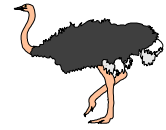


STRAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Volume 4 Number 2

Newsletter

February 2003

DNA Proves It! The Moise Lazarus Family and the Lazarus Straus Family Are Related

It is always wonderful to be the bearer of good news. After many years of searching, a DNA test proves what could not be proven before. The Moises Lazarus family and the Lazarus Straus family are definitely related.

When I first began working for Robert K. Straus in 1990, I learned about a man named Gus B. Kaufman from Macon, GA who was a descendant of Moises Lazarus. Gus had been working on his family's genealogy for more than twenty years. Although circumstantial evidence seemed to indicate that the two families were related, no amount of research could prove it. Gus' cousin, Clarise Illes, who has also been working the the family's genealogy for twenty years, hired a researcher in Germany who, after many years of research and a great deal of money spent, still could not prove the relationship.

Gus and Clarise knew that their great grandmother Magdalena Tuteur (1806-1891) married Moises Straus (1799-1854), son of Moises Lazarus (1770-1798). Although it doesn't seem to make sense that Moises Straus did not carry his father's last name, Jews were not required to take last names in this part of the world until 1808. In fact, the only name we have for the progenitor of the Lazarus Straus family is Lazarus (about 1715-1776). His grandson was known as Jacob Lazarus (or Jacques Loesser) (1754-1834) before last names were required. In 1808 he chose to be called Jakob Straus. Given this information, one could easily conjecture that Moises Lazarus and Jacob Lazarus were related.

When Gus and Clarise's relatives came to America, they settled in Georgia. The Kaufman brothers gave Lazarus Straus his first job, selling merchandise from a pushcart in rural Oglethorpe

GA in 1852. Within a short time, Lazarus decided to open a dry goods shop in the larger town of Talbotton, the Talbot County seat. The Kaufman brothers became his partners. Julius Kaufman worked in the Talbotton store with Lazarus. Jacob Kaufman worked in a similar dry goods store in Carsonville, only nineteen miles away. We believe Lazarus was a partner in that store. On December 26th, 1859, fourteen year old Isidor wrote to his parents from Carsonville; "It pleased me very much when Mr. Jacob came home last week and brought me a few lines from you Dear Mother, and I am very much obliged for that beautiful apple you

send to me..." During the War Between the States, (the Civil War as we Northerner say), Isidor went to Europe as the secretary of Lloyd G. Bowers, head of a company that intended to build blockade running ships. Isidor spent several months in Germany visiting relatives and friends. He sent greetings to the Kaufmans in many of these letters. He wrote of visiting the parents of the Kaufmans and included greetings from them to their children.

All nine of Magdalena and Moises Straus' children were born in Otterberg Germany. Magdalena's husband Moises died in 1854. In 1857 she brought her four younger children, Matilda, Jacob, Theresa and Abraham

Family Tree DNA

This Certificate confirms that you have had DNA analyzed by Family Tree DNA. The results below are from the DNA sample that you submitted to our testing service. The results of each of the 12 Loci examined are reported in the table below.

For your benefit we have listed the Cohen alleles (scores) for the six Loci used in the 1996 Cohanim study and your personal Loci. If your alleles (scores) for the six Loci match exactly, or are off by one position in no more than one Locus, then you have the Y chromosome type most commonly found among Cohanim.*

Family Tree DNA is a Genealogical tool designed to aid individuals wanting to 'connect' with relatives lost in time and where the paper trail no longer exists.

Name: **Straus**

Y Chromosome Loci #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Your Y Chromosome alleles	13	25	16	10	11	14	12	12	10	13	11	30
Cohanim alleles	12	23	14	10				16			11	
Loci designation DYS#	292	290	19	391	385a	385b	426	388	439	389-1	292	299-2
Your sample #2803												

*Y Chromosomes of Jewish Priests—Haber—Vol. 285 2—January—1997

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The history of the Straus family is part of world history
It is written for the present
It provokes discussion, imagination and creation
It ties the present with the past and draws pathways to the future

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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 to 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.

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**A Message from the Chair:
Oscar S. Straus III**

It is with a great deal of excitement that I assume the Chair of the Straus Historical Society, Inc. Following Paul Kurzman, who has more than ably led us over the past five years, is a difficult task. Thankfully, Paul has agreed to remain on the Board. I know that I will have many opportunities to call upon his knowledge and expertise in the coming year.

The Straus Historical Society is at a crossroad. We can stay just as we are or look into the future to expand our activities. Two of these activities are the continued research into our past, including the oral history of our senior members, and the continuing of our effort to make our growing archives available to those responsible researchers who are looking into the history of the Straus family.

Each year, fund-raising takes on an increasing amount of your Director's time. We have to develop our expertise further to bring in new family members and friends to assist in our support as well as to allow our Executive Director, Joan Adler, to continue what she has done so well for these many years. The current Board is of great help. We hope others will join us as Board Members. If anyone wishes to assist, please get in touch with me or our Vice Chairperson, Robin Dillon.

I am looking forward to 2003 and hope that you will all join us as we begin a new year.



**A Message from the
Executive Director: Joan Adler**

As we begin each new year, we also reflect back on the past year.

Last year we accomplished something we have been trying to do for more than ten years. We have finally proven the connection between the Moises Lazarus family and the Lazarus Straus family. An article about this exciting discovery may be found on pages one and three. Last year, information about the Straus family was included in books, magazines and newspaper articles. Photographs of the Strauses were used to illustrate these works. The Straus Historical Society advised the authors. We have also initiated talks with other historical societies to see how we can cooperate to expand our reach.

In 2003, all of these projects will continue and, hopefully, expand. We look forward to moving from an interim to a permanent 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. And, we welcome the family of Moises Lazarus to the Straus Historical Society, Inc.

Without your support, both financially and through your donation of time and materials and information about the family, we cannot move forward.

Let Me Hear From You

(DNA Proves It - continued) to the United States on the ship "Trenton" from Le Havre. They landed in New York on July 21, 1857. Daughter Fannie arrived in 1859. It is possible Magdalena's older children were already married and chose to remain in Germany.

