

# NEWS

for

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ISRAEL CUMMINGS BECOMES PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE,  
FAMED EAST SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

January 16, 1947: Last night at a meeting of the Alumni Association at The Educational Alliance, 197 East Broadway, Mr. Israel Cummings, of 12 East 86th Street, and President of Shamokin Woolen Mills, Inc., was inducted as Alumni Association President, a tribute to his active leadership in its affairs for many years. His election to the Presidency follows years of service as Alumni Vice-President and Chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee.

Major purpose of the Alumni Association is the support of many of the activities of The Educational Alliance, famed lower East Side Community Center which has become the largest settlement house in the world, with educational and recreational service to over 3,000 men, women, and children daily at the East Broadway building, and to additional thousands of the under-privileged at its two great summer camps, Surprise Lake and Camp Salomon. The oldest center of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Educational Alliance is about to begin its 54th year of neighborhood service, developing good Americans and good citizens, devoted to American ideals.

"Iz" Cummings, who has been a leading figure in the woolen business for the past forty-five years, considers an important part of his success directly attributable to the inspiration he received from the Alliance in his formative years.

Born in 1889 on the lower East Side, he left school at the age of thirteen to help support his family. In 1905 he joined The Educational Alliance, where he

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became a member of the track, basketball, and wrestling teams, and went on to become national A.A.U. wrestling champion. Mr. Cummings has continued his interest in athletics as trustee and member of the Alliance Athletic Association Board of Governors and A.A.U. delegate.

For the past five years, Mr. Cummings has been on the Board of Directors of the Surprise Lake Camp, which he was instrumental in enlarging and rebuilding twice over a 30-year period. He was an organizer of the Eddie Cantor Camp Committee in 1923, and is now Vice Chairman of the Committee. Some 30 years ago, Mr. Cummings was worth two million dollars. With changes in economic conditions, 15 years ago he found himself in need of money. Yet such was his devotion to the work of the Camp that he nevertheless continued to make his regular thousand dollar contribution to its support.

Mr. Cummings is also President of the Old Timers of the New Era Club, a senior affiliate of the Alliance, in which he has been active for forty years. Keenly aware of the importance of environmental influences in preventing juvenile delinquency, he has been continuously concerned in the maintenance of its Club-house at 274 East Broadway as a recreational center for all young men of the East Side.

Apart from his Educational Alliance activities, Mr. Cummings has participated in the work of an unusual variety of philanthropic, religious, and fraternal organizations. He is now Vice-President of the Hebrew National Orphan's Home at Tuckahoe, New York, whose major project at present is the orientation and resettlement of young refugees. He is a trustee of the Kehilath Jeshurun Temple on East 85th Street and Chairman of the Synagogue House; previously, he was a co-founder of the Temple Israel in Long Beach, Long Island. He is a Mason, belonging to the Paul Revere Lodge, a Shriner of Mecca Temple, and a member of the Kiwanis Club of New York.

Married since 1917, Mr. Cummings has two daughters and two grandchildren.



In addition to Israel Cummings and Eddie Cantor, the Alumni of The Educational Alliance could provide a modern Horatio Alger with a lifetime of material. They include David Sarnoff, President of RCA; Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Vice-President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver; John Garfield and Samson Raphaelson of the theatre; artists Jacob Epstein, Peter Blume, Chaim Gross, Jo Davidson, Maurice Glickman, and Philip Evergood; editor Eugene Lyons; columnist George Sokolsky; philosopher Morris R. Cohen; educator Dr. Robert B. Brodie; in music, Samuel Chotzinoff and the late Maurice Frank, and in sports, Mike Howard. In the field of law, distinguished alumni include the late George Z. Medalie, Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Supreme Court Justices Aaron J. Levy and Morris Eder, Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, Magistrates Anna Kross and Samuel Orr, and David Podell.

In taking the oath of office as President of The Educational Alliance Alumni Association, Mr. Cummings pledged the Alumni to a program of increased support for Alliance activities and the expansion and modernization of its physical facilities, to the end that "this United Nations in miniature may continue to point the way for the self-realization of the citizens of a great democratic republic".