

# Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



Volume LXVII Number 4

February 6, 1998

10 Shevat 5758

## DR. TAMAR ROSS

### NEXT 125TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLAR

**FEBRUARY 14, 1998**

Dr. Tamar Ross, senior lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at Bar Ilan University will be our next Shabbat scholar on Saturday, February 14. She will speak at both Shabbat morning services and at a Men's Club sponsored Seudah Shlishit that afternoon.

Dr. Ross will address the subject: **"THE ROLE OF DOUBT IN RELIGIOUS BELIEF."**

Traditional Jewish thinking is often in monolithic and finite terms. But, does a person of faith always know better than the person who doubts? A close look at some of the passages of the writings of Harav Kook will reveal an approach which is much more modest and even tentative in its claim of being *the truth*. The writings may even allow a positive function to questioning any skepticism in the development of one's religious belief.

#### Seudah Shlishit

Following Mincha at 5:00 PM, Dr. Ross will

present the same topic from a different perspective. In this session, we will study a few passages from the writings of Rav Kook in order to see how he viewed some of the challenges of modern secularism and how he saw them as potential religious values. He suggested that they may spur us to a higher and refined level of faith in God. Dr. Ross will evaluate for us how Rav Kook came to such conclusions.

#### DR. TAMAR ROSS

Professor Ross was born in the United States and made *Aliyah* to Israel when she was 16. She received her Ph.D. from Hebrew University. In addition to her role as lecturer in Bar Ilan University's Philosophy Department, she also teaches at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem. She is published widely in scholarly journals both in Israel and abroad.

The 125th anniversary committee is proud to present a scholar of Dr. Ross' caliber for what should be a most

## GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

**HELD FOR RAMAZ MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**IN THE**

**BENJAMIN AND ESTHER GOTTESMAN CENTER**

**Sunday, December 7, 1997**

*Dr. Norman Magid blowing the shofar with Ramaz Board Chairman David Kahn and Ruth and David S. Gottesman looking on*

On Sunday, December 7, 1997, a crowd of almost 1,000 stood on East 85th Street to participate in groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Ramaz Middle School in the Benjamin and Esther Gottesman Center which is being built across the street from the Synagogue. We were privileged to have Mayor Giuliani, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Congressman Charles Schumer, Senator Roy Goodman, Assemblymen John Ravitz and Pete Grannis, together with Ruth and David S. Gottesman and their family and Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University. The ceremonies lasted one-half hour and were featured by presentations from students in grades 5 through 8, the grades which will comprise the Middle School beginning in September 1999. The Ramaz Lower School Chorus provided a beautiful, musical backup to a gorgeous, clear, brisk December morning.

The significance of this occasion was captured by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein in his brief address to the gathering which we are happy to print on page 6, as we celebrate with Ramaz this historic moment in the life of KJ and the wider Jewish community of New York.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NY Philharmonic  
See Page 3

Men's Club &  
Sisterhood Health  
Seminars  
See Page 3

Ramaz Dinner  
See Pages 4 & 5

Ramaz/KJ  
Groundbreaking  
See Page 6

Am HaSefer  
See Page 7

Adult Education  
See Page 8

## KJ BEGINNERS PURIM PARTY

Saturday Evening, March 7

8:30 PM

*HOLIDAY FOODS*

*AND LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT*

\$18 per person

\*\$12 per person for those  
who reserve and pay by  
Wednesday, March 4

## FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE BEAUTY AND WARMTH OF A TRADITIONAL SHABBAT

Members of the congregation are encouraged to recommend to their friends, neighbors and business associates the **Friday Evening Shabbat Experience**. This program in synagogues on both the Upper East Side and Upper West Side was originally developed by our Assistant Rabbi, Mark Wildes. The next one to take place at Kehilath Jeshurun will be on Friday evening, February 13. The event is an opportunity to join more than a hundred others in Manhattan in welcoming the Shabbat spirit.

Singing, prayer, and a very festive and delicious

dinner by Foremost Caterers will be the centerpiece of a beautiful evening and of a "No Hebrew necessary" opportunity to participate in these most important Jewish rituals.

Members of the congregation who feel this event would be appropriate for themselves are certainly invited to celebrate and participate in this program. It starts at 7:00 PM and the cost for dinner is \$18 per person. Please send in or phone in your reservations so that we will hear from you no later than noon time on Wednesday, February 11 (427-1000).

## PURIM MISHLOACH MANOT ORDERS COMING AT RECORD PACE DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Perhaps in recognition of the congregation's 125th anniversary, members of the synagogue are submitting orders for Purim Mishloach Manot at a record pace.

**Mishloach Manot** (*Shalach Manot*) is one of the four *Mitzvot* of Purim. The sending of **Mishloach Manot** is the giving of food treats to friends and neighbors, expressing joy in Esther and Mordechai's victory over Haman in his plot to destroy the Jewish people of Persia. Your participation will help complete the celebration of Purim, demonstrate generosity of spirit and goodwill to your friends, and assist KJ in an important fundraising event. **Mishloach Manot** is not designated for poor people. It is for ALL Jews and we should keep that in mind when sending it and when receiving it. An order form has been sent to all members of the congregation. The cost is \$5 for each family you designate as a recipient. On Purim, every family selected by congregants will receive a beautiful gourmet package

with a card listing the names of those families who selected them as a recipient.

If you wish to be assured that you will have reciprocated to anyone who has chosen to send **Mishloach Manot** to you, simply check off "RECIPROCAL". You will be billed for reciprocals at the same rate of \$5 per name. However, "Reciprocals Only" orders CANNOT be accepted.

Please be sure that your order form is in to the synagogue office no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, February 9. **PHONE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Also, no order will be processed without payment.

Join in the fun and participate in the KJ Purim **Mishloach Manot** project. This effort is co-chaired by our Trustees, Yvonne Koppel-Kopans and Andrew Charles.

