



MEMORY LANE # 88 (EDITED)
FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHOMEDEY
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MESSAGE FROM RABBI DR. SOLMON J. SPIRO

The Young Israel and I are both celebrating our 30th anniversary this year. We both have memories of pioneering days, of momentous decisions regarding the future of the community, of trials, travails, and also many triumphs, and of much nachas as a generation of young people grew up to take their places in other communities as staunch Jews. We shared in imbuing those who lived and grew up here with a spirit of Yiddishkeit. It is heartening to see many of our members and young people who grew up here, say that their years in Chomedey were the most pleasant of their lives!

Statistically speaking, 30 years is the life expectancy of a community. Yet, here we are 30 years later, the Young Israel of Chomedey, still active and alive! But then, we always bucked the odds. When we first came here they said, "what, a Jewish community in Chomedey, where the bears wander? But it did happen! They said that we were not rich enough to build a permanent sanctuary. But we did it! They said that we would never have a day school. But we did! Now they are saying we are on our way out. But we're still very much in! There are still plenty of Jews in Chomedey, and thank G-d there are some who participate actively in Shul and community affairs.

They no doubt realize the challenge is now greater than before, and dedicate their energies to bucking the odds and keeping Chomedey alive.

Every Shabbos in a prayer that is offered after the reading of the Torah, the congregation mentions that G-d rewards those who labour for the good of the community with a long life of health and happiness.

Surely those who help keep our community alive by THEIR DEVOTION AND DEDICATION WILL REAP THE BENEFITS OF THEIR LABOUR AS THE PRAYER STATES. BUT ANYONE ELSE WHO CARES TO TRY IT CAN HAVE THE SAME BENEFITS. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO SALUTE OUR ACTIVE, BUSY WORKERS.

MAY THERE BE MANY FRUITFUL YEARS AHEAD AND MAY WE BE AS PROUD OF THEM AS WE ARE OF THE PAST!

RABBI SPIRO WAS BORN IN CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK BUT GREW UP IN MONTREAL. HE RECEIVED HIS RABBINICAL TRAINING AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, AND AFTER ORDINATION, HE SERVED AS PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DIVISION OF THE UNIVERSITY UNTIL 1959 WHEN HE BECAME OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER, WHICH WAS KNOWN AS THE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF ST. MARTIN. HE HAS DOCTORATES IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY FROM YESHIVA UNIVERSITY AND IN ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY. HE HAS PUBLISHED NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN A VARIETY OF JOURNALS, AND IS MARRIED TO SYMA SWITZER.

(Yashor Koach to Fred Rudy for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!)