



בראשית

נדב

Vol. IX No.2

Bereshith: "In the Beginning"

5747 Kislev/December 1986

FAREWELL TO THE ABELOWS

Debby and Peter Abelow are moving to Baltimore. Peter has been named principal of the Beth Tfiloh High School. We are happy for the wonderful opportunity that beckons the Abelows to move South, but we of Lincoln Square Synagogue, particularly Beginners and Intermediates, are going to sorely miss them.

The Abelows were not just teachers, friends, surrogate rabbi, confidant -- the Abelows were an institution, a major energy source which has contributed greatly to the success of LSS's Beginners programming.

Peter's contributions to "Beginners education" in America are profound. It was Peter who developed the curriculum for the Jewish Living Laboratory course which he taught for close to a decade at the Shapiro Institute, and which is now emulated in adult education programs across the country. Together with Stephen Klein, Peter conceived, produced and recorded the Ora V'Simcha Shabbat Learning System which teaches the Shabbat ritual through song and explanation. For the past few years Peter also taught the popular course, "To Pray as a Jew" began the Intermediate Minyan, and at times led the Beginners service.

(cont. p.2)

NEW YORK MAGAZINE AND THE BEGINNERS SERVICE

Rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, the LSS Beginners Service does not retain the services of one of the top New York P.R. consultants. Yes, it's true that some of the stories that feature the Beginners Service have evolved from the experiences of congregants who are professional writers, but Cathryn Jakobson of New York magazine had never been to Lincoln Square. She literally walked in off the street after many years of viewing people from her West Side window walking to and from the synagogue.

The acclaim that has been the result of the publication of the article (November 17, 1986) leaves one with ambivalent feelings. It was an unusually favorable write up,

(cont. p. 2)

A POST-SUMMER VACATION

Because I started my new job working for a newsletter on June 12, it meant that I would have no vacation time during the summer. I felt envious as the two other employees at the company looked forward to, talked about, went to, and returned to talk about their vacations to Ireland and Italy respectively. Through it all, I just worked away during a quiet summer in New York. Noting my discomfort, the editor said to me one morning, "Don't feel bad. You'll get a vacation next summer."

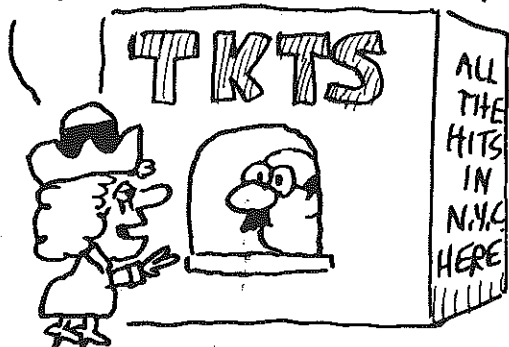
Come the fall, I started attending the Beginners Service at Lincoln Square Synagogue. I remember someone asking a question, something like, "How many times must a person come to services before they can make up

(cont. p. 3)

especially for New York. It has already brought people to our service and will probably encourage other synagogues to start Beginners Services of their own. Besides, my mother and mother-in-law loved the article and were especially pleased with the pictures of their grandchildren. (If after the first few days you had difficulty obtaining copies of the magazine it was because these two women bought up every spare copy).

On the other hand there is reason for concern. Now that we've become the "in thing" how do we maintain the "purity" of the service? Will we be overwhelmed by numbers? Should we expand the service, or plan for an overflow alternative service? And how do we keep the acclaim from going to our heads?

FORGET "CATS"! I NEED TWO FOR THE BEGINNERS MINYAN.



My own inclination is to maintain the service as it has been conducted for the last decade. To me, the most effective aspect of the Beginners Service is the personal contact and the feeling of community that pervades the congregation. A larger assembly would reduce its effectiveness, as is so apparent at the High Holy Days service. The support of former Beginners and the already observant elements of LSS will be crucial to continued success. We need homes for Shabbat meals. Former Beginners must attend shmoozes and share their own experiences with the neophytes. We need volunteers who are prepared to "adopt" a Beginner, to show him/her the ropes, introduce him/her to the community, and make integration less traumatic. We will require more initiatives like the Intermediate Minyan and Z'mirot workshops which were developed by the Beginners themselves.

