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Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 78, Folder 9, American Jewish Committee reception and dinner in honor of Alma and Theodore Schlesinger, 1980.

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. THEODORE SCHLESINGER
BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here tonight to join you in this public tribute to Alma and Theodore Schlesinger. I am especially pleased to have been given the privilege of making this presentation to them on your behalf.

The American Jewish Committee could not have chosen recipients more worthy of its Milton Weill Human Relations Award. For Alma and Ted are conscientious supporters of humanitarian causes, and entertain a genuine commitment to the ideals and objectives to which the Committee is dedicated. And they treasure the timeless values which have distinguished the Jewish people. In honoring them we are giving recognition to an unusual couple who stand out in our community, as they would in any company or community they might find themselves in.

At the same time, this occasion has a more profound significance. Because we have come together under the banner of the AJC, we are indicating our respect for those higher values for which it stands: concern for the welfare of our fellows, respect for the rights of the individual and improved relations among all people.

After graduating from City College of New York in 1928, Ted joined Allied Stores Corporation, one of America's largest department store chains. Its Florida units are Maas Brothers on the West Coast and Jordan Marsh on the East Coast. While working, he graduated from law school and passed the bar examination. Alma attended Teacher's Training School and worked for several years as a dental hygienist.

Ted became Assistant to the President of Allied in 1939, Vice President 1945, President and Chief Executive Officer in 1959, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 1969. He retired in 1974. In addition to his Allied career, he was a Director of American Broadcasting Company and Marine Midland Bank of New York for many years and, currently, is a Trustee of Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Happily married for forty-five years, Alma and Ted early felt that they were destined by fate for each other, having been born on the same day - October 27, 1908 - and having met at the age of eleven, when they attended the same New York City public school. A warm and loving family, the Schlesingers have two sons, one daughter-in-law and two granddaughters.

Among the many awards and honors they have received, they most appreciated those bestowed on them by the National Jewish Hospital at Denver, of which Ted was a Vice President, and Alma a trustee, and official of the Westchester Division; the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1967, Ted received the National Retail Merchants Gold Medal "For Distinguished Service to the Craft," and in 1969, he was awarded the Townsend Harris Medal "For Notable Achievement in Business and Public Life" by the City College Alumni Association. Alma's work for National Jewish Hospital, Planned Parenthood, the Westchester Home for Aged Hebrews, and other causes has also been publicly recognized.

Recently, I came across two quotations having to do with merchants: one -- from Daniel Defoe, the author of Robinson Crusoe --

SARASOTA RECEPTION AND DINNER

IN HONOR OF

ALMA AND THEODORE SCHLESINGER

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1980

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Bert J. Copeland Greetings and Welcome
Calls Upon Rabbi
For Invocation
2. Rabbi Invocation

DINNER

3. Bert J. Copeland Introduces Harry Sudakoff
4. Harry Sudakoff Introduces Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
5. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Presentation of Award
6. Alma and Theodore Schlesinger Response
7. Bert J. Copeland Introduces Howard I. Friedman
8. Howard I. Friedman Keynote
9. Bert J. Copeland Thanks Mr. Friedman and
Thanks All For Their Participation
Calls upon Rabbi for the
Benediction
10. Rabbi Benediction
11. Adjournment

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The American Jewish Committee

SARASOTA RECEPTION AND DINNER

in honor of

Alma and Theodore Schlesinger

OUR GUESTS OF HONOR

The American Jewish Committee takes great pleasure in saluting Alma and Ted Schlesinger, a distinguished couple of great personal warmth and generosity of spirit, who have given outstanding guidance and devoted service to various causes and institutions serving a wide range of communal and community needs.

After graduating from City College of New York in 1928, Ted went to work as an executive trainee with Allied Stores Corporation, one of America's largest department store chains. While working, he attended, and, in 1932, graduated from Fordham Law School and passed the New York State Bar Examination. Alma attended Teacher's Training School and worked for several years as a dental hygienist until they were married and moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1935. Ted became Assistant to the President of Allied in 1939, Vice President of the company in 1945, President and Chief Executive Officer in 1959, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 1969. He retired in 1974. His long and successful career with Allied, he feels, would not have been possible without the constant confidence, enthusiasm, inspiration and help he received from his wife.

