.M. The minutes of the meeting held December 15, 1996 were not read as they were included in the June 1997 Bulletin.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notes of thanks were received from Chana Esther (Labovitz) & Jonathan Stern for the wedding gift; from Jason Hurwitz for the Bar Mitzvah gift; from Sarah & Isadore Rosenthal for the trees planted in Israel in honor of their 75th wedding anniversary; from Henry Miller for the tree planted in Israel in memory of his wife Germaine; from Louise Dubins for the contribution to the Anna & Myer Smith Memorial Fund and the tree planted in Israel in memory of her husband Melvin.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the following deceased members: Sarah Levin, Sheila Schreiber, Maurice Levin, Edna Smith, Frieda Ross, Melvin Dubins and Aaron Levy.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bulletin: The Bulletin is being printed and, hopefully, will be mailed in October. Jeanette Berzofsky asked for volunteers to help with typing of future bulletins. The following offered to help - Lynn Dopkin, Doris Sapp and Sondra Levy. Lynn Dopkin volunteered to put the address labels on when necessary.

Charity: A note was received from our Treasurer, Jonah Labovitz, stating that we had pledged the Associated $1,000.00 for 1995 and we paid them $500.00. A motion was made to pay the remaining $500.00 of the 1995 pledge at this time. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: The report of the B.A.Y.L. Treasury and the Anna & Myer Smith Memorial Fund will be in the next Bulletin. Jonah Labovitz, the Treasurer, is in college in Philadelphia, PA, but will continue as our Treasurer.

Gifts: Mildred Shapiro presented gifts to Matthew Yatt, the new-born baby of Lisa & Barry Yatt, and to Trent Alexander Hampel, the new-born son of Minda & Jim Hampel. Wedding gifts have already been given to Chana Esther Labovitz, daughter of Ranessa & Stanley Labovitz and to Adam Cohen, son of Regina & Martin Cohen.

Hospitaler: A volunteer is needed to assume the duties of the late Edith Moss, to report on simchas, illnesses and deaths in the Family Society.

Membership: We are in need of a Membership Chairman and a volunteer will be welcomed.

Table Cloth: Sandy Levy will contact Ranessa Labovitz and try to form a committee to work on bringing the tablecloth up to date. Perhaps a committee could meet once a month and embroider the names on the cloth.

Memorial Cards: Jeanette Berzofsky suggested that members buy the memorial cards to send out on their own. The cards are $1.25 a piece. She had several packages of 5 cards and they were all sold. If you wish to have cards sent contact the Chairmen, Fran Ludman, in Baltimore (410-358-1170) or Janice Goldblum in Washington, DC (202-363-8449). The cards that are sent by the Chairmen are listed in the Bulletin.

Program: David Shapiro gave a very interesting report of the trip with his brother Philip Shapiro to Lithuania where many of our members lived before being brought to the U.S.A. by the Family Society. A complete report will be in the Bulletin.

Stanley Labovitz gave an interesting talk and then conducted the memorial services for deceased members.

Co-President Sylvia Silverman read an announcement of a show “Born in Israel, First 50 Years” to be held at The Gordon Theatre. Members who are interested in attending are to contact Sylvia.

Good & Welfare: Allison Solomon, daughter of Bruce and Marlene Solomon, granddaughter of Sylvia and Leonard Solomon, was Bat Mitzvahed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. on a motion by Leonard Solomon, and seconded by Bertha Smith.

Betty Feldman
Recording Secretary
# FINANCIAL REPORT

**B'NAI ABRAHAM & YEHUDA LAIB FAMILY SOCIETY**  
**JUNE 1, 1996 - MAY 31, 1997**

## T. ROWE PRICE

**Investment Account (Prime Reserve)**

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## B.A.Y.L. CHECKING ACCOUNT

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ANNA & MYER SMITH MEMORIAL FUND
JUNE 1, 1996 - MAY 31, 1997

Balance June 1, 1996  957.31

Cash Receipts:
  Interest  15.29
  Cards  12.50
  Special  329.00

Total Receipts  356.79

Balance  1,314.10

Cash Disbursements:
  Mogan David  50.00
  Moat Chitim  25.00
  Stamps  16.00

Total Disbursements  91.00

Balance May 31, 1997  1,223.10

WEDDINGS

Chana Esther & Jonathan Barry Stern
June 15, 1997

On Sunday, June 15, 1997, Chana Esther Labovitz, daughter of Stanley & Ranessa (nee Cohen) Labovitz of Baltimore, MD, was married to Jonathan Barry Stern of Los Angeles, CA. Chana Esther is the granddaughter of the late Ben & Miriam (Shapiro) Cohen. The wedding took place at the Hunt Valley Marriott. Also in attendance at the wedding were all of Ranessa & Stanley's children, spouses and grandchildren. Among the guests were B.A.Y.L. Family Society members including: Ruth Reinberg, Mildred Shapiro, David & Sara Shapiro, Steve Gordon, Harriet Schlein, Stacy Schlein, Regina & Marty Cohen & Family and Janine & Reuben Chapman. The couple plans to spend their first year of marriage in Israel. The Family Society wishes Mazel Tov to Ranessa & Stanley on this wonderful simcha and extends good wishes to Chana Esther & Jonathan for a long and happily married life.

Adam and Marcy Cohen
July 13, 1997

Adam Cohen, son of Regina & Martin Cohen of Baltimore, MD, grandson of the late Miriam (Shapiro) and Ben Cohen, was married on July 13, 1997 to Marcy Rosner of Teaneck, NJ. The wedding took place at the Fair Lawn Jewish Center in Fair Lawn, NJ. Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb of the Shomrei Emunah Synagogue in Baltimore, MD officiated at the wedding. Adam's brother Shachar served as the Best Man and his sister, Katie, was one of the bride's maids. Adam & Marcy are living in Manhattan, NY. The Family Society extends best wishes to Regina and Marty on this wonderful simcha and hopes they will have many more happy occasions to celebrate.
David and Sharon Pelovitz  
June 29, 1997

David Pelovitz, son of our members Milton & Ruth Pelovitz of Lawrenceville, NJ, grandson of Fay and the late Frederick Pelovitz, was married on June 29, 1997 to Sharon Stoneback. David had met Sharon at F & M College in 1982 and all of their friends stayed together since graduation as a group. Sharon and David discovered each other about two years ago and "it took". The wedding was an outdoor ceremony at Prospect House, the Faculty Club at Princeton University of which Milton Pelovitz is now emeritus status. A reception followed at a brunch for about 80 people. The weather was fully cooperative. David and Sharon live in D.C. at the present time. David, with his Ph.D. in English, is looking for permanent academic employment. The Family Society extends best wishes to David and Sharon for a long and happily married life. To Milton & Ruth we say Mazel Tov on this wonderful simcha.

(The above report was submitted by David's dad, Milton.)

THE MAIL BAG

Dear Family Society,

We would like to say a few words about our very special Aunt and Uncle, Sarah & Tissie Rosenthal, to commemorate their 75th wedding anniversary. Not only have they lived long, but they have lived well and set an example for all of us to follow. If there is such a thing as a "perfect marriage", theirs is it! Congratulations dear Aunt and Uncle. We'll be in Washington to help you celebrate.

Shirley & Ted Ross  
Los Angeles, CA

The Family Society extends Mazel Tov to Sarah and Isadore (Tissie) on this wonderful occasion. For those who wish to send a card to them, their address is: Mr. & Mrs. Isadore Rosenthal, 1316 Fenwick Lane, #907 Charter House, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dear Mrs. Reinberg,

I hope that this letter reaches you and pray that you are in good health. I have an old list of officers of the B'nai Abraham and Yehuda Laib Family Society in which you are listed as the President. If you are no longer the appropriate person to receive this letter please pass it on to the current president.

Even though we are listed in the Bulletin under the heading of my parents, James George Barr and Charlotte 'Lottie', I thought I would write you a short note to introduce ourselves as members in our own right. I am Michael, and my wife Vera Miriam and our son Joshua (age 23) live in Australia. Our other son, Daniel (age 26) lives in Jerusalem. We have lived in Australia since 1971 when I moved here after meeting Miriam in Israel on Kibbutz Ramat David in 1969. Miriam grew up in Australia but was born in Czechoslovakia. Daniel is in the computer industry and Joshua is a graphic designer, as well as an aspiring actor. Both Daniel and Joshua are observant and Miriam and I are less so! I am a lawyer. I prosecute for the State of New South Wales. Miriam teaches yoga and Israeli dancing.
I am writing so that any members of the family who happen to wander down this way have someone they can call on, especially if they are feeling homesick on Shabbat. We always have extra room at the table. Also, if you give us notice it would be our pleasure to show you around Sydney. For those of you who have been here you will be able to attest to the fact that it is the most beautiful large city in the world. It is built around a very scenic harbour (English spelling) and is only just over an hour from mountains and rainforests.

