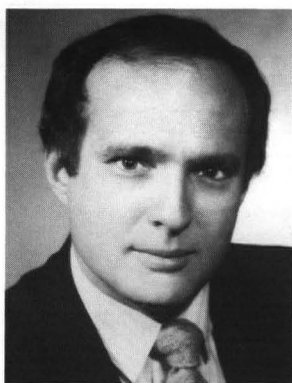


Bulletin

Rabbi David Saperstein to Deliver 32nd Annual Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture



Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, will speak on "The Jewish Stake in the 1992 Elections" at the 32nd Annual Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture scheduled during the 8:15 pm

Shabbat Eve services on February 7, 1992.

The Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture was established in 1960 by the Trustees of Central Synagogue to honor the memory of our beloved rabbi, teacher and friend. Dr. Wise, thoroughly American in his orientation, believed in the organic harmony between Judaism and American democracy. He was always willing to reinterpret the old forms and texts, but never lost sight of the basic Jewish values.

The lectures are intended to offer the wisdom, insight and guidance needed to help strengthen the moral and intellectual forces of Judaism and of our country. Over the years, distinguished scholars and authorities in all disciplines have shared their expertise with our congregation. Rabbi Saperstein's lecture promises to be an outstanding addition to that tradition.

As director of the Religious Action Center (RAC), Rabbi Saperstein represents the Reform Judaism movement to the Congress and Federal administration, provides extensive legislative and pro-

grammatic materials to synagogues nationwide, and coordinates social action education programs that train nearly 2,000 Jewish adults, youth, rabbinic and lay leaders each year.

Rabbi Saperstein has held leadership positions in national coalitions dealing with issues as diverse as Israel, civil rights, energy and the environment, abortion rights, and nuclear disarmament. He has served as the chair of our national interreligious coalitions and currently serves on the boards and executive committees of over thirty national organizations, including the NAACP, People for the American Way, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

A prolific writer and speaker, Rabbi Saperstein has appeared on network television news and talk shows. His articles on political and social justice issues have appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and many major general and Jewish periodicals. He has authored and edited five books on social justice themes.

Rabbi Saperstein will be our honored guest at a reception to follow the lecture.

**Don't Miss the
SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT
Friday, March 6 8:15 pm
Guest speaker:
FELIX ROHATYN**

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

Sisterhood Sponsored Activities

Bridge

Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 pm
2/4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

Gift Shop

Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Seniors Club

Tuesday, 2/4, 11, 18, 25, 10:00 am

Special Program:

Hon. Ruth Messinger, guest speaker
Monday, February 3, 12:00 noon

Board Meeting

Monday, 2/10, 10:30 am

Brotherhood Sponsored Activities

Board Meeting

Wednesday, 2/5, 6:00 pm

Joint Breakfast Program

Sunday, 2/9, 8:45 am

Study

Institute of Jewish Studies:

Talmud

Friday, 2/7, 14, 21, 28, 8:00 am

Chevre Torah

Saturday, 2/8, 15, 22, 29, 9:15 am

Prayer: How/Why Do We Pray?

Monday, 2/3, 10, 24, 7:30 pm

Bible, Theater & the Arts

Monday, 2/3, 10, 24, 7:30 pm

Choral Society

Mondays, 6:00 pm

(See Choral Society schedule)

Intermediate Hebrew

Thursday, 2/6, 13, 20, 27, 6:00 pm

Advanced Hebrew

Thursday, 2/6, 13, 20, 27, 7:00 pm

Religious School

Monday, 2/3, 10, 24

Tuesday, 2/2, 16

Wednesday, 2/5, 12, 19, 26

Pre-Kindergarten Workshop

Sunday, 2/9, 9:30 am

Grade 8 trip to Boston

Friday - Sunday, 1/31 - 2/2

Scouts

Girl Scouts

Monday, 2/3, 10, 24, 6:00 pm

Tuesday, 2/4, 11, 18, 25, 3:30 pm

Boy Scouts

Tuesday, 2/4, 11, 18, 25, 5:30 pm

Cub Scouts

Tuesday, 2/4, 11, 18, 25, 5:30 pm

Special Events

Nursery School Auction

Thursday, 2/6, 6:30 pm

Scout Shabbat

Friday, 2/7, 5:30 pm

Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture

Friday, 2/7, 8:15 pm

Central Women's Focus

Tuesday, 2/11, 8:00 am

A Message from Rabbi Rubinstein

This month's message was taken from Rabbi Rubinstein's sermon on January 3rd.

