

(Continued on Page 6)



Lincoln Square Synagogue

200 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
New York, N.Y. 10023
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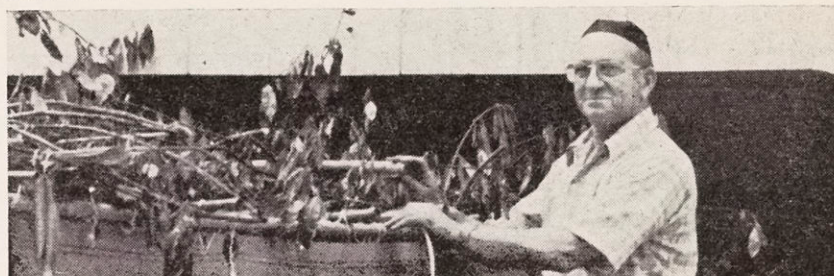
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On the front cover of our second issue, we featured a photo of Honorary Vice-President Adolph Katz putting up our Sukkah. No congregant would question that Mr. Katz deserves the title "Mr. Sukkah." However, *Echod* should have noted that credit for the actual labor of putting up the Sukkah must be extended to Lou Fenton. In the photo below, Mr. Fenton is shown checking the s'chach on our small front Sukkah. Thanks should also go to James Mormando and Tertulian Noel.



Schedule of Services

Friday, November 11

Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Morning Services.....7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
Kindle Shabbat Candles4:22 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:35 P.M.
Oneg Shabbat8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 12 (Toledote)

Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 A.M.
Genesis 25:19-28:9, Malachi 1:1-2:7
Talmud and Bible Class3:35 P.M.
Mincha4:20 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week4:35 P.M.

Friday, November 18

Kindle Shabbat Candles4:16 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat
Shabbat4:30 P.M.
Oneg Shabbat8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 19 (Vayetze)

Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 A.M.
Genesis 28:10-32:3, Hosea 12:13-14:10
Talmud and Bible Class.....3:30 P.M.
Mincha4:15 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
remainder of the week.....4:25 P.M.

Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

Morning Service8:30 A.M.

Friday, November 25

Kindle Shabbat Candles4:12 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat
Shabbat4:25 P.M.
Oneg Shabbat8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 26 (Vayishlach)

Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 A.M.
Genesis 32:4-36:43, Obadiah 1:1-21
Talmud and Bible Class.....3:25 P.M.
Mincha4:10 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
remainder of the week.....4:25 P.M.

Friday, December 2

Kindle Shabbat Candles4:09 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat
Shabbat4:20 P.M.
Oneg Shabbat8:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 3 (Vayeshev)

Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 A.M.
Genesis 34:1-40:23, Amos 2:6-3:8
Talmud and Bible Class3:25 P.M.
Mincha4:10 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
remainder of the week4:25 P.M.

Sunday Evening, December 4

Kindle First Chanukah Candle
Morning Services during Chanukah
will be at.....7:00 A.M. and 7:40 A.M.

Friday, December 9

Kindle Six Chanukah
Candles4:05 P.M.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:09 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat
Shabbat4:20 P.M.
Oneg Shabbat8:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 10 (Miketz)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Shabbat Chanukah
Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 A.M.
Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15,
7:42-47
Zechariah 2:14-4:7
Talmud and Bible Class.....3:25 P.M.
Mincha4:10 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
remainder of the week.....4:25 P.M.

The Sabbath is terminated Saturday evenings one hour after the
official candle-lighting time on the previous Friday afternoon.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat Early Services followed by classes in Bible and Talmud 8:00 A.M.
Regular Services 8:45 A.M.
Service for beginners and those with little Synagogue background 9:15 A.M.
Third Minyan followed by a class in Bible 9:45 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:00-11:15 A.M.
Shabbat Nursery (3-5 years old) 10:00 A.M.

DAILY MINYAN

Weekdays7:15 and 7:50 A.M.
Sunday7:15 and 8:30 A.M.
Legal Holidays8:30 A.M.
Rosh Chodesh7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
Chol Hamoed7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
Fast Days7:00 and 7:30 A.M.

SOME MODEST GOALS FOR 5738

The High Holy Days are behind us and our efforts for this year have now begun.

