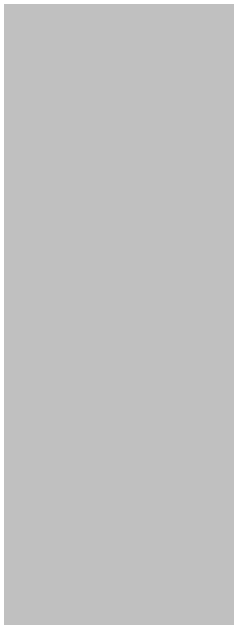


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November 2004

The following excerpts from the **Lamp** are available for your review:

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From the Desk of Rabbi David E. Fass *ABC, XYZ... UJA, UJC... Apology*

The response to the sermon that I gave on Yom Kippur morning has been most gratifying. Any number of people have made donations that they want ear-marked for the Cuban Jewish Community. I have done my best to see that their wishes are carried out.

But I owe you an apology. I did not stress enough that our local Jewish Federation is the conduit for funds not just to the Joint Distribution Committee, which takes care of Jews outside the US. It is the source of the funds that maintain Jewish institutions here in Rockland like Jewish Family Services, the Commission on Jewish Education of Rockland, and the JCC-Y. It reaches out to help our people in Israel, helping fund crisis centers for Israeli children, etc., etc. The entire Federation concept is to have a central address, an umbrella organization, if you will, to collect funds and then to disburse them where they are needed.

I urge you to give as generously as you can. Please make a pledge if you haven't already done so. You can do so through me, or through Jody Gisser at the Federation office. If you've already made a pledge, please pay it as soon as possible. The organizations that receive allocations from our Federation have payrolls and other costs to meet, and far too often there has not been enough to meet the monthly requirements.

I realize that there can be a certain cynicism when dealing with organizations in which we do not have direct involvement. What are "they" doing with the money you send? Let me assure that I am one of the "they." I sit on both the executive committee and the board of the Rockland Jewish Federation. The other people there are some of the finest human beings you'd ever want to meet. The amounts of time and yes, money they give is astounding. Most of them are not wealthy. They just care. They care deeply about the

Jews of Rockland County. They care deeply about the Jews of Cuba and Europe and South America and Israel and everywhere else on the planet. Every month I watch them agonize over how they are going to raise the funds to accomplish even a fraction of what needs to be done. They need your help. Our people need your help

It would certainly be wonderful if the only Jews who really needed our help were the ones in Cuba. As all of our grandparents use to say, "You should live so long!" But there is so much to do all over the Jewish world. Please, give. Give as much as you can to the Rockland Jewish Federation. Whether you are able to give a little or a lot, give. It will be well spent, I assure you. It will help fellow Jews who desperately need our help. What could be a more worthy cause than that?

Rabbi Fass

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Cantor's Notes

High Holy Days- how exciting they are and how busy!

Now that the High Holy Days and Sukkoth are over I can look back and thank all the members of our choir who made these holidays so special. THANK YOU Eva Simons, Carol Pitkin, Laurie Winston, Nancy Goldberg, Melinda Koss, Ann Hochman, Sandy Scharf, Arlene Kalmanson, Marian Fass, Joyce Taub, Rita Weingold, Elena Schwartz, Elaine Feig, Risa Stern, Brad Kalmanson, Scott Jones, Gary Hochman, Len Sklerov, and Vladimir Beryozkin - you did a wonderful job!

It is my pleasure as well to thank our High Holy Day Torah readers: Madeline Briker, Ziv Schwartz, Emily Parker, Alex Wittenberg, Ricky Jones, Jeff Colen, Brandon Bass and Jenny Papo. They did an exceptionally great job and made our temple and their parents very proud.

Once more I would like to thank everybody who helped to make our High Holy Days a success!

The year has just started but we already have had so many nice events in our Temple.

With your help and with your attendance at our multiple activities we can make (and we are making) our Temple a special place.

As you probably know, last April I went to Russia and the Ukraine to visit the Reform Congregations of Moscow and Kiev. I volunteered to teach seminars for lay leaders of these cities and their surrounding smaller towns. You probably know that Kiev's congregation Hatikvah is our twinning congregation. On November 14th at 10 AM I will be talking about this trip and showing pictures and movies about my experience. Together we can think about how to better develop our twinning program. Please join us at this breakfast discussion.

Also in November we will continue our Lite Classical program. There will be a 45 minute concert following Friday night services on November 19th.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Cantor Sergei Schwartz

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