

# Nesanel Dovid & Malya Goldfarb

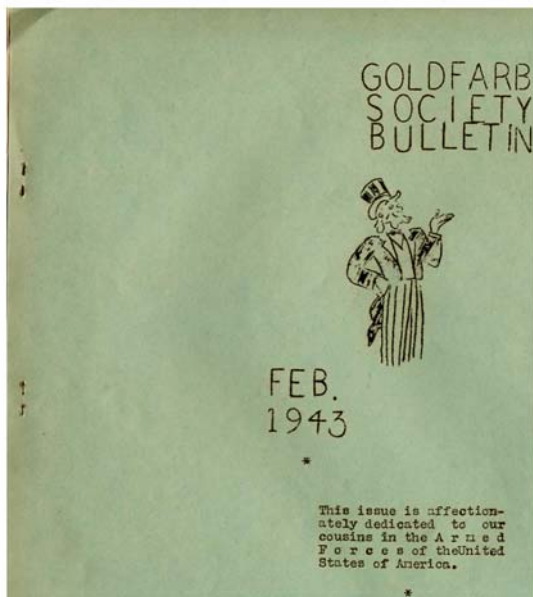
נתנאל דוד בן אברהם יצחק • מאליע בת שמעון אלעזר

Nesanel Dovid Brier was born in Russia February 2, 1857 to Abraham Brier and Bella Cohen. As Nesanel Dovid was growing up, families were faced with the requirement to provide children for the Russian army. To avoid conscription, many ran away, changed their names, or latched onto other families who had already given soldiers to the Russian cause. The young, Nesanel Dovid, chose to leave Russia and travel to the great hassidic center of Shinyeva (Sieniewa), which was located in Austria (at times it was known as Galicia). Shortly after arriving in Shinyeva he met and married Malya Goldfarb. He chose to change his family name to that of his wife's, Goldfarb.



He, his wife, and their children arrived in the United States around the year 1890. They originally lived on the block of the Horowitz Margareten Matzah factory located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan (on 4<sup>th</sup> between Ave. C and Ave. D). In later years they moved to Rodney Street and then to 188 Keap Street in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Nesanel Dovid's reputation as Cantor was well known. Each year before the Yomim Noraim his children and grandchildren were privileged to spend time with him studying Perush and Nusach Hatfillah. Learning Pirkei Avos was of great importance to him and was something he spent much time teaching to his grandchildren. Both in his home and business he spoke Yiddish almost exclusively. His wife, Mima Malya, tried learning the English language, but it was to no avail.



"This issue is affectionately dedicated to our cousins in the armed forces of the United States of America"

Nesanel Dovid worked hard to provide for his family. He had a dry goods business and sold his wares both in the store and by pushcart. The pushcart would make its rounds selling all types of home products. His children would help and take the pushcart to the north end of Manhattan to help make sales.

As time passed, the family grew, his children got married and had children of their own, making it difficult to invite everyone back for Yom Tov. Purim was the only holiday that the entire family was able to gather. The children, grandchildren and cousins came to his home to celebrate the holiday. Nesanel Dovid's grandson Joseph has fine recollections the family get-togethers. The soda was kept in the bathtub to keep it cool. The adults gathered around the table near Nesanel Dovid while the grandchildren frolicked and took the opportunity to spend time getting to know the many cousins they did not see during the rest of the year.

## Nesanel Dovid & Malya Goldfarb

Throughout the year, the family kept in touch through the Goldfarb bulletins. They were filled with torah insights, thoughts on life, Mazel Tov's and good wishes from family members.

Malya Goldfarb, born in Shinyeva, Galicia to Shimon Eliezer and Esther Goldfarb was affectionately known to everyone as Mima Malya. The grandchildren called her Bobe in the pronunciation used by Jews from Galicia. The tzitisis she lovingly made for her children and grandchildren remain a legacy in the family. Her husband, Nesanel Dovid would add the actual tzitits to these beautiful garments.

Each Chanukah, Bobe, would give out un-circulated quarters to children and grandchildren. At that time, the well know businessman John D. Rockefeller would go to play golf and would give out dimes to all the people he met. Mima Malya would chuckle that she was wealthier than John Rockefeller.

In the years surrounding 1925 the well-known and successful businessman Harry Fishel would vacation in Hunter, New York. To provide a minyan for his shul he paid yeshiva students to come to the town of Hunter. They would Daven

and learn in morning, vacation in afternoon and learn in evening. In this way he was always guaranteed a minyan. There was a rotation in place, designed to maximize the number of people who would be able to vacation Hunter, all paid for by Mr. Harry Fishel. Mima Malya joined the many who visited Hunter and was found during the study sessions in the women's section of the shul. It afforded her the opportunity to recite her daily Tehillim.



The popular tune used for *shalom alechem* is another part of the Goldfarb history. It was written by Nesanel Dovid's son Israel. It was composed in the Spring of the year 1918 and was published in a formal songbook that year. The song traveled throughout the United States and the world

like wildfire. People arrived to the United States already singing his beautiful melody.

These small anecdotes known of the Goldfarb family, give us insight into the type of people they were; giving individuals, aspired and inspired to serve G-D. No doubt they were hard-working people, who faced many challenges, but the love and devotion they demonstrated, wove the fabric of a wonderful Jewish family.



Hungarian Field, Queens NY