Hopes for Efrat glimmer tantalizingly in the background. The Joseph Shapiro Institute is already well into another exciting Fall term, as are the Feldman Hebrew School, the Morgenstern Nursery, and the Gustav Stern High School. Besides our individual goals, our component groups, the Women's League, Melanie Ross, Bach, etc., have set their aims. Still, we must set our specific communal goals too. Let us aim for the following:

* A Russian Center. More and more young Russians are coming to the West Side. Our assimilation and welcoming process presently consists of Miriam Sternberg. While Miriam performs incredibly, the present situation is unacceptable.

* The Elderly. Hakarat Tov, our Visiting the Elderly Group, is approaching its sixth birthday. However, despite the diligent efforts of the group leader, Deborah Klaff, the number of Lincoln Square visitors hovers around only thirty. While we might be commended for having any program at all, in truth our effort is much too little. This year, let us aim for 3% of the congregation either having a friend in a neighborhood home or assisting our in-house Senior Adults Group, led by Sophie Taks.

* Young Couples. While individual young couples are very active leaders of Lincoln Square, we no longer have a young couples group. Such a group, which should be the backbone of the Synagogue, is essential, at the very least, for welcoming new young couples into the community. Happily, the William Stanleys have assumed responsibility for welcoming all our many new members. Still, a young couples group should be a very active catalyst here.

Although Jeannette Aptheker is neither Russian, elderly, nor a young couple, you might contact her (799-7608) to join the Army of Lincoln Square.

This New Year Wish from Leah Katzin's family to their friends is *Echod's* wish for our congregation. Leah is a vivacious member of our Bach Group.

ב"ה WE HAVE LISTED BELOW THE BEST WISHES WE KNOW FOR THE NEW YEAR, ABOUT TO BEGIN FOR THESE WISHES, WE KNOW WHEN DOUBLED, DO SHOW THEY EQUATE TO THE YEAR COMING IN.		
WISH	DOUBLE NUMERICAL VALUE	ברכה
TRANQUILITY	218	מנוחה
REDEMPTION	90	גאולה
GOOD-FORTUNE	188	זל-טוב
HOPE	1022	תקוה
UNDERSTANDING	124	הבנה
HEALTH	1238	בריאות
SUCCESS	276	הצלחה
CONTENTMENT	1014	אשר
PEACE	752	לום
LOVE	26	אהבה
LIVELIHOOD	790	רנסה
THE NEW YEAR	5738	שנת
באהבה ומשפחה קצ'ין WITH LOVE FROM THE L. KATZINS		

IS EFRAT A RUSE??

Within twenty-four hours of Rabbi Riskin's terse Efrat announcement, your Synagogue bulletin rushed its ace reporter, Deborah Klaff, to the scene. The three persons she mentions below, Ruthie Elbaum, Tzippi Rothenberg and Michael Wolf, are all regulars at Lincoln Square. Ruthie is spending her second year of college at Hebrew University. Michael is in his first year of the smicha program at Yeshivat Ha-Kotel. Tzippi is vacationing with her family in Tel Aviv. The gentleman "Moskovitz" she stumbled upon is the Mayor of Shafir. Moshe Moskovitz, known throughout Israel as "Mo", is the most important person in the Efrat project. Here is Debbie's first (discouraging) dispatch:

To the Editor:

I am sending this express to report to you the unsuccessful attempts I have experienced in finding people who know about Efrat. I went to the main Government office only to find out no one knew what I was talking about. I told him someone must know. He made about 10 phone calls — including one to the Prime Minister's office. He was referred to Arik Sharon's office, and finally he spoke to someone named Benny Carter who knew about Rabbi Riskin and the idea to have an American settlement there. The exact place has not been decided upon yet, due to security reasons. He said he *thinks* a man named Moskovitz who he *thinks* is at Gush Etzion knows about it.

I don't have time to do a lot of unnecessary shlepping around.

Today I plan to meet Ruthie Elbaum, whom I ran into Yom Kippur in the Old City, to go to Bethlehem and we will ask around.

I cannot properly describe how good it feels being here — this is definitely the place to be. It was quite an experience davening at Yeshivat Ha-Kotel and at the Wall on Yom Kippur. Ruthie pointed out Michael Wolf to me. It is great being here with Tzippi and other Israeli friends — being with Israelis all the time has made me feel real "Israeli." All for now.

Your Israel Correspondent

Obviously, *Echod* is presently seeking a more competent ace reporter!

