MY LIFE

I was born in Kutaisi, Georgia, formerly a part of the SR. It was a town with a relatively large Jewish population -- around 2,000, about 1% of the 200,000 people in Kutaisi. My paternal grandparents were religious, and I grew up celebrating every holiday at my grandfather Menashe's home. (My grandmother died when I was about three years old). I remember Passover Sedarim at his house, with at least 30 to 40 people present. My grandfather had seven children and their spouses, sixteen grandchildren, some of whom were married, and always some additional guests. My grandfather's Sedarim lasted literally all night, because each man tried to show off his knowledge. It was very special. But I was a child, and took it all for granted.

Despite the law that made Jewish education illegal in the Soviet Union, my grandfather made certain that his four sons and grandsons received a Jewish education. But his daughters and granddaughters received no education, since it was the

custom in Georgia to educate men only. I wanted him to talk to me, as he did with my male cousins, my father, and my uncles, but, I was never bitter about his refusal to do so. I believe he was protecting us, as it was dangerous to talk about Torah. (He also never talked to us about politics, another dangerous topic).

Thinking back, I understand now hat a great man my grandfather, Menashe, was. He had neither a religious nor a secular education, but he always lived a true Jewish life. My grandfather was Shomer Shabbat, and went to synagogue every day. He conducted his business according to Jewish business law, helped poor people and gave charity. But he did everything

quietly, we only learned about many of his good deeds after his death in 1975.

With his death, my religious life was greatly diminished. I began to live like most Jews my age: no Shabbat, and kosher only at home. My mother lit candles, and that was all. My father, who, in addition to a Jewish education, was well educated in secular matters, was highly respected. He always went to synagogue for Shabbat and the holidays, and I remember him discussing Torah with various rabbis. However, he primarily attended synagogue for social reasons and to be part of the Jewish community,

My father was also a Zionist. Although it was not easy, he named me after Golda Meir, the Prime Minister of Israel. He truly believed in G-d, always gave charity, and, despite the Georgian tradition, spoke with me about Judaism and Torah.

owever, he thought that the many restrictions of the Jewish way of life would interfere with a professional career and business. He had certain controversial but interesting ideas about Judaism. He believed that the Torah contained the first elements of Communism and Socialism...thereby leading Jews



by Golda Hudes (nee: Tchikvachili)

who were disappointed and bitter with their lives to become the first Communists and Socialists. As I continued through life, however, I realized that something was missing. I understood that I could not, and should not, forget my origins. Perhaps I missed my grandfather's holy days, his wisdom, his soft talk.

Although I was not yet ready to study by myself, I decided to keep "real kosher", meaning, I stopped eating non-kosher outside. Then I tried to keep Shabbat. Whatever I knew, I did, and it made me very happy. I finally knew where I belonged. I started to read about Judaism, learned the alef-bet by myself, and tried to say some prayers in Hebrew. But I had very few friends who knew about this side of my life, and even fewer who shared it.

After coming to the United States, I was able to practice Judaism openly, but again I faced isolation, this time for another reason. My lack of Jewish education caused me to be very uncomfortable in synagogue, so I never went there, except for

Yizkor (the memorial prayers).



Everything changed when I met my future husband, Dana. He had made a similar decision to live a Jewish life, and began studying Torah intensively. Dana brought me to the Beginners Service at Lincoln Square Synagogue, where I felt very much at home. For the first time in my life, I enjoyed going to shul. Rabbi Buchwald's services were great, and I anxiously awaited every available opportunity to attend. I grew Jewishly, and now, at times, I even go to the main sanctuary, where, despite the high knowledge level of the congregation, Rabbis Weinberg and Cohen do everything to reach out to people like me. It is truly a pleasure to listen to their

sermons, and I am very thankful to them for enriching my spiritual life.

When Dana proposed to me, I was very happy, and our wedding was the happiest day of my life. Dana tries to learn Torah regularly, and I am very proud of him. We hope, G-d willing, to have a true Jewish family.

My happiness was completed when my Mom and my nephew Alex (son of my late sister) came to live in New York in time for my wedding. Alex told me at the time that he was very happy to come to my wedding, but was very sad to leave his Rabbi Ariel, with whom he studied (he is not yet Bar Mitzvah). He did not know then that his grandmother, my mother, with whom he lives, would arrange for him to continue his Jewish education in a yeshiva near their new home. I am overwhelmed with joy when I see his present dedication to Judaism. His commitment to Judaism makes me feel certain that the Jewish people will not vanish, but will be here forever.