The family emigrated from Otterberg, the same town where the Lazarus Straus family settled in 1802. After arriving in the United States, Fannie Straus, daughter of Moises and Magdalena married Jacob Kaufman in 1860 in Talbot County, GA. Family lore tells us that they were married at the home of Lazarus Straus. Clarise is a descendant of Fannie and Jacob. Matilda Straus married Julius Kaufman in 1870. They are said to have married at the home of Hermine and Lazarus Kohns. Hermine was the daughter of Lazarus and Sara Straus. Gus is a descendant of Matilda and Julius. Abraham, the son of Moises and Magdalena, followed his sisters to Columbus GA. There he married Theresa Stern. Those of you who have been to Talbotton and Columbus with the Straus Historical Society have met Cindy Straus and Dick Straus, widow and son of Abraham Straus' grandson Jack and Gus B. Kaufman and his family.

Although no "paper trail" has been uncovered, the descendants of Moises Lazarus have heard stories throughout their lives about the close relationship between the two families. Many of them have been told about their ancestors visiting with "Uncle Nathan" or "Uncle Isidor" in New York. Some have gifts given to family members as wedding or anniversary presents. I believe there may even be letters written by members of one of these families to members of the other family. Hopefully, some of these will be shared with the Straus Historical Society.

Until recently, no one had been able to prove what seemed so obvious to so many. But now, a simple DNA test has given us that proof. Let me explain.

It is necessary for two males, one from each of the families, to contribute a DNA sample. Each male must be descended from a purely male line; a son from a father from a grandfather from a great grandfather, etc. Each male was supplied with a test kit consisting of cotton swabs similar to Q-Tips. Each ran his swabs gently around the inside of his cheek, sealed the swabs inside a small tube, and sent them to the DNA testing company. There, only 25 markers are tested for compatibility. No other tests are done. The testees privacy is guaranteed. In this case, each Straus signed a waiver that others could be notified only if their DNA matched.

Each male inherits half his chromosomes from his father and half from his mother. The mother has two sex determinant X chromosomes and the father has an X and a Y. If the father contributes the Y chromosome, the child will be male. He, in turn, contributes his Y chromosome to his son. This Y chromosome has the same genetic material as the one he inherited from his father and grandfather and great grandfather. It is passed on for generations. The only change comes when there are mutations. Scientists have figured out the rate of mutation, about once every 500 years, and factor it into this DNA test.

When they came up with the result that the Moises Lazarus

family and the Lazarus Straus family originate from the same progenitor, they can say it with a great degree of certainty. There is a 99.9% chance that the two families are related. 25 out of 25 DNA markers match. And there is a 95% chance that the most common ancestor happened within the past 175 years.

Interestingly, there were twelve other people who have had their DNA tested and who matched twelve out of twelve markers. This means there is a good chance they are also related, but the most common ancestor was at least 280 years ago. Most of them have families from places like Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, Mogilev and Poland. Most of them don't have genealogical information going back far enough to trace their families 7 generations or more. We know the migration of Jews in the 14th and 15th century, after the Black Plague, was in an easterly direction. These families must have originated in Germany, the siblings of Lazarus (1715-1776) or Moises (1770-1798), or earlier generations, and moved east. Of the twelve people who matched twelve out of twelve markers, four of them matched at least 24 out of 25 markers. Their ancestors came from Lithuania and Mogilev. One of these people matched all 25 markers. His family was from Mogilev. For every answer there are at least two more questions.

Where do we go from here? Now that we are certain of the connection, it becomes even more important to find the paper trail. We will be looking for vital records for the time before Moises Lazarus. Although the Lazarus Straus family has information going back nine generations from the DNA test subject, the Moises Lazarus family has information for only six generations back from their test subject. Our job will be to try to fill in the missing pieces of this puzzle.

Although we know the progenitor of the Straus family was Lazarus (1715-1776), we don't know if he had any siblings. Most families at that time were quiet large. Lazarus Straus (1809-1898) was the oldest of 14. We know that the first Lazarus and his wife Fegele had two sons, Jacob (1754-1834) and Anshel (1743-1793). It is likely they had more children. We know about Moises Lazarus but don't know anything about his siblings. Again, given the size of families in those days, it is likely he was only one of many.

The pool of eleven other families with identical DNA markers will also be working to expand their knowledge of the oldest generations of their family. This work is made more difficult because the former Communist countries are only just now beginning to release their information. It is not organized nor, in most cases, do they have any idea what their holdings might be. The search will be difficult but the results should prove interesting.

In the meantime, I will be updating our databases and adding information about the "new" Straus relatives. Although you knew it all along, on behalf of the "other" Straus family, I would like to be one of the first to say welcome.

A family reunion will be held May 10, 2003 at Crawford Park in Rye, NY. This would be an excellent time for "new" cousins to meet. We hope you will consider attending.

Nathan Straus, Public Servant

When we think of public service and the Straus family, we usually think of Oscar S. Straus. A few of his positions include Minister to Constantinople, Ambassador to Turkey and Secretary of Commerce and Labor. In the last issue of the Straus Historical Society's newsletter I wrote about Isidor's service in the House of Representatives. But Oscar and Isidor were not the only Straus siblings to serve.

Brother Nathan Straus was best known as a philanthropist. It is not generally known that Nathan was also a public servant. He was the Commissioner of Parks in New York City, President of the Department of Health, a member of the Forestry Board of New York State and Forest Commissioner. He was an independent Democrat who ran for the office of Mayor of New York City and was proposed as the nominee of the Democratic Party for the Senate of New York State.

Born in Otterberg Germany in 1848, Nathan Straus emigrated to the United States with his mother and siblings Isidor, Hermine and Oscar in September 1854. The family moved to Talbotton and then Columbus GA where they remained throughout the Civil War. When they moved to New York in 1865, Nathan had already established himself as an enterprising young man with boundless energy. He seemed to be everywhere, making friends and finding new ways to earn money. After completing Packard Business College in 1866, Nathan joined the family firm, L. Straus & Sons, importers of china, porcelain and glassware. Nathan's energy prevented him from sitting behind a desk all day. He traveled to Europe on buying trips and around the United States opening markets.

In December 1889 New York's Mayor Hugh J. Grant appointed Nathan to fill the seat of Board of Education Commissioner DeWitt J. Seligman. It should be noted that Mayor Grant and Nathan Straus were good friends and shared a love of horses. Nathan declined the appointment stating that he was too busy.

