

# SPECIAL MEMORIAL ISSUE

## *Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin*



Volume LXVII Number 3

December 1997

Kislev 5758



**GERTRUDE SCHLANG LOOKSTEIN**

**Matriarch of Kehilath Jeshurun**

**November 30, 1907 - September 9, 1997**

**24 Kislev 5668 - 8 Elul 5757**

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

## Late Edition

New York: Today, increasing clouds  
windy, late showers. High 84. Tonight,  
windy, turning cooler. Low 55. Tomorrow,  
windy, cool. High 64. Yesterday,  
high 83, low 61. Details, page C7.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1997

†1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area

60 CENTS

## Gertrude Lookstein, Jewish Advocate, 90

Gertrude S. Lookstein, who with her husband, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, was a leader in the New York Orthodox community and active in a number of organizations, died on Sept. 9 at Mt. Sinai Hospital. She was 90.

Her maternal grandfather, Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies, was the leader of Congregation Kehilath Jeshrun in Manhattan. He was succeeded by her husband, who served also as president, then chancellor, of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, until his death in 1979. Their son, Haskel, succeeded his father in the rabbinate in Kehilath Jeshrun.

Mrs. Lookstein was a national board member and New York chapter president of Amit Women. She was also involved in fund-raising for the Yeshiva University Women's Organization, the U.J.A. Federation and the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

In addition to her son, she is survived by a daughter, Nathalie Friedman; three sisters, Nathalie Herman and Hilda Fischman of Manhattan and Sylvia Lipton of Los Angeles; a brother, Charles Schlang of Scottsdale, Ariz.; eight grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

Friday, September 12, 1997 The Jerusalem Post



**Bar-Ilan University**

deeply mourns the loss of

**MRS. GERTRUDE LOOKSTEIN** ג'רטרוד

of New York

wife of late leader, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein,  
first chancellor of Bar-Ilan University

The University extends its heartfelt condolences to  
Gertrude's son, **Rabbi Haskel Lookstein**  
her daughter, **Nathalie Friedman**  
her sisters, **Sylvia Lipton, Nathalie Herman,**  
**Hilda Fischman**  
her brother, **Charles Schlang**

## A EULOGY FOR MY MOTHER: GERTRUDE SCHLANG LOOKSTEIN BY HASKEL LOOKSTEIN SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

My father, of blessed memory, used to say that when one loses a second parent, one is suddenly older, because there is no one left who sees you as a child.

My sister and I feel older in that way today. My aunts and uncle feel the same — suddenly they are the older generation. And many of you who came today — friends and members of the KJ/Ramaz family, and others — recognize also that after the 7th of Elul, as the 61st *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Margolies came to an end, and his granddaughter breathed her last, an era also came to an end. The matriarch of this community has left us — and we are now on our own.

O' how much we are now on our own! Normally, for such an occasion, my mother would call me and say: "Haskel, don't forget to talk about this quality or that trait and remember how she stood out in such and such a role!" My mother's soul left this world a day and a half ago, and already I miss her guidance and counsel.

But she left us a model — a model of how to live an accomplished personal and communal Jewish life. A model of class and elegance, of beauty and good taste, a model of very high standards. A model of a lady who will be loved and respected by the multitudes whose lives she touched so profoundly.

That model has three specific elements that are reflected in the name Elul, the month in which her grandfather, her father, Isadore Schlang, and now she, passed from this earth.

Elul, our sages tell us, is a mnemonic for three Biblical phrases. The first letters of the words in those phrases spell out the name Elul.

The first of these phrases speaks of the love of two people for each other. *אני לדודי ודודי לי* — "I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me."

That phrase describes my mother's 53 years of blessed marriage with my father. She lived *with* him and *for* him. She became his partner, advisor, guide, comforter, cheerleader and colleague. She made a beautiful home for him — immaculate, tasteful, fastidiously maintained, graciously open to congregants, institutional co-workers, world Jewish leaders and anyone else my father or she brought home.

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*"The matriarch of this  
community has left us  
and we are now on our  
own."*

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My father used to advise his rabbinical students at Yeshiva University to choose a wife very carefully. And he would then delineate the qualities necessary for a rabbi's wife — and he was always describing my mother.

But *אני לדודי ודודי לי* reflected much more in my mother's life. It encompassed a large and tightly knit family. It began with my grandparents who were as much at home in our home as in theirs, and sometimes more

so. It was manifested in her love for her sisters and brothers. The closeness between them beggars the imagination. One of her sisters, Hilda Fischman, had lunch with her every single Friday for 50 years. Another, Nathalie Herman, was the manager and director of her care for these past three years and demonstrated commitment that was nothing short of heroic. And Sylvia and Charlie who lived far away, were similarly involved in a reciprocal love that acknowledged her place as the center of an extraordinary family.

