



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

On this the Bar Mitzvah year of Lincoln Square Synagogue, it is proper to reflect upon goals and aspirations. Precisely what is the function of a synagogue and what are the purposes it ought reflect? I believe it crucial to understand that first and foremost a synagogue must be a model for the community and not merely a reflection of the community. The bad press which the clergy has received in books such as, "The Rabbi," and more recently, "Rachel the Rabbi's Wife," is precisely because these express situations where the synagogue reflects all the foibles of the congregants to whom it presumes to minister. Judaism has always understood that the rabbi must be teacher and guide, and in this capacity must hopefully lead his congregants to ever higher accomplishments in Torah learning and religious observances.

If this is to take place, however, a great aspect of the responsibility must devolve upon the congregants. If a large array of classes are being offered, a congregant must feel the obligation to participate. If varying times are offered for daily services, the congregant must make every effort to attend; if not daily, then at least a number of times each week, and if not every week, then at least a number of times each month. If there is a large Out-reach program, aimed at bringing in the uninitiated, each member must feel the responsibility and the desire to welcome such Jews into his home and to share with them his own religious experiences and development. The success of any synagogue depends in great measure upon the willingness of the individual congregant to grow and to share in the vision of the religious leadership.

I must admit that although I am most grateful to the congregation for enabling me to dream and to realize many important religious goals, I am sometimes disappointed at the lack of participation of the individual member. Oft-times one joins the synagogue with the question, what can it give me, rather than what can I give it. We must understand that it is only by giving that we ultimately receive, and it is only by putting ourselves out in our personal journey towards greater religious devotion, that we will achieve the sense of fulfillment that the synagogue is able to bring. Will we continue to be successful in the truest sense of the word? The answer really depends upon you, upon your involvement in classes, upon your participation in more and more of our daily minyanim, upon your cooperation in our Out-reach and In-reach ventures, upon your willingness to grow, to give, and to share.



Photo by LEVI TIEFENBRUNN

Purims Past: Rabbi and Mrs. George Washington

Shalom, Lincoln Square Synagogue

Martha Cohn, the grand matriarch of Lincoln Square Synagogue for over a decade, has retired as our Executive Secretary.

Echod reported earlier this year that a new member of the Synagogue, upon being introduced to Mrs. Cohn, remarked, "Oh, you're the office." He might well have said, "Oh, you're the Synagogue."



At the "surprise" kiddush for Mrs. Cohn on Shabbat Yitro, the Rav commented that the parsha was "Yitro" not "Moshe" in recognition of Yitro's efforts in establishing our people's organizational structure. By analogy, he continued, Lincoln Square might be known as The Martha Cohn Synagogue. (The kiddush was not a surprise since Mrs. Cohn has been the only person capable of arranging our kiddushim.)

Excluding our religious leadership, only she has commanded the esteem and affection of all of us. As Rabbi Cohen wrote in the Journal honoring Mrs. Cohn two years ago: "In her work for the Synagogue, she typifies the goals of this

(Continued on Page 4)

... מלמד שנתן הקב"ה

כינה יתירה באשה יותר מבאיש

... it teaches us that the Holy One, Blessed Be He, placed added understanding in Woman, more than in Man." (Nidah 45b) Separate tributes to Mrs. Cohn from Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Buchwald appear inside. Meshugenah Rifke's ridiculous explanation of Mrs. Cohn's retirement begins on page 5.



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ABOUT YOUR ECHOD

This Purim issue is unique in that the two yellow colored pages were edited by Meshugenah Rifke.

We have stood by the occasionally beleaguered Meshugenah Rifke, whose byline now has troubled five different L.S.S. bulletin staffs, generally for three reasons. We are true believers at Echod. We believe that Raishit Geula, our Israel plans, may have historic implication; we believe the Shul's successful educational and outreach programs are hugely significant; we believe that L.S.S. style chesed — Bikur Cholim, Hakarat Tov, and our other component groups, might serve, with due respect, as models for some other synagogues. With such heady dreams, we clearly need Meshugenah Rifke to retain some perspective. We frequently find Meshugenah Rifke funny and we believe that if we are able to share a laugh as a congregation, perhaps we will be able to see one another through the difficult times somewhat more easily.

The story is told that the Hafetz Hayyim once gently chided his yeshiva students for a shpiel that might have offended one of their rabbaim: "even on Purim, one must guard one's tongue." We have reiterated this reprimand to Meshugenah Rifke many times, but we also have been influenced by the converse of our own Rabbi's frequent reminder: "Remember, this IS Purim" ... which is what we would like you to remember while reading Meshugenah's Megillah.

Schedule of Services

Friday, March 17

Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:46 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:55 P.M.

Saturday, March 18 (Vayikra)

Shabbat Zachor
Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Deut. 25:17-19,
I Samuel 15:2-34
Talmud and Bible Class 5:00 P.M.
Mincha 5:45 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week 6:05 P.M.

Wednesday, March 22

Fast of Esther
Morning Services 7:00 and 7:30 A.M.
Mincha 5:55 P.M.

PURIM

Maariv and the Reading of the
Megillah 6:40 P.M.

