

ה ה ק ה

HAKOHOL



FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS



תש"ז — תשנ"ד

1949 — 1964



This page is reverently dedicated to the memory of the members of our Congregation who, during the past fifteen years, have gone to their eternal reward.

Their names are enshrined in the annals of our Congregation and live on in our hearts as an honored inspiration.

ת' נ' צ' ב' ה'



OUR ANNIVERSARY

RABBI SHLOMO KAHN

The event of a birthday or an anniversary, be it of an individual or of an organization, is customarily celebrated. Actually, whether it should be festively observed or merely noted in passing, depends on the celebrant.

If it is just the passing of another year which is being observed, then the occasion is no real milestone. Years pass, people do get older and so do organizations through no merit of their own.

However, if achievements and accomplishments can be recorded, then the anniversary deserves to be celebrated.

Looking back over the past fifteen years of our congregation's existence, we can proudly point to a number of just such achievements and accomplishments. Out of a small nucleus of dedicated men and women, a large congregation has grown, comprising more than five hundred members, functioning as a traditional K'hillo for the purpose of TORAH

(a Hebrew School, regular Shiurim and study groups), AVODO (daily morning and evening prayers, Shabbos and Yomtov services) and G'MILUS CHASODIM (Chevra Kadisha, Sisterhood, Parents-Association, Youth Groups).

On the occasion of our fifteenth anniversary we see many of our erstwhile dreams come true, while many other plans, goals and endeavors are as yet still dreams. Like our Patriarch Jacob, we see a ladder in our dream, which leads from earth to heaven, from worldly to spiritual matters. We have ascended this ladder for a number of years. We are standing on the "fifteenth rung" of this ladder and look back proudly on past accomplishments.

At the same time, we hopefully and prayerfully look ahead, to continued advances and successes. May G-d bless our K'hillo, its leadership, its administration and its members.

Compliments and best wishes

To

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of Washington Heights



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and salutes

RABBI SHLOMO KAHN



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(upon whose initiative our Congregation was established)



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(first President of our Congregation)

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FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE GONE BY

ADOLPH HEIMER, President

This issue of HAKOHOL celebrates a special event in the history of our congregation. It appears in connection with the Anniversary Dinner, in honor of our fifteenth birthday.

It is true that fifteen years is not a very long period of time. We are a young congregation in comparison to the old and ancient K'hillos to which many of us, to which our fathers and forefathers belonged. But it does not depend on the age of a K'hillo to make it a successful one.

A congregation is very similar to a human being. Just as the human being has various parts in his body, limbs, organs, etc., so too is a congregation made up of members. And just as the entire body must be alive and healthy in order to function properly, so too must all parts of the congregation do their active share. It does not really matter which part is played by an organ

or limb. As long as it is healthy, strong and active, life flows through it and benefits the others.

I take this opportunity to express heartfelt recognition to all that has been done within our K'hillo during the last fifteen years, the time, work and effort, the donations and support, the sincere cooperation, which have made our existence possible.

On the occasion of our anniversary, I extend warm greetings to all parts of our congregation, our distinguished Rabbi Shlomo Kahn, our esteemed Cantor Jack Scharenberg, my worthy colleagues on the Board of Officers and Board of Trustees, the able Board members of the Chevra Kadisha, the Sisterhood, the Parents-Association, the Youth Groups, and to all of our dear members, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, who make up Congregation Beth Israel of Washington Heights.

With Compliments

To

RABBI and MRS. SHLOMO KAHN



DR. and MRS. SAMUEL KIRSCH

With Compliments

To

DR. and MRS. SAMUEL KIRSCH



MR. and MRS. LEO STRASS



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NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
GOVERNOR

February 4, 1964

Dear Rabbi Kahn:

The Fifteenth Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel is assuredly a date to be celebrated happily and proudly.

The members of your Congregation have won for themselves the esteem and friendship of their neighbors regardless of their faith. Your Congregation has become a valued addition to the spiritual resources of the neighborhood.

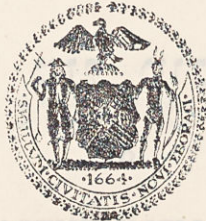
I am happy to add my voice in congratulating you on this occasion. I am sure this celebration has the blessings of Divine Providence.

My best wishes to all present for a happy evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "N. A. Rockefeller".

