

MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME  
2023 INDUCTION CEREMONY

*Presented by*  
Dorothy Suzi Osher in Memory of Alfred Osher



*Sunday, May 21, 2023*

A  
READER  
LIVES A  
THOUSAND  
LIVES



*Congratulations* **David Brenerman**

ON YOUR INDUCTION TO THE  
**2023 MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME**

*From your fellow Board of Trustees at Portland Public Library*

# MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

*Presented by*  
Dorothy Suzi Osher in Memory of Alfred Osher

The **MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME** was created in 2018 to bestow recognition upon outstanding Jewish leaders from throughout the state who have brought distinction and honor to the State of Maine or beyond. Those who have been elected to the 2023 Class by the Nominating Committee reflect the Jewish value of making the world a better place through outstanding accomplishments and/or humanitarian and philanthropic endeavors. Inductees include leaders in the fields of medicine, environment, law, business, philanthropy, politics, and life.



*The Mission of the Maine Jewish Museum is to honor the contributions and diversity of Maine's Jewish immigrants in the context of the American experience. Through such exhibitions and programming, the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Inductees, Inductee families, and friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the **Fourth Maine Jewish Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**. It is so wonderful to have you all here!

This year's nine honored inductees range in era from 1898 to the present day, a span of 125 years. Collectively they have lived through 22 United States Presidents, through The Spanish American War, two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and the Global War on Terror. They lived through Typhoid Mary, the Diphtheria Epidemic, Polio, HIV and COVID19. They have and continue to live through anti-Semitism as it continues to rear its ugly head. They lived through the Great Depression and more recessions than you can count on two hands.

Yes, their lives were filled with many challenges, both societal and personal, yet they were able to excel and leave the world a better place than they found it. They serve as great examples to all of us of Tikun Olam, repairing the world, and we are thrilled to be able to honor them today!

We are also extremely pleased to thank **Hall of Fame Inductee (2018), Dorothy Suzi Osher**, once again, for her generosity and caring in becoming the permanent naming sponsor of this event as the "*Maine Jewish Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Presented by Dorothy (Suzi) Osher in Memory of Alfred Osher.*" We greatly appreciate Suzi's support in naming the Maine Jewish Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony as well as the permanent Hall of Fame Exhibit located on our third floor. We hope you will take the time to view the exhibit's contents. Every year we will add our new Inductees to the exhibit so while it currently contains 2018, 2019 and 2021 inductees, it will be updated later this year to include this year's class.

Additionally, I'd like to thank our **Premier Sponsors, Dan & Julie Kagan**, for their generosity and support as well as our **Gold sponsor, The Cedars!**

Thanks to our **Host Committee Co-Chairs, Jessica & Tom Lantos and David & Elizabeth Turesky**, for a job well done and to all of our Host Committee members, and of course our advertisers. We hope you will support all of our advertisers and sponsors for their great community involvement. All their names are listed in your programs along with the Sponsors, Host Committee Members and Advertisers, so please acknowledge them if you can.

This event wouldn't happen without extraordinary help from many volunteers including our **Nominating Committee**, who once again did an excellent job with their Induction choices including several inductees nominated by the public, and the **Planning Committee**, who oversees and plans all that takes place today. Thanks to all of you! And welcome to new Nominating Committee members, **Toby Adelman** from Aroostook County and **Jennie Aranovitch** from Biddeford.

Finally, we are thrilled to have our new (as of April 2021) Executive Director, **Dawn LaRochelle**, on board and here today! *I am so grateful to you for being here today and participating in this wonderful event!*

With much gratitude,

Steve Brinn

*Event Chair & President Maine Jewish Museum Board of Directors*

# MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

## 2023 INDUCTEES

Dr. Joel Bloom\* - Otisfield, ME

David Brenerman - Portland, ME

Gerald Fineberg\* - Boston, MA

Max and Irving Kagan\* - Bangor, ME

Linda Lavin - Los Angeles, CA

Katherine Morgan\* - Portland, ME

Melvin Stone\* - Portland, ME

Howard Trotzky - Bangor, ME

*\* of blessed memory*

## PROGRAM

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Irwin Gratz

### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Steven Brinn

### MJM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dawn LaRochelle

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Timothy Wilson

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Irwin Gratz & Steven Brinn

### CLOSING BENEDICTION

Rabbi Gary Berenson

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Nanci Kahn & Steve Melchiskey**

*for their generous donation of wine for the reception.*

*&*

**Judge Kermit Lipez & Nancy Ziegler**

*for their generous donation of flowers for the reception.*



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**MARSHALL J. TINKLE**  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

TELEPHONE: (207) 774-7600  
 TELECOPIER: (207) 772-1035  
 E-MAIL: [mtinkle@thomport.com](mailto:mtinkle@thomport.com)

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 of the  
 Maine Jewish Hall of Fame*

Mazel Tov to the Hall of Fame  
 Class of 2023

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*The Maine Jewish Museum gratefully acknowledges the sponsors and advertisers of the Maine Jewish Hall of Fame and extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the 2023 Class of Inductees by both financial support and deed.*

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Dorothy Suzi Osher in Memory of Alfred Osher

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The Cedars

## SILVER

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*Co-Chairs: Jessica & Tom Lantos and Elizabeth & David Turesky*

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## DR. JOEL BLOOM\*

Dr. Joel Warren Bloom was born in 1916 in New York City. Dr. Bloom was raised in New York City and later lived in Newton, Massachusetts and in Otisfield. From 1947 through 1996 he was Director of Camp Powhatan for Boys on Pleasant Lake in Otisfield. As a child, beginning in 1921, he spent summers as a camper at Powhatan, which was founded that year by his father, Ira (“Chief”) Bloom, a teacher in the New York City school system.

Dr. Bloom graduated from the University of Arizona and earned a master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University before serving in the Navy in World War II as a PT Boat officer. In 1951, Dr. Bloom earned his doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University, writing his dissertation on interest-motivated camping, which posits that campers most benefit from selecting activities rather than being assigned them. His ideas challenged existing camping dogma, and he soon became a leading voice in progressive summer camping.

Dr. Bloom also promoted racial and socioeconomic diversity in camping. He started a scholarship fund which brought campers from diverse backgrounds to

Powhatan and in 1971 he helped Governor Ken Curtis start the Susan Curtis Foundation to provide camping to disadvantaged Maine children. In 1993, he assisted in starting Seeds of Peace, a summer camp to empower young leaders from conflict regions around the world with leadership skills to advance reconciliation and coexistence. Seeds of Peace has for many years operated where Powhatan was located in Otisfield.

