

## A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SCHWARZ UPON ENROLLING IN RABBINICAL SEMINARY

by Rosalyn Dickens

The first time I was introduced to Joe was at Rivkie's (then Davidowitz) Shabbos table. I thought he was one of the funniest and most charming people I had ever met.

There must have been twenty people at that table, and Joe had us laughing the whole afternoon. I was so impressed and so amused that I said to him, "I don't know what you do for a living kid, but whatever it is, give it up and go on stage. You could be a first-rate comedian. I'll be your agent."

There was a lot of conversation around the table that afternoon about Jackie Mason, since one of the other guests was related to him. This was before Mason's remarkable comeback, so the discussion mostly concerned the hardships of a life in show business.

Still, I was convinced that Joe had what it took to make it big. Did he also have the prerequisite self-centeredness, the killer instinct, the maniacal drive and the sheer madness necessary to succeed in show business? On closer inspection, to his credit and to the credit of his parents, perhaps not.

But Joe had such charm, such warmth, such a quick mind. He had the talent to engage people and the power to move them. Devoting his life to machines seemed like such waste.

Happily, in time, he reached a similar conclusion and selected a more appropriate outlet for his many gifts. When Joe entered yeshiva this month, technology's loss became humanity's gain.

If, after all, Jackie Mason can make the transition from rabbi to comedian and star, there's no reason why computer programmer and (free-lance) comedian, Joe Schwarz, can't make the transition to rabbi...and star.

While success in SHOW business may need only an audience and a star, success in the SHUL business needs many other special and magical ingredients as well. (Or we'd be asking shylas (religious questions) from Rabbi Billy Crystal and Rabbi Chevy Chase.)

Preparing this little speech (which no one asked me to make), I was reminded of the first D'var Torah I ever gave in Classroom 2. It was a Beginner's view of words and how their meanings differ in interpretation between the King's English and the Torah's Hebrew.

That week I had honed in on the concept of the Sabbath, and what seemed to be a rather simplistic interpretation in the Chumash notes.

Expecting some lofty and mystical commentary on this the central theme of Jewish observance, I found instead "Sabbath day: Hebrew, Shabbat, from a root meaning desisting from work." It was disturbingly simple. It lacked drama. It lacked grandeur.

Like many Beginners, I saw Orthodox observance as archane, cloaked in secrecy, and attended by elaborate rituals beyond my ability to perform, and mysterious ideas beyond my comprehension.



Perhaps I was trying to justify why I couldn't do it. But then, considering my naive view of Orthodoxy, it's not surprising that I had neither the hope nor inclination to become religious.

As my studies revealed to me the disparity between Webster and Torah, between the secular and the traditional Jewish approach to society, I sought more and more to identify with this, my own beautiful and unique heritage. The humanity and

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accessibility of Torah life filled me with pride and inspiration.

Each week, the richness and sweetness of Judaism was placed within my reach by wonderful people at Lincoln Square. I came to understand that observance was possible, even for a person with zero knowledge and a basement level madraygah (spiritual position).

Wherever I turned, the principles that once had seemed so lofty and so distant were being spoon fed to me in bite size pieces by a person as loving as my mother, as non-judgmental as my Grama. His guidance and encouragement personified another precious religious tradition, that of the RABBI. Of course, for me, that man was and always will be Rabbi Buchwald. And you, Joe, will be that man for countless others.

One of the first things he taught us in the Beginner's Service was that the word RABBI actually means TEACHER. And his very being exemplified how talent, charisma and commitment could merge in the service of this noble and sacred endeavor, not only to educate, but to inspire and motivate his students.

While I'm sure that spiritual leaders are important to people who have been raised in a religious atmosphere, without a rabbi, a beginner literally "WOULDN'T HAVE A PRAYER." There is no way to measure the reach and the impact of the right rabbi and teacher on those whom Rabbi Riskin calls the "not-yet religious."

Unfortunately, for some of us, learning about the depth and beauty of our culture and heritage doesn't always go hand-in-hand with feeling closer to G-d.

Turning again to my teachers, I recall one particularly sweet point made by Rabbi Yitzchok Kirzner in a class I took at the Jewish Renaissance Center. He was asked by a student, how one who isn't even convinced there is a G-d, can ever hope to get close to Him.

Enumerating several possibilities and opportunities for a beginner's spiritual

growth, he concluded with a prescription to try, whenever possible, to surround and involve ourselves with truly religious people.

He felt that the lives of the tzadikim (righteous people), by their very sweetness and continuity, offer proof of G-d and the beauty of His Torah to those of us who are still unsure. And that people whose lives mirror their belief in G-d with excitement and conviction, offer us, by example, a basis for our own emunah (belief).

He suggested that until Mashiach comes and the Temple is rebuilt, a tzadik represents a contact with truth and a bridge to G-d for those who are not ready to make the leap of faith by themselves.

Surely this is true. In my own life the beauty of the Torah world has been revealed to me in theory and in practice by my wonderful teachers at Lincoln Square and other places, and my life has been enriched beyond all knowing.

