

# Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



Volume XLV, Number 3

October 14, 1977

Marcheshvan 2, 5738

## IT WAS A GREAT SIMCHAT TORAH!

That's what everyone either said or felt. Tuesday night the children outdid themselves in song and dance. The adults joined enthusiastically.

After services, Hakafot unlimited was practically unlimited. For well over an hour we danced and sang before sitting down to supper — sorry we were short; we didn't expect so many unlimitedniks — and then the Viennese Table: WOW!

And after it was over most of the gathering actually stayed to listen to some words of Torah before a gala community *benchin*.

But this was all a preliminary to the unrestrained joy of Wednesday morning. The Hakafot were never like this before. Round and round the shul we danced — and the women too., for

the first time; and they outlasted the men in both song and dance.

And then the children with Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein for *Kol ha-n'arim* — where did they all come from? It was so beautiful. And our three chasanim around whom we rejoiced some more.

And wonder of wonders, when 1:00 P.M. came and the service ended, the synagogue was still packed. What a tribute to the Torah, to Judaism and to the beautiful worshippers who made Simchat Torah a real *simcha*.

Whom shall we thank? Sandy? David? Gil? Bernie? Tova? Frannie? No, we had better not. This was a team effort. We will thank God for everybody!

## OUR THANKS TO WALTER KOPPEL AND COMPANY

This past Sukkot, approximately 900 meals were served in the Sukkah of our Synagogue, not counting the almost 100 diners who participated in the Men's Club dinner on Chol Ha-moed.

This great service to the Congregation was made possible by the dedicated and talented work of Walter Koppel and his splendid committee of co-workers. There is no possible way in which to thank Walter adequately or for that matter to express our gratitude properly to all of the people who made this Sukkot experience so enjoyable.

Walter's first lieutenant was Jerry Rindner who carried much of the burden for the Sukkah meals. Others who served as chairmen of individual meals in the Sukkah were: Mr. and Mrs. Asher Levitsky, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kaufman, Mrs. Walter Koppel, Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kahn, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Geisler, Ms. Maxine Diamond, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Roshwalb, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Medwin, Dr. and Mrs. Mortimer Blumenthal and Mrs. Raymond Gura.

### Our Thanks to Mrs. Trautman

Our warmest thanks to Mrs. Adie Trautman who was the Chairman of the Sisterhood Committee in charge of decorating the Sukkah. She and her co-chairman, Evelyn Rochlin, worked together with a large group of women and children, frequently in a driving rain, to decorate the Sukkah beautifully. One could never have guessed that the work was done under such difficult circumstances. All who were involved participated in a great mitzvah for which there was reward not alone for the mitzvah but for the extra effort.

### Kiddush Hosts

Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Trautman were the hosts for the Congregation's Kiddush in the Sukkah on the first two days of Yom Tov in celebration of their fortieth wedding anniversary and also in commemoration of forty years since they first arrived in America as refugees from the Holocaust. We congratulate them and we are grateful to them for their including us in this double celebration.

## RABBI ISSAC N. TRAININ AND COMMISSION ON SYNAGOGUE RELATIONS TO BE HONORED AT CONVOCATION NOVEMBER 6th

Our esteemed member, Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin, and the Commission on Synagogue Relations of Federation will be jointly honored on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. The honor will be conferred at a ceremony on Sunday, November 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M., at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue on Central Park West and 70th Street.

The Department of Religious Affairs of Federation serves as a model for Federations throughout the United States. Through the energy and talent of Rabbi Trainin, the Department founded the Commission on Synagogue Relations which brings together congregations of all religious varieties in the Jewish community to work jointly in behalf of Federation and to help ensure that Federation will be responsive to the needs of the religious community which it must serve.

The Rabbis and Officers of the Congregation will lead the Kehilath Jeshurun delegation to this convocation. Those members of the Congregation who understand the importance of Federation and the significance of religious participation in the decision making process at Federation are asked to join the delegation. Please call Mrs. Barany at the Synagogue Office to let us know that you would like to attend on November 6th.

