

THE INSTITUTIONAL I.S.

"THE PLACE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY"

Vol. 15—No. 40

JUNE 12, 1931

Sivan 27th, 5691

I. S. Debaters Win Manhattan-Bronx

Debating Championship

FACILITIES GALORE REMAIN TO TEMPT I. S. SUMMER MEMBERS — ALL COOL AND BENEFICIAL, TOO

Library, Gym, Social Room and Pool Await Leisure of Members

Now that the summer is here, the Major activities of the Junior and Senior Clubs are on the wane. The unusual interest manifested in social activities such as dancing, gym contests, etc., is gradually decreasing with the advent of the torrid weather.

Several of the organization, in order to keep up the spirit of unity and fraternalism that was so evident through the year are leasing bungalows at the beaches for the summer season. Some of the I. S. Club members, using I. S. training by participation in activities as a background, are employed as Social Entertainers, positions carrying substantial salaries.

For those, however, who will remain in the city, there are enough facilities at the building to keep them profitably occupied. These facilities are oftentimes overlooked because of their very obviousness. For instance, there is the splendidly equipped library which, because of its cool and inviting atmosphere, should furnish a real haven for those who will do their summer reading. And let us not forget the beckoning call of the social room wherein to spend the summer evenings.

The spacious and almost frigid atmosphere of the gymnasium, where a strenuous workout may be indulged in, should keep us physically fit and able to withstand the discomfort and rigors of the sweltering days.

But what is unanimously considered as the outstanding feature of the summer facilities at the I. S. is the swimming pool. One plunge in its sparkling and refreshing waters at the end of a distressingly hot day is enough to earn life-long gratitude of those who will avail themselves of this opportunity.

While crowds are struggling in the over-laden subway trains en route to the beaches the wise man will realize the needlessness of this inconvenience.

In order to foster and advance the educational projects of the Institutional Synagogue, we are conducting a Subscription Prize.

Members and their friends, young men and women, who subscribe to the Educational Fund may at the same time be the winner of an automobile. The subscription will cost from One Cent to One Dollar.

Those interested may secure a Subscription Book from the Executive Director or may subscribe at the office. The proceeds of this subscription will be devoted in its entirety towards the Educational Projects of the Institutional Synagogue.

On Monday evening, October 12th, a gala entertainment will be conducted at the Main Building for those who subscribe. At this event the winner of the automobile will be announced.

We urge all members and friends of the Institutional Synagogue to co-operate with this subscription and to get others to subscribe so that we may maintain our high standard of Educational activities and also be able to develop new projects. The subscription starts with this issue and will terminate the first week in October. It will be conducted throughout the summer. We urge your co-operation!

JUNE WALK POSTPONED TO JUNE 28th

Because of inclement weather the 14th Annual June walk for the Talmud Torah pupils and Club Juniors conducted by the Parents Association, which was to have been held last Sunday has been postponed to **Sunday, June 28th.**

In case the weather at that time prohibits outdoor activity, the games will be held in the Gym. Refreshments will be served and games and prizes distributed.

A baseball game is scheduled between teams representing the Social and Talmud Torah Departments. The winning team will receive a Silver Loving Cup donated by the Parents' Association through Mrs. I. Stein.

92nd ST. DEBATE vs I. S. FIFTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY

The I. S. Debating Team won its fifth consecutive victory in the Northern Division of the Metropolitan League contest and thereby became the 1931 champions of Manhattan and the Bronx. Morris Urieff and Charles Cohen beat the "Y" team represented by Norman Hollander and Ben Weinberg.

Topic: Water Power Development

The topic of the debate was "Resolved, that Water Power Development in this State be under a Policy of Public Ownership." The I. S. upheld the affirmative of the argument and the "Y" upheld the negative. The "Y" previously had won from the Washington Heights "Y" on the same topic of discussion.

Speeches Forcefully Presented

In arguing in favor of public ownership, the I. S. boys clearly outpointed their rivals in the content and presentation of their speeches and in the refutation. Morris Urieff's forceful presentation of our stand on the question and Charles Cohen's fervent refutation of the "Y"'s argument were the important factors in the victory.

Congressman Isaac Siegel, President of the I. S. and Vice-President of the Metropolitan League, was the chairman of the evening. Mr. Bernstein was an enthusiastic member of the audience.

I. S. Won All Debates

The I. S. won the Northern division championship by defeating the Federation Settlement, Bronx House, Schiff Center, Washington Heights "Y" and 92nd St. "Y"

The Institutional congratulates Morris Urieff and Charles Cohen and urges them on to victory in the City championship Debate in October.

Please send us your vacation plans for this summer inasmuch as we intend to publish a special summer issue sometime in June.

