

# SISTERHOOD TO VISIT OLDEST CONGREGATION IN AMERICA ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25th

The Kehilath Jeshurun Sisterhood will hold its next open meeting on the premises of the oldest congregation in this country, Congregation Shearith Israel, 8 West 70th Street, at 1:00 o'clock Monday, November 25th. The program will feature a tour of the Synagogue — known as the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue — as well as a lecture on some of the interesting rituals in the Sephardic custom.

Our host for the afternoon will be Rabbi Harris Guedalia, a member of the Ministry at the Synagogue. Rabbi Geudalia is a gifted lecturer and has a most engaging way of introducing Jews of Eastern European stock to the ways and habits of Sephardic Jewry.

During the course of the tour, our Sisterhood group will have a chance to see some of the interesting features of Synagogue architecture at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, as well as certain rare and significant ceremonial objects. This program is the first of its kind for the Sisterhood and we hope that the ladies will respond to the opportunity. Remember the date, November 25th, the time, 1:00 o'clock and the place, 8 West 70th Street.

# ON DOING JEWRY DUTY

Our Ritual Director, Mr. Israel D. Rosenberg, announced the initiation of our Jewry Duty Program for the year. This is a program through which we enlist members to attend daily services for one week during the year on a voluntary basis.

It is interesting to recall the origins of this program and its change of function today. At the time that Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein pioneered it now it has been adopted in many congregations — the primary purpose was to reinforce the population of our morning Minyan. The secondary purpose was to encourage members of the congregation to worship with Talith and Tephillin at a regular daily service.

Thank God, the original purpose has been somewhat eclipsed by the second function. We find from year to year that the congregation at the daily minyan grows significantly in size. There are a number of people who make it a practice to come regularly at least on one morning of each week.

On the other hand, the encouragement of our membership at large to attend a morning minyan one week a year continues to be most important. The personal satisfaction gained, the example which is set for others especially for children — and the performance of a basic mitzvah of Judaism are all significant results.

Members of the congregation have received letters asking their cooperation. Please consider it your own personal obligation to respond affirmatively and to join the ever-growing corps of Kehilath Jeshurun men who do their Jewry Duty with enthusiasm and with substantial personal rewards.

# FATHER AND SON MINYAN LAUNCHES 20th SEASON

The Father and Son Minyan sponsored for the past 19 years by the Men's Club of the congregation, launched its 20th season of activity last Sunday morning. A fine turnout of boys and men was present for the opening service.

The tradition of the Minyan was very much in evidence. Ira F. Weisman, under whose leadership this activity was launched two decades ago, was present and sponsored the first breakfast of the year. Martin R. Rochlin, President of the Men's Club, was also on hand together with Albert H. Bernstein, Secretary

The cantors for the opening service were:

Kenneth Barany Joseph Klausner Samuel Friedman Craig Barany

The Minyan will continue its season next week. A cordial invitation is extended to all men and boys to come down and join us at 9:30.

RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN WILL PREACH THIS SATURDAY AT 11:00 A.M. ('THE PROBLEM OF PRAYER AND THE PROBLEM OF THE PRAY-ER''

# THE WEEKLY PORTION Have Sarah-"What is Everything?"

"And God blessed Abraham with everything." Our sages are troubled by the use of the word "everything" with respect to God's blessings. What does the Torah have in mind when it describes Abraham as being so perfectly blessed? In general, their solutions to this problem center on the birth of children or, perhaps more properly, the problem of parenthood.

One answer is that "everything" means a son. As a matter of fact, the numerical value of the letters in the word "Bakol" (everything) equals the numerical value in the word "Bein" (son). "Everything", therefore, means a son.

To Abraham, the prospect of living his life without an heir was an intolerable one. The possibility that there might be no one to carry on the monotheistic tradition which he had himself discovered, was painful to consider. When Sarah bore him a son, one who could carry on this tradition, it was Abraham who then felt that he was blessed with "everything."

