

Landsleit and Landsmanschaften

A landsman is someone from the same home town, or even country, "on the other side." Landsleit is plural. A Landsmanschaft is a Jewish mutual aid society formed by immigrants from the same villages, etc. They were a spontaneous phenomenon arising out of the common needs of immigrants. At their peak, there were 6,000 different ones in New York.

The newly arrived chipped in for burial funds, providing aid to a sick friend, a place to worship. They arranged for interest-free loans, and provided a social focus.

This family was no different than any other - we were represented in several landsmanschaften.

The most significant to all branches was the Pereyaslav Shul, which later became the Pereyaslav Society.

This organization was started in 1891 by a group of immigrants who came from the town of Pereyaslav, Russia, and settled on the lower East side of New York. They needed each other, and thus formed the organization. After a few years, most of them moved to the East New York section of Brooklyn. Approx. 1918 they purchased an old one-family gray wooden house which they made into a synagogue. This was located at 247 Snedicker Ave., near Sutter Ave. That's where they started. That synagogue was their whole life.

Everything they did concerned the synagogue. They used to make parties there. They used to have meetings. In those days, they used to meet every week, Saturday night was a big thing. On the best days they used to get 400 people down here. That's when the Jewish people all lived in their own areas and people that knew each other and landsleit all congregated there.

Esther A. , who lived around the corner, at Sutter, went to this shul. Her son-in-law, Frank W. , who shared the duplex, was born in Pereyaslav. So her attendance was probably a combination of convenience and his association. Even more important, her cousin Aronowitz was one of the founding members, as his family was from Pereyaslav. He brought his father Leib from Russia, who performed as the shamus, and lived above the synagogue. All the grand-children remember visiting Esther A. and Nathan A.

and the Aronowitz's while they davened. Nathan M. , grand-son of Leib, was born at 247 Snedicker, and played at the shul for four years.



In 1929, at the height of the depression, they went ahead and decided to build a brick building. Money was donated, and they did it. They had the guts during the depression years to build a synagogue, and it was a beautiful building. There was a big party room downstairs. They didn't do things like they do today with a big catered affair somewhere. Phil Auerbach remembers helping open this building.

The kids used to run around and play outside or inside, and the meetings were going. They didn't leave us at home. They didn't have such things as baby sitters in those days.

About 47 years ago (1946) the members began moving away from the area and still maintained their association with the society, which used the basement. The neighborhood changed drastically and about 30 years ago the synagogue was sold.

The society continues to exist as a fraternal organization and a burial society. Burial plots are provided for members and their children. In the past 25 years, the group has become more socially oriented. We run weekends at mountain resorts, theatre parties, trips to Atlantic City, etc. These functions are subsidized in part. The society has grown over the years, whereas most organizations of its type have become extinct.

May 10, 1980 we celebrated their 90th anniversary.

Our aim is to have this society go on forever. I am a third generation of my family to belong, and my son joined when he was married. My father was Financial Secretary for 30 years, and I have been active for 26 years.

*Bennard Peters
Financial Secretary
Penyaslover Society
July, 1981*

דגאדניס ודגעניס מיס פחיהם וכמותם לא נפרד



עקס-פרעזידענטן

זלמן אייבראמס נ"י
אריה לייב זאלצמאן נ"י
נחמיה לעווינסקע נ"י
דוב מענדעלסאָרן נ"י

זיי זיינען אונז ליב און טהייער געווען ביים לעבען.
ווען זיי האבען מיט אונז צוזאמען געארבייט פאר
דעם פעראיין. אין דעם נאמען פון די פערוואמעלטע
היינט אבענד דריקען מיר אים אונזער בעדוירען
פאר אונזער פערלוסט פון די וועלכע די נאטור האט
אוי גרויזאם אוועקגענומען. זאל דער אלמעכטיגער
טרייסטען זייערע איבערגעבליבענע פאמיליעס און
זיי געבען קראפט אונד מוט איבערצוטראגען די
שמערצען פון דעם פערלוסט, זאס זיי האבען גע-
ליטען.

עהרע זייער אנדענקען.



„חבל על דאברין ודלא משתקחין“

נפטר יום ט' בחודש נסן, 1924, אפריל 13טען

מיר באדויערען דעם טיט פון אונזער לאדסמאן

אונד פריינד

יהודה לייב ב"ר יחואל רוב אראנאוויטש

זאל זיין נאמען בלייבען אלס איין שטענדיגער

אנדענקען.

די פעריאסלאווער חברה



Notice from the Penyaslover Brotherhood
Commemorating the Death of Leib Aronowitz

Right Side

"THE SADNESS OF THOSE THAT ARE GONE
IS NOT FORGOTTEN" - saying from the Gemmonah

Died Friday the month of Nissan 13 April, 1924

We commemorate our Landsman and friend,

Yehuda Leib son of Rav Yechiel (Joel) Dov
Aronowitz

His name should remain in memory everlasting

The Penyaslover Chevra (Brotherhood)

Left Side

The love and sweetness felt until death do not
cease even in death.

Ex-Presidents

Zalman Abram
Anye Leib Salzman
Nechemiah Levinsky
Dov Mendelsson

In remembrance, we mourn these Ex-Presidents

They were dearly loved in life, and when we
worked together in the organization

In the name of all the assembled, we express our
sorrow over the loss, that Nature has torn them
away from us.

The all-powerful God should console those they
left behind, and give them strength, determination,
and tolerance for the tragedy that has befallen
them with this loss.