



*We extend our best wishes
for a happy Shavuoth
to our members and friends*

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOTH

This year, again, we will conduct Tikkun Leil Shavuoth on the first evening of the Shavuoth festival. This program was begun several years ago and attracts more people each year.

The custom of Tikkun is an ancient one. In days gone by, men would gather to read selections from the Books of the Torah and the Talmud in order to symbolize the importance of Jewish learning on the holiday which commemorates the giving of the Law. The session would last until early in the morning and, after reciting the morning prayers, the assembled would return home to sleep.

Our practice is a somewhat modified one. We begin our program at 10:30 P.M. and we conclude at midnight. We invite not only men but women too; not only the old but also the young.

At this year's Tikkun program, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein will lead the group in the study of certain laws pertaining to prayer. For the last few weeks, a group has been meeting regularly on Saturday afternoons to study this subject. On Shavuoth night, this study will be brought to a partial completion.

Please come, therefore, on Thursday evening, May 22nd, at 10:30 o'clock, to participate in Tikkun Leil Shavuoth. Refreshments will be served as part of the evening's fare.

PLEASE NOTE

This Bulletin contains information for the forthcoming four weeks. The next issue will appear on Friday, June 20th.

SCHEDULE OF SHAVUOTH SERVICES

*THURSDAY, MAY 22 – SHAVUOTH EVE

Evening8:10

FRIDAY, MAY 23 – SHAVUOTH I

Morning9:00

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein will preach at 11:00

Evening6:30

SATURDAY, MAY 24 – SHAVUOTH II

Morning9:00

Memorial Prayers are recited as part of this service

Evening8:00

Conclusion of Sabbath8:45

*AN ERUV TAVSHILIN SHOULD BE PREPARED

RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN "COMPLAINS" ABOUT "PORTNOY" AT CLOSING SISTERHOOD MEETING

Another successful season of the Kehilath Jeshurun Sisterhood has come and gone. It was brought to a rousing climax by a closing meeting in the Social Hall which saw a capacity crowd in attendance.

In the absence of the President, Mrs. Leon A. Feldman, the meeting was chaired by Mrs. Haskel Lookstein, first Vice President. She was re-elected to office together with Mrs. Eugene Hollander, second Vice President, Mrs. Leon Spilky, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. Jack Lieberman, Treasurer.

Mrs. Meyer Texon, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, placed all the names in nomination and in addition, nominated Mrs. Benjamin Brown for the office of Recording Secretary to replace the retiring Mrs. Albert H. Bernstein. All the Officers were elected unanimously.

Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein, Chairman of the Membership Committee, inducted three new members into the Sisterhood: Mrs. Michael M. Barany, Mrs. Aaron G. Meislin and Mrs. David Weisselberger.

Mrs. Jack Lieberman delivered a glowing treasurer's report which highlighted the magnanimous gifts and grants made by the Sisterhood this year and which showed also a healthy bank balance resulting from the highly successful movie party and the unprecedentedly successful Phantom Luncheon. The Sisterhood will still be able to make further grants before the close

of the year, because of the outstanding support of the membership.

Philip Roth "Lets Go"

The highlight of the afternoon was an extended review by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein of Philip Roth's latest book, "Portnoy's Complaint." The Rabbi cited the fact that Roth's second major work of literature was entitled "Letting Go." In his most recent work, a semi-autobiographical novel about one Alexander Portnoy, Philip Roth has really "let go" with all the bitterness in a frustrated heart, the consummate skill in a talented pen, the forthright filth of a perverted mind, and the most indelicate dismemberment of the canons of taste, propriety and heretofore accepted literary forms.

Roth has consciously written what has been called a "desperately dirty novel." Moreover its very dirtiness may well constitute its organizing principle. He has also hit on a new medium for the revelation of all his feelings: the verbalization of his humor and hatred, his racy stories and his raging temper, his pious thoughts and his pornographic acts, his love and his lust before a silent, shadowy and professionally unjudging audience of one — an all accepting psycho-analyst for whom everything is grist for the mill.