Another sage considers the blessing of "everything" to mean that Abraham did not have a daughter. On the surface, such an interpretation is quite surprising, especially in that part of the Bible which deals with the greatness of Rebecca. On closer examination, however, we can agree with Samson Raphael Hirsch who explains that in the society of that day a daughter would have presented Abraham with a painful problem.

While a son could be expected to bring his bride into the family tradition, a daughter would, of necessity, be taken from the family tradition to that of her husband. In the time of Abraham, a foreign tradition meant the idolatry of Canaan, Aram or any of the neighboring countries. To bear a child, to rear her in the Jewish tradition and then to see her absorbed into a society which represents the antithesis of Judaism, would indeed have been a terrible curse. To be without a daughter, then, was, in such a society, the blessing of "everything."

A third sage takes a more optimistic view of the era of Abraham and a Ted Comet Addresses Couples Club

A large attendance of couples turned out last Sunday evening for the annual meeting of the Couples Club in the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein. The program was conducted by Albert H. Bernstein. The highlight of the evening was a fascinating talk by Theodore Comet, Director of Foreign Services for the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Mr. Comet, who is no stranger to our congregational family - having served here for four years as an Executive Director and being the father of two Ramaz students - delivered a firsthand report on the Jewish scene in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Close to sixty listeners sat in rapt attention as he described the status of Jewry in the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

Our speaker could have continued all night without losing his audience. The story he told was one of pathos and heroism, tragedy and triumph, the horror of potential genocide and the hope of possible liberation.

more complimentary view of the strength of Abraham's personality and the influence of his home. He says that the blessing of "everything" means that Abraham was blessed with a daughter, a daughter who was so committed to her father's tradition, so loyal to her family's ideals that she would win over her husband to the worship of the One God.

The common denominator which all these interpretations possess is the belief that the blessing of "everything" exists when a man and a woman have children who carry on the traditions of the home. Of course, in order to have such a blessing, there must be a home and the home must have a tradition. When these two qualities exist and when the children are strengthened by them, then the blessing of "everything" is no less desirable in our day than it was four thousand years ago.

Time and again, our speaker cited examples of Jews who were trapped not only by evil political forces, but also by their own inertia and their shortsightedness in the face of ultimate doom. Some Jews are not permitted to leave the countries of their imprisonment. Others are too ill or feeble to move. Still others lack the will or the good sense to get out while they can.

The Couples Club is indebted to Ted Comet for making its members sensitive to some of the problems of Jewish life in benighted lands.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Club will be held on Saturday night, December 21st - please note the change of date - in the Auditorium of the Synagogue House. The program for the evening will be: "A History of Jerusalem in Slides and Commentary." The slide show will be composed of archaeological and historical scenes photographed by Noam Shudofsky and Dr. Charles I. Cohen during their trips this year to Israel. A fascinating evening is anticipated.

# SISTERHOOD KIDDUSH HOSTESSES Saturday, November 16th

Mrs. Leon A. Feldman Mrs. Harry Freundlich Mrs. Joseph N. Friedman Mrs. Edward Low Mrs. Israel D. Rosenberg Mrs. Meyer Texon

# FATHER AND SON MINYAN

Second Service Sunday, November 17th, at 9:30

> Cantors Binyamin Shudofsky Chaim Mond Alvin Smilow Michael Bartel

**Breakfast Sponsor** Martin R. Rochlin

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## GEORGE B. BLUMENTHAL BAR MITZVAH



We extend a hearty Mazel Tov to our esteemed members, Dr. and Mrs. Mortimer J. Blumenthal, upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, George. Special congratulations also to the proud grandmother of the Bar Mitzvah, Mrs. Samuel Shapiro.

George is a fine student in Form II at the Ramaz Upper School. He is a member of our Boy Scout Troop 613 and has been an active participant in the Junior Congregation and the Father and Son Minyan. George will read the entire Torah portion and Prophetic reading at our regular service this coming Sabbath.

The congregation will be the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Blumenthal at kiddush following the services.