Rabbi Shlomo Kahn
Congregation Beth Israel of
Washington Heights, Inc.
562 West 181st Street
New York 33, New York



CITY OF NEW YORK
• OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

January 29, 1964

Rabbi Shlomo Kahn
Congregation Beth Israel
562 West 181st Street
New York 33, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Kahn:

On the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel, please accept my best wishes for continued growth.

In its fifteen-year history, Beth Israel has made an important contribution to the spiritual life of Washington Heights, and I am confident that under the leadership of your devoted officers, this splendid record will continue.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Wagner
MAYOR

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&

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ADAR 5724

MARCH 1964

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DAS FEST DER LOSE

RABBI SHLOMO KAHN

על כן קראו לימים האלה פורים על שם זהפור.
"Deshalb nannten sie diese Tage Purim,
nach dem Namen Pur."

Die Megillo gibt uns den Ursprung des Namens an, mit dem das Fest des 14. Adar bezeichnet wird. "Pur" ist das "Los" das Haman warf; "Purim" also die "Lose" (fuer Tag und Monat), womit er bestimmen wollte, wann das juedische Volk zu vernichten.

Nun ist es aber doch merkwuerdig, dass das Fest der Befreiung aus solcher fuerchterlichen Not, gerade den Namen traegt, der die ganze Sorge veranlasste. Man koennte sich vorstellen, dass der 13. Adar, den wir Ta'anis Esther nennen, "Purim" heissen wuerde, denn das war ja urspruenglich der Tag des Verhaengnisses. Und der 14. Adar, dem sollte man doch einen gluecklicheren Namen geben.

Wir nennen doch auch unser Befreiungsfest aus Aegypten "Pessach" und nicht etwa "Awdus" (Sklaverei) oder "Mizraim" (Aegypten). Warum dann "Purim" was uns an die Zoro und nicht an die Erloesung erinnerst?

Weil nur wegen der Zoro die Erloesung zustande kam. Erst nachdem das Verhaengnis bekannt wurde, besann sich das Volk zum Guten. Der Vernichtungsplan Hamans gab den Anlass, den Weg zu G'tt, zu Thora und Mitzvos zu finden. Ein reuevolles Volk verdiente dann auch, erloest zu werden.

Solches soll nicht und darf nicht ver-

gessen werden. Trotz der berechtigten Heiterkeit des Festes, muss die Ursache in Erinnerung bleiben und so nannte man das Fest "Purim."

Wenn wir zu dieser Jahreszeit unser Gemeindejubilaeum feiern, dann soll dieser Purim-Gedanke erwaeht und beherzigt werden. Unsere K'hillo, die nun fuenfzehn Jahre alt ist, setzt sich aus Mitgliedern zusammen, die einstens Neueinwanderer in diesem Lande waren, sich hier zuerst fremd und unsicher fuehlten und die im Anfang zoegernde und angestrenzte Versuche machten, in einer neuen Umgebung ein neues Leben aufzubauen.

Damals fuehlte man sich hingezogen zu Gleichdenkenden und war gestaerkt und geborgen in einem Gemeindkreis, der nach altgewohnter Art orientiert ist. Ein solches Gefuehl war starker Zement fuer den Aufbau unserer K'hillo.

Inzwischen haben wir uns, mit G'ttes Hilfe, in unserer neuen Heimat gut eingelebt. Wir fuehlen uns nicht mehr fremd sondern ganz zuhause. Aber mit dem Dahinschwinden des unsicheren Gefuehles, wird der Zusammenhalt unseres Kreises nicht abgeschwaecht. Alte, starke, unzerstoerbare Bande halten uns zusammen: eine gemeinsame Vergangenheit, eine einheitliche Tradition und der gemeinschaftliche Wunsch, einer gluecklichen, von G'tt gesegneten Zukunft entgegzusehen.

HAKOHOL

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Dr. Samuel Kirsch Editor

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

FOLLOW THE LEADER



"It's so narrow. And so wobbly. I'm scared!" cried Debby.

The two friends were walking together and passed a construction site. Now they were standing before an open trench over which a

board had been placed.

"It's perfectly safe!" laughed Joey. "Do you think they would be allowed to leave a dangerous thing right in the street? Come on, let's go!"

But Debby was still scared. It DID look narrow and it WAS wobbly and she wasn't a very courageous girl.

"Fraidy-cat!" said her friend, ungalantly, "just watch, I'll show you," and with these words he stepped on the board.

It did wobble a little bit, yes. And it was rather narrow. But dangerous it certainly was not and a moment later, Joey was on the other side.

"Are you coming?" he called.

