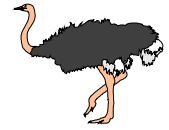


STRAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Origins of the Family Part 2

In the last issue, the feature article was about the early history of the Lazarus Straus family and their origins in the Palatinate of Bavaria. Lazarus Straus was the oldest of fourteen children. His second wife was Sara Straus, fourth child of five, daughter of his Uncle Salomon (abt 1789-1872). Sara's sister was Babette. This article is about the family of Babette Straus.

Babette (1819-1890), born in Otterberg, was the second child of Salomon Straus and Johanna Weil (-1825). In about 1840, Babette (Barbara) Straus married Abraham Maas (1817-1896). Abraham was born in Gau Odernheim, which is 12-15 miles north of Kaiserslautern. It had approximately 1,700 inhabitants. Abraham was the son of Michael (1789-1856) who was the son of Abraham (- 1815) who was the son of Josef. Michael had five sons, four of whom adopted the name Maas and one, Joseph, went by the name of Strauss. It must be remembered that this was during the time when Jews were required to take last names. We don't know why Joseph didn't adopt the name Maas like the rest of his siblings.



Salomon Straus, father of Babette and Sara

Michael Maas married Johanette Herz (1789-1876) in Gau Odernheim in 1809. They had eight children. Abraham, their oldest, married Babette Straus, sister of Sara Straus. Much of the Maas family remained in Europe during World War II and many family members perished in the Holocaust. Fortunately, some members of the family survived and emigrated to America. I've met a few of the descendants of Abraham and Babette Maas, who have shared their fascinating family stories with me.



Johanette Herz Maas

Abraham and Babette had nine children. Their oldest child was August Maas (1884-1930). He was a miller who married Caroline Lina Mayer (1852-1882) in 1874 in Mainz. They had five children. Caroline died shortly after their fifth child was born. August moved to Mainz with his children. Mainz was a large city near Gau Odernheim and the now prosperous August never worked again. His descendants describe him as a tough old man, very Prussian. No one could tell him anything. Anyone besting him at chess would be struck on the head with the offending chessboard. He lived with a housekeeper in a four floor, walk-up apartment. The first child of August and Caroline was Betty Mass (1875-1945). She married Max Straus, who may or may not be related. It was common for cousins to marry. Betty found her father very difficult to deal with and many days he drove her to tears although she continued to care for him. She was the only daughter and his well-being was her responsibility. During the war, Betty and Max moved to Holland. They had three daughters; Lillie, Erna and Regina. Lillie married a Mr. Stern and they emigrated to New Rochelle NY. Erna married Dr. Walter Levy. Erna was killed during the War but Dr. Levy survived and remained in Holland. Regina married Mr. Meyer and moved to LA where she died in 1992 or 93. Betty and Max Straus were killed during the War; Betty in Auschwitz.

Otto Mich. (1877-1943) was the second child of August and Caroline. He married Selma Nathan. They also moved to Holland, thought to be a safe place as World War II approached. Otto and Selma both died in Auschwitz. Their two sons, Walter and Ernst Maas, born in Mainz in 1907 and 1909 respectively,

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- Macy-Straus Cut Glass Catalogue
- And much more

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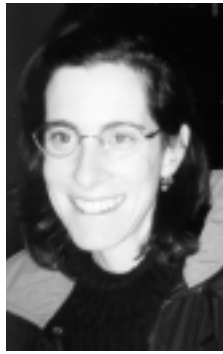
Executive Director

Joan Adler

The Straus Historical Society, Inc. is dedicated to advancing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Lazarus Straus family and the historical context in which they lived through research and education. The Straus Historical Society Newsletter is a semi-annual publication of the Straus Historical Society, Inc. You are invited to submit articles or ideas for articles, calendar events, and material relating to the Straus family and their history.

The Straus Historical Society, Inc. is a tax exempt organization as described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions to the Society are deductible to the extent provided by law.

A Message from the Vice Chair of the Board: Kalen Holliday



Welcome to the Straus Historical Society newsletter. I hope this publication will keep you informed about what the Society is doing; provide you with a better understanding of the contribution Straus family members, both past and present, have made; and ultimately inspire you to contribute your time and talents, to whatever extent you can, by participating on a committee, helping with research, organizing events. And - we always like monetary contributions too, whether it's cash, stock, endowments, grants, or annuities. My primary goal is to get more

people involved in all the interesting and exciting things the Society is doing for you and for the benefit of society as a whole.