## PURIM WORKSHOP

Eight times during the year, under the sponsorship of our KJ Beginner's program, holiday workshops are offered. These programs better acquaint the members of our community with the laws and customs related to a particular holiday.

Our Purim workshop will be held on Monday, March 2, from 8:00 to 9:30 PM. The workshop will offer an overview of the holiday and

an examination of the historical events that we commemorate on Purim. The seminar will include an analysis of the Megillah of Esther with explanations on why we do the things we do.

The workshop will be led by our outreach director, Rabbi Yitz Motechin. Members of the congregation and neighbors in the community are invited to attend.

## BENJI RAFAELI

ORCHESTRA

MUSIC

Shabot Entertainment



(212) 874-7138

(212) 861-6280

Fax: (212) 861-6287

**KJ SISTERHOOD  
PRESENTS A NIGHT AT THE  
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC  
MOZART AND MAHLER  
Thursday Evening, March 19, 1998  
Pre-Theatre Dinner at Levana's**

The Kehilath Jeshurun Sisterhood is delighted to present an evening at the New York Philharmonic, featuring Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, and Mahler's *Symphony No. 5*, with Daniele Gatt as guest conductor, on Thursday evening, March 19, 1998. The performance will include orchestra seats and will be preceded by a lovely pre-theatre dinner at Levana's, conveniently

located in walking distance to Lincoln Center.

This evening is sure to be an unforgettable experience for both old-time classical music lovers and newcomers to the wonderful world of the New York Philharmonic.

If you haven't already sent in your reservations, please call the Synagogue Office at 427-1000. Tickets, including dinner, are \$90 per person. Seating is limited, so order your tickets now.

**ANNUAL YACHAD SHABBATON  
February 6 - 7, 1998**

This coming Shabbat, February 6 - 7, 1998, KJ is hosting what has become an annual KJ/Ramaz - Yachad Shabbaton. Over the years, this Shabbaton has been instrumental in bringing to our community, both young and old, the opportunity to share ourselves, our synagogue, and our community with this special-needs population.

We are very excited to be hosting this special Shabbaton. NJCD/Yachad is a division of the Orthodox Union, serving young Jewish people who are developmentally disabled. Through mainstreaming events such as Shabbatonim,

Chanukah and Purim programs, as well as activities with various Yeshivot within the community, whole communities have been exposed to this wonderful program and its members. The special feelings one experiences being part of such an event stays with you long after.

Yachad will be joining us for tefilah on Erev Shabbat and Shacharit/Musaf, as well as Mincha-Maariv and Seudah Shlishit on Shabbat. We'd love you to join us during these times in order to learn first-hand the specialness of these Yachad children, and the special joy they bring to our Shabbat.

**INVESTING IN YOUR LIFE  
PREVENTING HEART DISEASE AND STROKE**

Sunday, March 8, 7:00 PM

*Presentation followed by questions*

**DR. LARRY BARUCH**  
Cardiologist

at Mt. Sinai Hospital

**DR. STEVEN RUDOLPH**  
Neurologist

Director of Stroke Prevention Program  
at Beth Israel North

***SPONSORED FOR THE COMMUNITY  
BY THE KJ MEN'S CLUB***

**SISTERHOOD HEALTH SYMPOSIUM**

**"BREAST CANCER  
AND OTHER DISEASE GENES"**

Monday, March 9, 12:00 PM

*Guest Speaker:*

**RUTH DENCHY**

Genetic Counselor and Research Coordinator  
Metropolitan New York Registry  
Mt. Sinai Hospital

**OBSERVE PRESIDENTS'  
WEEKEND SHABBAT  
AT KJ'S YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINYAN  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
9:15 AM**

**Special Chulent Kiddush  
follows Services.**

**BEGINNER'S SERVICE  
SHABBAT MORNING  
February 21 9:30 AM  
SPECIAL 'BRING A FRIEND' SHABBAT**

KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN  
Published eight times a year  
\$15.00 Membership Dues of  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
covers subscription cost.  
125 East 85th Street, New York, NY 10028  
Phone (212) 427-1000, Ext. 262  
USPS-292-0600-Second Class Postage paid at  
New York, New York  
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to:  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
125 East 85th Street  
New York, NY 10028

# RAMAZ DINNER HONORS RABBI LOOKSTEIN

## A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM RABBI LOOKSTEIN

The Sixty-First Annual Dinner Dance of Ramaz on Sunday evening, January 11, 1998, was an unbelievable experience for me. The warmth and appreciation which I felt from the entire community was beyond description. The presence in the Marriott Hotel of 1,700 guests, including hundreds of members of the congregation, some of whom have no direct connection to Ramaz, was deeply gratifying to me, to Audrey and to our entire family.

The remarkable presentations that evening were in such good taste and had a light touch to them making the evening even more special. Of course, the performance of the Ramaz Chorus and Dance Troupe was breathtaking and glorious.

The very moving Tribute Book and Journal were filled with so many nice messages. All of this made the evening a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it was worth waiting forty years to enjoy it.

I consider the evening to be a great tribute to this community and I tried to say it in my response to the gathering. I hope you will be interested in reading that response which is printed below.

*Tree of Life presentation to Rabbi Lookstein*

## RESPONSE AT THE RAMAZ DINNER IN HONOR OF RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN January 11, 1998 By Haskel Lookstein

I understand tonight a little better the way my daughter, Debbie, felt as she sat on her bed 23 years ago on the eve of her Bat Mitzvah, surrounded by gifts and sobbing uncontrollably, saying: "I don't deserve these; why are people sending me so many presents?"

It is a well-known principle of psychology that you don't heap praise directly on a child, because the child, knowing the real truth, feels very conflicted and usually goes into the next room and knocks over a valuable vase just to show that he/she isn't really that good.

Since I'm basically a kid

at heart, I was looking for a vase on Friday night as I leafed through the journal and tribute book. But instead, I found a *pasuk* that made me feel a little easier.

