

# The Lisker Bintel

September, 1988

Rosh HaShana, 5749

## RABBI MAKES MEMORABLE TRIP TO HUNGARY



Rabbi Abraham Friedlander lights a candle at the gravesite of the first Lisker Rebbe, Zvi Hersh, z"l

Rabbi Abraham Friedlander recently returned from an extraordinary mission to Hungary. The great-grandson of the first Lisker Rebbe went to Lisker in order to personally commemorate the 114th Yartzit of Rebbe Zvi Hersh Lisker at his grave site. His purpose was twofold: He acted as spiritual emissary, the K'lei Kodesh, for the many members of the Lisker Congregation in New York by giving their supplications at this sacred place. He also had in mind the completion of the Mikvah at the Lisker Congregation, the great goal that is in his constant thoughts and prayers.

The day was shared by many other devoted friends of the Lisker family who traveled from around the world to commemorate this day. Many poignant photographs were taken of the community cemetery as well as of our Rabbi lighting Yartzit candles at one wall that still stands, the last remnant of what was once the well-known Lisker Synagogue in Hungary. And through our Rabbi's efforts, some of the stones of this wall will be brought to New York to be incorporated into the new Mikvah, as a desire for continuity for all that the Lisker stands for.

### HAPPENINGS AT THE LISKER:

Hurray! A new kosher restaurant with takeout service has opened at 1207 First Avenue (between 65th & 66th Streets), telephone # 212/439-6136. It is called the Pita Pocket, serving near-Eastern specialties—and the best falafel on the East Side! Best of all, it is under the personal supervision of our own Rabbi Abraham Friedlander. Fresh-baked challahs and challah rolls for Shabbos, from the well-known Chiffon Bakery of Brooklyn, are available every Thursday and Friday.

A new Sefer Torah was dedicated on Father's Day, June 19, by Dr. Joel Storm in honor of his son Craig, who was a Bar Mitzvah at the Lisker Shul earlier this year.

Our Rebbetzin, Judith Friedlander, has been appointed Coordinator of the Homebound by the Coordinating Council of Bikur Cholim. On October 16, she will appear on television as a panel member discussing visitation of the sick.

We now have **eight** volunteers for our newest project—a Hatzolah ambulance service manned by Lisker congregants. Michael Aryah has begun collecting money for the ambulance. This will be the **first** Hatzolah ambulance service on Manhattan's East Side.

The Lisker Congregation welcomed Jack Nager home from two weeks in Jerusalem with a traditional Israeli Seuda Shlishi (third meal) after mincha services on August 27.

### FAREWELL AND L'HITRAOT!

Dr. Lawrence Resnick and his beautiful family, Molly, Rollie, and Elliot, will be sadly missed at our Shul. They are moving to Washington Heights in Manhattan. Good luck!

Many of our congregation have grown to love Joseph Aryah, a beautiful one-year-old minyan-goer who, along with his father Michael, was a regular at our morning services. Soon the Aryah family will move to their new home in Great Neck, New York. We will miss Michael, Lisa, and Joseph!

## BIKUR CHOLIM

Over the years, many relatives and loved ones of patients in the various New York hospitals have stayed in the loving atmosphere of the Lisker Congregation. Now the comfort and warmth of staying with the "shayna yidn" of the Lisker is being extended. We have received a wonderful, anonymous gift—an apartment on First Avenue opposite Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is now available for the use of families of hospital patients. Our Bikur Cholim is better than ever. In the first few weeks of the apartment's operation, *twelve* families have benefited from Lisker hospitality, including a blind woman and her daughter, who felt that without the convenience of the apartment, visiting their loved one would have been impossible.

The apartment is available without charge, although donations for maintenance of the apartment are accepted and appreciated. We are overjoyed to have this beautiful apartment to offer!

