

**Siyum in honor of:  
Rabbi Yisroel Snow --50th Yahzeit (Ches Elul)  
Rebitzen Esther Snow --6th Yahrzeit (Zayin Elul)**





## Four purposes of this Siyum

- Kibud Av V'Aim
- Educate Younger Generation
- Strengthen sense of family
- Celebrate the remarkable achievements of Abba and Mommy (Zaidy and Bubby Snow)



- Will begin this presentation with the previous generation
  - Much of our information is anecdotal
  - Will do our best with the limited information available



**Much of information from Abba's surviving sister, Aunt Ettie**



Abba's parents with 3 of their children



## Abba's Parents—Moshe (Morris) Snow and Raezelle (Rose) Paster Snow



- Father was married previously.
  - The 1st marriage (to escape Polish army) ended in divorce.
  - 1st marriage ended in disagreement whether to leave Europe for US.
  - One child from 1st marriage—Uncle Harry
- The Snows were one big happy family in spite of the poverty
  - Mother always singing.
  - Family sang lots of zmiros on Shabbos
  - Children assigned specific household chores. Kids complied happily
  - Kids got along extremely well.
- Parents polite, well behaved and kept mostly to themselves
- Mother read a lot (Jewish newspaper)



Abba's Parents—Moshe (Morris) Snow and Raezelle (Rose) Paster Snow (continued)

- Parents primary interest - taking care of family
- Father kind/affectionate, always had a kid on his lap and told stories.
- Mother kind and gentle
- Little friction between parents — only issue was over money
- Father spoke Yiddish at home - knew English;
- Mother knew Polish, Yiddish and was going to night school to learn English- wanted desperately to become a US citizen
- Neither parent was educated, but both desperately wanted their children to get a good education
- Mother sewed well and made the kids Shabbos clothes- they were the best dressed kids on shabbos

Abba's Parents—Moshe (Morris) Snow and Raezelle (Rose) Paster Snow (continued)



- Parents were generous people .
- Even though desperately poor, parents insisted that whenever kids earned money, some had to go into puska .
- Father had severe asthma, sold his business and was "retired" for several years before death. When he had an attack he would always say: "Ich Scharb, take good care of Momma"
- Father became especially frum in his later years—went to mikva daily.
- Father died of a heart attack in 1929. Mother died of a stroke in 1932 [Note: Abba left to Chevron in 1928]
- Tombstone records that he was Shomer Shabbos his entire life — certainly not a small accomplishment in those times



## The Snow Siblings

(From left)

- Sol(\*) and Bessie
  - Harry(\*) and Elinor
  - Murray and Idie(\*)
  - Aaron and Leah(\*)
  - Meyer(\*) (in uniform)
  - Jerry and Ettie(\*)
  - Aaron and Annie(\*)
  - George(\*) and Rebecca
  - Zaidy(\*) and Bubby Snow
- (\*) indicates Snow sibling





 Jacob  Max  Bubby  Hadassah  Joseph  Bubby Snow

Bubby Snow's Parents

Harav Zev Volf Goldberg

Harav Zev Volf Goldberg  
Hadassah (Krienes) Goldberg



# The Goldberg Family

(From the left)

- Jacob
- Moshe
- Joseph
- Max
- Bubby Goldberg
- Zaidy Goldberg
- Bubby Snow

# Characteristics of the Goldbergs

## Zaidy Goldberg



- Ben Torah/ Talmid Chochom/ Yiras Shomiam
- Straight as an arrow (WYSIWYG)
- Moser nefesh/hard worker
  - Left family to raise money for Yeshiva
  - Rov in 3 shuls simultaneously + hasgachah in slaughterhouse
- Close Chaver: Rabbi E. Henkin
- Wrote letters to editors of newspapers to defend Kovod Hatorah
- 3 stories:
  - Meat scandal
  - Shochet with tremors
  - Leaving Europe
- See <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/slutsk/slu110.html> for short biography

