

טקס זכרון

**An evening of tribute
to the memory of**

Rabbi Gerson D. Cohen, z"l

**The Jewish Theological Seminary of America
and the Rabbinical Assembly**

**Rosh Chodesh Mar Cheshvan 5752
Oct. 8, 1991**

Rabbi Gerson D. Cohen:

A remembrance and an appreciation

By Rabbi Gordon Tucker
Dean, the Rabbinical School

Most of his colleagues and students thought of Rabbi Gerson D. Cohen, of blessed memory, as a walking encyclopedia of Jewish civilization. That broad mastery was more than impressive; it was awe-inspiring.

But what was truly inspirational about him, and made him our rabbi, was his steadfast faith in the power of the mitzvah of learning. "Let the chips fall where they may," he used to say; and with respect both to his scholarship and its impact on his understanding of what it meant to be a believing, observant Jew, he meant that earnestly. The idea that "telling it like it is" could possibly threaten religious commitment, in the end, was alien to him.

There was, however, so much more of his waters to drink. When nature, operating as always according to its standard laws, produced his illness, it took a good long time before his ever-flowing stream began to abate. For a while, even after formal teaching became impossible, we were still able to study Talmud Yerushalmi together on Wednesday mornings, and his insights and readings dazzled still.

I grieve for the loss of an intellectual father, who changed my understanding of my faith and my tradition forever, and made me love it to depths I could never have reached alone. I grieve also for those who never knew the happiness and thrill of encountering his Torah up close.

But most of all, I am grateful beyond words that we were given this most extraordinary rabbi. Through his teachings and writings, he will remain a model for all time of the intellectual and spiritual heights of which we are capable if we aspire to share just a bit, as he surely did, in the thoughts of God.

Yehi zikhro barukh.

Program

Presiding	<i>Dr. Ismar Schorsch</i>
Opening Prayer	<i>Rabbi Irwin Groner</i>
Speakers	<i>Dr. Raymond Scheindlin</i> <i>Dr. Lee Levine</i> <i>Mr. Stephen Peck</i> <i>Dr. Paula Hyman</i> <i>Mr. Norman Podhoretz</i> <i>Dr. David Roskies</i>
Memorial Prayer	<i>Rabbi Morton Leifman</i>

A collation will be held in the Alperin Lobby following the program.