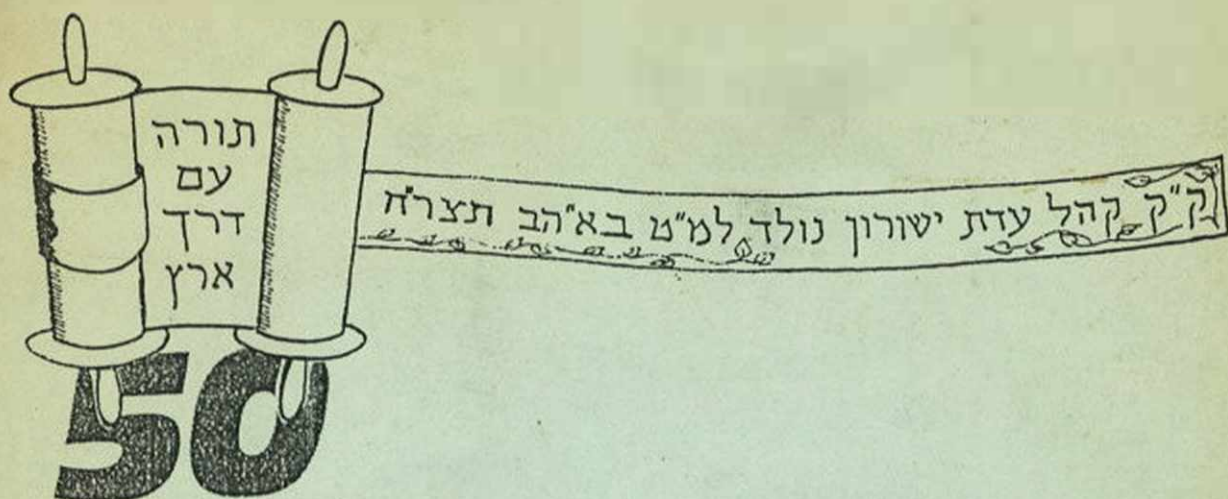




PERSONALITIES of the KEHILLO

K'Hal Adath Jeshurun
50th Anniversary
סיון תשמ"ח
June 1988

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American-based Khal Adath Jeshurun, we must pause to honor the many outstanding men and women whose remarkable resourcefulness and generosity greatly furthered the cause of our congregation.

This small pamphlet contains brief biographical sketches of a number of these personalities. It is based on a list selected by a committee preparing for the anniversary celebration, and focuses especially on those who were active in the early decades of the Kehilla. (Thankfully, many of them are still as vigorous today in their support of the Kehilla as ever and will, b'ezras Hashem, remain so for many years to come.) This should certainly not be considered a complete compilation of all those who benefitted the Kehilla over the years: In some cases, there was insufficient information available on certain individuals, and in others, the individuals themselves chose not to be included. We deeply regret the inadvertent omission of any deserving man or woman not included.

These sketches can serve to reacquaint us with familiar names and faces. More importantly, though, they serve as a tribute to those whose tireless efforts helped establish the Kehilla and its institutions into the major force in American Orthodoxy that they are today. May their good works inspire the current and future generations to similar dedication on behalf of the Kehilla and the Hirschian ideals.

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RAV DR. JOSEPH BREUER

The recent tragedy of European Jewry is without parallel in the history of our people; it resulted in the immeasurable loss of Torah leadership and Torah learning.

Among the outstanding Torah leaders of Europe preserved by Divine Providence was Rav Dr. Joseph Breuer, zt'l, who succeeded in transplanting the Torah-im-Derech Eretz ideology and rebuilding in New York the great Frankfurt Kehilla of his grandfather, Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch, zt'l.

Rav Breuer was born in Papa, Hungary, on the 3rd of Nissan, 5642 (March 23, 1882). His father, Rav Dr. Salomon Breuer, one of the foremost disciples of the Ksav Sofer in Pressburg, had become Rav and Rosh Yeshiva in Papa, Hungary, in 1876. His wife, Sophie, was the youngest daughter of Rav Hirsch. After Rav Hirsch's death in 1888, Rav Salomon Breuer was chosen as his successor and remained as Morah D'Asroh of the Frankfurt Kehilla until his passing in 1926.

During his almost four decades as the leader of Orthodoxy in Germany, Rav Salomon Breuer played a decisive role in the establishment of Agudath Israel, and fulfilled the plans which Rav Hirsch had envisioned when he founded the Frankfurt Yeshiva (Torah-Lehranstalt).

Rav Joseph Breuer had seven brothers (the oldest, Shimon, died as a child) and one sister (Hanna Meyer-Breuer). His older brother, Raphael, served as Rav in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and was a prolific author; Isaac was a lawyer, renowned writer, and leader of Agudath Israel; Moses was a lecturer at the Frankfurt Yeshiva and professor of classical languages; Samson was professor of mathematics and, later, national chief actuary in Jerusalem; Joshua practiced pediatric medicine in Frankfurt, and, later, in New York.

In 1903, Rav Joseph Breuer received Semicha from his father and from Rav Koppel Reich, Chief Rabbi and Av Beis Din of Budapest. He obtained a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Strasbourg in 1905. In 1911, Rav Breuer married Rika Eisenmann, daughter of Jacob Eisenmann and Dina, nee Prins. Jacob Eisenmann was a Talmid of Rav Hirsch in Frankfurt and one of the early leaders of the Orthodox Jewish community in Antwerp. Rav Joseph Breuer had three sons and five daughters, who were born and educated in Frankfurt. His family - children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren - today carry on his legacy through their outstanding Torah and Gemilas Chesed pursuits.

In his early years, Rav Breuer taught in the Samson Raphael Hirsch School (Hirsch Realschule), where he became well known for his inspired lectures, especially in the study of Tanach. In 1906 he was appointed to the staff of his father's Yeshiva, and in 1919 assumed the Rabbinat of the 'Klaus', the oldest established Beis Haknesses in Frankfurt. He published numerous works, among them translation and commentary on Yirmiyah (1914), on Yechezkel (1921), and on the Piyutim for Rosh Hashonoh (1919) and Yom Kippur (1927). He contributed a voluminous number of articles on a variety of subjects to Doresh Tov L'Ammo, a monthly publication founded by his father, and to the monthly Nachalas Tzvi, published by the "Rabbiner Hirsch-Gesellschaft" in Frankfurt.

Upon the death of his father in 1926, Rav Breuer succeeded him as Rosh Yeshiva. Under his leadership, the Yeshiva continued to expand and to exert a wide influence in the Torah world. The Yeshiva drew Talmidim from large parts of Western and Central Europe, who were attracted by its level of learning and by the warm personality of the Rosh Yeshiva. Indeed, it was one of Rav Breuer's outstanding qualities to take a personal interest in his Talmidim for whom he remained a trusted guide throughout his life.

With the advent of the Hitler regime, Rav Breuer took steps to secure the future of his Yeshiva. Toward that goal, he accepted a call from the Jewish community of Fiume, Italy (today Rijeka, Yugoslavia) to serve as their Rav. He settled there in 1933, bringing with him a group of older Bachurim as a preparatory move toward relocating the entire Yeshiva to Eretz Yisroel. However, after half a year in Italy it became apparent that the time was not ripe for such an undertaking, due to the difficulties of getting permission to transfer the Yeshiva to British-ruled Palestine. In 1934 Rav Breuer returned to Frankfurt to take charge once more of the large number of Bachurim whose resettlement abroad now became his major concern.

His plans abruptly ended on November 9, 1938 (Kristallnacht), when - after a brief detention by the Gestapo - Rav Breuer was forced to close his beloved Yeshiva. At the urging of one of his former Talmidim, Jacob A. Samuel of New York, Rav Breuer decided to emigrate to the United States.

A small group of immigrants from Germany had established a Minyan in the Washington Heights section of New York City in 1938. Within two weeks after Rav Breuer's arrival, in February 1939, he was invited to join this group as its spiritual leader.

The economic conditions of the time were most unfavorable. Unemployment and the consequences of the depression were still

felt across the country. The six-day work week created a tremendous problem for Shemiras Shabbos, Kashruth conditions were uncertain, and Jewish educational opportunities were limited at best. Uprooted from their accustomed European environment, arriving week after week on strange shores, the refugees sought familiar surroundings in which to live.

With the outbreak of war there was deepening concern for those entrapped in Europe. At the same time men of the newly arrived families of the Kehilla were drafted into the Armed Forces. In the face of these circumstances, the forcefulness and warmth of Rav Breuer's personality, as well as his steadfast determination, enabled him to inspire this small group and give them courage during these difficult times. Even more, in this modest beginning of a Kehilla, Rav Breuer saw the potential for the realization of the Hirschian Kehilla: The creation of an autonomous communal body that would give to all its adherents the framework for an all-encompassing Torah-true life. The total independence - spiritually and economically - of the orthodox community was for Rav Breuer the indispensable guarantor for a Kehilla that, in every phase of its existence, relies on the solid foundation of Halacha.

The essence of Rav Breuer's impassionate call to his followers was that Torah im Derech Eretz, far from being a "time-bound" decision (Horo'as Sho'oh), is to remain for all time a guiding principle for Jewish community life, and particularly, for Jewish education. With fiery eloquence Rav Breuer impressed on his followers the true meaning of Torah im Derech Eretz, which proclaims the uncompromising sovereignty of Torah over all aspects of life and thus incorporating all avenues of human endeavor into the realm of Torah.

Assisted by the enthusiastic support of his followers, Rav Breuer went about his work of building the Kehilla in the classic Hirschian concept - to provide for all the needs of the individual and community. Thus an independent Kashruth network was developed, a mikveh was built, and Gemilas Chesed functions planned and provided. The Beth Haknesses was to serve as the nerve center of the Kehilla in its daily activities of Tefilloth and Shiurim. In 1952, a new, imposing Beth Hanknesses was built.

Rav Breuer's primary concern was the establishment and the growth of educational institutions which developed from humble beginnings in 1939 into a full-fledged school in 1944, whose principal was Jacob Breuer, his son. Thereafter, over the ensuing years, an entire school network was established - High School, Beth Hamedrash, Kollel, and Teachers' Seminary for Girls.

Thus a small Minyan eventually developed into a Torah community known the world over as K'Hal Adath Jeshurun, a name proudly borne by the Kehilla of Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch in Frankfurt. In a true sense it was said of Rav Breuer that

he was Machazir Ateres Ishto Le'Yoshna. Aware of his advancing years, Rav Breuer in 1957 chose as his successor Rav Simon Schwab, with whom he shared the leadership of the Kehilla for 23 years.