Dr. Bloom served as President of the New England Camping Association and of the Maine Camp Directors Association and as Vice President of the American Camping Association. He also served for many years as President of the Pleasant Lake & Parker Pond Association, spearheading efforts to eradicate variable watermilfoil from Maine lakes.

Dr. Bloom’s view of camping may be summarized in his own words: *“At camp, our major concern is the camper. Whatever affects him is important to all of us. What happens to a growing child at camp not only influences him at the moment, but also may affect his future, and because children are our nation’s greatest asset, our country’s future.”*





# DAVID H. BRENERMAN



Raised on Portland's Munjoy Hill in an Orthodox Jewish family, David has served the greater Portland area, the State of Maine, and the Jewish community in leadership capacities in numerous public, political, cultural, social service, business, and religious organizations. His commitment to giving back

to the community was modeled by his parents, Saul and Hazel Brenerman, who were actively involved in numerous community organizations.

As a youngster, David attended Portland Hebrew Day School (now Levey Day School), which provided him the foundation for his religious and secular education. At Portland High School, among his numerous activities, David was co-editor of the yearbook (The Totem) and, at graduation, received the prestigious Brown Medal, awarded to the highest ranking five boys and five girls. In his senior year, David assumed the first leadership role of his life as president of Center Youth at the Jewish Community Center.

David graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was a starting pitcher on the varsity baseball team, as well as three-year sports editor of the weekly Clark newspaper, The Scarlet. After Clark, David received his master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Maine.

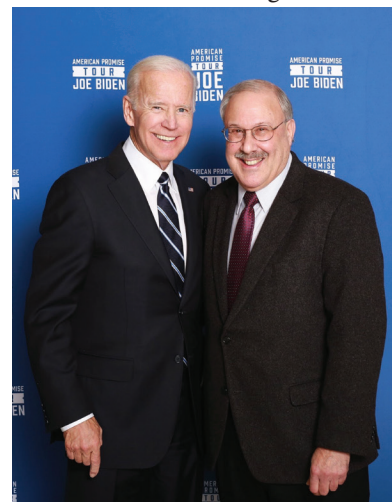
**Public Service:** David is one of a handful of distinguished Portlanders to have served as a state legislator and mayor of Maine's largest city.

**State Legislature:** Elected to the Maine House of Representatives at age 25, David served on the powerful budget-writing Committee on Appropriations and

Financial Affairs, the Taxation Committee, and Health and Institutional Services Committee during his three terms. David's most significant legislative achievement was co-authoring the legislation that ultimately eliminated mandatory retirement in the workplace. This issue hit home when his dad's employer forced him to retire from his sales position upon his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, though Saul was the top salesman in his department. Once mandatory retirement in the private sector was abolished, David proudly watched as his father returned to the job he enjoyed.

**Portland Mayor and City Councilor:** From 1982 to 1985, David continued his public service, as a member of the Portland City Council, and then was elected by the Council to be mayor of Portland, one of the youngest mayors in Portland history. As mayor, he established a Sister City with Shinagawa, Japan. Hundreds of Portland residents have benefited from this program through cultural, educational, sports and business exchanges. David led the city during construction of Portland Ice Arena, ground breaking of One City Center, and the first renovation of Hadlock Field, all significant landmarks in Portland and Maine life.

Thirty years later, David continued his commitment to the community by returning to the City Council, chairing the Council's Economic Development Committee during a period of extraordinary growth in Portland, including



# DAVID H. BRENERMAN CONTINUED

Bayside redevelopment and waterfront investment. A first generation American, David spearheaded the establishment of the City Office of Economic Opportunity, to help Portland's new immigrants integrate into Portland's economy.

For his accomplishments on economic development issues and his lifetime of public service, the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce awarded David its 2019 Award for Leadership in the Public Sector.

**Private Sector:** Following the guidance of a Clark professor to "find something you love to do, and find someone to pay you to do it," David found his perfect jobs, first as Executive Director of the Maine Democratic Party and then as a government relations executive at Unum. During 29 years at Unum, he directed the company's external response to legislative, regulatory, and political issues in Maine and Massachusetts, the home states of two of Unum's largest subsidiaries. In addition, he chaired two national insurance trade association committees on long-term care issues, highlighted by testifying at congressional committee hearings at the U.S. Capitol.

After retiring from Unum as Vice President, Government Relations, he started his own government affairs consulting business.

**Community Service:** David served in leadership positions in many community organizations.

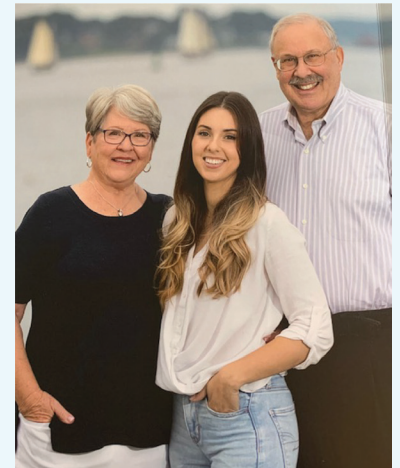
- Maine State Chamber of Commerce: Past board chair, one of the few Jews to ever lead the state chamber.
- Portland Public Library Trustees: Past board chair and 25-year trustee. Co-chaired Library's successful capital campaign to renovate the library.
- Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maine: Current board and executive committee member.

- Creative Portland (Portland's official Arts Agency): Two-term board President and current board executive committee.
- Clark University: Current member Clark Alumni Council; past member Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee.
- Portland High School Renovation Committee: Committee Vice-chair and leader of the successful \$20 million Referendum Campaign.
- United Way: Past board Vice President.
- Committee to bring the Portland Sea Dogs to Portland.

## Jewish Organizations

- Former Board VP, Jewish Home for the Aged (now Cedars).
- Long-time VP of Athletics at the Jewish Community Center.
- Player and coach of JCC softball team.
- Past board VP, Temple Beth El.
- Past Board of the former Jewish Federation (now JCA).

*David could not have devoted his time and efforts to these various pursuits without the love and support of his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Molly.*





# GERALD FINEBERG\*



Jerry Fineberg was a Real Estate developer, hotelier, philanthropist, and collector of art. Jerry was born in Portland, ME in 1934, second of three sons to David and Esther Fineberg. He grew up a stone's throw from the museum in India Street's little Italy neighborhood and later Munjoy Hill. Along with his parents and two brothers, Jerry

attended Etz Chaim Synagogue long before a museum was even considered. He shared time between his homes in West Palm Beach, FL and Boston. Jerry passed away on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

After college, Jerry founded The Fineberg Companies in Boston in 1960, a real estate management and development company, owning and managing hundreds of apartments, mostly in New England. They later entered the hotel business as well.

