



THE SER-CHARLAP FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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A PAKCIARZ ODYSSEY

by David Pack (2081, Pl. 32adb)

[Note: The Plate 32 series was previously the Plate 17c series]

I was born on October 14, 1909 in Wysokie Mazowieckie between Lomza and Bialystock, Poland. I was named for my great-grandfather David Shlomo (2072, Pl. 32a). His son, Reuven Shimon Pakciarz (2289) was married three times but I am descended from only one of his wives, Liebe (2290). My grandfather had a windmill and about fifteen acres of farmland. He supplied grain to the Tsar's army and was the richest Jew in Wysokie. After the Bolshevik revolution, there was a lot of unrest. My grandfather was already over ninety years old. For fun, the Cossacks shot him three times in the foot and left him to die. He fooled them and recovered. The only problem in future years was some arthritic pain. He was over six feet tall and lived until the early 1930's. He died at age 108. Despite his wealth, he never gave money to those who asked for it, telling them, "I want to preserve you as a friend." But he did contribute to communal collections. Reuven Shimon fathered six children. One of them was my father Shepsel (2292, Pl. 32ad), a tall good-looking man who was an excellent musician.

When World War I broke out, my father put his wife, Pesche (2296), and his whole family into a wagon and headed the horses east towards Russia. We reached Narewka, a small village on the Narew River where my mother's sister lived. She was married to a man who owned a water mill. They had seven daughters. A German pincer movement encircled the town. As the Russians retreated they burned everything to the ground. We all hid in underground bunkers and escaped harm. When we emerged we saw the utter destruction. My aunt and uncle had lost everything. When we returned to Wysokie, my parents decided to help out the family in Narewka. They took the oldest daughter to live with us. So Paya Mileschofsky (2495) became a member of our household. In 1915, my father was asked to join the Tsar's army as a musician. He played trumpet for the royal band. My mother followed him to his station in Helsinki, Finland. There she became ill from the cold weather and died in 1917. My father took Paya to be his wife in 1918 and they had two more daughters.

I was nine when my mother died. My mother's brother in Brainsk took me in for a couple of years and then I was sent to a Hebrew language secondary school in Bielsk. The fact that Hebrew was the language of instruction indicates that it was a "modern" school and had a Zionist orientation. After completing my studies I returned to my family in Wysokie but I couldn't get along with my cousin/stepmother and left for Warsaw where I was apprenticed to Winter Bakers. I remember that Winter's wife was very fat. Her brother recruited Jewish girls to be prostitutes in Argentina. At about that time, the army was after me. Despite his unsavory profession, Winter's brother-in-law tells me, "Why go into the military? They'll

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ruin you. You'll forget your trade. Worst of all, you'll disappear for twenty years. Listen to me. Be a man. On Pesach we'll close the bakery. You'll have time to visit your relatives in Bialystock, Semiaticzi, and the other *shtetlach*. Ask each one for some money and leave the country." I followed his advice and the relatives were very generous. I had enough to bribe the border guards and made my way to Danzig. From there I went to Koenigsberg, Berlin, and Hamburg. The pimp had told me there was more opportunity in Uruguay because Argentina was overcrowded with immigrants. I took a big steamer to Montevideo and found work as a baker. I also vended sandwiches on the beach. Working eighteen hours a day, I saved my money and ten months later sent for my sister Chana (2301). I brought my brother Isaac (2300) to Uruguay two years later. In 1933 I brought my father and two half-sisters. Paya had already left them for another man. My father was very dispirited. He loved her very much. Later she would send him letters asking for charity. She never saw her daughters again. My greatest achievement in life was rescuing my family before the Holocaust.

I was always facile in language and picked up Spanish easily. Today I speak Spanish, English, Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Italian, and some more. In 1934 I married Perla Beresofsky (2086) of Buenos Aires. We stayed together four years and had a daughter Inez (2501). In 1941 I wed Fanny Sommer (2088), my second wife. Two sons were born and after twenty years that marriage also ended in divorce. I was in a despondent mood. I sent my sons to live in Israel and took a year's trip around the world. I visited 37 countries and concluded with a three month stay in Israel which included the Bar Mitzvah of my youngest son Liber (2499). My older son, Sergio

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(Shepsel) (2500), named for my father, was already serving in the Israel Defense Forces, where he was known as Eitan (strong).

