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LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

Vol. 9, No. 5

Adar, 5734

February, 1974

From The Rabbi's Desk

Amidst the costume and revelry of the Festival of Purim appears one of the most unique of the twenty-four books of the Bible, The Scroll of Esther. The entire story seems to emerge from a different world-perspective than do the other scriptures: God's name does not appear even once, there is a glorification of external beauty, the Persian court assumes the dominant motif, the heroine is queen to a Gentile king. Indeed, Esther apparently had a difficult time convincing the Rabbis of the sanctity of her scroll, and her book was accepted into the canon only after many years and much debate.

I believe that just as Purim is a galut (exile) festival, the Scroll of Esther is a galut creation. The theme of the holiday as well as of the book is that "in every generation they rise up to destroy us, but the Holy one Blessed be He saves us from their hands;" "many are the thoughts in the heart of man, but the counsel of God arises firm." Even if the Jews themselves are not concerned with their own salvation, even when assimilation is rampant and it appears as though we are willingly allowing ourselves to be enveloped by the host culture, our Divine Covenant demands that the Almighty direct our leaders — almost despite themselves — towards the preservation of our people.

(Continued on Page 8)





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Russians Are Coming!

By Glenn Richter

Under special powers granted the U.S. Attorney General, hundreds of Russian Jews are now able to enter the United States to seek the freedom denied them in the USSR. Our responsibility does not end with getting them out, but logically must extend to seeing that they are successfully integrated into the New York Jewish community.

Members of several neighborhood synagogues, including the Jewish Center, WSIS and our own LSS, have formed a West Side Council, whose dedicated volunteers (as Rabbi Barry Eisenberg, Mr. Herschel Weinrauch and Prof. Leon Shapiro) have provided hospitality, apartments, and over 50 jobs for the new Russian immigrants. Jobs are the most crucial, for without this an immigrant's situation remains unstable. Positions now wanted include: T.V. repairman, theatrical make-up artist, dental lab assistant, glass engraver, chemist, construction engineer, diamond cutter and polisher, photographer and factory worker. Most of our readers know of a businessman who would be willing to extend a helping hand. The Russian immigrants are hard workers and anxious to succeed.

If you have a job lead or general business contacts, or if you would like simply to befriend the growing number of Russian Jews in West Side hotels (as the Embassy or Bretton Hall), please contact Mr. Martin Schwarzschild of the West Side Council at 362-9408, or the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry at 799-8900.

The ECHOD Editorial Staff Assumes Responsibility For All Articles.

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Echod Is Number One

Schedule of Services

Daily Minyan

Weekdays7:15 and 7:50 P.M.
Sundays and Holidays8:30 A.M.
Mincha and MaarivAt Sunset

Shabbat Services

Early Service8:00 A.M.
Followed by Talmud and Bibles classes
Hebrew School Family Congregation
Every Shabbat (Sabbath) Morning
from 10:00-11:00 A.M.



Friday, February 22

Rosh Chodesh Adar
Kindle Sabbath Candles6:19 P.M.
Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat6:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 23 (Terumah)

Rosh Chodesh Adar
Shabbat Shekalim
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 A.M.
Exodus 25:1-27:19 Numbers 28:9-15
Exodus 30:11-16
II Kings 12:1-17
Talmud Class5:35 P.M.
Mincha6:20 P.M.

Friday, March 1

Kindle Sabbath Candles6:27 P.M.
Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat6:40 P.M.

Saturday, March 2 (Tetzaveh)

Shabbat Zachor
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 A.M.
Exodus 27:20-30:10
Deuteronomy 25:17-19
I Samuel 15:2-34
Talmud Class5:45 P.M.
Mincha6:30 P.M.

Thursday, March 7

Fast of Esther
Mincha6:45 P.M.
Maariv and the Reading
of the Megillah7:15 P.M.

Friday, March 8

Purim Morning Services and
the Reading of the
Megillah.....6:30 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
Kindle Sabbath Candles6:35 P.M.
Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat6:45 P.M.

Saturday, March 9 (Kee Tissa)

Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 A.M.
Exodus 30:11-34:35
I Kings 18:1-39
Talmud Class5:50 P.M.
Mincha6:35 P.M.

Friday, March 15

Kindle Sabbath Candles6:44 P.M.
Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat6:55 P.M.

Saturday, March 16 (Vayakhale)

Shabbat Parah
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 A.M.
Exodus 35:1-38:20, Numbers 19,
Ezekiel 36:16-38
Talmud Class6:00 P.M.
Mincha6:45 P.M.

Friday, March 22

Kindle Sabbath Candles6:50 P.M.
Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat7:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 23 (Pekuday)

Shabbat Hachodesh
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 A.M.
Exodus 38:21-40:38, 12:1-20
Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Talmud Class6:05 P.M.
Mincha6:50 P.M.