The son of Russian immigrants, Jerry came from very modest means. When he started his own company, Jerry was determined to become successful and worked hard to build a thriving business. After several years he began to see his company succeed and began to accumulate some wealth. Not content to simply build a financial portfolio, Jerry began to collect art. Jerry was named by Art News as one of the top 200 art collectors in the world. He became involved with and was named to the Board of Directors of ICA Boston (Institute of Contemporary Art) which was a sister organization to MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) in NYC. Jerry and Sandra later donated the Sandra and Gerald Fineberg Art Wall. Since opening its doors on the

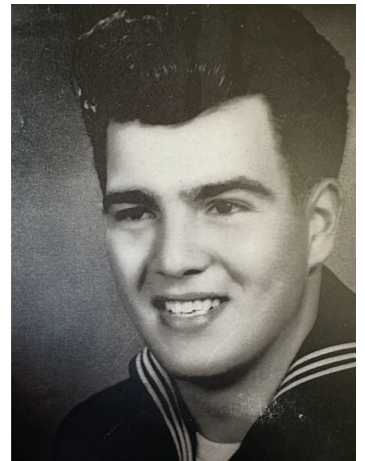
waterfront in 2006, the ICA has invited a series of leading contemporary artists to propose and realize monumental, site-specific works on the museum's sprawling Sandra and Gerald Fineberg Art Wall. These presentations, which both greet the visitor as they arrive and are also visible to passersby, typically remain on view for a year or more, providing a dynamic, evolving entry point to the museum.

Wherever he went, Jerry liked to be a part of the art world. He became chair of the board of directors of the renowned Rose Art Museum at Brandeis College. Having been a major donor of art and supporter of the museum, Brandeis honored him with naming the Gerald S. and Sandra Fineberg, Lower Rose Galleries in honor of Jerry and his wife. He also regularly contributed to the MFA in Boston. He was associated with the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach.

Another of Jerry's passions was the Price Center in Newton, MA. Opened in 1977, the Price Center is an organization that works to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to thrive in living, social and work communities. They began with 5 people and now serve 180 people with a wide range of diagnoses including autism, Cerebral Palsy, developmental delays, and brain injuries.

They provide day programs and residential services to the adults they serve, one of whom is Jerry's son Adam, who has attended The Price Center since 1987. Jerry was honored in 2016 when the Fineberg Building was dedicated in his honor because of his tireless support and fundraising on behalf of The Price Center.

Closer to home, Jerry



## GERALD FINEBERG\* CONTINUED

wanted to honor his family and his roots in Portland. He contacted the Maine Jewish Museum in 2015 to inquire what was needed and how he might become involved. At that time, they were planning to expand their social hall room but had not yet secured funding. After some discussion, Jerry committed to making a large financial contribution to help build the room and the adjacent kitchen. The MJM continues to benefit from his generosity as they use the Fineberg Family Community Room daily as a premier venue for displaying art and hosting events.

Jerry also continued to support medical facilities and research. His donations to facilities such as RDK Melanoma Fund, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Fund, and Boston Children's Hospital

continue to benefit those communities. Other facilities to which Jerry contributed on a regular basis are too numerous to list. Among them are organizations such as Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, the Boston Foundation, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service of Palm Beach County, Promise Fund of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Opera, and the Palm Beach New Balance Foundation.

Jerry Fineberg was really a local Portland boy who made good, but he always remembered where he came from, and he understood the responsibility of success. He gave financially in big ways but more importantly he gave from his heart in a thousand small ways without fanfare or recognition.



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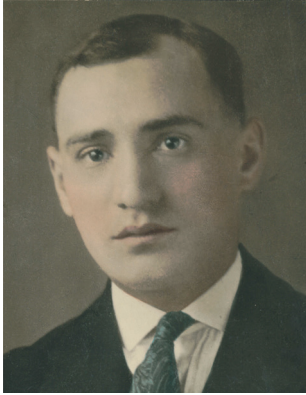


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# MAX KAGAN\*



**Max Kagan** was born January 15, 1898 in Riga, Latvia. Though his father Itzhak and mother Rachel hoped that he might become an orthodox rabbi like Itzhak, financial reality meant Max joined the workforce at a very young age that today would be considered “child labor.” Since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Riga had been a thriving commercial trading seaport, and a sizable leather industry had developed there. Young Max went into the leather shops, where his nimble mind earned him distinction as a “leather commissar.”

As was the custom, Max entered a marriage arranged for him when he was in teens. His bride Nettie was eight years his elder. She, too, was born in Riga, before her family relocated to a city two-hundred miles to the east called Witebsk in what was then called White Russia, and today, Belarus.

Upon marriage Max and Nettie settled in Riga, where their first children were born (Leah and Nochim). During this period there were constant pogroms against Jews, starting under czar and intensifying after the 1917 Russian Revolution. In addition, Max saw that other young male Jews were being conscripted to the Russian army and never seen again. It was an open secret that Jews drew the worst military assignments, as far away as Siberia. Afraid for his family, Max paid a surgeon to sever a tendon in his right arm, a procedure that would render him temporarily unable to heft a rifle and thus unfit for military service. Generally, this disability healed with time, but Max was unlucky. The surgery left him with a shortened right arm for the rest of his life.

Max took advantage of this temporary reprieve from conscription to plan his family's escape. He led Nettie, Leah and Nochim on a tortuous overland journey through Poland and Germany. Max, unable to secure transatlantic

passage on a proper passenger vessel, arranged for passage on a transatlantic freighter. This meant he and his family were restricted to the ship's cargo hold, which was cold, damp and dank. All four contracted pneumonia, and only Max and Nettie survived - Little Leah and Nochim died at sea, a loss from which Nettie never truly recovered, and both Max and Nettie suffered permanent lung damage that each endured the rest of their lives.

As their passage was aboard a freighter, there are no records showing the port through which Max and Nettie arrived in America. They had distant Kagan relatives in Massachusetts (Lynn, Revere) and New York City – Halsbands, Kasanofs (well-known Massachusetts bakers) who took them in.

Remarkably, not only had Nettie Kagan studied English in school, she had once even visited her sister Isabella in the United States. Max Kagan, on the other hand, spoke not a single word of English. Still, he was a skilled leather worker (commissar), and within a short time was employed as a stitcher in a shoe factory. Even with his limited and heavily accented English, Max Kagan soon became a leader in the organized labor movement. In so doing, he caught the attention of management who elevated him to shop foreman.