Now Debby had no choice. She could hardly just stay back. And besides, she felt much surer now. After all, Joey had made it across easily, she could do it too. And gingerly she stepped on the board too. Sure enough, it wasn't so bad after all and in a jiffy she joined her friend.

"I made it safe for you," said Joey, and he was right. Although he didn't really do anything to the board to make it wider and more secure, the fact that he walked over it first, was enough to give Debby the courage to do it also.

"That's why Amalek was so wicked," said Joey in explanation. "After the Jewish people had left Egypt safely and had crossed the Red Sea without harm, no nation on earth had the courage to wage war against the Jews. Probably for all time to come, no one would have dared to fight against those

who were so obviously under G-d's protection. But then came Amalek, the g-dless nation, and attacked. This gave others courage too and throughout history many other wicked people tried to destroy us."

"Yes," said Debby, "Haman also was a descendant of Amalek. But like all other evil-doers, he had his downfall."

QUIZ

Again, only Gertrude Mahler answered last quiz correctly, although some others tried. The correct answers: fish — Jonah, camels — Eliezer, donkey — Bileam, snake — Eve, goat — Joseph, lions — Daniel, foxes — Samson, dove — Noah, ram — Isaac.

Let's see who can answer these questions:

- (1) Name all the kings, mentioned in the Megillo.
- (2) Name all the queens, mentioned in the Megillo.

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GEBETSZEITEN

	Vorabend	Schacharis	Mincho	Maariv	Tages- anfang
Schabb. Ki Siso, 29. Februar	5:25	8:30	5:45	6:25	5:35
Schabb. Wajakhel-P'kude,					
7. Maerz	5:35	8:30	Barmitzvo 5:50	6:30	5:25
Schabb. Wajikro, 14. Maerz	5:45	8:30	6:00	6:40	5:20
Schabb. Zaw (Hagadol),					
21. Maerz	5:50	8:30	Predigt 6:05	6:45	5:05

Taanis Esther, Mittwoch, 26. Februar

Fastenbeginn: 5:20 A. M.

Schacharis: 7:30 A. M.

Mincho: 5:40 P. M.

Sonntags 8:00 A. M.

Montag bis Freitag 7:30 A. M.

taeglich abends 8:00 P. M.

* * *

Purim, Donnerstag, 27. Februar

Megillo, Mittwoch Abend 6:20 P. M.

Donnerstag frueh 6:00 A. M.

2. Lesen der Megillo 4:45 P. M.

SCHIURIM:

Damen — Montag 8:30 P. M.

Herren — Donnerstag 8:15 P. M.

Ladies & gentl. Tue. 8:15 P. M.

* * *

Rosch Chodesch Nissan, Schabbos, 14.

Maerz.

Gelegenheit zum Kaschern von Geraeten
fuer Pessach:

Donnerstag, 26. Maerz 5-7 P. M.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

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3:30 P. M.

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EREW PESSACH, Freitag, 27. Maerz:

Sium fuer Erstgeborene 6:00 A. M.

Chometz-Essen verboten 9:30 A. M.

Chometz-Besitz verboten 10:40 A. M.

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...dass seit 5. Januar, folgender Vorstand der Chevra Kadisha besteht:

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Mr. Leo Stock, Vice-President

Mr. Julian Lewin, Vice-President

Mr. Curt Lauter, Secretary

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DAS GEBET

Rabbi Nachman aus Kossov wurde einmal gefragt:

"Kann man denn immer an G'tt denken, auch waehrend man anderweit beschaeftigt ist?"

"Gewiss," antwortete er. "Wenn man beim Beten ans Geschaefit denken kann, dann kann man auch beim Geschaefit ans Beten denken."



AUF DEM MARKT

Einmal, nach dem Morgengebet, ging Rabbi Levi Itzhak aus Berditshev zu einer Gruppe Maenner in der Synagoge, gab ihnen die Hand und begruesste sie mit einem herzlichen "Scholom Alechem!"

Verwundert ueber diese Handlung, denn sie waren garnicht verreist gewesen, sahen sie stumm den Rabbi an. Dieser aber sagte:

"Ich habe beim Beten an Euren Gesichtern festgestellt, dass Ihr nicht in Gedanken in der Schemone Esre, sondern auf dem Getreidemarkt in Odessa und auf dem Wollmarkt in Lodz wart. Jetzt seid Ihr zurueckgekehrt, deshalb begruesste ich Euch."

