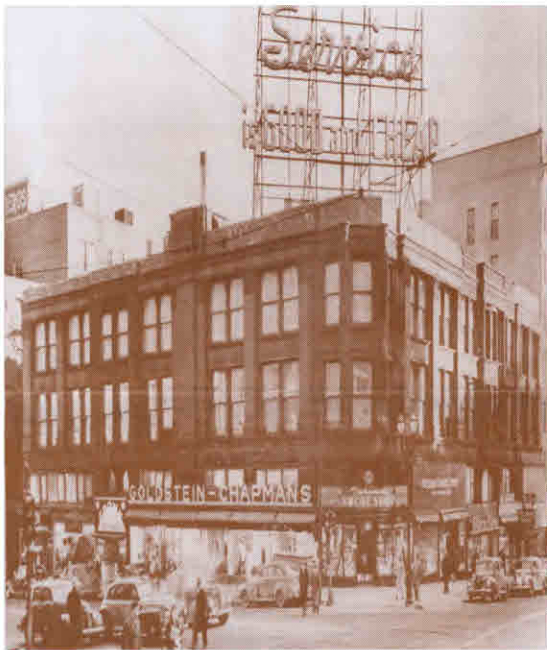


L'Dor *ir*

from generation to generation • the newsletter of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

NJHS PLANS ANNUAL MEETING Keeping Memories Alive - A Salute to Downtown Retail

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Goldstein Chapmans in downtown Omaha

Do you remember Downtown Omaha, mid-century 1940s, 50s and 60s, before malls and mega movie houses? Women wore hats, gloves and high heels to shop at Brandeis, Herzberg's, Natelsons and Goldstein Chapman's. We ate in the "Pompeian Room" in Brandeis, Bishops, the King Fong Cafe, the Virginia Café and Northup-Jones. We went to movies at the Orpheum, Paramount, Omaha, Brandeis and State theaters. We bowled at the 20th Century Alleys, had cokes at Metro and Beaton Drugs and window-shopped at Borsheims, Brodkeys and Malashock Jewelers. It was a wonderful downtown and they were the good old days.

Our program will include a video with other twists and surprises. Past president Helen Epstein will be awarded the Shirley Berman Volunteer of the Year Award. We are also planning a hors d'oeuvre reception honoring Lois Friedman on the special occasion of her 90th birthday.

The entire community is invited to join the NJHS as we revisit downtown Omaha and remember a special time in our history.

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For more information contact Mary Bernstein at rnaryb@eventsinc.com.

This publication was produced through the generosity of the
David and Rose Katzman Endowment Fund

Letter from NJHS Board President, Sue Friedman Millward

As my term as President of the Jewish Historical Society progresses into its second year, I want to express my gratitude to all the people I have worked with. The most important people are Renee Corcoran and Kathy Weiner. They arrive at work everyday to all sorts of questions and challenges presented to them by people all over the country who have Jewish roots in Nebraska and Southwest Iowa. They also assist local people and organizations, such as the Rose Blumkin Home, the Douglas County Historical Society or the Durham Western Heritage Museum, with whatever needs or projects they request. Working quietly behind the scenes, they preserve and share the Jewish history of our community. I am very impressed with the work that they do.

In addition, there is a team of loyal board members, past and present. Many are ready to assist Renee at a moments notice if she needs volunteers to prepare one of the many presentations or exhibits. Nan Katz is the most notable volunteer as she is always the first to step up offering her assistance. One day each week, she comes to work with Renee and Kathy. She maintains cemetery records, searches through the archives and assists with displays. We are grateful to Nan for her loyalty to our mission. In addition, other board members have a special connection to our community and enjoy sharing in the ideas and creativity with Renee, Kathy and Nan.

We always welcome new people who want to join us with our ongoing endeavors. As our parents age, we encourage adult children to share their histories with us to insure their family heritage will be preserved for future generations. Please contact the NJHS, Renee, Kathy or myself if you have stories, photos, mementos, or artifacts that you want to donate.

The NJHS has put me in touch with so many very special people as I continue my own genealogy pursuits. I have been privileged to work with Peggy Chasen, Shirley Goldstein, David Rice, and Jim Wax, to mention just a few people from the local community who want to record their family histories. I am also excited to begin working with Temple Israel in creating an online, interact community family tree. I will provide more on this project in future newsletters.

