

Mourning Manekin

Bernard Manekin was a beloved community leader.

Phil Jacobs

Executive Editor

Bernard Manekin, past chairman of the board of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and founder of Manekin & Co., passed away last Saturday, Sept. 5.

Mr. Manekin was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy Manekin (nee Katz) and Vivian Manekin (nee Spiegleman); loving father of Richard, Robert and Charles Manekin; beloved stepfather of Abby Weiss, Lynn Stern and Jack Glick; devoted father-in-law of Marsha, Vivian and Rachel Manekin; beloved stepfather-in-law of Ray Weiss and Michael Glick; and beloved brother of the late Harold and Leonard Manekin, Sylvia Gorban and Minerva Heyman. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Bernard Manekin was born Oct. 4, 1913, and died about a month shy of his 96th birthday. Funeral services were conducted last Tuesday at Sol Levinson & Bros. funeral home.

Mr. Manekin was one of five children. He was raised in a Ruxton Avenue rowhouse off of North Avenue near Eastwood Park in West Baltimore. He was the only child in his family to attend college, graduating from the University of Maryland Law School in 1936.

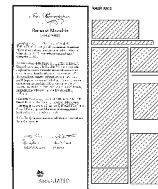
He and his brother, Harold, started their own business, which would become the Manekin Real Estate Organization in 1946.

"They were just a couple of young guys caught up in the post-WWII effort to build a business and a family," wrote Bernard Manekin's son, Robert. "They succeeded at both."

Bernard Manekin would go on to serve as president of the Associated. He was the first chairman of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, chairman of the Greater Baltimore Committee, chairman of the Walters Art Museum, chairman of the Governor's Commission on Sports and the Economy, and co-founder of the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies. He would attend the Camp David Peace Accords in Sept. 1978, and had friendships with political leaders, religious officials and business pioneers.

"Dad did it by blending an incredible, some would say burning, desire to succeed with large doses of focus, discipline, hard work, uncompromised integrity, and the patient and skillful building of relationships," wrote Robert Manekin, in a testimonial (the full text can be found on jewishtimes.com). "As a decades-long observer, I have come to the conclusion that Dad was not only a master of the art of relationships, but deserves a special place in the Relationship Hall of Fame. My father had an amazing ability to forge great, mutually beneficial relationships with an incredible array of singularly outstanding people, people from the region's business, political, philanthropic, cultural, Jewish and non-Jewish communities."

In his own words, Bernard Manekin once said, "I focused on four specific things — business, family, community and relationships. All were important and none were ever taken for granted. All took time, attention and hard work. And yes, there were times when things did not go as well as I would have liked with



one or the other. But I stayed focused, and all in all I think I did a good job and was reasonably successful.”

Contributions in Mr. Manekin’s memory are welcome. The family suggests contributions be given to the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, the Walters Art Museum or the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies. These organizations were of significance and great meaning to Mr. Manekin.

Among its many accomplishments, Manekin & Co. were the initial leasing and management agents for One Charles Center and ultimately leased more square footage in the Charles Center redevelopment area than any other brokerage firm.

The company developed the Rotunda on W. 40th Street in 1971, 120 W. Fayette with its lead tenant, BG&E, in 1983, and 120 E. Baltimore Street, with lead tenant Alex Brown/Bank of Baltimore in 1987.

It was the second largest commercial developer in Columbia (second to

Rouse) in 1989 and largest developer in Frederick. The company was the winner of Maryland Award for Economic Excellence, given by State Dept. of Business and Economic Development in 1989.

Manekin & Co. was also involved in major developments in Harford County, including Bulle Rock and Waters Edge. □

Bernard Manekin was a master of building relationships, according to his son, Robert Manekin.

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— **Robert Manekin**

