

LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN



Volume 8, No. 5

TU B'SHVAT

Shvat, 5733—Jan., 1973

From The Rabbi's Desk...

All of Israel as well as the Jewish religious establishment of America is in a furor concerning the recent decision of Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren removing the Langer twins from the category of "mamzerim" (products of an adulterous or incestuous union who are Biblically forbidden from marrying a Jew in religious ceremony). The Langers had been declared "mamzerim" by an earlier rabbinic court since their mother had been previously married without having received a religious divorce and so her relationship with Mr. Langer, her second husband, was technically an adulterous one. Rav Goren maintains that since her first husband was a proselyte whose conversion was an improper one, her first marriage is not recognized by Jewish law and the products of her second union (the Langer twins) are legitimate Israelites permitted to marry any Jew. The overwhelming majority of Roshei Yeshiva (leaders of Rabbinic Academies) both in America and in Israel are bitterly condemning Rav Goren's decision, claiming that he acted in undue haste and as a result of pressure from the secular state, viz. Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan.

I believe it is crucial that we understand that the halakhic process is a magnificent paradox. On the one hand, it is an objective codification of conduct which has provided historical continuity to the Jewish lifestyle, an absolute foundation and solid bedrock to a wandering people, and a transcendent quality to the most mundane of activities. The "four ells of halakha" have literally become the boundary lines for a nation which had been without a country for two millenia. On the other hand, this very halakhic structure is replete with compassion for the plight of the individual, and as a result of the complex system of the Oral Law, has managed to develop in accordance with the exigen-

(Continued on Page 2)



TU B'SHVAT



Lincoln Square Synagogue

200 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
New York, N.Y. 10023
874-6100

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From Rabbi's Desk (Cont'd)

cies of the times. Rabbinic ordinances and circumventions in areas of business practice and personal status have enabled the Jewish people to retain both the structure of continuity as well as the spontaneity of flexibility. Jewish law is both relevant and irrelevant, in the world and beyond this world, concerned and above concern. The great Rabbinic leaders of each generation have carefully maintained the delicate balance which is the legacy of authentic Judaism.

It is precisely because of this that the Talmud insists that, although two male observant witnesses are necessary for every change in personal status, a single Gentile is believed concerning the death of a specific Jew in a far-off town. "The rabbis were lenient so as to prevent a woman from living without a husband and being unable to remarry (Gittin 3a)",

(Continued on Page 3)

Schedule of Services

Thursday, January 4

Rosh Chodesh Shvat

Friday, January 5

Kindle Sabbath Candles 4:23 P.M.

Mincha and Kabbalat

Shabbat 4:35 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 6 (Vaera)

Sabbath Morning Services 8:45 A.M.

Exodus 6:2 - 9:35, Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

Talmud Class 3:40 P.M.

Mincha 4:25 P.M.

Friday, January 12

Kindle Sabbath Candles 4:30 P.M.

Mincha and Kabbalat

Shabbat 4:40 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 13 (Bo)

Sabbath Morning Services 8:45 A.M.

Exodus 10:1-13:16, Jeremiah 46:13-28

Talmud Class 3:45 P.M.

Mincha 4:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 18

Tu B'Shvat - Jewish Arbor Day

Friday, January 19

Kindle Sabbath Candles 4:38 P.M.

Mincha and Kabbalat

Shabbat 4:50 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 20 (Beshalach)

Shabbat Shirah

Sabbath Morning Services 8:45 A.M.

Exodus 13:17-17:16, Judges 4:4-5:31

Talmud Class 3:55 P.M.

Mincha 4:40 P.M.

Friday, January 26

Kindle Sabbath Candles 4:46 P.M.

Mincha and Kabbalat

Shabbat 4:55 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 27 (Yitro)

Sabbath Morning Services 8:45 A.M.

Exodus 18:1-20:23,

Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6

Talmud Class 4:00 P.M.

Mincha 4:45 P.M.

* * *

Daily Minyan

Weekdays 7:15 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.

Sundays and Holidays 8:30 A.M.

Rabbi Riskin teaches a halacha (law) following Daily Services.