Thank you to the NJHS for giving me this incredible opportunity. I look forward to new challenges in the coming year.

The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is a non-profit organization dependent entirely on memberships and donations to operate. Help Ustódóitiñuethégöod *koTp serving our past and present for the future.



Dottie Rosenblum and Sue Millward

Devoted friend, long time employee, now retired, and special advisor to NJHS, Dottie Rosenblum attended a recent board meeting. Members of the board thanked her for years of dedication in preserving the history of our community. Thank you, Dottie, you will never be forgotten for your many years of service.



David Davis and Renee Corcoran

On April 18, 2013 at the invitation of David Davis, a resident of the Florence Home, Renee Corcoran, NJHS Executive Director visited the residents of the Florence Home.

MOVING? Please notify us of your address change!

Phillip M. Klutznick - An Archival Note

Oliver B. Pollak

Philip M. Klutznick was born in Kansas City in 1907. His par-ents, Morris and Minnie had emigrated from Poland in 1905. He attended the University of Kansas and University of Nebraska but his strongest connection was to Creighton University where he earned his law degree in 1930. Philip married Ethel Riekas of Omaha in 1930. Ethel died in 1996 and Philip in 1999.

His role in AZA, B'nai B'rith, and in behalf of Israel establishes him as a 20th century Jewish hero. He was President of B'nai B'rith from 1953 to 1959 and President of the World Jewish Congress from 1977 to 1979.

He worked at the Fradenberg, Stalmaster and Beber law firm before going to work for the City of Omaha with an emphasis on slum clearance and housing followed by an important role in federal housing policy.

His work as Chicago suburban and urban developer, builder of The Water Tower, makes him a captain of industry. His service in the United Nations and in the Jimmy Carter Presidency as Secretary of Commerce, acknowledge his influence across a broad spectrum of national and international interests. He recorded his challenges in *No Easy Answers* (1961) and *Angles of Vision: A memoir of my Lives* (1991). He served as President of the Chicago Bulls franchise in 1973.

As a historian I have used archives in Omaha, Lincoln, Washington, D.C., London, and Edinburgh, usually of people long dead. In July 2013 I discovered the Klutznick Papers 1914-1999 at the University of Chicago Library. The guide to the 306 box, 175.5 linear feet collection runs 174 pages, and can be found online; <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/scrc/findingaids/view.php?eadid=LCU.SPCL.KLUTZNICK#idp87518576>.

He took assignments from Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter. He corresponded with Secretaries of State, Vice Presidents, senators, congressmen, Israeli leaders, and saved the paperwork down to a 1986 Mr. Coffee Rebate offer. Carbon copies gave way to Xerox copies. And as in all archives, we wonder what was considered too sensitive to include.

I used the B'nai B'rith Archives in Washington DC in the late 1980s when preparing the centennial history of Omaha's B'nai B'rith lodges. The archivist, Hannah Sinauer, appears in the Klutznick archives. The B'nai B'rith archives relocated in 2012 to the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio. They contain additional Klutznick as well as Henry Monsky records.

Philip Klutznick had a sense of his mission, world goal and posterity. Brick and mortar buildings bear his name: Klutznick Law Library at Creighton University and the Klutznick Professorship in Jewish Civilization. The B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington



Phillip M. Klutznick

has not fared as well of late. Posterity and immortality are touchy issues when buildings are sold or repurposed.

Letter files include incoming and outgoing correspondence with thousands of people and hundreds of organizations. Most pertinent here, the Klutznick, Riekas and Saltzman families, as well as Nebraskans Donald Brodkey, Gordon Fellman, Mary Fellman, Richard Fellman, Robert Fromkin, Peter Kiewit of Kiewit Construction, Temple Israel Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Charles Monasee, Casper Y. Offutt, Creighton law professor, 1922-42, Dennis Paley, Oliver B. Pollak, Edward A. Rosen, Suzanne Singer, V. J. Skutt, Mutual of Omaha executive, Theodore C. Sorenson President Kennedy's speechwriter, Yale F. Trustin, Clayton Yeutter (Secretary of Agriculture), and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

We are grateful for Philip Klutznick's myriad accomplishments and contributions, that include support of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, and for his presence of mind to preserve his records and locate them for public access at the University of Chicago Library

