

Abraham Landau

Abraham Landau was born in Wilchen, Poland in 1922. As a teenager, he, along with his family, was imprisoned in the Zagorow Ghetto. Taken away from his family, he was continuously transferred to 13 concentration and labor camps, including Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and Bergen Belsen. He was the only survivor of his 95-member family.

Abe was liberated from Bergen Belsen in April 1945 and met his future wife Freda Goldberg in a refugee camp. They were later married in Hanover, Germany. Abe studied tailoring and attended the theological seminary for Cantorial studies.

In 1950, Abe and Freda arrived in New Bedford, MA (with the help of HIAS); where for over 40 years he operated Landau's Custom Tailoring Shop. Abe also served as a cantor at High Holiday services at synagogues throughout New England.

Mr. Landau was interviewed and videotaped by the SHOAH Visual History Foundation and made a gift of his personal papers to UMass Dartmouth. Abe was a member of the B'nai B'rith National Speakers Bureau and brought the message of the Holocaust to schools and students throughout the region.

Abe's dream and mission was to share his personal memories of the Holocaust with the younger generations and to establish a Holocaust Memorial in New Bedford, MA. That dream was realized when the "Memorial Sculpture" was dedicated on May 3, 1998. This monument, designed by UMass Dartmouth art education professor, Peter London, stands today in Buttonwood Park on Rockdale Avenue.

Abe was also recognized in 1994 by the New Bedford City Council, and in 1999, a portrait of Abe painted by local artist Debbie Macy was commissioned by the New Bedford cultural foundation and hangs in the third floor conference room at the main branch of the New Bedford Public Library in downtown New Bedford.