

The INSTITUTIONAL

"THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE"

Publication Office—37-43 West 116th Street

Vol. VIII

February 6th, 1925

No. 22

SISTERHOOD WILL CELEBRATE CHAMISHA OSOR BSHVAT

Mrs. Annie R. Morris, President of the Sisterhood, announces that that organization will hold a celebration party on the night of Chamisha Osor Bshvat, February 9, in the Auditorium.

Two features of the excellent program that is being arranged includes an exhibition of the latest pictures from Palestine with an address by Rabbi Isadore Goodman and Miss Eisenstat, who has exhibited her talents before, will render a few vocal selections.

Appropriate fruit in celebration of the occasion will be supplied. Seniors and wives of the members of the congregation are cordially invited to be present. A good time is insured all.

INTERMEDIATE COUNCIL HOLDS LINCOLN BIRTHDAY DANCE

February 11th in the Gymnasium

The Council of Intermediate Clubs will be host at a dance on Lincoln's Birthday Eve to be held in the Gymnasium.

All of the Intermediate Clubs will be present with their friends and the Gymnasium will be appropriately decorated. Coming so soon before Washington's Birthday it was deemed advisable to celebrate the occasion with a dance and follow up with an entertainment for Washington's Birthday. A little entertainment is being arranged nevertheless and a good time will be in store for all.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL GROUP ADDS TWO CLUBS

Commerce and Richman Chapters Now Active

The High School Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has recently been enlarged by the formation of two additional chapters and now consists of the DeWitt Clinton, Wadleigh, High School of Commerce and Julia Richman Chapters.

Each of the groups meet regularly every Wednesday evening in the building, where a program of Jewish Cultural activity is followed. Meetings are well attended.

The series of Jewish Holiday Festivals for high school students, which has proved so successful in the past, will be continued through the cooperative efforts of all of the Chapters. Details regarding the Purim Festival now being arranged will be shortly made public.

All high school students are welcome to attend the Holiday Festivals as well as the regular meetings.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

THIS SATURDAY MORNING RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN Will Preach

Friday Evening Circle at 8:30 P. M.

Host: U. O. J. A. C. (Wadleigh)

Light Candles Today at 5:02 P. M.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

The Birthday of America's Race Equalizer

By Nathan Meyerowitz

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States. Born Feb. 12, 1809; died April 15, 1865.

From the Atlantic shore to the Pacific coast and from the Canadian border to the Mexican Gulf, the American people will celebrate Lincoln's birthday on February 12.

Abraham Lincoln lives in the mind of every school child, in the inspiration of every faithful public servant, and in the courage and patriotism with which the American of today meets his problems of 1925.

What makes his memory so immortal and so highly esteemed by the American people? It is primarily because Lincoln appeals so strongly to the national spirit of the people, as a genuine product of American institutions.

To every type of American, Lincoln teaches a lesson.

Abraham Lincoln was the American Moses.

Lincoln's ambition to achieve things that proved to others impossible, kindled with the unquenchable flame as that of the Burning Bush.

The enfranchisement of a nation of slaves, trodden underneath the crushing, iron heel of mighty, military, egoistic plantation owners, such was the titanic task which keenly presented itself to Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was not merely an ardent believer in boundless liberty, but he even was an enthusiastic executor of the greatest biblical commandment: "Ye shall be slaves to no one," sounded by the Holy Voice at the Sinai Heights.

Lincoln was an exemplary and perfect soldier of the soil. He was laden with the savory odors of the balmy forests overgrown with redundant vegetation—God's masterpieces. His hands were tempered and furrowed by toil. The lines of his face indicated hard and vigorous endeavor, for

ELDORADO GALA DANCE SATURDAY EVENING

THE INSTITUTIONAL

Published weekly, except during July and August, by the Institutional Synagogue, 37-43 West 116th Street, New York.
Subscription.....One Dollar Per Year
Edited by Sidney B. Alexander

"Entered as second-class matter February 15, 1924, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879."
"Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 15, 1924."

HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN.....*Rabbi*
ISADORE GOODMAN.....*Associate Rabbi*
THEODORE J. PROBER.....*Executive Secretary*
SIDNEY B. ALEXANDER.....*Social and Educational Director*
WILLIAM DREEBEN.....*Physical Director*

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

HON. ISAAC SIEGEL.....*President*
SAMUEL SILVER.....*First Vice-president*
MAX STAVISH.....*Second Vice-president*
MORRIS JABLOW.....*Recording Secretary*
AARON WARTELS.....*Treasurer*
ISAAC GOLDMAN.....*Financial Secretary*

DIRECTORS

ABRAHAM BERNSTEIN
HON. SOL BLOOM
HENRY BLANKFORT
MAURICE H. BOB
ISIDORE BRODY
JOSEPH E. DAVIDSON
ABRAHAM M. DAVIS
HON. S. FRIEDLANDER
DR. BENJ. GOLDSTEIN
FELIX GOULED
SAMUEL GRUNDWERT
SOL LAMPORT

JACK LEVINE
HON. MAX S. LEVINE
MORRIS LEVINSON
JACOB MARRUS
ROBERT OPPENHEIM
REUBEN RICHMAN
SAMUEL N. SAMUELS
HERMAN SACKS
LOUIS SIMON
MAX SLOMKA
DAVID WALD
MAX WEINKREICH

Vol. VIII

February 6, 1925

No. 22

his character was moulded by his indomitable will acting on the environment of his youth. He had to strike with his right arm to gain whatever he could possess; nothing came to him by inheritance, save the birthright struggle for a hard and bare existence. Although his external aspect was not quite so polished as that of a complete aristocrat, yet within he possessed a noble soul, gentle heart, lofty spirit and delving brain. He could not speak of monarchs or autocrats, for his mother tongue was democracy. He came out of the west timidly and only after a long and bitter strife gained those unrivaled accomplishments which all Americans of today look upon with great admiration. He trusted, first, in Providence, and then, in his abilities. And the Lord was with him, and he was successful in all his enterprises. As it is said in Psalm 113, 5-6: "God raised up the lowly out of the dust and lifted up the needy from the dung-hill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people."

Abraham Lincoln, with his lofty spirituality, with his fine sense of the rights of man, genial and filled to the brim with that human interest in his fellow-brother, which is the best sort of piety, stood as the product of American civilization.

Glorious as he was in his life throughout, he was even more glorious when the high

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb. 5—Junior Social Hour.
Feb. 6—Friday Home Night, Wadleigh Chapter U. O. J. C. A. Host.
Feb. 7—House Dance, Eldorado Club.
Feb. 8—Intermediate Social Hour; Chamisha Osor Bshvat Party; Parents' Association; Basketball Game and Dance, I. S. vs. Young Israel.
Feb. 9—Intermediate Council Meeting.
Feb. 10—Debate—Alhoa vs. Wadleigh Chapter U. O. J. C. A.
Feb. 11—Junior Council Meeting; Intermediate Council Lincoln Birthday Dance.
Feb. 12—Party, Alpha Phi Club.
Feb. 13—Friday Home Night, Eldorado Club, host.
Feb. 15—Intermediate Social Hour; Open Meeting; Palais Club.
Feb. 16—Debate, Sachem vs. Delphi.
Feb. 19—Junior Social Hour.
Feb. 20—Friday Home Night, Crescent Club, host.
Feb. 23—Washington Birthday Celebration; Intermediate Dramatic Society.
Feb. 22—Metropolitan Association Debate, I. S. vs. Harlem Hebrew Institute.
Feb. 23—Washington Birthday Celebration, Junior Dramatic Society, Intermediate Council Meeting.
Feb. 25—Junior Council Meeting; Debate, Palais vs. Clinton Chapter U. O. J. C. A.
Feb. 27—Friday Home Night; Junior League of Parents' Association, host.
Feb. 28—Jubilee Dance, Council of Senior Clubs.

DANCE CONTESTS MEET WITH FAVOR

The dance contests now being instituted at the Saturday Evening Neighborhood Dances are meeting with popular approval of the young folks who attend.

Last week the fox-trot contest was won by the team of Martin Vogel, 73 East 105th Street, and Essie Hulnick, 1600 Madison Avenue, and the waltz contest, after a very close and very interesting exhibition, was finally won by Seymour Mayer, 1639 Madison Avenue, and Pauline Schwartz, 1604 Madison Avenue. The dances will be continued throughout the winter season.

notes of victory were ringing in his musical ears. He had malice toward none. His honesty and sobriety, his saint-like fairness to opponents and his unusual common sense marked him at once an uncommon individual. His attitude toward the misled men (who had stood against the Union), did more to cement the Union after the fires of the war began to die out than any other wholesale human destroying force in the eventful post-bellum days.

