

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

by Tracy Hoberman

When I was asked to write about my experiences for this journal I agreed, wondering all the while how I could make vivid the process of my spiritual growth from empty to enriched. My experience is not unique, but it is extreme in that I was raised with virtually no religion whatsoever. As avowed secularists, my parents got "secular" Christmas trees and took the kids on "secular" Easter egg hunts, generally ignoring the "religious" Jewish holidays. Sometimes we visited Disneyland on Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashanah, when Jewish kids were out of school, and the lines were short.

According to the logic of the time, we were simply trying to make good use of the school vacation days, since the holidays and the synagogue were not a part of our lives. The first time I remember actually visiting a synagogue was for my classmates' Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, which were not exactly religious events. In fact, until adulthood I knew no prayers, no rituals, and little Jewish history.



Even so, for a variety of reasons, remarkably, I still managed to maintain a Jewish ethnic sensibility, as did all of my family members. Yet, I knew all along that the basis of the culture with which I identified was the religion from which I was cut off, and this prompted me to begin trying to learn something about Judaism.

Unfortunately, my sporadic attempts to visit synagogue services during high school and college usually left me feeling frustrated and like an outsider, because I could not follow the service and didn't understand the point of much of what was happening. It was assumed, that if I was there, I knew what I was doing, because, of course, people my age, who were not religiously involved, didn't bother going. Overall, I found an institutional indifference to the Jewish novice, with the exception of ultra-Orthodox sects, who seemed geared toward the Jewish proselyte, and Reform programs which were directed toward inter-faith couples and

conversion. Neither approach suited my needs. Finding no niche for me, when I first tried to explore Jewishly, delayed my learning for many years.

Fortuitously, I heard about L.S.S.' Beginners Minyan which had been designed specifically with people like me in mind -- curious and interested, but not Jewishly knowledgeable. The first time I went, I had to stand outside with the overflow crowd in the hall, and could barely hear the service.

Still, I was impressed to see all the "normal" looking folks who had gotten up early on a Saturday morning to learn about Judaism. The warmth and enthusiasm of the rabbi were also encouraging. Initially, I came back very sporadically, and later more consistently. I looked forward to being challenged and moved intellectually on Saturday mornings. I also started to feel that finally, I was part of a Jewish community.

The internal changes occurred gradually through reading, taking classes, and talking to others. But, what I got out of the experience was, and is, incalculably precious to me. By learning, I was able to formulate my religious ideas based on information and knowledge, rather than on rumor or conjecture. I could no longer reject what I didn't know, just because I didn't know.

Finding myself grounded spiritually has given me a feeling of wholeness. It's a bit like getting a sense you never knew you had. Life was fine before, but now it's that much richer, and there's no turning back!

I offer my deepest thanks to Rabbi Buchwald for recognizing the spiritual needs of people like myself, and hope that he will continue to reach out and enrich the lives of many more people.

Tracy Hoberman now lives in Santa Monica, CA, where she is a special education teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Lisa Susan Krawet and Jim Shenwick
Ellin Roanee Pollachek and William Rittenhouse
Deborah Schiller and Mark Rosalimsky

MARRIAGES

Randi Carrey and Eric Mintz
Deborah Feinberg and Daniel Azizo
Ganit Graitzer and Michael Steifman
Leslie Lichter and Ronald Winters
Jane Steiffel and David Sperling

BIRTHS

Pat and Zev Gilman, on the birth of a boy, Avraham Yosef
Tamar and Alec Gindis, on the birth of a girl
Miriam and Akiva Lane, on the birth of a boy, David Zalman Yitzchak
Debbie and John Longe, on the birth of a boy, Joshua Martin
Donna and Jack Mensch, on the birth of a girl, Rebecca
Galit and Dr. Alex Schloss, on the birth of a girl, Karene Alona
Stacy and Nadav Serling, on the birth of a boy, Asher Natan
Sharon and Steve Spivak, on the birth of a boy, Doron

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM to live and/or study in Israel

Arlene Goldfarb
Leslie Horowitz and Bill Kolbrener
Sara and Martin Schandelson



CONGRATULATIONS

Prof. Sergiu Klainerman, upon receiving a "Genius" award from the MacArthur Foundation

CONDOLENCES

Hadeline Cohen, on the loss of her father, Herbert Dr. William Koch, on the loss of his wife, Joy Nina
To the family of Iris Rosofsky
Linda Gale Sampson, on the loss of her father, Bernard (B.J.) Sampson
Sandy and Marc Weiner, on the loss of their son, Avi

IRIS ROSOFSKY

Iris Rosovsky was an early and treasured member of the Beginners Service. Although she was already seriously ill when she joined the Beginners Service in the late 1970's, she spared no effort to advance in her Judaism. Despite her debilitating diabetes, she would often walk to the synagogue on Shabbat from her home on West 16th Street, stopping at a prearranged candy store to get a drink, which would allow her to complete her journey. Her Bat Mitzvah in 1980 was memorable, and her love for Judaism and Lincoln Square Synagogue was deep and abiding.