In the pages of this issue you will find informative articles about both the past and the present. But there is so much more that we'd like to share.

I feel fortunate to be involved in this Society and encourage all of you to participate - lending whatever time or talents you have. Please feel free to contact me to discuss the variety of ways that you can help. I think you will find your participation very rewarding.

A Message from the Executive Director: Joan Adler



The activities of the Straus Historical Society are in full swing. We have instituted an educational and research program, made plans to sponsor talks throughout the year, have committed to a Spring Blood Drive and will entertain ideas for interesting new projects in which to become involved.

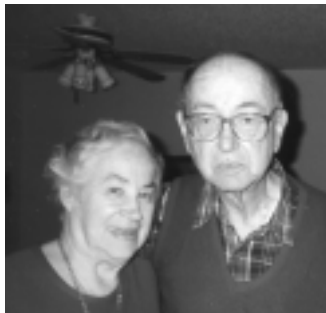
Our oral history program has led us to the Maas and Altschuler families. I will continue to arrange interviews with members of their family in the coming months. They have contributed quite a lot of new information and many photographs and documents to the Straus Family Collection. I will be continuing my association with Craig E. Carlson, researcher and educator, who will be publishing a new catalogue of Macy's and L. Straus & Sons cut glass in cooperation with the American Cut Glass Association.

Please let me know what you would like to see published in this newsletter. I would also like to learn what kinds activities you feel we should be pursuing. *My job would be impossible without your active support and participation. Let me hear from you!*

(Continued from page one)

survived the war in Holland. Ernst became a dentist, married and had a son and a daughter. His wife died in Germany and, when he moved to Holland, he met a woman who owned a flower shop. She hid him in the shop during the war. Although they never married, they had two children together. Walter never married. He became interested in music and brought great orchestras to Holland to perform. Their house is now the home of the Maas-Nathan Foundation in Bilthoven Holland.

The third and fifth children of August and Caroline Maas were Karl (1878-) and Emil (1881-1953). Karl and Emil were sent to New York where they worked at Macy's until World War I. Karl married Anna and Emil married Lillie Levy (1881-1953). It is my understanding that Karl was never able to make a go of business. When Emil presented himself at Macy's, the personnel manager asked what he could do and he replied that he spoke three languages fluently, French, German and English. Emil was put to work in the Foreign Department and eventually worked himself up to buyer. Emil worked at Macy's for between five and ten years and then went to Lord & Taylor's. After a time he decided he could make more money selling to these stores but apparently this wasn't a good career move. Lillie Levy, Emil's wife, grew up in Brooklyn NY. She went to private school and became good friends with Edith Abraham who later married Percy Straus. I am told Lillie felt sorry for Edith because she was an observant Jew and their classmates made fun of her when her customs did not match their own. Emil and Lillie had one son Herbert. Herbert was sent to Germany, during his college years, when his grandfather August died. Emil didn't want to



Herbert and Ann Maas

return to his homeland. Herbert spent four months in Europe; one month in the Summer with his Uncle Werner's family in Berlin, another month with Aunt Betty and the remaining time with his Uncle Otto in Frankfurt. Herbert remembers this as a wonderful adventure where he learned about his heritage and got to know his relatives. Herbert married Ann. They have a daughter, Karen, and a son, Douglas. Herbert and Ann were kind enough to invite me to their Silver Spring MD home where they showed me a set of sterling silverware given to Emil and Lillie as a wedding gift by Oscar and Sarah Straus. It is one of their prized possessions. Herbert worked for New York State in Housing Administration and credits Roger Williams Straus with writing the letter of recommendation that got him the interview for his job. He also remembers his parents being invited to dine with Nathan and Lina twice a year and with other Strauses at regular intervals.



