



## **Joseph Levine**

Joseph Levine was born in Molodechno, Belarus on July 7, 1907. He was one of nine children of Zalman and Sylvia Levine. In 1915, he left Molodechno with his mother, two of his brothers, and one sister. The family traveled in boxcars across Russia and Siberia, arriving at Angel Island, California in February 1915.

He graduated from Hillhouse High School in 1926 and from Franklin & Marshall College in 1930. After some graduate studies at Columbia University School of Social Work, he began his career with the Jewish Board of Guardians in New York City. He later became a parole officer with the New York state parole office and was soon selected the number two person in the department of Executive Case Supervisor, after finishing first in a civil service exam.

During WWII he was in the electric supply business with one of his brothers in Stamford, Connecticut. Following WWII, he worked in Germany for a year for the "JOINT" Distribution Committee, resettling Holocaust survivors. Joe

wrote a story for the Indiana Jewish Historical Society on his work with the Jewish survivors of WWII, and it is still available. In the summer of 1947, he became the Executive Director of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation. When he retired in 1972, he founded the Indiana Jewish Historical Society and was its director until he retired in 1992. Governor Evan Bayh awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash to him for all his contributions to Indiana.

He married Edna Price of Staten Island, New York and they had two children, Lois (deceased) and Stanley. Joe passed away in August 7, 1996 at the age of 89.

The Fort Wayne newspaper hailed him as the “conscience of the community.”

***Additional publications by Joe Levine are:*** The First Known Jewish Resident of Fort Wayne John Jacob Hays; The Boruchovicz Siddur; Peddlers To Merchants; My Work in Germany with Jewish Survivors of WWII; A Little Known American Jewish Hero; Minsk 1915: The “Rabbi Wept”; Jewish Transients in Fort Wayne; The American Heritage-Roots of Greatness; Changes In Fort Wayne.