Some people are unforgettable. Iris was one of them. After all, who could forget how Iris hobbled into the Beginners Service with a big smile on her face, shortly after she had had both her feet amputated due to her illness.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, August 10 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....7:14 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:23 p.m.	Saturday, August 11 (KI TAVO) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....6:13 p.m. Mincha.....7:15 p.m. Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:15 p.m. Early Selichot.....10:15 p.m. Rabbi will speak.....11:30 p.m. Selichot.....12:10 a.m.	Sunday, September 1 Morning Services.....7:15 & 8:30 a.m.	Monday, September 2 Labor Day Selichot and Morning Services.....8:45 & 8:30 a.m.	Tuesday - Friday September 3-4 Selichot and Morning services.....8:45 & 7:30 a.m.	Friday, September 4 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....7:03 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:13 p.m.	Saturday, September 7 (NITZAVIM) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Daf Yomi and Bible Class.....6:00 p.m. Mincha.....7:00 p.m.	Sunday, September 8th Erev Rosh Hashana Selichot and Morning Services.....6:00 & 8:00 a.m. Kindle Rosh Hashana Candles.....6:59 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Rosh Hashana.....7:10 p.m.	Monday, September 9th Rosh Hashana Services.....7:45 a.m. Beginners' service.....9:00 a.m. Tashlich Walk.....6:10 p.m. Mincha.....7:10 p.m. followed by Maariv and Daf Yomi KINDLE ROSH HASHANA CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....7:58 p.m.	Tuesday, September 10th Rosh Hashana Services.....7:45 a.m. Beginners.....8:00 a.m. Daf Yomi.....6:10 p.m. Mincha.....7:10 p.m.	Wednesday, September 11th Fast of Gedalia Fast begins.....5:20 a.m. Selichot & Morning Services.....6:40 and 7:15 a.m. Mincha.....6:50 p.m. Fast concludes.....7:43 p.m. Daily Selichot and Morning Services.....6:40 & 7:15 a.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....7:00 p.m.	Friday, September 13 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:51 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:00 p.m.	Saturday, September 14 (VA-YELECH) Shabbat Shuvah Daf Yomi.....6:00 a.m. Morning services.....8:45 a.m. Mincha.....6:30 p.m. followed by Rabbi Weinberg's Shabbat Shuva Discourse Daily Mincha Maariv.....6:50 p.m.	Sunday, September 15 Selichot and Morning services.....6:40 and 8:00 a.m.	Monday, September 16 Selichot and Morning services.....6:40 and 7:15 a.m.	Tuesday, Erev Yom Kippur September 17th Selichot and Morning Services.....7:00 and 7:30 a.m. Mincha.....1:10, 3:00 & 4:00 p.m. Kindle Shabbat, Memorial and Yom Kippur candles.....6:44 p.m. Kol Nidre Services.....6:55 p.m.	Wednesday, September 18 Yom Kippur Hain Sanctuary.....8:00 a.m. Auditorium.....9:00 a.m. Beginners.....9:00 a.m. Final Shofar Blast.....7:42 p.m. Daily Mincha Maariv.....6:30 p.m. PUBLIC YIZKOR SERVICES AT.....1:30 P.M., 2:30 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M. IN THE ANNEX.	Thursday September 19th Morning Services.....7:10 & 7:50 a.m.	Friday, September 20 Morning Services.....7:10 & 7:50 a.m. Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:39 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:50 p.m.	Saturday, September 21 (HAZIKIM) Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
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Talmud and Bible Classes.....5:40 p.m. Mincha.....6:40 p.m.	Sunday, September 17 Eve of Sukkot Morning Services.....7:15 & 8:30 a.m. Kindle Yom Tov Candles.....6:17 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov.....6:50 p.m.	Monday, September 22 Sukkot Morning Services.....8 & 8:45 a.m. Talmud.....5:40 p.m. Mincha.....6:40 p.m. KINDLE YOM TOV CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....7:24 p.m.	Tuesday, September 24 Sukkot Morning Services.....8 & 8:45 a.m. Talmud.....5:40 p.m. Mincha.....6:40 p.m. Daily Mincha Maariv.....6:40 p.m.	Wednesday - Thursday September 25-26 Daily Chol Hamoad Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 a.m.	Friday, September 27 Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 a.m. Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:27 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:35 p.m.	Saturday, September 28 Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud.....3:25 p.m. Mincha.....6:25 p.m. Seudah Shlishit in the Sukkah	Sunday, September 29th Hoshana Rabba Morning Services.....6:20 & 8:00 a.m. Kindle Yom Tov Candles.....6:24 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov.....6:35 p.m.	Monday, September 30th Shema's Atzeret Morning Services Including Yizkor Memorial services.....8, 8:45 & 9:30 a.m. Talmud.....5:30 p.m. Mincha.....6:30 p.m. KINDLE YOM TOV CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....7:22 p.m.	