Golda Hudes is a third year resident in internal medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV ENGAGEMENTS Annette Dulgov and Dr. David Araten

Leslie Shalom and Nissim Berrebi Alene Bloom and Steven Brodsky Elizabeth Wolfe and Dr. Alan Coffino Vivan Faistman and Joshua Corev Beth Osiason and Daryl Gray Robin Reif and Dr. Stephen Rudin Barbara Reich and Jeffrey Siegel

MARRIAGES

Tracy Belkin and Sander Gerber Lynn Katz and David Frankel Nina Spritz and Dr. Moshe Kaweblum Limor Kiasi and Hillel Riskin mazal Tov to parents Vicky and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin Jill Senderoff and Dov Schwartzben

Michael

BIRTHS
Beth and Marc Bengualid, on the birth of a girl, Michele Sarah Jessica and Jordan Chanofsky, on the birth of a boy, Ross Jonathan JoAnn and Alan Goldberg, on the birth of a girl, Rachel Hannah Shelley and Morty Goldberg, on the birth of a girl, Meira Chaya Aviva and Michael Gottlieb, on the birth of a boy Daniel Jacob Jennifer Schuster and Michael Gross, on the birth of a boy, Matthew Isaac Ellen Sue (Levine) and Dr. Michael King, on the birth of twin boys, Ethan Scott and Seth

Laurie and Chaim Keller, on the birth of a boy,



Miriam and Akiva Lane, on the birth of a boy, Yehudah Azriel Alana and Jeff Lewis, on the birth of a boy, Jacob Max Barbara Goodstein and Robert Rosenblatt, on the birth of a boy, Joshua Stanley Deborah and Dr. Jack Schershow, on the birth of a boy, Aryeh Leib Michele and Fred Sherrill, on the birth of a boy, Isaac Matthew

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons - \$15

Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2

Beginners Schmooz - Mondays 8:15 pm - Free

Dec 4, Feb 5

Beginners Shabbaton

March 29-30

Beginners Parties

Chanukah: Wed, Dec 20

Purim: Mon. March 4

Carol and Jonathan Spanbock, on the birth of a boy, Benjamin Dov Lori Epstein and Simon Zarzour, on the birth of a girl, Gabrielle Nicole

CONDOLENCESAbigail Hirsch, on the loss of her beloved father, Leslie Hirsch

BAR MITZVAH
Nina and Tim Boxer, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, David Boxer Caryl Alterbaum Brief and Ben Brief, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Simon Brief Marcia Goldstein and Andrew Fleisch, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Daniel Joseph

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (SPEEDY RECOVERY) Margot Zitter

Friday, February 23rd Kindle Shabbat Candles

THANK YOU
To Nancy Jacobs Cohen for coordinating the High Holiday Beginners Fundraising Campaign

> Rescheduled SAVE THE DATE 20th Anniversary Celebration of the LSS Beginners Service Sunday, March 3, 1996, 6:30 pm Martin Luther King Jr. High School Details to follow

> > 5:22 p.m.

