

Interview with NATHAN GOLDBERG
August 18, 1976
By Mark Freidrich

Q. Could you start with a bit of biographical information and we'll just continue . .

A. I have lived in this home for the past 15 years and I was born and brought up in the city of Rochester. I come from a very Orthodox type of a background.

Q. Your father was a cantor?

A. My father was a cantor for many years. It was after a good number of years, it was an advocacy with him, since he started in business and he was doing comparatively well, so he, instead of conducting services at a fee or to be paid, he conducted services for many years, about 15 consecutive years, at a Jewish aged home. He was there for all the High Holidays and occasionally for some of the minor holidays during the course of the year. We have had a number of misfortunes in our family. I had a brother who at the age of 13 on his way to Hebrew School on May 29, 1927, was struck by a car and unfortunately passed away within a couple of hours. Shortly, just a few years after that, my brother Joe, may he rest in peace, about ready to be discharged from the service, on November 26, 1945, was struck by a truck at Camp Claybourne, Louisiana, and unfortunately, was killed instantly. So we have had more than our share of misfortunes.

Q. Where did you grow up as a child?

A. I was born on Hanover Street, the old Joseph Avenue neighborhood, and lived on Hanover Street until I was married, until 1941. At that time, my wife and I had bought a little home on Edgerton Street and we lived there about 4 years. Fortunately, we had our first two daughters on Edgerton Street, and we moved onto Vassar Street on January 1, 1946. My daughter Joan was born that year on June 30. We lived on Vassar Street until about 1962. Then we moved to 35 Monteroy Road. My daughter Susan, who is 34 now, was married on June, 1964 and my daughter Isabelle was married in February, 1972, and my daughter Joan was married in June, 1969. We have, thank the good Lord, 6 granddaughters and 1 grandson. My daughter Susan, who lives on Lawrence, Long Island with her husband Edward, are following along in the same tradition that we had then and sort of in a more than just a conservative type of religion. Edward adheres to many of the old customs and traditions and belongs to two different temples in his area. My daughter Isabelle belongs to the temple in Atlanta, Georgia and is rather active in the sisterhood there. My daughter Joan and her husband . . . Getting back to my daughter Isabelle, she has two daughters and a son who was just born on April 16 of this year. My daughter Joan is married to Neil Lissak and they live here in the city. They have one daughter, Miriam.

Q. So two of your children have moved away from Rochester.

A. Two of my children have moved away from the city and I believe it's on a permanent basis. I don't expect for either one of them to return to the city since fortunately they're doing very well in their new localities. Susan has lived in Lawrence for the past 11 years. Previous to that, when she was first married, she lived in Cedarhurst, Long Island, right outside of Lawrence. Isabelle is living in Atlanta, Georgia. My mother and father, we had a very closeknit family, and fortunately, we had our parents for a good number of years. I have two sisters and a brother, Dr. Hyman J. Goldberg who is with the University of Rochester. We were a closely