Tuesday, October 1st Heshbon Torah Heshbona Minyan.....7:15 a.m. Yom Tov Morning Services/Family Service.....8:30 a.m. Women's Tefillah Group.....9:00 a.m. Lava Minyan.....9:00 a.m. Daf Yomi.....6:20 p.m. Mincha.....6:20 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:25 p.m.	Friday, October 4 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:15 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:25 p.m.	Saturday, October 5th (SERESHEET) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud & Bible classes.....4:55 p.m. Mincha.....5:55 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:15 p.m.	Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8 & 9 Rosh Chodesh Chesvan Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 a.m.	Friday, October 11th Kindle Shabbat candles.....6:04 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:15 p.m.	Saturday, October 12th (MOACH) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Daf Yomi & Bible Class.....3:25 p.m. Mincha.....6:15 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:05 p.m.	Monday, October 14th Columbus Day Morning Services.....7:10 and 7:50 a.m.	Friday, October 18 Kindle Shabbat candles.....5:54 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:05 p.m.	Saturday, October 19 (LECH-LECHA) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....4:55 p.m. Mincha.....5:55 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....5:55 p.m.	Friday, October 25 Kindle Shabbat candles.....5:44 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:55 p.m.	Saturday, October 26 (VAYENAK) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
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Talmud and Bible Classes.....4:45 p.m. Mincha.....5:45 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:15 P.M. L.I.T. Please remember to set your clocks one hour earlier EDT Maariv only Monday-Thursday.....6:20 p.m.	Friday, November 1 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:35 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:45 p.m. Beginning November 2nd Daf Yomi will be given at.....8:00 a.m.	Saturday, November 2 (CHAYI SARAN) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:30 p.m. Mincha.....6:35 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:15 p.m. Maariv only Mon-Thurs.....6:20 p.m.	Tuesday, November 5th - Election Day Morning Services.....7:15 and 7:50 a.m.	Thursday - Friday November 7 & 8 Rosh Chodesh Kislev Morning Services.....7:00 & 7:45	Friday, November 8th Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:27 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:40 p.m.	Saturday, November 9 (TOLEDO) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:45 p.m. Mincha.....6:30 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:10 p.m. Maariv only Mon-Thurs.....6:20 p.m.	Monday, November 11th- Veterans Day Morning Services.....7:10 & 7:50 a.m.	Friday, November 15 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:20 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:30 p.m.	Saturday, November 17 (VAYETZE) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:35 p.m. Mincha.....6:20 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:15 p.m. Maariv only Mon-Thurs.....6:20 p.m.	Friday, November 21 Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:15 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat shabbat.....4:25 p.m.	Saturday, November 21 (VAYISHLACH) Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:30 p.m. Mincha.....6:15 p.m. Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:15 p.m. Maariv Only Mon-Wed.....6:20 p.m.	Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving Day Morning Services.....7:10 and 8:30 a.m. Mincha Maariv.....6:25 p.m. No Maariv Only	Friday, November 29 Kindle Shabbat candles.....4:12 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:25 p.m.	Saturday, November 30 (VAYSREV) Shabbat Morning service.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Class.....3:25 p.m. Mincha.....6:15 p.m. Daily Mincha and Maariv.....6:25 p.m. Maariv only Mon-Thurs.....6:20 p.m.	Sunday, December 1 Kindle First Chanukah Candle	Monday - Friday Chanukah morning services.....7 & 7:50 a.m.	Friday, December 4 Kindle Chanukah Candles (4 candles).....4:05 p.m. Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:11 p.m. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:20 p.m. Synagogue Chanukah Dinner	Saturday, December 7 (NIKITA) Rosh Chodesh Tevet Heshbona Minyan.....7:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m. Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:25 p.m. Mincha.....6:15 p.m. Daily Mincha and Maariv.....6:25 p.m. Maariv only Mon-Thurs.....6:20 p.m.	Sunday, December 8 Rosh Chodesh Tevet Morning Services.....7:00 & 8:30 a.m.	Monday, December 9 Chanukah morning services.....7:00 & 7:50 a.m.
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