

Samuel Bischoff (August 11, 1890 – May 21, 1975) was an American [film producer](#) who was responsible for more than 400 full-length films, two-reel comedies, and serials between 1922 and 1964.

George Sidney, (born October 4, 1916, [New York City](#), New York, U.S.—died May 5, 2002, Las Vegas, Nevada), American [film](#) director who directed a number of the most popular movie musicals of the 1940s and '50s, including *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), *Annie Get Your Gun* (1950), *Show Boat* (1951), and *Kiss Me Kate* (1953)- could also refer to his uncle, George Sidney, a noted actor in his day

Louis Halper, brother in law to Warner Bros, helped run the studio-and involved in production of their 1st full feature talkie.

Mike Gore, As the president and cofounder of West Coast Theaters, Gore appropriated more than \$5,000,000 in 1924 for the immediate construction of 28 new neighborhood theaters in Los Angeles. This was done to keep pace with the area's tremendous growth. He received a star on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) for his work in [Motion pictures](#).^[2]

William Koenig was born on January 1, 1885 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. He is known for his work on [Dance Hall](#) (1941), [Castle in the Desert](#) (1942) and [El cantante de Napoles](#) (1935). He was married to Nancy. He died on May 29, 1943 in Beverly Hills, California, USA

Lewis Seiler (September 30, 1890 – January 8, 1964) was an American film director. He directed more than 80 films between 1923 and 1958.

Here is just a skimming of some people whom I got to know during my main tenure here as full time Rabbi (1990-1996) and then again, on a part-time basis, 2014 to present,

For example, in our last years, we had a wonderful nursery school which was run at the time by Harriet Levins (and years before by Barbara Drotow). I had a chance to meet with one of the parents who was just beginning to make her way to popularity, the self-help guru, **Marianne Williamson**, who ran, if you recall, in the last presidential primaries as a Democratic candidate.

One of my last acts at HTBE, before I went in to the education field, was to convince noted star of both Broadway(Barnum), Israeli cinema(Kuni Lemel), and the Yiddish

Theater(The Megillah of Itzik Menger), **Mike Burstyn**, to serve as our High Holy Days cantor, even though I was no longer officiating.

John Ritter- from 3's Company- would come here- not to pray-but to play- Bingo.

Shelley Winters- would come by for a garage sale

Roy Doliner-was a young actor who was involved while I was here in working with us on activities for other young people in the entertainment community—as far as I know, he went back to New York-he didn't enjoy LA- and since ended up in Rome, where he has become known as an expert on secret stories hidden in the Sistine Chapel.

Our last official Cohen and great reader for our High Holy Day services, **Aubrey Morris**.

This from his obituary in the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/jul/16/aubrey-morris>

Aubrey Morris obituary

Stalwart character actor who appeared as Mr Deltoid in A Clockwork Orange and as one of the gruesome locals in The Wicker Man



📷 Aubrey Morris as Leslie Milton in ITV's Catweazle. Photograph: ITV/Rex Features

In 1957, the character actor Aubrey Morris, who has died aged 89, was praised by Kenneth Tynan for his “mimetic cunning ... wreathed in cringing smiles”. Adept at the vaguely camp and suggestively sinister, Morris always left an unconventional stamp on even the smallest, and seemingly conventional, roles. Small and rotund, with gleaming eyes, and occasionally

When you're a rabbi you get to do some interesting funeral stories also , and we never want to tell tales out of class. I did get an OK to mention this one from the son to tell this one.

I was called on to do a funeral for Esther Melnick Teitelbaum and her nephew told me about her being a very successful attorney who in her day was the first woman to plead a case in front of the United states Supreme Court .

After the funeral he asked me to go over to a crypt of her child who had died in infancy. He asked me to make an El Moleh prayer for the child.

He then pointed out to me right next to her was the crypt of Bugsy Siegel of Las Vegas fame and the mob .well interesting story. He didn't want to mention before the funeral, because I said it would have been awkward , but she was the attorney for Al Capone, Bugsy Siegel, Meyer Lansky and quite a lot of others. As I said, we come across some very famous people with some interesting backgrounds.! The full account is available at Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Hiding-Plain-Sight-True-Crime/dp/0999351931> by Robert and Carol Teitelbaum

Some very significant personages:

Anatole Ponve (actually before my time, but a tale that must be told) -here is a name that is not well known, but really should be!

