

TORAH VODAATH HIGH SCHOOL

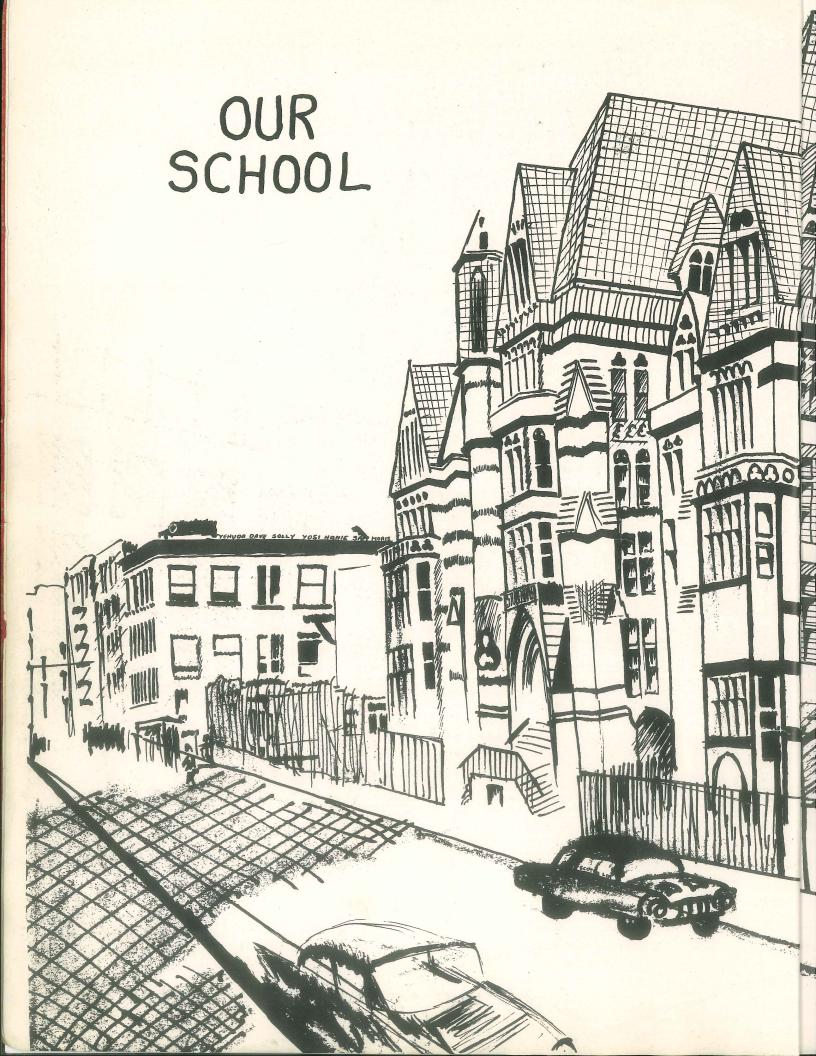
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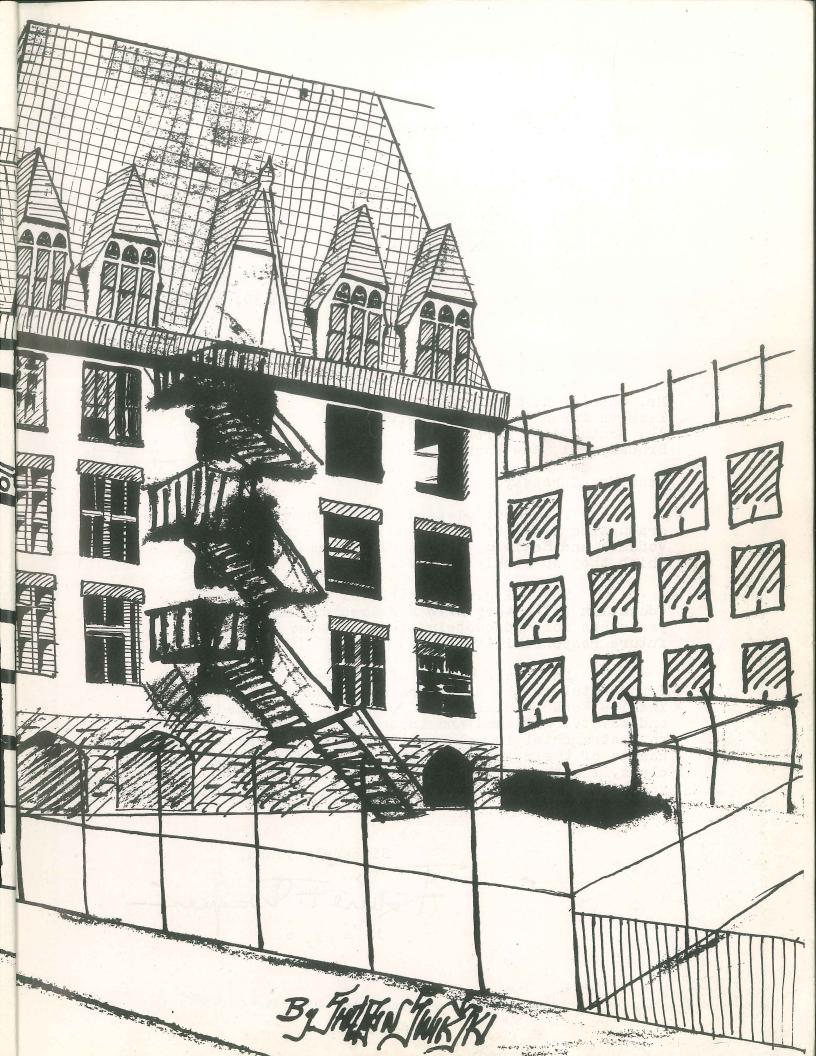
JUNE - 1960 SIVAN-5720

published by the Graduates of Torah Vodaath High School With Joy Shalt Thou Go Forth And In Peace Thou Shalt

Be Led. (Isaiah 55:12)

DEDICATED PEOPLE are rarely found in our hectic, modern world. It has been our privilege to spend four of our most formative years with just such a dedicated human being; Rabbi Max Lonner. His is the awesome task of running the everyday machinery of the entire high school department. From early morning until late in the evening he can be found laboring over a pile of paperwork, or perhaps having a personal discussion with one of his students. With this, he has the added duties of serving as math instructor and head of the Foreign Students Department. Here is a man that has truly given his life to the preservation of our school. It is thus with both great humility and pride that we dedicate this SCROLL to the many years of fruitful service that Rabbi Lonner has given to Torah Vodaath. We wish him many more.







CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

March 30, 1960.

Mr. Charles A. Saretsky, President Yeshiva Torah Vodaath & Mesivta 141 South Third Street Brooklyn 11, New York

Dear Mr. Saretsky:

I am most pleased to send greetings to the graduating class of June 1960 of the Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta, and to wish them every success which they so richly deserve.

The religious, spiritual and secular education which they have received during the past years has most adequately prepared them for their future responsibilities.

On behalf of all of the people of our City, I congratulate the directors and teachers of the Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta for their dedicated and devoted guidance and instruction, which has been so instrumental in molding the characters, minds and hearts of their student body. To the graduating class, I wish many, many joyous, health and fruitful years directed toward the fulfillment of their hopes and ideals.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HO LIVINGSTON STREET
BROOKLYN I, N. Y.

CHARLES H. SILVER

May 10, 1960

To the graduating class of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath & Mesivta
My dear young people:

It is with deep pleasure that I address myself to those of you who are being graduated from this institution of learning.

As students, you have come to understand the preeminence of study and learning in the American, as in the Jewish, tradition. And you have also learned to set your feet in the paths of justice and freedom, the shared ideals of both traditions.

In congratulating you on the completion of one phase of your education, I hope you will remember that learning does not end with attendance at schools, but should continue as long as life itself.

Sincerely yours,

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Philip Fishman, Larry Neiman
Israel Singer, Harry Brafman
Samuel Albom, Joshua Yarmish
Harry Lehman, Martin Weissman BY S. SWIRSKI



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HARRY BRAFMAN Literary Editor



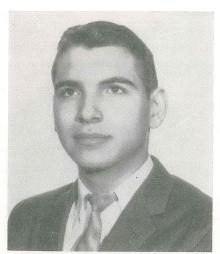
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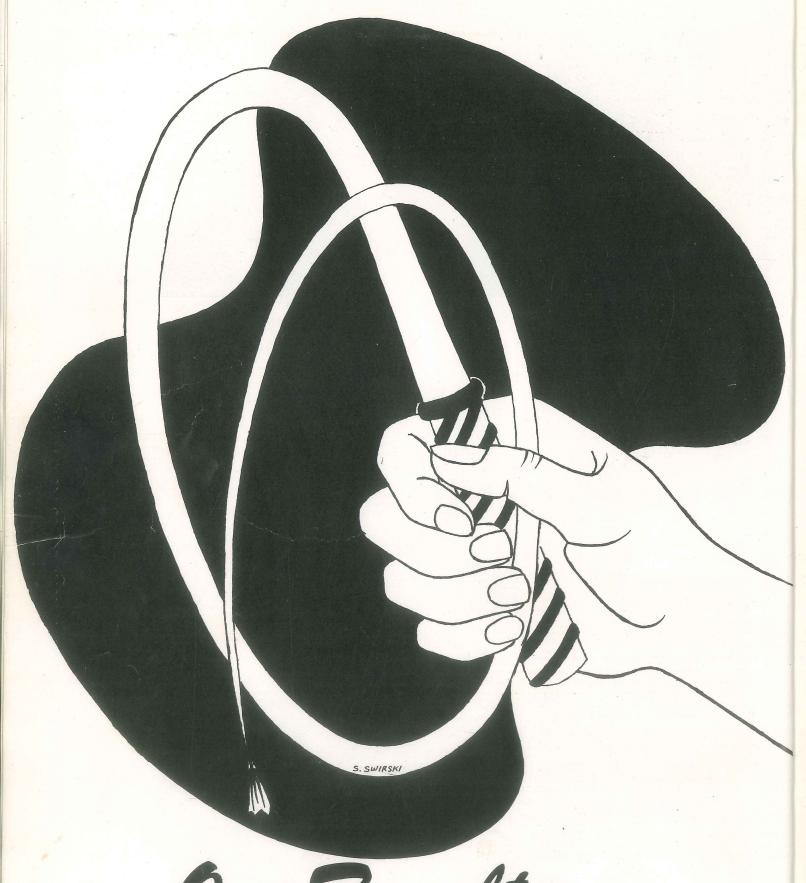
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## Our Faculty

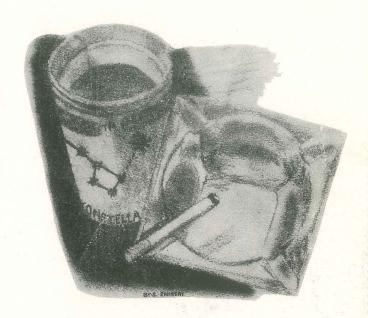
"IF YOU CAN'T DO IT ..... TEACH IT." - DOC.

## English



## Mr. Diamond

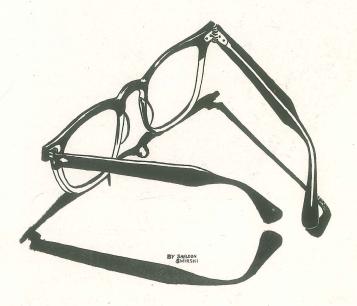
Physically not as lively as some of our more youthful teachers, Mr. Diamond compensates by his sharp and often controversial philosophical discourses. Through some magic formula he possessed the unique ability to maintain complete reign over the students without the least exertion on his own part. At the mere snap of his finger all work stopped and the class gave its rapt attention to the temporarily omnipotent Mr. Diamond.

