

Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



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MRS. YOSEF TEKOAH DESCRIBES PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN DIPLOMATIC LIFE

Close to one hundred women of the Sisterhood sat in rapt attention for almost an hour last Monday afternoon as Mrs. Yosef Tekoah, the charming and captivating wife of Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations spoke on the subject: "Diplomatic Life — the Roses and the Thorns."

Mrs. Tekoah, in a most winsome and entertaining manner, insisted that there were no thorns in diplomatic life, but that there were problems and difficulties which had to be overcome. In the long run, these prove to be strengthening experiences which contributed much to the development of the senior Tekoahs and their three children.

Her service as a diplomat's wife began in 1958, when the informal and casual manner of Israel had to be exchanged for the formal and proper life of a Deputy representative to the United Nations in New York. As Mrs. Tekoah put it, in Israel you can let your hair down, while in American it had to be up.

In 1960, the family moved to Brazil, to a sumptuous and highly structured environment in which the wife of the Ambassador had to maintain standards close to perfection, as did her children. The two years spent there were nice — perhaps beautiful — but life was too luscious and too luxurious for her taste.

"Mission to Moscow"

It was with mixed feelings that Mrs. Tekoah greeted the news that her husband was appointed Ambassador to the Soviet Union in Moscow. It was a great opportunity, but a frightening one too. The Tekoah's had to learn how to live under constant surveillance, personal and electronic. Hidden microphones surrounded them every

place they went, from the bathroom in their home to a table which they ordered in advance at a restaurant. Many things could never be spoken about aloud, and even the children had to learn what could be said and, more important, what should never be said.

Father, mother and children learned to whisper, to write notes and sometimes to speak out loud just "for the record." There were occasions when they would speak angrily for the "ears" of the microphone with results that were frequently startling. Mrs. Tekoah feels it is important to say things loud and angrily at the Russians from time to time. They do react to such speech.

There were many unforgettable moments in the three year tour of duty in Russia. There was the day when Khrushchev, the most important personality in the Soviet Union, was deposed from power and suddenly, over night, became an un-person. Pictures of him disappeared, Books were taken off the stands. Statues removed. He simply ceased to exist.

There were the three Simchat Torahs which the Tekoah's witnessed during their stay: streets black with people, many of them young; the Synagogue in Moscow packed to capacity.

"Jews of Silence" Recommended

Mrs. Tekoah strongly recommended Eli Wiesel's memorable document "The Jews of Silence," (now available in paperback). She indicated that every word of it is true. The only thing you can say about it is that it is somewhat understated.

In 1965, the family finally came home to an Israel that two years later would have to fight for its life. The

Ambassador's wife told how grateful she was to have been present in Israel during the unforgettable six-day war, to see a dream come true when the flag of Israel rose over the wall of the Old Jerusalem, to hear Hatikvah sung and played in a concert in Binyanei Ha-Uma, on Saturday night, June 10th, barely two hours after the cessation of hostilities.

And now the family returns to the United States. Their oldest daughter returns to Ramaz where she had been a student ten years ago in our second grade. Two other children became students in our school. And the Ambassador and his wife begin to work anew for strength and peace for Israel. Their work is made easier and more rewarding by an American Jewish community that is so closely allied and identified with the fortunes of the Jewish State which they represent.

It was a privilege to have had Israel's first lady in the United Nations as the guest of the Sisterhood. The occasion was one which will be long remembered by the women who applauded so enthusiastically following her fascinating address.

RABBI AND MRS. JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN LEAVING FOR ISRAEL

Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein will be leaving on February 3rd for Israel where they intend to spend the month of February. They will stop off in London to meet with the British friends of Bar-Ilan University.

While in Israel, the Rabbi will preside at the Graduation Exercises of Bar-Ilan University and will implement the plans for the establishment of the first Law School under Jewish auspices. In this Law School Jewish law will form part of the curriculum.

We wish the Rabbi and Mrs. Lookstein a pleasant journey and a safe return to us.

RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN WILL PREACH THIS SATURDAY AT 11:00 A. M.
"WHAT JEWS CAN DO ABOUT BLACK ANTI-SEMITISM"

THE WEEKLY PORTION

Beshalach

"Why a Wilderness?"

"And it came to pass when Pharaoh sent the people forth, that God did not lead them by the land of the Philistines because it was the nearest." It appears from this opening verse of our Weekly Portion that the short route to the Promised Land was intentionally avoided by God who proceeded instead to map a circuitous route which ultimately took the Jewish People forty years to traverse.

According to the great Chassidic Sage, the Sefat Emet, this was quite intentional. God saw the wilderness as a desirable experience for the Jewish People. This was to be their training ground for life. The war-like Philistines would have caused the emancipated slaves to lose heart. Forty years later, far more serious wars presented no barrier. Operation wilderness was a success.

As we contemplate the panorama of Jewish history, we see that most of our existence has been marked by wilderness conditions. It is almost as if the initial sojourn of the Jewish people developed the pattern which all of Jewish history was to follow. What is the value of this wilderness experience?

From a practical standpoint, it seems that all of us must learn that sometimes the shortest route is in fact the longest. In theoretical geometry, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. In life, this principle is frequently inoperative.

To say I want something, is not necessarily to get it. Only a baby functions that way and he often ends up crying over unfulfilled minor desires. To take something is not necessarily to be entitled to it. There are many people behind bars who earned such a place because they tried to live geometrically — by the straight line route.

In terms of practical survival, one must learn the facts of wilderness life. Desires cannot always be fulfilled. Not everybody lives happily ever after, except in fairy tales. Today we are fine; tomorrow we may face major surgery. Today we are successful; tomorrow a new economic trend may put us out of business. Today we are complacent; tomorrow we or a loved one may suffer an emotional breakdown.

We are, all of us, in a wilderness whether we like it or not. And we must develop strength and faith, fortitude and hope, courage and trust in God. A sheltered slave people, just

out of Egypt, had not yet developed such qualities. When the people found life's waters bitter, their reaction was "vayilonu", moaning and groaning, grumbling and complaining. They were simply too soft for the free life, despite the caldron of Egyptian slavery in which they existed. They were not ready to accept the responsibilities of the real, free wilderness world.

In an age of plenty, the message of the wilderness has particular poignancy. It is difficult in such an age to develop certain noble qualities of personality that are more readily nurtured in an environment marked by scarcity. It may be necessary for us to create a sort of self-induced artificial wilderness in our day if we are to avoid becoming flimsy, bored, tired, superficial and intellectually moribund human beings.

This point was well stated recently in connection with the education of children, by Dennis Gabor, in an Occasional Paper published by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. "I consider it as axiomatic," he writes, "that the age of plenty which is dawning on us will require higher ethical qualities than the ages of scarcity. Necessity forced people into the attitude of the honest, hard working citizen; the police did the rest. Not much hardship was required in education; the hard world put people on the straight and narrow path.

"When parents told their children, 'if you do not work hard at school, you will starve, or become a common workman, etc.', this was easily understood, though not always believed. Now they will have to tell them, 'if you do not work hard at school and if you do not acquire the will power to keep up the habit through life, you will be bored and unhappy.' This will be neither understood nor believed, because children are seldom bored — except by work. The habit must be inculcated by conditioning at an early age.

"I do not believe in the modern tendency of educators, which is really more than a hundred years old, that the child should learn everything by playing, without an effort. Only exceptional people can learn without an effort. The vast majority are more likely to become television addicts or worse."