The Sabbath is terminated Saturday evenings one hour after the candles were lit on the previous Friday afternoon.

... THE KOSHER SKIES ...

"It's becoming kosher to order kosher on an airliner even if you're not kosher — or even Jewish . . ." according to a recent *New York Post* story. Seems that all passengers prefer the looks of kosher meals. Yet the airlines insist the food is comparable. Nevertheless, a "lot of Mulligans and Garcias have been ordering kosher . . ."

Teenage Youth Program

By Mordechai Reich

The Melanie Ross Youth Center, one of the many facets of the "outreach" programs of Lincoln Square Synagogue, sponsors a great number of activities. Perhaps one of its most exciting features is the Teenage Youth Program. Guys and gals from the East and West Side of town gather together each Sunday night to enjoy a variety of activities. Beginning this year with only a handful of participants, the Youth Program has expanded to include more than a score of youngsters.

Sunday night is a free evening for most teenagers, but we manage to keep quite busy. The youth group has been to the Hineni Rally at Madison Square Garden, and heard various speakers, including a guest representative from the Lubavitcher Chasidim. We have enjoyed music and dance programs led by David Weiss, a member of a Cantorial Society and a quite proficient guitarist, and viewed the best in Israeli films, including "Fishke goes to War" (the best in Israeli films??).

Just recently, the Melanie Ross Youth Group sponsored a 'Bet Cafe', coffee house program, hosting 65 teenagers from neighborhood synagogues. Almost everything was arranged and taken care of by members of the Youth Group, from hanging decorations to serving the food. The program featured a live band to provide the necessary touch for the singing and dancing the teenagers enjoyed all through the evening. Cantor Sherwood Goffin, in his inimitable style, set a very beautiful mood for the evening's program with his song and guitar. Diana Halpern, a professional violinist and former member of a symphony orchestra, outdid herself accompanying the band on her electric violin. The theme of the program was "Israel," and so the teenagers were shown an excellent videotaped film on the Yom Kippur War, and had the opportunity to visit an Israeli Information Booth sponsored by the Jewish Agency.

To date, the youth group has participated in an N.C.S.Y. Shabbaton in Queens, enjoying a week-end away with seventy other teenagers from various groups, and just recently they spent a Shabbat visiting with the Lubavitcher Chasidim in Brooklyn. The group will be attending another N.C.S.Y. convention in Rockwood Park.

From time to time, the group comes together after Shabbat services at the Synagogue, to enjoy a Shabbat luncheon, accompanied by traditional Shabbat ruach, singing and dancing. If you stop by one Shabbat, you might even hear Ephraim Buchwald give a D'var Torah. While we are on the subject of Ephraim Buchwald, Director of the Joseph Shapiro Academy's adult education program and the L.S.S. "outreach" program, let me just say that he is truly the motivating force which made the youth program the success it is, (and after all, he is the only one who really knows how to run the film projector).

As you can see, we are quite an active group. So, if you are a teenager, or a parent of a teenage son or daughter, we have a teenage youth program that in-

(Continued on Page 13)

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Sisterhood News

by Beatrice L. Wald

A large audience was present at the first of Rabbi Riskin's talks to Sisterhood on "The Sabbath Morning Prayer Service," which was delivered at our January monthly meeting. The lecture was most interesting and informative.

Rabbi Riskin touched on theological, philosophical, historical and traditional aspects of the Sabbath service. The poetry and beauty of the Hebrew of the prayers was most apparent.

Approximately half-way through his explanation of the Shacharith service, Rabbi Riskin paused to allow a lively question and discussion period, after which he announced that the lecture will continue at our March Open Meeting. Our next regular meeting will be held on Monday evening, February 18. A most interesting program has been planned, and we look forward to having you.

Reserve THURSDAY, MARCH 7th for our Annual Purim Party, which will follow the reading of the Megillah. Bach and Junior League will participate with Sisterhood in planning and running this gala occasion.

We have always cooperated with the Shul in all its activities, and we are sure you will do your share to procure ads for the Journal, in conjunction with our Annual Dinner, this year in honor of our worthy Vice-President and Mrs. Maurice Spanbock, to be held on April 20, 1974.

Condolences to:

Mrs. Hilda Morgenstern on the loss of her beloved mother.