# Characteristics of the Goldbergs

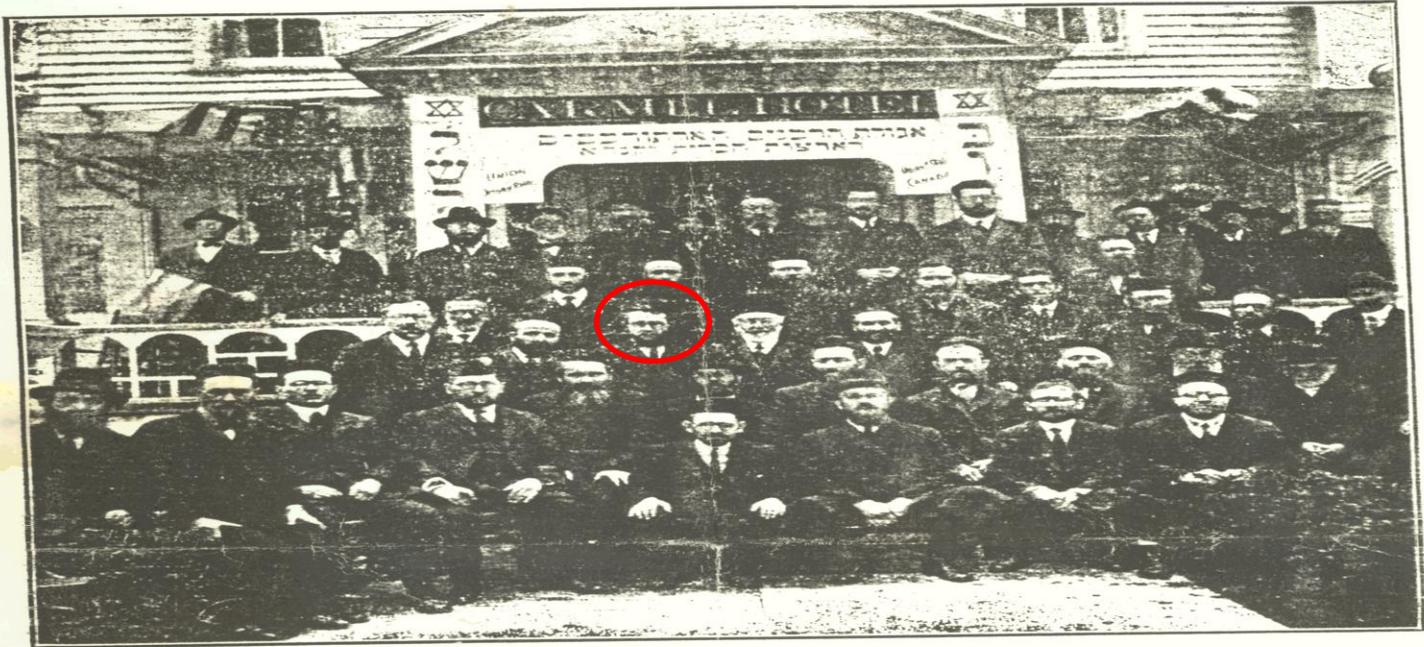
## Bubby Goldberg



- No formal education/ Davened/tehilim/Tzena O'rena/Yiras Shomiam
- Straight as an arrow (WYSIWYG)
- Supported family as a Milliner/made hats for family weddings in US
- Exceptionally fine midos
- Meticulous in all things
- From an illustrious Slutzk family (Kaddish the Melamed and others)
- Proud and fiercely protective of family
- Known tzadekes throughout East Side for tzedakah and chesed:
  - Priest
  - Nursing Home
  - R' Shisgal
  - Hesped from R' Moshe Feinstein



- Meeting of Agudas Rabonim in early 1930s, Zaidy Goldberg circled



זוה לוי : "עשרים שנה" באמתתתי : "תמונת הרבנים" מכאי לאסיפת האגודה בלונדון-  
 וואוד (שנת תרפ"ג הנ"ל) זכפי האפיקר, הננו להזכיר אותם בשמותם הע"א.  
 [ולחב"ל הנעדרים ז"ל].

