

THE INSTITUTIONAL

"THE PLACE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY"

"The Weekly Publication of the Institutional Synagogue"

Vol. XIV

APRIL 18, 1930

No. 31

POPULAR WIT TO ADDRESS ORGANIZATION AT CONCLUSION OF BIBLE CLASS

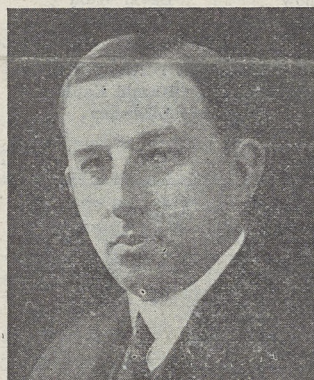
Harry Hirshfield, creator of the comics, "Abe Kabbible" and one of the most popular entertainers of the present age, is the next speaker to be featured this Monday evening, April 21, at the West Side Building, 148 West 85th Street, under the auspices of the Young Men's Club.

This is the third of a series of Smokers conducted by the active group of adult young men led by our inspiring Rabbi Goldstein. Those who recall the previous occasions will need no second invitation, while those who are still promising themselves to go, are certainly going to enjoy themselves.

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Fiftieth Birthday of I. S. President Celebrated by Membership Last Saturday

Celebrates 50th Birthday



HON ISAAC SIEGEL

His Tireless and Unselfish Efforts for Benefit of I. S. Evokes Appreciation By All

The fiftieth birthday of our beloved President, Honorable Isaac Siegel, was fittingly celebrated last Saturday morning, April 12th, after services at the West Side Building. Led by our good Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, and many of the directors the entire congregation joyously expressed their felicitations and paid their tribute in mark of this momentous festivity.

Many friends recalled the earlier days of the Congressman when with his extraordinary powers of eloquence and passion for truth and justice, first began to win a most enviable record as counsellor, legislator and leader of countless civic and religious organizations of both local and national importance.

We read in "The Ethics of the Fathers" (Chapter 5, Sentence 24) that "at twenty the age is reached for seeking a livelihood, at thirty for entering into one's full strength, at forty for understandang, and at fifty for counsel, etc." However, truly remarkable has been the course of our president's life, for he did not need to wait until fifty to qualify as a giver of counsel. Since the age of twenty has Congressman Siegel, with his perspicacious understanding and clean cut decisions been aiding those in distress, whether it be in a professional capacity as an attorney or as a legislator advising his colleagues in matters of state or his constituents in their own divers difficulties.

The entire I. S. membership is certainly happy to wish the Congressman many more years of life for worth-while accomplishment. It is ever mindful and appreciative for the benefactions received at his hand. May his joys be as beautiful as his many acts of kindness and charity have been upon the successful promotion of things Jewish and American.

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Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein Stresses Importance of Freedom in Religious Activity in Stirring Passover Sermon

Points Out Similarity in Ideals of Passover and Thomas Jefferson

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, preaching his Passover Sermon on "Slavery in Freedom" before the members of the I. S. at the West Side Branch, 148 West 85th Street, Sunday morning, said in part:

"We are today spiritually enslaved though we enjoy physical and economic freedom. Prosperity has swamped religion. Every sacrifice has been made on the part of the individual to increase the material side of the country's progress. Our colleges and universities have done all in their power to prepare the future intellectual men and women for the secular phase of life. Only a brave student is able to fight the destructive influences of our seats of learning and emerge with a God-fearing soul.

Slaves to Our Desires

"Our whole fabric has been made up of a pattern of inordinate and wanton desires. We strive to get what we want at all costs. Only when we live for an ideal then are we free and happy. The highest ideal known to mankind is religion.

Its superiority over any other ideal is in its divinity, its urge to the highest. True, there are other ideals. Some make money, others society, politics and fame their ideal.

Ideals of Judaism Should Be Paramount

"Such ideals have brought in their train corruption, deceit, fraud, and selfishness. Whilst when religion is our ideal, then there is nothing we will want so badly at the expense of the ideal. Money must be made within the bounds of Judaism, society may be courted but not at the cost of the dietary laws, politics may be our goal but not at the expense of our holy Sabbath, fame may be our desire but not by crushing our neighbor.

"When we introspect as Jews, we will find ourselves free physically, politically and economically but we are not free religiously. We are slaves in freedom, slaves to our environment, slaves to our desires. For what we are ready to sacrifice, that is the index of our character. If we are prepared to sacrifice for sordid, low aim, we in turn remain at that level. But when the highest, our religion is the end

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FRIDAY EVENING, LIGHT CANDLES 6:21

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CLUBBERY

The Vagabond Club wishes to congratulate the Amiga Club on their successful dances, especially for the prize received by Mac Lieberman in the waltz contest. The Vagabond boys are well satisfied with the co-operation given them by the I. S.

