



Alex Sole arrived in New York City in 1928 from Hungary when he was 14 years old. He quickly learned English and graduated from Newtown High School in 1933. Alex and his brother-in-law Herman started a business manufacturing women's aprons, smocks, and house dresses: Girl Fit Novelty Manufacturing Company, Inc. When a distant cousin wanted his brother Louis to meet a young woman, Alex went along and met Irene Reis, who had immigrated to America in 1940 from Budapest. They were married in 1945 and had two children, Diane and David.

Irene and Alex settled in New York, where they had a close family and a wide circle of friends. Both were members of their synagogue leadership, led fundraising drives, and were honored for their work on behalf of Israel Bonds and Mogen David Adom. They loved to travel and went many places to visit family, including Alex's nine brothers and sisters, even returning to visit their home towns in Hungary on several occasions.

Diane and her husband Charles moved to Austin in 1976, and Alex and Irene followed later, in 1994. Alex and Irene quickly became an integral part of the Austin Jewish community, enjoying schmoozing after services at Congregation Agudas Achim (CAA) and becoming surrogate grandparents to many of the CAA children. After Irene passed away in 1998, Alex, looking for something to fill his long days, started work bagging groceries at the Far West HEB. He worked there for 10 years, loving every minute of it. It kept him connected with lots of people—those who worked with him and the customers who often gave him hugs and kisses.

Alex played poker with the Beth Israel Men's Club on Monday nights. Shabbat was spent with Congregation Tiferet Israel and friends. He loved to go fishing with Mark Cohn and enjoyed hiking. Alex adored his granddaughter Sara and traveled to Israel soon after the birth of each of his great-granddaughters: Leah Malka, Esther, and Devorah. His great-grandson was born 3 weeks after Alex died and is named Shmuel Chaim Frankel in memory of Alex (Shmuel) and in the memory of Charles' father, Hy Radin. Alex took a genuine interest in all the people he knew. As his daughter Diane says, "Alex MADE his life wonderful."

Always on the lookout for a new adventure, Alex had a small but colorful speaking role in the short film, *Honorarium*, shown at the Austin Jewish Film Festival in April 2010. He loved attending the Festival every year, usually seeing two movies each night. According to Diane, Alex was always the center of attention, but he was amused by this, never taking himself too seriously. Alex Sole was a dear friend to the Austin Jewish Film Festival. We'll miss seeing him in a seat watching a film and his presence on the screen.