Moses had a speech impediment. Clearly the Biblical narrative describing our birth as a people through the Exodus event views Moses' stuttering as a significant part of the story. That which we consider a disability only heightened Moses' credentials in the mind of God. According to a Biblical commentary, God responds to Moses' hesitation about going to Pharaoh by saying "You complain that you are a poor speaker. This is only true when you speak to man. Yet it is an asset because you have unique spiritual qualities. Your mouth is very holy, since you have spoken to the Divine presence."

Our ancestors obviously had a very different understanding of that which we now call a disability. Today Moses' stuttering would not be an asset, but a major liability. No matter how far we have come in understanding people who do not fit our model of

perfection, we would probably not give much credibility to an individual who needs time to make his point. Patience for the imperfect is not one of our societal qualities.

Could we imagine a movie, for instance, portraying Moshe Rabbeynu with his stutter, a stutter so pronounced that we would have to wait interminably for the words to come out, a stutter so extreme that in our impatience we would want to jump in and say things for him in order to simply conclude his sentence? No, we are an impatient lot and, if truth be told, despite our protestations to the contrary, we probably would not have much patience for those who cannot measure up to our mark.

Yet one of the clear Biblical mandates for proper behavior is the command to be sensitive to those who are not within the narrow limits of socially defined "normalcy." We are commanded not to put a stumbling block before the blind or curse the deaf or make undue demands on the intellectually disabled. Moses Mendelssohn interpreted these prohibitions broadly as forbidding the doing of anything wrong to those who

(continued on page 6)

Brotherhood & Sisterhood

proudly present

Nadine Strossen

President of the ACLU

April 2nd

Dinner and talk

Notes from Sisterhood

Ruth Oliver

Save this date:

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992
Sisterhood will join in the
March for Women's Lives
in support of the Freedom
of Choice Act of 1991
Washington, D.C.

Participation in the **April 5** rally in the nation's capital can greatly impact the future of women's reproductive rights. Recent Supreme Court decisions have already eroded *Roe vs Wade* and cases now coming up can further jeopardize women's health and lives. Under the aegis of our Critical Issues Committee, chaired by **Elsie Shapiro**, Sisterhood is planning group participation in the march, and invites *all the congregation* — women and men — to join. **Sara Friedman** is chairing the event, and will provide information on bus transportation, meeting places, and all pertinent details as soon as it becomes available.

Sisterhood's involvement in the 1989 Washington March was an experience no participant will ever forget. It was imbued with a profound spirit of kinship and strength generated by the joining with thousands of women, men and young adults of both sexes - many under the auspices of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights — to make a difference. It was a great experience.

This rally is even more important!!

A Wealth of Opportunities

One of the wonderful characteristics of our Sisterhood is the recognition that we are all different and that we respect individual differences. Not everyone wishes to march, not everyone wishes to study, not everyone wishes to attend theatre, and, in fact, not everyone wishes to attend every worship service. We appreciate these differences. A look at Sisterhood's events calendar for the coming months quickly reveals a remark-

able variety of programs, offering individual enrichment in many forms — spiritual, intellectual, social — often overlapping or dovetailing.

Programs range from the Washington rally discussed above, to Sisterhood's joint sponsorship, with the Religious School, of a delightful "musical myth", to new study sessions, and to our spring theater benefit — with a vast array in between. There are always opportunities to participate in Recording for the Blind and English in Action, in our truly exceptional Seniors Club, the duplicate bridge games, the Gift Shop, as well as the warm and cordial Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush ceremonies.

Following are upcoming opportunities that are an integral part of Sisterhood life:

The second series of Sisterhood study groups with **Rabbi Rubinstein** will be held on **Thursday mornings, March 5 and 19, April 9 and 16, from 10:30 to 11:30**. The topic is "Generational Relationships". There is no charge, and the classes are open to the entire congregation. Participants in the fall series know there is no better way to spend four hours than studying with Rabbi Rubinstein some of the fascinating people of The Book. The series will include a look at Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah, Isaac and Esau.

