

CHAPTER 1 : HARRY GRAUMANN

It was a "steel-grey dawn of an English mid-summer morning" when Harry Graumann was born in London in 1868. He was educated at Dover College. When he arrived in Cape Town in 1882 at the age of fourteen, he managed to find employment with a big wholesaler, earning thirty shillings a month.

He was an ambitious young man who made use of all the opportunities that came his way. Within a few months of arriving in South Africa, he managed to borrow some money from friends, and began speculating in ostrich feathers - at that time the "gold mine" of the Cape farmers. After ten months, he set up his own business as a commercial broker and managed to save about five hundred pounds.

When the Gold Rush began, Harry Graumann set out for Barberton with his capital in hand. There he met Sir Percy Fitzpatrick - together with the famous Jock - at a time when transport riding had ruined him, and 'Fritz' was glad to accept a clerkship from his good friend, Harry, at twenty-five pounds a month. It did not take long for Harry to realise that the newer discoveries of the Witwatersrand had better opportunities than those at Barberton, and he was soon on his way to Johannesburg.

Harry soon made a name for himself in Johannesburg. A town council was created and, after a few months Harry was elected as one of the four Alderman, a position he retained until the start of the war. So great was the esteem in which he was held, that in 1909 he was unanimously elected as the first Jewish mayor of Johannesburg and was the first mayor to wear a Mayor's Chain. As he was a bachelor, his sister Mrs D.W.Sims, assisted him as the Mayoress.

At the same time, he never forgot his Jewish heritage. He was President of the Zionist Association, and took an active part in the Old Park Synagogue.

From local affairs, Councillor Graumann's interests moved to the sphere of politics. In 1915, he contested the seat in the West Rand Constituency, and was successful.

Soon after, he donated 'The Prayer for the Royal Family', beautifully engraved on marble which hangs at the side of the Aron Hakodesh in the Wolmarans Street Synagogue. It was presented by the new knight in memory of his late brother-in-law, Mr Harry Freeman Cohen.

On 29th November 1923, Dr. C.B. Shapiro, chairman of The Harry Graumann Lodge, welcomed Sir Harry to a meeting at which all the members of the Lodge were present. Bro Graumann was taken to task by the members of the Lodge, for his attitude on the burning question of the day: the notorious Immigration Bill, piloted by the Minister of the Interior, Sir Patrick Duncan. During the full debate in the House of Assembly, Hymie Ostrofsky and other members claimed, Harry had never objected to provisions in the Bill. All the members felt strongly about the matter.

Sir Harry was accompanied by the late Louis Faiga and J. Distiller. He informed the members in his quiet, unassuming manner, that he preferred to work behind the scenes. He felt this was more effective than making speeches against his Party in the House. His explanation was accepted by the members, and Bro A J Levy gave a vote of thanks to Sir Harry.

The decision to erect a home for the Order was taken at the first H.O.D. conference on 29th June 1924. Or Herzl Lodge held their 21st anniversary at the Freemasons Hall in Claim Street the same year, and the building fund was launched. Both the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr M.J .Harris, and Sir

Harry attended the meeting. Michael Kam, Grand Secretary, launched the appeal. Sir Harry started the fund with a donation of two hundred and fifty pounds.

Sir Harry asked Michael Kam what the estimated cost of the building would be. The reply was: "About ten thousand pounds". With a twinkle in his eye, Sir Harry said: "You raise four thousand pounds and I will give you one thousand pounds. You raise eight thousand pounds, and I will double that". Bro Mike took up the challenge.

About a thousand pounds was raised, mainly by stop orders. Sam Jossel purchased the stand in De Villiers Street. Slowly but surely the fund grew until eight thousand pounds was reached.

Michael Kam's story is as follows: "I was asked to go to Cape Town, to acquaint Sir Harry with the result. I was accompanied on my mission by the late Solly Fiendly, who knew Sir Harry personally. We met our distinguished brother in his flat, and after a preliminary talk, Sir Harry said he appreciated that we had honoured him with a visit.

'But surely,' he added with a smile, 'you did not come from Johannesburg to enquire about my health?'

