



RAMAZ UPPER SCHOOL RENAMED IN HONOR OF RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN AS PART OF TRIBUTE AT FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Close to 1,000 people, including many members of the congregation, many parents and friends of Ramaz School and distinguished dignitaries from the world Jewish community gathered on Sunday, January 20 in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria to pay tribute to our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, on the occasion of his Fiftieth Anniversary as a Rabbi in Kehilath Jeshurun.

There were many dramatic moments in the evening and some poignant ones as well. Beginning with the seemingly endless stream of guests and well-wishers who participated in the receiving line that opened the festivities and continuing to the last guest who lingered for a final farewell at the conclusion of the evening, there were beautiful words and sentiments expressed and felt by the entire assemblage. It was a magnificent outpouring of love and esteem for a spiritual leader who has guided the destinies of our congregation and this entire Jewish community for the last half century.

Walter Koppel, President of the Parents Council of Ramaz School, opened the formal festivities by welcoming all of the guests and explaining the significant nature of this evening. He introduced Cantor Avrum Davis who led the gathering in the National Anthem and Rabbi Sol Roth, a former Rabbinic Assistant in our congregation who has just been elected President of the New York Board of Rabbis, who delivered the Invocation at the Dinner.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein presided at the program for the evening. He delivered a brief, moving address about the impact of his father, not only on the personal lives of the members of the community, but also on the wider community in general.

Harry W. Baumgarten, President of the Congregation, delivered greetings in which he explained the difficulties in properly acknowledging the magnificent role that Rabbi Lookstein has played in the development of this congregation and the community around it. "How can we recognize and acknowledge adequately," he asked, "the inspired leadership that our Rabbi has given to the Jewish world: to its rabbis and laymen, to its yeshivot and charities, to its communal institutions in America and in Israel, to Zionism in theory and practice, and, most important of all, to Jewish education on the home front and 6,000 miles away?"

"Although our praise might be inadequate," the President said, "we have tried to do our best through this Dinner. The attendance, the participation and the magnificent fund raising achievement in behalf of the Ramaz Scholarship Fund are all a way of saying to our Rabbi, Thank You!"

A Scroll Presented

Hyman I. Bucher, Chairman of the Centennial Committee of the Congregation, and a Trustee whose association with our Rabbi goes back to the former's Bar Mitzvah, then presented the Rabbi with a beautiful commemorative scroll from the congregation. The scroll, designed and created by Morris Wyshogrod, a parent of Ramaz, read in part as follows:

"To Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein: For fifty years you have been our Rabbi, our teacher and our friend. You have made Kehilath Jeshurun the symbol of modern Orthodox Judaism in its noblest expression. You have created and nurtured the Ramaz School, enabling our children to integrate harmoniously the traditions of Judaism with the heritage of western civilization.

You have inspired us with your ser-

mons, encouraged us with your optimism, consoled us in our time of grief, rejoiced with us in our happy moments and touched our lives deeply with your warmth, your wit and your wisdom. For all this we cannot praise you adequately or thank you sufficiently. We can but pray to God for your health and happiness and for our privilege to have you for many years to come as our Rabbi, our teacher and our friend. With our love and esteem Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun."

The Tribute From Ramaz

Joseph Lorch, a Trustee of the Congregation and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ramaz, then presented the Rabbi with a symbol of the gratitude of Ramaz and the entire community. He read before the assemblage a commemorative scroll whose words we reproduce here in part.

"Monuments need not be erected for the righteous; their deeds are their proper memorial. Jerusalem Talmud, Sh'kalim 2:5. By the decision of the Board of Trustees of the Ramaz School and in gratitude to Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein who fashioned Ramaz in 1937 from his own spirit and substance, who served as its first Principal and who has given it thirty-seven years of brilliant leadership and inspired direction; we hereby declare that the Ramaz Upper School will henceforth be known as: The Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz."

Our Senior Rabbi then responded to all of the sentiments and expressions of the evening with a moving address describing his own gratitude for the occasion. He spoke about the three worlds of his concern: the world of the Holocaust in the past which we cannot forget; the world of our present efforts in which we are involved; and the world of Ramaz, which is our

(Continued on Page 3)

The Weekly Portion

... And God hardened the heart of Pharaoh ...

Questions have been raised many times concerning the hardening of Pharaoh's heart by God. Is this a deprivation of free will? Was Pharaoh prevented from doing that which he felt was right.

