

A Jewish Press Profile

EACH WEEK THE JEWISH PRESS SELECTS A PROMINENT AND OUTSTANDING MAN IN JEWISH LIFE, INTERVIEWS HIM AND WRITES A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF HIS LIFE. THIS WEEK, WE PRESENT . . .

Rabbi Yitzchok David Grossman

By TOVIA PRESCHEL



Two years ago when he was a student at the Yeshiva of Slobodka in Bnei Brak he heard of the decay of religious life and of the neglect of religious education in the new immigrant town of Migdal HaEmek in the Jezreel Valley. He decided, with five other Yeshiva students to do something about it.

They resolved to establish a Kollel in Migdal HaEmek. They would continue their rabbinic studies, but would devote part of their time to the education of the young.

They moved to Migdal HaEmek, rented apartments and established their headquarters in a local synagogue. In the mornings they studied. In the afternoons they and their wives went to meet the youth of the town. They talked to them in the streets, in bars and on playgrounds. They spoke to them of the beauty of Jewish religious life and told them of their plans to organize classes of religion and recreational activities.

"In the beginning people were suspicious of us. They thought that we were emissaries of the religious parties intent on gaining new members. Eventually we were able to overcome their distrust," Rabbi Grossman told us.

"We were able to influence the young. The youth loved us. The number of those who participated in our activities grew rapidly. Through the youth we reached the adults. The children asked their parents to observe the Sabbath, to observe the laws of Kashrut."

Within a few months life in the town changed. Hundreds of children were enrolled in Grossman's afternoon school. The sanctity of the Sabbath day began to be felt in the streets.

People who had looked in the beginning with disfavor on the group's activities, became their most ardent supporters and admirers. The local chief of police declared publicly that since the arrival of the six Hassidic young men, juvenile delinquency had ceased to plague the town.

The group widened its activities. They established a Torah course for students in Upper Nazareth and a Talmud class in a nearby Kibbutz and regularly visited an army base in the area.

Grossman remained on the lookout for young people with whom he could talk

about "Yiddishkeit." He would engage them in conversation in all kinds of places and seek to remain in touch with them.

Once he met a group of hippies on a bus and had a long talk with one of them. A few days later he received the following letter:

"I met you on the bus. I would like you to talk to me more. I feel that I am about to fall, but I don't want to fall. Speak to me a little, encourage me! I feel as if evil waves are pushing me into the sea!"

The group's activities became the talk of the Jezreel Valley. A son of Dayan, who is a farmer in Nahalal, wrote about them to his father. Thereupon Moshe Dayan sent a letter of encouragement to the group.

Last year Migdal HaEmek publicly expressed its appreciation to Rabbi Grossman and his group. The town's leaders met to choose a rabbi. There were four candidates. Migdal HaEmek has more than ten thousand inhabitants. The great majority are newcomers from North Africa. This community of oriental Jews unanimously chose Rabbi Grossman, a Hassidic young man, as their rabbi.

The "coronation" was a great event. Chief Rabbi Issar Yehuda Unterman came from Jerusalem. Rabbi Grossman rode in the company of the mayor, Zvi Eldoroti, in an open car, through the town, wildly acclaimed by the inhabitants. Among the cables of congratulations the new rabbi received was one from Moshe Dayan.

Three months ago, Migdal Haemek celebrated its 15th anniversary. Prime Minister Golda Meir was the main speaker at the festivities. Rabbi Grossman was introduced to Golda. Mrs. Meir took a long look at the Hassidic young man, at his bearded face, at his long sidelocks which reached down to his shoulders. Mrs. Meir knew that Migdal HaEmek wasn't Jerusalem nor Bnei Brak. It was a town where the labor parties ruled supreme. The religious parties didn't have even a single representative on the local council. "How did you come here?" Mrs. Meir asked Rabbi Grossman in surprise.

Rabbi Grossman replied that while studying at the Yeshiva and hearing of the daily sacrifices of the Israel army on the Suez front, he felt it his duty to do

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The Protests Mount

Reports from the Soviet Union of mounting prosecution of Russian Jews were matched this week by growing worldwide protests, topped by a massive parade in Manhattan.

The parade was marred by an attempted takeover by members of the militant Jewish Defense League and a near riot a block away from the Soviet United Nations Mission.

10,000 Protest Marchers

An estimated 10,000 New Yorkers, at least half of them teenagers and college students, had marched peacefully some two miles to the area of the Soviet Mission after hearing appeals from Jewish leaders for unabated protests against the trials.

