

*Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association*

נמילות חסדים

BUFFALO, N. Y.



1897 - 1947

*50th Anniversary Dinner*

December 7, 1947

Hotel Statler

Buffalo, N. Y.

# History

“GEMILATH CHESED”—the Biblical precept of free loan—has been faithfully followed by devoted men and women in Buffalo for half a century. It is the story of thousands of men and women—who, in moments of distress—have been able to find help—and to help themselves—by means of a loan that could be accepted without loss of human dignity or self respect.

The principles of free loan societies existed long ago among Jewish communities and had become highly developed in Europe where the economic standard was so low that free loan societies were the very backbone of the existence of many men and women in those lands.

In May, 1897, a group of devoted Jews gathered at the home of Sol Rubenstein at 267 William Street, Buffalo, New York, and discussed the need and means of organizing this Society. Included in this small group of individuals were Morris Balber, Harry Harriton, Aaron Cohen, Morris Pincus, Morris Diamond, Jacob Rosing, Isaac Feldberg, Sol Rubenstein and Morris Shapiro. The following were elected as officers: Sol Rubenstein, President, Morris Diamond, Secretary and Morris Pincus, Treasurer.

This Society grew with the years, and, as it flourished, its achievements became a force for good in the Jewish community of Buffalo. Its purpose, primarily, was to help the new American, but as the years passed, it began to serve, as it has now been doing for many years, men and women of all walks of life, of every race and creed.

A special need, or some pressing problem for which ready money was the only solution, and for which they could ill afford to pay the interest rates, has brought to our offices people from every part of Buffalo.

The procedure for obtaining a loan is simplicity itself—the applicant makes his request, fills out the loan form and is asked to furnish the names of three endorsers to his note. The amount of the loan has been increased until at present we are able to loan up to the sum of \$300.00 to any individual borrower. We charge NO INTEREST, nor do we make any SERVICE CHARGE.

The Society is served mainly by a group of voluntary workers who check upon the financial responsibility and character of the endorsers. Summer or winter, these workers are available, so that a person in distress can receive prompt assistance.

The basic principle behind the Gemilath Chesed is to help people to become self-supporting and to sustain those in danger of losing their economic independence. The aim is solid citizenry and not charity. Many are the clients of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association who have since become its financial supporters.

In the past decade, the Society had a new class of applicant—the victim of Nazi oppression. Funds were required for tickets, for security deposits on visas, and, then, a start along the path of the new life in a free country.

Funds were raised from donations, dues, picnics, moving picture ventures, and many times by loans made by the Society from a bank or from individuals. For a number of years the Society borrowed heavily in order to attend to the needs of its clients.

The policy of the Society in the future is to confine its fund raising activities to dues and donations. The Life Membership Fund is to be the goal of the directors in the immediate future. A Life Membership is created by a donation of \$100.00 or over and it entitles the donor to an inscription on the bronze tablet on the walls of the Society, the inscription of his or her name in the "Golden Book," and to Life Membership in this Association.

The net worth of the Society as of the beginning of this year was \$48,070.92.

We enlist your support of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association,—  
"Gemilath Chasodim," which according to the elder Jacob H. Schiff, "is the noblest and most elevating form of philanthropy."

# . . . Officers . . .

## of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

MEYER SHAPIRO .....	<i>President</i>
ALEX YENOFF .....	<i>1st Vice-President</i>
ABE MILLS .....	<i>2nd Vice-President</i>
HYMAN FRADIN .....	<i>Treasurer</i>
SAM H. FREEDMAN .....	<i>Secretary</i>
TOBIE E. WEISS .....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
MAURICE YELLEN .....	<i>Attorney</i>

### *Directors*

Sol Rubenstein, *Honorary Director*

✓ Arthur Bengart  
 Morris Bergman  
 Meyer Cohen  
 Louis Cohn  
 Charles Etkin  
 Benjamin Fradin  
 Hyman Fradin  
 Samuel H. Frank  
 Max Freedman

Sam H. Freedman  
 Julius Goldman  
 Morris Horowitz  
 D. Sloan Hurwitz  
 Hyman Kahn  
 Max Kantrowitz  
 Theodore Kotok  
 Isaac Manch  
 Abe Mills

Hyman Pitnitzky  
 Meyer Shapiro  
 Hyman Siegel  
 Isaac Slepian  
 Sam Sugarman  
 ✓ Ralph J. Werblow  
 Maurice Yellen  
 Alex Yenoff  
 Louis Zarin

### *Past Presidents*

Sol Rubenstein  
 \*Morris Pincus  
 \*Louis Buxbaum  
 \*L. H. Miller  
 \*Charles Polakoff  
 \*Jacob Rosing

\*Isaac Smith  
 \*Aaron Cohen  
 \*Israel Swados  
 Samuel Davis  
 \*Louis Balber  
 Jacob Rosenfield

Meyer Hyman  
 Joseph Shelman  
 \*Max Fagin  
 Morris Singer  
 Max Freedman

\*Deceased.

### *Committees*

#### Dinner

Charles Etkin

Maurice Yellen

Chairmen

#### Life Membership

Sam H. Freedman  
 Chairman  
 ✓ Arthur Bengart  
 Morris Bergman  
 Benjamin Fradin  
 Louis Cohn  
 Meyer Cohen  
 Hyman Fradin  
 Max Freedman  
 Julius Goldman  
 D. Sloan Hurwitz  
 Abe Mills  
 Isaac Slepian

#### Dinner Program

Charles Etkin  
 Chairman  
 Max Freedman  
 Morris Horowitz  
 Meyer Shapiro  
 Abe Mills  
 Theodore Kotok  
 Alex Yenoff

#### Program

Samuel H. Frank  
 Chairman  
 Max Freedman  
 Co-Chairman  
 Max Kantrowitz  
 Theodore Kotok  
 Alex Yenoff  
 Louis Zarin

#### Ticket

Morris Horowitz  
 Chairman  
 Hyman Kahn  
 Abe Mills  
 Hyman Pitnitzky  
 Hyman Siegel  
 Sam Sugarman  
 ✓ Ralph Werblow  
 Louis Zarin

#### Publicity

Meyer Shapiro  
 Chairman  
 Charles Etkin  
 Isaac Manch

RECORD OF LOANS MADE BY THE  
HEBREW BENEVOLENT LOAN ASSOCIATION

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Loaned</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Loaned</i>
1924-1927*	66,518.11	1938	68,533.75
1927-1928	36,368.95	1939	70,591.00
1928-1929	30,874.15	1940	70,941.15
1929-1931	47,312.21	1941	64,372.35
1931-1933	63,358.75	1942	47,750.02
1933	33,535.10	1943	32,955.00
1934	54,655.53	1944	23,525.00
1935	67,089.25	1945	24,035.00
1936	69,279.00	1946	30,876.00
1937	79,722.67	1947—9 months	40,740.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,023,032.99</b>

\* Records prior to 1924 not available.

December 7, 1947.

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*We thank all of our friends for their kind co-operation  
and for helping us celebrate our 50th Anniversary.*

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association  
1124 Prudential Building  
Buffalo 2, N. Y.

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