It was a chance association with Maine's Phillip Lown, a Lithuanian-born Jew who had earned a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Maine, which brought Max Kagan to Maine. Lown was in the shoe business, and he hired Max, first as a factory superintendent and soon elevated him to factory manager. With the hiring and subsequent promotion came offers of more money, but Max insisted instead that he wanted equity in the Lown shoe business. This mutually profitable arrangement evolved to a 50/50 partnership. Together, Kagan and Lown built several factories in Maine, first the Lown Shoe Company factory in Auburn and then, in 1935, the Penobscot Shoe Company. First located in a former woolen mill in Old Town, Penobscot Shoe went on to provide many jobs to members of the Penobscot Nation, then living on an island

## IRVING KAGAN\*

reservation in the Penobscot River opposite the brand-new Penobscot Shoe factory they built on North Main Street.

As success came, Max Kagan retained his history of escape from the poverty and pogroms in Eastern Europe. He had a powerful love for and commitment to Judaism and philanthropy. He was a Zionist who felt deeply about the necessity of establishing a homeland for the world's oppressed Jews, and in particular, those who survived the Holocaust. As soon as he was able, he arranged for the Kagans of Riga to emigrate to what was then Palestine and became the State of Israel, where the family thrived and whose descendants still live today.

Max Kagan was neither educated nor polished. He had no formal university education and his speech in English was sometimes halting and heavily accented. His early years in America were spent establishing a financial foothold. As the shoe business flourished, he sought out advice from others about how best to engage in philanthropy and teach such principles to his American children, Edith, Mildred and Irving. This led to his founding in 1955 of a family foundation to serve as a vehicle through which he could achieve these goals. The Max Kagan Family Foundation supported important Jewish charities, both local and national. United Jewish Appeal, the Bangor Jewish Community Counsel, and the Jewish Federation of Bangor were all recipients of financial support under Max Kagan's leadership of the Foundation. But Max's philanthropy was not limited to Jewish causes. Mindful of the permanent lung damage he and Nettie had sustained in their ill-fated passage to America, in 1969 Max directed that the Max Kagan Family Foundation would provide the lead gift to a new lung center at New England Hospital (now Tufts Medical Center) in 1969. Healthcare remained at the forefront of Foundation giving locally as well, as Eastern Maine Medical Center (now Northern Light Health, where all ten of his grandchildren were born) was a significant beneficiary of Max Kagan philanthropy. Foundational gifts from the Max Kagan Family Foundation contributed to the establishment of Bangor's Husson

College (now University, and which named a primary route through campus Kagan Drive in his honor), Beth Abraham and Beth Israel synagogues, and the Bangor Jewish Funeral Chapel on Center Street – where the services for the passing of all three of his children were held.

Max Kagan died in his adopted home of Bangor, Maine in 1969, survived not only by three of his children – Edith, Mildred, and Irving, and their ten grandchildren, but also by a legacy of grit, survival, courage, tenacity, philanthropy, and generosity.



**Irving Kagan** was the youngest of five children born to Max and Nettie Kagan. Born on December 19, 1928, Irv never met his eldest two siblings, Leah and Nochim who were born in Riga, Latvia and did not survive the family's tragic transatlantic passage aboard a freighter to start a new life in America. Irving, along with his two older sisters Edith and Mildred,

were the first Kagans to be born American citizens.

That the Kagan family settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, where Edith, Mildred and Irving were born, speaks to Lynn's then-renown as the shoe-making capital of the world. Their father Max Kagan's skills as a leather worker, honed as a child factory laborer in Riga, allowed him to find work in America almost immediately.

It was the shoe business that brought Irving Kagan to Maine. His father Max had the opportunity to operate a shoe factory owned by Phillip Lown, a Lithuanian Jew, and University of Maine graduate who, in later years, would be Max Kagan's partner rather than employer. This new position resulted in relocation to Bangor, Maine.

It was the shoe business that also kept Irving in Maine. An exceptional student, upon graduation from Bangor High School at age 16, in 1945 Irving entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In three years, Irv earned a bachelor's degree in construction engineering

## MAX AND IRVING KAGAN\* CONTINUED



*Irving Kagan*

and management and therefore had diverse career opportunities in the post-war construction boom, including a lucrative offer to move to Ohio to enter the fledgling manufactured housing industry. But Irv wanted to be back in Maine, so he chose another path – joining his father’s company. In October

1948 he started work at his father’s company, Kagan-Lown

Shoe (later Penobscot Shoe Company). He would remain there for his entire working career, retiring as its board chairman in 1999.

Irving Kagan was dedicated to Maine. He returned here after graduating from MIT and never again lived anywhere else. He was immensely proud of the high-quality jobs that supported so many Maine families and the employment opportunities for members of the Penobscot Nation when Penobscot Shoe opened its factory on North Main Street in Old Town. He worked tirelessly to maintain these jobs even as global pressures and international treaties made American shoe manufacturing less and less financially tenable from the 1960s onward.

Irving’s commitment to Maine is also evidenced by his many lofty positions in public service here. In 1984 he was invited to serve on the board of Bangor’s Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC). Irving understood the significance of that invitation being extended to a Jew, so even though he had neither education nor background in medicine or health care administration, upon accepting the invitation he threw himself into the task of becoming expert in health care delivery. By 1990 he was chairman of the EMMC board of directors. Then, in 1996, as EMMC’s board chair, he oversaw the transformation of EMMC as a stand-alone hospital into Eastern Maine Healthcare (EMH), a regional health care delivery network. He

assumed the board chair of EMH, a position he held until 2005. Irv also recognized the region’s need for quality delivery of mental health services, and it was under his leadership that EMMC founded Bangor’s Acadia Hospital, of which Irv served as founding trustee.

Concurrent with running Penobscot Shoe and his expanding role in modernizing health care delivery in eastern Maine, Irving Kagan served as: trustee and treasurer of Maine Maritime Academy in Castine; director of Merrill Bank Fleet Bank (now Bank of America); director of Footwear Industries of America; chairman of the Jewish Community Endowment Association; chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign of Bangor; trustee of the Two/Ten Associates Inc., a national philanthropic foundation of she, leather and allied trades.

Irving’s impressive record of service and leadership was also evident in the world of international sports. Starting as a parent volunteer for ski competitions at Maine’s Sugarloaf Mountain, Irv soon took on a series of ever wider roles in the sport. In succession he served the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSSA) as member, then chair, of the Eastern (US) Competition Committee; member, then vice-chair, of the USSSA national committee, and finally, as the United States delegate to FIS, the International Ski Federation. The sport of Freestyle skiing owes its status as an Olympic sport largely to Irv’s efforts on a national and international level. In addition, Irv was a founding trustee of the Carrabassett Valley Academy, a co-educational preparatory school located at Sugarloaf dedicated to training on-snow competitive athletes and served on the boards of the Sugarloaf Ski Educational Foundation and the Sugarloaf Ski Club. Irving’s contributions to the world of skiing and sports were recognized in his 2006 elections to both the Maine Ski Hall of Fame and the Maine Sports Hall of Fame.