My sister was a tower of strength for her. Besides giving her four grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and bushels of *nachas* through her and their accomplishments, she brought her into the role of ritual for women through our women's *tefilah* group. How my mother reveled in my sister's Torah reading and in that of Nathalie's granddaughters. And what a moving experience it was for her to be called to the first *aliyah* in the women's *tefilah* group as a *bat kohain*.

And my sister also learned from her to be meticulous in planning, enormously responsible, and, yes, to have a healthy dose of Jewish guilt that inspired her. No matter what the obstacles, mother could always rely on Nathalie.

For me she was an unfailing guide. She would call me to suggest I contact someone who needed a call. She would suggest sermon topics from the newspapers. "Haskel: you have to speak about this; everyone is talking about it. You can't ignore it." And she was usually right.

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***“She left us a model of how to live  
an accomplished personal and communal Jewish life.”***

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Several years ago, I recall that she called me early in the morning to tell me that Dr. Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist movement, who had once been a rabbi in our congregation, had died. “Haskel,” she said, “I think you ought to put in an obituary for the congregation.” I questioned the wisdom of doing that, remembering that Dr. Kaplan was a very controversial Jewish thinker who was absolutely repudiated by the Orthodox world. But, instinctively, I knew that my mother’s advice was right and we put in an obituary. For weeks thereafter Conservative and Reform rabbis wrote to me, called me, or spoke to me when we chanced to meet and remarked what a nice thing it was for an Orthodox congregation to recognize and mourn the passing of Dr. Kaplan. I told them all that it wasn’t my idea at all; I wish it had been, but it was my mother’s. She had a sense for what was right and she knew how to communicate it to those she loved.

For a very emotional person, who could get all choked up over a grandchild leaving her house simply to drive to Westchester, she was remarkably practical and very realistic.

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***“She was a perfect  
mother-in-law.”***

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I will never forget two things she said to me within two hours of my father’s death on Friday afternoon, July 13, eighteen years ago. Nathalie, Mother and I returned to my parents’ Florida apartment just in time to make Shabbos. She pointed to my father’s customary place at the table and said: “You sit there; that was Dad’s seat.” And then, during dinner, she said: “Well, finally you’ll have a nice office.”

In those two, terse sentences she removed a huge burden of guilt from

me and, with courageous and pragmatic judgment, showed me what I had to do and how she expected me to do it.

She had great relationships with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a model and standard bearer for them and never failed to compliment and encourage them when they reached for high standards. She never forgot a birthday until she entered the hospital on August 9th. A card and a gift always arrived *before* the special day. She was the Queen of their family.

One of her granddaughters, my daughter, Debbie Senders, was unfortunately stranded with her husband and children in Cleveland this morning because of the storm here in New York. She is devastated by not being able to be here at the funeral for her Nana. But she is comforted by the last conversation she had with her on Friday, the day before my mother went into the hospital, when she told her about her being asked to assume the presidency of the Parents Council at Beit Sefer Mizrachi in Cleveland. My mother was thrilled with this news and she told Debbie that she was confident of her ability to do a great job in this important role. It was a message that Debbie will carry with her for the rest of her life.

She loved her son-in-law and her daughter-in-law. She was the perfect mother-in-law. Her relationship with Audrey was matchless. Never a criticism; always encouragement; ever tactful; leading only by example. And Audrey’s care and concern for her were the essence of love and tenderness, and that relationship extended to and from my mother-in-law, Esther Katz, as well.

This central family role of love and quiet leadership was the first element in her Elul model. אני לדודי ודודי לי.

The second element concerns the community. Elul — איש לרעהו ומתנות לאביונים — a reference to gift-giving and charity on Purim.

In other words, a life of relationship and responsibility in a community. A Jew does not live for herself alone. She lives with and for others. My mother was fundamentally a private person. I remember her taking me to the movies in my childhood and we saw coming attractions for an exciting movie with what they called, “a cast of thousands.” I expressed enthusiasm and anticipation and she retorted: “I hate casts of thousands.”

My mother didn’t like crowds or tumult and yet she lived a life of large-scale public involvement because she felt it was her responsibility. She had an uncanny sense of duty. She fulfilled the adage in *Masechet Avot* — “Who is a hero? One who conquers herself.”

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***“A Jew does not live for  
herself alone.”***

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She founded and led the KJ Sisterhood. She was a leader in Bar-Ilan, in Amit Women, and in Yeshiva University. She left very generous bequests to KJ and Ramaz, comprising a very significant part of her estate. She felt she owed this to the community she served so faithfully.

She called and kept contact with older and younger women in the community. To some she was a good friend; to others she was a surrogate mother. To still others, like Lillian Jacobs, Lola Gross, Lillian Brown Borenstein and the late Claire Perlberger, she was a best friend for more than 50 years.

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***“Duty, obligation, responsibility  
and simple love of people carried the day.”***

When someone rendered a nice service to the community, there was invariably a beautiful note from Gertrude Lookstein. Illness or bereavement always elicited a response.

And, of course, it was reciprocated. So many people called and visited her and lifted her spirits.