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ATTENTION VACATIONERS

No doubt many members and seat holders are making preparations for leaving the city for the summer. In view of this fact, the Institutional desires to make the following announcement and request. Please make your reservations for your seats for the coming High Holy Days, to insure your getting the proper seat. A short note to Mr. Bernstein will save you the trouble of attending to this matter after the summer.

We extend our best wishes to our active members, Mr. & Mrs. Lou G. Siegel on the occasion of the Bar-Mitzvah of their son, Sidney, at our West Side Branch.

The Pros and Cons of
JUDAISM AND BIRTH CONTROLTwo Authoritative Views on a Provocative
Topic Now Widely Discussed

By Edward L. Israel

Chairman, Commission on Social Justice of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi of Congregation Har Sinai, Baltimore

Birth control, sometimes called birth regulation, control of parenthood, or contraception, refers to the deliberate regulation of the number of offspring by the use of methods to prevent conception. In recent years there has been considerable agitation of this question. Conservative religious groups have denounced any use of contraception as immoral. Lately, a number of liberal religious bodies have adopted sympathetic statements recognizing the ethical justifiability of contraception under certain conditions.

The arguments against birth control rest chiefly upon the assertion that the first command of God to man was: "Be fruitful and multiply," that sexual powers were given man for this purpose, and that any interference with the use of these powers and their natural biological effects is contrary to the law of God.

Arguments in favor of birth control are as follows:

1. Man uses intelligence in limiting all natural functions. There is no reason why he should not apply intelligence to the propagation of the race.

2. It is unethical to bring into the world children who are practically destined to lives of misery because of some hereditary taint of physical disability or mental weakness.

3. It is unjust to all the children of parents for parents to have a larger family than they can afford to provide with fundamental economic advantages such as proper food and housing, clothing and education.

4. It is unjust to undermine the health of a mother by too frequent child-bearing or, in some cases, by any child-bearing.

5. Many social problems arise from overcrowding of population, such as war, unemployment, and pestilence. It is an ethical mandate to use human intelligence to regulate growth of population and avert these evils. A proper philosophy of birth control does not ethically relieve those who are able, from the duty of rearing as large a family as is consonant with the means of the parents and the health of the mother, when all hereditary factors are satisfactory. Those better able and better fitted should have more children; those less able and less fit should have fewer, if any.

The subject of birth control is discussed in many parts of the Talmud. While definite contraception, merely for the sake of physical indulgence, is forbidden, there are many instances which indicate a sympathetic attitude on the part of the ancient rabbis. Sex relations are permitted, even when there is no possibility of childbirth as in the case a woman known to be sterile. There is even some indication

that the ancient rabbis favored the sterilization of parents whose children would be morally corrupt and of bad character. Women whose physical health would be undermined by childbearing are exempt from the duty of procreation.

Rabbi Solomon Lurya, interpreting the Talmud, maintains that The Law does not forbid birth control, but only complete suppression and that, under certain conditions, one is free from the duty of having a family. This famous rabbi also mentions the Talmudic opinions alluded to above.

The economic and social problems of modern life, together with the development of scientific knowledge regarding contraception, have raised many ethical problems in minds of religious leaders of all denominations. The Roman Catholic Church has reiterated, through a papal encyclical issued early in 1931, its traditional stand of opposition to any form of birth control. The first concrete sympathetic recognition of the ethical use of contraceptives was made by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1929 at the suggestion of its Commission on Social Justice. This Convention of the Conference merely adopted a statement recognizing the importance of birth control in the solution of many modern problems. The following year the action was incorporated into the regular social justice program in the following words:

"We recognize the need of exercising great caution in dealing with the delicate problem of birth regulation in view of the widespread disregard of the old sanctions affecting the institution of marriage and of the family. We earnestly desire to guard against playing into the hands of those who would undermine the sanctity of these time-honored institutions through reckless notions and practices. We are especially mindful of the noble tradition obtaining among the Jewish people with respect to the holiness of domestic relations. But, at the same time, we are keenly aware of the many serious evils caused by a lack of birth regulation among those who by reason of lack of health or of a reasonable measure of economic resources or of intelligence or all of these, are prevented from giving to their children that worthy heritage to which all children are entitled. We, therefore, urge the recognition of the importance of intelligent birth regulation as a method of coping with social problems.

Since the first action by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, there have been endorsements of a wise and intelligent use of birth control by the "Universalist General Conference," in October, 1929, the "East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church," in April, 1930, and by the Federal Council of Churches, in April, 1931. The gist of all these statements is very much akin to the above-mentioned statement of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.



To House Members:-

Now that summer is here you will again be faced with the problem of keeping cool during the hot summer days.

WHY BE UNCOMFORTABLE DURING HOT WEATHER?

Why not avoid some of the heat and dust of a summer in the city and solve this problem easily?—

JOIN OUR SUMMER GYM AND POOL.

