

Yale Schulman Obituary

By Walt Frank

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Members of Blair County's Jewish and business communities remember Yale Schulman as one of their leaders. Schulman, 88, died Monday in Austin, Texas, where he moved two years ago to be closer to family.

"Yale was a guy who loved his Judaism and was very connected to the synagogue and its teachings," said William Wallen, executive director of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation. Schulman was a lifelong member of Agudath Achim Congregation. He had served on the board of directors since 1946. He also served on the regional and national boards of the United Synagogue of America.

"He dedicated his life to the Agudath Achim synagogue as a member and participating in the religious parts of the service," said Henry Weinberg, retired owner of The Colony Shop on 11th Avenue. "He was a remarkable man, his dedication and love for his congregation and just his faith was very inspiring," said Joel Hollander, a member of the congregation's board of directors. "He was the backbone that supported the service structure."

Clark Adelman, current president of the congregation and Jewish Memorial Center, said he has known Schulman for almost all of his life. "He was my Sunday school teacher when I was a kid. He was committed to his Judaism and teaching us all about it," Adelman said.

In the 1970s, when the synagogue was in debt, Schulman spearheaded a campaign to raise money to pay off the mortgage and started the Agudath Achim Trust Fund.

Schulman and five brothers served in World War II. The day after he returned from the war, he began working at the family business, Schulman's store on 11th Avenue.

"He was very forthright about business operations," Weinberg said. "He treated his customers in a very nice way. He was grateful to have you as a customer." Schulman was involved in numerous community organizations such as Call for Action and the Altoona Chapter of the American Business Clubs of which he became a life member in 1963. Schulman held numerous offices with Ambucs, including terms as president in 1961-62 and 1996-97. Current Ambucs vice president Ed Farabaugh said Schulman was his mentor. "He helped me as a young person getting involved in the community," Farabaugh said. "I feel

privileged he was able to share his knowledge with me. He was just a jolly guy. We would talk about politics and religion," Farabaugh said. "I am Catholic, and he was Jewish. We would just sit and talk, he would share his thoughts and not try to win me over but tell his side of the story."

Schulman also was a member of the board of directors at Improved Dwellings for "He was always a man who was very much involved and cared about the community," said Roger Bunnell, IDA executive director. "He was congenial and very much about helping the community making it a better place for everybody."

Friends said Schulman was open minded. "As a younger member of the board [congregation] our ideas were not always in sync. I was bringing different ideas to him and he never discouraged me, he welcomed new ideas," Hollander said.

He is survived by his wife Ida, four children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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