This winter Sisterhood will introduce the concept of small group evening and Saturday afternoon study sessions to be held in the homes of our members. The first two series were immediately "sold out" (that's a figure of speech — there is no fee) but hopes are to expand the program to accommodate more people next year. **Jan Firstenberg** is in charge of the overall program, with groups in the first evening series led by individual Sisterhood members. The second series will be led by rabbinic intern **Alice Goldfinger**, whose provocative topic is "Does the Covenant with God Include Jewish Women?"

On **Monday, March 30 at 5:00 pm**, the Religious School and Sisterhood will present a new musical "Guarding the Garden", featuring the Teva Theater Troop. To be performed in the Community House, the musical will offer an interpretation of the story of Adam, Eve, and Lilith, and of the origin of the environmental crisis, and promises to be a delight for grownups and children alike. Please mark the date and time, and plan to attend.

On **Wednesday evening, May 6**, the Theatre Party Committee, chaired by **Hazel Beckerman**, will present our Spring Benefit "Conversations with my Father". Tony Award winner Judd Hirsch of "I'm Not Rappaport" stars in this play by Herb

Gardner, who wrote and directed "I'm Not Rappaport". Judd Hirsch plays an immigrant bartender looking for his big break on the Lower East Side as he and his family seek "success, equality, and their own little piece of the American Dream." Reservation forms are in the mail. The charge of \$90 per ticket includes a tax deductible donation in support of many urgently needed Sisterhood projects.

And be sure to hold **Friday evening, May 29, for Sisterhood Sabbath**, chaired by **Jan Stovin**, and the installation dinner that follows. The theme of the service this year is "Partners with God". Having our sisters create and lead a worship service is a very special form of enrichment, one in which all can share and rejoice.

Up Front with Brotherhood

Robert Kandel

Great news! **Fred Grill** has announced that **Nadine Strossen**, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, will speak on **April 2** at a Brotherhood-Sisterhood dinner! Both organizations are proud that Professor Strossen will be with us. Check subsequent *Bulletins* for further details. Also see the insert in this *Bulletin* for **Martin Hertz's March 14th** retreat featuring **Rabbi Rubinstein**.

The indefatigable **Nat Shapiro**, at last count, was spearheading one Brotherhood "hands on" project: cooperation with the Tenement Museum on Canal Street, a project developing rapidly. He has added a second project: helping Russian emigres on an ongoing basis at Central Synagogue. Nat, and the Brotherhood, have used past raffle proceeds, and our time and talent, to help emigres at the 92nd Street Y, NYANA, and the Workman's Circle. Many of those emigres will now meet at Central Synagogue, the better to know more about our synagogue, Reform Judaism, and the "ins and outs" of getting established in New

Please join us as we present the
**Ninth Annual
Shofar Award**
to
Sidney M. Wolfe, M.D.
Director
Public Citizen Health Research Group
Friday, April 3
8:15 pm
at Shabbat services

York. Let's all do our best to spend an occasional Thursday morning or evening with our Russian friends.

Watch for the announcement of Gala III, which will feature the fabulous Dougherty and Field, and the usual, fabulous **Richard Kandel**-orchestrated buffet. Come with husband, wife, friend, or by yourself and meet up with friends. Let's use the Gala to augment our sense of community.

KUDOS: to **Ted Freiser** for becoming Chairman of the Raffle Committee. We need lots of prizes; let's help Ted get 'em; to **Murray Beckerman** and **Steve Bayer** for the Super Bowl Party and the Joint Breakfast; to **Bernie Silverman** for the second, great Jethro Shabbat; to **Perry Edelstein** and **Bernie Schwartz** for the continued excellence of our Ezra program and the program for the blind; And to **Rabbi Rubinstein** and **Weiner** for the Joint Breakfast and our "Men and Masculinity" evening.

We have programs designed to help serve our synagogue and our fellow men and women, to educate and inform, and to have a rollicking good time. In whatever capacity, and for whatever reason you wish to join us — join us!