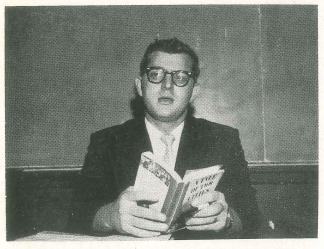




Mr. Vogel

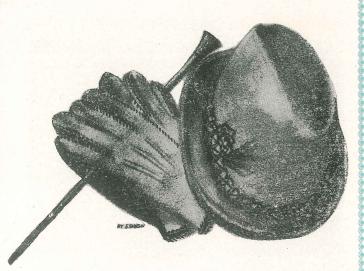
Mr. Vogel is one of our best liked teachers in Torah Vodaath. His warm, affectionate manner of teaching was appreciated by all of us and was clearly shown by our avid interest throughout his period. We accumulated a vast and profound knowledge of English in his classroom where we were also given the opportunity to catch up on our 'gym' exercises.





## Mr. Ozer

Being the suave man of the world that he is comes natural to Mr. Ozer and this naturalness has become rather catching. He is one of our more youthful teachers, but is invariably associated with his more mellowed compatriot, Mr. Diamond. Some day, we are sure, he will come jaunting into the Mesifta with top hat flashing and a white carnation jutting magnificently from his silk lapel. Until then, both we and Mr. Ozer will have to be content with the sedate life of Shakespeare and past participles.





## Mr. Baron

Mr. Baron, being our newest teacher, has not yet been formally stereotyped, but we are sure that through the considered judgment of his future students he will be correctly classified. Some small trickle of information has leaked down to the senior class. His many novel ideas on essay assignments ("An Essay On A Can Opener") as well as his immaculate mode of dress should be appreciated by all.



## Languages



## Rabbi Wolfson

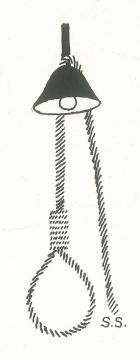
The three years we spent learning Hebrew with Rabbi Wolfson were certainly enlightening. His famous words, "No Novie, no here," still re-echo in our ears. Nevertheless, his fine, soft character and his 'Muser' in times of indignation, have altered our outlook in life and have instilled in our minds a true meaning of Torah Spirit.

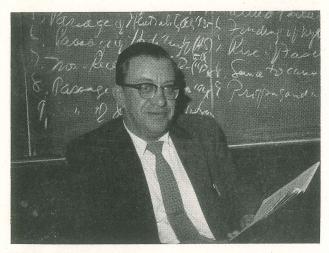




## Rabbi Krieger

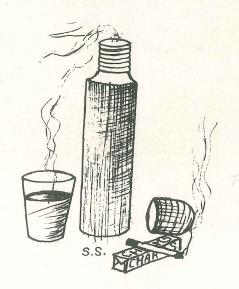
Rabbi Krieger, munching on his cigar, has become a classic symbol of our school. He is a veteran Hebrew teacher from many years back. Indeed, many graduates were taught the aleph bet by him over a decade ago, when they first entered the Yeshivah at Wilson Street. He is a professional word jumbler and many of his utterances have become bywords for thousands of his students.





## Rabbi Pantol

Our Hebrew teachers are in a class by themselves. Rabbi Pantol is no exception. He has a genuinely religious interest in his students and feels that a failure on their part means a corresponding failure on his own. We had our shortcomings and as a result Rabbi Pantol was not a very happy man. He took an active selfless interest in us and for this we thank him.





## Mr. Seligman

The cosmopolitan member of our faculty, Mr. Seligman is the "chairman" of our Romance Languages Department. The antics of his more clownish students sometimes seriously threatened his ernest desire to impart his knowledge to the entire class. We leave his class and some old discarded test papers, which for some dubious reason are in great demand, to his up and coming new students.



## Math

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## Rabbi Lonner

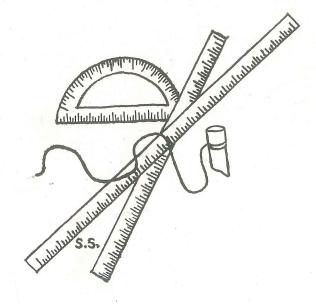
Rabbi Lonner, besides being the assistant principal, was the official head of our sixth period math club. This was a special 'after sessions' class in trigonometry and advanced algebra, given to those mathematically-inclined students interested in advancing their knowledge of the subject. This period, as Rabbi Lonner very well knew, also served as an outlet for all the excess energy accumulated during the entire day.



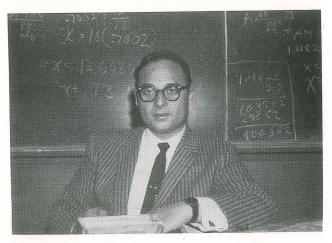
## Mr. Kaplan

Many are the legends which we had heard before entering his geometry class, but none approached the horror of actually confronting Mr. Kaplan face to face. Indeed the mere mention of the words "I had Mr. Kaplan," suffices to evoke an aura of deep respect in all listeners. Truly a great pedagogue, Mr. Kaplan is one awe-inspiring sight we will never forget. After all, he is the best geometry teacher in the entire world.



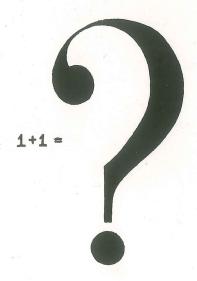


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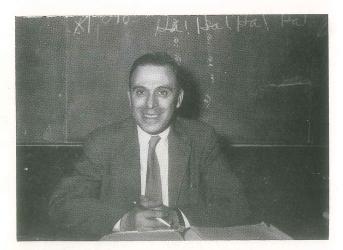


## Mr. Peck

Mr. Peck, our Elementary Algebra teacher, taught with stern determination. As freshmen at the time, we also applied this fine characteristic of his (which may even be the secret of our success). His new way of teaching plus his genial humor throughout his period were certainly a worthwhile prospect for all of us. Mr. Peck, who is liked by all, is bound to Torah Vodaath for the years to come.



## Social Studies



## Mr. Lieberman

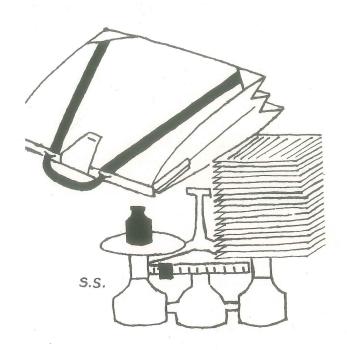
Mr. Lieberman has in the course of his stay become a permanent part of our high school. He is now completing his twenty-third year of splendid service. No other teacher on the faculty can pride himself with such a record and indeed few approach it. He teaches his subject, American History, with a sense of mission, a feeling that he has been given the responsibility of imparting the truth. The effect upon the students is notable, usually ending in a healthy full scale debate. With a quick glance to the future we surmise that the debate will be raging in his class for many years to come.





## Doctor Horowitz

Doc, as he is affectionately called by his students, is one of those teachers who lend spark and color to our institution. His astute comments on historical events took much of the starch out of world history. Doc's methods of marking and teaching are, as one student put it, "different," but that doesn't discourage him in the least. The method is not all madness for our Regents marks in World History were generally our highest, but our class marks, the ones that are averaged for the all important college entrance, were invariably kept below the subsistance level.

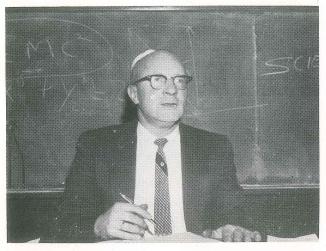




## Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller, our economics and social studies teacher is a late addition to the Torah Vodaath faculty. His period was essentially a discussion and debating class in which all students managed to get in a word or two edgewise. He is extremely well versed in current affairs and his willingness to hear all sides of the argument served as an inspiration to all.





## Mr. Salzman

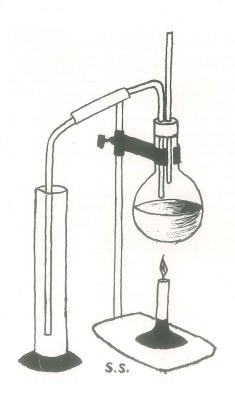
A great deal of the science we encountered during our school career was taught to us by Mr. Salzman. He unfolded all the intricacies of biology and physics with the ease and skill that only comes after years of intimate contact with the subject. The course, though, was not limited to the subject matter alone. There was always time for a good joke or, if the spirit demanded, an occasional nigun.

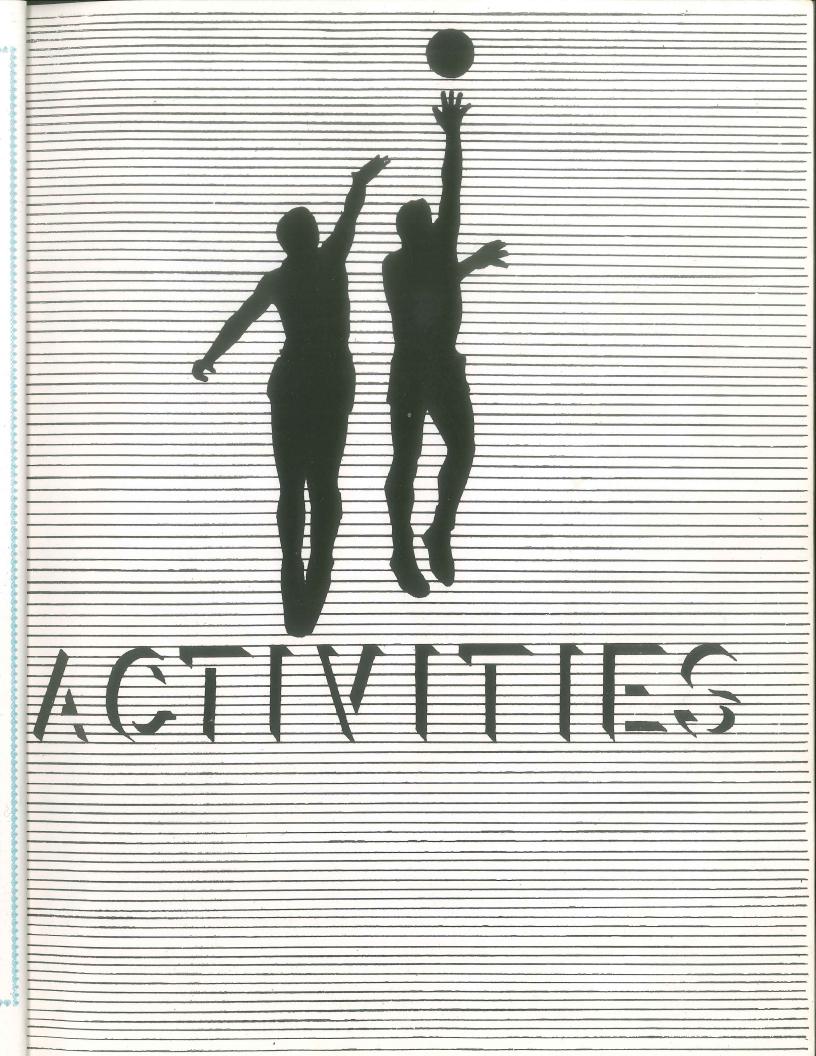




## Mr. Rosenberg

Mr. Rosenberg, our genial science instructor, is a newcomer to our school. Except for his frequent visits to our physics room, we (the seniors) have not had the pleasure of being instructed by him. When asked for his evaluation of Torah Vodaath students he said, "I find the students very conscientious. They work hard and take their work seriously." We find it extremely advisable to end on this happy note.







G.O. Administration—Fall Term
Standing: (l.-r.) I. Fessel, H. Nagel, H. Lehmann. Sitting: D. Hirsch, I. Singer.



G.O. Administration—Spring Term
Standing: (l.-r.) B. Jaffe, F. Edelstein. Sitting: J. Katz, A.
Bertisch, P. Stienherz.

## GENERAL ORGANIZATION



'Atomic Energy Exhibit'



G. O. Representatives Standing: (l.-r.) S. Schneider, P. Don, M. Amzel, Z. Dershowitz, M. Graff, Y. Eliezri, J. Katz, S. Horowitz, J. Fuchs. Sitting: F. Edelstein, J. Katz, A. Bertisch, P. Stienherz, B. Jaffe.