The setting begins with a request. The request which Moses and Aaron made of Pharaoh was not a difficult one. Originally, they did not ask for the complete end to the slavery of the people, but merely for permission to take the children of Israel from their slavery for three days of prayer to God. Pharaoh answered saying that he did not recognize God and would not consider altering his plans for this God of Moses and Aaron. (Exodus Chapter 5, Verses 1-5) He continues to refuse to let the people go even after the Ten Plagues. These subsequent refusals are merely a repetition of the theme of this initial response. Pharaoh continues not to recognize God even under severe punishments. Is this a deprivation of free will? What indeed is free will? One definition may be that it is the ability to stand by one's convictions despite circumstances which would bend the real will of the individual. It is thus possible to view the hardships, the plagues, and the threats of God as challenges to the initial arrogant refusal of Pharaoh to recognize God. Pharaoh might well have succumbed, under these circumstances, in order to prevent further reproach from God. We learn, however, that God aided him, strengthened him, so that he could maintain his initial posture. Pharaoh, thus, was the victim of his own character, a victim of his own words, hardly a puppet of God at all.

The ultimate expression of free will must surely be the one which enables us to persevere, even under the most trying circumstances. Pharaoh represents the epitome of free will. His will is so free that it is liberated even from his own inner weaknesses which would have enslaved it. Even after the Ten Plagues, Pharaoh still pursues the children of Israel. This pursuit, which destroys his people in the Red Sea, indicates that he was not swayed from his initial conviction. Pharaoh does not recognize God and will not change his plans because of the words of God.

The meaning of this passage for us may well be that to have free will is good, but that we must be sure that we have proper convictions on which this will is based. The next sidra contains the giving of the Ten Command-

Birthdays—

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Roy E. Abraham, Mrs. Victor Binstock, Maks L. Birnbach, Miss Gwendolyn R. Buttnick, Dr. Irwin Chabon, Adolph Citron, Mrs. Adolph Citron, Mrs. Joshua S. Deutsch, Mrs. William Etra, Mrs. Arthur E. Friedland, Mrs. Joseph N. Friedman, Irving M. Geselz, Mrs. Edward C. Ginsburg, David Gordon, Mrs. Eugene Hollander, Mrs. Philip Jadek, Mrs. Maurice N. Jaffe, Morton Kassover, Mrs. Emory Klein, Mrs. Harry Kleinhau, Edward Lebowitz, Adolph Levy, Abe Newborn, Mrs. Louis Orwasher, Ralph Perlberger, Joseph A. Perlman, Mrs. John J. Rothschild, Dr. Meyer Shapiro, Abraham Silver, Dr. Emanuel Stein, Dr. Samuel Stromberg, Mrs. Isaac N. Trainin and Dr. Robert Wallach.

Anniversaries—

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burak, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Frankel, Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Gimbel, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lefkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Asher S. Levitsky, Mr. and Mrs. Saul Linzer, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Mandelker, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Markson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Schenker and Dr. and Mrs. David Weisselberger.

Scholarship and Authorship—

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Etra, and to the entire Etra family, on the recent publication of a book on Citibank co-authored by Donald Etra. The book was written while the author was associated with consumer advocate Ralph Nader, and it was recently reviewed in the New York Times.

Condolences—

We extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Bernard Hammerman on the passing of his beloved father, Louis Hammerman. We hope the family will be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

Sisterhood Dates To Remember

Theatre Party — March 5
"THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE"
 The new Murray Shisgal Comedy
 Circle in the Square Theatre

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
MAY 8

Watch For Further Details

ments, the symbol of the law. It is to **this** law that we should be committed with a will, a free will such as Pharaoh exhibited.

J. R. H.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Dr. Gurston Goldin Appointed to the Board of Higher Education

We are proud and gratified to learn that one of our own members, Dr. Gurston Goldin, son of two other members of ours, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Goldin, has been appointed by the Mayor to the Board of Higher Education. We consider this appointment to be a significant one in terms of strengthening the Board and helping develop this instrumentality into a vital force for the betterment of public higher education in this city.

Dr. Goldin, who is a teacher of Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, graduated in the first class of Ramaz School. We congratulate him and his wife on this honor and on the opportunity to serve an important cause in our communal life.

In Memoriam

ISAAC E. OKUN

We mourn the passing of a distinguished Trustee of the congregation and the past Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ramaz School who was called to his eternal reward last week.

Isaac Okun was an exemplary Jew who loved everything about Judaism from the study of Torah to inspired public worship, including careful observance of the full range of mitzvot. He was a devoted and loving husband to his dear wife, Frieda, and a proud, caring father to his son and daughter.

In our community he stood out as one of the leading forces behind the development and sustenance of Ramaz. For over twenty years he was an Officer of the Board and for even longer than that period he was deeply involved in the financial security of the School and in helping it to become the fine institution that it is. Ramaz was his life and his love.

We will miss him dearly in our synagogue and in the community. May his family be comforted and may his soul be forever bound up among the living.