A *lantzman* named Kanowitz invited me to The Bronx to join him in a car wash business. So I was off to the USA. We built a successful business there. Another *lantzman* introduced me to Aida Margulis, who was to be my third wife. My sons rejoined me in 1963 but the Vietnam War was raging and cousin Jack Rosen (2308, Pl.32adc), who was an attorney, advised me that they were eligible to be drafted. Sergio told me, "If I am going to fight it will be for Israel, not in some dirty little war." I contacted my cousin Mario Pakciarz in Santiago, Chile and soon the boys were off again. I also wanted to leave and suggested to Aida that we make *aliyah* to Israel. She would have none of that idea. Things got acrimonious between us and we were divorced in 1972. I joined my sons in Chile. At first I was in the home restoration business but labor costs were prohibitive and I opened a wall paper and floor covering business. I'm still in it today. In 1976 I married my fourth wife Rosa Ventura. She was a lovely woman and we had a dozen years together but she died of cancer in 1988. In 1989 Perla and I remarried, so my first wife became my fifth.

But again, I am so happy that I was able to bring a good many of my family out of Europe. I had a younger brother, Yaacov (7331) who was training to be a *chaltz* (pioneer) in Israel. His lungs got infected from the cold, damp weather in Poland. I brought him to Chile but it was too late and he died in 1935. My father's brother David (2293, Pl.32ada), his wife Chaya (2297) and two of their children and many grandchildren were forced into the Bialystock synagogue and burned alive by the Nazis. David's thirteen year old son Zalman (8293) had been sent with the Kurlansky family to Israel. He assumed that name and volunteered for the British army. He fought bravely at Tobruk with many other Jewish troops. Captured, he was imprisoned in German-occupied Greece. Zalman somehow escaped and by foot and mostly at night made his way back to *Eretz Yisrael*. He now has a family and one son is named David (8298). We, survivors of 20th century madness, must insure that *Am Yisrael Chai*.

BELLA MEANS BEAUTIFUL

And Beautiful is the right word to describe Bella Elke Kizmacher (649,Pl.5aa). She is a vivacious, sensitive artist who is becoming a big name in the Israeli cultural scene. Bella and her brother Yitzhak (648) are the children of Chaim (643) and Sonia (646) who came to Israel as Holocaust survivors. Chaim managed a factory in Israel. He died several years ago. Sonia still lives in Haifa and loves to hear from the family, especially those who understand Yiddish. Chaim lost his first wife, his parents, and a brother during World War II. Bella is named for her grandmother (639), who was the wife of Yankel Kiejsmacher (635). Yankel was the son of Pinya Kiejsmacher (613,Pl.5) and Shayna (618), daughter of Moshe Ser (1288,Pl.8d). Pinya's parents were Mendel Kiejsmacher (611) and Chana Rifka Ser (609). The Ser and Kiejsmacher families are synonymous, so one can see how complex the relationships become. Furthermore Mendel's grandmother was Esther Elke Lewin (2965,Pl.B-1 & H-1) and Moshe's mother was Chaya Kopyto (1286,Pl.8). Of course, the Lewin and Kopyto families represent other branches of our tree. With such good genes, our Bella comes by her beauty naturally. But she has also worked hard to develop her talent. On July 17th a dual-city exhibition of her work opened in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Entitled "Constructs", it was extolled by Gershon Knipsel, curator of the exhibition. "Constructs" is actually a sequence of "close-ups" - a series of expanding "rangings-in" which assume shape after shape, without losing their uniqueness. All of us have had similar experiences in our childhood, whenever we peered into those magical optical toys called kaleidoscopes. Divided on the inside by half-mirrors, they reflected back at us a myriad of colors which formed glittering pictures, changing and endlessly renewing themselves, so long as we continued to revolve and shake the tube.

Bella eschews intermediary hues. Nor does she hesitate to use primary colors which look as though they had come straight out of the tube, without any preparatory mixing of pigments on the pallet. The balance is achieved through the agency of calligraphic flourishes of the brush, which carry her beyond the cool surfaces of the canvas into the warmer domains, and back again. Like eruptions of flowing incandescent lava which invades and engorges the precincts of the cool tonalities in her paintings; and juxtaposed to this, the stretches of blazing sand, swallowed by clumps of faded green grass. Projections in form, line, and marks of the brush in an uninterrupted movement, interpenetrating with one another to form a giant whirling maelstrom, on which, astonishingly, they also impose a new order that converts this inchoate mass into a work of art, balanced in a singular and distinctive fashion.

When we consider the process by which Bella was able to achieve such extraordinary control over this shifting ferment of movement and color, we learn that she initially preferred sculpture and pottery to painting. She trained at the Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem and at the Ein Hod School of Art. She also studied art at the University of Haifa and under some of the leading lights of the Israeli art world.

There are so many works which trace the process that resulted in these mature products, it was decided that her paintings should be shown simultaneously at the Engel Gallery in Tel Aviv and at Workshop 24/Beit Hayotzer in Haifa. In that way, the admiring public might obtain a full account of the diversity of means and processes which led to these, the artist's most recent "Constructs."