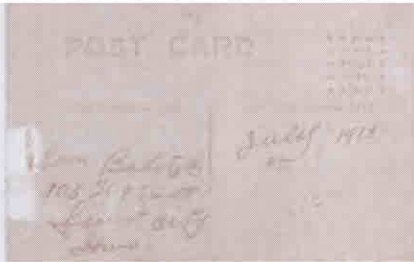
Remember the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society in your will. With your help we have a great past ahead of USE

Genealogy Research Can Open A Lot Of Doors

Denise Silverman, NJHS Genealogy Club

Kiddingly, after having been asked by members of my family about our history, I was given the title of "family historian." I decided to take the title seriously and three years ago began searching for my ancestors. The researching became an additive passion for information and validation. Every step of the way I was amazed by the knowledge I gained, the family members I found and where my research led.

Quite by accident, I discovered my maternal great-grandmother's maiden name. Telling an uncle that I discovered my great-grandmother's maiden name was Babitzky, he remembered that there was a brother who lived in Omaha, moved to Sioux City and changed the name to Babbitt. He also recalled that a son worked for Disney and lived in Hollywood with "quite the lifestyle."



Back of Family Photo-July 1915

I began looking in Sioux City, Googling Disney, Babitzky and/or Babbitt but nothing showed up. In retrospect this was very odd considering what notoriety I was soon to discover. Being a newbie, I kept my notes at hand and began researching other things. At that time I did not know which generation I was trying to find much less the time period.



Samuel Babitzky Family- July 1915

I was doing research for a friend around the same time on the Bohemian Cemetery website and found a link to "South Omaha Little Bohemia". I followed that link and on the next web page, under landmarks found, "Famous Disney animator Art Babbitt lived at 13th & William Streets in Omaha, Nebraska as a child."

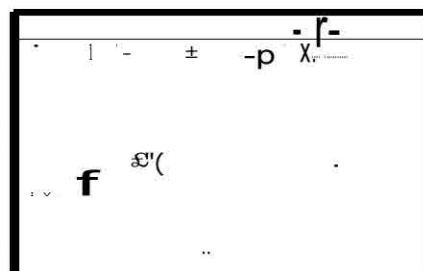
From that point forward, I was able to find an incredible relative. I found that one of Art Babbitt's daughters and step-daughter had family trees on Ancestry. I sent messages to both of them, one taking 20 months to reply, and the other five months. In the meantime, I continued my search of Art Babbitt (aka Arthur Harold Babitzky). One interview I found he is quoted as talking about family, (from an interview with Michael Barrier in 1986).

Barrier: Babbitt must not have been your family's original name, then.

Babbitt: Way, way back, it had a "ski" added on to it. The "ski" simply means "the residence of" or "the son of". There are many Russians today who have a "Ski" added on to their name. If you look up my family history, you will find that there was an American balloonist in World War I, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, there were members of my family who settled in parts of Colorado and Wyoming; I just found out that I have members of my family who are pretty well hunkered down in Brazil, in Rio. So they're all over the place. I'm not the typical Disney cartoonist. But I would say that essentially, if you want to nail down to something ethnic, I am of Russian extraction."

The American balloonist from Council Bluffs he refers to was my grandfather, Ben I. Seldin. The Colorado and Wyoming connections were brothers of Ben Seldin. I'm still looking for the family in Rio, although I think I found some Seldins going there in the 1940s.

Recently searching old City Directories available on Ancestry I found information on **Ben Seldin** brother, **David Seldin**, the first



IRO Babitzky to Omaha

brother-to come to the US. He came through Galveston, Texas in 1912. According to the 1913 City Directory he lived with the Babitzky family at 2018 Nicholas Street. This appears to confirm my theory, the Seldin brothers came to Omaha because of their mother's brother. Records of the Industrial Removal Office indicate that Samuel Solomon (Schliome) Babitzky came to Omaha on February 14, 1905. The Babitzky family left Omaha after the 1913 tornado heading north to Sioux City. They remained there for approximately 10 years, returning to New York after Art's father was injured in a work related incident.

Art Babbitt had an incredible career in animation including nine years at Disney. He is credited with giving Goofy his personality as well as creating the Evil Queen from *Snow White*, the stork from *Dumbo*, the dancing mushrooms from *Fastasia*, the wolf from *Three Little Pigs*, and Geppetto from *Pinocchio* among others.

