

Ind. Bukarester Kranken Inst. Verein

FRAGE

ANTWORT

Wie heissen Sie?

M. Barash

Wie alt sind Sie?

23

Wo sind Sie geboren?

Roumanien

Sind Sie verheiratet?

Yes

Wo haben Sie geheiratet?

Wie heisst Ihre Frau?

Lora

Wo wohnen Sie?

Wie viele Kinder haben Sie?

Beschaeftigung?

Schneider

Wollen Sie belangen Single
oder mit Familie?

family

Eigene Unterschrift

Aufgenommen

March 25 den 1902

Geheiratet den

Namen der Frau

Alt

Ind. Bukarester Kranken Unt. Verein

FRAGE

ANTWORT

Wie heissen Sie?

David Greenberg

Wie alt sind Sie?

27 Jahre

Wo sind Sie geboren?

Botosani Roum.

Sind Sie verheiratet?

Ja

Wo haben Sie geheiratet?

Roumanien

Wie heisst Ihre Frau?

Rachel in Europe

Wo wohnen Sie?

69 First Ave

Wie viele Kinder haben Sie?

Beschaeftigung?

Sliper Maker

Wollen Sie belangen Single
oder mit Familie?

Single

Eigene Unterschrift

Aufgenommen

den

March 1903

Geheiratet den

Namen der Frau

Alt



Gedruckt



First Line Standing; Left to Right—R. SPERLING, L. BROWN, I. MITCHELL, E BERKOWITZ
Lower Line Seated—H. CANDELL, M. BERGER, PH. KARP, J. SEINFELD



1901

Silver Jubilee

INDEP. BUKARESTER

S. A.

ASSOCIATION

1926



SUNDAY, JANUARY THIRD

NINETEEN TWENTY SIX

INDEPENDENT BUKARESTER SICK AID ASSOCIATION

Cemetery Reservation Agreement

Received from Anna Brown (\$ 75.00),
Seventy-five Dollars in full payment
for reserved grave No. 33 on the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

It is hereby understood and agreed that this grave is reserved for Anna Brown only, and said reservation cannot be transferred.

It is further understood and agreed that in the event the person for whom this grave is reserved, is not a member of the organization, or for whom the organization is not liable for Death Benefit, then in that event, before issuing a burial permit, the organization will require a deposit of \$75.00 to guarantee the erection of a tombstone within one year after interment of the deceased.

If a tombstone is not erected within one year after date of interment the organization shall use the deposited money for the erection of a tombstone.

Accepted: Date June 3, 1942

IND. BUKARESTER SICK AID ASS'N.

Signed

Anna Brown

By:

Max Delois

Financial Secretary

INDEPENDENT BUKARESTER SICK AID ASSOCIATION

Cemetery Reservation Agreement

Received from Lois Schulman (\$ 125.00),
One hundred twenty-five Dollars in full payment
for reserved grave No. 20-Kew C 3 D on the Beth ABRAHAM Cemetery.

It is hereby understood and agreed that this grave is reserved for Tillie Schulman only, and said reservation cannot be transferred.

It is further understood and agreed that in the event the person for whom this grave is reserved, is not a member of the organization, or for whom the organization is not liable for Death Benefit, then in that event, before issuing a burial permit, the organization will require a deposit of \$75.00 to guarantee the erection of a tombstone within one year after interment of the deceased.

If a tombstone is not erected within one year after date of interment the organization shall use the deposited money for the erection of a tombstone.

Accepted: Date 12/18 1946

Signed Lois Schulman

IND. BUKARESTER SICK AID ASS'N.

By:

Max Weiss

Financial Secretary

12

No.

1949

Independent But Kareser Sick Aid Association

President - Charles Cronowitz
Vice-President - Ben Berkowitz
Financial Secretary - Max D. Weiss
Recording Secretary - Samuel H. Beckerman
Treasurer - Benjamin Schleffar

Trustees
 Benjamin Leeds - Leo Rosen - Morris Pollock

Board of Directors
 Samuel H. Beckerman - Morris Brown
 Abraham W. Fiur - Frank Fiur
 Harry Fiur - Benjamin Leeds
 Ruben Lazarowitz - Isidore Mitchell
 Benjamin Schleffar - Max A. Weiss
 Max D. Weiss

Loan Fund
 Samuel Gross - John J. Jonas
 Newman Lebowitz - Harry Marcus
 Samuel Pollock

Doctors
 Bronx - Julius L. Abrams, M.D.
 Brooklyn - Abraham Langsam, M.D.
 Manhattan & Queens - Abraham Lieberman, M.D.