This was in the footnote to a very unusual book called The Fugu Plan which was written by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, who had served as the United States naval chaplain based in Japan in the '70s. During World War Two, the Japanese very much believed the Nazi propaganda about Jews controlling everything; they had heard about the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and went about sending spies to the United States to find the Rabbis in charge. They call this the fugu plan based on the famous Japanese delicacy, the fugu fish, which is highly poisonous but, if treated correctly, is one of the greatest delicacies on earth. The Japanese were sure that Jews were like the fugu fish; if you treated the Jew correctly you could enjoy the benefits of the Jew without getting poisoned. One of the interesting figures that came up in Rabbi Tokayer's research was Anatole Ponve. This is the footnote:

ANATOLE PONVE was in the United States when the war with Japan broke out. (His wife was trapped in the Philippines where she was interned as an enemy national until the war ended.) Ponve returned to Japan after the war. He was instrumental in organizing the Jewish Community Center in Tokyo and in helping the refugees emigrate from Shanghai in the late 1940s. Ponve later returned to California where he became president of the **Hollywood Temple Beth El**. He died in Los Angeles in 1969.

How did he get from Japan to HTBE?

Here is a backgrounder from a Jewish Telegraph Agency release:

<https://www.jta.org/archive/around-the-jewish-world-tolerance-respect-for-tradition-hallmarks-of-jews-living-in-japan>

The Jewish Community of Japan, in Tokyo, was established March 21, 1953, founded by merchant Jews primarily from the Chinese cities of Harbin and Shanghai.

“The criteria to be a member was to be able to speak Russian, play poker and drink vodka,” remembers former community president Ernie Salomon, a Tokyo resident since 1950.

One of their distinguished guests at one time was our member, The actor Edward G. Robinson once called the center saying, “I need a minyan,” recalls Bernard Valier, who spent 17 years in Japan starting in 1953.

The founder of Tokyo’s organized Jewish community was a Russian textile businessman, Anatole Ponve, who established the Kobe synagogue in 1937.

During the early 1940s, Ponve was among those who mobilized a massive effort to take care of Jewish refugees from Europe.

As I mentioned in Part 1, Edward G Robinson, loyal supporter of HTBE, made sure to find a minyan to say Kaddish for a Yahrzeit wherever he went.

Note the reference to Jew settling in Harbin, China, 1st. It was as far from Mother Russia that one could go, and that is where the Tsar sent Jews, with the promise of freedom from oppression if they would develop this border region with China. One of those was Anatole Ponve, whose father had been drafted into the Tsar’s army and had already settled in the far east]

Here is his amazing story- in a nutshell, from the USHMM

Anatole Ponve (born Anatole Ponevejsky) was born on January 7, 1900 in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. In the 1920s, he and his brothers David and Leo moved to Harbin, Manchuria, where they began a business of importing woolens from Japan.



In 1935, Ponevejsky went to Japan to run the exports side of the business... moved to Kobe He organized the Ashkenazi Jewish community of 25 families, renting a building on Yamamoto-Dori Street that housed a synagogue and community center.

In 1940 and 1941, over two thousand Polish Jewish refugees arrived in Kobe. The entire Kobe Jewish community, spearheaded by Ponevejsky, his brother-in-law, Moise Moiseeff and Leo Hanin, coordinated a massive refugee relief effort and successfully persuaded Japanese authorities to issue permits to extend the stay of refugees in Kobe. The communal organization, now known by its telegraphic acronym JEWCOM, also sent money for ship fares for refugees who