Rabbi Lookstein (Cont'd)

hope for the future survival of the Jewish community. He called Mrs. Lookstein to the platform, together with their daughter, Dr. Nathalie Friedman and, joined by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the two generations stood together on the stage in a moving moment filled with sentiment and meaning.

Distinguished Guests

It was a great evening, rendered significant by everyone who was present. We are particularly grateful to the co-chairmen of the event who worked so hard to make it a great success: Hyman I. Bucher, Alfred M. Frankel, Stephen Sarnoff and Amos Shuchman.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Lillian Jacobs, Noam Shudofsky and Mrs. Marcia Barany, who, on the professional level, brought everything together to make this evening the great success that it was.

Similarly, we are deeply grateful to Morris Wyshogrod for his outstanding artistic contributions to the commemorative gifts to the Rabbi and to the Journal. We also extend our gratitude to the tireless Editors of the Journal who produced a beautiful book for the evening: Mrs. Leonard J. Lefkort and Mrs. Joseph Marbach. Our thanks also to the Chairman of Arrangements, Irving Kagan and the Co-Chairmen of Arrangements: Morton Kassoover, Mrs. Belda Lindenbaum and Mrs. Rebecca Steindecker.

Such an occasion, unfortunately, comes only once in a lifetime. We will have an opportunity yet for the entire congregation to demonstrate its love and esteem for the Rabbi. In the meantime, we conclude our account with the blessing which was on everyone's lips that evening: "Blessed is God for having sustained us and preserved us to experience this day."

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein Elected Secretary of New York Board of Rabbis

The New York Board of Rabbis has elected Rabbi Haskel Lookstein to the post of Corresponding Secretary. The election took place at the annual meeting of the Board, held last week. The New York Board of Rabbis is the largest rabbinical body in the state of New York and lists as members over a thousand rabbis, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. We congratulate our Rabbi on this honor, and take great pride in his designation to this significant communal position.

HON. HAIM ZOHAR TO BE OUR GUEST FOR SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 9. HE WILL ADDRESS SEUDAH SH'LISHIT OF THE MEN'S CLUB

We are proud to announce that Hon. Haim Zohar, former Consul for Cultural Affairs in New York City, will be our guest on Shabbat, February 9, and will address a Seudah S'lishit that afternoon sponsored by the Men's Club of the congregation.

Mr. Zohar, who is here on a special mission of information and education in behalf of the Israeli Government, will be visiting several Jewish communities around the country during his stay in the United States. He won many friends and admirers during his tenure of several years with the Consulate General of the State of Israel in New York. At present, his official position is that of Executive Director of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations' Commission on Jewish Education.

Mr. Zohar will discuss with us some of the implications of the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath. He will partici-



pate in a question and answer period during the course of the Seudah Sh'lishit program.

Mincha services on Shabbat, February 9 will be held at 5:45. The Seudah and Mr. Zohar's lecture will follow.

Hon. Herman Katz, City Clerk, Makes the News and Scores Some Points

Our esteemed member and former Trustee, Hon. Herman Katz, City Clerk of New York City, was the object of the "Daily Closeup" column in the NEW YORK POST on January 23, 1974. The reporter cited Mr. Katz for his careful observance of all the rules and regulations regarding official city papers which he must verify.

The major concern of the article was with standards of propriety on which the City Clerk insists whenever he performs civil marriages in his office in the Municipal Building. Apparently, there is a ten-year-old regulation of his which bans slacks for brides and which requires ties and jackets for grooms. That regulation is now being challenged by the New York Civil Liberties Union as an unconstitutional violation of the right of freedom of expression.

"Marriage between two people can have as much of an impact on society as the laws affecting the City as a whole," Mr. Katz said, in a quotation in the article. "We ought perhaps to have an American Civil Obligations Association to show there are obligations as well as rights in society. Our entire community activity is dependent upon formal association of marriage and I reject the notion that marriage is just like walking into a supermarket . . ."

"This is not a haven for all . . . in-

dividuals who want to deprecate the solemnity of marriage", said Herman Katz, who remembers with some distaste people coming in with "overalls with graffiti on them, demanding to get married."

It is interesting to note that Mr. Katz, as City Clerk, has introduced several procedures designed to encourage young brides and grooms to be married religiously, rather than simply civilly. He was also instrumental in changing certain city documents and forms in such a way as to make them religiously neutral. We are proud of the role of this member in the community of New York City, although we recognize that others may differ with his sartorial tastes at wedding ceremonies.