*V'amarta bil'vavekha* — lest you think in your heart; *kochi v'otzem yadi asa li et ha-chayil ha-zeh* — my strength and my talent have accomplished all of this; *v'zakharta et Ha s h e m E-lohekha* — you must remember the Lord, your God; *ki hu ha-notain l'kha ko'ach la'asot chayil* — for it is He who gives you strength to accomplish; *l'ma'an hakim et brito asher nishba la-avotekha...*

and thus He will fulfill His covenant with your forefathers...

Tonight is evidence of God's work in the past and present.

### FIRST THE PAST

The RaMaZ, z'l — my great-grandfather, Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies, without whom there would be no name *and* no pattern for Ramaz.

My father, z'l — who conceived, established and developed the school. We are just trying to continue to build, consistent with his philosophy.

My mother, z'l — whom I promised five months ago as she lay in Mt. Sinai Hospital following surgical

repair of her broken hip: "Mother, we will dance together at the Ramaz Dinner." She retorted: "In a wheelchair?" I said: "No, we'll dance slowly."

Alas, it wasn't meant to be. I missed a call that I know she would have made this morning: "Haskel, don't forget to mention so and so." I know she would have included Lillian Jacobs and, of course, my sister, Nathalie Friedman — "Don't forget her," she would have said. Neither Nathalie nor I could dress fully for tonight or be the center of the dancing. But you all should dance and rejoice. That's what she would very much have



***“The Ramaz/KJ community . . . committed to Torah and modernity as moderate, tolerant and understanding people. It is a great blessing to serve in such a community.”***

## AND NOW TO THE PRESENT

Many of you understand that the tribute to me tonight is shared fully by my wife, Audrey. Very little of what I have been involved in during the past forty years would have been possible without the unconditional love, the abundant warmth, the wise guidance, the consistent support and the wonderful home she provided for me, for our children and grandchildren — who, thank God, are all here in New York today — for the Ramaz/KJ community and for the wider Jewish world. I am so grateful to my mother-in-law, Esther Katz, for giving birth to Audrey, and to my father-in-law, Morris Katz, z'l, who encouraged Audrey in so many things, including to go out with me. We were friends and she didn't want to lose me as a friend. But he said: “Go once.” So she did and I got the best wife anyone could hope for. And, speaking of the responsibilities of a wife, my father, z'l, loved to tell the following story.

A certain man was guest of honor at a gala, charitable dinner. He was feted with the usual excessive encomiums and laudatory remarks. Upon coming home that night, he was removing his bowtie in front of the mirror and, while looking in the mirror, he remarked to his wife: “Dear, how many truly great people do you think there are in this world?” Whereupon his wife responded: “One less than you think.”

This incredible dinner didn't happen because of me. It is the brainchild and production of some unbelievably talented, hard-working people. The Chairpersons: Ruth Kestenbaum, Rhonda Luxenberg, Ike Herschkopf, and David Sable. The Chairs of the Subcommittee: Rita Distenfeld, Jane Gol, Susan Castle, Carol Gross, Sherry Fessel, and Sue Talansky.

The most creative group of people who put together the Tribute Book: Meryl and

this year as every year — but even more; I would say more about him but he limited my time to ten minutes — Dr. Noam Shudofsky — the Two Million Dollar Man!

Finally, if you read the tribute book and the journal, you will see clearly that this whole enterprise is attributable to a confluence of three extraordinary groups.

1. My colleagues at Ramaz and KJ — members of the administration, the

*Ramaz Board Chairman David Kahn conferring  
with Guest of Honor, Rabbi Lookstein*

David Levavi. The researchers: Diana Friedman and Sandra Rapoport. Finally, the indefatigable, indomitable dynamo of activity and sensitivity: Adele Tauber. I told my family that after 120 years I want that book buried with me so that if I happen to get to heaven and they want to know: “Who are you?” I'll say: “Here, read Adele's book.”

Fayge Bienenfeld for her design and artwork.

The Baumgarten family for their special support.

And the background people: Kenny Rochlin, Janie Trencher Jaffe and especially Ruth Lemberger.

Finally, the man who masterminds the whole dinner, who outdid himself

faculty, the entire staff, my own right hand — Florence Cohen — all of them talented and committed to Jewish children and Jewish life.

2. The Ramaz/KJ community. It is unlike any other I know anywhere. No conflict; no divisiveness; no backbiting; no infighting (are we Jewish?) — committed to Torah and modernity as moderate, tolerant and understanding people. It is a great blessing to serve in such a community.

Finally — the Ramaz children. Deanna Levy, every year at graduation says to me: “Aren't these the most wonderful children anywhere?” To which I say:

“Amen!”

As evidence, I submit an excerpt from a fifth grader's essay on the shoe drive her grade undertook this year.

“The 1997 shoe drive meant so much to the whole fifth grade, especially to me. I have never done anything so special. Each shoe that I put in a bag, each shoe that I tied, brought a feeling of joy all over. I felt good about myself while I packed shoes. One night, while the shoe drive was going on, I had an incredible dream. I dreamt that I had gone to H.U.C., I was delivering the shoes, and we were one pair short. I took off the shoes I was wearing and gave them to the person who didn't have shoes. When I woke up I realized it was just a dream, I wondered if I would really do such a thing. Maybe I would.”

Could I really say tonight — *kochi v'otzem yadi asa li et ha-chayil ha-zeh?*

My strength and my talent have accomplished this? *V'zakharta et Hashem E-lohekh.*

No: I must remember God: *Ki hu ha-notain l'kha ko'ach la'asot chayil.*

It is His power, invested in so many of you and our children that have accomplished this. *L'ma'an hakim et brito asher nishba la-avotekha. Ka-yom ha-zeh.*

May He fulfill His covenant with our forebearers, for us in our day.