We produced a bank certificate to prove that his challenge had been met, and he immediately honoured his pledge by writing two letters. One was addressed to his attorney, instructing him to cancel the mortgage he held over our stand. (We had borrowed two thousand pounds, free of interest to buy the site.) In the second letter, he congratulated the Lodge on its achievement and stated that he was donating the two thousand pounds owed to him to the Lodge, waiving the interest thereon.

Although it was still Sunday morning, Sir Harry insisted on opening a bottle of champagne. We toasted the Order and drank to the health of our host.

Unfortunately, Harry was suffering from a weak heart and could not accept our invitation to come to Johannesburg to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the building which was later named after him."

Bro Talekinsky of Dr Max Nordau Lodge in Brakpan tells the following story: "One of the most outstanding consecrations it has been my pleasure to attend was that of the Witbank Lodge. There were no passenger trains to Witbank on Sundays in 1924, and Grand Lodge hired a special train. A huge Magen David and a banner, entitled "H.O.D. Special", was attached to the engine. The train stopped at Germiston, Boksburg, Benoni and Apex stations to pick up H.O.D. members, their wives and children – altogether about seventy people.

Among the Grand Lodge Officers present was Sir Harry Graumann. When we arrived in Witbank, we found the mayor, Mr Tom Spencer, and numerous prominent Witbank personalities who were there to welcome us. The event was later shown on African Mirror.

After all the formalities had been completed, we were taken by car to a beautifully decorated hall and served a most outstanding lunch. After lunch, we attended to H.O.D. business, did the initiations, raised the principal officers to the Second Degree, and were entertained to tea and music in Bro Dembo's magnificent garden. After tea, we installed the Officers.

We were invited to the Witbank Club, and had to change into evening dress for the banquet. A humorous incident occurred as we were dressing for the function. One of our

brethren bent down to tie up his shoelace. I could not resist the temptation and gave him a resounding clap on the back.

When he turned round to see who had greeted him in this unorthodox manner, I discovered to my horror, that it was none other than Sir Harry Graumann. But the genial knight took my action in the best of spirits, and stretching out his hand, he gave me the HOD grip and said, "I admire your brotherly spirit."

The banquet proved to be a magnificent success. The train left Witbank station at 12:30 am and there was a huge crowd to see us off. It was an occasion to be remembered.

In 1924, Sir Harry suffered defeat in the General Election. He withdrew from political life, although in later years he was a powerful force in the behind-the-scenes discussions that preceded the coalition in 1933.

Sir Harry's warm feelings towards our Brotherhood was evident in the fact that when he was ill, he expressed the wish to be given an HOD funeral. He was thought to be recovering satisfactorily from his heart ailment, but on 19th of September 1938, he went for a drive in the warm sunshine at Sea Point, and suddenly collapsed and died at the age of 70. The Hebrew date was 23rd Elul, 5698. His body was brought up from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

On Thursday 22nd of September, the President of the Lodge, Sheppy Ostrofsky, asked the members of the Sir Harry Graumann Lodge to rise as a mark of respect to the late Sir Harry, Patron of the Lodge. The president also instructed the secretary, Hymie Ostrofsky, to write a letter of condolence to Sir Harry's relatives.

The President intimated that the Lodge would be represented at the funeral by himself, Vice President Sakalowsky and Mr. C Bloomburg. On the 23rd September,

Sir Harry Graumann was buried at the Brixton Cemetery,
with Sheppy Ostrofsky as one of the pall bearers.

CHAPTER 2: SIR HARRY GRAUMANN LODGE, BENONI.
1911 - 1922

Records of the Lodge from 1911 to 1922 were burned in a fire during the 1922 Strike in South Africa. I have taken information from various sources.

The Sir Harry Graumann Lodge, Benoni was formed on 7th May 1911. Only the Dr Herzel Lodge and the Max Langerman Lodge could claim a longer history. The formation of the Lodge in Benoni was inspired and established by four very ardent workers: Louis Faiga, Hymie Potash, Maurice Ostrofsky and Willy Sheinbaum.

I cannot find any information about the naming of the Lodge. One can presume that it was the "fashion" to name Lodges after people, for example: the Max Langerman Lodge.