Rav Breuer gave to his achievements - in public life as well as in his own personal sphere - the touch of truth: uncompromising yet never offending; proud but never arrogant; always searching for a way to facilitate the total observance of Torah for the many who struggle to find their way in contemporary society. He unceasingly taught that the same measure of integrity must be applied to all the facets of our daily life, in our spiritual, social and professional activities.

Whoever sought Rav Breuer's counsel was received with a warmth that reflected the true purity of his character. In a world of spiritual turmoil, Rav Breuer displayed a wise and personal approach to all problems, and his guidance was sought by many. His Divrei Torah and Shiurim remain a precious acquisition for his disciples.

He wrote over one hundred articles and essays, often on timely issues, for Mitteilungen, the periodical published by K'hal Adath Jeshurun. He founded the Samson Raphael Hirsch Publication Society and, under his direction, the Hirschian works were published in the English language.

As Rav he was an unquestioned, recognized Posek, and his opinion was sought by many throughout the world. He maintained an intensive correspondence with rabbinic leaders, former Talmidim, and many who looked to him for advice. Characteristically, he did not wish his personal papers to be published.

Rav Breuer literally spent every free minute of his day - and, in his younger years, half the night - bent over his Gemoro. His Shiurim reflected his wide-ranging knowledge and the teachings of his father and grandfather, an incisive sharpness of mind, and the ease with which he called on all available sources. Throughout his life, the words of Nevi'im remained his eternal fount of inspiration. To him they were the living teachers and leaders of our people and their message our guide in our search for the meaning of life.

Rav Breuer's monumental work - his Kehilla and his Yeshiva - contributed in no small measure to his reputation as the undisputed representative of the genuine Hirschian philosophy.

Blessed with undiminished vigor, Rav Breuer guided his Kehilla until his Petira, at the age of 98, on Shabbos, the 3rd of Iyar 5740. Thousands came to pay tribute to this great Godol.

The following is an essay written by Rav Schwab, shlita, 26 years ago, offering an appreciation of Rav Breuer on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

NERO YO'IR

The earmark of a great man is his blissful ignorance of his own greatness. By praising him in his presence one robs his crown of its most precious jewel.

Therefore, the amateurish sketch of a most revered and beloved Godol Beyisroel which is presented here must remain strictly within the framework of Mikitzas Shevcho BeFonov. Just a few penstrokes to trace a faint outline of a large profile which we are not at liberty to fully describe.

A long overdue tribute of living gratitude is herewith offered - in the name of thousands of pupils and followers - to a distinguished master. This is by no means an easy task. The youthful patriarch, to whom we are paying homage, is known to be impervious to base flattery, whether bestowed privately or in public. How is one to lavish praise and honor upon a man who by nature abhors all vain glory and who is distrustful of all extravagance?

Nevertheless, we do cherish the hope that this time - for the first time - he may graciously waive any instinctive resentment and consent to accept this thanksgiving offering as a humble token of sincere loyalty and grateful recognition coming from the very heart of all those who have been and still are the fortunate beneficiaries of his wisdom, his devotion and of his monumental accomplishments.

All over the Jewish world friends and admirers are united in fervent prayer that his light may continue to shine in undimmed brilliance for many years to come.

For some 60 years, out of the eighty with which he has been blessed so far, Rav Dr. Joseph Breuer has taught Torah to two generations of grateful disciples, by word of mouth and by prolific writing.

Those who are privileged to hear him today and who may still remember the Klausrabbiner of some 40 years ago, are forever astounded by the surprising fact that his oratory has hardly changed since then as to tone, style and delivery. The peculiar and dramatic elegance, as well as the esthetic polish of his classic style, are still undiminished. As to content - decades of continuous intellectual growth combined with an extraordinary diligence of never-ceasing Torah study, have magnified his early masterful accomplishments to ever-widening proportions.

His pedagogical skill and his method of teaching, too, have not undergone any alterations in the course of all those many years. Those who attend his Shiurim today have but to close their eyes in order to visualize themselves again as teenagers of the Hirsch Realschule or as adolescent students of the Torah Lehranstalt Jeshiwah in Frankfurt am Main. Basically, everything has remained the same; the inflection of the voice, the fervor, the method of reasoning and the relentless search for clarity.

Today, as two generations ago, our Rav seems to be most relaxed when teaching Gemorah. The complete absence of tenseness is the result of his innermost certainty that he is in full control of the sacred subject matter. That goes also for the talmudic discourses on the two special Sabbaths of the year. Without notes, without a book, the words come flowing out easily, one thought after the other, arranging themselves into a lucid pattern - and all this apparently without any difficulty whatever. The easygoing delivery does not betray the indefatigable and painstaking efforts of constant, almost continuous Torah learning. Whenever one enters his study, one finds the Rav occupied with Torah. This unbounded diligence, combined with the heavenly gift of a most potent memory for essentials, has resulted in an astounding erudition which is both penetrating and convincing.

All throughout his life the T'nach has been his grand passion, his eternal fount of inspiration. Did you ever notice on his desk the very old copy with worn and withered pages? It is his steady companion. Within seconds any verse is found. All quotations from the Prophets or the Psalms are unfailingly correctly remembered with the exact chapter. His method of teaching T'nach - also here there is no change apparent - is in sharp contrast to the easygoing calm exposition of Halacha. His lectures in T'nach abound with emotion and excitement. It is almost as if you could hear an echo of the stormy admonitions of the ancient Novi, the sound and the fury, as well as the crash of the cymbals and the vibrations of the harp-strings of the sweet singer of Israel, thousands of years ago.

While the mind is cool, the zealous heart is vibrant and strongly pulsating.

There are many contrasts woven into the variegated fabric of his colorful personality; a frail body and an incredible physical energy welded together by iron self-discipline; the complete disinterest in the acquisition of money is coupled with a lavish generosity for all sacred causes; the tender heart and the firm backbone, the critical mind and the childlike piety, the analytical and witty logic and the unhesitating faith, the curious interest in the affairs of this world and the saintly atmosphere which seems to

be not of this earth. There is no desire to shine or to outdo others, no vanity or vindictiveness. Every inch a nobleman, reserved and dignified, a spiritual aristocrat whose heart knows no doubt and harbors no evil thought.

All this is today as we remember it from the days of yore, only perhaps a little more mellow and more forgiving.

In the course of his lifetime his Kovod HaBriyos has developed into a great art. Everyone is assured of an attentive ear and an understanding heart: the needy, the despondent and the confused. Ever so often does he have to be the peace-maker, who is succeeding to rebuild the broken bridges between man and man and to forge the links of compromise between two litigants who appeal to him for just verdict.

Mostly his voice is quiet, consoling and reassuring. Of course there are exceptions! Once in a great while. There are sometimes limits to forgiveness and patient magnanimity. There are eruptive moments of sharp argumentations, strict censure and strong condemnations, emanating from the passionate zeal of a sensitive Jewish heart which is on fire.

But the general tenor is the soft-spoken, cautious and tender language of the old master handing down the timeless message with a sweet and humorous serenity which never fails to capture the minds of those in need of enlightenment and guidance.

The wellspring of his Jewish thinking is the spiritual heritage of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, zt'l, his immortal grandfather. There is most probably not a single line S. R. Hirsch has written, nor a single thought S. R. Hirsch has formulated with which his grandson is not thoroughly familiar. There is no sermon, no lecture, hardly a Gemora Shiur where S. R. Hirsch is not quoted, in one way or the other. From Hirsch come the Weltanschauung, the clarity of Hashkofoh, the fiery diction, the elegant formulation, the open-minded orientation. The unreserved acceptance of the formula Torah im Derech Eretz means to the grandson as it did to the grandfather, the subjugation and control of all mundane affairs by the royal sovereignty of Torah. Rav Breuer's emphasis on the independence of true Torah life - whether on the national, organizational or communal level - is grounded in the Hirschian philosophy. It is the rich and principled legacy of Hirschian thought which fuels the flames of his altar. He is in more than in one sense flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone and he is fully conscious of this intellectual indebtedness to his saintly forebear, whom he only faintly remembers from his earliest childhood.

There is yet one more immediate source of inspiration which has largely molded his life and actions. His illustrious father, Rabbiner Dr. Salomon Breuer, z'l, the late Frankfurter Rav, is most intimately responsible for the singleminded devotion, for the scholastic profoundness and for the militant courage of conviction which are the outstanding characteristics of his most distinguished son.

What a blessed privilege to have been the favorite disciple of a Gaon of the old shcool, the princely Rav of a world-famous Kehilla Kedosha and a universally recognized leader of Independent Orthodoxy! What a unique Zechus for any son to be Meshamesh such a father! It was this Zechus Ovov, in addition to his own talents and abilities, which made him almost two generations ago a natural choice for the high office of Rosh Yeshivah, where he became the teacher, the educator, the counsellor and the fatherly friend of hosts of young men who were nourished with Torah VeYiras Shamayim from an inexhaustible spritual foundation of which he was the wise and faithful warden. Yet all of life's rewarding experiences until the fifty-eighth year of his life were but the background for his truly historic mission of which we are the living witnesses, ready and eager to testify.

There is unanimous agreement that the Kehilla - K'hal Adath Jeshurun of Washington Heights - is the crowning achievement of his life. It is no doubt Rav Breuer's most glorious life work.

The Kehilla is unique in many ways. The "Breuer-Shul" as it is oftentimes called, is not just an outstanding "Congregation", albeit, larger and more efficient than most orthodox synagogues in the world today. It has been called wittily: "Frankfurt-on-the-Hudson", miraculously restored from the ashes. However, it is much more than a nostalgic reminder of the past. It is one of the foremost cornerstones of Torah-true World Jewry in the present!

A model Torah community in the historically genuine sense, yet placed into the American scene as a guidepost and a challenge. If Rabbi S. R. Hirsch lived here and now, this would be his Kehilla Kedosha! Nothing short of this ambitious task has been accomplished. Within only twenty years, from a pitifully small group of penniless refugees meeting in private homes and renting strange halls for their divine services, a world-famous citadel of Torah-life has been constructed. The monumental Bais HaKnesses with its many hundreds of worshippers, the model mikveh, the independent shechita, the Kashrus institutions,

meeting the highest standards, the Chevras for men and women, the variegated Tzedokoh activities on one side - and on the other the educational institutions: Yeshivah, Mesivta, Beth Hamidrash, elementary and High Schools for boys and girls, the youth work, shiurim, the classes and lectures for adults, all these and many more are the cells of a colorful living organism, throbbing with energy and humming with vigorous enthusiasm.