knitted family but lack of a mother, who passed away on September 5, 1972, and my father who has been a very highly respected gentleman in the city of Rochester since 1906, passed away on April 17, 1973. My father always attended for many years, services every morning. Be it winter or summer, at the 6:00 o'clock minions, and during their early years, if I remember that whenever there was a visiting rabbi or a visiting Jewish mashoa(?), there were always put up at our home. It seems as though each one would tell the other where they stayed so we always had a guest most all the time in our home. It was good experience. Mother really enjoyed knowing that some of these gentlemen were highly learned gentlemen. They had a place where they could have a clean bath, a Kosher meal, and some privacy in spite of the fact that we had small quarters with a large family, but there always seemed to be room for one more. My father, it seems so many times that when he went to the synagogue on Friday nights, he used to come home with someone, with some stranger, it was good experience to know that they were always trying to do something for someone else. My mother and father always lived in the Joseph Avenue neighborhood until my brother Joe, may he rest in peace, passed away in November, 1945. Within 30 days they just could not remain in the same quarters and so they moved on Edgerton Street and they were there for one year where they felt their place was on the Joseph Avenue area. They moved back from Edgerton Street and lived on Sullivan Street (57) for at least 8 or 9 years until conditions in the Joseph Avenue came to the point where some of the synagogues had to close and the shopping was a little difficult and all drifted down towards Irondequoit or Brighton. My father purchased a place up on 1599 Highland Avenue where they remained until they passed away. I remember when my father and mother were living on Hanover Street in 1943 when Joe was in the service. They thought they would surprise Joe because they knew shortly when the war would be over they would get away from Hanover Street as he himself would have liked to come back to some other quarters other than the old neighborhood of Joseph Avenue. My father bought a home on Westminister Road but unfortunately, when the news came that Joe had been hurt, he immediately didn't want to go into the home on Westminister Road and remained on Hanover Street. The house was sold at that time to Temple Beth El for the visiting, before the new rabbi who would have been Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg. I have always been active in Temple Beth El. I was President of the Men's Club for about 3 years. My wife Ruth, who was President of the Sisterhood of Beth El for 3-4 years. I was elected to the Board of Directors at Temple Beth El. We always enjoyed going to Beth El. It was a great delight after the children had grown up that we could walk to Temple on some of the Holidays. I felt very proud when I walked with a girl as we were growing up to temple and I always regretted being in the retail business that I was not able to attend services on the Sabbaths and it seems as though that Saturdays were always the busiest days in our business. I have been in the furniture business, and carried on the furniture business that my father, my brother Joe, and myself started or rather my father started and we joined in with him. I left school in 1925 and started to work with my father.

Q. This is in retail furniture?

A. Yes. We started off on Hanover Street in the mattress business. My father manufactured springs and mattresses with his brother back in 1911. They dissolved partnership in 1923. In 1923 my father went into the jobbing business with springs and mattresses. It was a little difficult because he was so undercapitalized and he found it rather hard to get started. When I left school in 1925 we were delivering with a horse and wagon and until I became of age where I was able to get a license, we didn't have any choice. We used a horse and wagon, and then at that time, we used a truck. We adhered to the Sabbath all the time until February, 1934 when we

bought a furniture store 78 North Street called the Furniture Market. We were in the furniture business from then on on North Street. Getting back to what I had mentioned before about not wanting, having to work on the Sabbath, I always felt that someday I was going to have to retire and be able to attend services every Friday night and Saturday of which I have done and have never missed a Saturday since June, 1973 when I sold my business. One of the reasons of selling the business was, well, there were a number of reasons for selling the business, but at that time I vowed that since I'm not going to be in a retail establishment, I'm going to be able to attend services. I travelled all over, being out West, Israel, New York, Atlanta, Florida, Canada, but when the Sabbath rolled around, we always went to services. Fortunately, with the exception of . . . being well, I attended services every Saturday since June 16, 1973.

- Q. When you were growing up on Hanover Street, I assume with you father being a cantor, that you did have a very definite Jewish education.
- A. My Jewish education was unfortunately not very long. It seems, I started to go to Hebrew School around when I was 5 years old. But when I became Bar Mitzvah on December 8, 1923, my Hebrew School training was all over with at that time. My father did have a rabbi in Rochester coming to the house on Fridays and Saturdays to try to teach us many of the Shohanorah(?) and most important about the Ethics of the Fathers that he found that there were certain aspects in our books that were more important and he always stressed that the Ethics of the Father and the rules were very important. I do remember that he would say in Yiddish _____, which actually means that a man does not have to be praying all the time to be a good person. He could be a good person without praying, although it was important. My father had a lot of idioms which I wish I could remember but they were all very educational and they seemed to always hit the nail right on the head. When my daughter was going with my son-in-law, Ed, and they were attending Boston University together, I can remember when Ed would visit with us during their courtship, he seemed to take to my father and my father took to Ed like a duck to water. Ed at that time came from a family that were fine Jewish people but not very observant. Ed was Bar Mitzvah but he didn't know much about the certain parts of the teachings. Whenever he came to the city, he would never neglect to go to services with my father. He seemed to enjoy going to services with my father. My father enjoyed it most immensely to go with him. My father corresponded with Ed and he would send him all kinds of books. The first set of books he sent him was on the Ethics of the Father and then he would send him some of the other books he would buy, books of Moses, etc. He was a studious, fine young man, and he would study these books and today Ed attends services very regularly and I think it was all because of meeting up with my father that this has all happened that way. I remember, too, when my children growing up, and we didn't have much in funds, however, they wanted to go to camp and my daughters all went to Camp Brimah(?) for six years. We enjoyed sending them there because it was a Hebrew speaking camp that they had all the outdoor life but they certainly had a good Jewish educational time and they would talk all types of parts of the Bible and to this day Susan and Isabelle and Joanie, who spent, each one of them, spent a summer in Israel, at different times, they always seems to meet people, and people that have reached great heights that they've gone to camp with. It was a great delight to visit with them for a weekend and I can look back at those years with much happiness.
- Q. Both you and your wife and all of your children have all been to Israel?
- A. Yes. All of my children have been to Israel and the fact of the matter is in January, 1974 Susan had just celebrated her 10th anniversary and my wife and I took Susan and Edward to Israel for a little gift. We had a great time together. The four of us flew to Israel and I must tell you about another experience I had which is most interesting. It seemed that Angelo's mom found out that we were