Though Irving Kagan’s life of excellence ended with his unexpected death in December 2005, his exemplary legacy endures in the State of Maine and beyond.



# LINDA LAVIN



Linda Lavin most recently starred in The Roundabout Theatre Company's production of Noah Diaz's "You Will Get Sick". Linda can currently be seen in the Aaron Sorkin feature, "Being the Ricardos." Most recently, she was a series regular on the CBS sitcom, "B Positive," produced by

Chuck Lorre.

Linda Lavin has won a Tony Award, as well as a Drama Desk, Outer Critics' and Helen Hayes Award for her performance in "Broadway Bound" in 1987. She is a six-time Tony Award nominee for her roles in "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers", "The Diary of Anne Frank", "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife", "Collected Stories" and "The Lyons". In 2017, Linda was seen in "Candide" directed by Hal Prince and received stellar reviews. Inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2011, other theatre credits include "The New Century" (Drama Desk Award), "Other Desert Cities" (LCT), and "Too Much Sun" (Vineyard Theatre).

She is a two-time Golden Globe winner and Emmy nominee for her role as Alice on the 9-year hit TV series

"Alice" on CBS, and she co-starred with Sean Hayes in the NBC Series "Sean Saves the World". Linda recently guest starred on "Mom", "The Good Wife", and "Madam Secretary". She featured as a series regular on the CBS sitcom "9JKL" opposite Mark Feurstein and Elliot Gould, and was recently seen on the series "Brockmire" and "The Santa Clarita Diet".

Her recent feature films include "Naked Singularity" opposite John Boyega and Bill Skarsgaard, "A Short History of Decay", "Manhattan Nocturne" with Adrien Brody, "How to Be a Latin Lover" opposite Rob Lowe and Eugenio Derbez, and "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase." She also appeared with Robert De Niro in Nancy Meyer's "The Intern".

Linda was born in Portland, Maine and is a graduate of the College of William & Mary, which recently conferred on her an honorary Doctor of Arts degree where she endows a theater program. She performs her concert act with Billy Stritch, her music director, and has released her second CD "Love Notes," an album of jazz standards and show tunes.



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# KATHERINE MORGAN, ESQ.\*



Katherine Morgan was the first Jewish United States Administrative Law Judge appointed to hear cases in Maine (1994). She served in the Portland office of the Social Security Administration from 1994 until retirement in 2018. Her tenure included appointment as Chief United States Administrative Law

Judge. Katherine has been acknowledged and held in high esteem nationwide by the legal Bar and was known for her integrity and respectful and compassionate treatment of all who came before her in the courtroom.

Prior to her appointment as an ALJ, Katherine was honored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Houston Texas, for her contributions as an attorney in the District Counsel's Office and for the quality and success of her work, including winning a major sexual harassment case involving a VA Hospital Department Chief who was engaging in gross sexual abuse of his employees. She also conducted an investigation, which led to the exoneration of a hospital employee wrongly accused of causing a patient's death; was instrumental in establishing a smoke-free hospital environment; and educated and trained employees on topics of racial, sexual, religious, and age discrimination prohibitions under federal law.

She served as a United States Administrative Judge in Houston for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in addition to teaching criminal justice, labor law, legal research, and legal practice and procedure in several colleges and universities as an adjunct professor and working as a labor arbitrator.

In Washington, DC, Katherine worked as a professional staff member with Congressman Claude Pepper's House Select Committee on Aging, helping write the legislation

for the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which eliminated most mandatory retirement age requirements in the country.

In DC and NYC, Katherine worked as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

Before earning her JD and practicing labor and discrimination law, Katherine earned a Masters Degree in Urban Education. As a fifth and sixth grade teacher in a special community-controlled inner-city education project in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, one of three experimental "demonstration districts" established in New York City, she successfully educated students whom the school system had given up on, and considered unteachable.



In the turbulent late sixties when the city was torn apart with issues of Black Power and community control in the schools, Katherine was one of the few Jewish teachers appointed and accepted by the inner-city community to teach in the schools. Through innovative and creative teaching methods, she was able to establish good relations with the community and students; raise the

reading levels and scores of students; and inspire them to enjoy and desire learning.

Active in the Civil Rights and Anti-Apartheid Movements, Katherine participated in sit-ins and demonstrations to integrate construction sites and other segregated businesses and to oppose businesses and universities investing in South Africa's apartheid government.

Katherine had a long and proud history as a humanist/activist contributing to the dignity and welfare of the needy and injured in society. In all her endeavors, she acquired a reputation for fairness and compassion.





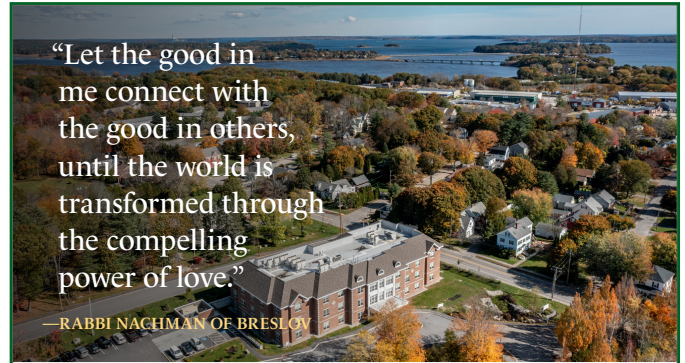
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Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine | [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org)



“Let the good in me connect with the good in others, until the world is transformed through the compelling power of love.”

— RABBI NACHMAN OF BRESLEV

The Cedars celebrates the 2023 Maine Jewish Museum honorees.



620-650 Ocean Avenue, Portland  
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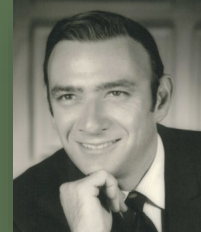
As the Maine Jewish Hall of Fame honors two generations of Kagans, we salute the third.

Congratulations to our partner Daniel Kagan and his family for this special honor.

