

Sixteenth Anniversary Issue

THE INSTITUTIONAL

"THE PLACE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY"

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

1916 - 1933

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI



Hon. Isaac Siegel, President

No body of men and women have shown greater loyalty and devotion to a cause than that which has been displayed by our membership since we last met.

To say that every well wisher of our Institution is warmly appreciative of the untiring efforts made by all those who are interested in our work is but giving expression to what has been repeatedly uttered numberless times. It takes courage to go forward in times like these, but under the guidance of our spiritual leader, Rabbi Goldstein, and our laity, who have shown a spirit of real optimism, we do not know what the word "stop" means. Sixteen years of striving for a cause which has meant so much to young and old Jewry, not only in our city but in other communities, has but added renewed zest to the will to carry on.

Daily we have urged our well wishers to find time to look over the building at 37-43 West 116th Street, and there observe the surroundings under which the boys and girls make use of the class and club rooms, Talmud Torah, gymnasium, swimming pool, and of the Synagogue proper. I cannot find adequate words with which to properly pay that tribute of affection which we all feel towards the entire staff from the Executive Director down to the club leaders, office staff, Talmud Torah teachers and even the janitorial help, who, despite the fact that our financial condition has been such that we have been under the severest strain to meet six and seven months late, the obligations, yet have cheerfully given their best efforts in behalf of our Institution. Each and every one of them must know that after all we all live with the knowledge that we are here to serve. Each individual is a powerful influence for good, and if, as a result of his efforts, some one else carries on along the same lines, he transmits unto future generations the best which he can give. No more can be asked of any human being. With the recognition that God is, after all, God, and that our times are in His



INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE

Within these walls
Great things take place
Youth vibrant calls
And pulses race.

The rafters ring
With shouts and laughter
Gloom leaves its sting
To the hereafter.

This in a quiet
Institution
Where young "bloods" riot
In Joy's ablution.

Oh Judea's seat
And fount of learning
Warmed by the heart
Of youth's bright burning.

Oh noble Institution may
Your confines thus be always gay.



hands, we go forward in the faith that He will give us the strength, the courage and the perseverance to carry on His work.

It is in this spirit that we seek the hearty cooperation of our well wishers for a cause which adds lustre not only to Jewry in general, but to this country, of which we are an integral part.



Herbert S. Goldstein, Rabbi

Our beloved and indefatigable President, Congressman Isaac Siegel, as well as our cooperative and harmonious Board of Directors, have toiled during these sixteen years to establish and maintain a religious, educational, and social institution in a most neglected section of the city, namely, Harlem. Strange as it may seem, we have more social, literary and athletic clubs in our main building today than ever before in our history. This is due, I take it, to the present unemployment situation. Our young people have more leisure now than ever before. It is evident that our problem then is to utilize that leisure for serious and worth-while activities and to protect our young people from communistic and other destructive forces which are all about us.

Though our Talmud Torah Department has lost greatly through removals, we still educate from 300 to 400 children, and our Institution is among the leading Talmud Torahs, both as to numbers and as to comprehensiveness of curriculum. MORE THAN FIFTY PER CENT of our children cannot afford to pay anything for their religious instruction. We have a larger percentage of poor children now than any Talmud Torah in Greater New York. I therefore, take this means of exhorting all of you, as well as the entire Jewish community, to stand by us, and perpetuate this very much needed spiritual force for Judaism and Americanism, the Institutional Synagogue.

I hope that we may be privileged to retain your friendship and helpful cooperation which we have attained during these sixteen years of our existence.

May God bless you all.