From the small Yeshivah pupil to the adolescent organized in Pirchei, Ezra and Agudah groups; from the Mesivta-Bochur and High School student to the newly married couples, there is an invigorating spirit of freshness and pulsating vitality, an earnest eagerness to learn and to participate, an intellectual curiosity to understand and to share in the same ideals.

All this is much more than an inspiring sight to behold and an unusual delight to contemplate. It is a historic challenge, heavily burdened with far-reaching responsibility. For in this accent on youthfulness lies the key to the future.

Rav Breuer is more than the loyal shepherd of his flock. He is the father of his Kehilla, responsible for its phenomenal growth and still guiding it with his strong paternal arm. He has given his life blood for its existence and for its continuous development, never tiring, never softening, always marching ahead with undimmed zeal. Like a true father he loves his children dearly, even if he finds fault with them at times. Like most fathers he is not always fully understood by all of his children. But very seldom are honor and respect paid to any real father as willingly and as joyfully as they are shown to the Av Bais Din by the members of his Kehilla.

It is an unforgettable experience for anyone who was ever present on the occasion of Matnas Yad on the last day of the three festivals of the year when the Rav of Khal Adas Yeshhurun blesses the congregation. With the Torah in his arm, he utters these prayers for all the men and women, the sons and daughters, for everyone who shall offer the gift of his hand for the honor of G-d, the honor of Torah, for all those who shall enter the house of prayer "to do Tefilla"! - emphasizing every word, haltingly, with a soft voice, yet firmly, breathing utter sincerity, the consecrated tenderness of a father's heart.

A father with a Torah in his arms, blessing his children! This is how we shall always see him.

RAV SIMON SCHWAB
AND
REBBETZIN RECHA SCHWAB

Rav Simon Schwab was born in Frankfurt am Main on the 7th of Teves, 5669 (12/30/08), the eldest of five sons born to his parents, Leopold and Hanna Schwab (Geb. Erlanger). Leopold Schwab was a highly respected member of the Frankfurt community, active in all aspects of Kehilla life. Of the five sons, three became Rabbonim and Roshei Yeshivos, and two became model "Baalei Batim" and lay leaders.

Rav Schwab's early education was at the Frankfurt Hirschrealschule. Among his teachers was our late Rav Dr. Joseph Breuer. At age 15 he entered the Yeshiva of Frankfurt, headed by Rav Salomon Breuer, z'tl, where he studied until the age of 17. In 1926, the Rav entered the Telzer Yeshiva, having been one of the first German bachurim to study in Lithuanian yeshivos. There he remained, absorbed in his learning, under such great masters as Rav Y. L. Bloch and Rav Chaim Rabinowitz (Telzer).

During the summer months of 1929, the Rav was an instructor at the Yeshiva Eitz Chaim in Montreux, Switzerland. During this period he came into close daily contact with the great Gaon and Posek, Rav Chaim Ozer Grodzenski of Vilna, who was spending some time in Montreux. The following fall, the Rav entered the Mirrer Yeshiva in Poland, and studied under such great Torah luminaries as Rav Eliezer Y. Finkel, and Rav Yerucham Levovitz, the famous "Mirrer Mashgiach". The Mirrer Yeshiva period continued until 1931. During this time, the Rav came in contact with some of the greatest gedolim of the era, including The Chofetz Chaim, the Gerrer Rebbe, and others.

All of these Gedolim were greatly influential in the Rav's development, in which he synthesized the best of Eastern Jewish Torah learning with the teachings of Rabbi S. R. Hirsch and Rav Salomon Breuer, z'tl.

In the summer of 1931, Rav Schwab took the rabbinical position of Rabbinatesassessor (assistant) to Rabbi Yonah Mertzbach, z'tl, in Darmstadt. On October 22, 1931, the Rav married Recha Froehlich of Gelsenkirchen, the daughter of Abraham and Gutel Froehlich (Geb. Seewald). The Rebbetzin was born in Michelstadt, in Odenwald, Hessen, Germany, where her father was the "Jewish School" teacher, which position included the task of being the local Shochet and Chazzon. In 1914 the family moved from Michelstadt to Gelsenkirchen. Abraham Froehlich was an outstanding member of the Jewish community. He was Koveia Itim La'Torah by learning a daily Shiur with Rabbi Gans, a Talmid Chochom for whom he provided a

livelihood and a beautiful apartment. The local "Chassidische Shtibel" also benefitted from Mr. Froehlich's generosity by receiving the use of a house at the rear of his property for a minyan, and a Mikva for men. Rebbetzin Schwab received her secular education at the Lyceum and Hoehere Tochtterschule in Gelsenkirchen, in addition to her private Jewish education by Rabbi Herman Klein of Gelsenkirchen, who later became a Rav in Berlin and Buenos Aires. The Rebbetzin also attended the Pensionat Markus, in Montreux, Switzerland.

The Rav and Rebbetzin lived in Darmstadt for the next two years. It was there that two of their five children were born; Moses L. in 1932 and Judith in 1933.

In September 1933, the Rav accepted his first full-fledged rabbinical position, as Bezirksrabbiner, or district rabbi of Ichenhausen, Bavaria. This position included responsibility for the religious and educational needs of several old, small Jewish Kehillos surrounding Ichenhausen, such as Krumbach, Hurben, Fisschach, Noerdlingen, Wallerstein and Oettingen, in addition to Ichenhausen, an ancient Kehilla in Bavaria. The young, energetic Rav, fresh from his own Yeshiva experience, planned to start a Yeshiva and dormitory for German Bachurim, which would have been the first such institution in all of Bavaria. However, this was not to be. When the local "Hitleryouth" thugs heard of this plan, threats of bodily harm were made, and the few Bachurim who had already arrived, and had already actually started learning in the Beis Hamidrash, were immediately put on the next train to return to their homes. The Rav could not accept the risk of any harm coming to his talmidim.

While the clouds of the forthcoming calamity were gathering, the Rav's heart was burning to reach out to German Jewry with a call to Teshuva. He wrote a series of articles in the Frankfurt publication, "Israelit", on this subject, and later incorporated them into his literary masterpiece, "Heimkehr Ins Judentum", which was written in Ichenhausen, and published in Frankfurt in 1934. This book became an immediate sensation, and was a springboard for discussion throughout Germany.

During this period the third of their children, Joseph Chaim, was born, in June, 1935. Now with a family of three children, and the Nazi anti-Semitism growing in intensity, the Rav was actively seeking a rabbinical position outside of Germany. A short trip to Eretz Yisroel for this purpose proved unsuccessful. However, the constant taunts and threats by the local Nazis kept emigration from Germany a primary consideration.

In the summer of 1936, the Rav met Rabbi Leo Jung of New York, who happened to be on a visit to Zurich. Rabbi Jung recommended a vacant rabbinical position in the German-oriented

Congregation of Shearith Israel in Baltimore, and gave the Rav the name of Nathan Adler, who happened to be a very distant relative, as the person to contact there. Arrangements were made for a trial Shabbos in August 1936 in Baltimore. An entire book could be written about the events which occurred between the Congregation's acceptance of the new 27 year-old Rav from Germany, and the actual arrival in New York on Asarah B'Teves, 12/24/36, of Rav and Rebbetzin Schwab and their three small children to begin the next chapter in their lives. Suffice it to say, this four month period was full of events which can only be explained as Nissim Gelum, and G-dly intervention.

Congregation Shearith Israel was an old institution in Baltimore, and was a unique shul, with its old, time-hallowed German Minhagim. Its constitution allowed only Shomrei Shabbos to be voting members, and this soon became a bone of contention. Rav Schwab made the Halachic decision to enforce this old regulation. This created a great furor in town, and even resulted in the establishment of another shul for congregants of other persuasions. The great Gaon R. Elchonon Wasserman, z'tl, was visiting America at that time and spent a Shabbos as a guest of the Rav and Rebbetzin. Reb Elchonon strongly applauded this decision, and encouraged the Rav on his stand in this matter. This decision established the Rav as an uncompromising proponent of Torah-true orthodoxy in Baltimore, and gained for him great respect, even among those who opposed him in this regard. In those days in Baltimore, and in America in general, there were very few rabbinic leaders who were willing to lead, rather than be led by the whims of their congregants. The great influx of Orthodox Jews of the late 30's had not yet begun, and America was still a veritable wasteland of Judaism, with a few oases in its midst. The city of Baltimore was fortunate in possessing a Hebrew Day School, the Talmudical Academy, and also a Yeshiva Gedola, Ner Israel. Rav Schwab immediately became active as daily instructor, albeit unpaid, in the yeshiva and enjoyed the close company of its Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Jacob I. Ruderman, z'tl.

In 1937 and 1938 two more sons were born: Myer J. and Jacob B. Fortunately, there was a Jewish school for the boys, but there was no Jewish girls' school. Judith had to attend a public school for girls, and received private Jewish instruction at home. She later attended the Beth Jacob High School in Williamsburgh, for her higher Jewish learning. Recognizing this great void, the Rav, and a group of dedicated Baalei-Batim, founded the Bais Yaakov School for Girls of Baltimore. This school is today the largest Jewish girls' school in America, outside of New York.

In the ensuing years, Congregation Shearith Israel became a vibrant center of Orthodox Jewish life, and many immigrants from Europe were attracted to "Rabbi Schwab's Shul". The Rav was

deeply involved in Hatzala efforts during the pre-war and war years and was responsible for the issuing of many "affidavits" for refugees who fled Hitler's firestorm. The home of the Rav and Rebbetzin became a center of Hachnosas Orchim, and a place of encouragement for many newly-arrived, penniless refugees in a strange new land.

Agudath Israel of America was emerging as a vibrant force for Orthodoxy in the United States during this period. In 1941 Rav Schwab organized the Second Annual Agudah Convention in Baltimore. This Knessia L'shem Shomayim attracted many Rabbonim and Baalei Battim. Among the honored guests were the renowned Gaon R. Aharon Kottler, and the fiery lay leader, Moreinu R. Yaakov Rosenheim. The previous year saw the first "Agudah Convention" in Cincinnati, under the leadership of Rabbi E. Silver.