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Max Kagan  
*Born in Riga, Latvia*




Irving Kagan  
*Born in Lynn, MA*



Daniel G. Kagan, Esq.  
*Born in Bangor, ME*



Congratulations to the  
2023 Class of the  
Maine Jewish Museum Hall of Fame  
*Portland Jewish Funeral Home*



**Congratulations David  
on your induction into the  
Maine Jewish Hall of Fame!**

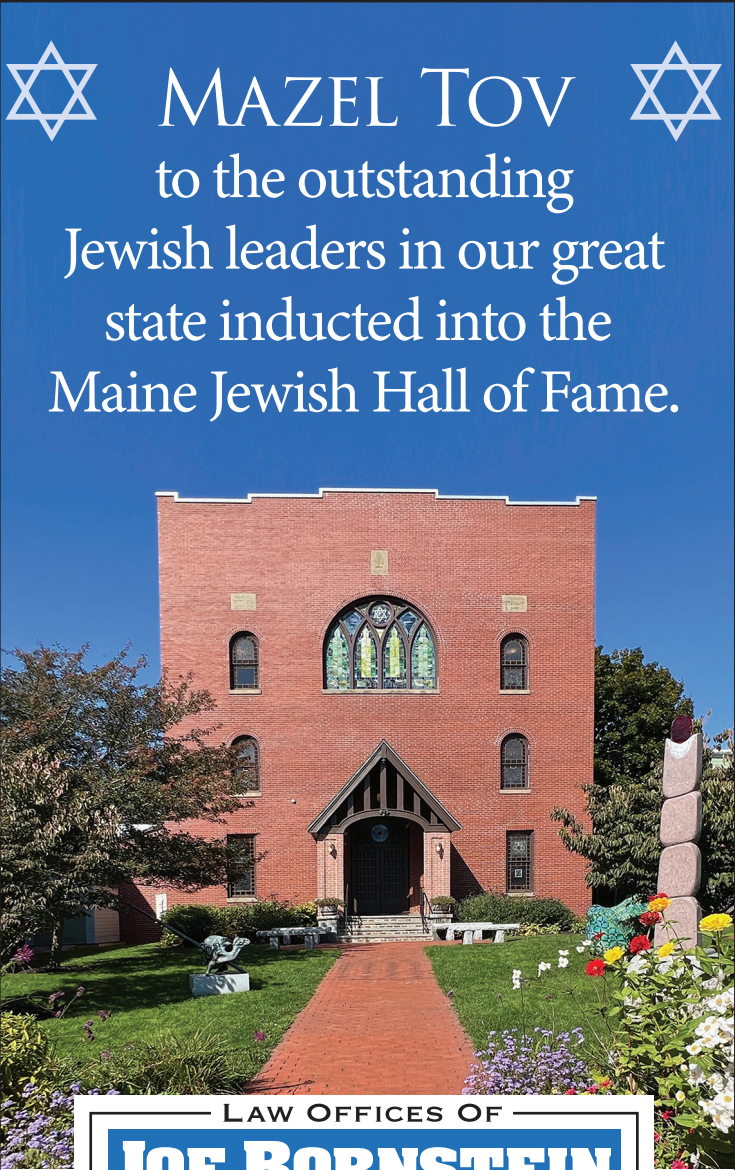
Your Jewish values combined with your thoughtful, intelligent, and respectful approach to addressing issues during almost 5 decades of public and community service helped to improve the quality of life for so many in your beloved City of Portland and the State of Maine. What a beautiful legacy!

*We are proud of you and love you so much.*  
- Nancy and Molly



Best wishes to  
all of the  
MJM Hall of Fame  
2023 Inductees  
and their Families

*Etz Chaim  
Synagogue*



☆ MAZEL TOV ☆  
to the outstanding  
Jewish leaders in our great  
state inducted into the  
Maine Jewish Hall of Fame.

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# MELVIN STONE\*



Mel Stone was born May 1, 1921, to David and Gertrude (Cohen) Epstein at home on Munjoy Hill. He was a graduate of Portland High School, 1938, Portland Junior College, 1941 (now USM), Boston University, cum laude, 1943, with a degree in Journalism/Business. He married Frances Marsha Lempert, of Lewiston, as an Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. July 23, 1944, just prior to going overseas.

Mel served more than four years in

WWII, mostly in Europe where his unit, the 187<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, was attached to several Army Divisions for engineering support. War's end found the 187<sup>th</sup> attached to Patton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored in Czechoslovakia, facing Soviet troops.

Following deactivation of the 187<sup>th</sup> in late 1945, Mel, then a Captain, became adjutant of the 1120<sup>th</sup> Combat Engr. Group. His final posting was Military City Engineer for the nearly entirely demolished city of Nuremberg.

Fran was among the earliest group of Army wives to travel to Germany to join their husbands. She and Mel occupied an apartment in Furth, Bavaria, a Nuremberg suburb, for a year. They travelled extensively all over Allied Occupied Europe. One highlight was attendance at several Nuremberg trial sessions.

Early in 1948, Mel, with a business partner, acquired the Rumford (ME) Publishing Co. and its Rumford Falls Times. Under their management the weekly increased circulation 40% and doubled the number of pages per issue. Plant expansion enabled them to publish the Wilton Times, Westbrook American (now the American-Journal), Lisbon Enterprise and the Rangeley Record, a summer weekly. From publishing, Mel's attention turned to broadcasting. Over the years he developed ownership in nine AM and FM radio stations and Channel 7, TV, Bangor.

In his 70s, Mel recognized that broadcasting was a "young man's game" and began to divest the various properties. His attention turned to media brokering. Mel became New England vice president of a New York media brokerage firm. Until he finally retired at 84, Mel actively brokered the sale of dozens of radio stations, including WGAN AM & FM, locally.



During the 1970s, Mel also built and operated a twin cinema in Rumford. In his later years, Mel wrote a book titled "Media Guy". Cover description: "A humorous romp thru much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, following his career in newspapers, radio, television and other weird enterprises".

Mel was active in his community. In Rumford he was president of the Jaycees and a Rotarian. He was treasurer of the Maine Press Assn. and first president of the New England Press Association. A few years later he was elected president of the Maine Radio-TV Broadcasters Assn., the only person ever to hold an office in both Press and Broadcasting groups.