going to Israel and so he consulted with me that there was a new temple to start in Beth Sheppa and they needed a sacred Torah and he was able to get a sacred Torah. At that time, it was shortly after the Yom Kippur War, where a number of the Israeli soldiers did not have _____, and we made a drive and we collected 75 pairs of tfilm(?) and when we went to Israel Eddie and I, well Eddie carried the sacred Torah and I carried the tfilm on the plane and we had a great experience because when we told the purser of the plane that we had the sacred Torah and we didn't want to put it in the luggage department, he found a seat that was unoccupied and we strapped the sacred Torah into the seat and it seemed that a very fine, old Jewish woman was sitting next to the sacred Torah and she felt somewhat safer flying across the ocean with the sacred Torah next to her. We delivered the sacred Torah to the person who was going to take it to the temple in Jerusalem and we also arranged for a rabbi and he picked up the 75 pairs of tfilm and assured us they were going to the Gazza Strip to be distributed amongst the 75 men who were in need of tfilm. We thought that this was a special mission for us in delivering the sacred Torah to Israel and tofilm to the cadets out there. We had a great time. This was our second trip to Israel because we, our first trip to Israel was with our good friends Clifford and May Lovenheim. We went in October, 1967 which was only 3 or 4 months after the 1966 War. We were one of the very first people who were able to visit the Wailing Wall and a number of other places in Israel that were not available 3 or 4 months before then. I had been, I had unfortunately had a heart condition in September, 1966, and I was hospitalized for about 4-5 weeks and at home for about 1 month after that. Unfortunately, the same condition occurred in July, 1972 so I have tried to curtail too much activity around, during the span following those particular dates. I was always very active in Rochester. I can remember back in 1939,40,41, I was President of the Big Brother/Big Sisters Club which was an Alumni of the Jewish Children's Home. In those years we had an orphanage here in the city which had approximately 75-80 orphans and we did a lot of good work in just trying to help these orphans, these youngsters, in such a way that we could make it a little simpler for them to get by. We ran picnics, hot dog roasts, we went to ball games, and arranged for a gymnasium at the home and of course the big brothers and sisters was a very old organization, long before I became active in 1936-37 and we were active until about 1945 when at that time we just became inactive. But, we ran concerts, I was chairman for about 3 years of the Concert and Dance which was a social highlight of the Jewish community every year. We brought artists like Jan Pierce, Morris Rosenthal, and other great artists in that era.

