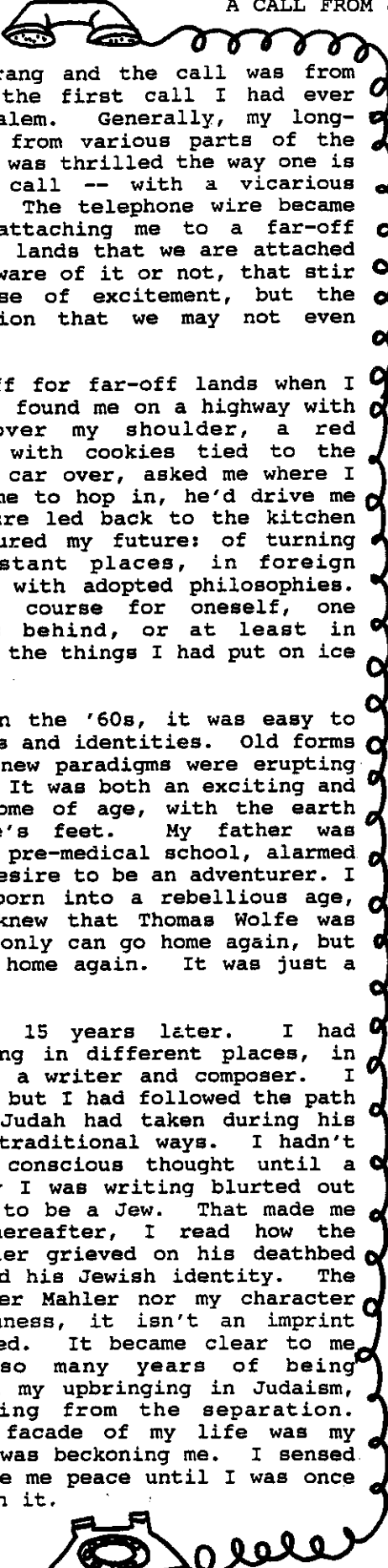


A CALL FROM JERUSALEM

by Alan Richards



The telephone rang and the call was from Jerusalem. It was the first call I had ever received from Jerusalem. Generally, my long-distance calls come from various parts of the states of Europe. I was thrilled the way one is by a long-distance call -- with a vicarious sense of adventure. The telephone wire became my umbilical cord attaching me to a far-off land. But there are lands that we are attached to, whether we are aware of it or not, that stir not just the promise of excitement, but the depth of a connection that we may not even fathom.

I first took off for far-off lands when I was five. My father found me on a highway with a stick propped over my shoulder, a red handkerchief filled with cookies tied to the end. He pulled his car over, asked me where I was going and told me to hop in, he'd drive me there. That adventure led back to the kitchen table. But it augured my future: of turning over stones in distant places, in foreign societies, wrestling with adopted philosophies. When one sets that course for oneself, one leaves some things behind, or at least in abeyance, and one of the things I had put on ice was my Judaism.

As I grew up in the '60s, it was easy to shed traditional ways and identities. Old forms seemed to be dying, new paradigms were erupting in every direction. It was both an exciting and difficult time to come of age, with the earth shaking beneath one's feet. My father was saddened when I quit pre-medical school, alarmed when I declared my desire to be an adventurer. I was a restless boy born into a rebellious age, and yet, I always knew that Thomas Wolfe was wrong, that you not only can go home again, but that you have to go home again. It was just a matter of when.

When was about 15 years later. I had filled my time living in different places, in myriad lifestyles as a writer and composer. I didn't know it then, but I had followed the path similar to the one Judah had taken during his disassociation from traditional ways. I hadn't given Judaism much conscious thought until a character in a story I was writing blurted out that he didn't want to be a Jew. That made me nervous. Shortly thereafter, I read how the composer Gustav Mahler grieved on his deathbed at having surrendered his Jewish identity. The truth is that neither Mahler nor my character had shed his Jewishness, it isn't an imprint that is easily denied. It became clear to me then that after so many years of being disenfranchised from my upbringing in Judaism, that I was suffering from the separation. Buried beneath the facade of my life was my Jewish Soul, and it was beckoning me. I sensed that it wouldn't give me peace until I was once again in harmony with it.