Besides his educational efforts in the Day School, Yeshiva, and Bais Yaakov School, the Rav instituted a high quality of Kashrus in town, and organized a Chevra Kadisha, Chevra Ahavas Chessed, with its German minhagim. In addition, there were numerous adult lectures and classes which benefitted from the Rav's unique ability to explain difficult concepts in simple language. The Rav's pen was also busy during these tumultuous years. He authored the books, "Beis Hashoeiva" and "Shemesh Marpeh", in addition to numerous articles which appeared in various periodicals.

In June, 1945, the war was drawing to a close, and the new "United Nations" was in formation in San Francisco. The Rav was asked by Agudath Israel to partake in a delegation to present the official position of Orthodox Jewry on matters of vital Jewish interest, both here and in Eretz Yisroel. During that conference the Rav had the experience of meeting world leaders of the day.

In the summer of 1952, the Rav spearheaded a delegation of activists to Eretz Yisroel to study the problem of thousands of newly-arrived refugees from Yemen and North Africa, who were living in "Maabarot" or transition camps, and were rapidly being absorbed into secular, and even anti-religious circles in Eretz Yisroel. These activists, known as "Peilim" were deeply involved in intensive educational efforts to save these pious and innocent Sefardim from losing their entire religious heritage. During this trip, the Rav came into contact with the great Gedolim of Eretz Yisroel, such as the Chazon Ish and the Brisker Rav, z'tl. On his return to America, the Rav created a great deal of enthusiasm for the cause of "Peilim", and much was done in this respect, resulting in the saving of countless Jewish souls in Eretz Yisroel.

To detail the Rav's life in Baltimore is not within the scope of this short biography. Suffice it say that he left an indelible impression in this city, and contributed greatly to its development into America's foremost Torah city outside of New York.

Five days after Lag Baomer, 1958, Rav Schwab joined the Rabbinate of K'hal Adath Jeshurun of Washington Heights, New York, together with the late Rav Joseph Breuer, z'tl.

Rav Schwab's tenure at K'hal Adath Jeshurun, in association with Rav Breuer, z'tl, and later with Rav Gelley, shlita, has been a most momentous one. The Rav has maintained the sacred traditions of old, while at the same time winning the devoted allegiance to the shul of a new generation of American-born congregants. Thus, under Rav Schwab's leadership, the use of English has supplanted that of German in shiurim, droshos, and Kehilla publications, to make the Hirschian philosophy accessible to younger members. In addition, the Rav has been at the forefront of the drive to vastly expand the Yeshiva's educational focus. As Dean of the Yeshiva, he was instrumental in the founding of such institutions as the Mesivta and Beis Yaakov, and the Beis Hamedrash and Teachers Seminary. Rav Schwab's devotion to his flock is legendary, and his contributions to the Kehilla are far too numerous to list in this brief article. He has served his congregants with a love and warmth that conveyed to them his joy at helping them draw closer to Hashem. At the same time, the efforts of his Rebbetzin on behalf of the Kehilla and the community - and particularly through her work for the Sisterhood - deserve the highest praise.

During this time, there have also been numerous associations with Jewish life outside of the Kehilla, such as major addresses and lectures to Agudath Israel, the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Torah Umesorah, and many yeshivas and institutions which have invited the Rav for major addresses at their conventions and on other occasions. The Kehillos of Zurich and Basel in Switzerland have also benefitted from his oratory.

More literary achievements in New York filled the Rav's busy schedule. Besides numerous articles in "Mitteilungen", there were various other literary pieces published in various magazines of Jewish interest, here and abroad. The book, "These and Those" made a great impression in the world of Jewish education, with its clear treatment of Jewish educational goals.

The Rav, with his rabbinical load now taken over by Rav Gelley, is working on a new Sefer, "Beis Hashoeva al Hatora", which will contain many of his original thoughts and unique explanations on Chumash.

The family of the Rav and Rebbetzin, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, has spread out as far as Eretz Yisroel and South Africa. May the Rav and Rebbetzin be zoche to Arichus Yomim, nachas from their family, and may we, K'hal Adath Jeshurun, benefit from their presence in our midst for many more healthy and productive years.

DR. RAPHAEL MOLLER
1895-1980

Dr. Raphael Moller exemplified the true practitioner of Torah Derech Eretz in its fullest spirit. He was a doctor whose medical skills were widely admired in both Jewish and non-Jewish circles, yet he used his professional talents not to amass riches but to ease suffering and promote well-being. For all his devotion to his medical practice, Dr. Moller's primary allegiance always remained, first and foremost, his service to Hashem and Torah causes. As president of K'hal Adath Jeshurun for almost 40 years., he set a remarkable personal example of dedication to Limud HaTorah and Tzorchei Hatzibbur.

Dr. Moller's championship of the lofty principles of Torah im Derech Eretz came naturally, as he was a great-grandson of Rav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1895, and had early hopes of becoming a Rav. When he agreed to his parents' wishes that he become a doctor, he made it a point of continuing his Torah studies in great depth. Therefore, when he moved to various cities to pursue his medical studies, he first made sure that he could learn Torah there. In 1925, when he had completed his medical training, he married Gella Marx, the daughter of Rabbi Moshe Marx, the Rav of Darmstadt. His wife remained his constant companion and helpmate, accepting the burdens of being a doctor's wife with uncomplaining enthusiasm. Dr. and Mrs. Moller raised their children with warmth and care, always making sure that there were Divrei Torah and learning sessions at the family dinner table. Their progeny did them proud, becoming Torah leaders and outstanding klal workers in their own right.

In 1938, Dr. Moller was incarcerated in a concentration camp in Orienburg for eight weeks. Following his release, the Moller family fled to England, where Dr. Moller prepared for medical exams that would enable him to resume his medical practice outside of Germany. A year and a half later, the family - including Dr. Moller's mother - arrived in America, on Erev Pesach 1940. At first, because of the lingering effects of the Depression, Dr. Moller was not able to practice medicine in New York City. He considered moving to upstate New York to find employment, but finally rejected this plan because he felt that only in New York City could his family be reared in a good Jewish environment. Finally he received official permission to pursue a medical career in New York, and he set up a private practice in his apartment. He was also affiliated with the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, and he referred many of his patients there.

Dr. Moller's selflessness and his unceasing concern for his patients are remembered with awe to this day.. He dealt with patients not as faceless cases, but as individuals who deserved his full personal attention. He regularly made house calls - sometimes walking as much as four miles each way on Shabbos to visit a patient - and continued to do so up to six weeks before his passing. Often, when visiting an impoverished patient, he not only refused to take payment, but also secretly left funds or medicine behind. Quite frequently he would invite the widows and orphans of late patients to his home for a Shabbos meal. And before he went to the hospital during his final illness, he carefully updated the charts on all his patients, for fear that he would not be returning to them. Once, when someone came to the Satmar Rebbe for medical advice, the Rebbe referred him to Dr. Moller. The man questioned this, stating that Dr. Moller had very many patients and that he would have to wait a long time to see him. "Nevertheless, you should still see him," the Rebbe replied. "Even though it might be difficult to see him now, it will be even more difficult to come near to him in Olom Haboh."

Dr. Moller became president of the Kehilla in 1942, and served in that demanding post for 38 years, until his passing. He worked carefully and harmoniously with Rav Breuer, zt'l, to develop the Kehilla from a small minyan to a major, all-encompassing Torah institution on the American scene. No task was too minor or degrading for him when it meant expanding the scope of the Kehilla's activities. Once, during an oil boycott, he personally went to obtain the oil needed to heat the Mikveh. He was also actively involved in seeing to it that the Yeshiva functioned smoothly and that all problems were settled amicably. And, as the head of the Board of Trustees, he conducted the general meetings and conferences with efficiency and fairness, always making sure to open the sessions with a Dvar Torah.

In recognition of his tireless services on behalf of the Kehilla, Rav Breuer bestowed upon him the cherished title of "Moreinu." And as a token of esteem for his efforts on behalf of all the members of the community, he was honored by the New York State Legislature with a special proclamation.

Dr Moller's soul passed on to the Olom Ho'emess on Isru Chag Shavuos, in June 1980, just five weeks after the petiro of his very close associate, Rav Breuer, zt'l. Yet, his legacy lives on today, both in the good works of his family and in the remarkable example he set through his Gemilas Chasodim and his leadership of the Kehilla.

MR. JERRY G. BECHHOFFER

The organizational mastermind behind the annual Yeshiva-Kehilla Dinner, Mr. Bechhofer was born in Furth, Germany, in 1922. After arriving in the U.S. in 1939, he served with distinction in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant. In 1950, he married Meta Breuer, the daughter of our late Rav, zt'l; from 1954 on, Rav Breuer made his home with the Bechhofers. With Mr. Manfred Katzenstein and Mr. Harry Levi - and later with the additional help of Mr. Max Rosenberg and Mr. Sammy Levi - Mr. Bechhofer has planned for and helped run the annual Dinners. In his capable hands, the Dinner campaigns have become marvels of efficiency. Mr. Bechhofer has also been a long-time supporter of our Yeshiva, Beis Hamedrash, and Kolel, and he serves on the Yeshiva's Administrative Board.

Mrs. Meta Bechhofer has likewise been active in promoting the welfare of the Kehilla, by working on behalf of the Sisterhood and the Hirsch Publication Society, among other endeavors. The Bechhofers' three sons - Samson (a real estate lawyer and director of the Kehilla choir, as well as member of the Board of Trustees), David (a biochemist who gives shiurim for the Kehilla), and Jacob (a Rebbe and kolel member in Baltimore and now in South Bend) - have reflected their parents' dedication to Torah ideals and klal work through their own noteworthy efforts.

MR. JACOB BREUER

The son of our late revered Rav, zt'l, and great-grandson of Rav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch, zt'l, Jacob Breuer proved to be the perfect individual for transmitting the ideals of Torah im Derech Eretz to a new generation of American-born students. As the principal of our Yeshiva's elementary school for four decades, he used his admirable administrative and pedagogic skills to instill Rav Hirsch's teachings in thousands of young Jews.

Mr. Breuer was born in Frankfurt in 1918, the fourth child of Rav and Rebbeztin Breuer. He received his education at the Hirsch Realschule and the Wurzburg Teachers Seminary, and arrived in the U.S. in 1939. Assuming the helm of the Yeshiva in 1946, he helped guide it from a small assemblage of classes at 90 Bennett Avenue to a major educational institution ranging from a kindergarten through a Beis Hamedrash and Teachers Seminary. With a rare blend of firmness and patience, he spurred teachers and students alike to reach their maximum potential. Mr. Breuer has also won plaudits for his writings, which extend from his scholarly editorship of many of Rav Hirsch's writings, such as in *Fundamentals of Judaism*, to his translations of such Marcus Lehmann works as *The Family Y Aguilar*, to his authorship of over 1300 issues of the school weekly, *Kolenu*. After training Rabbi Boruch Lichtenstein to be his successor as principal, Mr. Breuer retired in 1986 and moved to Yerushalayim, where he lives with his wife.

