



## "THE SYNAGOGUE AS AN INSTITUTION AND AS AN IDEA"

### A Review of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's Centennial Lecture

*In this issue of the Bulletin and in the next several issues I will try to summarize the Centennial Lecture delivered by my teacher, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, in our main synagogue on Dec. 6th.*

*May I suggest that you hold on to this issue of the Bulletin so that you will have a permanent record of the contents of the address. Needless to say, the Rav is not responsible for anything in the transmission of this review.*

H. L.

The synagogue is not the most popular institution in American Jewish life, even among the religious community. The agnostic, of course, does not need the synagogue. The religious Jew, however, should logically flock to it in great numbers and with enthusiasm. Nevertheless, the fact is that the "searching community" stays away from the synagogue.

#### Reasons for the unpopularity of the synagogue

There are several reasons for the failure of the synagogue to inspire commitment even from the religious community today. First and foremost, perhaps, is the anti-establishment mood of our times. The synagogue represents the establishment and hence it is an object of rebellion especially among the young.

A second reason is a commitment which competes with all other commitments in Jewish life. That is, of course, the loyalty which Israel inspires and which overshadows all other loyalties. On our charity list Israel is the first priority. When we look at a newspaper we look first for news of Israel. In our discussion groups and programs, Israel occupies the first place. At one time the synagogue was the center of Jewish life; today Israel occupies that place.

(Continued on Page 3)

*You are cordially invited to  
Shabbat services this week*

*Guest Speaker*

**Rabbi Samuel Nathan**

*President of the Yeshurun Synagogue in Jerusalem*

*The Torah will be read by:*

*Andrew Abraham*

*Kenneth Barany*

*Douglas Zippel*

### KJ Marks Association With Yeshurun Synagogue This Shabbat, January 6

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun will formally commemorate its association with the Yeshurun Synagogue in Jerusalem at Shabbat services this week, January 6th. The association is part of the observance of our centennial year. For the occasion we have invited Rabbi Samuel Nathan, the distinguished president of the Yeshurun Synagogue, to occupy the pulpit. Rabbi Nathan has received many of the members of Kehilath Jeshurun on their visits to the Yeshurun Synagogue. We will have an opportunity to return the compliment in our community this week.

Rabbi Nathan is an official in the Ministry of Tourism in Israel and has played a major role in the dramatic increase in tourism over the past years. Ordained by the Breslau Theological Seminary, he served as Senior Jewish Chaplain of the R.A.F. in the Mediterranean and Middle-East theatres during World War II. He was also a former personal secretary to the late Itzhak Ben-Zvi.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend services this Shabbat morning and to greet Rabbi Nathan.

### Forty-three Ramaz Seniors Out of Fifty-nine Score in Regents Scholarship Examination

We are proud to announce that out of fifty-nine seniors who were eligible to take the Regents Scholarship Examination for New York State students, twenty-six won a scholarship outright and an additional seventeen were high on the list of alternates so that they will eventually earn the scholarship. The total of forty-three out of fifty-nine is an extremely impressive one which should give pride to the students, their parents and the school.

We congratulate the students and their families and we are happy in particular to list the following children of members of the congregation who earned honors in this examination: Craig Barany, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barany; George Blumenthal, son of Dr. and Mrs. Mortimer Blumenthal; David Orwasher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Orwasher; and Malcolm Sage, son of Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Sage.

### Talmud Class Note

The Saturday afternoon Talmud Class will meet during the next two weeks at 4:00 P.M. in the Synagogue Library.



## In Memoriam

### HARRY S. TRUMAN

When our sages are deeply grieved by a death of a special person, they use the expression: "vai al d'avdin v'lo mishtakchin — woe unto us for him who is lost and whose likeness no longer exists." It is this sense of double loss that makes the passing of the late President Truman so painful.

He was known for his honesty and integrity. He was admired — and loved — for his genuine modesty and for his naive underestimate of himself. These are noble traits which have a Mosaic character to them.

But, for the Jewish people, he was most admired for another Mosaic quality — his compassion and concern for other human beings. "Va-yar b'sivlotam" — He saw and felt the pain of his fellow man.

This was reflected in his support of Israel: the demand for admission of 100,000 refugees into Palestine in 1945; the positive vote in the U.N. on November 29th, 1947; and the recognition of Israel eleven minutes after its coming into being. All of this was carried out against the strenuous opposition of the State Department. Compassion superseded power politics.