We would like to become full fledged members of the Society, so please let us know if there are any formalities to attend to, especially what dues are payable.

If anyone wishes to drop us a line, even if it is only to introduce yourselves, we would look forward to hearing from you, though I don’t promise to be punctual in replying. Daniel is the real communicator in the family.

Our address is: 33 Hardy Street, Dover Heights, NSW Australia 2030. Our telephone number is 02-9371-4014 at home and 02-9285-8805 at work.

Daniel’s address is: 23/4 Shimoni Street, Jerusalem, Israel. His telephone number at home is 02-6788892.

With our warmest regards,
Michael, Miriam, Daniel & Joshua Barr

Dear Family,

We did enjoy meeting everyone when we were in town during a meeting. We hope it will happen again soon.

Best regards,
Mollie & David Lafferman
Greensboro, NC

Dear B.A.Y.L. Family Society,

Thank you for the beautiful Oneida serving dish you gave us in honor of our marriage. It is nice to be remembered by the Society during this special time in our lives. May the Society continue to keep the family together and share in joyous occasions always.

Sincerely,
Chana Esther (Labovitz) & Jonathan Stern
Baltimore, MD
Dear Family Society,

Thank you for the Dictionary/Thesaurus that you gave me for my Bar Mitzvah. I really appreciate it. I have already used it. I can hardly wait for the next family reunion. Thanks again.

                Jason Hurwitz  
                Williamsport, PA

Dear Family Society,

Sarah and I thank you for the trees planted through Hadassah in honor of our 75th anniversary. Many trees have been planted in Israel in our honor. We were pleased that Mildred Shapiro and Ruth Reinberg came to our party. To all our friends and relatives we wish a healthy and Happy New Year. Kindest regards to all.

                Sarah & Isadore Rosenthal  
                Silver Spring, MD

Dear Family Members,

Many thanks for the tree planted in Germaine’s memory. Your choice for a contribution was very fitting since she was full of life and always in bloom.

                Henry Miller  
                Baltimore, MD

Dear B.A.Y.L. Family Society,

Thank you so much for the contribution to the Anna & Myer Smith Memorial Fund. It was greatly appreciated. Melvin was so fond and proud of telling people of his family in Washington and Baltimore having their own Society. He was much beloved by his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandsons and will be sorely missed by his family and friends here.

                Louise Dubins  
                Burlingame, CA

Dear Family Society,

Thank you so much for the tree planted in Israel in memory of my beloved husband Melvin Dubins. I know he would be pleased and I am very appreciative.

                Louise Dubins  
                Burlingame, CA
Dear B.A.Y.L. Family Society,

Thank you for the contribution to the Jewish National Fund for planting a tree in Israel in memory of my mother Edna Smith. Your thoughtfulness of friends and family is a great help during this difficult time.

Barry Steel
Monkton, MD

Dear B.A.Y.L. Family Society,

Thank you for the contribution to the Anna & Myer Smith Memorial Fund in memory of my mother Edna Smith. Your continuing thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by my family and me during this time of grief.

Barry Steel
Monkton, MD

FAMILY CHATTER

Many of you, no doubt, remember Fay Pelovitz of Somerset, NJ. When she was well she would attend our banquets and take part in our shows by singing a few songs. She had a magnificent voice. We had a note from her son Milton of Lawrenceville, NJ, who informed us that Fay just turned 93 but does not really know the world around her. Physically she is in good shape but her mental condition is not good. She does, however, remember some old songs and leads some of them in group sessions at the nursing home in Somerset, NJ on occasion. We were very happy to hear from her son, Milton, about her.

We wish good luck to our Treasurer, Jonah Labovitz of Baltimore, MD, who will be continuing his studies in clinical pharmacy at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He will continue working for the Family Society as our Treasurer.

Our members in Israel, Maxene & Frank Perlmutter, celebrated a 30th wedding anniversary on August 27, 1997. Their daughter Tzipi is engaged to Yoram Broza. They will be married during Chanukah. We say Mazel Tov on these wonderful simchas. Their son Zev had a 21st birthday on August 24, 1997. He is a lieutenant in the Israeli Army.

From our members Cantor Robbie & Helen Solomon of Sharon, MA we heard that their son, Samuel, entered the Julliard School in New York City as a percussion major. We wish him much success in this field.

Lisa Grosman, daughter of Diana & Marc Grosman of Baltimore, MD sent us the following very interesting article...

During this summer, I took a trip to Poland, Prague, and Israel. The program that I traveled with was called CIES (Council on Jewish Education Services). The trip was from June 23 to July 30. Some of the many places that we traveled to in Israel included Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Karmiel, the Negev desert and the Golan Heights. Some of the highlights of my trip were riding camels in the Negev, staying in a Bedouin tent, hiking up Masada, and shopping on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. Also, I had a lot of
fun spending a weekend with our cousins, Maxene and Frank Perlmutter and their family. They live on
a moshav in the Negev. At the same time that my friend, Amy, and I stayed with them, so did some girls
from Belgium. The weekend was spent mostly at the pool, but on Friday night, we had a very nice
Shabbat dinner. We had a great time at the Perlmutter's home. This experience has been a very exciting
one. I have learned a lot about my Jewish identity while having fun, too. This is a trip that I will never,
ever forget.

Lisa Grosman

The following article was submitted by Diana & Marc Grosman’s daughter Erin. Erin graduated from
Sudbrook Magnet Middle School in June...
My family and I attended the Maccabi Youth Games in Kansas City, Kansas from August 10 through
August 15, 1997. I had the opportunity to meet over 700 Jewish teenagers. I competed in dance
competitions throughout the week. Alison Streimer and I represented the Baltimore delegation for dance
and came home with 7 medals between the two of us. The Maccabi Games were not held only for the
chance to compete in a sport, but for the experience of making friendships and having fun. I was able
to meet people from Chicago, Kansas, Houston, New York, Las Vegas, Omaha, Akron and even Israel.
Since everyone who participated in the games was Jewish we held services in a synagogue and related
the idea of Maccabi to the Torah. On Tisha B’av we all participated in a day of “sharing and caring” in
the Kansas City community. We performed a wide variety of public service activities. I am very happy
that I played in the Maccabi Youth Games and I am planning on doing so again in the coming years.

Erin Grosman

We extend our best wishes to Toby & David Jacknowitz of Petaluma, CA on the Bat Mitzvah of their
granddaughter Hahna Weinzveg on July 20, 1996. She is the daughter of Robin & Barry Weinzveg of
Petaluma, CA. We also extend Mazel Tov to them on the birth of their grandson Joseph David Guth on
August 29, 1996. David is the son of Joanne & Dan Guth of Petaluma, CA.

We were happy to hear from Bert and Frances Abramson of Bethesda, MD that their granddaughter
Laurie Gail Abramson graduated from the University of Michigan. Their grandson Michael Alan Abramson
competed the first year at the University of Michigan. We hope they will always have good news to report
to us about their grandchildren.

We wish good luck to our members Dr. Arnold and Diane Forman who have moved to 7258 Brookfalls
Terrace, Baltimore, MD 21209; 410-653-3878.

Our best wishes to Jerald Yatt, formerly of Baltimore, MD in his new home. His new address is P.O. Box
3791, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-527-4425. He is serving as a park ranger with the National Park Service
in Washington, DC. In that position, he provides interpretive talks on the Old Post Tower and on Ford's
Theatre to visitors. He looks forward to receiving our Family Bulletins.
We welcome back to Baltimore our member Doris Sapp who had lived in El Dorado Hills, CA for many years. Her new address is 3447 Carriage Hill Circle, Apt. T3, Randallstown, MD 21133; 410-922-8447.

News from the Harriet Schlein Family, Baltimore, MD...
Stacey Heather Schlein graduated from Owings Mills High School in May 1997 and attends Syracuse University where she plans to study journalism, Spanish and Jewish Studies. During the past school year, Stacey was an editorial intern at the Baltimore Jewish Times as part of an independent journalism course in school. Additionally, she was editor-in-chief of Eagles’ Eye, the Owings Mills High newspaper, and was president of Quill and Scroll, the honor society for journalism students. She was a member of the National Honor Society. Stacey was named in Who’s Who Among American High School Students. She also served N’siah (president) of the Baltimore Council BBYO, was a member of the Teen Board at the Baltimore Jewish Community Center and JADAS (Jewish Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services). Stacey spent the summer working at the Jewish Times and taking courses at Catonsville Community College.