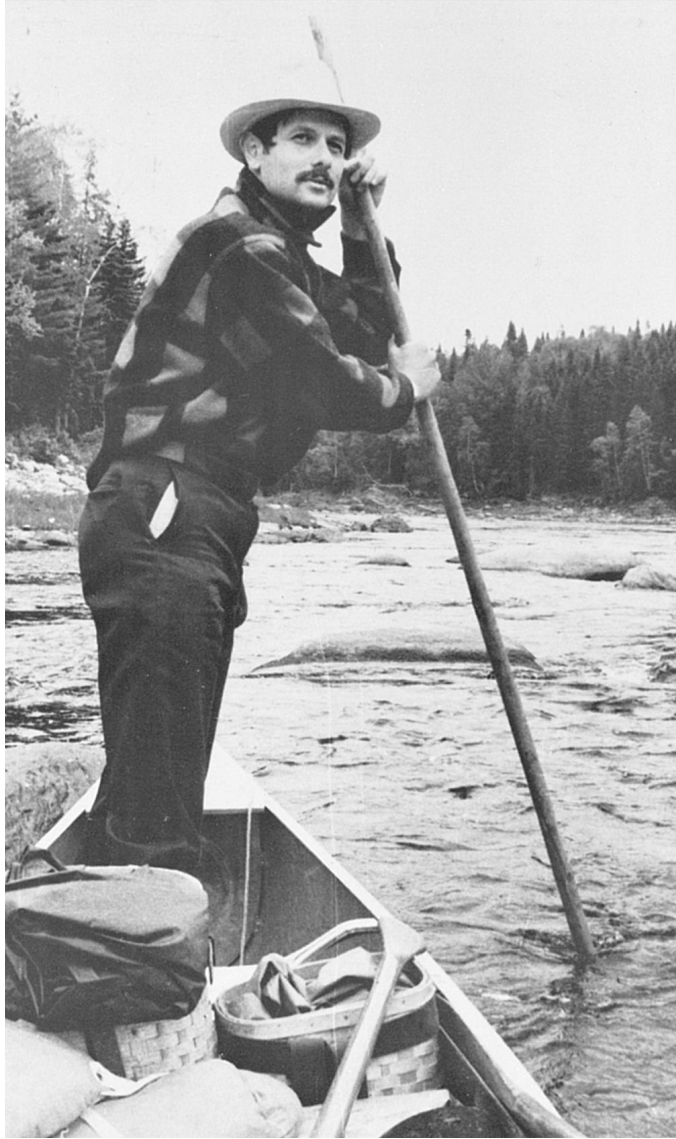
He became a director, later president of the Jewish Home for Aged (now the Cedars organization). He chaired finance and investment committees for many years.

Mel was a president of the Portland Lions Club and president of its Lions Low Vision Clinic at the Institution of the Blind, now the Iris Network. He was president and a campaign chair of the Portland Jewish Federation, vice president at Temple Beth El and president of its Brotherhood. Mel was a past commander of the local Jewish War Veterans Post and, later, until a short time before his death, served as Quartermaster (secretary-treasurer). Each year he would arrange for flags to decorate Jewish veterans' graves at local cemeteries for Memorial Day.

He was the longest serving member of SCORE, at first counseling and, later, doing marketing for SCORE workshops. Mel was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason, a member for more than 60 years. After retiring with Fran to the Atrium at Cedars in 2005, Mel served as Atrium Member Council chair, served on various committees, and presented weekly travelogues.

Fran and Mel traveled extensively for many years, visiting every continent but Antarctica. He is survived by sons, David J. and his wife, Katharine (KC) of Windham, Charles E. and his wife, Barbara N.; grandsons Dr. Brian N. Stone, his wife Jennifer, Peter L. Stone and wife, Alicia; two great-grandchildren, Eric Charles and Ella Jean Stone, two step great-grandchildren, Hayley Lee and Austin Jennings, all of Pennsylvania.

Months before his death, Mel became certain that all of the loving concern shown him by family, Atrium staff and friends contributed greatly to the effectiveness of his many pain-alleviating medications. He wanted them to know how grateful he was to them all.



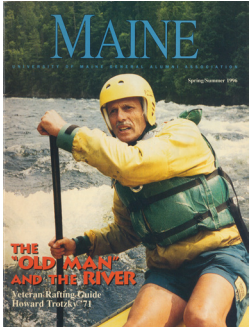
# KOL HAKAVOD GRANDPA!!

We are so very proud of you for  
receiving this honor!

You have demonstrated over the  
years love and responsibility for  
the environment, a passion for  
educating, a thirst for knowledge and  
understanding, and of course how to  
paddle a canoe!

*With much love and admiration,*  
Aryeh, Eli, Yonatan and Tal Ziering  
Mark & Deborah (Trotzky) Ziering  
Zachary and Ryan Trotzky  
Drs. Sam & Judith Trotzky

# HOWARD TROTZKY



In 1954, a group of campers headed down the Kennebec River in canoes hoping for a taste of white-water adventure. They didn't get very far before they became stuck in a log jam that covered the water from bank to bank. They had to give up their trip and trudged into the town of Caratunk to call someone from the camp to come pick them up. The guide who led the expedition was dismayed.

It was illegal for the logging companies to block the river, he said apologetically.

Those words stayed with Howard Trotzky long after his summers at Camp Modin in Canaan. Trotzky, a native of New York City who moved to Maine as soon as possible after his summer stays, became so fed up with the logs clogging the Kennebec that he filed a lawsuit to stop the use of the river to move and store wood.

Shortly after graduating from Columbia College in New York, Trotzky moved to Maine and enrolled at The University of Maine to earn a master's degree in fishery biology. Working with the Maine Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Department of The Interior, Trotzky was asked to do a study of the fish population in the upper Kennebec River. Residents thought the number of fish in the river was declining because of the log drives that choked the water with pulpwood and

bark deposits. As he studied the river, Trotzky concluded that the log drives were damaging the underwater ecosystem. He studied the laws of Maine and found a 19<sup>th</sup> century statute which designated waterways as public highways open to all. He formed the Kennebec Valley Conservation Association in 1970 and began lobbying the log driving and paper companies to stop using the river to carry their logs. Trotzky was criticized by many as a radical outsider who sought to end a centuries-old Maine tradition. Even the state's mainstream environmental groups said his lawsuit was misguided. But Maine Attorney General James Erwin joined the Trotzky lawsuit, followed by Peter Mills, Maine's U.S. attorney, filing a federal lawsuit in U.S. District Court. Soon after, Scott Paper announced it would stop the log drives on the Kennebec by 1976. In addition, the Maine Legislature passed a bill banning log driving by the same year.

Today, the upper Kennebec River is a recreational mecca for white-water rafting, kayaking, canoeing, camping, hiking, fishing, observing wildlife and generates millions of dollars for Maine's economy.

Trotzky (Bangor) was elected to the Maine Senate for 4 terms. He was Senate Chairman of the Natural Resources, Energy, and Education Committees. He was recognized for his environmental advocacy. He was a high school science teacher for 26 years starting in the Rumford School District, a Registered Maine Guide for most of his adult life, and rafting guide on the Kennebec during summers.



## YALLA ISRAEL ADVENTURES

congratulates

**Howard Trotzky**

and all the honorees

for this well deserved recognition!