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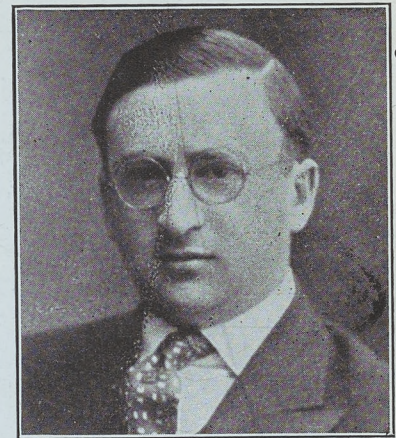
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Max E. Sanders

The Dinner Committee, comprising Mr. Max E. Sanders, its Chairman, and the Messrs. Geo. Livingston, Lester Udell, Aaron Wartels, and David Gluck, extend to the guests of our Sixteenth Anniversary Dinner their cordial greetings and heartfelt welcome.

To their associates and to the many I. S. workers who cooperated to make this function a success, they express through these columns their sincere appreciation.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A thoughtful analysis of the sixteen years of fine effort and productive activity by the Institutional Synagogue should be inspiration for all of us to continue to carry on our work with even greater determination.

Ours has been a work of character development in Youth. We have been at all times appreciative of the significance of the truth that "The boy of to-day will be the man of to-morrow."

We have educated our youth to their responsibilities as Jews, Citizens and Future Leaders and Fathers and Mothers.

Ours is a co-operative effort. We are as one co-ordinated machine—every single factor in the machine is indispensable to the entire and the whole. The President, the Rabbi, my associates on the Board of Directors, my fellow workers on the House Staff, our Auxiliaries, our clubs, classes and members are all united by one bond of common interest. Every one associated with us—either as a patron, employee or member, can justifiably call himself an "I. S. Worker." And as I. S. Workers we must be keenly aware of the necessity to continue our co-operative efforts regardless of the handicaps of financial limitations, locality shifts, etc.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the co-operation extended me, as your Executive Director, by the many friends of the I. S. Particularly do I wish to express thanks to our President, the Hon. Isaac Siegel, our Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, the Board of Directors, my associates on the Staff, the Parents Association, the I. S. Sisterhood, W. S. Women's League, Men's Club, Junior League the I. S. Daughters. Their fine and warm co-operation and united efforts has been of inestimable value to us.

ABRAHAM BERNSTEIN.

Forum

"PROVIDENCE"

I know of no greater teaching necessary for promulgation during these days than the belief in Providence. When we enjoy prosperity we become heroes, like Samson of old. But once we are told that the Philistines are upon us, that formidable difficulties are ahead of us we are shorn of power.

One of the essential teachings of all religions is Providence. Belief in Providence banishes our fears and is the greatest comfort in distress. It makes us feel that just as God gives bread to the ravens, so will He feed hungry human beings. Providence implies that there is an omniscient and omnipotent Being who manifests a deep personal interest in His creatures.

We in the United States, by our wholesale desecration of the Sabbath, evince an appalling disbelief in Providence. The Bible, through the story of the manna, presents the idea of Sabbath observance, as an evidence of belief in Providence.

God had given manna on each day sufficient for the needs of the people and on the sixth day He gave a double portion. This sufficed for that day as well as for the next, which was the Sabbath, for on the Sabbath no manna fell. Here we have a most striking evidence of Divine Providence. In the long run Sabbath desecration does not pay. If one observes the Sabbath he will be blessed during the week days for what he missed on the Sabbath

day. Those who believe in God's providence feel that He can give us the same returns in six days as we can get in seven. We have become largely a Sabbath-less people. We have looked only to the work of our own hands. The work of our own hands has produced great plenty, yet witness the millions who are in need. I trust that the present agitation for a five-day week may be successful, so that Jew and Gentile will once more be brought back to Sabbath observance. With Sabbath observance comes attendance in the synagogue or church. Return to the house of worship is attended by reflection, and moral exhortation, and moral exhortation gives a people vision.