Michael Elliot Schlein was confirmed in June, 1997 from Temple Oheb Shalom. During this past year, Michael served as Godol (president) and S’gan (vice-president) of Chesapeake Chapter of AZA and Moreh (membership vice-president) of Baltimore Council BBYO, he is currently Council S’gan and Chapter Sh’liach (Judaic programming chair). Michael also was a member of the Teen Board at the Baltimore Jewish Community Center and JADAS. Additionally, Michael wrestled varsity for Owings Mills High and placed third in regional tournaments and wrestled in the state tournament. He also wrestled for Bunk Row Wrestling, which is comprised of campers from Camp Airy. Michael was named in Who’s Who in Sports, High School Division. This summer was spent at BBYO-Perlman Camp in Starlight, PA at a Judaic studies camp called Kallah and International Leadership Training Camp. Michael will be a junior at Owings Mills High in August, 1997.

Stephen Gordon of Baltimore, MD was re-married on Sunday, September 28, 1997, to Becky Brook of Baltimore, MD. The ceremony took place at the Northwest Senior Center in Baltimore, MD. Stephen is the father of two boys, A.J. and Jeffrey. Becky has three daughters, Michal, Alana and Sophie Brook. The Family Society extends best wishes to Stephen and Becky for a long and happily married life.

We extend our best wishes to Toby & David Jacknowitz of Petaluma, CA on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Hahna Weinzveg on July 20, 1996. She is the daughter of Robin & Barry Weinzveg of Petaluma, CA. We also extend Mazel Tov to them on the birth of their grandson Joseph David Guth on August 29, 1996. David is the son of Joanne & Dan Guth of Petaluma, CA.

We were happy to hear from Bert and Frances Abramson of Bethesda, MD that their granddaughter Laurie Gail Abramson graduated from the University of Michigan. Their grandson Michael Alan Abramson completed the first year at the University of Michigan. We hope they will always have good news to report to us about their grandchildren.

We were happy to hear from Sheldon & Arlene Barr of Stockton, CA. Each of their daughters had a Bat Mitzvah which they had neglected to report to us. Tamara Esther Barr’s Bat Mitzvah was March 18, 1995
and Rachel Leah Barr’s Bat Mitzvah was August 17, 1996. They both did well and made their parents very proud. We say Mazel Tov to Sheldon and Arlene on those wonderful occasions.

We were happy to hear from Dr. Linda Barr and her husband Dr. Joseph Adams of Baltimore, MD about the additions in their families. Linda and Joe have a second son, Jackson Barney Adams, who was born August 1, 1995. Their first child is Zachary Elijah Adams, born June 29, 1992. They also report that Linda’s sister and brother-in-law, Carole Sue Barr and Edward Oltman have a second son, Izak Mendel Oltman, born April 14, 1997. Their first son, Jasper Barr Oltman was born June 29, 1995. We were delighted to hear that Sharon Barr and John Bernitz, the sister and brother-in-law of Linda Barr, have a son Nathan Alexander Bernitz Barr who was born in February 1995. We are always happy to hear of additions to the Family Tree and we hope that all of our members will keep us posted on changes in the family.

We were happy to hear that Barry & Lisa Yatovitz of Baltimore, MD have a son, Matthew Ryan Yatovitz, who was born June 18, 1997. Their first child is Rebecca Nicole. They are both happy to be part of the wonderful tradition of the Family Society, specifically to continue the Yatovitz’s. Matthew is the grandson of Rhona and Herbert Yatovitz of Baltimore., MD. We extend Mazel Tov to them also on this addition to their family.

From Fran and David Stern of Baltimore, MD we were happy to hear that their daughter Shannon attended the Jewish Community Center camp. Their daughter Taylor is one year old now. The whole family enjoyed swimming at the Jewish Community Center. David opened his own business - Stern’s Home Remodeling & Design in July. Give them a call for a free estimate. They all vacationed in Wildwood, NJ in August with Fran’s family.

We were happy to hear from Helene & Jack Solomon who live in Lake Worth, FL. They love living there. They enjoyed being in Baltimore during the past six months, visiting with all their family.

We enjoyed hearing from Joan & Harry Samet of Greensboro, NC. Their daughter and son-in-law, Suzan and Daniel Rosen, have a wonderful baby girl - Leilah Zahi, born on February 20, 1997. The Rosens live in New York City. We extend our best wishes and hope they will have lots of “Nachas” from Leilah.

We were happy to hear from Bertha Schvid of Boca Raton, FL. She enjoyed receiving our Bulletins. She plans to take a cruise to the Greek Isle and Turkey in the Fall. She would like to hear from any relatives who are around her area. Her address is - 10585 Fenway Place, Boca Raton, FL 33498 - 561-483-5031.

It was nice hearing from Shirley and Dick Griffin of Silver Spring, MD. They informed us that Sonya Friedman, daughter of the late Dora (Harris) and Charles Friedman, is married to Philip Hunt. Robert and Jean (Bart) Messner have a son, Daniel Lewis Messner. Our best wishes to Robert and Jean on this addition to their family.
From Rita and Sol Barr of N.W. Bethesda, MD, we were happy to hear about the birth of their grandson Izak Mendel Oltman on April 14, 1997. The parents are Carole Sue Barr and Edward Oltman. Sol and Rita now have 5 grandsons and no granddaughters. We hope that they will have lots of “Nachas” from their 5 grandsons.

Tracey Lynn Samet, daughter of Leonard & Ellen Samet of Greensboro, NC, graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Continuing Education with an emphasis on speech disorders. She will continue at the University of Memphis Graduate School in the Fall. The Family Society extends best wishes to her for much success.

Mazel Tov to Minda & Jim Hampel on the birth of their second boy, Trent Alexander, on November 13, 1996. The proud grandparents are Bonnie & Harold Yatt of Baltimore, MD.

Bonnie and Harold Yatt spent a week this summer at the Concord Hotel in the Catskill Mountains. Harold met Bonnie there many years ago while she was working at the hotel. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on July 6, 1997. We wish them many more years of wedded bliss.

From Phyllis & Garry Solomon of Baltimore, MD we received the following news. Their grandson Corey Adams enjoyed Boy Scout and Kayak camp. Grandson Adam Walters had fun at sport camps. Their daughter and son-in-law, Michele & Don Walters, and the boys spent some time at Ocean City, MD and Pennsylvania. Michele taught special needs adults in a special B’nai Mitzvah class at the Chevrei Tzedek. She did an outstanding job. Their daughter Caryn was in a bowling tournament in Atlantic City and out of 174 teams her team placed 17th. She recently was in a Maryland State Womens’ Bowling Association tournament of 10 pin bowling and bowled her highest ever - 711. Garry Solomon celebrated his 70th birthday and his children gave a party in his honor. He and Phyllis traveled to Fort Lauderdale, FL and spent some time with Jack & Helene Solomon. They then went on a 4 day cruise on the Big Red Boat and had a grand finale at Disney World - a lot of excitement for all the family.

From Regina & Martin Cohen of Baltimore, MD we received some very nice news about their family. Their son Adam was married on July 13, 1997 to Marcy Rosner. They live in Manhattan, NY. Adam works for Chase Bank and Marcy works for Ketchum Public Relations. Their son Shachar graduated with a degree in Philosophy from California State University, Long Beach, in May and is currently traveling in the Far East. Their daughter Katie attends Stern College in New York. She made the Dean’s list. She works part-time in a law office in Manhattan.

We heard from Sandy & Rick Popowitz of North Potomac, MD that they had a very busy summer. Their children Brian and Stacey attended a sleepover camp at Tall Timbers in West Virginia. The family also vacationed at Deep Creek Lake, MD and Kill Devil Hills, NC.

Gary Smith, son of Arthur Smith, grandson of Sadie Smith of Baltimore, MD has moved to Lancaster, PA and is working in his father’s medical equipment business. We wish him lots of luck in this new venture.
Catherine Feldman, granddaughter of Betty Feldman of Baltimore., MD, daughter of Marla & Mark Feldman of New York, NY, graduated from high school in June and is attending the Fashion Institute of Technology (F.I.T.). We wish her lots of luck in this new venture.

Adam J. Gordon (A.J.), son of Stephen Gordon of Baltimore., MD, and the late Hinda Shapiro Gordon, grandson of Mildred Shapiro and the late Dr. Sol Shapiro of Baltimore., MD graduated from the 8th grade of the Yeshivat Rambam, Maimonides Academy in Baltimore, MD in June. It was the school’s first 8th grade program.

We wish Mazel Tov to Rannessa and Stanley Labovitz on the marriage of their daughter Chana Esther to Jonathan Stern on June 15, 1997. The couple plans to spend a year in Israel.

