

Herszl Rozenblum

**Israel Bond Dinner in Honour of
Lajbke Jakubowicz's 80th Birthday
in Montreal**

Esteemed Chairman Flw. Klein, most revered guest Mr Dorn, the celebrant Lajbke Jakubowicz, members of the Presidium, dear *landsleit* and friends:

It is my delightful pleasure and honour to speak about our esteemed President, Lajbke Jakubowicz. Giving an evaluation of a person, in my opinion, is no easy task and, especially, when this needs to be done in short strokes - although it would not be too great a fault to dwell a little longer and to speak about various aspects of *Feter*¹ Lajbke's activities.

Dear friends, I shall attempt, within the limits of my capabilities, to reflect on a few of the characteristics of a man, who embodies humanity, uprightness and devotion to what he believes, and has set himself, as a task, to carry through.

As is already known to you, *Feter* Lajbke was born in 1900, the son of a respected Jewish family. At the age of thirteen, he starts working to help out with livelihood. At the same time, during his free time, he completes his Jewish and secular knowledge.

At the age of twenty, he is called up to the Polish army, where he meets with insults and inhuman treatment at the expense of the Jewish soldiers and Jews in general. He returns to Częstochowa and, aged twenty-five, he is married to one of the finest women I have ever known. They are blessed with two dear children, and a warm, comfortable middle-class² home takes shape. He displays his capabilities in the realm of work and business, and his friendly man-to-man and Jew-to-Jew attitude comes to be expressed.

The Second World War breaks out and freedom of movement is restricted. Gatherings of family, neighbours and acquaintances frequently take place at Lajbke Jakubowicz's house. Different issues are discussed, among them the progress of the War and the situation in which the Jews find themselves.

In 1942, Lajbke and his only surviving daughter, Nadzieja, are taken to the HASAG forced labour camp. The horrific and tragic time of the War passes and, along with a small number of other Jews, they live to see liberation in January 1945.

After various wanderings, Lajbke and his daughter Nadzieja arrive, in 1948, in Israel. For varying reasons, they leave this country and come to Montreal.

¹ [TN: *Yid.*, "Uncle"; in the English section of this book, Harry Klein writes: "Lajbke Jakubowicz, known lovingly to us all as 'Feter Lajbke'." (p. 268)]

² [TN: "*Balebatische*" in the original Yiddish, from the term "*balebos*", meaning homeowner/burgher.]

Lajbke immediately puts himself in contact with the *Częstochowers* and becomes an active member in the *Landsmannschaft*. He embarks on the work with all his ardour. In 1959, Lajbke Jakubowicz is elected President of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal, and he becomes one our society's most tireless workers.

As I have already pointed out in my opening remarks, much can be said of Lajbke. But what I do wish to endeavour to do, is to bring out the spirit, feelings and acknowledgement in connection with today's celebration of our esteemed President's eightieth birthday.

Dear friends, I - and also many of you - know that Lajbke is not one of the people who chase honours. We, the Executive of *Landsmannschaft* and the Ladies Auxiliary, adopted with full consciousness the resolution to hold today's event, to give honour and express recognition and gratitude to our esteemed President Lajbke Jakubowicz, for his work in helping us carry out our goals and duties.

On behalf of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft [of Montreal] and Ladies Auxiliary, as well as of all the assembled, allow me to wish you and your dear family many years of good health, happiness and contentment. Let us hope we will have more celebrations like this one.



Israel Bond Drive Dinner in honour of Mr. Leibke Jakubovitch, on the occasion of his 80th birthday – Sunday, May 4th, 1980, at the Beth Israel Congregation, Montreal.

Standing from left: L. Jakubowitch, H. Klein, H. Rosenblum, T. Zilbert