Independent Bukarester Sirk Aid Association

ORGANIZED 1901 INCORPORATED 1910

MAX D. WEISS, Fin. Sec'y

452 Empire Boulevard

Brooklyn 25, N. Y.

SLocum 6-5748

Income and Disbursements
May 3, 1950

Income

\$296.50

1.7.50

The Conditions of the Jews in Bucharest

By U. BRENDDEL



THE Jewish population of Bucharest in the last years of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th was about twenty-five thousand. Of all Roumanian Jews those of Bucharest seemed to be least interested in Jewish national and cultural affairs. They were quite satisfied with the prevailing conditions. The Jewish merchants were prosperous and the artisans and craftsmen, of whom there was a considerable number in Bucharest, earned a comfortable living. They had no reason to leave home and migrate elsewhere.

The anti-Semitic movement which culminated in the first massacres in Roumania in 1897, in the cities of Jassi, Galatz and Bucharest, has undermined Jewish life in Roumania. The Zionist movement which aroused enthusiasm among the Jewish youth of Russia after the massacres of 1881 for the renaissance of the Jewish people and its ancient homeland, enlisted the sympathies of a small group of Jewish idealists in Roumania, but the massacres of 1897 aroused considerable interest in Zionism among Roumanian Jews. Thwarted in their efforts to assimilate Roumanian national culture, repelled by the barbaric acts of Roumanian anti-Semites, who found leaders among the so-called Roumanian intelligentsia, the young Jews embraced Jewish nationalism readily and a revival of Zionism attracted those who were capable of embracing an ideal.

But the young Jews of Bucharest did not respond in large numbers to the call of the Zionist movement even after 1897. The pogrom in Bucharest did not result in much serious damage to the local Jewish population. The sturdy young Jewish workers formed a self-defence organization and resisted the hoodlums successfully thus saving Jewish life and property. But the spirit of unrest among the young Roumanian Jews of other cities affected to some extent also the Jews of Bucharest and when the tide of emigration from Roumania started in 1899, hundreds of Jews left comparatively comfortable homes in Bucharest to join the wanderers on their way to other lands.

Up to the World War, however, emigration was not an important factor in the life of Bucharest Jewry. Hundreds of families left the country to join the first wanderers who had established themselves in America, but the number of immigrants was comparatively small after the first wave of emigration was over.

During the World War the Jews of Bucharest shared of course all the privations and hardships of their fellow countrymen and the sufferings of all of their co-religionists in Roumania. The new anti-Jewish movement rampant in the greater Roumania of the after-war period brought about a serious change of sentiment among Bucharest Jews.

The Jewish people of Bucharest now are more alive to their national duties. They are keenly interested in every important Jewish movement the world-over and have done splendid work in assisting the tens of thousands of Ukrainian Jewish refugees who passed through Roumania. They have also contributed generously toward the support of the unfortunate refugees who are still stranded in Roumania waiting for a chance to go to Palestine, South America or the United States.

1901-1925--Twenty-Five Years History of the Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association

The popular movement among young immigrant Jews in New York in the first five years of this century to form societies of groups coming from various towns in the old country [inspired a number of young Jews, immigrants from Bucharest, to form a society of their fellow townsmen in New York. They were actuated by the general desire to perpetuate friendships of the old country in their new home and to form a center of mutual aid.] On the second day of January, 1901, the organizers of this society, H. Ackerman, E. Berman, L. Barchus, H. Fuer, H. Goldman, S. Goldstein, M. Goldstein, H. Hefler, B. Kreimer, S. Khan, A. Lieberman, M. Marcovice, M. Rubin, R. Sperling, J. Weisenthal, J. Weiss, H. Zeidler and L. Zeidler, met at 26 Delancey Street, and formed the Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association of New York. Mr. B. Kreimer was

elected president of the organization and Mr. Reubin Sperling, secretary.

The founders of this association did not have a completely defined program. [They were all enthusiastic young men, eager to learn the ways of the land of their adoption] they aimed at intellectual development while furthering their material well-being. At first they copied the methods of various old-fashioned lodges that were then thriving among the Jews of New York. They adopted the customary ceremonies and passwords, but in course of time meaningless ceremonies were dropped, passwords were done away with, the association became a progressive body, increasing its membership gradually and serving them well, materially and intellectually.