Thursday, March 23

Morning Service and the Reading
of the Megillah 6:30 and 8:00 A.M.
Additional Megillah Readings
During the Day 12:30 and 4:45 P.M.

Friday, March 24

Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:52 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:05 P.M.

Saturday, March 25 (Tzav)

Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Leviticus 6:1-8:36, Jeremiah 7:21-8:3,
9:22-23
Talmud and Bible Class 5:05 P.M.
Mincha 5:50 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week 6:10 P.M.

Friday, March 31

Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:59 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:10 P.M.

Saturday, April 1 (Shemini)

Shabbat Parah
Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Leviticus 9:1-11:47, Numbers 19:1-22
Ezekiel 36:16-38
Talmud and Bible Class 5:15 P.M.
Mincha 6:00 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week 6:20 P.M.

Friday, April 7

Kindle Shabbat Candles 6:07 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:20 P.M.

Saturday, April 8 (Tazria)

Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Shabbat Hachodesh
Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Leviticus 12:1-13:59, Exodus 12:1-20,
Numbers 28:9-15, Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Talmud and Bible Class 5:20 P.M.
Mincha 6:05 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week 6:25 P.M.

Friday, April 14

Kindle Shabbat Candles 6:14 P.M.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:25 P.M.

Saturday, April 15 (Metzora)

Shabbat Hagadol
Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Leviticus 14:1-15:33, Malachi 3:4-24
Mincha followed by
Shabbat Hagadol Discourse 5:25 P.M.
Daily Mincha and Maariv for the
Remainder of the Week 6:30 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

Weekdays 7:15 and 7:50 A.M.
If a member requires a shiva minyan at his home, the second minyan meets there.
Sunday 7:15 and 8:30 A.M.
Legal Holidays 8:30 A.M.
Rosh Chodesh 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
Chol Hamoed 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
Fast Days 7:00 and 7:30 A.M.

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Around the Square, Through the Winter

(Winter at the Square was edited by the Echod staff from information supplied by our stringers at the various Synagogue groups.)

"Now, at least, and perhaps as long as man dwells upon the globe, his destiny is battle, and he has to take the chances of war. . . . It is not well for soldiers to think much about wounds. Sooner or later we shall fall, but meantime it is for us to fix our eyes upon the point to be stormed, and to get there if we can."

Freezing weather slowed New York City but the L.S.S. juggernaut continued forward. This is dramatized most clearly by Rose Levin's Bikur Cholim group that has visited patients at Roosevelt Hospital every single Shabbat, come snow or high water. (Sophie Tak's Senior Adults also have not been deterred by the weather from their Monday afternoon functions.) The leading ladies who have helped set this incredible Bikur Cholim record are Malka Bernstein, Deborah Klaff, Gertrude Herlands, Helen Sherman and Miriam Siegel; the gents are Mel Moed, Dennis Nakonechny, Baruch Sendic, Herb Weiss, and two young men from the Lincoln Square Yeshiva, Robin Goldfin and Howard Zeidel.

What is true at Bikur Cholim is true on almost every other front. Our Visiting the Elderly Group, which celebrated its sixth birthday in February, has gained two more excellent volunteers, Harold Goldberg and Eleanore Thaler. Norman Alpert, with help from Asher Miller and others, is incorporating this group which now has the nickname Debbie, Inc., after the group leader, Debbie Klaff. Our New Member Club, under the supervision of Bill and Aviva Stanley, also has not missed a step, with get-togethers in January and February. Active members who welcomed the newcomers include Jeannette Aptheker, Frummie Cohen, Sidney Cohen, Matthew and Debbie Hirschhorn and Charles Popper.

Meanwhile, according to Mordechai Reich, our outreach program "is moving from zinnia seeds to poppy seeds." 1500 westside Jews, with and without green thumbs, received Tu B'Shvat packages which included zinnia seed packets and a friendly message to visit L.S.S. The outreach program has been planting many different seeds. At this time, the group is working with our neighbors in Lincoln Towers, calling them and advising them of the many programs L.S.S. offers. The Torah Van continues to spread cheer in the neighborhood. On Purim, shalach manot packages complete with haman-taschen (prune and poppyseed!) will be distributed.

In the education department, the Joseph Shapiro Institute has added five new courses for the Spring, four in the language area plus a course on Tehilim. At the Gustav Stern High School, an exciting term is planned beginning with a visit by a mohel, Rabbi Kenny Davis (brother of our former Baal Koreh, Eddie Davis, who now is a most successful Rabbi in Richmond). The High Schoolers also will be visiting

LSS held its first Tu B'Shvat seder to celebrate the holiday of the trees and the beginning of spring in the Land of Israel. The seder is based on a 400-year old tradition of the Kabbalists of Sfat. Jonathan Wolf, an instructor at J.S.I., revived the tradition by conducting the seder for those of us who braved the snow and ice in New York to get in touch with springtime in Israel.

Wearing a tree T-shirt, Jon began the seder with an explanation of its historical background, and of the four cups of wine and various fruits and nuts that are tasted during the seder.

The first cup of wine was white, the second — white mixed with a drop of red, the third — a mixture of half white and half red, the fourth — red with a drop of white. The four cups of wine symbolize the change of seasons in Israel.

