

## Chapter 13

# The Later Years

An overview of the life of Dr. Morris S. Dunn leaves one wondering how he found the time to do all of the things he managed to do, while carrying on a full dental practice. During his lifetime, Dr. Dunn was honored at two different Testimonial Dinners marking his professional and community services. He saw two of his fondest dreams come true. One was the establishment of the B'nai Israel Hebrew School, which at one time had a population of more than 350 students. He also saw the establishment of the State of Israel, and he felt that the welcome he received at Kibbutz Tzuba in 1953 was a crowning experience of his life.

At the age of 74, Dr. Dunn was still practicing dentistry, in a new office on West Main Street. He suffered a stroke, was hospitalized, and was sent home to recover. The illness had affected his legs, but he was determined to walk again. It took a tremendous effort on both their parts, as he walked around the house with the help of Rosa on one side, while he used a cane on the other. No one had heard of rehabilitation aides at that time, but the two of them persevered.

Finally, Morris was able to walk alone with his cane, and he and Rosa flew to Florida for some winter warmth. At the time, Charlie and Ida Willer were living in Miami, and the Dunns took a bed-sitting room near them. It was there that Father suffered another stroke. Ida called us, and Naomi and I flew down immediately and were able to say our good-byes to him. When Sidney heard that the doctor held out little hope, he came down the next day, and we flew back together after Father's death.



About a year later, a young man approached me on Linwood

Rosa and Morris  
circa 1950



Street in New Britain and spoke my name. He recalled himself to me as one of the children of a large Armenian family which lived on the street. He said, “I have to tell you this story about your father, because I think that you will want to know it. One action of your father’s changed my whole life.

“The night of my Senior High School Prom, when I got out to my father’s car, parked at the curb, it wouldn’t start. I was just standing at the curb, feeling absolutely at a loss, and completely discouraged, when your father drove by. He saw me standing there, and although we had never even greeted one another before, he stopped his car, got out, and asked me what was wrong. When I explained, he pulled out the keys to his car, handed them to me, and then asked if I had enough money for the evening.

“When I tried to thank him, he stopped me and said he only asked that I drive carefully so that no one would be hurt by his car, and then he walked back to his house. I’ve never forgotten his kindness, and since then I’ve tried to follow his example in my own life.”

Indeed, although Maishele himself has been gone many years, his moral strength, courage, generosity, and kindness to all people still live, in the hearts of all who knew him.



This formal photo of Rosa and Morris was taken in their living room on the day of my wedding, December 26, 1937.



The Eichenbaum clan, as photographed by Irving: Jesse, Danny, Naomi, Rachel, and Deborah Eichenbaum

The Zucker family:  
Sidney, me,  
and our daughter,  
Rebecca.



# About the Author

Libbie Ella Dunn Zucker, a lifetime member of Hadassah and current copresident of her local chapter, is the second generation of a five-generation life-member family. A life-long Zionist, she and her husband Sidney traveled often to Israel.

She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College in New York and her master's degree in psychology from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. She worked as a guidance counselor in the Connecticut public school system and was the first junior high guidance counselor in the state.

She was born in 1911 in New Britain, Connecticut, and lived there until 1996. She now lives in Rockville, Maryland, near her daughter, Rebecca; son-in-law, Marc; and their son and daughter-in-law, Adam and Monica.