Undoubtedly there will be changes, but let's make certain they will be only for the better. With your help we can be certain!

One final note. The success of the Beginners Service is hardly attributable to one person. It is due primarily to congregation with vision, to a lay leadership that was willing to contribute of their efforts and resources to sponsor a program which ostensibly would be of no direct personal benefit to them. It is due to a collaborative effort of the wonderful rabbis, teachers, office staff of LSS and the Shapiro Institute (especially Richard Kestenbaum and Rabbi Mordechai Reich), who gave, and continue to give, unstintingly of their love, their knowledge, and their time, to make possible the enrichment of Jews who never had the opportunity to behold the beauty and wisdom of Jewish tradition. While I have constantly received more credit than I deserve, they always receive too little.

Above all, credit is due to the modern day heroes and heroines of the Jewish people, you beginners, who humble us by your commitment, zeal and love for G-d and Torah, and who undertake transformations that we of the observant community would never attempt.

If we've become famous, it's not because what we've done -- but rather because of what you've done. And for this we are profoundly grateful.

-Ezb-

(cont. from p.1) ABELOWS

The Abelow family was deeply involved in many facets of Lincoln Square Synagogue life, for which they were deservedly honored several years ago. Their home was always open to guests and their annual Shavuot picnics became a popular and beautiful min-hag (custom) as the academic year drew to a close. Their warmth and concern drew hundreds closer to Jewish tradition, and the personal attention they showered on their student-friends pulled many a person through difficult times.

We know that despite their decision to relocate, the Abelows will be back on the Upper West Side quite often. We don't intend to let them draw away from us so easily. We hope to continue learning, singing and celebrating with the Abelows for many years to come.

So, as they say in Israel -- "L'hitraot," see you soon, Debby and Peter!

-Ezb-

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZEL TOV

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

ENGAGEMENTS

Sheryl Epstein to Martin Beck
Judy Silberman to Uri Aqua
Rosine Wolecki to Ed Morgenstern

MARRIAGES

Myra Eisenoff to Chaim Shimon
Lisa Siegel to Opher Levenberg

BIRTHS

Debby & Dr. Peter Abelow on the birth
Elyse & Reuven Kruger on the birth of
Melanie and Bernard Renschner-Kaminetzky on the birth of a daughter, **RAH ANNE**
Shelly Winston and Neil Roland on the birth of a daughter, **YOELLA NURIT**
Carol & Jonathan Spanbock on the birth of a daughter, **SARA BATYA**

BAR MITZVAH

Avi Abelow

TZETCHEM L'SHALOM (to live or study in Israel)

Marsha, Jonathan and Yisrael Yaakov Weisman

CONDOLENCES

Rabbi Mordechai Reich on the passing of his mother, **HANNAH REICH**
Michal Hollander on the untimely passing of her brother, **DAN HOLLANDER**

CONGRATULATIONS

Ellen Ronee Pollachek on the publication of her article in Jewish Action,
Summer/Fall 1986, entitled "The Tale of a Tinok Shenishbah"

THANK YOU

Stuart Hample for his wonderful illustrations in "Bereshith"



*Eisenoff is his last name not
Chaim Shimon
not correct text
divorced
Lisa Siegel*

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*   Beginners Luncheon Schedule   *
*                               cost $10   *
*   Jan. 24, Feb. 28, May 16   *
*                               *
*   Beginners Schmooze Schedule   *
*   Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16   *
*                               *
*   Zmirot Workshop Schedule   *
*   Jan. 17, Feb. 14   *
*                               *
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(cont. from p. 1) VACATION

their mind if this is for them?" And Rabbi Buchwald responded, something like, "There's more than just the services. There's the whole Sabbath experience."

I decided I wanted more of the Sabbath experience so I called the Hospitality Committee at Lincoln Square Synagogue, and, despite the fact that it was the first week in October, around the High Holidays, I got accommodations for Friday night dinner with a family and with a group of singles for Shabbos lunch and, of course, the Beginners Service. What made the experience that much more special for me was the D'var Torah I delivered at the service. I always went to the service to take in and listen, and I was

honored to have the chance to give out my impressions of what the Torah portion meant to me.

