

Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



Volume XLIV, Number 4

November 12, 1976

19 Cheshvan, 5737

Thanks To The Auditorium Committee

Members of the congregational family and the Ramaz family have by this time seen the beautiful work which was done in the auditorium over the summer to enlarge the facilities and to redecorate it so that it is suitable for many uses. The entire project included construction work, redecoration, reupholstering of the chairs and the redoing of the floors.

The committee for this effort was headed by Samuel M. Eisenstat, the Secretary of the Congregation. It included Sidney Flatow whose suggestions were invaluable, as well as the following members: Dede Alpert, Yvonne Koppel and Ruth Shapiro.

Our special thanks to Nehama and Raphael Kourland, who served as architects and designers for this project. Through their help, the project was brought to a happy conclusion in time for the High Holy Days.

The cost of the project, slightly over \$30,000, was borne largely by the congregation. The Ramaz School absorbed the expense for the upholstering of the chairs.

Registration For Ramaz Is Now In Progress

Every year at this time we call to the attention of the community the fact that registration for the next academic year — in this case, 1977-78 — is now in progress. Space for Nursery, Kindergarten and Grade 1 is always at a premium. We expect it will be the same for the forthcoming year.

We would very much like to accommodate members of the Congregation and all interested families in the Upper East Side and West Side community. Please, therefore, be in touch with Mrs. Lassner, Director of the Office of Admissions at Ramaz School, 427-1000. She will inform you of the procedures for registration.

Mr. & Mr. Irwin Robins and Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bryskin To Report To Congregation On Their Russian Trips This Shabbat Afternoon, November 13th

At a Seudah Sh'lishith to be sponsored by Kehilath Jeshurun for Soviet Jewry this Shabbat Afternoon, November 13th, between Mincha and Ma'ariv, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Robins and Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bryskin will report to the Congregation on their recent trips to the Soviet Union.

Mr. and Mrs. Robins were in the Soviet Union during the High Holy

Day period, having visited Moscow, Leningrad, Kishinev and Odessa. Dr. and Mrs. Bryskin made a visit to the Soviet Union during July and August and visited nine cities, some of which have never been described to our congregational family.

We look forward to a very interesting discussion with ample time for questions and answers.

Couples Club to Discuss New York Jewish Community Guest Speaker, Malcolm Hoenlein Saturday Evening, November 20th

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York was organized to mobilize the strength of the world's largest Jewish community to respond to challenges and problems affecting all of us. The Couples Club is pleased to announce that on Saturday evening, November 20th, at 8:00 p.m. The Executive Director of the newly

created JCRC, Malcolm Hoenlein, will discuss the need for such effective political action.

The meeting will take place at the home of Nechie and Noam Shudofsky, 209 West 86th Street. All members of the Couples Club and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

A Call to the K.J. — Ramaz Community For Blood Donors, Sunday, November 21

On Sunday, November 21st, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., the Annual Blood Drive of Kehilath Jeshurun and Ramaz will be held in the Social Hall of our Synagogue House. This once-a-year event provides coverage to the entire congregational and school family for the blood needs of all members, parents and students and their immediate families during the course of the year.

In order for us to have that coverage, we must have 200 donors. People over the age of 65 are not able to give

blood. We call, therefore, upon all others in the congregational and Ramaz families to do their part in making this Blood Bank possible.

From the point of view of good citizenship, from the point of view of Jewish law which considers the giving of blood an act of *pikuach nefesh* and from the point of view of community solidarity, the donation of blood on Sunday, November 21st represents an important mitzvah, obligation and privilege. We hope that everyone who can give, will give.

We welcome the children and the parents of the Ramaz Nursery and Kindergarten classes who will be our guests for Shabbat, November 20th.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birth

Mazel Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Deutsch upon the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Deutsch. We pray that this latest arrival and her brother will grow up to Torah, Chupah and Ma'asim Tovim.

Bar-Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Mrs. Herman Greenberg on the Bar-Mitzvah of her grandson, Andrew Joel Greenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Greenberg.

Engagement

Mazel Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Adler upon the engagement of their granddaughter Naomi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berl S. Bonner, to Bernard Kandler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Kandler of Forest Hills. We hope the wedding will take place in happiness and health.