Louis Faiga was the first President of the Lodge in Benoni. Elections during those days were held every six months. Hymie Ostrofsky recalls an election of officers held in an upstairs room. Because one of the members was not satisfied with the result, he threw the voting papers out the window. A new election was necessary - and produced the same result!

Many gentlemen joined the Harry Graumann Lodge, including Abe Saretzky and Max Ginsberg. Max Ginsberg was the first Jew to settle in Benoni. He was on the first Town Council of Benoni in 1907. Also, Israel Kuper, a member of the Lodge, entered public life by being elected to the council of Benoni and later, in 1914, he was elected to the Provincial Council.

On Wednesday 11th July 1911, the Lodge held a concert and dance evening at the Kleinfontein Recreation Hall. The concert opened with the overture Auber, played by Miss S Hyman. Afterwards, about a hundred couples took the floor to the music of Bloom's orchestra. The evening was arranged by E. Harris and R. Osry. Louis Faiga acted as D.C., and the Masters of Ceremonies were A. Ginsburg, A Mervis and L. Faiga.

On 21st June 1914, the official opening of the Otto Warburg Lodge, Pretoria took place at the Masonic Temple. Harry Graumann and Max Langerman, who gave their names to the Lodges in Benoni and Germiston respectively, attended the function.

A most successful and enjoyable dance was held at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday 11th August 1914. The hall was tastefully decorated to receive the two hundred or more guests who had gathered. Tribute was paid to the capable planning of L Mons and L Schiefner. The committee comprised: Chairman L Faiga, M Schaverein, H Potash, A, W, Katzen, I Rabinowitz, A Mervis, M Katz, S. Kaplan, A Saretzky, M Shapiro, I Drunan, and M Ostrofsky. The joint honorary secretaries were R Oshry and M Nekritz.

In 1914, when the First World War broke out, Louis Faiga became Grand President of the H.O.D. Brothers of the Lodge who joined up for service included Private Max Goldberg (no 11285) of 96a Elston Ave; and Lieutenant I Kuper, who served under Colonel Cresswell in West Africa.

In the same year, the Sir Rufus Isaacs Lodge, Boksburg, now known as the Joshua Mazell Lodge, was formed, with the support of Wor Bros Abe Saretzky, and Louis Faiga.

The early days of the Grand Lodge were beset with teething troubles. Firstly, it had no clear vision of the future. Secondly, it failed, for a long time, to acknowledge the

growing importance of the Reef Lodges. Thirdly, it created hostility, since the Reef Lodges felt threatened by the domination by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge also wished to change the general name of the Lodges from The Hebrew Order of Druids to the Hebrew Order of David.

All this aroused controversy, and reams of paper were used in acrimonious correspondence between Town and Reef. Rightly or wrongly, the Reef Lodges resented others who wished to direct their internal affairs. A cold war went on for years.

The Grand President of the time angrily declared: "The Germiston and Benoni Lodges are a pain in the neck to us—they've got too much education!"

Eventually, in 1915, Max Langerman took the lead in trying to resolve the conflict by calling a Special General Meeting of all the Lodges. This was held on 6th September at the Grand Station Hotel, Germiston. It was decided to accept the new name of The Hebrew Order of David, and this was reported to the Grand Lodge.

On October 11th 1915, Grand Lodge formally notified that they recommended the changing of the name and asked for each Lodge to call a special meeting in order to vote on the matter, the question to be decided by a two thirds majority.

Accordingly a special meeting was held by the Max Langerman Lodge on November 22 1915 with Bro H Haeven presiding. There were 89 members present and 10 visitors from the Dr Herzel and Sir Harry Graumann Lodges. The visitors came to speak in opposition to the proposal. Their main reason for opposing the motion appeared to be that 'the existing nameband established a goodwill value.' However, the motion to change the name was carried by 87 votes.

The battle over changing of the name continued for another two years. The name of the Order eventually changed to the 'Hebrew Order of David' in 1921. [H.O.D. 80 years page 73.]

