

MORRIS BERRIS B&M SPORTSWEAR

Morris Berris and his wife immigrated from Russia to the US and lived on Shawmut Street in Chelsea. With his 18-year-old son Norman, Morris started B&M Sportswear in 1946. For the next 50 years, B&M manufactured warmup jackets for the Boston Red Sox and other professional sports teams. Initially located in East Boston, B&M Sportswear moved to Chelsea in 1950. When Morris purchased more modern sewing machines, he gave Joan Desisto her old one, which she brought home.

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B&M Sportswear's workforce included six women, who were stitchers, and a man who was the company's pattern cutter. Norman Berris discontinued B&M Sportswear in 1998. The Eastpointe Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center now embraces the space at the Corner of Willow Street and Central Avenue that B&M Sportswear occupied for almost half a century. In April of 2024, 95-year-old Norman Berris, long-retired and living in South Florida, observed that Jewish Chelsea encompassed "some very good years."

To the right is a picture an antique Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine that Stephanie Desisto donated to the Jewish Chelsea Museum.

Stephanie also donated two ashtrays from Murray and Eddy's Delicatessen. Her mother, Joan Desisto, used this sewing machine when she worked as a stitcher for Morris Berris B&M Sportswear company at 75 Willow Street in Chelsea.



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