Vanguard Staff
Standing: (l.-r.) S. Friedman, A. Stubenhouse, I. Kahan, M. Zakheim, D. Fischberger, A. Gottfried, S. Dresin. Sitting: J. Katz, H. Nagel, S. Albom, D. Hirsch, Z. Dershowitz, H. Hoenig.



Debating Managers
Standing: (1.-r.) J. Fuchs, J. Katz, C. Lew, I. Singer, J. Gelman.
Sitting: J. Katz, A. Bertisch, S. Swirski, H. Hoenig, Z. Dershowitz,
S. Albom.



Scroll Staff
Standing: (l.-r.) S. Swirski, M. Weissman, H. Lehmann, J. Yarmish, M. Zakheim, S. Albom. Sitting: M. Lev, H. Nagel, L. Neiman, P. Fishman, I. Singer, H. Brafman.



Student Patrol
Standing: (l.-r.) J. Schrieber, Z. Gelbendorf, J. Forgash,
B. Jaffa, A. Schloss, A. Gottfried, H. Nagel, A. Bertisch.
Sitting: S. Album, M. Zakheim, H. Lehmann, H. Brafman.



Editors at work

## LIFE AROUND OUR SCHOOL



A typical library scene.



"He was swimming in Coney Island and . . ."
Mr. Salzman—"Where was he swimming?"



Yum yum!!



The biggest problem in 'American Problems' is Mr. Miller.



Who says we need a gym?



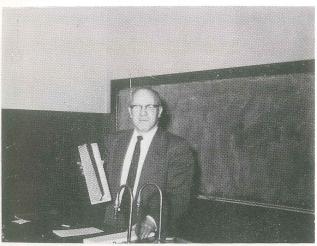
A popular Hungarian sport.



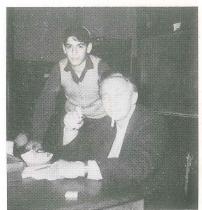
"This is a school, not a zoo."-Rabbi Lonner



An ample source of air.



"Is this all for me?"



"Don't bother me Wolpin, I'm busy."



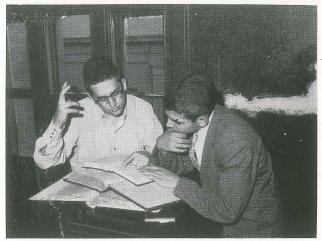
A test (no comment).



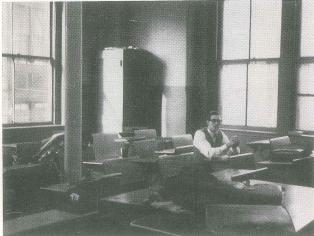
"Das is mayn bais hamedrash."



Our G.O. has climbed to great heights.



"So what's Pashat in the Pnei Yehoshua?"



"They said that they were all S.P.'s, sir."



They said it couldn't be done.



Swish!!



'Punchball' during lunchtime is a favorite leisure for many.

## FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES....

"If you can't do it, teach it."-Doctor Horowitz

"You people are willfully killing murders."

—Rabbi Lonner

"I'm the only one allowed to make the funnies around here."—Mr. Kaplan

"We will learn what is right and what is accordingly."

-Rabbi Krieger

"It reminds me of the time I ate a horse in the army."

—Mr. Greenberg

"Their prayers will be abominations."-Rabbi Krieger

"I'm quoting from what you should have said."
—Mr. Vogel

"Eisenhower should only live to 120 years—and suffer."
—Mr. Lieberman

"Some of you lads are just too shifty for me."

—Mr. Seligman

"They don't know what's all about it."-Rabbi Krieger

"If you don't like this course-DROP."-Rabbi Lonner

"Go to the next class whenever you go there."

-Mr. Seligman

"That's a good answer, now let's have the right one."

-Mr. Kaplan

"You should know a zebra can't change it's spots, lad."

-Mr. Seligman

"The BOARD meeting is about to commence."

-Rabbi Lonner

"If I don't shut up I'll get kicked out of here, but I'll say it anyway."—Mr. Diamond

"This is a regent. When I shoot this gun three times you can begin."—Rabbi Lonner

"Now, about tests—I will try to be as fair and impartial as possible when marking them."—Doctor Horowitz

"You can be a good Jew without knowing trigonometry."—Rabbi Lonner

"What's so hard about giving up smoking—I've done it thousands of times."—Mr. Salzman

"You can't go to the bathroom because halacha l'Moshe misinai."—Rabbi Wolfson

"A baal-tshuvah should keep his mouth shut."

—Rabbi Krieger

"And what's wrong with kissing cows?"—Mr. Seligman "Clockwise, counter-clockwise, what's the difference—abi gezunt!"—Mr. Salzman

Rabbi Lonner: "Don't forget to mark the point where the graph reaches infinity."

Mr. Vogel: "When we speak of death it is appropriate to dig in."

Mr. Lieberman: "Oh there's nothing wrong with it except that it's illegal."

Mr. Salzman: "Oh, what I would give for a cold drink of lemonade."

Mr. Seligman: "Cover that manhole when you yawn."

Mr. Diamond: "Avodim, shut up."

Rabbi Krieger: "Get out of the room and close the window behind you."

Rabbi Lonner: "Now, there's a perfect square!"

Mr. Salzman: "If I don't crack down I'll crack up."

Rabbi Pantol: "You boys don't appreciate me."

Mr. Diamond: "My Tanta Chana Petzel used to say . ."

Mr. Lieberman: "Please sit down. This is not a synagogue."

Mr. Salzman: "Why didn't I become a sideshow barker?"

Mr. Seligman: "Doff your lad lid."

Rabbi Wolfson: "Some of you boys think you can fool me around . . ."

Mr. Salzman: "You're all a bunch of certified nitwits!"

Rabbi Linchner: "I wish you a happy holiday."

Rabbi Lonner: "If a beard made the man then goats would be scholars."

Mr. Lieberman: "I have nothing against Eisenhower, but..."

Mr. Diamond: "Dickens is good reading but he's a second rate author."

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## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

Four Years—four glorious, wonderful, tiring, boring, exciting, worthwhile, useless, lovely years. Here we stand—with nothing left save memories. But what memories!

Our first day when we met a strange tribe known collectively as teachers... High school in T.V. was an enjoyable experience. "The classes are small, and the friendships you form can last a lifetime." Yes, a lifetime of knowing Naftalis expounding philosophy at 3 p.m. Singer running the G.O. with a velvet glove and iron fist, Edelstein, Bertisch, Jaffa, and the Glasser boys crusading in the halls.

When the seniors first sized us up and said, "What a miserable bunch."—A miserable bunch, rotten through and through, day in and day out. But we had the magic touch—Swirski with a pencil, Fischberger with a set shot, Fessel with a ping-pong racket, Zakheim in French, Wolpin in Engilsh, Bilus in Physics, Albom in general. Classes came fast and heavy. We still remember: "If you embark on the sea of mathematics with a leaky memory, you're sunk." "The graph of y = log 10x reaches two in room 205." "Perfect Squares." "But everyman to his own taste said the man as he kissed the cow." We loved World History-a test of physical endurance, and American History—a test mentally. Virginians and Coffee, the new trend in luncheons. Out of class, we worked on committees, . . . "A Williamsburgh committee? Why not a Flatbush committee, or a Harlem committee?" Lev in the bookroom and Gottfried in the bathroom, Schreiber on the stairs and Schneider in the library, Joe Katz on the court, Loeb in the dorm, and Frishtik in our hair. Our first Regents exam-geometry. "My daughter calls me a walking encyclopedia-too bad you're not!" Jerry Katz and 768, Weissman and 100, Fishman and 140.

We worked hard at Hebrew, harder in French and Spanish, hardest in English. "D'ya mean it, can I actually leave class and never come back? Really? Please! Please! Can I?"—Lehman, Brafman, and Forgash, the muscular right-siders. Nagel the sly-sider. Yarmish the \$-sider. Frankel the loquacious and Gelbendorf the taciturn.

With these languages, we spoke fluently. "The natives don't seem to understand our tongue." . . . Kleidermacher, Lipshitz, Margules, Zakay, and Kessler, the Carioca Kids. Steinherz and Marcus, those fine hunks of men, Seidenfeld and Sommer, the gruesome twosome, and lest we forget, Neiman spoke Engilsh.

We met "Mack The Knife" Messrs. Miller, Salzman, and Seligman. Our English teachers were quite famous: Lord Shakespeare-Shaw or Mike Hammer, and Mr. W. Chamberlain. Our Social Studies dept. studied not socials, but was the Republican 12th District Field Headquarters. We were assured of passing, since "If you fail, you will get the marks you don't deserve." We passed all right—out. Passed out to our jobs, Hirsch the Mashgiach, Pfeffer the good-humor man, Rosenbloom the broker, Englander the smoker, Stubenhause the joker. We had salesmen and models, Dachs for Pepsodent and Walden for Vitalis.

We were intelligent—Dershowitz used his head, Dresin his camera, Schloss his width and depth, and Schorr his name. Summer days and winter nights, we studied . . . Weinberger, politics, Olshin, hats and Neuman, nothing. Summer nights and winter days, we slept. Assemblies came and went, as did assemblers.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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Zacharia Dershowitz Israel Singer

## SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

### **TROPHIES**

Avi Bertisch

Harry Brafman

David Hirsch

Harry Nagel

Larry Neiman

Israel Singer

Morris Zakheim

### GOLD MEDALS

Sandy Albom
Zacharia Dershowitz
Sanford Dresin
Fred Edelstein
Irving Fessel
David Fischberger
Jerome Katz
Henry Lehmann
Marvin Lev
Heshy Rosenblum
Peter Steinherz

We learned about Fabius Cunctator, Faubus, and Fabian. We knew the meaning of NAACP, MJQ, UJA, UHF, FCC, NCAA, NIT, NMSQT, CEEB, SPCB and CCNY. Ted Williams, John Kennedy, Elvis Presley, Sputnik, James Gould Cozzens, Nikita Khrushchev, Elgin Baylor, Caryl Chessman, Matt Dillon, Charles DeGaulle, Johnny Dio, Alfred Vogel, the class of '60, they all came and went and made news.

"See the minutes how they run,
How many the hour full complete,
How many hours bring about the day,
How many days will finish up the year"
Hey Cats...Four years are over—TONIGHT!

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## SAMUEL ALBOM

In eloquent oratory Sandy leads all,
On the basketball court he's a fiend with the ball.
An expert at committing many a caper,
Thank Heaven that there's only one school
paper.

"Fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns."
—Shakespeare

### ABRAHAM BERTISCH

Contrary to others in his own organization, This boy prefers thought and quiet meditation. As a leader of our omnipotent G.O. Avie was not satisfied with the status quo. "Speech is great, but silence is greater."—Carlyle





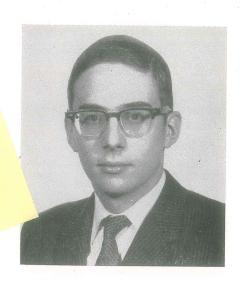
## JOSEPH BILUS

At teaching Economics Joe's quite a whiz,
But mixing up teachers is his real biz.
Of jokes and quips he has quite a pile,
Some of them made even Mr. Salzman smile.
"I am not interested in principles, but I sure am
in interest."—Polk

## HARRY BRAFMAN

While other boys find ways to malinger, Rarely is Harry without a book at his Serious and intent in everyth. In a test of perseverence he the prize.

"G-d is with those who perseve





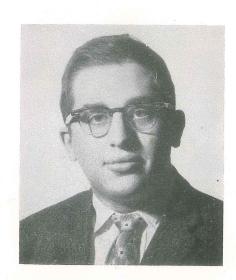
### SAUL DACHS

Overflowing with mirth and full of wisecracks, At delivering puns is Daxie not lax. Half of the fun would be taken out of Physics, Were we not entertained by his hilarious lyrics. "Wit and wisdom are born with a man."—Seldon

## ZECHARIAH DERSHOWITZ

With shirt tails flying and jacket nearly shed, He reminds one of Einstein and almost has his head.

A scholarship winner and a scholar to boot, Nobody knows what Zak will do with the loot. "Chaos often breeds life; when order breeds habit."—Adams



### HARRY BRAFMAN

While other boys find ways to malinger, Rarely is Harry without a book at his finger. Serious and intent in everything that he tries, In a test of perseverence he would surely win the prize.

