



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 106, Folder 20, Rabbinical Assembly [New York]. 28-30  
March 1976.



# Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica



182-69 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica Estates, N.Y. 11432 Telephone: 526-6275

March 18, 1976  
16 Adar II, 5736

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, there are two rabbis who will shortly be leaving our Region: Rabbi Benjamin Teller, who is retiring, will be going on alyiah and Rabbi Samuel Schafler will be moving to Chicago.

The RA Queens Region considered it proper that we honor these two colleagues along with Rabbi Ben Zion Steindel, who retired two years ago and is living in the area.

As one of the youngest and most recently incorporated member in the Region, I have accepted our President's request to arrange a farewell gathering for Rabbis Teller, Schafler, Steindel and their families. My committee and I are therefore inviting you and your wives to join us at a farewell dinner party in honor of the aforementioned rabbis to be held on the night of THURSDAY, MAY 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the restaurant "Jerusalem West," 117-18 Queens Blvd. The cost per person will be \$14.00 which will cover the meal (with taxes and gratuities), our guests' dinner and a gift for them. The check should be made payable to the "R.A. Queens Region," while all the reservations should be made by Friday, April 30, 1976.

If you wish to be with us at this get together, fill out the form below and return it to my attention at the above address.

Be'Birchat Shalom U'Vracha,

Isidoro Aizenberg

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## RESERVATION FORM

Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
will attend the farewell dinner in honor of Rabbis Teller, Schafler  
and Steindel to be held on Thursday, May 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in  
the restaurant "Jerusalem West."

Enclosed please find a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Minutes of Queens R.A. Meeting

March 3, 1976

1. Members present: Samuel Geffen, Abraham B. Eckstein, Benjamin Z. Kreitman, Josiah Derby, Morton Waldman, Isidore Aizenberg, I. Usher Kirshblum, Clifford B. Miller, David Algaze, J. Leonard Romm, Samuel Smerling, Joseph J. Spevack, Irving Spielman.
2. Dvar Torah was delivered by Rabbi Algaze after meeting was called to order by President Geffen.
3. Rabbi Waldman reported on Treasury: 5 men have paid their dues; \$150. dollars in bank; \$100. sent to Seminario Rabbino Latin Americano.
4. Secretary should make a note reminding people to pay their dues. The Secretary, in obedience to group's wishes so notes--please pay your dues.
5. Joint Passover Committee of Queens and Nassau working through the Jewish Community Services of L.I. Letters will be sent to all the men in the region.
6. Mr. Silverman of United Synagogue requests our cooperation in support of Education Fund Concert of United Synagogue.
7. Nominating Committee's report: Rabbi Kirshblum reports that after meeting with Rabbi Faber, committee recommends Rabbi Waldman as President. Committee is asked to complete slate.
8. Rabbis are asked to cooperate with Awareness contest of Queens Council for Soviet Jewry.
9. Report on Farewell party for retiring colleagues: Rabbi Derby made motion that a dinner party be held with wives in honor of retiring colleagues. Motion was carried. Arrangements committee suggests a dinner at Club Caesaria in Manhattan either May 20, 26, or 27, depending on guests' acceptance.
10. Rabbi Kirshblum reported on Queens Interfaith Clergy Council: Catholic Clergy are attending; urges Rabbis to participate; next meeting March 24 - deals with crisis in education. Meeting will be held at the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills. All these problems affect borough of Queens.
11. Rabbi Derby on Hillel School: Second Cycle began at end of February. There are 15 students. Staff is same as last year and functioning very well. We are not doing enough to publicize school. He asks that publicity be put in Congregational bulletins.
12. Rabbi Kreitman was asked to speak to group... He found United Synagogue internal structure to be weak. For last number of years, there was dual command at head of U.S. He is re-organizing table of organization. 2. There is very little cooperation between U.S. and R.A.; between U.S. and Seminary. He is setting out

March 17, 1976

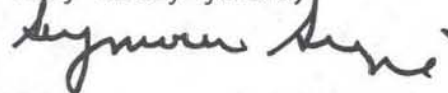
Dear Colleague:

For the past several years it has been my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. Carrying on the work of the past distinguished chairman, we have tried to be of service to the Conservative movement and to k'lal yisrael. No human institution is infallible. We have made our share of mistakes. However, on balance, I believe it is vital for our movement that the Committee on Jewish Law continue its work in the way it has been doing. I say this for the following reasons:

1. It is important that the development of Jewish law be continued. Consider what would have happened had we not had the Committee on Jewish Law during the past decades. The impressive record that has been compiled would have been impossible. We would not have been able, for example, as a movement to finally solve the aguna problem; to clarify questions in the field of kashrut ; to set standards for funerals and burials; and to meet the challenge of the desire of women to fully participate in Jewish life. If these decisions had been the opinion of individuals-- however distinguished--they would not have had the authority they do possess. It is because we have spoken as a movement, that it is has been possible to compile a record in the field of Jewish law, unsurpassed by any similar halacha-interpreting body.
2. It is important for the local rabbi, acting as mara d'atra to have the backing of the official arm of the movement. Many times during the past several years colleagues who faced halachic issues arising in their congregations, have requested that their individual authority be supported by the Committee. It is true that we have not been effective enough in explaining to our laymen how the Committee works ; what is the meaning of differing decisions; and what is the role of the local rabbi. These failings are not inherent in the functioning of the Committee. They are a result of pedagogy not effective enough.
3. Our laymen are anxious to have direction in the field of Jewish law. They are interested in having a central body which discusses and decides matters of Jewish law and standards. At a recent meeting of regional presidents of the United Synagogue , which I attended, this desire was vigorously expressed. The leadership of the United Synagogue indicated that if the Rabbinical Assembly would not have a Committee on Jewish Law of its own, they would feel constrained to create their own halacha-interpreting body. The first committee on Jewish Law, which was chaired by Professor Louis Ginzberg, of blessed memory, was under the auspices of the United Synagogue.
4. The accusations which have been made against the CJLS that it has undermined the authority of the mara d'atra are, in all candor, unfair. The Committee has stressed the crucial role of the local rabbi in all its public statements and communications. There is no contradiction between having a vigorous Committee and having vigorous local authority. Only when the decisions of the Committee are unanimous and ratified by the Convention are they fully binding on individual colleagues. Such occasions have been few and far between. Without having a recognized interpretative body in the area of halacha, we are abdicating our responsibility in this crucial field.

I urge you to support the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards at the next Convention of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Very truly yours,



March 11, 1976

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976

AT GROSSINGER'S, GROSSINGER, N.Y.

"Lunch and Learn Seminars"

If you have not sent in your registration form for the "Lunch and Learn" Seminars, please do so at once. Registration for each seminar is limited.

Please note that the Lunch and Learn Seminars will begin at 12:45 P.M.

IMPORTANT: The leaders are requested to gather in the dining room at 12:30 P.M.

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
TRANSPORTATION

- A. Federal Carriers Airline operates one daily flight from LaGuardia Airport to the Sullivan County Airport.

The flight leaves New York at 12 noon daily, arriving at 12:40 P.M. The fare is \$30.00.

For reservations or information, call Federal Carriers at area code 914-583-7030.

Taxis are available from the airport to Grossinger's.

- B. Goldy's Mountain Line Limousine Service (Door to Door Service), P.O. Box 216, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. 12751. Direct New York Telephone: 212-426-3600.

There are two limousine pickups daily from LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports.

The first is between 8 and 9 A.M.

The second is between 1 and 2 P.M.

IMPORTANT: Upon arrival at the airport, call the New York office of Goldy's at 426-3600 to arrange pick up at your arrival terminal. Pick-ups will be made at Newark - but only if a full limousine is reserved.

Individual seats are \$15.00. A limousine for 1 - 5 passengers is \$90.00. A limousine for 7 passengers is \$105.00.

Reservations must be made in advance with Goldy's office at the above address and must be accompanied by a check to prepay the requested reservation.

- C. Shortline Buses - Buses leave from the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal at 41st Street and 8th Avenue as well as from LaGuardia Airport to Ferndale, New York.

Please advise the driver that you wish to go to Grossinger's and he will drop you at the foot of the Grossinger road where there is a small hospitality house. There you can call up to the hotel for a courtesy car to pick you up.