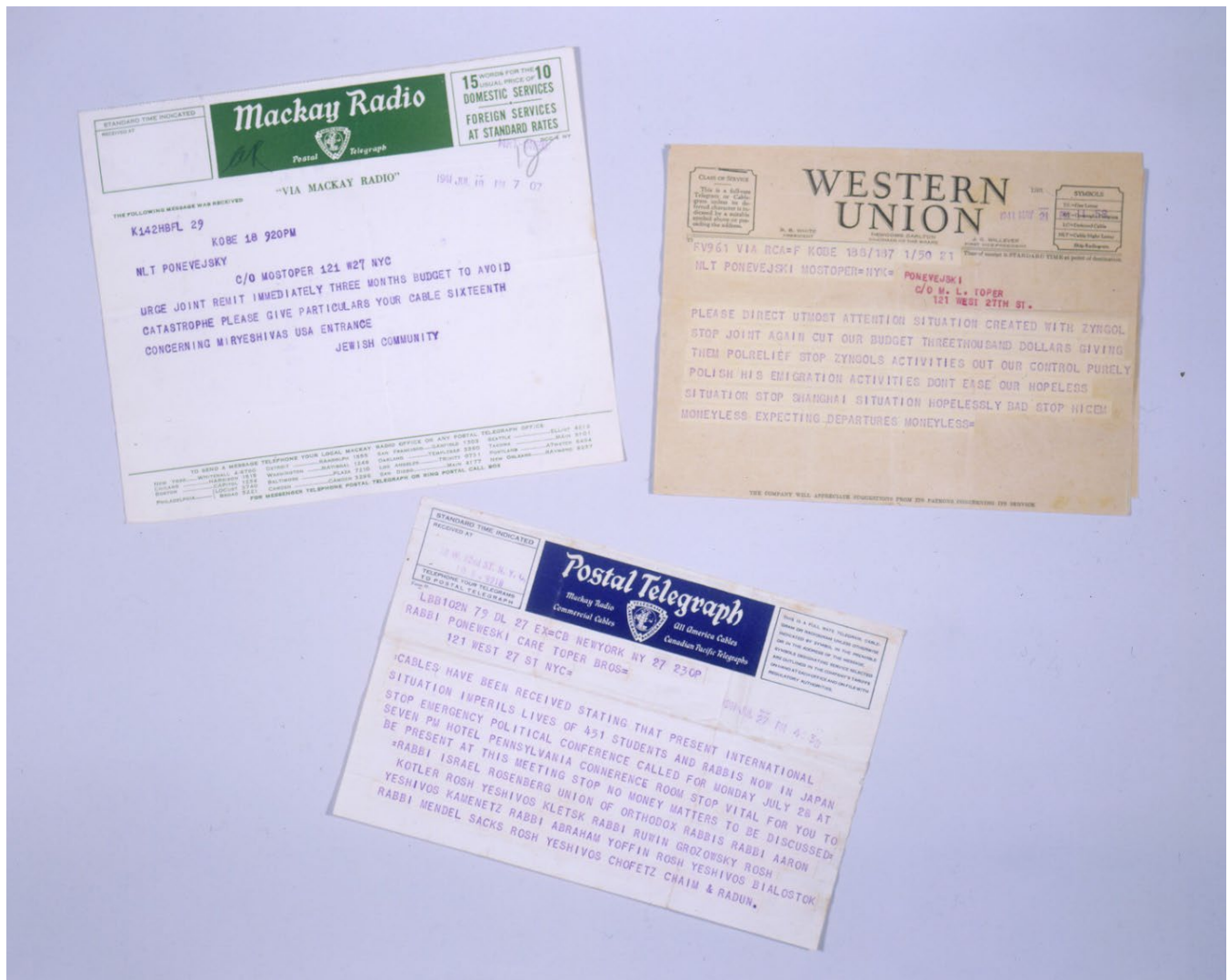
were stranded in Vladivostok. When their funds ran low, they appealed to the JDC in New York for added money so that they could continue their relief efforts unabated.



(Ponve is seated, third from left of photo)

Ponevejsky left Kobe for the United States in April 1941 to attend to medical problems.

Gita and the two girls planned to follow Anatole shortly thereafter. While living with his cousin Gregory Topor in New York, Ponevejsky continued trying to find visas for the Polish refugees still in Japan, and worked with the JDC to continue funding for the relief efforts. In the meantime, Gita and her two daughters ..., became stranded in Manila following the American entry into World War II. Unable to leave the Philippines, they remained there for the duration of the war and only came to the United States in June 1945.



After the war, Ponevejsky commuted between the United States and Japan where he operated a store in Tokyo where Chiune Sugihara briefly worked. became president of the Tokyo Jewish Communal Association and established the Tokyo Jewish Community Center. [Sugihara was the Japanese diplomat responsible for saving Jewish lives during the Holocaust]

Eventually, Anatole Ponevejsky settled in Los Angeles, abridged his name to Ponve, and continued his activities as a Jew, involved at Hollywood Temple Beth El. Here, this was no Hollywood film, but a real flesh and blood hero at HTBE!