A most touching gesture: a baby girl was born to Sharon and Michael Koppel 15 minutes after my mother died. When they learned about her passing they decided to give the baby a name for my mother. What a glorious tribute to a life of communal and personal responsibility on the part of two young kids!

Here, perhaps, I should add that Dr. Jose Meller, her senior cardiologist, demonstrated very special concern for her. And her grandson by marriage, Larry Baruch, literally breathed life into her for three whole years. Without him, and his skillful and unstinting care day and night, she never would have had these three years,

Special thanks to Ena Swaby, her companion for these last years and to Rosa Brown and the others who made her life livable.

A special tribute to Hatzolah. The young men of this extraordinary organization came to her rescue time and again, so often that one of them who picked her up on a Friday night and brought her to the hospital was overheard by me saying to her: “Mrs. Lookstein; we will simply have to stop meeting like this. What will people say?” Hatzolah saved her life several times.

And, of course, there was my right-hand assistant, Florence Cohen, who looked for opportunities to help her and who was not just a friend but almost another daughter.

A true story that sums up my mother's sense of obligation to people: fifty-five years ago there was a butcher in this neighborhood by the name of Thomas Bornstein. He was a nice man,

active in the synagogue. But at times he would cause my mother grief over his way of doing business. One night the butcher delivery came and my mother left the table to open the packages and put them in the refrigerator. Suddenly, we heard a cry from the kitchen. “Gerdie,” my father exclaimed: “What's wrong?” My mother came into the dining room exasperated and said in an uncharacteristically loud voice: “I can't take it anymore. He always sends me more than I ask for; the chickens are too big; and there is no weight listed and no price!” My father replied: “Well, why don't you call him right now and tell him to take his order back?” “That's a good idea,” she said and she returned to the kitchen where the phone was. We heard the sound of furious dialing and then we heard my mother's voice: “Hello! Mr. Bornstein ... How's Mrs. Bornstein?”

Needless to say, the order never went back. Duty, obligation, responsibility and simple love of people carried the day.

***“Shabbos was always  
special in our home.”***

Love of family and responsibility to the community were two elements in the model my mother left us. The third was her religious life.

Elul!

ומל ה' אֵלֹהֶיךָ אֶת לִבְךָ וְאֶת לִבּוֹ זָרְעֶךָ  
“And God will uncover your heart and the hearts of your children.” In Elul we rediscover our religious roots.

My mother was very proud of her religious roots and careful to nourish them. She spoke reverently of her grandfather; she absorbed spirit and religious enthusiasm from her father and she shared my father's religious outlook.

Shabbos was always special in our home — the table was beautiful; the

candlesticks were ready on Thursday; the food was exceptional. Her dress was elegant. Nothing was mundane. It was Shabbos.

Her's was a *formal* religiosity, with style and class. She could not abide *chnyokerai* — I think this intolerance came from all of the three religious influences in her life.

When I began to wear a hat she always cautioned me never to wear a hat at the table. In those days people went into ice cream parlors. She told me that it was acceptable to wear a hat at a counter, but never at a table. To this day I feel somewhat uncomfortable whenever I see someone sitting at a table in a hat.

My son dances skillfully and enthusiastically at the weddings of his friends, but never removes his jacket. Why? “Nana doesn't like that.” Too bad there aren't more Nanas around. Our weddings would be more refined, more dignified and a lot less sweaty.

She knew how to daven. At 18 she was teaching in the Talmud Torah of the West Side Institutional Synagogue. My father always kibbitzed that he married my mother to save Jewish education. But he was proud of her role.

And somehow, she transmitted the tradition. Every one of her eight grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren of school age and beyond are yeshiva students or graduates and all are observant Jews, without *chnyokerai*.

Many years ago my father wrote an introductory prayer for Yizkor for a mother.

“How sweet it is to recall the tender love of a mother. How deeply impressed in our mind is the vision of her kindly face; the smile on her lips; the loving look in her eye, sometimes saddened by a tear. For every childish offense there was her forgiveness. For every problem there was her deep understanding. For every failure there was her profound sympathy. For every

***“... Mother, you were special and you will always be special for all of us.”***

effort there was her unfailing encouragement. May we prove worthy of the love lavished upon us by mother as we pray.”

Mother, I somehow always felt that Dad wrote this prayer with you in mind. Every Yizkor, when I read the prayer aloud, and saw you, out of the corner of my eye, sitting in your place in the balcony, I had to clench my hands to keep from getting emotional and making you feel self-conscious. This coming Yom Kippur I'll be able to say it freely and think very clearly of you and your wonderful life and your great love for Nathalie and me, for the whole family, for the community and for God.

Sometimes I would say kaddish for someone who had no one to say it for him or her. I once heard that you were a little upset about that because you felt that when the time came for me to say kaddish for you, it wouldn't be special anymore. And so I never did it in your presence.