It was reflected in his championing of civil rights at a time when the Dixiecrats were in revolt and an election hung in the balance. His "Southern strategy" was a political failure but a moral and human success.

Even his most controversial decision to drop the Atom Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was explained by him in compassionate terms which he fully meant. He felt that by shortening the war the bomb would "save" hundreds of thousands of Americans and Japanese. Imagine a president worrying about the lives of people who were the perpetrators of such atrocities upon American P.O.W.s. Not too long ago Premier Golda Meir expressed similar sentiments concerning the loss of Arabs in the Six Day War.

Speaking of the role of a president, he once said to Ed Murrow: "There are about 15 million people in the country who can afford to have a representative in Washington to look after their interests, in addition to the Congressmen they have there . . . But there are 150 million people who can't afford that. They have but one man in the government to look after their interests, and that's the President of the United States. He is the lobbyist for 150 million people, and when he ceases to be that, those people are in a pretty bad way . . ."

Harry Truman was "good for the Jews": good in his support of our rights; but particularly good because he represented, on the whole, justice, compassion, and concern and involvement in the welfare of people everywhere. These are the qualities that Judaism fosters and when the leadership supports them Jews and Judaism can flourish — as can Americans and the American heritage.

We mourn his loss not alone for himself but for his kind of leadership which unfortunately is absent in our time.

H.L.

## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### Birthdays—

Many happy returns of the day to Herbert N. Abrams, Mrs. Harry W. Baumgarten, Mrs. Milton Berkowitz, Mrs. Philip Daffner, Mrs. Harry I. Freund, Mrs. Irving M. Geszel, Mrs. Nathan Goldsmith, Mrs. David Gordon, Isaac Hazan, Mrs. Charles B. Jacobs, Mrs. David Joseph, Mrs. Morton Kameron, Walter Koppel, Mrs. Abram Miller, Jacob M. Miller, Mrs. Henry M. Rem, Mrs. Irwin B. Robins, Frank Roth, Mrs. Arthur Rubinstein, Charles Scheidt, Irwin Schloss, Mrs. Emanuel M. Simon, Ralph Spencer, Mrs. Marco Wachter and Mrs. Wolf Zuckerman.

### Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Binstock, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Etra, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hollander, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob M. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Perlman, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Scheinberg, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Tanz, Mr. and Mrs. Marco Wachter and Dr. and Mrs. Judah Zizmor.

### Births—

Mazel Tov and all good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Avner upon the birth of a granddaughter, Devorah Eta, born to their children, Mr. and Mrs. George Avner of Far Rockaway. May the new arrival grow up in the best tradition of Torah, Chupah, and Ma'asim Tovim.

Similar congratulations and Mazel Tov to Mrs. Joseph Zeitlin upon the birth of a granddaughter, born to her children, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gershman. May the baby be a source of happiness and nachas to the entire family.

### Weddings—

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Perlman upon the marriage of their granddaughter, Susan Lieber, to Richard Rubenstein.

Similar good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Saul Linzer upon the marriage of their son, Bruce, to the former Susan Hilf.

### Get Well—

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Arthur Brown and to Benjamin Perlman who are now recuperating from illness in the hospital. We hope they will return to our midst very soon.

### Professional Honors—

Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Wachtel upon his induction recently as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. May he continue to merit such recognition for his professional achievements.

### Condolences—

We extend our condolences to Abraham Kamber upon the passing of his beloved brother, Harry Kamber. Similar expressions to Jack A. Rothenstein upon the passing of his beloved brother, Ben Stanley (Rothenstein). Our condolences also to Saul Linzer upon the passing of his beloved brother, Max Linzer.

May God comfort the bereaved families among all of us who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

## Bar Mitzvah



Michael Landa

Mazel Tov to Mr. and Mrs. William Landa on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael, which will be celebrated in our synagogue on Saturday morning, January 13th.

Michael is a student in Form II in the Ramaz Upper School. The Congregation will be the guests of the Bar Mitzvah family at kiddush following services.

LAST CALL FOR THE  
MEN'S CLUB THEATRE PARTY  
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## RAMAZ THANKS THE SISTERHOOD

The Ramaz family would like to thank the Sisterhood of Kehilath Jeshurun for donating a Yamaha Studio Piano to the school for its use. The piano will be kept in the Kamber Auditorium and will, of course, be available for use by the congregation in all of its activities.



