



Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, invites you to a tribute event

# Celebrating Richard Mintz

*Honoring His Dream*



*Sunday, September 25, 2011*

6:00 pm Cocktail Reception at the Vilna Shul  
18 Phillips Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, MA

*Dietary laws observed—Dessert to follow program*

Honorary chair: Ken Novack

Event Co-Chairs: Maxine Goldberg and Jack Swartz

Advisor: Evvajean Mintz

For more information, please contact:

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**B**orn in Boston on September 21, 1921, the only son and second child of Herman and Esther Mintz, Richard was endowed with a family legacy of revering education, caring for others, and taking pride in his Jewish heritage. Doing his part, he was a navy pilot in WWII before attending Harvard Law School. In 1948, he joined his father's firm where he practiced law for 63 years. The firm bearing his family name and whose members he considered family, is now the venerable Boston, national and international firm known as Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo.



Richard's participation in the firm's growth and in its stellar reputation in the legal community, was as a talented attorney, cherished mentor to colleagues and a continued presence emphasizing the importance of giving back. It is fitting that he is called the "soul" of the firm. In addition, he was a family man with two daughters and two stepchildren. Throughout his life, he served actively on numerous charity boards. His charitable interests included mental health, education, scientific research, town governance, medical care, the legal system, Jewish causes, and homeless veterans. Community work was integral to Richard's life and his multiple talents made his impact personal and wide-ranging.

Evvajean, his partner in the Vilna Shul project and wife of 36 years, wrote that Richard was about people. She said he never met a problem he didn't want to solve or a person he didn't want to help. He did not need or want to be the center of attention but sought to encourage others to reach a common goal. Intellectually gifted, he possessed a prodigious memory, personal charm, attention to detail, humor and selfless devotion to his ideals, making him a totally unique individual.

The Vilna Shul, a top charitable priority, benefited from his nearly 20 year service on its Board.

Richard was instrumental in the purchase of the building after the dissolution of the congregation resulted in a court ordered receivership. He, Evvajean, and many others donated or raised the money necessary for the purchase and the stabilization of the building which needed urgent repair. Richard wanted to preserve the heritage of the Vilna Shul as a monument to the Jewish immigrant community which gave his family (and those of most native Boston Jews) their start in America. He envisioned the Vilna Shul as a unique and beautiful spiritual place which would provide a showcase for our own community, a



venue for cultural activities appealing to the Jewish and broader communities and a place where life cycle events and occasional services could be held.

Richard Mintz will be memorialized as a legend at the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture.

### *The Richard Mintz Restoration Fund*

The Richard Mintz Restoration Fund is a restricted fund to be used to further the restoration of the Vilna Shul, maintain the structure as closely as possible to its original construction and restore the interior painted decoration to the original design. Prior restoration has stabilized the building, created usable exhibition space and begun the restoration of the wall art. Modernization is also needed to enable the organization to fulfill its mission by providing additional space under the Women's section, handicap access, and a functional kitchen.

The net proceeds of this Richard Mintz Tribute event on September 25, 2011, will start this Fund. Once again, the Vilna Shul can be a place to make our spirits rise in learning, spirituality, and community activity.

Please help us fulfill Richard's dream!

The Vilna Shul, built in 1919 on the North slope of Boston's Beacon Hill, is the last remaining immigrant-era synagogue in Boston and a major Jewish historical site. Once again, it is a community hub in this former neighborhood of European immigrants.

Walking through the welcoming wrought iron gates leads to the main floor of the Shul. Today, it serves as a museum space that houses two exciting exhibits of Boston's Jewish heritage. Going up a flight of stairs guides us to the heart and soul of this wonderful



synagogue. The upper floor sanctuary is flooded by a cascade of light coming from 3 skylights that accentuate the ark built in 1907. On the back wall of the women's section are newly restored folk art murals, revealing the congregation's love for a Zionist resting place in the Holy Land.

Energy, spirit and life are here today as the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, hosts educational and cultural events, including speakers, movies, exhibits and concerts. Once a month "Havurah On the Hill" conducts a lyrical Shabbat service for young adults. The building has also become an ideal venue for life cycle events such as b'nai mitzvot and weddings.

Our Vision defines our goal to preserve the experiences of the past, establish meaningful connections to the present and develop pathways to an enduring Jewish Identity for the future.

Our Mission is the living statement that underscores who we are and what we are doing: Preserving (and restoring) the Vilna Shul and perpetuating Jewish identity.

## Celebrating Richard Mintz Honoring His Dream

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Ken Novack

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