We would like to apologize to our member William Kalmanson of Tuscon, Ariz. His name in our Family Tree was listed as “Stanford”. We know that he is married to Edith Sylvia Samet and his last name is “Kalmanson” and this correction will be made in the next printing of our Family Tree.

The Family Society was delighted to hear that our member Rebecca Flaxman Tucker, wife of the late Sam Tucker, daughter of the late Sylvia Silverman and Albert Flaxman, has retired after 36 years of employment with the Maryland State Government. She was honored at a dinner at the Martin’s East Wind in Baltimore, MD. About 135 friends and relatives were in attendance. She was presented with a gift which she turned over to the B’nai Brith Anti-Defamation League. She has moved to 2 Candlemaker Ct, Apt. 102, Baltimore., MD, 21208 - 410-653-4062. The Family Society extends best wishes to Rebecca and we hope that she will enjoy her retirement.

Lauren Dopkin, daughter of Lynn & Richard Dopkin, granddaughter of Sylvia and the late Raymond Silverman of Baltimore, MD, has graduated from Friends School in Baltimore., MD and will be attending the University of Arizona in Tuscon, Ariz. The Family Society wishes her the best of luck in her future undertakings.

Our member, Betty Feldman who resides in Baltimore, MD, has become active in the Pikesville Senior Center. Every Friday she attends the Yiddish Class and whatever jokes, anecdotes or poetry she submits must be told in Yiddish. Recently she was given the title of Staff Reporter for “The Chronicle”, the Pikesville Senior Center Council Newsletter. The following is an article which she recently submitted:

**The LOWLY BUTTON**

Have you ever stopped to think about how useful the button is in our lives? It was even more important before the zipper was invented. However, there are many things a zipper cannot do. The zipper, for instance, cannot turn on lights, dishwashers, washing machines, telephones, televisions or blenders. Nor can they turn them off. The other day when I pushed a button outside my bank, a button-nosed clerk pushed another button to let me in. At the supermarket, I observed a sign that read, “Push button for service”. A button can send a man to the moon and a few more buttons will allow us to keep in touch with him. Never underestimate the power of this lowly article. Today it could be pushed to blow up a building,
perhaps tomorrow the world. That thought unfortunately may be “right on the button”. Now it is time for me to still my pen and button my lips on this subject before you come to the realization that I have lost my buttons.

Betty Feldman, Staff Reporter

The following article appeared in the Washington “Jewish Week” about our members Isadore and Sarah Rosenthal...

Sarah and Isadore Rosenthal with their great-granddaughter, Amy Beth Cohen.

After 75 years, still in love
by Marcia Kay, Assistant Editor

Isadore and Sarah Rosenthal met over a bicycle 75 years ago. They’ve been riding tandem ever since.

This year in November, the Rosenthals will mark their 75th wedding anniversary. A celebration is planned for August, however, due to family schedules.

Isadore Rosenthal, who turned 97 in June, was born in 1900 in an apartment over his parents’ District of Columbia barber shop on Sixth and G streets, N.W. Soon after his birth, his family - eventually to include eight brothers and sisters - moved to the southwest corner of the city, “where all the Jews lived,” he said.

Even at 97, Isadore Rosenthal’s recollection is sharp. “One of my earliest memories of living in Washington was going on Fridays to Cantor Moses Yoelson’s house, [entertainer Al Jolson’s father], with a basket of three live chickens which my mother gave me. He would slaughter them and we would have Shabbat dinner.”

There was an active Eastern European Jewish community in Southwest D.C. during the early part of the century. Isadore Rosenthal’s father had come from Germany but his mother was Russian. Rosenthal remembers growing up with Calvin Cafritz, who would become one of the city’s most prominent builders.
He also remembers the 1905 inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt. "My father wouldn't let me go," he said, because he did not think he could hold young Isadore on his shoulders for several hours. Isadore Rosenthal did get to see President Howard Taft's 1909 inauguration - at least some of it - during a blizzard.

While living in Southwest Washington, Rosenthal's family attended Talmud Torah Congregation, an Orthodox synagogue whose spiritual leader was Rabbi Joshua Klavan, father of Rabbi Hillel Klavan. The latter is senior rabbi of Orthodox Congregation Ohev Sholom and Talmud Torah on 16th Street, N.W.

But the memory Rosenthal treasures most is the day he first set eyes on the girl who would become his wife. Sarah Seigel was born in Baltimore, MD in 1904. Her family of eight brothers and sisters moved to Washington where her father opened a grocery store.

Her brother, Louis Seigel, owned a bicycle shop on Seventh Street, N.W., where he sold cycles to city policemen. There were few police cars in the city at that time and most police patrolled their beats by bike.

Sarah remembers the day in 1915 when Isadore Rosenthal came into her brother's shop to purchase a bicycle. Isadore soon started working for her brother repairing bicycles.

"She would come by to visit her brother and I began to notice her," said Isadore. "She was a pretty little thing. Soon, she began to notice me and we began to date."

The couple would go to the movies at the Happyland or Alamo theaters, both on Seventh Street, N.W. Both theaters were demolished years ago.

We seemed to hit it off," said Sarah in a quiet but purposeful voice. "He started asking me for dates."

No chaperones were necessary and they never had a curfew. "Her parents knew I would take care of their little girl," said Isadore Rosenthal.

They dated for four years and on November 5, 1922, were married over Sarah's mother's grocery store by Rabbi Gedalia Silverstone, spiritual leader of Tifereth Israel Congregation at 14th and Euclid Streets, N.W. Silverstone was the father of Rabbi Harry Silverstone, who died not long ago.

The Rosenthals moved into a small apartment on Eighth Street, N.W. "The Jews had moved to the Seventh Street corridor near Florida Avenue, N.W.,” said Isadore. "Most Jews were merchants."

At the time of their marriage, Isadore Rosenthal worked at the Navy Yard in Southeast Washington in a gun factory making torpedoes and rocket launchers. He worked at the gun factory for 40 years until his retirement in 1957.

During his tenure, he worked on several high-level Navy projects. At one point, soon after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Rosenthal began working on a project that turned out to be research on atomic weapons. No one who was involved with the project was told of its purpose.

During the early years of marriage, Sarah worked at Lansburgh's department store. She also worked at Kanns, another department store with its roots in the Washington area.
After several years of marriage and two daughters, the Rosenthals purchased a home at 7135 Georgia Ave., N.W. They lived there for 18 years, moving to several other addresses until they settled on an apartment on Van Ness Street, N.W. Five years ago, they moved to the Charter House, a retirement facility in Silver Spring, MD.

The Rosenthal’s daughters have fond memories of growing up in Washington both before and after World War II. “The District of Columbia Jewish Community Center on 16th Street [N.W.] was a central meeting place. Everybody would belong to a club. The center was the social center [for the Jewish community]” said daughter Betty Gordin.

“There were dances and meetings. There was no fear of being out at night,” said Helen Kamerow, Gordin’s sister.

Kamerow remembers that every Sunday, the family would gather at the home on Georgia Avenue for a festive dinner. “My mother was a wonderful cook and a great baker,” she said.

When grandchildren started to arrive, Sarah would bake “nanah cakes” and Isadore would trim them. “I once decorated a cake with a basketball court on top,” he said.

After Isadore retired, he began a second career in real estate management. He worked for several prominent Jewish developers including Morris Bernstein and Morris Pollin, father of Abe Pollin, owner of the Washington Wizards basketball team and the Washington Capitals hockey team.

At the age of 75, Rosenthal retired a second time and he and his bride embarked on several years of travel. “We went to Israel a few times,” he said, and other countries as well.

At the Charter House, the Rosenthals can enjoy various activities geared toward seniors. Every Friday afternoon at 3:45 p.m., Shabbat services are held. On Saturday, a shuttle bus takes individuals to Congregation Ohr Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue in Chevy Chase, MD, for morning services.

“We’ve had a happy life together,” said Isadore Rosenthal. “We’ve always had our health and our children.”

The Rosenthals have five grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

“I don’t go to sleep at night without kissing my wife good night,” said Isadore Rosenthal.
Following is a copy of preliminary notes that I prepared regarding a trip which I and my brother David recently took to Lithuania.

Phil Shapiro
Schenectady, NY

David Shapiro (Left) and Philip Shapiro in Town Square in Kamai.

Philip Shapiro (Left) and David Shapiro - Ponide I - Home of Yehuda Laib Romm.

David Shapiro (Left) and Philip Shapiro on Synagogue Street in Kupisik, Home of the Savilevics Family. (They use the name “Smith” now.)