* Around the Square Over the Holidays *

Jimmy Carter did not show but everyone else did, as Lincoln Square celebrated a jubilant Simhat Torah, culminating the Holidays . . . Our traditional Seventh Hakofot March to 150, Lincoln Square's original home, was even more extensive this year . . . Led (more or less) by our three Rabbis and Cantor, after *Rav Riskin* danced for a while with 150's doorman, as he does each year, we took a round-about route back to the Shul . . . With *Rabbi Buchwald*, *Mordechai Reich*, and *Jonathan Herlands* directing (and the Rabbi hampering our progress), about 300 strong we danced up West End Avenue to 71st Street and up to the Coliseum House (home of the Lincoln Square Yeshiva) . . . where *Paula Friedman* aroused the *Women's davenning* . . . There, about 70 females from L.S.S. conducted their own Services (and thanks to *Helen Becker* for sponsoring a kiddush). One of the highlights was the spirited auction for Attah Horaisa; the money collected will be used for a kolleket scholarship . . . Reinforced, we marched downtown on Broadway back to the Synagogue to duly honor our Hattanim, *Martin Romerovski*, *Samuel Kevelson*, and *Robert Burnat*.

One of the highlights of the night before, following the Gabboim Party with a dvar Torah by *Amos Alter*, was "perpetrator" *Chashi Freedman's* theft of *Rav Riskin's* "auctioneer's" hat which the latter liberated (without the assistance of "Retreat" Chairman *Sanford Bernstein*) for \$150 . . . Other highlights were the purchase of Attah Horaisa, for the third straight year, by the *Widlanski* Syndicate (*Dennis Nakonecky* made a Torah study purchase the next morning) and *Jerome Stern's* redemption of *Chazan Goffin* . . . *Fred Ehrman* brought *Robert Wagner, Jr.*; *Harrison Goldin* showed up too (and agreed with the Rabbi that the City's finances were in worse shape than the Shul's) as did *Ed Koch* (whom the Rabbi unqualifiedly declared "the next Mayor of New York") . . . The President of these United States had intended to arrive with *Koch*; the Rabbi had spoken with *Jody Powell*, the President's Press Secretary, and the Secret Service, about security arrangements for the Chief Executive (*Carter* not *Spanbock*) . . . The President probably did not appear because of his spat with *Koch* over the Palestinian terrorists . . . The Rabbi's pronouncements about *Ed Koch's* future was

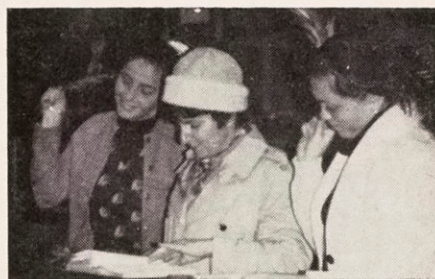
viewed by most City political pundits as clinching the election since, as *Jeannette Aptheker* conceded over Sukkot, "the Rabbi must have a direct line" — the rain never fell, just as he predicted, while we were in the Sukkah . . . Drizzle, yes, rain no. . .

With an assist from *Rafi Guber*, *Cantor Goffin* led the Sukkah singing . . . Much much thanks to *Eli Giffler* for his very generous supply of fruits and vegetables. . . All marvelled at *Debbie Fensterheim* who arranged the catered Sukkot meals very efficiently on a moment's notice . . . Thanks to *Andrea* and *Stephanie Montague*, arrangers of our seudah shlishit each Shabbat, who outdid themselves on Sukkot. (On the other hand, *Nina Freedman* is slipping; she only had thirty-nine guests for one of her meals . . .) Our appreciation to *Irene Stern* for a touch of the South — cotton and rice, and *Rachel Hinson* for her "know-how" in handling large groups . . . *Rabbi Buchwald* nastily charged that Synagogue Choir Leader, *Joel Baumer*, was "nothing" without sweet (voiced and otherwise) *Geri Klein*, who was in Florida for the first days; another view was that *Judy Flumenbaum*, *Dennis*, *Rabbi David Silber* and *Joel* were singing quite well; when *Geri* returned for Shemini Atzeret, though, we realized that *Rav Effie* was right . . . in addition to being beautifully decorated by *Shulie Cohen* and her committee, our Sukkah could be described as "electric" this year; anyway that was the reaction if you leaned against a metal pole.

