

The INSTITUTIONAL

"THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE"

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MAY 8, 1925

No. 34

SACHEM DEFEATS PARAMOUNT IN CHESS AND CHECKER TOURNAMENT

Round Robin Nears Completion

The Sachem Club defeated the Paramounts last Thursday evening in the first round of the Round Robin Tournament amongst the Sachems, Paramounts and Clinton Branch of the U.O.J.C.A., to decide the winner of the Chess and Checker Tournament of the Intermediate Department.

In the next round of the Chess and Checker Tournament, the tournament game was played last Monday by the Paramount Club and the Clinton Chapter of the U. O. J. C. A. After an interesting contest the game was won by U. O. J. C. A., Clinton Chapter.

The Chess and Checker Tournament to determine the individual stars began last night.

NEW ENGLISH CLASSES FORMED

Special Courses Given

New classes for spring and summer are starting during the current period for those who desire instruction in English and Citizenship work. Classes start at 7:45 P.M. and end at 9:30 P.M. on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Instruction is offered in Citizenship, English, Spelling, Reading and Writing.

No charges are made with the exception of a small deposit for books. Pupils are invited to investigate these courses by applying to Mr. Lazarus in Room 306.

WILL COMPLETE RADIO AND VICTROLA FUND

To Hold Dances

In order to keep up their end of the agreement to help raise funds for the purchase of a radio machine and a Victrola, the clubs of the Intermediate Council will hold dances during the next fortnight.

The Paramount Club will hold a dance in the gymnasium on Saturday evening, May 23rd, and the Palais Club will hold their dance on June 27th. The Intermediate Playshop will also produce a gala show, "The Charm School," for the benefit of the fund.

True I. S. spirit in this time of need and worthy of commendation.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

THIS SATURDAY MORNING RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN Will Preach

Light Candles at 8:01 P.M.

THE LAST LAP

"So turn the corner and quick prepare,
The home stretch looms in sight,
For righteous cause we do or dare,
And win the battle of the right."

We are about to engage in the last final attempt to put across the campaign that we are now waging for the purpose of securing funds to wipe out our huge deficits.

The time draws near when we shall celebrate our Eighth Anniversary. Shall we be able to declare once more that this good work of ours is to go on? Shall we be able to say that Judaism's cause is not lost? Shall we once more pledge ourselves anew to the promotion of the Four Corners of the Institutional Synagogue?

Shall we keep 800 boys and girls in our Talmud Torah for the purpose of instruction in the rudiments of their religion? Shall we enlarge on the scope of our Social and Educational Activities? Shall we continue our Physical Recreation for our members?

The answer to that lies almost entirely on your great efforts in disposing of the raffle books for our annual dinner. If you have not as yet secured a raffle book, get one immediately. It is not too much to ask \$1 of any man to support a cause such as ours.

We need not reiterate the good cause of our Institution, but we do reiterate—Answer the Call! Build the Melting Pot Now!

CAMP INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Good Camps Recommended

In accordance with past policy the Social and Educational Department is ready again to offer its services in assisting parents or young folks who desire to secure information as to the best camps for summer vacations.

We have on file booklets from various camps and information concerning the best places in which to spend your vacations according to your personal desires.

This information is cheerfully given to our members.

Build the Melting Pot Now!

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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BOYS' WEEK IS HUGE SUCCESS

The Boys' and Girls' Week program arranged by the Social and Educational Department was a huge success. Monday evening was dedicated to boys and girls in relation to their fathers and mothers. Miss Martus addressed each club. Tuesday was devoted to entertainment and Mr. Lippert was back with us again addressing the groups on Social Entertainment and Dramatics. Wednesday was devoted to Boys' and Girls' Day in Industry. On Thursday evening Mr. Morris Jablow, a member of the Board of Directors, delivered a very inspiring talk on Citizenship.

On Friday the Talmud Torah boys, having been previously drilled by Mr. Alexander, paraded along Fifth Avenue as part of the Boys' Loyalty Program.

Various signs depicted the activities of our Institution and a great deal of applause greeted what was practically the only Synagogue and Jewish flag in the parade.

Saturday was the gala day when the boys of the clubs, with some assistance of the Talmud Torah, conducted the entire services in the big Synagogue. An excellent array of replacements, as mentioned in last week's

(Continued next column)

CALENDAR

May

- 10—Last day to submit topic for Junior Declamation Contest. Mother's Day Program.
- 11—Individual Chess and Checker Games.
- 12—Ladnacs Open Meeting. Junior Game Room for Girls. Junior Dramatic Society. Lag B'Omer.
- 13—Junior Game Room for Boys. Junior Council Meeting.
- 16—Intermediate Rally.
- 17—Junior Declamation Contest. I.S. EIGHT ANNIVERSARY \$100 Couple Dinner at Hotel Astor.
- 19—Junior Game Room for Girls. Junior Dramatic Society.
- 20—Junior Game Room for Boys. Junior Council Meeting.
- 21—Debate—Crescent vs. Sachem.
- 23—Dance—Paramount Club.
- 24—Open Meeting—Palais Club. Rosh Chodesh.
- 26—Junior Game Room for Girls. Junior Dramatic Society.
- 27—Junior Game Room for Boys. Junior Council Meeting.
- 29—Shevouth.
- 30—Memorial Day Shevouth.
- 31—Junior Essay Contest ends. Last day to submit essays. Gala Shevouth Program

LAST MINUTE NEWS

U. O. J. C. A. Wins Chess and Checker Tournament

In the final contest on Monday night it has just been announced as a result of the Round Robin, that the Clinton Chapter of the U. O. J. C. A. has been declared the winner of the Intermediate Chess and Checker Tournament.

Field Day to Be Held June 14th

Announcement is made that the Annual Field Day will be held on June 14th at Rice Stadium. See the next issue of the Institutional for full particulars.