GREETINGS FROM Assemblyman RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED

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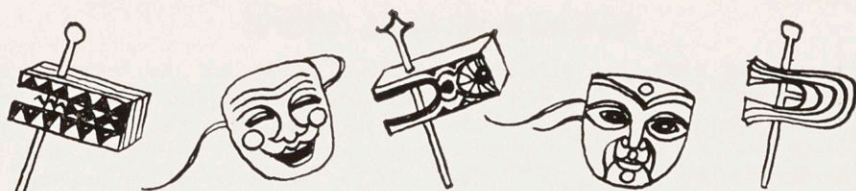
Romance, sadness, passion, intrigue and a wee bit of comedy are the elements of Bach's Purim production — "ROYEO AND JUDIET," (based albeit most remotely on some play by some English chap) subtitled "A Rabbi on the Roof (because there is no space anywhere else)." The storyline, such as it is, circles around a small synagogue in a big city. The chief protagonists are a red-headed doctoral student who falls in love (romance) with the sister of the Rabbi of the small synagogue. The lass, Judiet, returns Royeo's love (more romance — most unusual for Bach) but she is unable to rendezvous (euphemism — usual for Bach) with him (sadness) because her wicked brother forces her to remain in the Synagogue to baby-sit for his children (wee bit). The play degenerates further. While admittedly many prior versions of this story have come to us through the months, only Bach has had access to the full, unexpurgated tale as uncovered through the good investigative offices of *Echod*.

'Course, Bach is active elsewhere as well. We proudly welcomed, for a second time, Yaakov and Joan Bieler to our January Shabbaton. Yaakov raised the question whether the command to love one's neighbor as oneself should be viewed literally. And if so, Yaakov persisted, if this is truly the nub of Judaism, could we do away with other commandments that do not seem related to this end. Vigorous discussion ensued.

(Actually, one of the pillars of Bach philosophy is "do unto others before they do unto you".)

That Shabbaton was also our "Farewell to Joy" luncheon in honor of the engagement of one of our favorites, Joy Bekritzky (formerly nicknamed Bach Bluebird of Happiness). At our next luncheon, one of our own, Tuvia Rome, will speak on the Mideast situation.

Skating was very icy, so we may not do that for a while, but a really big party, organized by Susan Wertheimer and Phyllis Clasen, is on tap for March 16th. Cantor Goffin and the Ruach Revival Band will be with us. Our Cosmic Superiority Award this past month is extended to Lenny Sobolsky for keeping the Bach Group well fed.



Purim is a one-day celebration observed on the fourteenth day of Adar. It commemorates the saving of the Jewish communities living under Persian rule from Haman's evil designs to exterminate them. Although there is some uncertainty about the date, the events described in the book of Esther took place about 450 B.C.E. The name *Purim* derives from the word *pur* which means a lottery, the method used by Haman to select the date on which he intended to massacre the Jews.

Ta'anit Esther — Fast of Esther is the name given to the fast on the eve of Purim. Its origin is the command Esther gave to the Jews of Shushan, through Mordecai, to fast before her uninvited appearance before Ahasuerus.

Kriyat Ha Megillah — Public reading of the Scroll of Esther. The Megillah should be read on the eve and morning of Purim. Both men and women are required to listen to the reading of the Megillah.

Purim Seudah — The Purim meal. A requirement of Purim observance is to "eat, drink and be merry." A festive meal should be held on Purim day as fulfillment of the directive in the Book of Esther that these be days of feasting (*y'mai Mishteh*). Wine (and even a little schnapps) must be an integral element of the meal.

Mishloach Manot — The "sending out of portions." The "portions," sent to friends, consist of gifts of food or drink. The minimum should be two items of baked or cooked food or fruit or candy or drink.

Matanot L'Evyonim — Gifts to the poor. Each person is required to give gifts to at least two poor people or worthy needy causes. Even a poor person who is himself a recipient of charity must give to others.

The preceding was adapted from "TO BE A JEW" by Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin, graduate of Yeshiva University.

DANIEL AND EMMA MARS

will be the Guests of Honor at a Dinner of the Young Israel Synagogue in Scarsdale. The Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 31st, and we hope that many of our members will join us in attending this tribute to Danny and Emma. For arrangements please call the Synagogue Office.

Starting Saturday, February 23rd, 1974, a 5 to 8 year old group of boys and girls will be formed for Saturday afternoons from 2:30-4:30 P.M. under the leadership of Francesca Lunzer. Proceeds from the Tu B'Shvat Supper Party will pay for this program.

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From the Rabbi's Desk (Cont'd)

