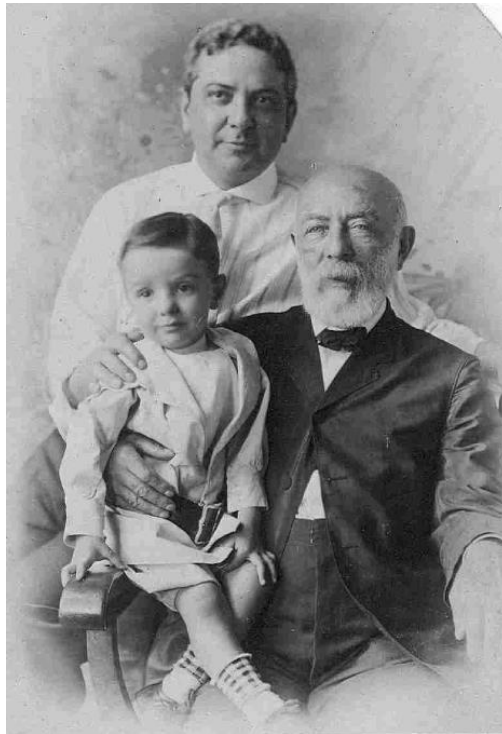


## **Friedlob Family - from Congregation President to Hollywood Playboy**

Julius Friedlob was the first president of Congregation B'nai Israel (1885-1901). From *Goodspeed History of Madison, County, Tennessee* (pp.861-862): *Julius Friedlob, a prominent dry goods merchant of this city [Jackson, TN] was born in Poland in 1841. In 1862, he emigrated to the United States and lived in New York, peddling from that place for about six months; then went to St. Louis, following the same business for about nine months; then went to Memphis, where he remained until the day after Lee surrendered; then he came to this city, and engaged in the dry goods and clothing business, which has proven very successful. In 1868, he was united in marriage to miss Bettie Felsenthal. [They had six children.] He belongs to the Jewish congregations both here and at Brownsville, TN. In politics, he is neutral, but Democratic.*



***Julius Friedlob (right), Eli (his son) in the back, and Bertram Eli (his grandson) on the left***

The Friedlob family history gets even more interesting with Bert (Bertram), grandson of Julius Friedlob, pictured above as a young boy. In December 1945, the columnist, Dorothy Kilgallen, wrote: *Chicago playboy Bert Friedlob, has switched from his long-time romance, Pat Donnelly, a former Miss America, to Eleanor Parker, the screen actress.*

Bert and Eleanor Parker were married in 1946. He was 39 and she was 23. From *Woman of a Thousand Faces*, a biography of Eleanor Parker: *On January 5, 1946, Eleanor Parker married husky Bert Friedlob, a wholesale liquor dealer and fast-talking colorful member of the Hollywood scene for years who was not above an occasional nightclub row. "He's made fortunes and lost them," his bride said at the time, allegedly one of his solvent periods."*

Director Tay Garnett, in his 1973 autobiography wrote of his one-time friend and associate: *In 1935 [Bert Friedlob] had lammed out of Hollywood 1 ½ jumps ahead of the collectors for a gambling syndicate. Friedlob's first wife was Harriet Annenberg, daughter of publisher M.L. (Moe) Annenberg, and his second, the actress Jeanette Loff. On August 5, 1942, Loff died after swallowing a bottle of ammonia.*

Eleanor Parker told the columnist, Sheilah Graham: *We met on a double date. Later Bert called me. He had broken up with his girl. It was New Year's Eve, 1946, at the Beverly Hills Club. We were at a party and Bert took me aside and said, "Here's a ring that is inscribed and everything." It was a five-carat diamond! I was amazed because I never thought of getting married to Bert.*

Bert Friedlob and Eleanor Parker divorced in 1953. They had three children. She married Paul Clemens, an artist, in 1954. Friedlob died in 1956 at age 49. After his death, Eleanor Parker had the last name of their children legally changed from Friedlob to Clemens. Eleanor Parker is 91 years old and lives in Palm Springs.





*Bette Davis and Bert Friedlob (producer) on the set of The Star.  
Friedlob produced seven movies: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt, While the City Sleeps,  
Untamed, The Star, The Steel Trap, A Millionaire for Christy, and Napoleon is to Blame  
for Everything.*