Hattan Rabbi *Mordechai Feuerstein* spent Yom Tov introducing his lovely fiancée *Shaindel Freiberg*, not *Shaindel Feige*, as *Echod* previously reported. However, the editors of this publication have refused to issue either a retraction or correction, since the original announcement was based on two reliable sources . . . Meanwhile, on what was a most successful singles scene, the *Andrew Drucks* report overhearing one fellow lamenting that every girl he ever dated was at Lincoln Square for Simchat Torah . . . other things frequently overheard included: "what about that one?" . . . "the one in plaid?" The absolutely best line turned in, though, was the interchange of two non-Jews, as picked up by *Rabbi David* and *Helene Freedman* — "what are these Jews celebrating now?" to which the response, with assurance, was "Chanukah!"

SHULIE'S SUKKAH DECORATION COMMITTEE

Ms Carolyn Baughan	Ms Mimi Houseman
Miss Georgie Brown	Julie and Rachel Landau
Mrs. Lenore Brown	Debbie Pine
Yehuda Cohen	Batya and Elana Riskin
Ms Nesta Feldman	Mr. and Mrs. Steinhaus
The Gorsetman Girls	



Vivien Eisenmann, Nina Freedman and
Adinah Esterson on Hoshanah Rabbah.

SUCCAH KIDDUSH COMMITTEE

Elissa Burnat	Joan Kropf
Marcia Cohen	Rose Levin
Batya Fishman	Stephanie Montague
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Effie Reports

They came. Some alone—others in small groups. Some brought their parents. Most came hesitantly, almost apprehensively. They looked around the empty lobby — looking for direction. They peeked through the windows into the main Sanctuary. Soon they were ushered into the ballroom and took their seats — not knowing what to expect. Close to one hundred people came who had seen the advertisements for the "Free Rosh Hashana Service" to be held at the Lincoln Square Synagogue.

We began. They fidgeted nervously and unfamiliarly with the prayer-books. We didn't pray much — just the basics, and the shofar blowing. Instead, we talked about prayer, and provoked many questions. Can a question from a Jew who doesn't know how to pray be considered a prayer? Isn't it similar to the shepherd who knows only to whistle?

And so it went for 1½ hours. We swelled with *kavannah*: a feeling of friendship and warmth prevailed. Isn't this the feeling you get when saying *Unetaneh Tokef*? Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you from? What made you decide to come? Would you like to attend the full service tomorrow? Are you interested in classes? Would you like to learn how to pray?

We sang together. We laughed together. We felt very Jewish together, and proud. We concluded the service and invited them to come back tomorrow, to the free service or to the regular service. They lingered. They didn't want to leave so quickly. They stayed to talk. "I've been coming for a number of years now with my brother — we couldn't afford the regular service." "I was always interested, but too apprehensive about coming until I met the people who gave me the honey bags."

Please, please come back tomorrow! We will, we will. Thank you, Rabbi! Thank you, Rabbi!

Who's thanking whom? Thank you, Eddie. Thank you, Tamara. Thank you, Saul. Thank you, Rabbi Riskin and the Lincoln Square Synagogue. Thank you, Mordechai Reich. And thank you, God, for making Rosh Hashana so meaningful.

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Women's League Vice-Presidents Peggy Gellman and Phyllis Glasser are shown selecting raffle tickets at the Group's first general meeting. As a result of Rabbi Riskin's talk at that time on "The Lincoln Square Community and Israel Today," the ladies mobilized by sending telegrams to President Carter: "Don't pressure Israel regarding PLO." The phoning and letter-writing was spearheaded by Jeanette Aptheker, Lillian Goodman and Ruth Katz-Karpe. An exciting fashion show is planned for November 21st.

Joan Shwachman

High Holy Day Services

Frank L. Taks, Chairman

For our High Holy Day Services, we accommodated 500 people praying in the Main Sanctuary and 700 worshippers for our Auditorium services. Also, for our Yizkor services, we were able to accommodate 350 more people. Thanks to my co-chairmen, Ben Fruhlinger and Henry Moed, and their committee — Irving Mandel, William Stanley and Mark Wald, in assisting Mrs. Cohn in the sale and mailing of the tickets.