Mincha and Maariv 6:00 P.M.

Important Notice:

The Sabbath is terminated Saturday evenings one hour after the candles were lit on the previous Friday.

Tu B'Shvat — New Year For Trees

On the 18th of January we shall celebrate the festival of Tu B'Shvat. The first mention of the New Year for Trees—Rosh Hashana La'ilanot—is found in the Talmud as a festival marking the beginning of a new year for the fruit crop. This festival arose from the need to indicate a particular day in the year when farmers would calculate the tithing tax for fruit grown during that year. The name Tu B'Shvat originates with the school of Hillel which claimed that the 15th of the month of Shvat or Chamisha Asar B'Shvat seemed the appropriate time for this celebration. (TU or TET and VAV are the numerical symbol for fifteen.) By then the heavy rains were almost over, the winter cold had gone and the first signs of spring were evident in the soil. The day was preserved, after its original purpose was lost, as a precious link binding the Holy Land to a people scattered for centuries throughout the world.

Today we maintain the custom of eating a variety of fruit on Tu B'Shvat. In Israel, the Carob tree bears a fruit known as Bokser which is eaten on this day. An important aspect of the development of Israel is afforestation. On Tu B'Shvat the planting of thousands of saplings accompanied by singing and rejoicing makes it truly a New Year for Trees.

Abraham Davis Hought

From Rabbi's Desk (Cont'd)

explain the Sages of the Talmud. Rabbi Moses Asserles, the famed codifier of "The Tablecloth" to the "Set Table (Shulchan Aruch)" was often lenient in matters of significant monetary loss, and in a far-reaching responsum permitted an orphan to be married on Friday night in order to prevent a personal tragedy.

It of course goes without saying that in every one of the cases where a leniency is in order, the rabbinic authority bases his decision upon a legitimate halakhic precedent. It is because of the breadth and heterogeneity of the "Sea of Talmud" and its commentaries that there is generally room for such individual decisions.

The Bible prohibits adultery, and expresses the severity of the crime by declaring the product of such a union incapable of marrying a regular Israelite. As in many other instances, the Bible is primarily concerned with forming attitudes rather than establishing practical law. It is therefore no wonder that the

death penalty appears rather frequently throughout the Pentateuch, whereas rabbinical law makes it well-nigh impossible to carry out capital punishment. (The actual deed itself must be witnessed by two observant Jews who must have given the perpetrator appropriate warning immediately before the crime. The witnesses are then rigorously questioned by twenty-three Judges to such an extent that both Rabbi Akiba and Rabbi Tarfon declare that had they served as Judges, no one would ever be condemned to death). Apparently the Written Torah dare not be taken literally for an accurate notion of authentic Jewish jurisprudence.

Similarly does the Oral Law teach with regard to mamzerut. Many rabbinic responsa go to great lengths to free an individual from the stigma of illegitimacy. It is in this vein that Rav Goren decided as he did, and I dare say he has acted in accordance with the noblest aspect of authentic halakha.