In October 1890 he was appointed to a commission to consider plans for the improvement of the westerly Riverside Drive between 72nd and 96th Streets. Nathan was appointed Park Commissioner for a term from November 1890 to May 1896. Park Commission appointments were completely partisan. There were no Republicans on the board. It was made up mostly of Tammany men. Nathan was an independent Democrat; allied with Tammany Hall but not a Tammany member. One of Nathan's first projects as Park Commissioner was to look into the matter of Jay Gould's railroad using elevated track at Battery Park. He said, "I am determined to protect our parks to the extent of my ability. While I hold office I shall certainly try to do my full duty." Nathan suggested that the railroad company was rich enough to buy land for a terminal at the southern end of the city. Up until then, they had been granted a squatters permit.

In March 1892 a bill by Senator Plunkett called for the construction of a public race track on the west side of Central Park. The bill was signed into law by the governor about ten minutes after it was rushed through the Assembly. Citizens groups raised strong opposition. The matter was reviewed by the Parks Commissioners. On March 19, 1892 *The Times* reported, "Not a word can be heard in favor of the construction of the race track, and the consequent ruin of the west side of the Park except from owners of race horses. ... It would have been difficult for the powers that be in this city and in Albany to have offended the people of New York more ..." Commissioner Straus stated, "I am emphatically in favor of carrying out the provisions of the bill."

While he was Park Commissioner, Nathan was working in the family firms, L. Straus & Sons and R. H. Macy's, serving on the commission to study the proposed improvements to Riverside Drive, a director of the Gentlemen's Driving Club, the Manhattan Club and the Young Men's Hebrew Association. He attended dinners where others were honored and raised money for the city's poor and continued to race his trotters on The Speedway, now Harlem River Drive. In addition, Nathan was a principal shareholder in a group that purchased The Lakewood Hotel in Lakewood NJ. *The Times* reported, "Energy, capital and enterprise have wrought wonders."

In 1892 Nathan was a delegate to the Democratic Convention in Syracuse NY. In the winter of 1893 he open the first of his coal stations, providing coal to the city's needy at the net cost price and in the summer of 1893 he opened the first milk stations, bringing sanitized, pasteurized milk to the children of New York. In fact, in September of 1893, after returning from Europe, Nathan found himself so busy that he sold all his horses at auction.

Nathan was appointed to a five year term as Forestry Commissioner by Governor Flower in April 1893. *The Times* wrote, "As an office-holder he is known as a progressive, high-minded man, liberal in his views, and careful of the interests of the people."

At the end of December, 1893 Mayor Gilroy of New York City announced, "As soon as the appropriations for 1894 are available I shall call the heads of the various city departments together to arrange a systematic plan whereby public work may be undertaken with all possible for the purpose of providing employment for as many men as possible who are now out of work." Commissioner Straus gave permission for bread and tea to be made available to the city's suffering poor at cost price.

In January 1894 the Park Commission considered a proposal to increase the number of walkways being constructed on Harlem River Driveway. Park Commissioner Nathan Straus wrote to his fellow board members, "It is work, not walks, the laborer wants and I sincerely hope that no technicality will prevent the awarding of the contract, as I know the estimates will be less than in



prosperous times, because so many are seeking work, and it is in your power to provide it, and your duty to give it without delay."

The Constitutional Convention of the State of New York met in May 1894. Politically, the convention would be divided between 96 Republicans and 75 Democrats. Four new delegates would be selected and amendments to the state constitution considered. One proposal was to codify the position of governor, a position that at the time was no more than a figurehead. In August, the Democratic Party called for unity among its ranks. Nathan paraphrased Lincoln, "A house divided against itself cannot stand, and this is just as applicable to political parties as it is to families and individuals. Our opponents can only hope to gain power through dissensions in our ranks. I think that all the factions of the party will come together, and all the polls there will be but one Democratic ticket, which every one who calls himself a Democrat will vote for. I consider the coming election of the utmost importance, more especially in the effect its result will have on the next Presidential election. If the Republicans carry this State this Fall, which they can only do through the divisions in the Democratic Party, they will be so solidly entrenched that they might be able to place the State of New York, naturally Democratic, in the column of Republican States, when the time comes to choose a successor to Mr. Cleveland."

Nathan could not have known how prophetic his words would be. In the 1898 election, Theodore Roosevelt was elected Governor of New York. When President McKinley's Vice President Garret A. Hobart died in 1900, Governor Roosevelt was chosen to replace him. Then, upon the assassination of McKinley in 1901, Roosevelt became the President of the United States.

The Times reported in October 9, 1894, "There is an element in Tammany Hall which is urging the nomination of Park Commissioner Nathan Straus for Mayor. ... but whether Mr. Straus is a candidate for the place himself is not known. He is a man of vast business interests of an absorbing character." October 10, "Some of ex-Mayor Grant's friends in Tammany Hall were working hard yesterday to secure the nomination of Park Commissioner Nathan Straus." Various prominent men said, "He would make an ideal Mayor. Mr. Straus has deserved all the success he has attained. He is active in business affairs and he has that strong mentality that goes with success. I have no doubt whatever that he will be elected if he should decide to take the nomination and run on a united ticket." "Nathan Straus is a particularly bright man. He comes of a remarkable family and possesses all of its best traits. He would make an admirable Mayor and would introduce business methods in public affairs." "The entire Straus family has the push and energy and keen business sense developed to the highest and Nathan Straus has shown himself to be a remarkable man." "Mr. Straus is a successful man of business, of irreproachable life, a philanthropist whose chari-

ties have made happier the lives of thousands of the poor, and he is not a member of the organization. (Tammany Hall). In fact, he is of a temperament so independent of control that quite likely he would break with Tammany before he had been long in office." "Mr. Straus is described by one who knows him as a nervous, energetic man, very democratic in his notions and strong in his likes and dislikes. He hates illiberal or pretentious persons, being the opposite himself. In personal appearance he is rather slight in build and a trifle under the average height. He wears a dark, rounded beard, and is slightly inclined to baldness. He devotes considerable care to dress and follows the fashions closely."

On October 11, 1894, Nathan Straus' name was entered as the nominee for Mayor of New York City by Tammany Hall. Civil Justice James A. O'Gorman said, Nathan Straus is "... a citizen of our city who is a man among men, whose fame is not confined to the city, but is as wide as the State. Jefferson said that the tests of a man's availability for office were three: Is he capable, is he honest, is he faithful and loyal to the Constitution and the laws of the land? The man whom I will name combines all these qualities and comes up to the standard. He loves every Democratic principle. He detests every Republican principle. He stands for everything that is right. He stands for laws that will benefit masses for the community." Nathan Straus' was nominated by unanimous decision.