There is such brotherliness about Abraham Lincoln that he endears himself to every people struggling for liberty.

His life should be prized by us as the most precious offspring of our American development, the richest treasury in the retentive memory of our progressive nation.

BASKETBALL AND DANCE SUNDAY EVENING

THE POET'S CORNER

THE POET

The Poet's cares are not alone,
For his Nation's cause to sing,
His sacred feelings he makes known,
In instruction he fain would bring.

Long 'twas his will, his cherished hope,
The entire world to harmonize,
But one and three different in scope
Which no two, yet, could equalize.

But lessening in his peaceful dream,
To conciliate one and three,
To stem the controversial stream,
His sweet poetic muse set free.

E'er since the lock is on the gate,
And the locksmith is not yet born,
And keys are owned by every mate,
And himself each seeks to adorn.

O! Leave the poet free to build,
And beauteous world to thee he'll yield,
And mystic streams of light divine
By his fancy he'll cause to shine.

*(This week's Poem Contributed by
Miss D. Aber)*

GOOD BOOKS

"JEWISH SERVICES IN SYNAGOGUE AND HOME," by Lewis N. Dembitz.

A most valuable book to both learned and student. Mr. Dembitz in this book has succeeded in answering practically all of the questions that concern Jewish rituals both in home and in synagogue. A real "Guide for All."

"FROM JUNGLE TO ZOO," by Ellen Velvin.

Have you ever thought of the dangers involved in the capture of wild animals? The author of the above book has attempted to bring into the limelight conditions that surround this rapidly decreasing sport of big game hunting. One of the most educational and interesting books of its kind that has appeared in a long time.

COLLEGIATE BRANCH CELEBRATES CHAMISHA OSOR BSHVAT

The Collegiate Branch of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America will hold a Chamisha Osor Bshvat—"The New Year for Trees"—celebration at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, 2 West 70th Street, on Monday evening, Feb. 9, at 8:15 P. M. All college men and women are welcome.

CULLED FROM COLLECTED PENS

NEW YEAR FOR THE TREES OR CHAMISHO-OSOR-B'SHVAT

Nathan Meyerowitz

The anniversary of the Festival of the New Year for The Trees, which we will celebrate on the 15th of Shebath (February 9), is known as Chamisho-Osor-B'shvat. This date and month was chosen by the School of Hillel, because in Palestine most of the annual rains occur before Chebath, so that trees which blossom afterward are considered as belonging to another year.

The suggestion that led the Judeans to institute this Festival on behalf of plantkind may be attributed to the antique races. The ancients have venerated and worshipped the tree because they thought the latter were the rain bringers. The Israelites, although Moses prohibited them from cultivating the wooden cult, smuggled it in their customs and habits. It eventually became a standard statute in Jerusalem that, when a male child was born, they planted a cedar tree, and a cypress tree was planted when the newcomer of Eve's sex crossed the threshold of life. When a marriage was about to take place the trees were severed from their respective roots and were employed as pillars for the nuptial canopy.

The Talmud classified many trees which ripen their fruit to a corresponding time and period in the lives of certain animals and human beings. The Talmud is full of woodlore, and beautiful, too. In the very ancient books—be it the Illiad of Homer, or the Psalms of King David, you will find the praise of the woods. "Let the field be joyful and all therein; then shall the trees of the woods rejoice." (Psalms 96.)

There must be some hypnotic power that draws us to the woods. Abraham, the first patriarch of the Hebrew race, found solace beneath spreading oaks of Mamre, and our great heroic Deborah sat under the shade of a palm, judging the hilarious children of Israel.

The revival of the Festival of the New Year for the Trees by eating fruits instead of planting trees, dates back probably no earlier than the sixteenth century. Rabbi Nathan Benjamin of Gaza arranged a liturgical reading specially designed for the night preceding the 15th of Shebath. It consists of a collection of excerpts bearing on the subject of trees and fruits.

There are about thirty species of fruit that may be eaten on this auspicious occasion.