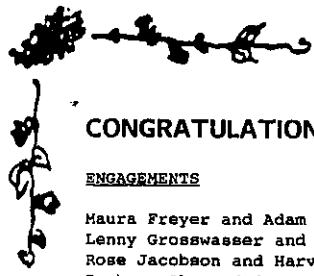
The Jewish historian, Max Dimont, points out that whenever there is a crisis that seemingly threatens the survival of Judaism, remarkably, someone, a rabbi, King or tzaddick, emerges and sets a forest on fire providing Judaism with newer, stronger green growth. Personalizing his theory, it was just at the height of my confusion about Judaism that a new friend appeared in my life. An unlikely candidate compared to the mild-mannered guy hiding behind a rust-colored beard and wire-framed glasses who looked more like an Irish rabbinical student (if there is such a thing) than a physician. Almost immediately, in true Judaic form, he engaged me in argument on the importance of restoring my Jewish Soul. He supported his thesis not with quotes from the commentaries nor with Talmudic logic, but with an unrelenting barrage of Shabbos calls, invitations to holiday services -- all of them, and a plethora of books on Judaica. I fought him, I recoiled. But the Torah says that a person needs one friend. I had mine, and in the end we were both victors for it.

I have been attending the Beginner's Minyan at Lincoln Square Synagogue for about five months and in that time I have found something that no previous escapade on the high roads of life ever provided: the reconciliation with my Jewish Soul. I have uncovered an inner strength, a peace, a love that many Jews who expropriate themselves, like Mahler, sadly surrender. I consider myself one of the lucky ones, who, like Judah, heard an inner voice calling, demanding a return, and then obeyed it. I can't say that my practice as a Jew is now in full bloom. But you need a root before you can have a plant, and I suspect that that same force which drove me to make my return will guide me step by step to my place within Judaism.

In the book, Ten Rungs, Martin Buber comments on the phrase "G-d of Abraham, G-d of Isaac, G-d of Jacob" as being individuated to illustrate that there are some Jews who come to their faith through the adherence to traditional teaching, while others study and wrestle with their faith and come to terms with it on their own. The latter way has been my path for many endeavors. I've learned that sometimes an illumination can even come through a telephone call. And when the call from Jerusalem came, I traveled through the wire to the sacred land and realized as never before that the truth of my existence was contingent upon the strength of my identity as a Jew, and that we Jews really are one people with a common spiritual home. When I hung up the phone, I wondered if my searching hadn't always been for that home.

But adventurers look forward, not back. Anyway, I'm just getting warmed up. Who knows? Maybe tomorrow, Jerusalem.

Allan Richards is a writer and composer.



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZEL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Maura Freyer and Adam Ruskin
 Lenny Grosswasser and Harold Schloss
 Rose Jacobson and Harvey Hoffman
 Barbara Oka and Barry Enqel
 Patricia Papock and Zev Gilman
 Eliana (Meagen) Sele and Michael Levinson
 Karen Wald and Bernard Bushell



MARRIAGES

Vivian Bernstein and Sam Katz
 Deborah Brooks and John Louge
 Dr. Priscilla Konecky and Dr. Mark Tepper
 Gail Marans and Michael Haas
 Sarah Parzen and Martin Shandelson
 Leslie Reikin and Mitchell Drucker
 Stacy Sklare and Nadav Serling

BIRTHS

Suzanne and David Gurwitz, on the birth of a daughter, Hana Lauren
 Carole Weiss and Dr. Michael Putter, on the birth of a daughter, Marrisaa Erin
 Anne Crane and Victor Zakay, on the birth of a son, Samuel

BAR MITZVAH

Daniel Gati

 *
 * **Beginners Shabbat Luncheons -\$10** *
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 * **Sat, June 2, Sept 8** *
 *
 * **All-night Shavuot Learn-in** *
 *
 * **Tues, May 29 11:30 PM-6:45 AM** *
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 * **Beginners Schmoose** *
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 * **Mon, June 25, 8:15 PM** *
 *
 * **Rosh Hashanna Services** *
 *
 * **Wed-Fri Sept 19-21** *
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TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM to live and/or study in Israel

Richard Linhart
 Jeff Solomon

CONDOLENCES

Mordechai Antebi, on the loss of his father, Joseph
 Irving Levine, on the loss of his father, Morton