הראשון במדרגה התחוננה לצד ימין : מרדכי אהרן קפלן ; משה אהרן פאלינצוו ; יוסף מאיר  
 דושיקאבסאך, באסטאן ; יוסף צבי אראנסאך, ניו ברויטאן ; [אר"י ליב רלב"ג ז"ל] ; דאיובן  
 זעלצער, בהג"מ יהודא ליב זעלצער, מנהל אגודת "שלוש"א ; [משה שטערמאן ז"ל] ; יוסף  
 אליהו הענמיץ, השורה שני' על נבי קפלן ; [בנימין ברוך גוטא ז"ל] ; מנחם מענדל גתיק ; צבי  
 הירש פריעדמאן ; אברהם שמואל סעמואלס ; זוריאל פלאקס ; [יהודה אידל אידעלסאן ז"ל] ;  
 רפאל וויצנער ז"ל ; שורה שלישית [המתחלת באמצע] : יצחק מארקוס ; שלום מנחם פרוז ; זאבי  
באלבערג ; מארקוס ; שמואל באסקין, שורה הרביעית, בין הרב גוטא וגתיק) ; אפרים צבי  
מינזבערג ; שלמה זלמן קרעווסקי ; דוד אפעלמאן (ומשכמו ולמעלה) ; יעקב איסקאלסקי ז"ל] ;  
 יאובן הלוי ליוואוויץ ; אברהם יצחק זאלמאנוויץ ; ליפמאן לעווין ; יוסף קעסלער ; שלמה  
 זיים זעלצער, שורה העליונה ; [הייש הירשענזאן ז"ל] [ולמעלה מהרב איסקאלסקי] ; היאל מיכל  
 דרלס ; [יתרע העטיל לעוויןבערג ז"ל] ; אליעזר שאטלאנד ; משה די שיינסאפ ; אברהם  
 בריחה אט ; אפרים פעלקאוויץ, והמוקיר רבנו הנגיד, קרובי ממשפחת רש"י ז"ל) מו"ה יודא  
 ליב האראוויץ נ"י.

# Growing Up



## Abba (Zaidy Snow)

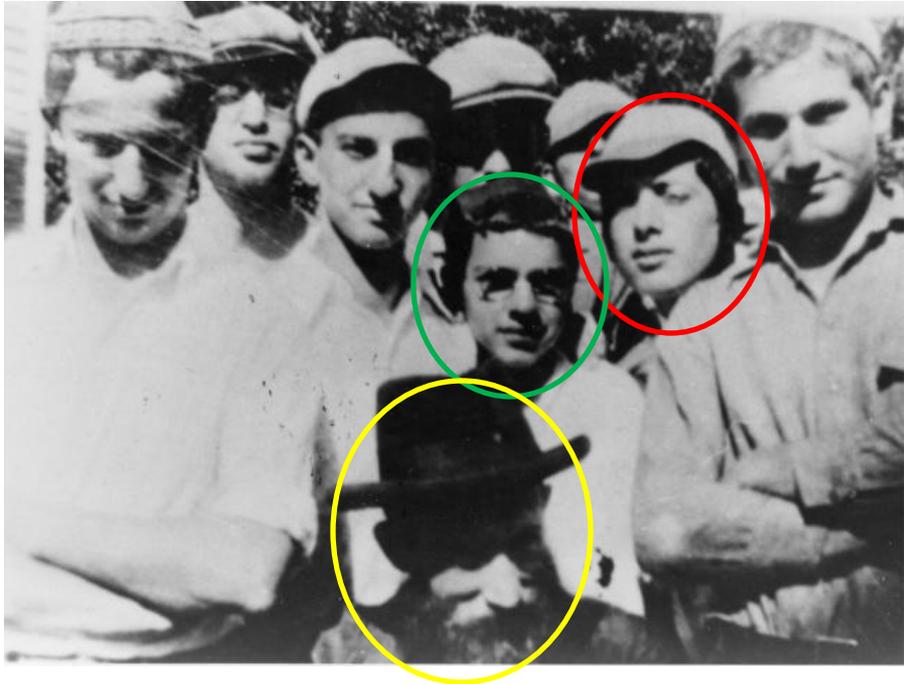
- Fun loving American kid/Roamed streets of Brooklyn
- Blended well into family
- Math Prodigy
- Master at Checkers, chess and other games of skill
- Always attracted to Torah and Yiddishkeit
- Sold candy and newspapers on trains
- Attended Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Eastern District HS (never finished)
- Heavily influenced by Mr. Medlowitz, Rabbi M. Rosen and Rabbi D. Leibowitz
- Saved money to travel to Chevron Yeshiva in Palestine at age 15

