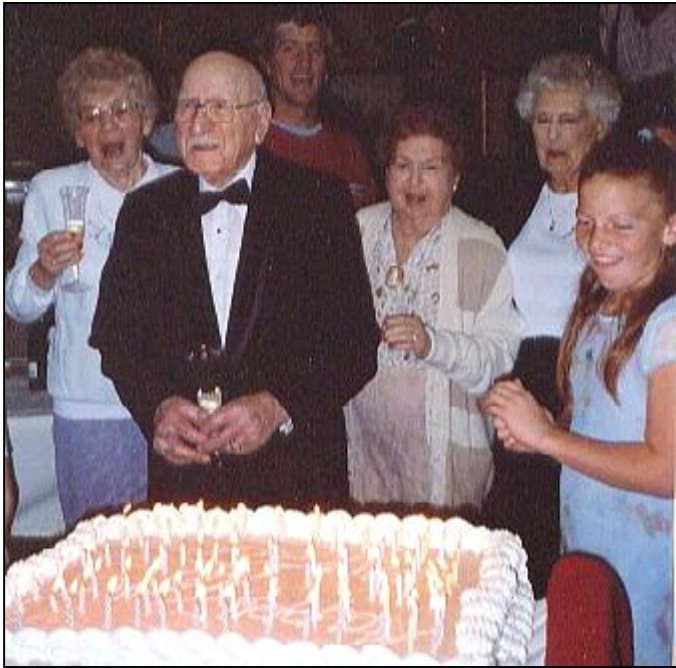


Milestones



Mike Kinberg at 100

by Eileen Gavaris

As representative of *Congregation Ezzrah Israel* of Ellenville, Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Frank flew to San Diego, California, to celebrate with Michael Kinberg, a former and long-time Ellenville resident, his 100th birthday. Michael is the youngest of ten children born in Brooklyn, NY on February 22, 1904, to Rose and Morris Kinberg who, in 1905, bought a dairy farm and boarding house on **Leurenkill Road**, neighboring the property of Charles Slutsky, founder of the *Nevele Country Club*. After selling the farm in 1920, the family moved to a brick house on the corner of **Church & Warren Streets** in Ellenville that became in time, the *Castlewood Inn*.


Michael and his older brother, Philip, who celebrated his 100th birthday in July of 2003, opened **Kinberg Brothers Auto Supplies** store on **Canal Street** in Ellenville and ran it for over 35 years. Michael married the late Hannah Kinberg, whom he adored, and had a son, Arthur. When Mike, for health reasons, left Ellenville in the spring of 2003, after having lived there for close to a century, he settled in San Marcos, CA, 35 minutes from San Diego, to be near his son and daughter-in-law, Trece.

While Michael lived in Ellenville, he was active in all phases of Synagogue life. He served as a director of the board, an officer, and chairman/editor of the annual journal. He is now currently an honorary board member and keeps abreast of the Synagogue's "goings on" with great enthusiasm. His phone calls and written communications include suggestions as to how to engage more people into Synagogue life.

The birthday party, thrown by Mike's children, Arthur and Trece, took place in San Marcos. More than 50 people – family, guests and friends – gathered around Mike as he blew out the one hundred candles on the birthday cake (photo, top).

After thanking the Almighty for having given Mike long life and good health to be able to reach this milestone, Rabbi Frank roasted and toasted Mike. Along with

Mrs. Esti Frank, Rabbi Frank presented Mike with a beautifully-designed souvenir plaque, which brought greetings from "a grateful community, which celebrates with you." Rabbi Frank described Mike as gentle and soft-spoken, having a strong handshake and superb golf swing. "He's like the prickly pear, tough on the outside and soft on the inside." Mike responded warmly. He opened his remarks, by telling everyone, "Had I known I'd live so long, I would have taken better care of myself".

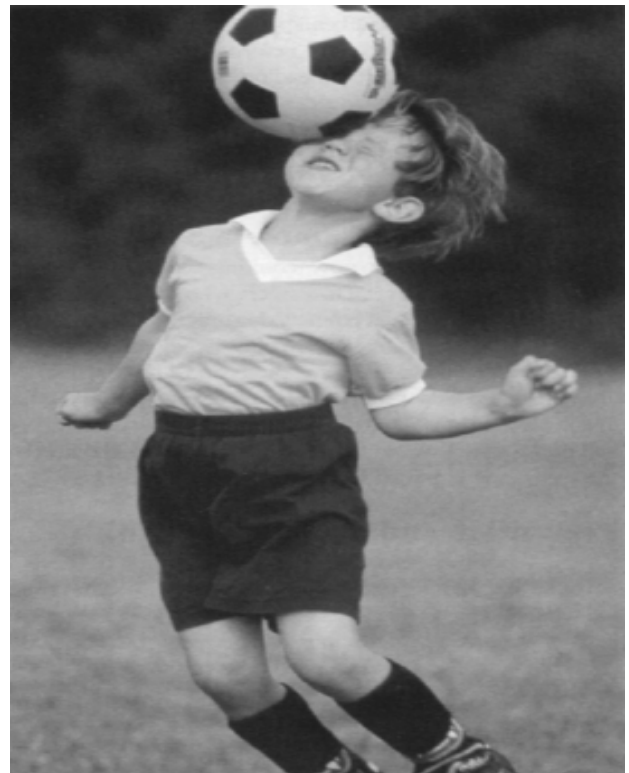
He then read a letter written to him by Leslie Levine of Ellenville, reminiscing about Ellenville of yesteryear. Arthur and Trece thanked all for coming, affording them the opportunity to celebrate this milestone. There was music, singing, and dancing. Mike looked dapper in his tuxedo and just couldn't get over the fact that just that morning he thought to himself, "how is it that 'everyone' calls to wish me well and my Rabbi doesn't call me." But when the Rabbi and Esti Frank walked into the party, he had the answer to his question. 

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