

The INSTITUTIONAL

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1917 — TRUE JEWISH IDEALS — EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY — 1925

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:—

Since I greeted you a year ago the gymnasium and swimming pool have been completed. We can point with great pride to the fact that each day over three thousand people—mainly boys and girls—pass through our doors. Considering that we started eight years ago with about a dozen individuals, our progress in the rendition of real service to Harlem's rising generation has not only been effective but extraordinary. We cannot measure what we have been able to do, but in years to come the seeds which we have planted will produce a harvest that will bring to us a large number of active members for the common good of American Jewry.

To function as we could and should requires the annual expenditure of \$100,000. This may look like a large sum, but when we know that the city of New York is spending from \$107 to \$140 per annum for each pupil, it can readily be seen therefrom that we need at least on the average \$30 per year for 3,500 who are making use of our facilities. We have the building, the teachers and the active men and women who are prepared to do their full share but the burden cannot be carried by them much longer. The real rich men and those who have given freely have moved away from Harlem. Today we need the Institutional Synagogue in Harlem more than ever before because there is no other place where the boys and girls can go. It therefore falls to each and every one of us to rededicate ourselves to the task of making the men and women of means realize that the work which we are doing is not merely for Harlem but for the whole city of New York.

Let us make them realize also that the responsibility is one that must not be evaded less the failure to act and give, bring upon the community disgrace, humiliation, and shame.

Let me take this opportunity of thanking each and everyone of our friends, teachers and all who have co-operated with us in the service in which we are undertaking to perform on behalf of Faith and Country.

ISAAC SIEGEL.

OUR RABBI'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

You and I have toiled and have been privileged by God Almighty to be present at this eighth anniversary of the founding of our institution. Now we have practically completed our building with the exception of a roof garden. The opening words of the blessing which the High Priest invoked upon Israel were, "May the Lord bless you and watch over you." It is one thing to receive the blessing of God; it is another to be good and wise enough to keep that blessing.

We have worked industriously during the last eight years to receive the blessings of our Heavenly Father in order that we might be privileged to rear a religious, educational and social institution in a most neglected section of the city, known as Harlem. The test as to whether or not we can retain this blessing now lies before us. There is great danger that our work may be hampered in view of the fact that many of us may become fatigued and that Harlem is now being populated by the poorer classes. I therefore take this means of exhorting all of you, as well as the community in general, to stand by us and perpetuate this much needed spiritual force for Judaism and Americanism—the Institutional Synagogue.

Let me close with the words of Macaulay, "It is one thing to attain and another to retain."

RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN.

OUR ANNIVERSARY

This Sunday evening the Institutional Synagogue celebrates its Eighth Anniversary with a dinner at the Astor. A retrospect of eight years reveals a period of worthwhile accomplishments amidst a struggle to maintain an ideal.

Again we greet our members and friends in anticipation of continued good fellowship, in contemplation of the renewed energy that you are going to expend in helping us carry out our ideals and our aims.

Below, the heads of the three departments have outlined a brief resume of the past and future of their respective departments. This is chiefly in explanation of the activities now current in the Institutional Synagogue.

Saturday Morning, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Preaches Anniversary Sermon

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OUR TALMUD TORAH

By Rabbi Isadore Goodman, A.M.
Associate Rabbi Institutional Synagogue

The Institutional Synagogue Talmud Torah has indeed made stupendous strides during the past eight years. From half a hundred children, two classes and one teacher in 1918, to nine hundred children divided into thirty-four classes, under the supervision of fourteen teachers, pursuing a course of Hebrew and religious instruction, based on a Curriculum provided for six years work, beginning with the Aleph Beth on through Bible, Tanach, Jewish Ethics, Ceremonials, Hebrew Grammar and Jewish History, closing with an introduction into Mishna and Talmud in 1925, is the achievement of seven years of steady development in the religious educational work of our Talmud Torah.