Well, mother, please don't worry. Soon, Nathalie and I will start saying

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***“Thank you  
for everything  
that  
you have done  
for me.  
And thank you  
for  
all the things  
that  
I was able  
to do.”***

---

kaddish for you. And you can be sure that it will be special because, mother, you were special and you will always be special for all of us.

Just a few days ago when Nathalie and I were standing at your bedside, you opened your eyes and spoke what were probably your last clear words, words which we will never forget. You looked at us and you said slowly and very clearly: “Thank you for everything that you have done for me. Thank you for everything that you have done for me. And thank you for all the things that I was able to do.” We think that that was more than a statement, even more than your instinct about the right thing to say. Those words were a prayer of thanksgiving to God, following shortly upon your having said the Shema. We are sure that God heard that prayer and accepted it.

As for us — all of us — we thank God for His having given you to us for almost 90 years and for all of the things that we were able to enjoy from you throughout a truly remarkable life.  
*Baruch Dayan Ha-Emes.*

***“We thank God for His having given you to us for almost 90 years  
and for all the things that we were able to enjoy from you  
throughout a truly remarkable life.”***



## A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER GUEST OF HONOR RAMAZ DINNER — JANUARY 1991

*By Haskel Lookstein*

### **Responsibility is a By-Word**

My mother, born into a family of *kohanim*, the daughter of the late Isadore and Etta Schlang, and the granddaughter of Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies (the RaMaZ), made responsibility her by-word in life. This has been particularly demonstrated in her relationship to the family.

Her mother died at a relatively young age (I believe I was ten days old at the time) and my mother, being the oldest of five siblings, assumed the role of leader of the family. Her younger sisters and brother looked to her as an example and a source of guidance. My father would have referred to her as the queen of the family. Others, less classically inclined, know her as the center of a very close family group.

For my sister and me she has always been a thoughtful and wise mother. Never one to engage in excessive criticism, she has nevertheless always given advice freely, without either of us ever feeling intruded upon. And her advice was usually good.

### **Responsibility as a Pass-Word**

Those of us at KJ and Ramaz know that sense of responsibility well. There probably has never been a more devoted *Rebbetzin* — she doesn't like that title at all — for any congregation. My mother has never considered herself to be a private person. She was always the Rabbi's wife and now she is the Rabbi's mother. She has a feeling of responsibility for the entire congregation. When she goes away on a vacation she usually takes the membership roster with her so that she can write to people or call them in case of an emergency in *their* lives. Every Sisterhood meeting will find her sitting at the door greeting everyone and recording their names in the meeting book.

Nowadays, perhaps due to the new status, roles and goals of women, many wives of rabbis resent being expected to share many of the responsibilities of the rabbinate. I feel sorry for their husbands and the congregations they serve. In fact, I feel sorry for the wives as well. I think the congregations are missing a powerful force for community, family and a feeling of closeness in a synagogue. I believe that the wives themselves are missing great satisfactions which in many ways transcend the advantages that come with independence from their husbands' lives and commitments. If my mother is old-fashioned in this respect, God bless old-fashioned virtues. KJ and she are both happier for it.

Ramaz also has experienced that sense of responsibility. How many times did we have Ramaz meetings in our home? How often were members of the Ramaz family invited to *Shabbat* dinners? How many people came to appreciate the school for their children and for others because the Principal's wife was a partner in serving the school? Historic decisions were made in our home. Important initiatives were begun there. My mother served as consultant, guide and often as an advocate for either caution or boldness. If Ramaz was my father's brainchild, it came into being with the midwifery of my mother.

It is not an accident that when the news of the decision to honor Gertrude S. Lookstein at the Ramaz Dinner Dance became public there was universal enthusiasm and excitement in both the congregation and the school. Younger members and parents may not have understood that enthusiasm, but those who have veteran standing were thrilled to see an honor bestowed upon one who is so deserving by virtue of her sense of responsibility and commitment.

### **The Wider Community**

Her feeling of responsibility has extended to the wider community. I guess I first noticed it during World War II when one day I saw my mother in a uniform of the American Women's Voluntary Services. I remember how proud I was of her and how attractive I felt she was in that blue/gray outfit. I was also astonished to see her expertise in bandage making and in putting together electric plugs. Somehow I had never associated that with my mother but apparently it was part of the program of instruction at AWVS.



For years she has been a leading personality in Amit Women, formerly known as American Mizrahi Women. She has been one of the driving forces behind the local chapter in our community. Bar-Ilan Women's Organization has always been the beneficiary of her generosity of time and substance. In fact, Bar-Ilan University *itself* has been proud to have her as a member of its Global Board of Trustees even as it was blessed with her partnership with my father during his more than twenty years as President and Chancellor. He never traveled to Israel for Bar-Ilan without her being at his side, involved in decisions and serving as a warm and gracious hostess to faculty, to honorary degree recipients and to everybody else associated with his great education enterprise. For many years she was also active in the Yeshiva University Women's Organization.

