

JOSEPH H. DOMBERGER

Written by B'nai B'rith Europe

The Late Joseph H. Domberger, Honorary Life President of B'nai B'rith Europe - 1926-2013.
Deceased July 20, 2013 in Monaco.



Joseph H. Domberger was born in 1926 in Drohobycz, then Poland. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he escaped with his father to Romania.

In 1940 he arrived in Israel (then Palestine) with the Youth Aliyah. He studied in Tel-Aviv, where he matriculated. After high school, he began his military service with the Jewish Settlement Police (JSP) and was then an active member of the Haganah with the creation of the State of Israel. He graduated the Officer's School and achieved the rank of major. He then became Military Adjutant of the first Israeli Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, and was later nominated Director of the State of Israel Bonds in Argentina where he met his late wife Jacqueline who passed away in 2010.

Mr. Domberger settled in Munich in 1964 when he joined his father's company. After his father's death, he expanded the business and later on established, with partners, the "ABG, Allgemeine Bauträgersgesellschaft, Domberger & Cederbaum KG".

Later, he founded the "DPI, Domberger & Partner GmbH", which developed commercial and residential building projects very successfully in Germany, the United States, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, South of France and Monaco.

Shortly after his arrival in Munich, he created, together with a group of friends the B'nai B'rith Hebraica Lodge that celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006 and of which he was the Founding President and remained President of the Lodge for 8 years.

While at the same time participating in several highly successful real estate partnerships, Mr. Domberger also became very involved in humanitarian organisations and social and philanthropic endeavours. He served for eight years as President of B'nai B'rith Continental Europe and later became Honorary Life President of the District and then of B'nai B'rith Europe. Joe Domberger served as Senior International Vice President of B'nai B'rith International, and became member of the Board of Governors and a Special Advisor to the International President. He always worked for a better understanding between different nations and different religions and against intolerance and extremism. One of the organisations he worked for was the "Gesellschaft für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit" (organisation for Christian-Jewish cooperation). During his career, he met important personalities from the political and social life. He was received by Pope John Paul II, by the late Egyptian President Anwar el Sadat and met other heads of state and politicians, for example President Bush, President Clinton and developed close relations with the Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschläger, the German Chancellor Willy Brandt and later with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in whose honour he organised a banquet in Munich. He maintained a steady contact with clerical representatives, youth organisations, political parties and trade unions.

Among the many organisations and institutions for which Mr. Domberger was active, is the "Freundeskreis Naturschutz in Israel", the German "branch" of the Israel Nature Reserves Authority that he served as President and that works under the auspices of the Bavarian Minister for the Environment.

His extensive business and philanthropic achievements gained recognition by the government of Bavaria which awarded him the Bavarian Order of Merit. At the national level, the Federal Republic of Germany awarded him the Grand Cross of Merit. Mr. Domberger's work has also been recognised through the award by the Austrian Republic with the Silver Cross of Merit.

Joseph H. Domberger had retired to Monaco, but still kept his office and close contacts with the Munich community.

He will be remembered in Europe and worldwide for his continuous and unfailing devotion to B'nai B'rith for over 40 years.

The President and members of the Executive Committee of B'nai B'rith Europe send their sincere condolences to all the family of the late Joseph Domberger.