Bella is as enthusiastic about the family as she is about her art. She said that her father spoke about the history of the Ser/Kiejsmacher family. He maintained that they originally entered Poland by way of the Ottoman Empire. We had previously known that Eliezer Charlap had followed that route in, or about, the year 1600. The earliest Kiejsmachers we have discovered show up in Nur near the end of the 17th century. Perhaps their grandparents arrived in northeast Poland with the Charlaps. Indeed, they are Charlaps. The Ser (cheese) and Kiejsmacher (cheesemaker) names were arbitrarily taken in the early 1800s. They are descended from the same Eliezer Charlap.

Contact Bella Kizmacher at Workshop 24/Beit Hayotzer

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Beauty is a quality, not a form; a content, not an arrangement.

- *The Ethic of Judaism*

NEW ADDITIONS

Talia Miriam Atlas (8231,Pl.32aca) was born on April 10 in Morristown, New Jersey. She is the 4th child for Arthur (2355) and Deborah (2363) and the 15th grandchild for Rabbi Seymour (2253) and Beverly (2265) Atlas. Seymour's grandmother was Yetta Pakciarz (2127,Pl.32ac). Talia's father is a medical doctor and her mother is an attorney. The family lives in West Orange, New Jersey.

Nicole Danielle Bock (8445,Pl.2a), born July 13, is the 1st child for Joel (1596) and Esther (539) and the 8th grandchild for Julius (526) and Harriet (520) Koren. Harriet is the daughter of Anna Sier Wietschner (472), who now adores her 9 great grandchildren. The Bocks live in Forest Hills, New York.

Benjamin Ferris (8009,Pl.18c) was born on Feb. 22 in Beaverton, Oregon. He is the 2nd for John (1947) and Jan (1936) and the 3rd grandchild for Dan (1895) and Marcia (1893) Gikner. Benjamin's great grandparents are Velvel Simon (1872,Pl.18) and Sarah Mankuta (1864,Pl.19b). The family descends from the Tama clan on both the Simon and Mankuta sides.

Mark Stewart (Zvi Sender) Fingerhut (8248,Pl.3be) was born on June 10, the 2nd child of David (370) and Theresa (4145). Marvin (299) and May (295) Fingerhut of Schenectady, New York now have 4 grandchildren. May's grandmother was Sarah Ser (5,Pl.3), the daughter of the original Sender (1). The new baby inherits the name from Stewart (Sender) Miller (297) who was May's brother.

Samuel Adam Johnson (8227,Pl.8ab), 1st child for Tom (2521) and Gayle (1334), was born on April 14 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is the 3rd grandchild for Harold (1320) and "Yuppie" (1311) Shavin. Yuppie's father was Solomon Sir (1299), who was born in Nur, Poland and joined many of the Ser/Sir family who had emigrated to the USA and settled in Chattanooga.

Joseph Leib Liberman (8444,Pl.2a), born on July 27, is the 4th child for Aaron (541) and Sheryl (538). Joseph's genealogy is the same as for his cousin Nicole Bock (see

above). The Libermans live in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Dale Peterson (8446,Pl.3c) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 25. He is the 1st child for Curtis (1482) and Allison (64). Both parents are medical doctors. Dale's grandparents are Bob (51) and Hazel (52) Reichard and his great grandmother is Etta Sahr Reichard (38), who will reach her 98th birthday in November. Etta has one other great grandchild. Her father was Yitzhak Eizik (Max) Ser (Sahr) (7,pl.3) who emigrated from Ciechanowicz, Poland to New York in 1891.

Joelle Schindler (8469,Pl.17b), born Aug. 4, is the 1st for Ronny (2385) and Lauri (2383) and the 1st grandchild for Howard (1836) and Ronnie (1831) Levinson. Joelle's great grandparents were Kalman Mankuta (1787) and Yehudis Parczewski (1785). The Mankutas and Parczewskis are both branches on our family tree. Kalman's parents were Yankel Mankuta (1855,Pl.19) and Rachel Leah Tama (1852,Pl.18).

Samuel Emery (Shmuel) Ser (8225,Pl.8cb), born in New York City on April 3, is the 1st child for Warren (1669) and Diane (1677) and the 1st grandchild for Julius (1440) and Millie (1668). The new baby is named for his great grandfather Samuel who was born circa 1895 in Zareby Koscielnie, Poland. A few generations earlier, a cousin named Kopyto married in, thus joining two lines of our family. Warren is an architect and Diane a graphic artist.

MARRIAGES

Chancha Brill (768,Pl.4bb), daughter Of Mendel (573) and Sylvia (740), was married to **Alan Wieder** (8247) on June 1. Chancha's grandmother is Rose Brill (550), daughter of Meyer (548) and Chaya Faiga (546) Stein. Chaya Faiga was born in Nur circa 1888 to Baruch Pasternak (504) and Kayla Kur (503).