The fruits included the seven varieties of Israeli fruit mentioned in the Torah, as well as other varieties associated with the Land of Israel. The tasting of each fruit, in a specific order, was preceded by readings from the Tanach, Shir Hashirim, Talmud, Midrash, poetry and mystical texts that specifically mention each fruit. There were also many songs pertaining to the wine and fruits.

Jon pointed out the religio-ethical component of the holiday, such as the giving of tzedakah to contribute to the planting of trees in Israel and to provide food for those who are not able to enjoy the blessing and abundance that we shared at the seder.

May the tradition of the Tu B'Shvat seder spread in the years to come. Many thanks to Jon and to all those who assisted in bringing the tradition to L.S.S.

Malka Berman

the Yeshiva University Museum and will be celebrating Purim along with the George and Tanya Feldman Hebrew School and Melanie Ross Youth Group. That is if those groups find the time!

Events at the Hebrew School have been especially "laybedick." The youngsters celebrated Tu B'Shvat with bags of dried fruit and packets prepared by the L.S.S. Outreach program. (Hebrew School Administrator Sema Reich, wife of our Outreach Leader, Mordechai, unabashedly admits: "It's not what you know but whom you know.") A second successful Shabbaton luncheon was held on February 11. Even greater spirit

(Continued on Page 10)

תענוגים

Our condolences to:

Mrs. Rosalind BROWNSTEIN, our dedicated member, on the loss of her beloved father, Mr. William KONIAK.

Mrs. Irving CHESNIN, our founding and dedicated member, on the loss of her beloved sister, Mrs. Molly ZINER.

Mrs. Bruria OKONSKY, Director of our Morgenstern Nursery, on the loss of her beloved father, Mr. Mordechai MENDEL.

Mrs. Anita SEDLER, our dedicated member, on the loss of her beloved brother, Mr. Harry SEDLER.

Each loss at Lincoln Square cuts deep but we suffered particularly as a congregation during January with the deaths of our regular worshippers, Mr. Jacob ADLER, Mr. Zachary LEBWOHL and Mr. Nat MARK. Mr. Adler and Mr. Mark were founders of L.S.S., and Mr. Lebwohl, who assisted many in finding homes in the area, was a member for a slightly shorter time. What Rav Riskin said at the funeral of one, truly might be stated about all three gentlemen: they were all-seeing but unseen. They guided and served, but quietly and in an unassuming manner.

May the Almighty comfort the families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

We remember Rabbi Pinchas Bak

THE CHEVRA KADISHA

We urge our members to immediately contact the Synagogue office or the homes of Rabbi Riskin, Rabbi Cohen, or Leon Eisenmann, if Chas Va Shalom, a death should occur in their family. We will then, after consulting the family, make the proper arrangements with the Funeral Chapel, thus saving the mourning members of our congregation as much difficulty as possible.

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Shalom, Lincoln Square Synagogue (Cont'd)

place of Torah by establishing bridges between all the age groups . . ."

Serving as the right hand of every president the Synagogue has had, beginning with the mid-years of our founding President, Daniel Mars, she set the work pace at L.S.S. Our current President, Maurice Spanbock, states: "Like most other members of the Lincoln Square Synagogue family, my very first L.S.S. contact was with Martha Cohn. In the years that have intervened, I have never ceased to marvel at her prodigious efforts on behalf of the Shul." Rabbi Buchwald once "confessed" that if his dedication only paralleled Mrs. Cohn's, "we long ago would have completed outreach in Manhattan and would be well on our way to the Bronx and Brooklyn." Alternatively described as "indomitable," "indefatigable" or "indispensable," she always was "first in and last out." The trick may have been that she never left.

A few months ago, our dedicated secretary of five years, Marlene Beer, also left Lincoln Square, to the consternation of many congregants. While "indefatigability" generally was ascribed to Mrs. Cohn, the description also easily applied to Mrs. Beer who was hired as the Rabbi's secretary but assumed responsibility for many Synagogue areas, such as hospitality, at a time when we had no separate committee for that purpose.

When Martha Cohn commenced working at 150 West End Avenue, "hospitality" consisted of a veritable handful of families and our other projects were just a gleam in the Rabbi's eye. So, the Synagogue bulletin editorial assistants,

Emanuel Weidberg and Stanley Getzler (our Annual Dinner honoree this year who interviewed and hired Mrs. Cohn), wrote that they hoped "she can apply her experience to help us build up our Synagogue." At that time, Danny Mars was boasting that one hundred persons attended our Selichot Services. (For the past few years, Rav Riskin's talk on Selichot has been piped down to the

able, and the Shul family much smaller. There was no task too small for her; there was no task too great either.

Our wish for Mrs. Cohn is that expressed by Cantor Goffin: "May the years of her life equal the uncountable number of times she has worked above and beyond the expected requirements of her position."

There is no replacing Mrs. Cohn and Mrs. Beer, but of course the Army of Lincoln Square must move forward. Our office secretary of half a year, Clare Salkind, has been promoted for her good efforts to Office Manager. Our new secretary, since Thanksgiving, is Marise Hausner.