The list could go on and on. While no one would say that the world has been her stage, it is fair to say that very little in the Jewish world has been beyond her concern. The only bounds her sense of responsibility knows are those of physical time and ability. Nothing else limits her feeling of commitment to the community.

I guess when one grows up as the granddaughter of the RaMaZ, and when one agrees to be the wife of Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein (legend has it that he had to persuade her to undertake *that* responsibility), it is natural to live the kind of life that Gertrude S. Lookstein has lived; natural, but no less admirable. Her father, Isadore Schlang, of blessed memory, took great pride in pronouncing the priestly benediction. He considered it a sacred calling to invoke God's blessings on the community. His daughter, the mother of Nathalie and me, the grandmother of eight grandchildren and their spouses, and the great-grandmother of, thank God, eighteen precious great-grandchildren, has invoked her own kind of priestly benediction over the family, KJ, Ramaz and the wider community. By her sense of responsibility she has caused God's face to shine upon all of us and be kind to us,

she has brought the blessing of peace to us when we were in turmoil and she has helped us rejoice when blessed moments occurred in our lives.

It is a privilege to be able to thank her and praise her for this kind of devotion over eight decades and to express the hope that she will have many more years of health, vigor and happiness in which to express that wonderful sense of responsibility and model it for us all to emulate.





"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area

60 CENTS

**Late Edition**

New York: Today, periods of rain, some heavy. High 72. Tonight, damp, thunder. Low 66. Tomorrow, cloudy, thundershowers. High 76. Yesterday, high 69, low 62. Details, page B14.

**Deaths****LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.**

The leadership and staff of UJA-Federation of New York mourn the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, a champion of the Jewish community, both here and abroad, and a longtime supporter of UJA-Federation. Descended from a long line of rabbis, she married the late Joseph H. Lookstein, a world-renowned rabbi who presided over congregation Kehilath Jeshurun for fifty-six years. Her dedication, philanthropy and leadership in many communal organizations, including Friends of Bar-Ilan and Hadassah, marked her as a true "eset chavil." Our deepest sympathies go to her son, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the spiritual leader of Kehilath Jeshurun, an outstanding Jewish communal leader, and a board member of UJA-Federation of New York. Our condolences also go to her daughter, Nathalie Friedman, the family, and to the entire congregation. May you be consoled among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Judith Stern Peck, Board Chair  
Louise B. Greilshheimer, President  
Stephen D. Solender, Exec. V.P.

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude Schlang.** Beloved wife of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein. Dear mother of Nathalie and Audrey Friedman and Haskel and Audrey Lookstein. Adoring grandmother of Steven and Sheira Schacter, Jessica and Allen Gribetz, Judy and Mark Tykocinski, Naomi and Jonathan Price, Mindy and Jay Cinnamon, Debbie and Shelly Senders, Shira and Larry Baruch and Joshua Lookstein. Loving great-grandmother to twenty-eight great-grandchildren. Devoted sister of Nathalie Herman, Sylvia Lipton, Hilda and Bernard Fischman, Charles and Dorothy Schlang and beloved aunt to her many nieces and nephews. Funeral services Thursday at noon at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125 East 85th Street.

**LOOKSTEIN — Gertrude.** We mourn the passing of the revered mother of our principal, the venerable Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. Gertrude Lookstein was the exemplar of an "aishet chavil", a woman of valor. She combined the traditional virtues of piety and devotion to home and family with a zest for modern life and thought. During the course of her long and fruitful life, she inspired generations of Ramaz women to emulate her. Our condolences to Rabbi Lookstein, to all the members of her immediate family and to the extended Ramaz family. May her memory be blessed.

The Faculty of the Ramaz School

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** Congregation Orach Chaim extends heartfelt condolences to a much respected rabbinic leader and friend, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein on the loss of his mother Zichrona Liv-racha. In his manifold activities on behalf of Torah and the Jewish people may he find consolation.

Dr. Michael D. Shmidman, Rabbi  
Wolf Scheck, President

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S. Yeshiva University and its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary mourn the passing of an aishet chavil—a gracious lady, charming and helpful, a source of moral and psychological strength for her husband and children, and, in her own right, a personality of importance in the Jewish community; beloved wife of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein; mother of Rabbi Haskel (and Audrey) Lookstein and Nathalie (and Israel) Friedman. Gertrude Lookstein was the granddaughter of the RaMaZ, Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies, outstanding Jewish scholar and an early leader of RIETS. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein is a founding member of the Board of Directors, Bernard Revel Graduate School, and occupies RIETS' Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein Chair in Homiletics—established in memory of the eminent communal leader who was an honorary YU Trustee and Board member of Yeshiva College and RIETS. We extend heartfelt condolences as well to grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the entire family. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.**

Dr. Norman Lamm, President  
Yeshiva University  
David S. Gottesman, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** Bar-Ilan University in Israel and its American Friends mourn the passing of Mrs. Gertrude Lookstein, widow of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, the first chancellor of our university and one of its founders. To the entire family, we extend sincerest condolences. Mrs. Lookstein was a full partner with her husband in everything he did during his brilliant career as one of the greatest Jewish leaders of the century. She was the granddaughter of Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies and as such, nobly born to one of the most important figures of American Orthodoxy in the early 1900's and the man in whose memory The Ramaz School was established. She also helped her husband at a critical period in Bar-Ilan's history and shall be remembered for this. We share with her beloved kin countless memories of service to K'hal Yisroel on every front. She will be sorely missed. May her soul be with the immortals.