#### WITHIN OUR FAMILY

#### Birthdays-

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Benjamin Bartel, Victor Binstock, Mrs. Sidney A. Block, Mrs. Julius Charnow, Harry Green, Alfred Kahn, Frederick Margareten.

#### Anniversaries-

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Max Backer, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Citron, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott H. Eisman, Mr. and Mrs. Saul L. Rosenbluth, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Salzman, Mr. and Mrs. Jules M. Sax and Dr. and Mrs. Norman Sohn.

#### Condolences-

We extend our heartfelt condolences to our esteemed member, Samuel S. Silverstein, upon the passing of his beloved brother, Max.

We mourn the sudden and untimely passing of our good friend, Arnold Weiss. He was more than a caterer in our midst. He was part of the family of Kehilath Jeshurun. We extend our fullest expression of sympathy to Mrs. Weiss and to Samuel.

May the families be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

# FROM THE BOOKSHELF

#### **Miracles Old and New**

(The following is excerpted from the remarks of General Hayyim Herzog at a symposium in Tel Aviv on July 27, 1967. The proceedings have been published in a booklet called, "Jerusalem My Chiefest Joy" under the auspices of the Forum for Jewish Thought.")

"The conquest of Jerusalem was not merely a military affair. Anybody who only begins to think will see that it involved a great miracle. For come, let us think for a moment how it suddenly came about, without any decision, that we began to fight for Jerusalem at all. In the Torah we read the story of Moses and Pharaoh, and the refrain is: "And Pharaoh hardened his heart." From the perspective of the Torah and thousands of years we can see what a miracle it was that Pharaoh did actually harden his heart. For if he had surrendered to the entreaties of Moses, who knows whether we would not have remained in Egypt and have been swallowed up by the nations? It is clear that we would not have undergone that toughening process of forty years in the wilderness which transformed us from slaves into an independent and fighting people.

What a remarkable resemblance there is between that period and the present one. If the Arabs had agreed to the Partition Plan recommended by Lord Peel's Royal Commission in 1937; if they had agreed after the War to the immigration of 100,000 refugees from the Holocaust into the Land of Israel; if they had agreed to Partition in 1948; if they had agreed after the War of Liberation to accept 100,000 Arab refugees from us within the frame of peace talks; . . . if they had accepted Bourguiba's proposals even two years ago - then who knows whether we would have reached this situation in which we now find ourselves? Who knows whether we would have succeeded in crossing the wildernesses that we have left behind us: the wilderness of settlement, the wilderness of battle for our rights, the wilderness of absorption and ingathering of exiles, the wilderness of economic effort, the wilderness of the war effort, all of which have brought us hither? For during these years we passed through awesome, terrifying, great and overwhelming wildernesses which have strengthened and steeled us. Those wildernesses have transformed us into a great and powerful people. And all this has come about thanks to the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. It has come about thanks to the fact that the Arabs have never allowed us any choice; so that we have been compelled to struggle and fight for everything.

"Indeed, it is a sheer miracle that King Hussein, who all these years acted wisely, seeing clearly that his interests were opposed to those of the Arab rulers and that Israel was the safest and strongest security for his existence, – that Hussein who all these years had been walking on a tightrope suddenly took a step which nobody had expected and ordered his forces to go into action against Israel. This order created the historic opportunity which we had long awaited.

'It could only have been a miracle which led Hussein to act against his own interests and enabled us to gain our victory. This lies beyond state and political logic. This is a step that can be attributed only to some urge from above. As a result of this hasty and ill-considered step by King Hussein, the Israel Forces had an opportunity of refighting the War of Joshua, so that a description of the advance of our men reads like a page from the Bible. And finally, to crown all, came the restoration of the diadem to the heads of our People, the reconquest of the Old City and of the Temple Mount.

"Here a great miracle came about, a miracle which will be spoken of for ages to come, and compared with which some miracles we now celebrate will appear pale. The miracle included not only the military aspect but also the national and human sides. Above all it came from the fact that Pharaoh hardened his heart. And as Rashi explains: "It is better for Me that he should harden his heart in order to magnify My signs, so that you may recognize My great powers." If it had not been for Arab obstinacy we would never have reached the point we have reached."