Marise Hausner

Marise, who has received rave reviews from numerous Synagogue leaders since coming on Thanksgiving, is a graduate of Hunter College where she majored in Hebrew, Jewish history and classics. She always has been extremely active in Jewish activities such as the American Zionist Youth Foundation and Mizrahi. During the Yom Kippur War, she served as Director of the Young Adults of American Mogen David. We hope that she can apply her experience to help us build up our Synagogue.

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overflow crowd that listens in the Social Hall.) So the facts speak for themselves.

In crises, she kept cool. Just as she caused the Synagogue to grow, she grew with the Shul. (At 76 years old, she commenced studying Elementary Yiddish in the Joseph Shapiro Institute last term.) She never ceased working to lament "the good old days" when our difficulties may have been more manage-

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MESHUGENAH'S MEGILLAH

CHAPTER I

ויהי בימי מנחם

This is Spanbock who reigned from the Hashkomah Minyan even unto the Beginner's Minyan (on those occasions when Kay Caterers are closed), but not unto the Coliseum House, Home of the Lincoln Square Yeshiva (which is free and independent "gone from the shackling, confining, stultifying hegemony" of the remainder of L.S.S. except for financial matters in which case the Yeshiva crawls, begs, borrows, and is subservient as every other offshoot). In those days, when the King Spanbock, in the third year of his reign, sat beside the Cantor Goffin, on the throne of the Synagogue (the only place one's seat is safe), which was on Amsterdam Avenue, nowhere near Efrat, Israel, he made a kiddush unto all his Officers and Board Members (to which the entire congregation is invited upon the conclusion of "Adon Olam." Please remain in your uncomfortable seats until that time, unless there is an "emergency" or natural disaster, in which case you may leave earlier). The Social Hall was jammed because no one has more Officers and Board Members than the King Spanbock. There, he showed the debts of his glorious kingdom; Rabbi Buchwald announced the thousands of homes that recently had been kashered. Then the King made a pitch for funds. Since that emptied the Social Hall pretty fast, the King made a kiddush unto all the congregants that were present in Lincoln Square, yea even unto the Chulent-Kugel Minyan, since they were too stuffed to eat too much anyway. Then the King made another pitch for funds. Each congregant gave 73% of his income, as that was the most recent interpretation of the law, as to the proper percentage to donate by the Rav of Lincoln Square. The congregants might have given more, but our kiddushim are no great shakes. Then the Office Secretary Martha Cohn (who many suspected was the real King) mailed out computer print-outs which carefully delineated how much each congregant owes from the year one.

And they gave us drink in plastic cups that were so tiny they doubled as thimbles. And Rav Effie prepared his special Simhat Torah brew. And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel except Rav Riskin who gets so stoned on Purim, he ends up praising his son, Hilly, and castigating Batya.

Also Peggy Gellman, Phyllis Glasser and Hannah Zilbergeld, the queens of the Women's League, made a fashion show for the women in the royal house which belonged to Maintenance Superintendent Lou Fenton. When the heart of the King was merry with schnapps, he commanded Getzler, Ehrman, Stern, Golub, Landowne, Alter and Taks, most of whom were Vice-Presidents, to bring Esther Baldinger, the Joseph Shapiro Institute Administrator, before the King to show her beauty, for she was fair to look upon. Yet the Administrator Esther refused to come, for she only responded (usually) to Dean Effie.

Thereupon, the King kept his cool and summoned Martha Cohn. However, the seven Vice-Presidents were scared of Mrs. Cohn and said they would rather summon the Rav. However, as the next available time to make an appointment with him was three years hence, the King summoned Martha Cohn.

However, the telephone was busy. When the King finally got through, Miriam Sternberg picked up and asked him if he could take a Russian family for supper. Then Miriam Weiss asked him if he could provide hospitality. Finally, Owen Gottfried signed him up for a singles luncheon (but without zemiroth). Then he was placed on "hold." Four hours later, Mrs. Cohn picked up and said: "Ich arbeit; ich hab kein zeit. Shalom, Lincoln Square Synagogue." (Roughly translated that means, "it's a typical day at the Synagogue.") Then she hung up.

Therefore was the King very wrath, and the chulent-kugel burned in him. Then the King said to the Rabbis (almost as numerous as the Vice-Presidents), who knew the score, for so was the King's manner toward all those who could announce pages: "What shall we do unto Martha Cohn forasmuch (the King was also a lawyer) as she hath not done the bidding of the King Spanbock?"

And Fred Ehrman, one of the Veeps, answered before the King and the Rabbis: "Martha Cohn, the Office Secretary, hath not done wrong to the King only, but also to all the officers, and to all the congregants, that are in the minyanim of the King Spanbock. So what else is new? . . . If it please the King, let there go forth an announcement from the pulpit, after the announcements *ad nauseum* about Rose Levin's group and Robert Burnat's Instant Hospitality, etc., and let it be written among the Synagogue postcards, which never arrive on time, that Martha Cohn work twice as hard at half the pay, and that the King give her Royal typewriter unto another that is better than she."

(Continued on Page 6)



Photo by MESHUGENAH PIFKE

Rabbi Cohen's Purim Message: "What a Willie, What a Loser, What a Shul."