I met Art's daughter, Karin Babbitt, when she came to Omaha in February of this year. She was in town to do her stand-up comic routine at a convention which my daughter, Monica Stoney and I attended. We met briefly and I finally found the possible family connection to the degenerative joint disease that has caused me to have three joint replacements.

Visit our website at
www.nebraskajh.com



Setting Down New Roots and Creating History

Nancy Wolf

When does history begin? Yesterday? A generation ago? Even sooner?

We moved to Omaha, Nebraska in July, 1989. Our family was young, and we were too busy with pre-school aged children and the enthusiasm of being young in a new place that history was not something we thought about. However, as the years go by, and families change, history, and family history take on new meanings. Children grow up, and become young adults. Grandparents also grow older, and the efforts to learn more about family history and stories become ever more urgent, if we are lucky to even have those conversations before they pass away. Pretty soon, the hope is to become the oldest generation ourselves, and take on the role of story-tellers, in order to safeguard that family lore.

Living and being involved in the Jewish community of Omaha allows a person to learn about the incredible stories of the three and four generation families which serve as a foundation for this community's history. But when is the story, or history, of the "newcomers" relevant, or even interesting, to the general community? And when is someone no longer a newcomer? After all, our children think of themselves as "from Omaha". This is their

home. Our American history began several generations back, but in other places. Incredibly, though, there are intersections of our family paths with other Omaha/Council Bluffs families, albeit in other cities. And it is great fun to learn about those!

So, 24 years in Omaha. One generation. Past generations settled in Chicago, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Detroit. Phil's family actually lived in Omaha for a short time while he was in grade school plus a little more; long enough for two siblings to be included in confirmation photos hanging at Temple Israel. Phil's father—Aaron—was then the Midwest Area Engineer for Armour Meatpacking. He designed and supervised the construction of numerous meatpacking plants in the middle of the country including the one on the southeastern edge of West Point NE which was owned by various successor meatpacking companies and is now apparently being used as a dairy company facility. Now Omaha is the city where we have raised our family. It is still early days, but for now two of our three "20 somethings" have decided to make Omaha their home. The third has yet to settle anywhere post-college.

Ancestors? The stories are similar to other new immigrants. Arriving from the old country; working hard, wanting more for the children. A new city does become home, and pretty soon that is where a person is "from", all the while referring to that area in the "old country" where borders shifted frequently, as the place we were really from! Thinking about lives past in that way makes us wonder just how close we all might have been once upon a time.

And what about those life intersections? Well, one discovery was to learn that a gentleman in Omaha, David Goodman, and Phil each have a familial connection to a lovely lady, Rosalie Braverman, of blessed memory; one as a nephew, the other as great-nephew. Oh, by the way, Rosalie Richman settled in Council Bluffs as a young girl a century or more ago when her family immigrated to the States, and moved to Iowa City after marrying. Her picture, posed with her husband Dave, hangs in the University of Iowa Hillel House. She passed away a few years ago at the amazing age of 102 or so; her birth year was never quite known for certain. There are other Omaha connections too, which involve friendships through university, or synagogues. New discoveries are uncovered every once in a while.

So, our family's Omaha history may be defined in years rather than generations, but it can still be counted. The stories and histories of Jewish lives in the Midwest are interwoven in wonderfully colorful ways. After all, one always thinks their own stories are most interesting, and want them to be told and remembered.

Nancy & Phil Wolf moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 1989 from the Chicago area with their young children. Hannah and Alex. Nathan was born in Omaha.

NJHS Annual Membership Dues (Jan-Dec)

- \$1000 Benefactor • \$500 Platinum • \$250 Gold
- \$100 Patron • \$50 Sponsor • \$25 Regular