## Mommy (Bubby Snow)

- Born in Slutzk/ Came to US ~ age 5
- Shy/ Obedient/Respectful child
- Attended public school, Talmud Torah and Herzilya
- Good in English and writing
- Very frum in spite of public school education
- Led youth groups in shul
  - Story with Shabbos movies
- Attended Brooklyn College/dropped out when married
- Only one other person remained observant from her group



Passport picture Zaidy Snow



Red circle- Zaidy Snow  
Green circle- Rabbi Pam  
Yellow circle- Rabbi D. Leibowitz



Bubby Snow



Uncle Moshe  
and Bubby  
Goldberg 16



## Letter from Bubby Snow (slutzk) to Zaidy Goldberg (America)



# Abba's Yeshiva Years



- Arrived in Chevron in early 1929
- In riots, was almost killed (Reported dead, sent “well” telegram home)
- Close friends died in massacre
- Stayed in Chevron (moved to Jerusalem) for about 4 years
- Moved to Mir in Europe (was known as Americaner Illui)
- When Roshei Yeshiva left, he was appointed one of the yeshiva poskim
- Still played chess (story)
- Support for Abba was provided by his generous siblings
- Special thanks are owed to Aunt Aidy for keeping the family together after the parents died
- Obtained smicah from:
  - R' Zvie Hirsch Komai (Mir)
  - R' Boruch Ber Leibovitz (Kaminetz)
  - R' Meir Abovitz (Nevardok)
  - R' Simcha Zeleg Reguer of Brisk

# Purim in Palestine

(Can you find Abba?)





Abba Passport  
Photo



Abba Lower Right

# Back to the USA



- In 1936, Abba returned to the USA
- Moved back with his siblings/ parents had passed away while he was in Chevron
- Although he was “different” than his siblings, he remained especially close to his them throughout his life
- In 1936/1937 accepted a position as a Rosh Yeshiva in Mesivta Chaim Berlin, Married Bubby Snow, moved to Brownsville, Brooklyn, and became the Rov in the Young Israel of Brownsville [Rabbi Halbfinger videoFinal\(1\).wmp](#)
- As was customary at that time, Bubby Snow did not work, but managed the household
- Births: Velvel in 1938, Raezelle in 1942, Moishe in 1943, Sara in 1946, Ricky in 1948
- To support his growing family, he became an agent for New York Life Insurance Company in 1941
- Rabbis March on Washington 1943
- He resigned as the Young Israel Rov in the early 1940s
- Due to illness he resigned his position as Rosh Yeshiva in 1955
- Family moved from Brownsville to East Flatbush in 1958

Abba (Left) of the Rabbis' March on Washington. From a photo of the Rabbis' March on Washington. The photo is in the possession of the author.

A Rare Clip Of The Historic "Rabbis March On Washington" Four Hundred Orthodox Rabbis Marched On The Steps Of Congress To Plead With Roosevelt To Rescue Th.. (2)



00:24



## Back to the USA



### **Write-up by Velvel Snow:**

My father, Rabbi Israel Snow, was one of the rabbis who participated in the 1943 Rabbis March on Washington.