The *midrash* makes the profound observation: "Why did the Jews of Persia merit destruction? Because they enjoyed the banquet of Ahasueros." The story begins with a Jewish community more concerned with a royal invitation than with the niceties of Kashruth, and even Mordecai does not appear too perturbed when Esther "tries out" as queen for a night. In fact, he even counsels her not to reveal her ancestry, and maintains this advice after she is chosen officially as Ahasueros' bride. If we remember that the Persian Jewish community was the largest of its time, and if indeed this diaspora Jewry was heading for assimilation, the anti-semitic decree of Haman was perhaps the only manner through which the Jews could be reminded of their common ancestry, their unique destiny, and their inexplicable singularity. It is almost as though Jewish history were crying out to us: "Either you will remember you are Jews, or the Gentile world will remind you of your Jewishness." At this point, Esther must begin to understand that willy-nilly she is being prepared by Providence to fulfill the historic mission of the salvation of her people. And although she initially attempts to beg off ("all the king's servants . . . know that whoever . . . comes unto the King into the inner court without having been called . . . is put to death. . . and I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days . . .") (Esther 4:11), Mordecai reminds her: "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the King's house more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place (this is the guarantee of the Covenant, that Israel the people will endure eternally), but thou and thy father's house shall perish (you will have lost the magnificent opportunity to share in and even bring about the eternity of the nation); and who knoweth whether thou art not come to royal estate for such a time as this? (Esther 4:13, 14)." And so Esther is directed by the unseen (and therefore textually unexpressed) finger of God by force of circumstance and almost against her will — to be the instrument of the salvation of her near-assimilated people and the heroine of the Purim merriment.

PARALLEL TO JOSEPH

Interestingly enough, the forerunner of the Megillah may well have been the Biblical story of Joseph, the viceroy of Egypt. The parallels are many and the historical situations not very dissimilar. Joseph rises to greatness in a foreign country where he does not tell of his Jewish ancestry. He assumes an Egyptian name (Joseph Tsafnat Paaneach corresponding with Hadassah-Esther), and takes to wife the daughter of an Egyptian priest. One might argue that his refusal to contact his family and his objection of his brothers were based on his desire to assimilate into Egyptian culture. Nevertheless, the providential forces of Jewish survival are too great for him to overcome. His yearning to see Benjamin leads to his reunion with his entire family, and he emerges Joseph the righteous, instrument of his people's salvation.

Perhaps the very physical manner of our festivity (food, excessive drink "until one can no longer distinguish between the blessing of Mordecai and the cursing of Haman") bespeaks the values of the Persian Jewish community at the time of Purim, and the gifts to friends (*mishloach manot*) and charity to poor are meant to strengthen and unify the naturally dispersed Jews of the exile. Be that as it may, the message of Purim cannot but fill our minds and hearts with much needed optimism at a time when the world Jewish community is dependent upon the leadership of a less-than-observant Jew who is widely respected in the courts of Gentile Kings.

Our Synagogue Purim Party will be March 7th

Joseph Shapiro Academy

By Ephraim Buchwald

February begins the new term for the Joseph Shapiro Academy of Jewish Studies. The spring semester offers a host of new courses in all subject areas. The spring brochure features the first official description of the program of study leading to a Hebrew Teacher's Certificate. A full length catalog of the degree program is available upon request to those who are interested.

The past month and a half saw attempts, some successful, some only partially successful, to inaugurate new programs in areas unexplored until now. The Joseph Shapiro Academy Shabbaton for those wanting to learn more about experiencing Shabbat was, from all accounts, an outstanding success. More will be written about this in future bulletins from those who participated. A second Shabbat retreat is scheduled for February 22-24 at the Promenade Hotel in Long Beach.

Another new program was a Children's

Refuah Shleimah to:

MRS. JOSEPH SHAPIRO

Mazel Tov to:

MR. AMOS ALTER upon receiving a Masters in Law from New York University.

MISS JOY BEKRITZKY upon her recent engagement to MR. MICHAEL BESHEVSKY.

MR. MARVIN GOODMAN on his recent engagement to MISS BEVERLY GREEN.

MR. AND MRS. ARTURO STERN and MR. AND MRS. STUART HERMAN on the birth and circumcision of a son and grandson respectively.

MR. HAROLD OBSTFELD upon receiving a Masters in Law from New York University.

MRS. RITA ROTHENBERG upon certification as a social worker.

MR. AND MRS. SOL L. ZAVON on the engagement of their granddaughter.

Chanukah party, for neighborhood children held on December 25. This program featured a Jewish magician "The Wizard of Ouz," gifts, and candies for all. Our thanks to Evie Musher and Lenore Brown for coordinating this event.

The Lincoln Towers Reach-Out Program — which is an attempt to involve the residents of the Towers in Jewish programs, met with only partial success. There is a great deal of apathy on the part of non-involved Jews and the resistance is great. A follow-up program, will be conducted by "Dirshu" — the university "reach-out" program. We still have much to learn about running an effective program of this nature, but we are enthusiastic and optimistic about succeeding.

A decision has been reached to expand the women's summer "Kollelet" program into a Summer Torah Institute for men and women on the beginners and advanced levels of study. More information about the Institute will be forthcoming.

The Joseph Shapiro Academy has undertaken the dissemination and distribution of worthwhile educational publications and programs. The *Passover Haggadah* edited by David Derovan and Moshe Berliner published by the Student Organization of Yeshiva is now available, from the JSA office for only \$2. It contains an entirely new English translation of the text, along with complete seder directions and explanations, and a fascinating and original commentary.