## GROUNDBEAKING FOR BENJAMIN AND ESTHER GOTTESMAN CENTER AND A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Address by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Mr. Mayor (Giuliani)  
Congresswoman  
Carolyn Maloney  
Congressman Charles  
Schumer  
Sen. Roy Goodman  
Assemblyman John  
Ravitz  
Assemblyman Peter  
Grannis

Ladies and Gentlemen:  
Fifty-six years ago  
today, December 7, 1941,  
the Japanese bombed Pearl  
Harbor. It was, as President  
Roosevelt described it, a  
day that would live in  
infamy.

Seven weeks later, on  
January 25, 1942, the  
leaders of Nazi Germany  
met at the Wansee  
Conference and formulated  
a plan that they hoped  
would lead to the  
annihilation of all of world  
Jewry. In fact, by the end of  
the war, barely three years  
later, 6,000,000 Jews had  
been murdered.

Today, December 7, 1997,  
we are part of a resounding  
response to those terrifying  
times. We are breaking  
ground for another  
educational facility that  
will build on a dream  
envisaged sixty years ago; a  
dream that began across the  
street in rented quarters  
with a class of six students  
of whom I was one; a  
dream that today  
incorporates two buildings  
—the Lower School housed  
in Congregation Kehilath  
Jeshurun's Synagogue House,  
and the Rabbi Joseph H.  
Lookstein Upper School in  
the Morris and Ida Newman  
Educational Center on East  
78th Street; a dream that  
encompasses today 1,001

students from all over  
Metropolitan New York  
studying Torah, absorbing  
the best of western  
civilization, living a life of  
Torah and *Mitzvot*,  
*menschlichkeit* and an  
unconditional love of the  
entire people of Israel and  
the State of Israel; a dream  
that assures that, in the  
words of Emil Fackenheim,  
we will not grant to  
Hitler — ימח שמו וזכרו —  
a posthumous victory;

a dream that is the best  
assurance that Judaism and  
the Jewish people will not  
only survive, but thrive.

Our ceremony today  
conveys another message.  
We are breaking ground for  
a Middle School. Middle-  
ness for Ramaz is more  
than a designation of  
grades 5 through 8. Ramaz  
itself is passionately middle  
— as in “middle of the  
road.” We firmly believe in  
Centrist Orthodoxy. We are  
committed to Torah with  
tolerance; fervent religious  
practice *with* respect for  
those who are not quite as  
fervent as we, but who also  
strive for the good of the  
Jewish people and his  
Commandments and with  
an openness toward those  
who do not believe as we

do. Our Middle School is,  
therefore, symbolic of a  
philosophy of education  
and life that embraces the  
golden mean of Aristotle and  
Maimonides as a prescription  
for the modern Jew.

Our ceremony today is,  
finally, an expression of  
thanks to a few people  
without whom we would  
never have broken ground.  
First, the founder and  
principal of Ramaz, my  
father, Rabbi Joseph H.

beginning to undertake this  
task and who made the first  
commitment as an act of  
support for the Ramaz  
pattern of Jewish education  
as a means to honor their  
sainted parents: Benjamin  
and Esther Gottesman, of  
blessed memory.

Sandy and Ruth: Last  
Monday would have been  
the 100th birthday of  
Benjamin Gottesman. What  
a wonderful gift you have  
bestowed on him, on your  
immortal mother and on the  
Ramaz/KJ community, to  
make possible the  
continued growth and  
enhancement of the Ramaz  
School and to house our  
Middle School in the  
Benjamin and Esther  
Gottesman Center.

For you and for all of us,  
I pray in the words of King  
Solomon when he  
dedicated the Temple in  
Jerusalem:

יהי ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ עִמָּנוּ  
כְּאִשֶּׁר הָיָה עִם אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
אֶל יַעֲזֹבֵנוּ וְאֶל יִטְשֵׁנוּ

“May the Lord our God  
be with us as He was with  
our parents. May he never  
abandon us and never  
forsake us.”

May I call upon the  
Chairman of the Building  
Committee, Steven R. Gross,  
to present to Sandy and Ruth  
Gottesman a specially  
inscribed shovel with  
which to symbolize our  
breaking ground for this  
center.

And now, in gratitude  
and prayer to God for  
having brought us to this  
day, we sound the *Shofar*  
which one day will herald  
the redemption of mankind.  
תְּקִיעָה, שְׁבִרִים, תְּרוּעָה, תְּקִיעָה!

*Mayor Giuliani presenting City Proclamation  
to Rabbi Lookstein*

Lookstein, of blessed  
memory, who dared to  
dream this dream and  
whose uncanny abilities  
made it a reality.

Second, to a highly  
dedicated group of lay  
people and professionals  
who have planned for every  
facet of this building and  
who will continue to  
supervise the construction  
of the building and plan for  
the educational program that  
will function within its  
walls.

Third, to an extraordinarily  
generous group of supporters  
who have committed thus far  
\$22,700,000 to ensure the  
successful completion of this  
project. Foremost among them  
are David S. Gottesman and his  
wife Ruth Gottesman who  
encouraged us from the

## In Memoriam

### ELSE DE GRAAFF

A war refugee from Rotterdam, a descendant of the Hausdorf family of Holland, she began life in New York City in the most meager of circumstances. Together with her late husband, Martin, she established an enviable record of communal involvement, philanthropy and piety. She was a leading lady in Congregation Ohev Zedek and its Chevra Kadisha, in Women's Branch of the Orthodox Union, in the volunteer staff of the Hospital for Joint Diseases where she served for forty years in occupational therapy, and in

the National Council of Jewish Women for whom she used to go to the Hudson River piers in 1945 to meet displaced persons day and night.

She was very proud of her son, Nico, of blessed memory, and *t'badeil l'chaim*, her daughter Paula and son-in-law Bernard Herbst, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who represent continuity from the European past to the American Jewish present.

She loved KJ and Ramaz where her children were educated. Her loss is deeply felt by the community.