TRIBUTE CARD DONATIONS

In Memory of: Blake Wolfson from Dick Rochman & Rocky Stern, Nancy Hornstein, Renee Handelman, Rita Novak, Sheldon & Joyce Cohen, Gail Wishnow, Mike & Ducky Milder, Debbi & Larry Josephson; Helene Wasserman from Sue & David Millward, Debbi & Larry Josephson; Alan Wolfson from Sue & David Millward; Marlon Somberg from Dick Rochman & Rocky Stern, Sue & David Millward, Bernice Kaplan, Bob Kaplan & Toni Rosen, Barbara & Jerry Cohen; Bob Endelman from Kevee Kirshenbaum, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, Estelle & Ralph Turke, Ann Kaiman, Debbi & Larry Josephson; Ruth Goldenberg from Tootie Simon; Randy Endelman from Bill & Midge Bowers; Louis Blumkin from Midge & Bill Bowers, Mr. & Mrs. E. Robert Newman, Maxine & Bud Polsky, Sue & David Millward, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, Bob Belgrade, Kevee Kirshenbaum, Dick Rochman & Rocky Stern, Ann Kaiman, Helen & Tuffy Epstein; Beatrice Azriel from Debbi & Larry Josephson; Bob Perelman from Marty & Iris Ricks, Estelle & Ralph Turkel, Gary & Linda Perlman, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, Jeri Falk, Paul C. Scott Fund, Jerry L. Jensen & Mark R. Reynolds, Miriam Brooks, Dick Rochman, Harold Epstein, Sue & David Millward, Lorrie & Gary Katelman; Steve Sokolof from Kevee Kirshenbaum, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson; Lester Lewis from Tootie Simon, Board & Staff of NJHS, Marge Lincoln from Sue & David Millward, NJHS Board & Staff; Sam Epstein from Mark Wehner, Sue & David Millward, Bob Belgrade, Ira & Carol Nathan, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, NJHS Board & Staff; Jay Chasen from Sue & David Millward, Tillie & Byron Raznick, Tootie Simon, Renee Ratner Corcoran; Sue Landow from Sue & David Millward, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson; Edith Comisar from Sue & David Millward, Tootie Simon; Mo Handelman from Sue & David Millward, Kathy Miller, Lyle & Freda Bauer, Al & Doris Nachman, Ruth Oruch & Family, Beverly Fromkin, Iris & Marty Ricks, Judith Cooper, Tootie Simon, Rita Novak, Debbi & Larry Josephson, Elaine Nachman, Bob Belgrade, Kathy & Harry Weiner, Paschall Strategic Communications, Helen & Tuffy Epstein; Dorothy Kotok from Sue & David Millward, Ann Kaiman, Helen Rifkin, Howard & Sharon Epstein; Patricia Newman's Brother from Kathy, Harry & Max Weiner; Stuart Stoler from Renee & Dan Corcoran; Bobbie Prostok from Ira & Carol Nathan; Mirian Abramson from Rocky Stern; Florence Davis from Molline & Fritz Cassman; Stuart Simon from Kevee Kirshenbaum; Gloria Goodman from Alan H. Goodman; Beverly Frieden from Ann Kaiman; Evelyn Zysman from Bernice Kaplan, Bob Kaplan & Toni Rosen; Sheldon Turkel from Mickey (Muriel) Greenberg; Jack Belmont from Joseph & Geraldine Burstein; Rita Rosen from Nan Katz; Larry

Roffman from Kevee Kirshenbaum, Kathy Weiner, Helen & Tuffy Epstein, Rocky Stern & Dick Rochman, Barbara & Jerry Cohen, Tootie Simon & Sol Schwartz, Midge & Bill Bowers, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, Vicki Cohen, Bob Belgrade, Helen Rifkin, Margie Somberg, Phyllis Roffman, Renee, Dan & Ashley Corcoran, NJHS Board & Staff; Tom Steinberg from Kevee Kirshenbaum; Ben Kutler from Kevee Kirshenbaum; Art Stein from Tootie Simon, Helen Rifkin; Merrian Speigel from Helen Rifkin.