To check the Shortline Bus schedule, please call the Terminal at area code 212-PE 6-4700.

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Reservation Forms for Grossinger's are enclosed. If you have not sent in your room reservations, please do so today so as to assure yourself of the type of accomodation that you prefer.

The reservations should be mailed directly to Grossinger's as indicated on the form.

We look forward to greeting you at the Convention.

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THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10027 Tel: (212) Ri 9-8000

March, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbis Attending 76th Rabbinical Assembly Convention
FROM: Henry W Levy, Rabbinical Assembly Convention Press Officer

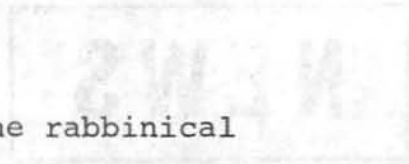
We are making every effort to publicize as fully as possible the forthcoming Rabbinical Assembly Convention. Stories have been sent, and will continue to be sent, to your local English Jewish newspaper, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and other news services. We have prepared the enclosed sample story, which we suggest that you use as the basis for a local story to be sent out by you to the local English Jewish newspaper and to the Religion or other editors of your local dailies with whom you have contact. There are, of course, many variations of what this story will be depending on your own participation. But probably every member can be listed as a participant on the program by reason of attending one or another Lunch-and-Learn sessions.

Another problem exists when more than one rabbi will attend from a community. Here, we suggest that you agree among yourselves who should send out the story and who should voice the quote on the significance of the convention. This rather full convention story can also be used in your local congregational Bulletin, or broken down into several small stories.

We trust that you will find this helpful in publicizing the splendid program that Rabbi Groner, the Program Chairman, has put together.

Sample release on your own stationery for issuance locally by member rabbis

Rabbi....., spiritual leader of the.....
(name)
....., of....., will be among
(congregation) (town and address)
the rabbinical leaders attending the 76th convention of the thousand member Rabbinical Assembly to be held at the Grossinger Hotel, Sunday, March 28th, through Thursday, April 1st. (In communities where more than one rabbi will attend, substitute the following two paragraphs for the opening paragraph above.)



.....local rabbis will be among the rabbinical leaders attending the 76th annual convention of the thousand member Rabbinical Assembly to be held at the Grossinger Hotel, Sunday, March 28th, through Thursday, April 1st.

They are Rabbi.....(name)....., of the (name of congregation)....; Rabbi....., of the.....; continue with full list.

They will be among the participants (go back to copy of the paragraph below beginning "He will be among the participants, etc." and continue).

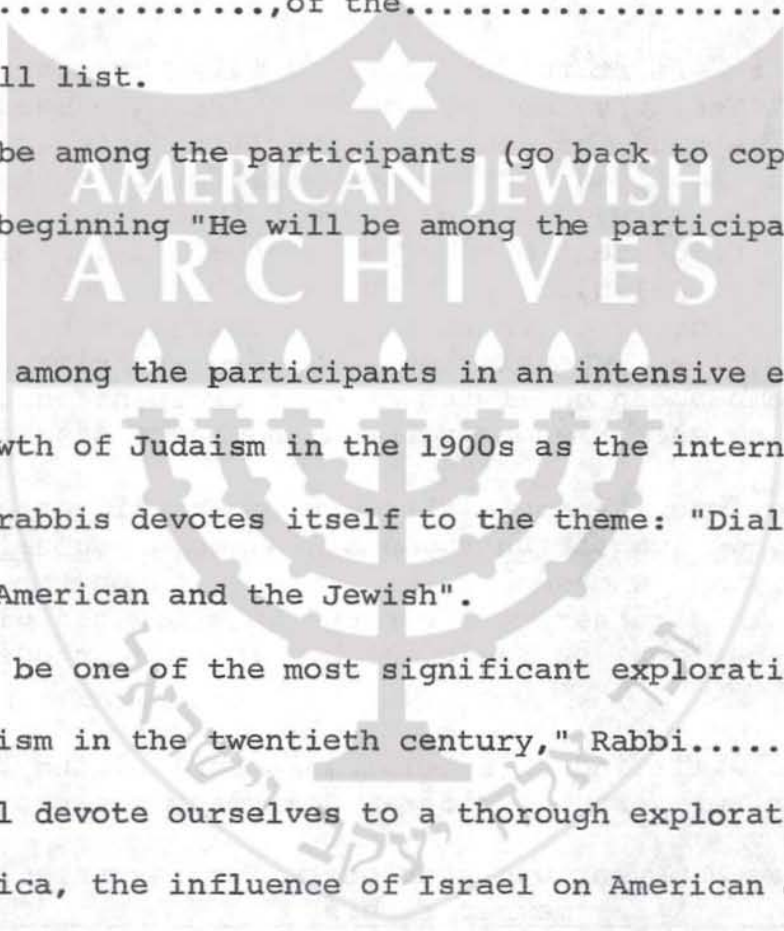
He will be among the participants in an intensive examination of the evolving growth of Judaism in the 1900s as the international association of Conservative rabbis devotes itself to the theme: "Dialogue of Two Histories - the American and the Jewish".

"This will be one of the most significant explorations of the role of American Judaism in the twentieth century," Rabbi..... stated. "We will devote ourselves to a thorough exploration of the Jewish presence in America, the influence of Israel on American Jewry, the role of the rabbi in the lives of his congregants, and the significance of Jewish education in the survival of Judaism."

(use this paragraph or something like it, if you are on program)

Rabbi.....will deliver a major address in a panel discussion at the .....session on..... (date) (subject)

(or if you are a participant in the Lunch-and-Learn Program, use something like this)





Rabbi.....will participate (or lead) in a Lunch-  
and-Learn session which will be held each day of the conference following  
luncheon. This intimate study group will be on the subject.....  
....."Zionism After the UN Resolution---A New Appraisal"  
will be the subject of the opening meeting of the convention on Sunday  
evening. The guest speaker will be Professor Uriel Tal, Professor of  
Modern Jewish History at the Tel Aviv University, and currently Visiting  
Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. With Rabbi Joseph Sternstein,  
of Roslyn Heights, N.Y., President of the Zionist Organization of America,  
and Rabbi Hertzal Fishman, of Jerusalem, who serves with Israel's  
Ministry of Education and Culture, as the discussants, Rabbi Arnold  
Turetsky, of White Plains will be the Chairman.

The Convention, which will continue through Thursday, April 1st,  
will also be highlighted by the keynote address of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman,  
of Temple Israel, Great Neck, the retiring President, who will speak on  
Monday morning and the banquet address on Wednesday evening by Dr. Gerson  
Cohen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, who will  
install the new officers. Monday evening will be devoted to "a family  
tribute by Conservative Judaism" to Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Executive Vice-  
President of the Rabbinical Assembly, who will be completing twenty-five  
years as executive head of the thousand member rabbinical organization.  
Speakers at the tribute to Rabbi Kelman will be limited to his intimate  
associates.

Another feature of the five day conclave, according to Rabbi Irwin  
Groner, of Detroit, Convention Chairman, will be a Thursday morning

discussion on "The United Synagogue and the Future of Conservative Judaism" to be led by Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman, newly inducted Executive Vice-President of the United Synagogue. There will also be four major panel discussions on the changing relationships between Orthodoxy, Reform and Conservative Judaism, the meaning of mysticism for the contemporary Jew, the authority of the individual rabbi to interpret Jewish law within his own congregation and the future of American Judaism as the United States celebrates its bicentennial.

The Monday morning panel will hear Professor Milton Konvitz, of Cornell University, explore the Jewish presence in American in his address: "Torah and Constitution--A Dialogue of Two Histories." Rabbi David Weiss Halivni, Professor of Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary, will discuss "The Role of the Mara D'Atra in Jewish Law," on Tuesday morning.

"Beyond Denominationalism: A New Look at Orthodox, Reform and Conservatism" will be the theme of the Tuesday evening panel at which the speakers will be Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, Professor of Education and Jewish Religious Thought at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and Professor Irving Greenberg, of the City University of New York, who, speaking not as official representatives of their movements, have expressed themselves on the new spirit in contemporary Jewish life.

The Wednesday morning session will be addressed by Rabbi Arthur E. Green and Rabbi David Wolf Silverman on "The Meaning of Mysticism for the Contemporary Jew." Rabbi Green, a member of the faculty of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, was a founder of Havurat

Shalom Community in 1968 in Boston, and Rabbi Silverman is Director of Special Education and Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophies of Judaism, at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

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REMINDERS

Please send in your contributions to our Rabbinical Assembly Assistance Fund as soon as possible.