Maybe we will have to stop making of our world one glorious playland with its thrilling roller coasters and seemingly endless merry-go-rounds. Perhaps we ought to be a bit alarmed about the candid advertisement of

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays—

Many happy returns of the day to Dr. Irwin Chabon, Martin E. DeGraaff, Mrs. Joseph N. Friedman, David Gordon, Mrs. Eugene Hollander, Mrs. Philip Jadek, Mrs. Maurice N. Jaffe, Mrs. Emory Klein, Abe Newborn, Mrs. Louis Orwasher, Mrs. David Pik, Abraham Silver, Mrs. Isaac N. Trainin, Dr. Robert Wallach, Miss Cecilia Weiss.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Israel Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Gimbel, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Markson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Schenker and Dr. and Mrs. David Weisselberger.

Births—

A hearty Mazel Tov to our esteemed member, Dr. Harry Kaplan, upon the birth of a son to his children, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Kaplan of Baltimore, Maryland. May this second grandson bring Dr. Kaplan an abundant portion of joy and nachas.

A hearty Mazel Tov to our devoted members Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Lichtman, upon the birth of a son to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lichtman. We hope that this newest addition to the family will bring his parents and his grandparents abundant joy and happiness.

Member in the News—

We are happy to record the following piece of news which has been officially recognized by the daily newspapers, namely, the appointment of our esteemed member, Benjamin Bartel, as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Senior Corporate Officer of Alexander's Incorporated, the corporation which operates the Alexander's Department Stores. Our very best wishes to Mr. Bartel in this important business position.

Communal Responsibility—

Congratulations to our esteemed member, Eugene Hollander, who was recently appointed as a member of the National Board of Directors of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. The Orthodox Jewish community will be the beneficiary of his services. We wish him well.

America's best-selling magazine which boasted recently: "Playboy isn't a magazine a man just leafs through. It's a world ten million men each month live in and live by."

Maybe we all need a little wilderness.

H. L.

FOR OUR WEST SIDE READERS

Readers of this Bulletin who reside on the West Side of Manhattan may be interested to learn that Rabbi Haskel Lookstein will deliver an address at the weekly Oneg Shabbat Frum series of the Young Israel of the West Side next Friday night, February 7th.

The title of the Rabbi's address will be: "Does a Changing World Require a Changing Judaism? Thinking Aloud Some Unthinkable Thoughts." The program starts at 8:30 in the community house of the Young Israel of the West Side on West 91st Street.

NEW ① CERTIFIED FOODS

A number of new foods have been added to the products receiving the kashruth endorsement of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. These include the following:

Caterer-style hors d'oeuvres made by the Empire Kosher Poultry Co.

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GFC Sweet-Ner, a low-calorie granulated sugar substitute.

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A wide variety of Louis Sherry jellies and preserves, many of them in low calorie style.

FATHER AND SON MINYAN

Ninth Service

Held last Sunday, January 26th

Cantors

Alan Friedman
Norman Chideckel
David Orwasher

Breakfast sponsor:

William Lebowitz

* * *

Tenth Service

This Sunday, February 2nd

Cantors

Keith Barany
Joseph Klausner
George Blumenthal
Craig Barany

Breakfast sponsor:

Maurice N. Jaffe

THANK YOU

Our thanks to Fred Deutsch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua S. Deutsch, for his pinchhitting on Saturday, January 18th, as the Torah Reader, in the absence of Mr. Rosenberg who was ill at the time.

We are most grateful to Fred not only for his cooperation but also for the beautiful rendition of the Torah reading itself.

THE HERO BEHIND THE CLERICAL HAT

[The following story comes from the Israel Newspaper, Ma'ariv]

A black hatted dark clothed typical yeshiva bachur wiped the sweat off his brow during a midday ride in a crowded bus in the Jerusalem corridor and complained to himself about the heat. His muttering was overheard by a group of youths standing near him. One of them immediately began to taunt him: "It's not enough you shirk army duty but you have complaints as well . . . what should the boys at Suez say about the heat?"

The passengers waited for an argument to develop but Mr. A. Wilhelm, the yeshiva bachur, held his peace. Eventually he smiled gently at the youths and got off the bus and made his way to the religious village school where he was headmaster. A few hours later he returned to Jerusalem to keep an appointment with his army commander — about an award for distinguished service.