SCHEDILE OF SERVICES

LSS NEWS LSS NEWS

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Friday, December 8th Kindle Shabbat Candles	Kindle Shabbat Candles
Saturday, December 9th (VAYISHLACH) 8:00 a.m. Daf Yomi 8:45 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 a.m. Taimud & Bible Classes 3:25 p.m. Mincha 4:10 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maeriv 4:20 p.m. Maeriv only, Monday - Thursday 6:20 p.m.	Saturday, January 13th (SHEMOT) 8:00 a.m. Daf Yomi 8:46 a.m. Shabbet Morning Services 3:45 a.m. Talmud & Bible Classes 3:45 p.m. Minoha 4:30 p.m. Daily Minoha & Maariv 4:40 p.m. Maariv only Monday - Thursday 6:20 p.m.
Friday, Decembar 15th Kindle Shabbat Candles	Friday, January 19th Kindle Shabbat Candles
Saturday, December 16th (VAYESHEV) 3:00 a.m. Daf Yomit 3:45 a.m. Shabbait Morning Services 3:45 a.m. Tafmud & Bible Classes 3:25 p.m. Mincha 4:10 p.m. Daily Mincha & Meany 4:20 p.m. Meany only, Monday - Thursday 6:20 p.m.	Saturday, January 20th (VAERA) 8:00 a.m. Daf Yorni 8:46 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 8:46 a.m. Talmud & Bible Classes 3:50 p.m. Minoha 4:35 p.m. Daily Minoha & Maariv 4:50 p.m. Maariv only, Monday - Thursday 6:20 p.m.
Sunday, December 17th Kindle First Chanukah Candle at	Monday, January 22nd Rosh Chodesh Shevat Morning Services
Monday - Friday, December 18th - December 22nd - Chanukah Chanukah Morning Services	Friday, January 26th Kindle Shabbet Candles
Friday, December 22nd 4:10 p.m. Kindle Chanukah Candles 4:14 p.m. Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:14 p.m. Mincha and Kabbatat Shabbat 4:20 p.m. Synagogue Chanukah Dinner 4:20 p.m.	Saturday, January 27th (BO)
Saturday, December 23rd MEKETZ Rosh Chodesh Tevet/Chenukah Hashkomah Minyan	Deily Mincha & Maariv 4:55 p.m. Maariv only, Monday - Thursday 8:20 p.m. Friday, February 2nd Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:56 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 p.m. Maariv only, Tuesday-Thursday 6:20 p.m. Light Seven Chanukah Candles	Saturday, February 3rd (B'SHALACH) 8:00 e.m. Daf Yorm 8:00 e.m. Shabbat Morning Services 9:45 e.m. Talmud & Bible Classes 4:05 p.m. Minoha 4:50 p.m.
Sunday December 24th Chanukah & Rosh Chodesh Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 a.m. Monday December 25th Eight Day of Chanukah Morning Services	Maariv only, Monday-Thursday
Friday, December 29th Kindle Shebbat Candles	Monday, February 5th Tu B'Shevat Morning Services . 7:05 & 7:50 a.m. Friday, February 9th Kindle Shabbat Candles . 5:05 p.m. Minoha and Kabbalat Shabbat . 5:10 p.m.
Saturday, December 30th (VAYIGASH) 8:00 a.m. Daf Yorm 8:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 a.m. Talmud & Bible Class 3:30 p.m.	
Mincha 4.15 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv 4.30 p.m. Manor only, Tuesday 5.20 p.m.	Saturday, February 10th (YITRO)
Monday, January 1st Morning Services 7 & 8:30 a.m.	
Tuesday, January 2nd Asarah B'tevet Fast day 8:08e.m.	Friday, February 16th Kindle Shabbat Candles ,
Friday, January 5th Kindle Shabbat Candles	Daf Yomi 3:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 3:45 a.m. Izalmud & Bible Classes 4:25 p.m. Minoha 5:10 p.m. Daily Minoha & Massiv 5:25 p.m.
Saturday, January 6th IVAYECHI Scot Saturday S	Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:25 p.m. Maariv only, Monday-Thursday 6:20 p.m. This is the last week of Maariv only. Monday, February 19th President's Day Morning Services 7:05 & 8:30 a.m.
Mincha 420 p.m. Daily Minche & Maariv 4:35 p.m. Maariv only, Monday - Thursday 6:20 p.m.	Tuesday, February 20th & Wednesday, February 21st Rosh Chodesh Adar
Friday, January 12th	Morning Sevices

Minche and Kabbalat Shabbat	5:22 p.m. 5:25 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services	8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m.
Faimud & Bibte Classes	4:35 p.m. 6:20 p.m. 5:35 p.r
Friday, March 1st Kindle Shabbat Candles	5:29 p.m. 5:35 p.m.
Saturday, March 2nd (TZAVEH) ZACHOR Daf Yomi Shabbat Morning Services	B:00 a.m. B:45 a.m.
I almud & Bible Classes Minche Additional reading of Parshat Zachor following Minche.	1:40 p.m. 5:25 p.m. 5:40 p.m.
Monday, March 4th Taenit Esther Fast begins Morning Services Minohe Marriy and Modillah resting	1:38 a.m.
	/:30 a.m. 5:25 p.m. 5:20 p.m. 9:15 p.m.
Tuesday, March 5th Purim Morning Services and Megillah reading 6:30 & 3	7-45 am
Additional Megillah readings	:40 p.m.
Friday, March 8th	i:37 p.m. i:40 p.m.
Saturday, March 9th (KI-TISA PARSHAT PARAH)	3:00 a.m.
Talmud & Bible Classes	3:45 a.m. 1:50 p.m. 1:35 p.m. 1:50 p.m.
Friday, March 15h Kindle Shabbet Candles	:45 p.m. :50 p.m.
Saturday, March 16th (VAYAKEL - PEKUDAY) (SHABBAT HAC Dat Yomi	HODESH)
Talmud & Bible Classes	8:46 a.m. :55 p.m. :40 p.m. :56 p.m.
Thursday, March 21st Rosh Chodesh Nizan Morning Services	':40 a.m.
Minona and Kabbalat Shabbat 5	:52 p.m. :55 p.m.
Saturday, March 23rd (VAYIKRA) Daf Yomi	:00 a.m. :45 a.m.
Minche	:06 p.m. :50 p.m. :00 p.m.
Friday, March 29th Kindle Shabbat Candles	:05 p.m.
Saturday, March 30th (TZAV) SHABBAT HAGADOL Dal'Yom	:00 a.m. :45 a.m. :10 p.m. :10 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2nd Search for Chametz	