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1975-76 Membership Dues Declarations are now overdue. If you have overlooked taking care of this, please do so now.

Your payment of dues at this time would be appreciated.

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כנסת הרבנים

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

Dear Colleague:

With Pesach approaching you must be receiving many requests for contributions. We trust, however, that this will not diminish your response to our appeal for your contribution to the Rabbinical Assembly Assistance Fund.

The proceeds of this fund are used to assist several of our colleagues and widows of deceased colleagues ל"ד, who, because of age or illness, are not able to earn a livelihood. Since it is only in recent years that rabbis have become eligible for Social Security and Major Medical and Disability Insurance programs, there are still some colleagues who receive no Social Security or insurance benefits; or who require supplementary assistance to their modest Social Security allotments.

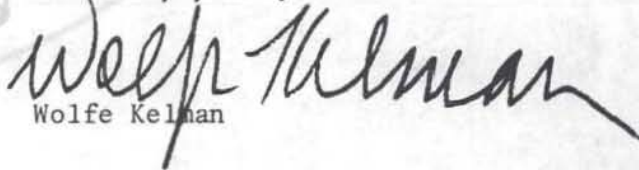
We must, therefore, turn to you to request your active cooperation in helping to replenish the modest Assistance Fund now at our disposal, to enable us to continue helping those of our colleagues and their families who depend on our discreet, dignified expression of our tangible concern.

It is our hope that you will make a contribution to the Assistance Fund, either on a personal basis, or through a charity fund of your congregation or through an allocation from your community or Federation Welfare Funds.

We look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you soon on this matter which is most vital to our colleagues.

With many thanks and every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

  
Wolfe Kelman

Please make check payable:  
Rabbinical Assembly Assistance Fund.



THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027 • (212) 749-8000

RABBI MORDECAI WAXMAN  
President

RABBI STANLEY S. RABINOWITZ  
Vice-President

RABBI SAUL I. TEPLITZ  
Treasurer

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Executive Vice-President

RABBI GILBERT M. EPSTEIN  
Director of Community Services

RABBI JULES HARLOW  
Director of Publications

RABBI IRWIN GRONER  
1976 Convention Chairman  
27375 Bell Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48076

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION  
OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1, 1976  
GROSSINGER'S HOTEL, GROSSINGER, N. Y.

CONVENTION NEWSLETTER #2

DECEMBER 30, 1975

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

Our plans for the National Convention in March are being implemented, and I share with you the following developments. First, Convention themes and speakers.

1. THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN AMERICA: A DIALOGUE OF TWO HISTORIES . . . The Bicentennial topic will be discussed by Milton Konvitz, Professor of Law and Labor Relations at Cornell University, distinguished scholar and author.

2. THE ROLE OF THE MARA D'ATRA IN JEWISH LAW . . . This scholarly lecture will examine the Halachic sources delineating the scope and authority of the Rabbi in his decisions on Jewish law. There are differences of view about the nature of his authority, the extent to which his decision can vary from accepted opinions in Jewish law and still be valid, and his accountability as well as his freedom to exercise his judicial function. The emphasis on the role of the Mara D'atra is a particularly distinguishing characteristic of the Conservative movement.

Professor David Weiss will present this lecture at the Plenary Session of Tuesday morning, March 30.

This lecture may serve in subsequent sessions as a reference point as we discuss those Halachic issues in which we differ as Rabbis, in a manner that allows for clarification of views and for identifying contrasting viewpoints. Hopefully such clarification will also offer a perspective from which to view the common ground that gives solidarity to our movement.

3. BEYOND DENOMINATIONALISM: A NEW LOOK AT ORTHODOXY, REFORM AND CONSERVATISM . . . Significant changes have taken place in recent years in the stance, outlook and self-definition of the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox "branches" of Judaism. A leading representative of each group, who embodies the new spirit of contemporary Jewish life, will participate in this panel discussion that has been scheduled for the Plenary Session of Wednesday morning, March 31.

4. THE MEANING OF MYSTICISM FOR THE CONTEMPORARY JEW . . . We seek to explore that movement which has, over the last several years, sought to awaken the emotional and non-rational aspects of Judaism. At times, this quest is seen in the renewal of mystical or neo-Hassidic forms. Occasionally, it manifests itself in the creation of moods or experiences of spiritual depth. What message is being expressed by this movement? How do we integrate the non-rational with the reflective elements of Judaism? These questions will be addressed in the session scheduled for Thursday morning, March 31.

5. ADDITIONAL FEATURES . . . The Convention Keynote Address will be delivered by the President of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Sunday evening, March 28.

The new President of the Rabbinical Assembly will be installed by Dr. Gerson D. Cohen on Wednesday evening, March 31.

A report on the current situation in Israel will be presented by a prominent Israeli spokesman.

6. LUNCH AND LEARN . . . Over 25 Lunch and Learn seminars have been arranged. The majority of topics are new for this year. Since the Convention takes place before Pesach, a number of sessions will be devoted to Passover themes of scholarly and homiletic interest. Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz will advise you in the near future of the entire range of this program.

7. RESOLUTIONS . . . It is not too late to submit resolutions to Rabbi Israel Jacobs. Please share your thoughts about RA Resolutions with him by corresponding with him directly at Jewish Center of Bay Shore, 34 North Clinton Avenue, Bay Shore, New York 11706.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

TRIBUTE TO WOLFE KELMAN

We shall mark the 25th Anniversary of Rabbi Wolfe Kelman's service to the Rabbinical Assembly at this Convention of 1976. On Monday night, March 29, an evening will be presented in tribute to him in the nature of an "oral Festschrift." His influential and vigorous leadership of the Conservative movement and the American Jewish community will be celebrated in this special program dedicated to him. I know that this will be an evening to remember.

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If you have ideas and thoughts about the particular topics described above, you may want to share them with the speakers who have been thus far announced. If there are any other matters that you would like to convey to me, please write to me at my Congregation or at the RA office. Each communication serves to sharpen my perception of the needs and interests of my colleagues. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Irwin Groner

Chairman of the 1976 Convention

P.S. THE RESERVATION FORM WILL BE SENT TO YOU SHORTLY.

PLEASE BE SURE TO MAIL YOUR RESERVATION FORM TO GROSSINGER'S WITHOUT DELAY.

כנסת הרבנים

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK N.Y. 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

January 2, 1976

Dear Colleague,

You are hereby invited to attend a Theological Conference to be held on Monday, February 9th, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, February 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in the Unterberg Auditorium at the Seminary.

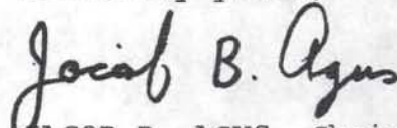
This Conference is planned in connection with the forthcoming publication of a volume entitled Conservative Thought Today. The papers summarized at this Conference and an edited transcript of the ensuing discussion will be printed in that volume.

Attention will be focused on three themes - Revelation and Halachah, Interfaith Dialogue and Notions of God.

Twenty-minute summaries of papers will be given by Rabbis B. Z. Bokser, David Novak and Phillip Sigal on Monday. On Tuesday, summaries will be given by Rabbis Simon Greenberg, William Kaufman, Seymour Siegel, Joseph Schultz and David Weiss. The list of discussants is not yet complete. It will include Rabbis Robert Gordis, David Lieber and Mordecai Waxman. We hope that there will be a lively discussion in which all our colleagues will participate.

Since we need to have some idea of the number of colleagues planning to attend this session, we enclose a reply card for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



JACOB B. AGUS, Chairman  
Board of Editors  
"Conservative Thought  
Today"

JBA/rp

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

February 26, 1976

Dear Colleague:

A Rabbinical Assembly seminar in Israel is being planned for this summer in conjunction with Tenuat Aliyah of The Jewish Agency. We are pleased that through Tenuat Aliyah, we are able to offer an attractive price and special features for this seminar, which will also enable its participants to join this summer's Rabbinical Assembly Kallah in Israel.