Billy Charlap (3787,Pl.A-6a) and **Sandra Levine** (8226) were married on June 5 at the Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston, New Jersey with Cantor Theodore Aronson officiating. Billy a jazz pianist has been called "the prodigy of the keyboard." He is the son of Sandy Stewart (3783), the

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PASTERNAKS : BAKERS +

A recent front page article in the New York Times extolled the virtues of the bagel. This chewy staple of New York life has rolled across America and is now the biggest rage in the fast food industry. Bagel purists are incensed because the new varieties are a far cry from the old "jawbreakers" of Jewish neighborhoods in The Bronx and Brooklyn. One traditionalist bemoans, "It's an outrage. No crust, no character, no nothing." But the Times pointed out that the new bagel has become big business and that's good news to Gail Pasternak Lozoff (4868,Pl.25) of the Kansas City area. Gail has a string of "Bagel and Bagel" shops. A photo of her Prairie Village, Kansas store was prominently featured in the Times article. She cannot turn out enough of her famous whole-wheat honey bagels to meet the demand.

Gail's expertise in the baking trade may be inherited. Her father Sam Pasternak (4852) operated the Cake Box bakeries, which were widely considered to be the finest in Kansas City. Sam was partners with his brother-in-law, the late William Hammer (4860). Sam's father Ben (Bertche) (4840) was a baker in Nur, Poland, as was Sam's uncle Jacob Pasternak (4843). They were the children of Pinchas Pasternak, who was the brother of Baruch (504,Pl.E-1), husband of Kayla Kur (503). Many of Baruch's descendants became bakers. His son Hanoch (556,Pl.4d), born in Grajewo in 1877 set up a bakery in Ostrow Mazowieckie. Hanoch's two sons, Ben Tzion (800) and David (801) were bakers. Both made *aliyah* to Israel where David continued in baking. So Gail is simply following a family tradition at Bagel and Bagel.

She is not the only one of her family to get recent press coverage. Sam Pasternak's new interest was the subject of a feature article in the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle. After selling his interest in the Cake Box bakeries over a dozen years ago, Sam formed his own insurance agency, Evary Insurance Systems. It became apparent to him that there was a need for a system to help consumers keep track of their coverage and benefits. Sam designed a system using a series of folders, together with instructions and a supply of record keeping forms. These one page forms allow for the tracking of bills and payment

records from insurance to final payment, whether the payment is made by Medicare, by the individual's supplemental insurance policy or by the individual directly. Sam has shown how his system can eliminate uncertainty and save a patient money by keeping close tab on payments and benefits. "By using our Insur-File system diligently, you know who paid for what and how you stand with each procedure." Insur-File is now sold through many retail outlets. Cost is about \$10.00 a kit. Sam also is marketing it to hospitals, banks, and even the insurance companies themselves. "They could use it as a premium item when they sell a policy." The Insur-File system is indicative of Sam's fine eye for detail and the care with which he executes decisions. In a way, it is the same skill which went into the recipes that made the Cake Box famous throughout the Midwest.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Sid Family's article "Old Country Memories" that appeared in our last issue provoked an outpouring of mail. Here are some of the comments.

Dad's story was fantastic. My book club has asked for copies. Thanks.

Lenore Rodman (210,Pl.3f)
Warwick, Rhode Island

Sid Family's story is truly amazing. I hope you'll publish the continuation in subsequent issues. He and I are both named for Sender Ser (1,Pl.1).

Seymour Menton (55,Pl.3c)
Irvine, California

An excellent newsletter. I can't wait to read what else Sid Family has to say. I'm eagerly awaiting your book on the family history.

Morey Sahr (21,Pl.3a)
Fairfax, Virginia

I'm a friend of a family member and get to see your newsletter on a regular basis. It's always interesting reading but Sid Family hit the jackpot with his sensitive, humorous account of his early years. And what an eye for history!

Aaron Goldstein
New York City

MARRIAGES (cont. from p. 4)

acclaimed cabaret singer, and the late "Moose" Charlap (3780), the Broadway composer. Sandra, a graduate of Parsons School of Design, is a freelance ceramic artist and decorative illustrator.

Robert (1675,Pl.8cb) and **Judith** (8224) **Kaplan** were united in November of 1992. Robert's parents are Joe (1444) and Helen (1442) Kaplan and his grandfather was Samuel Ser (1420). The newlyweds are making their home in the Miami area of Florida where Robert is involved in real estate.