A Double Reaction

The Rabbi explained that we might properly react to this book on two

(Continued on page 3)

THE BOOK OF RUTH

The special reading from the Bible on the second day of the festival of Shavuoth is the Book of Ruth. In our synagogue, it is read by four young men. The reading will begin at 10:00 o'clock. The young men who will read will be:

Claude Alpert
Samuel Blumenthal
Samuel Friedman
Alvin Smilow

The story of the Book of Ruth is that of a righteous convert who, after the passing of her husband, follows her bereaved mother-in-law into a life of poverty and forsakes her homeland and "a people whom she knew not heretofore."

In the new land she gleanes in the fields to support herself and her distressed mother-in-law. Her modest behavior and sincerity attract the notice of the aristocratic Boaz, a kinsman of her former husband who decides to maintain the family name by taking this poor woman as his wife. From the union of Boaz and Ruth comes the ancestry of King David.

SAMUEL SINGER ELECTED TRUSTEE AT ANNUAL MEETING

In the excitement of reporting some of the more dramatic events of the Ninety-Seventh Annual Meeting, the Bulletin omitted reference to the election of Samuel Singer as a full Trustee of the congregation. He had been serving as an Associate Trustee for a number of years. Mr. Singer is, of course, the Chairman of the House Committee and served in a vital consultative capacity on the recent construction program of the congregation.

Re-elected with Mr. Singer to three year terms on the Board of Trustees were: Harry W. Baumgarten, A. Milton Brown, Israel Cummings, Joseph S. Gershman, Harry Heyman, Oscar Perlberger and Joseph Roth.

Salute to Israel Sunday, June 1st

Please make note of the fact that forty thousand students and adults are expected to march in a three hour colorful parade on Sunday morning, June 1st, at 11:00 o'clock. The 1969 edition of the Salute to Israel Parade will march from 57th Street to 86th Street along Fifth Avenue, accompanied by more than forty decorated floats, marching dance groups, bands and choirs.

There will, of course, be the usual large contingent from the Ramaz Upper School marching in this parade together with a special float. Reserve the date and the time, and be sure to bring your family to watch this colorful procession.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY**Week of May 23-30th****Birthdays—**

Many happy returns of the day to Justin J. Bayer, Gertrude Block, Mrs. Caroline Goldstein, Mrs. Adolph Levy, Edward Low, Norman D. Mosesson, Hon. George Postel, Elgin Shulsky, Joseph Wolf and Mrs. Albert A. Zuch.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Coan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Karlin, Mr. and Mrs. Ira W. Nadler, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Silverstein and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wald.

Week of May 31st - June 6th**Birthdays—**

Many happy returns of the day to Gerald M. Goldstein, Mrs. Joseph H. Moss, Mrs. Solomon J. Novick, Adolph Schenker, Mrs. Abraham Silver, Mrs. Reuben Westerman.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Colvin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heyman, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kotimsky and Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Skydell.

Week of June 7 - 13**Birthdays—**

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Jacob Baruch, Mrs. Harry Green, Raymond L. Gura, Mrs. Robert L. Karlin, Mrs. Mordie Mann, Mrs. Benjamin Perlman, Dr. Merritt Roher, Oscar Trencher, Mrs. Ned Wachtel and Mrs. David H. Woldenberg.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Justin J. Bayer, Mr. and Mrs. Samson Eichler, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard D. Fishman, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Friedman, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Abe B. Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Marcus, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schlang, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scheidt, Dr. and Mrs. Simon Schwarz, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sonenberg and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Spencer.

Week of June 14 - 20th**Birthdays—**

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Doris J. Deutsch, Mrs. Lawrence A. Kobrin, Jack Lefkowitz, Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin, Mrs. Joseph Roth, George Schneider, Mrs. George Schneider.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Berkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. A. Milton Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander

Gross, Mr. and Mrs. David Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lewittes, Dr. and Mrs. Aaron G. Meislin, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Orwasher, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Rashbaum, Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Richter, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Sarezy and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schwartz.

Births—

Congratulations to our esteemed members, Dr. and Mrs. H. Harold Gelfand, upon the birth of a daughter, Alexandra, to their children, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Diamond.

