

Kiejdan & Trocki Development

The Kiejdan & Trocki Families



Location

505 Tilton Road
Northfield, NJ
Atlantic County

Years Active

1957- Present
Mainland
Professional
Plaza in
Northfield, NJ

About Pinchus Kiejdan & Jack Trocki

Jack Trocki was born in Vilna, Poland (today Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1918. He had three sisters and a brother, and the family lived in an orthodox Jewish home. Before the war, Jack was studying to become an engineer. When the Germans occupied Vilna in 1941, his family was moved into the Vilna ghetto in 1941, where his parents, a brother, and two sisters were killed. His remaining sister escaped to Russia. In 1944, still in the Vilna Ghetto, Jack met Mira Kiejdan. Mira, who also grew up in a traditionally orthodox family in Vilna. Besides Mira, her mother and her brother Pinchus were the only members of her family to Survive the Holocaust. Jack and Mira were separated when Jack was deported to a slave labor camp. After the war, he was reunited with Mira, and the two married. They made their way to a DP camp in Germany, where their first child was born. Jack and Mira immigrated to the United States in December 1947. They had three more children who were born in the

United States. The Trockis bought a poultry farm in Mays Landing, New Jersey, eventually moving to Margate City in 1976.

Pinchus Kiejdan was born in Vilna in 1924, where he and his three sisters had a very comfortable childhood. Under German occupation beginning in 1941, he and his family were forced into the Vilna Ghetto, where he met his future wife, Molly Avidon. Pinchus and Molly married in 1944. That same year, they were sent to *Heereskraftfahrpark*, a labor camp in Vilna. Shortly before the camp was liberated, the two escaped and went into hiding until the end of the war. Their first son was born in 1945, after which they decided to leave Poland and try to immigrate to the United States. In the meantime, they lived for three years in Gailingen DP camp in the American occupation zone of Germany. The family finally arrived in New York in February 1949. They lived in Brooklyn briefly before joining Pinchus's sister and brother-in-law, Mira and Jack Trocki on their poultry farm in Mays Landing, New Jersey. Pinchus and Molly had five more children in the United States.

The two brothers-in-law, Jack Trocki and Pinchus Kiejdan, became lifelong business partners. As early as 1951, they started building chicken coops for other poultry farmers. Their business grew as they entered the home construction business. Their wives, Mira Trocki and Molly Kiejdan, worked in the family business as well. Their new endeavor coincided with a development boom in Atlantic County.

Pinchus Kiedjan, who retired to Florida, passed away in October 1993. Jack Trocki passed away in September 1996. Mira Trocki passed away in September 2014, and her sister-in-law Molly Kiejdan in 2021.

Kiedjan & Trocki Development

Jack Trocki & Pinchus Kiejdan launched Kiedjan & Trocki Development in 1957. Their company constructed and managed apartment and condominium complexes in Mays Landing, Egg Harbor Township, Somers Point, Pleasantville, and Ventnor. They were also active in corporate real estate development. Trocki & Kiejdan oversaw the development of over 2,000 homes, 2,700 apartments/condo units, and the Mainland Professional Plaza.

Jack Trocki and Pinchus Kiejdan were leading members of their communities from the early years in South Jersey. They built the Laureldale Jewish Community Center in 1952, and Jack

served as President of the Laureldale JCC. Jack Trocki was a major fundraiser for the Federation of Jewish Agencies, among other organizations. Together, Jack Trocki and Pinchus Kiejdan were among the founders of the Trocki Hebrew Academy in Egg Harbor Township.

Jack Trocki and Pinchus Kiejdan also developed the Kiejdan Chabad house in Margate. Trocki & Kiejdan provided financial assistance to the Jewish Federation of Atlantic County, Jewish Family Services, and the establishment of the M'Vilna Shul in Margate, which serves

the orthodox Jewish community of Atlantic County. Jack Trocki Development remains active today in Northfield, NJ.



Trocki Hebrew Academy
graduating class of 2000

Atlantic County Property Development Companies Owned by Holocaust Survivors

Several real estate development companies in Atlantic County were owned and operated by Holocaust Survivors. These Holocaust Survivors originally settled in South Jersey as poultry farmers and helped other Holocaust Survivors to buy and develop farms, as well as build homes and chicken coops. As the profitability of poultry farming declined, these enterprising immigrants moved completely into real estate development. The companies they founded include Max Gurwicz Enterprises (Max & Ed Gurwicz), J&M Land (Richard Simon) M&M Land (Sidney Simon), and Schoffer Enterprises, previously Seashore Development in Egg Harbor Township (Sam Schoffer).

For more information see

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

Schoffer, L. B. (2009). *A Dream, A Journey, A Community: A Nostalgic Look at Jewish Businesses In and Around Atlantic City*. Comteq Publishing.

"A Look Back at the Class of 2000," *Press of Atlantic City*, June 8, 2016.

Photo Source: Mainland Professional Plaza, Loopnet.com
(<https://www.loopnet.com/Listing/527-705-Tilton-Rd-Northfield-NJ/4128666/>).

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