

*Mesorat  
Menachem*

Jubilee Volume  
in Honor of  
Rabbi Menachem Genack

*Edited by  
Eliyahu Krakowski and Gil Student  
OU Press*

Copyright © 2026 Orthodox Union  
OU Press  
An imprint of the  
Orthodox Union  
40 Rector Street  
New York NY 10006  
[www.oupress.org](http://www.oupress.org)

Published and Distributed by  
Jerry Press  
An imprint of  
Gently Ventures, Copyright © 2026  
[www.jerrypress.com](http://www.jerrypress.com)

# Contents

Editors' Introduction .....	13
-----------------------------	----

## *I. Mesorat Menachem:*

### *A Selection of English Articles by Rabbi Menachem Genack*

<b>A. The Rav.....</b>	<b>17</b>
------------------------	-----------

The Rav: A Role Model for a Generation .....	19
Review of <i>Reflections of the Rav: Man of Faith in the Modern World</i> by Rabbi Abraham Besdin.....	22
My Teacher, My Master .....	27
Walking with Ramban .....	31
The Rav and the Brisker Derech: A Unique Method – In Commemoration of the Rav's Twenty-Fifth Yahrtzeit .....	42
Rav Soloveitchik and the Lubavitcher Rebbe: An Unlikely Friendship .....	46
Rav Soloveitchik and Religious Zionism.....	54

<b>B. Personalities.....</b>	<b>57</b>
------------------------------	-----------

In Memoriam: Rabbi Nisson Alpert.....	59
A Builder Par Excellence: Dr. Bernard Lander, 1915-2010.....	62
On the Death of Rabbi Moshe Twersky: The Apple of the Rav's Eye.....	65
Rav Aharon Lichtenstein: A Personal Reminiscence.....	67
Rav Aharon Lichtenstein: An Appreciation for Complexity.....	70
Rav Belsky: A Portrait of Greatness.....	74
Returning Zachary Baumel Home.....	78
Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm.....	80
Remembering Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.....	84
Memories of Reb Dovid Soloveitchik.....	87
Rabbi Nota Greenblatt .....	89
OU Centennial Profile: Rabbi Chaim Yisroel Belsky.....	92
OU Centennial Profile: Rabbi Yacov Halevi Lipschutz.....	95
Conscience of the Senate.....	98

Senator Joe Lieberman’s Love of Shabbat .....	101
Reflections on the Life and Legacy of Senator Joe Lieberman – On the Occasion of His First Yahrtzeit .....	104
The Dispositive Word: A Tribute to Julius Berman.....	107
<b>C. Kashrus .....</b>	<b>111</b>
Kosher Wines: Origins and Contemporary Observances.....	113
Review of <i>Kashruth – A Comprehensive Background and Reference Guide to the Principles of Kashruth</i> by Rabbi Yacov Lipshutz.....	115
The Milk Controversy.....	117
Kosher Slaughtering Proves Humane .....	122
Consumer Demand Drove Adoption of Glatt Standard .....	125
High Steaks: The Kashrus of Lab-Grown Meat .....	127
Forty Years of Change: Kashrut—Then and Now.....	131
<b>D. Jewish Thought .....</b>	<b>133</b>
Shmita and the Cycle of Seven.....	135
Sukkot: A Time for Our Rejoicing.....	139
A Little Noted Chanukah Lesson .....	143
The First Blessing of the Day .....	146
<b>E. Essays on <i>Seforim</i>.....</b>	<b>151</b>
Rambam’s <i>Mishneh Torah</i> : The Significance of Its Title.....	153
Halakha and the World: <i>Halakhot va-Halikhhot: Shi’urim, Iyyunim, Hirhurim be-Sugyot Shonot be-Halakha</i> by Rabbi Norman Lamm .....	160
<b>F. Forewords and Prefaces.....</b>	<b>171</b>
Foreword to <i>The Seder Night: Exalted Evening</i> .....	173
Foreword to <i>Chumash Mesoras HaRav: Sefer Bereishis</i> .....	177
Foreword to <i>Chumash Mesoras HaRav: Sefer Shemos</i> .....	179
Foreword to <i>Chumash Mesoras HaRav: Sefer Vayikra</i> .....	182
Publisher’s Preface to <i>Birkon Mesorat HaRav</i> .....	185
Foreword to <i>Chumash Mesoras Harav: Sefer Bamidbar</i> .....	188
Publisher’s Preface to <i>Megillat Esther Mesorat HaRav</i> .....	191

Foreword to <i>Chumash Mesorat Harav: Sefer Devarim</i> .....	197
Publisher’s Preface to <i>Blessings and Thanksgiving: Reflections on the Siddur and Synagogue</i> by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik .....	200
Publisher’s Preface to <i>Return to Zion: Addresses on Religious Zionism and American Orthodoxy</i> by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik.....	204
Publisher’s Preface to <i>Megillat Ruth Mesorat HaRav</i> .....	209

**G. Book Reviews and Endorsements.....213**

Yoatzot and She’elot.....	215
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2020 Book Endorsements .....	217
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2021 Book Endorsements .....	219
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2022 Book Endorsements .....	221
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2023 Book Endorsements .....	223
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2024 Book Endorsements .....	225
<i>Tradition’s</i> Summer 2025 Book Endorsements .....	228