### ATTENTION ALL LADIES!

The Sisterhood's first open meeting has been postponed from October 17th to October 24th. This was done in order to obtain the services of a very gifted artist, Tsirl Waletzky, whose exhibits in the art of paper cuts have earned her enthusiastic acclaim. Mrs. Waletzky, who deals with Jewish symbols exclusively, will display her work at the Sisterhood Open Meeting, and will conduct an audience participation workshop. Women are advised to bring embroidery scissors so that they may join in this exciting afternoon. Luncheon will be served at 12:30 P.M. prior to the meeting.



## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### **Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fink**

Our esteemed members, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fink have just celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. We congratulate them on this blessed milestone and we wish them many more years together in mutual happiness and in service to God and man. *Mazel Tov!*

### **Birth**

*Mazel tov* to our members, Mr. and Mrs. David Herman, who are the proud parents of Ari Chaim, born to them in their home in Greenville, Mississippi. Congratulations also to the proud grandmother, our devoted member, Mrs. Betty Herman.

### **A Son for the Bieler**

We are happy to extend a *mazel tov* to Rabbi and Mrs. Jack Bieler upon the birth of their first child, Daniel Yitzchak whose brit was celebrated in our synagogue on the second day of Sukkot. *Mazel tov* to the entire family on this blessed event. May Daniel Yitzchak grow up to a life of *Torah*, *chupah* and *ma'asim tovim*.

### **Condolences**

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Max Sadinoff upon the passing of her beloved brother, Max Zook.

Similar condolences to Marvin Schacter on the passing of his beloved mother, Bessie Schacter.

May the bereaved families be comforted among all of us who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

### **Members in Print**

We note with pride the publication of an article by our member, Dr. Michael Sigall, in the *Journal of the Psychoanalytic Review* this past summer. The article entitled "Political Science and Psychoanalysis" represents an attempt to study the impact of the 1968 Presidential election on individual behavior. Dr. Sigall has just left his professorial position in Political Science to become an attorney. The field of Political Science has been impoverished while the law has been enriched. We wish him good luck.

We are also pleased to note the publication in the May issue of the *New York State Journal of Medicine* of an article by our member, Dr. Joseph Litwins. The title of the article is "Sugar in Urine: Determination by Reduction of Copper — Methods From 1841 to 1941." Dr. Litwins is Consultant in Hematology at the Department of Medicine at Beth Israel Hospital and Associate Clinical Professor at New York Medical College. He is also a Lecturer at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University.

## Bat Mitzvah



**Leora Shudofsky**

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Noam Shudofsky upon the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah celebration of their daughter Leora. The celebration will be held on Shabbat afternoon, October 15th, beginning with Mincha at 5:30.

Leora, who is a student in Form I at Ramaz, will deliver a D'var Torah at a Seudah Shlishit at which the Congregation will be the guests of her parents.

*Mazel tov* to the entire Shudofsky family upon this very happy event.

## Bar Mitzvah



**Harry Schessel**

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Eli Schessel upon the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Harry, which will be observed at Shabbat services on October 22nd.

Harry, a student in Form II at Ramaz, will read the Torah and Haftorah on that day. The entire Congregation will be the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Schessel for Kiddush following services.

*Mazel tov* to the Schessel family on this significant milestone.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### **J. K.'s First Oneg**

The first Oneg Shabbat of the new year will take place Friday night, October 14 at 8:00 P.M., at the home of David and Ricki Bernstein, 425 East 86th Street. The evening will feature Naomi Mark (Ramaz class of '75), who has been very active of late in the anti-missionary movement. It promises to be an informative and fascinating discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, call the Bernsteins at 289-4921. Don't wait for an invitation. Just come!

### **A Special Shabbaton**

J.K. will host a group of high-school students from Temple Beth-El of Norwalk, Connecticut for the weekend of November 11-13. Plans are now underway for what promises to be a unique encounter with Jewish peers of a different background. More information will be coming in the mail—in the meantime, reserve this date!