If it hadn't been for fathers passing along our tradition to their children, and for other people's children undertaking to be our fathers, many of us would not know who we are, or what a gift and privilege it is to be a Jew.

Joe, by deciding to follow your CHOSEN (no pun intended) path, you have put yourself in a position, not only to preserve our precious legacy, but to enrich lives and change destinies.

And while you are certainly following in some very creative, brilliant and illustrious footsteps, none of us doubt your ability to carve out your own little niche, in your own inimitable style.

Through your commitment, your talent and your sweetness (and with the help of G-d), I have every confidence that you will meet the challenge to "KEEP THE FAITH, BABY," in a most important and lasting way.

This party is our little gift to you for all the pleasure, kindness, knowledge, insight

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understanding, and hospitality that you have given to all of us, and will undoubtedly give to countless others...not to mention the laughs. (As William B. Williams used to say, "I told you not to mention the laughs).

Each of us who made calls to arrange this party was greeted with with same response. No one said, "Oh, okay, well I'll see if I can make it" or "I'd love to, but I have to wash my hair."

Be they family, close friends or just people who have attended your classes or your services, people were unanimously thrilled at the opportunity to honor you.

We acknowledge your decision with enormous respect and admiration. We support you in your challenge and in your determination. If you are rewarded with even a small measure of what you have already given us, you will be a very rich man. You are the hope of the future. We applaud you and we love you, because without the likes of you, there would be no one there for us.

It is people like you who will teach and reassure us, the way Moses reassured the People of Israel in this morning's parsha.

"For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say: 'Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us hear it.' Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say: 'Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us hear it, that we may do it?' But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in they heart, that thou mayest do it." (Deut. 30:11-14)

As a rabbi and a teacher going into the twenty-first century, you too will have the opportunity to say to your fellow Jews "Learn this, it is accessible. Do this, it is do-able. Cherish this, its cost through the ages has been very, very dear. Take this, it is YOURS."

In conclusion, I must say that my initial assessment of your potential seems to have

been off-base. And it's clear to me now that show business will have to struggle on without you.

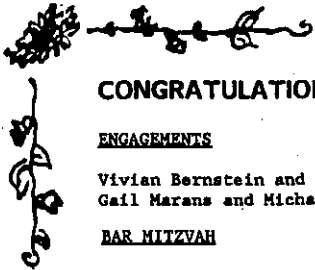
Because, if I'd heard you teach a class before I met you at that luncheon, I probably would have said, "I don't know what you do for a living kid, but give it up, and go to a Yeshiva. You could be a first-rate rabbi. I'll be your agent."

**THEATER FOR BEGINNERS PROGRAMS**  
will present short plays, improvisations  
and encourage audience participation  
on  
**Sunday Night, December 17, 1989**  
7:30 P.M.  
at  
**Havurat Yisrael Synagogue**  
106-20 70 Ave.  
Forest Hills, N.Y.  
Produced by Alan Magill

Proceeds will benefit the homeless  
Suggested donation \$8

This program is made possible  
in part by a grant from  
The Queens Council on the Arts  
for more information call: 718-997-1899





**CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZEL TOV**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

Vivian Bernstein and Sam Katz  
Gail Marans and Michael Haas

**BAR MITZVAH**

Yedidiah Buchwald

**MARRIAGES**

Bobbie Sue Daitch and David Landau  
Isabella Kaydonovo and Aaron I. Reichel  
Heftziba Mandel and Mark Chase  
Eleanore Staiman and Martin Staiman  
Yaffa Turner and Jeff Hodes

**BIRTHS**

Dinah and Ed Alper, on the birth of a boy, Yedidya  
Sarah Wageshal and Jay Elinsky on the birth of a boy, Shlomo Meir  
Judith Weil and Lloyd Epstein on the birth of a boy, Yoel Yitzchak  
Kala and Barry Friedman on the birth of a girl, Dina Malka  
Miriam Weiss and Sam Gluck on the birth of a girl, Shoshana Nechama  
Shelley and Morton Goldberg on the birth of a boy, Baruch Zvi  
Rivkah Rochel and Baruch Kramer on the birth of a boy, Yisrael Binyamin  
Rivkah and Levi Olenick on the birth of a boy, Yehonatan Yosef  
Dawn and Steve Reich on the birth of a girl, Rebecca  
Vivian and David Relkin on the birth of a boy  
Michelle and Fred Sherrill on the birth of a girl, Emily Amalia  
Toby and Bruce Simon on the birth of a boy, Moshe Yair  
Carol and Jonathan Spanbock on the birth of a girl, Dina Rachel  
Hedda Gold and Scott Wright on the birth of a boy, Avraham Yoseph Yehuda

**CONDOLENCES**

Fanny Forman on the loss of her father, Eliyahu Turgeman  
Eleanor Garz Grossblatt on the loss of her sister, Flora Lillian Wedner  
Marilyn Kosscoff on the loss of her father, Leo Aaron Wexler



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\* **Beginners Shabbat Luncheons** \*  
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\* **Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3** \*  
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\* **Beginners Schmooze 8:15 PM** \*  
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\* **Jan 8, Mar 5** \*  
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\* **Beginners - Intermediate Parties** \*  
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\* **Chanukah: Wed, Dec 27** \*  
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\* **Purim: Sat, Mar 10** \*  
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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Saturday, December 16 (VAYISHLACH)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:25 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:10 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 4:25 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, December 22nd**  
Kindle first Chanukah light..... 4:10 p.m.  
Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 4:14 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:25 p.m.