Silverware given to Emil and Lillie Maas by Oscar and Sarah Straus

Sally Werner Maas (1880-1949), fourth child of August and Caroline, was the only one of his siblings to go to college. He became an officer in the cavalry and had his own horse which he rode in the parks of Berlin. Sally became a lawyer, was a Superior Court judge for arbitration and commercial cases, until he met his future bride, Lotte Neumann (1890-1916) of Berlin. Her father had an established corset and brassiere manufacturing company there, and Sally gave up his law practice to go into business with his father-in-law. At some point, Sally changed his name to Werner. He and Lotte had twin sons, Egon and Kurt, both of whom expected to go into their father's business. Egon studied economics in college and Kurt studied law but they were forced to leave school after five semesters, in 1933, when Hitler began making laws restricting the activities of Jews. Jesse Straus, then Ambassador to France, told Werner to get out of Germany. Werner said, "I am a judge here. My wife's family owns hundreds of lingerie shops. I can't just pack up and leave Germany." Jesse wrote again said, "Things are going on. I am telling you. Get out of Germany." Werner wrote, "You act as though we are Barbarians. We are the country of Mozart and Goethe." Jesse wrote, "I cannot tell you. I am privy to lots of information. But get out of Germany." This time the family took him seriously and began packing. Kurt went to Paris and Egon went to England to continue their education. Werner and Lotte were about to leave when they were arrested. Just days before they were scheduled to depart, a maid, who had been in their employ for 17 years, turned them in. They were put in a concentration camp near Berlin. When they were released, they moved to the South of France. Under the Vichy Regime all the Jews were arrested. Kurt had to volunteer for the French Foreign Legion in order to obtain their release. He shipped off to Africa while his parents went to Portugal. In the meantime, Egon was in England. Although he applied for citizenship in 1942, he still had a German passport. He was arrested and transported to the Isle of Mann, to a prisoner of war camp where he remained for the duration of the war. Egon told me, "The British were afraid of an invasion and so they locked me up. I was already there eight years and had just applied for my citizenship. But that wasn't terribly horrible. We were on the Isle of Mann. It had no air raids. It had a nice climate. The food was lousy and you were restricted by a barbed wire fence, so we played bridge from morning to night. Basically, it was a terribly depressing situation. We didn't know whether the Germans would be coming. Finally I was released and came to America on January 13, 1942. I met Lane in



Egon and Kurt Maas, Bar Mitzvah photo, 1926 in Charlottenburg

Bar Mitzvah photo, 1926 in Charlottenburg



Egon and Lane Maas

March 1942, got engaged September 1942, married October 1942 and joined the (US) Army in December 1942." Sissie Straus Lehman sponsored Egon along with many others. Finally someone in the State Department said, "Enough is enough." Egon told me she sponsored several hundred thousand. In America, Kurt went to work for Lily of France owned by Harold P. Kurzman, Paul A. Kurzman's father. Kurt married Vera Schindler in New York and had two sons, Mark and Jeffrey. Egon worked for Maidenform. The couple had one son, Clifford.



Dry Goods Store of Ferdinand Altschuler

Abraham and Betty Straus Maas' second child was Henrietta Maas (1846-1899). She married Ferdinand Altschuler (1840-1910) who had a dry goods store in Speyer. This town was like a county center and, even today, it is where all the records are kept for the area. At the time Henrietta and Ferdinand lived there, there was no synagogue but there was a mikvah, a ritual bath, and Jews from all around came to Speyer before the Sabbath to bathe.

Henrietta and Ferdinand had five children, Eugenie (1868-1942), Maximilian (1872-1948), Coelestine (about 1873-), Lina (1874-) and Julius (1875-). Eugenie married Berthold Julich in Osterfeld. They had three children, Suzanne, Alice and Meta. Berthold died two years after Meta was born and Eugenie married Guglielmo Weinberger a bank director, art collector, gifted artist and linguist. They had one son Walter. During the war, Clara Kohns tried to bring Eugenie and Guglielmo to America. In November 1939, Guglielmo wrote to Clara Kohns, " I have to express my deep felt thanks to you for all the wonderful deeds you have already performed for my children and now extend the same for us old folks. How can we ever repay this great debt since we have been stripped of our honor, human dignity, our roof, our wealth, and homeland? You are certain of God's blessings and we hope that we are still able to shake your hand in the land of the free." Guglielmo died in 1941 and Eugenie was deported to Theresienstadt in 1942 where she died.



The children of Henrietta and Ferdinand Altschuler: Eugenie, Maximilian, Coelestine, Lina and Julius. About 1884.

