



RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN HONORED AT DINNERS BY BAR-ILAN AND RAMAZ

YOUNG MARRIEDS HEAR ROBERT ALTER ON LITERARY THEME

A large group of Young Marrieds gathered in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Norman V. Balinson last Saturday evening for a regular meeting of the group. The highlight of the evening was a discussion on "Jewish Writers in America and Israel — Comparisons and Contrasts." The discussion was led by Dr. Robert Alter, professor of English literature at Columbia College.

Dr. Alter, who was recently named co-editor of the "In the Community" section of Commentary magazine and who appears in print every three months in Commentary, discussed the intellectual climate of Israel and that of the United States as an important influence upon the subject matter of Jewish novelists, the sources of their inspiration and the progenitor of the archetypes which they employ.

Among the many points made by Dr. Alter was his observation that most serious Jewish novelists in America draw upon secular or Christological sources for language, imagery and personality. In Israel, on the other hand, the sources are more likely to be clearly Jewish-Biblical or Talmudic.

The next meeting of the Young Marrieds group will take place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Shapiro on Saturday evening, February 26th. The highlight of that evening will be a panel discussion entitled: "The Artificial Control of Life — a Medical, Legal and Religious Symposium." The moderator of the discussion will be Dr. Charles I. Cohen, former chairman of the Young Marrieds. The discussants will be Dr. Moses Nussbaum, Martin Rochlin and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein.

Those young married couples who are not on our list are cordially invited to become part of our group.

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, who left for Israel early this week with Mrs. Lookstein, was honored by Bar-Ilan University and Ramaz School at dinners on Sunday evenings, January 16th and 23rd. Both occasions were most impressive and gave substantial cause for pride and satisfaction not only to the Rabbi and his family, but to the many members of Kehilath Jeshurun who were on hand to participate in these deserved tributes.

The guest speaker at the Bar-Ilan Dinner was Dr. Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, who has been a close friend of the Rabbi for many years and who was formerly a Trustee of the congregation. Dr. Belkin spoke movingly of the Rabbi and enthusiastically about the magnificent achievements of Bar-Ilan University during the last eight years when the Rabbi served as acting President. As a result of this dinner, more than one million dollars was raised for the budgetary needs of the University and for its expansion program.

Of course, the Ramaz Dinner was an event even closer to home. The

congregation, which is the sponsoring body of Ramaz School, was extremely well represented at this dinner in support of the Ramaz Scholarship Fund. Max J. Etra, President, offered glowing words of tribute on this occasion. A. Phillip Goldsmith, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ramaz and a former Vice President of our congregation, spoke sensitively and meaningfully about the Rabbi's contributions to the twenty-eight year history of Ramaz.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a plaque to the Rabbi on behalf of the Parents Council of Ramaz School. The entire audience of more than 700 guests rose for a standing ovation for the Rabbi of our congregation.

On both of these occasions Rabbi Lookstein spoke briefly and with a note of modesty. He directed the praise and the acclaim away from himself and toward those who contributed with him to the growth and development of these two pioneer educational institutions.



Shown above: Dr. Samuel Belkin, President, Yeshiva University and Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein at the Tenth Anniversary Dinner of Bar-Ilan University. The portrait was presented to Rabbi Lookstein by Bar-Ilan University as a token of affection and appreciation for his leadership on behalf of that Institution.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein will preach this Saturday at 11 A.M.
"MAN'S FREEDOM TO WILL AND TO ACT"
A Religious Appraisal



BO

The First Commandment in the Bible

The first formal commandment in the Bible is found in this week's portion and is contained in the words: "This month (Nisan) shall be for you the beginning of months; it is the first for you among the months of the year."

This commandment is considered by the Talmud to refer to the sanctification of the months in particular and of time in general. The year begins for the Jewish People from the month of God's deliverance of the People from Egypt. In the Bible, the months have no names, only numbers, which refer back to the first month, the month of our redemption by God from slavery.

According to Nachmanides, the names of the months came into vogue after the return from the first Babylonian exile in 537 B.C.E. They are Persian names which remind us of a second Divine redemption—from exile in a strange land.