During the first two years of its existence the society grew from the original eighteen organizers to a membership of fifty. The dues was a dollar and eighty-five cents for three months and an assessment of one dollar in case of a death. The material benefits were proportionally small. The organization paid only five dollars a week sick benefit in 1904, but it was not so much the benefit as the sociability that the members were after—that, and the intellectual development gained by frequent interesting discussions and lectures delivered at the meetings of the society from time to time by prominent Jewish educators. Lectures were held for the benefit of the members at least four times a year, but not a meeting passed, practically, without a reading of a paper on an interesting subject and a discussion.

In 1904, under the presidency of Mr. Fahrer, the organization was progressing fairly, then a controversy arose over a proposition to join the

Workmens Circle. All through 1905 and well into 1906 the movement to induce the society to become a branch of the Workmens Circle was carried on vigorously by a number of members aided by the late Mr. Leo Rosenzweig, the famous Roumanian Jewish socialist writer and orator, who was then the head of the Workmens Circle. The majority of the members felt however that there was no justification for a merger with any order. They insisted on maintaining the independence of the society. This tendency finally prevailed and the organization continued its existence as an independent body un-affiliated with any central organization.

During 1907 the Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association took a favorable stand toward the rising trade union movement among the Jews of this city. The association decided to adopt a by-law excluding members who acted as strike breakers. During that year one member was expelled for scabbing. The expelled member threatened to go to court but the organization was not intimidated; he remained outside of the ranks regardless of all threats. This act was a fair warning and in the future the organization had little trouble on that score. Up to 1914 there was no occasion for enforcing this by-law. In 1914 a member was found guilty of strike-breaking and was expelled from the ranks. A similar case occurred also in 1916. There were a number of charges preferred against some of our members from time to time, thorough investigations in all cases proved however, that the charges were not justified.

The unfortunate massacres in Roumania in 1907 impelled our organization to mobilize public opinion in this country against the government that permitted those outrages. A mass-meeting was called by the society which was addressed by Leo Rosenzweig, Morris Caesar, I. I. Friedman and others. A fund was raised for the pogrom victims, a progressive league was formed to secure aid for the sufferers and inform the American public about the anti-Jewish movement in Roumania fostered by politicians in high government positions.

The association did not limit itself to local or purely Roumanian Jewish interests. We supported every popular movement of Jews in New York and assisted a number of progressive enterprises. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society received our heartiest support from the very beginning of its activities. We also supported the Denver Sanitarium and similar institutions. Our members contributed considerably toward the Kishineff fund.

We were also prominent in the movement to save Puren and Rudowitch, two Russian revolutionary refugees, from the clutches of the Czarist government who demanded their extradition from the United States. We have every reason to be proud of our work in this movement that succeeded in defeating the schemes of old Russia and saved the lives of two revolutionists. Incidentally this movement re-established our country as an asylum for all revolutionists who flee from prosecution in other countries.

dollars, to be repaid during one year, with the proviso, that the borrower should possess shares up to twenty per cent. of the loan. The size of the loans was again increased lately to the amount of one thousand dollars, so that shareholders and their wives can jointly secure loans of two thousand dollars. Small loans, up to twenty-five dollars, are still given to all members of the association. The business is conducted practically on family lines. Most members are intimately acquainted and every loan is given in the most friendly spirit.

The assets of this fund now are over thirty-five thousand dollars. During the last year loans to the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars were given to the members of the association.

The war relief movement received our whole-hearted support. When the Peoples Relief Committee of One Hundred was formed, a representative of our association served as one of the original organizers. We contributed our share collectively and individually in the various relief drives and did our utmost to support the movement.

In 1918 we joined the Federation of Roumanian Jews presided over by Dr. Siegelstein, later a rival organization was started on more democratic lines, presided over by Mr. Goldstein. Both bodies were finally merged and we supported the united movement. We were particularly generous in our contribution to the drive for the Home for Convalescents, established by the Roumanian Federation. Our association gave the largest single contribution of any society towards the building fund. We contribute regularly from two hundred and fifty to three hundred dollars a year to this home.

In 1919 we instituted a system of annual meetings. At these annual meetings the members and their families gather in reunion. One session is devoted to a concert by home talent. Children of the members' families entertain. These concerts are becoming more popular every year and our members look forward eagerly to the annual gathering.

During the twenty-five years of our society's existence it has progressed considerably. It is the most important organization of Bucharest Jews in this country. We have two hundred and twenty-five members and a sum of seventeen thousand dollars in our treasury. The dues have been increased to four dollars and twenty-five cents for three months since 1920. The weekly sick benefit paid to members now is twelve dollars per week and two hundred dollars insurance for every member and his wife.

The Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association established women's suffrage in the organization many years ago. The wives of the members participate in the regular and annual meetings and in the elections of officers. They are interested in the welfare of the organization and have contributed a great deal toward its progress.

In 1910, when the International Ladies Garment Workers conducted a general strike of cloakmakers in the city of New York, which laid the foundation of a strong union in that industry, a number of our members participated in the strike movement, and our organization gave them its undivided support. We contributed to the general strike fund and we aided the striking members of our association. Every meeting voted ten dollars strike benefit to every member on strike who was in need of assistance. The success of this general strike was hailed with joy by our membership. Similar support was given to the strikes of the Waist Makers, Men's Tailors and all other union movements. During the rise and development of the Jewish trade unions in New York the Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association acquired a well-earned reputation of a most progressive society.

Another attempt to get the society into the Workmens Circle was made in 1912. The supporters of this proposal argued that the membership would secure considerable material benefits through such affiliation. They pointed to the fact that the Workmens Circle pays definite insurance and sick benefits to its membership and also maintains a sanitarium for consumptives. But the majority of the membership still insisted on retaining our independence. The society by that time had increased its dues to three dollars and ten cents per member for three months and had abolished the per capita tax. A consumptive member whose plight was utilized to strengthen the arguments in favor of joining the Workmens Circle was sent to the country to recuperate at the expense of the organization and the Workmens Circle proposition was again defeated.

Up to 1913 the business of the association was transacted at its regular meetings. During that year it was found that an executive body was necessary. A board of directors consisting of seven members was elected. The experiment proved successful. The number of directors was subsequently increased to nine and later on to eleven members. Half of the board is elected for a term of one year and another half for two years so that the organization is assured of the service of a number of experienced directors continually.

Another successful institution, a loan fund, was established by our organization in 1916. This fund was started with three hundred dollars. Loans of five to fifteen dollars were given to members, to be paid in installments of one dollar per week without interest. The popularity of the fund was enhanced in 1918 when it was increased to seven hundred and fifty dollars by the proceeds of a special affair for that purpose. The loans were increased to twenty-five dollars on the same conditions. One year later the fund was again increased by the profits of an affair to the sum of eleven hundred and eighty-one dollars and eighty-three cents.

In 1920 the loan fund was re-organized on a business basis. Shares of five dollars each were issued. The loans were increased to five hundred

The Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association was not given to arranging annual affairs. Balls and theatre benefits were generally avoided. They were only given on special occasions and have therefore met with considerable success. One affair worth while mentioning was a theatre benefit in 1909, in Kessler's Theatre, with the famous Jewish actor in the leading part of "God, Man and the Devil." The proceeds of that affair were devoted to building a gate on the cemetery of the society. The great actor went out of his way on that occasion to deliver an address complimenting the members of the society and their friends, and stating that the "Bucharester" gave him the most intelligent audience he had during his career at any benefit performance.

In 1922 the society had a successful ball at Park Palace, 110th Street, and a handsome souvenir was published. The next year another ball was arranged at the same hall for the benefit of an unfortunate member of the society who lost both feet. A handsome sum was raised for the unfortunate man as a result of that affair.

The celebrations of the Independent Bucharester Benevolent Association mark the progress of the society. The fifth anniversary was celebrated in a small hall at 26 Delancey Street, the tenth, in Astoria Hall, on East 4th Street, the 15th and the 20th were celebrated in Manhattan Lyceum. The twentieth anniversary celebration was the most elaborate affair which will only be surpassed we hope, by this, our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. A fine souvenir in Yiddish and English was published by the society on that occasion.

In reviewing the history of our association during the twenty-five years of its existence we want to express our gratitude to the founders of our organization and to the scores of active members who served as officers during these years and have contributed greatly to our success. Six of the original eighteen organizers, E. Berman, H. Fahrer, S. Khan, R. Sperling, J. Weiss and L. Zeidler are still with us and they have every reason to congratulate themselves upon their great achievement.

At this, our twenty-fifth anniversary festival, all of our members, old and new, with their families, join our pioneers in the wholehearted wish for the continued success of our association which has become an important institution of Roumanian Jews in the city of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS BROWN

EMIL BERK

MORRIS BERGER

HARRY CANDEL

PHILIP KARP

ISIDORE MITCHELL

JACOB SEINFELD

RUBIN SPERLING

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Souvenir Committee.