## A REVIEW OF RABBI J. B. SOLOVEITCHIK'S CENTENNIAL LECTURE

(Continued)

There is a third, decisive reason for the unpopularity of the synagogue. It has been slow in adjusting to the deep psychological changes that have taken place in the American Jew over the past three decades.

Twenty or thirty years ago the American Jew was concerned with ceremony and protocol, decorum and dignity. He was very straight and proper; he was naive and simple minded in his faith and in his observances; he was not interested in, nor would he tolerate, any turns, twists or bends in religious performance. He liked the ceremony and he was comfortable with the formality.

### Changing Religious Preferences

The community today, however, is different, especially the young community. Young people are more complicated religiously, more dynamic in their religious search. Moreover they are infected with a degree of "chutzpah." They want a service which is more spontaneous and volatile, more fervent than fixed, more flexible than rigid. They are interested more in a house of study than in a house of prayer. They are alienated from scrup-

ulous, formalized and tightly organized worship.

The synagogue has not adjusted to this change in attitude. The result is a serious weakness in the synagogue and in public worship, a weakness that is evident not only among the young but among the middle-aged. There is a tendency to mock the synagogue and the rabbi as out of tune with the times. The community is often intolerant of the difficulties which beset the synagogue and its leadership.

This is the picture of synagogue life in the American Jewish community today. It is easy to draw the picture though it is much more difficult to prescribe changes. The facts are quite evident; the solutions are a little more difficult to arrive at.

It is worthwhile, however, to try to understand the synagogue not as a social or communal institution but rather in its deeper role as an idea, a religious experience, a vision, if you will. If we have erred in our rigid organization of synagogue life, part of the error is in the overemphasis which is given to the synagogue as an institution while we ignore the essential idea of the synagogue.

Basically, there are two ideas that

underlie the institution of the beit ha-kneset in particular and Jewish prayer in general. These ideas are:

1. Man is in exile, a homeless, drifting being.
2. Exiled or homeless man must pray.

### The Galut Experience

Galut, or exile, is the essence of the Jewish people. The association is firm and irrevocable. Moreover, it is unique to the Jewish nation.

No other nation has ever led an exilic existence. There have been displacements of people from native soil; but exile has not been the result. The first generation suffered from alienation and estrangement in the midst of its new surroundings. This is true of any immigrant in a new land whether his arrival there was a voluntary one or under duress.

The alienation, however, eases in time. The sense of estrangement is relieved. Even the nostalgia for the old land subsides in two or three generations. The grandchild of the immigrant knows only the new home. There is no commitment to the original homeland. Exile is a short-lived experience.

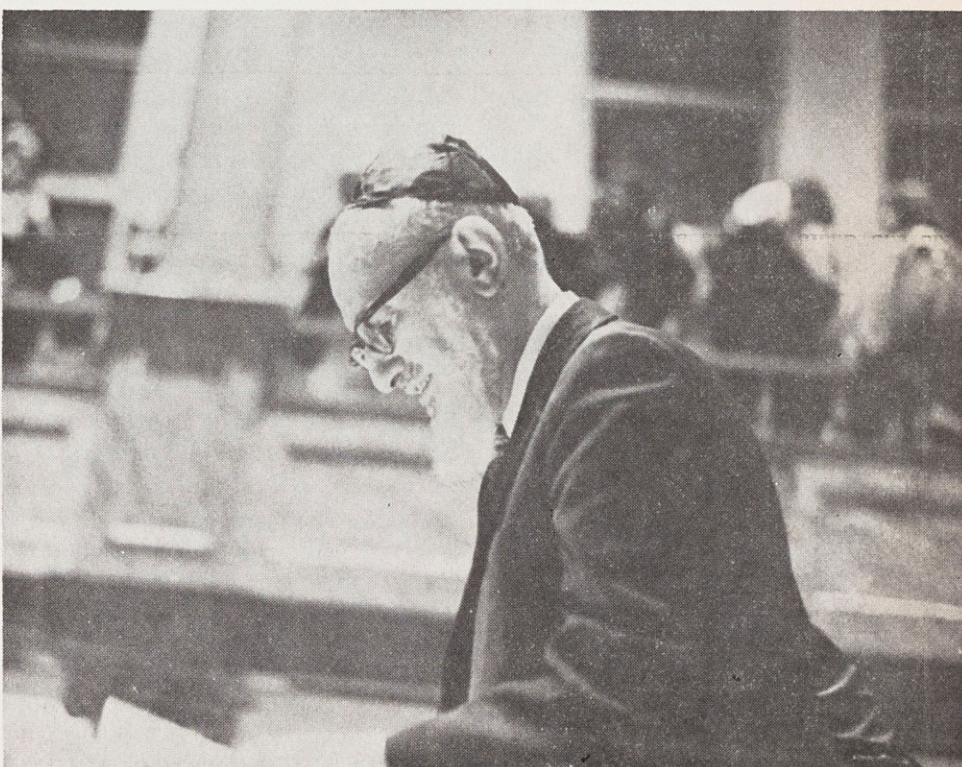
(to be continued)

### RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN TO PRESENT ORAL REVIEW OF RABBI SOLOVEITCHIK'S LECTURE MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8th at 11 A.M.

We are pleased to announce that Rabbi Haskel Lookstein will present a full review of Rabbi Soloveitchik's lecture on Monday morning, January 8 from 11:00 until 12:00 noon in the Synagogue Chapel. The review is intended especially for women, those who could not attend the lecture when it was first given and those who through no fault of their own were not able to hear or understand the lecture fully.

Those who have heard the rabbi review his teacher's lectures on previous occasions know that the opportunity is a special one which ought not to be missed. Questions will be entertained at the conclusion of the review and an open discussion of the various points will be invited.

An invitation is extended to all women to attend this session on Monday.



Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik delivering Centennial lecture in Main Synagogue, December 6, 1972



**Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun**

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

**Synagogue Officials**

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Haskel Lookstein ..... Assoc. Rabbi  
A. Joseph Cohen ..... Cantor  
Israel D. Rosenberg ..... Ritual Director  
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**Schedule of Services****FRIDAY, January 5**

Lighting of Candles ..... 4:25  
Evening ..... 4:40

**SATURDAY**

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

**Weekly Portion: VAERA****EXODUS 6:2 - 9:35****Haftarah: EZEKIEL 28:25-29:21**

Evening ..... 4:40  
Conclusion of Sabbath ..... 5:23

**FRIDAY, January 12**

Lighting of Candles ..... 4:32  
Evening ..... 4:45

**SATURDAY**

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

**Weekly Portion: BO****EXODUS 10:1 - 13:16****Haftarah: JEREMIAH 46:13-28**

Evening ..... 4:45  
Conclusion of Sabbath ..... 5:30

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Morning ..... 7:30  
Sunday Morning ..... 8:30  
Father and Son Minyan ..... 9:30  
Evening ..... 4:45  
Tu b'Shvat January 18th

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**Text of Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein's  
Presentation of Yeshiva University's  
Distinguished Service Award to  
Samuel Singer, Dec. 10, 1972**

"The Psalmist describes the happy and fortunate man. Of him he says: 'His wife is like a fruitful vine within his home; his children are like olive plants round about his table.'"

Before you, is such a man, in the person of Samuel Singer, whom we are about to honor.

By profession he is a Civil Engineer. But his true craftsmanship lies in the art of family solidarity.

By occupation he is a builder of apartment houses and institutions of every variety. His most blessed talents, however, are reserved for the construction of a household wherein a beloved wife and affectionate children, grandchildren and children-in-law are bound together by mutual love and respect. He is, indeed, the benevolent monarch of his home sanctuary wherein he reigns with tenderness and grace.

In the community he has become a senior statesman. At Kehilath Jeshurun he serves with distinction as an honored Trustee. He gave unsparingly of his skill, devotion and generosity to make possible our renovated and impressive House of God.

To Ramaz School he has become a dedicated benefactor. He loves every corner and crevice of that institution, and its students have become the beloved children of his spirit.

The landscape of New York bears testimony to his skill. The spiritual skyline of the Jewish community is a tribute to his spirit, his character and the richness of his soul.

I have the honor together with Rabbi Haskel Lookstein to present the Distinguished Service Award of Yeshiva University, to the kind, gentle and lovable Samuel Singer for him and his wonderful family to enjoy."

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7—Louis Scheffler  
7—Max Cohen  
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8—Kraina Broz  
8—Regina Margaretten  
8—Aaron Reinhold  
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8—Irving Stock  
9—Rabbi Samuel Schreiber  
9—Jesse Wilton Goldman  
9—Dora Dershowitz  
10—Bessie Wallach  
10—Akiva Schweitzer  
10—Blanka Rosenak  
10—Floyd Katske  
11—Max Phillips  
11—William Prince  
12—Anna Haber  
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