Seteksna (Shetekshna) River, Kamai. Henech Yatovitz’s Mill was probably on this stream.
Preliminary Notes And Thoughts On Trip To Lithuania July 2-11, 1997

My brother David and I traveled to Lithuania July 2-11, 1997. Although we will prepare detailed accounts of our visit later, here are some preliminary notes and thoughts about the trip. We hope that our experiences and impressions, as noted below, are helpful to those who share our interest in the world which shaped our 19th Century ancestors, and particularly to those who have dreamed of visiting Lithuania.

Background and Overview

In 1901, Jewish immigrants from the area of Rokiskis, Lithuania, founded the B'nai Abraham and Yehuda Laib Family Society (BAYLFS) in Baltimore. The founders were related by blood or marriage to Rella Krok Romm. Virtually all of the relatives left Lithuania between 1891 and 1906, resettling in the United States, England, South Africa, or Turkish-occupied Palestine. In September 1996, the Society celebrated its 95th anniversary in Baltimore and published a commemorative booklet listing the family's many generations.

David and I are descendants of those Lithuanian Jewish immigrants. For many years, both we and our aunt, Ruth Shapiro Reinberg, the president of the BAYLFS, hoped to visit the villages of our ancestors in northeastern Lithuania. However, only since 1991, the year of Lithuania's renewed independence, have Americans been permitted to travel to those villages. Our trip was the first by American-born members of the Society.

Sections I, II, and III describe details of our trip. Section I presents information regarding travel to and within Lithuania; Section II recounts the places we visited; and Section III notes archival documents that we saw. The last two sections contain general observations. Section IV explains why the testimonies of older Lithuanians who helped Jews during World War II probably should be sought and recorded. Section V presents other general impressions from our visit.

I. Travel Information

A. General Familiarization With The Country. We sent away for the "In Your Pocket" city guidebooks for Vilnius, Kovno/Kaunas, and Klaipeda(Memel). The guidebooks are written in English and are sold in Lithuania for 1 US dollar (4.00 litas). They are filled with valuable information about the country and the subject city and include maps. The guidebooks also feature advertisements for hotels, restaurants, and services, and provide practical and whimsical phrases in Lithuanian.

For news about current domestic and foreign policy issues in Lithuania, we downloaded and read the daily English-language dispatches posted on the web site of the ELTA News Service.

B. Air Transportation. We flew on Finnair from New York City/Kennedy to Vilna/Vilnius, by way of Helsinki, with domestic US add-ons with American Airlines. Finnair's planes and service were excellent. Also, since Finnair and American Airlines have a ticket and baggage agreement, we were able to check our baggage through to Vilnius from our respective home cities -- Albany and Baltimore.
C. Accommodations. Hotels vary widely in quality. In Vilnius, there are several high quality hotels, with prices that rival those of major US cities.

In smaller towns, there is less choice, but conditions are improving: In Rokiskis/Rokiskis, the old hotel on the market square had no hot water so they helped us get a reservation at a new hotel about one kilometer west called Angele. The new hotel was quite satisfactory, both in comfort and food (breakfast was included). Curiously, because Lithuanians cannot afford Western prices, this hotel quoted a lower rate for Lithuanians than for Westerners. However, the manager had the discretion to reduce our rate somewhat and did so.

Many Lithuanians welcome Western visitors into their homes. Litinterp will gladly make bed & breakfast arrangements for travelers in Vilnius and other major cities by e-mail.

In Vilnius, we stayed in a room in the flat of a delightful elderly woman in west central Vilnius. The rates were reasonable and we rented the room for the entire period of our stay for use as our base in the country.

D. Car Rental. We found the rates quoted by Hertz and Avis excessive and chose instead to rent a car from Litinterp for the entire stay. The net rate for our manual transmission four-door car, for two drivers, was $40 per day. All arrangements were made by e-mail. We picked up the car at Litinterp’s office in the old city of Vilnius and returned the car to a Litinterp representative who met us at the entrance to the departures hall at the Vilnius Airport. Everything was quite convenient; indeed, Grazina, Litinterp’s car rental expert, assured us that Litinterp would send us any help we needed -- anywhere in the country.

E. Getting Around In Lithuania. The roads are generally quite good; indeed, Lithuania reputedly had the best road system in the old Soviet Union. We found very good maps of the major cities and of the country for sale at the better gas stations, which are springing up everywhere. With these maps, we had little difficulty finding particular addresses. The better gas stations sell food and a broad variety of automotive and tourism products in spotless modern shops. They often exceed one’s expectations of American-style "gas and go" "mini-marts."

In our travels outside of Vilnius, we were accompanied by Lithuanians since few people outside of the major cities speak English. We had learned a few words of Lithuanian before we left, and drew upon our vague recollections of high school German and Russian. Regardless of any language barriers, however, everyone we met was quite friendly and helpful. In one case, children accompanied us through a village to introduce us to older residents. In another, adults got into a car and led to us particular locations we had asked about.

F. Currency. At the present time, one US dollar is officially worth four litas. At currency exchange offices, there will be a slight commission; however, stores and street vendors in larger cities will often accept American currency at the full 1:4 rate.

G. Calling Home. AT&T, Sprint, and other long-distance carriers can be used from Lithuania. We dialed, 8, then 197, and reached a friendly Sprint operator in Kansas who was glad to put through our credit card calls. The connections were usually digital quality (sounds like you are calling from "next door") but there is a barely perceptible time delay. Also, an increasing number of people have e-mail and
Internet access capability, thanks in part to a program funded by the philanthropist, George Soros. We sent e-mail messages home from a variety of locations.

II. Places Visited.

A. From our base in Vilnius, we made three out-of-town trips:

1. Northeast and North Central Lithuania. For three days, we explored the highland villages of the founders of the B'nai Abraham and Yehuda Laib Family Society with the legendary guide and interpreter Regina Kopilevich. We visited Kamai/Kamajai (the home of the Shapiro, Yatovitz, and Silverman families), Rokiskis (the largest town in the area inhabited by the BAYLFS ancestors and home of Rabbi Abraham Abrahamson), Tsalkier/Chelkiai (where BAYLFS progenitor Laibe Krok raised his family), Raduta, Ponidil/Pandelys (home of Yehuda Laib Romm), Kupisik/Kupiskis (home of the Savilevics family), and Ponevizh/Panevezys (home of our Kramer/Kremer ancestors). Regrettably, time did not permit a visit to Baisogola.

Following the 1991 independence, the new Lithuanian government took affirmative measures to identify and protect sites important to the country's Jewish past. Among other steps, multi-lingual monuments have been erected at Jewish cemeteries throughout the country and municipalities are maintaining them. The old Jewish cemeteries in Kamajai, Rokiskis, and Pandelys are in a natural condition. In Kamajai and Rokiskis, brush had been recently cleared away, revealing that the cemeteries were of surprisingly large dimensions. Regina Kopilevich, who has a gift for rapidly translating Hebrew dates into the numeric dates commonly used, found that some of the gravestones in the Kamajai cemetery date to the 1820s, far earlier, I believe, than she had previously thought. Most of the gravestones list the given names and patronyms, but not the family names, of those buried there.

There is very little remaining of the cemetery in Kupiskis, perhaps 15 stones. Further, according to Regina, the cemetery in Panevezys was eliminated in 1972 at the direction of the Soviet-era authorities to create a public park. Broken pieces of cemetery stones were used to make a small decorative wall on an open lot not far from the Jewish section of Panevezys. Hebrew inscriptions appear on several of the pieces of stone.

We were pleased, however, to find the building which once housed the Ponevizh Yeshiva, which was attended by our maternal grandfather, Philip Samuel Kramer. The building is used today by a commercial concern.

2. Central Lithuania. We visited Trakai (home of the Karaites), Aukstadvaris and the estate of Tamosava, Kovno/Kaunas and the suburb of Slobodka/Vilniampole (the site of the Kovno Ghetto), and the Ninth Fort with a friend of ours, Aldona Sudelkiene, an English teacher at the Vilnius Jesuit High School.

We visited the old Jewish cemetery about 1-2 kilometers south of Aukstadvaris. It is marked and well maintained. In Kaunas, two residents whom we asked for directions insisted on taking us to various sites relevant to the Holocaust, all of which had historical markers. At least part of the old Jewish cemetery is preserved on a hillside. It is marked, cleared of brush, and undisturbed. Another part of the cemetery, on flat land, was reportedly taken to make room for houses years ago.
3. Courland Narrows/Kursiu Neringa. We spent two days in the Baltic coastal area, visiting Palanga, Klaipeda, the Neringa National Park, and Nida with other friends of ours, a young professional couple. Palanga is a lovely resort village with well-preserved older houses with "gingerbread" details. It is protected by a sand dune from a popular, yet unspoiled beach. Klaipeda (formerly Memel) is Lithuania’s sea port. From Klaipeda, a short car ferry ride brings one to the Narrows. The Narrows is a broad sand dune, akin to the Outer Banks, which separates the Baltic from the Courland Lagoon, a body of water several miles wide but only 6 feet deep. Tranquil Nida, just above Russian-occupied Königsberg/Kaliningrad, was once a center for German artists and writers.