Thanks also to all those who did the ushering in the Main Sanctuary and the Auditorium, for their competent handling of a difficult job. In the Main Sanctuary, Co-Chairman Henry Moed was assisted by the following lovely young ladies: Clarisse Giffler, Phyllis Glasser, Joan Kropf, Julie Landau, Suzanne R. Paul and Joan Shwachman. The gentlemen who did the ushering were Kenneth Bossewitch, Chashi Freedman, Leslie

Hinson, Sidney Miller, Glenn Richter, Jeffrey Smith and Steven Smith. In the Auditorium, Co-Chairman Ben Fruhlinger was in complete charge and he and his committee did a terrific job. The lovely young ladies who assisted him were Sara Adelson, Susan Casper, Neta Feldman, Madeline Frank and Miriam Weiss. The gentlemen who did the ushering were Sidney Cohen, Sidney Lukin, Dr. Martin Mussman, Abe Neiman and Robert Silverstein. Due to all their efforts, our services were orderly and enjoyable.

It is difficult to envision the efforts extended to keep our special Yizkor services running smoothly. Peter Abelow and Mordechai Reich conducted the services and they were assisted by Owen Gottfried, Glenn Richter and William Stanley. They all did a wonderful job. We had praise from all who attended our services.

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ADULT SENIOR LEAGUE

by Sophie E. Taks



Our first get-together of the season was held on Monday afternoon, October 17th. We invite all Adult Seniors in our community to join us, every Monday afternoon, at 12:30 P.M.

Our volunteers are so happy to share with the Adult Seniors. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US WITH THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE OFFER YOUR SERVICES.** Our volunteers this season are: Nettie Korn, Ira Sommer Rae Werfel, Frank Taks and Melanie Ziering.

We look forward to greeting and welcoming our regular members and all Adult Seniors who would like to join us. Refreshments will be served.

חזל טוב

Births:

Mrs. Jean ARANSON on the birth of a granddaughter.

Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov BIELER on the birth of a son. Of course, the staff of *Echod* is unable, both for lack of knowledge and space, to list all of a person's contributions to Lincoln Square. However, in our brief goodbye to the Bielers in our last issue, we should have mentioned that this young couple stood out also for having guests in their home practically every Shabbat.

Mrs. Irene STERN, Mr. and Mrs. Harry RISKIN, and Dr. and Mrs. Roy STERN upon the birth of a granddaughter and daughter respectively. Mazel Tov too to the proud Uncle and Aunt.

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Engagements:

Charlotte NEIMAN to Allen ROSENTHAL.

Sandra SMITH to Lawrence FELDMAN. A very moving and memorable event at Lincoln Square's original home was Sandy's bat mitzvah. At that time, she spoke about Shabbat and the role of women. Subsequently, the team of Sandy and Clyde gained greater fame in our Synagogue than Bonnie and Clyde. Now Sandy will be moving to Harrisburg where Lawrence, a Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude Lehman Fellow, is a labor research analyst for the Pennsylvania Governor. We pray that the dreams of that Bat Mitzvah girl many years ago will guide their life together and bring them much happiness.

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From the Rabbi's Desk (Cont'd)

about his requirements for the future, about his commitment to Jewish destiny. In effect, he was saying: Our country is not only thirty years old, but is more than one hundred times thirty years old. Our boundaries are not to be decided by a transient document produced by a union of nations many of whom seek to destroy us, but by an eternal document given by a God whose Bible insures our ultimate salvation. Assuredly our tradition yearns for peace, and for the sake of true peace, everything is negotiable, but our blood-stained history has taught us that it would be folly to jeopardize our security without a true turning and face-to-face confrontation.

And the gifts our Prime Minister chose to bestow similarly reflected his sensitivity to Jewish values. A book and a sword, the symbols of national existence. We, the nation of Israel, are committed to live by the book and to disseminate its teachings throughout the world. With your understanding and political diplomacy, Mr. Carter, we shall have the merit to fulfill our destiny. But if we must use the sword to guarantee survival, if the voice of Jacob must resort to the hands of Esau, we have done so before (as the book itself testifies) and we are prepared to do so again. The choice, Mr. Carter, lies with you.

So Menachem Begin spoke, as it were, to the leader of the free world, the President of the United States. But when he went to the Kotel immediately following his election, and constantly makes reference to God's will and God's help in every public pronouncement, he is articulating what our history has iterated and reiterated: "Neither by might nor by strength, but by My Divine Spirit." "May the Lord grant strength to His people. May the Lord bless His people with peace."