* * *

A scary and spooky time that really was enjoyed by the Seacs was had at their last meeting under the tutelage of Irving Levine, who pinch hit in the absence of Abe Margulies. With all lights out and by the dim light of a single candle and the shadows magnifying every move . . . well, you can imagine.

* * *

Club Variety is holding its annual Theatre Party on Wednesday, April 30th, at the R. K. O. Chester Theatre. Many tickets have already been sold and may be had from any member of the club. Miss Cohen, the president, anticipates a complete sell-out.

* * *

Very proud indeed are the Argoes of two of their members who have been selected to represent the I. S. in the Junior Debating Tournament. Myron Heckler and Bill Rosenthal are preparing for their next battle against Yonkers, who, we understand, possess several girls on the team. Let's see who is better.

* * *

The Aces, under the guidance of Mr. Strand boast of a strong baseball team and will try and capture the championship among the clubs. They previously won the Junior Basketball title as well as the Ping Pong crown.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PLEDGE?

To Members and Seat Holders:

You were good enough to pledge your support for the emergencies in which we find ourselves at the present time, owing to the unstable condition prevailing in Harlem. We, therefore, ask you to be sincere enough to co-operate with us and send in your contributions as pledged with your yearly membership dues. In that way we may be able to pay our staff.

Thanking you for your co-operation, which I know I may expect from you, I am

Sincerely yours,
ABRAHAM BERNSTEIN,
Executive Secretary.

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The Board of Directors, the Executive office, the Talmud Torah, Social, Educational and Gym Departments, Sisterhood, Parents' Association, Women's League of the W. S., Young Men's Club and Religious Committees of both Synagogues, join in wishing

HONORABLE ISAAC SIEGEL

many happy returns on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday, which was celebrated Saturday, April 12th.

CHAG HAPESACH—ZMAN CHERUSENU

The most important holiday of the spring is Passover. It is ushered in at sundown of the fourteenth day of the Jewish month of "Nison," which corresponds this year to Saturday, the twelfth of April. The fact that the eve of Passover is Saturday gives rise to a number of special regulations, because we are not permitted to violate the Sabbath even for the sake of Passover. The holiday lasts eight days (through Sunday, April twentieth), of which the first two days (Sunday and Monday, April 13th and 14th) and the last two (Saturday and Sunday, April 19th and 20th) are complete holidays, while the intervening four days are "chol hamoed"—half holidays.

SEFIRAH

The exodus from the Land of Bondage was only the first step in the establishment of the Jewish people. The second step, which is by no means secondary in importance, was the receiving of the Torah. When the Israelites were in Palestine they used to bring (in accordance with the regulations found in the Torah) a barley offering on the second day of Passover, and the wheat offering on the first day of Shevuoth. A barley offering, a sacrifice of a grain eaten by animals, was brought by the Jews in olden days to commemorate their physical delivery; and a wheat offering, something enjoyed by human beings, was brought in the Temple to commemorate the spiritual delivery through the receiving of the Torah. The Counting of the Omer, or to use the Hebrew phrase "sefras hoomer," as ordained in a number of places in the Torah, begins on the second evening of Passover and continues until Shevuoth. The Jews were told to count every day and prepare themselves every day for their spiritual freedom, the receiving of the Torah. When we consider the great stride the Israelites of old made, from idol worship to the true Jewish faith, we must come to the conclusion that seven weeks was not too much. The days of "Sefirah" or the Counting of the Omer are also days of mourning, as during those days a plague destroyed many disciples of Rabbi Akiba. No weddings, or other affairs are permitted in this period, excepting Lag B'Omer, the third-third day of Sefirah, (corresponding this year to Friday, May 16th,) when the plague ceased, temporarily.

—Mrs. Schatz, Women's Branch, U. O. J. C. A.

THIS I. S. IS NOT A THEORY OF A FEW

Passover Relief Work in Assisting Harlem's Needy Successfully Effectuated at I. S.

An Annual Roll Call for the Passover Relief, which was sounded so loud this year, was again answered by the Sisterhood in its benevolent and whole-hearted manner. Again has this worthy organization, together with other groups, undertaken to assist the needy in Harlem with clothing, Matzohs and other foodstuffs, for the Passover holidays.

This year, because of the present economic conditions, there were more cases than ever before, according to a statement issued by the Harlem Passover Relief. Hundreds of Jewish families were given substantial material aid at the I. S.

Almost \$2,000 in cash was distributed in varying amounts and 3,000 pounds of Matzohs and Matzoh meal were apportioned. In addition, 300 pounds of sugar, 300 pounds of salt, 70 boxes of candles and different fruits were distributed, as well as a plentiful supply of clothing.