If you have ever visited any of the great picture galleries you may have been impressed by the seemingly all-seeing eye of some of the portraits therein. When you entered the gallery the eye of some masterpiece appeared to be directed right at you. If you walked to one side, and glanced back, you still imagined that it was looking at you. Even if you went to the extreme corner of the large hall, you could not get away from the feeling that the eyes were still gazing at you. So may it be said of God's Providence. From the moment we enter this world, and until the end, wherever we chance to be, there is the all-pervading eye of Providence watching over us. The Psalmist has beautifully given us his description of this thought in

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

"BRING IN" A NEW CLUB OR GYM MEMBER

Greetings to Our Guests and Patrons from

DEPARTMENT OF CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Department of Center Activities commenced its sixteenth year in a most auspicious fashion under most trying circumstances. Confronted with problems of neighborhood changes and financial limitations, the Social-Educational Staff offered the most active and ambitious program, replete with interesting features yet undertaken in the Institution.

The Center Department has had a very successful program of activities this year. It has endeavored to spread the message of the I. S. by means of dramatics, debates, organization councils, essay contests, lectures, social functions, publications, cooking classes, clubs, groups, and a number of educational projects and every other available method possible.

All of the success which may have marked this year can be directly attributed to the splendid services rendered by Mr. Julius Cohen, Club Worker, and Miss Evelyn Rieger, Girls' Worker; Mr. Samuel H. Wallach, Dramatic Director; Mr. Max Schwarzmann, Music Director; Mr. Seymour Siegel, Librarian; Mr. M. J. Bueler, Social Room Director, and a recent and invaluable addition, Mr. Ben Sprafkin, our consulting psychologist on children's problems. Appreciation must also be expressed to our splendid club leaders and workers.

The staff this year is most noteworthy not only because it is the largest staff of workers ever organized within the Institution, but also because of its outstanding personnel. The leaders' Staff comprises a number of I. S. workers otherwise engaged in the practice of Law, Medicine, Social Work, Journalism, Accounting, Teaching, Marketing, and other professional and commercial enterprises.

The value of the inspiration and encouragement imparted by these leaders in their contacts and associations with the membership cannot be estimated.

May I extend an invitation to our readers, many of whom have never visited the I. S., yet have graciously contributed towards its support, to visit the Institution and observe the splendid work which is being accomplished. Your dividends in this humanitarian investment will be gratifyingly apparent.

—Maxwell T. Cohen.



Abraham Bernstein, Executive Director

OUR TALMUD TORAH

The largest educational agency at the Institutional Synagogue is its efficient Talmud Torah. Here the essentials of Jewish life and religious practice are inculcated in the children from the ages of 6 to 16. Its program has been widened to create and constantly intensify a Jewish atmosphere. Traditional Judaism, both in practice and theory, is always at the fore.

There are at present seventeen classes in the school. The course of study has been systematized so that an industrious student may complete it in six years. From the Aleph Beth to Talmud is its scope.

Aside from Prayers, Bible, Hebrew, Jewish History and Religion, the Mishna and Talmud are taught.

Special children's services are held Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon.

The Talmud Torah has two branches now, one at the main building and one at our West Side Branch.

No week ever passes without some noticeable event occurring in the Talmud Torah. Our regular special assemblies, our movie entertainments, our celebrations for every holiday, as well as our social and athletic clubs, all have one aim—to make Talmud Torah attractive to our children.

Our Holiday Entertainments and Graduation Ceremonies are famed for their high stage of excellency and are visited by capacity audiences.

Dr. Joseph Datt, Principal
Sophia Gerstein, Secretary

Faculty

Louis Feier	Mollie Mintz
Gertrude Goldman	Sidney Reiss
Emanuel Greenberg	Ephraim Sherman
Meyer Samberg	

EVEN LATE COMERS PROVIDED FOR!

For those who were unable to send in their reservations for the Annual Dinner, April 23, Mr. Abraham Bernstein, our Executive Director, has made special arrangements by reserving several tables. If you are a late comer, there is no need to worry for you will be provided for. Call UNIVERSITY 4-6729. To secure the more desirable reservations and to assist us, won't you please make your reservation this Friday?

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

The Department of Center Activities can supply you with capable and experienced male and female stenographers, typists secretaries, bookkeepers, clerks and general help. This service is extended free to both employers and members. Phone UNIVERSITY 4-6729 (or write) and we will be glad to send you recommended workers.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

One of the outstanding features of the Institutional Synagogue is its splendidly equipped Physical Training Department. The I. S. Gym is one of the finest in the city, and is in constant demand, even by other institutions of the city, who are only too happy to avail themselves of the opportunity of utilizing its benefits.

