

# CSZ UP CLOSE

## SPECIAL PROFILE

### DR. GEORGE MOGILL

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 103<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY



*Cantor Sidney Rube, Dr. Steven Lauter, Dr. George Mogill, Cantor Jacob Barkin, Dr. Carl Lauter and Rabbi Irwin Groner  
Signing Jain and Carl Lauter's ketubah in Rabbi Groner's study on December 21, 1975*

George Mogill was born on July 28, 1917 in Detroit to Anne (Soroko) and Hazzan Samuel Mogilevsky (later changed to Mogill). He attended Northern High School, where he graduated when he was only 15 years old.

"It was a good school, the greatest school....I think I was the youngest student to ever graduate Northern at the time," he said.

Dr. Mogill went on to Wayne State University (WSU) where he received his bachelor of science degree in 1937, and went on to attend their medical school from where he received his medical degree in 1942.

"Wayne State was a great school with a great education and you had to work your butt off, but I was very fortunate to be admitted and to go," Dr. Mogill said.

Dr. Mogill established the George Mogill Family Medicine Fund at the WSU School of Medicine after a patient left \$100,000 to him following her death. So far, the fund has awarded \$5000 scholarships to 40 students to help them cover their costs of becoming a family doctor.

"Nothing better than helping a student! Nothing better than providing education! If I had to do it over, I would do it again," Dr. Mogill said.

Upon completing medical school, Dr. Mogill served in the armed services from 1943-1946 at the rank of Major.

"I fought to get in. I had bad eyesight, and I memorized the test so I could get in, and I kept going back again and again until I found a Jewish doctor who let me pass the test," Dr. Mogill said. He was stationed at the 8th Field Hospital at Normandy, landing four days after D-Day, travelled through Europe with the 8th Field Hospital, and eventually transferred to travel with an African American infantry unit on board a ship bound for the Pacific. When "The Bomb" was dropped, the ship turned around and returned to the U.S. Then the war ended, and he was eventually discharged.

#### ***What was your greatest military memory?***

"Standing on the steps of the Great Synagogue in Paris, looking for "my people" when two boys on bikes rode up, and from there I ended up interacting with the French underground and returning with provisions to give to them."



*At Comerica Park after throwing out the first pitch at a Tigers vs. Yankees game for his 100th birthday with Liz, Annie, Shelby and Joe Silver.*

Dr. Mogill married Irma Traibman in Malden, Massachusetts on October 12, 1952.

"I proposed on the first date. She said, 'what do you think I am?' I said, 'available!,'" Dr. Lauter said. The couple returned to Detroit to live, and shortly thereafter joined CSZ. They went on to have three children: Jain (Dr. Carl Lauter), David, and Liz (Ken Silver), ten grandchildren (including spouses), and five great-grandchildren. All three children grew up at CSZ where they attended religious school and are still affiliated with CSZ today.

***You've had a long life and a very illustrious career. Can you talk a little about why you wanted to become a physician?***

"To help people. That's it. To help people."

***What are a couple of the most impactful moments during your career?***

"When you deliver a baby. When a guy that you gave up for death starts walking. That would do it. That would do it."

***Would you encourage young people to go into medicine today?***

"Absolutely, although medicine has changed through the many years that I earned my degree in 1942 (really 1941 because one did a one year internship prior to receiving the degree). You have to follow your passion, but choose wisely. Choose a specialty that you love and you will never tire of it. It is like a marriage, you choose the right fit and you will want to go to work pay or no pay. You have to have a lot of motivation. If you don't have that, don't go! It's too hard!"

***In your view, how has the world changed in the last 100 years, for better and for worse?***

"I think that there is less attention given to helping the other guy. And I don't like it. I think the world is worse off today than years ago during the wars."

***How have you enjoyed your retirement? Do you have any particular interests that you've been able to pursue?***

"If you want to be happy when you retire, don't retire. I didn't enjoy my retirement. I would rather be working and helping people."

***Can you share one or two philosophies by which you've lived your life?***

Very simple. Help the other guy. If someone is down and out, you help bring them back. Second best is having the education and knowledge to help other people. Also, you have to know what you don't know to be a good doctor and a good person. Finally, always be available, you have to be available.

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. MOGILL!