Our masthead above was "designed" by our member, Marlene Schwarz. Marlene is a law student and obviously not much of an artist but we decided to give her a break since she is the editor's first cousin. (For all congregants who do not appreciate true art — Jack's Brown's *Echod* masthead on the front cover — and continue to insist that *Echod* needs a black border on top to stand out, please note the black line on top of *Mishugas*.)

The name — *Mishugas*, Craziness — has dual significance. The word reflects the Rabbi's decision to build a synagogue here in the first place. Our publication also is entitled *Mishugas* to serve as a monthly reminder of some of the weird things that are happening around here all the time. (How many other synagogues draw twelve hundred adult students each week by offering courses on Jewish Vegetables? Where else do that number of persons come each Shabbat just for a *shtetl* chulent and kugel?) What a Shul!

Shlomo's Plum

EFRAT,
ISRAEL
(no number yet)

Martha Cohn *Pretty Much Everything*
The Risk *Page Announcer*
Willie *Associate Rabbi*
Chaz *Cantor*
Effie *Yedidiah's Father*
Maurice S. Spanbock *King*

Mishugas

CAIRO,
ISRAEL

Meshugenah Rifke *Editor*
Meshugenah Pifke *Photography Editor*

Then answered the King: "She already works twenty-four hours a day, six days a week. Besides, *no one* is better than she." And I, Meshugenah Rifke, said: "Anyone is better than she," and I added, "Let her work on Shabbat too." This grieved Rabbi Cohen who said: "What a willie, what a loser, what a Shul." (It was not exactly clear whether Rabbi Cohen was describing me, the Veep, the King or the Office Secretary since he uses that phrase about everything.) So they compromised — Mrs. Cohn would type, but only in a baby carriage, that would be wheeled to the Shul on Shabbat. And the compromise pleased the King and the Officers, and the King did according to the word of Meshugenah Rifke, for he sent postcards to every congregant and messages to every minyan (except the First Minyan, which had davened so fast, they had left already). Then they also raised our dues.

CHAPTER II

After these things, when the wrath of King Spanbock was assuaged, he remembered Joel Wachs and that the editor still was single. Then said Stanley Getzler, the Top Veep: "Let there be sought for Joel young damsels fair to look on. Let the King appoint members of the Bach Group in all the minyanim of his kingdom, and all the classes of the Joseph Shapiro Institute, even unto the Morgenstern Nursery, that they may gather together all the fair young damsels unto Lincoln Square." And the thing pleased the king and he did so.

There was a certain Jew in Efrat whose name was Rav Riskin. And he tried to stay away from Joel because *Echod* was bad news. And the Rav insisted at the Shul Chanukah celebration that Joel be engaged by Purim for the reason that no good spouse would allow him to edit the bulletin. So it came to pass, when the King's commandment and his decree finally reached the congregation, that the Rav urged that Mrs. Cohn marry Joel. And the maiden pleased him and she obtained extra copies of the bulletin.

Therefore, Mrs. Cohn retired to raise their family.

And Joel retired to do something constructive.

And Rabbi Effie said "that's getting rid of two yekies with one engagement," and it was written in *Mishugas*, before the King. And Joel added: "the young couples of L.S.S. are great."

And the community of Lincoln Square shouted and was glad. The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honour. And in every minyan, and in every Synagogue group, whithersoever the Rav's commandment and his decree came, the congregation had gladness and joy, a feast and a good day.

Annotated Schedule of Services

The Sabbath is terminated Saturday evenings one hour after the official candle-lighting time on the previous Friday afternoon unless you come to Shul. In that case, the Sabbath is terminated much later because we are forced at seudah shlishit to listen to Binny Freedman's explanation of the Rabbi's Shabbos derash. If, however, C.B. Gast gives the dvar torah, there is a possibility that the Sabbath is terminated one hour after the official candle-lighting time . . .

SHABBAT SERVICES

HASHKOMAH. Pretty quick davening especially if Leo Weiss leads. For radical interpretation of week's parsha, attend Rabbi David Silber's class afterwards. . . 8:00 A.M. (but Charles Popper, the Minyan Leader, does not yell if you arrive before 8:30)

MAIN MINYAN. Good if you can get in; tough to get out. Hints: try to sneak by ushers with your coat because if you are forced to drop garment off in cloak room, might not depart Shul until Minhah . . . the following Shabbos. Another trick is to bring baby carriage to Synagogue — need not have children — advantage is that President Spanbock allows those with carriages to leave a few minutes early. If all else fails, have your kid start crying in which case you are forced to leave. Large attraction at Main Minyan is guessing whom Les Hinson will have to carry out . . . 8:45 A.M. (arrive before 8:48 to be sure of seat)

BEGINNER'S MINYAN. Punctual. Good. Only problem is listening to Rabbi Buchwald sing . . . but could be worse — could be Rabbi Riskin . . . 9:15 A.M.

CHULENT — KUGEL. Pleasant to chat. Try to join Vad Hataamim, Chulent-Kugel tasting team — in that way you miss Rabbi Cohen's dvar torah plus get first crack at chulent-kugel . . . depends when Hashkomah Minyan lets out

JUNIOR CONGREGATION. Take your life into your hands — occasional swingouts in men's section . . . 10:00 A.M. until Chaim Casper can't take it any more

NURSERY (3-5 years old). Not much davening but lots of fun. Problem is parents hanging around. (No one checks ages.) . . . 10:00 A.M.