Similar good wishes to our new members, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Levine, on the birth of a daughter, Sharon, to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Winter.

Engagements—

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jadek upon the engagement of their daughter, Rochelle, a Ramaz graduate, to Mark Hillel Daniels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Daniels of Brooklyn.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Ira Usdan upon the engagement of their daughter, Judith, to Arthur Sanford Ainsberg, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Bernard Ainsberg of Washington Heights.

Similar good wishes to Mrs. Doris Deutsch upon her engagement to Jack A. Schwarz of Brooklyn. The wedding is planned for June.

COMMUNAL HONORS

Congratulations to S. David Leibowitz, a new resident of our community, who has recently applied for membership in the congregation, upon the honor which will be bestowed upon him by the Anti-Defamation League. He will be the recipient of the annual Human Relations Award of the Midtown Division of A.D.L. at a dinner on Tuesday, June 3rd, at the Essex House.

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

On Saturday, May 31st, we will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Max J. Etra on the occasion of the Aufruf of their son, William.

On Saturday, June 7th, we will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua S. Deutsch on the occasion of the Aufruf of their son, Fred.

"Complains" about "Portnoy" (Cont'd)

levels; that of a reader of literature and that of a Jew reading a book about Jews written by a Jew. The two levels will result in different — though not necessarily opposing — judgments.

As a literary work, it has as perhaps its sole recommendation the fact that it is terribly funny in parts. Roth has the capacity to describe life situations with such precision, imagery and humor as to provoke in most readers outbursts of laughter.

As literature too, the book represents the most unfettered freedom of expression ever included in a serious literary work. Every facet of sex is discussed with brutal frankness. Every curse word and filthy slang term is slung around with reckless abandon.

Perhaps this is symptomatic of the times in which we live. Perhaps it is a further manifestation of the breakdown of middle class values and restraints which are in evidence in the long hair of boys and the short skirts of girls, the unrestrained behavior of young people before marriage and the general way of life characterized by the hippie existence.

Perhaps this is also a further manifestation of the decline of Jewish discipline. Portnoy himself indicates that one of his most grotesque exhibitions of immoral behavior took place immediately after he ate lobster for the first time in his life. He connects the breakdown of the religious taboo with the breakdown in his moral restraints. To Portnoy this is a good thing; to us it is a tragedy.

This book is a further symbol of a trend in the arts toward the kind of total frankness that really constitutes vulgar exhibitionism. Our movies, our plays, our paintings and now our books are hard to distinguish from what used to be called hard core pornography.

Kashrut at home and in life

But, in addition to viewing this as a literary work, we have a right — indeed an obligation — to evaluate this book from our own Jewish perspective. As such, there is at least one constructive service that Roth performs. He highlights some of the widely prevalent mistakes of Jewish parents. He indicts them for smothering their children rather than simply rearing them. He exposes their hypocrisy in keeping kosher at home and demanding the same of their children, while being prepared to eat anything and everything in the Chinese restaurant away from home.

On the whole, however, the Jewish reader cannot come to praise Roth, but

must rather come to condemn him. Rarely has self hatred been more evident in any art form. The Jewish names that Roth deftly chooses are of the most grotesque variety and clearly manifest his own hopeless image of himself.

The horror experienced by Portnoy with his Jewish nose as opposed to the "goyishe" nose which he so admires on Gentile girls is further evidence of his poor self image.

His self hatred is nowhere more manifest than in his tendency to caricature Jewish types rather than develop characterization in his novel. The mother comes forth as a comic strip figure of illiberty. The father emerges as the caricature of nebishhood. The sister is drawn as a fat, graceless, "non-shiksa". Portnoy himself is a monomaniacal pervert.

Why, we may ask, must Roth write this way about Jews — especially today, twenty-five years after Auschwitz, and just shortly after the emergence of Black Anti-Semitism? Why? Why does Saul Bellow write about Herzog and Malamud about the Fixer, describing the plight of the Jewish intellectual and moralist, while Roth spreads only filth about his people? And if Roth does feel this way, why must he wash out his own dirty laundry on the best seller list? Not every self hating thought deserves to be written down and not every written word must be published.