In November 1917, Bro I Kuper became the first Jewish Mayor of Benoni. The induction of the mayor was reported in the East Rand Express of 1st December 1917, as follows:

Last Sunday, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Kuper, M.P.C., invited the Public of Benoni to come to Divine Service at the Synagogue, and there was a large attendance, taxing the capacity of the building to the utmost. The interior was decorated with evergreens and bunting, and a big Union Jack was suspended over the recess where the altar stands. Rev. S Manne conducted the service, and Rabbi J.L.Landau gave the address. Amongst those present were Mr Harry Graumann M.L.A., Councillor E.Goodman, Mr M Kentridge, Messers, I Bader, A.B.Levy, N.B.Levy, S.Smaller, N.Levy, L,Shaff and many others.

To celebrate the event, another function was held by the Harry Graumann Lodge, reported in the East Rand Express of 12th January 1918 as follows:

To celebrate the induction of Councillor Kuper M. P. C. as mayor of Benoni, the Harry Graumann Lodge held a banquet at Hotel Cecil on Wednesday evening 9th January 1918. Mr Harry Graumann M.L.A. was in the chair, supported on his left by the guest of the evening, His Worship the Mayor of Benoni, and on his right by the Mayoress. Others at the main table were Councillor E Goodman and Mr Max Langermann

At the same function, a presentation was made by Mr. Harry Graumann to Dr Smith, the Medical Officer of the Lodge. Dr Smith was available to the members of the Lodge at all times, day or night, to render medical aid to those who needed it, he said. He presented Dr Smith with a silver

salver suitably engraved. Dr Smith thanked the Chairman for his kind words, and for the presentation.

The Deputy Mayor said he had been a resident of South Africa for twenty years. He was proud to be an Englishman, but he was also proud to be a South African.

Mr Max Langermann proposed a toast to the Hebrew Order of Druids. He said that he had been asked what the Jews had to do with the Druids, and he had replied they knew a good thing when they saw it, and they took it.

Mr Schaverein proposed a toast to the guests. Amongst those who were present were; M Ostrofsky, H. Potash , S. Issacman, H Kangisser, and many others. The officials in charge of the arrangements were as follows: Committee: Chairman: S Hurwitz; treasurer: Isaac Cohen, secretary: M Schaverein; assistant secretary: N Shapiro. The General committee comprised: H Potash, L Cohen, T Lurie, H Smaller, A Ginsberg, M Ostrofsky, M Katz, L Faiga, and P Goldman.

The Great War ended in 1918. In late September of the same year, there was an outbreak of Spanish flu. By early October, it had reached Benoni and was spreading quickly. The seriousness of the situation required emergency hospitalisation for all sectors of the community. One of the scouts, Robinson Grey, recorded his experience, mentioning that the V.A.D. helped to feed and wash the patients, as they were too weak to do any thing for themselves.

Isaac Bear of The Benoni Mineral Water Works was a great stalwart during all this upheaval. Soda water was one of the main drinks allowed patients, as it stayed down the patient's stomach. Mr Bear placed a bed in his office and stayed on the premises, working day and night, so as to be able to supply siphons of soda at all hours to the public. Nobody

was turned away. He did not charge for his product, provided the siphon bottle was returned to be refilled.

In 1921, Bro Berl Abramsohn was married in the new hall in Bunyan Street.

In October 1919, Rev Maisel of Brakpan called a meeting for the purpose of forming a Lodge in Brakpan. Maurice Ostrofsky gave the address. The consecration took place on 15th Feb 1920 at the Masonic Hall in Brakpan. Meetings were held twice a month. Wor Bro M Ostrofsky came from Benoni to attend the meetings.

As previously mentioned, all the records of the Harry Graumann Lodge were burned in 1922, in Bro Harry Smaller's Year of presidency. The Past Presidents from 1911-1922 are listed on page 20.

Barney Hope was also a founder member of the Sir Harry Graumann Lodge. He moved to Witbank in 1924 and joined the M M Ussishkin Lodge.

CHAPTER 3: THE SIR HARRY GRAUMANN LODGE 1922 - 1934

In 1922, postage was so expensive that Bro Sheppy Ostrofsky (who was only 12 at the time) had to deliver the circulars by hand to the homes of the members of management.

In 1923 there was a rumour that Sir Harry Graumann had married out of the faith. This was not true, as Sir Harry never married.