"The Future of Reform Judaism: Where we are . . . Where we're going"

Featured speaker:

Rabbi Howard I. Bogot

Director, UAHC Department for Religious Education

Responses:

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein, Central Synagogue

Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel, Temple Emanu-El

Annual Joint Breakfast

Sunday, February 9, 1992

Sponsored by Central Synagogue Brotherhood & Temple Emanu-El Men's Club

About our Religious School

Dr. Jack L. Sparks, RJE
Director of Education

Our children have witnessed the "me generation" and are learning to be part of the "me and you" generation. In the spirit of Rabbi Hillel, we wouldn't want to err on the side of forsaking ourselves for the sake of others, nor can we sit by and ignore the needs of others. The true meaning of the word *Tzedakah* is justice. In our *Tzedakah* we bring a sense of justice through fairness to others who do not have even the minimum necessities in their lives. The children in our Religious School actively pursue this sense of justice through acts of loving kindness.

This month, our children are collecting *new* warm clothing for children who are patients at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital. This annual clothing drive has yielded hundreds of warm items in years past. Our drives have become known in our community and the social work department of Memorial sought us out to come to their aid. We heard their need and respond to their call by asking you to make available new clothing for children. Mittens, sweaters, hats, warm socks, even outer coats would be tremendously appreciated. The deadline is February 26, and donations can be left in the Education Office on the fifth floor.

We can teach a sense of justice through doing. When our children take an active part in *Tzedakah* they learn to be "givers" and not merely "takers." Please encourage your family to participate in this act of *Tzedakah* and teach a lesson that will help others.



Nursery School children in the Bunny Rabbit class made a Chanukiah from potatoes and observed the gift of light.

Youth Group

Stephanie Cion

AIDS & Teens

One out of every five recent cases of AIDS involves a teenager. After homosexuals, intravenous drug users, and hemophiliacs, teenagers are the group with the highest risk of becoming infected with the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Recently it seems that, everywhere I go, the issue of AIDS and teens is being discussed. In the school I attend the issue of bathroom condom dispensers — to help students protect themselves from getting AIDS — came up before the student body. I also encountered the issue in discussions with my friends and family. But I realized that the issue of teenagers and AIDS is prevalent when I went with the Youth Group to the Religious Action Center in Washington.

There we heard two speakers from the Whitman Walker Clinic, one that deals with the issue of AIDS Education and provides services for its victims. Prior to this talk, it had never hit me that I was in such a high risk category. The first speaker was a homosexual male who was not infected with AIDS. He discussed how important using condoms is, but also emphasized the fact that there is no such thing as safe sex, just safer sex. The second speaker was a woman infected with the HIV virus. She told us how she became infected with the virus and how she deals with it on a day to day basis.

I have finally become aware of just how deadly and infectious AIDS is. I have also become aware of just how high a risk group we teenagers are in.

Still time . . . to get tickets for the **NURSERY SCHOOL AUCTION**

Thursday, February 6th
6:30 pm

Passover Outreach Program Needs Us!

For more than 10,000 needy Jewish families, celebrating Passover this year can be a reality. The Passover Outreach program provides not only financial assistance to city residents who otherwise could not celebrate the holiday but links to critically needed social services throughout the city. Specially trained volunteers take applications for Passover assistance grants at locations around New York. The program is run by the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and the Joint Passover Association, subventures of UJA-Federation. This year, because of additional Soviet Jewish immigration, there is more need for volunteers than ever before.

Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of six days during the four week outreach period prior to Passover. Training is provided. Please call Margery Luce or Chia Samson at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services—582-9100, ext. 248.

People

We note with pleasure the following simchat: the birth of Anna Rose to Dr. Gavril and Sandi Pasternak on January 2.; the Bar Mitzvah of Julian Steinberg, son of Saul and Gayfryd Steinberg, on January 25.

Our thoughts are with our members who are ill, Ruth Adler, Gladys Dobelle, Jeff Genel, Leonard Goldstein, Walter Kaye, Elsie May Herzog, and Marjorie Rosenkranz.

Sincere condolences: to Barbara Friedman whose father Shimshon Benioff passed away on Dec. 24; to Betty Kaplan whose father George Kaplan passed away Jan. 4.