Tenuat Aliyah is arranging for a series of trips, lectures and meetings with olim which will constitute a unique exposure to current conditions in Israel, especially as they relate to the problems and the fulfillments of the oleh. The planners are assuming that this is not the first visit to Israel for tour participants and therefore are concentrating on special programming. Participants will be given information and insights which will make them most adequate as resource persons in their congregations and communities on all aspects of aliyah.

The dates of this seminar will be July 26 to August 9. The cost for members of the Rabbinical Assembly will be \$775, including the round trip flight from New York and all lodging, meals and touring for two weeks. For wives of Rabbinical Assembly members, an additional \$100 will be required for the stay in Israel. A detailed itinerary will be available soon. Those participants interested in extending their stay in Israel may do so for an additional \$50.00 which will entitle them to return at any time between twenty-two and forty-four days from their New York departure. (Expenses beyond the two weeks will, of course, be absorbed by the individual.)

If you are interested in joining and sharing in this unique experience, please let us know by writing to "Israel 1976" at the Rabbinical Assembly office. This group will be limited to forty persons who will be selected from among the applicants. Your writing to us now might not be a definite commitment. However, we would like to assume that your response to this notice will represent your serious consideration of participating in this tour and not curiosity alone.

.....  
Rabbinical Assembly 1976 Israel Tour  
3080 Broadway  
New York, N. Y. 10027

Yes, I am interested in applying for the 1976 seminar this summer. Please send me more detailed information as soon as it is available.

My wife is also interested in joining this seminar.

My main interest in this seminar is to learn more about \_\_\_\_\_.

I have been to Israel on the following dates: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



כנסת הרבנים

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION  
MARCH 28 - APRIL 1, 1976  
GROSSINGER'S HOTEL, GROSSINGER, N. Y.

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CONVENTION NEWSLETTER #3

FEBRUARY 9, 1976

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DEAR COLLEAGUE:

I take this means of bringing you up-to-date on the latest news about our forthcoming Convention, which is now less than eight weeks away.

1. BEYOND DENOMINATIONALISM: A NEW LOOK AT ORTHODOXY, REFORM AND CONSERVATISM . . . Irving Greenberg and Eugene Borowitz, distinguished and thoughtful interpreters of the contemporary religious scene, will discuss their views about changes in self-definition of the three branches of Judaism. The Conservative viewpoint will not be represented by an individual speaker. Instead, we shall provide opportunity for members of the RA to present their statements as part of this session, which promises to be stimulating and significant. This program is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 30.

2. THE MEANING OF MYSTICISM FOR THE CONTEMPORARY JEW Arthur Green will articulate in personal terms the influence of mysticism on his life and work, in a paper that he is preparing for the Convention. David Wolf Silverman will speak about the other side of this polarity, the reflective dimension of Jewish experience. Our intent is not for the speakers to engage in debate but, rather, to perceive the tension between the rational and non-rational elements in Judaism, in the spirit of elu va'elu. This session is now being scheduled for Wednesday morning, March 31.

3. USY MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY . . . We shall observe the 25th anniversary of United Synagogue Youth at the dinner of Tuesday evening, March 30. During the course of these 25 years, USY has become a vital force in inspiring and

influencing the young people of our congregations. A significant number of colleagues have played important roles in this period of growth and development of youth activities. We shall voice our gratitude and note with pride the achievements of USY at our Convention.

4. ZIONISM TODAY . . . A number of colleagues have indicated to me their concern that our Convention deal in depth with the issues of Zionism and Israel's survival, in light of the recent action of the United Nations. I quote from a representative communication: "The issues which the PLO is presently placing on the agenda of the world rostrum must be dealt with seriously, not only on the political level, but on the community level, Jewish and non-Jewish where we have something to say.... In a recent project involving my college students, I became convinced that PLO arguments are making considerable headway in the thinking of our young people...what is needed is a thorough 're-analysis' of Israel and Zionism which should provide 'da mah shetashiy' as well as a reaffirmation of America's moral and substantive commitment to Israel."

In response to this need and concern, we are scheduling a session on "Zionism Today" which will feature an Israeli intellectual who will share with us his perspective on the issues we face, and the strategies we should develop as Rabbis at this time of increasing tension for Israel.

5. EVENING IN TRIBUTE TO WOLFE KELMAN. MONDAY, MARCH 29TH . . . There will be several speakers on the program, each expressing an appreciation of Wolfe from the perspective of his association. There are other features of this program which will enable us to reminisce and reflect on these 25 years of Wolfe's service to the Rabbinical Assembly. While I cannot disclose specifics of the program, be assured that we shall celebrate with gratitude humor and rejoicing this memorable time.

6. JOSEPH WEISMAN . . . Joseph Weisman is an actor who has appeared on stage, screen and television, and is now featured in the play of Elie Wiesel, "Zalman, the Madness of God." Mr. Weisman will present a program of dramatic readings from Jewish literature at our Convention on Tuesday evening, March 30.

7. LUNCH AND LEARN . . . You will soon receive in the mail the complete schedule of Lunch and Learn sessions, with topics ranging from pastoral skills to academic inquiry. We urge that you register as soon as possible for the sessions of your choice.

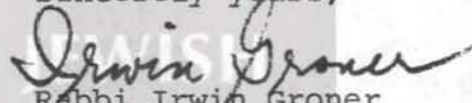
8. DISCOUNT FOR CHAPLAINS AND RETIRED COLLEAGUES . . . We have arranged to provide a special 20 percent discount for those who serve in the full-time chaplaincy, either in the military service or in institutional work. This discount applies to chaplains and their wives on all room

rates, exclusive of gratuities and registration fee. This discount also applies to retired colleagues and their wives.

9. RESERVATION FORMS FOR THE CONVENTION . . . Due to circumstances beyond our control, the reservation forms have arrived rather late. We urge you to mail your form to Grossinger's without delay.

As you can see from the above, our plans and programs are reaching their final stages. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention, a time of reunion, fellowship and intellectual stimulation. I hope you can attend.

Sincerely yours,

  
Rabbi Irwin Groner  
Chairman of the 1976 Convention

P.S. Rabbi Howard Singer will conduct a Lunch-and-Learn session "Substitutes for the Sermon" in which he will discuss alternatives to the Sabbath sermon such as lectures, study, discussions. He is interested in hearing from colleagues about what they are doing so that he may include their ideas and suggestions in his presentation. Please mail your material directly to Rabbi Howard Singer, The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117.

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IMPORTANT: We regret that due to unavoidable technical difficulties the mailing of the proposed resolutions was delayed. Therefore please note that the final date for submitting additional resolutions to the Resolutions Committee has been extended to March 15, 1976.

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THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027 • (212) 749-8000

RABBI MORDECAI WAXMAN  
President

RABBI STANLEY S. RABINOWITZ  
Vice-President

RABBI SAUL I. TEPLITZ  
Treasurer

RABBI AMRAM PRERO  
Recording Secretary

RABBI EZRA M. FINKELSTEIN  
Corresponding Secretary

RABBI WOLFE KELMAN  
Executive Vice-President

RABBI GILBERT M. EPSTEIN  
Director of Community Services

RABBI JULES HARLOW  
Director of Publications

RABBI IRWIN GRONER  
1976 Convention Chairman  
27375 Bell Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48076

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1, 1976

GROSSINGER'S HOTEL, GROSSINGER, N. Y.

CONVENTION NEWSLETTER #3

FEBRUARY 9, 1976

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

I take this means of bringing you up-to-date on the latest news about our forthcoming Convention, which is now less than eight weeks away.