Nathan Straus
Democratic Candidate for Mayor

Although Nathan wanted a united Democratic Party, several factions within the party would not support him because of his ties with Tammany Hall. The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst spoke at the City Vigilance League, "Is it not peculiar that Tammany Hall had to go outside of Tammany to find such a man as Nathan Straus? I think that this is the most complete piece of give-away I ever heard of. Although these Tammany people have soaked and reeked in filth and cannot discriminate between right and wrong, they are smart enough to know that there are people who can." Nathan, himself, told reporters that he had been offered the nomination if he would promise to use his influence to secure the nomination of W. R. Grace for the State Senate. Although not a member of Tammany Hall, Nathan had accepted the Tammany Hall nomination for Mayor. John Jerolaman wrote, "I firmly believe the time has come when all good citizens should sink partisan considerations and prejudices in matters pertaining to municipal government, and make an earnest effort to rescue our city from the deadly grasp of the corrupt machine that now dominates its affairs." Julius Frank, a lawyer, summed up the growing sentiment, "I do not wish to say anything that will degenerate from Mr. Straus' personality. I think that he has made a record as a merchant and a citizen which is wholly enviable, and I think that by reason of that very fact his acceptance of the nomination from Tammany Hall is to be deplored."

The rift came to a head when Nathan Straus threatened to withdraw from the race if the name of Senator Hill of the State De-

mocracy allowed his name to head the local Democratic Grace-Strong ticket. He wrote to Senator Hill who was running for Governor, " Dear Sir; I trust that you have declined to allow your name to be placed on any other ticket in this county than the regular Democratic Party ticket upon which my name appears. I expect to stand as the candidate for Mayor but I shall positively decline to run if you overthrow the political standing of the Democratic Party in this county by permitting your name to appear on a ticket with a Republican Mayor."

On October 19th, only eight days after securing the nomination, Nathan Straus wrote to the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of New York: "Sirs; I hereby notify you that I decline the nomination for Mayor of the City of New York tendered to me by the Democratic Party in the City of New York." The Republicans won a landslide victory. The *New York Morning Advertiser* wrote on November 8, 1894, "We congratulate Mr. Nathan Straus. He is a gentleman with a large head and an extraordinary foresight that enables him to see around the block. *The New York Independent* reported, "Something of a sensation was made by the announcement that Oscar S. Straus and Isidor Straus, brothers of Nathan Straus, had avenged the treatment given him by bolting the regular Democratic ticket, both State and city, and declaring themselves for Wheeler and Strong."

Nathan and Lina sailed for Europe on October 24th. *The New York Times* reported, "His health has suffered owing to the nervous strain he has been under the last few weeks and he has taken his physician's advice to go abroad." The couple returned to the city January 24, 1895. Within a week, Nathan announced his decision to resign from the Park Board "as soon as certain business in the Park Board is completed." On February 3, 1895 Governor Levi P. Morton announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Nathan Straus as a Forest Commissioner. "I regret exceedingly that three of the Forest Commissioners granted, during my enforced absence, the right of way through the forest preserve to the Adirondack Railroad Company. I consider this grant entirely contrary to the purpose for which the Forest Commission was created, viz.: To preserve the State forests. And I desire to record a most emphatic protest against the action of the three Commissioners. ... I hope you will pardon my seeming presumption in the following suggestion: That, when you select my successor you name a gentleman who has no interest in lumbering."

The Grand Jury brought a bill to indict Nathan Straus, ex-Park Commissioner, and seven others, on April 5, 1895. "The ex-Park Commissioners are said to have been indicted for malfeasance in office and mismanagement of the funds intrusted to their care, with special reference to the expending of the one-million-dollar appropriation made by the Legislature during the Winter of 1893-4 in providing work for the unemployed poor in the

parks and roads under the control of the department, and also in connection with the Sicilian asphalt contracts." Nathan Straus was charged with a misdemeanor. He entered a plea of not guilty. On June 19th, Justice Barrett of the Supreme Court dismissed the indictments at the request of District Attorney John R. Fellows.

At a meeting of the Tammany Society on December 8, 1896, long time friend Richard Croker proposed the name of Nathan Straus for membership. He was elected on January 5, 1897 and on March 14, 1897 he was further elected to the Tammany Society, Colombian Order Board of Sachems. Also in March, Senator McNulty of Brooklyn proposed a bill in Albany authorizing the City of New York "to acquire land, and to erect, furnish, and equip buildings therein for an exhibition of arts, sciences, manufacturers, and products of the soil, mine, and sea to be held for such period during the year 1901 ... for commemorating the incorporation of the Greater New York." The bill authorized the city to issue \$10,000,000 worth of bonds for the expense of the exhibition. Nathan became a member of the New York Board of Exhibition Commissioners.



Nathan Straus
President, Department of Health

As the 1898 city elections drew near, Nathan Straus once again found himself in the political arena. The Democratic Union, presided over by President Charles A. Jackson was "composed of Democrats of all shades and stripes. A great deal was made of the unity of the party in this election; Democrats who in the past have differed on some points, but who to-night clasp hands to rescue this great metropolis from Republican misrule."

Nathan Straus was nominated as a Vice President of the Democratic Union on October 16, 1897 and suggested as head

of the Park Commission by Mayor-elect Van Wyck on November 5, 1897. Nathan declined that position but became the President and Commissioner of the Board of Health for a two year term at a salary of \$7,500. On January 7, 1898 he wrote to his brother Isidor who was in Europe, "I am President of the Health Board. The duties there will not require exceeding two hours daily. However, as you well know, I did not seek the office and did not want it, and I will relinquish it just as soon as I see my way clear to do so, as I have my hands full attending to my own business."