*When a man uses a die to stamp out coins, they all  
come out alike;*

*but Hashem stamped all men with  
the die of Adam, yet each is different. So everyone  
has a right to say, "For my sake was the world cre-  
ated."*

*-Sanhedrin 37a*

## AUNT SARI'S HONEY CAKE

6 eggs, separated  
Scant 1 cup sugar  
2-1/2 cups flour, sifted  
3/4 cup oil  
1 tsp. baking powder  
2 tbsp. instant coffee, dissolved in  
1/2 cup boiling water, cooled  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 cup honey  
Pinch of salt  
Optional: 1 tsp. cinnamon, or 1/4 tsp. each cloves  
& nutmeg, or grated rind of 1 orange, or 1/2  
cup finely chopped walnuts (use as many  
optional ingredients as you like)

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Lightly oil 9" x 13" pan, put wax paper on bottom, and lightly oil paper.
3. Mix well egg yolks, honey and 1/2 cup of the sugar. Mix in oil, blending well.
4. Beat egg whites separately with remaining sugar until stiff.
5. Sift dry ingredients together. Any optional ingredients can be stirred in here.
6. Into egg yolk mixture alternate coffee with dry ingredients, mixing gently after each addition. Gently fold in beaten egg whites.
7. Pour mixture into prepared pan.
8. Bake 5 minutes at 400°, then lower oven to 350° and bake about 1 hour.
9. Cool on rack before removing from pan.

## MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE RABBI'S TRIP



## THE LISKER REBBE, Z"l: ACTS OF COURAGE AND KINDNESS

Many strange stories came out of the Holocaust, some wonderful, some horrible. But one story might be of particular interest to our readers, because it concerns the Lisker Rebbe of two generations ago, Reb Zvi Hirsch Friedlander, of blessed memory.

A woman now living in Israel but who had gone through the Holocaust, Ilana Reiner, recently visited the present Lisker Rebbe, Rabbi Abraham Friedlander, and Rebbitzin Judith Friedlander, grand-daughter of Reb Zvi Hirsch, z"l. An orphan from childhood, she had grown up in the home of Reb Zvi Hirsch and had regarded him almost as a father. She shared the following recollections of him from that terrible period of courage and tragedy.

When the Nazis entered Hungary in March 1944, it became clear, Ilana recalls, that the fate of the Jews there was in jeopardy. In fact, Rabbi Solomon Friedlander, son of the rebbe and father of this Rebbitzin Friedlander, who was living in relative safety in Budapest, asked his father to join him in the capital city. He even sent a general to bring the rebbe there. But the rebbe refused, because he felt that he could not leave his congregation. Even when it became clear that the Nazis were moving the Jews into a ghetto, often the first step to extermination, the rebbe a"h still refused to leave; he felt that his staying would offer the people faith and hope.

The gendarme assigned to the ghetto, who knew the rebbe, himself refused to give the order to place Reb Friedlander in the ghetto, Ilana remembers. He said simply, "The rabbi is a holy man."

On April 12, 1944, the end came to the ghetto. The Nazis rounded up all the Jews, including the rebbe, and placed them in cattle cars en route to Auschwitz. Though it was a Saturday, the rebbi asked everyone to say Avinu Malkeinu, the prayer for fast days, even though it is generally never said on the Sabbath. He also instructed them to say kinot, the dirge-like hymn recited on Tisha B'Av.

When the train crossed the Polish border, and the destination became clear, Rabbi Friedlander told his flock to "prepare for the final journey" and he blessed them all. He was, says Ilana, the first person off the train and the first to reach the gas chamber- and crematorium. She saw him as he was being led away.

But before he was led off to die, recalled Ilana, he instructed one woman to give the Havdalah wine he had brought to a hungry crying child. He said to her, she reported, that "where I'm going, I'll be saying Havdalah with the angels."

Ilana was able to reconstruct the Hebrew date of the rabbi's passing, which was the 27th day of Iyar. Two of his sons died with him, as did his second wife.

Rebbe, great men, are often blessed with the "gift of prophecy". Before he died, Ilana also recalled,

he predicted that his son Shlomo in Budapest would survive, and succeed him as rebbe. And so it was.