### **Shabbat Afternoon Groups**

The afternoon groups have just begun their weekly meetings. We welcome all children from Nursery age through Grade 8 to join us from 3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. A light snack is served at the end of the meetings.

There will be *no* afternoon group meetings on November 12.

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP**

Boy Scout Troop 613, headed by Arnie Goldfarb and sponsored by the Men's Club of Kehilath Jeshurun, will hold meetings every Monday evening at 7:30. All boys in the Fifth Grade and older are invited to attend.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UJA MOBILIZATION**

We are reminded by Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon, Women's Chairman of UJA in our Congregation, that volunteers are needed for the mobilization program scheduled for the end of October. Those interested in helping in this important endeavor are asked to call the Synagogue Office.

### **IT SOUNDS INTERESTING**

Our Upper School psychologist, Isolde Cohen, will be leading a discussion group for widows and widowers at the 92nd Street Y on Thursday evenings beginning October 13. Please contact the Y if you or anyone you know would like to participate in this group. We highly recommend Isolde Cohen as a skillful and sensitive listener and respondent.



## WHY "BENCH"?

[The following is a brief resume of a discourse on the Grace After Meals, delivered by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein last year. It should provide food for thought on an important ritual as we begin the year.]

The problem of *Birkat ha-Mazon* is similar to the problem of prayer in general. Those of us who recite it learned to do so before we could understand the words. We recited it or chanted it by rote. Unfortunately, long after we became capable of understanding the words, we continued to *bench* by rote.

There are three things we might do to try to break this habit. In the first place, we might alter the chant of the *Birkat ha-Mazon*, singing part and reciting other parts with a view toward concentrating on the meaning of the words. The traditional melody of the *Benchin* is particularly ill-suited to understanding the meaning of the *b'rachot*. Simple recitation might help highlight some of the meaning.

Secondly, we ought to think together about why *Birkat ha-Mazon* is a requirement of Jewish law. What does it contribute to the experience of the table in a Jewish household? What value does the "*Benchin*" bring to our relationship with God and with man?

Finally, we ought to analyze seriously the entire text of the *Birkat Ha-mazon* and consider the different themes that are found in each *b'racha*. If we do so, we shall find many things to challenge our imagination.

For example, in the *b'racha* of thanksgiving ("*nodeh l'cha*"), why is the *b'rit* mentioned? Why Torah? Why Egypt and slavery? And why do we pray for Jerusalem and the people of Israel during the petition blessing which follows *nodeh*?

Obviously, *Birkat ha-Mazon* is more than simply an acknowledgement of God's role as a universal caterer. We are recognizing more than simply the provision of food as an ingredient in the God-man relationship. *Birkat ha-Mazon* is concerned with more than *mazon*.

### An Insight from the Ramban

Commenting on the source of the commandment in the Torah ("And when you eat and are satisfied, you shall bless God for the land . . ."), the *Ramban* writes as follows: "When you remember the servitude in Egypt and the affliction in the wilderness and when you eat and are satisfied in the good land, you must bless God for all of this."

Clearly the *Ramban* understands the *mitzvah* of *Birkat ha-Mazon* in terms of something more than merely physical sustenance at the moment. When

he speaks of remembering the exodus of Egypt, he is obviously thinking of Deuteronomy, Chapter 8, Verse 2 and those verses which follow and which lead up to the culminating Verse 10, in which the commandment for *Birkat ha-Mazon* is found. "*V'zacharta et kol ha-derech*" — "And you shall remember the entire road on which the Lord your God led you for these 40 years in the wilderness . . . He afflicted you and made you hungry and then gave you manna to eat . . . Your clothing did not rot upon you and your feet did not swell these 40 years . . . And God brought you to a beautiful land with water . . . wheat, barley and wine . . . iron ore and copper . . . And when you eat and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you."