### JULES SAX

We mourn the passing of a descendant of the Chacham Zvi who demonstrated pride in his ancestry by transmitting a tradition to children and grandchildren.

An ardent Zionist all of his life, he once drove Ben Gurion around New York in pre-State days in order to raise funds for the *Yishuv*.

A proud and pious Jew, a *mensch* par excellence,

he rejoiced in his children and grandchildren who honored and loved him and brought him much *nachas*. He spoke softly but his character and standards of integrity were loud and clear for all to hear, see and emulate.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to our members Helen and Dr. Daniel Potaznik on their great loss.

### AARON SCHNEIDMAN

He lived until shortly before his 97th birthday. A self-made man from Minsk, he was a successful dress manufacturer, and an incredibly hard worker who accomplished much.

He shared his blessings with his wife of fifty-four years. His only daughter, Marcia Brody, and son-in-

law, Arthur, were extraordinarily devoted to him. Throughout his twenty years as a widower he was an integral part of their family, lived with them, traveled with them and was sustained by them until the end.

May they be rewarded for their exceptional *kibud av*.

## AM HASEFER BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

### To Discuss JEWISH POWER

### Author J. J. Goldberg To Be Present

*Jewish Power: Inside the American Jewish Establishment* by J. J. Goldberg will be the topic of the next Am Hasefer Book Discussion Club meeting on Sunday evening, February 22, at 8:00 PM. It will be held at the home of Jennifer and Jeff Roth, 156 East 79th Street. Jeff Roth will moderate the discussion and we are pleased to note that the author will be present.

Each election season, United States presidential candidates spend millions of dollars trying to woo the Jewish vote. In fact, since 1972, nearly every major presidential campaign has set up a separate Jewish organization, with its own staff and budget, to stump among Jewish Americans and appeal for their votes. Presidents and Prime Ministers from dozens of nations regularly pay visits to the New York headquarters of

key Jewish agencies such as the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League. At least two dozen foreign embassies in Washington have diplomats assigned part time to an informal "Jewish Desk" to maintain ties with the Jewish lobby. Why all this effort and attention for a statistically meaningless 2.5% of the American population? In *JEWISH POWER*, J. J. Goldberg addresses this question along with a host of other intriguing, often controversial issues, surrounding the American Jewish community. Goldberg offers an insider's look at the workings of Jewish power politics in contemporary America.

Please call the synagogue office in advance to indicate your attendance. The book is available at Judaica Classics by Doina in the synagogue lobby.

### 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED THROUGH ISRAEL BOND APPEAL AT KJ

We are happy to report that the appeal for Israel Bonds on Shabbat, December 6, was a great success. Responding to the beautiful address of Stephen Flatow and reacting to the preliminary solicitations as well as Rabbi Lookstein's appeal, the congregation has, to date, surpassed \$1,200,00 in purchases of Israeli Bonds.

We would like to compliment and thank Isaac Sherman as Chairman of the appeal, Ed Low who

continues as Honorary Chairman, and a very dedicated group of co-workers, including Chaim Edelstein, Helen Potaznik and Jeremy Schwalbe — who helped to make the appeal so successful.

At a time when bonds between American Jews and Israel are weakening, it is a very important statement on the part of the KJ family that our Bonds are strengthening.

May we continue along this path in the years to come.

## CLAIM YOUR INHERITANCE LEARN IN OUR ADULT INSTITUTE AND BEGINNER'S PROGRAM ★ NEW CLASSES ★

### HEBREW SPEAKING ULPANS (2nd Semester)

<b>Beginner's</b>	Mondays	6:30 - 8:00 PM
Begins February 23		
<b>Intermediate</b>	Wednesdays	5:00 - 6:30 PM
Begins March 4		6:30 - 8:00 PM
<b>Advanced</b>	Thursdays	6:30 - 8:00 PM
Begins March 5		

### JEWISH HISTORY (Cycle II)

**ZIONISM** with Rabbi Weiser  
*The roots of political and religious Zionism  
 in light of the current political situation.  
 Covers the philosophies of the political parties.*  
 Through March 4 Wednesdays 7:00 PM

### FOR WOMEN ONLY

**THE ESSENCE OF HUMILITY: A STUDY OF MOSES AND SAUL** with Malca Gottesman  
*Can a strong leader afford to be humble? Does humility leave room for self-esteem? This introductory course, through the use of text, will examine the Divine-Human relationship.*  
 Through March 9 Mondays 8:00 PM

### ONE ON ONE BEIT MIDRASH STUDY

*This program provides the opportunity to partake in the traditional setting of the Torah study hall. We will help you find an appropriate partner to study primary and secondary Jewish texts. Topic of your choice.*

Through May 7 Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 PM

### JUDAISM

**BASIC JUDAISM LEVEL I** taught by Rabbi Yitz Motechin

1. *Belief in G-d: What's the basis?*
2. *Prayer: Communicating with the Almighty*
3. *The Sabbath: An Island in Time*
4. *Kashrut: Does God really care what we eat?*
5. *The Torah: Blueprint of Creation*
6. *Sexuality: The Jewish Approach*

Thru February 25 Wednesdays 8:00 - 9:30 PM

**BASIC JUDAISM LEVEL II** taught by Rabbi Yossi Weiser

1. *The Nature of Free Will*
2. *The "Conflict" Between Science and Judaism*
3. *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*
4. *The Authenticity of Jewish Tradition*
5. *The Relevance of the Talmud to Today's World*

Thru February 25 Wednesdays 8:00 - 9:30 PM

**JUDAISM: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW**  
(Cycle II) with Rabbi Wildes


*Jewish life cycle: Can you sacrifice one life to save another? Kashrut and Vegetarianism; Passover and The Passover Seder*

February 25-April 8 Wednesdays 8:00 PM

## FEBRUARY SEUDOT SHLISHIT

Under the sponsorship of the KJ Men's Club, four Seudah Shlishit programs are scheduled in the month of February. Each one is held following Mincha services.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>
February 7	<b>YACHAD PROGRAM</b>
February 14	<b>THE ROLE OF DOUBT IN RELIGIOUS BELIEF</b> (Part II) by Dr. Tamar Ross
February 21	<b>MEN'S CLUB ZMIROT SEUDAH</b>
February 28	<b>1948 AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL:</b> Can a secular nationalistic movement have religious significance? by Rabbi Mark Wildes

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## Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty

9 Murray Street, 4th Floor East, New York, NY 10007-2296  
212-267-9500 Fax: 212-406-1725

November 5, 1997

Social Action Committee  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
125 East 85th Street  
New York, NY 10028-0992

Many thanks to your Simcha Sharing Fund for the generous contribution to the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty. We are grateful for your support.