David Levitman (50,Pl.3c) was married to **Peggy Friedman**(8230) on May 2. The ceremony was held at the Lotos Club in New York City. David is a pianist, graduate attorney, and a retired principal from the New York City school system. Peggy is an executive in women's fashions. David's parents were Louis (Billy) (36) and Anna Sahr (35) Levitman. His grandfather was Yitzhak (Max) Ser (Sahr) (7,Pl.3). The couple have homes in New York City; Woodmere, Long Island; and Madison, New Hampshire.

David Sahr (26,Pl.3a) and **Lori Millstein** (7901) were married in Washington, D.C. on June 20. The *chuppa* was raised in the National Cathedral School, where both are teachers. It was surely the first Jewish wedding on the grounds of the Episcopal cathedral. David's parents are Morey (21) and Sarah Diane (22) and his grandfather was Nathan Sahr (9) of Schenectady, New York. Nathan's father, Yaacov Eliezer ("Yankelflazer") Ser (Sahr) (3) was one of the first Ser immigrants to America.

David Ser (1670,Pl.8cb) and **Lillian Peralta** (8223) were wed in October 1992. David, an architect in the Miami, Florida area is the son of Julius (1440) and Millie (1668) Ser. Before that his genealogy is the same as Robert Kaplan (1675) (see above) and newly born Samuel Ser (8225) (see New Additions).

Whatever is great and good in the institutions and usages of mankind is an application of sentiments that have drawn their first nourishment from the soil of family.

- F. Adler, Creed and Deed, 1877.

OBITUARIES

Solly (Shlomo) Charlaff (7845,Pl.A-9c) died on March 31. Solly was born in Capetown, South Africa, the son of David Charlaff (7838) and Jane Epstein (7842). David was an artist and printer from Slonim who emigrated to South Africa circa 1920. Solly was one of five children. He was married to Sybil Slome who had died in 1985. They had three children, Jennifer Levy (8046) who died in 1985 at age 40, David (8047) and Suzanne (8048).

Ann (Chana Esther) Fishman (1892,Pl.18c) died on March 2 just shy of her 79th birthday. She was born in Poland to Velvel Simon (1872) and Sarah Mankuta (1864). Velvel's line goes back to Yisrael Tama (1849,Pl.18) and thence to Leml Tama (2092). Sarah Mankuta's parents were Yankel Mankuta (1855) and Rachel Leah Tama (1852). Ann lived in The Bronx, New York. She leaves her daughter Marilyn Blatt (1930) and her son Steven (1931) and four grandchildren.

Al (Avraham ben Menasha) Golden (1133, Pl.7f) died on April 17. A pharmacist, born in Brooklyn on Jan. 11, 1912, Al moved to Wilmington, Delaware where he met his wife Ada Kuhr (1132). They were married in 1944 and continued to live in Wilmington where they raised their daughter Marcia (1144). Al is survived by Ada, Marcia, and three granddaughters.

Larry Jaben (1562,Pl.11aa), husband of Diane Daniels (1560), died suddenly on April 18 at age 64. The Jaben name is derived from the Grzebienarz family of Ciechanowiec. Larry had mentioned that this family might be related to the Ser/Kur lines. Larry had owned the L.R. Jaben Investment Co. in Kansas City for 40 years. He was a 1950 graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law and was a member of the Missouri Bar Association. He was active in B'nai Brith and the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy. He also served on the board of directors of the Beth Shalom Congregation and directed its Sabbath Ushers' Committee. He was a volunteer for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for abused and neglected children and received its community service award in 1985. He was a

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CHARLAP NIGHT AT THE "Y"
[Thoughts Evoked By a Stimulating Family and Cultural Experience]

by David L. Hurwitz (4062,Pl.a-3ab)

I live on the Upper East Side of New York City, not far from the 92nd Street Y, a Jewish community landmark. There we hied on Wednesday evening, July 21 for the 2nd concert of the "Jazz in July" series, with our own Dick Hyman (3716,Pl.A-3) as artistic director. Packed house, including balcony. Stepping in front of the curtain, Dick greeted the audience, noting that this was his 9th summer festival at the Y and thanking his fans for their loyalty. He didn't have to thank us - none would dream of missing this annual event, a highlight of New York's summer glamour.