Here is the news account of his coming on to this position:

ANATOLE PONVE SUCCEEDS FACTOR AT BETH EL

The ruby anniversary, marking 40 years of spiritual service to the Jewish community of Los Angeles will be celebrated by the temple family of Hollywood Temple Beth El at its 40th anniversary donor dinner, Sunday, Feb. 11, in the grand ballroom of the Beverly Hilton.

Record attendance for this milestone event is anticipated, according to temple president-elect, Anatole Ponve, successor to John Factor.

AN OUTSTANDING array of talent will perform for this gala ceremony of officers and board members recently elected to office.

Heading the list of electees will be Mr. Ponve, a comparative newcomer to the Los Angeles community who, in a few short years, has linked himself to a chain of Jewish philanthropy in all areas of the community.

ANATOLE PONVE migrated from Russia to Manchuria in 1919 after studying law and foreign languages in the college at Irkutsk, Siberia. During his stay in Manchuria, Mr. Ponve became active in creating a Jewish community and became secretary and vice president of the board of the temple in that city. In 1930, Mr. Ponve and his family arrived in Kobe, Japan, where he was once again instrumental in organizing a Jewish community center. In addition to this, he served as head of the Joint Distribution Committee in Kobe and saw to the needs of the refugees fleeing from the onslaught of the Nazi horde in Eastern Europe.

MR. PONVE then went to Tokyo in 1947 where he organized and was instrumental in building, together with a group of personal friends, the Jewish Community Center of Tokyo, where he served as its first president and today holds the unique distinction of holding an honorary life presidency of that congregation.

Because of his personal and untiring efforts on behalf of the Jewish community of all the Japanese mainland, Mr. Ponve has been recognized and honored by the imperial family. Mr. Ponve today numbers among his personal friends Prince Mikassa, brother of



ANATOLE PONVE
—New Beth El President

Emperor Hirohito, currently serving as the titular head of the Japanese people.

ACTIVE TODAY in the Los Angeles Jewish community, Mr. Ponve recently made an endowment to the University of Judaism. In addition, he is a principal personality in the Jewish Heritage Foundation and is a major contributor to the temple and community center in Israel on behalf of Far Eastern Jewry.

For the past eight years, Mr. and Mrs. Ponve have been residents of Beverly Hills where Mrs. Ponve has been a charming hostess to many major organizational functions which had their initial impetus in the Ponve home.

THE PONVES have been active at Hollywood Temple Beth El since their arrival here, and Mr. Ponve has served on many committees and as chairman of several others, in addition to serving the congregation as vice president for the past several years.

The newer wing of our building, the "upstairs", now named the Neman Hall, was originally called the Factor Hall

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JOHN FACTOR IS NEW TEMPLE BETH EL PRESIDENT

John Factor, noted philanthropist, who has served as vice president of Hollywood Temple Beth El for the past four years was unanimously elected president of the Temple for the coming year.

Re-elected another term as vice



JOHN FACTOR

presidents were Robert Goldberg, Anatole Ponve and Gabriel Kahn. Also elected to serve as vice presidents was Bertram A. Knight. Reuben R. Katz was re-elected as treasurer, Mrs. Richard Behr was re-elected recording secretary, E. J. Peiser, honorary financial secretary and Harry Bikson, financial secretary. Mrs. Paul Angress was elected corresponding secretary.

In impressive ceremonies conducted at the annual donor dinner

dance of the Temple held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel when Rabbi Chaim J. Weinstein, spiritual leader of the congregation, formally installed Factor and his fellow officers as well as newly elected members of the board before a splendid gathering of over 700 members and friends.

In his brief acceptance remarks to the congregation Factor said, "I plan to devote myself to building our new school for our children because without educating our children in the Jewish way of life, our people cannot survive. Therefore, I feel honored that you have chosen me as president. I think it a great opportunity to serve and I accept the opportunity as a great challenge in helping build for the future of our Temple a new educational and youth center to serve our community."

John Factor was born Iakov Faktorowicz

He was brother of famous Max Factor, of cosmetics industry, who's son, Max Factor , Jr(actually Frank) was a member until his passing in the 1990's. Nicknamed "Jake the Barber" because he too started out in the hair styling business.

John Factor had , we could say, a colorful life as a younger man, made his money in some very questionable activities at one time, with his wife owning the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas.

In his later years, he became a known philanthropist, and was JFK's largest donor and subsequently was pardoned by JFK!