The months of the year, by number or name, symbolize Divine Providence at work in our world. One great unit of time is thus sanctified by giving expression through it to our gratitude to God for his personal intervention on our behalf.

A more fundamental unit of time—the week—has a similar function. The days have no names in Hebrew. They are numbered progressively from one through six, leading up to the sabbath. Thus, Sunday is "the first day to the sabbath, Monday is the second, and so on. Here, time symbolizes God's creation and his mastery over, and authorship of, the laws and processes of nature. Our testimony to God's creativity is affirmed whenever we mention the day of the week.

Perhaps this understanding of the symbolism inherent in our monthly and daily calendar can offer a slightly revised interpretation of the Talmudic judgment concerning the blessing "m'Kadesh Yisrael vehazmanim"—God sanctifies Israel and Israel sanctifies the festivals. Our interpretation might say: "God sanctifies Israel and Israel, by using the months as symbols of God's Providence and by considering the days as representing His Creativity, sanctifies hazmanim — time itself."

H. L.

ADULT INSTITUTE STUDY GROUP

The first session in Comparative Law, offered by our Adult Institute began on Monday evening, January 24th. The group, whose leader is Lawrence A. Kobrin, will meet at four more sessions which will be held on the evenings of Monday, February 7th; Monday, February 21st; Wednesday, March 9th; and Monday, March 21st at 8:30 o'clock in the synagogue library.

The first session of the study group devoted to "The Kuzari" will be held on Monday evening, January 31st at 8:30 P.M. Thereafter, the group will meet at 8:30 P.M. in the Synagogue library, according to the following schedule: Monday, February 14th; Monday, February 28th; Monday, March 14th; and Monday, March 28th. The leader of this study group will be Rabbi Nathan Bulman.

All those interested in participating in the study groups are invited to be on hand at 8:30 P.M. on the dates indicated above. An intellectual treat is in store for all participants.

YOUTH NOTES

Third Cultural Luncheon To Be Held Saturday, February 5th

Shachar, the Teenage Group of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun is holding its third, in the series of six, Cultural Luncheons, on Saturday, February 5th. It will be held following the kiddush in the Social Hall. The Cultural Luncheon has developed a fine tradition of serving as an open forum for topical themes for our youngsters.

Alan Kalischer and Steven Lorch, Cultural Committee Co-Chairmen, cordially invite members to take part in an original Psycho-Drama, entitled "What We Think and How We Act."

Further information regarding the unusual format of this Cultural Luncheon will be given in next week's Bulletin.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Marriage—

We extend our hearty congratulations to our devoted members, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Silverstein upon the marriage of their daughter Joan, to Mr. Leon Moses Meyers.

We wish the young couple much joy and happiness together.

Birthdays—

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Leo Breindel, Dr. Irwin Chabon, Nico de Graaff, Joseph N. Friedman, Mrs. Emory Klein, Mrs. Abe Newborn, Mrs. Norman Orentreich, Mrs. Louis Orwasher, Mrs. David Pik, Stanley G. Reiss and Dr. Robert Wallach.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Barany, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Gimbel, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roth, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Yohann.

Birth—

We extend a hearty Mazel Tov to our devoted members, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham I. Holzer on the birth of a daughter to their children Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Minkowitz.

May the new addition to the family be a source of joy at all times.

Condolence—

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Herman D. Gimbel upon the recent passing of his beloved mother.

We pray that the family may be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

SISTERHOOD KIDDUSH HOSTESSES

Saturday, January 29th

Mrs. Samuel B. Goodman
Mrs. Samuel Gross
Mrs. Abraham L. Marcus
Mrs. Sidney Scheinberg
Mrs. Jacob P. Shulman

The Men's Club Theatre Party

"SWEET CHARITY"

will be held on

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 7th

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Reserve your tickets by calling the Synagogue Office.

OVERFLOW SISTERHOOD GATHERING HEARS RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN DISCUSS "THE SOURCE"

An overflow crowd of women gathered on Monday afternoon for a Sisterhood luncheon meeting to hear a review of James A. Michener's "The Source" by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. William Lebowitz, President. The Rabbi was introduced by Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon, Program Chairman.