1. BEYOND DENOMINATIONALISM: A NEW LOOK AT ORTHODOXY, REFORM AND CONSERVATISM . . . Irving Greenberg and Eugene Borowitz, distinguished and thoughtful interpreters of the contemporary religious scene, will discuss their views about changes in self-definition of the three branches of Judaism. The Conservative viewpoint will not be represented by an individual speaker. Instead, we shall provide opportunity for members of the RA to present their statements as part of this session, which promises to be stimulating and significant. This program is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 30.
2. THE MEANING OF MYSTICISM FOR THE CONTEMPORARY JEW Arthur Green will articulate in personal terms the influence of mysticism on his life and work, in a paper that he is preparing for the Convention. David Wolf Silverman will speak about the other side of this polarity, the reflective dimension of Jewish experience. Our intent is not for the speakers to engage in debate but, rather, to perceive the tension between the rational and non-rational elements in Judaism, in the spirit of elu va'elu. This session is now being scheduled for Wednesday morning, March 31.
3. USY MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY . . . We shall observe the 25th anniversary of United Synagogue Youth at the dinner of Tuesday evening, March 30. During the course of these 25 years, USY has become a vital force in inspiring and

## II CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONS IN ISRAEL

Recognizing that Conservative congregations in Israel have a special call on the loyalties of the Conservative rabbi and the Conservative congregation, be it resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly who serve as pulpit rabbis use their best efforts to initiate and direct programs of ongoing assistance to a selected Israel congregation. Suggested channels include, but are not restricted to one or more of the following:

1. Keren Ami or discretionary fund.
2. A synagogue commitment of at least one tenth of one percent of the annual budget.

In order to implement these financial and spiritual ties between Israel and diaspora congregations each region is encouraged to appoint an Israel Synagogue Chairman. This chairman will work closely with the United Synagogue Region Executive for the purpose of coordinating and implementing what for most synagogues will be a new and concrete relationship with a particular Israel synagogue.

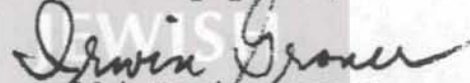


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A Note from the Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee of The Rabbinical Assembly has voted that

Rabbi Milton L. Kroopnick, Rosedale, N. Y.  
Rabbi Phillip A. Labowitz, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.  
Rabbi Roger V. Pavey, Essex, England  
Rabbi Bernard A. Silver, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Rabbi Fredric H. Warshaw, Bronx, N. Y.  
Rabbi Meir Ydit, Rehovot, Israel

be recommended for admission to regular membership in The Rabbinical Assembly.

If you have any information that you think we should have about these colleagues before their names are presented to the Convention, please do not hesitate to communicate with this office. Such communications will be held in strict confidence.

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כנסת הרבנים

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

February 9, 1976

Dear Colleague:

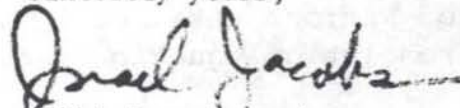
In my initial letter to you as chairman of the Resolutions Committee I wrote that as "rabbis we are called upon to make a multitude of decisions, often on issues that have far reaching consequences--decisions that are at times irreversible." If our individual decisions are of such gravity, how much more so the decisions we as a movement of almost a thousand rabbis arrive at collectively.

Bearing in mind the serious nature of R.A. deliberations in Convention assembled, the Resolutions Committee presents for your consideration the resolutions to be submitted to the Convention. We anticipate that your reflection upon the issues in advance of the Convention will contribute to sober debate and sound decisions that will redound to the credit of the Conservative movement, the welfare of K'lal Yisrael and the honor of God.

To promote reasoned and fair debate and the expeditious use of the time available, the Resolutions Committee has devised the following schedule, which it respectfully requests the membership to comply with:

1. Please put into writing your suggestions and amendments and mail them to me so that the Resolutions Committee can consider them in advance of the Convention and present alternatives to the Convention. All amendments must be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee no later than February 28, 1976.
2. Please be advised of the following schedule for debating resolutions:
  - a - Proposer of resolution will be allotted five minutes.
  - b - Proposer of amendment will be allotted three minutes.
  - c - Two pro speakers will be allotted three minutes.
  - d - Two con speakers will be allotted three minutes.
  - e - If time will permit, additional pro and con speakers will alternately be allotted three minutes each.
3. Please check by number which resolution you wish to speak on in order of preference.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Israel Jacobs  
Chairman  
Resolutions Committee

## I ZIONISM AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Racism is the belief that people differ significantly in ability, intellect, emotion by virtue of genetically determined physical traits inherited and transmitted from generation to generation.

On the basis of these supposed genetic differences between people, racists advocate the biological superiority or inferiority of particular groups and rationalize the oppression, enslavement or genocide of those groups they judge inferior. Throughout the centuries the Jewish people have been the chief victims of racist ideologies, suffering discrimination, persecution, isolation in ghettos and the ultimate horror of genocide.

Zionism's roots are biblical. Amos looks forward to the day when the Lord will reverse the exile of the people of Israel, "and they shall rebuild the deserted cities and live in them--God will plant Israel on their own soil---and they shall never again be uprooted."

In its modern manifestation Zionism is a movement aimed at fulfilling that biblical promise. Zionism embodies the political, national and religious aspiration of the Jewish people to re-create an autonomous, self-governing Jewish community. In the modern democratic State of Israel that national hope and prophetic promise is being realized.

By equating Zionism with racism the United Nations has inverted the meaning of racism and sanctioned Anti-Semitism on a global scale.

THEREFORE, the Rabbinical Assembly in convention assembled condemns the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The Rabbinical Assembly further calls upon the world community of nations in general and the United States of America in particular to withhold support from the project designated as the "Decade Against Racism" and sponsored by the United Nations until such time the United Nations repudiates its resolution equating racism with Zionism.

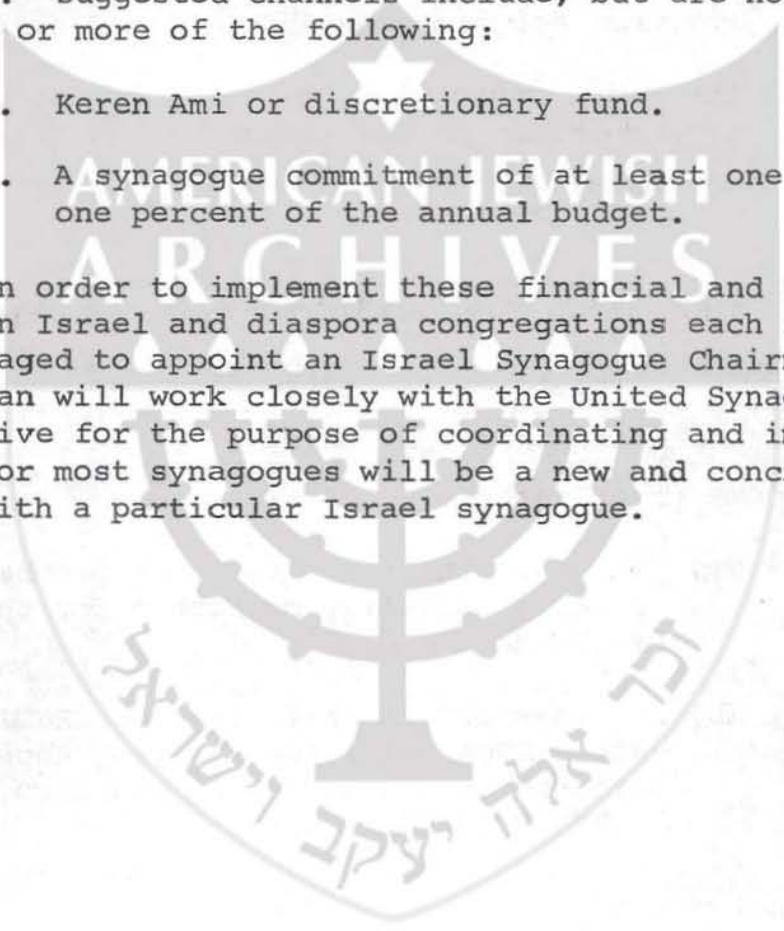


## II CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONS IN ISRAEL

Recognizing that Conservative congregations in Israel have a special call on the loyalties of the Conservative rabbi and the Conservative congregation, be it resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly who serve as pulpit rabbis use their best efforts to initiate and direct programs of ongoing assistance to a selected Israel congregation. Suggested channels include, but are not restricted to one or more of the following:

1. Keren Ami or discretionary fund.
2. A synagogue commitment of at least one tenth of one percent of the annual budget.

In order to implement these financial and spiritual ties between Israel and diaspora congregations each region is encouraged to appoint an Israel Synagogue Chairman. This chairman will work closely with the United Synagogue Region Executive for the purpose of coordinating and implementing what for most synagogues will be a new and concrete relationship with a particular Israel synagogue.