It was truly Charlap night at the Y. First of all, Dick's "real" name is Charlap - he is one of those aristocratic members of our extended mishpocha boasting an unbroken line on the male side all the way back to Abraham Charlap (2153,Pl.A) and Mrs. Abe (2154). (One of these days Arthur is going to trace her first and maiden names). I'm not being sexist - just reporting. Look at me, for instance. It is true my maternal grandmother was a Charlap, Dinah (4019,Pl.A-3). My mother described her, in a published memoir, by recounting that "In the near-by village of Mariampole there was a pretty seventeen-year girl" who caught the eye of the matchmaking older sister of the young man who was to become my mother's father. "She was slender, with soft black hair falling in natural waves, and with a clear, fair complexion and gentle green-brown eyes. She was bright and industrious; she not only helped her mild-mannered father [Yosef Zev Charlap (3159,Pl.A-3)] in his onerous task of running a *cheder* but had learned and practised the trade of making *sheitels*, those wigs pious Jewesses donned as soon as they were wed." Yes, my grandmother Dinah (Minnie) was a Charlap, but then she wed a Sapinsky, and my mother, in turn, married Henry Hurwitz (4061). So I always have to go into a long *megillah* to explain why I can claim to be a Charlap.

Not so with Dick Hyman, because Hyman is simply a derivative of Charlap. It was his grandfather (Dinah's brother) Abraham Chaim Charlap (3712,Pl.A-3), scholar and writer in Hebrew and Yiddish, who reversed his middle and surnames, and Chaim became Hyman. If it weren't for that switch, Dick's name would be Charlap. Note that Dick's brother Arthur (3717), a psychology professor at the University of Southern California, refers to himself as Charlap-Hyman. Dick's son retains Charlap as a middle name and that tradition has been passed on to Dick's little grandson Adam Charlap Hyman (4366).

But back to the big night at the Y. A spectacular performer in this unforgettable concert was our rising young star of the jazz world, Billy Charlap himself! And now we move away from the Yosef Zev and Yehuda Leib Charlap (3148,Pl.A) line and over to Yehuda's brother Zev (3146), because that's Billy's line, Zev being his 4th great grandfather. What a proud line Billy can boast! - through Zev's son Gaon Ephraim Eliezer Tsvi Hersch (3169, Pl.A-2), rabbi of Stuchin and then Mezritch. That patrimony was not on his mind when he presided at the piano and held his audience enrapt. What virtuosity, improvisational talent, class! He also happens to be a handsome young man, befitting a star. No wonder the audience loved him. Early in the concert, he and Dick played dual pianos, in which Dick seemed to let his young protege set the pace and style of development. He looked on from the other keyboard with a suggestion of a smile and effortlessly matched the drive and mood of Bill's tour de force. At the thrilling climax the audience exploded in the first of several ovations that evening.

I was itching to ask people on either side, "What do you think of my cousins, eh?", but controlled myself and reveled secretly in my family pride. Afterward, in the art gallery off the lobby, I was among the admiring throng greeting the performers. Dick's wife Julia was present, looking her lovely self, and I reminded her and Dick of her phone call a few years back when she was inquiring into family relationships. In my ignorance I had asked, "What does Dick do?". The reply was, "He's a pianist." "Well," I commented to Dick, "You sure played piano tonight." Then I spotted Bill embracing a most attractive lady, and thought small wonder, he's the darling of every woman here. On approaching them she notified me good naturedly, "I'm his mother." Of course, it was Sandy Stewart (3783), the superb singer and widow of Bill's talented father "Moose" Charlap (3780). I was happy to meet her for the first time. I said to Bill, "I've put together a large family chart based on cousin Arthur Menton's

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CHARLAP NIGHT

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research, highlighting your blood relationship to Dick, to Arthur, and to me. If you'd care to have it as a token of my appreciation for your music, I'd be delighted." I handed him the mailing tube in which was rolled the four feet wide computer printout. Some young people are bored with family relationships, but to my happy surprise he was sincerely grateful, saying it was thoughtful of me, and exhibiting genuine interest and enthusiasm over this family touch. That made the evening for me. The years dropped away (Dick and I are of Billy's grandfather's generation) and we were all Charlaps together, with differences in age being of no consequence. That's as it should be.

OBITUARIES (Cont. from p. 6)

volunteer in the Russian resettlement program of Jewish Family and Children Services. He was among the first in Kansas City to work for the welfare of Russian Jews. Many owe their livelihood to him. Larry was a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area. In addition to Diane, he is survived by two sons, Seth (1565) of New York City and Steve (1566) of Littleton, Colorado, a daughter Marcia Holtz (1567) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and three grandchildren. Diane is the daughter of Sam (1558) and Esther Kur (1556) Daniels and the granddaughter of Enoch Velvel Kur (1542) and Zelda Smolarczyk (1546).

Lawrence Katz (8184,Pl.A-9d) died in January at the age of 39. Larry was the husband of Beverly Cohen (8177) who survives him. Beverly is the great granddaughter of Simon Charloff (Charlap) (7839). Simon emigrated to Capetown, South Africa from Slonim. Many on this branch of the Charlap family took the same path and there is a substantial family community in South Africa.