Your donation will help us provide food and clothing to many poor Jewish New Yorkers throughout the year. Your support helps us provide transportation for the infirm and crisis intervention services to those who reach out to us for a helping hand. Your concern helps us restore the dignity of those less fortunate than us.

I look forward to your increasing interest in Met Council as a supporter and as an advocate.

Every good wish,

Sincerely,

William E. Rapfogel  
Executive Director

**Ed. Note:** Mr. Rapfogel will be a guest scholar at KJ on Saturday morning, March 14, sponsored by the 125th Anniversary Committee.

## CLOTHING BY THE TON

On behalf of the KJ Social Action Committee, I thank everyone who contributed to the recent clothing drive. A most substantial amount, more than a ton, of new and gently used clothing was sent to a community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where Jewish residents are considerably less fortunate. Our generosity was greatly appreciated and well placed.

Gale Goldstein Tucker  
Chairperson,  
Clothing Drive

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## THE JASA FIFTY-CENT BREAKFAST

The West Side Senior Center of JASA, now located at 120 West 76th Street, is offering what is easily the best breakfast bargain in town.

For a fifty-cent voluntary contribution (Monday - Friday 8:30 - 9:30 AM), the Center offers a delicious and nourishing kosher breakfast of juice, hot cereal, rolls, cream cheese and jelly, an egg or yogurt, coffee, tea, and milk.

A kosher luncheon is served promptly at 12:00 noon for a voluntary contribution of \$.75 and features an equally balanced and nutritious meal of varied entrees.

The lunch program is funded under contract with the NYC Department for the Aging and is open to any senior of 60 and older. For information, please call (212) 712-0170.

## PROJECT EZRA

197 East Broadway, New York, NY 10002

Kehilath Jeshurun Social Action Committee

Dear KJ Friends,

On behalf of the Ezra community I thank the Social Action Committee of Kehilath Jeshurun for organizing the food collection before Kol Nidre for our food pantry on the Lower East Side.

The amount of food donated was immense and we began to distribute it immediately. I suppose we will have very little left after the *chagim*.

I would like to thank the Kehilath Jeshurun community for their donation and please tell them how we will use the funds we saved through your efforts and commitment.

We have a *Matan Beseter* program at Ezra. People of all ages in need of food approach a well-known Rabbi and tell him of their need. He sends them to the Kosher butcher or grocer, away from the prying eyes of neighbors, and they take what they need. We pay the bills at the end of the month. We preserve the dignity of the recipient because *Tzedakah* is an obligation both on the donor and the receiver and there is *kavod* in this transaction.

I thank you for your help and participation in this *tikun olam*.

Shalom,

Misha G. Avramoff  
On behalf of the Ezra community

## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### BIRTHS

#### Mazel tov to:

Lauren and Keith Breslauer on the birth in England of a daughter, Sofia Rachel.

Tova and Norman Bulow on the birth of twin granddaughters, Maya and Zoe to their children, Rhona and Jeremy Bulow.

Dr. Carolyn Hildebeitel and Orrin Feingold on the birth of twins, Jared Samuel and Talia Sadie.

Marjorie and Albert Fortinsky on the birth of twin grandchildren, Sarah Blu and Jacob Asher to their children, Gila and Jerome Fortinsky.

Julie and Alan Koffler on the birth of a son, Max Isaac. Similar good wishes to the proud grandparents, Heidi and Arthur Friedman.

Susanna and Dr. Steven Lorch on the birth of a daughter, Talia Neta. Similar good wishes to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Joseph Lorch.

Lauren and Mitchell Presser on the birth of a son, Daniel Joseph.

Drorit and Michael Ratzker on the birth of a daughter, Gabrielle Dana.

Our Trustee Sue and Irwin Robins on the birth of twin grandsons, to their children, Hannah and Billy Kessler of Givat Sharrett, Israel.

Deborah and our Trustee Kenneth Rochlin on the birth of a son, Zachary Martin. Similar good wishes to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Evelyn Rochlin.

Deena and Adam Shiff on the birth of a son, Benjamin.

Nechi and Dr. Noam Shudofsky on the birth of a granddaughter, Rivka Tamar to their children, Drs. Rachel and Stuart Chesner of Maaleh Adumim, Israel.

Shoshana and Dr. Saul Stromer on the birth of a son, Steven Andrew.

Eva Wald on the birth of a grandson, Mark Philip Cohen, to her children, Drs. Maria F. Wald and Oren J. Cohen of Washington, D.C.

Roslyn and Dr. Walter Weitzner on the birth of a granddaughter, Yael Rivka, to their children, Michele and Mitchell Weitzner.

Leila and Dr. Fred Zuckerman on the birth of a granddaughter, Bracha Henya to their children, Sherry and Dr. Joseph Zuckerman of Daytona Beach, Florida.

*May these children grow up in the finest tradition of Torah, chupah and maasim tovim.*

### BNAI MITZVAH

#### Mazel tov to:

Our Trustee Dr. Nathalie and Israel Friedman on the recent Bar Mitzvah in Israel of their grandson, Daniel Schuchalter, son of Naomi Price and Alan Schuchalter.