B. We also spent about a day and a half visiting the historic sites of Old Vilnius. During this excursion, we also saw the building which once housed the Romm Publishing Company and the site of the first YIVO building.

III. Genealogical Information

Information provided to the Internet by Linda Cantor, by Bruce Kahn and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Rochester, and by JewishGen, informed us of the dichotomies between vital statistics and non-vital records, and between records dated before and after 1915, the final year of Czarist control of Lithuania. Since virtually all of our ancestors arrived in the United States prior to 1906, our focus was on vital and non-vital records pre-dating 1915. Given the brevity of our stay in the country, our objectives were to increase our understanding of what records exist and to identify persons who could research available records.

A. Kauno Apygardos Archyvas. The towns and villages in which three-fourths of our ancestors lived were in the old Kovno Gubernya, a Czarist "governorship" seated in present-day Kaunas. Shortly before we left, we read Bruce Kahn’s notice that the Kaunas Archives contained the administrative records of the Kovno Gubernya. When we arrived in Vilnius, we made an appointment to see Vitalija Gir cytė, the chief archivist, at her office at Kauno Apygardos Archyvas, 28a Maironio Street, Kaunas 3000 (Tel: 208314). Vitalija is a bright and dedicated historian, and her language skills are awe inspiring -- she can read 19th Century Russian Cyrillic script effortlessly and her English is exceptional. She noted that only in the last two years have Lithuanians discovered a sizeable amount of previously unknown records from the 19th Century Russian administration. With this information, modern Lithuanians are also learning of the substantial Jewish communities that existed at that time.

Vitalija examined several stacks of documents in advance of our appointment and found, among other things, an entry showing the payment, in August 1885, of a "candle tax" by our great-grandfather, Mordechai Laib Shapiro. According to Vitalija, the candle tax was assessed by the Jewish community upon itself to support Jewish education and other community programs. Other records which she researched identified potential military inductees and listed those granted permission to live in particular communities.

The staff of the Kaunas archives will research available records for $70 (280 Litas), which appears to be the standard price for such work in the country. Since the records searched are the original paper documents, David and I asked whether the paper records might at some point be preserved on microfiche or in a CD format. Vitalija said that funds for such an undertaking were not available at this time.
B. Tizenhof. Many local records from the Czarist era for what is today Rokiskis County are kept on the grounds of the great Tizenhof estate, which has been converted into a regional museum. The estate lies immediately east of the market place in Rokiskis.

The records, often written in Polish and in the perfect hand of the Russian administrative clerks, are safeguarded by a caring staff that has boxed many documents and tries to prevent their exposure to severe temperature changes. Among the documents shown us with the help of Regina Kopilevich was a street plan for Rokiskis which numbered each lot, and a list of the owners of each lot. The museum does not have a copier, but there were three photocopies of the street plan and list. We have been allowed to borrow one of the photocopies to reproduce and return. We will provide copies to the Lithuanian State Jewish Museum and YIVO in New York.

The Tizenhof staff very much appreciates the interest of Westerners in their work and they assisted us with enthusiasm. (They did not quote us a price for their time, so we just made a donation.) Inquiries regarding information at the Tizenhof should be addressed to Rokiskio Krasto Muzieju, Tyzenhauzu al. 5, Rokiskis 4820 (Tel: (8*278) 52835). Unfortunately, none of the staff speaks English; but we could communicate somewhat in Russian and German.

IV. The Memory Of 1941-1943

Since virtually all of our family left Lithuania between 1891 and 1906, we tried to speak with the oldest inhabitants of villages about their recollections of the Jewish communities they knew when they were children, and about stories they recalled having heard about those communities from their parents and grandparents. On many occasions, however, the individuals we spoke with also wanted to tell us of their memories of 1941, the year in which Jewish civilization in Lithuania was destroyed in the span of about 5 months. Several wanted us to know that they had sent food to Jews hiding in the woods or tried to help in other ways. Others expressed continuing sadness for the loss of Jewish friends who were killed.

During the nearly half-century of Soviet domination, 1944-1991, older people in Lithuania spoke little of what they knew, while younger people learned a contrived history of their country slanted to suit Soviet political objectives. As Lithuania now awakens, its current and future generations will inevitably encounter the grim history of 1941-1943. In this painful process, considerable comfort could be gained from a program which would seek and record the testimony of Lithuanians who tried to aid the Jews during that terrible time.

The Lithuanian State Jewish Museum in Vilnius can serve a valuable role in that process. The Museum has two parts, (1) the "Green House" at 12 Pamenkalnio Street, which has an impressive display telling the story of the Holocaust in Lithuania, including resistance efforts, and (2) the collections showing various aspects of Jewish life in Vilna and Lithuania, which are housed at 4 Pylimo Street. Included in the latter building is a hall honoring the Righteous Gentiles of Lithuania. In my opinion, the subject of the Righteous Gentiles a good beginning point for modern Lithuanians who are interested in learning about the once vibrant Jewish community and the horrors of 1941-1943.
V. Overall Impressions.

A. Geography. Lithuania is a picturesque country. In the eastern highlands and in the Aukstadviris area, the land is hilly with many lakes. Elsewhere, there is rolling farmland with occasional woods. Finally, the Baltic region is very scenic, accented by touches of 19th Century German architecture.

B. Economy. Lithuania is growing rapidly under independence. Older sections of cities are undergoing impressive renovation and the inherited economic structures of the Soviet era are being reconsidered and in many cases scrapped. Similarly, the housing infrastructure of vast complexes of 5- to 9-story buildings containing resident-owned flats is giving way to large private homes and townhouses.

Financing devices are very limited. There are no home mortgages or auto loans, so homes and cars are owned outright. A small stock market is in operation, but direct foreign investment appears to be the more significant source of business capital.

Medical care remains socialized under government control. By contrast, private insurance is beginning for personal injury liability and other risks.

The average Lithuanian is said to have a monthly income of about $150 to $200 per month. A significant portion of pay appears to be devoted to the costs of energy and food. (We frequently saw lights kept off except when absolutely needed.) Nonetheless, a wide variety of consumer goods are readily available in the stores.

The linking of the lita to the US dollar has apparently contributed to the curtailment of inflation. However, the astounding recent strength of the US dollar has made Lithuanian products less price competitive for export. Unlinking the lita from the dollar has been discussed as a means of stimulating foreign exports. However, there is concern over the political consequence of unlinking -- short-run inflation in the price of imported goods.

C. Contemporary Culture And Values. What we think of as contemporary modern culture is very much present. Cable television brings to Lithuanians the Cable News Network (CNN) and several other American and British cable television programming channels, including MTV. The Voice of America, which has a format and style very similar to that of National Public Radio, is broadcast 24 hours a day. Tee-shirts and even graffiti tend to be in English. Computer software and music CDs commonly seen in the US are also common in Lithuania. In fact, in Rokiskis, the weekly newspaper uses the same desktop publishing software that is used at my office. And, Aldona’s 14-year-old daughter holds her own in a discussion -- in English -- of the relative virtues of contemporary modern music by such performers as the "Smashing Pumpkins" and Lionel Ritchie. Lithuanians are also eager to see the rest of the world. Once confined to the Eastern bloc, Lithuanians whom we met had traveled in the last four years to England, Italy, Malta, Israel, and the United States, as well as to Prague and Minsk.

Lithuanians are generally tidy, relatively conservative, and generally uncomfortable with displays of ostentation. They also appear to be more accepting of "non-Lithuanians" than their neighbors: After independence, full citizenship was offered to all residents, regardless of ethnic background (Poles, Russians, Byelorussians, Armenians, etc.). Latvia, by contrast, has limited eligibility for citizenship.
As noted initially, more detailed reports will be prepared later. Hopefully, this information will be of help to those considering a trip to Lithuania or otherwise interested in the country.

Phil Shapiro

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IN MEMORIAM

Melvin Dubins
April 7, 1997

We regret the passing of our member Melvin Dubins on April 7, 1997. Melvin was the son of the late Bertha Harris and Louis Dubins. He was the cherished husband and companion of Louise Dubins for 50 years and a beloved father and grandfather. He was the father of Evelyn Dubins Robertson, grandfather of Scott and Michael Robertson and father-in-law of Robert Robertson. We hope that the fond memories Louise has of Melvin will be of some comfort to her and her family.