There is one further indictment of which the Rabbi spoke. What will the non-Jewish world think of this book? We are not concerned here with what they will think of the disgraceful picture of Jewish life. That is bad enough, but we can survive that. What will they think, however, of his disclosure and exaggeration of the maligning of goyim that goes on in Jewish society. There is a tendency on the part of Jews to speak and think ill of some non-Jews. Our history of two thousand years of persecution at the hands of world Christendom and, most recently, the holocaust in Europe, have given us ample reason for suspicion and mistrust. But, again, we can keep it to ourselves. There is no need to splash it over the printed page and have it read on the best seller list in every language.

There are some statements in the book about non-Jewish people and particularly about the "savior" whom Christians worship that can only be calculated to bring upon the Jewish people the hatred and the scorn of any sensitive Christian. Our only hope in this respect is that the non-Jewish reader will see this author as so sick,

MEMBER IN THE NEWS**Norman C. Ryp Seeks Nomination for City Councilman**

We note with a good deal of pride that our esteemed member, Norman C. Ryp, has announced his formal entry into the race for the Democratic nomination for City Councilman in the Fourth Councilman District. The district covers that area of our community that is east of Third Avenue and north of 59th Street. From 93rd Street on, the district runs as far west as Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Ryp has been a devoted member of Kehilath Jeshurun for the past number of years. He was particularly helpful in the recent campaign to prevent the changing of the zoning regulations to permit a movie house to be built to the rear of the congregation. He serves as Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee of our local Community Planning Board.

Mr. Ryp is clearly identified as an Orthodox Jew in private as well as in public life. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Commission on Synagogue Relations of Federation and he is a leading member of the Kehilath Jeshurun Men's Club.

It is a source of pride to the congregation that one of its distinguished sons seeks to serve the wider interests of the New York community. We wish him well in this effort.

as not to put any credence in his kind of reportage.

In summary, the Rabbi said, Portnoy's Complaint is by far overshadowed by our complaints about Portnoy. A funny book to be sure, it is also grotesque. And its stilted caricatures paint a false picture of the results of a Jewish upbringing, even of the type described by Roth.

A Postscript

In the Yiddish Press recently, a mother who lived on the same block with the Roths in Newark, reported that from the eighteen Jewish families on the block there came six doctors, three lawyers, two druggists, four high school teachers, and three architects. Somebody must have been doing something right on that block, Roth to the contrary, notwithstanding.

But, perhaps the best commentary on Portnoy and his author was offered by the mother of Rabbi Herbert Tarr ("Heaven Help Us"). She asked her son what the book was all about. Tarr told her: "It's about a thirty-three year old Jewish bachelor who savagely condemns his parents for ruining his life." Whereupon Tarr's mother said: "He was a fool for letting them do it."

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
New York 10028, N.Y.
HA 7-1000

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. LooksteinRabbi
Haskel LooksteinAssoc. Rabbi
A. Joseph CohenCantor
Israel D. Rosenberg.....Ritual Director
Noam ShudofskyYouth Director

Officers of the Congregation

Max J. EtraHon. President
Harry W. BaumgartenPresident
Nathan SalzmanVice President
Joseph S. GershmanTreasurer
Edward LowSecretary
Mrs. Leon A. FeldmanPres. Sist.
Martin R. Rochlin.....Pres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, MAY 30th

Lighting of Candles*
Evening6:30

SATURDAY

Morning9:00
Pre-School Service11:00

Weekly Portion: Naso
Numbers 4:21 - 7:89

Haftorah: Judges 13:2 - 25

Evening8:10
Conclusion of Sabbath8:50

FRIDAY, JUNE 6th

Lighting of Candles*
Evening6:30

SATURDAY

Morning9:00
Pre-School Service11:00

Weekly Portion: Behaalotekha
Numbers 8:1 - 12:16

Haftorah: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

Evening8:10
Conclusion of Sabbath8:55

FRIDAY, JUNE 13th

Lighting of Candles*
Evening6:30

SATURDAY

Morning9:00
Pre-School Service11:00

Weekly Portion: Shelah
Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

Haftorah: Joshua 2

ROSH CHODESH PRAYERS

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz will be on
Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June
17.

