

Passover

Its Symbolism, Significance, Laws and Regulations

Passover is the most important Jewish holiday of the spring. It begins at sundown of the fourteenth of the Jewish month of Nissan, which corresponds this year to Wednesday, the first of April; and lasts eight days (through Thursday, April ninth), of which the first two days (Thursday and Friday, April second and third) and the last two (Wednesday and Thursday, April eighth and ninth) are complete holidays; while the intervening four days are "chol hamoed"—half holidays.

Passover is known by three different names: "Z'man Cherusenu", "Chag Hamatzoth", and "Chag Hapesach". Each one of these names is characteristic of the holiday, and an interpretation of these appellations will elucidate it; but for the sake of convenience some of the preparatory steps will be discussed first. To these preparatory steps belong: the "koshering" of the utensils, the removal of the "chometz"—known as "biur chometz", and the preparation for the last "chometz" meal.

The "Koshering" of the Utensils

Since on Passover we are not allowed to have in our food any trace of leavened bread, the dishes and utensils used on Passover must be such that were either not used at all during the year or, at least, cleansed from any absorption of "chometz" in the manner prescribed by the law, the cleansing is performed in the following manner: the metal utensils are first scrubbed and washed, then kept without being used for twenty-four hours, and finally either boiled in hot water or burned in an oven, depending upon the way they were used during the year. As to crockery, it can not be cleansed for Passover, after it has once been used with "chometz."

Bedikas Chometz and "Biur Chometz"

"Biur chometz" means the removal of all leavened bread. This is started by the pious Jewish women many days before passover: (Chometz that can not be destroyed before Passover is sold by the rabbi to a non-Jew, and every head of a family has to delegate that task to him several days in advance), but the official search for leavened bread will take place this year on the evening following the sunset of Tuesday, March 31st. Before the head of the family—equipped with a lit candle, wooden spoon, feather, piece of cloth, and thread—chants an appropriate benediction and starts the search, crumbs of bread are placed on the window sills, to prevent the possibility of not finding any "chometz", and thus pronouncing a benediction in vain.

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

Annual Dinner of Institutional Synagogue to Be Season's Highlight



LESTER UDELL
Again the "Indefatigable Lester"

I. S. DAUGHTERS THEATRE PARTY. MARCH 24th., PROMISES TO BE OUT- STANDING EVENT.

Applications for tickets to the Theatre Party given by the I. S. Daughters on Tuesday, March 24th, at the Colesium Theatre, Broadway and 181st Street, continue to pour in.

A number of vaudeville presentations and a feature motion picture and some other favorite entertainment will constitute the program.

There are still a great number of tickets available so be sure to get yours in the near future. They may be purchased from any member or from the Executive Director, Mr. Bernstein.

Thou shalt not oppress a hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates. In the same day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it; lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin in thee.

Fourteenth Annual Event to be Held April 12th at West Side Building.

As a climax to a year of great expansion, unusual activity, unprecedented development, the Fourteenth Anniversary Dinner of the Institutional Synagogue will be held on the evening of Sunday, April 12th, at the West Side Branch of the I. S., 148 West 85th Street.

It is expected that the attendance this year will surpass that of previous years. Prominent speakers and personages of note will grace the occasion. The I. S. Annual Dinner always excites an interest such as no other event does during the year. People who are otherwise dormant in their activities and relations with the I. S. during the greater part of the year, generally surprise the heads of the Institution with a show-up of spirit and friendship reminiscent of founder days. Especially are the members of the Dinner-committee and their associates on the Board of Directors and the Executive Officers exerting themselves to the fullest in seeing that no stone is left unturned towards insuring a dinner success far surpassing any Annual Dinner heretofore held.

Send in for Table Reservations Now!

Mr. Lester Udell is chairman of the committee in charge of the dinner arrangements; Mr. Aaron Wartels, "the Grand Old Man" of the I. S., is vice-chairman. Mr. Max E. Sanders is treasurer, and Mr. David Gluck is secretary. These names, it can be seen at once, are the indefatigable workers of the I. S. and their association with any activity is synonymous with the successful conducting of that particular activity.

