

Jacob Wishnia
Jake

Jake's parents were Harry Wishnia and Goldie Kreitman. His father's father was Shlomo Weinberg. Harry was born in Poland. His mother's parents were Jacob and Rachel Kreitman. Goldie was born in Russia.

Jake was the fourth of six children. The oldest is Julius Wishnia, September 6, 1926, Bertha (Pollak), November 29, 1931, Ethel, July 16, 1935 Jake, January 12, 1937, Rachel (Goldring), April 4, 1942 and Shirley (Straus), January 11, 1944.

Jake was born during the flood of 1937. His mother was at the Jewish Hospital, and due to flooding had to be moved to the Baptist Hospital on Barrett. Jake's father went to Bagdad, Ky to wait out the flood and after Goldie left the hospital, she and the children stayed with her aunt and his mother's sister.

When Jake was born the family's home was at 816 South 8th Street. When Jake was almost 10 they moved to 1369 South First Street. He attended Mary D. Hill elementary, Cochran Elementary and for two years in Junior High he was at Halleck Hall. His third year of Junior High was at Manly. He attended Male High and was on the football team. He graduated in 1954 and was inducted into the Male High Hall of Fame in 2009.

The family had a grocery store at 816 South 8th and in 1952 opened Belmont Pharmacy at the corner of Barrett and East Broadway. This was done in preparation for Julius's graduation and certification as a pharmacist. The store remained open until Julius opened his new store on Whipps Mill Road in 1957. They rented the site from Leonard Posnansky.

The Kreitman family was large and they enjoyed a close relationship while Jake was growing up. They were members of Keneseth Israel congregation located at Floyd and Jacob. Jake served a term as president there. Even today with relatives scattered across North America and Israel, the family stays in touch and Jake and Carol attend family affairs frequently no matter where they are.

Jake married Carol Rae Baker, of Cannelton, Indiana in September 1957 while still a Pharmacy student; He studied a year at Butler University in Indianapolis and finished his studies at the University of Kentucky. Carol also studied Pharmacy at UK and they lived in housing for married students. Their first child, Sharon (Glickman), Jan 1959, was born while they were at the university. The family grew with the births of their other children: Maureen (Friedman) August 1950, David, July 1962, Leah (Mueller), April 1965, and Leslie (Goldmeier), April 1970.

They opened their own store, Wish's Drugs in 1963. It was located in a growing section of the city in Middletown on Shelbyville Road. After 25 years in business. Walgreen's took over their lease in 1987 and Jake worked for Taylor Drugs until it became Rite Aid for nearly 30 years. Carol worked for Norton's Suburban Hospital in the Dupont area on Dutchman's Lane, near Breckenridge Lane when she wasn't needed at Wish's Drugs.

Jake has become of the Jewish community's unheralded leaders. He has been president of the VAAD and a member of the burial society, the Chevrah Kadesha. He served as president of the Jefferson County Pharmacy Academy of Pharmacy in 1972-73 and he and Carol were Pharmacists of the Year in 1995. He will serve as president of the Drug Club for 2015.

Jake continues to take an active interest in the Jewish community and will add many more accolades to his story in the years to come.

**This portion of the
Interview by Irvin Goldstein
December 16, 2014**

- Born 1937 in Louisville, Ky. During the Flood. At Jewish Hospital, Floyd and Ky. Streets. I had to be moved to Baptists Hosp. On the Hill on Barrett Ave. My Mothers roommate was Mrs. Bingham, who was also having a child. Mrs. Bingham called my Mom every year for quite some time to check on one another.
- My parents came to this country around 1917. My father came from Poland and my Mother from Russia. My Mother's family was sponsored by Barnett Linker , who had a cigar factory and put them to work making cigars. That is where Linker Dist. Co. came from. My mothers father had invited my Father to come to Louisville to meet his daughters and he picked my mom out of his 4 daughters and got married.
- We lived at 8th and Cauthorne, which was 2 blocks south of Broadway where Sears and Roebuck was. This was a black neighborhood, but we did fine there as my parents had a grocery store downstairs from where we lived.
- I started grade school at Mary D. Hill at 6th and Ky. Sometime there after I started Hebrew School by riding a bus , transferring 2 times, to get to Brook and Walnut, where the Jewish Hospital Heart and Lung Building is today. The only thing I remember about grade school is my mom coming to school in her apron from the store to see what kind of trouble I was in. And the things I remember mostly about Hebrew School is playing Basketball in the basement and baseball outside in the back. Also, in the 4th grade they wanted me to learn to play violin until I left it on the front steps while I went around back to play football. And came back to find the violin gone. Oh Well....
- 5th and 6th grade , I went to Cochran, at 6th and Hill because we moved to 13 hundred block of 1st St. There I only remember them wanting me to take piano lessons and I would always run home on lesson day to beat the teacher so I could practice what I should have been doing the whole week.
- Then came Jr High School. 1st and Lee St, -9th grade at Manly at Brook and Oak. This is where I started playing basketball during lunch and for the school team. I started leading Calisthenics during gym period for my coach, Mr. Ford.
- About this time I started going to the YMHA at 2nd and Jacob and became active in clubs, basketball leagues, playing ping pong, pool and you name it. I also joined a club at the YMCA, one the High Y clubs.
- Then came Male High at Brook and Breck. The 1st year I remember going on strike and marching to the Board of Ed. Wanting to speak to Mr. Carmichael, the Superintendent. After marching all the way to 6th and Hill and stomping our feet in the auditorium , I saw the police coming up the stairs and I high tailed it out of there. This was all about not wanting girls to get into Male High School. We lost the battle and this probably the best thing that ever happened to Male. I played JV Football and manned the health room for Coach New. During the 6th period when there was no football practices. Finished in 1954. I lettered in varsity football Jr. and Sr. year at Male. This was a great period of my life.
- That summer I worked at a camp in Otter Creek Park, drove the truck and cleaned latrines. But this where I met my future wife.
- I enrolled in Butler University in Pre Pharmacy. I pledged Sammy fraternity, and was suppose to take History of Economics at 8 or 9 in the morning as a prerequisite to get into pharmacy school. I dropped that course and began planning to transfer to U. of Ky. I remember hitchhiking from Indy many times because I was low on funds. No Problem then. I had a job working in a small grocery store while in Indy on Saturdays.