Maximilian, Ferdinand and Henrietta's second child, married Suzanne Altschul (1892-1988). Maximilian's first job was selling girdles for Werner Maas. During the Spanish American War, Max came to New York and began working for the Strauses. In 1897, 24 year old Max Altschuler wrote to his brother Julius in Speyer describing his new employment with the Strauses in

New York. "Mr. Oscar had not forgotten me and got me a job at Macy's where I found employment in the office on May 10. Mr. Nathan Straus was sick at the time! I had tried so hard to find employment! I had put ads in the "World" and the N.Y. newspapers, had written applications and contacted many businessmen with references from L. Straus & Sons, to no avail. My job in the office was given to me temporarily, till something more suitable is found. Possibly later in the year I'll be working at L. Straus & Sons. There are approximately 140 ladies in my office and only 4 men. You probably did not know that here mostly ladies are employed in offices. You have no conception how one works here compared to over there! The office is divided into departments; and the personnel in each department is trained to perform its specific task. The work is in this way almost the same daily; the efficiency and speed is greater than I have ever seen! Writing is very fast and the "additions of numbers" are made at lightning speed! That means hard work on my part in order to keep from falling behind! In the evening I feel dead tired! ... I earn \$8 per week. Cousin Karl is a salesman at Macy's and earns \$6 a week. I am invited to Mr. Nathan Straus' on Sunday ..." In 1899 Maximilian returned to Germany after having worked for the Strauses for 22 months, where he learned merchandising. When he returned to Speyer, the 26 year old was ready to start a glass and porcelain export business with L.

Straus & Sons. In 1934 he wrote an application for his 14 year old son Otto to be accepted at a trade school in Carlsbad to learn the porcelain industry. Max stated that he had been employed by the "world renowned company Nathan Straus & Sons," and had acquired his education living in Limoges France as a young man. Max worked in Carlsbad as a representative to Nathan Straus & Sons. After Isidor's death on "Titanic," the sons of Nathan took over the family firm of L. Straus & Sons and eventually changed the name to Nathan Straus & Sons.



L. Straus & Sons factory
Photo: *Crockery & Glass Journal*
58(25):Page 202. 1903

The Altschulers applied for admission to the United States in 1939. After months of bitter struggling, and several moves between Carlsbad to Prague and back, the family was issued exit visas, thanks to Clara Kohns, who interceded on their behalf. They left on the "Georgia" July 30, 1939. Otto remembers that they were permitted to bring only \$3.00 each. He, his father and brother Herbert also had Czech-tailored tuxedos which they expected to wear to dinner at Clara Kohns' home once they arrived in New York. Within months of their arrival, both Herbert and Otto were inducted into the US Army and served their adopted country during World War II.

Max is said to have aged 20 years during the war. He was a strict disciplinarian who laid down the law and the family obeyed. Suzie was 20 years his junior. She had a positive outlook and would do anything to earn money, even scrub floors. She was a tireless advocate for her sons, always radiating love and happiness. Herbert became an accountant and Otto worked as a

ceramics engineer. They both settled in the Philadelphia area, where Herbert married Rozlind Goldstein and had children Margo and Barbara. Otto married Helene Kornfeld and had children

Elaine and Mark. Herbert and Otto have been gracious enough to lend me many letters and photographs of their family.



Julius Altschuler
1948, in Speyer

We have no information about what happened to Coelestine. Lina was deported to Gurs concentration camp where she died despite the diligent efforts of her family to liberate her. After the war, Julius went back to Germany. He ran the family's dry goods store in Speyer, selling goods to the monks.

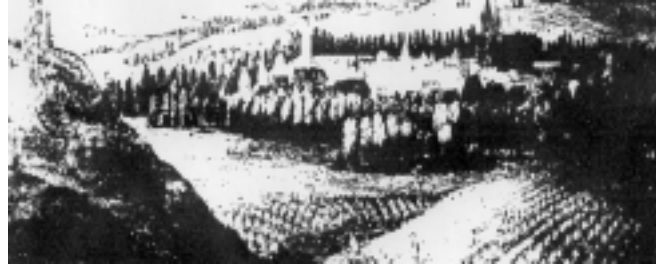
The third child of Abraham and Babette Straus Maas was Bertha (1847-1936. She married Simon Mayer (1848-1899) of Oberweisel. They had daughters Adele and Rosa. The fourth child of Abraham and Babette was Lina (1848-1933). She married Herman Heinlein (1850-) of Bad-Schwabach. Their four children were Rosa, Jenny, Max and Anna.