Judith Rubin and Seymour Rubin are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Kate, to Gary Lawrence Rothschild. A May wedding is planned. They will live in Chicago where Jennifer plans to enter law school in the fall and Gary is a cash management officer at LaSalle National Bank.

Please send your news to the synagogue to the attention of "Bulletin Editor".

The Story of Central Synagogue - Part I

The history of Manhattan's numerous congregations is an exercise in mathematics. It involves additions, subtractions, multiplications, and divisions. Central Synagogue's history is unique in this respect, because its origins go back to only two founding groups: **Shaar Hashomayim** (Gate of Heaven) Congregation, established by German immigrants in 1839; and **Ahawath Chesed** (Love of Mercy) Congregation, created by Bohemian Jews in 1846.

It was the Bohemians who erected Central Synagogue's magnificent building, completed in 1872, now the oldest synagogue building in continuous use in New York City. The older German congregation merged with them in 1898, and the congregation for a number of years was known by both Hebrew names as Ahawath Chesed Shaar Hashomayim. About 1920 they dropped this cumbersome title for the very apt one of Central Synagogue. Two years ago, this combined congregation observed the 150th anniversary of the older half. Let me add that Shaar Hashomayim's minute books have disappeared, but its Hebrew name shows up in books and records as both Haar Hashomayim (Gate of Heaven) or in the plural form, Shaarey Hashomayim.

A word about the earlier congregations in New York will set the stage: In September of 1654, a boatload of 23 refugees from the Dutch colony in Recife, Brazil, arrived in Peter Stuyvesant's New Amsterdam. Two Jews met the boat. Since Stuyvesant prohibited any worship except for his own Dutch Reformed Church, the Jews probably met for worship in a home. The Spanish and Portuguese Congregation Shearith Israel likes to claim 1654 as its year of origin. We know that a Torah arrived from Amsterdam in March of 1655 with six Dutch Jews who came to check out the colony as a place for business. They gave up in 1660 and returned the Torah to Amsterdam, and there is no indication of a new minyan until about 1695.

By 1728, the congregation felt strong enough to raise funds for North America's first synagogue. At that time, their *bazan* [cantor] was the son of Curacao's rabbi. In the 18th century Curacao had more Jews than

all of North America. They sent the largest gift to the New York building fund, but there was a string attached. Curacao wrote, "We understand that your congregation is full of *Tedeschi* (the Portuguese word for Germans). Our gift is predicated on your using the Sephardic ritual." So Sephardic became the American way of worship in all 18th century congregations.

By 1825, New York was acquiring a growing population of Jews from England, Germany, Holland, and Poland, who not only grumbled about the inconvenient location of the synagogue, down on Mill Street (now South William Street), but also on the power of the synagogue to impose

finances and restrictions on any Jew in town. In 1825, a group of them asked the congregation if they could run a minyan of their own in the building, and when they were refused, they started B'nai Jeshurun as an Ashkenazic congregation.

B'nai Jeshurun had its break-offs, too: In 1830, German immigrants started Ansche Chesed (not the congregation now on the West Side). Two other German congregations

came out of B'nai Jeshurun: **Shaar Hashomayim**, formed in 1839; and Rodeph Sholom, organized in 1842. By 1845, the English Jews decided to have their own congregation, Shaaray Tefilah. And that same year saw a group of young German immigrants formed a *cultus verein*, a cultural society that became Reform congregation Emanu-El.

In 1846, a group of immigrants from the area around Prague formed the *Bohemische Verein*, the Bohemian Culture Society. Eighteen of them met for worship in Coblenzer's Hotel on Ludlow Street and adopted the name, **Ahawath Chesed** — from the famous statement of the prophet Micah: "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." *From material assembled by Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern.*

Celebrating a lifecycle event?

MAZON

A Jewish Response to Hunger
Call Hazel Beckerman (988-7155)

New Young Adult Group at Central!

Rabbi Tom Weiner

With great excitement and energy a new group has been formed at Central Synagogue: Central Issues Group, a monthly dinner and discussion group for Jews in their 20's and early 30's. Through casual conversations, I have become aware that many young people who grew up at Central are now back in the City, either in graduate school or starting their careers. A consistent message from them has been a desire for a meaningful connection with their peers and the synagogue. Under the leadership of two of our recent college graduates, **Karyn Boosin** and **David Steinhardt**, Central Issues Group has begun its work. A full calendar of monthly spring activities have been planned. (See the enclosed insert.)