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Saturday June 2nd (NASO)
 Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi given by Rabbi Berman at 6:30 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 7:15 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:00 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:15 p.m.
 Friday, June 8th
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:07 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 & 8:20 p.m.
 Saturday, June 9th (BEHAALOTCHA)
 Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi given by Rabbi Berman at 6:35 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 7:20 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 7:05 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:05 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:20 p.m.
 Friday, June 15th
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:11 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 & 8:20 p.m.
 Saturday, June 16th (SHELAGH)
 Shabbat Morning services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi given by Rabbi Berman at 6:40 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 7:25 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 7:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:20 p.m.
 Friday, June 22nd
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:13 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 and 8:25 p.m.
 Saturday June 23rd (KORACH)
 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi given by Rabbi Berman at 6:40 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 7:25 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 7:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:20 p.m.
 Sunday, June 24th
 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz morning services..... 7 and 8:30 a.m.
 Friday, June 29
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:13 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 and 8:25 p.m.
 Saturday June 30 (HUKKAT)
 Heshkoma minyan..... 7:40 a.m.
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi given by Rabbi Berman at 6:40 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 7:25 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 7:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:20 p.m.
 Sunday July 1
 Morning services..... 7:15 & 8:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, July 4th Independence Day
 Morning services..... 7:15 and 8:30 a.m.
 Friday, July 6
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:12 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 and 8:20 p.m.
 Saturday July 7 (BALAK)

Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 7:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:20 p.m.
 Tuesday July 10
 Fast of 17th day of Tamuz
 Fast begins..... 4:22 a.m.
 Morning services..... 7:00 & 7:30 a.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Fast concludes..... 9:00 p.m.
 Friday, July 13
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:09 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 and 8:20 p.m.
 Saturday, July 14 (PINCHAS)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 7:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:15 p.m.
 Friday July 20
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 8:05 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:45 and 8:15 p.m.
 Saturday, July 21 (MAATOT/MASEI)
 Heshkoma minyan..... 7:40 a.m.
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 7:05 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:05 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:10 p.m.
 Friday, July 27
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:59 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:40 and 8:10 p.m.
 Saturday July 28 (DEVORIM)
 SHABBAT CHAZON
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:00 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 8:05 p.m.
 Monday July 30
 Eve of Tisha B'Av
 Fast begins..... 8:14 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:20 p.m.
 Tuesday, July 31
 Tisha B'Av
 Morning Services..... 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.
 followed by a class
 Mincha..... 7:50 p.m.
 Fast concludes..... 8:44 p.m.
 Friday, August 3
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:51 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday August 4 (VAETCHANAN)
 SHABBAT NACHAMU
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 6:50 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:50 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:55 p.m.
 Friday, August 10
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:43 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:30 & 7:55 p.m.
 (Last week of early mincha minyan)

Saturday August 11 (EKEV)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 6:45 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:45 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:45 p.m.
 Friday, August 17
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:34 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:45 p.m.
 Saturday August 18 (REEF)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 6:35 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:35 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:35 p.m.
 Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday August 22)
 Rosh Chodesh Elul
 Morning services..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
 Friday, August 24
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:23 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:35 p.m.
 Saturday August 25 (SHOPTIM)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 6:25 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:25 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:25 p.m.
 Friday, August 31
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:12 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:25 p.m.
 Saturday September 1 (KITETZ)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes..... 6:10 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:15 p.m.
 Monday, September 1 Labor Day
 Morning services..... 7:10 and 8:30 a.m.
 Friday, September 7
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 7:01 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:10 p.m.
 Saturday September 8 (KI TAVO)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi with Rabbi Berman 5:30 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud class at 6:15 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 6:00 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:00 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 7:05 p.m.
 Friday September 14
 Kindle Shabbat Candles..... 6:51 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday September 15 (NITZAVIM-VAYELBCH)
 Shabbat Morning Services..... 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi with Rabbi Berman at 5:20 p.m.
 followed by his Talmud shiur at 6:05 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes..... 5:50 p.m.
 Mincha..... 6:50 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv..... 6:55 p.m.
 Early Selichot..... 10:15 p.m.
 Lecture..... 11:30 p.m.
 Selichot..... 12:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, September 19th Erev Rosh Hashanah