Maurice Levin
August 15, 1997

We were saddened about the news that our cousin Maurice Levin passed away on August 15, 1997. He was the husband of the late Helen Barron Levin and father of Bruce Stephen. It was always a pleasure to see him at our family affairs. He was very friendly and enjoyed seeing and talking to all of the Family Society members. He will certainly be missed by all of us who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his son Bruce and we hope that the fond memories he has of his dad will be of some comfort to him.

The following was taken from the eulogy for Maurice Levin by Rabbi Fred N. Reiner of Temple Sinai in Washington, DC.
The great Talmudic Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus said, “Do Your will O G-d in heaven above, and grant tranquility of spirit to those who fear You below.” As I reflected upon the life of Maurice Levin, I thought of the tranquility of his spirit, the quietness that pervaded his life. Even in the face of trial and difficulty, Maury remained calm and focused, quietly guided by the values that motivated and directed his life. He was ever respectful, always fair and seeking the ethical position, Maury was guided and directed by the values he learned at home and practiced in his daily life. Maury was blessed with a special dignity, a serenity that he conveyed to others in so many ways.

Maury was guided by a sense of ethical direction, supporting the underdog from the immigrants to the afflicted in our society. He was always open-minded, seeking to understand the truth. He was fair-minded, wanting to insure that each individual was given equal opportunity. In his own quiet way he believed in what he knew was right. With warmth and caring he understood the great importance of human values, friendship and thoughtfulness.

Maury's quietness stopped when it came to talking about his son Bruce and his wife Helen, of blessed memory. He was a loving and caring husband, and a fiercely proud father. Indeed Bruce’s success meant the world to him. Over the last few years the two of them became best friends. I remember seeing the two of them together on a few occasions. You could not help but see the special glow that lit up Maury’s face, the pride and love.

He was blessed with tranquility of spirit, and a sense of life and involvement with others that guided him always. His deep commitment to moral values, and the love he shared with Helen and with Bruce will remain with us always as a lasting legacy. Thus may his memory always be for a blessing. Amen.

Edna Smith
September 2, 1997

On September 2, 1997 we heard the sad news that our member Edna Smith of Baltimore, MD passed away after a long illness. Edna was the wife of the late Benjamin Smith. She was the stepmother of our members Herbert Smith and Sondra Levy. When Edna was well she was a very active member of the Family Society and served on many committees. She will be missed by all of us. We extend our sympathy to her surviving son Barry Steel and his family on their loss.

Rebecca Redler
September 18, 1997

The Family Society extends deepest sympathy to our members Stephen and Betty Cooper on the loss of Betty’s mother, Rebecca Redler. We hope that the fond memories they have of their mother will be of some comfort to them.
A Happy & Healthy New Year to all the members.
Ruth Romm Abell
Baltimore, MD

Our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all the members.
Bert & Frances Abramson
Bethesda, MD

May we have joyous occasions to celebrate during the coming year.
Judy & Avi Auerbach & Children
Efrat, Israel

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year.
Arnold & Lee Barr
Norfolk, VA

Wishing all our family a wonderful holiday & a happy and exciting year.
Linda Barr, Joe Adams, Zach & Jackson
Baltimore, MD

Good Health & Longevity!!!
Nathan "Narky" & Ida Barr
Silver Spring, MD

Greetings to all.
Rita & Sol Barr
Bethesda, MD

Happy New Year from the Barr Family in Stockton, CA.
Sheldon, Arlene, Tamara & Rachel

L'Shonah Tovah from the three Barrs to one and all. May the coming year be Happy & Healthy for everyone.
Steven, Elizabeth & Jacob Barr
Fredericksburg, VA

To all our relatives and friends, a very Healthy & Happy New Year.
Sarah & Barbara Barron
Swarthmore, PA

Our best wishes for Good Health, Happiness & Prosperity in the New Year.
Jeanette & Sam Berzofsky
Baltimore, MD

Happy, Healthy New Year from Dan & Sherry Billig
Owings Mills, MD

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all the family.
Janet & Jack Billig
Baltimore, MD

Wishing our dearest family & relatives a Very Happy New Year and an easy fast.
Reuven & Janine Chapman
Baltimore, MD

A very Happy, Healthy New Year to all.
Toby & Howard Cohen
Livingston, NJ

We wish all of you a Happy & Healthy Year.
Regina, Marty, Adam, Marcy, Shachar & Katie Cohen
Baltimore, MD

Happy Holiday to all the members.
Hilda Cooper
Baltimore, MD

A Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year.
Pam Barr Goldberg Danzig,
Sandy Danzig, Rebecca Goldberg and Alissa Danzig
Farmington Hills, MI

Good Health, Good Luck and Happiness to all.
Jeanne L. Dobres
Chevy Chase, MD

Our sincere good wishes to all for the coming New Year.
Lynn & Richard Dopkin & Family
Baltimore, MD
May the New Year bring good health to all.
Then it will be a Happy New Year.
Ann Douglas
Harrisburg, PA

Happy & Healthy New Year to all the family.
Mel & Libby Ellin
Randolph, MA

My very best wishes to all in the Family Society
for a year of Good Health & Happiness.
Betty Feldman
Baltimore, MD

Wishing the entire Family Society a Happy,
Healthy & Prosperous New Year.
Dr. Arnold & Mrs. Diane Forman
Baltimore, MD

Our best wishes for a Healthy & Happy Year
for the entire family.
Mollie & Max Gans
New York, NY

My very best wishes to all the family for the
coming New Year.
Sylvia Abramson Ginberg
Silver Spring, MD

Wishing everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year.
Sylvia Ginsburg
Adams, MA

To all the family good health and happiness in
the New Year.
Eleanor Girard
Canarillo, CA

A Happy, Healthy New Year to all the
members.
Harriet Glass
Ojai, CA

May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life for
a Happy New Year.
Janice Goldblum
Washington, DC

My best wishes to all the members in the
Family Society for a Healthy and Happy
New Year.
Joshua Goldblum
Chevy Chase, MD

L'Shana Tova to our family.
Miriam, Irwin, Seth & Adina Golob
Columbia, MD

Best wishes to all in the Family Society
for a Happy & Healthy New Year.
Stephen Gordon & Sons
Baltimore, MD

Best wishes for Health & Happiness to all.
Shirley & Dick Griffin
Silver Spring, MD

Our wishes for a Peaceful, Happy & Healthy
New Year to all in the family. L'Shana Tova.
Marc, Diana, Lisa & Erin Grosman
Reisterstown, MD

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all.
Dan, Jennifer, Ronia & Addie Hurwitz
Bedford, MA

Warm wishes for a Healthy New Year.
Leonard Hurwitz
Williamsport, PA

Best wishes for a Healthy New Year.
Debbie, Marvin, Jason & Jeremy Hurwitz
Williamsport, PA

Our best wishes for a Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year to all the members.
Suzanne & Mervyn Hurwitz
Baltimore, MD

Best wishes to all in the Family Society
for a Healthy, Happy & Peaceful New Year.
Joyce Hyman
Baltimore, MD

Best wishes and good health in the New Year.
Toby & David Jacknowitz
Petaluma, CA
A very Happy & Healthy New Year to all in the Family.
    Irene Kols
    Baltimore, MD

Greetings for a Healthy & Prosperous New Year.
    The Labovitz Family
    Baltimore, MD

Our best wishes for a good year to the members of B.A.Y.L. Family Society. Shalom.
    Mollie & David Lafferman
    Greensboro, NC

Wishing everyone in the family a joyous New Year.
    Fran Ludman, Sheldon & Erica Laskin
    Baltimore, MD

May all of our cousins have Good Health in the coming year.
    Love, Barbara, Stephanie, Wendi & Nancie Leibowitz
    Baltimore, MD

We wish the entire family a very Happy & Healthy New Year.
    Bessie Leventhal & Family
    N. Hollywood, CA

"L'Shana Tova" - A Happy New Year to all.
    Tanya & Elmer Lear
    Harrisburg, PA

Our best wishes to the whole family for a Happy & Healthy New Year
    Maurice & Bruce Levin
    Bethesda, MD

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all.
    Sondra Levy
    Baltimore, MD

A Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year to all.
    Bessie & Jack Meleneck
    Baltimore, MD

Happy & Healthy New Year to all our relatives.
    Hilda & Matt Meyers
    Towson, MD

Our best wishes to all the family for a Happy & Healthy New Year.
    Drs. Steven & Cynthia Miller
    Baltimore, MD

My best wishes to all the family for the coming New Year.
    Michael Moss
    Baltimore, MD

To all the Family best wishes for a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.
    Sharon & Pat Pattison
    Anaheim Hills, CA

Our best wishes to all the family for the coming New Year.
    Gilbert, Helena & Fay Pelovitz
    Somerville, NJ