Our Associate Rabbi cited the book as one which tries to accomplish too much and frequently achieves too little. As a novel it is of modest value. Within its more than 900 pages there are few characters who assume life size proportions. Even when compared to Uris' Exodus — hardly a novel of excellence — the characterization is weak.

As a history volume, the book is too far ranging to be either accurate or complete. From 10,000 B.C.E. to 1964 is a span of time which would tax the talents of any historian. When a popular novelist tries to describe such a span, the results must be disappointing.

"A Memorable Book"

Understanding these weaknesses, the Rabbi said that Michener's work is nonetheless a memorable book for the American Jewish reader. For all its incomplete sweep through 12,000 years of history, the book still presents several valuable insights to the reader.

Not the least of these insights is the discussion of the agricultural roots of religion. All of man's ideas about God originate in that dim period when man first emerged from the caveman's hunt, where he depended solely upon his own prowess, and began to till the soil, becoming dependent upon the fickle forces of nature. Judaism tried to elevate man's relationship to God to the realm of the abstract and the spiritual. At the same time, Judaism uprooted the base and inhuman cults of idolatry and replaced them with more refined modes of worship.

The book eloquently describes the persecution of Jews by the Greeks, Romans and Christians by describing personal experiences of the victims. The Inquisition, in particular, is rendered in bold and stark relief. A similar service is rendered to the reader by the description of the naked brutality and greed of the Crusaders. The Holy Wars are presented as they

were: vicious forays into Europe and Asia with thousands slaughtered in the name of a religion of love but, in reality, for purposes of personal gain.

Equally memorable are the passages clearly contrasting Hellenism and Judaism and the chapters illuminating the role of law in Judaism.

"A Forgettable Book"

Necessarily, there are passages in such a sweeping book which might best be forgotten because of the errors which they contain. These errors are the result of the author's basic unfamiliarity with Judaism, a condition only partially remedied by a year and a half of careful study. Throughout the book there are many clear errors in fact as well as in implications. To include Maimonides in a list of scholars who lived on the whole 1,000 years before him is an example of such an error. Another is attributing the statement that the rabbis must "build a fence around the law" to a sage of the fourth century C.E. when actually it was enunciated some six centuries before.

There are, of course, certain errors which are more significant because they lead the reader to misimpressions. Thus, the reader may gain the impression that rabbis in Israel are typified by a particular extremist described in the book who actually represents a minute fringe group in the Jewish state. Similarly, some of the

cases described which reflect problems of religious law in Israel particularly as they affect matters of personal status (marriage, divorce, etc.) are not realistic and certainly not prevalent. They sound as if they were taken from the files of the notorious "League Against Religious Coercion", a vigorous anti-religious group in Israel.

In summary, the Rabbi indicated that the book is a memorable one for its insights, but that care should be exercised in accepting some of its implicit conclusions. On the whole, it offers an important conclusion about Judaism. As seen by Michener, the Jewish People has survived through its attachment to an incorporeal God and to a firm and on-going system of law. If a non-Jewish observer can understand this from without, then perhaps we can comprehend it from within — and act accordingly.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held on February 28th. The guest speaker will be a member of a United Nations delegation.

ADULT INSTITUTE NOTICE

We bring to the attention of students registered in the Monday morning classes of Hebrew for Beginners, Second Year Hebrew and Studies In Judaism that regular sessions have commenced.

We urge all those who are regular participants in the class, to arrive to their respective classe on time.

TGDR — ITT47—KIT323—JEC103

Jerusalem ISR40 11 1655 ISRGOV

ETAT Mr. Phillip Stollman National Chairman Bar-Ilan University
641 Lexington Avenue New York — 10022

Please convey my warmest and most sincere greetings to my friend
Rabbi Joseph Lookstein whose services to his people and to Jewish
learning merit unqualified admiration.

Abba Eban

641—New York — 10022

Shown above is a copy of the cablegram which was sent by Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of the State of Israel, congratulating Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein on the occasion of the formal tribute offered to him by Bar-Ilan University.