**H. Abraham Lincoln and American Politics ..... 231**

A Modern-Day Mordecai .....	233
Swearing on Lincoln’s Bible.....	235
A Jewish Perspective on Obama, Lincoln, and Gettysburg .....	238
Lincoln’s Religion .....	240
Lincoln Reminds Us to Stand for Principle, Not Prejudice .....	245
Lessons for Today from July 4, 1863 .....	247
The Lincolnian Virtues We Need Now .....	249
The Best: Lincoln’s Second Inaugural .....	251

*II. Minchah Li-Menachem:*

*Personal Tributes and Articles in Honor of Rabbi Menachem Genack*

**A. Personal Tributes .....255**

Mitch Aeder .....	257
Moishe Bane .....	262
Rabbi Avi Berman.....	263
Tali Besser .....	264

President William Jefferson Clinton.....	265
Azriel Genack.....	266
Steven Genack.....	268
Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph .....	270
Barbie Lehmann Siegel .....	273
Dr. David Luchins .....	275
Simon Posner .....	277
Rabbi Dr. Aaron Rakeffet .....	279
Rabbi Barry Reichman.....	281
Rabbi Jeffrey Saks .....	283
Steve Savitsky .....	287
Menachem Schnaidman.....	288
Hepzi Schechter.....	291
Gary Torgow.....	292
Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb .....	294
Dr. Joel Wolowelsky .....	297

**B. Articles.....299**

<i>How Does the World Endure?</i> by Rabbi Mark Dratch.....	301
<i>Choosing Between Tzom Gedalyah and Yom Kippur, and the Nature of Halakhic Decision Making</i> by Rabbi Daniel Feldman.....	305
<i>The Lincoln-Clinton-Trump Debate</i> by Rabbi Harold Holzer.....	311
<i>Chalav Yisrael</i> by Rabbi Chaim Jachter .....	316
<i>Cranial Perforations in Crested Waterfowl: A Scientific–Halakhic Analysis Based on Recent Observations</i> by Rabbi Chaim Loike .....	328
<i>Hesped in Honor of Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik</i> by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks....	332
<i>Lincoln’s Almost Chosen People</i> by Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik .....	342

# Editors' Introduction

In the annals of kashrut history, a special place is reserved for Rabbi Menachem Genack, *shlit"á*. Over the course of 45 years, Rabbi Genack built the OU into the largest kashrut organization in history. He spearheaded the tremendous expansion of the OU to the point that foods under OU supervision can now be found in every supermarket in the United States and in numerous locations worldwide.

Yet beyond his role as head of the largest kashrut agency in the history of the Jewish people, Rabbi Genack is an outstanding *talmid chacham*. He serves as the Rabbi of Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Englewood, New Jersey, and as a Rosh Yeshiva who delivers *shiurim* at Yeshiva University and other yeshivas. He is also a prolific author whose *seforim* are filled with incisive and original insights, following the methodology he absorbed from his great teacher, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik — the Rav, *zt"l*. Rabbi Genack has raised numerous disciples, many of whom now themselves serve as rabbis and leaders in Jewish communities across the globe.

Rabbi Genack also founded and edited — together with his colleague Rabbi Hershel Schachter, *shlit"á* — the journal *Mesorah*, dedicated to clarifying the laws of kashrut and disseminating the Torah of their teacher, the Rav. He likewise founded and led OU Press, investing years of effort into editing and publishing the Rav's teachings so as to transmit his teachings to future generations. Through these endeavors, an entire series of the Rav's works was published across a broad range of Torah subjects — including commentaries on the Chumash, the Siddur, the Passover Haggadah, the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur machzorim, and the Tisha B'Av Kinot, as well as numerous volumes of the Rav's lectures on Talmudic tractates and topics, and much more. Under Rabbi Genack's leadership, OU Press has also published dozens of additional Torah works by other authors as well, deeply enriching the Torah world.

Beyond all these achievements, Rabbi Genack is remarkable as a man of *chesed*. Rabbi Genack's brilliance is widely known and evident in both his Torah teaching and his public decisions. Less visible, however, is his quiet, modest generosity — whether securing someone a livelihood, arranging a *shidduch*, or coming to the aid of a person in distress.

We read in *Parashat Ki Tavo*: “Cursed is he who does not uphold the words of this Torah” (Deuteronomy 27:26). The Ramban there quotes the Jerusalem Talmud (Sotah 7:4): “Rabbi Assi said in the name of Rabbi Tanchum bar Chiya: If one learned, taught, observed, and practiced, and had the means to uphold the Torah but did

not uphold it, he is included in the category of ‘cursed.’” Rabbi Genack has learned, taught, observed, and practiced; he has elevated human dignity through acts of *chesed*; and above all, he has upheld the observance of Torah and kashrut — nationally and globally — more than any other person.

This volume, published in honor of Rabbi Genack’s retirement from OU Kosher, is a tribute from his friends, colleagues, and students, who stand in awe of the magnitude of his accomplishments and the generosity of his heart. We, who have had the privilege to work alongside him, offer this book as a small expression of honor and profound gratitude to a unique Torah scholar who serves as our guiding light and an exemplar of a life dedicated to Torah. Our thanks go to our generous donors and all who assisted in this publication — particularly to Rabbi Dani Genack, who devoted much of his time to ensuring this volume would be a fitting tribute to his uncle, and to Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman, who reviewed many of the articles herein with a keen and meticulous eye.

*Eliyahu Krakowski, Gil Student*