- I enrolled in U.of K. and had to take 1 semester to catch back up. I came home 2nd semester and worked in family drug store, Belmont Pharmacy at Barret and Broadway. I started traveling to Cannelton , Ind. About every two weeks to date my future wife.
- I started Pharmacy School in Louisville in 1956. Carol was at I.U. And Julius talked her into switching her major from Lab Tech to Pre-pharmacy, because we would need a relief pharmacist. She did. I went to Bloomington before Thanksgiving at the Sammy House and informed everyone to lay off my girl. She had no more dates , so we got engaged and married in 1957. She entered 1st year pharmacy school and I started 2nd year in Lexington married, but not before coming home from honeymoon and finding out we had no married apartment to move into. We were told we were on the waiting list. So I hustled up there to find an apartment and because this was when Square D , Lexmart, and 2 other corporations started up in Lexington, there was nothing available, so I took my new bride and moved into a rooming house on Broadway with about 15 guys to share a bathroom. We had one room with 1 electric socket hanging in the middle of the room. From there I hung an extension cord one way and a clothes line going the other way. We had an atomic stove in one corner, a bed in one corner, frig and table in the other. We stayed there for the 1st 6 weeks. Then an opening came up Cooperstown apartments and it happened to be right next door to Sherman Goldstein , whom we were going to all the while to take showers until we got our own. About this time my brother Julius opened his store in Lyndon where we would come in some weekends and help out. I began to work while going to school at McAdam and Morford and then Curry Apothecary. Carol began to shape me up with my school work also. But now that I was finally taking courses that pertained to becoming a pharmacist , I did not mind. You notice d all this time, I have not mentioned studying and classes, but from then on, I shaped up and even graduated in Rho Chi Honor Society. We played a lot of bridge on Saturday nights with other couples, Simon and Carolyn Wolf, Eli and Norma Karem and others. I graduated 1959 and Carol in 1960 with 1 child and was pregnant with 2nd child at graduation. While Carol was finishing school, I went to work in Frankfort, East End Cardwell Drug for my first job.
- We went back to Louisville after Carol graduated and I started working for my brother Julius. At this time I remember , he insisted that I put money away for a rainy day. I remember some years that I would have to borrow money just to make the payments on the policy or program that he signed me up for and guess what , this is why I could retire when I did , I hope and pray it will hold out for a long time. So you see , I owe a lot to him. After about 3 years, Julius, my father in law, my accountant and I drove out to Middletown to see about opening a drug store in Middletown Plaza.
- In 1963 , we opened Wish"s Drug in the midst of cows across the street We drew from the farmers of Simpsonville, Shelbyville, the affluent of Anchorage, and subdivision people on the other sides of us. We opened with 6000 sq. ft.. , thru the years expanded to 8000 and then 10,000 sq. ft. We stayed there 25 years. Until Walgreen wanted our space and our land lord started paying us our rent for another 18 months. I did have a good lease..We had the good fortune of having good relief pharmacists such as Bernie Fussenegger, Jim Buchannan, Si Wolf and you name it. This gave us time to be active in JCAP, K.Ph.A. And be off for Jewish Holidays.
- After being off for 3 months , I was ready to go back to work. I applied several places and when I went to Taylor, filled out the application, was about to leave and Tom Weissert said, where are you going? I said , I guess I was going home and wait for

someone to call me. He said no, we want you to start now. I said , I do not know how to use the computer, and he said come in and Ray Bishop would teach me. Well, Ray said here is the computer, see what you can do. All I remember is after 2 days or so, I hit a key and the paper started printing and I could not stop it ,so I went and got Ray out of his office , he came and touched some key and it stopped and I said I guess I am ready to start. I worked many stores for Taylors with some mighty good people and then Riteaid came on board after maybe 10 years and I stayed with them 10 or so more years. Worked several stores for them also.

- Over these years, we raised 5 children thru colleges all over the country. Put on 1 BarMitvah, 4 Bat Mitzvahs, put on 5 weddings and now have 14 grandchildren and 7 great- grandchildren.
- I enjoy volunteering now, I like playing Poker, win or lose, I am most grateful to my wife Carol , who straightened my life out. I am grateful to have been accepted to the Veteran Drug Club, and to be with the great people who have all been thru the ranks of Rx life of all different backgrounds. By joining the Veteran Drug , it was the icing on the cake for my being nominated and selected to become a member of the Male High Hall of Fame of which I am grateful for.
- Many of you before me spoke of your grandparents, unfortunately, I did not know a one of mine.. Thank you for your attention and for Art Jacob's participation in preparing these tapes for the Veteran Drug Club...



JAKE & Carol

(sister to carol)
Daisy Goldstein

Carol

JAKE WISHNIA



JAKE

Jake & Carol