The boys of our Talmud Torah wear "tzizis"; they have pledged themselves to observe the Sabbath by refraining riding, writing or purchasing on the Sabbath and Holy Days. Our children under the guidance of their teachers pray daily (Mincha and Maariv) as well as conduct services Friday evenings, Sabbath mornings and Sabbath afternoons, after which the "Seuda Shlishes" is served by the Parents Association.

These facts illustrate the healthy spirit and the educational aims of our Talmud Torah. It shows that the Institutional Synagogue is fast becoming not only a big Institution, but also a GREAT INSTITUTION!

OUR SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

By Sidney B. Alexander, Director

The Social and Educational Department again exhibits a record of splendid achievement. Laboring under severe financial handicaps and a much depleted staff because of the increase in other departments, the work has nevertheless expanded considerably due to the firm foundation laid during the past season.

Interesting statistics show us that twenty clubs immediately re-registered during the opening week in the Fall and then at the peak of the season over sixty clubs and classes were in full swing in the building. April usually is the month when the decreases start and we find that the remarkable registration of **twelve new clubs** appears on the record. Classes in Music, the Arts, Citizenship and Literary organizations were very popular and many had to be given up for lack of funds. So many new Junior clubs came into the building that we had to draft Intermediates to act as club leaders. These young men and young ladies have carried on the message of the Four Corners of the I. S. successfully.

Each of the councils Senior, Intermediate and Junior have conducted tournaments and activities in Debating, Oratory, Dramatics, Chess and Checker, Athletics, Essays and a host of others. Social rooms and game rooms have been very busy with but poor equipment to offer the members. Loss in membership has occurred chiefly amongst the Seniors, who have waited in vain for some of the promised attractions that we have been financially unable to give them. But others come to take their place. Functions and dances have been prominent. Big Brother and Big Sister work has expanded. The Intermediates again step to the fore as the most active and promising group in the building. The Juniors are now being remoulded due to the great influx of new clubs.

The chief accomplishment has been in the increased promulgation of religious activities. Every Jewish holiday has been appropriately celebrated. Every club has a certain Jewish content in its program outlined by the Religious Director. The Boy's Week was a tremendous success, especially in the conduct of the Sabbath Services entirely by boys. Friday Evening Forum was an exceptionally successful experiment.

The Social and Educational Department has grown entirely beyond its environs and until handicaps have been successfully overcome our good work goes ever on, as best it can, for who knows what the future holds in store.

TRUTH IS THE SEAL OF GOD!

OUR GYMNASIUM

By William Dreeben, Director

The gym and pool of the I. S. have now been open nearly five months. In that time the physical training department has made excellent progress. Our Senior Division, starting without a single member, has grown in that short time to a group of 250 and continues to add to its roster daily. The Intermediate Division consists largely of club members. The Junior Gym group is rapidly increasing and has already about 40 boys.

Activities have been numerous and have attracted many participants. The All-Around Contest, which will close on May 24th, consisted of thirteen indoor events held one each week. Every man or boy regardless of ability, participated, and each one scored points since the poorest performer in each event scores at least 10 points for effort, the best man scoring 100 points. Medals will be awarded to the all-around champion in each division. Tournaments were held in Basketball and Indoor Baseball and a Senior Baseball contest is about to start.

In inter-association competition we have not been backward in spite of our late start. Our basketball team did well. We won the Community League Swimming Meet. In the past few months we have been feeling our way. We are now ready to plan for a season of exceptional activity in the Fall. The department has already outlined a program for next season, that will be replete with interesting events.

HAYM SALOMON

INSTALMENT NO. 2

(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.)

In the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Congresses reports were made on this claim by various committees, and always in favor of paying what the United States undoubtedly justly owes, but it never passed both Houses. Consequently the heirs of Haym Salomon, have finally abandoned the idea of ever expecting to receive the money that their ancestor so generously and kindly advanced, and in lieu thereof now ask that Congress should have a gold medal struck as an heirloom for the family, and in consideration of what the ancestor of the memorialist did at a time when it was all important to have such services for the benefit of the United States.