Nathan took his responsibilities seriously. One of his first duties as President of the Health Board was to announce that hotels and bath houses would be required to provide bathers with life lines. The board also contemplated appointing a life savings corps of officers in uniforms. On February 2, 1898 *The Times* reported, "The Woman's Health Protective Association is still interested in the subject of expectoration tracts, and Nathan Straus, President of the Health Board, is to co-operate with the society in the war it is to wage this Winter against the great New York expectorator." Nathan traveled to Albany to

present his opposition to the Brush Bill on February 15, 1898. "The principal provisions of the bill to which exception is taken are those depriving the board of the services of the President of the Board of Police Commissioners, prohibiting the production of vaccine virus, diphtheria antitoxin, and other antitoxins, and the work in the prevention of infectious diseases, and excluding from the list of "infectious, contagious, and pestilential diseases" a number of diseases which now are classed by the Health Department or by the Health Departments of other cities as dangerous to the public health."

On March 4, 1898 Nathan Straus sent his letter of resignation to Mayor Van Wyck. *The Times* reported, "Mr. Straus, who is interested in a number of business enterprises, pleaded in his letter of resignation that his private business required so much of his time that he found it impossible to continue longer in the city's service; but among those who have watched the trend of affairs recently it is the opinion that Mr. Straus's resignation is due to the Mayor's criticism on Monday at a meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the affairs of the Health Department."

In 1902, Nathan served on the Committee of Public Affairs of Tammany Hall. He was a delegate from the Twenty-Eighth Congressional District to the Democratic State Convention in September 1902. He asked for five minutes to speak but was denied a turn at the podium. His notes were turned over to the press and printed in the newspapers the next day. "I have always prided myself on being a straight Democrat. I voted and worked for Mr. Bryan both times he was nominated. Why did I vote for Bryan? Because he was nominated in the regular way by the Democratic Party and though I disagreed most emphatically with his platform, I knew the man was sincere and honest and had a big heart. And when a man is honest, my friends, he will come pretty near to doing the right thing when placed in power. To-day some of you are trying to put a man in power who has no heart. ... I am not here to show a vindictive spirit. There is nothing personal in it. There was a time when I had personal differences with Mr. Hill, but such differences never changed my opinions as to his sterling honesty, integrity, and ability. If a man injures me, I can forget and forgive, but if a man shows a willingness to sacrifice thousands of helpless infants to repay a petty political favor, as this man did, then I am against him. And, if that is the kind of man you want for Governor, then go ahead and nominate him. ... I give you fair warning that if, in spite of what I have said to you to-day, you insist in nominating Mr Coler for Governor, that you will compel me to do what I have I shall never be completed to do - go back on my party. I owe it to my conscience, I owe it to the children Mr. Coler was willing to sacrifice, that I do all in my power even though he be nominated to defeat him. Although I have always been a Democrat, the lives of the children are dearer to me than all the political parties combined."



Nathan Straus with Franklyn D. Roosevelt

On October 30, 1906 Nathan gave the following statement, "I am going to vote for William Randolph Hearst for Governor. ... I have known him as a man of honor, honesty, and sincerity. I have had business dealings with him, very extensive dealings, ... from my knowledge of him he is a man who will keep his word in politics." On November 6, 1906 *The Times* quoted Abraham Abraham, the Straus' business partner, "It was learned by a reporter from another source that, as a matter of fact, Nathan Straus stands alone among the voting members of the Abraham and Straus families. Sixteen out of seventeen votes will be cast for Hughes, including, of course, the vote of Oscar S. Straus, recently appointed to the Cabinet of President Roosevelt."

In April 1908 Nathan was selected as a Presidential Elector At Large for the Democratic State Convention. William Jennings Bryan and John W. Kern were selected as the Democratic Nominees for President and Vice President. They named Nathan as the President of the Bryan and Kern Business Men's Association. Nathan said, "I never was more thoroughly in accord with

Mr. Bryan's views if the grave questions confronting the American people than I am in this campaign. Knowing Mr. Bryan as I do, and having the greatest confidence in his ability and his unquestioned honesty of purpose, I unhesitatingly say that in my opinion he is the candidate whom the people of this country should choose at the November election." One of Bryan's proposals was the National guarantee of savings bank deposits. Nathan supported this idea.

When asked how Mr. Bryan could have prevented the failure of the smaller banks, Nathan stated, "Well, Mr. Bryan would have found a way to prevent it somehow. When the appeal is in the heart, legal technicalities should not be permitted to become obstacles. It's all very well to talk about the inability of the law to reach these evils, but if you go down into the streets, the cries of these women and children will wring your heart, and if there is any humanity left in you, you will start out to brush aside these obstacles and get through a law that will be effective." Nathan beat his Republican opponent for County Elector by slightly more than 5,000 votes out of 300,000.

Nathan's friendship with William R. Hearst did not prevent him from speaking out about the need for a Democratic newspaper. On November 1, 1908 he said, "Everyone is entitled to fair treatment. The Democrats have not had fair treatment at the hands of some of the newspapers. You cannot expect Republican newspapers to fill their pages with reports of our work and with reports of our speeches, but they have been fairer to us in that way than have the independent papers, which have practically given us no notice at all."

Soon after the "Titanic" disaster in 1912 and the death of his beloved brother Isidor and sister-in-law Ida, Nathan withdrew from business. He devoted himself to his many philanthropies and became involved in the Zionist cause. He also continued

his interest in political affairs. In October 1914 Nathan sent a letter to New York Governor Glynn, "In your appointments and especially in your judicial appointments you have considered merit and efficiency only, and you have designated a Jew because you knew that he could ably perform the duties of his high office. A Governor who has honestly acted; with eyes solely turned to the welfare of the State; who is progressive, honest and economical, and whose appointments are broadly American deserves re-election by an overwhelming majority to which voters from all parties and all creeds who have the real interest of the State at heart should contribute."

The Democratic Club named Nathan as a member of the executive committee to elect Wilson and Marshall in the 1916 elections.

Nathan expressed his views on war preparedness the following October before Laymen's Efficiency Convention at Synod Hall.

He suggested that every man rich enough to pay an income tax should send an equal amount to Europe for the sufferers of war. "We need preparedness - not to fight battles, but to prevent battles being fought. We need preparedness, not to defend this nation against foes but to compel and guarantee world peace. And America alone of all the nations is in the position to make such use of power as will curb and control that bickering jealous nations that keep this world in such turmoil. I deny emphatically that preparedness leads to war. I assert with deep conviction that thorough preparedness on the part of America will be the best guarantee that the world can have that there will be no more wars."