- Q. The Jewish Home just disbanded . . .
- A. Yes. It just disbanded like all other organizations disbanded at that particular time. In those years, there might have been 6-7 large orphan asylums here in the city. There was a St. Joseph Orphan Asylum up on Andrews Street that had over 250 children. It was interesting that my father would always get the job of doing all the bedspring and mattress work. There seemed to be a relationship that my father had, it didn't make any difference whether they were Jewish, Catholic, or what but he seemed to get along beautifully and nicely with all of these people. We had a growing business but we had many interruptions with my brothers. Unfortunate interruptions when my brothers passed away, it just set my mother and father back any number of years. They were heartsick, heartbroken. When Joe passed away, I think it was only about 10 days before he was going to be discharged, we had planned so many things, and they were just shocked to no end. When the call came from the Red Cross one Monday morning, Monday late afternoon. I admire the gentleman who called my father. He was home and he just told him that if he was the father to, Mr. Goldberg was hurt in an accident and when my father called me at the store to come home right away that it was more serious than being hurt in an accident, he said you'd better call them right away and find out what it's all about. When this

gentleman told me, my father had only known by just checking with the expression on my face. At that time my brother Hyman was a Tufts University studying to be a dentist and we had to call him to come home. My sister was in New York City and we had to call her to come home. Because of these unfortunate incidents and some other incidents that have happened throughout the family, there seemed to be a lot of pressure on the family to surrender in spite of the fact that we were going along very nicely with the business. It had some drawbacks and . . .

Q. Did the firm remain on North Street?

A. The firm remained on North Street and we developed into an installment type of furniture store and it was the largest of its type in Rochester. We had about 17-18 people working with us and that particular, it was a specialized type of a business and fortunately, we did comparatively well. We always entertained a very good credit rating with our sources. We would never buy anything that we couldn't take care immediately and in June of 1973, with analyzing all the different pros and cons of either staying in business or going out of the business, we had no continuity as there were no youngsters that were going to follow into the business and many other cons and pros that we had the opportunity to sell out that we just sold out our business. I think that we did the wise thing. It certainly gave us some time to do so many things that we were not able to while we were in the business. My folks' sisters were connected with the business and they were there day in and day out just like I was and it was just a good thing to get rid of, to dispose of, in the way it was disposed. We had built enough of an equity there so that we could live comparatively well for the next few years.

Q. Since 1973 you've been retired.

A. We've been retired but we do have a number of pieces of real estate that I spend some time at trying to, trying to keep it out of the red. Back in February, 1974 I bought a place in Moye Hills, Florida. For the past two winters I've, we have spent four months of each winter down south and the rest of the time here at home.

Q. Since you grew up in the Joseph Avenue neighborhood, you've seen the entire change from the Jewish community to, I guess, a predominantly black neighborhood. What changes do you think have happened in the Jewish community with the dispersion?

A. Well, let's discuss Rochester in the 20's. Now, living around on Hanover Street which is parallel to Joseph Avenue, on Hanover Street there were 5 synagogues and Hanover was not a very long street. It was just so beautiful living on Hanover Street and you're one block from Joseph Avenue. There were a lot of trees on Hanover Street. Everyone kept up their little lawn and everyone swept the street in front of their house and all took pride in their own little place. Unfortunately, within there was an element that came in the late 30's, around our neighborhood there, that just made it a little bit difficult to survive or to live in the same conditions that you were living in up until then. It was rather difficult but we did have, in our neighborhood, many non-Jewish people, but they lived in the same way that we did. They were very careful, even the colored folks or the black people that lived in the neighborhood, there weren't too many of them but I would say that on Hanover St. there might have been 10-15 families living there then but they were very cooperative, clean, fine people. But a certain element started coming in after 1936 that just was just not the same type that were living around there then. Then there were some violence, some burglaries and I remember the time we lived on Hanover Street, we never had a key to our front door. Even when we went to bed at night, we just closed the door and that's all. There was always somebody at home when anybody would go away, so we would never leave the house alone but most every night we never even locked our doors, that's how safe we felt. But there seemed to be such a fast

transition after that, that we just had to make some changes. Of course, I married a young lady by the name of Ruth in August, 1941 and I knew that a year or so before that, that when I was married we would move out of the neighborhood. My mother and father had intentions of moving out but then the war came, Joe went into the service and we didn't know about Hyman, whether he would have to go into the service but since he was going to dental school they weren't going to bother with him. I was told to get a job at the defense plants in 1944-45 and in trying to take care of the business and 6-8 months I was working for the Wolinstein Brothers at the optical plant, grinding lenses. They just could not make any definite plans about moving away. They were just waiting until Joe got back from the service. My father was so on edge all through the war, especially when Joe was taken into the service, not knowing whether I was going to be drafted, didn't know whether Hyman would be drafted, that he would never think about moving. But he did buy a home on Westminster Road, hoping that when Joe got back that we would move into it.