On 25th January 1923, at a meeting held at the Hebrew Hall in Bunyan Street, with Bro Shapiro as president, assisted by Bro Ostrofsky V.P. a moment of silence was held on the passing of Dr Max Nordau. Dr Shapiro was also congratulated on the birth of a son.

In 1923, it was decided to change the name of the Harry Graumann Lodge to the Sir Harry Graumann Lodge.

On Thursday 7th November 1929, Bro Morris Nestadt was congratulated on becoming the new mayor of Benoni. The Mayoral service was held at the Hebrew Hall, which was tastefully decorated and packed to capacity. Mr. Nestadt continued to serve as mayor of Benoni for five terms of office.

At a later meeting, Bro Hyman Ostrofsky was presented with a jewel, for services rendered as secretary during the period 1926-1930, having been elected 10 times in succession. Bro I.R.Shein, in making the presentation, praised Bro Ostrofsky for all his work, and dwelt on the length of service he had rendered to the Lodge. He made reference to the memory of the late Bro M Ostrofsky, father of the recipient, who was

always and at all times one of the most diligent workers of the order.

Hyman Ostrofsky said he was deeply moved and that the loss of words that he was then experiencing also occurred when his late father initiated him as a member of the Sir Harry Graumann Lodge some twelve years before.

The following officers were installed: President: Bro Chas Shapiro, Vice President Bro Isaac, R Shein I.P., Bro Isaac Goodman, Treasurer, Bro's Simon, S Rome, Sec., Bro H Ostrofsky, M. C Bro Ceci Sacks; Inner Guard: Bro W Epstein; Trustees: E. A.Sussman. Book Examiners: Wor Bro W Sheimbaum and Bro B Abrahamsohn. Management committee: Bros B.E. and E. Katz, M.Goldstein, B.Levy, D. Shapiro, C.M.Sacks, A Weitzman, S.S.Rome, Bros Kushlic, M. Nestadt, S.A.Kirk-Cohen and H.Miller.

In November 1931, Bro A.J. Saretzky was elected Mayor of Boksburg. A Mayoral Service was held at the Boksburg North Shul. The Chief Rabbi J .L.Landau officiated, assisted by the Rev J. Chaitowi tz and the Rev A. M Kaplan. The Synagogue was decorated with masses of flowers and foliage. Rev Kaplan, who was formerly of Boksburg, but had moved to Jeppe, sang 'Blessed be he that Cometh' and Psalm 24, while the Rev J.Chaitowitz, the newly appointed minister to the Boksburg North Synagogue, conducted the afternoon service. During the reading of the prayer for the Royal Family, the Mayor held the Scroll of the Law.

At an open lodge meeting held on 1st September 1932, with Bro B.Abramshon in the chair and Bro R.Katz acting as V.P., the President mentioned the illness of the Vice President Bro Jack Sugerman. The Union Jack, the Jewish Flag and the South African Flag were suspended on the wall. The Mayor, wearing his chain, sat between Chief Rabbi Dr J.L.Landau, and Mr A. A. Lomey, President of the United Hebrew Institutions of Benoni.

The Rev S.Backon was the cantor, assisted by the full choir of the Wolmarans Street Synagogue, Johannesburg .

Rabbi Landau gave a moving address, referring to the force and meaning of the Jewish mission in history, and the special destiny of the Jewish Nation since ancient times. The Jewish People had been enjoined to go into the world and become a source of blessing to themselves and to others. Rabbi Landau added that here was hardly a town in South Africa that had not been served by a Jewish Mayor.

Mr N.Kirschner, Mr A.Bloch, M.P.C. and Mrs Bloch, Mr and Mrs H.Potash, Mr.J.Fredman, and Mr and Mrs . L. Shaff were present, as well as many other members of the Jewish community of Benoni.

The late Wor Bro Hyman Ostrofsky wrote in his reminiscences in the HOD Journal of September 1950:

A banquet in honour of Bro Morrie was arranged by the Lodge, and what a memorable function it was. The late Bro Dr Isaac Shein was the President, and seating accommodation was at a premium. Incidentally it was at this banquet that Alec Witkin, known as Afrique, and Barbara Cowen made their early professional appearance .