In June of 1917 Nathan was appointed to a committee to investigate health conditions in the Navy by Secretary of the Navy Daniels and to the Board of Appeal for New York State by Governor Wilson. On November 5, 1917 he wrote to Judge F. Hylan, Tammany candidate for Mayor, "You should have heard from me before, but I have been devoting all my time and strength to war relief work and I have not been able to interest myself in the election. ... There is nothing more unjust than the attacks made upon your Americanism and your loyalty. Your friends know that, and the people generally understand it. The opposition simply slanders every one who does not agree with it."

At the Democratic State Convention in July 1918 Nathan Straus came out in support of William R. Hearst's nomination for the office of Governor of New York State. Alfred E. Smith was selected after much turmoil. Nathan sent a telegram later that month to Homer S. Cummings, Acting Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "Our President and his associates have carried the country successfully through perilous times, and the most important problems that have ever been before the world still confront them. It would be a national calamity not to elect a Democratic House and Senate and deprive the Adminis-

tration of our united support. Any one discussing politics at this critical time and for selfish partisan reasons trying to weaken our prestige before the world commits a heinous crime."

He supported Louis Untermyer for Supreme Court Justice in the 1919 election, lending his own name to newspaper ads and writing editorials. Nathan was nominated for the State Board of Regents in April 1920 and was again elected as a district delegate for the Twentieth Congressional District in Manhattan for the State Convention. In August he wrote to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democratic nominee for Vice President, "The strenuous time of the Zionist International Conference being over, I feel it is my duty and privilege to congratulate you. With Governor Cox and yourself heading the ticket, I know the Democratic chances to be as strong as they could possibly be, and I look confidently for the election of our ticket."

Nathan's whirlwind activities continued through his later years.



In 1921, he was appointed as Honorary Chairman of the Mayor's Committee to welcome Professor Albert Einstein to New York City. He served on a committee to dedicate a strip of parkway on Delancey Street to the late Jacob Shiff. In 1923 he was named one of six greatest civic heroes in the past twenty five years. He was honored at the Silver Jubilee in commemoration of the consolidation of Greater New York City and was given a city flag. He endorsed the candidacy of Joseph M. Proskauer for Supreme Court Justice on the Democratic ticket in 1923 and John W. Davis for President also on the Democratic ticket in 1924. *The New York Times* reported, "Mr. Straus gave his opposition to reaction, the Republican immigration policy and the Ku Klux Klan as additional reasons for voting for Mr. Davis. Nathan

wrote, "My friends know that whatever energy and ability I possess is dedicated to the cause of all the people. It is the welfare of the people - in America and throughout the world - which occupies my best thought."

On Nathan's 75th birthday in 1923, congratulatory messages were sent from around the world. Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "There are no two men for whom I have a greater respect than Nathan Straus and his brother Oscar. Both of them have given the best that lay in them to the public service. Both of them have been ready at all times to contribute not only money, but more important still, their untiring devotion and work to the service of their fellow citizens." President Harding sent his greetings, "Mr. Straus's public service and private and public philanthropies have deserved much of his fellow-citizens and I hope that he may live many more years of similar usefulness."

When people think of Nathan Straus, they think primarily of his many philanthropies; the milk and coal stations, food for the needy, health stations in Jerusalem and his Zionist efforts. I hope this article illustrates another side of Nathan Straus; his dedication to his fellow man through public service.

Friends of Straus Park

Written by Leon Auerbach

Edited by Joan Adler

Photographs by Margaret Kavanau

Our fifth annual "Art In The Park" celebration continues as our autumn success. Friends of Straus Park (FSP) usually chooses the latter part of October to hold our "Art In The Park" celebration of Art, Music, Dance and Food for a number of reasons. We normally experience good weather. The date follows major religious holidays, thereby allowing the largest attendance. The physical beauty of the Park is at its highest growth and color.

This year we were once again glued to The Weather Channel for good news. But the forecasts on Friday morning and afternoon were "iffy." So, to play it safe, we chose to move our Saturday date to Sunday. This means informing all our members responsible for helping to put the date together about the change and contacting the performing artists and all the local artists, food purveyors, and friends showing crafts and books about the date change. No easy job. But it had to be done.



Center: Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe extends thanks from Mayor Blumberg
Left: Leon Auerbach, Right: Joe Arbo

On Sunday, October 6th, Marjorie Auerbach and her crew set up the art panels upon which the art and photographs of 18 artists were hung. Tables with donated sandwiches and desserts were assembled under the direction of Jo Abrams and Kate Ford. T-shirts and historical literature were set out by Martha Zebrowski and John Olund. (John is our talented gardener who is responsible for the colorful beauty of the Park.) Joe Arbo did the sound and brought the wide variety of crafts and food together on



Painting, drawing and photography keynote the day among the wonderful plantings in the Park

West End Avenue, the street where the dancers and performers entertained us.

We had the good fortune of a new group of 14 young Hip Hop students, The Nubian Gents. Their energy and lively sound got the whole crowd moving. A group of Cuban Son (sound) by Cafe Con Leche did a terrific job with Caribbean Rhythms. We had a great

hour of ballroom, fox trot, rhumba and salsa with instructors from Fred Astaire Dance Studios.



Nubian Gents, a local group of Hip Hop students performing a vigorous musical number

The weather and the crowd were just perfect and we had smiles by the mile. We will have a busy year to come in 2003 and a full calendar of events will follow. As the weather gets better we invite you all to come and visit.



Cafe Con Leche purveyors of Cuban Son serenade the neighbors

A series of community forums will be held every other month in the lobby of neighborhood buildings to introduce the new members of our city's departments and government. The first forum will be Wednesday, February 26th. New York Police Department Precinct Commander, Inspector James Dean will speak on the quality of life in the neighborhood. Follow ups on alternate months will include Manhattan Borough Commissioner Bill Castro for Parks, and Superintendent Michael O'Donnell District Supervisor for the New York Sanitation Department. The

last forum will be held in August and Battalion Chief Michael McPartland of the New York Fire Department will speak. Each will give a small talk relating to us his vast experience and what he hopes to accomplish on the job in the area. The men will be asked to outline ways we can help them. A question and answer period will follow the talks. We hope, in this way, to get to know the



The Park being enjoyed as Art in In The Park goes on

new department heads, to open a dialogue that will lead to good community relations and to promising changes, and to initiate an avenue for future dialogues.