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman,  
Chancellor  
Professor Moshe Kaveh,  
President  
Jane Stern Lebell, President  
American Friends  
Gen. (res.) Yehuda Halevy,  
Executive Vice President

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The Officers and Staff of State of Israel Bonds mourn the passing of a great lady and true Eshet Chavil. We extend our deepest, heartfelt sympathy to Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein and the entire family.

Gideon Patt, President  
Burton P. Resnick, Chairman  
National Campaign  
Irwin Hochberg, Chairman  
Greater New York  
Rabbi Aaron Landes, Chairman  
National Rabbinic Cabinet

**LOOKSTEIN — Gertrude.** We mourn the passing of an unforgettable Jewish matriarch. Heartfelt sympathy to her beloved family.

Dr. and Mrs. Meyer Taxon  
and Family

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.**

With profound sadness, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, its Sisterhood, Men's Club and Couples Club mourn the passing of the beloved matriarch of our family, granddaughter of the late Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies, "The RaMaZ," wife of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, mother of Dr. Nathalie Friedman and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and sister of Nathalie Herman, Sylvia Lipton, Hilda Fischman and Charles Schlang. An active leader in many Jewish organizations here and in Israel, she was a strong and powerful influence on the rabbinate of this congregation throughout most of the 20th century. Family, friends, congregants and so many others whom she touched will miss her unfailing love, her wise counsel and her gracious personality. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and to the entire community who mourn her passing.

Fred Distenfeld, President

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.**

We have lost our eshet chavil. For over six decades her strength, intelligence, dignity, common sense, wit, warmth and kindness guided Ramaz School's founder, her husband, the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein and the current principal, her son, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, in creating, building and nourishing the Yeshiva named after her revered grandfather. She lived to see a child, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend and graduate Ramaz. They serve as representatives for three generations of Ramaz students who are her living memorial. Our condolences to her children, Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein, Dr. Nathalie and Israel Friedman and the entire family.

Dr. Noam Shudofsky,  
Administrator

Rabbi Joshua S. Baksi, Dean  
David N. Kahn, Board of Trustees  
Lawrence A. Koblrin  
Melvin D. Newman  
Arthur C. Silverman  
Steven R. Gross,  
Post Chairman  
Albert Goetz  
Dr. Jay Stone  
Deborah Wrubel  
Faculty Council  
Karen Gibofsky,  
President Parents' Council

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.** "A woman of valor...Far beyond pearls is her value." The Ramaz Student Body mourns the loss of our Yeshiva's matriarch, wife of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, founder of our school. Her love and devotion for the Ramaz and KJ community served as an inspiration to us all. Our heartfelt condolences to her son, our Principal, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, her daughter, Dr. Nathalie Friedman, and the entire family. "... Let her be praised in the gates by her deeds." (Proverbs).

The Ramaz Student Body  
Jonathan Gribetz, President  
Daniel Mark, Vice President  
Matthew Schneider,  
Vice President  
David Rosen, Secretary  
Aaron Yunis, Treasurer

## NEW YORK The Jewish Week

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW YORK / \$1.00 / SEPTEMBER 19, 1997 / 17 ELUL 5757

### Gertrude Lookstein, Ramaz School Matriarch, Dies At 89

Gertrude S. Lookstein, matriarch of the Ramaz School and Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, died last week in New York. She was 89.

Mrs. Lookstein is the mother of the school's principal and synagogue spiritual leader, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein; widow of Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, the school's founder and congregational leader for more than 50 years; and granddaughter of the prominent Jewish leader known as the RaMaZ, Rabbi Moses Z. Margolies.

She herself was pivotal in building the many anchoring institutions of Manhattan's Upper

East Side Orthodox community, as well as in her youth teaching Talmud Torah at the West Side Institutional Synagogue.

Mrs. Lookstein was active in numerous other Jewish organizations in New York and Israel, including Bar-Ilan University and Amit, where her daughter-in-law, Audrey, is national vice president.

Besides Haskel and Audrey, she is survived a daughter and her husband, Dr. Natalie and Israel Friedman; eight grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

**Late Edition**  
New York: Today, patchy fog then sun, some late day thunder. High 81. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 63. Tomorrow, ample sun. High 77. Yesterday, high 76, low 64. Details, page D17.