After a hard day's work there is nothing so refreshing as getting into a cool gym suit for a light workout, and then, for a dip in the cool, refreshing waters of the pool.

Those of you who have used our Gym and Pool remember how uncomfortable you felt, on hot days, before you took a dip in the pool and how refreshed and "fit for anything and anybody" after you came out.

Special Rates for S-E Members

For those members of the S-E Departments who wish to make use of our facilities this summer we are charging the nominal rate of \$3.00 for intermediates and seniors, and \$1.50 for juniors.

The payment of this small sum entitles you to membership in our Gym and Pool for three months, from June 15th to September 15th, the three months of the year when you can make best use of our facilities to your advantage.

The Gym and Pool is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p. m. to 10:30.

Classes in swimming both for beginners and advanced swimmers are being organized under the guidance of an expert instructor, if you don't know how to swim here is your chance to learn.

JOIN NOW—AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON!

For further information see Mr. Urieff, at the desk.

JUNIOR FIELD DAY—JUNE 28th

The annual I.S. Junior Field Day will be held on June 28th.

Mr. Silbert, Director of the Physical Education Department, is arranging a program that will assure those juniors who attend a good time. The tentative program thus far includes dashes, field events, and novelty races.

Nearly all the Junior Clubs have already shown their desire to participate and those who will attend are assured of a good time.

For further information, and entry blanks see either Mr. Silbert, in the Gym office, or Mr. Urieff, at the desk.

A complete program of the events will be published in the next issue of the Institutional.

Jack Silbert.

I. S. ALBUM

WHY THE "I.S."

The Institutional Synagogue is the only Jewish Community Senter from 112th Street to 157th Street, from East to Hudson Rivers.

More next week, and the week after too.

May we request our readers to advise us as to their Summer plans so that we might use this information in our last Issue? Undoubtedly, a number of our I.S. friends would be interested in letting their friends know through this column where they plan to spend the summer. Drop us a line at once. No charge.

We congratulate Mr. Irving Zimmerman, Leader of A. N. I. 24 on his having graduated from City College. Mr. Zimmerman plans to enter the Public School System now—as a teacher.

Mr. Kirschenbaum, Ass't Headworker, has opened his office for the practice of law.

So have the Messrs. Lipshitz and Nadder of the staff.

SPRING FEVER

Well, one more week to June 22nd Goldman Band Concerts should attract I. S. members . . . I. X. B. who wrote that brilliant note in last week's column got it bad Alan Dennison, the only Literary Genius on the Staff and the shining light of the late Jewish Tribune, gave a poetry recital last week Seymour Kaufman of the Jeshurun has been appointed the Leader of the new Junior club, the "Judeans" Ben Berk, handsome Texan and Scoutmaster is a swell cook . . . but no can write poetry an I.S. official was quoted in —O—'s column in the "Y" Journal we quote: ". refers to Hearst's editorial writer's stuff as "brisanalities" We once heard that Director George Livingston was once a writer on the "Sun" . . . Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein once led a club . . . so did Congress-

man Isaac Siegel . . . Mr. Aaron Wartells is more depressed about the Giant's losses than he is about Hoover's prosperity . . . Rumor has it that Benny Leonard, I. S. Idol, and undefeated lightweight champion of the world is planning a come-back Isidore Bookbinder, Leader of the Buddies, has been appointed Athletic Director at a very exclusive summer resort it will cost Booky two weeks free board and meals for us to mention the name of that resort . . . Bargain? . . . we like Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein . . . she is one of the most remarkable women in the Institution charming, amiable she is a Barnard graduate . . . and is the founder of the Collegiate branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America . . . is the President of the Woman's Branch . . . also a Judge in the Jewish Book of the Month Club we also laud Mrs. Isaac Siegel . . . in spite of her communal activities Mrs. Siegel has found time to cultivate her beautiful contralto voice . . . we hope to run a series of interviews with I.S. women in our next year's "Institutional" . . . Cantor Zalman Yavneh's family will spend the Summer in Rockaway . . . Rev. Samuel Taitz's family will also spend the summer in Rockaway . . . We congratulate Mr. Joe Levine, upon the birth of a daughter. Mother and child doing well . . . Max Miller's daughter Loretta will be all of one year this June 12th . . . the femmes of the Staff will have virtually adopted the child . . . Congrats . . . Charlie Cohen, the best liked man in the I.S. has a sister that way too . . . so it's not an accident . . . both nice, congenial, clean-cut, well-liked . . . she was one of the pioneer member of the I. S. many years ago . . . one I.S. official is planning a literary opus this summer, another is having his published this Fall . . . the most attractive blond in the I.S. is Miss Diana Goldstein, club Leader . . . the other one is one of the Juniors in her club . . . well, one more week to June 22nd.