III IN SUPPORT OF MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Recalling the principles of Religious Independence, Freedom of Conscience and Equality, which form a basis for the work of the International Red Cross; and

Whereas repeated efforts have been made to secure for the Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) the same status as is accorded to the other distinctive emblems recognized by the Geneva Convention; and

Whereas the Magen David Adom in Israel is not yet admitted to membership in the League of Red Cross Societies;

Therefore, The Rabbinical Assembly hereby resolves

That we go on record:

- (a) in supporting the steps that are being taken to secure equality of status for the Magen David Adom; and
- (b) in assisting the efforts of OPERATION RECOGNITION, designed to bring about the admission of Magen David Adom into the League of Red Cross Societies.

Be it further resolved:

That we urgently look to competent authorities and institutions of the International Red Cross to assist in the attainment of these goals.

#### IV LARGER JEWISH FAMILIES

Historically, the parameters of Jewish concerns have not been confined to parochial issues alone but have extended to the universal problems of mankind. Nevertheless, the primary responsibility of the Jew is to survive. The holocaust of the Forties annihilated one-third of world Jewry. A spiralling rate of intermarriage further diminishes our numbers. Not being cognizant of these facts, which endanger Jewish survival, many families in consideration of the world problem of overpopulation are severely restricting the size of their families; some even deciding to have no children at all.

The Rabbinical Assembly, in convention assembled, notes with concern the steep decline in the birth-rate of American Jewish families, and finds that declining birth-rate a threat to our survival as a viable and creative Jewish community.

We affirm that while overpopulation is a serious problem for many poor, developing nations, it does not realistically pertain to the Jewish people. The Jewish population is at present too small to constitute an appreciable affect on the problem of world overpopulation. In addition, only a Jewish community of appreciable size can protect its own interests and the well-being of its members.

We call upon the members of the Rabbinical Assembly to bring to the attention of our congregants via lectures, bulletins, newsletters and any means at our disposal the danger to Jewish survival of a declining Jewish population.

We deem Rosh Hashanah with its twin themes of rebirth and regeneration a particularly propitious time to make our laity aware of the crisis of Jewish underpopulation. We call upon the members of the Rabbinical Assembly to utilize the High Holyday season, when the largest numbers of our laity are in our synagogues, to promote the message that larger Jewish families will benefit them, the American Jewish community and the American people as a whole.

V USY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Rabbinical Assembly recognizes with great pride the 25th Anniversary of United Synagogue Youth. We acknowledge the immense contribution this organization has made to a viable American Jewry. Its graduates have become leaders of Conservative congregations and indeed of the Conservative Movement. Its effective program has produced more knowledgeable Jews who have sought to apply Judaism's traditional practices into their lives.

AMERICAN JEWISH

Be it resolved, that we as Conservative rabbis will dedicate ourselves to building and maintaining youth activities within our synagogues. We will assist in the formation and operation of Kadimah, USY, and ATID chapters. We will encourage our youth to become actively involved in these chapters and to attend inter-chapter, regional, and international gatherings. We will make ourselves available as teachers for these activities. We will encourage our youth to participate in the summer programs sponsored by United Synagogue Youth: USY regional encampments, USY-On-Wheels, USY pilgrimage to Israel, and USY Eastern Europe Pilgrimage. We will continue our support of the invaluable projects created by ATID, the ATID Bookmobile, and its Curricula Judaica.

## VI DEFINITION OF DEATH

The Rabbinical Assembly, in convention assembled recognizing that recent developments in medical science and technology have created situations in which the traditional criteria for the determination of death -- the loss of spontaneous respiratory and cardiac functions -- are inapplicable;

and as a result, uncertainty and confusion exists for doctors, hospitals, families of patients being maintained by machines, and clergy and other counselors trying to offer comfort and guidance;

and that consequently serious problems arise in treatment of situations involving (i) victims of criminal attack, (ii) the potential donation of organs for transplant purposes, and (iii) irreversibly comatose patients in a vegetative state;

### HEREBY RESOLVES THAT

- 1) the determination of death on the basis of a measurement of the cessation of spontaneous brain function, in situations where responsible medical opinion indicated its propriety, would be consistent with Jewish law, and that
- 2) a bill proposing a definition of death such as H. Bill 7860-A, which includes brain function as a criterion in appropriate cases, is strongly endorsed;
- 3) the use of artificial means after death has been declared, for the preservation of organs for transplant purposes, is permissible;
- 4) a 'hopeless' person is not to be considered a dead person;
- 5) whether a person whose condition is considered "hopeless" by physicians exercising their best judgment according to current medical practices is a question independent of and unrelated to the question of when death occurs, and that
- 6) the removal of life support devices from patients whose condition is considered "hopeless" as described above is entirely consistent with Jewish law, and thus treatment decisions to this effect made in good conscience by competent physicians can be supported by rabbis in contact with the patient or the family.

## VII PANEL ON JEWISH LAW

### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS there is a wide range of religious positions within the Rabbinical Assembly, the acceptance of the primacy of the individual rabbi as the religious authority in his congregation has always been the necessary presupposition for a working consensus within the American Conservative rabbinate. We have historically been a coalition movement. This has been our great strength.

Despite the continued acceptance of the mara d'atra concept, the Committee on Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly by its present format counteracts the practical effectiveness of the mara d'atra. For whenever a decision is rendered in the name of the majority, the Jewish public is given the impression, despite honest protests to the contrary, that this majority decision is the official Conservative position. Rabbis as well as laypeople who do not accept the majority decision are thus frequently labelled as "dissident". Hence, by designations of halakhic decisions as "majority" or "minority" the rulings of the Committee become in effect sweeping general takkanot rather than specific piskay din.

This present state of affairs weakens the authority of all rabbis, whether the individual rabbi agrees or disagrees with the majority decision of the Committee. If an individual rabbi agrees with the majority decision, his congregation can then easily question his own halakhic competence and require the decision of the Committee on all questions of religious practice. In this way, the mara d'atra becomes less and less his own congregation's interpreter of the classical sources of Jewish tradition. If, on the other hand, an individual rabbi disagrees with the majority decision, then his congregation can easily question whether their rabbi is "really Conservative" as they believe themselves to be. In America the word "majority" has a virtually sacred connotation. Hence in an age when the authority of the individual rabbi is under increasing attack from nonrabbinic sources, the Rabbinical Assembly and its committees should be working to strengthen the role of the individual rabbi, not, albeit unintentionally, weakening that role.

It is clear, then, that while we recognize that the Committee on Law and Standards has performed an invaluable service to the members of the Rabbinical Assembly for the past 28 years, it would be of far greater service to the congregational rabbi as mara d'atra if it were to be constituted as

a panel of experts who would meet on a regular basis for scholarly discussions and individual responses to queries submitted by members of the Rabbinical Assembly. The local rabbi would then be truly restored to his position as mara d'atra because he and he alone would determine which response, if any, he accepts for his congregation.

BE IT RESOLVED that the present Committee on Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly be dissolved and replaced with a new body to be called THE PANEL ON JEWISH LAW. This panel would be composed of eleven (11) regular members. The members of the panel would be elected every two (2) years by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates present at the convention of the Rabbinical Assembly. Nominations along with biographical sketches emphasizing one's experience in Jewish legal scholarship would be submitted in advance of the convention. After election the members of the panel would then elect from among themselves a chairman and a secretary. The panel would conduct a minimum of four (4) meetings per year. Each member of the panel would be required to write a minimum of one (1) responsum or research paper in Jewish law, and attend a minimum of two (2) meetings per year. The meetings would be open to any member of the Rabbinical Assembly, but would be closed to all others. Any member of the Rabbinical Assembly would be eligible, with the approval of the panel, to submit a responsum on any question before the panel. The secretary of the panel would inform the full membership of the Rabbinical Assembly of the agenda of the next meeting and, also, a digest of the responsa discussed at the last meeting.

## VIII THE SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

The Rabbinical Assembly, in noting the forthcoming Jubilee Year of the Synagogue Council of America, wishes to acknowledge the outstanding role the Synagogue Council of America has played on the American Jewish scene as the "address" and "voice" of the religious Jewish community in the United States.

In formulating and expressing a point of view that is informed by Jewish religious sensibilities on the entire range of issues which face American Jewry, SCA renders an invaluable service to the entire Synagogue community.

We particularly wish to single out the important work the SCA has been doing in representing religious Jewry to the non-Jewish community, both nationally and internationally. Its recently established Institute for Jewish Policy Planning and Research produces research and analysis of the highest quality which have become treasured resources for rabbinic and lay leaders alike.