- Q. Had your brother not been killed, your family would have moved away from the neighborhood?
- A. Yes. And if Joe hadn't been killed, it would have been a different world all together because Joe was such a dynamic person and he had so much ability and with Joe in the business, I was corresponding with Joe. I still have all of his letters going on about 31 years. We would have all types of plans rigged up to when he got back from the service. We were determined to do so many different things and unfortunately when he didn't return, all those plans were shattered.
- Q. Do you think there was an element of anti-semitism in 1964 riots on Joseph Avenue?
- A. I don't remember that. I remember the riots very well because it was on a Saturday morning and I ran the store up on North Street and they came within about 800-900 yards of the store. We were doing business at that time, there were about 60-75% of our trade was the black people. We just didn't know what was going to happen. We were rather concerned about all the places of business that was broken into and demolished during the course of a few days there. Then when it went up to the west side around Clarrison Street, and it came further up North Street. We were terribly concerned about what was going to happen. I think it had something to do with anti-semitism as well as some revolt against the white community. If it didn't have something to do with anti-semitism after all, there were so many stores on Joseph Avenue. I would say that our family actually thought seriously about leaving that particular neighborhood when I was first married in 1941-42 but there was just the war that held them up from moving from that particular neighborhood. We had a large building in 1954 that was directly across that street from where we lived. It was a three-story building and we had a tremendous fire there. It started on a Friday noon, and the Firemen were there until Monday morning. It was a tremendous loss. We just did not have enough coverage and we think that had something to do with, I wouldn't say anti-semitism, I would call it vandalism that took place in those particular years. We had enough confidence that we went ahead and got the building remodeled and taken care of and we moved back into the building after about 4-5 months. It was a traumatic experience for us. It was a heavy financial loss and it really drained us in getting the building back into shape.
- Q. I was wondering whether you agree that construction of the Hanover House, once the Hanover House was built, people really left the neighborhood.
- A. I would say that most people had left the neighborhood. I think the Hanover House went up around 1963, somewhere around there. I believe that all the people

had already begun to leave within a radius of 15-20 blocks of Hanover Street. Ryan Street was a very beautiful street. There was a synagogue on Ryan Street that was burned down in 1918, beautiful synagogue, and they remodeled the synagogue and the nicest part I can remember about that place was that they asked my father to sing the opening hymn when they reopened the synagogue. It was on a warm, sunny afternoon in 1920 and I was just a youngster at the time. They had an official choir from the large synagogue on Hanover Street and my father led this choir in singing. It was just the most beautiful sight. They were all such beautiful streets around there. Most everyone who live out in Brighton and Irondequoit, most all the families started out by living in the Joseph Avenue area.

Q. Do you think the Jewish community of Rochester has become less cohesive because of moving away from . . .

A. I don't think there was any other alternative, they just had to move. Because they became older, their children had grown, married, left most of them moved out of the Joseph Avenue neighborhood. The houses were becoming a little shabby, the streets, there were no more trees or lawns, and I think that they felt that they would have to have a much better place to live.

Q. You are affiliated with Beth El.

A. I have been affiliated with Beth El since 1941. I am treasurer of Beth Sholom, that's the orthodox synagogue, for the past 5 years and have been a member of Beth Sholom for a number of years. I contribute to B'rith Kodesh, that's the reform temple, because I am very fond of Rabbi Philip Bernstein. The fact of the matter is I have presented to B'rith Kodesh a number of fine items to their museum. One of the items was a 160 year old shofar that came from the _____ that my father was a member of and I gave it to B'rith Kodesh in memory of my mother and father. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Aged Home and Infirmary and I am in charge of the ritual committee. In fact, only yesterday we had a meeting where we had to meet with those particular men who are able to maneuver by themselves at the Home to try to persuade them to come services because we are having such a great problem having a minion(?) which we need for services every morning and every evening. That's unfortunate, but most of the men there are just not with us mentally and some physically, that they wouldn't want to come to services. Since I retired, I have been able to spend some time at the old aged Home, which I enjoy very much and also to help with the financial affairs of the Beth Sholom synagogue. I have been able to straighten out a number of items in their office by being treasurer. It's probably the largest orthodox synagogue in the city of Rochester.