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SIMHAT TORAH RUACH REPORT CARD

Rabbi Riskin	A
Rabbi Cohen	B+
Rabbi Buchwald	B+
Cantor Goffin	B- (room for improvement)
President Spanbock	C (just passing)
Treasurer Joselit	D (disappointing)
Secretary Alter	D (not up to potential)
Gabbai Eisenmann	D- (spotty)
A+ grades, as always, for Jonathan and Rachel Herlands.	

MESHUGENAH LETTERS

edited by Meshugenah Rifke

Since Rabbi Riskin briefly touched on the possibility of Aliyah over Shabbos Shuvah, I have been inundated with letters discussing the many ramifications of such a move. What follows are not actual letters, but my own paraphrasing of those letters raising issues which (1) recurred in many congregant's notes and (2) were deemed the most significant:

Dear Meshugenah:

If Rabbi Riskin goes to Efrat, who will announce the pages at Lincoln Square?

Page Announcer

Dear Page:

Mrs. Cohn has agreed to add to her duties by announcing pages.

*

Dear Meshugenah:

Will there be a Synagogue bulletin in Efrat? Echod Lover

Dear Lover:

Of course! Vicky Riskin and Peter Abelow have independently suggested that the name of the bulletin should be "One."

*

Dear Meshugenah:

Is Synagogue Treasurer Richard Joselit going to Israel?

Curious Congregant

Dear C.C.:

I sure hope so!

*

Dear Meshugenah:

How will Cantor Goffin be adjusting to the Synagogue's move to Israel? And the Cantor?

Dear And:

He will sing louder.

*

Dear Meshugenah:

Will there be a Bach Singles Group in Efrat?

Worried Bachnik

Dear Worried:

There will always be a Bach.

*

Dear Meshugenah:

What will you personally be doing when Lincoln Square moves to Israel? And You?

Dear You:

I am torn. On the one hand, I love Israel; on the other, I love this Synagogue. Therefore, I have decided to choose a middle course. I am moving to Monsey.

Dear Meshugenah:

I was away from L.S.S. during Sukkot, but I heard that there was a terrific traffic jam during the Hakofot on the first day. However, on the second day, Trustees Muk Eisenmann and Myron Smith choreographed the procession so well that there was little difficulty. Is this true? Also, why was Muk jumping so much on Simchat Torah?

Please Fill Me In

Dear Fill-in:

Muk had a very rough Yom Tov. A bad situation was compounded for him as his many tormentors were joined by his own son, Mark. When the latter, in a dramatic moment, fingered his father as a laggard in dancing, the problem was rectified quickly . . . Subsequently, Muk asked me to relate to the entire congregation that he enjoyed the vigorous dancing so much that he would like to repeat the ordeal many times during the year. (The rumor that Vivien already has booked the Eisenmanns into London for all the Yom Tovim next year is just vicious.) With respect to the jumping, Muk just likes to jump. A minor explanation is that Jonathan Herlands also likes to see Muk jump.

Everyone's picking on Muk is really unfair, and should stop. On Sukkot he did a fantastic job. Compare the first frame, below left, with the situation below right, after Muk's improvement.



Dear Meshugenah:

Rumors were flying fast and thick on Simchat Torah that the President of the United States was coming to Lincoln Square Synagogue together with Ed Koch. Is that true, and if so, why did Carter never show up?

Jimmy Here?

Dear Jimmy There:

Yes, the story is true. Honest. As to why the President never came, three theories are circulating:

1. Carter was miffed that he did not receive an invitation to one of the big Singles Simhat Torah bashes, such as those of Bob Miller, Irv Rheinsein and Tully Hersfeld. This possibility is unlikely, though, since the parties were for crashers only.

2. A second theory concerns security for the President at L.S.S. on Simchat Torah. This suggestion is really absurd. Although the ushers compared the situation to a world war, as anyone who was at the Synagogue could testify, everything was very orderly with little crowding. Besides, Martha Cohn was standing at the door, and she very probably would have recognized the President and allowed him to enter.

3. The most plausible explanation is that President Carter simply never received that little yellow membership card which would have allowed him access to the Main Sanctuary. I have written Jimmy that this was a foolish reason to stay away from the Synagogue since no one ever receives his mail on time. Anyway, Carter probably could have found *someone* in the Synagogue to say he was a relative or friend.