Best wishes to all the members for the New Year.
    Milton & Ruth Pelovitz
    Laurenceville, NJ

New Year greetings from Israel to all the family.
    Maxene & Frank Perlmutter & Family
    Doar Na Ha Negev, Israel

To all our family, may you be blessed with Good Health in the coming year.
    Sandi, Rick, Brian & Stacey Popovitz
    North Potomac, MD

To all my relatives, far and wide, a Happy & Healthy New Year.
    Ruth Reinberg
    Baltimore, MD

All our best to everyone in the New Year.
    Margie & David Rochlin
    Owings Mills, MD
Best wishes to all our family.
Leslye & Arthur Romm
Owings Mills, MD

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year.
Evelyn & Mervin Rosen
Baltimore, MD

I wish all my family and friends a Happy, Healthy New Year.
Sylvia Rosenbaum
Baltimore, MD

Our sincerest good wishes to all the members in the B.A.Y.L. Family Society for a Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year.
Sara & Isadore Rosenthal
Silver Spring, MD

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Joe, Esther, Allyn & Richard Ross
Nashua, NH

A very Happy & Healthy New Year to all.
Shirley & Ted Ross
Los Angeles, CA

A Healthy & Happy New Year to all.
Anna & Howard Rubin
Baltimore, MD

Happy New Year to all.
Phyllis & Melvin Rubin
Baltimore, MD

Florida greetings and best wishes for a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year.
Dorothy & Morton Rubin
Plantation, FL

Happy New Year to everyone on the East Coast from the West Coast.
Ilene & Joe Sachs
Chino Hills, CA

Our best wishes to everyone in the Family Society for a wonderful, healthy year.
Joan & Harry Samet and Family
Greensboro, NC

Best wishes to all the members for the New Year.
Leonard & Ellen Samet
Greensboro, NC

My best wishes to all the members in the B.A.Y.L. Family Society for a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.
Doris Sapp
Baltimore, MD

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year.
Harriet, Stacey & Michael Schlein
Owings Mills, MD

My best wishes to all the members in the Family Society for the New Year.
Louis Schreiber
Owings Mills, MD

Happy & Healthy New Year to one and all for the coming year.
Bertha Schvid
Boca Raton, FL

We wish all in the Family Society a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Sara & David Shapiro & Daughters
Baltimore, MD

I wish everyone in the Family Society a year of good health, happiness & fulfillment.
Mildred Shapiro
Baltimore, MD

Best wishes to the members in the Family Society for a good and sweet year.
Philip Shapiro, Mary Jennings,
Rebecca, Emily & Abigail Shapiro
Schenectady, NY
L'Shana Tovah to all the members in the Family Society.
    Reta Silverman, Paula Sicker,
    Ilene Wilson & Brandon
    Baltimore, MD

Have a Healthy & Happy New Year.
    Renee, Herb, Shmuel, Eliezer & Shana Siegel
    Baltimore, MD

Best wishes to all the family for a Healthy & Happy New Year.
    Annette Silverman
    Towson, MD

My best wishes to all the family members for a wonderful New Year with good health, happiness & peace all over the world.
    Bernard Silverman
    Baltimore, MD

My best wishes to all the members and their families for a wonderful New Year.
    Sylvia Silverman
    Baltimore, MD

A Happy & Healthy New Year.
    Arthur, Lollie, Julie, Susie & Gary Smith
    Baltimore, MD

To all my relatives and friends in the Family Society my best wishes for the New Year.
    Bertha Smith
    Baltimore, MD

Our best wishes to all our cousins for a Healthy & Happy New Year.
    Eve & Israel Smith
    Tyler, Texas

Best wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year.
    Sharon, Jerome & Judy Smith
    Lexington, MA

To our family and friends a very Happy New Year.
    Susan, Marshall, Ayme & Randi Smith
    Eldersburg, MD

My best wishes to all the members in the Family Society for the New Year.
    Sadie Smith
    Baltimore, MD

May there be a good year for all the members here and abroad and peace all over the world.
    Sol & Manya Smith
    Baltimore, MD

We send our best wishes to the family for a Happy & Healthy New Year.
    Sol Smith & Sons
    Austin, TX

We wish a Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year to all of our family.
    Marlene, Bruce, Barry & Allison Solomon
    Owings Mills, MD

We wish all good things for our family and friends in the New Year.
    Phyllis & Garry Solomon
    Randallstown, MD

May all our relatives and friends be blessed with Health & Happiness during the coming year.
    Helene & Jack Solomon
    Lake Worth, FL

To all the members in the Family Society, we wish the best for the coming year.
    Sylvia & Leonard Solomon
    Baltimore, MD

We wish all the members in the Family Society a wonderful New Year with Good Health and Happiness.
    Harriette & Marvin Solomon
    Baltimore, MD

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Shanah Tovah U’Metukah. A Sweet & Good Year.
   Cantor Robbie, Helen, Byron & Sam Solomon
   Sharon, MA

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all the family.
   Janet & Arnold Sperling
   Rockville, MD

We wish the Family Society much Good Health & Happiness in the New Year.
   Fran, David, Shannon & Taylor Stern
   Randallstown, MD

Good Health & Happiness to all the family.
   Gerson & Iris Stutman
   Acton, MA

Our best wishes to all the family for a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year.
   Glori, Sandra & Jennifer Stutman
   Reisterstown, MD

We hope you all have a Healthy & Peaceful Holiday Season.
   The Whitman Family -
   Gail, David, Steven & Jill
   Laurel, MD

Happy & Healthy New Year to all.
   Florence Wineberg
   Adams, MA

Happy New Year to all of our cousins. May it be a happy and healthy year for all.
   Barry & Lisa Yatovitz
   Owings Mills, MD

Our best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
   Rhona & Herbert Yatovitz
   Baltimore, MD

Our wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 5758 for all of our family.
   Annette & Beryl Yatovitz & Family
   Palo Alto, CA

Best wishes to all our relatives for a Healthy and Fulfilled New Year.
   Barry, Sandy & Ben Yatt
   Arlington, VA

Warm thoughts and wishes for a Happy & Prosperous New Year with everything going well for you and your loved ones.
   Harold & Bonnie Yatt
   Baltimore, MD

Wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year.
   Jerald Yatt
   Arlington, VA
ANNA & MYER SMITH MEMORIAL FUND

FOR THE RECOVERY OF

To Anne Douglas - By the Family Society, Mildred Shapiro, Ruth Reinberg.

IN HONOR OF

To Ranessa & Stanley Labovitz in honor of the marriage of daughter Chana Esther to Jonathan Stern
- By the Family Society.

To Regina & Martin Cohen in honor of the marriage of their son Adam to Marcy Rosner
- By the Family Society.

IN MEMORY OF

To the family of the late Melvin Dubins - By the Family Society, Bertha Smith
To Berry Steel in memory of mother Edna Smith - By the Family Society
To Betty Cooper in memory of mother Rebecca Redler

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of birth of son Matthew Ryan Yatovitz
on 6/18/97
By Barry & Lisa Yatovitz, Owings Mills, MD $50.00

In memory of parents Morris & Alice Abramson,
By Frances & Bertram Abramson, Bethesda, MD $50.00

In honor of birth of grandson, Josseph David Guth,
on 8/29/96
By Toby & David Jacknowitz $20.00

In memory of parents Sophie & Harry Oxenburg
By their son Harold Oxenburg $25.00
By their son & daughter-in-law Irving & Rosemary Oxenburg $25.00

In memory of parents Rivy & Morris Kiel
By their daughter & son-in-law Devra Kiel & Lee Simon $36.00

For the good health of all the members of the Family Society
By Anna Douglas $18.00

Special contribution for good causes
By Milton & Ruth Pelovitz $7.00
In memory of Maurice Levin
   By Joshua Goldblum
   $10.00

In honor of 60th wedding anniversary of parents Israel & Eve Smith
   by Ileane & Manny Smith
   $36.00

In memory of Frieda Ross, Aaron Levy and Sheila Schreiber
   By Harriet Schlein
   $6.00

In memory of parents Lena (Abramson) and Abe Galblum
   By Eleanor Girard
   $50.00

In memory of Edna Smith
   By Sylvia Rosenbaum
   $10.00

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TREES PLANTED IN ISRAEL BY THE B.A.Y.L. FAMILY SOCIETY

To Sarah & Isadore Rosenthal in honor of their 75th wedding anniversary.

To Israel and Eve Smith in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary

To Barry Steel in memory of his mother Edna Smith

To Bruce Levin in memory of his father Maurice Levin

To Henry Miller in memory of wife Germaine

To Louise Dubins in memory of her husband Melvin