To find out more about the group, for yourself or for a family member, please contact **Karyn Boosin** (day: 705-4106; evening: 831-7545) or my office.

Reproductive Rights — Is There a Future?

Nadine Strossen, the first woman president of the ACLU, will talk about reproductive rights at the Central Women's FOCUS breakfast on **Tuesday, February 11 at 8:00 am in Joslin Hall**. This noted professor of law and author of many articles about the law will discuss the prospects for maintaining choice in the face of a possible Supreme Court overturn of *Roe vs Wade*.

Central Women's FOCUS is a networking organization associated with Central Synagogue. The charge for the breakfast is \$5.00 for FOCUS members and \$8.00 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, use the form on the enclosed insert or call 838-5122. Reservations should be received by February 6. Bring your business cards, and bring your friends.

Humble Textiles for Judaica Museum

Two *tallit* bags joined the Judaica Museum collection last month. One was the gift of **Rabbi Phil Hiat**, the other a gift of **Susan Freedman**. These humble textiles are not "important" or costly, but they document a particular New York Jewish lifestyle. The museum's curator, Cissy Grossman, would love to have congregants donate those *challah* covers and matzah covers that were embroidered by their grandmothers.

Rabbi's Message

(continued from page 2)

were not able to fight back, even when there is no fear of being discovered.

The Sifra uses the example of the deaf and the blind to point out that it is wrong to take advantage of or manipulate anyone who is ignorant of particular issues. In that regard, according to the Sifra, we are *all* disabled by ignorance in certain matters.

Perhaps our empathy for the disabled grows from knowing that we ourselves all have limitations. Though it has taken a while for the rights and needs of the disabled to be recognized, we are beginning to understand the needs of those who are different. Even our vocabulary is undergoing a rapid and sometimes confusing evolution as we attempt to use correct language to describe those we once called "handicapped" or "retarded." Since language can convey a stigma, it is worthwhile to be careful in the verbal and nonverbal messages we project when talking about those who are challenged, by virtue of being physically or intellectually or emotionally different from the mainstream.

We are compelled to be aware of attitudes which often give little credence to the disabled and their needs even within the Jewish world. Consider, for instance, that a survey of our Reform Jewish educational institutions would likely show rather sparse opportunities for a Jewish education for those who are brain damaged, intellectually or emotionally impaired, or learning disabled. We know that between ten and twenty percent of Jewish males are learning disabled. Yet almost none attend our religious schools. Our religious schools, reflecting our general attitude towards education, are geared to the high achiever. One reason very few learning disabled students attend religious school is that it would be felt as just one more burden for students and their families who are already involved with so much resource help that they could not tolerate yet another demand on their time. But also, the lack of specialized classes makes it impossible for learning disabled students to absorb the material as it is taught or to feel comfortable in our school setting. The more severe a disability an individual has, the more limited is the opportunity for a Jewish educational experience, with hardly any Jewish programs for those who are severely dysfunctional.

The achievement oriented attitude within our Jewish community gives little berth to those who are different. I wonder whether Moses would be able to attend Jewish religious school today, or whether his stutter would make him one who finds the

synagogue an unwelcoming and inhospitable place.

Moses' was not a physical disability. We might well wonder how he would find institutions of Jewish life today as he became old, if he became wheelchair-bound, or when he could no longer climb steps. Would he be able to come to this pulpit to say the blessings over the Torah or even enter this sanctuary from Lexington Avenue? And if he were here, would he be able to use our bathrooms or come downstairs to the kiddush after services?

The marvelous charm of our building is a barrier to those who might benefit from it most — the elderly, the impaired, the sick, the disabled — all would find it difficult to pray in this sanctuary because their basic human needs would not be met. This does not even take into consideration those unable to travel to this building. How well do we serve *them*?

