

Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



MARCH 5, 1965

VOLUME XXXIII

NUMBER 24

ADAR II 1, 5725

PURIM SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17th

RAMAZ STUDENTS TO READ MEGILLAH

"With the advent of Adar, joy reigns supreme." This is a traditional expression which is used to describe this season of the year. The happiness and gaiety is an indication that Purim will be upon us shortly and that Passover will not be long in coming.

This year, the Purim holiday will be ushered in on Wednesday evening, March 17th, at which time a capacity congregation is expected to attend the Ma'ariv service and the reading of the Megillah. In accordance with a tradition of long standing in our synagogue, the entire service, as well as the reading of the Megillah, will be entrusted to the students of the Ramaz School.

Those who will officiate at our services this year are:

Richard Etra
David Herman
David Kahn
Avram Kogen
Judah Kogen
Jacob Pearlberg
Sidney Rosen
Steven Schacter
Steven Schleifer
Jonathan Shor
Morris Whitcup

The festive holiday of Purim has a unique appeal for youngsters of all ages, but especially for those of a

young age. All of our members and friends are urged to bring their children with them to the service. The children will be our special guests for that evening. They will receive the traditional noisemakers with which to greet the reading of Haman's name and they will be presented with special holiday sweets at the conclusion of the service.

The Schedule

The following is the schedule for services on Purim eve. Students of Ramaz School and the Park East Religious School, as well as all other youngsters, will meet at 5:20 P.M. in the Social Hall of the Congregation. Teachers will be on hand from both schools to supervise them. After they assemble in the auditorium, all the youngsters will, of course, be given their noisemakers by the supervisors.

Mincha services will be held in the Main Synagogue at 5:30, while Ma'ariv will begin at 6:00. In accordance with our established practice, we expect to conclude the service at a reasonable hour.

You are cordially invited to join us together with your family and friends for this gay festival on Wednesday evening, March 17th. A delightful time is in store for everyone, young and old alike.

AN INVITATION TO A "SIYUM"

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to all members and friends of our congregational family to attend the closing evening of our Adult Institute spring semester this coming Wednesday evening, March 10. We are celebrating an informal "siyum" on that evening as we bring to a close a highly successful semester of studies.

The invitation is extended to all to attend one of our three courses given between 8:00 and 9:00: Elementary Hebrew, The Haggadah, and Maimonides' Laws Concerning Repentance.

If the 8:00 hour is a bit early, we would like to invite all at least to participate in the philosophy lecture given at 9:00 by Dr. Arthur Hyman. His subject for the closing lecture will be: "The After-Life." In this lecture Dr. Hyman will deal with some of the theories of eschatology which are found in the writings of medieval Jewish philosophers.

At the conclusion of Dr. Hyman's lecture Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the Director of our Adult Institute, will offer a few closing remarks in connection with the conclusion of our semester season. All assembled will then have an opportunity to enjoy light refreshments together.

The Adult Institute is anxious that as many of our congregational family as possible come and join in this closing evening of study and celebration. We hope you will be there.

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein will preach this Saturday at 11:00 A.M.

"WHEN LIFE'S CEILING IS ZERO"



PEKUDAI

"Be Strong and Courageous"

Our portion this week concludes the reading of the Book of Exodus. At the conclusion of the reading of each Book of the Torah, there is a tradition that the congregation rises for the last verse and pronounces at its conclusion, "chazak." The reader then responds with "chazak chazak v'nischazek" — may we all be strong.

There are several reasons for this custom. Some authorities consider this refrain to parallel the expression used at the conclusion of a tractate of the Talmud. At that time, the student pronounces the words "hadran alach" — may we return to you. The hope is expressed that we will study this book again and again. At the conclusion of a Book of the Torah we also pray for health and strength so that we will be able to hear this Book read again.

Another explanation traces the custom to a verse in the first chapter of Joshua, where God says to Joshua "Only be strong and courageous to observe the Torah and to live according to its precepts which Moses gave to you." On this verse the Talmud comments that there are several things which require fortitude; among them are Torah and good deeds. What God said to Joshua was: "Be strong in the study of Torah and courageous in the performance of good deeds."

When the Book of the Law is completed, the congregation urges the reader — and, through him, the man who has been called for the final honor in the Book — to be strong and courageous in following the principles in that book. The reader then answers "may we all be strong and courageous" in the performance of God's law.

This is but another indication of the Jewish attitude toward the Torah which sees it not as a book for study but as a blueprint for action and which takes into account the fact that living in accordance with the Torah is not always the easiest possible course. It requires strength and courage, conviction and determination, faith and perseverance to make the Torah a way of life. At the conclusion of the reading of one part of that blueprint for life, it is most appropriate that we say to each other "chazak chazak v'nischazek."