**Saturday, December 23rd (VAYAYSHEV)**  
Shabbat Chanukah I  
Hashkoma Minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:30 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:13 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 4:25 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Sunday morning December 24 Chanukah services 7 & 8:30 a.m.**  
**Monday morning December 25 Chanukah services 7 & 8:30 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 27th**  
Morning services..... 7 and 7:50 a.m.

**Thursday December 28th & Friday December 29th**  
Rosh Chodesh Tzav Chanukah  
Morning services..... 7 and 7:40 a.m.

**Friday, Dec 29**  
Kindle 8 Chanukah candles..... 4:15 p.m.  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:19 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 30th (MKGAVTZ) 8th day of Chanukah**  
Shabbat Chanukah II  
Hashkoma Minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:35 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:20 p.m.  
Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 4:30 p.m.  
Maariv only Tues-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Monday, January 1st New Year's Day**  
Morning Services..... 7:10 and 8:30 a.m.  
No Maariv only services

**Friday, January 5th**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:25 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:35 p.m.

**Saturday, January 6th (VAYIGASH)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:40 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:25 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 4:35 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 7th**  
(Aserah B'tzevet) Fast day  
Fast begins..... 6:08 a.m.  
Morning services..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.  
Mincha..... 4:25 p.m.  
Fast concludes..... 5:16 p.m.

**Friday, January 13th**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:32 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:40 p.m.

**Saturday, January 13th (VAVECHI)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:45 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:30 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 4:45 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, January 19th**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:40 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:50 p.m.

**Saturday, January 20th (SHEMOT)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning service..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:55 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:40 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 4:55 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, Jan 26**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:48 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat Rosh Chodesh..... 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday Jan 27 (VAERA)**  
Rosh Chodesh Shevat  
Hashkoma Minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:40 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:45 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:00 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 2**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 4:57 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:10 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 3 (BO)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning service..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:40 p.m.  
Mincha..... 4:55 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:10 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 9**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 5:05 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:15 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb 10 (SHEIACH)**  
Tu B'Shevat (SHABBAT SHEVAH)  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:40 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:05 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:20 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 16**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 5:14 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:25 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb 17 (YITRO)**  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:30 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:15 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:25 p.m.  
Maariv only Mon-Thurs..... 6:20 p.m.  
(last week of Maariv only minyan)

**Monday, February 19th President's Day**  
Morning Services..... 7:10 and 8:30 a.m.  
No Maariv only

**Friday, Feb 23**  
Kindle Shabbat candles..... 5:17 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb 24 (MISHPATIM)**  
Shabbat Shekalin  
Hashkoma minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning service..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:45 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:20 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:35 p.m.

**Rosh Chodesh Adar**  
Sunday Feb. 25th  
Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.  
AND Monday Feb. 26th  
Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

**Friday, March 2nd**  
Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 5:30 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:40 p.m.

**Saturday, March 3rd (TERUMAH)**  
Daf Yomi..... 7:40 a.m.  
Shabbat morning services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible classes..... 9:45 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:30 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:44 p.m.

**Thursday March 8th**  
Fast of Esther  
Fast begins..... 5:00 a.m.  
Morning services..... 7:00 & 7:30 a.m.  
Mincha..... 5:35 p.m.  
Fast Ends..... 6:26 p.m.

**Friday, March 9th**  
Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 5:38 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:50 p.m.

**Saturday, March 10th (TETZAVE)**  
Shabbat Zachor  
Hashkoma Minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:45 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:40 p.m.  
Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Mincha  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 5:55 p.m.  
Maariv and Megillah reading..... 6:35 p.m.  
Additional Megillah reading..... 9:25 p.m.

**Sunday, March 11th**  
Purim  
Morning services and megillah reading..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.  
Additional megillah readings..... 12:45 & 1:30 p.m.  
Early Mincha..... 5:40 p.m. Regular Mincha..... 5:50 p.m.

**Friday, March 16th**  
Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 5:46 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:55 p.m.

**Saturday, March 17th (KI TISSA)**  
Shabbat Parah  
Hashkoma Minyan..... 7:40 a.m.  
Daf Yomi..... 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.  
Talmud and Bible Classes..... 9:00 p.m.  
Mincha..... 5:45 p.m.  
Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 23rd**  
Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 5:53 p.m.  
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:05 p.m.