Suzanne and Dr. Norman Javitt on the recent Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon Avram Javitt, son of Drs. Daniel Javitt and Reba Kizner of Riverdale.

Our Honorary Trustee David Levy on the recent Bar Mitzvah of his grandson, Samuel Aaron Levy, son of Susan and Howard Levy.

Nechi and Dr. Noam Shudofsky on the Bar Mitzvah

in Hoshaya, Israel of their grandson, Eytan Yaakov Shalev, son of Miriam and Binyamin Shalev.

### ENGAGEMENTS

#### Mazel tov to:

Vivian and Lawrence Creizman on the engagement of their son, Eric to Adina Schapiro, daughter of Ruth and Louis Schapiro of Englewood, New Jersey.

Our Trustee Asher Levitsky and Iris Levitsky on the engagement of their daughter, Lily to Steve Markowitz, son of Renee and Benjamin Markowitz of Brooklyn.

Frieda and Dr. Jack Reiss on the engagement of their son, Didier to Tal Gozani, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Zaki Gozani of Palo Alto, California.

*May their weddings take place in happiness and blessing.*

### ACADEMIC NEWS

#### Mazel tov to:

Simeon (Shimon) Oppenheim, a 1997 Yeshiva and Isaac Breuer College graduate with a Dean's List ranking, who is now studying at the Hesder Yeshiva Birkat Moshe in Maale Adumim, Israel, for the next half a year.

Jay Joshua (Koby) Oppenheim, a sophomore at Cornell University, who was elected Vice President of Communications of the Young Israel House there.

### WEDDINGS

#### Mazel tov to:

Doina and Dr. Larry Bryskin on the marriage of their daughter, Elisa to Avi Gage, son of Mindy and Howard Gage of West Hempstead.

Ruth and Dr. David Musher on the marriage of their daughter, Sharon to Daniel Eisenstadt, son of Katie and Zalman Eisenstadt of White Plains.

Sarah Tanz and Ronald Rich on their recent marriage.

Similar good wishes to the proud parents, Judy and Dr. Alfred Tanz.

Amy and Howard Rubenstein on the marriage of their son, Richard to Amy Prendergrass, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Prendergrass.

*May they enjoy their marriages with happiness and blessing.*

### CONDOLENCES

#### Our condolences to:

Barbara Chernow on the passing of her mother, Olive Ruth Rodgers.

Phyllis Colvin on the passing of her brother, Gerald Marks.

Ruth Corson on the passing of her mother, Mary Sue Cohen.

Murray Gallahou on the passing of his sister, Ann Stone.

Penny Errico-Nagar on the passing of her mother, Lillian Errico.

Pamela Rechtschaffen on the passing of her father, Paul Fried.

*May these mourners be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.*

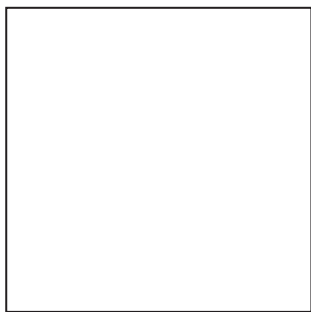
## MELVIN STEIN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

We are proud to announce that our Trustee, Melvin Stein, has been elected President of the American Friends of Bar-Ilan University, succeeding Jane Stern Lubell. Mel Stein has devoted many years of service to Bar-Ilan. It is nice to know that his record of accomplishment has been recognized and that he has assumed a position of leadership which will be very helpful to the University.

### WE ARE ONE!

We are proud of the sense of community that permeates our congregation. Occasionally a member of KJ becomes ill. We care! Please let us know. Perhaps one of us can make a friendly phone call or be of other assistance. Let us know by calling the KJ office (427-1000). Remember, WE ARE ONE!

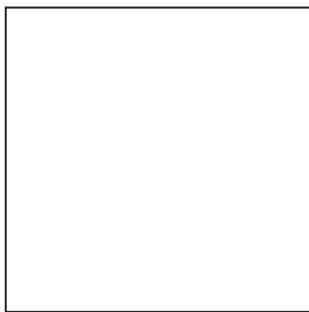
# BNAI MITZVAH



## ERIC LEVINE

Mazel tov to Adina and Howard Levine on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Eric which took place on December 1, at the Kotel. Similar good wishes to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Evelyn Levine. He read from the weekly portion of *Vayetze* and delivered a *Dvar Torah* on the *parsha*.

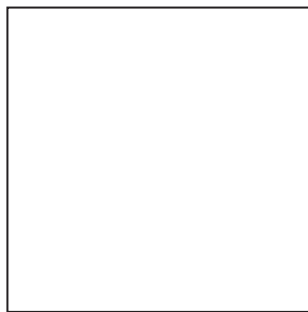
Eric is a student in the eighth grade of the Sinai School in Livingston, New Jersey.



## BENJAMIN GORDON

Mazel tov to Goldie and I. David Gordon on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Benjamin, which took place on Saturday, January 17, in the Main Synagogue. He read the weekly portion of *Shemot* and the *Haftorah*. He also delivered a *Dvar Torah* on "*Moses and His Leadership Qualities*."

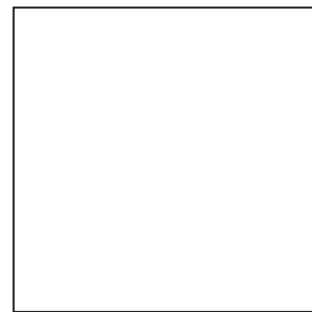
Benjamin is a student in the seventh grade of the Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz.



## LEE SPAET

Mazel tov to Margery Kalb-Spaet and Jonathan Spaet on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Lee, which took place on Saturday, January 31, in the Main Synagogue. He read the weekly portion of *Bo* and the *Haftorah*. He also delivered a *Dvar Torah* on "*The Impact of Tefillin on the Mind and Heart*."