Evening8:15
Conclusion of Sabbath9:00

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning7:30
Sunday Morning8:30
Evening6:30

**LIPSTADT MEMORIAL
COMPANY**

370 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.
TR 4-6843

Monuments

Closed Saturdays Open Sundays

GERTZ BROS., N. Y. C.

Yahrzeits

May

- 23—Morris Weiss
- 23—David Wald
- 24—Jay J. Weisman
- 24—Mary Goodman
- 24—Lina Jaffe
- 24—Adolph Hirsch
- 24—Aron Levi
- 24—Rosalia Levi
- 24—Sarah Braff
- 25—Jennie Resnick
- 25—Henry Scharf
- 25—Irving Goldberg
- 26—Dora Harris
- 26—Rose Mandel
- 26—Marion Gold Lewis
- 26—Samuel Gura
- 26—Martin Braff
- 27—Mary J. Silberman
- 27—Moses Warshavsky
- 27—Alice Bayer
- 27—Lazar Riederman
- 27—Barbara Riederman
- 27—Alexander Berner
- 27—Helen Berner
- 28—Jacob H. Alpert
- 28—Jacob Weiss
- 28—Samuel Shapiro
- 28—George William Avner
- 28—Rachel Podell
- 29—Hyman Hyams
- 29—Ella Speizer
- 29—Samuel Rosen
- 30—David S. Trachman
- 30—Charles Finkelstein
- 30—David Miller
- 31—Rebecca E. Abeloff
- 31—Irving Bachrach
- 31—Samuel B. Cooperman
- 31—Mars Cohn
- 31—Mendel Glueckstern

June

- 1—Tanchum Silberman
- 1—Meyer Vesell
- 1—Abraham L. Marcus
- 2—Celia Breitbart
- 2—Arthur David Boxer
- 3—Nellie Lent
- 3—Rose S. Smith
- 3—Yacov Eisenkramer
- 3—Dora Rosenberg
- 4—Sam Lefkowitz
- 4—Kellman Charnow
- 5—James Levy
- 5—Harry Katz
- 5—Anna Lebowitz
- 5—Louis Leifert
- 6—Michael Kurzrok
- 7—Benjamin Jacoby
- 7—Pessek Padawer Davenport
- 7—Theodore Brown
- 7—Reuben Westerman
- 8—Aaron Kurtz
- 8—Sara Elkon
- 8—Rose Posemsky
- 9—Fanny Cukor
- 9—Yetta Silverstein
- 9—Rachel Reinhold
- 10—Moritz Speier
- 11—Max Rafsky
- 11—Louis Siegel
- 11—Arthur T. Bernstein
- 12—Aaron Jacobs
- 13—Becky Kahan
- 13—Ida Perlman
- 13—Joseph David Burnett
- 14—Herman Schimel
- 14—Fannie Steinberg
- 14—Samuel Lewis
- 14—Aron J. Simon
- 14—Charlotte T. Willis
- 14—Max Mandel
- 15—Samuel M. Kaplan
- 15—Samuel Ratner

MICHAEL BRAFF

BAR MITZVAH

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Braff upon the forthcoming Bar synagogue on Saturday morning, June Mitzvah of their son, Michael, in our 14th.

Michael, a student in Form I of the Ramaz Upper School, will chant the Maftir and Haftorah at our services. The congregation will be the guests of the Braffs at kiddush following services that Sabbath.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Our next issue will feature a listing of academic honors earned by young people in our congregational family. If you would like your son or daughter included, or if you yourself have earned such an honor, please let us know.

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- 16—Fannie Ritter
- 16—Hannah Linzer
- 17—Saul Yehouda Aizer
- 17—Ida Bloom
- 18—Lorraine H. Kaplan
- 18—Rebecca Feiner
- 18—Gussie Piermont
- 18—Sarah R. Perlman
- 18—David Hostyk
- 19—Maurice Chapman
- 20—Anna Mehlman
- 20—Hyman Margolies
- 20—Sam Witkin