Finally, Mazel Tov to three important associates of the Shapiro Academy: Messrs. Stuart Grant and Eliezer Diamond upon their recent marriages, and to Miriam Levi, the power behind the scene, upon her recent engagement.

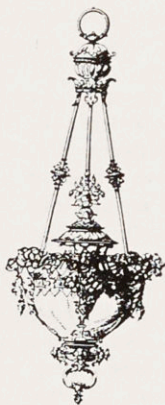
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAJARAT TOV

February marks one year of Visiting the elderly by Lincoln Square Congregants. Without fanfare, thirty persons, under the leadership of Gail Aranoff, have been performing this Mitzvah. Please contact her to help out. And Happy Birthday.



Vahrzeit



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Monday, February 18	Monday, March 4
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Sunday Evening, February 17	Sunday Evening, March 3
Monday, February 18	Monday, March 4
FREIDA RIVKA MYERS	RASHKE JANOWSKI
Sunday Evening, February 17	Monday Evening, March 4
Monday, February 18	Tuesday, March 5
MARY ADLER	LOUIS E. ROSENBERG
Monday Evening, February 18	Monday Evening, March 4
Tuesday, February 19	Tuesday, March 5
SAMUEL HARRIS	HYMAN SAPPER
Monday Evening, February 18	Tuesday Evening, March 5
Tuesday, February 19	Wednesday, March 6
BETTY ROSENBERG	OSCAR WACH
Tuesday Evening, February 19	Tuesday Evening, March 5
Wednesday, February 20	Wednesday, March 6
JOSEPH OSTERWEIL	PEARL NEUWIRTH
Wednesday Evening, February 20	Wednesday Evening, March 6
Thursday, February 21	Thursday, March 7
FAYE GANZ GOLD	ANNA ROSENBERG
Friday Evening, February 22	Wednesday Evening, March 6
Saturday, February 23	Thursday, March 7
DAVID COHEN	ESTHER LOSH SERLIN
Monday Evening, February 25	Thursday Evening, March 7
Tuesday, February 26	Friday, March 8
WILLI HAHN	JACOB JACOBOWITZ, M.D.
Monday Evening, February 25	Friday Evening, March 8
Tuesday, February 26	Saturday, March 9
ESTHER NEUWIRTH KOVIT	LOUIS JACOBSON
Tuesday Evening, February 26	Friday Evening, March 8
Wednesday, February 27	Saturday, March 9
DOIS SAPPER	BERNARD KUEHNREICH
Tuesday Evening, February 26	Saturday Evening, March 9
Wednesday, February 27	Sunday, March 10
MAX KELLNER	GERTRUDE GOLDBERG
Wednesday Evening, February 27	Monday Evening, March 11
Thursday, February 28	Tuesday, March 12
HARRY FEINSTEIN	LEO SKOLNICK
Thursday Evening, February 28	Saturday Evening, March 16
Friday, March 1	Sunday, March 17
ANTON KLUG	ANNA KLUG
Thursday Evening, February 28	Sunday Evening, March 17
Friday, March 1	Monday, March 18
MICHAEL MEHL	GERTRUDE MALINA
Thursday Evening, February 28	Wednesday Evening, March 20
Friday, March 1	Thursday, March 21
MINNIE MYERS	MAX BRENNER
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A Purim Midrash

By Yaakov Bieler

As fascinating and dramatic as the stories of the *Tanach* (the twenty-four books comprising Judaism's Written Tradition) may seem at first glance, the reader often comes away with the impression that more has been left unsaid than said. Kabbalistic literature suggests that the white areas of the *Torah* are in fact more imbued with holiness than the parchment covered with lettering, for, whereas the latter is circumscribed and clearly defined, the former presents infinite possibilities for interpretation. But not all of the responsibility for plumbing the depths lying between the lines of our traditional texts is left to the individual imagination. The scholars whose words are compiled in the *Mishna*, where discussion focuses mainly upon legal matters, also authored compendiums of material of a more homiletical nature, known as the *Midrashei Agadah*.

A timely example of such interpretation follows: (Midrash Esther Rabah 7:23) Rav Levi said, "The evil ones are to be cursed because they incessantly engage in plotting against the Jewish people; and each of them schemes in accordance with his personal outlook, and declares, 'My plan is superior to yours!' Esau said, 'Cain was foolish for having killed his brother during the lifetime of his father (Adam), because it should have occurred to him that his father would have additional children. I will not repeat his error but rather, (Gen. 27:41) Let the days of mourning for my father be at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.' Pharoah declared, 'Esau was foolish, for did he not realize that his brother would have offspring born to him during the lifetime of his father (Isaac)? I will not repeat his error but rather, (Ex. 1:22) Every son that is born, you shall throw into the river.' Haman said, 'Pharoah was foolish when he said to throw all of the male children into the river, for he should have realized that the girls would marry and have children. I will not err but rather order my men (Esther 3:13) . . . to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish all Jews, both young and old, little children and women in one day. . .' And even Gog and Magog (See Ezek. 38,39) in the future will say, 'The villains of the past were foolish because they plotted with their kings against Israel without realizing that they (Israel) have a protector in the heavens. We will not duplicate their mistake but rather we will confront their protector and then we will be able to deal with them, as it is written (Ps. 2:2) The kings of the earth shall stand up, And the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.'"