The Swimming Pool, in itself, is an alluring attraction, making the Physical Training Department as complete as one would desire. For what could be more compelling to our constituency than a good, hard workout in a well-equipped gymnasium, followed by an invigorating hot and cold shower, and then a plunge in the sparkling, well-chlorinated waters of the I. S. Pool?

The Department of Physical Education, besides running a "business men's" class, is also interested in the development of the physical side of our club membership. To this end regular gym periods are provided for the club membership. During the past year series of tournaments were arranged ranged for the clubs. These included a swimming meet, a basketball tournament, and an "all-round gym activity" tournament. As soon as the weather permits, a baseball tournament will be held.

In an endeavor to combine the various departments of the Institution in one athletic meet, an annual Field Day is held. This year it will take place on June 4th, at the Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park.

We extend an invitation to all our readers to attend a session of this department any evening, at the Main Building, or, better yet, be with us when we hold our Annual Field Day, June 4th.

—Michael Levenson.

Associates: Messrs. B. Wolkin and M. Urieff, and the Mesdames F. Meltzer and F. Levenson.

UNUSUALLY INTERESTING SERIES OF SATURDAY AFTERNOON TALKS ON "JEWISH ETHICS" ANNOUNCED

Beginning with Saturday afternoon, April 22nd, at 5:45, the Institutional Synagogue will initiate a series of six lectures on the "Ethics of the Fathers," by leading orthodox Jewish laymen, with the exception of the first lecture, which will be given by Rabbi Goldstein. The other five will be delivered by Congressman Isaac Siegel, President of the Institutional Synagogue; Judge Isaac Cohen, President of the Central Jewish Institute; William Weiss, President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Isaac Allen, President of the Federation of Talmud Torahs, and Mr. Benjamin Koeningsberg, President of the Young Israel of lower Manhattan.

RESERVE SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 23rd, FOR I. S. ANNUAL DINNER

IN THE WORLD OF JEWISH LITERATURE

ABOUT JEWISH BOOKS

An article published in a recent issue of the "B'nai Brith Magazine" entitled "The Truth Is Out of Print" by Bernard G. Richards, calls attention to the Jewish neglect of pro-Jewish literature. The author refers to books "as our strongest weapon in fighting racial prejudice and intolerance," and reproaches the Jew for his neglect of the great literature which has come down to him through the ages as well as recently-written books.

At a stage in world affairs when anti-Semitism is rife in most of the countries of Europe, Jews are unable to read the most valuable books written on this subject for the reason that they are out of print and unobtainable. These volumes, revealing the true character of Judaism and Jewish aspirations, would be invaluable in times like these, for Jews and non-Jews alike should be able to familiarize themselves with what has been written by and about the Jew in the past. How otherwise can it be known what has taken place in Jewish life not only in Bible times but in the centuries which have elapsed since?

It is a serious reflection on the Jewish people that they have allowed some of the most important books written on Jewish subjects to become unobtainable through failure to have these books reprinted. Such books should always be in print in order that Jews may know what has already transpired in their own history and be able to apply such knowledge intelligently in such crises as confront the present-day Jew.

Some of the finest books ever written by Jews and non-Jews alike on the subject of the Jews, their relation to history, anti-Semitism, the activities of Jews in the life of the countries in which they were born and lived are long since out of print and not accessible to the average reader. It is a decided reproach to the Jew that he has not availed himself of the privilege of buying books which deal with matters of the most vital concern to him and to the future of his people.

The fourth and concluding volume of Prof. Israel Davidson's monumental work, "Thesaurus of Mediaeval Hebrew Poetry", has just appeared. It contains a list of sources, a supplement to the first three volumes, as well as corrections in them, an index of authors with alphabetical list of their poems, and an index of subjects. This volume concludes the stupendous task undertaken by Prof. Davidson in which is recorded all the titles of Hebrew poems from the close of the Bible to the beginning of the Haskalah movement. The works included are all compositions which have poetic form, whether they are piyyutim or epigrams, eulogies or satires, or even colophons.