Youth Program News Binnie and Berko fix "The Fixer"

On Saturday night January 19, the Youth Program held a showing of "The Fixer" for over one hundred teenagers in the Kamber Auditorium. Thanks to the prudent projection crew, Binnie Shudofsky and Steven Berkowitz, the film went on without a hitch. They worked many hours to order the reels properly and to splice no less than ten places where the film was torn. After this initial success, the Kehilath Jeshurun Youth Program looks forward to another such evening in the future.

Teenage Oneg Shabbat

FEBRUARY 8 at 8 P.M.

**Call David or Ricki Bernstein
(289-4921)
for location**

CONG. KEHILATH JESHURUN

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

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. LooksteinSenior Rabbi
Haskel LooksteinRabbi
Avrum DavisCantor
Israel D. RosenbergRitual Director

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Samuel M. EisenstatSecretary
Mrs. Haskel LooksteinPres. Sist'd
Dr. Charles I. Cohen.....Pres. Men's Club
Milton Berkowitz.....Pres. Couples' Club

Editor: Rabbi John R. Hellman
Synagogue Administrator

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, February 1

Lighting of Candles5:54
Evening6:00

SATURDAY, Shabbat Shirah

Morning9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Pre-School Service11:00

Weekly Portion: Beshalah
Haftarah: Judges 4

Evening6:00
Conclusion of Sabbath6:52

FRIDAY, February 8

Lighting of Candles6:02
Evening6:00

SATURDAY

Morning9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Pre-School Service11:00

Weekly Portion: Yitro
Haftarah: Isaiah 6

Evening5:45
Conclusion of Sabbath7:00

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning7:30
Sunday Morning8:30
Father and Son Minyan9:30
Evening5:45

Tu B'shvat — Thursday, February 7

**"How Can A Jew
Speak of Faith Today?"**

by Eugene Borowitz

Will be the topic of Am Hasefer II

Sunday Evening — February 17
at 8:00

at the home of
Clara and Mordie Mann
135 E. 83rd Street

**EVENING ULPAN CLASS
BEGINS**

Our Beginners Hebrew Class has completed its work for the year under the leadership of Esther Linzer, Instructor of Judaic Studies in Grade 2 at Ramaz. By popular demand, the class is now embarking upon an ulpan program under the leadership of Evelyn Sohmer, Instructor of Judaic Studies in Grade 1 at our school.

The students will study Modern Hebrew, speech and writing in the ulpan style. There is a small charge for the course. New students are invited to come this Tuesday night from 8:00 to 9:30 for the session. A prerequisite is an elementary reading knowledge of Hebrew.

The Monday morning Ulpanim continue as usual.

**Would You Like to
Sponsor a Father and
Son Minyan?**

Every Sunday morning the Father and Son Minyan meets for prayer followed by breakfast and an athletic period in the gymnasium. It is one of the finest activities run by the congregation with a history of almost thirty years.

The program is a costly one for the Men's Club of the congregation. Part of the cost is defrayed by \$40 sponsorships of good friends in conjunction with a significant milestone in the family, or just as an act of communal support.

Please call Rabbi John R. Hellman in the synagogue office to let him know of your readiness to be a sponsor. The Men's Club and the Minyan will appreciate it.

YAHARZEITS

February

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2—Joseph Freed | 6—Benjamin Gottfried | 12—Emma Schlinger |
| 3—Celia Kay | 6—Fannie Lewittes | 12—Joseph Gottschalk |
| 3—Rive K. Weinstein | 6—Henry Hauer | 12—Fannie Shientag |
| 3—Lena Uris | 7—Eliezer Gross | 12—Rose Gelfand |
| 3—Emanuel Weinbaum | 7—Harris Mandelbaum | 12—Philipp Citron |
| 3—Stelle Hayman | 7—Philip Snyder | 12—Abraham J. Reinstein |
| 4—Hannah Breindel Rokeach | 8—Rebecca Colvin | 13—Julius Hebald |
| 4—Joseph Corak | 8—Abraham Altschuler | 13—Hanna Fischel |
| 4—Dr. Nathan Berkowitz | 9—Fanny Debrovner | 14—Toby Theresa Goldman |
| 4—Aaron Rechtschaffen | 9—Gussie Poust | 14—Rebecca Jacobs |
| 5—Leona Abrams | 9—Max Kessler | 14—Tillie Cohen |
| 5—Mary Devorah Kleiman | 9—Rebecca Bookbinder | 15—Isaac Claman |
| 5—Arthur Rubin | 9—Bernard Zagelein | 15—Jacob Levy |
| 6—Samuel Galler | 10—David Goldstein | 15—Aaron Hyman |
| 6—Dora Miller | 10—Sarah Wroblewski | 15—Sari Joseph |
| | 11—Minnie Katz | 15—Moses Aaron Chasan |

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