Please contact Jo Abrams at 212-666-6244 for further information, if you are interested in attending events, volunteering in any way or if you would like to join Friends of Straus Park.

Profiles: Gus Bernd Kaufman

Gus Bernd Kaufman's paternal grandparents were Julius and Matilda Straus Kaufman. Matilda and her sister Fannie Straus came from Otterberg Germany in 1857 and married the Kaufman brothers Julius and Jacob who were in business with Lazarus Straus in Talbotton.

Gus' mother's family, the Bernds, came to the States in 1832 from the Koblenz area of Germany. The second generation came to Macon in 1865. Gus was born in Columbus Georgia July 18, 1918 joining sister Jane, five years his senior. The family lived in Columbus until Gus was eight at which time his father sustained financial setbacks and moved the family to Miami to take advantage of the land grab boom. He was unable to turn the family's fortune around and in 1930 Gus' parents divorced and his mother Elberta Bernd Kaufman returned with her two children to her maternal home in Macon.

Gus attended Macon High School and the University of Georgia for a year and a half. An uncle, who had been funding his education, died suddenly, forcing Gus to withdraw from the university. He went to work in the family firm, G. Bernd Company, who were dealers in animal by-products, primarily cowhides. These were collected from the meat packing plants through the south-east and sold to the leather manufacturers, mostly in the Boston area, for shoe leather. In 1943, when an uncle who was the head of the company died prematurely, 25 year old Gus became the fourth generation to head the firm. Gus said, "I went from office boy to president overnight." He worked until 1980 when heart surgery forced him to retire at which time he sold the business that had been in family hands since 1865.



Gus Bernd Kaufman - June 2001

Marian Waxelbaum, some of whose family members are buried near the Straus' in Salem Field Cemetery in New York, was born and grew up in Macon. The couple married in 1944. Marian taught English in the boys' high school. They have four children; Marianna, Gus Jr., Lisa, and Aaron. Each is highly accomplished in his/her profession and, with the exception of Aaron, they live nearby.

Gus found time during his working years to participate in civil rights activities and, although he never ran for office, was very politically active. He was honored with the "Silver Beaver" award, the highest award the Boy Scouts gives for adult leadership. He was president of Temple Beth Israel. He was president of the community theater and built a new building under his tenure. Gus was on the Southeastern Council of the United Jewish Appeal and worked for UJA for 50 years. He is an honorary member of the Federation of Jewish Charities.

I asked Gus how he became interested in genealogy. He told me, "After all, we Southerners live it." And, after visiting Gus

and Marian and going to Talbotton and Columbus, I understood what he meant. Southerners are keenly aware of their heritage and their history. They know the relationship of everyone in their community. They understand the factors that change their way of life. And they cherish this knowledge.

Forty years ago a Bernd cousin gave Gus a book about the family's history. Then, Gus met Louis Schmier of Valdosta GA, a well known Southern Jewish historian. Before long, Gus became involved with the Southern Jewish Historical Society and served as its treasurer.

He and Marian do not sit still. They've published four books. Each took extensive and meticulous research. The first, "**The Jewish Burials of Macon Georgia**," documents every Jewish burial in Macon from 1844 through 1997 with translations of the Hebrew. The second, "**1491 Jewish Marriages of Macon, GA**"

required sifting through 150,000 records at the county courthouse to find every Jewish marriage from 1823 through 1997. The third was a Kaufman family history which required a trip back to the family's origins in Lichtenau Germany and revealed many surprises and the finding of many unknown relatives. Their present book, which is about to be printed, documents the great Russian migration and the arrival of the immigrants in Macon and the founding of their synagogues in Macon in 1904.

I first met Gus and Marian ten years ago when they invited me to GA and showed me the true meaning of Southern hospitality. We toured Talbotton, Columbus and points in-between. Gus showed me the Geneva train station; the place where Sara and her children first arrived in Talbot

County. We went to the Jewish cemetery in Columbus in a thunder storm and tried to change a flat tire on a deserted country road in 107 degree heat. We visited Frank Jordan at his peach farm and ate the most delicious and fragrant peach ever. And, throughout our time together, Gus filled me with stories about his Southern heritage and about the possible connection between the Straus and Kaufman families. I became a believer.

Gus tried for seven years to bring the Straus family to Talbotton and Columbus. We were so disappointed when he was unable to attend the activities during our first trip in October 1997. When we returned in June 2001, we were delighted that he was able to participate.

Gus and Marian, along with Clarise Illes who is featured in a Profile on the following page, have been the inspiration and driving force behind keeping the connection alive between these two families. It was truly wonderful to confirm what they knew all along - the two Straus families are related.

Profiles: Clarise Illes

Written by Clarise Illes, Edited by Joan Adler

I was born in the East Village of NYC in 1913. My parents met very romantically in a well-known Hungarian Café on 2nd Avenue where my uncle Hazay Natzy directed a Hungarian gypsy orchestra. He later went on to become orchestra director of the Hotel Biltmore, a national chain of hotels. He recorded about 15 selections of which I still have a few.

My father was a physician and the chief medical examiner for the Prudential Life Insurance Company. He graduated from Columbia Physicians and Surgeons College. His family name was Heimlich, related to the famous Henry of "Maneuver" fame for choking. My father legally changed his name to Hazay, as did his brother. My mother, Ethel Zacharias, was born in Savannah GA. The couple lived in New York City after their marriage. When I was about 5 years old, we moved to 152 E 35th Street. We remained there until my father died at the age of 49 in 1928 of heart problems. Then in 1929 came the crash and my mother took a secretarial job to put me through college. In the 1930's she married Lester Milius. I lived with them until I married.

I went to Hunter College Model School, which was an adjunct to Hunter College and was primarily created for future teachers to practice their skills. Needless, to say, I received a fantastic elementary school education. After I graduated from Julia Richman High School I went to Hunter College, majored in premed, even though I knew that we didn't have the money to continue my education as a physician. Of course, today I know that my father's medical fraternity, Phi Delta Epsilon, of which he was a chartered member, would have seen to it that I had a scholarship. I trained in the NY City Department of Health as a volunteer and worked in the private laboratory of Dr. Charles Rein where we did all sorts of serologic tests for syphilis and other diseases. After Dr. Rein went to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington during the war I started to work for the Veterans Administration Hospital on First Avenue and 23rd Street in NYC. There I was chief of the immunology section where I was responsible for the laboratory tests of not only my laboratory but the regional office lab as well. In addition, I taught pathology residents enough serology and immunology for them to pass their specialty board examination in pathology.

