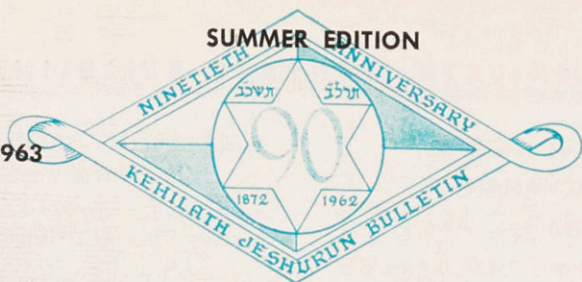


SUMMER EDITION

**AUGUST 2, 1963
AV 12, 5723**



**VOLUME XXXI
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MID-SUMMER REPORT

Now that the summer has reached its half way mark, we have an opportunity to look back with pride upon the religious activities of our congregation during the past month. Regular services have been held twice daily in our air-conditioned chapel. Sabbath morning services have been held each week in the Main Synagogue.

The attendance at sabbath services has been particularly remarkable. In view of the fact that many of our regular worshippers are away for the summer, and considering the fact that this summer has witnessed quite a spell of hot and humid weather, the attendance has been especially gratifying.

Last sabbath - Shabbat Chazon - some 150 worshippers participated in the special services prior to Tisha b'Av. Rabb Haskel Lookstein spoke on the significance of Tisha b'Av in the maintenance of the Jewish People's love for Zion and its yearning for the re-establishment of the State of Israel.

Our services during the week are made possible by several worshippers who come regularly, as well as by a group of volunteers for summer Jewry Duty. Special mention ought to be made of the regular presence of William Heyman and David Miller at almost every morning service.

We would like to thank the members who have participated in Jewry

**RABBI LOOKSTEIN ELECTED
ACTING PRESIDENT
OF BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY**

Our readers will be interested to know that Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein was elected last week as Acting President of Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. The honor bestowed upon our Rabbi by the Board of Governors of Bar Ilan University is one in which we can take great pride. The Rabbi has been the Chairman of the Board of Governors until now. We are confident that his greater responsibility in the conduct of the affairs of the University will lead Bar Ilan to greater and more significant academic achievements.

While in London, England, the Rabbi spent the Sabbath of July 13th, at the Hempstead Garden Synagogue where he preached to a packed synagogue. While still in London, a luncheon was tendered in his honor at which were present: Chief Rabbi Brodie, the Director of the Soncino Press and other leading members of the London Jewish Community.

Rabbi Lookstein was received by the new President of the State of Israel, Zalman Shazar, shortly after his arrival in the Holy Land. He also had a private audience with the new Prime Minister of Israel, Levi Eshkol. In conjunction with his work for Bar Ilan University, Rabbi Lookstein held a conference with Zalman Aranne, the new Minister of Education and with the

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THE WEEKLY PORTION

VAETHCHANAN

"What Shall We Talk About?"

The portions of the Torah which we shall read this week and next, contain many of the most familiar - as well as some of the most vital parts of Scripture. This week's portion highlights the Ten Commandments and the Shema. Next week's portion contains the commandment to recite Grace after Meals as well as the second paragraph of the Shema - v'Haya Im Shamo'a.

In the Shema we find the verse: "And these things which I command you today shall be embedded in your heart, and you shall teach them to your students (literally, "children") and you shall talk about them in your house, on the road, when you retire and when you rise". The last part of the verse constitutes the source for reciting the Shema every evening and every morning.

Our sages, noticing the words "and you shall talk about them", derive the following inference: "He who engages in idle talk, violates a positive Torah command, for it is said: 'and you shall discuss them' - 'them', and not other things."

We are all aware that the Bible cautions us against gossip, tale bearing and slander. In the passage above, however, it is not the negative aspect of idle chatter with which the Torah is concerned, but rather the positive force of useful discussion. Thus it is not only wrong to speak nonsense; it is right and desirable that we speak about things that matter.

The Jew is enjoined to engage in contemplation and to use his verbal powers to express the result of such activity. Our talk should be of ideals and moral principles. Our conversation should center around ideas and concepts. Our interest should be devoted to knowledge and wisdom.

When people assemble - around a table, living room, or campfire - and discuss the ideas of the Torah, the

RABBI LOOKSTEIN ELECTED

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latter's predecessor, Abba Eban, who is now Deputy Prime Minister.

In general, the Rabbi's arrival and activities in Israel were well covered by the mass media of communication. He held a special press conference which was widely reported in the Israel Press and participated in an interview with Kol Israel, the official radio station of the State of Israel.

With such a schedule of activities behind him, we can all look forward with eager anticipation to the Rabbi's annual address on Yom Kippur during which he discusses "The State of the Jewish Nation". We wish him and Mrs. Lookstein a continued pleasant journey and a safe return to our midst.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays —

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. M. H. Berkson, Mrs. Maks L. Birnbach, Mrs. James Clark, Mrs. Herman D. Gimbel, Mrs. Raymond L. Gura, Mrs. Joseph Kagan, Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon, Richard Kolb, Mrs. Rose Kolker, Mrs. Martin Markson, Mrs. Charles Rapoport, Norman C. Ryp, Mrs. Adolph Schimel, Romie Shapiro, Aaron Welish and Mrs. Samuel Witkin.

Anniversaries —

Warmest greetings to Dr. and Mrs. Isadore Givner, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Podell and Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Welish.