REBBETZIN RIKA BREUER
1889 - 1953

The devoted Eishes Chayil of Rav Breuer zt'l, she was also a warm and fondly-remembered personality in her own right. Born Rika Eisenmann, Rebbetzin Breuer had her own ties to the Hirschian Weltanschauung in that her father had been a talmid of Hirsch in Frankfurt. She learned German while growing up in Antwerp, Belgium, so that she could read Hirsch's works in the original. In addition, she received some of her education in England, acquiring a knowledge of English that came in handy when the Breuer family moved to America. She married Rav Breuer in 1911, and they had three sons and five daughters, who were born and educated in Frankfurt.

Rebbetzin Breuer was beloved by the various communities in which her husband served as Rav and teacher, and she was often called the "soul of the Kehilla" in America. She founded the Sisterhood, and had a talent for providing motherly warmth and comfort for the young, newly-arrived refugees in the community. At the same time, she was a devoted mother to all her children. She passed away in 1953, and, fittingly, the Teachers Seminary of our Yeshiva is named after her.

MRS. JEANETTE DESSAU

Known affectionately as "Tante Nettie," Mrs. Dessau recently celebrated 40 full years of dedicated service to the pre-school program of our Yeshiva. During this time, she has introduced thousands of youngsters to the world of Chinuch with warmth and tenderness.

Mrs. Dessau, nee Golde, was born in Frankfurt am Main, where her father served as secretary of the Gemeinde. She attended the Hirsch Realschule, and was trained for kindergarten work at the State Seminary in Frankfurt. Her first job was as a teacher at the Volksschule afternoon program, and she continued in this position until forced to leave Germany in 1938. Moving to Holland, she married Dr. Samuel Dessau, formerly of Hamburg. However, they were arrested by the Nazis and sent to Bergen-Belsen, where she lost her beloved husband. Soon after arriving in the U.S. she joined the staff of the kindergarten, which was then run by the Sisterhood under the auspices of the Kehilla, and located at 183rd Street and Fort Washington Avenue. With her steady assistance, the kindergarten has expanded and become a major pillar of our Yeshiva, and countless students and fellow teachers who have benefitted from her expertise will be forever in her debt.

MR. ROBERT R. FRANKEL

Mr. Frankel's stirring chazzanuth has lent beauty and dignity to the Tefilla in our Beth Haknesses for close to 40 years. The memorable sight of Chazzon Frankel majestically lighting the Neiros Chanuko symbolizes the dignified grace that characterizes our Kehilla's services.

Mr. Frankel was born in Hamburg, Germany, the youngest of four brothers who lost their father when they were very young. Their mother raised them in an exemplary manner. At age five he began taking lessons from Levi Rosenblatt, brother of the famed Yossele Roseblatt, on the awesome responsibilities of being a Sheliach Tzibbur, and he was a child soloist and member of the choir in Hamburg's largest orthodox shul. With the rise of the Nazis he was forced to leave the Talmud Tora Realschule at age 14, and became an apprentice at a commercial firm. He continued to gain experience as a Sheliach Tzibbur at various minyonim, often walking for hours to reach these shuls.

At age 19 he fled to England, and shortly thereafter was interned on the Isle of Man and other camps. From 1943-1946 he served as Chazzon of the Adath Yisroel Synagogue in London, and turned down a lucrative offer from another British congregation in order to come to the U.S.A. After a brief stay in Seattle, and a stint officiating as Sheliach Tzibbur on the Yomim Nauroim in Jersey City and Baltimore, Mr. Frankel settled in Washington Heights, and first officiated as Sheliach Tzibbur in our Kehilla in 1949. Originally he alternated with Mr. Aba Wertheim, z'l, and, after the latter's retirement, with Rabbi David Kenner. Though familiar with the Polish nussach used in Hamburg, he spent many hours learning the Frankfurt nussach from others familiar with it. In turn, Mr. Frankel has selflessly extended this tradition by training young people to learn it as well. Mr. Frankel received his musical education and training at the Institute for Cantorial Studies which was then under the directorship and leadership of the late Professor Dr. Karl Adler.

In 1943, Mr. Frankel married the former Frances Faust (granddaughter of the renowned Klaus Rabbiner of Fuerth). Their son George Daniel Frankel has been very active in many areas of the Kehilla and especially on the Dinner Committee. Since 1974, Mr. Frankel has been Director of Purchasing for the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Hopital in Jerusalem, after having been in the hospital surgical and laboratory supply business for 28 years.

The Kehilla is indeed grateful to Mr. Frankel for his inspiring service as its Sheliach Tzibbur, and wishes him many more productive years in the position.

MR. LOUIS FULDA

Louis Fulda, a survivor of Buchenwald, came to America with his wife, Sophie, and their four children in December 1938. He had lived in Fulda, in whose Kehilla he served as a *Parnes*. He was also instrumental in founding Fulda's Yeshiva Gedolah, to whose *bachurim* he gave a weekly Shiur.

Upon arriving in New York, he emerged as one of the founders of our Kehilla, which he served as a trustee until 1945, and as one of the regular Ba'alei Tefilla during its early years. He was an intimate friend of our late Rav Dr. Breuer, zt'l, who made extensive use of Mr. Fulda's vast library of seforim.

A most noteworthy contribution by Mr. Fulda to the budding Kehilla was the fact that he volunteered the use of his own living room for the Kehilla's Talmud Torah - the forerunner of our Yeshiva. And, indeed, it was there that the Kehilla's first Torah classes were taught.

RAV ELIYAHU GLUCKSMAN

Rav Glucksman has been a dynamic Rabbinic and youth leader in our Kehilla for the past two decades.

He was born in Berlin, where he received his initial Torah and secular education. In 1938 he moved to England, where he studied at Yeshivas Etz Chaim in London under the great Baal Mussar, Rav Eliyohu Lopian, zt'l. During the war he was interned and sent to Australia, from which he emigrated to Eretz Yisroel. There he studied at Yeshivas Beis Yosef, Petach Tikvah, and, after his marriage, he learned for ten years in Kolel Chazon Ish in Bnei Brak. Rav Glucksman received Semicha from the Steipler Gaon, Rav Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky, zt'l, and, *le'havdil bein chaim l'chaim*, Rav Dovid Pusarsky, shlita, Rosh Yeshivas Ponevez. Eventually he occupied positions as principal and teacher in both Eretz Yisroel and the United States. In 1969 he joined our Kehilla, where he has served as Youth Director, taught in the Beis Yaakov and Seminary, and given numerous shiurim to members of the Kehilla. His wife is also an esteemed teacher in our Yeshiva. Rav Glucksman is also one of the Rabbonim who answers *she'elos* on the Agudath Israel Halocho Hot Line. As a member of our Rabbinate, he serves as a *poseik* and assists in all Rabbinic functions.

MR. FRITZ GOLDMAN
1899-1979

If anyone deserves supreme credit for guaranteeing the smooth day-to-day operations of the Kehilla in its early years, it is Mr. Fritz Goldman. As the full-time director of the Kehilla office for some 40 years, his conscientious devotion to all of the shul's varied activities is indeed remarkable.

Mr. Goldman was born in Leipzig in August 1899, and arrived in the U.S. with his family in November 1939. Recommended to the Board of Trustees by Mr. Manfred Katzenstein, he was hired as the Secretary of the Kehilla in February 1940. His many duties in this position included: enrolling new members, collecting membership dues and donations, keeping records of all transactions, assisting at all weddings and funerals supervised by the Rabbinat, obtaining Matzos for the membership, providing payment to all Kehilla employees and suppliers, and collecting and distributing tzedoko for the needy. He worked closely with Mr. Abraham Katzenstein, the first superintendent of the congregation, to ensure that the premises at 90 Bennett Avenue were maintained properly, and that Kiddush wine was given to the children on Shabbos. The raising and collection of dues in these early years was not an easy task, considering the financial status of the new immigrants, and Mr. Goldman had to make many trips to secure the needed funds. He also played an important role in the purchase of the new shul building. From 1952 to 1958, a small room for the Kehilla Office was set aside on the north side of the shul, but it was only in 1958, when Mrs. Trudy Lichtenstein was hired, that an official office was secured.

Mr. Goldman's extraordinary dedication to the Kehilla was recognized in 1959, when he was given the title of Chover, and on the occasion of his 70th birthday, when the Kehilla and Chevra Kadisha bestowed a special gift upon him. Illness caused a reduction in his activities in 1969, but he continued to attend shul on Shabbos and Yom Tov, and to fulfill as many functions in the Kehilla office as his health permitted. He passed away on December 17, 1979, at the age of 80, and was deeply mourned by a grateful congregation.

MRS. SELMA HALBERSTADT
1887-1979

Mrs. Selma Halberstadt was a paragon of Gemilas Chesed, serving as a leading member of the ladies' Chevra Kadisha of our Kehilla for many years.

She was born in Neustadt by Kassel on May 27, 1887, one of eight children. As a teenager she moved to Frankfurt, and in 1909 married Mr. Sigmund Halberstadt, with whom she raised four children. In October 1939, the family arrived in New York, where they joined the Kehilla. Always concerned for the welfare of others, Mrs. Halberstadt was one of the founders of the ladies' Chevra, and served as its president for many years. In addition, she was active in many other charitable organizations, and even at the age of 88 she was still visiting and caring for patients at the Beth Abraham Home in the Bronx. At the time of her passing at the age of 92, she had 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MRS. BIANCA HESS

Mrs. Bianca Hess has been vigorously active in many Kehilla and Yeshiva projects, but is perhaps best-known as the long-time president of the ladies' Chevra Kadisha of our Kehilla.

She was born Bianca Gruenebaum in Bruckenu, Germany. In 1925 she married Mr. Morris Hess, a successful businessman renowned for his charitable deeds. They had three daughters, and are now grandparents and great-grandparents many times over. The family arrived in the United States in 1938, and Mrs. Hess continued the community work that she had performed in Germany, where she had been a leader of Ezra groups. Her leadership of the ladies' Chevra has been marked by long hours of dedicated service under the supervision of our Rabbinates.