Yahrzeits

JOLAN GELLER

Sunday Evening, December 31
Monday, January 1

FRANK M. LOWENSTEIN

Tuesday Evening, January 2
Wednesday, January 3

SAMUEL ASHER

Friday Evening, January 5
Saturday, January 6

HARRY LEON LOBSENZ

Friday Evening, January 5
Saturday, January 6

ESTHER KLINGER

Wednesday Evening, January 10
Thursday, January 11

MOE NATHAN

Saturday Evening, January 13
Sunday, January 14

DANIEL J. LEVOWITZ

Monday Evening, January 15
Tuesday, January 16

JOSEPH HORWITZ

Tuesday Evening, January 16
Wednesday, January 17

SIDNEY SEIFERT

Saturday Evening, January 20
Sunday, January 21

ARTHUR COHN

Monday Evening, January 22
Tuesday, January 23

MARIA D. LANDAU

Monday Evening, January 22
Tuesday, January 23

TESS FOSTER

Friday Evening, January 26
Saturday, January 27

ISAAC BLOOM

Sunday Evening, January 28
Monday, January 29

FREIDA RIVKA MYERS

Sunday Evening, January 28
Monday, January 29

MARY ADLER

Monday Evening, January 29
Tuesday, January 30

SAMUEL HARRIS

Monday Evening, January 29
Tuesday, January 30

BETTY ROSENBERG

Tuesday Evening, January 30
Wednesday, January 31

JOSEPH OSTERWEIL

Wednesday Evening, January 31
Thursday, February 1

Yeshiva University Alumni Honored

The Junior League of the Women's Division of Yeshiva University presented an unforgettable evening in the Social Hall of Lincoln Square Synagogue. Five Manhattan Rabbis, all graduates of Yeshiva University, were honored that night. The affair was very ably chaired by Mrs. Norman Lamm, wife of the spiritual leader of the Jewish Center. The following were guests of honor: Rabbi Lamm, Rabbi Haskell Lookstein of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, Rabbi Steven Riskin of the Lincoln Square Synagogue, Rabbi O. Asher Reichel of the West Side Institutional Synagogue, and Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue.

What made the evening so unusual was the manner in which each of the foregoing Rabbis spoke of their student days at Yeshiva University. They told the au-

dience, which included many members of the aforementioned synagogues, about the effect Yeshiva University had upon their future lives and chosen profession. They spoke about their personal experiences in attending YU which left such an imprint upon them. The guests were spellbound and fascinated by each individual's experiences. Those of us that attended were most impressed by the inspiration and devotion that each of these Rabbis received from Dr. Samuel Belkin and Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, both of whom were recorded not only as great Hebraic scholars but also as profound human beings.

Each of the Rabbis received an award that evening. Orthodox Jewry can well be proud of Yeshiva University as it is a great institution of higher Jewish learning.

Ruth L. Belsky

Chevra Kaddisha

"What is the greatest example of chesed, of compassion?" Rabbi Riskin once queried of the Joseph Shapiro Academy Wednesday night class. No one knew. "Those acts we perform for the dead", the Rabbi explained. When we are kind to the living, the latent thought of reward may always exist. There is no recompense the dead can give the living. Roy Stern accepted the Rabbi's challenge by founding Lincoln Square's Chevra Kaddisha, our Holy Society, the Burial Society. The caring community which the synagogue is developing for the living, the Chevra Kaddisha is striving to extend to the dead.

After a number of practice sessions, we witnessed our first burial ceremony a few days ago. What is immediately striking is the simplicity and the symbolism. Rich, poor, successful, not successful, beautiful and not so, all end in the same plain pine box, white kittel, and straw pillow. The case before God must rest only with our soul.

Three knots tied in one place commemorate the three needed for "benching"; seven knots in another symbolize the Shabbat; ten elsewhere represent the Ten Commandments. The "chevra" element enters as two together quickly count aloud to thirteen, memorializing Maimonides' principles. "Aleph, bet, gimmel," ...and the final knot turned into the letter shin for God's name. ("It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be," someone said. "I tried not to think about it," was the reply.)

Through it all there are the prayers to say. The most common word is "berach-amim", meaning compassion. We'll have to learn the prayers by heart because it's difficult to do one's duty while holding a siddur in one hand. Finally, the simple black yarmulka and the tallith with one fringe cut. When we are all reunited, the midrash goes, we'll just tie the loose fringe back. Washing hands and then,

"Auf simchas."

"Auf simchas."

And you know that for the members of the Chevra Kaddisha, and the entire community, simcha will have an even deeper glow at LSS. We are caring for

Bach Will Overcome

The Bach Young Singles will overcome.

That was the general sentiment among Bachs, as news of the Young Couples' latest treachery spread. Unable to create any spirit of their own, the Couples slyly conspired to kidnap the Young Singles' Founder and President Elissa Abelow, match her up with Bob Burnett and then in March bring the pair into the Young Couples.

