

The Koor Family Story



Morris Koor (1888-1953) immigrated to Chelsea from Russia early in the twentieth century. Morris participated in the founding of Chelsea's Lubavitcher Shul (Tsemech Tsedeck Anshei Lebovitz) at 131 Arlington Street. He also opened a kosher meat market on Arlington Street, which he later moved to 12 Central Avenue in the late 1940s.

Morris and his wife, Celia (1892-1970), had two sons, Everett and Milton. Everett passed away at age 15. "Miltie" went to work in his father's meat market shortly after World War II after serving in the U.S. Marines. Eventually, Miltie closed the butcher shop and started K & G Distributors in partnership with Sidney Gross. They distributed Hebrew National products in the Greater Boston area. From age four to 14, Miltie sang in Boston's Yiddish theatre alongside such entertainment notables as Molly Picon.

Morris's brother, Joseph, and Joseph's wife, Ruth, immigrated to the US in the 1920s. They lived in Chelsea at first and then moved to the Shirley Avenue neighborhood in nearby Revere. Joseph and his son Saul, Miltie Koor's first cousin, owned and operated J. Koor's Kosher Meat Market at 103 Shirley Avenue.

In the picture above (c. 1935), seated at the head of the table are Beverly Koor Granoff's grandparents, Morris and Celia Koor, with Miltie Koor, Beverly's father, standing directly behind them. Standing on Celia's right is Howard Koor's grandfather, Joseph Koor, Morris's brother. Joseph and Ruth's son Saul, Howard's father, sits on Ruth's lap. Standing on Morris's left is Abraham "Al" Trager with his wife, Miltie's half-sister, Helen Koor Trager. Their son Robert sits on Ruth's lap. Later, Helen and Al had another son, Harold.

In the pictures below are Morris and Celia Koor, one of the plastic bags in which Miltie would put customers' food orders, and Miltie Koor's trade card.



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Source: June 2024 interviews with Beverly Granoff and Howard Koor.