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
New York 28, N.Y.

HA 7-1000

Synagogue Officials

- Joseph H. LooksteinRabbi
- Haskel LooksteinAssoc. Rabbi
- A. Joseph CohenCantor
- Israel D. RosenbergRitual Director
- Joseph GlattExec. Director
- Noam ShudofskyYouth Director

Officers of the Congregation

- Max J. EtraPresident
- Joseph RothVice-President
- Elgin ShulskyTreasurer
- Irwin ShapiroSecretary
- Mrs. William LebowitzPres., Sist.
- Abraham R. Kirshon.....Pres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY

- Lighting of Candles4:50
- Evening5:00

SATURDAY

- Morning9:00
- Junior Congregation10:15
- Pre-School Service
Room 40511:00

Weekly Portion: Bo

Exodus 10:1 - 13:16

Haftorah: Jeremiah 46:13 - 28

- Evening4:50
- Conclusion of Sabbath5:40

WEEKDAY SERVICES

- Morning7:30
- Sunday Morning8:30
- Evening5:00

Yahrzeits

January

- 29—MAX PHILLIPS
- 29—WILLIAM PRINCE
- 29—ARYEH L. ABELOW
- 31—JOSEPH FREED
- 31—DORA DERSHOWITZ

February

- 1—CELIA KAY
- 1—MIREL WARSHAW
- 1—RIVE K. WEINSTEIN
- 1—LENA URIS
- 1—WILLIAM KATZ
- 1—EMANUEL WEINBAUM
- 2—HANNAH B. ROKEACH
- 2—JOSEPH CORAK
- 2—NATHAN BERKOWITZ
- 3—LEONA ABRAMS
- 4—SAMUEL GALLER
- 4—DORA MILLER
- 4—BENJAMIN GOTTFRIED
- 4—ROSE SALZINGER

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Saturday, January 29th

Cantors

- SAMUEL NEWBORN
- JONATHAN JAVITT
- CHARLES SUB

Sermonette

WILLIAM RECENT

Teenage Torah Reader

MARVIN DAVENPORT

* * *

Officers Elected for the Month of Shevat Are:

- President — Samuel Friedman
- Vice President — Claude Alpert
- Gabbai — Binyamin Shudofsky
- Hostess — Sari Scheinberg

The participants at the January 22nd Service of the Junior Congregation were:

Cantors

- CLAUDE ALPERT
- ALLAN FRIEDMAN
- SAMUEL FRIEDMAN
- BINYAMIN SHUDOFSKY

Sermonette

RONALD DEUTSCH

Teenage Torah Reader

AARON HOLZER

K. J. CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY
3:00 P.M.

- Boys Group — Library
- Boys Pre-Teen — Social Hall
- Intermediate Boys — 504
- Intermediate Girls — 404

3:45 P.M.

Talmud Class

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MONDAY

Classes for Women

10:00 A.M.

- Hebrew for Beginners
- Second Year Hebrew

11:00 A.M.

Studies In Judaism

8:30 P.M.

- Study Group "The Kuzari"
- Synagogue Library

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

Advanced Hebrew

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5th

Teenage Cultural Luncheon

MONDAY, MARCH 7th

Men's Club Theatre Party

"SWEET CHARITY"

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL

CHAPEL

76th ST. & AMSTERDAM AVE.
ENdicott 2-6600

CHARLES ROSENTHAL, Director

THE JEWRY BOX

Served During
WEEK OF JAN. 9th

- NICO DE GRAAFF
- WILLIAM HEYMAN
- ABRAHAM I. HOLZER

Served During
WEEK OF JAN. 16th

- DR. ALBERT CORNELL
- DR. THEODORE R. FINK
- RAYMOND GURA

Will Serve During
WEEK OF JAN. 30th

- DR. LEO EDELMAN
- ALFRED KAHN
- DR. NATHAN KALISCHER
- DR. HARRY KAPLAN
- HON. HERMAN KATZ

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to maintain the Daily Minyan.

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