On my way home on the subway on Saturday night I was filled with warm reminiscences of a day so unique in my life, so welcome to me. Walking down the avenue on the way to my apartment I looked down at my small suitcase, the same suitcase I take on trips when I'm fortunate enough to have the time and money. But at this moment I felt fortunate to realize that I didn't have to wait till next summer to get away, like my co-worker had said. I had just been on vacation. I had been to Shabbos.

-Alan Magill-

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, December 26
 Kindle First Chanukah Candle by 4:15 P.M.
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:16 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 P.M.

Saturday, December 27 (Vayeshev)
 Shabbat Chanukah I
 Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 3:30 P.M.
 Mincha 4:15 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:25 P.M.
 Sunday Chanukah Morning Services 7:00 and 8:30 A.M.
 Daily Morning Chanukah Services 7:00 and 7:50 A.M.

Thursday, January 1 Rosh Chodesh Tevet (New Year's Day)
 Morning Chanukah Services 7:00 and 8:30 A.M.

Friday, January 2 Rosh Chodesh Tevet
 Morning Chanukah Services 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
 Kindle Eight Chanukah Candles by 4:20 P.M.
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:21 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 3 (Miketz)
 Shabbat Chanukah II
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 3:35 P.M.
 Mincha 4:20 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:35 P.M.

Friday, January 9 4:28 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:40 P.M.

Saturday, January 10 (Vayigash)
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 3:45 P.M.
 Mincha 4:30 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:40 P.M.

Sunday, January 11
 Fast of the Tenth of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:00 and 8:30 A.M.
 Mincha 4:30 P.M.

Friday, January 16
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:36 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:45 P.M.

Saturday, January 17 (Vayechi)
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 3:50 P.M.
 Mincha 4:35 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:50 P.M.

Friday, January 23
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:44 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:55 P.M.

Saturday, January 24 (Shemote)
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 4:00 P.M.
 Mincha 4:45 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:00 P.M.

Friday, January 30
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:52 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:05 P.M.

Saturday, January 31 (Vaera)
 Shabbat Rosh Chodesh
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 4:05 P.M.
 Mincha 4:50 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:05 P.M.

Friday, February 6
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:01 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:10 P.M.

Saturday, February 7 (Bo)
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Talmud and Bible Classes 4:15 P.M.
 Mincha 5:00 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:15 P.M.

Friday, February 13
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:10 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:20 P.M.

Saturday, February 14 (Beshalach)
 Shabbat Shira/Tu B'Shevat
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 4:25 P.M.
 Mincha 5:10 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:25 P.M.

Monday, February 16
 Washington's Birthday
 Morning Services 7:10 and 8:30 P.M.

Friday, February 20
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:18 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 P.M.

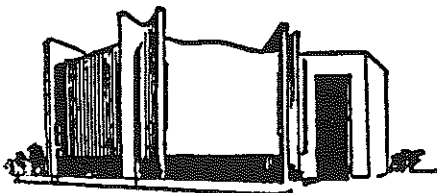
Saturday, February 21 (Yitro)
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 4:30 P.M.
 Mincha 5:15 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:30 P.M.

Friday, February 27
 Kindle Shabbat Candles 5:27 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:40 P.M.

Saturday, February 28 (Mishpatim)
 Shabbat Shekalim
 Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 4:40 P.M.
 Mincha 5:25 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 5:40 P.M.
 Sunday, March 1 Rosh Chodesh Adar
 Morning Services 7:00 and 8:30 A.M.
 Monday, March 2 Rosh Chodesh Adar
 Morning Services 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.

בראשית Bereshith: "In the Beginning" is put together under the direction of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, Educational Director of Lincoln Square Synagogue 200 Amsterdam Avenue, New York. A special Beginners' Minyan is held each Shabbat morning at 9:15 A.M. at the synagogue. Through its Joseph Shapiro Institute, Lincoln Square offers a number of adult education courses in Judaica.

Readers: This is your newsletter and we would like to hear from you. Article contributions are most welcome!



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