Photo by MARNA SCHWARZ

Engaged: Joel Wachs with his arm around fiancée, Martha Cohn, as the latter examines Joan Mesznik's artwork to decide whether or not *Echod's* calligrapher should be asked to prepare the new couple's Ketubah. A Purim wedding is planned.

Editor Joel Wachs is a fraud. These two yellow pages are NOT my Megillah. He has cut and edited mercilessly. Censorship. CENSORSHIP. CENSORSHIP. If you want to discover who is the real Queen, if you want to learn who is the real Haman, then come to the Synagogue Purim Seudah on March 23rd, and pick up the real, hard-hitting, no-holds barred, telling-it-like-it-is, unexpurgated Meshugenah's Megillah which will be distributed there.

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FIRST MEMBERSHIP MALEVA MALKE

Joseph Kaplan commenced the discussion portion of the Synagogue's membership maleva malke by stating that he was reluctant to introduce this as the "first" such get together since we would only know by the evening's end whether such events would be held in the future. Five hours later, Joseph and Sharon Kaplan must have known that their efforts in chairing the event were much appreciated by the 150 members who attended.

The breadth of topics illustrated the many issues of concern. Gerald Kahn and Charles Nassofer spoke about community involvement — Jay Golub noted that he sits on the community school board and the Rabbi added that Phil Gassel, whose remarks as one of the four congregant panelists sparked much discussion, soon would be a member of the mid-west side poverty corporation.

Glenn Richter and Jonathan Herlands pressed the Rabbi on his Israel intentions. Mike Platzer wondered whether we were spreading ourselves too thin. Nina Freedman spoke about physical safety in our neighborhood.

Rabbi David Freedman urged a uniform eruv for the area. Bernard Falk commented that we should concentrate on the future and David Bedein said that happily we are "a Rabbi centered" congregation. Jeannette Aptheker and Phyllis Getzler, both panelists, spoke movingly about the warmth of the Shul. Phyllis explained that she had intended to speak about five things she liked about L.S.S. and five things she did not like, but, upon reflection, she could not come up with five of the latter.

President Spanbock persuasively presented the financial issues facing the Synagogue. As introduction, he related that although panelist Gassel noted that the Shul could not be expected to do everything, such as pick up the garbage, in fact, during the sanitation strike years ago, the Synagogue actually had been asked to assist with garbage pickup. The President informed his attentive listeners that while the number of persons using Shul facilities continued to expand, the number of actual members remained constant. (Michael Widlanski later suggested a membership drive.) Mr. Spanbock reminisced that he previously attended a Synagogue where the president appealed for funds every Shabbos. That experience was so distasteful that our President now purposefully refrains from such requests; nevertheless, he insisted that the financial need was urgent.

Other speakers included Amos Alter, Charles Eisenberg, Phyllis Glasser, Les Hinson, Morton Landowne, Rose Levin, Suzanne Paul, Shlomo Sherman, Morris Tiefenbrunn and Joel Wachs. The two issues which seemed to provoke the lengthiest discussion were the mehitzah and the involvement of young couples in Shul activities. As to the former, the Rabbi (who commenced and concluded the discussion) welcomed the formation of committees to discuss all issues, mentioned that there would be some adjustments of the mehitzah, but that, of course, the ultimate decisions rested with him; he appealed for a cessation of criticism of the young couples who are financially committed here and are involved in numerous activities such as the Annual Dinner Drive, the Chevra Kaddisha and other Shul functions. Rabbi Riskin's general thrust appeared to be that everyone must work harder for the Shul.

Earlier, Lenore Richter observed that



Discussing the future of L.S.S. at our first Membership Maleva Malke are Baal Koreh Michael Widlanski and Trustee Morris Tiefenbrunn.

most of the persons present were longtime members of the Shul. She learned two conclusions from this — old members had retained their interest, but perhaps the Shul was less than effective in assimilating newer members. What also was interesting was that although the Synagogue only is thirteen years old, two former leaders — ex-President Sidney Trompeter and the late Board Member and Yom Tov gabbai, Sam Rachlis, were paraphrased to support various arguments. Another instructive thought was that expressed by new member, Mrs. Herbert Stern, who said that other Shuls only should have our problems.

Serious discussion did not preoccupy the evening. For many, the highlight of the evening was Cantor Goffin's teaching of new nigunim. For others, the highlight was the pastries and chicken that was served. For everyone, there was a great deal to chew on.

TWO IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Suzanne Paul advises that this year's Synagogue Blood Drive is scheduled for March 19th.
2. Henry Moed advises that the congregation Passover Sedorim will be conducted by our Rabbis; further information will be forthcoming.