My father was born in 1913 in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Yeshiva Torah Vodaath for elementary school. Then he learned in Mesivta Torah Vodaath, concurrent with going to Eastern District High School in the evening. At the same time, he sold candy, gum, and newspapers in the subways of New York to help support his family. He diverted part of this money to buy boat passage to the British mandate of Palestine in order to study at the Hevron Yeshiva. He learned in Hevron from 1928 to 1932, and was there during the pogrom of 1929. Then he went to the Mirrer Yeshiva in Poland for the years 1932-1936. During 1935-6, he traveled to other European cities to obtain semicha from various Roshei Yeshiva and Rabbanim. On one of his trips a judenreinigen was taking place, but he was allowed to continue his ride because of his American passport.

In 1936, he returned to the USA [and] in early 1937, he was hired as a rosh yeshiva in Mesivta Rabbi Chaim Berlin. He married my mother, the former Esther Miriam Goldberg, later that year. He taught in Chaim Berlin until 1955, when ill health caused him to leave. During some of the time he was in Chaim Berlin, he was also Rabbi of the Young Israel of Brownsville.

In reference to the March on Washington, I recall years later my father telling me that they were met by Vice President Henry Wallace. The significance my father attached to this was that FDR refused to meet with them. My father attributed this to FDR's callous indifference to Jewish life and to FDR's Jewish advisers, such as Stephen Wise, who told FDR that these rabbis were from the Middle Ages.

FDR's refusal did not augur well as to what the American Government was going to do for the Jews in peril. Furthermore, when my father and others collected money for the Vaad Hatzala, they were met with skepticism asserting that this cannot be because FDR would not allow this mass slaughter to take place without at least saying something.

## Back to the USA



*Why Recognizing the Bergson Group Matters:* by Rafael Medoff

After many decades of being excluded from most history books and Holocaust museums, the 1940s' rescue activists known as the Bergson Group are finally receiving the recognition they deserve. That's important to ensure historical accuracy, to promote Jewish unity and, most of all, to help inspire a new generation of activists.

As an Aug. 7 feature story in the New York Times noted, the Bergsonites "shook America" with their hundreds of newspaper advertisements, rallies and lobbying on Capitol Hill for U.S. action to rescue Jews from the Nazis. The group's leader, Peter Bergson (real name: Hillel Kook) called himself a "nuisance diplomat," and his activities indeed were quite a nuisance to the Roosevelt administration, which claimed that the rescue of European Jews was impossible.

Many mainstream Jewish leaders likewise were uncomfortable with the Bergson rescue campaign. They were afraid that loud Jewish activism might provoke anti-Semitism. Some Jewish leaders were worried, too, that the media-savvy Bergson was stealing the limelight.

Despite their opponents, the Bergsonites succeeded in mobilizing enough congressional and public pressure on President Roosevelt to help bring about the belated creation of a new U.S. government agency, the War Refugee Board, in early 1944. During the final 15 months of World War II, the board played a key role in rescuing about 200,000 Jews from the Nazis.

Bitterness over Bergson's provocative tactics lingered long afterward, however, which may partly explain why for many years, most narratives of the Holocaust omitted Bergson. It didn't help that the Bergson Group dissolved itself in 1948—Bergson quipped that it was the only Jewish organization to ever voluntarily go out of business—meaning that Bergson alumni weren't well positioned to ensure their story was accessible to historians or the general public.

## Back to the USA



But times changed. In the 1970s and 1980s, a new generation of historians, led by professors David S. Wyman and Monty Penkower, began writing about the Bergson Group. More recently, an off-Broadway play called *The Accomplices* and several film documentaries have brought the story to whole new audiences. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum recently added Bergson materials to its permanent exhibit, as did the newly expanded and reopened Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. And this summer, on the 70th anniversary of the Bergson Group's establishment, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem (together with The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies) co-hosted its first symposium on the activists.