To answer the question "What is the status of religion from various points of view," Arthur L. Swift, Jr. has edited a volume entitled, *Religion Today*, which has just been published. Fourteen distinguished ministers and teachers of religion, Protestants, Catholics and Jews, have contributed to this challenging enigma, among them Prof. Morris R. Cohen, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Prof. David S. Muzzey, Dr. Louis I. Newman and Prof. Fritz Wittels.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

When the Sultan of Turkey heard that King Ferdinand had expelled the Jews from Spain in 1492 he is said to have exclaimed, "They call him Ferdinand the Wise, but he expels his best subjects and sends them to me."

For many years before the Civil War David Yulee, a Jew was U. S. Senator from South Carolina.

There is a Jewish tradition that Haman was a direct descendant of Amalek.

There is a Jewish tradition that the crossing of the Red Sea occurred on the seventh day of Passover.

The Midrash says that the Manna which the Jews ate in the wilderness had the taste of whatever the person eating it wanted it to have.

Otto Bauer, a Jew, is head of the Second International, the Federation of the Socialist and Social Democratic parties of the various countries.

Julius Kohn, a Jew was head of the military affairs committee of the House of Representatives during the World War.

Dr. Otto Pelzer, former holder of the world's half-mile record, is a German Jew. The Hebrew University was established in 1925.

Ed Wynn was born with the good Jewish name of Israel Edwin Leopold.

Governor Henry Horner of Illinois is a Jew.

By the time of the Civil War there were 200,000 Jews in the United States.

Don Isaac Abarbanel was very instrumental in securing finances for the Columbus' expedition.

Rabbi David Einhorn of Philadelphia had to flee from the city as he spoke very strongly in favor of the abolitionists.

Many Greek and Latin words appear in the Talmud.

The Kabbalah is a book of Jewish mysticism.

Dr. David Prenn, will not represent Germany in world tennis competition since he is Jewish.

Horrible Hitler has declared the supremacy of the Nordic, blue-eyed, blonde haired race. Hitler is not a Nordic himself. Beside Atrocious Adolph is black-haired, and has black eyes.

The Talmud was once burned in France. Sarah Bernhardt, the great French actress, was a Jewess.

Jack Pearl, the Baron Munchausen of radio fame, was born Jacob Pearlman.

"PROVIDENCE" Continued from Page 2

the words, "If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in the nether world, beyond, Thou art there; if I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there would Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand would hold me." Having in mind the thought of God's Providence over each other and every one of us, wherever we find ourselves, we may say in the spirit of the priestly benediction, "May he cause His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us."

Some people mistake fate for Providence. Fate implies that whatever happens must be. Providence means that God provides and ordains, what must be. Fate makes us fatalists—blind and resigned. Providence makes us believers, giving us the feeling that all is for good.

Providence may be compared to a revolving wheel. Sometimes we are at the top and sometimes we are at the bottom of it. We get some happiness on each and every part of the circumference, but we can never get it all. Ours it is to be thankful for as much of the sum total of happiness we are fortunate enough to secure, and as the poet put it:

Happiness is like a crystal,
Fair and exquisite and clear,
Broken in a million pieces,
Scattered far and near.
Now and then along life's pathway,
Lo some shining fragments fall,
But here are so many pieces,
No one ever finds them all.
You may find a bit of beauty,
Or an honest share of wealth,
While another just beside you,
Gathers honor, love, or health.
Vain to choose or grasp unduly,
Broken is the perfect ball,
And there are so many pieces,
No one ever finds them all.
Yet the wise, as on they journey,
Treasure every fragment clear,
Fit them as they may together,
Imagining the shattered sphere.
Learning ever to be thankful
Though their share of it be small,
For it has so many pieces,
No one ever finds them all.

—Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein.

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