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# Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street New York 10028, N.Y. HA 7-1000

### Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. Lookstein	Rabbi
Haskel LooksteinAssoc.	Rabbi
A. Joseph Cohen	Cantor
Israel D. RosenbergRitual D	irector
Noam ShudofskyYouth D	irector

Officers of the Congregation Max J. Etra ......President Joseph Roth .....Vice-President Elgin Shulsky .....Treasurer Irwin Shapiro .....Secretary Mrs. Leon A. Feldman......Pres., Sist. Martin R. Rochlin......Pres. Men's Club

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### FRIDAY

Lighting of Candles4:20	
Evening4:30	
SATURDAY	
Morning9:00	
Junior Congregation	
Pre-School Service	
Dining Hall	
Weekly Portion: Haye Sarah	
Genesis 23:1 - 25:18	
Haftorah:   Kings 1:1 - 31	
ROSH CHODESH PRAYERS	
Rosh Chodesh Kislev will be on	
Thursday, November 21 and Friday,	
November 22.	
Evening4:20	
Conclusion of Sabbath5:10	
WEEKDAY SERVICES	
Morning7:30	
Sunday Morning8:30	
Father and Son Minyan9:30	
Evening4:20	

# THE JEWRY BOX

Served During Week of November 10-15

Otto J. Helprin Albert H. Bernstein Abraham R. Kirshon Roy E. Abraham Will Serve During Week of November 17-22

Eugene Alpert William Lebowitz Dr. H. Harold Gelfand Irving Angel

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

Second Class Postage paid at New York, N. Y. This Bulletin is published weekly from September to June; bi-weekly in June and once monthly during July and August.

### LAST CALL FOR "ZORBA"

There are just a few seats left for the Men's Club Theatre Party for "Zorba" on Saturday night, November 23rd. The show is over subscribed and is sure to be a tremendous box office success.

Those who would like to see it have a chance to do so during its first week of performances while at the same time enabling the Men's Club to maintain its fine religious, cultural and philanthropic program.

If you are still interested in obtaining tickets, please call the Synagogue Office without delay. We make no promises, but it may be possible for us to accommodate your request.

### A MODERN RITUALARIUM

is located in our community at 232-4 West 78th Street (east of Broadway)

# MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW for the

Sisterhood Movie Night "The Lion in Winter" Saturday Night, December 14th Call the Synagogue Office for reservations

### K. J. CALENDAR COMING EVENTS

Saturday Night, November 23rd Men's Club Theatre Party

**Monday, November 25th** Sisterhood Lecture and Tour at Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue

> Thursday, November 28th Thanksgiving Day Service

> Saturday, November 30th Collegiate Sabbath

### K. J. ADULT INSTITUTE SCHEDULE OF COURSES

Monday 11:00 A.M. Studies In Judaism 8:30 P.M. Talmud Class

> Wednesday 8:00 P.M.

Elementary Hebrew Biblical Literature

9:00 P.M. Maimonides Code

Thursday 7:30 P.M. Collegiate Seminar

### YAHRZEITS

November

16-SARAH H. JASPAN 16-MEYER ROTHSTEIN 16-JACOB S. SILBERMAN 17-FRANK MANDELBAUM 17-MINNIE BARTEL 18-LILLIE ROSEN 19-HARRY H. HOLZMAN 19-MAX THEAMAN 19-CHARLES E. DAVIS 19-BATHSHEBA FISCHEL 20-ABRAHAM I. FINE 20-JOSEPH LAX 20-CELIA SHARMAN 21-THEODORE SIMON 21-SAMUEL WEISS 22-MORRIS KITE 22-SIMCHA KURTZ 22-FRIEDA KAHN 22-JULIUS KLEIN 22-MORRIS ZUCKERMAN 22-MONES ZUCKERMAN

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