RABBI MOSHE JACOBVITS
1891-1950

Rabbi Jacobovits was Dayan of the Kehilla in its early years, and an invaluable assistant to Rav Breuer, zt'l.

He was born in Lackenbach, Austria, in 1891. After attending the Pressburger Yeshiva, he served as Rav in Cologne, Germany, from 1913 to 1933, and then in Strasbourg, France, until the start of World War II. During the war years, he and his family were very active in Hatzolah work, and they managed to escape to Switzerland in 1942.

Arriving in the U.S. in 1946, Rabbi Jacobovits became Dayan shortly afterwards. He was instrumental in helping to establish the Kehilla's Kashrus supervision, and also performed many Rabbinic functions when Rav Breuer was ill. Rabbi Jacobovits wrote numerous commentaries on the Torah and Gemorrah, which were published in the *seforim* entitled *Zichron Moshe*. His Rebbetzin, Mrs. Hanna Jacobovits, taught in Bais Yaakov before and during the war, and became active in social work in the U.S. She headed the Golden Age Club - the forerunner of the Moriah Older Adult Club - and was a leader in the Nshei. Their children, Rabbi Solomon and Michael Jacobovits, have likewise been prominent Kehilla activists.

WALTER AND HILDA JOSEPH

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph were staunch supporters of the Kehilla from its inception, and were especially instrumental in founding many of its institutions.

Mr. Joseph served as the Kehilla's first president, and in this capacity helped put the congregation on a firm footing. He was born in Darmstadt, Germany, in 1900, and married Hilda Lange in 1923. They left Germany with the rise of the Nazis and arrived in New York in July 1938, settling at first in midtown Manhattan. When Rav Breuer, zt'l, moved to Washington Heights, the Joseph family followed suit. Mr. Joseph was selected as the Kehilla's first president shortly thereafter, and served until Dr. Moller zt'l assumed the post. He remained active in the congregation until his passing in 1968.

Mrs. Joseph was the daughter of Rabbi Dr. Gershon Lange, a principal of the Hirsch Realschule in Frankfurt. A leading klal worker in her own right, she organized the Yeshiva's kindergarten in the 1940's, and later helped inaugurate the Yeshiva's summer camp, which operated in the 1950's and 1960's. The Josephs' daughter and son-in-law, Liesl and Max Rosenberg, have continued in their tradition of dedicated service to the Kehilla and klal.

MANFRED AND ESTHER KATZENSTEIN

Without the selfless devotion of Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Katzenstein and those like them, it is doubtful whether the Kehilla would be celebrating its golden anniversary today under such favorable conditions. The Katzensteins' active support of the Kehilla and Yeshiva was a major factor in their rapid growth.

Manfred Katzenstein was born on December 8, 1902, in Frankfurt am Main. He attended the Hirsch Realschule, and after an apprenticeship in Cologne, joined his father's business, that of selling household utensils. In June 1938, he and his brother Oscar were among those sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp by the Nazis. Immediately upon his release ten weeks later, he and his family left Germany, on the very date of Kristalnacht.

He had been married several years earlier to the former Esther Eschwedge, a native of Fulda, whose father was a businessman and a noted Baal Shacharis on Yom Kippur. They had three children, one of whom - Yitzchok - was later to serve as president of the Kehilla. After a stay in Holland, the Katzensteins arrived in the U.S. in late 1938, settling first on the West Side of Manhattan and soon afterwards in Washington Heights. While Esther Katzenstein tended to her children and the many relatives who were temporarily staying in their small apartment, her husband sought entry into the American business world. A partnership with Mr. Harry Levi led to the establishment of the Artus Corporation in the early 1940's. They also made an unbeatable team in running such ventures as the Yeshiva-Kehilla dinner. Mr. Katzenstein was a tireless supporter of every building campaign mounted by the Kehilla, and served on its Board of Trustees for over 30 years, retiring in the 1970's due to ill health. His passing in Nisan 1983 was widely mourned by those he had aided for so long.

Mrs. Esther Katzenstein was a perfect complement to her husband, supporting him in his efforts for the klal, and serving with distinction as head of the Ladies Auxiliary. In this capacity she has helped raise funds that enable the Yeshiva to purchase much-needed materials. Mrs. Katzenstein remains a dynamic presence at Yeshiva-Kehilla functions, still chairing Dinner meetings with her customary vigor and aplomb.

RABBI YITZCHOK KATZENSTEIN

Rabbi Yitzchok (Edwin) Katzenstein represents a prime example of second generation Kehilla leadership. Following in the footsteps of his parents, Manfred and Esther Katzenstein - whose efforts on behalf of the congregation are legendary - he has benefitted the Jewish community in a variety of positions, including that of Kehilla president.

Rabbi Katzenstein was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1936, and arrived in the U.S. with his family in 1938.. He was enrolled in our fledgling Yeshiva from 2nd through 7th grades, and thereafter attended the Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva, Mesifita Torah Vodaath, the Telshe Yeshiva in Cleveland, and Yeshiva Chaim Berlin, where he received semicha from Rav Hutner, zt'l. He also gained a business degree from Baruch College. In 1958 he married the former Ruth Nager, whom he met while they were working for the Eretz Yisroel Committee of Washington Heights. For the next few years he learned in Kolel Gur Aryeh, while serving as an apprentice Mohel under Rav Chananya Cohen, zt'l. In 1960, Rabbi Katzenstein join his father's business, while continuing his learning *b'chavrusa* and becoming a certified Mohel. To date, he has performed some 1400 Milahs, and his son Pinchas - one of the Katzensteins' five children - has joined his father in this new "family business". Inspired by his parents' klal work, Rabbi Katzenstein grew increasingly active in the Kehilla during the 1970's, joining the Board of Trustees and accepting the post of Kehilla president after the *petira* of Dr. Moler, zt'l. Since leaving this demanding position, he has remained a leader of the Kehilla Kashrus Committee. He has also done outstanding work on behalf of both the local and national Agudah, but the service he remains proudest of is that of representing the congregation as its Baal Shacharis on Yom Kippur.

MR. MORITZ KLUGMAN
1887-1950

The many contributions of Mr. Moritz Klugman, zt'l, to the Kehilla and Yeshiva - and especially his service as Treasurer of the congregation in its early years - were typical of a man devoted to his community.

Mr. Klugmann was born in Nuernberg in 1887. He and his like-minded brother, Mr. Alfred Klugmann, zt'l, devoted themselves to Klal work already in their younger years, perpetuating the tradition seen in their parents' house. They were strong disciples of the Nuernberger Rav, Rav Avrohom Yitzchok Klein, zt'l, one of the outstanding Rabbonim in pre-war Germany and were instrumental in establishing various Torah-oriented Klal projects in Nuernberg. Mr. Moritz Klugmann served as a Nuernberger delegate to the second Knessiah Gedolah in Vienna in 1929, which he always considered as a great zechus.

In 1919 he married Miss Bertha Eisemann of Frankfurt am Main and they had five children. The family arrived in the USA in 1940 and settled in Washington Heights. Soon thereafter, Mr. Klugmann started to give of his time and talents to the budding Kehilla, Khal Adath Jeshurun. A strong admirer of Rav Breuer, zt'l, he became eventually a member of the Board of Trustees.

Upon being designated as Treasurer he played an important role in the development of the Kehilla and in securing funds for the construction of the new Shul building, until his untimely passing in 1950.

His devoted wife of many years, Mrs. Bertha Klugmann, is still a highly active member of our Kehilla and Yeshiva, having served with distinction for 35 years as Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary.

HARRY AND MARGUERITE LEVI

The title of "Mr. and Mrs. Yeshiva" cannot be bestowed lightly, but it can certainly be applied to Harry and Marguerite Levi. Their dynamic and unceasing efforts on behalf of all our education institutions have been instrumental in elevating our Yeshiva to a model of excellence in Chinuch.

Mr. Levi, the longtime Chairman of the Yeshiva's Board of Directors, was born in Antwerp in 1910. He attended the Hirsch Realschule in Frankfurt am Main for a while, and eventually entered the business world. In 1937 he married the former Marguerite Klein, and three years later they emigrated to the U.S. There Mr. Levi, together with Mr. Manfred Katzenstein, founded the very successful Artus Corporation. Putting his managerial and financial expertise to use for the good of the klal, he was a leader in organizing the Yeshiva in an efficient manner, and in promoting the annual Dinner campaigns. Mrs. Levi has likewise been an indefatigable worker whose spirited assistance in the Dinner office has been invaluable to its successful operations. They raised their seven children - Raphael, Edwin, Helen, Sammy, Rav Meir (now Rosh Yeshiva of our Beis Hamedrash), Teddy and Sandra - to adopt their attitude of klal-mindedness, and have been rewarded in seeing the good works of all their progeny.

MRS. TRUDE LICHTENSTEIN

The Kehilla is dependent upon its Rabbonim and lay leaders to chart its course, but it is up to Mrs. Lichtenstein and her dedicated staff in the Kehilla office to implement their policy. It is to their supreme credit that they do so with outstanding efficiency.

Mrs. Lichtenstein, nee Ronsheim, was born in Germany, and she received her education in private schools there and in London. After spending the war years in England, she arrived in the United States in 1946, and married Mr. Norbert Lichtenstein two years later. They are the proud parents of two children -- Rabbi Boruch (now the principal of the elementary school of our Yeshiva) and Soroh -- and grandparents of thirteen youngsters.

This coming January will mark the 30th anniversary of Mrs. Lichtenstein's joining the Kehilla office staff. At first only she and Mr. Fritz Goldmann manned the office, which was located in the small room which is now the Teacher's Room. With Mr. Goldman's illness, and passing in 1979, Mrs. Lichtenstein took over more and more of his duties, and the volume of her work has expanded with the growing number of services provided to the membership. Nevertheless, she has managed to oversee the various functions of the Kehilla office - ranging from supplying the members with newsletters, to ensuring them of benefits, to providing tzedoko to the needy - with remarkable effectiveness, for which we are all grateful.

MS. JENNY MICHEL
1898-1971

Few staff members of our Yeshiva are remembered more fondly than Jenny Michel. As secretary to the principal, Mr. Jacob Breuer, she performed her duties in a motherly fashion that endeared her to students of all ages.

