

Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



Volume XLVI, Number 6

January 5, 1979

Tevet 6, 5739

Theater Party Feature — "Whoopee"

The Men's Club is happy to announce that the hit musical "Whoopee" is the play chosen for this year's theater party. This event will take place Thursday evening, February 15.

"Whoopee" has received rave reviews from critics in New England where it has already run. It has also been selected for a special limited engagement at the prestigious Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

This project is the Men's Club's only fundraising activity of the year. The proceeds from it are spent on scholarship aid for deserving Ramaz students, sponsorship of the Father and Son Minyan and Boy Scout Troop and financial assistance for participants in Yeshiva University's Torah Leadership Seminar.

Reservations for the theater party can be made by calling the synagogue office.

Sisterhood Open Meeting January 22

Guest Speaker:

RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN

An open meeting of the KJ Sisterhood will take place on Monday, January 22 at 12:00. The speaker will be our own Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, reviewing Elie Wiesel's most recent book, "A Jew Today."

All women are invited to hear Rabbi Lookstein's impressions of this work. We are sure that the program will prove worthwhile and valuable for all who attend.

Sisterhood Luncheon — March 28

The Luncheon Committee of the KJ Sisterhood is pleased to announce that this year's luncheon will be held in the Chamber Auditorium of the Synagogue House on March 28. The committee has been working very actively to make this function a truly special event.

Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

Further details will follow as the date of the luncheon approaches.

"MAZEL TOV, DR. LOOKSTEIN"

These were the words used by the professors who were seated around the table as Rabbi Haskel Lookstein returned to the conference room after his successful defense of his doctoral dissertation at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University last month. The congratulations marked the culmination of four years of work by the rabbi on a study entitled "American Jewry's Public Response to the Holocaust During Six Periods, 1938-44."

The Rabbi, who was ordained at Yeshiva in 1958 and who received his B.A. from Columbia in 1953 and his M.A. from Yeshiva in 1963, spent many years studying under the tutelage of Dr. Hyman Grinstein, Dr. Isaac Lewin, Prof. Nathan Goldberg,

Dr. Irving Agus, Dr. Arthur Hyman and many other professors at the Bernard Revel Graduate School during the course of his studies in modern and medieval Jewish history and Jewish philosophy.

We are pleased to congratulate Rabbi Haskel Lookstein on this great milestone in his professional career. We also extend our best wishes to Mrs. Lookstein and the children who had to endure this ordeal with him. Our warmest mazel tov also to Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein on the achievement of their son and to Mrs. Morris Katz on this moment of joy in the life of her son-in-law.

A brief resume of the dissertation appears on Page 3 of this Bulletin.

Last Call for the

42nd ANNUAL RAMAZ DINNER DANCE

Honoring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 21

New York Hilton

Couvert: \$250 per couple.

Please call the Synagogue Office for reservations.

**We welcome the children and parents of the sixth grade of Ramaz
who will be our guests at services and lunch on Shabbat, Jan. 20.**

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Births

Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert N. Kahn on the birth of their baby daughter. Mazel tov also to the proud grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Kahn.

Mazel tov to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kahn on the birth of their baby son. Congratulations also to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Fred Kahn.

Mazel tov to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fishman on the recent birth of their second son, Michael Elliot.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Stern on the birth of their grandson, a baby born to Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Stern.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Krulwich on the birth of their grandchild, a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Krulwich.

Mazel tov to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Perlman on the birth of their second great-granddaughter, a baby born to their grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Freiss.

May these new arrivals grow up in the tradition of Torah, *chupah* and *ma'asim tovim*.

Communal Honors

We are happy to congratulate our dear member, Mrs. Malvina Wachter, who was honored by the Beth Rivkah Schools at a pre-Chanukah luncheon for her work as chairman of the annual raffle project for the Beth Rivkah Schools. Mrs. Wachter is a devoted worker for these schools which are part of the Lubavitcher movement.

Communal Recognition

Mazel Tov to our esteemed member, Israel Friedman who was the guest of honor at the annual *Melaveh Malkah* of the Yeshiva Tifereth Israel of Rizhin, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as President. This Yeshiva in Jerusalem, which was founded by the sainted father of Mr. Friedman, the immortal Bayaner Rebbe, has been blessed with inspired and gifted leadership from Mr. Friedman. We wish him continued blessed results from his labors.