Sarah Merel Krantz (2698,Pl.20e) died on March 17 at the age of 96. She was the widow of Joseph Krantz (2697). Sarah was born near Kossowa, Poland to the Petrushka family in 1896 and came to America in 1927 to join her husband. They settled in Kansas City where they raised three outstanding

sons: Harry (2699), Manuel (2700), and Alex (2701). Joseph's mother was Golda Smolarczyk (2620,Pl.20), daughter of Itche (2614) and Dinah Rivka (2615) Smolarczyk. Dinah Rivka may be a family member. We are probing that possibility as part of the Kwiatek investigation. In addition to her sons, Sarah is survived by nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Sarah Esther Migdal (1421,Pl.8c) died in April. Just a few months earlier she had attended our family reunion in Tel Aviv. Sarah was born circa 1909 in Poland. She emigrated to Argentina with her husband Yitzhak Migdal (1424). The Migdals are possibly members of our family. Three children were raised in South America but the family subsequently made *aliyah* to Israel. Her oldest son, Moshe (1427), had predeceased her, but Sarah is survived by her daughter Judith Livne (1425) and her son Julio (1426), as well as five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

George Rappoport (7683,Pl.A-14ab) died on May 25. George's wife, Elsie (7680), is the daughter of Minnie Charlip (7598), who was born in Lechoviczi or Baronoviczi and emigrated to America at age 16. Minnie's father was Eliyahu Charlap (7567,Pl.A-14a), a Hasid and religious scholar. In addition to his wife, George is survived by two daughters and two grandchildren.

Abram L. Sachar, acclaimed author and historian and first President of Brandeis University, died on July 24 at his home in Newton, Massachusetts. He was 94. Abram was the driving force in the development of Brandeis University into a major research university. It is a non-sectarian university sponsored by the American Jewish community. When he took charge in 1948, Brandeis was a fledgling school in Waltham with a handful of empty buildings. It started with 107 students and 13 faculty members. Over the next 45 years, Abram raised more than \$250 million. Enrollment increased to nearly 4,000 and the faculty numbers 450. Abram's parents were Saul Shacor (Sachar) and Sarah Abramowitz. Sarah, born in Jerusalem, was really a Shacor. Her Father was Dov Ber Abramowitz (Shacor), a founder of the *Mizrachi*

(cont. next page)

MIZRACHI HONORS

The Religious Zionists of America (*Mizrachi Hapoel Hamizrachi*) celebrated the 26th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem at their annual national banquet. Guest of honor was our own Rabbi Zebulon Charlop (3742,Pl.A-4a). The official statement read: "Rabbi Charlop is the distinguished Chairman of Mizrachi's *Vaad L'Chizuk Hatorah*. In this capacity Torah lectures by leading *Roshei Yeshiva* on issues of Torah and Israel took place in various communities. He is the noble son of the famous Rabbi Yechiel Mikhael Charlop (3736), leading Rabbi and Torah Scholar, and the grandson of Rabbi Yaacov Moshe Charlop (3730,Pl.A-4), who stood at the helm of *Yeshiva Mercaz Harav* from its inception.

Rabbi Charlop received *Smicha* at the *Yeshiva Rabbi Isaac Elchanan*; he is a graduate of Yeshiva College. He received a Master of Arts Degree from Columbia University in American History. Rabbi of the Young Israel of Mosholu Parkway in The Bronx, he returned to Yeshiva University more than 20 years ago serving as Instructor in Talmud and Lecturer in American History. He was appointed Dean of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1987.

Rabbi Charlop was the Chairman of a distinguished international committee marking the 50th anniversary since the passing of Rabbi Kook in 1986, with an impressive series of events. He has been President of the Council of Young Israel Rabbis, and he has authored many original studies in *Halacha* and Jewish thought.

Representing the character and continuity of Religious Zionist leadership, it is a privilege for us to honor Rabbi Charlop."

Regarding the death of the great Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, the Associated Press quoted Cousin Zebulon, "I don't think there was any rabbi, certainly in our century, who has had a greater impact upon Orthodox Judaism in America. His teaching style was electric. The man was absolutely creative at every moment . . . he was equally at home in the works of Shakespeare, Kant, and the laws of nature, as with the deep-welled springs of Jewish tradition and learning."

OBITUARIES (cont.)

Religious Zionist movement. Her mother was Miriam Charlap. The Shacor family is intertwined with a major branch of the Charlaps. We are trying to sort out the exact relationship and will add Abram Sachar's line to the family tree, where they rightly belong. Abram was born in New York City in 1899. The family moved to St. Louis when he was seven. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington University and a doctorate from Cambridge University in England. He was a pioneer in building the Hillel Foundation and served as its national director from 1933-1948. Abram is the author of many books, most noteworthy is the monumental "A History of the Jews." He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Thelma Horowitz, and two sons, David B. Sachar of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey and Howard M. Sachar, of Kensington, Maryland. A third son, Edward, predeceased him.