Ms. Michel was born in Germany in 1898, the daughter of Adolf and Meta Michel. She came to the United States in 1940 and became secretary of the Yeshiva soon after its inception. She of course handled the usual secretarial tasks, but her contributions to the Yeshiva were far greater than just this. She took a warm, kindly interest in the welfare of the students; if a youngster were ill or depressed, or missing a lunch, she was sure to take care of it. Ms. Michel made sure that a trip to the principal's office was not - in most cases - a feared event. She continued working until shortly before her passing in 1971, at the age of 73. A plaque on the entrance to the Yeshiva office remains as a tribute to this beloved individual.

MR. SALOMON NUSSBAUM

Salomon Nussbaum distinguished himself by caring for the *tzorchei ha'tzibbur* from the earliest days of the Kehilla. As Vice President, he initiated many projects that boosted the spiritual well-being of the Kehilla and its members.

Mr. Nussbaum arrived in the United States with his family in 1940 from Fulda, Germany, where he was fondly known as "Parnes Nussbaum". He continued in this capacity and considered the position of Parnes as the most important and cherished accomplishment of his communal life. He kept decorum in shul in a most dignified manner and earned the respect of all congregants. Despite his long days as a salesman, he could not be kept from making the long walk to shul, for that was his life. He headed the Synagogue Committee and helped establish the Mikveh. Among the projects he organized were the purchase of flowers for the shul on Shavuot, the arrangement of candy bags for the youngsters on Simchas Torah, the establishment of a summer camp fund for needy children, and his active interest in the concerns of the needy.

Mr. Nussbaum passed away on Erev Rosh Hashono, 1960.

RAV YAAKOV POSEN

Recognized as a leading halachic authority, Rav Posen has served with distinction as Dayan of our Kehilla for the past two decades.

Rav Posen's family held deeply entrenched roots in Frankfurt, where they had lived for over 200 years before his birth there. When he was young, his family escaped the Nazis by fleeing to Holland, and later to England, where Rav Posen received his Semicha. Rav Posen joined our Kehilla in 1967, and his halachic expertise has been especially useful in the field of Kashrus. He was also instrumental in designing the new Mikveh. Rav Posen has been a mainstay of the Kehilla's and Yeshiva's *chinuch* programs, teaching in the Seminary and offering numerous shiurim to Kehilla members; his Rebbetzin has, in a similar fashion, been a popular teacher in our pre-school program. Rav Posen is also the *mechaber* of the *sefer, Kitzur Hilchos Shabbos*, which has gone through many editions and is used as a basic text on Shabbos laws throughout the world.

MAX AND LIESL ROSENBERG

Mr. and Mrs. Max Rosenberg exemplify the klal-minded couple who have benefitted and enriched the Kehilla through their talents and selfless devotion.

Mr. Rosenberg bears the major responsibility of ensuring the day-to-day well-being of our Yeshiva, and it is safe to say that it would have operated far less effectively over the past few decades without his assistance. He was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1924 and attended the Hirsch Realschule. Arriving in the United States in 1939, he continued his studies at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, where Rav Breuer zt'l was one of his Rebbeim. In the post-war years, he was involved in founding his own business, while furthering his Torah knowledge through evening shiurim. It was while his children were attending the Yeshiva that he became actively involved in overseeing its operations.

In 1948, he married Liesl Joseph, daughter of the Kehilla's first president, Mr. Walter Joseph. Mrs. Rosenberg has been a pillar of support for the Yeshiva, serving on the PTA and Ladies Auxiliary, helping out in the school lunchroom and, in short, being available whenever she is needed. The Rosenbergs have also been in the forefront of those active in the Dinner campaigns. They are the proud parents of three children - all of whom attended our Yeshiva - and grandparents of seven youngsters.

MR. ISRAEL ROTHSCHILD

Though he has benefitted our Kehilla in a remarkable variety of ways - such as playing a leading role in the construction of its buildings, helping to found the Board of Advisors, and serving as a Chazzon and Baal Keriah - Mr. Israel Rothschild is perhaps most noted for his efforts to establish the Kehilla's independent Kashrus supervision.

Mr. Rothschild was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1907, and was married to the former Sheyncha Rochel (Nettie) Lehmann, o'h, with whom he had three daughters and a son. They spent many of the war years in Italy, and were among those allowed to enter the U.S. and temporarily settle in Oswego, N.Y. in 1946 (as described in the recent book, Haven). Mr. Rothschild secured employment in the import-export business, and since 1952 has been most active in his service to the Kehilla.

He was instrumental in working, along with Rav Breuer, zt'l, and the Mashgichim, in instituting an independent Shechita under the Kehilla's supervision, and in making it operate on a sound financial basis. He also played a major part in planning for the shul building and in spearheading the drive for the new Beis Hamedrash building. Mr. Rothscild helped found the Board of Advisors and served as a member during its first decade, and has also served on the Yeshiva's Board of Directors. His personal generosity to the Kehilla and Yeshiva has been outstanding, and his business expertise has saved the Kehilla substantial sums. Mr. Rothschild has furthermore served as a Chazzon, and as a Baal Keriah in the Mikveh minyan, and devotes a major part of his time to intensive Torah study. Hashem has rewarded him by letting him see his children and grandchildren develop into outstanding Torah leaders, Mechanchim, and Baalei Tzedokoh and Midos.

MS. TIRZA ROTHSCCHILD

Ms. Rothschild has been affiliated with our Yeshiva for some 40 years, offering the pedagogic expertise to thousands of students of all ages. She came to the U.S. from Hamburg, Germany, in 1939, and later attended CCNY. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Hunter College, and another Master's, in Guidance, from CCNY. Ms. Rothschild joined the Yeshiva staff in 1949 and taught Pre 1A and first grade in the Hebrew Department, and grades three through seven in the English Department. (Ironically, the grade which she was hired to teach - 2nd - is the one class she has never had.)

She has also taught math, English, and French in our junior and senior high school, and math and classroom management in our Seminary. Ms. Rothschild served as assistant English principal and then English principal of the elementary school from 1963 through 1979, and since 1979 she has been back in the classroom, motivating the 4th grade girls to reach their full academic potential.

MR. JACOB A. SAMUEL
1897-1979

Mr. Samuel played a pivotal role in the history of the Kehilla, for it was he who persuaded Rav Breuer zt'l to emigrate from Europe to America.

Jacob A. Samuel was born on July 2, 1897, and came to Frankfurt during his teenage years. There he became a close disciple of Rav Breuer, deriving from the Rav not only an approach to Torah learning, but also an overall Torah Weltanschauung towards life. He left Germany in the 1920's to join his father-in-law's business in the United States, but he did not forget his mentor. With the Nazi persecutions threatening the security of European Jewry in the late 1930's, Mr. Samuel chartered a Yankee clipper plane and flew to Antwerp, Belgium, where the Breuer family had gone after leaving Germany. His mission was to persuade Rav Breuer to become a rabbinical leader in the United States, and he succeeded. When the Breuer family arrived in New York, they stayed at the Samuels' residence on 97th Street and Madison Avenue for the first few weeks, until their move to Washington Heights. For the next three decades Mr. Samuel remained close to the Kehilla and the Breuer family, contributing generously to the upkeep of the Yeshiva (and, in fact, personally paying the first rent for the use of 90 Bennett Avenue). Until his passing on December 1, 1979, he continued to attend the annual Dinner of the Kehilla, being seated appropriately on the dais. He was survived by his widow and three children.

MR. JOSHUA SCHAPIRO
1894-1986

Mr. Joshua Schapiro's great organizational skills and business expertise, combined with his vision, imagination and ability to realize the goals he set, made him a great benefactor for both the Kehilla and Yeshiva from their inception.

Mr. Schapiro was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1894. He attended the Hirsch Realschule, continuing on to the Weaving School in Muehlhausen in the Alsace, after which he joined his father's textile firm. In 1921 he married Dora Kruskal, the daughter of Erna and Leo Kruskal, wine merchants of renown and great philanthropists. They left Germany in 1933 to live in Holland, England, and eventually the U.S., where they arrived in 1940 with their three children.

Upon his arrival in this country, Mr. Schapiro almost immediately became involved with the Kehilla. He was a great admirer and supporter of Rav Breuer, zt'l, and he became a staunch advocate of the congregation. His enthusiasm and convictions enabled him to interest business colleagues in supporting the community. This led to the building of the school playground, among other things. His many successful innovations on behalf of the Kehilla included the Annual Dinners, the annual boatride, and the founding of the daily minyan at the Fort Treyon Nursing Home (a Kehilla affiliate). He was also a founder of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, and was fondly known to all as "Mr. Shaare Zedek." Mr. Schapiro was a noble man - a princely individual - whose goodness, sincerity, and dedication in the service to Hashem made him the personality he was.

DR. GODCHAUX SCHNERB
1897-1982

Dr. Schnerb was the founder and for many years director of the Kehilla choir. Born in Frankfurt am Main in 1897, he attended the Hirsch Realschule and later, medical school. He served as a distinguished physician in both Germany and the U.S. for many years. Dr. Schnerb arrived in America with his family in January 1940, when the Kehilla was in its infancy. The practice of having a men's choir beautify the Tefilla had been a Hirsch-instituted feature of the Kehilla in Frankfurt. After a trial run during Chanuka 1941, the choir - under Dr. Schnerb's leadership - became a permanent feature of the American Kehilla as well. Dr. Schnerb served as choir director for ten years, and was assisted by his son Walter, who succeeded his father and remained in the position for four years. Walter Schnerb (who lives with his family in Rav Breuer's old apartment on 181st St.) has also served the Kehilla as Baal Keriah and Chazzan over the past 40 years.

MR. FRED STERN

Mr. Stern was a prime mover in founding the Kehilla, and remains an active and dedicated member to this very day, 50 years later. He was born in Brueckenau, Germany, in 1911, the son of Samuel and Berta Stern. After studying at the Wuerzburger Realschule and apprenticing in Fulda, he traveled to Frankfurt am Main to further his Jewish education under Rav Breuer, zt'l and others. The coming of the Nazis prompted him to leave Germany in 1935. After a stay in Holland, he came to the U.S. in 1937. En route, he met Miss Bertl Levi, whom he married in 1938. They are the parents of three children: Samuel, Beatrice, and Miriam.

Upon arriving here, the Sterns found that the state of American Orthodoxy left much to be desired. Determined to retain the values and strength of German Orthodoxy, Mr. Stern felt that the reconstruction of Kehilla life in America would fill the void. This led him to help organize, in 1938, a minyan faithful to the minhagim and spirit of Frankfurt and Southern Germany. He writes, "The Kehilla which grew from those early roots once Harav Breuer arrived indeed fulfilled my dreams beyond expectation."