Ramaz Senior Winner in Zionism Contest

David Freudenstein, a Ramaz senior, was selected as one of the winners of the Zionist Contest sponsored by the Department of Education and Culture of the World Zionist Organization. Being a winner entitles him to a round-trip to Israel.

Two Ramaz seniors, Hannah Holmes and Jonathan Kukin, participated in the college bowl on Zionism on November 19 and November 26 on Channel 9.

In Memoriam

Max Backer

He was the senior member of the congregation in point of service, associated with our synagogue for more than half a century.

Max Backer was a butcher in our neighborhood whose business was more of a calling than simply an economic enterprise. He really believed in *kashrut*, so much so that on three-day Sabbath and festivals he would get the keys from all the butchers of the neighborhood and make it his business to go and water their meat so that the laws of *kashrut* could be kept properly even by his competitors.

After his retirement, he began to come as regularly to services during the week as he had come for 55 years every Shabbat morning. His place on the bench in front of the *bima* will be filled with memories for us: memories of his piety, his goodness and even of his robust singing at services. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his dear wife and sons and we pray that they will be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

James Holtsclaw

For 30 years he was known to us as "Jimmy," a faithful servant of the synagogue and Ramaz, devoted to all of our worshippers, concerned with every aspect of our building and committed to the smooth functioning of our religious and educational enterprise.

He particularly loved the children. He had special names of endearment for each of them. No matter how much "trouble" they gave him, his attitude always was: "They're fine kids; I love them all."

His passing leaves our synagogue and school with a very empty feeling. We loved him as he loved us and we will miss him very much.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

JK Weekend January 5-7

As this bulletin goes to press, there are very few places still available for the Shabbat experience in the country and Sunday skiing. Check with Debbie Lookstein (628-0340) to see if there is still room.

JK Shabbat Luncheon

Come to a luncheon on Shabbat, January 27 for 9th-12th graders, which will follow a special "minyan" in the 6th floor Chapel beginning at 9:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon is \$2.50. Call to reserve your place (before January 19).

Calling Fathers (and Mothers) and Sons (and Daughters)

We don't know quite what to call the Father and Son Minyan in these changing times. The fact is, that there are some mothers who occasionally come and a number of girls who regularly attend services. We are pleased, therefore, to extend a cordial invitation to all parents and children to come to this Sunday morning Minyan.

Following a service which is led by Steven Koppel, we invite all to breakfast and then to a period in the gymnasium.

This is a beautiful activity for young people of elementary and high school age. It combines the best of religious, culinary and athletic opportunities. Come and bring your friends.

Ramaz Registration About To Be Completed

We call to the attention of our readers that registration for the 1979-80 academic year in Ramaz is now in progress and some classes are already closed. The school has been blessed with a very strong rate of applications this year and it is most important that parents in the community who are anxious to enroll their children in Ramaz notify the school office immediately.

Please do not delay. Postponement of this matter may result in the school being unable to accommodate a child who deserves admission and whom Ramaz would have liked to admit had the application been sent in on time.

Bringing People Together

From time to time we hear of people here, our congregational and school families who are seeking employment. We feel that spreading this information through our bulletin could be very helpful to the job applicant and could, at the same time, serve the needs of people who are looking for certain kinds of personnel. We feel that it is a mitzvah to bring the two parties together and we hope that the bulletin can serve that function occasionally. The following announcement is an example.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER; CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR

Expert in all phases of financial management, controllership and accountancy including budgets, cost systems, design and implementation of EDP/MIS systems, development and implementation of short and long range profit plans.

Established world-wide audit controls, instituted pricing policies and compensation plans, performed feasibility studies.

Developed productive working relations with banks, legal counsel, government contract auditors and outside auditors. Extensive supervisory experience.

Fortune 500, engineering, manufacturing.

DOUBLE YOUR CHARITABLE DOLLAR

There are many corporations which give matching grants to schools and synagogues when a member of the corporation or firm gives to the institution himself or herself.

It is worthwhile for you to check whether perhaps you are in such a corporation or firm. Then, by contributing to Kehilath Jeshurun or Ramaz School you can double your charitable dollar through the generosity of your employer.