H. L.

GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE FOR COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS

For the first time, the Youth Bureau of Yeshiva University is conducting a "Grand Tour of Europe" for college age students this summer. The leaders of the tour will be Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Bacon. Dr. Bacon is the Dean of Yeshiva College.

The program will provide an opportunity for college age students to visit England, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Austria, Italy, San Marino and Monaco. Optional trips behind the Iron Curtain and to Scandinavia are also being considered.

Further information can be obtained by writing or calling the Youth Bureau at Yeshiva University, Amsterdam Avenue and 186th Street, LO 8-8400.

SISTERHOOD KIDDUSH HOSTESSES

Saturday, March 6th

Mrs. Nathan Andrews
Mrs. Mildred Feinberg
Mrs. Joseph Hostyk
Mrs. George Postel
Mrs. Leon Spilky

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays:

Our best wishes to Mrs. Ernest Adler, Mrs. Harry Etra, Harry Heyman, Dr. Norman B. Javitt, Gerald S. Kaufman, Dr. Emory Klein, Mrs. Martin Klein, Mrs. George Postel, Stephen M. Scheidt, Mrs. Adrian Skydell and Mrs. Aaron Welish.

Anniversaries:

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gronowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perlberger, Mr. and Mrs. George Schneider and Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel M. Simon.

Birth:

A hearty mazel tov to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wolf on the birth of a daughter to their children, Natalie and Eric Musnick.

Get Well:

We are happy to learn that Abram Miller is now at home after a brief stay in the hospital. We hope that he will be restored to full health shortly and we look forward to seeing him in our midst before too long.



Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, President of Bar Ilan University, walking in the academic procession with Chief Rabbi Unterman during the commencement exercises held in Israel last month at which 206 students received their degrees.

YOUTH CORNER

Shachar To Hold Fourth Cultural Luncheon on March 13th

David Herman and David Kahn, cultural committee co-chairmen, announce that the next cultural luncheon has been scheduled for Saturday, March 13th, following the Kiddush in the Social Hall. The highlight of the program will be a panel show called "Israel In Focus." Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein will be asked questions of topical interest and about events that made the headlines during his recent visit to Israel.

Steven Silberblatt will moderate the program which will follow the "Meet the Press" format. Youth panel members are: Elaine Hyams, Nathan Kamberman, Bruce Linzer and Robert Pik. Youth members are asked to make their reservations with the Youth Office.

Registration On Now For Action Conclave, March 26 - 28

Reservations are being accepted for the first convention of the N.C.S.Y. Region, which takes place at Congregation Knesseth Israel in Far Rockaway, March 26-28. The \$12 registration fee includes a complimentary ticket and transportation to the Yolanda Benson Music Festival. For further information please contact Robert Pik — TR 3-4330, Aaron Holzer — RE 7-8634, or the Youth Office.

Spring Social Saturday Night, April 3rd

Miriam Bryks and David Popkin, social co-chairmen, ask all youth members to mark their calendars and note that the Spring Social will take place on Saturday Night, April 3rd, in the Social Hall. Further details will follow in coming issues of the Bulletin.

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION
March 6, 1965****Cantors**

Richard Gelfand
Philip Lerner
William Recant

Sermonette

Claude Alpert

Torah Reader

David Herman

**The officers for the month of
Adar Bet are:**

President—Samuel Newborn
Vice President—William Recant
Gabbai—Daniel Fingerroth
Hostess—Joan Bernar

**AM HASEFER GROUP DISCUSSES
"I CANNOT FORGIVE"**

Group 2 of our Am ha-Sefer Program held a meeting at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein last week. A wonderful attendance of readers was on hand to discuss the book "I Cannot Forgive" by Rudolf Vrba and Allen Bestic.

The book, which deals with the experience of Vrba in Auschwitz where he was an inmate for about twenty-two months, is written almost in diary fashion. Without any attempt at emotion, Vrba describes what life was like and the different experiences and situations which confronted an inmate in a concentration camp like Auschwitz.

There are several conclusions which our readers derived from the reading of the book.

1) Those who survived such a horror must have been possessed with a tremendous drive for life and a painstaking attention to the closest details in order to forestall death in a variety of ways. They had to be extremely intelligent and they had to work 24 hours a day at survival. In addition, they had to have an abundant portion of luck to avoid the inevitable extermination.

2) The success of the Germans in leading two and a half million Jews to slaughter in Auschwitz and three and a half million in other concentration camps was not the result of the docility of the victims. It was the result of the canny preparations and ruses which the Germans used to convince the victims that they were really going to some kind of resettlement area where work would be provided for them and where their health would be assured.

Through a variety of methods, the brutes and beasts of Nazi Europe were able to create the illusion — even to the door of the gas chamber — that this entire procedure was designed to benefit the victims rather than to harm them. Inasmuch as people like to be-

lieve only the best, their docility was more than understandable.