Each case was first thoroughly investigated by one of the staff of trained investigators. This entailed a great deal of clerical work, even before the actual distribution had begun. To Mrs. Annie R. Morris, president of the Sisterhood, goes a great deal of the credit for the excellent way in which the Passover relief was given out.

Mrs. Cecil Endel, chairlady of the committee, with her executive ability and cheery words for everyone, has endeared herself to all that came to the I. S. doors for relief. Assisting her on the committee are Mesdames Hyman and Wolfberg of the Mt. Neboh Sisterhood; Schlesinger and Samuels of the Ansche Chesed Sisterhood; also Miss Doris, daughter of Mrs. Endel, Mrs. Ruth Reutlinger, Mrs. Harry Ward, Mrs. H. S. Goldstein, and Mrs. Stavish. Theirs indeed will be a happy Passover, realizing the great work of charity they have accomplished.

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District Attorney Thomas T. C. Crain, was the guest at the first smoker and spoke on "What Is a Successful Man." A few weeks ago Dr. Frederick Robinson, president of City College, was the lecturer and his thought provoking remarks resulted in favorable comment indeed.

An invitation to attend this affair and to have the pleasure of listening to the witty Harry Hirshfeld, regarded as a God fearing Jew, who is proud to assert that he davens every morning, is extended to the adult male members of the I. S., especially to the clubs of the S-E Department. Refreshments, as usual, will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 21—Checker Class
Tournament—Juniors.

Tuesday, April 22—Council Meeting.

Wednesday, April 23—Lecture.

Thursday, April 24—Leaders' Training Class.

Saturday, April 26—Dance—Ko-Sacs.

For Clubs—Intra-Club Elimination
for Oratorical Contest—Intermediates
and Seniors.

Yiskor Services will be held at
both the West Side and Main Syna-
gogues on Sun morn April 20th.

and aim of life, then all our other desires and ambitions are auxiliary, and subservient to, but not independent of or above religion.

Thomas Jefferson and Passover

"Today, as Americans and as Jews we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. Passover and Jefferson are synonymous names. Passover means the overthrow of tyranny, and the freedom to worship God according to one's own dictates. The name of Jefferson is the symbol for religious liberty. He championed the cause of religious liberty, and finally had adopted in the Virginia legislative the 'Act for Establishing Religious Freedom.'

Religious Liberty is America's Heritage

"Our Pilgrim fathers came here to make America the land of religious liberty, and not as many would have it today—the land free of religion. We are unwilling to live for what our fathers died. Religious liberty is America's heritage. Without an established American church every church may become firmly established. We are true or false to our American heritage, as we encourage or discourage every religious sect in the land to live its own life to the full."

MUSIC CONTEST OF METROPOLITAN LEAGUE TO BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 27th

The Sixth Annual Music Contest of the Metropolitan League will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 27th, at 3 o'clock at the Astoria Center of Israel, 820 Crescent Street, Astoria, Queens.

The I. S. will once again enter this contest as it has in years heretofore. Arnold Silverstein, who last year won second prize and a silver medal, will be entered in the Junior Violin Competition. Gertrude Harris of the Talmud Torah will engage in the contest for the first time, being entered in the Junior piano trials. Any member of the I. S. is eligible to enter.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN EXPLAINS THE LAWS CONCERNING THE COUNT- ING OF THE OMER

1. The counting of the Omer is begun from the second night of Passover. It is counted whilst standing. This commandment is performed in the beginning of the night, yet the entire night is the proper time for its performance. On the nights of Sabbath and festival, the Omer is counted in the synagogue after the Kiddush has been said. At the conclusion of Sabbath and festival it is counted before the Habbalah is said, in order to say the Habbalah at last.

2. If one had forgotten and did not count the entire night, he should count in the daytime without pronouncing a blessing thereon. But the following night he should pronounce a blessing thereon when counting, but if he had forgotten to count that entire day he should count every night thereafter without pronouncing a blessing. If he is in doubt as to whether he had counted the previous night or not, although he did not count on the following day, he may nevertheless pronounce a blessing when counting on the remaining nights.

3. If one is asked, at twilight or later, previous to counting the Omer, how many days are to be counted on that day, he should tell him the number of days that were counted on the previous day. For by mentioning the number of days to be counted on that day, he will afterward be forbidden to pronounce a blessing when counting the Omer.