"G-d is with those who persevere."-Anonymous





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## SANFORD DRESIN

Though Sanford is both handsome and dark, There's much more to him that hits the mark. A camera bug from many years back, To lug his equipment he needs a mule pack. "A fresh, a free, a friendly man."—Gower

### FRED EDELSTEIN

With his red, red hair so shiny and bright, Ephraim Yardani is quite a sight. Some day we hope he'll be Israeli Prime Minister, Then Colonel Nasser might not look so sinister. "He that hath no beard is less a man."

-Shake speare





## DAVID ENGLANDER

Whether Dave was born in England is not known,

But his spirit was greater than many on her throne.

Quiet and considerate to all whom he knows, Such a policy has earned him many friends and few foes.

"Nature revolves but, man advances."-Young

#### IRVING FESSEL

A brilliant strategist when a test comes around, He can outsmart a teacher without making a sound.

Since Srully's been manager our bookroom's been neat,

And that's a feat that can't be beat.

"Vanity of vanities; all is vanity."-Ecclesiastes





#### DAVID FISCHBERGER

From Fishey's uncanny set shot that always aimed true,

Many an opponent turned tail and flew. From the great crowds that he always drew, It was easy to spot him on the Avenue. "Vivacity and wit make a man shine in company."—Lord Chesterfield

#### PHILIP FISHMAN

They say that Feivey's intellect is very far advanced,

Sometimes, when he's thinking, he gets himself entranced.

He worked pretty hard to make the SCROLL a success,

But nobody knows whom he expects to impress. "To see the world in a grain of sand."—Blake





#### JACK FORGASH

When Jack took on Mr. Salzman he was our hero, But his only reward was a big fat zero. Confronting us with his wide-mouthed grin, All we can do is laugh and give in.

"Joy rises in his soul like a summers morn."

—Coleridge

#### SHEPSIE FRANKEL

Shepsie has taken many a leave, But never once was he beyond reprieve. When injustice occurs, no matter how slight, You can be sure Shepsie will stand up and fight. "A Shepsie in wolf's clothing."—Bacon



#### MORDECAI FRISHTIK

From the Holy Land Mordecai came, To study the Torah was his avowed aim. Quiet in class, measuring every word, He takes joy in listening, not being heard. "Say little and do much."—Shamai

#### ZEV GELBENDORF

An Israeli Sabra, accent and all,
To start up with Zev requires much gall.
His voice is heard much, to say the least,
But that, we guess, separates man from the beast.
"By perseverence the snail reached the ark."
—Spurgeon





#### JACOB GLASSER

The bearded bartender of room 205, It's people like him that keep Diamond alive. Joe has accomplished what few have dared, He has grown and managed to keep his beard. "Drink pretty creature, drink."—Wadsworth

#### SOLOMON GLASSER

Unlike his brother of above mentioned fame, Solomon, comparatively, is overly tame. An expert on gadgets, no matter what kind, His future plans, we guess, are mechanically aligned.

"A plow-man on is legs his higher than a gentleman on his knees."—Sharp.





#### ALLEN GOTTFRIED

Boisterous is too kind a word to describe this boy, When mad Al made Khrushchev sound like a child's toy.

Behind that smiling facade is a serious mind, Though sometimes his teachers found it hard to find.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance."

#### DAVID HIRSCH

If you want action out of an elected politician, And are not afraid of being accused of sedition, Then Dave's the man that fits the bill, With uncompositing attitudes and iron will. "Success remember is the reward of toil."

—Sophocles





#### BURTON

In every vecept by his birth,
Burt is but any over in patriotic mirth.
An undiluted redhead with valor in his heart,
In the furtherance of his people he'll play a
mighty part.

"A real bright, blazing, fiery redhead."-Doyle

#### JEROME KATZ

This Mountaindale bumpkin is quite a lad, The first second Vice-President our G.O. ever had.

Jerome got Mr. Salzman into quite a big rage, When, in a discourse on bushes, he softly asked "What page?"

"Fortune favors the brave"—Cicero





#### JOSEPH KATZ

In the past four years Yossie has mellowed much, In basketball he has that magic touch, Softspoken, logical, common sense above all, In more ways than one Yossie's on the ball. "A gentleman by nature and a scholar by education."—Coltin

#### MARCOS KESLER

Marcos, a Southerner from beautiful Rio, Has come to New York where it's mucho frio He has been steadfast and earnest in all his dealings with us,

But why so serious—what's the big fuss. "Anything for a quiet life."—Cervantes





#### ALLEN GOTTFRIED

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#### BURTON JAFFA

In every way a sabra except by his birth,
Burt is bubbling over in patriotic mirth.
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In the furtherance of his people he'll play a
mighty part.

"A real bright, blazing, fiery redhead."-Doyle



#### MOSHE KLEIDERMACHER

Bolivia has created quite a noise and din, For it finally has exported something not made of tin.

Unusually quiet until he gets in high gear, The best advice then is, "Don't get too near." "Friendship is equality."—Heywood

#### HENRY LEHMANN

Almost synonymous with his shiny blond hair, Henry entrances us by his natural savoir faire. Being a business manager of this, our SCROLL, There's no better man for a better role. "Slow and steady wins the race."—Lloyd





#### MORDECAI LEV

Though hardly a peep comes from his corner all day,

He accomplishes wonders in his own little way.

A student and a scholar at the top of the list,

His mind commands more than many a fist.

"Silence is good everywhere except in connection with Torah."—Zohar

#### WILLY LIPSHUTZ

Wily Willy has whiled away his education, With a lot of doing nothing and a minimum of dedication.

Though a Latino, he is cool and reasonable, Traits that his countrymen consider downright treasonable.

"Peace and quiet-what beautiful words."-Castro





RAFAEL LOEB



Raphael shirks from the madding crowd's strife. Coming from peaceful Vineland to our lively dorm,

Cool and considerate in his outlook on life,

It's a wonder that he has weathered so violent a storm.

"Good without effort, great without a foe."-Zola



#### BENJAMIN MARGULES

The banana king, King Benny The Second, Was plowing his fields when destiny beckoned. Now he slaves over his schoolwork all day, But still dreams of his kingship down Panama

"Bananas!"-United Fruit Company





#### SANFORD NAFTALIS

The Sanfordization of our class has taken some time,

And it's much too much to put in a rhyme. We have all been inspired by his Chasidishe derech,

But his teachers want some avodas perech.
"Her ways are ways of pleasentness and all her paths are peace."—Solomon

#### HARRY NAGEL

At shrewd manipulating Heshy outdoes all, And it seems that in the process he's having quite a ball.

Impeccable in manners but usually getting his way,

Such features we have found, are the type that

"This world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel."—Walpole





#### LARRY NEIMAN

Completely infatuated with the beauty of his words,

Sometimes he sounds like Solomon talking to the birds.

As co-editor of the SCROLL Larry has reached new heights,

A worthy reward for staying up nights.
"By words the mind is excited and the spirit

elated."-Aristophones

#### PHILIP NEUMAN

These Neimans and Neumans are a prolific race,
There are so many of them it's hard to keep pace.
Philip tries hard to keep inconspicious,
But with his six gallon hat that hope is
ridiculous.

"Patience is the flower that grows in not every garden."—Howell





#### YERUCHIM OLSHIN

Yeruchem is part of the Borough Park clan, To emulate Rav Sheps seems to be their plan. His serious nature and his urge to study, Clearly distinguish him from many a buddy. "Only deeds give strength for life."—Richter

#### HARRY PFEFFER

Chaim's name is far from mendacious, He is never dull, always vivacious. Except for his opinions on one organization, All his thoughts inspire elation. "Greatness is from within."—Voltaire





#### HIRSHEY ROSENBLUM

Stocks and bonds are Rosee's meat,
His future plans lie up Wall Street.
Judging from his height and gait,
He'd make Goliath a perfect mate.
"There were giants on the Earth in those days."
—Genesis

#### ABRAHAM SCHLOSS

When morale was low and spirit was lacking, Dependable Abie sent melancholy packing. Nature has blessed him with what everybody seeks,

But where did he get those rosy red cheeks? "Health and cheerfulness mutually beget each other."—Addison





#### SHMUEL SCHNEIDER

Shmuel's tongue can, and does, sting like a whip, His caustic remarks crack any stiff upper lip. Many a Physics class has ended in a jumble, When Mssrs. Salzman and Schneider got into a rumble.

"A wit that loved to play, not wound."-Scott

#### NORMAN SCHORR

A talmid chuchum from head to toe, This Borough Park lad is on the go. When talking with his hands and a shirk of his head,

There's more to his talking than a thousand words said.

"Delve into it and delve into it for all is in it."

—Ben Bag Bag





#### JOEL SCHREIBER

Joel and another lad from Philly came, Where his ready tongue has earned him much fame.

No matter the subject, and he knows quite a few, He has his opinions and soon we have them too. "Why should I spare words? They cost nothing."

—Seneca

#### ISRAEL SINGER

Our class gives its well deserved thanks,
To this student leader who emerged in our ranks.
G.O. president and honor student too,
Many are his achievements, these are but a few.
"Old presidents never die, they just fade away."
—Variation on MacArthur





#### MOSHE SEIDENFELD

Many Israelis have entered our door, This one we hope will take an extended tour. His love for the ancient wisdom of our lore, Has made him a scholar to the very core. "Learning is the eye of the mind."—Draxe

#### HERBERT SOMMER

Quietly playing his unassuming role, He diligently pursues some future worldly goal. By birth a Frenchman, "c'est me qu'il pense", It's hard to picture him yelling, "Viva la France!" "He can never be good that is not obstinate."

-Wilson





#### PETER STEINHERZ

From Hungary to T.V. Peter has flown, A more studious boy we have never known. Russia might now rule over Budapest, But we have Steinherz, which deal is best? "Ambition is the parent of virtues."—Quintillian

#### ABRAHAM STUBENHAUS

Though Abbe is a newcomer to our class,
He has become an integral part of our
incongruous mass.
He greets his friends with his familiar crow,
"Hey! Do you have a cigarette Joe?"
"Brave new world that hath such people in it."
—Shakespeare





#### SHELDON SWIRSKI

Happy, smiling, a friend to all,There's much to Sheldon besides being six feet tall.His creative artistry rules supreme,To be an architect is his fond dream.

"The secret of life is in art."—DaVinci

#### HIRSCH WALDEN

Rabbi Pantol was joyfully in tears,
When this maverick completed Hebrew Three
Years.
Born in China before it turned red,
No wonder Chiang to Formosa fled.
"The man who made mirth for us all."—Rhodes





#### IMANUEL WEINBERGER

If the librarian is nowhere to be found,
Ask for Imanuel, he's sure to be around.
An accomplished historian of the Second World
War,

He knows Stalingrad better than his own next door.

"We read history, we make history."-Curtis

#### MARTIN WEISSMAN

Regardless of what planet his name might evoke, Martin's as down to Earth as a lightning stroke. Wandering in the halls with his camera in hand, A walking advertisement for the Poleroid Land. "The wise man's eyes are in his head."

-Ecclesiastes





#### DAVID WOLPIN

Washington State is famous for its flowers, But never a better has been picked from its bowers.

Though electioneering feats are many and varied,

Rarely do candidates away get carried.

"Eloquence which persuades by sweetness not by authority."—Cicero

#### JOSHUA YARMISH

Newton and Einstein rise up in awe!
For when it comes to math Josh is law.
He would be able to extract the fifth root of a cube,

If he could only keep his mind off the television tube.

"Self trust is the first secret of success."—Emerson





#### ALBERTO ZAKAY

A Panamanian patriot to the very end, To no capitalist Yankee will Alberto bend. His fondest hope is to join Castro's gang, Or perhaps watch the canal go up in a bang. "We don't want to fight but by jingo..."

-Gladstone

#### MORRIS ZAKHEIM

Sixth period math was a barrel of fun,
Thanks to this lad and his ever ready pun.
Descartes would never have written his rules,
Had he known it would be taught to such
impossible fools.