Birthdays: Harold "Bae" Epstein from Helen & Tuffy Epstein, Bob Belgrade, Kevee Kirshenbaum, Helen Rifkin, Debbi & Larry Josephson; Midge Bowers from Linda & Harold Mann; Ruth Greenberg Terman from Cyrille & Rabbi Jerry Kane; Dick Rochman from Marcia & Jack Cohen, Joanne & Jerry Freeman; Phyllis Rifkin from Helen Rifkin; Zoe Riekes from Midge & Bill Bowers; Larry Albert from Barbara & Jerry Cohen, Don & Marlene Dandy, Kevee Kirshenbaum; Ed Malashock from Kevee Kirshenbaum; Max Neiden from NJHS Board & Staff; Miles Remer from Kevee Kirshenbaum; Bettie Muskin from Kevee Kirshenbaum; George Shafer from Ellie Batt & Mark Sherman, Iris & Marty Ricks, NJHS Board & Staff Barbara Taxman from Mary Spicka; Sylvia Jess from Helen Rifkin; Charlotte Zipursky from Helen Rifkin; Lois Friedman from her family, Jeanne L. Rosenblum, Beverly Gendler, Midge & Bill Bowers, Debbi & Larry Josephson, Mrs. Lloyd (Joce) Mailer, Joaniek Terry Bernstein, NJHS Board & Staff; Bob Belgrade from Doris & Harry Alloy; Kevee Kirshenbaum from Helen Rifkin, Keith & Judy Josephson, Renee & Dan Corcoran, Barbara & Jerry Cohen, Jeanne Lipsey Rosenblum.

Anniversaries: Pete & Rhoda Milder from Kevee Kirshenbaum, Phyllis Weinberg; Iris & Marty Ricks from Marcia Kushner.

Special honors: Nancy Rampey Biniamow - Recipient of Alice Buffet Award from Kathy, Harry & Max Weiner; Reva Oruch from Aileen Rimmerman Kaye; Dr. Larry Roffman-Recipient of the Jewish Federation of Omaha's "Humanitarian of the Year" Award from Barbara & Jerry Cohen, Eileen & Leonard Jacobson, George Shafer, NJHS Board & Staff.

Recovery of: Midge Bowers from Cyrille & Rabbi Jerry Kane; Millie Bernstein from Phyllis Roffman; Phyllis Roffman from Helen Rifkin, Ronnie & Art Jacobson; Terry Bernstein from Tootie Simon; Gerald Gross from Bev Gendler; Harriet Singer from Ann Kaiman; Morley Zipursky from Helen Rifkin; Justin Cooper from Tootie Simon.

Births: Dayton Abramson from NJHS Board & Staff.

NJHS MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is to preserve the histories of the Jewish families who settled in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa. The NJHS will promote the acquisition, cataloging and use of the collected materials which depict this history by: participating in conferences; issuing publications to members and professionals; fostering research; and promoting museum projects and related education and cultural activities.

Supported by

OF OMAHA

NJHS Ge-nealogy-Glub



Steve Perelman, Lorrie Katelman and Janie Kulakofsky attend the NJHS Genealogy Club.

The Genealogy Club meets the third Sunday of each month in the NJHS Office at 1 :OOPM. If you have or ever wanted to trace your family history back as far as you can, the Genealogy Club can help.

Anyone interested in the fascinating world of ancestry is invited to attend. Volunteer counselors, a computer and software will be available to get you started. Contact the NJHS office for questions.

2012- 2013 NJHS Officers

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Treasurer: Don Dandy
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Founders: Mary Feilman & Oliver Pollak

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Assistant: Kathy Weiner

New NJHS Members

We gratefully acknowledge and welcome our new members.
Thank you for your generosity and support.

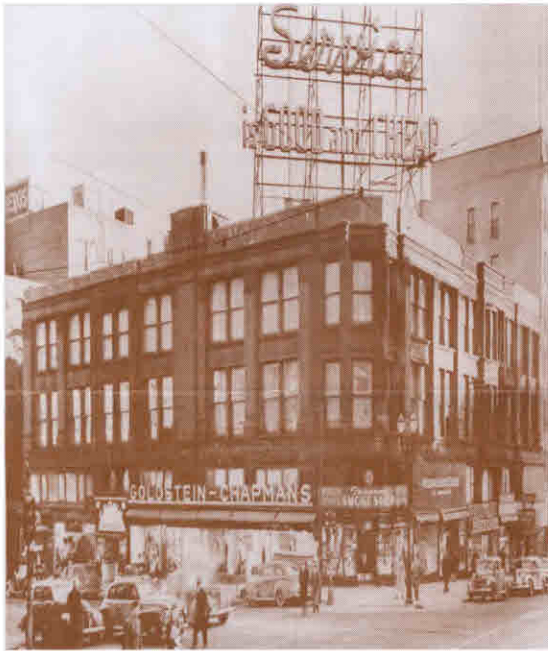
• Elaine Jabenis
• Miriam Brooks
• Arnold Garson

L'Dor V'Dor

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