Ms. Rochelle ARANOFF
Mr. Peter Barry BEHR
Ms. Rachel CHODOROV
Ms. Chana FORSE
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew GROVEMAN
Mr. & Mrs. Mark HOFFER
Mr. Bernard KATZ
Mr. Gerald I. KESTENBAUM
Ms. Hilda KLINGER
Mr. Ran KORN
Mr. Ira KRULIK
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob LEWITIES
Mrs. Esther MANISCHEWITZ
Mr. Daniel D. PFEFFER
Dr. Tuvia ROME
Ms. Lanette SCHWARTZ
Ms. Joy SILBER
Ms. Simone ZAPUN

We heartily welcome you to Lincoln Square and invite you to join our army. Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much or suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat. To dare mighty things, become active in LSS activities by telephoning Jeannette Aptheker (799-7608).

RAISHIT GEULA ראשית גאולה

Our Israel project received a significant boost in mid-February with the hiring of our member, Rabbi Moshe Berliner, as Executive Director of Raishit Geula. Rabbi Berliner is the spiritual leader of Ahavat Ochim Congregation in Fairlawn, New Jersey.

A graduate of the University of Chicago where he majored in economics, the new Director received smicha from Yeshiva University. Among a lengthy list of credentials, two areas in which Rabbi Berliner played particularly prominent roles were as a founder of Project Ezra and Coordinator of Tehiah. We wish him well in this new challenge.



They were present at the creation and they have served in an active leadership capacity longer than anyone else.

On the first of Iyar, 5738, May 7, 1978, we honor ourselves by honoring our leaders, PHYLLIS and STANLEY GETZLER, at the thirteenth annual dinner of Merkaz Torah, the Lincoln Square Synagogue.

Journal Chairman — Morton Landowne

Dinner Chairpersons — David and Ceil Olivestone, Jenna Joselit

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General:

Mrs. Joy (Bekritzky) BASHEV-KIN, former "Bluebird of Happiness" of the Bach group, upon publication of her poem, "Dear Barbara Walters," in a recent issue of *Redbook* magazine.

L.S.S. Trustee Dr. Perry DAVIS, Senior Special Assistant to the President of the New York City Board of Education, upon his receipt of an award from the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers.

L.S.S. Trustee Dr. Martin FINKEL, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, upon his appointment as Chief Consultant in Gastroenterology to the Department of Sanitation of the City of New York.

At the Lincoln Square Annual Dinner honoring Martha Cohn, "Our Fair Lady" was "oysgebessert" by Vicky Riskin and Schlomit Rosenfeld. Many memorable songs were presented that evening. Excerpts from two of them, which should be sung to the melody of "Wouldn't it be Wonderful" and "I Could Have Danced all Night" are reproduced here:

All I want is a desk somewhere
Far away from polluted air
With one enormous chair . . .
Ach wouldn't it be wonderful?

I could have typed all night!
I could have typed all night!
And still have dredged up more.
Had I ignored those rings
I would have done the things
I should have done before.
I always know what makes it so
exhausting
Why every week my schedule's tight.
I only know when he
Starts to dictate to me
I know I'll type, type, type all night!

Martha Cohn — Tennis Freak?

by Rabbi Herschel Cohen

Connors grunted as he served into Vilas' forecourt. Connors raced in to attack the net to catch his opponent off stride. Vilas smashed a ferocious backhand whistling down the line for a winner. Vilas had beaten Connors before an enthusiastic crowd of almost 19,000 tennis fans.

It was 12:45 a.m. Martha Cohn had been sitting there at Madison Square Garden for almost six hours watching world championship tennis and enjoying every moment of it. She applauds every good play; she even jumps from her seat at a great play. Mrs. Cohn is a real tennis fan. Whenever a good match is to be televised, I always call her to make sure that she knows about it. Mrs. Cohn and I also have gone to the Forest Hills Tennis Championship together this year. She has a tremendous zest for watching and experiencing good tennis. She is an appreciative and demonstrative fan.

This is a picture of Mrs. Cohn that few have seen, and that I have been privileged to share with her. What I want you all to see is Martha Cohn, not only as ambassador of good will, Ner Tamid, and dedicated worker at Lincoln Square Synagogue, but a "fun person" to be with. A woman full of excitement and the gusto of life. It is difficult to say good-bye to Mrs. Cohn, so I will not. But should you be at Forest Hills or the Masters Grand Prix at Madison Square Garden, look carefully court-side and you will probably find Mrs. Cohn and me applauding and screaming and appreciating good tennis for many years to come.

Martha Cohn—A Lesson in MESIRAT NEFESH

by Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald

Many years have passed since I very briefly encountered Mrs. Martha Cohn for the first time, sitting behind the desk at 150 West End Avenue. She doesn't remember, I'm sure, but, it is one of those experiences one recalls vividly — an encounter with a memorable personality.

Ours has been one of those strange relationships. Sometimes you feel that you cannot get enough of Mrs. Cohn, and at other times, you feel you have had too much of Mrs. Cohn!

But, in my relationship with Martha Cohn, there always has been a bottom line. How often I have found myself saying "Mrs. Cohn, where are you when I need you?" "Mrs. Cohn, finish your other phone calls already, and answer me!" Is she really indispensable? Can one person be all that talented? I guess no one is really indispensable — so how has Mrs. Cohn managed to foster that image?

For six years I have been trying to put my finger on it — and I think I have it. Martha Cohn's secret is the rare quality of *mesirat nefesh* — unstinting dedication to the cause. And that's nothing to take lightly.