Communal Generosity

We are proud to report that on Wednesday, October 28th, the Hadasah Medical Organization dedicated the Sarah Gottesman Synagogue in its Mount Scopus Hospital. The Synagogue was dedicated in memory of the sainted mother of our Trustee, Benjamin Gottesman. Mr. Gottesman led a Mincha service for the occasion.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gottesman on this act of generosity on their part and on the help which they are giving to an important institution in the State of Israel.

Community Service

Congratulations to Mrs. Romie Shapiro, who will be honored at a luncheon of the Friends of the Hebrew Arts School for Music and Dance on Sunday, December 5th, at the Plaza. Mr. and Mrs. Shapiro are leading supporters of the Hebrew Arts School.

Condolence

We extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Samuel Feder on the passing of her beloved brother, our former Trustee, Leon Spilky. Similar expressions of comfort to Mrs. Spilky, a former officer of our Sisterhood, on the passing of her dear husband.

Mazel Tov to Ricki and Bernie

The congregation is pleased to congratulate our youth directors, Ricki and David Bernstein, on the birth of their first child, Jessica. The new arrival offered us the opportunity to celebrate the first Simchat Bat in the history of the K.J. community.

We pray that the joy which Jessica has brought to her parents by her birth will increase immeasurably as she grows in the spirit of Torah, Chupah and Ma'asim Tovim.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Oneg Shabbat

The first J.K. Oneg Shabbat of the year will take place Friday evening, November 12 at the home of David and Ricki Bernstein, 425 East 86th Street at 8:00 p.m. This always-popular J.K. activity features a relaxed Shabbat atmosphere. Refreshments will be served.

J.K. Horseback Riding

J.K. takes to the horses on Sunday morning, November 14. We will meet in front of the Synagogue at 10:30 a.m. Bring \$6 for the hour of riding, 50¢ for transportation, and your own lunch. We should return in the mid-afternoon.

Junior Congregation

Due to an error, the Bulletin did not print the officers elected for the month of Tishrei. We apologize to those officers who have helped get the Junior Congregation off to such a good start this year.

Joshua Rochlin *President*
Alan Brown *Vice President*
Shira Lookstein *Secretary*
Dana Gross *Kiddush Hostess*
Yanqui Major *Gabbai*

Elections for the month of Heshvan have already taken place, but after the printing deadline of this issue of the Bulletin. The new officers will appear in the next issue.

Shabbat Afternoon Groups

The afternoon groups have gotten off to a very strong start, so much so, that two additional leaders are needed. We would like to officially welcome Keith Barany and Felice Medwin to our staff, and hope that their addition will allow for even more personal attention for all of our children on Shabbat afternoon.

The groups meet every Shabbat afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A light snack is served at the end of the groups.

In Case You Need Blood

The Kehilath Jeshurun-Ramaz Blood Bank is available to serve the needs of members of the congregation and families in Ramaz School. In the event, God forbid, that anyone needs blood, the Chairman of our blood bank, Abe Esses should be contacted at 860-3266.

Please retain this information for future use.

In Memoriam

JOSEPH ROSSANT

We mourn the passing of a senior member of the congregation who genuinely loved every aspect of Kehilath Jeshurun and enjoyed his happiest moments while worshipping in our midst.

Joseph Rossant led a difficult life whose latter stages were marked by great pain and prolonged illness. Only his indigenous piety enabled him to endure his suffering. He never missed a day of davening; the pages of his Tehillim were worn and tattered; his feelings toward God were loving and toward man respectful.

May his daughter and grandchildren whom he loved so much and who loved him so dearly be comforted among all of us who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

MORRIS KATZ

We mourn also the passing of the beloved father of Mrs. Haskell Lookstein and the beloved husband of Mrs. Esther Katz. Morris Katz was a faithful servant of God. Like Moshe Rabeinu he was happy with his lot, joyous in the gifts which God had given to him and forgiving of the pain which he suffered.

He was a proud Jew who was thrilled with every honor which his people earned and who gloried in the establishment and accomplishments of the State of Israel and all of its citizens.

He breathed his last on Simchat Torah, the day on which we read of the passing of his namesake, Moshe. We pray that his dear wife, daughter, son-in-law and the entire family may be comforted among all of us who share their loss.

