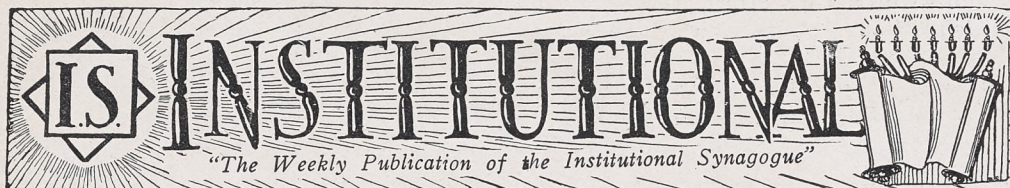


Memorial Day Issue



Publication Office: 37-43 West 116th Street

Vol. XV—No. 33

MAY 27th, 1932

Iyar 21st, 5692

In Memory of the Brave Boys of
THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE
who made
The Supreme Sacrifice During the World War

HARRY STEINBERG
SAMUEL L. BRODY
HERMAN KANOWITZ

WEST SIDE WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL BRIDGE PARTY

The very active West Side Women's League conducted a most entertaining bridge party Wednesday, May 11th, at the Hotel Brewster.

Most of the success can be attributed to the exceedingly fine efforts and cooperation extended by Mrs. A. R. Morris. Mrs. Morris also donated several of the bridge prizes.

As usual, the charming members of the West Side Women's League exerted every effort to make this affair socially outstanding. Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz donated the door prize; Mrs. Louis Nash conducted a raffle; Mrs. David L. Messing and Mrs. S. I. Silberman donated cake. The Chairlady was Mrs. Max E. Sanders, wife of our active director, Max E. Sanders. Mrs. Isaac Siegel, wife of the Hon. Isaac Siegel, President of the Institutional Synagogue, delivered a most interesting address.

The Institutional Synagogue wishes to thank the management of the Brewster Hotel for its cooperation and hospitality.

BOYS CONDUCT SHABBOS SERVICES AT WEST SIDE BRANCH

Boys' Week, celebrated at the West Side Branch Synagogue, proved a real source of inspiration to the youngsters and a source of much gratification to the adults who attended.

The following boys of the I. S. took part in the services in this order: President, Master Monroe Siegel; Vice-President, Master Howard Moskowitz; Rabbi, Gabriel F. Goldstein; Cantors, Master Marvin Livingston, Master Sid Hauer, Master Benjamin Newhouse; Shamoth or Sexton, Master Charles Bendheim; Ushers, Master Bernie Udell, Master Herbert Finkelstein.

The following will be called up to the Torah and read his portion: Kohen, Charles Bendheim; Levi, Herbert Finkelstein; Shilishi, Gabriel F. Goldstein; Reviee, Benjamin Newhouse; Chamishi, Howard Moskowitz; Shishi, Bernie Udell; Shevie, Sid Hauer; Oherin, Marvin Livingston; Mofter, Monroe Siegel.

LIGHT CANDLES FRIDAY EVENING, 8:00
Sedrah for Week: "B'chukosi."

THE INSTITUTIONAL

Published weekly, except from June 15 to Sept. 15, by the Institutional Synagogue.
 37-43 West 116th Street, New York West Side Branch: 148 West 85th Street
 Main Building Phone University 4-6729 West Side Phone Susquehanna 7-8265
 Subscription, One Dollar per Year

"Entered as second-class matter February 15, 1924, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879." Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 15, 1924.

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LAG B'OMER WEEK

The minor festival — Lag B'Omer, fell this year on Tuesday, May the twenty-fourth. Since it originated, unlike the other Jewish festivals, after the destruction of the Second Temple, it is the youngest of all the holidays. For the proper understanding of this festival, attention is to be given to the form or forms of its celebration, to its historic foundation, as well as to its Jewish name and date.

Celebration of Lag B'Omer

Lag B'Omer is celebrated by the eating of fruits, such as dates, figs, Palestinian oranges, carob (bokser), etc., which are known to grow in Palestine. It is also celebrated by taking part in special athletic games, excursions, picnics, hikes and outings to field and forest.

The Historic Origin of Lag B'Omer

The origin of this festival is not altogether clear. Some claim that it is the "yahrzeit" of the great Rabbi Simeon Ben Yehoi. Others explain its observance in a way that connects it with his teacher, Rabbi Akiba. It is recorded that a plague which broke out among the pupils of Rabbi Akiba stopped on this day. At any rate, the consensus of opinion is that Lag B'Omer originated during the second century and deals with some temporary relief from the exilic sufferings and persecutions.

Meaning of "Lag B'Omer"

To give an idea of the meaning of the phrase Lag B'Omer, the two Hebrew words that compose it must be explained. All that the term "Omer" means is an ancient dry measure about the size of a half gallon; but

it has been commonly used to indicate the barley sacrifice which was brought to the Temple on the second day of Passover, as a thanksgiving offering for the first ripened grain. It has been so called because the "Omer" was the measure used for that offering. Though the "Omer" offering was brought in the Temple, and ceased with the destruction of the Temple, the second day of Passover is still the first day of the Counting of the Omer. From that day a period of forty-nine days is counted daily, and the fiftieth is the first day of Shevuoth. As to the term "Lag," it consists of the Hebrew letters "lammed" and "gimmel" which are numerically equivalent to thirty and three, respectively. Thus the phrase "Lag B'Omer" means the thirty-third day in the Counting of the Omer.

The period of the Counting of the Omer, or the "sefirah" period is observed by the Jews throughout the world over by abstinence from any thing festive, such as weddings, hearing of music, as well as the cutting of the hair.