Dear Meshugenah:

When Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell spoke with Rabbi Riskin was there any discussion of the Rabbi replacing Bert Lance as Director of the Office of Management and Budget? This rumor has a ring of truth in view of the Rabbi's obvious familiarity with "overdrafts" and "backdating" as demonstrated in his Yom Kippur speech.

On to O.M.B.?

Dear O.M.B.

That really is stupid — circulating rumors like that. What do you want to accomplish — start a panic? If Rabbi Riskin got anywhere near the United States Treasury, there would be a Depression within two weeks.

תענוגים

Mr. Manny BANKHALTER on the loss of his beloved brother.

Mr. Tim BOXER on the loss of his beloved mother.

Dr. Milton HOUPY on the loss of his beloved father.

Mrs. Margaret-Zagelstein LYONS on the loss of her beloved sister.

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"... on the way to Efrat ..."

by Louis J. Frank

Bereishis, 35,19.

Not next year in Efrat but God willing in two! That is the challenging trumpet call to emanate from the Dream to build a parallel Lincoln Square type community in Israel. The Dream was first broached publicly by Rabbi Riskin in a two minute pre-Adon Olam announcement, on Shabbat Shuvah. The Rabbi emphasized that his family has no immediate intention of living in Israel. Still, we must begin to consider group Aliyah.

The Hope is that two years from today the first seventy-five families will settle into the first "neighborhood" of Efrat. The Dream is that by the year 1999, twenty-five thousand Jews will dwell there. The Dream, supported by architectural drawings, is that Efrat will become "a City of Gardens," a model city.

Three fundamental goals underlie the Dream. The first is to disseminate the understanding that Israel is an intrinsic component of Jewish theology. The second is to build a Jewish community between Jerusalem and the Gush. The Holy City must be surrounded by Jewish communities. Historically, the Land of Israel always has belonged to those who live in the mountainous areas. Finally, we must demonstrate that Torah Judaism will thrive in Israel.

Efrat will be "literally a Torah unit." At the City's center will be the main Synagogue and educational institutions. Each "neighborhood" within the City will house fifty to seventy-five families. Room will be allotted for each family to grow. In short, there will be "all the plusses of suburbia with as few as possible of the minuses." Many of the "neighborhoods" will house non-religious Jews, for Efrat must show that religious and non-religious may live well together.

The Israeli Government's decision is broad-based, with strong roots in the Rabin Government. Local B'nei Akiva in Montreal, Toronto, South Africa and Australia are involved. The Rabbi promises "there is definitely going to be an Efrat." *Echod* will inform the congregation continuously of progress on this project, and review its genesis and leadership in upcoming issues. For now, the most eloquent explanation for this endeavor may be found in a document prepared nearly two years ago by Dr. Ralph Marcus, an Efrat project leader. He wrote:

The Western religious community has given ambivalent support for the Zionist cause. While advocating the general political objectives of the Jewish State, we have consistently failed to advance the spiritual objectives of the Jewish State as a central factor in Jewish theology. While advocating material support for Israel, we largely have ignored the issue of religious aliyah, which could provide a crucial impetus to the growth of Torah Judaism in Israel.

The results of this vacuum of spirited religious leadership for the Jewish People, both within and without Israel, have been clear. There has been no significant growth of understanding between the religiously committed and uncommitted sectors of Jewish society. There has been no decline in Jewish cultural and religious assimilation. There



Dr. Ralph Marcus

has been no stemming the tide of materialism and secularism that has engulfed Israeli society.

Confronting these challenges, representatives of a new generation of Jews — born in the shadow of the Holocaust and reared in the light of the miraculous struggle of Israel to survive — have set the foundations for a new religious aliyah movement, Raishit Geula. Reaffirming that the Jewish People is united by a single history, a single land, a single Torah, and one God, we will seek to transform the religious and social ideals of Torah Judaism into a living reality in Eretz Yisrael.

WHEN IT COMES TO RELIGIOUS DEVOTION, LES IS MORE

By Nancy Trachtenberg

If you ever have wondered whether your identity as a Jew transcends racial barriers or whether converts are real Jews — you should meet Les Hinson. Les is easy to spot; he is the black men regularly at our Shul. He is a pious Jew, with an insatiable desire for Torah. Although Les is well within the Jewish tradition with his argument that “the way to a Jewish heart is through a Jewish meal (well, Shabbat is the mirror of the world to come — isn’t it?),” as could be expected, his path to Lincoln Square from a Christian boyhood in North Carolina is an unusual one.