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area

60 CENTS

## Deaths

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The Metropolitan NY Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty mourns the loss of Gertrude Lookstein, mother of our esteemed Board member, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. Gertrude Lookstein was an inspiration to her family and to the Jewish community as a whole. She inspired all to perform acts of loving kindness. May the entire family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Merryl H. Tisch, President  
Menachem Lubinsky, Chair of Bd  
William E. Rapfogel, Exec Dir

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** AMIT is deeply saddened by the loss of the beloved mother of our dear friends and supporters Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Doctor Nathalie Friedman and dear mother-in-law of our devoted National Vice President, Audrey Lookstein. A true Woman of Valour, Gertrude Lookstein epitomized love of Torah, love of Israel and selfless communal service. She will be sorely missed. Heartfelt condolences to the entire family.

Evelyn Blachor, Nat'l Pres  
Marvin Leff, Executive Dir

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.** We are deeply grateful for a lifetime of family friendship that spans generations as well as the ocean. The special qualities of a gracious lady are remembered with love and will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt condolences to Nathalie and Israel, Rabbi Haskel and Audrey, and Gertrude's brother and sisters. Our family mourns with your family.

Bertha Kramer, Edna Cohen  
and Audrey Kallman

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The Yeshivat Hakotel family mourns the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, beloved mother of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and widow of the late Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, and extends sympathy to its alumnus, Rabbi Joshua Lookstein. B'avodat hakodesh timtzeuh tanchumim. May the family be comforted among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Harav Aharon Bina  
Yeshivat Hakotel

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The Jewish Center mourns the passing of the beloved mother of our illustrious neighbor, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. She leaves a legacy of Torah, Zedakah and Chesed for her wonderful family. May they all be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Rabbi  
Samuel Goldman, President  
Arthur G. Degen, Chairman of Ed  
Fiza Weinman, Sisterhood

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** Hineni extends profound sympathy to our esteemed friend, the distinguished spiritual leader of K.J., Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and his family on the passing of their dear mother and grandmother, Gertrude, a true Aishes Chavil, whose life was an embodiment of Torah and chesed. Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, Pres. Barbara Janov, Exec. Director

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The S/A/R Academy family mourns the loss of a great woman and Aishes Chavil. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to her beloved children, Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein and to the entire family. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Jack C. Bendheim, President

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.** Upper East Side Hatzolah, its members and coordinators, mourn the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, an exceptional individual, a true "ishet chavil", and leader in our community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her son, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Rabbi of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and principal of The Ramaz School, and to her daughter, Dr. Nathalie Friedman. Mrs. Lookstein's dedicated support for and pride in Hatzolah as well as her decades of leadership in the Upper East Side Jewish Community will be sorely missed. May the bereaved family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

David W. Shipper  
Andrew M. Shipper  
Coordinators

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.** The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) records with sorrow the death of a true woman of valour, mother of our distinguished board member Rabbi Haskel Lookstein; a distinguished religious leader and widow of the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, who for many decades provided outstanding leadership in shaping JDC's programs to rebuild Jewish life overseas after the Holocaust. May the memory of her good deeds serve as a blessing.

Jonathan W. Kolker, President  
Milton A. Wolf, Chairman  
Michael Schneider, Executive VP  
Ralph I. Goldman, Hon. Exec VP

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S.** Congregation Or Zarua extends its deepest sympathies to Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, his entire family and the communities of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and The Ramaz School. She was a woman whose life was lived for the Jewish community as well as her family, and we pray that the community's sorrow provides a partial consolation to you. May He who brings comfort to the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem bring comfort to all those touched by this cishet navil.

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, Rabbi  
Samuel C. Klagsbrun, Pres

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** The National Jewish Outreach Program mourns the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, Matriarch of the legendary Lookstein family, and beloved mother of Dr. Nathalie Friedman and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. Rabbi Lookstein's leadership has played a crucial role in transforming Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun into a leading outreach congregation, and his commitment to outreach has profoundly impacted on NJOP's efforts to assure a Jewish future for American Jewry. Condolences to the entire family.

Rabbi Ephraim Z. Buchwald, Dir

**LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude.** MaTan, The Sadie Rennett Institute for Torah Studies notes with sadness the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, mother of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Dr. Nathalie Friedman, two outstanding supporters of higher Jewish education for women. May the family be comforted among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Malke Bina, Educational Dir



## the Justice

The Independent Student Newspaper of Brandeis University

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

### Quotation of the Week

"Peace is not just about arrangements between states. It's something that happens between people."

— Professor Kanon Makiya (NEJS), on the ideals behind the political lectures scheduled on campus.

We mourn the passing of  
the beloved matriarch of the  
KJ/Ramaz Family

**Gertrude S. Lookstein**

"May God console her  
family among the other  
mourners of Zion and  
Jerusalem."