The festival of Lag B'Omer may be compared to a wanderer's accidental stop in an oasis. Tiresome and dreary is his walk along the sandy paths in the burning sun of the tropical desert. He is hungry and thirsty and tired, and the fertile spot catches his eye. He does not hesitate; sits down on the grass; refreshes himself with the spring water and swallows as many tropical fruits as he can; but does not stay there very long, for there is a long way before him. Lag B'Omer is a temporary release in the "sefirah" period, and we take advantage of it as best we can.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PLEDGE?

You were good enough to pledge your support for the emergencies in which we find ourselves at the present time. We, therefore, ask you to be sincere enough to cooperate 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 cooperation, which I know I can expect from you, I am,

Sincerely yours,
ABRAHAM BERNSTEIN,
Executive Secretary.

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 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.

Please send us you vacation plans for this summer, in as much as we intend to publish a special summer issue some time in June.

—o—

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL
EDUCATION ANNOUNCES
NEW RATES FOR SUMMER**

Beginning with May 15th, the new summer rates of the Department of Physical Education will go into effect. Never before in the history of the Institutional Synagogue has the rate been so low. The summer season is four months long, beginning May 15th and ending September 15th.

Rates

The following are the rates for summer of 1932:

Junior Housemembers	\$2
(up to and including 16 years of age)	
Junior Non-Housemembers	\$3
Intermediate Housemembers	\$3
(17 to 19 years of age)	
Intermediate Non-Housemembers	\$5
Senior Housemembers	\$4
Senior Non-Housemembers	\$5

Besides low rates a credit of 10% will be made to any member who introduces a new member. Here is a chance to get a summer membership free. **WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT?**

—o—

We congratulate Miss Miriam Levow, a member of the I. S. Daughters, upon the announcement of her engagement to Dr. David Rieder of Jerusalem.

**IN THE WORLD OF JEWISH
BOOKS**

Following the death of Prof. Israel Abrahams there was found among his books an interleaved and heavily annotated copy of his classical "Jewish Life in the Middle Ages." This work, first published in 1896, has long been out of print, and even second hand copies have been difficult to secure. Upon the basis of the author's material, a new and revised edition has been prepared by Dr. Cecil Roth. The present edition has the advantage of thirty years' additional research on the part of the author, supplemented by Dr. Roth's unrivalled knowledge of the conditions of Jewish life in Italy and the south of Europe. It thus entirely supersedes the original issue.

The volume is furthermore enriched by twenty-five full page illustrations, carefully chosen from rare prints and manuscripts, which would in themselves give it a unique interest and importance. The new edition of this standard work is essential for the understanding of the structure of medieval society. It commands a place not only in all Jewish homes but also in every well-equipped historical library.

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Jewish Book Week, celebrated annually coincident with Lag B'Omer, will occur this year during the week of May 21-28. This event has now become firmly established in the United States and serves to call attention at least once a year to the importance and value of the vast old and new literature which belongs to the Jew.

Since its inception in 1927, at the instance of Rabbi S. Felix Mendelsohn of Chicago, this celebration has become of increasing interest and concern to the Jews of this country. Rabbis, religious school teachers, leaders of centers, settlements, and other places where Jews, old and young, foregather, direct the thought of those with whom they come in contact to the literature which is the heritage of the Jew.

We mourn the loss of Mr. Abraham Friedman, late father of our members, Mr. Lester Friedman and Miss Reba Friedman, an active member of the Daughters of the I. S.

It is with profound sorrow that we learn of the death of Miss Martha Burak. She was a member of the I. S. Daughters. We regret this unfortunate blow to a family long active in the Institutional Synagogue.

SUMMER GYM-POOL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE JEWISH WORLD

According to the French report, recently made public, it is recommended that Palestine be divided into four distinct districts, in connection with the land development.

The report states that the Arabs should be permitted to take advantage of this plan first. Jews, it is reported, already have enough land and recommends that no more land be sold to them without government approval.

* * *

The Jewish community of Cochin, consisting of 1,500 Jews, considered the oldest community of India, is now on the decline, states a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report.

The majority of the population is poverty stricken as a result of the economic crisis.

* * *

The community was founded in the sixteenth century, vis Malabar. It is believed that the Jews came to Malabar after the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in the year 70 and were made welcome by the reigning king.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century the Portuguese invaded Malabar, oppressed the Jews, and forced them to seek the protection of the Rajah of Cochin, where they have remained since.

* * *

A decision to make the schechira illegal has been adopted by the municipality of Heidelberg, reports the J. T. A.

In taking this step, the Heidelberg municipality is carrying out the recommendations

of a special committee to whom this matter was referred last February when Nazi members originally made the proposal.

* * *

Anti-Semitic efforts on the part of Montreal publications will be curbed in the near future, according to an announcement made by the Postmaster-General of Canada, Hon. A. Sauve.

The Postmaster has informed the Hon. P. Bercovitch, the Jewish member of the Provincial legislature that immediate steps would be taken to stop this flagrant violation of postal laws.

* * *

A meeting of representatives of all Jewish organizations was held in Vienna on May 5th to discuss a common effort to avert the growing danger to the Jews as a result of an increase in Nazi agitation.

A second conference will be held shortly to discuss concrete measures to combat the Nazi danger.

* * *

Ten carloads of flour were shipped to the Jewish colonists in the Cherson and Kivory Rog districts of Russia on May 5th in order to relieve the hunger prevalent there.

The only region of Russia where the Jews are not suffering hunger is in the Crimea. The result is that colonists, in flocks of hundreds, are making their way from the cities and villages to the Crimea.

* * *

The Turkish government voted a subsidy of 10,000 pounds for the maintenance of Minority Schools. Of this amount, 2,000 will go as a grant towards Jewish schools.

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