Twelve demonstrators were arrested and five hospitalized. Eye-witnesses said police had used clubs on demonstrators trying to break through police barriers some 500 feet from the mission building. Several policemen were injured.

Poles Join The Demonstrations

At one point, about 100 Polish demonstrators protesting against the Gomulka regime in Communist Poland mingled with the Jewish marchers, shouting, "We are with you."

According to one eye-witness account, JDL members among the marchers tried to incite the demonstrators to break through police lines.

They All Marched

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Dr. William Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, joined in the march.

The marchers included Bayard Rustin, the Black civil rights leader, and Father Donald Campion, editor of the Catholic weekly, "America." The march was sponsored by the two Jewish organizations.

'JDL Aided Kremlin'

Rabbi Schacter denounced the JDL. He said that in fomenting a confrontation with the police the JDL played "into the hands of the Kremlin."

The rabbinical leader said that the JDL action could serve only to divert public attention "from the real crime: the repression of Jewish life in the USSR."

Says It Isn't So

A JDL spokesman rejected the criticism. He insisted that the breakthrough was "engineered" by "500 to 1,000" young Jews, including 100 JDL members.

He said they had "grown tired of the do-nothingness of the American Conference" and were merely trying "to exercise their constitutional rights to picket." He added that Jewish leaders who denounce JDL actions as harmful to the welfare of Soviet Jews "do not know the facts."

Students Assail JDL

The Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry, a group which occasionally dissents from adult Jewish groups, was a participant in the huge march.

SSSJ coordinator Glenn Richter denounced the JDL "violence," declaring "we are fighting the Russians, not the police."

But he expressed the view that the JDL would continue such tactics unless "our Jewish leaders" provide "a much more vigorous leadership in the battle for Soviet Jewry."

Some 200 Jewish youth staged a vigil at the Isalah Wall opposite the United Nations in Manhattan. The event was staged by the New York Union of Jewish Students and the SSSJ.

The students represented the Radical Zionist Alliance, Betar, the JDL and the Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. They sang Hebrew songs and lit eight torches to symbolize the Chanuka candelabrum.

Several hundred students met at Stern College for a 90-minute silent vigil. Similar events were held early in the week in many Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada, and in many other western countries.

A petition with 3,700 signatures was sent to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin in Washington by the Baltimore Committee for Soviet Jewry.

Israeli Protests Swell

The spreading protests in the United States were more than matched in Israel, where thousands of Jews live who have relatives in the Soviet Union.

The focus of the Israeli protests is the Walling Wall in Old Jerusalem. On Wednesday, a traffic jam developed on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway as thousands of Jews made their way to the Walling Wall.

There, a group of Jews has been fasting since Dec. 15 in a gesture of solidarity with the Leningrad defendants.

Thousands At Walling Wall

An estimated 25,000 Jews jammed the Walling Wall area for the kindling of the first Chanuka lights and another 10,000 gathered there the next morning.

Wrath against the Soviets erupted into a shouting match in the Knesset. Labor and Independent Liberal and other deputies denounced Meir Wilner of the pro-Moscow Rakach Communist faction.



This being holiday-time, I thought I'd leave a few party planning ideas with you. Each may make your occasion more pleasant... and possibly take some unnecessary worry out of entertaining.

Just about every balabosta knows this one: In shopping, stocking and preparing, always provide more than enough. Skimpy quantities can only make your guests feel ill at ease. I usually recommend preparing three lists—one for groceries, one for liquor and a third for decorations and equipment. Try to do your shopping a good two to three days before your big event. Party Day itself should be set aside for things like decorating... setting out the silver and napkins... filling lighters... picking up catered foods... and other last-minute details.

It's usually best to keep the party simple. So sit down—with pen or pencil in hand—and plan your party from scratch. Begin with a guest list; then jot down menu ideas including those for appetizers and drinks. Remember that a buffet or smorgasbord lends itself to greater originality while also permitting a certain freedom of movement among your guests.

Before people begin arriving, get out the ice and ice buckets and set up the bar. All food should be neatly laid out (except desserts); wine bottle corks drawn; the Maxwell House coffee measured and dishes stacked. Cocktail ingredients, bar equipment and glasses should all be lined up and ready to use. If possible, have three kinds of ice on hand: cubed, cracked and crushed. Assume two glasses per guest... but try to rinse and chill glasses as they are used. Liquor bottles should be displayed prominently so guests may choose their preferred brand.