In September 1944 I married Warren Illes, a former Berliner (from Germany). We have one son Glen Maxwell, born in 1950. I think I lived in the wrong generation; I worked until the day Glen was born and came back to work six weeks later (Using annual leave and sick leave). I can well understand the problems of today's mothers!

In 1955 we moved to Teaneck NJ where I commuted to NYC every day. In 1975 I took early retirement and we moved to San

Diego CA where my husband always wanted to live. There I studied oil painting in the area called Spanish Village in Balboa Park. This was an area where artisans had their small shops and this is where I was introduced to genealogy. The Mormon Library had a small reading room next to the studio where I was painting and I started to go to the reading room to relax and read. That was when and where my obsession with genealogy started and never stopped.

My husband was still working in the photo supply business and we frequently drove to Los Angeles. While he was working, I took a sandwich with me and spent the days at the Mormon Family History Library in LA looking at passenger lists from Hamburg and any other information they might have on family trees. In those days, index lists did not exist and every page of microfilm had to be examined individually.



Clarise Illes - New Year's Eve 2000

In 1981 we traveled to Germany and visited as many of the Straus cities as possible. There I was able to get copies of old birth and death certificates from Otterberg, Winnweiler, and other places where our Strauses lived. In 1994 I started working with Friedrich Wollmershauser, a well-known professional genealogist in Germany. We worked together for many years but no matter how much work and how many hours he put in, we could never come up with a definite place of birth for my great, great, great grandfather. We knew he came from the area known as Mainz or Mont Tonnere, but beyond that, nothing. He moved to Ernsbach in Wurtemberg and married Gressel Jonas born in Mannheim and living in Ernsbach. They had three children, one of which was Moses, my great great grandfather, born after his father died in 1800.

Gressel, Moses' mother, could not afford to raise him alone. So she decided to send him away. A five year old could only be sent to a relative; but to whom did he go? This has been the puzzle in our family. Records say he was sent to Otterberg.

It has been common knowledge in the Straus family that the two families are related, but only unsubstantiated facts exist. Another interesting fact is that in 1857, Moses' widow came to Talbotton, possibly at the request of Lazarus Straus. His partners, the Kaufman brothers, needed wives and Fannie and Matilda Straus were single. My great grandmother was Fannie Straus. Jacob Straus, one of Fannie's brothers, lived with Lazarus in Talbotton in 1860 according to the census. A descendant of Fannie's brother Abraham contributed the DNA sample from my branch of the family. The DNA came back with matching 25 markers. So it would seem that the problem is solved. Except we still don't know where Gressel sent her five year old son or where in Mainz Moses come from? Nor do we know the exact connection between the two families. I guess I'm not ready to give up my obsession: my genealogical work isn't finished yet.



Photo Credit: NYC Board of Education 1958

The Isidor and Ida Straus Schools PS 77 and PS 198

By Pam Dadlani, Edited by Joan Adler

Although the winter has proven to be a colder one than usual in New York City, at the corner of 96th and 3rd Avenues there is lots of heat being generated from the activity going on inside the building named for Isidor and Ida Straus. In every classroom you'll find children busy taking on their studies while dreaming of a snowy day where they get that rare chance to sled around the Carnegie Hill neighborhood or just enjoy the impromptu snowball fight with friends after school.

It is the staff and principals, Maria Stile and Beverly Wilkins, who are looking forward to springtime and the opportunity to let the children and teachers enjoy going outside during recess or for some sunshine during class time.

Currently, the only place for them to go is the playground which is overseen by the Parks Dept. – which gives the schools little say in getting desperately needed repairs for old and dangerous equipment. However, there is a space in the school that both schools would love to enjoy more that is underutilized and in great need of support. It is the courtyard in middle of the school. Both PS198 and PS77 have facing classrooms. The neglected area probably has not been remodeled since the building was established over 35 years ago.

The schools would love to work with anyone this article is reaching today to make the courtyard a beautiful place for the children to use. Whether it be for reading or talks on the weather, the area has unlimited potential.

If this seems like a project you would like to become involved in, please contact pamdadlani@hotmail.com. All kinds of help will be required from design, to planting, to maintenance, as well as procuring financial support. Please contact Pam Dadlani if you'd like to get more information.

Request For Information

I have been asked about a cookbook Lina Gutherz Straus was going to have published, perhaps by Gladys G. Straus. The Straus' housekeeper, Anna Ruff Stowell, gave Lina some German recipes to include in this cookbook. A family member of Anna Stowell wonders if this book was ever published, if anyone in the family has a copy and, if it does exist, if it is possible to buy it or to have it photocopied.

Available from the Straus Historical Society, Inc.

"The Autobiography of Isidor Straus" privately published by Sara Straus Hess, in softcover - \$40.00

"Genealogical Miscellany" a family genealogy compiled by Robert K. Straus with addenda - \$40.00

Large black & white photograph of the Isidor and Ida 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 - \$50.00

Color photograph album of the Oscar S. Straus Memorial rededication ceremony and reception, October 26, 1998 - \$50.00

Videotape of the Oscar S. Straus Memorial Rededication Ceremony - October 26, 1998 filmed by Alan F. Hockstader - \$25.00

Videotape: "Titanic on Broadway," a television special about the making of the Broadway play that includes Joan Adler speaking about the Straus family and a CNN segment in which Paul A. Kurzman is interviewed regarding the play "Titanic" - \$25.00

Color photograph album of the Straus family's trip to Talbotton and Columbus GA, June 22-24, 2001 - \$50.00

Masters Thesis of Saul Viener, "The Political Career of Isidor Straus." Shepherd College, Morgantown, West Virginia, 1947 - \$25.00

Send your tax deductible check to Joan Adler, payable to: **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

You Are Invited

The board of directors of the Straus Historical Society, Inc. would like to invite you to attend a meeting of the board of directors.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6th, 2003 at the office of board member Paul A. Kurzman, 129 East 79th Street, New York. There is no obligation to join the board or to contribute to the Society.

This invitation is extended so that anyone interested in the Straus Historical Society may have an opportunity to share their views and voice their opinions. Please contact Joan Adler or Paul Kurzman 212-452-7035 for further information.