May his memory be a blessing for us all.

Shabbat Library

Shabbat connotes many pleasant activities primary among which are Torah study and reading. The synagogue now has books in its library which are specially designated for use during Shabbat. Books of Biblical Commentary and others of general Jewish interest can now be found on glass-enclosed shelves unlocked during Shabbat. The volumes may be used in the library or taken into the synagogue and later returned.

All are welcome and encouraged to use the Shabbat Library.

Thoughts At A Chain-In

Many people have come over to me during the past couple of weeks and said "I saw you on television"; "I saw your picture in the paper." They were referring to a demonstration which I led for the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry at the United Nations on October 27th, when a group of thirty rabbis chained themselves to the U.N. fence to demonstrate their solidarity with thirty Soviet Jews who were arrested in Moscow during the preceding days.

As I stood there at the fence speaking to WINS, watching the TV cameras and the press photographers doing their job and realizing that there would be a good deal of publicity, I was moved by two things. On the one hand, I was gratified that through the good work of the New York Conference, the public media were going to give this wide dissemination which is, of course, the purpose of any demonstration and the best guarantor for its short and long term success.

On the other hand, I was embarrassed by the thought that while my friends in Moscow were languishing in jail, I would be the beneficiary of this publicity. One does not have to be exceptionally modest to feel the pathos in such a paradoxical situation. You want to do a mitzvah; you want to help friends who are in serious danger; the publicity is essential for the effectiveness of what you are doing; and yet . . .

Now It Can Be Told

It was gratifying to learn that Jimmy Carter — then a candidate — sent a Telegram to Vladimir Slepak, the most prominent refusenik in the U.S.S.R., expressing his shock at the recent beatings administered to Slepak — who is now completing 15 days in prison — and his friends. We hope that the President-elect will continue to manifest interest in this struggle and, particularly, in the terrible plight of the Slepak family which has been waiting seven years for permission to emigrate.

We pray that even as our simulated chains were broken, their very real bondage will be ended.

H.L.

THE HANDSHAKE

The handshake is the product of an evolutionary development. Ages ago, among primitive societies, when strangers met they shook hands in order to make sure that neither carried weapons that may harm the other.

Sometimes the embrace replaced the handshake as a further precaution against the possibility of a physical attack.

In time the handshake became a gesture of friendship and a manifestation of sociability. Even the embrace in some countries has become a social symbol of welcome and affection.

Whatever the origin and whatever the subsequent development, the overindulgence in handshaking in the House of God ought to be evaluated from a religious point of view. In former days when a man was called to the Torah he made a **Mi Sheberach** prayer for friends and relatives. In addition, he would make an offering in honor of those friends and in behalf of his relatives. It was natural, therefore, that when he returned to his seat those whom he remembered would shake his hand in gratitude.

The practice of **Mi Sheberach** has been abolished in most synagogues. It certainly has not existed in Kehilath Jeshurun for at least four decades. Therefore, the greeting and salutation to one who was called to the Torah became unnecessary. The only thing that it might properly indicate is a congratulatory gesture to one who had the distinction of being called to the Torah. The late Rabbi Eliyahu Henkin, one of the Halakhic authorities in America, ruled that the mere calling to the Torah is in itself an honor that should fill the heart of the honoree

with gratitude. He, therefore, advised that there should be no handshaking following an Aliyah to the Torah.

The same applies to anyone who officiates as a reader at the service, especially on weekdays. He who reads a service should feel gratified that he was permitted to do so in the name of a congregation. He needs no further commendation from his fellow worshippers.

I notice that in Kehilath Jeshurun the handshaking syndrome has become almost a compulsive act. People have been seen to walk from a far end of the synagogue in order to shake the hand and congratulate someone who had an Aliyah or any other honor. It is utterly unnecessary to do that and, moreover, it is a disturbing practice and interferes with the dignity and the order of public worship.

I noticed also that people who arrive late at services interfere with those who are already engaged in prayer by shaking hands. That is actually forbidden by Jewish Law, and certainly at specific parts of important prayers.