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# THE MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

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- ✦ Joel and Linda Abromson – *Portland*
- ✦ The Adelman Family (including Hiram & Katherine, Milton & Gloria, Yale & Mary and Jack & Elizabeth Mazer) – *Aroostook County*
- ✦ Dorothy and Harold Alfond – *Waterville*
- ✦ Dr Albert Aranson – *Portland*
- ✦ David Astor\* – *Portland*
- ✦ Rabbi Gary Berenson – *Cape Elizabeth*
- ✦ The Bernstein Family (including Israel & Rebecca, Selma & Louis, and Sumner & Rosalyne) – *Portland*
- ✦ Judge Morton Brody – *Waterville*
- ✦ Sam L Cohen – *Biddeford*
- ✦ Lawrence and Kay Cutler – *Bangor*
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- ✦ Abraham and Fannie Levey\* – *Portland*
- ✦ George I Lewis\* – *Portland*
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- ✦ Peter and Paula Lunder – *Waterville/ Scarborough*
- ✦ Judith Magyar and Irving Isaacson – *Lewiston*
- ✦ Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt – *Portland*
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- ✦ Harold and Millie Nelson – *Falmouth*
- ✦ Kenny and Mary Nelson – *Falmouth*
- ✦ Leonard and Merle Nelson – *Cumberland Foreside*
- ✦ Louise Nevelson – *Rockland*
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- ✦ Nathan Povich – *Bath*
- ✦ Roxanne Quimby – *Schoodic*
- ✦ Benjamin Stern – *Biddeford*
- ✦ Rabbi Harry Z Sky – *Portland*
- ✦ Nancy and Charlie Shuman – *Augusta*
- ✦ Jack Spiegel – *Portland*
- ✦ The Unobskey Family (including Joseph & Sarah and sons, William, Arthur, and Charles) – *Calais*
- ✦ Rita Willis – *Portland*



# MAINE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

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*Thank you to all who gave their time and energy to make this event a success!*



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# MAINE HAS THINGS...

...Things To Climb

KATAHDIN

...Things To Read

**Up**  **Portland**  
DOWNTOWN PORTLAND'S NEWSPAPER

...Things To Visit

QUODDY HEAD

**BUT ONLY ONE OF THESE THINGS SUPPORTS THE MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM  
(AND YOU CAN READ WHICH THING IT IS)**



# **Congratulations!**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine congratulates our board member and friend David Brenerman on his induction to the 2023 Maine Jewish Hall of Fame.**

**We are grateful for his dedication to building great futures for the youth of Southern Maine!**



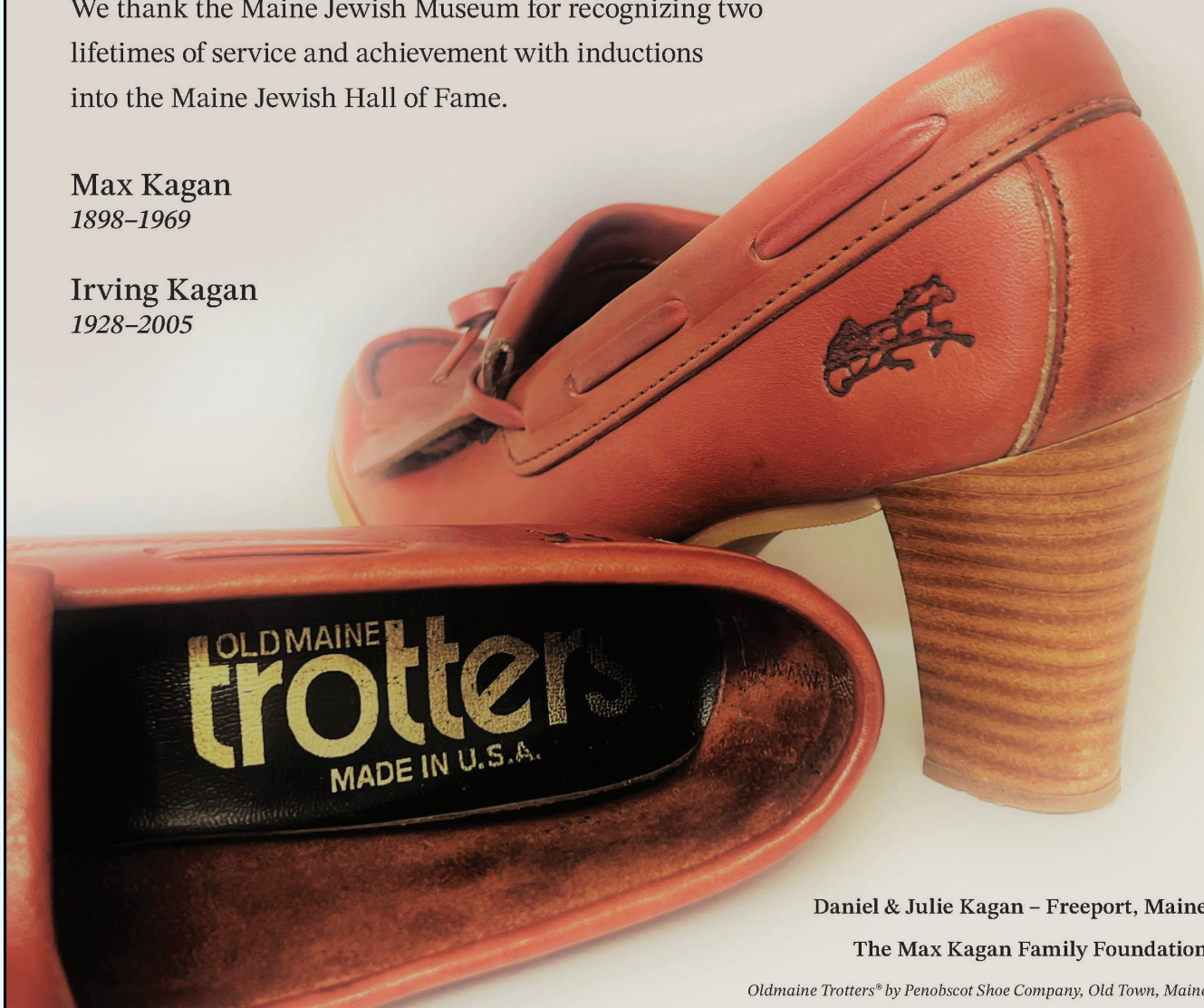
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF SOUTHERN MAINE**

# Honoring two great men who left big shoes to fill.

We thank the Maine Jewish Museum for recognizing two  
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**Max Kagan**  
1898–1969

**Irving Kagan**  
1928–2005



**Daniel & Julie Kagan – Freeport, Maine**

**The Max Kagan Family Foundation**

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