Promoted to status ranks in the military, Les possesses an inquisitive, open mind. In 1963, he met his wife, Rachel; his eyes lit up when he saw her: “Her being appealed to me. We found we had everything in common except religion, so we decided to rectify the situation.”

From this statement it is impossible to deduce that Rachel was a white gentile; yet this attitude is frequently encountered with Les. “Problems of race never touched me — I never let them. Race is only a shallow distinction. People attempted to direct prejudice against me but my mother taught me to always conduct myself like a gentleman. Besides, now my identity as a Jew is paramount.”

In the army in Germany, Jewish friends invited him to participate in reform services. In 1964, he was married by a reform Rabbi, Israel Stein, “who is largely responsible for my conversion. He introduced me to a degree of Judaism. From him we learned Hebrew and some of the Mitzvot of Jewish life.”

Orthodox Rabbi Simcha Shaffern did not accept his reform, then later conservative, conversion. “He examined the papers and rightly said, “You are not Jewish” which made me feel uncomfortable enough to leave the military and relocate in New York City, primarily because of the availability of Torah study. Conversion is not simple; Rabbis are often not so willing and tend to put you off, like that would make you go away.”

The Jewish Press saved the day. One of its columnists, Esther Jungreis, especially concerned with outreach to Jews without Jewish backgrounds, happened to be giving a lecture in New York City. She immediately introduced Les to two Yeshiva University students, Abraham and David Feld, who put him up in the dormitory and made an appointment for Les to meet with Rabbi Riskin.

Meeting the Rabbi “bowled me over!” Having heard tapes of Rabbi Riskin, he was shocked to find him looking so modern. “I expected a much older, gray-bearded man.”

Les told the Rabbi his story. “I had attempted to convert twice but hadn’t truly succeeded.” Les expressed his sincere desire to study Torah and finally know what it meant to be a Jew. The Rabbi encouraged him to settle here — to study for a minimal cost and get a job.

Within two months Rachel joined Les here. With a woman’s intuition and conviction she immediately recognized that this community was what they needed and they both took classes at the Joseph Shapiro Institute. There they met Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and Rabbi Eliezer



Les Hinson sharing a laugh with Herb Weiss. Dennis Nakonecky is in the background.

Diamond. “They are wonderful teachers, straightforward and easy to understand.” To this day, Les regularly attends Rabbi Riskin’s shiur. “He is so inspiring; he has such a command of the Torah. It’s hard to put in words what learning does to

one. Although it’s not easy, you instinctively know it’s worth sticking to. Judaism is not just a state of mind. It calls upon you to act. But at times the conversion process did get discouraging, especially in the last three months.”

After a year he underwent bris milah and the ritual immersion in the mikvah where he and Rachel accepted the commandments. Today Les is an active member of the synagogue — always available to help compose a minyan, to share the community’s simchas or its grief. He is a member of the Chevra Kadisha. He is also an usher and regular attendee at the Gemorrah classes.

Les has two important plans. “I am not setting a date any more, but I plan to make Israel my permanent home once I can be financially stable there and I hope to be a Gemorrah teacher. I never met anyone in a Torah class who wasn’t beautiful.”

Refuseniks . . and the Chulent-Kugel Minyan

From chulent and kugel to the creation of a cohesive kehilah, Rabbi Herschel Cohen’s 9:45 Shabbat Minyan has commenced a project to aid Soviet Jews. Inspired by the work of Joel and Ronnie Basson, and led by Harold and Hannah Obstfeld, the Chulent-Kugelers have been collecting money for the Russians. The photo below is one of the first Refusenik families, the Yoffes of Moscow, to be assisted. Others active in this Lincoln Square effort are Salomon and Debbie Davis, Harry and Barbara Fishman and Martin and Mindy Stein.



Persons interested in assisting Jewish emigration from Rumania are asked to contact Cyrus Gilbert Abbe at 14 West 90th Street, N.Y.C. 10025. If you could help with the Synagogue's Out-Reach Program, please contact the Group Leader, Mordechai Reich. Stories on both these efforts will appear in the Chanukah edition of *Echod*.

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