As a result of the initiative and leadership that SCA has shown in these and in many other areas, SCA has emerged as a major force on the national and international scene whose activities add strength and dignity to its constituent organizations and to the totality of Jewish life. The Rabbinical Assembly is proud to have been an active and loyal constituent of the Synagogue Council of America from its very inception, and greatly values the opportunities afforded through membership in the SCA for communication and cooperation with the Orthodox and Reform branches of American Judaism.

Despite its important achievements, the SCA remains virtually unknown in the grass roots of Jewish life, and the financial resources presently available to it are entirely inadequate for its tasks.

### THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY:

1) that every member Rabbi undertake to lead a program of information and education in his congregation, so that all congregants be informed and made aware of the Synagogue Council of America's vital functions in our community, and that this be done especially during the entire year of the SCA Jubilee (May 1976 to May 1977), as well as beyond it, and that furthermore,



2) a special Sabbath be designated for the Synagogue Council of America as part of this program of education and as a sign of rabbinical and congregational solidarity with the SCA, the coordinating agency for all three branches of American Judaism and its single voice in America and the world. Be it further resolved,

3) that each member Rabbi urge the Board of Directors of his congregation to add a minimum of one dollar per capita to congregants' dues, this sum to be paid to the United Synagogue and earmarked in behalf of the Synagogue Council of America.



IX A RESOLUTION ON THE PROCEDURES  
FOR THE  
ADMISSION OF PROSELYTES

A recent survey undertaken by the Chairman of the Committee on Conversion and Related Matters indicates that many of the Regions of the Rabbinical Assembly maintain a school for prospective proselytes, and that the procedures followed are in more or less general agreement.

Be it, therefore, resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly in convention assembled authorize and direct the Committee on Conversion and Related Matters to:

1. Establish minimum standards affecting the number of hours of study and the curriculum which would make an applicant eligible for admission into the Household of Israel, such standards to be adhered to both by Regional Schools and individual colleagues.
2. To prepare a text for a Certificate of Completion to be issued to all students fulfilling the above requirements, such Certificate to be national in scope by bearing the imprimatur of the Rabbinical Assembly.
3. To make our colleagues more aware of the existing decisions of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards in connection with GIYUR.
4. To prepare texts for a set of Certificates of Conversion which shall be given to the proselyte upon completion of the required conversion ritual; such certificates to bear the imprimatur of the Rabbinical Assembly.

X A RESOLUTION ON INTERMARRIAGE\*

(\*NOTE: By this term we mean a situation where there is a non-Jewish partner. Where the non-Jewish partner has converted to Judaism, we regard this as a completely Jewish family not to be distinguished from others.)

Whereas, the rate of intermarriage in the Jewish community in America has reached alarming proportions, so that it has become perhaps our number one problem, and all indications from the present status of the Jew and especially of Jewish youth point to a continued worsening of this situation; and

Whereas, the attempt to curb intermarriage and to reverse this trend depends upon long-range programs of education towards Jewish identity and commitment on the part of parents and children; and

Whereas, because of the free and unlimited mingling of Jewish Youth with their non-Jewish peers on the campus and in the business world there is a strong probability of interdating among even those who will not compromise their Jewishness; and

Whereas, American Jewry in general and the Conservative Movement in particular can no longer afford to shut their eyes to this problem and not take some overt and concerted action to counteract it; and

Whereas, in Mishnaic times our Sages engaged in a vigorous effort to bring gentiles under the wings of the Shekhinah;

Now therefore, be it resolved:

a) that the Rabbinical Assembly launch a publicly-proclaimed national assault upon the problem of intermarriage through a publicity campaign to be planned by the Committee on Conversion and Related Matters and approved by the Executive Council;

b) that the Rabbinical Assembly launch an all-out effort to reach out to intermarried couples and to couples planning to intermarry for the purpose of bringing them into the Household of Israel;

c) that the Rabbinical Assembly establish a system of Schools for non-Jews interested in learning about Judaism, such Schools to be created by the Regions wherever geographically feasible;

d) that the Regions give wide publicity to the existence of these Schools; and in areas where such Schools are not available, that individual colleagues publicize their availability and readiness to give instruction to such non-Jews;

e) And, that colleagues everywhere, when an intermarried family or a potential intermarriage comes to their attention, that they should take the initiative to discuss with them the possibility of conversion.



XI THE HELSINKI ACCORD

The Rabbinical Assembly, in Convention assembled, declares its support of the bill before Congress sponsored by Senator Case and Representative Fenwick. The bill proposes a Committee to monitor compliance with the Helsinki Accord by all signatories. Obviously for us, this has implications for Russian Jews who are denied their rights in that accord.

XII MEMBERSHIP

Resolved: The Rabbinical Assembly directs its committee on membership to consider applications for membership in the Rabbinical Assembly of otherwise qualified candidates regardless of their sex.

# NEWS

## THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

3080 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10027

Tel: (212) Ri 9-8000

February 13, 1976

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon Bacon on the birth of a daughter, Esther Orah

Rabbi & Mrs. Israel Francus on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yizchak

Rabbi & Mrs. Baruch Gold on the birth of a son, Moshe Lev

Rabbi & Mrs. Harry W. Katchen on the birth of a granddaughter, Talya Margalit, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Michael Stein

Rabbi & Mrs. Howard Hoffman on the birth of a daughter, Merav Batsheva

Rabbi & Mrs. Nathan Kollin on the birth of a grandson, Abraham Kollin, son of Dr. & Mrs. Martin J. Feierman

Rabbi & Mrs. Arnold A. Lasker on their children, Judith and Daniel, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Harvard and Brandeis Universities.

Rabbi & Mrs. Joseph Lukinsky on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Hana Ruth

Rabbi & Mrs. Simon Potok on the birth of a son, Yehudah Aryeh, and to the uncle and aunt, Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Potok

Rabbi & Mrs. Albert L. Raab on the Bat Mitzvah of a granddaughter, Sheri, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mendel Moeckler

Rabbi & Mrs. Ismar Schorsch on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonathan

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We mourn the death in Jerusalem of our beloved colleague

Rabbi Solomon D. Goldfarb ז"ל

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### CONDOLENCES TO

Rabbi Joseph A. Brodie on the death of his mother, Mrs. Ida H. Brodie ז"ל

Mrs. Josiah Derby on the death of her sister, Mrs. Nora Bein ז"ל

Mrs. Irving Lehrman on the death of her mother, Mrs. Israel Goldfarb ז"ל and to the grandchildren, Mrs. Matthew Simon and Rabbi Henry Michelman

Rabbi Joseph Herman on the death of his mother, Mrs. Aranka Feldman ז"ל

Rabbi David Leiter on the death of his mother, Mrs. Rivka Leiter ז"ל

## ABOUT OUR RABBIS

Rabbi Mark H. Elovitz recently joined with Dr. John W. Kirklin and Dr. John R. Durant (President of the American Cancer Society, Alabama Division and of the Legislative Committee of the American Cancer Society) in a symposium entitled "The Right to Die."

Rabbi Henry A. Fischel has been awarded the degree of D. Litt. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Rabbi Sidney S. Guthman was honored on his retirement as Chairman of the Community Development Advisory Commission of Long Beach, California.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg and Rabbi Seymour Siegel were the guests of President and Mrs. Gerald Ford at a dinner and reception in honor of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held at the White House.

Rabbi Richard J. Plavin was awarded the degree of Doctor of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Rabbi Samuel Schafler has been appointed Superintendent of the Board of Jewish Education in Chicago.

Rabbi Jeshua Schmitzer was honored by Congregation Shomrei Emunah, Montclair, N.J. on the occasion of his 25th year with the congregation.

Rabbi Arnold S. Turetsky was honored by the White Plains - Scarsdale - Harrison Zionist District of the Zionist Organization of America and the Brotherhood of Temple Israel by the establishment of a Scholarship Fund in his name for the Technological and Agricultural School at Kfar Silver, Ashkelon, Israel.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Rabbi David Geffen has had the following articles published: "Insight into the Life and Thought of Elizah del Medigo based on His Published and Unpublished Works" in Proceedings of the American Academy for Jewish Research 1973-1974; "Delaware Jewry: The Formative Years 1872-1889" in Delaware History Fall Winter 1975 and "The First Delaware Jewish Thanksgiving" News-Journal Wilmington 1975.