Institutional, resulted in a splendid service, for which due credit is given to the fine endeavors of Mr. Judah Katz, Director of Religious and Junior Activities. In addition to those mentioned in last week's Institutional who participated in the services are Julius Silverman of the Talmud Torah and Sam Birnbaum.

Abraham Brown, who acted as Rabbi, delivered a very splendid address and also addressed the Bar Mitzvah.

All in all, the Boys' Week was a great success.

COME TO THE BIG DINNER!

CULLED FROM COLLECTED PENS

LAG-BE-OMER, OR THE SCHOLARS' FESTIVAL

By NATHAN MEYEROWITZ

Lag-Be-Omer was instituted in the first quarter of the second century, or 1825 years ago (approximately).

Lag-Be-Omer is a semi-holiday.

The Israelites were commanded after the conquest of Canaan to bring at harvest-time an Omer (sheaf) of the first fruits to the High Priest as a wave-offering. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 'Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.'" (Leviticus—Cap. 23:9, 10, 11.)

The thirty-third day in the period of counting of the Omer (sheaf) (Lag—the numerical value of which is 33), corresponding to the 18th day of Iyyar. (As the counting of the Omer commences from the second Seder of the Passover-Nights). The sole plausible reason for the existence of this semi-holiday is the palpable fact that, about 1825 years ago, 2400 disciples of Rabbi Akiba (Palestinian Tanna) were devoured by a raging epidemic plague between the 23rd day of Nissan (first day after Pesach) till Lag-Be-Omer, or the 18th day of Iyyar. On that day, our All-Merciful Father in Heaven declared a complete and endless Armistice to the glutinous Monster-Dragon-Epidemy. Lag-Be-Omer was the Pillar of Fire that intervened between the epidemic of terror and the God-saved residue of Rabbi Akiba's disciples. It was the barbed-wired-boundary between Life and Death to the Yeshivoh Bachurim of the great Palestinian Tanna.

Lag-Be-Omer is, therefore, known as the Scholars' Festival.

Talmud Torah boys indulge in various kinds of amusements and merrymaking.

Hatam Sofer and Yoreh De'ah (Talmudic Jurisprudence) claim that another reason for the Lag-Be-Omer is that the Manna descended on this day.

The cabbalists attach a peculiar importance to Lag-Be-Omer. It is a tradition with them that Simeon Ben Yohai, the alleged author of the Zohar, on that day surrendered his ghost to the Creator—who gave it. Upon the expiration of the earthly term of Simeon Ben Yohai, he revealed to his disciples many secrets which were subsequently incorporated into the Zohar. The day is, therefore, called "Hillula Di Rabbi-Simeon-Ben-Yohai." The term "Hillula" (Marriage) indicates the harmonious union of all the worlds that was

(Continued next column)

THE POET'S CORNER

THE EDITORIAL CONTROVERSY

Don't let yourself be overcome
By petty troubles. Why be glum?
This world is much too good a place
For you to wear a solemn face.

No one finds life, in days like these,
A perfumed, flowery bed of ease;
But that's no reason we should whine;
Laugh! And you'll think the world is fine!

At rainbow's end, you have been told.
You'll always find a pot of gold;
Far better than that pot we'll say
Is one good hearty laugh a day.

The man who wears a visage grim
Will find most people shunning him;
While he whose face lights with a smile
Will have friends round him all the while.

Every cloud may have a silver lining,
The difficulty is to turn clouds inside out.

affected by the revelation of the celebrated Rabbi Simeon-Ben-Yohai before his noble soul ascended the Kingdom of Heaven. The day is celebrated with illuminations, because according to the narrative, just before the heart of Rabbi Simeon ceased to function, the world was filled with light. Since the revelations which he had bequeathed to his disciples, were put in writing in the Zohar. A hymn entitled "Bar Yohai," which consists of ten stanzas, each stanza corresponding to one of the ten Sefiroth (counting), is sung in many communities on that day. Talmud Torah children are equipped with bows and armed with arrows for, according to tradition, the rainbow did not appear during the life of Rabbi Simeon-Ben-Yohai. Hence, the children playing with bows symbolize the death of the grand sage. A certain interpretation in the Zohar claims that this bow-playing custom is due to the cabbalistic fact that a bow of motley-tinges will appear in the heavenly vault on the eve of the coming of the Messiah. The bow with which the children play on that day thus symbolizes the supplication of the Jews that the Promised Bow shall make its appearance in the blue dome of the sky.

All the restrictive laws that are in force during the other days of the Omer as the law against cutting the hair, or that against the performance of marriage ceremonies, are suspended on Lag-Be-Omer. Custom, however, varies widely with regard to these restrictions. In some communities the restrictive laws are in force only during the first thirty-three days, and are entirely suspended thereafter.

There is no special ritual for Lag-Be-Omer. The prayer "Tahanu" is, however, omitted from all the three services, as well as from the "Minhah" services of the previous day.

ANSWER THE CALL!

HAYM SALOMON

(Editor's Note: We are printing hereafter by sections, an exact copy of the House of Representatives report on the recognition of the services rendered by Haym Salomon during the Revolutionary War. This was presented to Hon. Isaac Siegel, who has possession of the original through the courtesy of the Hon. W. T. Page, Clerk of the House of Representatives.)

52d Congress,
2d Session

Report
No. 2556.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gold Medal in Recognition of Services Rendered by Haym Salomon During the Revolutionary War

February 24, 1893—Committed to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

MR. CUMMINGS, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT:

(To accompany H. R. 7896)

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7896), having for its object the striking of a gold medal in recognition of services rendered by Haym Salomon for advances of money made during the Revolutionary War, have had the same under consideration and respectfully report the bill back, as amended.

(To be continued)

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