The fifth child was Johanette (1850-1919) who married Adolph Mayer (1848-1923). Their daughter Hedwig married Max Steinkopf. The Steinkopfs emigrated to Winnipeg where one family member became mayor. They owned a large shoe factory. Second daughter Anna married Midi Ert. In 1907, Isidor Straus sent his cousin, Mrs. Michael Ert, \$200 to buy a dinner and glass set, thereby avoiding the duty if the set were sent from New York. The Erts lived in Winnipeg at that time. Brother Ernst wrote to his sister Anna in 1919 complaining that Hedwig was too lazy and had not written. He wrote news of the family, of Julius Altschuler, who was too attached to his own family and this caused friction with his prospective bride, of Max Altschuler, his wife and 1 1/2 year old child who were in Speyer. (Max was looking for work in Speyer because he had no permit to return to Czechoslovakia), of Uncle Sigmund in Paris and his daughter Alice who was studying to become a doctor.

The sixth child of Abraham and Babette Straus Maas was Rosa (1852-1929) who married Leopold Blum (1853-1936) of Weitersweil. They had five children: Laura, Alice, Paula, Eugenie and Adele. Eugenie married Nathan Bijur and emigrated to the US. They lived in Long Branch NJ for many years. I am told area residents would dress in evening clothes to walk on the boardwalk on warm Summer nights. The Bijurs are described as a devoted couple who lived a perfectly elegant life. They stayed in touch with the family, often dining with the Maases or inviting family down for weekends at Long Branch. Nathan and Eugenie's oldest son Herbert married a woman who edited a publication for the United Nations.

The seventh child of Abraham and Babette Straus Maas was Max (1859-1933) who married Klara Strauss (1868-) of Alzey. Max stayed in Gau Odernheim where he ran the family mill. Max and Klara had two sons, Siegfried and Rudolph. Siegfried came to New York and became the head of the antique book department at either Scribners or Brentannos. Rudolph married Liesel Kohnstammig. They emigrated to Nice in the South of France

with Werner and Lotte Maas. Rudolph was a British prisoner of war but returned to Gau Odernheim after his release and became a horse trader. Then he bought a firm that manufactured machinery and gymnastics equipment. He produced the rowing and exercise machines used on all the transatlantic ocean liners of the day. The now prosperous family emigrated to America in the early 1940's, sponsored by Sissie Lehman. Sons Norman and Ronald were born in New York. Norman is a senior vice president with BASF, a German chemical company, and Norman is a mathematics teacher at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx. Liesel lives with Ronald in Riverdale NY.



Gau Odernheim, where the family of Salomon Straus, including Babette and Sara and the Maas family, lived

The eighth child of Abraham and Babette Straus Maas was Sigmund (1864-) who married Paula Neuhauser (1870-). They lived in Paris where he ran a Limoges factory. They had a son Lucien and a daughter Alice who became a doctor, quite a feat for a woman at that time. Many family members have written of visiting with Sigmund. Although some wrote of his hospitality, others felt he was ashamed of his German relatives, having completely assimilated into the French culture. In fact, Egon Maas remembers visiting Uncle Sigmund in Paris in 1933. While riding in an elevator, Uncle Sigmund sharply commanded him to speak French or not to speak at all.

The ninth child of Abraham and Babette Straus Maas was Jakobine (1856-1882). We don't know if she married, had children or the circumstances of her death.

The Maas and Straus families remained close until after World War II. I have seen letters written between members of these families and have heard the touching stories of how much their relationships meant during times of hardship. Sissie Lehman and Clara Kohns sponsored many of those who were able to emigrate to the United States during World War II. Although time and distance have caused family members to drift, the emotions have not waned. There is truth to the saying that one can lose friends, but family will always be family.

In the next issue of the newsletter, I will write about the mother of Lazarus Straus, Johanette Grunebaum, and her family. Susan King, a descendant of Johanette, has been working on her family genealogy for many years and has amassed information about more than 7,000 relatives. Beside being an excellent researcher, Susan is the founder of Jewishgen.org, the premier website for Jewish Genealogy. Susan was kind enough to send me the history of the Grunebaum (Greenebaum) family as told by her ancestor Jacob. It was written in 1859. I'm certain you will find it fascinating.

Education and Research

The Straus Historical Society has recently been involved with several educational projects. We have been working closely with Craig E. Carlson, researcher and educator about American brilliant cut glass. Craig will be the featured guest speaker at the American Cut Glass Show in Wilmington, DE on Saturday March 18th. His talk will be "L. Straus and Sons, The Forgotten Years." Craig will also be speaking about L. Straus & Sons, their cut glass and the Macy's connection, at the annual American Cut Glass Association convention in Costa Mesa, CA on July 20th. Please see the article "Macy-Straus Cut Glass Catalog" on page eight for further information.

