

# Delsea Catering

## Hugo & Frances Leopold

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### Location

North Delsea Drive  
Vineland, NJ  
Cumberland County

### Years Active

1963 - 1983 (approx.)  
Source of advertisement:  
*Vineland Times Journal*, Nov. 1, 1963

### About Hugo & Frances Leopold

Hugo Leopold was born in Berlin, Germany in 1907. Frances Wohlmuth was born in Vienna, Austria in 1921. As the Nazis gained more power, both fled as refugees with their families to the Netherlands in 1938. Hugo and Frances met in the small Dutch town of Hellevoetsluis, west of Rotterdam. They married in 1940 after the German invasion. Hugo and Frances, together with their parents, avoided capture by the Nazis by hiding with the help of several Dutch families. Hugo and Frances had three sons during the war and were forced to place

them with various families to keep them safe.

After the war, they reunited with their children and immigrated to the United States in 1948. They settled in Vineland, New Jersey in 1951, where they owned a chicken farm before establishing Delsea Catering in 1963.

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After Hugo Leopold's death in 1983, Frances retired and moved to Boca Raton, Florida. She returned to south Jersey in her final years, living in an assisted living center in Hammonton, New Jersey until her death in 2002.

## Delsea Catering

After twelve years of operating a small poultry farm, Frances put her kosher culinary skills to use and established Delsea Catering in 1963.

In 1963 Frances catered bar mitzvah for the Fogel family, a prominent family in the local Jewish community. The Fogels were impressed with the work the Leopolds had done, and allowed the Fogels to use their endorsement in a newspaper advertisement. After that, Frances later recalled, their business took off.

This business grew to be one of the area's most prominent kosher caterers for the burgeoning Jewish community in Cumberland County. Delsea Catering served weddings, bar mitzvahs, as well as special events for Beth Israel Congregation in Vineland. Hugo was a partner in the catering business and focused his efforts on management and accounting.

After Hugo Leopold passed away in 1983, Frances retired and the catering business, which relied on her culinary expertise, closed.

The Fogel Family thanking Frances Leopold for her catering service for their son's Bar Mitzvah- Vineland Daily Journal, Nov. 2, 1963

## For more information see

South Jersey Holocaust Survivor Digital Archive, Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University.

Frances Leopold testimony, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive.

*Times Journal*, Vineland (Newspapers.com).

Photo Sources: *Times Journal*, Vineland (Newspapers.com).

**Profiles of South Jersey Holocaust Survivors by George D. Quinn (Project Lead), with contributions by Dr. Michael Hayse (Curator & Editor) and Biographical Information by Jennifer Sartin.**