Rabbi Etan Levine's book, "The Aramaic Version of Jonah" has been published by Jerusalem Academic Press.

Rabbi Abraham Nowak has published a pamphlet of meditations and prayers entitled "Companion Prayer Book." Copies may be obtained from Rabbi Nowak.

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## ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

National R.A. Convention -- March 28 - April 1, 1976 at Grossinger's, Grossinger, N.Y.

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Please send in your contributions to The Rabbinical Assembly Assistance Fund as soon as possible. The funds are urgently needed.

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THE JOINT PLACEMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

February 13, 1976

Dear Colleague:

The following placements have been completed since our last Placement List:

Rabbi A. Yisroel Klein to Temple Sholom of Ontario, Ontario, Calif.

NOTE: Q SIGNIFIES QUESTIONNAIRE IS AVAILABLE; NUMBER IS MEMBERSHIP.  
D SIGNIFIES DAY SCHOOL IN AREA. CODE FOR CONGREGATIONAL  
STAFF: H - HAZZAN, P - PRINCIPAL, E - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
S - SHAMASH.

The following new congregations have come to the attention of the Commission:

Brick Town, N.J. (Temple Beth Or)Q. 104, D      Lansdale, Pa. (Beth Israel) 100  
Elmira, N.Y. (Congregation Shomray Hadath)      Virginia Beach, Va. (Congregation Temple  
Evanston, Ill. (Mikdosh El Hagro)Q. 150, P,H      Emanuel) 125  
Flushing, N.Y. (Temple Gates of Prayer)Q. 330, D,P,H,S      South Brunswick, N.J. (Congrega-  
Glen Cove, N.Y. (Congregation Tifereth Israel)Q. 325, D,P,H      tion Sharri Sholom)  
Johnstown, Pa. (Rodef Sholom)  
Gainesville, Fla. (Congregation Bnai Israel)  
McKeesport, Pa. (Congregation Tree of Life-Sfard) 140  
Middletown, N.Y. (Temple Sinai)  
Midland, Texas (Temple Beth El) 50  
Nashville, Tenn. (West End Synagogue)Q. 509, D,H,E  
New Haven, Conn. (Congregation Beth-El Kesser Israel)Q. 300, D,P,H,S,E  
Odessa, Texas (Temple Beth El)Q. 50, P  
Park Forest, Ill. (South Suburban Beth Israel)  
Scotch Plains, N.J. (Temple Israel of Scotch Plains) 173 Q., D,H  
Temple Hills, Md. (Shaare Tikvah Congregation)  
Cedarhurst, N.Y. (Temple Beth El) 1,000, D,H,P,S,E

The following congregations are interested in meeting candidates:

Austin, Texas (Congregation Agudas      Gaithersburg, Md. (Gaithersburg Hebrew  
Achim)Q. 136      Congregation)Q. 150, D,H  
Bakersfield, Calif. (Bnai Jacob) 50      Greensburg, Pa. (Bnai Israel Congrega-  
Berkeley, Calif. (Congregation Beth      tion) 68  
El)Q. 280, D,P,H      Greenfield, Mass. (Temple Israel) 95  
Bristol, Conn. (Beth Israel Synagogue)      Ithaca, N.Y. (Temple Beth-El)Q. 100, D  
Q. 85, D      Kingston, N.Y. (Congregation Ahavath  
Brooklyn, N.Y. (Shore Parkway Jewish      Israel) 150  
Center)Q. 225, D      Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Temple Beth Israel)  
Camp Hill, Pa. (Temple Beth Shalom      Q. 110, D,P  
Chestnut Hill, Mass. (Temple Emeth)      Oakville, Ont., Canada (Beth El Congre-  
Q.610, D,P,H,S,E      gation)Q. 40  
Corpus Christi, Texas (Bnai Israel      Oil City, Pa. (Tree of Life)Q. 75, P  
Synagogue) 100      Peoria, Ill. (Congregation Agudas Achim)  
Columbus, Ohio (Congregation Tifereth      Q. 350, D,P,S  
Israel)Q. 750, D,P,H,E      Ramsey, N.J. (Temple Beth Sholom)Q. 90, D,P  
Cumberland, Md. (Beth Jacob Synagogue)      Reno, Nev. (Temple Emanu-El)Q. 85, H  
50      Rochester, N.Y. (Temple Beth Hamedresh-  
Elnora, N.Y. (Beth Shalom of Clifton      Beth Israel)Q. 125, D,P  
Park)Q. 50, D,P      Satellite Beach, Fla. (Temple Beth Shalom)  
Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Congregation Bnai      160  
Jacob)Q. 100

Congregations interested in meeting candidates: (Continued)

Silver Spring, Md. (Congregation Har Tzeon)Q. 340, D,H	Torrington, Conn. (Beth El Synagogue) Q. 70, P
State College, Pa. (State College-Bellefonte Jewish Community Council)Q.125	Verdugo Hills, Calif. (Verdugo Hills Hebrew Center)
Staten Island, N.Y. (Arden Heights Jewish Center)Q. 220, D,P,E	Warren, Ohio (Beth Israel Temple Center) Q. 135, D,H,S
Syracuse, N.Y. (Temple Adath Yeshurum) Q. 850, D,P,H,S,E	Waterloo, Iowa (Sons of Jacob Synagogue) Q. 125

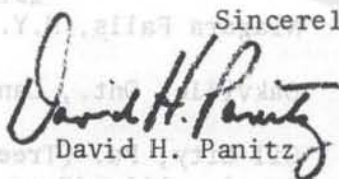
The following congregations are considering candidates:

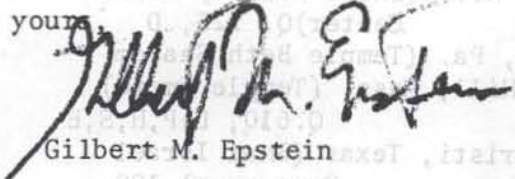
Baltimore, Md. (Chizuk Amuno)Q. 1000, D,P,H,E,S  
Canton, Ohio (Shaaray Torah Synagogue)Q. 400, D,S  
Chestnut Hill, Mass. (Temple Mishkan Tefila)Q. 750, D,P,H,E,S  
Flushing, N.Y. (Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor)Q. 450, D,P,H  
Hammond, Ind. (Beth Israel)Q. 450, D,H  
Miami, Fla. (Temple Samu-El)Q. 220, D  
New Rochelle, N.Y. (Beth El Synagogue)Q. 750, D,P,H,E,S  
Norwich, Conn. (Beth Jacob Community Synagogue)Q. 262, D,H,S  
Reseda, Calif. (Temple Beth Ami)Q. 285, D,P,H  
Rochester, N.Y. (Temple Beth El)Q. 1300, D,P,H,E,S  
Waterbury, Conn. (Beth El Synagogue)Q. 360, D,P,H,S  
West Palm Beach, Fla. (Temple Beth El)Q. 400, D,P

The following Assistantships and Associateships are available:

Baltimore, Md. - Jacob Agus	Phoenix, Ariz. - Bernard Gold
Cincinnati, Ohio - Fishel Goldfeder	Pittsburgh, Pa. - Moshe V. Goldblum
Chicago, Ill. - Seymour Cohen	Poughkeepsie, N.Y. - Irwin Zimet
Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. - Immanuel Lubliner	Richmond, Va. - Myron Berman
Englewood, N.J. - Arthur Hertzberg	St. Louis, Mo. - Bernard Lipnick
Haddon Heights, N.J. - Albert Lewis	Seattle, Wash. - Maurice A. Pomerantz
Merion, Pa. - Martin Berkowitz	Southfield, Mich. - Irwin Groner
Miami Beach, Fla. - Irving Lehrman	South Orange, N.J. - Alexander M. Shapiro
Minneapolis, Minn. - Kassel E. Abelson	Toronto, Ont. - Erwin Schild
Orangeburg, N.Y. - Pesach Krauss	Vancouver, B.C. - Wilfred Solomon
Philadelphia, Pa. - Sidney Greenberg	Teaneck, N.Y. - Judah Washer

Sincerely yours,

  
David H. Panitz

  
Gilbert M. Epstein

This list is published for the members of The Rabbinical Assembly.