Actually, the Couples' desperate action was understandable, for there seems to be no holding BACH back. In October, sixty gathered to hear Rabbi Jonathan Porath; in November, our Shabbaton guest speaker was Margie Greenbaum of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. And always, there is the week's torah reading from a Bach perspective. (Example: Why did Jacob cry when he first saw Rachel? Not as Rashi says, because Jacob foresaw he would not be buried with Rachel, but because he realized he would no longer be single!) December was the month of our Chanukah Shabbaton and our First Kumsitz (managed by Barry Oppenden and Marilyn Cohen). And in January, we look forward to a joint Shabbat luncheon with the Senior Adults.

While we're reluctant to drop names for fear of Young Couple reprisals, Deena Geller and Barbara Siegal deserve thanks for mobilizing the Bazaar Bachs, Mark Sonnenschein for sticking with the Bach cloakroom chores, and Gail Aranoff for handling the Synagogue's Bikur Cholim.

If Bach, had a Vice President, she probably would be stolen by the Young Couples too. (Even the President's assistant has gone into hiding!) Presidentless but not without spirit, the Bachs vow to continue.

the departed, and we appreciate better the fragility of life and the inherent dignity of the human body.

Members of the Chevra Kaddisha Committee:

Julia Aaron
Peter Abelow
Eddie Abramson
Barry Eisenberg
Fred Gorsetman
Morton Landowne

Judi Riskin
Ingrid Roth
David Stern
Roy Stern
Joel Wachs
Shirley Wald

Sisterhood

The Chanukah Fiesta, an annual event at L.S.S., was great fun. Everyone seemed to enjoy himself. The food was delectable, especially the kugel, and the games were exciting. Our special thanks go to the Commissary Dept., Pauline Eilender, and Ruth and Beulah Gluckman. Many, many thanks go to our gracious Sisterhood hostesses and helpers, Hilda Goldner, Margie Goldberg, Esther Gold, Rose Goodman, Sylvia Giffler, Reba Geik, Bess Bergman, Anna I. Cohen, Jeannette Janashaw, Anne Abramson and Sue Golub.

We are also most grateful to the many generous donors of handsome gifts for the bingo prizes and for door raffles. The delighted winners of the gorgeous silver serving tray were Mr. and Mrs.

Schwartz, who just became Synagogue members. Congratulations! Rabbi Riskin spoke, and Rabbi Cohen kindled the Chanukah lights. Cantor Goffin sang beautifully in Hebrew and Yiddish. We, for our part, listened raptly and were truly uplifted. Vicky Riskin and Shuli Cohen, our Rebbitzins and Batya Goffin, graced us with their presence. We loved having them; it was a lovely party!

On November 20, 1972, at their regular meeting, the Sisterhood had the pleasure of listening to Charlotte Koltrun discuss "O, Jerusalem". Her theme was the significance, mystic, emotional and central to the Jew, of Jerusalem. The audience was moved and engrossed during this sensitive and erudite lecture.

Men's Club

We are very pleased to announce for our next meeting, to be held on

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 8, 1973,

that we have been fortunate in securing as our guest speaker

CAPTAIN DAVE PASCAL,

Commander of the 20th Precinct Police Department.

Captain Pascal will have a most important and interesting message for everyone in our community. We cordially extend an invitation to all members and their friends — ladies invited. Following Captain Pascal's talk there will be a question and answer period, followed by a social hour with refreshments.

As we approach the year 1973, we wish you all a year of good health and happiness and may it bring Shalom to Israel and to this troubled world.

Frank L. Taks, President

Annual Bazaar

The Annual Synagogue Bazaar was held on November 19 at the Riverside Plaza Hotel. In spite of adverse weather conditions and only a single Sale Day this year we netted almost \$3,500.

We greatly appreciate the hard work of Mr. Irving Chesnin, Mr. Louis Geik and Mr. Nathaniel Kramer who collected several donations of merchandise. We are grateful to Anne Abramson, Sonia Chesnin, and Mrs. Martha Cohn for their cooperation and assistance in organizing the event and to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Klein and Mr. and Mrs. Aharon Tehilim for their patience and endurance. Without their storage facilities the function would have been impossible.