The sages recognized a pattern within the tragic history of the Jewish people, i.e., that the threat of physical destruction would arise repeatedly, yet even the diabolical plans of Haman would ultimately meet with little success. The only way that the spirit of the children of Israel could be destroyed is via an assault upon their faith, by having them assimilate into a secular society, forgetting their spiritual heritage. Once their "protector in the heavens" is no longer a source of hope and inspiration for them, then indeed they become vulnerable to the destruction of the spirit — a much more total form of annihilation than any act of genocide.

REMINDER

April 20th, is the date for

OUR DINNER

We Need Your Ads!!!

On Synagogue Expansion

By Rifke

WARNING: If you do not like humor, please skip this article. If you enjoy humor, but not in your Synagogue Bulletin, please skip this article. If you enjoy humor, even in your Synagogue Bulletin, but you have found past efforts in *ECHOD* not very funny, please skip this article. If you are unsure, please skip this article. And remember, this is PURIM.

To expand, or not to expand, that is the question Lincoln Square congregants have been asking (in the overcrowded rooms of the Joseph Shapiro Academy classes, in the cramped, inadequately-spaced area known as the Morgenstern Nursery, from the steps of the Sanctuary breaking at the seams, and while jostling, pushing and shoving one another in our mob-like exit from Shabbat services. Whether 'tis holier to suffer the elbows and trampling of outrageous fellow congregants . . .). United we stand, divided we fall, is a fine motto for Purim and Chanukah all groups-together parties, but at Lincoln Square, togetherness is unavoidable. Of course, though, the preceding is a slanted view — and there are two sides to every issue. On this question, the congregation is divided into two groups — those who require air to breathe and those who find respiration less critical. Plants represent the most significant element in the latter category.

Much friction arises from this forced togetherness. Many observers trace the Bach Singles — Young Couples schism to the dearth of space. The latter group almost persuaded the Rabbi that the entire Bach group should be relegated to the Auditorium since "all they do is look at one another anyway." Bach females were quick to respond that the guys are really not all that much to look at, and besides, the overcrowding is mostly attributable to the Young Couples and all the babies they have been having.

To assuage ill-feeling, a general consensus emerged that this matter is of such import that details should be thrashed out in the quiet, calm deliberation that is the hallmark of the Board. Yet this led to consternation in determining which Board, what with our profusion of them, would consider the issue. There is, of course, the Executive Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors; this trio is being increased with a Chesed Board (obviously leaving the other Boards open to the unfortunate charge of being UnChesed Boards) and the Bach's recent creation, the Bored of Boards. Eventually, a special Committee was assigned responsibility and they are circulating an expansion questionnaire among the congregation. One outsider, Professor Kein Platz, a noted expert in the field and the author of such works as "Space and the Circular Synagogue," has offered the view that expansion should be postponed, and that two congregants should sit in every seat.

Hopefully, the Committee will take an expansive view of its role and deal forthrightly with all problems related to expansion. There is, for example, what is commonly called the Siddur-Chumash Crisis. This is also known as the Shabbat Mad Dash for a Siddur. A recent random survey showed that there are three siddurim for every four and one half congregants. (If the present growth rate continues, more mathematically inclined congregants opine that by Purim 1975, the only person with a siddur will be Cantor Goffin.) Naturally, some cynics contend the crisis is contrived (possibly to increase communality between worshippers), and that there would be no shortage if the ushers hurriedly would obtain the books held in the Bet Medrash. However, the Hashkomah Minyan, which controls these books, probably will not release them unless they are granted the absolute right to participate in the kiddush after the main services. Some experts say, though, that even if all the books were released promptly, there would still be a Siddur Crisis. The crisis is accentuated when the Rabbi asks us to follow with him in the Chumash. Only the earlybirds, and the strong, are able to comply. This also explains why the same people ask questions each Shabbat during our question and answer period — they have Chumashim.

A small step towards resolution of the overcrowding may coincide with publication of this issue of *Echod*. The editor probably will have his head chopped off for allowing this careful analysis of the problem to run.

Nasty letters concerning this article should be addressed to the Editorial Staff of *ECHOD*, care of the Synagogue. And remember this is PURIM—and you were warned.—Ed.