Do I say this out of disappointment? Not really! I say it because it is one of the clearest challenges we will be facing as a synagogue, and as a member of the synagogue world in the year and years ahead. The year ahead should be one in which we move forcefully to do everything possible to consider our synagogue as a place designed to be open and available to those who can come to its buildings no matter what their abilities or physical state. We need also consider how we can service those who cannot travel here. We must serve them all and serve them well.

When the Israelites were traveling through the desert, the weak and the elderly straggled behind. They were ready targets for Amalek, who attacked and massacred them. Every year we obliterate Amalek's name for his heinous crime. But we need also learn that we cannot leave our frail and disabled behind. It is not worthy of us.

In telling the story of Moses, we would do well to consider the needs of those given the challenge of being different, for at some time *we* will be among them. We would gain tremendously from making it possible for all who are in need to be among us.

Blitzer Chapel to be Renovated

Central Synagogue acknowledges with gratitude the very generous donation from the Blitzer family to underwrite the cost of renovating and redecorating our Blitzer Chapel. Located on the fourth floor of the Jonah B. Wise Community House, the chapel was dedicated to the memory of Moses D. Blitzer.

We Note with Sorrow

Our heartfelt condolences go to Wendy Jones on the recent passing of her mother, Ruby Bradshaw. Wendy is superintendent of Central Synagogue's cemetery, Linden Hill Cemetery, and a key, long time member of our synagogue "family."

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions made during December:

Central Synagogue Gift Funds

Cantor's Music Fund

In appreciation of:
Cantor Richard Botton
Robert Kandel

In honor of:
Our sitting on the bimah
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur N. Field

In memory of:
Husband & father of the Davidson family
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Indursky

Caring Committee: Breakfast for the Hungry

Laszlo Briniyi, Jr.
Jean S. Blum
Susan & Kenneth Cooper
Ilene Couvertier
Paula Korf

Chanukah greetings to Kenneth, Melinda & Spencer Gross
Zenith H. Gross

In honor of:
Rabbi Dr. David J. Seligson
Rose-Marie Lewent

Henry & Gloria Salm
Gladys & Marvin Radlauer

In memory of:
Her husband Sidney Gross, a "Breakfast Volunteer"
Zenith H. Gross

General Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Steinhart
Leonard Wagner
Warren S. Wolfsohn

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Rubinstein, Rabbi Weiner, & Cantor Botton

Mr. & Mrs. Robin Grossman

In honor of:
The naming of our grandchild
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Arthur Krauss

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein
Eric Rundbaken

In memory of:
Dulcy Ganz
Vesta Sue Rhodes

Judaica Museum Fund

Gerda K. Leshin
Dr. Malcolm & Alice Nanes

In appreciation of:
Barry Kugel
Mr. & Mrs. Newton W. Mandel

Prayer Book Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Robert Bayer
In memory of:
Dulcy Ganz
Mrs. Richard S. Graham
Mrs. Louis W. Osterweis

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Rubinstein:

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Rubinstein
Jane & Peter Berger
Carolyn & Bruce Brodsky
Ellen Gould & Daniel Ray

In honor of:
The birth of our grandson
Alexander & Belle Moser

In memory of:
Shimshon Benioff, father of
Barbara Friedman
Dr. Jeffrey & Audrey Solomon

Rabbi Weiner:

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Weiner
Anonymous

Tony Figatner & family

In honor of:
Ruth's aliyah on Yom Kippur
Abraham & Ruth S. Kahn

Evan's aliyah and in memory
of Mary Pazner
Drs. Susan & Sherman Pazner

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of:
Pamela Posen
Florence Abelson
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Abelson

Louise Tausend
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Adler

Ethel Wolfe Lutin
Bernice Wolfe Gordon
Suzanne Altfeld

Frieda Bayer
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Robert Bayer

Harry Weinstein
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Brodis

Martin Broom
Mrs. Martin Broom

Raphael Brosseau
Lorraine Brosseau

Louis Brudner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brudner

Marcus Buchbinder
Mrs. Marcus Buchbinder

Arthur Leon Butler
Mrs. Arthur Leon Butler

Jack P. Felton
Lillian Chien

Miriam Davidoff
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davidoff

Norman Prisament
Mr. & Mrs. John I. Davis

Dr. Samuel Freedman
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K. Meyer Skluth