A gathering of 78 enthusiastic brethren witnessed the installation of officers at the Hebrew Hall, Benoni on Thursday 10th July 1930 by the Acting Grand President Wor Bro Louis Faiga. Prior to the instillation, the following brethren were raised to the second degree: Bros. A. S. Kirk-Cohen, B. E. and E Katz. B.Len, D.H. Livingstone, S.Nayman, C.Smaller, H.Wolpert and V.Levitas. Wor Bro Morrie Nestadt was congratulated on his success of winning a seat in the Provincial Council by-election.

On the 8th September 1932 at an open Lodge meeting, all members present mourned the sudden passing of Bro Jack Sugerman in his early twenties. A moment of silence was kept as a mark of respect to his memory.

Wor Bro Hyman Ostrofsky recalls the following:

"The saddest incident I experienced was the untimely passing of the Late Bro Jack Sugerman, whilst occupying the position of Vice President of the Lodge. It was on the 18th September 1932 that the most impressive memorial service that I have ever witnessed was held. Moving tributes were paid by the President, Wor Bro. B. Abramsohn, Wor Bro Dr Shapiro , and Wor Bro Henry Blank. There was hardly a dry eye in the gathering of members that were representative of Grand Lodge and Lodges in the Order

In November 1933, Wor Bro Morrie Nestadt, was re-elected as Mayor of Benoni, and began his second term of office. The Mayoral Service on 26th November 1933 coincided with the opening of the "New Shul" in Park Street. The service was conducted by the Chief Rabbi Professor Dr J.L.Landau, and Rev .S.Backon, assisted by the Wolmerans Street Shul Choir which was conducted by Rev.S. Grossberg.The Chief Rabbi gave a forceful and inspiring address on Jewish citizenship.

The Mayor was also the President of the U.H.I. of Benoni. The Mayor extended a cordial welcome to all those present. He referred to the presence of Bro Max Ginsburg, the first president of the Benoni Hebrew congregation, and a pioneer member of the Lodge, who had travelled a considerable distance to attend the occasion.

In October 1934, the eldest son of Wor Bro Morrie Nestadt, Gerald, celebrated his Barmitzvah. The President Bro A Shneier presented the Barmi tzvah boy with a volume of Jewish History, saying he believed that in Gerald, they would have a worthy recruit to the ranks of the Order.[Gerald

became a member of the Sir Harry Grauman Lodge on the 20th June 1946.]

On the 27th Feb.1935 Bro H.Ostrofsky, Bro R.Katz and Bro H Potash were elevated to the third degree, and on 15th November of the same year, Wor Bro Sheppy Ostrofsky was also elevated to the third degree.

Past presidents from 1925 – 1936 are listed on page 20

25 YEAR DANCE: SEE NOTES

CHAPTER 4: WOR BRO HYMIE OSTROFSKY'S STORY.

[80 Year Journal of HOD]

The saddest incident I have experienced was the untimely passing of the late Bro Jack Sugerman, who was still in his early twenties, whilst occupying the position of Vice President of the Lodge.

On 18th September 1932, a memorial service was held for him by the Lodge. It was the most impressive memorial service I have ever witnessed. Moving tributes were paid by the President of the Lodge, Wor Bro B. Abramson and Wor Bro Henry Blank. There was hardly a dry eye in a gathering that was representative of Grand Lodge and Lodges of the Order.

It was a proud moment for our Lodge when one of our members, Wor Bro Morris Nestadt was elected to the exalted position of Mayor of Benoni. A banquet in his honour was arranged by the Lodge, and what a memorable function it was! Bro Isaac Shein was then the president of the Lodge. Seating accommodation was at a premium.

Since then Morrie, as he is known affectionately to all of us, has been Mayor of the town four times, and was our very respected MPC. He has also been further honoured by being made the first Freeman of the town of Benoni.

Our early cabarets and dances were the outstanding social events of the year and one of the happiest was the celebration of the Lodge's 21st year of existence. Wor Bro Sam Legator was the President that year, and I still have my copy of the special souvenir program.

During the Second World War, some 15 members of the Lodge volunteered for active service. One of them was Isaac Shein, who sadly made the supreme sacrifice.