RABBI ELIEZER TARSIS
1900-1984

Rabbi Tarsis, who served as Dayan of our Kehilla for many years, was known in Rabbinical circles as a great Torah scholar and an expert in halocho.

He was born on March 3, 1900, in Kelm, Lithuania, the son of Rabbi Joshua Zelik Tarsis, the Dayan of Kelm, and Miriam nee Horowitz, the sister of the famed Alter of Navahardok, Rav Yosef Yoziel Horowitz, zt'l. Rabbi Tarsis studied at the yeshivos of Telshe and Slobodka, and later at the Frankfurt Yeshiva in Frankfurt am Main. He served as Rav of Stetin, Germany, until the coming of the Nazis. In 1934 he emigrated to England, where he had a shul and gave shiurim. Rabbi Tarsis came to America in 1949, and in 1950 became Dayan in the Kehilla, a position he held until 1960. He was married to the former Erna Blumenthal from Fulda, and they had a son and daughter, and 11 grandchildren. Rabbi Tarsis passed away in 1984.

MR. NATHAN TREITEL

Mr. Treitel served as the faithful and hard-working Shamesh of the Kehilla for some 35 years. His selfless devotion to his duties - which required him to be in shul before everyone else and to leave after they had gone - showed that he viewed them as a labor of love for Hashem.

Mr. Nathan Treitel was born in Czechoslovakia and spent his youth steeped in Torah learning. He attended the Pressburg Yeshiva, and later learned in Frankfurt under Rav Breuer, zt'l, and in Yeshiva Reb Mosheh Schneider, while at the same time taking courses at the University of Frankfurt. After completing these studies he married Paula Rottenberg, and supported himself and his family by being a stone supplier for road construction. The family faced dark days when they were incarcerated in a concentration camp, but they survived, Boruch Hashem, and eventually came to the U.S. via Vienna, Austria. In 1953, a year after arriving in America, Mr. Treitel began his long tenure as Shamesh. This meant preparing the shul and the Sifrei Torah for use during the services, and being at hand at the Minyonim. His own Tefillah is indeed a model of Kavonah. Mr. Treitel was succeeded in his post by Mr. Victor Sussman, and was honored at the Annual Dinner in 1987 for his many years of outstanding service.

He writes, "I consider it a privilege to be a member of K'hal Adath Jeshurun, and I have the greatest esteem for its Rabbinat (both past and present) and all its members. I also thank Hashem for giving me my wife - an Eishes Chayil - my four children (all products of the Yeshiva), my sons and daughters-in-law, and my seven grandchildren, from whom I derive much Nachas."

MR. BENNO WEIS

As Baal Keri'ah for the Kehilla for nearly its entire 50-year history, Mr. Benno Weis has come to represent the congregation's constant devotion to proper and correct Tefilla services.

Mr. Weis was born in Frankfurt-am-Main and attended the Hirsch Realschule. After witnessing the devastating experience of Kristalnacht, he was arrested by the Nazis and kept in a concentration camp for two months. Fleeing Germany, he lived in England for a year. As a foreign-born immigrant there, he was not allowed to work, so he used his time well by helping to organize a small minyan of refugees. It was there that he developed the proficiency in Keri'as HaTorah that was to prove so beneficial to the Kehilla. He arrived in Washington Heights in November 1940, and leined here for the first time in 1941, his first Parsha being Noach. Since then he has guided the congregation through over 40 Torah cycles, with admirable precision and fidelity to the traditional niggunim. Helping to perpetuate this all-important skill, Mr. Weis has trained an untold number of Bar Mitzvah boys in our Kehilla over the years, and his son Leo has ably carried on the family tradition as an outstanding Baal Keri'ah in his own right. Mr. Weis has also been the Chazon for Mincha on Yom Kippur for 15 years.

Shortly after coming to America, Mr. Weis joined the U.S. Army, and served in the States during the war. In 1948, he married the former Marga Friedman, and they have three children: Leo, Rachel and Esther. The entire Weis family deserve special recognition for their active support of the Kehilla in many ways, not the least of which is their handling of the Dinner Journal "Blue Sheet" collection.

MR. NATHAN WEIS

Mr. Nathan Weis' 20-year tenure as conductor of the shul choir helped add both great beauty and distinction to the Shabbos and Yom Tov Tefilla.

Like his brother Benno, the Kehilla's long-time Baal Keriah, Mr. Weis was born in Frankfurt-am-Main and educated in the Hirsch Realschule there. After completing his education, he served for 15 years as an accountant in Germany. After arriving in the United States, he continued working for the same, newly-relocated firm. He became a member of the Kehilla immediately after settling in Washington Heights in 1940, and his first participation in the choir was as one of its members, singing under the direction of Dr. Schnerb and, later, his son Walter. Mr. Weis became conductor of the choir in 1960, and served in that important capacity for over 20 years, until 1981. Another of his claims to fame is his having been among the first to discover the idyllic beauty of the Tannersville summer community, which attracted Rav Breuer zt'l, and many other Kehilla members.

Mr. Weis married the former Liesel Moller (a cousin of Dr. Moller) of Fulda in 1938, and they had three children: Leslie (assitant principal of the Mesivta English Department and a Rebbe in our elementary school), Raphael (very active in the Dinner campaigns and on the Newsletter Committee), and Jane (now Mrs. D. Carr of Teaneck).

MR. ABA WERTHEIM
1898-1981

Mr. "Aba" (Abraham) Wertheim served for over three decades as a distinguished Sheliach Tzibbur of our Kehilla. His *chazzonus* was notable for its melodious beauty and its heartfelt spirituality.

Mr. Wertheim was born in Fulda in 1897. A member of an old established Orthodox family, he was a descendant of the great Torah scholar Reb Mendel Rosenbaum, Zell, who, in 1813, helped win cancellation of the Bavarian law that only the first-born son of a Jewish family could marry. After his graduation from the Oberrealschule in Fulda, Mr. Wertheim continued his Torah studies for one year with Rabbi Dr. S. Schueler in St. Louis (Alsace) and later in the Shass-Chevre with Dayan Baruch Kunstadt in Fulda. One week before Kristalnacht, he arrived in Washington Heights, and volunteered to serve as Chazzon in the Minyan that was to become the Kehilla. At Rav Breuer's request, he became the first official Chazzon of the Kehilla. He also performed at many weddings, and was the eid (witness) of our Rabbinate. Due to ill health he retired in 1973, but his devotion to the Kehilla never diminished. Mr. Wertheim passed away in 1981, leaving his wife--the former Steffi Hahn, whom he had married in 1933--four married children, and 12 grandchildren. He was buried in Eretz Yisroel, as per his wishes.

His widow, who hails from Kitzingen am Main, was president of the PTA for 15 years, and worked hard to improve conditions in the newly-established Yeshiva.

She is now married to Dr. Martin Freund, who joined the Kehilla right after his arrival in New York in 1939 and was a member of the first elected Board of Trustees. As the first CPA in the Kehilla, he was called upon to convince a bank of the Kehilla's financial viability, thus winning its approval of a \$100,000 mortgage to construct the new Shul building. Dr. Freund has been active on the Finance and other committees and in his own words, "has helped enliven several Kehilla General Meetings".

MR. CURT WOLF
1892-1978

As head Gabbi of the Kehilla for many years, Mr. Curt Wolf lent an air of decorum to the shul and helped ensure that it ran in an orderly fashion.

He was born in Eschwege, Germany, in July 1892. His life had moments of tragedy, including the deaths of his wife and daughter and his internment at the Buchenwald concentration camp. Nevertheless, his Emunas Hashem remained unswerving, and he established a new life in America, always walking forward with a firm gait and a dignified manner. After arriving in the U.S. in May 1940, he found employment at the Katzenstein Medical Supply Company. He was also very active on the Kehilla's Synagogue Committee, working closely with Mr. Solomon Nussbaum and others to conduct dignified services and maintain order in the synagogue. His tall, ramrod-straight figure symbolized the uprightness of our Kehilla, and even after he could no longer continue his duties due to ill health he kept an active interest in its affairs, right up to his death at the age of 86 on August 26, 1978.

MR. JOSEPH WOLFF
1885-1977

Mr. Wolff was a popular, long-time, inspirational Limudei Kodesh teacher in the early years of our Yeshiva. Born in Aurich, Germany in 1885, he became a teacher, and after he fled with his family from the Nazis, he held a similar position in England. Shortly after he arrived in the U.S. in 1945, he joined the staff of Yeshiva Hirsch (first as a teacher in the Talmud Torah), and inspired a generation of youngsters there during the next 20 years. As the 5th grade teacher, he had a great impact on his talmidim, making Chumash, Gemorrah, Navi and Halocho come alive for them through his dynamic presentations. Mr. Breuer, the Yeshiva principal, used to say that could make even *dikduk* (Hebrew grammar) exciting. Mr. Wolff also trained his students in the art of Megillah leining and Shofar blowing. Even after his retirement in 1967, he still visited the Yeshiva frequently, and occasionally taught. His only son Yitzchok, an outstanding student in the Ponovezer Yeshiva in Lithuania, was murdered by the Nazis in 1941. Mr. Wolff's daughter Betty is married to Rabbi Ralph Neuhaus, long-time Rav of Congregation Ohav Sholaum, in Inwood.

MRS. ELISABETH WURZBERGER

As a daughter of the revered Dr. Raphael Moller, zt'l, Mrs. Wurzbürger has carried on his tradition of Gemilas Chesed and klal consciousness. She has been in the forefront of moves to further the social and educational well-being of not only our neighborhood, but also the international Jewish community.

Growing up in her parents' home in Germany, she learned the importance of a solid Jewish education and a heartfelt concern for others. Consequently, in Washington Heights, she has been a major force in improving the standards of our Yeshiva, exhibiting her leadership qualities as president of the PTA and a leader in the revitalization of the SRH Day Camp. Later she served as National Vice President of Torah Umesorah's National PTA and was a widely traveled consultant to Hebrew Day Schools around the country. Since 1973, she has done yeoman work as Executive Vice President of the Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights-Inwood, helping to marshal the community's resources. She has pushed hard for neighborhood preservation, increased services and better protection, as well as providing for the needs of the poor, the elderly, and the new immigrants. She is married to Fred Wurzbürger, a former member of the Board of Trustees, and each of their four children is actively involved in Torah pursuits and Gemilas Chassodim. (Their son-in-law, Rabbi Michel Chill, is the Menahel of our Mesivta.)