Another factor contributed to the changing attitudes toward Bergson: the legitimization of Jewish activism. The Bergson tactics that some Jewish leaders deplored in the 1940s were adopted by the mainstream Soviet Jewry protest movement of the 1960s and 1970s. When the Bergsonites organized a march by 400 rabbis to the White House in 1943, it was considered radical. Today, Jewish rallies in the nation's capital—whether for Israel or Darfur—are commonplace.

Why is it important that the change has finally come?

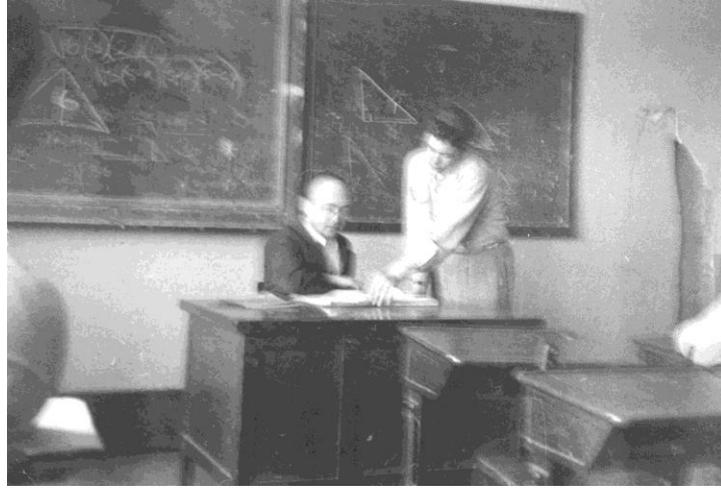
First, setting the record straight is vitally important as a matter of principle. Jews take history seriously; omission of the Bergsonites did the historical record a terrible disservice.

Second, correcting the omission can play a healing role in the Jewish community. Recognition of the Bergson Group helps put to rest the bitter quarrels of yesteryear. By facing up to its past, American Jewry can learn from the tragedies caused by the disunity of the Holocaust years.

Third, some of the specific actions of the Bergsonites are surprisingly relevant all these years later. Darfur activists seeking the arrest of indicted Sudanese President Omar Bashir might find useful ideas in Bergson's successful 1945 effort to shame the State Department into agreeing to prosecute all Nazi war criminals. Governments today that are reluctant to shelter refugees might learn something from the Bergson campaign for temporary havens for Jews fleeing Hitler. Jewish political activists in Washington can learn a great deal from the activities of the Bergson Group, which was arguably the first 'Jewish lobby' in the nation's capital.

Most of all, recognizing the activists of the Holocaust era is important because the Bergson story offers a powerful lesson for our time about the need to respond actively to oppression. The ultimate purpose of studying the Holocaust is not merely to learn about the past, but also to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

We live in an era when genocide and threats of genocide are all too real. The Bergson Group and others who promoted rescue in those days can serve as moral role models to ensure that this generation does not stand idly by



JAN 57

# Back to the USA



R' JB Soloveichick

R' Aharon Soloveichick

Abba



## Years of Sadness



- In 1959, our dear Uncle Moshe Goldberg (Rov of New Orleans) died of a heart attack. His survivors included his wife (Aunt Blanche), 2 sons and a daughter
- In 1960, our dear Uncle Jacob Goldberg (shochet) suffered a brain tumor and after a protracted illness died. He left his wife (Aunt Esther), 4 children (three daughters and a 2 year old son)



# Years of Sadness

- Abba was niftar at age 48 (Ches Ellul in 1961)
  - Levaya was held in the huge auditorium of Mesivta Chaim Berlin
  - Levaya was packed- attended by many hundreds of people, Rabonim, Roshei Yeshiva, Talmidim, Bala Batim, family and friends
  - Hespadim made by gedolei Yisroel
  - Most moving hesped by close friend, Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik [Rabbi Cohen VideoFinal\(2\).wmp](#)  
Rabbi Cohen VideoFinal(2).wmp
  - Masedim noted that although he was no longer among the living, his good works would bear rich fruit forever
  - Not a dry eye in the room