Q. There's been some discussion, at least word of mouth, that the Jewish Home might move out where the Jewish Community Center is.

A. I think that's a little ways off. We've just gotten a go-ahead signal of building a new 100 unit apartment up towards the JCC. It sounds as though we're going right to work at it but there is a lot of preliminary work and the neighborhood down around the St. Paul way is really changing and not for the good. We have a large investment in a beautiful building down there but there are still a lot of people who find it to be afraid to drive down that way. I don't think, if I can make a prediction, I doubt that the Home will move within 10 years. I don't want to even say that it will be sooner because I don't know how they can arrange to move. They have a waiting list there now but at one time that place used to be a Home for the Aged but unfortunately, today it is a Home just for chronically ill people. Most of the people that are in the Home are bedridden or up in the air as to where they are not the same, how can I explain this,

that they are not the same people that when the Home started about 30 years ago. However, you ask about the Home moving. We have a tremendous Board of Directors at the Home, I think we have the representation of the finest minds, I don't know how I ever got there, but we have great people on the Board and fortunately they are financially well-off. They certainly don't have enough money to go out and buy the land around the JCC to build a new Home.

Q. Do you feel the JCC is located fairly centrally?

A. No. I don't feel it is located fairly central myself, no. I belong to the old JYMA since 1925. The fact of the matter is, I can remember back in 1929 when that drive for the new JYMA, but I helped on that drive back in 1929. I worked on the team that went out to get pledges and I remember working with Simon Stein, Saul Hyman, Morris Levinson, so many real fine old time people. The salt of the community, but unfortunately, most of them are no longer with us.

Q. If I remember correctly, when the JY was completed, physically completed, there had to be a drive to equip it.

A. Yes. We had a second drive, about 1931, I remember that very well. Simon Stein had contributed \$250,000 to start the building and then \$50,000 to equip it. That man . . . A professional campaign manager cost a lot of money then, but Mr. Stein took care of all of that. I remember back at the old JYMA, we had a little club there and a man by the name of Aron Rose, who was the assistant director there, was in charge of our club and Alfred Hart, who was one of the finest gentlemen who ever lived named our club Sohy's and that was the abbreviation of a book that Mr. Hart wrote later on, Society of Higher Ideals. It was very interesting. I played on one of the basketball teams there called the Clairmonts.

Q. The team played other cities?

A. No. We played other teams in the 120-150 pound class. That's how it was listed. The only time we went out of town, at that time Webster was out of town, we went to Webster, East Rochester, and it was most interesting. We had a fine bunch of fellows and Mike Kowal, Sam Stein, I can't think of anybody else.

Q. You said that your father came to Rochester in 1906?

A. My father and mother were born in Odessa, Russia. They were married there. They came to Rochester in the latter part of 1906. They landed in New York in the early part of 1900 and my mother was pregnant then with my sister Kate. She was born in New York City and the reason they came to Rochester was my father had a sister who preceded by about 4 months. Her husband was a carpenter and when he was at Ellis Island, he heard that Rochester needed carpenters so he came here. My father came to Rochester because they were here. My father moved down to Hanover Street at that particular time. He lived at Hanover until 1945, about September 27.

Q. During the time when you were growing up, there seemed to have been two Jewish communities, Russian Jews and German Jews.

A. Well, we didn't come in contact with anyone else but our own type of Jews. I don't really remember. If there were any German Jews they weren't in the Joseph Ave. neighborhood.