Executive Board

By Dr. Edward Berger

On January 21, 1974, the first Executive Board meeting of the year was held. The first order of business was a review of the Synagogue financial statement of 1973. A number of questions were raised regarding particular items in the budget but the answers were deferred until the next meeting, because our accountant was not present.

Mr. Fred Ehrman, this year's chairman of the Journal committee, made a plea for volunteers to help solicit ads. This is extremely important because the Journal is a major source of income.

The chief item on the agenda was a report by the Expansion Committee, given by Ed Lukashok. It was pointed out, to nobody's surprise, that "we're short of space." While the problem is clear, the solution is not. In order to approach this issue in a logical way, a questionnaire is going to be mailed to the membership, in order to ascertain what the sentiment and attitudes are toward this issue. We urge everybody to complete and return the questionnaire.

The last item on the agenda, miscellaneous, was very quickly dealt with, and the meeting adjourned.



By Max Schwarz

Kein Platz Expansion Proposal

Nursery School

by Claire Rosenberg

Undoubtedly the liveliest and most imaginative group at Lincoln Square Synagogue is the nursery school. Under the able supervision of Bruria Okonsky, nursery classes are held for six hours each day, Monday through Friday. Enrollment is close to thirty children ranging between the ages of three and five.

At Lincoln Square, the children gain some knowledge of the significance and joy of Jewish Holidays, of the Shabbat, and of many aspects of our daily lives — reciting blessings, benching after meals. Every Thursday we bake challah for our Shabbat party, which is a model Shabbat meal complete with candles, wine, challah and gefilte fish. Most children made a Menorah for Chanukah and are able to sing the appropriate blessings and explain the significance of this holiday. There are future plans for a Sunday afternoon of children's films and for a Purim Party.

Much of the credit for the school's success goes to the fine teaching staff which, in addition to Bruria, includes Debbie Deutsch, and Risie Finkelstein. The other aspect of our nursery school's success is simply the fact that the children so obviously enjoy themselves and their various activities in our unique environment.

Teenage Youth Program (Cont'd)

cludes something for everyone's taste. Drop by the Synagogue any Sunday night about 7:30 P.M., or give us a call at 874-6105 and ask for Mordechai or Ephraim. You will be put on our mailing list immediately (or as soon as Miriam, our lovely secretary, warms up her typing fingers) and you will be made aware of the group's varied activities.

I hope to see you next Sunday evening (if Columbus isn't on, of course) at our group where you can see a film, listen to music, sing, dance and just plain socialize. We're really friendly and membership doesn't cost a dime (it doesn't cost three dollars either).

**THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN AS PART OF A CLASS
PROJECT TO A PEN PAL IN A NEW YORK YESHIVA**

Haifa

December 7, 1973

Dear Friend:

I am a child in Israel, a country in the midst of a difficult war, the Yom Kippur war. Many people were killed and will not again rise to life. School in Israel is good and I hope they will learn much. I hope that school in America is also good. We are a strong nation and are succeeding in victory and in guarding our homeland. We are also overcoming the attacks of the Egyptians and Syrians at the front. My brothers and my father were drafted to the army. It is sad for me to be alone but what is there to do? My father has a very sad task in the army. (He must contact those families who have not yet heard from their sons.) My older brother works very hard and my younger brother not so much. My mother and I are alone in the house.

Thank you for worrying about us and send us ammunition.

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We are pleased to announce that a
Brunch for the benefit of the

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will take place, please God,
on March 17th, at 9:30 A.M.

Our Synagogue's response to the
October War was exemplary. I am
sure that we all understand the ur-
gent need that still exists. Israel is
currently absorbing approximately
3000 immigrants monthly in addition
to the tremendous economic disloca-
tion resulting from the Yom Kippur
war.

Invitations will be sent shortly.

JACK SCHENKER, Chairman

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Synagogue News & Notes

The Rabbi travels so much that National Airlines is said to have asked him to do one of their "Fly Me" commercials . . . for, after all, as the Rabbi has related, the passengers feel much safer after he has lain tephillin . . . Where does *Rabbi Cohen* get all the energy for his Shabbat drashim . . .

Vivian Eisenmann confirmed her reputation as our most efficient Junior Leaguer, and hostess with the mostess, at the "Grand Tu B'Shvat Neshef" . . . the truly significant memento, a tree in Israel in the name of each of the Couples attending, should give significant momentum to the Junior League . . . which is also, through the efforts of co-presidents *Debbie Abelow* and *Miriam Alter*, led by *David Olivestone*, arranging a Synagogue Book Fair . . . We receive some odd letters and calls from the Synagogue, but when *Debbie Eisenberg* and *Sharon Kaplan* began requesting blood, that was a bit much . . . Actually, the vampires, as they are affectionately known, are building up a blood bank for our use . . . which is appreciated, except that the *Bach* group requested an exemption, arguing that they are mostly blue bloods . . . *Mel Moed* continues to make that group run . . .