# Recovery and Growth



- Mommy (Bubby Snow) got a job as a clerk in the court system in 1961
  - Was very independent
  - She rose steadily through the ranks
  - Story with Bais Yaakov tuition
  - Continued to work in the system until she retired @ age 65
  - After retiring she began to work for Ezras Torah, first as an unpaid volunteer then as a part time paid employee. She worked for Ezras Torah until the end of her life
- With the helpful advice of Binyomin Rubin, Mommy was not only able to live well, but accumulated a nice nest egg
- Velvel was married to Ida in 1960; the rest of us married over the next 11 years

# Recovery and Growth



- Mommy lived to see great nachas from her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren
  - Zaidy and Bubby Snow had a total of 26 grandchildren and, currently, well over a hundred great-grandchildren, all of whom are Shomrei Torah U'Mitzvos
  - Many of the descendents are Clai Kodesh, Rabonim, Talmidei Chachomim
- Mommy's Levaya took place on Abba's 44th Yahrzeit. She was healthy in mind and body up until the very end. At age 90 was still using public transit and visiting sick (she had a stroke visiting Rebitzen Pam in an assisted living facility.)

# Recovery and Growth



- Mommy during her lifetime established the Rabbi Israel Snow Memorial Fund at Ezras Torah. (This Ezras Torah fund was subsequently renamed the Rabbi Israel and Rebitzen Esther Snow Memorial Fund)
- Mommy left 10% of her estate to Tzedaka
- Abba and Mommy believed in the importance of family and would be happy and proud:
  - to see this magnificent siyum in their honor by their many descendents
  - that we maintain our annual Chanukah party
  - that the family gets along well and all partake so joyfully in its many simchas

# Recovery and Growth



- Abba's Talmidim flourished
  - He had hundreds of Talmidim
  - We believe he was the very first of American born Roshei Yeshiva and could thus relate well to American students
  - He stressed the fundamentals- P'shat, Gemorrah ,Rashi and Tosfos
    - [Rabbi Shurkin Video Final\(1\).wmp](#)
    - [FinalRabbi Adelman Movie.wmp](#)
    - [Rabbi Cohen Video Final\(1\).wmp](#)
  - He stressed covering ground (60 blatt a year) and chazzara
  - Also taught Chumash and Navie
  - These talmidim are now Gedolai Yisroel, Rabonim, Rebeim. Etc.
  - It is not an exaggeration to say that he, together with others like him, changed the face of American Orthodox Jewry

# Recovery and Growth



- Although only a rovf for a short time, he made a real difference on his Kehilla
  - Against very difficult opposition, he arranged for his Young Israel to have a kosher mechitza [MrsDicksteinFinalMechitza.wlmp](#)
  - He developed a love of learning amongst his Mispallilim [MrsDicksteinFinalTorahLearning.wlmp](#)
  - He convinced many of his Kehilla to send their children to yeshiva

# Recovery and Growth



- Abba was an insurance agent for 20 years
  - He sold many policies, especially to young Jewish couples
  - Some were reluctant to buy because of “betochn” issues
    - Abba used his rabbinic status to convince them that it is right and proper to protect their families
  - Some anecdotes
    - One family “did Abba a favor when they purchased a policy”, but were so thankful when breadwinner died at a young age
    - Prominent rabbi purchased medical insurance just prior to the birth of their disabled child. The parents later confided that they would not have survived financially without that insurance

# Conclusion



- We are all members of a large, successful and observant Jewish family. We owe our very existence to two special individuals, who selflessly, courageously and persistently fought for their ideals and trained their descendents to follow in their footsteps.
- These two individuals also worked tirelessly for the Tzibur and the world is a better place because of it.
- Not to be forgotten are our grandparents, Mr and Mrs Morris Snow and Rabbi and Rebitzen Zev Goldberg, who in difficult circumstances provided a proper environment for their children to realize their full potential.
- Also not to be forgotten are all the other relatives and friends who provided the necessary support in times of great need
- May the memories of our ancestors and dear departed relatives and friends be blessed

Thanks to everyone for coming