4. Before one pronounces the blessing, he should know the number of days to be counted. However, if one did not know it, and pronounced the blessing with the intention of counting as he will hear his neighbor count, he has also fulfilled his obligation. Likewise, if one pronounced the blessing with the intention of counting four days and was afterward reminded that he must count five days, he does not need to repeat the blessing. Likewise, if one erred in counting and when he should have said "six days," said "five days," if he was immediately reminded thereof, he should count properly and he is not required to repeat the blessing. But if he had paused slightly he is required to repeat the blessing.

5. Neither men nor women should do any work during the days that the Omer is counted, from sundown until after the Omer has been counted.

6. One should not marry on the days that the Omer is counted, nor should one have his hair cut, but the Sandek, the Mohel, and the father of the son are permitted to have their hair cut on the day before the circumcision toward evening. It is permitted

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As the outdoor season approaches, the Physical Training Department of the I. S. is commencing a campaign to secure the proper men for their spring weather teams. The I. S. desires forming teams to represent the Synagogue in the Annual Metropolitan League tournaments.

The first appeal is for candidates for the tennis team. The League is running the tournament in both the single and double events in this popular game.

At present during some of the Sunday mornings one may find some of our cross-country runners practicing along the Central Park track course. They are led by the old reliables, Bob Robinson and Brickman. These men have had years of experience in this branch of sport and are only too eager to aid and instruct anyone interested if they show any desire to become a cross-country runner.

The Metropolitan League Field Meet will be conducted this year during the latter part of May. Track and field events are held and individual and institutional prizes are awarded to the winners.

Any member of the I. S. who is interested in any of the above-named sports is urged to report to Mr. Silbert so that definite practice dates may be had.

Because of the occasion of this joyous event and the simultaneous celebration of Passover, Mrs. Siegel, his loving wife and inspiration, had the entire Siegel "mispocha" at the seder. Amidst those who are near and dear to him, the Congressman was in a jovial mood and manifested a youthful spirit hardly betokening half a century of purposeful living.

INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE

37-43 West 116th Street

MEMORIAL CARD

The undersigned hereby requests you
to offer the Memorial Prayer for
the coming Holiday

for my.....

(State here what relative)

Name

(Write here name in Hebrew)

and herewith subscribe

\$.....

Name

Address

Cont. from Page 3 Col. 3

to make engagement parties; even to have a feast thereon is permissible on the days of counting the Omer. However, dancing and music are forbidden.

7. Up to Rosh Chodes, Log B'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer) and the three days before Pentecost, one is permitted to marry.

8. On the first night of "Shevuoth" the evening service should be put off until the stars appear.

The counting of the Omer begins on the second night of Passover, commencing Sunday evening, April 13th, and continues for 49 days.

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PHIL GOODMAN DESCRIBES EVENTS PREPARATORY AND DURING TRIP TO PALESTINE

I. S. Club Member to Continue to Send
Accounts of His Life in the Holy Land
(One of the members of an I. S. club—the Tranquility—recently left for the Holy Land to continue his Hebraic studies. Before leaving, Mr. Philip Goodman promised to send to the INSTITUTIONAL a day by day account of his experiences. The following is the first installment of his diary and deals mainly with the trip across the 'pond.' THE EDITOR.)

February 15th

The Tranquility Juniors, my own dear friends, certainly lived up to their reputation by doing everything in the finest style. The Farewell Party that they tendered to me would be hard to excel. Mr. Shapiro, S. E. Director of the I. S., expressed in an eloquent address the good wishes of the I. S.

February 16th

The days and hours were passing rapidly. My approaching departure filled me with mingled emotions: happiness for having the opportunity to study in our own land, Eretz Israel; and, dejection at the thought of leaving my father, mother, relatives, and friends for such an extended period of time.

February 17th

Sol and I received the blessing of Dr. Revel, Dean of the Yeshiva College of America. He also gave us advice which I consider quite exigent. We bid farewell to Dr. Churgin and Mr. Sar.

February 18th

Attended the Farewell Reception to the American Chalutzim.

February 19th

The eve of departure! My heart was in a turmoil. All my friends and relatives had come to see me leave. The Tranquility Juniors, a large delegation from the Yeshiva, girl friends, relatives, mother, and last, but not least, my father. When my father blessed me and said that I was going with his consent and blessing, my heart was deeply stirred. He has made many great sacrifices for me, and this seems to be the greatest. God bless him.

February 20th

At supper, discovered that the strictly Kosher cuisine was not Kosher at all. Ice cream was served after meat. After an argument with the Mashgiach, left the table in disgust.

The brisk evening air heightened the pleasure of a smoke in a deck chair.

February 21st

Sunset. As the sun was sinking below the horizon, casting its reflections upon the silvery waters, sea-gulls were seen trailing behind the stern of the ship. It was indeed a picturesque sight.

(To be Continued)

YISKER SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT BOTH SYNAGOGUES THIS SUNDAY MORNING