At a recent Board meeting, *Jane Stern* suggested a raffle for the Annual Dinner . . . which *Jeanette Aptheker* thought was a grand idea . . . only one fourth of those eligible have attended recent Board meetings . . . but there are some real good quarrels anyway . . . Looking forward to the return of *Martha Cohn* from her mission to Israel where she reportedly huddled with *Arthur Morgenstern* on the State of the Synagogue . . . The expansion questionnaire is known in some circles as the (*Morton*) *Landowne Letter* . . .

Special thanks to *Dalia Helfgot*, *David* and *Kevin Kunkel*, *Marna Schwarz* and *Annette Sternberg* who made our Bet Cafe so successful. Also, thanks to *Jeffrey Mackler* for helping with the Israeli Film Program . . .

Some people are easily impressed . . . *Harold Obstfeld* thought the best part of the Tu B'Shvat party was the tuxedo on-the-spot omelette maker. . . seems one could choose either cheese, mushroom or chives . . . of the 150 others who attended, they enjoyed *Cantor Goffin* and *Rabbi Cohen*, *Jack Schenker* as master of ceremonies and the talk by *Donald* and *Susan Klein* . . . Decorations were by *Judy Rappoport* . . .

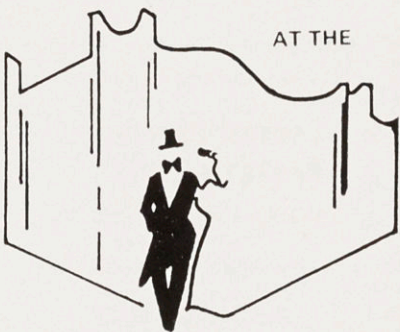
Vivian's efforts are appreciated very much . . . This is the second major successful function she has led . . . Her thoroughness and care show . . . a possibility for our first female president some day . . . Another potential choice is *Marlene Beer* . . . Thanks for assisting in the office to *Jeanette Jarashow* . . .

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Helen Fink-Becker
Mrs. Josephine Chalif
Miss Eva L. Cohen
Miss Laura Judith Cohen
Miss Marsha Cohen
Mr. Andrew B. Druck
Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Lewis Gerber
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lichtman
Miss Barbara L. Rubin
Mrs. Rose Sher

Miss Grace Shevel
Miss Michelle Silverberg
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Strasberg
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From Another Rabbi's Desk

By Rabbi Yitzhak Abramson

Of course, Rabbi Yitzhak Abramson is not "another" Rabbi. He is "our" Rabbi, and good friend. Until this year, Yitzhak and Miriam, as the Rabbi commented when the couple left us to assume the pulpit in Saratoga Springs, were the number one young couple of Lincoln Square. In many hearts, they still are.

During my years as a youngster in Watertown and, as well, during my years of study at Yeshiva University, the question which recurrently addressed itself to me was "Can authentic Judaism exist and flourish in a small, non-metropolitan community?" When I assumed the pulpit of Congregation Shaarei Tefila of Saratoga Springs, New York, the question became the focal point of my day-to-day activity.

Though it is too soon, of course, to make a meaningful evaluation, the answer to the question would seem to be a tentative "yes." The members of our community are warm and receptive, and for the most part eager to learn and rediscover Judaism. We have established the Saratoga Institute for Continuing Jewish Education (quite a mouthful), which meets three times a week with courses in the Prayer book, Talmud, and Hebrew Language. We have a monthly Home Discussion Group in which we have tackled topics such as the Development of Jewish Law, Christmas and Chanukah in the Public Schools, the Jewish view of Death, and the Role of the Rabbi. We also hold a Friday night Oneg Shabbat every second week, at which I have the opportunity to speak on a contemporary matter, or review a Jewish related book or film.

The teenage segment of our community is extremely active. We have three weekly teenage groups which I lead — one, a general discussion group, one in Conversational Hebrew, and one in a study of Genesis with Rashi's Commentary. There is an active N.C.S.Y. group, for which I have the privilege of acting as advisor, as well as a B'nai Brith Youth Organization.

The younger children are also promising jewels for the future of the community. I act as the principal of the Talmud Torah, and teach the oldest class. We have periodic Shabbatons with the Hebrew School children and parents, so that entire families can experience Shabbat together.

Have I transplanted L.S.S. to Saratoga? No! L.S.S. is a unique entity, for its leader — my Rabbi — is unique, and its membership is unique. But certainly the spirit which I try to inject here, as well as some of the specific programs which I have instituted, do bear the L.S.S. stamp. What I am trying to accomplish in Saratoga — the building of a true, living, authentic Jewish community — is only possible because there exists a model of just such a community — at Lincoln Square.

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