3) The Germans did not perpetrate this monumental atrocity out of hate and anti-Semitism alone, though this motive ought not to be underplayed. An important motive was also the unbelievable profits which were reaped by the persecutors from the persecuted. Tons of gold, clothing, precious possessions and food were stolen from the victims and used to further the Nazi war effort and to boost the moral of the families in Germany whose loved ones were fighting for the glory of "the fatherland." Vrba and Bestic stress this consideration and explain the intricate mechanics designed to exploit the possessions of the inmates of Auschwitz.

4) Finally, the meager sentences which were handed out to the perpetrators of this crime are noted by the authors with no little contempt. In 1944, the late Winston Churchill had promised that these crimes would not go unpunished, but that the criminals would have the full force of law thrown at them. Surely nothing short of execution would suffice to atone for the crime, to eradicate the cancer of hate and to prevent such a crime from ever happening again.

The terrible irony of the situation is that the country which was able to perpetrate all of this, then made an about face after the war and abolished capital punishment. The mercy and the humanity came just a bit too late to prevent the execution of the crime and a bit too early to prevent the proper retribution from being exacted.

Next Meeting March 30th

The next meeting of the Am haSefer Group will be held on Tuesday evening, March 30th, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Fink, 110 East End Avenue, at 8:30. The book under discussion will be Will Herberg's "Judaism and Modern Man."

THE JEWRY BOX

Served During
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21st

LAWRENCE A. KOBRIN
EDWARD LEBOWITZ
WILLIAM LEBOWITZ

Will Serve During
WEEK OF MARCH 7th

MAKS BIRNBACH
ABRAHAM MANDEL
MORDIE MANN

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to maintain the Daily Minyan.

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
New York 28, N.Y.
Sacramento 2-0800

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. LooksteinRabbi
Haskel LooksteinAssoc. Rabbi
A. Joseph CohenCantor
Israel D. RosenbergRitual Director
Joseph GlattExec. Director
Noam ShudofskyYouth Director

Officers of the Congregation

Max J. EtraPresident
Joseph RothVice-President
Elgin ShulskyTreasurer
Irwin ShapiroSecretary
Mrs. William LebowitzPres., Sist.
William LebowitzPres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**Friday**

Lighting of Candles5:30
Evening5:30

Saturday

Morning9:00
Junior Congregation10:15

Weekly Portion: Pekudai**Exodus 38:21-40:38****Haftorah: I Kings 7:40-50**

Evening5:40
Conclusion of Sabbath6:35

Daily Services

Morning7:30
Sunday Morning8:30
Evening5:30

MEMBER ON T.V.

We are happy to announce that on Sunday morning, March 7, at 10:00 a.m., on Channel 9, our devoted member, Lawrence A. Kobrin, will appear on a special program entitled "A Quarter Century of Creative Hebrew Camping."

The program will be devoted to a discussion of the contributions made by Camp Massad to the field of Hebrew camping. Mr. Kobrin is a member of the Board of Directors of the Camp, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

YAHREZITS**March**

7—ENOCH WOLBERG
7—SARAH H. BROWN
7—AUGUSTA HIRSHHORN
7—JOSEPH BROZ
7—RAE W. FREEDMAN
8—NACHMAN FISCHEL
8—MIRIAM GOLDE
8—RACHEL MINA SHAPIRO
8—HYMAN BLOOM
8—ROSE GUDIS
9—RUSSELL GOLDMAN
9—DAVID JURIST
9—JULIA SPIRA
9—CELIA LOBAR
10—ANNA FISCHBERG
11—ANNA SPENCER
11—MOLLIE KAUFMAN
12—MARY KRAMER
12—BARNET SANDERS

K. J. CALENDAR**SATURDAY, 2:00 P.M.**

Intermediate Boys
Social Hall
3:00

Intermediate Girls
Library
Junior Boys
Social Hall
Junior Girls
Room 301

**MONDAY, 10:00 A.M.**

Hebrew for Beginners

11:00 A.M.

Bible Class for Women

8:00 P.M.

Talmud Class
Advanced Hebrew

**WEDNESDAY, 8:00 P.M.**

Elementary Hebrew
Passover and the Haggadah
Maimonides' Laws of Repentance

9:00 P.M.

Studies in Jewish Philosophy
"The After Life"

**COMING EVENTS****SATURDAY, MARCH 13**

Teenage Cultural Luncheon

**MONDAY, MARCH 22nd****12:30 P.M.**

Sisterhood Open Meeting

8:30 P.M.

Men's Club Theatre Party
"DO I HEAR A WALTZ?"

LAST CALL!!

MEN'S CLUB THEATRE PARTY

"DO I HEAR A WALTZ?"

The Season's Musical Hit

by Richard Rodgers

on Monday, March 22nd

A limited number of tickets are still available

Call the Synagogue Office.

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

76th ST. & AMSTERDAM AVE.

ENdicott 2-6600

CHARLES ROSENTHAL, Director