If we can be of service to you in this matter, please let us know. If you could be of service to us, please act accordingly and accept our thanks in advance.

RESERVE THE DATE
Sunday, April 29
SOLIDARITY SUNDAY
FOR SOVIET JEWRY

AMERICAN JEWRY'S PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE HOLOCAUST DURING SIX PERIODS, 1938-44

A Resume of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein's Dissertation

This study attempts to analyze what American Jews knew about the Holocaust while it was taking place and what their public response was to the news of European Jewry's destruction during the years 1938 through 1944.

The study covers six periods from 1938 through 1944: Kristallnacht and its aftermath (November-December, 1938), the St. Louis episode (May-June, 1939), the announcement, in the public media, of the extermination of 2,000,000 Jews and the peril to the lives of 4,000,000 more (November-March, 1943), the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (April-May, 1943), the campaign to create an American governmental rescue agency (July, 1943-January, 1944) and the occupation of Hungary and the deportation of Hungarian Jewry (March-July 1944).

The public response of American Jews was studied in each of the periods by an analysis of the Yiddish press in New York, a wide sampling of the Anglo-Jewish press and periodical literature throughout the United States and the local Jewish papers in Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston, the three largest Jewish population centers outside of New York at that time. From the press, which covered the entire spectrum of political and religious viewpoints in the Jewish community, the study tried to answer the following questions, among others: What was publicly known about the events in those periods? How was the knowledge interpreted by American Jews? Were the facts and their implications understood? How much attention did the press give to the events? How did Jewish leaders express themselves concerning the events and the issues they raised? Finally, what public action was taken by Jews

during these periods in response to the events and the issues?

The study demonstrates that American Jews had available to them comprehensive information about the plight of European Jews in each of the periods. Despite the extent of the information, the public response was, on the whole, sporadic, weak, ineffective and not nearly commensurate with the gravity of the threat to Jewish lives in Europe. It may be that American Jews were not able to influence significantly the saving of Jewish lives or even the resettlement of refugees who escaped from the Nazi threat, but the public attempts that were made in these directions were rather weak.

There were reasons for the weak public response. They included among others, insecurity in the face of anti-Semitism at the time, the strong anti-alien sentiment in America which inhibited pressure for widening immigration quotas to the United States, divisiveness among American-Jewish organizations, a worshipful attitude toward Roosevelt, a psychological "denial" of the facts of Nazi brutality toward Jews and a feeling of despair and helplessness in the face of the unrelenting death machinery operated by the Nazis.

The study closes with the general feeling that American Jews carried on "business as usual" during the Holocaust period despite the terrible dimensions of the crisis which might have affected their lives more directly and which perhaps ought to have resulted in significant reactions and changes in the life of American Jewry from 1938 through 1944.

Shabbat Morning Class

A class in Tractate Nedarim, Chapter 4 has begun meeting in the Ward Library of the synagogue Saturday mornings at 8:00. This section deals with legal responsibilities incurred by verbal declarations. Rabbi Jack Bieler, who teaches this course, provides his students with and in-depth analysis of the text with commentaries. All are invited to attend.

An Invitation to the K.J. Family

The Ramaz Parents Council is pleased to invite the Kehilath Jeshurun family to attend a special presentation on the King Tut exhibit, currently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibit will be discussed by Robert Friedman, Community Education Director of the Museum, on Tuesday, January 16 at 8:00 p.m., in the Kamber Auditorium.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**Friday, January 5**

Lighting of Candles4:25 P.M.
Evening4:40 P.M.

Saturday, January 6

Morning9:00 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Vayigash
Evening4:40 P.M.
Conclusion of Sabbath5:23 P.M.

Tuesday, January 9 —

Fast of Tenth of Tevet

Friday, January 12

Lighting of Candles4:32 P.M.
Evening4:45 P.M.

Saturday, January 13

Morning9:00 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Vayechi
Evening4:45 P.M.
Conclusion of Sabbath5:30 P.M.

Friday, January 19

Lighting of Candles4:40 P.M.
Evening4:50 P.M.

Saturday, January 20

Morning9:00 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Shemot
Evening4:50 P.M.
Conclusion of Sabbath5:38 P.M.

Friday, January 26

Lighting of Candles4:48 P.M.
Evening5:00 P.M.

