



Rabbi Ernst Appel
(April 1, 1884 – June 9, 1973)

Rabbi Ernst Appel is on our June Yahrzeit list. In our congregational history, you may have read: *"In the 1960s, Rabbi Ernst Appel, a retired rabbi, lived in Jackson and served the congregation."*

But you probably didn't know that Rabbi Appel was the descendant of many generations of rabbis in Germany. In Dortmund, Germany, he was the rabbi of a congregation of 5,000.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Rabbi Appel was subjected continued pressures as he attempted to continue to serve his congregation. He was president of the local B'nai Brith in Dortmund. He and his wife, Marta Insel Appel, were both arrested in 1937 when B'nai Brith was labeled a "subversive organization" by the Nazis. Later that year, the Appels fled from Germany.

After arriving in New York, Rabbi Appel studied English and took private lessons in English pronunciation. He and Mrs. Appel (Marta) spent many evenings at movies learning to speak English. Marta Appel's "Memoirs of a German Jewish Woman" written in 1940-1941 is widely read in Holocaust studies. The Appels had two daughters, Doris (taught languages) and Ruth (a university professor).

Rabbi Appel served congregations in Hannibal, Missouri; Pueblo Colorado; Gadsden, Alabama; Salisbury, Maryland; and Marshalltown, Iowa. When Rabbi Appel was in his 70s, he and Mrs. Appel moved to St. Louis where he planned to retire. However, according to Mrs. Appel:

"He became restless and missed his work. And when Jackson, Tennessee, was offered to him, he took it with a happy heart. Here he was active from 1958 until 1968. He celebrated his 50th year as a rabbi while in Jackson in 1960."

When Rabbi Appel retired for the second time, he and Mrs. Appel moved to St. Louis. He is buried at New Mt. Sinai Cemetery in St. Louis.



Photo of Rabbi Appel while at Congregation B'nai Israel.



Zecher Tzadik Livracha.

May the memory of the righteous be a blessing.