Then—relax and have fun! And speaking about holidays, the people at Kraft have a leisurely breakfast idea for a winter's morn. They suggest you try their luscious Kraft Pure Strawberry Preserves. At least 26 sun-drenched strawberries go into every jar, you know. That's why this fine Kraft preserve just has to be the strawberriest best! But then Kraft makes lavish use of fruit in all their kosher pure preserves—including cherry, raspberry and pineapple. They're all simply marvelous—real day-brighteners. Do try them all soon.

Incidentally, what are your

plans for the coming 365 days? Is this the year, for example, you make it to Israel? Well, if you're even thinking about an exciting trip like this, I suggest you look into some of the special Pan American World Airways Israel tours. I especially like their "10 days in Israel" trip which really offers a lot of country in a short time. You'll travel to Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem; then to Mount Zion and the River Jordan; to Galilee and Dead Sea; also the Walling Wall and the Mount of Olives.

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But as long as you're back here in New York (at least for the present), I suggest trying these delicious date swirls. They are sure to brighten your home entertaining. And the recipe is a snap!

DATE SWIRLS

- Date Filling:**
 1/4 cup Domino granulated sugar
 1/4 cup water
 1/4 tsp. Diamond Crystal salt
 1 8-oz. pkg. (1 1/2 cups) pitted dates, finely chopped
 1/2 cup finely chopped Diamond walnuts
- BUTTERSCOTCH COOKIE**
 2 1/2 cups Domino Brownulated granulated brown sugar
 1 1/2 tsp. Diamond Crystal Salt
 1/2 lb. (1 cup) Mazola unsalted margarine
 2 eggs
 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
 1/2 tsp. grated orange rind
 4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
 1 tsp. baking soda

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Filling: Combine sugar, water, salt and dates in small saucepan. Place over low heat; simmer 3 minutes stirring frequently. Remove from heat; stir in nuts. Set aside to cool.

Cookie: Cream brown sugar, salt and butter thoroughly. Beat eggs, extract and rind into creamed mixture until light and fluffy. Sift together flour and soda. Gradually stir into creamed ingredients.

Divide dough into three parts. Roll first part of dough into 9"x11" rectangle on well-floured board. Spread with 1/4 of cooled date mixture; form an 11" roll. Repeat twice with remaining portions of dough and filling. Wrap each roll in waxed paper; place on metal tray. Chill 3-4 hours or overnight.

Slice 1/4" cookies; place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake cookies in hot oven 400 degrees F. about 9 minutes or until light brown around edges. Remove to cooling rack. Store in airtight container.

ISRAELI EXPORTS

Israel's exports to the U.S.A., not including diamonds, increased in the first half of 1970 by 46% to \$36.5 million as against \$24.9 million in the similar 1969 period.

ISRAELI TRADE DEFICIT

The trade deficit in August totalled \$53 million. In the first eight months of 1970 the deficit reached \$473 million, a 32% increase over the same period last year.

Harry Hershfield...

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do not protect him. Hope springs eternal in the enduring Jewish breast. He knows he is outnumbered by the anti-Semites surrounding him, who in turn is also outnumbered by the true Christian world that is now asserting itself against bigotry in a thousand manifestations. The Israelite is both the wandering and wondering Jew. He feels that there is a more humane advancement. Though in many cases, they still come at him with a knife in one hand and bandages in the other.

His humor is philosophical and what may appear as exaggeration at the moment, may turn out to be the truth and comfort in the end. If the world would only recognize the fact that it is only a matter of posture. It is better to sit down and break bread together than stand and break heads. In the meantime, "when traveling through life, let's live by the wayside." On the wayside you'll find a synagogue. May all our hearts be as open as its doors.

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his share to strengthen the unity and morale of the people and he decided to devote himself to the education of the young in the new immigrant's towns.

He reminded the Prime Minister that on occasion she had related of her grandfather that he had served for many years in the Tsarist army and throughout all these years had not eaten any meat.

"Not only meat didn't he eat," Golda corrected the rabbi, "he didn't eat anything cooked in all those years." Golda added: "I knew my grandfather very well. Until the end of his life he slept with a stone under his head to atone for any

sin he might have committed during his army service."

Rabbi Grossman told us at length of the new religious life which was now developing in Migdal HaEmek. He praised Zvi Eldoroti, the energetic mayor and spoke of his plan to open a large youth center in the town. He is visiting here to raise funds for this project.

Rabbi Grossman was born twenty-five years ago in Jerusalem, where his father Yisroel serves as a rabbi. Prior to studying in Bnei Brak, he attended the Karlin Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He is married to the former Esther Rosenberg. They have one daughter, Haya Rivka.

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