"What should a man do but be merry."

-Shakespeare





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Dear Fellow Alumnus,

On behalf of the Torah Vodaath Alumni Association, I extend my congratulations to you upon your graduation, and welcome you into our ever-growing alumni family as a fellow member.

You have prevailed through four arduous years. I therefore must pay homage to your achievement. Your education at Torah Vodaath has added an appreciable dimension to your identity. The precious experiences and teachings which you will be able to articulate into a meaningful future should be treasured.

Each of you has been invested with creative power, harnessed only by your own ambitions and desires. Torah Vodaath has helped nurture and encourage this spark of freshness in you. Continue to seek it out, and apply it to whatever your pursuit may be. Shortcuts, formulas, superficiality attain only the mediocre. Imitation is dull. Alert yourself against complacency. Only with intense, painstaking efforts will you emerge with recognition.

Whatever your pursuit, seek it in the orbit of tradition. Hear what tradition has to say, and reply with a power and a gift that is yourself. Materialize the spiritual that you have been imbued with, and you will spiritualize all your material gain.

Yours Cordially,

BENJAMIN HAGER

Torah Vodaath Alumni Association

EDITOR'S NOTE-

Benjamin Hager, the author of this letter, graduated from Torah Vodaath High School in 1952, from whence he went on to Brooklyn College, while still continuing his Talmudic studies at Torah Vodaath. He is a graduate of Yale University and has received his law degree from that institution. Though now a member of the New York State Bar Association and a hard working lawyer, Mr. Hager devotes a great deal of his time to the furtherance of our school. We think him a prime example of what he speaks of in this letter.

# LITERATURE

### THE DREAM OF LIBERTY

#### BY SAMUEL ALBOM

Burdened by society and his need for survival, man changes; human aspirations do not. The dream of liberty is one of the oldest and one of the strongest. The faith in freedom from involuntary servitude and constraint of ideas has moved mountains, upset the course of history, led to acts of noble purity and savage barbarism and sustained the spark of life in those who have had every reason for its extinguishing.

The flame, kindled by the hope of years, has ignited three revolutions in the past two-hundred years. The words men fought for, the ideas and ideals they succumbed to and died for live on; today, always. "All men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Liberté, Egalité, et Fraternité . . . Liberty is a boy freezing to death at Valley Forge, a disheveled, dissolute mob revealing its anguish of years and hope for the future on the Bastille, and another mob looting the Winter Gardens. Liberty is the same dreams on the rocks of Brittainy, the forests primeval of Siberia and the endless prairies. All—the right to live one's life as one chooses—the cornerstone of democracy.

In a real sense, no man is ever free. He has definite moral commitments to himself and his fellow man; and ethical responsibilities to his Creator. The right to swing his fist in the air stops where my nose begins, and his freedom to speak excludes shouting "Fire" in a crowded theatre.

Liberty is inherent in democracy, a fule of Demos, "King Mob." Democracy is not a privilege—it is a right, irrevocable. It is the right to use and to abuse, to dedicate and sacrifice, to squander and desert. A democracy is many things: A gaon devoting his life to the Talmud, a farmer under azure skies, miners never seeing the sun, and a used-car salesman; the crowd in the bleachers and two in a box at the Met; the Lower East Side and The Main Line; the Mayflower and third class passage in a cattle-crossing. It is six men at Iwo Jima and six hundred thousand at Normandy. It is a twenty-one year old youth: "I regret I have but one life to give for my country" and an ugly, awkward man: "A government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

It has its seemy, shabby side. Lynchings in Mississippi, corruption in governmental and private ethics, seven thousand percent mark-ups. It is a bloody bitter, long war to abolish slavery and bondage, contempt of law and disrespect of property. It is "I got mine, buddy. Get it while the gettin's good." And the delicate definition of honest graft, "I seen my opportunities and I took them."

These failings are but mortal failings. They are not, and could not be of the dream. The Statue of Liberty's beacon is yet another illuminating torch for the word of God, "And proclaim liberty throughout the land."

## The Probabilities Of Survival

By PHILIP FISHMAN

If a coin is tossed into the air nine times, and each time falls on the same side, what are the chances of its falling on that side the tenth time? This is a question perhaps more fitting for a mathematician, but on its answer rests the fate of mankind. Korea, Formosa, Sinai and Lebanon are chances that the world has taken in the past. So far, the coin has fallen in our favor, but that was yesterday. What of the future? By either historical or mathematical reasoning the odds seem overwhelmingly against the prevention of war. It seems ironic and terribly stupid to leave our fate to such a fickle thing as luck.

Now another coin, Berlin, has been tossed to the winds. If the not too well-laid plans of nations do not go astray there will be a summit conference on this subject sometime this summer. Politicians, if I may quote Shakespeare, are "Capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb shows and noises." I ask, nay demand, that our leaders go to the summit not as politicians but as humans. I demand that they realize that the fate of humanity rests in their all too confident hands. Let them remember that what Isaiah said three thousand years ago about swords being turned into ploughshares is equally applicable to atomic bombs that can be turned into electricity. If the summit is convened with this approach in mind, it is inevitable that all discords and differences will fade away in a torrent of brotherly love.

This bit of whimsical thinking appears, on the surface, to be nothing more than a product of a highly fantastic and perhaps childish imagination. This may be true, but the alternative is even more fantastic and unimaginable.

There is yet a thin, but steadfast, ray of hope shining through the portentous clouds that confront Atomic Age man. Perhaps, I pray, the leaders of the world will be able to arrive at something workable.

### OF HUMAN BONDAGE

By JOSHUA YARMISH

It was twelve o'clock noon and the prosecution had just finished presenting its case. After exhaustive questioning the state was reasonably sure that it had successfully proved the guilt of the accused. The evening papers were prepared to break the news. Now it was up to the attorney for the defense to comply with court formality and deliver his final plea for a verdict of not guilty.

The jury, tired of such exhaustive rituals, was too openly over-eager to seal the accused to his death. There was Mr. Johnson, grumbling over the fact that his two tickets to the opening game were going to waste. Then there was starry eyed Miss Thompson of the women's club dreaming of how she was going to tell the other girls of her adventures while a juror at a real murder trial. She could see the envy of the whole town focussed upon her at that very moment. Miss Thompson's noble thoughts were rudely interrupted by the woeful plea of the attorney for the defense. He presented an eloquent, if not at all logical, case to the jury. Even Mr. Johnson had no doubt that the tears running down the young lawyer's face were authentic. When he grasped the railing and wailed "Give me justice or give me death" half the jury patriotically reversed their former verdicts. The accused was not only acquitted, but overnight became the hero of the whole country.

Such is the so-called justice of the jury system. Can a verdict which hinges on the emotions of twelve humans whose only acquaintance with the law is an occasional traffic ticket be called just? Can any system of law which is based upon a woman's belief that the defendant's deep blue eyes prove his innocence be deemed just? I prefer to disagree. Of course this opinion does not necessarily advocate the abolishment of the jury system for there is no alternate system that can successfully replace it. But, for our own sake! Let us not kid ourselves into believing that the jury system is anywhere near just.

## Capital Punishment

By ISRAEL SINGER

Having awaited execution for twelve years, Caryl Chessman is dead, and capital punishment is dying. Whether Chessman deserved it or not, he shall be a martyr for capital punishment. The world in its loud protest does not mean to express its discontent over Chessman's death. It is, however, dissatisfied with capital punishment. Chessman just reminded us that it exists.

In earlier times when the king or clergy, acting as G-d's deputy, pronounced the death penalty, it did not cut the criminal off from salvation. The punishment was provisional and the final judgment rested with G-d. He would be cleansed of his crimes and approach salvation in the afterlife.

Only religious values, particularly belief in the afterlife, justify capital punishment, since according to these beliefs, capital punishment is not final and irreparable.

But in our secularized society, such an explanation for capital punishment can scarcely be said to exist. When a judge who is an atheist, passes sentence on an unbeliever, he places himself on a throne no mortal has the right to sit on; yet his ambition to kill surpasses his right to do so.

The assumption of the modern state, however is, that capital punishment is an exemplary sentence which seeks to deter rather than to punish. If the state does subscribe to this principle, let it hold the executions at the city square, in a gruesome manner where all will see what occurs to one who is worthy of capital punishment. Instead, it carries them out in secret, and even takes pains to conceal the objective reports of the physicians who have written about the procedure.

The person committing a crime generally deems his crime as being perfect; and he does not consider the possibility that he will be caught. Thus capital punishment is but vengence, a reply to blood with blood. Our society today should be beyond revenge and bloodthirstyness. Most of society preaches against bigotry; why not against revenge?

It is ironical that a dead, convicted pervert should be implemental in arousing society to this injustice.

## In Defense of a Beleagured Classmate

By LARRY NEIMAN

Some months ago, when a student *sanguinely* related to the author of this essay, delivered a scholarly discourse to the members of his class, he was unfairly diagnosed as having an acute case of 'verbal diabetes'. This is a symptom of the prevailing attitude towards 'big' words and a widespread distaste for the king's English.

All would be well with the world if there would be some basis to the aforementioned charges, but, unhappily, such is not the case. Many are unaware of the immeasurable utility to be found in the use of lengthy words. One properly placed word can sometimes do the work of ten. The rate of increase of velocity of a moving body is its acceleration. The capacity to adjust to changes in environment by altering responses is conveniently called adaptibility. Likewise, a window shade with horizontal slats that slope and overlap is commonly called a jalousie. Why this latter term evoked fits of laughter in that hapless student's audience is beyond this writer's comprehension. Is is not ludicrous to use simple Saxonism when we can succintly express our thoughts with words such as these? There is no satisfactory word that signifies the process requiring a defendant to appear in court besides subpoena, and even Einstein has not thought of a better word than trajectory to describe the curve traversed by a projectile.

More than anything else, the beauty and richness of the English language manifests itself in the number of its synonyms. Besides enabling the professional linguist to be more exact in the communication of his thoughts, they also help him to avoid trivial repetition. Also, this same linguist will use *sesquipedalians*, for instead of hurrying the reader or listener on to the next thought, it allows his mind to dwell for a longer time upon the same idea; it gives time for his reflection to be deeper and especially for his emotion to be stronger. In conclusion, it would be wise to recall the words of an ancient Roman Senator, "Why should I spare words? They cost nothing."

## OF BUGS AND OTHER PEOPLE

By HARRY NAGEL

Now I know you're going to laugh, but don't. The matter that I'm writing about is serious. "Dead" serious.

Suppose someone who had a wife, kids and a home, went out to try and support his family. Then this big brute came along and killed him just because he didn't like his looks. Wouldn't you think that the brute deserved the death penalty? As a matter of fact, if this guy would have met the wife and kids of his victim, he would have surely killed them too, just because he doesn't like their looks.

Now, what would you think if I told you that you committed such a crime, countless times. You'd probably think that I'm nuts. But, you do! You pick on little, defenseless creatures that never meant you any harm and you crush them. The defenseless creatures that I'm referring to are roaches, worms and the like.

You still think I'm nuts, eh? Well for your information, bugs, or at least a good many of them, choose only one mate for their entire life. They're also extremely devoted parents and husbands. Take the case of one roach (whom I prefer to call Mr. X for obvious reasons) who came home one day, only to find his home crushed, his wife and kids killed. You know what he did? He walked off a table and committed suicide. (For those skeptics who don't believe me, look it up for yourself in The American Home Encyclopedia pages 968-993.) Or maybe take the case of a certain worm who found out that his family (wife and two kids) had been tied to a hook by a certain man who later drowned them. This worm got his revenge by climbing into the guy's head via the ear, and eating up his brain. I could continue like this for pages but I feel that I have sufficiently made my point.

You might try and defend yourself by saying that bugs are filthy creatures. Well, it has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt in the Bellview Medical Research Center, that female roaches are meticulous housewives. Even if they are filthy, is that sufficient reason to kill them? They don't mean you any harm.

## At The Crossroads

By MARVIN LEV

With the road of compulsary education behind him, the high school graduate finds himself at the threshhold of a new phase in his journey through life; he has finally reached the crossroads. The graduate, like the traveler who has no map, must take many risks and must be prepared to meet various challenges before he can attain his goal.