VOYAGES TO FREEDOM

In conjunction with the quincentennial commemoration of the expulsion of Spanish Jewry in 1492, Congregation Gates of Heaven in Schenectady, New York presented an exhibit depicting Jewish life in Latin America, the beginnings of which go back to the discovery of America. "Voyages To Freedom" opened on *Shabbat Hagadol*, April 2, the Sabbath preceding Pesach. The exhibit opening was introduced by a pulpit dialogue between Raquel Vinick (134,Pl.3ec) and Rabbi Bloom, leader of the congregation. During the discussion, Raquel discussed our family history and how her father happened to emigrate to Argentina. Yehoshua Ser (128) left Ciechanowiec, Poland early in this century. He followed the Baron de Hirsch movement which aimed at resettling Jews on the land. The rabbi "sung the praises" of Raquel and her husband, Ted (135) for all the wonderful social work they have done for the Jewish community. Raquel recently retired from the professorial ranks, having taught Spanish for many years at Union College. Ted is a 1943 graduate of Union. This May he was honored with the Alumni Gold Medal in recognition of his leadership in working for the college.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY . . .

200 YEARS AGO: Esther Elke Lewin (2965, Pl.H-1) was born, the daughter of Chaim (3920) and Shayna (3921). Her brother Aaron (3895) married a cousin Raizel Ser (3894, Pl.A-1c) and she herself married within the family, to Lazer Podkowa (2964, Pl.C-1). She had 11 children before she died circa 1856. These Podkowa/Lewin children married Sers, Lewins, Podkows, and Kiejsmachers and all the progeny are on our family tree.

150 YEARS AGO: Ayzyk Tama (3061, Pl.F-1) took as his bride Chinka bat Yankel Lin (3064). The wedding took place in Czyzewo where Chinka was born in 1822. Ayzyk, two years younger than his wife, was a tailor. His parents were Bendel and Sora of Tymianki Bucie. The new couple had at least six children.

Twin boys were born in Ciechanowiec to Moshe (6402) and Raizel bat Yitzhak (6404) Lew. The babies names were Lazer Mikhael (6405) and Yitzhak Wolf (6406). We have found no other mention of them.

Boruch Kopyto (6916, Pl.J-1) was born in Nur on June 15. He was one of four children of Moshe (5556) and Toba (5562).

Shayna Kiejsmacher (3967, Pl.B-1) was born in Nur on Nov. 6 to Haskel Kiejsman (2971) and his wife Faiga Leah bat Lazer (2972). Haskel was born circa 1810 and is listed as a clothmaker. He had six children. Shayna's brother Mendel (611) married his cousin Chana Rivka Ser (609) and gave rise to a large family.

Jospe Golomb (3991, Pl.1aa) arrived on April 4. Born in Nur, she was one of five children of Matys Haskel Golomb (3986) and Sura Kur (3021). After Matys died, Sura married Boruch ben Avraham Tachno (3987) and had five more children. She was 15 at her first marriage and 26 for her second. Sura was born in Nur on April 4, 1820.

100 YEARS AGO: Sarah Goldstein (4492, Pl.21a) was born on Dec. 27. She was really a Lew to the 2nd power. Her father was Pinchas Beryl Lew (4478) who married his cousin Esther Malka Lew (4479). The family lived in Ciechanowiec where Pinchas was a tinsmith. They emigrated to America and settled in Indianapolis. Sarah married Abraham Hersch Brown (4504), had a son and daughter. Each had three of their own and the result was nine great grandchildren of Sarah.

Ruth Minda (5457, Pl.A-10) arrived on June 19. Her father was Chaim Leib Minda (5450) a merchant from either Suwalk or Vishnitz. His mother was a Charlap. Chaim came to America in 1889 and settled in Kansas. Ruth was born in Argentine, Kansas. She married Joseph Berlau (5464), had two children and six grandchildren. Ruth died in 1987.

Moshe Harloff (7861, Pl.A-9b) was born 100 years ago to Yaacov Charlap (7859) and Faiga Chana Belouze (7860). The family had lived in Suwalk Guberniya in what is now southern Lithuania. Many moved east to Slonim. Moshe married and spent considerable time in *Eretz Yisrael*. He had two children. His daughter Perela (7910) lives in the Gilo section of Jerusalem and his son Grisha (7909) lived in Moscow. There are three grandchildren and two great grandchildren of Moshe. He eventually left Israel for Tiblisi, Georgia where his brother Yehezkiel (7864) was Chief Rabbi. Moshe died in that city in 1982.

THE SER-CHARLAP FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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