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Urspruenglich gab man diese Mitzwo dem Groesten der Anwesenden und wer sie kaufen wollte, musste dafuer teuer bezahlen. Das buchstaebliche "Halten" der Thora und sie der Gemeinde offen vor Augen zu fuehren, ist eine gar grosse Kowod.

Allerdings ist diese Mitzwo mit einigen Vorschriften verbunden, die gelernt und durchgefuehrt werden muessen.

(1) Die Sefer Thora muss so weit geoeffnet werden, dass 3 Spalten der Sch-

rift sichtbar sind. So, *geoeffnet*, muss sie emporgehoben werden.

(2) Jeder in der Gemeinde muss bestrebt sein, die Schrift zu erblicken. Deshalb muss der, der die Sefer Thora emporhebt, sich weit nach allen Richtungen wenden, sodass jeder im Raum die Moeglichkeit hat, die geoeffnete Sefer Thora zu sehen.

(3) Beim Emporheben hat jeder zu stehen. Ueberhaupt ist es Vorschrift, dass wenn jemand stehend eine Sefer Thora haelt, jeder Anwesende stehen muss. Deshalb soll er sich sofort nach Hagboho hinsetzen und dann *sitzen bleiben*. Denn, wenn er aufsteht, muss jeder mit aufstehen.

(4) Das Pergament der Sefer Thora darf nicht mit blosser Hand angefasst werden. Die Sefer Thora darf nur an den hoelzernen Rollen (oder, wenn noetig, mit einem Talis) beruehrt werden.

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"POINT OF VIEW"

A Column for the Young Adult

HURRAH FOR CRITICISM!

People usually do not like to be criticized. No one does. Some are, to be sure, more or less immune to it, they shrug it off or even laugh it off. They may even seem to enjoy it and thrive on it. But let no one mislead you; criticism is an act of attack, of tearing down. And the attacked party doesn't like it.

There are persons who are highly sensitive. The slightest sign of disapproval sends them running, blushing, hiding. Even mild criticism, to them, is a major blow to their ego. And a strong dose of it can actually do psychological injury or damage.

However, at times criticism can be very welcome indeed. When? When it is the only sign of recognition. When otherwise there is no reaction at all. Then, ANY comment, even a negative one, is at least a sign of life.

Take for instance a community publication, catering to a group or circle of people. Effort and time, thought and

work go into the preparation of it. Week after week, or month after month, it appears. And sometimes it sort of "disappears." It is like a pebble cast into the sea with hardly a splash or even a ripple.

But then, time and again, a reaction does take place, much to the joy of the editor. Never mind that it is a negative reaction. Never mind that the dozens or hundreds of people who were gratefully mentioned do not find it necessary to even say "thank you," while the single forgotten name evokes a hurt dignity and bruised feelings. Never mind that the hundreds of work-hours go unappreciated, while the one particular article or phrase or omission bring forth rumblings and mutterings of discontent. Never mind all that. The criticism is audible, visible, actual proof that the publication is read, after all! That the work is not in vain! That the efforts are noticed!

Hurrah for criticism!

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— Youth Activities —

A number of joint Breakfast Club-Chalutzim-Shoshanos activities took place recently.

On January 12th, the New York Jewish Museum was visited. Spokesman for the group, Alvin Neu, reports about an interesting afternoon. Among many exhibits, they saw: the oldest Oron haKodesh in existence, dating back to the 13th century, which was brought from Cairo, Egypt and reassembled here; another Oron haKodesh, from Italy, which has three different sections, one for Torah, the others for N'viim and K'su-vim; a large tapestry depicting the entire Purim story; a Sephardic Sefer Torah which is encased and is stood up for Torah reading.

On January 19th, a group of boys and girls attended a thrilling performance of the Ice Follies.

As we go to print, preparations are under way for the annual Purim Carnival. A report will follow in the next issue.

Date of Carnival: March 8th.

A trip to the United Nations is scheduled for March 15th.

The Model Seder will take place on Sunday, March 22nd, 10 A. M.

Due to Mr. David Lewin's duties in his own congregation, much of the youth leadership has been taken over by Mr. Steven Mayer. For the last few years, Steven has had ample experience and training in youth activities. He is a past president of the Breakfast Club and conducts now the meetings and projects of the Breakfast Club as well as the Oneg Shabbos program, on Shabbos afternoons.

Honorable mention is also due to the present Breakfast Club president, Alvin Neu, who devotes additional time and efforts every Sunday morning, together with Rose Oppenheimer and Marion Wolff, in the breakfast preparations.



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