In America, the land of abundance and prosperity, the land which boasts of having the highest standard of living in the world, the problem of choosing the right occupation has been greatly minimized. Higher education is available to practically everyone and opportunities in every field are plentiful. Few people starve in our country; few live in the streets. Poverty in general, is gradually being eliminated. One need only to be content with a moderate income and much of the tension and worry of life will be eliminated. Graduation, in a sense, has lost much of its past significance, because the challenge confronting the student has been greatly abated.

However, the Yeshiva student as a religious Jew, finds that all the paths before him will eventually present a threat to the ideas and concepts that he has been imbued with. He is a traveller in exile, in a land that he cannot consider his own. Though he has been raised in this land, he will now come in closer contact with its commercial and materialistic society, with its alien culture and with its new philosophies of life. These all constitute the greatest threat to Jewry today—assimilation.

During the past few years, man has experienced a tremendous revolution both in his way of living and in his way of thinking. Democracy, with its principles of freedom and equality, has

become the foundation of modern government. America and many other enlightened countries have progressed to such a point that persecution of religious minorities is inconceivable. The Spain of the Inquisition, the Russia of the Czar, the Germany of the Nazis have become tragic memories, not only to the Jew but to the gentile as well. Nevertheless, the survival of our people at present is in greater danger than it has ever been before. The Jew of past lived in the shadow of death; his challenge was a physical one. The Jew of the present, however, lives in the shadow of assimilation. His is a more redoubtable challenge, a spiritual one. When a Jew is oblivious to his great heritage, when he is ignorant of his responsibilities, he is then an unfortunate victim to the insidious forces of assimilation. Such a person can no longer be considered a true Jew but rather an American Jew; a Jew in name only.

In the past, when religious persecution was commonplace, every Jew realized the danger in which he lived and was prepared to cope with it. However, the great calamity at present is that a great majority of our people is ignorant of the danger that is threatening the very survival of religious Jewry. Some call themselves Conservative Jews; others call themselves Reformed Jews. What is this if not a step towards assimilation?

The Yeshiva graduate must, therefore, consider other things at graduation, besides an occupation. He must realize and be prepared to meet the challenge of a materialistic American society. The paths facing the religious Jew at graduation will always present a formidable challenge, until the time will come when the Jewish people will be united once again in a land of their own; where the laws and the precepts of the Torah will be universally accepted and the end of a long and bitter exile will become a reality.

### A JEW

#### By HARRY BRAFMAN

"Ye shall be mine own treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation." Yes, we are a chosen people. It matters not if other people emulate our actions. We are still different. We are still unique. We remain the carriers of holiness and it is our job and mission to "make holy the name of the Lord."

The rabbinical commentaries interpret the passage "Yesudaso beharery kodesh" to signify that our lives are based on the happenings at two mountains, Mt. Moriah and Mt. Sinai. Moriah, where Issac was to be sacrificed, symbolizes the giving of one's life for "kidush Hashem." Sinai, contrastingly, signifies the living of one's life through "kidush Hashem." They go on to say that the latter accomplishment is the greater of the two. This was evident in the last war where people who were remote from Torah gave their lives for their beliefs. This is a power that any Jew, in the least bit identifying himself with Judaism, has. It is much harder, as we see all around us, to live our daily lives according to the precepts of the Torah.

Throughout our history our greatest tragedies have been caused by our brethren who thought that the Jewish culture was not rich enough to suit them. Inevitably, they started movements towards assimilation. This, just as inevitably, led to national disasters. It is remarkable that the sage Rabbi Meir Simcha in his treatise "Meshech Chachma" predicts that if we continue in our well trodden paths, a holocaust of devastation will befall us from Germany. He already saw the growth of assimilation, the desire of the Jews to enter the higher brackets of German society and relinquish all Jewish identity. He realized only to well what the result would be. Let us examine this culture that they envied so much. The Germans, the great organizers, the great philosophers, and theorists reached such a high level of "culture" that they debased themselves to the extent of making soap out of human bones, lamp shades out of human skin, and paper-weights out of Jewish skulls that once wore Tefilin! This is the noble culture they envied. Today we see their mistake yet persist in adopting foreign cultures. We barely scratch the surface of Judaism and we are already looking for something else.

There is enough to study in our Torah to occupy a lifetime. The morality and beauty of Judaism is not to be matched anywhere. Why must we wait for disasters to remind us of this? Let us be proud of the fact that we are Jews for there is no one like us. We are the only ones that G-d has chosen.

# THIRTY YEARS

#### By ZACHARIA DERSHOWITZ

Zev looked out at the rain pouring down the cold side of his hut. He rose, dressed slowly and took a dull stone and threw it at the wall. It was cold so he lit a small fire. The warmth soon reached him. He shrugged and the tears rolled down his cheeks. "Thirty years," "Thirty years," he repeated again and again.

He walked to the barn in the rain. It was dark and smelled of animal life. He found the cow and milked her. He went back to the house to boil it. It tasted good. He sung a plaintive song in a minor key. "Thirty years is a long time" he thought. It rained steadily for most of the day so he could not do much. After the small chores were over, he retired to watch the rain fall. He went to bed when it grew dark.

The next day was no better. Fog had rolled in from the sea while the rain still fell. "G-d, thirty years." He dozed fitfully that night. At midnight, he awoke and lay quietly weeping. The hours went by.

"No, I must do it-another forty like these thirty-no!" He got up and walked in the mist as far as he could. "Zev, go on-you must." He could not. He started again at daybreak.

The trip lasted five hours over the rocky terrain. Rain had made the road difficult. More than once he fell but reached the house about noon. He entered softly.

The judge was sitting in his study, writing. He came in and sat down. "Thirty years," he thought and burst into tears.

Startled by the noise, the Judge looked up. "What is it, my son? And who are you?"

"I'm Zev ben Yaakov. I came to learn."

"Fine. What was it? A piece of Torah sh'b'al peh? Torah Sh'bicsav? What is it?

'No judge. Everything. I know nothing."

"Not even the alphabet?"

"Not even that."

"My son, you are old. How old are you?"

"Thirty-three."

"Why do you want to learn?"

"Because I know nothing."

"What are you?" "A farmer."

"Do you make a living?"

"Yes."

"Yes, thank G-d. My son, my son . . ."

"You will do it?"

"I can only try, my son. Go back and sell the farm. You will have nothing for G-d knows how long. You will be hungry. You will be thirsty. You will make no progress at all. You will sweat and toil to learn the foundation. The rest may be impossible. You will curse me, and G-d. He will not mind. Yes my son, we will start as soon as we can."

My thirty years of darkness-over!" He started to sing.

"Save thy energy for thy work. It will not be easy."

He ran down the steps to the road. The clouds had started to disperse.

Alone in the house, the Judge stood up. "G-d, I know you not," he said. He started to pray. He could not. Tears kept coming to his eyes.

### מעבדות לחרות",

#### MORDECAI FRISHTIK

צחוק כביר הפריע את השקט בארמונו של המנדט האנגלי. יותר מכולם נשמע קולו העבה של המדט עצמו, שקולו גבר מרגע לרגע. השמעתם? הה... חה... חה... "יהודים אלו, שלא העיזו להתקומם נגד המרצח בגרמניה, מזהירים את בריטניה — המדינה שהשמש אף־פעם לא שקעה על אדמתה — להוציא את כוחותיה הצבאיים מפלסטינה". הצחוק הופרע לפתע, כשראש הקומנדו הודיע על חיסול מרגמות, רובים־אוטומטיים ועוד מצרכי צבי ממחסן הנשק במשטרת רמת־גן. ראש הקומנדו המשיך: "נצטרך לארגן את כל כוחותינו בכדי להשקיט את המרד".

אהבת החרות פועמת זה אלפיים שנה בלבם של אחינו היהודים. במשך זמן זה, נהרגו רבבות ומליונים מאחינו, דמם נשפך כמים, (מתיהם היו כסוחה ?), ולא יצאה אומה אחת לעזרתם. אז התחלנו להכיר ביתר שאת את ערכה של העצמאות. ארגנו כל איש היודע מלחמה ויצאנו לקרב. בהתחלה החשיבו האנגלים את המרד למשחק שעשועים, אבל לאט לאט התחילו להרגיש את חומר המצב: המשטרות הראשיות בירושלים, תל-אביב וחיפה הופצצו לעין השמש. שדה-התעופה בירושלים הוחרב. עשרות קצינים גבוהי דרגה נתלו על עמודי חשמל ברחובותיהן הראשיים של ערי הארץ, ופחד המות רחף על כל רוזן אנגלי: אנגליה נוכחה לדעת שלא בקלות תשקיט את המרד והחליטה להוציא את כוחותיה.

אין לשער את השמחה ששרתה בין צעירינו ברגע ששמעו על עצמאותם. כחתונה ענקית נראו רחובותיה של המדינה, כשבחורים (עם בתולות) זקנים עם נערים רקדו בחוצות המדינה. היולדות לא הספיקו להגיע לאבנים עד שהולידו. ברחוב המלך שלמה, נשמע השיר "סמכוני באשישות רפדוני בתפוחים, כי חולת אהבת הארץ אני". בככר הנשיא וויצמן, נשמעו קריאות "יחי דגלנו כחול לבן", וברחוב ישעיה, הפטיר החזן "והיה ביום ההוא יתקע בשופר גדול". שמחה זו לא ארכה זמן רב; שונאי ישראל החיים על חרבותיהם, לא יכלו לראות בשמחת היהודים והכריזו "חרבותינו תאכלנה בשר".

זה כבר שבועיים שהמצב החמיר. המקלטים מלאו מנשים וטף. ברחוב לא נשאר שריד; והנה באה ההפגזה שהניעה את אמות הסיפים. עשרות בנינים עפו באויר. כאילו רעידת אדמה אחזתם. חרב המתהפכת הזהירה נפש כל חי מלהראות את מפרקתו מחוץ לכותלי מקלט, והעולכ נראה, כאילו נר אלקים כבה.

נניח את הנשים הפחדניות ונפסע למערכת ה'. שם אנו מוצאים את שמשון הגיבור ואת בר כוכבא הקוראים בשם ה' צבאות; "אל תראו משבעת זנבות האודים העשנים, ה' הוא ילחום בעדינו ואנחנו נחריש". "חרב לה' ולגדעון", קוראת בת־קול פנימי של כל מגין, עלי מולטת החובה להציל את ישראל מיד שסהו! למרות נשקם המועט לחמו צעירי ישראל ובוססו את חיל האויב המזוין בשריון קשקשים. הכו שוק על ירך כשפיפון עלי אורח בפליטי חרב שהתחבאו בנקרות הצורים ובסעיפי הסלעים.

לב היהודי לא הסתפק בהגנת היהודים בארץ בלבד, ידוע ידע שחלק גדול מאחיו בגולה סובלים מעבודת פרך והתחיל לבנות אניות תרשיש לקבץ את נדחי ישראל. איש את רעהו עזר, ויחזק חרש את צורף ומחליק בפטיש את הולם. בכל פנה וקרן זווית התחילו פורחים כרמים וגנות נטועי עץ פרי, ברכות מים המשקה יער ושדות ובית שם ועבר לחינוך תזרה־ודעת.

(הארץ שקטה למעלה ממשנה שכר שכיר) ? (היוד קרת) ? נעשה עיר גדולה. ביין כבסנו בגדינו ובדם ענבים כסותינו. אבל ראה זה פלא; מלך כסיל זה, היוצא מבית האסורים למלוך, מחריד את כל שריו ויועציו, להרוג, להשמיד ולאבד את כל היהודים, בכוח כלי זינו שקבל מברית המועצות. ה' היודע לבב אנוש, הפך את עצת אחיתופל ומהאוכל יצא מאכל; הנשק, שקוה להשתמש בו נגד היהודים, עבר לרשות צה"ל. אבל כסיל זה עוד חובק את ידיו ולא מרגיש את חרב הגלבים הארב לו במסתרים.

