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had an impression of Judaism. He [regularly] selected a young person to come to the boardroom to hear him speak.

"We would not be what we are without Rabbi Adler," Baruch said. "He is indelibly in my mind. You saw somebody important, you heard him and you acted on that. He is sorely missed. Those who knew him can never, ever forget him."

MILITARY SERVICE

Bernard Cantor was part of the Men's Club Kibbutz and remembers Rabbi Adler's remarkable sense of humor. He particularly recalls hearing of the rabbi's wartime experience as an Army chaplain during World War II. "He was the only Jewish chaplain in Japan, and he got a written order to come see Gen.

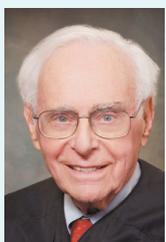


Bernard Cantor

Douglas MacArthur, who had taken over the emperor's palace," Cantor said. "The rabbi went into a huge ballroom and, at the end behind an enormous desk, was MacArthur. The rabbi told us, 'I was going to salute, but couldn't remember which hand, so I used my left.'

"MacArthur told him, 'In the Japanese religion, their God was the emperor, and we have destroyed their God. They need a religion. We are considered a Christian religion and that is not acceptable.'

According to Cantor's recollection of the rabbi's story, MacArthur wanted him to convert the Japanese to



Judge Avern Cohn

Judaism. When the rabbi protested that Jewish people didn't do this sort of thing, MacArthur told him, "In this case, you do." He didn't. Many congregants doing military service recalled getting handwritten letters from Rabbi Adler.

LOVE OF JUDAISM

Other congregants recall how he instilled in them a desire to live an

active Jewish life.

"Judaism came alive for me because of Rabbi Adler," said Barbara Kratchman. "I took two classes from him — comparative religion and Perkei Avot, and they have remained in my heart."



Barbara Kratchman

Karen Keidan Myerson was 14 and in Shabbat services with her father, Herbert, when Rabbi Adler was shot.

"Rabbi Adler gave incredible sermons; they were enriching," she said. "I would ask my dad what some of the words meant, while I braided the strings on his tallit.

"When the rabbi was shot, that was the first time I saw pandemonium. Things were very out of control, yet many people did resourceful things. My father called the police from the cloak room. It was very traumatic because this was a place to feel comfortable and safe.

"This has impacted us all beyond his death and has made people really evaluate all he did in their lives," Meyerson said. "Everyone felt they were special to him. There was no delineation — just warmth, wisdom and availability, all effortlessly.

"We valued him, and something is definitely missing with his death."

On a lighter note, Sharon Fleischman recalled that the Adlers were in Israel on sabbatical when she and Marvin wanted to set a wedding date.

"My mother called Goldie [Adler] and told her we wanted a Passover wedding," she said. "The rabbi came home from Israel to marry us. It's been 60 years — it took pretty well."

Sue Smith has been at Shaarey Zedek since she was in the fourth grade.

"I remember when I was in consecration class, and the rabbi was clean-shaven," she said. "Then he had whiskers and then, all of a sudden, he had a beard. I told him he looked like a beatnik or a hippie and that he should shave it off. But he said he'd leave it for a while.

"I loved him to pieces," she said. "My heart still hurts." ❄️

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Rabbi Adler was a mentor to young and old.

adjacent social halls were full three hours before the 2 p.m. service began. Mourners filled every other room in the building, including the chapel and lobbies, where they could listen via loud speaker, and more gathered outside the building. Some had to park close to a mile away.

The *Jewish News* estimated that 15,000 people headed for the synagogue but only half actually reached the building. The rest were stuck in traffic.

U.S. Sen. Philip A. Hart attended, as did Romney, former Gov. Williams, Lt. Gov. William Milliken, Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, Archbishop John F. Dearden and many other prominent Christian clergy. The Israel government sent its consul for cultural affairs. Conservative rabbis came from all over the country.

Evelyn and Harry Becker drove in from Elyria, Ohio. Rabbi Adler had married them in the Philippines when he was a chaplain, under a chuppah he made himself from a parachute.

Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, delivered the principal eulogy.

The national president of B'nai B'rith, Dr. William A. Wexler, issued a statement that said, "The Jewish community has suffered the loss of one of its most distinguished scholars, whose passion for righteousness, incisive brilliance of learning, compassion for the troubles of others, and capacity to articulate goodness and wisdom were harmoniously combined in a wonderful human being."

Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, retired pastor of Detroit's Central Methodist Church and a close friend of Adler's, said, "He was the best mind in this city. With him, you had a sense of basic loyalty that was so unquestioned. There was this complete candor and amazing graciousness, and he was incredibly articulate because of his assiduous study and the breadth of his sympathies. He was a total person."

With hundreds of cars, the procession to

Clover Hill Park Cemetery in Birmingham tied up traffic along the route for hours.

Mandell "Bill" Berman, Detroit Jewish community leader and philanthropist, was one of Adler's pallbearers.

A lifelong member of Shaarey Zedek and now, at 98, one of its oldest members as well as its "honorary president for life," Berman was part of the committee that brought Rabbi Adler to Detroit in 1938.

He usually attended Shabbat services and, as a congregation vice president, often sat on the bimah, but he was taking a rare day off when the rabbi was shot. He rushed to the synagogue when he heard the news on the radio.

The Frank family, longtime members of the congregation, were distraught. "I was named at Shaarey Zedek," said Bryna Frank, now 84. "I was married at Shaarey Zedek. My father was very active with Shaarey Zedek and the Zionist Organization. Our families were very close."

Frank, who now lives in Farmington Hills, said when Adler returned from his army service she was chosen to lead him around to all the religious school classes.

"I remember he looked so handsome in his uniform," she said.

After the rabbi died, the Frank family became very close with Goldie Adler. "She frequently invited Steve to her home," Bryna Frank said. "It comforted her to see him. We would all go visit as a family."

During the year of mourning, Rabbi Adler's study was locked and his chair on the bimah remained empty.

LIFE GOES ON

The Franks thought about cancelling the bar mitzvah party they had planned for the evening of Feb. 12 at the Book Cadillac in Detroit.



Mandell "Bill" Berman