Joseph Prashker
Lester C. Weinberg

Mrs. Lester C. Weinberg

Cy Caine
Mrs. Jack Weinstein

Augusta Rubin
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Weisfogel

Youth Scholarship Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mishkin
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Printz
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Richter
Sisterhood

To help our high school students to learn about a significant chapter in our people's history
Leonard & Evelyn Lauder

Sisterhood Gift Funds

Camp Fund

In honor of:
Ruth & David Adler on their 45th anniversary
Marion L. Weil

General Fund

Nanette Selinger, art course director

In appreciation of:
Sisterhood's attention to us
Ruth & David Adler

In memory of:
Irene Schilling's dear brother
June & Michael Blitzer

Flower Fund

In honor of:
Danny's Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mishkin

William's Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Roswick

Jed's Bar Mitzvah
Donna P. & Phillip M. Satow

Kiddush Fund

In honor of:
Danny's Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mishkin
William's Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Roswick
Jed's Bar Mitzvah
Donna P. & Phillip M. Satow

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

In honor of:
Belle & Alex Moser's new grandson
Barbara & Bob Jayson

Senior Citizens Fund

Pearl Fortgang
Helen Miller
In honor of:
Joseph Kusnitz's 90th birthday
Barbara & Marvin Dicker

REMEMBER CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE IN YOUR WILL

Linden Hill Cemetery is an integral part of Central Synagogue's services to its members. For information regarding plots and graves, contact Barry Kugel (838-5122) or Wendy Jones, Cemetery Superintendent (718-821-2279), 5222 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385.

COMING EVENTS

Monday, February 3, 12:00 noon

Sisterhood Program
Guest Speaker: Ruth Messinger

Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm

Nursery School Auction
Gala evening with cocktails & dinner

Friday, February 7, 8:15 pm

Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture
Speaker: Rabbi David Saperstein

Sunday, February 9, 8:45 am

Brotherhood Joint Breakfast with Temple Emanu-El
Rabbis Bogot, Rubinstein, & Sobel

Tuesday, February 11, 8:00 am

FOCUS Breakfast
Guest speaker: Nadine Strossen

Friday, March 6, 8:15 pm

Social Action Shabbat
Guest speaker: Felix Rohatyn

Worship Services in the Sanctuary

Friday, January 31

5:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service

Saturday, February 4

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah: Joanna Stern

Friday, February 7

8:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service

Jonah B. Wise Memorial Lecture

Saturday, February 8

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah: Daniel Benaim

Friday, February 14

5:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service

Saturday, February 15

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Friday, February 21

5:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service

7:00 pm Family Worship Service

Saturday, February 22

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Friday, February 28

5:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service

Saturday, February 29

10:30 am Shabbat Service

B'not Mitzvah: Michelle Nason

Rebecca Oehl

Daily Services:

Mon.-Thurs., 8:00 am, Blitzler Chapel

Friday, 7:45 am, followed by Talmud class

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Central Synagogue
123 East 55th Street
New York, New York 10022-3566
(212) 838-5122

Central Synagogue

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein

Rabbi Thomas K. Weiner, Associate

Cantor Richard Botton

Rabbi Philip Hiatt, Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Dr. David J. Seligson, Emeritus

Barry E. Kugel, Administrative Vice President

Dr. Jack L. Sparks, Director of Education

Gerda K. Leshin, Controller

Mary Solow, Nursery School Director

Alice Goldfinger, Rabbinic Intern

Susan Dropkin, Cantorial Intern

Cissy Grossman, Curator, Judaica Museum

Dorothy Siegel, Bulletin Editor

Michael J. Weinberger, President

Martin I. Klein, Vice President

Peter W. May, Vice President

Paul Roth, Vice President

Susan Schlechter, Vice President

Alvin Katz, Secretary

Mitchell W. Rabbino, Treasurer

Barbara Jayson, Sisterhood President

Robert Kandel, Brotherhood President

Laurie Gerber, Youth Group President

Judith Weinberg, Chair, Central Women's Focus

Parents, take note:



PRE-KINDERGARTEN WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 9, 9:30 am

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, February 21, 7:00 pm

GRADE 8 TRIP TO BOSTON

Friday - Sunday, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2

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