Under the first fruit grade are classed grapes, figs, apples, etc., which have a soft skin with small pits that may be eaten. The second grade comprises dates, apricots, olives, etc., which have a soft skin but hard stones. The third grade includes nuts and fruits especially imported from Palestine, such as carobs, which have hard shells and

(Continued on Next Page)

I. S. vs YOUNG ISRAEL—COME!

THE JEW IN AMERICA

THE JEW IN THE AMERICAN THEATRE

The newer crop of dramatists is of course more numerous and more prolific. They touch upon all phases of human life and belong to the various schools of dramatic writing. There was Charles Klein, who wrote plays of politics and finance; there is Montague Glass, with his humor and at times superficial characterization of Ghetto types, the creator of the Potash and Perlmutter stories. There is the youthful Elmer Rice, varying from the sensational drama, "On Trial," to the expressionistic drama, produced by the Theatre Guild entitled "The Adding Machine." There is Arthur Richman, with his keen study of the American girl entitled "Ambush," and also several other plays. Aaron Hoffman has treated of many subjects, while Louis Kaufman Ans-pacher has treated of social themes, his notable work being "The Unchastened Women."

Ben Hecht has tried his hand at the drama. Two plays of the Yiddish playwright Pinski have been produced on the English stage. "The Treasure" and "The Idle Inn." "The Bronx Express," by Ossip Dimow, moved from the Yiddish Art Theatre to the regular stage. Louis Shipman and Abraham Shomer have written for Broadway, while Belasco has among his endless worried found time to write several plays of his own. Jules Eckert Goodman has delighted American audiences time and time again.

Though the dramatic tradition among Jews is comparatively young, nevertheless the people of Rachel and Sarah Bernhardt have done conspicuous service. There is David Warfield, who has starred in "The Music Master," "The Return of Peter Grimm," "The Auctioneer" and a host of other plays. He played the role of Shylock in that splendid production of "The Merchant of Venice" placed upon the stage by Belasco. There is Jacob Ben Ami, drafted from the Yiddish stage, and both Schildkrauts, Joseph and Rudolph; Louis Wohlheim, Barney Bernard, Louis Fields, Harry Green, Louis Mann, Kenneth McKenna (Leo Mielziner, Jr.), and Robert Warwick, to mention only a few.

The actresses are numberless. Alla Nazimova, Florence Reed, Vivienne Segal, Bertha Kalisch, Celia Adler, Constance Collier, Olga Nethersole, Bertha Broad, Lina Abarbanel, Fannie Brice, Nan Halperin, Francine Larrimore (Adler), Clara Lipman, Fania Marinoff. Among comedians, Al Jolson, in conjunction with Houdini, the great magician, have organized the unique "Rabbis'

Sons' Theatrical Benevolent Association," to which only the sons of Jewish synagogal functionaries are eligible.

The motion picture being still in its comparative infancy, it is only now, after its material expansion has taken place, beginning to establish itself on a higher aesthetic and artistic plane. The services of the best of contemporary novelists have been called in; and all the devices that modern stagecraft has invented are being utilized for its artistic enchantment. Popular taste must be catered to if any material foundation is to be attributed chiefly to this cause. As it is, the linking of the motion picture with the literary and artistic world is being directed and guided by one of the chief Jews in the realm of the screen, Adolph Zukor.

It is Zukor who is the most vigorous and able of this group of Jews which direct the destinies of the motion pictures.

(Continued from Page 3)

hard kernels. The cabalists consider the eating of the fruit of trees as a form of exculpation for the original sin of eating of the Tree of Knowledge.

Chamisha-Or-B'shvat is a semi-holiday. The Talmud Torah children, instead of studying Hebrew subjects, join in eating the various fruits. The meal being preceded by a benediction and the "Sheheheyonu" for the new fruits.

If in its entertainment Chamisha-Or-B'shvat encourages a little greater interest in God's creations, a little greater love for the plant species, one of the most beautiful of all forms of life, and the greatest respect for the Divine Source of all life, it will have accomplished its purpose.

"O Lord! How manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy possessions."

Phone University 4200

\$impson
INC.

Electrical Wiring, Lighting Fixtures,
Appliances and Radio

135 WEST 116TH STREET NEW YORK CITY

TO OUR READERS

We maintain an EMPLOYMENT BUREAU for young men and women, who desire to observe the Sabbath. Let us help you fill your positions when in need of help.

Call Employment Department—University 6729.

This ad paid for by Fischel Family Foundation.

ALPERT BROS.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

216 Lenox Ave., at 121st St.

New York

Harlem 0114

Harlem 9229

Members of The Institutional Synagogue

Phone Harlem 0849 - 4088

MEYERS & CO.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

228 Lenox Avenue, New York

Charles Rosenthal

Herman E. Meyers

(Members of The Institutional Synagogue)