As to the Day itself we could not have operated without the help of those who were up at the crack of dawn. First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr. Alex Brownstein and Mrs. Maurice S. Spanbock who transported the merchandise to the hotel as well as Leon Eisenmann, Robert Lunzer, Bill Stanley, Marjorie Goldberg, Laurie Kunkel, Leonore Richter and Jonathan Spanbock for their unbelievably hard work.

Last but not least a warm thank you to Mr. Frank Taks for being a devoted Treasurer and to all the Sisterhood ladies who patiently coped and persevered with the sometimes difficult customers throughout the day.

Vivien Eisenmann

Message From The President

A Board of Trustees meeting was held on November 27 and the following important motions were passed:

1. Membership dues were raised. Family memberships are now \$125 a year, single person memberships \$65. In order to attract new members from the families whose children attend the Hebrew schools, a \$25 rebate is to be allowed per family if any child or children attend the Hebrew school.

2. There are approximately 200 remaining seats to be dedicated. The Seat Dedication Committee under the chairmanship of Stanley Getzler has made the following change in the price of the seat dedication units:

The first fifty seats will remain at \$1000 per seat. The second fifty seats will be dedicated at \$1500 each, the third fifty at \$2000, and the remaining seats will cost \$2500 for a dedication unit. The Board felt this action would accelerate the sale of seats. A drive is now underway to complete the dedication of all seats in our sanctuary.

* * *

We are all happy to attend the Shabbat kiddush after morning services. This kiddush is sometimes sponsored by the Sisterhood and sometimes by congregants who wish to share a particular simcha with the congregation.

Sponsoring a kiddush is a delightful way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or to announce good news — a birth, engagement, or wedding. The cost of the standard wine and cake kiddush is \$100 and one may provide extra food at additional cost. If you are interested, please contact Anne Abramson or the office. The following dates have been sponsored:

Dec. 2, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morgenstern in honor of the birthdays of Arthur and Avrum Aaron;

Dec. 9, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moed;

Dec. 16, Mrs. William B. Herlands in honor of the "aufroof" of her son Jonathan Herlands;

Jan. 13, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Golub.

Arthur Morgenstern

The Sukenik Library

Visit the Sukenik Library, Sundays, 2-5 P.M. and Tuesday and Thursday, 7-9 P.M., for coffee, cookies, and conversation with our librarians, Laurie Kunkel and Edith Weinberg.

We have a small circulating collection of English language books on Jewish subjects. A few of our recent acquisitions are *Souls on Fire* by Wiesel, *The Book of Our Heritage* by Kitov, *Jewish Medical Ethics* by Jakobivite, *Jeremy and Judy say the Sh'ma*, and *The Sabbath* by Grunfeld. We also have subscriptions to "Sh'ma" and "Tradition." Try reading a book — you might like it.

In the near future, as soon as more people volunteer to help, the library will be open longer hours. Meanwhile, circulating books can be borrowed even when the librarians are absent. We also need more children's books, particularly from the excellent Jeremy and Judy series. If you have any of these and your children have outgrown them, we would be very happy to circulate them so that other children may enjoy them and learn.

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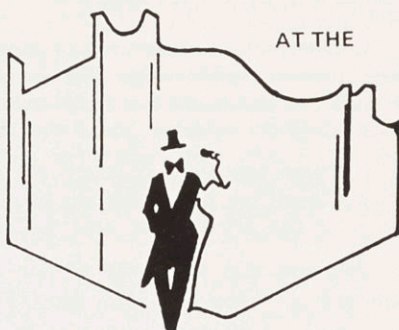
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Synagogue News and Notes

Many thanks to Gabbai and Mrs. Samuel Feld and Mrs. Ruth Belsky for their gracious Chanukah gift to the synagogue. Our Gabbai's silver menorah is a magnificent addition to the Bet Midrash. We can still use a few Maccabees, however, to substitute a Star of David for the Roman Eagle (or does it symbolize the Eagle's wings on which the Jews of the Diaspora will be transported to Israel?)...