כל יהודי המאמין במפלת עמלק והמן, שכאשר התחילו לנפול לא יכלו לעמוד, יכולים להוכח שגם שונא זה (קולנל נאצר), לא יצא מכלל "כל הנוגע בהם, כאילו נוגע בכף עינו". כמהו, כן כל שונאי ישראל כרביבים תמוגגנה וליהודים תהי־ה אורה, שמחה, ששון ויקר...

#### הגאון רבי חיים עוזר גרודוענסקי ז״ל

BY MOSHE SEIDENFELD

אישיות גדולה וענקית של גאון וצדיק, אשר לא פסק פומי' מגירסי', אבל יחד עם זה גם מעורה בכל רמ"ח אבריו בחיי הצבור, מיצר בצרותיו ומגיש ידו העוזרת לכל הזקוק לה. הי' האחרון לרבני וילנה הוא הגאון ר' חיים עוזר ז"ל.

נולד בשנת תרכ"ג בעיר הקטנה איוויע, הקרובה לוילנה, לאביו הגאון ר' דוד שלמה ז"ל, ששמש אז כרבה של העיר, ואצלו למד כמה שנים. ר' דוד שלמה השפיע מרוחו הגאונית על בנו וכבר בימי ילדותו ראה בו כשרונות גאוניים. שם הילד הצעיר יצא בכל הסביבה ונקרא בפי כל "דער איוויער עלוי". כי מלבד מוחו העלויי ותפיסתו המהירה התברך בזכרון נפלא, ומספיק הי' לו לראות איזו שהיא תשובה באחד מ"האחרונים" ולעין בה פעם אחת שתשאר הקוקה בזכרונו לכל ימי חייו.

עוד טרם מלאו לו י"ג שנים עזב את בית אביו והלך ללמוד תורה בקיבוץ האברכים המפורסם אשר באוישישאק. משם נסע לוואלאזין, הישיבה הגדולה והמפורסמת ששמש בה בתור ראש ישיבה הגאון ר' חיים מבריסק שהי' אז עדין צעיר לימים. במשך עשותו בוואלאזין עם הגר"ח התידדו בידדות נאמנה שנמשכה לכל ימי חייו. פעם אחת נסע לוילנה, וגדולי העיר אשר שמעו כבר את שמעו, כבדוהו להגיד לפניהם שעור באחת מסוגיות הש"ס אשר הפליא את שומעיו בחריפותו ובבקיאותו העצומה. ראש רבני וילנה בעת ההיא הי' הגאון ר' אלי אליעזר ז"ל חתנו של הגאון ר' ישראל סאלאנטר ז"ל. כשמעו אודות העלוי מאיוויע, לקח אותו לתוך ביתו ויתן לו את בתו, הלא היא נכדתו של ר' ישראל סאלאנטר, לאשה. שנים מספר אחרי חתונתו נפטר חותנו ר' אלי' אליעזר ז"ל ור' חיים עוזר אז רק בן עשרים ושלש שנים. למרות גילו הצעיר נבחר לשבת על כסא חותנו כממלא מקומו, כי גדולי וילנה אז, ראותו מיד כראוי לאותה איצטלא.

בימי שבתו על כסא הרבנות התבלטה אישיותו הגדולה, כי מלבד כשרונותיו הנעלים ומדותיו התרומיות הפליא את כל סביביו בחכמתו ובפקחותו העצומה וכל מי שבא במחיצתו הרגיש באופן ספונטני כי אשיות עלאית לפניו. אפילו החפץ חיים זצ"ל, למרות זקנותו המופלגת, הי' נוסע לעתים קרובות לוילנה, להתיעץ עם ר' חיים עוזר ולשאול מה בפיו בנוגע לענינים שעמדו אז בעולמו של כלל ישראל.

לאחר פטירתו של הגאון ה' יצחק אלחנן מקובנה, אשר מלבד גאוניותו בתורה הי' ידוע אז כמנהיגה של יהדות אירופה ור' חיים עוזר אז בגיל שלשים ושלש, עברה כל עבודתו הצבורית לוילנה ור' חיים עוזר הוכר כיורשו הרוחני של הגאון מקובנה. כל גדולי ישראל פנו אליו בעניני צבור, בין בנוגע להחזקת מוסדות התורה והכשרות ובין בדבר מנוי רב בעירה אחת שהי' בה מחלוקת, וכל דבר קטן או גדול נחתך על פיו. ביתו נעשה למרכז לאסיפות התכופות שהיו מתקימות שם וכך האירה שמשו של הגאון ר' חיים עוזר לפני מלחמת העולם הראשונה ואחריי. ילד טפוחיו הי' ועד הישיבות. וכל הישיבות בפולין ידעו והכירו ברח"ע, למרות הגדולות ומצב בריאותו הי' רופף, כי הנו הדואג לקיומן. תחת נשיאותו התרכזו כל הישיבות הגדולות והקטנות והוא עבד את עבודתו הקדושה למענן במסירות מופתית, וכל בחור ישיבה ראה ברח"ע את אביו הרוחני הדואג לו ובמקרה של צורך ממלא את חסרונו. אך כדי לתת ציור מקיף, על עבודתו למען התורה ולומדי׳, בתחילת מלחמת העולם השני׳ כאשר כל הישיבות ברחו על נפשם ובאו לוילנה לחסות בצילו, יצטרך כותב קורות הימים ההם לכתב ספר שלם, ואז אולי יעלה בידו, להבהיר במקצת את הנשמה העלאית ששכנה בתוך הגוף החלש, אשר רחפה ממעל ופרשה כנפי׳ על בני הישיבות בכל היקיפה הגדול עד נשימתו האחרונה ממש.

ספריו מפורסמים שהשאיר אחריו לברכה הלא הם פרי עטו ורוחו, שלשת חלקי ״אחיעזר״ ספרי שאלות ותשובות להלכה ולמעשה.

כשהגיע הבעש"ט לשנתו הל"ו היה בכלל השלמות, ומן השמים כפו עליו להתגלות. דרך התגלותו היתה ג"כ באופן מופלא, ומעשה שהיה כך היה. אחד מתלמידיו ר' גרשון, גיסו של הבעש"ט, נזדמן אליו בדרכו אל רבו ולן אצלו פלילה. למהרת בקש האורח את הבעש"ט לרתום את הסוסים כדי להמשיך בדרכו. הבעש"ט הציע לאורח להשאר בביתו עד אחרי שבת, וכשסירב מילא הבעש"ט את מבוקשו ורתם את סוסיו. כשאך התחילה העגלה לזוז, נשברו אפניה והאורח נעלץ להתעכב. הדבר נשנה פעמים רבות, עד שלמרות אי שביעות רצונו נאלץ האורח לשבות בבית הבעש"ט. במשך כל סעודות השבת התנהג הבעש"ט בפשטות, דבר שגרם צער רב לאורחו. אך כשהגיעה שעת סעודה שלישית שעת רעוה דרעוין, התלהב הבעש"ט באמירת "בני היכלא דכסיפין למחזי זיו דזעיר אנפין", ואמר דברי תורה בהתלהבות עצומה. אז נוכח האורה לדעת מי היה מארחו, וכשהגיע העירה למחרת הודיע, לכת החסידים במקום, על האור הגדול המאיר ביניהם. אותם חסידים נסעו לכפרו של הבעש"ט והכתירו אותו לרב עליהם, וכך הוכתר ה"אדמו"ר" הראשון בתולדות עם ישראל.

הבעש"ט נהג את אדמו"רותו ברוב פאר, בעיר בזיבוז שהפכה להיות למרכז הראשון לחסידות. יהודים מכל החוגים נהרו אליו במאות ואח"כ גם באלפים. פשוטי עם פרשו לפניו את צרותיהם והוא השתתף בצערם כאב המצטער בצרת בנו, והגיש להם את עזרתו הנאמנה. למקורביו, אנשי המעלה, שמש כמורה וכרופא נפש. על חבורתו נמנו למדנים מופלגים ומקובלים גדולים כמו המגיד ר' בר ממזריטש ור' מאיר מרגליות אוסטרה ועוד רבים אחרים. הבעש"ט הראה חיבה יתירה לכל אדם מישראל, בעיקר לפשוטי העם, וקבע את זה לעיקר בשיטתו. בגלל שיטתו זו צמחו לו המתנגדים רבים שטענו עליו שהמריץ את חסידיו לאמירת מזמורי תהילים במקום למוד התורה. נגד מתנגדיו אלו ונגד הפרנקיסטים המתבוללים, נלחם הבעש"ט בגבורה ובמרץ, בזכרו את דברי אביו האחרונים, ולכן זכה בהצלהה כה רבה. אך בכל זאת השפיעו צרות הפרנקיסטים ועלילות דם, לרעה על בריאותו של הבעש"ט, ובפסח תק"כ חלה במחלת קיבה אנושה, שהלכה והתגברה עד חג השבועות. לחג השבועות באו אליו רוב תלמידיו ובליל החג אמר לפניהם דברי תורה. תפלת שחרית של תג התפלל עם מנין שהתאסף בחדרו. כשהרגיש שהגיעה שעתו, צוה על תלמידיו לומר "ויהי נועם", וכשסיימו אמר: "אל תבאני רגל גאוה" ובזה יצאה נשמתו וחזרה אל קונה בטהרה.

חיי צדיק תורה הם וצריכים לימוד, וגם אנחנו יכולים ללמד משהו מחיי הבעש"ט לפני צאתנו לעולם הגועש, כל אחד בדרכו אשר יבחר. הבה נתיעץ ברבותינו, נשמע מהם את "מלת הקסם", שתדריך אותנו בדרכנו, וחרוט אותה בלבנו. כאותם מלים ששמע הבעש"ט מאביו בעודו ילד, כאשר הדריכוהו בדרך בה הצליח. כן יצליח ה׳ דרכינו וישלח ברכה במעשה ידינו, אמן.

#### רבי ישראל בעל שם מוב

(למלאת מאתיים שנה לפטירתו) מאת **משה זירנפלד** 

רבי ישראל בעל שם טוב היה הוגה שיטת החסידות ומחולל התנועה הרוחנית הכבירה. שלפי דברי ה"חפץ חיים", הצילה את קיומו של עם ישראל.

חייו העל־טבעיים של הבעש"ט התחילו עם לידתו ונמשכו כל ימיו. הוא נולד להוריו, ר' אליעזר ושרה שהיו אז קרובים למאה שנים, בי"ח לחדש אלול שנת חמשת אלפים ארבע מאות חמישים ושמנה. את דבר לידתו בישר להם אליהו הנביא, בזכות עמידתם בניסיון קשה בקיום מצות הכנסת אורחים.

הבעש"ט היה רך בשנים כשהתיתם מאביו, אבל כל ימיו של שכח את דברי אביו האחרונים: "אל תירא, בני, משום ניברא בעולם, רק מפני השי"ת לבדו". דברים אלו היו לו למורי דרך כל ימיו. אנשי העירה בה דר הילד ישראל דאגו לו ומסרוהו למלמד דרדקי. הוא אמנם הצטיין בלימודיו, אך מפעם לפעם היה בורח לשדות וליערות. מצב זה נמשך עד שמוריו התיאשו מלחנכו. מאז השתכר הבעש"ט בעבודתו כעוזר למלמד תינוקות ואחרי זמן קצר בחר להיות שמש בית המדרש. בבית המדרש מצא הזדמנות טובה להשתלם בתורה, ובלילה, באין רואים, היה הוגה בנגלה ובנסתר ברוב חשק והתלהבות.

למרות שבני העיר חשבוהו לבור, הם אהבוהו מאד על תמימותו. בהיותו בן שבע עשרה שנה השיאוהו בני העיר אשה. זמן קצר אחרי חתונתו הסתלקה אשת נעוריו והוא עבר לברוד ונעשה שם למלמד דרדקי. ר' אפרים מקיטוב עמד על טיבו וגילה את ידיעותיו העמוקות והחליט לקחתו לחתן לבתו, ולפי בקשת הבעש"ט נכתבו התנאים בחשאי. אחרי מות ר' אפרים התחפש הבעש"ט לאכר מגושם ודרש מר' גרשון, אחי הכלה, לקיים את דבר התנאים. ר' גרשון, שחשב את הבעש"ט לעם הארץ, שלה אותו ואת אחותו מעליו, מרוב בושתו וצערו. הבעש"ט ואשתו התישבו מחוץ לעיר קוסוב בין הרי הקרפטים.