"BIRTH CONTROL"

(Concluded from Last Issue)

It has been stated that a large family brings its attendant blessings unto the children therein. A large family brings in its train self-reliance, generosity and responsibility. On the other hand the one or two children of the modern home are generally petted, self-opinionated and selfish. Furthermore, statistics prove that the third, fourth, or fifth child is apt to be the best; for the first or second is most liable "to inherit some of the commonest physical and mental defects of the parents."

I have spoken both in behalf of the law and spirit of Judaism, as it relates to birth control. Judaism does not go down to the low levels of men and women; it lifts them up from these low levels and pronounces the commandment as a blessing: "Be fruitful and multiply."

Send an I. S. Junior to Camp. Fund RECEIVED

Buddies Carnival	\$35.00
Gamma Sigma Pi	10.00
Jeshurun	15.00

PLEGDED

Spartans	Proceeds of raffle
Boy Scout Troop 525	Proceeds of photo studio

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Have Your Photo Taken Now.

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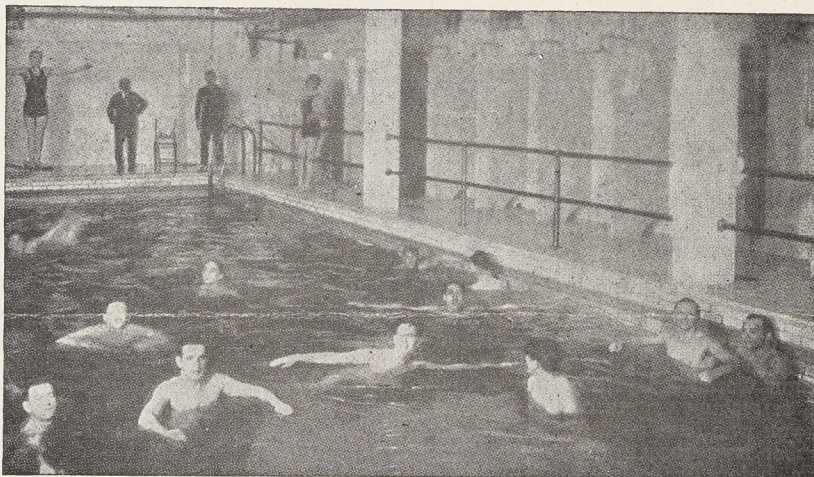
1. No less than 500 different articles are produced in Palestine?
2. Rabbis in Germany are now paid by government?
3. A group of Argentine Jews have settled in the Soviet Russian Republic?
4. Professor Picard, the Belgian scientist who made a balloon ascension to a height never reached before, was at one time a pupil of Professor Albert Einstein?
5. 75% of Belgian Jews emigrated there since the World War?
6. The Polish Catholic Priests have begun a movement to eradicate Anti-Semitism in Poland?
7. The first patent issued in this country on a wireless set was issued to Dr. Isidore Kitsee of Philadelphia who later sold it to Marconi?
8. Religious freedom has been instituted in Persia after six hundred years of Jewish oppression?
9. Anti-Semitism still exists in the French army?
10. Maryland was the American state to grant complete religious equality to the Jews?
11. There are 258 lawyers in Palestine?
12. 7000 Jews fought in the Civil War?
13. There are 18 yiddish periodicals now published in Soviet Russia?
14. The International Red Cross movement was started by the Swiss Jew, Henri Dunant?
15. The New York Public Library circulated 78,459 yiddish and 10,171 Hebrew books during the past year?
16. Los Angeles recently prohibited a showing of the "Merchant of Venice" on account of its derogatory portrait of a Jew?
17. The position of monarch is the only one that a Jew cannot hold in the British Empire?
18. Soviet Russia has banned "Jewish jokes" on the ground that they lead to Anti-Semitism?
19. Anatole Josepho, a Jew, invented the photomaton?
20. Kurt Eisner, a Jew, was president of the Bavarian Republic after the World War?

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings
Beginners and Advanced Classes in Swimming Under Expert Instruction.

COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE!

22. Prof. Liebermann is the President of the Academy of Fine Arts of Berlin?
23. Frances H. Goldshmid was the first Jewish lawyer in England?
24. The first Hebrew weekly was founded in Germany in 1856?

JUNIOR DEBATING TOURNAMENT
TOPICS SELECTED

Outdoor Juniors vs. Happy Wanderers: Resolved, That a Jewish Homeland Be Established in Palestine. Juniors—Negative; Wanderers—Affirmative.

Troop 658 vs. Sunshine Girls: Resolved, That New York Pass a Law to Provide for Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance. Troop 658—Negative; Girls—Affirmative.

Troop 525 vs. Agudath Naarei Israel: Resolved, That School Examinations Be Abolished. Troop 525—Negative; Agudath—Affirmative.

Iroquois vs. Seacs: Resolved, That David was a Greater King than Solomon.

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