

First Kishinever Progressive Society of New York

Material donated by **Robin Leidner**, whose great-grandfather, Leon Weinshank, was an officer of the society.

Program for 40th Anniversary Banquet, held November 22, 1947

Includes list of officers, list of entertainers, dinner menu, two photographs

“Jubilee Journal” booklet commemorating the society’s 40th Anniversary

The 58-page “Jubilee Journal” contains many pages of greetings and advertisements, thirteen photographs, and quite a bit of information about the First Kishinever Progressive Society of New York and about other organizations of people from Kishinev. Some of the text is in English, some in Yiddish.

The organization, founded in 1907, was originally called the Kishinever Congregation. Under that name, it bought plots at Mt. Hebron Cemetery in Queens, New York. Paul Horowitz, a former Executive Vice-Chairman, writes in the booklet (p. 31) that the purpose of that organization "was to assist all those that were in need," though "the name of the organization did not bear out the significance of the good work they have done . . . for Charity." The new name was one "befitting the work to be done." Five consecutive pages of Yiddish text (pp. 37-41) may provide more information about the society’s history.

A full-page advertisement (p. 22) in English and Yiddish describes the Kishinever Home for the Aged, which was scheduled to open two months later in January 1948. The building, at 274-80 East Second St, was formerly the Israel Orphan Asylum. Other organizations mentioned in the booklet include the Kishinever Relief and Charity Society, organized in 1914 (advertisement on p. 20), the Young Kishinever Benefit & Benevolent Society, organized in 1891 (advertisement on p. 21), the Kishinever Sick Benevolent Society of New York, organized in 1903 (advertisement p. 23), and the Kishinever Independent Ladies’ Society (listed on p. 48).

Lists of some former and current members of the society can be found on pp. 16 and 17 (“We mourn the loss of our departed brothers/sisters”) and on p. 35 (“Compliments of members”).

Photograph of a banquet of the First Kishinever Progressive Society of New York, undated.

Leon and Fanny Weinshank are third and fourth from the right.



1st Kishinev Progressive Society banquet

Robin Leidner, rleidner@SAS.UPENN.EDU