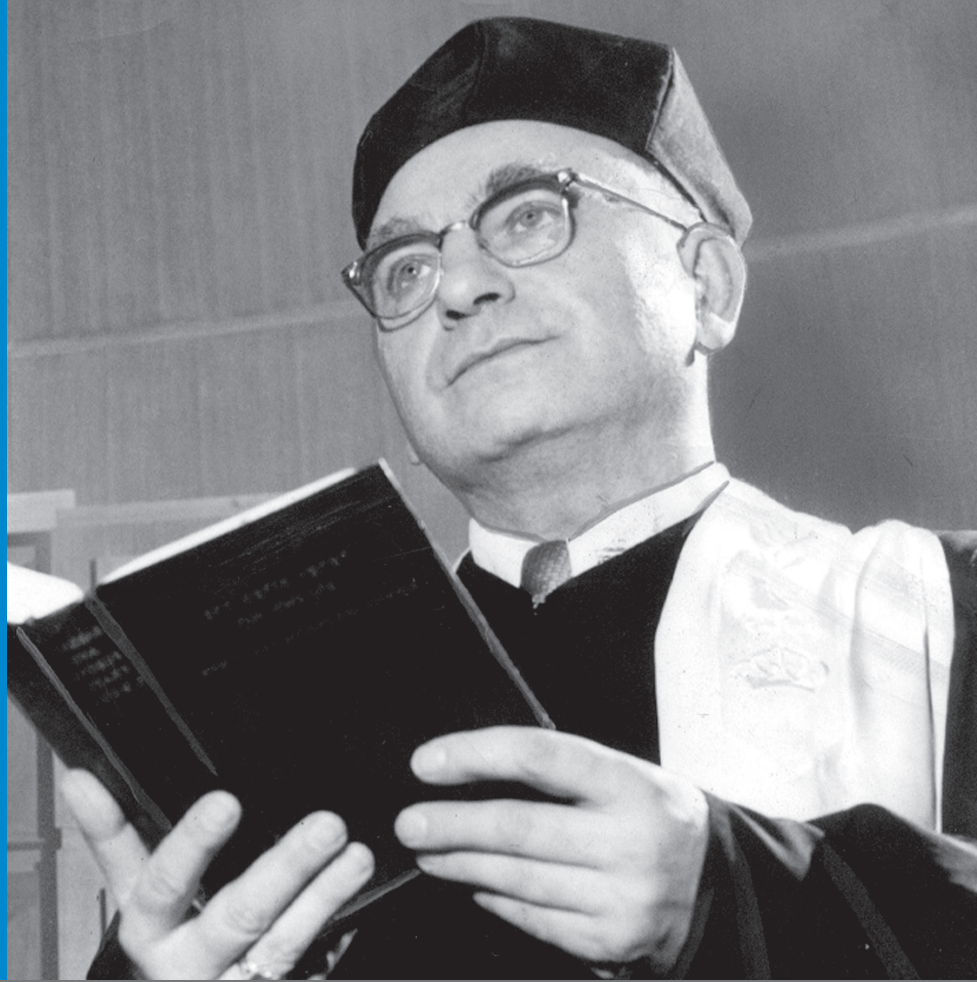




Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Series

*Honoring the Legacy of
Dr. Morton Goldberg
for Over 20 Years*



*For more than 60 years, Dr. Morton Goldberg served as
a bridge connecting the many communities of Toledo.*

Steady leadership and a sincere desire to understand and collaborate across cultural, racial, professional and gender divides made the Rabbi a voice of authority in Toledo. Dr. Goldberg once explained his approach this way:

*"I could not possibly serve my own
congregation completely if I did not also serve
the community of Toledo as a whole."*

Born in Poland in 1901, Dr. Goldberg grew up in Pennsylvania and received academic degrees from NYU, Brown and Webster University. He graduated from The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and first served as Rabbi in Fall River Massachusetts, where he met his wife of 68 years, Doris Radovsky. In 1937, Dr. Goldberg became the Rabbi of Toledo's Congregation B'nai Israel, leading its conversion from Orthodox to Conservative Judaism. Among other changes, this transition marked the synagogue's first integration of the seating of men and women during services. Congregation B'nai Israel's history notes that Dr. Goldberg distinguished himself

with sermons that used both Jewish and non-Jewish sources to sensitively examine current religious, social, political and economic issues.

Outside the synagogue, Dr. Goldberg partnered with Ella P. Stewart (Toledo pharmacist, longtime civil rights champion and President of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs) and Msgr. Michael Doyle (Director of Catholic Charities) to discourage discrimination in the area.

Known as the "Three Musketeers," the trio became concerned with the persistent exclusion of local African Americans and Latinos from certain restaurants, hotels, jobs and housing. They pushed area leaders to steadily transform Toledo into a more inclusive place. In 1946, their work was formalized by the city with the creation of the Board of Community Relations (BCR) which investigated and mediated civil rights issues. Fifty years later, the BCR began honoring community members who emulated Dr. Goldberg's energy and passion for fairness with the Rabbi Morton Goldberg Community Service award.



Pictured l to r at the 2019 Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Series "The Sights & Sounds of Judaism," Adam Goldberg, speakers Ruthy Behare Light and Dr. Samuel Adler, Stephen Goldberg and Stu Goldberg

Along with his work on the BCR, Dr. Goldberg also gained national recognition as a charter member of the Toledo Labor-Management Citizens Committee (LMC). Following a violent confrontation at the Electric Auto-Lite company that left two dead and more than 200 injured in 1934, the city searched for an effective means of settling labor disputes. The structure of the LMC was developed in 1945 by a committee of 18 members (including Dr. Goldberg) representing labor, management and the public. Toledo City Council, Toledo Chamber of Commerce, and the AFL and CIO councils officially approved the LMC in 1946. For decades the group successfully mediated grievances and assisted with collective bargaining negotiations. The LMC gained national recognition after resolving a dairy workers strike, transit strikes and numerous automobile plant disputes. Other cities copied Toledo's efforts, and in 1955 President Dwight Eisenhower called the agency "an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by cooperative local effort to minimize labor-management disputes."

In addition to sharing his message from the pulpit and through community engagement, Dr. Goldberg also taught at multiple universities in northwest Ohio including Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Mary Manse College, University of Findlay, Hillsdale College, Adrian University and Sienna Heights University. Some of these institutions have since served as hosts for the ongoing Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Series which has honored his legacy for over 20 years by sponsoring presentations that promote positive relations among individuals from diverse racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds, with an emphasis on Judaic studies. His lifetime of service led to the accumulation of many distinguished awards including the Axonovitz Memorial Award, Prime Minister's Medal of the State of Israel, Man of the Century Award from Toledo Lodge 183, B'nai B'rith for civic and community achievements, the Shema Yisrael Award from the State of Israel, and Toledo Civic Hall of Fame. Due to Dr. Goldberg's many service contributions, the City of Toledo created an award named for him, and he received the inaugural Morton Goldberg Medal awarded by the City of Toledo.



Dr. Goldberg served on an impressive number of local and national associations including:

- The Toledo Board of Education
- The Rabbinical Assembly
- Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Board
- Toledo Hospital Board
- The Council of Social Agencies
- Community Chest
- The Legal Aid Society
- The Toledo Mental Health Board
- Jewish Community Council
- United Jewish Appeal
- Stranahan Theater Trust

Sources:

History of Congregation B'nai Israel (written and researched by Elaine Anderson, David Noel, Seymour Rothman, Rabbi Alan Sokobin, Dr. David Weinberg, Cathy L. Sperling and Sharon G. Stein)
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