Saturday, January 27

Morning9:00 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Vaera
ROSH CHODESH PRAYERS
Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on
Monday, January 29.
Evening5:00 P.M.
Conclusion of Sabbath5:46 P.M.

Junior Congregation meets on Shabbat mornings at 10:15.

Pre-School Services are at 10:45.

Weekday Services

Morning7:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning8:30 A.M.
Father and Son Minyan9:30 A.M.
Evening
Until January 184:40 P.M.
Beginning January 214:50 P.M.

KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN
CONG. KEHILATH JESHURUN

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Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. LooksteinSenior Rabbi
Haskel LooksteinRabbi
Avrum DavisCantor
Israel D. RosenbergRitual Director
Maxine DiamondExecutive Sec'y

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Mrs. David WeisselbergerPres. Sist'd
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What Anatoly Scharansky Faces for the Next 3 Years

The kind of conditions which our friend Anatoly Scharansky will face for the next three years in prisons like the notorious Vladimir Prison, were described by Vladimir Bukoflysky, a former inmate of that prison who is now in the West. The following is part of Bukoflysky's description:

"The normal cells in Vladimir have iron screens on the windows so no ray of light can penetrate into the room. The cells are of different size: some have three men, some five, and some ten in the same cell, locked up throughout the day except for a half hour for exercise. Exercise takes place in a small courtyard, like a room without a roof. Only those in the same cell may exercise together.

"The walls of the cell are made of rough concrete so they cannot be written on, and are damp. There is a heating system but part of the punishment is to keep it deliberately low, even in winter. The guards shove food through a trap door. Some cells have no toilet, only a bucket or just a hole in the floor. All the stench from the sewage system returns to the cells, which have no proper ventilation system.

Horror of Solitary Confinement

"Conditions are worse in the punishment cells. You are kept in solitary confinement in a room about 2½ square meters. The only light is from a small bulb in a deep niche in the ceiling. At night you sleep on wooden boards raised a few inches from the ground with no mattress or blankets or pillow. You are forbidden warm clothing.

"Often there is no heating at all in winter. It is so cold you can't sleep at all, and have to keep jumping up and run around your cell to keep warm. At 6 a.m. your wooden bed

is removed and there is nothing for you to do the rest of the day — no newspaper, books, pen, pencil or paper — nothing.

"In solitary, prisoners get a specially reduced diet. This happened to me in Vladimir in 1976 after (Soviet President Leonid) Brezhnev had signed the Helsinki Agreement. On alternate days I had nothing to eat or drink except a small piece of coarse black bread and some hot water. On the other days I had two meals — in the middle of the day some watery soup with a few cabbage leaves, some grains of barley, sometimes two or three potatoes, which were black and bad. In the evening I had gruel made from oatmeal or some other cereal, a piece of bread and several little fish, which were rotten and however hungry I was I could not eat them.

Diseases are Widespread

"The appalling conditions in Vladimir means that almost everyone there suffers from stomach ulcers, liver and kidney diseases, or heart and vascular diseases. You are allowed to send out one letter a month but the prison authorities can deprive you of that right. If prisoners try to describe their state of health or the lack of medical help in prison, their letters are confiscated.

"Essential medicines are often not available. For example, they have no blood bank. I remember a man named Kurkis who had a perforated ulcer and died. There was no blood available for a transfusion. He lay bleeding for 24 hours and then expired."

Remember: this coming Shabbat, January 6, will be Anatoly Scharansky's 94th Shabbat in prison. He has 582 Shabbatot to spend in confinement.

TEFILLIN INSPECTION

Tefillin inspection will take place this year in a different manner from how it has been done in the past. For further details on how to have your Tefillin inspected, contact Mr. Rosenberg in the synagogue office. He will be happy to help you have this vital service performed.

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NEW YORK 24, N. Y.
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Closed Saturdays Open Sundays

When in Jerusalem . . .

We would like to inform our members that the Yeshurun Synagogue in Jerusalem is ready to welcome our members when they are in Israel. The person to speak to there is Joseph Goldman, Synagogue Treasurer. Identify yourself as a KJ member to him.

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL
CHAPEL

CARL GROSSBERG
ANDREW FIER
Directors

180 West 76th St.
(at AMSTERDAM AVE.)
ENDicott 2-6600