It is a long time since the I. S. held its Dinner at the building itself. Tickets for the Dinner will cost Five Dollars per person and table reservations may be had. Reservations can be made through any member of the committee or through our Executive Director, Mr. Abraham Bernstein.

It is urged that reservations be made
—Deut. 14, 15. promptly.

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CHARITY

In Faith and Hope the world will disagree
But all mankind's concern is Charity.

A. Pope—"Essay on Man."

* * *

A fierce light beats upon the Jew. It is
a grave responsibility this—to be a Jew;
and you can't escape from it, even if you
choose to ignore it.

C. G. MONTEFIORE.

It was with profound sorrow
that we learned of the loss of Mrs.
Amelia Mills, mother-in-law of our
friend and benefactor, Marshall
Leff. In this hour of bereavement
we extend sincere condolence to
Mr. and Mrs. Leff and the family
of the deceased, and pray that God
in His mercy will comfort them.

It was with deep sorrow that we
learned of the death of Mr. Jacob
Richman, father of our active
members, Reuben and Joseph Rich-
man. We extend condolence to the
family of the deceased. May they
know no more sorrow.

Clubbery

The Aelois, under the leadership of Miss Helen Friedman, have made an impressive record for themselves in girls' athletic activities at the Institution. They will very shortly conduct a "Stepping-out" party.

* * *

Once again the Omaha Girls remind you of their dance to be conducted this Saturday Nite at the Main Building. A superb orchestra, fine entertainment, much glamour and color will make this function one of the outstanding dances of the year.

* * *

We welcome a new Junior Girls' Club, the Outdoor Girls. This group was organized from amongst the Talmud Torah pupils. They are under the leadership of the very charming Miss Diana Goldstein. Miss Rebecca Taitz, the daughter of our popular and well-beloved sexton, Rev. Taitz, was elected president of this group.

* * *

The Amigas, one of our most charming stand-bys, are very actively assisting Miss Frances Phillips and the I. S. Sisterhood with the Passover Relief Project. It is hoped that they will conduct functions on their own initiative in the future. We are happy to notice the congenial cooperation these charming girls are rendering.

* * *

The big Social-Athletic event of the year—The PAWNEES Athletic Carnival, April 5th, Sunday nite. Admission 25c. Big Features.

GAMMA SIGMA PI ANNUAL DANCE
HAS FINE FEATURES

Once again advance notice for the Gamma Sigma Pi Sorority dance, scheduled for April 25th at the Level Club, is given. This assuredly is going to be an affair of the first magnitude.

What with previous records of success from this extremely active club in the I. S., this dance should even surpass these former successes. These charming and active girls have at all times been a distinct asset to the Institution. They have conducted Junior parties and last year treated a very large number of orphans to a theatre party and entertainment.

Do not forget that the proceeds of this year's dance will be devoted to family case work and Junior work within the I. S. Your attendance will therefore not only afford you pleasure, but you will also be aiding the Sorority in its undertakings. Get your tickets now, before the big rush!

AN EXAMPLE OF THE WISDOM
OF MAIMONIDES

Maimonides used to point out that there are eight degrees of doing charity, each one finer than the other.

The first, and lowest, is to give sorrowfully and with regret; for that is a gift from the hand, but not from the heart. It is to give because you "ought to," not because you want to.

The second is to give enough to relieve the sufferer. The third is to give willingly and sufficiently, but not until asked.

The fourth is to give willingly and sufficiently and without being asked, but to give it to the poor man in such an open and public way as to make him ashamed.

The fifth way is to give in such a way that the person helped knows who has helped him, but is not known to his benefactor.

The sixth is when the giver knows the person he is helping, but when the man helped does not know who it is that has come to his relief.

The seventh is when the giver does not know whom he is helping, and the person assisted does not know who his benefactor is.

But the eighth and finest of all is to be beforehand, and to act in such a way that it would not be necessary to give charity.