### Two Types of Roads

When we *bench*, therefore, we thank God not alone for the food that we have just eaten, but for "*kol ha-derech*," the entire road that we have travelled to this point. That road exists on two levels. There is, first of all, the national road, the collective "*kol derech*." We thank God for having given to our forefathers a precious land (in our day: the State of Israel) and for having taken us out of the land of Egypt (*galut*) and for having redeemed us from the house of bondage (Germany, Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, lands of forced assimilation such as the Soviet Union, etc.).

Each generation thanks God in *Birkat ha-Mazon* for the "*kol ha-derech*" as it sees it. Israel, Egypt, the house of slavery are all generic terms for the road that the Jewish people travels collectively in every era and at every time. For our success in traveling that road, we thank God in *Birkat ha-Mazon*.

### A Personal Road

But there is also a personal "*kol ha-derech*." Each one of us follows his own road of progress and advancement: from infancy to maturity; from ignorance to understanding; from helplessness to accomplishment; from aimlessness to purposefulness.

The road is not always straight. There are ups and downs and many detours. But life is essentially a series of slow advances beginning with birth and not ending until one's last breath.

It is this personal "*kol ha-derech*"

that we remember too in our *benchin*. "For the covenant that Thou hast sealed in our flesh" (which marked the beginning of a purposeful existence, the start of our personal destiny), "for the Torah which You have taught us" (which gave us the road-signs and the direction for our lives), "for the statutes You have imparted to us" (which provide the patterns for a useful life), "and for life, goodness, kindness which You have graciously given to us" (the physical means with which to lead our lives), "and for the food which You give us at every hour, time and day" (for the dependability of God's life support in our behalf in every moment of our lives).

"*V' al ha-kol*" — for all of this — we thank God as we complete our meal. For He has commanded us that when we eat and we are satisfied, we should bless Him and thank Him, not alone for today but for all the yesterdays — national and personal — that led to today.

"Blessed art Thou oh Lord for the land and its sustenance — for the soil, the earth, the history from which comes the sustenance for the present and the future."

### Rabbi Jack Bieler

will hold the first session of his bi-weekly *parshat ha-shavua* class

this Friday night, October 14 at 8:30 in the home of

Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein 993 Park Ave. (corner 84th St.)

*Come and Learn!*

### RAMAZ MOTHER A CANDIDATE FOR CIVIL COURT JUDGESHIP

Mrs. Herbert Altman is a candidate for Civil Court Judge in the 5th Municipal Court District in Manhattan. She has been nominated by the Democratic and Liberal Parties in this election campaign.

Myriam Altman has served since 1967 as Law Secretary to Justice Allen Murray Myers of the New York State Supreme Court. In a voluntary capacity, she has served as legal consultant to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. She is a leading member of the Young Israel of Fifth Avenue of which her husband was President last year.

Mrs. Altman is best known to us as the mother of Michael and Daniel who are students at Ramaz in grades 6 and 3 respectively. We congratulate her upon her selection by the Judicial Selection Panel and her subsequent endorsement by two major parties in the city.



**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES****Friday, October 14**

Lighting of Candles .....5:58 P.M.  
Evening .....6:00 P.M.

**Saturday, October 15**

Morning .....9:00 A.M.  
Weekly Portion: Noah  
Haftorah: Isaiah 54  
Evening .....5:30 P.M.  
Conclusion of Sabbath .....6:43 P.M.

**Friday, October 21**

Lighting of Candles .....5:47 P.M.  
Evening .....6:00 P.M.

**Saturday, October 22**

Morning .....9:00 A.M.  
Weekly Portion: Lekh Lekha  
Haftorah: Isaiah 40  
Evening .....5:50 P.M.  
Conclusion of Sabbath .....6:43 P.M.

**Friday, October 28**

Lighting of Candles .....5:31 P.M.  
Evening .....5:50 P.M.

**Saturday, October 29**

Morning .....9:00 A.M.  
Weekly Portion: Vayera  
Haftorah: II Kings 4  
Evening .....5:45 P.M.  
Conclusion of Sabbath .....6:34 P.M.