If I were asked what has been the most outstanding event in my term of office as Secretary, I would say that it was the night when eleven sons of members were initiated as members of the Lodge. It was on 20th June 1946 that Wor Bro Aron Jacobson initiated these eleven men, ten of whom had recently returned from the War, my son being one of them.

Seven of the fathers were present in what must rank as a unique initiation ceremony in the Order. The Grand Lodge and our sister Lodges were also invited, so that there was a very large muster of brethren present.

During my long term of office as 'wielder of the pen', I have been brought into contact with all classes of brethren and I have found that the HOD holds a magnetic attraction for the majority of them. The question of material benefits seems to be receding, and there is a growing demand for more cultural and sporting activities.

My experiences have been varied and I have revelled in the work. I have been Vice-President of my own Lodge, Deputy Grand President of the Order for five years under the very able leadership of Wor Bro Joseph Nathan, Vice Principal of the Senate for ten years opposite Wor Bro I J Balkin, and Principal of the senate from 1951 to 1953.

THIS CONCLUDES WOR BRO HYMIE OSTROFSKY'S STORY.

PAST PRESIDENTS 1911- 1924.

Wor Bro Louis Faiga [two terms]; Bro M S Ginsberg; Bro Solly Hurwitz; Bro Arthur Mervis; Wor Bro Maurice Ostrofsky; [two terms] ; Wor Hyman Potash; Wor Bro Abe Saretzky; Bro Max Shapiro; Wor Bro Willy Sheinbaum [three terms]; Bro Harry Smaller[two terms]; Bro Harry Smaller (two terms); Wor Bro C B Shapiro [four terms].

PAST PRESIDENTS 1925 - 1936

1925 Wor Bro Louis Faiga; Bro Morris Friedland
1926 Wor Bro Morris Nestadt; Wor Bro David Shapiro
1927 Bro Ludwig Frankel [two terms]
1928 Wor Bro Morris Nestadt . [two terms]
1929 Wor Bro Max Toker; Bro Isaac Goodman
1930 Bro Isaac Shein; Wor Bro C B Shapiro
1931 Wor Bro C B Shapiro
1932 Wor Bro Ber Abramsohn
1933 .Wor Bro Robert Katz.
1934 Wor Bro Abe Shneier
1935 Wor Bro Alfred Jack Levy
1936 Wor Bro Sam Legator.

The late Wor Bro H S Blank wrote in the HOD Journal of January, 1952:

And so our work goes on and on. We do not boast; we do not talk; but in a moment of need we are there, like a warm fire on winter's night.

There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behoves of us to say nothing about the rest of us.

LIST OF DECEASED MEMBERS

October	1924	Brother Morris Noon.
March	1925	Brother Samuel Goldstein.
June	1925	Brother Harry Nestadt.
January	1928	Brother Jacob Horowitz.
June	1928	Brother Morris Ostrofsky.
April	1928	Brother Morris Mainkin.
November	1929	Brother Mannie Sacks.
July	1930	Brother Max Sakalovsky.
June	1931	Brother Louis Aron.
April	1932	Brother Morris Kodesh.
July	1932	Worthy Brother Isaac Freedman.
May	1932	Brother Aron Kelmowitz.
September	1932	Brother Jack Sugerman.
August	1935	Brother Bennet Chafkin.
April	1936	Brother Max Bloch.

THANKS

Mrs Sylvia Tuback, from the Jewish Board.

Mrs Joyce Steed, from the Zionist Federation.

Miss Falls, from the Benoni Library.

Late Wor Bro Sheppy Ostrofsky, who gave some first hand information

Information from the book, Rags to Riches, written by Sir Harry Graumann.

80 Year Journal of the Hebrew Order of David.

The Museum at the H.O.D. centre.

Wor Bro J. Sonnenbend and his staff.

The minutes of 1922 of the Sir Harry Graumann Lodge

One Man and His Town, written about Late Wor Bro Morrie Nestadt

Son of my Sorrow, written by Mr Deryck Humphriss.

Various H.O.D journals over the years.

Bro Mossie Tucker, President of the United Hebrew Institution

Wor Brethren and Brethren and the Management Committee for giving me the honour of writing this article.