If you ask me what is the most serious shortcoming of modern Orthodox life — it is the lack of *mesirat nefesh*, that capacity to act selflessly for the enhancement of the quality of Jewish life. It is the inability of people to compromise their professional and career advancement, in order to improve the quality of their own family and communal life. It is the inability to give until it hurts, to work until fatigued, on behalf of a Jewish cause. Of course, there are exceptions — they merely serve to prove the rule.

There is no question in my mind that our approach to Judaism can, potentially, attract many more Jews back to Jewish life than the Lubavitch approach. The only thing is — we have the method, and they have the *mesirat nefesh*. And that makes all the difference!

Looking back on Martha Cohn's tenure at Lincoln Square, we can point to one fault. She did everything — but she apparently failed to teach us how to develop *mesirat nefesh*. Perhaps the finest tribute we can pay her at this time, is to show her that she has not failed in this either. Yes, Mrs. Cohn, you have succeeded, and we too, resolve to devote ourselves selflessly, to that very cause to which you have so remarkably given of yourself — the advancement and enhancement of Jewish life.



Photo by LEVI TIEFENBRUNN

Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Riskin and Martha Cohn (would you believe Rafi Guber, Jonathan Herlands and Rabbi Buchwald?) at the Annual Dinner honoring Mrs. Cohn, two years ago.

Purim Primer

by Dr. Howard Kaufman

On the fourteenth of Adar, we celebrate Purim to commemorate the salvation of the Jews under Persian rule in approximately 450 B.C.E., from Haman's plan for their extermination.

The celebration is preceded on the thirteenth of Adar by Ta'anit Esther — the Fast of Esther. This fast recalls Esther's request to the Jews of Shushan to fast and pray for her success in attempting to avert their destruction.



The festival of Purim centers about K'riyat Megillah — the public reading of the Scroll of Esther on the eve and again on the morning of Purim. Both men and women are required to hear these two readings in their entirety.

Just as the Jews of ancient Persia rejoiced in their rescue by holding Y'mai Mishteh — days of festivity, we now have a Seudat Purim — a feast on Purim day. Since so many of the miracles of Purim came through feasts, i.e. Vashti's death, Esther's coronation, and Haman's downfall, this traditional feast is most appropriate. We rejoice by eating, and according to Rava, by drinking until unable to differentiate between cursing Haman or blessing Mordechai. While more sober-minded scholars have not totally shared this view, imbibing is still a much favored custom at the Seudah.

Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch (Horeb) wrote that since Purim celebrates the redemption of Jews



from physical destruction, we should physically "revive the spirit of our common brotherhood, and give it greater scope by bringing cheer to our less fortunate ones." We do so by Mishloach Manot — sending multiple gifts of food and drink to friends, and by Matanot L'evyonim — donating to the poor or to worthy charitable causes.

Around the Square, Through the Winter (Cont'd)

is anticipated at the pre-Purim Family Shabbaton scheduled for Shabbat, March 10. The School will celebrate Purim a mite early with their annual Purim play on March 20, plus a unique "Megillah Reading."

The Melanie Ross Youth Center has forged ahead under Jeff Lichtman's supervision. During February alone, the elder group held four major events highlighted by a trip to see Sly Fox on Broadway. The Junior Groups saw the movie "Cinderella." Everyone laughed at Jerry Lewis' antics, but one of the children, after prompting, declared that Junior Group leader Chaim Casper was funnier. (The Junior Congregation is indebted to Yehiel Eisenstein for bringing their new Shabbat siddurim.) The intermediate group now is headed by Ron Weiss. On the distaff side, Julie Landau, Andrea Montague and Debbie Pine are sharing responsibility for the younger girls' activities each Shabbat. Stephanie Montague receives only outstanding grades from parents for her work with the Nursery age group.

The singles scene always hops at Lincoln Square. Bach celebrated a Shabbat meal together in February and has a wine and cheese party benefit for the Lincoln Square Yeshiva planned for March 4. Helen Kuzinec is overseer for that affair, but the full force of Bach will be called into action. Asher Gottfried's singles organization held Shabbatons in January and February. In addition to Asher, the group gains momentum from Marsha Cohen, Bobby Daitch, Lanette Schwartz and Sara Wagschal; however, the group now will be operating outside the aegis of the Shul. Singles interested in aliyah are getting together February 26, March 25 and April 23rd.

The Women's League conducted what many members viewed as their best function yet in late January. Dr. Martin Finkel was joined by Dr. Morris Shorofsky in lecturing and demonstrating techniques for coronary pulmonary resuscitation. The Doctors traced C.P.R. to Kings II, chapter 4, verse 34.

Another Synagogue offshoot which holds Biblical roots is Raishit Geula, the umbrella organization charged with creating a parallel Lincoln Square type community in Israel. Incorporated by the Synagogue's Recording Secretary, Amos Alter, significant strides already have been taken. Under a gorgeous Joan Mesznik masthead, Dr. Ralph Marcus has corresponded with those congregants and others who have expressed interest in aliyah. To receive his letter and further information, please write to Raishit Geula, NAAM, 515 Park Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10022. If you are staying here for a while, write to L.S.S., 200 Amsterdam Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10023 and become more involved in one of the activities described above!

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