When Ilana, who had also survived the war, returned to Budapest, she ran into a man on a tram she had known before the war who had also known the rebbe's son. She had heard that the son had also perished in the war. But when she said to the man on the train that she had "nowhere to go" now, he told her that the rebbe's son Rav Shlomo Friedlander was still alive-- and was in fact the new Lisker Rebbe.

Ilana found the rebbe, who was not only alive and thriving, but took it upon himself as an ethical will to continue to provide for and help her, as his righteous father had done.

From Budapest, Ilana eventually went on aliyah to Israel, where she married and had two sons. One of her sons she named after the Lisker Rebbe she had known: Zvi Hirsch, a fitting tribute to the man who practically raised her.

(In June 1967, that son died a victim of the Six-Day War, and is now also Zvi Hirsch z"l.)

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## WHEN MOSHIACH ARRIVES...

*In the generation of the Messiah's coming, division (conflicts of ideas and separate groups following individual leaders) amongst the talmidei chachomim will exist.*

--Kesubos 112b

*The son of David will not come but in a generation whose face portrays impudence and arrogance and deserves destruction.*

--Shir Hashirim Rabbah 2:29

*The son of David will not come until the penny will cease from the pocket and until the whole kingdom turns to atheism.*

--Sanhedrin 97a

*In the year of the Messiah's coming, all the kings of the world will spar with each other. The King of Persia will war with the King of Aravim, thus causing him to approach Edom for advice. All the nations will experience great turmoil and upheaval. And the children of Israel will be frightened and will cry out, "Where shall we go? What will become of us?" To which the Messiah will reply, "My dear children, do not worry. The time for your redemption has arrived."*

--Pesikta Rabbasi 37:2

*The darkest part of the night is the moment just before the light of dawn. The darkness and bitterness of exile will be at its strongest intensity just before the light of redemption.*

--The Vilna Gaon, Even Shleimah

## WHY I BECAME INTERESTED IN HELPING THE NEW EAST SIDE MIKVAH

- J. Spiegel

One night I was at the West Side Mikvah and overheard a conversation amongst a couple of women. They were talking about a new East Side Mikvah that was operating but still under construction. I asked if they could tell me where this Mikvah was located.

What a wonderful discovery!

The Jewish women will now have a choice of going to the West Side or East Side Mikvah. The East Side is not only convenient, but it eliminates the need to walk through or around Central Park on Erev Shabbat.

I proceeded to find out more information.

The following day, I walked in to the Lisker Congregation at 163 East 69th street, between Lexington and Third, and visited with Rebbitzin Friedlander. I asked the Rebbitzin why I hadn't heard or received any announcements through any of the area synagogues that a Mikvah had opened on the East Side. The Rebbitzin confirmed what I was

told by an East Side Rabbi and two women on the board of the West Side Mikvah. I was told that the shuls felt it was more important to support the West Side Mikvah as the Jewish community Mikvah. I was also told the West Side Mikvah has just been barely covering costs. There is a very small amount of Orthodox women who have been going to the Mikvah, and the fee charged is not enough to cover costs.

This was mind-boggling to me! A city of nearly 6 million Jews (with probably the greatest percentage of Orthodox women) and we have just one Mikvah which is just barely surviving financially!?! Why?

I felt I needed to help for the following reasons:

- 1) Those who have not experienced a Mikvah will now have an opportunity to go to a Mikvah conveniently located and aesthetically beautiful.
- 2) This new Mikvah will eliminate a major obstacle to those either fearful or unable of the crosstown walk at night on Erev Shabbat.
- 3) The women will now have a choice of locations.

Through tzedaka, we can all help the Friedlanders make this great dream become a reality. We can then be proud of having been a part of creating a Mikvah that Jewish people will enjoy going to and where future generations will want to participate in this mitzvah without any hesitation.

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לשנה טובה תכתיבו ותחתימו

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