Talmud tells us that God's spirit indwells among them. When the group's talk is of an idle nature then the spirit that pervades the group is of an idol nature.

What shall we talk about? There can be but one answer to such a question, which the Jew considers to be of a rhetorical nature. Let us "talk about 'them' in our homes, on the road, when we retire and when we rise."

H. L.

ABRAM HENRY ORWASHER BAR MITZVAH



We extend a hearty Mazel Tov to our devoted members, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Orwaser upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Abram.

The Bar Mitzvah is entering the eighth grade of Ramaz School. He will read the entire Torah portion as part of the regular services on Saturday, August 10th.

The congregation will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Orwaser at the kiddush following services

MID-SUMMER REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Duty during the month of July:

James Clark	David Hefter
Milton Eletz	Eugene Hollander
Dr. Theodore R. Fink	William Lebowitz
Joseph S. Gershman	Frank Roth
Neil Hecht	

In addition to the above, several young men have also served a term as Junior Jewrers. They are:

Larry Breindel	Aaron Holzer
Bruce Dratler	Alan Kalischer

In addition to those mentioned above, we would like to thank the many members of our congregational family who, realizing the difficulty of maintaining a daily Minyan during the summer, have come from time to time to help out whenever they felt we might need their support. We hope that this spirit of cooperation will continue throughout the month of August so that we may continue to render our religious services to the community.

"KNOCKING ON WOOD"

It seems that in recent years the custom of knocking on wood when one verbalizes good news has become more prevalent than it was heretofore. It is surprising that many of our most sophisticated friends who have thoroughly emancipated themselves from most superstitions continue to cling to a practice which is pagan in origin.

The origin and meaning of the "knock on wood" compulsion is a varied one. It begins with the intuition on the part of primitive man that when he speaks about good news he invites the forces of evil to negate the good that has been reported. Consequently, some ritual must be performed in order to avert the efforts of the evil spirits. Originally, man thought that spirits resided in trees. One form of idol worship was the adoration of certain types of trees. This would be an obvious source for the custom of knocking on wood.

Another origin is in medieval Christianity where the practice developed of knocking the wood of the cross which was centrally located in most towns in medieval times.

Most of us are totally unaware of the origin of this widespread custom. There is, however, another way of treating this entire subject — a way which is not only religious but Jewish in every respect. When we report good tidings and when we speak of the good which has been bestowed upon us we ought to say at the conclusion "Baruch Hashem" — Thank God. When we anticipate receiving good tidings and when we look forward to blessings we might add the words "Please God."

By avoiding the "knock on wood" craze, we are uprooting from ourselves a custom which is not only foreign in origin but which has pagan roots. By using the expression "Thank God" and "Please God" we are affirming that the universe is not a haphazard system, but that it is under the supervision of a merciful God who is interested in our welfare, concerned with our destiny and devoted to our well-being.

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
New York 28, N. Y.
SAcramento 2-0800

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. Lookstein	Rabbi
Haskel Lookstein	Ass't Rabbi
A. Joseph Cohen	Cantor
Israel D. Rosenberg	Ritual Director
Joseph Glatt	Exec. Director

Officers of the Congregation

Max J. Etra	President
Joseph Roth	Vice-President
Dr. H. Harold Gelfand	Secretary
Elgin Shulsky	Treasurer
Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin	Pres., Sist.
William Lebowitz	Pres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**FRIDAY, August 2nd**

*Evening 6:30

SATURDAY, Shabbat Nachamu

Morning 9:00

Weekly Portion:**Vaethchanan**

Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Haftorah: Isaiah 40:1-26

Evening 8:00

Conclusion of Sabbath 8:40

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FRIDAY, August 9th

*Evening 6:30

SATURDAY

Morning 9:00

Weekly Portion:**Ekev**

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Haftorah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

Evening 7:50

Conclusion of Sabbath 8:35

Daily Services

Morning 7:30

Sunday Morning 8:30

Evening 6:15

*Sabbath Candles are kindled twenty minutes before sunset. Those, however, who conform to our schedule of ushering in the Sabbath at 6:30 P.M. should also light candles at that hour.

YAHRZEITS**August**

3—PINCUS MILLER
3—ISAAC BREUER
3—HARRY J. TANNENBAUM
3—ZVI MELNICK
4—HANNAH B. EINHORN
4—FANNIE COHEN
4 LOUIS SHULSKY
5—JACOB GLUCK
5—HONORE EISEN
5—LOUIS SCHENKER
5—D. HARRY KLEINFELD
6—BERNARD FEIFER
6—ROSE LEVY
6—MAX LENT
6—ALEXANDE KOLKER
6—MINDEL REISER
6—CECELIA FRIEND
7—FRANK E. GOLDMAN
8—SIDNEY KAHAN
8—SAM ROSOWSKY
10—JACOB MARCUS
10—JACOB LEBOWITZ
11—MALVINA JARAY
11—SARAH RUBINSTEIN
12—MORRIS LURIE
12—JOSEPH RIKER
13—DEREZNER ROSE BAB
14—LENA FEIFER
14—RACHEL PREGEL
14—MARY KLEIN
15—JACOB WOLFF SUSSMAN
16—ZIGMUND WECHSLER
16—ABRAHAM GREENBERG
16—DAVID SHEAR
16—DAVID ZIZMOR
16—JOSEPH LEVINE

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to our devoted member, Lafay Dribben, upon the passing of his mother.

We pray that the family may be spared further sorrow for many years to come.