Mr. Wilhelm, a sergeant in a combat unit, is married with one child. During the hostilities his unit was heavily shelled. Under heavy fire, he dragged one of his wounded comrades back to safety and then returned to his post. Scarcely had he reached it when a shell crashed into it and killed one of his comrades, wounded another and slightly cut him after shattering his steel helmet to pieces.

During the search for cover his surviving comrade was killed and he was

felled by another shell and awoke in the hospital. He had been picked up for dead and only during the transfer to Hadassah hospital was it discovered that he was still alive. In the same ward lay the soldier he had saved.

In five days Wilhelm recovered and was ordered to an army rest home, but he never got there. He took his personal effects and returned to his unit. "How can one relax in a rest home when one's comrades are still in the field?" he said.

He was recommended for a decoration but insists that he does not deserve it and did less than many others including his own commander. "For me the pieces of my helmet are a sufficient decoration", he concluded.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

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DAVID SCHEINFELD

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Topic

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Instructor: RABBI MARTIN GORDON

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March 13, 27

Wednesdays: February 5th, 19th
March 5th, 19th, 26th

Time: 8:30 — 9:45 P.M.

Time: 8:30 — 9:45 P.M.

Registration may be accomplished by calling the
Synagogue Office or at the first session of each group.

THE JEWRY BOX

Served During Week of
January 19 - 24

Harry Heyman
Eugene Hollander

Will Serve During Week of
February 2 - 7

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Leon Daniel
Dr. Theodore R. Fink

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

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
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Synagogue Officials

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Haskel Lookstein Assoc. Rabbi
A. Joseph Cohen Cantor
Israel D. Rosenberg Ritual Director
Noam Shudofsky Youth Director

Officers of the Congregation

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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 Candles 4:50
Evening 5:00

SATURDAY SHABBAT SHIRAH

Morning 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:15
Pre-School Service
Dining Hall 11:00

Weekly Portion: Beshalah**Exodus 13:17 - 17:16****Haftorah: Judges 4:4 - 5:31**

Evening 5:00
Conclusion of Sabbath 5:45

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning 7:30
Sunday Morning 8:30
Father and Son Minyan 9:30
Evening 5:00

JUNIOR CONGREGATION**Saturday, February 1st****Cantors**

Jerald Berkowitz
Allan Friedman
Steven Berkowitz

Torah Reader

Samuel Friedman

SISTERHOOD KIDDUSH HOSTESSES**Saturday, February 1, 1969**

Mrs. Joseph N. Friedman
Mrs. Ira W. Nadler
Mrs. Abraham Silver
Mrs. Samuel Witkin

YAHREZITS**February**

1—LEONA ABRAMS
2—SAMUEL GALLER
2—DORA MILLER
2—BENJAMIN GOTTFRIED
2—ROSE CALZINGER
2—FANNIE LEWITTES
3—ELIEZER GROSS
3—HARRIS MANDELBAUM
5—FANNY DEBROVNER
5—GUSSIE POUST
5—MAX KESSLER
5—REBECCA BOOKBINDER
6—DAVID GOLDSTEIN
6—FANNY STRAUSS
7—MINNIE KATZ

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8:30 P.M.

Talmud

Wednesday, 8:00 P.M.

Elementary Hebrew

8:30 P.M.

Study Group

Prayer

**KOSHER BUTCHERS
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

For the information of residents of our neighborhood, we list the butchers under the supervision of the Park East Kashruth Board.

Max Backer

202 E. 87th St. — AT 9-7234

L. Berger

1224 Lexington Ave. — RE 7-9800

L. Feldman

1355 Second Ave. — RH 4-5918

Iser Salzman

1279 Second Ave. — RH 4-9823

Bernard Scheiner

1200 Madison Ave. — AT 9-5461

Leonard Schull

1163 Madison Ave. — SU 7-3545

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