כאן התחילה תקופה חדשה בחיי הבעש"ט, תקופת ההכנות להתגלות. הוא היה מתבודד בין ההרים במשך כל ימי השבוע ורק לשבתות חזר לביתו, ואשתו הצדקת ספקה את פרנסתם. במשך זמן התבודדותו היה מתבונן בהדר הטבע ורואה בו את זיו בורא העולם, ונפשו היתה מתמלאת לה' יתברך. כמו כן היה הוגה בספר ה"זהר" ושאר ספרי קבלה, וחלק ניכר מזמנו בילה באמירת מזמורי תהילים. בגלל הנהגתו זו, הלעיזו עליו מתנגדיו שאין לו חלק בנגלה. אך באמירת מזמורי ההוא היה בבחינת "ידיו רב לו" בכל חדרי התורה. חלק ניכר מתורתו למד מהנביא אחיה השילוני שנגלה לו פעמים רבות.

תקופה "פרו"אדמו"רית" זו היתה מפנה חשוב אחר בחיי הבעש"ט, כעת התחילה תקופה של נסים גלויים. מעשיות רבות מסופרות אודות הבעש"ט מאותה תקופה. ידוע המקרה בו היה הבעש"ט שקוע במחשבותיו הטהורות תוך כדי הליכה .לפתע נזדמן למדרון תלול מבלי שהרגיש בדבר. כשאך הציג הצדיק את רגלו מעל התהום, התקרב ההר שממול אל מתחת לרגליו עד שעבר. כמו כן מסופר שכשדר הבעש"ט בכפר קושלוביץ, ירד לטבול בנחל כדרכו, ואותו יום, יום קרח היה. רגלו נדבקה לקרח וכשניסה למושכה נקרע עורו וזב דמו. אכר אחד שגר בקרבת מקום וראה את אשר קרה, הניח תבן במקום בו טבל הבעש"ט מדי יום ביומו. פעם אחת שאל אותו הצדיק: "במה אתה בוחר, להיות עשר, להאריך ימים, או להיות ראש הכפר ?" האכר בחר בכלם והבעש"ט צוה עליו לבנות בית רחצה על שפת הנחל. אחרי זמן מועט נתפרסם הדבר שמי הנחל מעלים ארוכה לחולים. כשהגיעה השמועה לאזניהם, השתדלו הרופאים אצל הרשות לסגור את בית הרחצה. בינתיים נתעשר האכר ונעשה לראש הכפר, וגם האריך ימים לזקנה מופלגת, ספורים רבים מעין אלו מסופרים אודות הבעש"ט מאותה תקופת ההשתלמות.

יודע הדבר על בוריו מצד הקבלה האמיתית. ורבים מהמון עם כל אחד קופץ ללמוד ענין הקבלה כי היא תאוה לעינים... ולא זה בלבד שהמשכילים יבינו בו, אלא אפילו בעלי בתים שאינם יודעים בין ימינם לשמאלם. בחשיכה יתהלכו, ואינם יודעים לפרש סדרה או פרשה בפירוש רש"י קופצים ללמוד קבלה, וכל זה גורם להם שהדור יתום בעוונות נתמעט כל כך שאסתרא בלגיני קיש קיש קריא, וכל אחד שראה בה מעט מתפאר בה ודורש ברבים ועתיד ליתן את הדין" (תורת העולה ח"ג).

רבנו הרמ"א חיבר ספרים יקרים בכל מקצועות התורה המיחדים לו מקום חשוב בספרות ההלכה בין גדולי הפוסקים הראשונים ואלה הם הספרים: תורת חטאת, דרכי משה הארוך, דרכי משה הקצר, הגהות על ארבעת חלקי השולחן ערוך — מפה, שו"ת הרמ"א, תורת העולה, מחיר יין, הגהות על ה"מורה נבוכים", ועל פירוש ר' שם טוב ואפודי. מלבד אלה נשארו בכתב־יד: פירוש למסכת שבת, מגילת סתרים למסכת סוכה, הגהות על מרדכי, ביאור לשיר השירים, יסודי ספרי קבלה, פירוש על הזוהר.

הרמ"א חיבר גם פיוטים: הנה כי, מברך השם, סוד המבקש (אוצר השירה ופיוט כרך ד').

הרמ"א נפטר באייר בל"ג בעומר שנת של"ב (1572) ונקבר על יד אביו שנפטר ארבע שנים לפניו בבית הקברות שע"י בית הכנסת שלו.

על מצבתו נחרתו דברים אלה: "ה״ה נר המערבי הגאון הגדול בדור משה רועה אבן ישראל, ביום ג״ל למספר בני ישראל גלה כבוד מישראל, משה היה רועה צאן ישראל צדקת ה׳ עשה ומשפטיו עם ישראל. הרביץ תורה בישראל, העמיד תלמידים לרכבות אלפי ישראל, וממשה עד משה לא קם כמשה בישראל. וואת תורת החטאת האשם אשר שם משה לפני בני ישראל. שנ״ב לפ״ה.

דפוס ויניציה מחמת הסגת גבולו של ר' מאיר מפודובה, שהוציא גם הוא את הרמב"ם באותה שנה וחתם: "הקטן הרוצה להתאבק בעפר של תלמידי חכמים וכו'... ולא דבר עד כה אלא להתלמד להרגיל עצמו בתוך מדותיהם להיות כעבד אחד מן הקטנים שבהם" (שו"ת הרמ"א סימן י).

הרמ"א היה הרב הראשון במדינת פולין שהרים את דגל התורה ברמה וחבר ספרים בעלי ערך שפרצו גבולות המדינה וחבקו זרועות עולם. רבותיו הגדולים רבי שלום שכנא ורבי יעקב פולאק (מהרי"ף) אף־על־פּי שהיו גאוני עולם. לא השאירו את חידושי תורתם בכתב שלפניהם עדיין נחשבה פולין לארץ עניה בתורה ודלה באישים. הוא, רבי משה פתח את תקופת הזהב של התורה ביהדות מזרח אירופה, והפך את פולין לאכסניה של תורה עד השואה במלחמת העולם השניה.

הרמ״א היה סופר מהיר בכתב אשורית, וכתב לעצמו ספר תורה יפה עד מאוד עפ״י "תיקון סופרים״ כ״י אשר קנה בשבילו רבי יוסף קארו בעיר צפת במאה אדומים. בספר תורה זה יש ארבעה עשר שנויים מספרי תורה אשר אצלנו, השנויים הם בענין חסרות ויתרות שמחולקים בהם בן אשר ובן נפתלי בעלי המסורה (עיר הצדק).

הרמ״א היה עניו מאד ושפל רוח אין כמוהו ונחשב כאין וכאפס. כך הוא כותב: "אנכי בער ולא איש, ולא בינת איש אדם לי" (הקדמה תורה העולה). "אין בי חכמה ובינה" (שו״ת דמ״א סי׳ ס״ג). לא אסמוך עצמי על דעתי לדון בדיני אשת איש החמור אם לא שיסכימו עוד עמנו גאונים אחרים (שם סי׳ ל׳). ובכל זאת לא נשא פנים לשום איש אם ראה שזה כנגד האמת כגון: שזה דרכי כל הימים לבלתי נשוא פנים לשום אדם רק להעיד על האמת (שו״ת רמ״א סי׳ י״ג).

הרמ״א היה חקרן פילוסופי על־פי דרכו של הרמב״ם והיה גם "מקובל״ מאמין בקדושת הקבלה והזוהר, ומפני שהקבלה היתה קדושה בעיניו, מסרב היה ללמדה ולעשותה פומבית וכך הוא כותב: "שלא ראיתי מימי איש מקובל

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### SEMEL GOLDMAN, INC.

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### Herzog's Mens and Boys Shop

165 HAVERMEYER STREET Brooklyn, New York EV 8-8963

### AMVET CAMERA EXCHANGE

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### FEIDHEIM FURNITURE

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GRUSS and CO.

Members of the New York Stock Exchange

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Annette Brafman

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OR 4-3399

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SELCO HATTERS

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Compliments of

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upon his graduation and scholarship

from

Mr. and Mrs. Sholom Diamond and Nuti

and

Mr. and Mrs. David Diamond and Family

Congratulations to
MORRIS ZAKHEIM
upon his graduation
from

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levine and Family

Congratulations to

MOISH ZAKHEIM

from

M. SLAVIN and SONS

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Compliments of

DROPKIN BROTHERS, INC.

Electrical Contractors

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Congratulations and Best Wishes
to our son

MORDECAI and his fellow graduates from

RABBI and MRS. I. LEV

Congratulations to MORRIS ZAKHEIM upon his graduation

from

The Ladies Auxiliary of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol of East Flatbush

Congratulations to

JOSHUA YARMISH

from

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from his

Grandmother, Uncles and Aunts

Compliments of

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Compliments of

### HENRY LOWENTHAL

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that passed

from

MR. SALZMAN

"The Ole Prof"

Congratulations to

JOSH

from

### A CLOSE FRIEND

Congratulations to our son and brother

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Perie, Helene and Brondie

Best Wishes

to

FRED

from

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Hon. Ethel Walsh

Congressman Victor Anfuso

Senator Harry Gittleson

Assemblyman Edward S. Lentol

Mazel Tov to our Son
HESHY
from his family

MR. and MRS. M. J. NAGEL and GOLDIE

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### WILLIAMSBURG REALTY CO.

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B. Rosenblum J. P. Rose

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FEIVY
from

**OBBIE** and **RAZIE** 

Congratulations to

SHEPSIE

upon his graduation

Congratulations to our son DAVID

from

MR. and MRS. WOLPIN

Congratulations to HERBERT SOMNER and all the graduates from

His Mother and Sister

Congratulations to our cousin

SRULI

from

Channy and Doodie
DIAMOND

Congratulations to PETER STEINHERZ from

### M. Rowinger and Family

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Best Wishes to our son and brother
PETER

### MR. and MRS. S. STEINHERZ Laszio and Kathleen

Congratulations to
PETER STEINHERZ
from

### THE LOWINGER FAMILY

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upon his graduation

### MR. and MRS. N. SCHLOSS and Family

Compliments of

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Best Wishes to
DAVID WOLPIN
upon his graduation

#### MR. and MRS. MORRIS

Mazel Tov to
DAVID WOLPIN
from

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upon his graduation

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**FEIVY** 

from

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YOSEF HILLEL
upon his graduation
from
his uncle and aunt

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### MR. and MRS. M. KARFIOL

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Compliments of

### AMVET

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upon his graduation

#### MR. and MRS. SEIDENFIELD

Congratulations to JACK upon his graduation from

#### **UNCLE JOE**

Best Wishes to
ALBERTO ZAKAY
from

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EV 4-2443

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ALBERTO ZAKAY

from

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ABE SCHLOSS
and the graduating class
from

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upon his graduation
and may he seek happiness
and success in the future

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upon his graduation
from

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EV 7-4490

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Congratulations to

RAFAEL

MR. and MRS. J. ABLAMCZIK

Congratulations to

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Congratulations to

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Closed Saturday

Has Freeda Kosher Vitamins

Mazel Tov to my grandson

HESHY

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PR 4-5300

DAVE FISCHBERGER upon his graduation

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Congratulations to

my son
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from

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Best Wishes

to our son

ZECHARIAH

### RABBI and MRS. DERSHOWITZ

Congratulations to

our darling son

ZALMON PINCHUS

### THE DACHS FAMILY

Congratulations to

the

**GRADUATED** 

from

CHINK

Congratulations to

JOSEPH KATZ

from

MR. and MRS. KATZ

Congratulations to

ABBE

from

A FRIEND

Congratulations to

WILLY LIPSCHUTZ

from

### **LENI** and MIRIAM

Mexico City

Congratulations to

MOISHE ZAKIEM

from

### EPHRAIM STERN

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Congratulations to

our son

RAFAEL

from

MR. and MRS. LOEB

Compliments of

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Congratulations to

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