The Straus Historical Society has opened its files to Professor June Hall McCash who is researching the lives of Isidor and Ida Straus for a proposed book. Professor McCash is an historian and a teacher of humanities and French from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. She has written several books including *The Jekyll Island Cottage Colony* and *The Cultural Patronage of Medieval Women*. Our continuing correspondence has convinced me that Professor McCash is a serious and thorough researcher. We are pleased to be able to contribute to her body of work.

Professor Patricia Anderson is currently completing a book, *In Search of Passion: Men and Women from the Titanic Age to the New Millennium*. "This is a social and cultural history of the changing relationship of men and women in the 20th century." Professor Anderson has written, in her introduction, about Ida Straus' sacrifice on Titanic and included a SHS photograph of Isidor and Ida Straus taken in about 1908.

Sylvia Tiersten of *Investors Business Daily* proposed writing an article about Nathan Straus for their continuing series which focuses on unusual profiles of extraordinary leaders and the factors that made them great. The Society sent her several articles about Nathan from which information could be extracted. In addition, some of her questions were answered by phone and e.mail.

Dr. James Henderson has written a book, *Bohemian Decorated Porcelain* and is currently working on a second edition. The Straus Historical Society has been working with Dr. Henderson for several years and continues to do so. This is an exchange of information because Dr. Henderson has put us in touch with several members of the Gutherz family. From this contact, we have been able to learn more about the family of Nathan Straus' wife Lina Gutherz Straus.

In addition, we have contributed information to several college students working on papers. Notable among them is Shoshana Stern of Brandeis University who wrote a research paper, "History of the Straus Family, 1852-1865: One Family's Experience During the Civil War." Shoshana is interested in the Strauses various relationships with, and reaction to, slavery, their place in the life of Talbotton and the circumstances surrounding their leaving, their degree of religious observance while living there,

their attitudes toward the Confederacy, and how all this related to their socially progressive European background. Shoshana sent the SHS a copy of her completed paper.

Danya C. Lusk is a student preparing to portray Ida Straus in an upcoming Hood River, OR school production. She contacted the Society for information about the Strauses and about Titanic. A packet of information has been prepared and a continuing e.mail dialogue has answered some of her questions regarding Ida Straus' accent, character and relationship to Isidor and to members of the family. It is a pleasure to work with such interested young people.

The Society is also involved in several research projects. Family lore tells us that Lazarus Straus emigrated to New York in 1852. His passenger manifest and arrival information have not been located. This researcher has spent time in the library of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, at the National Archives and in The New York Public Library looking for his passenger manifest. We have been conducting interviews with members of the Maas and Altschuler families who are related to the Lazarus Straus family through Babette Straus, (see article on pages 3-6) and have been working with members of several other Straus families to learn if they are related to the Lazarus Straus family. We have been able to introduce several family groups who are related to each other, and not to the Lazarus Straus family. In addition, we have been working with Friends of Straus Park to put together an educational program suitable for school presentations, attended Jewish genealogical workshops and archiving workshops to upgrade skills and have been in communication with the German Special Interest Group (SIG) on the Internet at Jewish Genealogy (jewishgen.org) about sharing information.

News from Talbotton, GA

Mrs. Frances Callaway Aldrich of Talbotton GA passed away in January 10, 2000. She lived in the last home Lazarus and Sara Straus owned in Talbotton before they moved to Columbus GA. When the Straus family visited Talbotton in October 1997, we saw this white clapboard house and met Mrs. Aldrich. Michael H. Buckner, president of Historic Talbotton Foundation and board member of the Straus Historical Society, has been given access to the house and all of its contents. It is exciting to report that letters and other material directly relating to the Strauses has been found. Mike is in the process of sorting and copying these papers for our collection.

The family of Mrs. Aldrich has a long history of connection to the Straus family. Isidor attended LeVert School for a short period and Hermina received her education there. It was Frances' mother, Amorett Smith Callaway who was instrumental in obtaining the support of the Strauses in the 1920s when LeVert Hall was in need of repair. The hall is now called Straus-LeVert Hall to honor the family's commitment to their original American hometown. Talbotton is also committed to the Straus family as is evidenced by the warm reception we received in 1997.

The Straus Historical Society wishes to extend our sympathy to son Robert Aldrich.