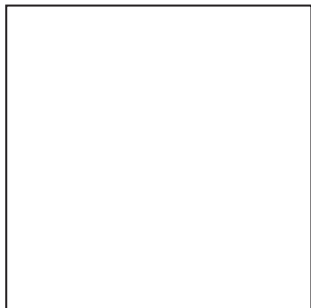
Lee is a student in the seventh grade of the Rabbi Joseph H.



## DAVID ELLENBERG

Mazel tov to Linda Ossad and Robert Ellenberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, David, which will take place in Israel on Saturday, February 7, when he will read the weekly portion of *Beshalach*. He will also celebrate on Saturday, February 21, at Congregation Orach Chaim, where he will read the *Haftorah* for *Shabbat Shekalim*. He will also deliver a *Dvar Torah* on "*Kriat Yam Suf — The Miraculous Journey*."

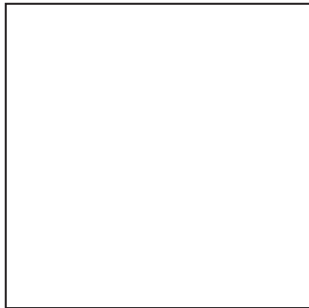
David is a student in the seventh grade of the Rabbi Joseph H.



## KENNETH RUBIN

Mazel tov to Audrey and Jesse Rubin on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Kenneth, which took place on Saturday, January 10, in the Main Synagogue. He read the weekly portion of *Vayechi* and the *Haftorah* and delivered a *Dvar Torah* on *Parashat Vayechi*.

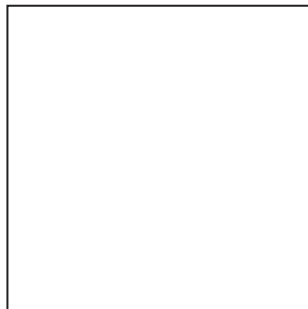
Kenny is a student in the eighth grade of the Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz.



## ROBERT MANTEL

Mazel tov to Joan and Arthur Mantel on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Robert, which took place on Saturday, January 24, in the Main Synagogue. He read the weekly portion of *Vaera* and the *Haftorah*. He also delivered a *Dvar Torah* on "*Respect vs. Disrespect*."

Robert is a student in the seventh grade of the Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz.

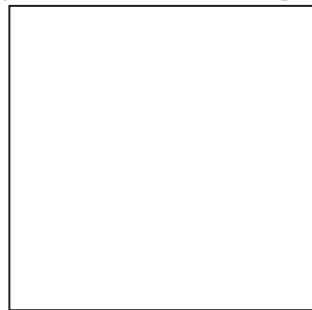


Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz.

## TALIA BERGER

Mazel tov to Drs. Celia Blumenthal and Herbert Berger on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Talia, which will take place on Saturday, February 14, at the Women's Tefillah Group at KJ. Similar good wishes to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Jean Blumenthal. Talia will read the weekly portion of *Yitro* at the Women's Tefillah Group.

Talia is a student in the sixth grade of the Ramaz Lower School.



## ELIZABETH KESTENBAUM

Mazel tov to Vivian and Joshua Kestenbaum on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elizabeth which will take place on Saturday, February 28, in the Main Synagogue. Similar good wishes to the proud grandmother, Mrs. Israel Waldman. Elizabeth will deliver a *Dvar Torah* on "*Women and Chibat Haaretz — Their Love for the Land*."

Elizabeth is a student in the seventh grade of the Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz.

## PARENT and CHILD MINYAN / BREAKFAST / SPORTS

Sunday, March 1

9:30 AM

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**SABBATH SCHEDULE**

		<i>Lighting of Candles</i>	<i>Friday Evening Services</i>	<i>Saturday Afternoon Services</i>	<i>Sabbath Ends</i>
<b>February</b>					
6-7	Beshalach (Shabbat Shira)	5:00	5:10	4:45*	5:57
13-14	Yitro	5:08	5:20	5:00*	6:06
20-21	Mishpatim (Shabbat Shekalim)	5:17	5:30	5:15*	6:14
27-28	Teruma	5:25	5:35	5:20*	6:21

*\*Seudah Shlishit*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Weekday mornings .....7:30 am  
Sunday mornings .....8:30 am  
Mondays and Thursdays .....7:15 am  
Rosh Chodesh Weekdays .....7:00 am  
Sabbath mornings .....9:00 am

**EVENING SERVICES**

February

1-5 5:00 pm  
8-12 5:10 pm  
15-19 5:20 pm  
22-26 5:30 pm

**Dates to Remember**

**Wednesday, February 11**  
Tu-B'Shevat

**Thursday-Friday, February 26-27**  
Rosh Chodesh Adar  
Morning Services at 7:00 am

**KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN**  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
125 East 85th Street  
New York, NY 10028  
427-1000

**Synagogue Officials**

Dr. Haskel Lookstein ..... *Rabbi*  
Mark Wildes ..... *Assistant Rabbi*  
Avrum Davis ..... *Cantor Emeritus*  
Mayer Davis ..... *Cantor*  
Chaim Ophir ..... *Ritual Director*  
Robert J. Leifert ..... *Executive Director*  
Alice Smokler ..... *Administrative Director*

**Officers of the Congregation**

Fred Distenfeld ..... *President*  
Dr. Gilbert N. Kahn ..... *Vice President*  
Robert E. Zimet ..... *2nd Vice President*  
Frederic H. Baumgarten ..... *Secretary*  
Chaim Edelstein ..... *Treasurer*  
Richard E. Kobrin ..... *Financial Secretary*  
Dr. Diana Friedman ..... *Pres. Sisterhood*  
Howard R. Katz ..... *Pres. Men's Club*  
Dr. Mark Meirowitz ..... *Pres. Men's Club*  
Jewel Edelman ..... *Pres. Couple's Club*  
Renata Marcus ..... *Pres. Couple's Club*

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Benjamin Brown Samuel Eisenstat  
Stanley Gurewitsch

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