- Brandeis Ramaz Alumni

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1997

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LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S. Ariel United Israel Institutes deeply mourns the passing of the beloved mother of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, member of our Board of Governors, devoted friend and supporter. She was a true Woman of Valour, lover of Torah, Israel and Eretz Israel. Heartfelt condolences to Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein, Dr. Nathalie and Israel Friedman, and to the entire family.

Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Chancellor and Chief Rabbi of Haifa  
Natalio S. Fridman, President  
Michael D. Jaspán, Treasurer  
Ariel American Friends of Midrasa

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. The Officers, Trustees and Members of Park Avenue Synagogue mourn the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, mother of our esteemed neighbor Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. We extend to the entire family our heartfelt sympathy.

David H. Lincoln, Senior Rabbi  
Alan Levine, Ch. of the Bd.  
Robert P. Antier, Pres. ent

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. Elegance of person, elegance of word and deed. She and her husband were part of the fabric of our lives and will continue to influence our thoughts and actions.

Kaufman, Lindenbaum and Newman families

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. To our premier Bat-Kohen. We will miss you.

KJ Women's Tefillah Group

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1997

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LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. The Abraham Joshua Heschel School extends condolences to Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Nathalie Friedman and their entire families as well as the Ramaz School community on the passing of Mrs. Gertrude Lookstein—a woman of valor who touched all of us.

Terry Ann Krulwich, President  
Roanna Shorofsky, Director  
Abraham Joshua Heschel School

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S. We mourn the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, Aishat Chavil, whose devotion to her family, faith and community have been an inspiration to us all. Her legacy continues in the leadership of our dear friend, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. May he and his family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Diana and Morad Roshanzamir  
Debra and Asher Roshanzamir  
Esther and Menashe Dror  
Roset and Elliott Eshoghian

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. The Westchester Day School family extends profound sympathy to the family of Gertrude Lookstein, to her beloved children Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein and Dr. Nathalie and Israel Friedman. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Caren Hammerman, President

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

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LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. Her name will be as a blessing for generations upon generations to come, please G-d.

Margo Feiden-Cohen

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

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LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. American Friends of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva records with deep sorrow the passing of Gertrude Lookstein, a true Eishet Chavil who devoted her life to the Jewish People, the Torah and the Land of Israel. We extend deepest condolences to her son, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, a dedicated supporter of AFYBA and recipient of its Rabbinic Leadership Award, and a true religious Zionist leader. May the family be consoled among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Marvin S. Bienenfeld, Chairman  
Joel M. Schreiber, President  
Rabbi David V. Warshaw, Ex. Dir.

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude S. A devoted friend, always kind and generous in times of need. May her family be comforted by her gracious memory.

Mrs. Dezso Goldner

LOOKSTEIN—Gertrude. Goodbye to a wonderful woman whose warmth and high standards will continue to inspire.

Ruth and Ed Lukoshok

## ORAL HISTORY

As part of Kehilath Jeshurun's 125th Anniversary celebration, of which Gertrude Lookstein was the Honorary Chairperson, the committee has undertaken an oral history project. Along with her sisters, Hilda Fischman and Sylvia Lipton, Mrs. Lookstein was interviewed just two months before her passing by Professor Naomi Miller and Yvonne Koppel-Kopans. A few of her quotations appear here.

"I met Rabbi Lookstein in the Sukka of KJ. I was sixteen at the time. He was meeting my grandfather, Rabbi Margolies. Two years later he got *S'micha* and after that he called me and asked me out. We were married in 1926."

*"Do you notice any real changes in the people in the Congregation?"*

"Yes! They are much more active and involved now. These people have families and there is much more of a family spirit at KJ now. People participate with their children and there is so much going on for them."

"KJ needed someone to pull it together. It needed socialization and so I began by starting the Sisterhood. I also started our women preparing and caring for Shiva houses. The young women became involved. We had open houses in our home, visitors for dinner Friday night and Shabbos lunch and every holiday. Both my husband and I enjoyed it. And the people enjoyed it. We never sat down alone. I was part of a community whether for solace or to lend a hand here or there, or Bikur Cholim visits."

"I learned Hebrew from a private tutor. I then taught it at the West Side Institutional Synagogue in Harlem. I did that in their Hebrew School three times a week and really made a nice name for myself."

"I never felt deprived of a private life because my husband and I worked on everything together. I thought what he was doing was good and he thought what I was doing was good. I was deprived once in a while, but that was all right. I didn't resent his having to go to a meeting at night or things like that."

"I was a departure from the norm in those days that I did not, as the Rabbi's wife, simply take a back seat, but actually got involved."

"I was always part of KJ."

KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
125 East 85th Street  
New York, NY 10028

SECOND CLASS  
POSTAGE PAID  
AT NEW YORK, NY

*"Did Rabbi Joseph Lookstein anticipate the impact Ramaz would have on KJ?"*

"He was primarily interested in the Jewish education it would provide. When he came into the family he insisted private lessons were not enough. I went to the Hebrew Teachers Training School. Positive Jewish education was necessary mixed with today's world. He built Ramaz on that theory. He created the model."