In addition to his Allied career, Ted was a Director of American Broadcasting Company and Marine Midland Bank of New York for many years, and currently is a Trustee of Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Happily married for forty-five years, Alma and Ted early felt that they were destined by fate for each other, having been born on the same day — October 27, 1908 — and having met at the age of eleven, when they attended the same New York City public school. A warm and loving family, the Schlesingers have two sons, one daughter-in-law and two granddaughters.

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In 1967, Ted received the National Retail Merchants Gold Medal "For Distinguished Service to the Craft," and in 1969, he was awarded the Townsend Harris Medal "For Notable Achievement in Business and Public Life" by the City College Alumni Association. Alma's efforts in behalf of National Jewish Hospital, Planned Parenthood, the Westchester Home for Aged Hebrews, and other of her charities, have received frequent acknowledgment over the years.

In honoring Alma and Ted Schlesinger at this time, America's pioneer human relations agency expresses warm gratitude on behalf of the many who have benefited from their generous and able leadership in endeavors aimed at improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens.

The Milton Weill

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

was established in 1977 to perpetuate the example of leadership which Milton Weill provided for the community. His achievements as Chairman of the American Jewish Committee's Administrative Committee, precursor of what is now its Board of Governors, have been of enduring influence. He was a leader, too, of the National Jewish Welfare Board, of the United Jewish Appeal, the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and the Greater New York Fund and a Founder of the Associated YW and YMHA's of the New York metropolitan area.

Past Award Recipients

1977 – Teresa J. Weill

1978 – Mr. and Mrs. George M. Hecht

1979 – Herbert H. Schiff

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee combats bigotry and advances the cause of human rights for all. Its national headquarters in New York is the Institute of Human Relations, a world-wide center for research, training and action for intergroup relations. It has an extensive overseas service with offices in Paris, Mexico City and Jerusalem and correspondents in many other cities.

In the United States, AJC has chapters and units in 100 principal cities and members in more than 600 American localities. Twenty-three regional offices throughout the country carry out AJC programs in cooperation with local community relations groups. The Committee is an accredited nongovernmental agency to the United States Mission to the United Nations.

You are cordially invited to attend a
RECEPTION AND DINNER
marking the fourth annual presentation of
THE MILTON WEILL HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

of
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

to

Alma and Theodore Schlesinger

Keynote

Howard J. Friedman

Chairman, Board of Trustees, AJC

Presentation of Award

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

National Interreligious Affairs Director, AJC

hosted by

Harry Sudakoff

at

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

1605 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida

Sunday, March 23, 1980

Cocktails — 6:00 P.M.

Dinner — 7:00 P.M.

No card-calling

Minimum contribution, with the privilege of membership

\$100 per person — \$200 per couple

*In behalf of the national and international programs
of the American Jewish Committee in the field of human relations*

SARASOTA RECEPTION AND DINNER

Chairman
Bert J. Copeland

Sponsoring Committee

<i>Dr. and Mrs. S. Philip Bralow</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Kurt A. Olden</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Eli Brilliant</i>	<i>Dr. and Mrs. Julius Pearson</i>
<i>Dr. and Mrs. Henry Burstein</i>	<i>Mrs. Revella Price</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jules F. Cann</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Reuben B. Resnik</i>
<i>Mrs. Bert J. Copeland</i>	<i>Mrs. Ruth Riesner</i>
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<i>Mrs. Edward Gudeman</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jay B. Rudolph</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. George M. Hecht</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. George J. Shub</i>
<i>Mrs. Sue Isaacson</i>	<i>Mrs. Florence S. Sinclair</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Isadore B. Jacobson</i>	<i>Mr. Harry Sudakoff</i>
<i>Mrs. Harry L. Jones</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Turin</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Kalish, Jr.</i>	<i>Mrs. Philip M. Waterman</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Kaufmann</i>	<i>Mr. Hanford S. Weil</i>
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<i>Mr. and Mrs. Sol Levites</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Michael Yamin</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. William Neuman</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Nathan E. Zelby</i>