(Continued from page 1)

On Passover, the head of the family goes from room to room sweeps the crumbs into the spoon with the feather, extinguishes the candle, wraps this all up together in the piece of cloth and ties it with the thread. The ceremony ends with the citing of the prayer "Kol Chamiro", found in the Hagadah.

The wooden spoon must be burned on Wednesday morning right after the last "chometz" meal, and the prayer of "Kol Chamiro" should be repeated, immediately following the burning. (The prayer just mentioned should always be said in the language which the worshipper understands, and by the owner of the "chometz," because in it he renounces his ownership.) The "biur chometz" ceremony should be preceded by the clearing away of all "chometz"—food and utensils.

The Last "Chometz" Meal

On the eve of Passover we are permitted to eat chometz only until the passing of the first day (counting the day from dawn to the appearance of the stars). This means till nine A.M. or thereabouts (the exact hour differs in different localities). If any leavened bread remains it is either destroyed or given to a non-Jew.

The Fast of the First Born

The last plague with which the Egyptians were smitten and which brought freedom to the Israelites was the slaying of the first born of Egypt by the angel of death. When this happened the first born of Israel were spared, and because of that they have to fast on the eve of Passover. The obligation to keep this fast is withdrawn from those who are present on the morning of that day at a "Brith Milah" party or at the party made in celebration of the completion of a Talmudic tractate.

(To be continued)

Don't Forget Rabbi Goldstein's Radio Hour Over WPCH,
Sunday Afternoon, at 3:45

(Continued from last issue)

NATHAN STRAUS ESSAY CONTEST

When the World War broke out, Nathan Strauss, with his remarkable foresight saw the results of this catastrophe. He visioned the poor, homeless refugees, the dead and dying soldiers, and the once beautiful cities falling into ruins. Before these appealing pictures, Straus's great heart cried out in pity, and he determined to do his best to aid the unfortunates whose lives war had shattered. All I can say is, he succeeded in accomplishing this desire. It brings tears to my eyes when I think of this old man, who had spent more than his income permitted him for merciful purposes, selling his luxurious steam yacht in order to obtain more funds that would bring untold happiness to starving and homeless refugees . . . the pitiful products of a merciless conflict. Again, Straus was an unsung hero. But again, here, as in the Spanish-American War, Straus obeyed the command of his father and mother, to stand by his country to the last drop of blood.

When the world lost him, it lost a great man. His name was never mentioned in volumes of history, yet multitudes knew him all over the world as a kindly and generous person. He was loved by rich and poor alike.

Fortunately, his son is left to carry on his traditions, but he cannot gain the beloved reputation of his father, for none were, none are and no one can be as great or greater than Nathan Strauss Sr. May his soul rest in peace.

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There are many needy Jewish families in Harlem who would like to observe Passover suitably, but who unfortunately, cannot do so because of the lack of necessary funds. Won't you please enable these families to share the pleasure of having Matzohs on their Seder nights, and thus incidentally, getting a "mitzvah" for yourself?

The Institutional Synagogue has never failed to do its bit in enabling Passover to be observed by all Jews. Not only Matzohs, but clothing as well, are desired for those people who anticipate relief from this institution. We must not fail them. Kindly send your contributions to the I. S. Sisterhood, care of Institutional Synagogue, 37 West 116th Street, New York City.

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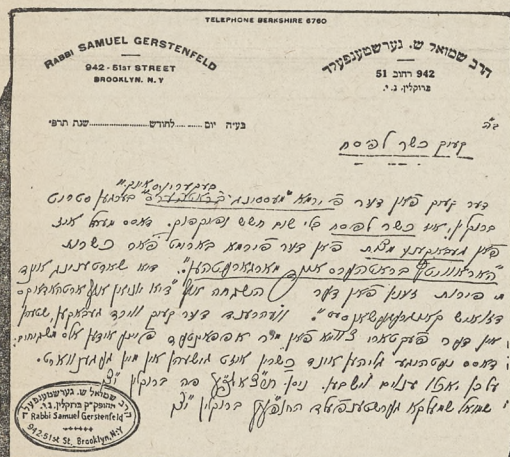
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