**Weekday Services**

Morning .....7:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning .....8:30 A.M.  
Father and Son Minyan.....9:30 A.M.  
Evening .....6:00 P.M.  
Eastern Standard Time returns Sunday morning, October 30. Beginning that day, evening services will be at 4:45.

**FATHER AND SON MINYAN  
NOW IN PROGRESS**

We call to the attention of fathers, sons — and daughters, too — that the Sunday morning Minyan is now in progress. It meets every Sunday at 9:30. Breakfast is served at 10:30 and a gym period begins at 11:00.

We invite all young people and their parents to participate in this delightful service which is being conducted once again this year by David Kahn.

**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 .....Treasurer  
Irwin B. Robins .....Secretary  
Mrs. Walter Koppel .....Pres. Sist'd  
Walter Koppel .....Pres. Men's Club

**The Following Adult Courses Are  
Now in Session. Please Join by  
Coming to the Class of Your  
Choice:****Talmud: Rosh Hashanah**

Instructor: Rabbi Haskel Lookstein  
Hours: Saturday afternoons  
before Mincha

**Talmud (El Am): Berakhot**

Instructor: Dr. Gilbert N. Kahn  
Hours: Sundays, 9:15-10:30 A.M.

**Philosophical Themes as  
Reflected in the Bible**

Instructor: Mrs. Mina Glick  
Hours: Wednesday, 10-11:00 A.M.

**The Books of Joshua and Judges**

Instructor: Dr. Charles I. Cohen  
Hours: Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 P.M.

**In-depth Study of Bible  
and Commentaries**

Instructor: Rabbi Jack Bieler  
Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays,  
7:30-9:00 P.M.

**Parshat Ha-shavuah**

Instructor: Rabbi Jack Bieler  
Hours: Alternate Friday evenings,  
after dinner

**Hebrew to Read Siddur By**

Instructor: Mrs. Naomi Cohen  
Hours: Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

**The Philosophy of Maimonides**

Instructor: Dr. David Shatz  
Hours: Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

**In Memoriam****Abraham Silver**

A senior member of the Congregation went to his eternal reward before Sukkot after a long and difficult illness.

Abraham Silver was a cherished member of our congregational family. Quiet and dignified in bearing, precise and dependable in his behavior, a warm and generous Jew, he enjoyed worshipping with us and we were proud of his presence in our Synagogue.

His dear wife, Irene, is a leading member of the Sisterhood. During these last difficult years she assumed a heroic burden in caring for her husband with tenderness and love.

May she and her children be comforted among all of us who mourn his passing.

**MOSHE!**

What can you say about a young man who fills in for his father at a critical point and does so in a professional, dignified and self-effacing manner? All of the above refers to Moshe Rosenberg who, during his father's indisposition following Kol Nidre, quietly and unassumingly took on the burdens of a congregation during the entire Sukkot festival and carried out his father's functions in a flawless and most impressive manner. Moshe's Torah reading was beautiful and precise. His concern for the smooth functioning of services throughout Sukkot was comprehensive and painstaking. While we cannot say that Mr. Rosenberg's absence was not felt — it certainly was — we can praise him for the exemplary service of his youngest child.

May Moshe continue to help his fellow Jews in worship — but under less "strained" circumstances.

**THANK YOU**

Dr. William Herzig who, since the inauguration of our Auxiliary Service, has contributed his talents and energy to the beauty of that service, participated in an emergency effort this year on Yom Kippur when, in addition to serving as a Baal Tefilah in the Auxiliary Service, he "pinch hit" for Mr. Rosenberg in reading the Torah in the Main Synagogue. We are grateful to him for his cooperation.

We are similarly grateful to all those who helped out in assuming some of Mr. Rosenberg's burdens on Yom Kippur and Sukkot. In particular, David Kahn and Herman Smilow contributed greatly.

Thanks also to Mordie Mann and Binny Shudofsky for their voluntary contributions to the beautiful services in our Kamber Auditorium.

**RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL  
CHAPEL**

**CARL GROSSBERG  
ANDREW FIER**  
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