Q. Stuart Rosenberg makes a reference to Rabbi Bernstein's activities in bringing those two groups together.

- Q. Well, B'rith Kodesh was a beautiful synagogue and that was up on Gibbs Street. In fact, my father liked to go on Friday nights to B'rith Kodesh. People would criticize my father for going to a reform temple but he enjoyed listening to speakers and rabbis. So on Friday night after dinner, if there were no guests, we would walk together from Hanover Street to Gibbs Street but it seemed as though most of the people belonged to B'rith Kodesh lived southeast of B'rith Kodesh where we were north.
- A. So there was a residential difference?
- Q. Yes. Most of the people, there were 12 synagogues within a radius of 5 blocks. So there were plenty of synagogues.
- A. Do you feel Israel is essential to the survival of the Jewish people?
- Q. Yes. I do think Israel is essential for the survival of the Jewish people. I think it is important where I or my children will never make our home in Israel but I think it is important where we have a place where we can call our homeland.
- Q. Have you been a member of any Zionist organizations?
- A. Yes. I have been a member of Mitzrahei(?) for 35-40 years. That was my father. I have been a member of a Zionist organization for many number of years.
- Q. Have you held any positions?
- A. No. I have just remained a member. If I was asked to help in any way I would probably want to help.
- Q. What's your feelings about Israel? How have your perceptions of the United Nations changed?
- A. My opinion of the United Nations at this particular time is not very good. I feel as though about 5% of the members of the United Nations that has about 90% of the population of the world and about, then we have so many small little countries that seem to have a vote and there's got to be some other changes made where a country Uganda cannot be considered in the same category as France, England, or the United States.
- Q. Yes, it is a strange . . .
- A. Voting power, and all that sort of thing. I don't know why I mentioned Uganda, there are many other countries but that happens to stand out in my mind. Their indifference and that sort of thing.
- Q. You have 3 daughters?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did all of them marry Jews?
- A. All my daughters married all Jewish men and fortunately my daughters, there were always non-Jewish boys coming into the home occasionally, neighbors and chums, but they pretty well understood that if they were dating, they were only to date Jewish boys. It was sort of an unwritten law, let's put it that way.
- Q. I can take it from that that you are opposed to inter-marriage.

- A. Yes, I am. I am definitely opposed to intermarriage. I think the odds of people getting married that don't get along are much higher if they are intermarried. I think for the survival are far better . . .
- Q. Since you are knowledgeable of many religious elements here, what is your view of the future of the Jewish community here in Rochester?
- A. I think there will always be reform, conservative, and I am sure that there will always be an orthodox community. I think it's important that we have all three. Where we adhere in a conservative movement, I enjoy very much going to our orthodox services.
- Q. You attend services at B'rith Kodesh?
- A. I attend services at B'rith Kodesh only on Friday evenings about 6-8 times during the year. Their services are only during the wintertime and the fall and their services start from the High Holidays to Passover and part of that time now I'm down south. But when I'm in the city, on Friday nights, I enjoy going to B'rith Kodesh.
- Q. And you attend services at Beth El?
- A. Yes. I attend services at Beth El. I sort of change around. I go there one Saturday and go to Beth Sholom another Saturday, and about once a month I attend the services down at the old aged Home. But, I find that since I'm chairman of the Ritual Committee down there that it's important that I go down and see what's going on.
- Q. At one time there were residential restrictions upon Jews. Did those play any major role in residential patterns of Jews?
- A. Well, there was a section out in Strucbar that anyone Jewish would find it difficult to buy a house out there. But I think that was, that doesn't last. It seems as though houses were up for sale a few years later and Jewish people bought them.
- Q. You've never experienced . . .
- A. I've never experienced any restrictions. I've done a lot of traveling but, maybe because I've always felt as though as I'd like to stay and be amongst my own and never found it difficult. I go down to Grosinger's which is all Jewish, of course. I go there practically every year for the cantorial convention. The fact of the matter is I, my brother and I dedicated a manual for the Cantors Institute in memory of my father and mother. This manual was presented and my brother and I sponsored it. (Showed the book)
- Q. While you were here during the late 30's and 40's, was the Jewish community in Rochester fairly well aware of the persecution and the Holocaust?
- A. Yes. I think we were. I don't think there was enough done but we can't look back now. The only thing we can try to do . . .