An interesting dialogue between Mrs. Rose Halperin of Hadassah and Rabbi Riskin on secular Zionism vs. religious Zionism livened up a recent Oneg Shabbat. Professor Louis H. Feldman of Yeshiva University followed up the next week with "Jesus Freaks and the Jewish Tradition"... Our LSS Drop-In Center should provide important competition to Beth Sar Shalom... The Hebrew School parents and children had a most inspirational Friday evening dinner, arranged by Judi Riskin, Debby Abelow and the entire Hebrew School staff (aided by Vicky Riskin, Shulie Cohen, Miriam Abramson and Debby Deutsch). A complete Shabbaton for the beginners of the Shapiro Academy is scheduled for Dec. 22, 23... A stimulating couple's discussion was held in the home of Usher and Julia Aaron on "The Essenes," and another on Chanukah in the home of Gary and Debbie Eisenberg... Best wishes to Chaya, Fred and Atara Gorsetman in their new home at the Schwab House...

The Chanukah Party was a gala success, upstairs and downstairs. Despite the fact that Chanukah is not Purim, Eddie Abramson, Peter Abelow, Debbie Abelow, and Judi Riskin put on an hilarious skit. The ruach was great, and hopefully the spirits helped the Gabbaim spend a worthwhile evening with the ultimate commodity. This was Louis Goodman's chance to make up for his lack of aliyahs... Rumor has it that Elmer Klein is finally making good his threat and is giving himself and his wife an aliyah. With G-d's help and a surplus of buttons, he has spent much time counting inventory... Arthur Morgenstern is staying up until the wee hours of the morning lessening our indebtedness. We have a way to go, but affairs are looking brighter... Who says Shimshon can't daven hallel on Chanukah?

700 Chanukah Candles

On the afternoon before Chanukah, a few members of Lincoln Square Synagogue distributed pairs of Chanukah candles to passers-by at the corner of 72 Street and Broadway. Attached to the candles was a message from Rabbi Riskin, instructions for lighting candles for the first night, and "Happy Chanukah from Lincoln Square Synagogue." Many people had totally forgotten that it was Chanukah and eight people called the synagogue to thank the Rabbi for helping them to light candles for the first time in many years.

At Purim, God willing, with the assistance of many members of our congregation, we will distribute "shalach menot" to people in the neighborhood.

Congratulations and Mazel Tov:

- Elissa Abelow, President of BACH, on her engagement to Bob Burnett
- Mr. & Mrs. Amos Alter on their recent marriage
- Edna Bendheim of Stern College, on her engagement to Aver Zussman of Denver, Colorado
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Garfunkel, on their recent marriage
- Joan Glick, teacher at LSS Hebrew School, on her engagement to Yakov Bieler, teacher in Shapiro Academy
- Jonathan Herlands, Law Student at Columbia University, on his forthcoming marriage to Rachel Neumark
- Mr. & Mrs. Myron Smith on the Bar Mitzva of their son, Jeffrey
- Joel Wachs and Rabbi Barry Eisenberg for passing their New York Bar Examinations.

Condolences:

- Miss Gertrude Neuwirth on the passing of her beloved brother, Dr. Isaac Neuwirth.
- the family of Frank Schechter on the passing of our devoted member.

Lincoln Square Synagogue

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Calendar of Events

- Friday, January 5—Oneg Shabbat. Guest Speaker Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, "Hippies, Jesus Freaks and the Jewish Establishment" 8:30 P.M.
- Monday, January 8—Men's Club Meeting. Guest Speaker Captain Dave Pascal, Commander of the 20th Precinct Police Department 8:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 10—Movie Festival: "The Dybbuk", in Hebrew with English subtitles 7:30 P.M.
- Friday, January 12—Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 17—Movie Festival: "Me and the Colonel" 7:30 P.M.
- Thursday, January 18—Tu B'Shvat—Jewish Arbor Day
- Friday, January 19—Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 24—Movie Festival: "Laughter thru Tears", in Yiddish with English subtitles 7:30 P.M.
- Friday, January 26—Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

The Lincoln Square Synagogue Bulletin will be published at the beginning of each month from September until June. Articles and announcements are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor in care of the Synagogue office one month prior to publication.