Your committee respectfully report that their request be granted; that a gold medal to the value of \$250 be struck by the United States Mint at Philadelphia, and that the same be presented by the Secretary of the Treasury to the lineal descendant and heir of the late Haym Salomon.

To verify our recommendation and prove how just this claim is, we attach hereto copy of the reports made by various committees of the Senate of the United States. There can be no question that the heirs should be reimbursed; but as they seem to have caught the spirit of their ancestor and very generously waive their rights in the premises, it is the least that the Congress of the United States can do to testify in a public manner their high appreciation for the valuable and important services rendered by their ancestor.

(Continued next column)

ANNUAL FIELD DAY JUNE 14th

At Rice Stadium

The Institutional Synagogue as a unit will hold its Annual Outdoor Field Day on Sunday, June 14th, at the Rice Stadium, Pelham Bay.

The tentative program for the day consists of a Track Meet, to be held in the morning at 10:00 A. M. The afternoon will be devoted to Championship Baseball Games and the annual Faculty-Member Game. The meet is open to all paid-up members of the I. S. Entry fees for each event are: Men, Seniors, 15c; Intermediates, 10c, and Juniors, 5c; Girls, Seniors, 10c; Intermediates, 10c, and Juniors 5c. Gym members not affiliated with a club or other organization enter with Mr. Dreeben. Club members secure blanks thru their athletic manager and return to Mr. Katz and Miss Martus. Talmud Torah entries are to be made thru Rabbi Goodman. Entries close on June 4th. Money must accompany each blank.

Silver and bronze medals will be awarded for first and second in each event. A trophy goes to the highest club in each division. In addition first secures five points, second secures three points, third secures two points and fourth secures one point. The A. M. Davis Field Day Trophy is again in competition.

The events for the track are as follows:

FOR JUNIORS—

MALE

40-yard dash (under 85 pounds).
50-yard dash (over 85 pounds).
Standing broad jump.
220-yard relay for clubs (55 yds. each man)

FOR INTERMEDIATES—

70-yard dash. Running broad jump.
440-yard run. Running high jump.
Mile walk. 8-lb. shot put.
440-yard club relay (110 yds each man).

FOR SENIORS—

100-yard dash. Running broad jump.
One-half-mile run. Running high jump.
12-lb. shot put. Hop, step and jump.
Mile relay (440-yds. each man).

FEMALE

FOR JUNIORS—

25-yard dash
Standing broad jump.

FOR INTERMEDIATES—

50-yard dash. Basketball throw.

FOR SENIORS—

50 yard dash. Basketball throw.

On the 2nd of July, 1862, Mr. Wilkinson, in the Senate, made the following report:

The claim of the memorialist is one of undeniable merit. It is for money advanced to the revolutionary Government when the public treasury was exhausted, its treasury bankrupt, and specie almost impossible to be obtained. It has been repeatedly examined by some of the ablest committees of the two Houses of Congress, and always reported upon favorably, with a bill for the relief of the memorialist; but the great magnitude of the papers and vouchers required so protracted an examination as to place it last on the calendar at each session as never to come within the reach of final action.

(Continued next page)

SIGN UP FOR FIELD DAY!

The facts show that Haym Salomon, the father of the memorialist, a native of Poland, settled in this country as a merchant and banker before the revolution, and was a zealous supporter of the war for independence; that he was a man of unquestioned integrity, great financial resources and ability, and enjoyed the highest confidence of our public men of the time, as is shown by the most abundant proof, as stated in the reports of the various committees; that his large private fortune and the proceeds on his extensive commercial earnings were freely applied to the use of the revolutionary Government and its various public men, and the agents of foreign governments friendly to our cause, whose supplies were for the time cut off; that during the war he was imprisoned, with Stockton and others, as early as the year 1775, at New York, in the loathsome prison called the "Provost," where he contracted a disease, which ended in his death just at the close of the war, and before any steps had been taken to secure the same, or by the Government to reimburse him for the large amount he had advanced for its use.

(To be continued)

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