I have noticed, too, that when the Rabbis and Officers proceed as an Honor Guard to the Torah, as it is brought to the reading desk, some people try to shake the hands of Rabbis and Officers. When those who act as Honor Guard to the Torah escort it to the reading desk they should not be distracted from the religious and ceremonial function that they are performing.

Let us remember that a friendly and dignified nod of the head is as much an acknowledgment of friendship in our culture, and especially in the religious culture of the synagogue, as is a handshake. J.H.L.

Last Call for the Men's Club Theatre Party "NO MAN'S LAND"

starring *Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud*

Wednesday, November 17th

All Proceeds go to the Philanthropic Program of the Men's Club

ADVANCE NOTICE

An ART AUCTION

Sponsored by

The K. J. Sisterhood

Saturday Night, December 11th

at 7:30

In the Kamber Auditorium

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**Friday, November 12**

Lighting of Candles	4:25
Evening	4:40

Saturday, November 13

Morning	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:15
Pre-School Service	11:00
Weekly Portion: Vayera	
Haftarah: II Kings 4	
Evening	4:30
Conclusion of Sabbath	5:18

Friday, November 19

Lighting of Candles	4:18
Evening	4:30

Saturday, November 20

Morning	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:15
Pre-School Service	11:00
Weekly Portion: Haya Sarah	
Haftarah: I Kings 1	

ROSH CHODESH PRAYERS

Rosh Chodesh Kislev will be on Tuesday, Nov. 23	
Evening	4:30
Conclusion of Sabbath	5:14

Friday, November 26

Lighting of Candles	4:14
Evening	4:30

Saturday, November 27

Morning	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:15
Pre-School Service	11:00
Weekly Portion: Toledot	
Haftarah: Malachi 1	
Evening	4:30
Conclusion of Sabbath	5:10

Weekday Services

Mornings	7:30
Sunday Mornings and Thanksgiving Day	8:30
Father and Son Minyan	9:30
Evenings	4:30

**KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN
CONG. KEHILATH JESHURUN**

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

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. Lookstein	Senior Rabbi
Haskel Lookstein	Rabbi
Avrum Davis	Cantor
Israel D. Rosenberg	Ritual Director
Mrs. Marcia Barany	Executive Sec'y

Officers of the Congregation

Harry W. Baumgarten	Hon. President
Max J. Etra	Hon. President
Nathan Salzman	President
William G. Lebowitz	Vice President
Samuel M. Eisenstat	Secretary
Edward Low	Treasurer
Mrs. Walter Koppel	Pres. Sist'd
Milton Berkowitz	Pres. Men's Club
Mrs. Charles Cohen	Pres. Couples Club

K. J. CALENDAR**Wednesdays**

Friendship Circle — 1:00 p.m.
Refreshments served. All invited.

Wednesday Evening, November 17

Men's Club Theatre Party
No Man's Land, Starring Sir John
Gielgud and Sir Ralph Richardson

Friday and Saturday, November 19-20

K.J. Singles Weekend
Oneg Shabbat Friday, 8:30 p.m.
Shabbat Lunch following Services

Saturday Evening, November 20

Couples Club

Sunday, November 21

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Blood Drive

A Modern Mikvah

is located in Our Community at
232-4 West 78th Street
(east of Broadway)
Telephone number
799-1520

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THANK YOU

On behalf of the Social Service Committee of Ramaz School and the J.K.'s, we would like to thank all those very generous and thoughtful people who came to our Mitzvah Car Wash on October 24th. The names are too numerous to mention.

We would like to thank:

The lady whose fender fell off between suds;

The man who drove up right in front of her and said: "Please! Just do the windshield!"

The man who didn't want his car washed but out of his car came four gallons of paint for the Shul.

The man who gave us new paint brushes to paint with;

The man who saw we were all starved and gave us all the surplus food from the Bat-Mitzvah;

The man who donated money at the end of the car wash to make sure we reached our goal: our grand total of \$350;

And who can forget Jimmy, who fixed our hose that squirted backwards?

To all those who came and watched their cars being washed, not knowing if they would ever be the same again;

To all those who didn't have cars but gave money anyway, just for the Mitzvah;

To Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, for his support, his patience and his car;

Thank you *all* very much!!!

L. R.