Friends of Straus Park: Celebrating Our Second Year

by Leon Auerbach, Edited by Joan Adler

Friends of Straus Park (FSP) has continued to present interesting and entertaining events in the Park. Fall 1999 brought our third annual "Art in the Park" celebration of music, art, dance and food on Saturday, October 2nd. It was a remarkably cool, clear day that helped bring neighbors out to enjoy and participate in the events. The Art Display and Sale of oils, watercolors and photography were positioned at the monument and on both sides of the reflecting pool. The reaction was most positive to the high quality of the work.

Commissioner Henry J. Stern wished us well at our "Art in the Park" event and extended greetings from Mayor Giuliani. Eric Mattes, Parks Department Landscape Architect, led small groups of interested visitors on three separate walking tours while giving the historical and design background of the Park.



The SOH-DAIKO drummers

We presented a first time ever at "Art in the Park" by inviting SOH-DAIKO to perform. SOH-DAIKO, a group of drummers who do a "ballet" as they beat their giant drums, come from the New York Buddhist Church which is right around the corner on Riverside Drive.

Their precision and extraordinary athleticism brought an excitement that will long be remembered. We also had demonstration performances by the Fred Astaire Studio dancers in salsa, rumba and cha-cha as well as the homespun "do-si-dos" of folk dance specialist Karl Finger. Our day would not have been complete without the jazz of Hana Dolgin and her Brothers, and the Bosa Nova of the Boto Fogo Quartet. Bill Saferstein did "sounds of Sinatra" to complete our musical experience. Our enjoyment was enhanced with a variety of ethnic and local foods provided by neighbors and local restaurants. To say they were crowd pleasers would be an understatement.



Fred Astaire Studio dancers

Donald Van Hook, a long-time member of FSP, a good friend and the graphic designer of the FSP newsletter and T-shirts, died of a brain tumor in the Spring of 1999. His friend and partner, John Ostendorf, sent a letter to friends encouraging everyone to start a

fund with the purpose of planting a tree in Donald's memory. The fund would also provide for the ongoing care of the Park. A crab apple tree was purchased by the Parks Department and planted in the middle section of the Park. FSP will have a small memorial plaque placed adjacent to the tree. It will be a beautiful memorial when it blooms in the Spring.

Friends of Straus Park had its annual board meeting in November 1999. We are able to announce the final signing of an agreement between the owners of Indian Cafe and Fish Restaurants and FSP that will allow for an annual contribution for the ongoing horticultural care and maintenance of the Park for the next ten years. This is an historical "first" in Private Business Partnership with Public Local Parks. A partnership of this kind has existed in major parks like Central Park and Madison Square Park but never before with a smaller community based park. This is a wonderful show of confidence in FSP and John Olund, our gardener/horticulturist, by P. K. (Peter) Sharma and Chander Malik, proprietors of the two restaurants. We hope to encourage other neighborhood businesses to become involved and to sponsor some of our other concerts and activities.



Art in the Park

On Thursday, February 3, 2000, Parks Department Commissioner Henry J. Stern, his staff and his dog Boomer, along with Friends of Straus Park, hosted a ceremony in Straus Park to honor P. K. Sharma and Chander Malik. About fifty neighbors and friends braved below freezing temperatures for the hour long presentation which included speeches and the presentation of a check by Msrs. Sharma and Malik to the Parks Department for the horticultural maintenance of Straus Park. Fortunately, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served at The Indian Cafe as people began the thawing-out process. The group was congenial, happy to be warm and extremely well fed, and delighted with the generosity of Peter Sharma and Chander Malik. We hope you will all find an opportunity to visit Straus Park and enjoy the surroundings which will be made even more beautiful by this endowment.

We have declared the New Millennium and the year 2000 as the beginning of a major effort to increase membership. We have been most fortunate with the efforts of our present members but it is obvious that to exist and expand the list of successful activities, we must get new faces and hands to help. We hope you will join us at the Park for our events and become a member of Friends of Straus Park.

Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern and Boomer deliver greetings from Mayor Giuliani

Parks Commissioner
Henry J. Stern
and Boomer
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Laurel Molloy of FSP with the most popular table at Art in the Park

Macy-Straus Cut Glass Catalog

by Craig E. Carlson, Edited by Joan Adler

The American Cut Glass Association (ACGA) is a nonprofit organization formed to spread the understanding and appreciation of American cut glass. In 1987, the ACGA reproduced an 1893 L. Straus & Sons catalog in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. In July 2000, the ACGA will publish a new "Macy-Straus" cut glass catalog created by Craig E. Carlson and the ACGA committee. The new catalog will feature an introduction by Craig which tells the story of the Macy-Straus cut glass connection. The catalog will also contain Straus cut glass patterns that Craig has identified from trade journals and from turn of the century Macy's catalogs. The ACGA takes the novel approach of combining the catalogs of both firms because they have been unable to locate the 1883, 1891, 1894, 1900, 1902, 1912, 1915 and 1916 Straus cut glass catalogs.

It is difficult to identify Straus cut glass because a paper label was affixed to each piece. Therefore, it is only through examining the patterns in catalogs that one can make a tentative identification of "Straus" cut glass. Catalogs such as these are extremely vital to the historical record of the glass company. Their dissemination to individuals who are lovers of cut glass is one way to keep the marvelous history of these two companies alive for future generations.

Craig and I recently met with Jean McFadden, Senior Vice President of Public Relations and Events at Macy's, who generously offered us access to Macy's Archives and granted permission to reproduce archival material. Because of the cooperation of both Jean and Macy's Archivist Bob Rutan, and the diligent work done by Craig, the importance of Straus cut glass will be documented and enhanced.

Craig will be speaking at "A Brilliant Weekend" in Wilmington, DE on Saturday, March 18, 2000 at the evening's banquet. His talk is sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Chapter of the ACGA. Banquet reservations are \$35 each in advance. Contact Sandra Witherington, 121 Timberwood Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188 if you would like to attend.

Craig will also be speaking at "Celebration 2000 Glamour and Glass," the annual convention of the ACGA in Cosa Mesa, CA on Monday, July 20, 2000 at 8:45 AM. Any member of the family wishing to hear Craig's talk will be welcome, free of charge. Contact Craig by June 21st at 732-396-8736 or e.mail Craig447@aol.com Preconvention material states, "Craig Carlson will present new findings on the continuing story of the Macy and Straus Cut Glass Connection. Craig will take us on an historical journey into the past - a journey made possible by the trade journals of the time. By coming to the convention you can take *A Step In Time* and hear a story that has never been told before. A story that time has forgotten. For the first time ever, an ACGA convention will be coordinated with a cut glass catalog introduction. The 2000 Macy and Straus catalog will be unique because it will contain a detailed historical introduction about the Macy and Straus cut glass companies."

Available from the Straus Historical Society, Inc.

"The Autobiography of Isidor Straus" privately published by Sara Straus Hess, in softcover - \$30.00

"Genealogical Miscellany" a family genealogy compiled by Robert K. Straus with addenda - \$35.00

Large black & white photograph of the Lazarus and Sara Straus family taken at Elberon NJ in 1905 - \$40.00

Color photograph album of the Straus family's trip to Talbotton and Columbus, GA, October 24-26, 1997 - \$40.00

Color photograph album of the Oscar S. Straus Memorial rededication ceremony and reception, October 26, 1998 - \$35.00

Videotape of the Oscar S. Straus Memorial Rededication Ceremony - October 26, 1998, filmed by Alan F. Hockstader - \$20.00

Videotape: "Titanic on Broadway," a television special about the making of the Broadway play which includes Joan Adler speaking about the Straus family and a CNN segment in which Paul A. Kurzman is interviewed regarding the play "Titanic" - \$20.00

Send your check to Joan Adler, payable to the **Straus Historical Society, Inc.**, P. O. Box 416, Smithtown, NY 11787-0416. A receipt will be issued for your purchase and for your contribution to the Society. You can contact Joan Adler by phone: 631-265-0383, fax: 631-724-4487 or e.mail: famjad@aol.com

Straus Historical Society, Inc.

NEW

Area Code and Phone Number

631-265-0383

The Straus Historical Society, Inc. has a new area code and phone number. All other contact information will remain the same. Joan Adler, Post Office Box 416, Smithtown, NY 11787-0416. Fax: 631-724-4487. E.mail: FAMJAD@aol.com

I understand some people are having difficulty getting through on our new Straus Historical Society phone number. Apparently there will be a brief time when this will occur as the telephone company adjusts their equipment for the new area code. Try the old area code 516 and our new phone number 265-0383. I will continue to receive calls at our previous phone number, 516 (or 631) 265-3340.