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SEPTEMBER 15th, 1933

ELLUL 24, 5693

MUSHROOM SYNAGOGUES MUST BE UPROOTED

Detriment to Judaism in America

The mushroom synagogue, like its namesake which crops up and disappears overnight, has long been a source of serious concern, not only to synagogues, but to practically all the larger Jewish communities in America. Its poisonous effect has insidiously found its way, especially into the vital organs of Torah-true Judaism, and as a result has done an immeasurable amount of harm to the advancement of our faith in this country.

For many years this deep-rooted evil has been permitted to exist and flourish with unabated growth, so that it has now assumed the proportions of a menace to the very life and existence of the established synagogues in the Jewish community. A source of perhaps even greater concern is the effect it has created upon those misguided individuals who attend such "services" for the ostensible purpose of obtaining tickets at "bargain rates." These individuals have been permitted and tolerated with unopposed protest, to shirk their duty to the community. As a result the Jewish consciousness of many of these people has been demoralized to such an extent as to render them practically valueless to the strengthening and upbuilding of Judaism in America.

Talmud Torahs, Synagogues, Yeshivas, and other worthy institutions which rely to a great extent for their maintenance on funds obtained at the High Holy Days are thus left without any appreciable income to carry on their program of Jewish activity.

Many of these so-called "mushroom-synagogues" are unfortunately housed in places absolutely unfit for public worship, especially at the sanctified time of our High Holy Days. As a result they have become a badge of shame in the eyes of our fellow Jews and members of the community at large.

"NEW DEAL" PROGRAM PLANNED BY I. S. DEPARTMENT OF CENTER ACTIVITIES

Active preparations now under way by the I. S. Department of Center Activities promise to make the 1933-34 season an outstanding one for clubs and members. Rabbi Philip Goodman will be the Director of the department. Assisting him will be the popular and well known social worker, Isadore Bookbinder, who was in charge of dramatic activities at the I. S. Under the latter's direction, a "Cabaret Nite" and "Athletic Carnival" were staged with such success that they still are recalled whenever club members reminisce.

The newly planned, extensive program of tentative intra-club activities and membership courses and classes are listed on another page of this issue. From a summary of the choices and suggestions made by the readers and members, the department will be enabled to learn exactly what the membership of the I. S. is interested in, so that necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate all those wishing to participate.

TALMUD TORAH REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Registration for the Talmud Torah opened this week and is still continuing. Parents are urged to enroll their children immediately, and not to wait until after the High Holy Days, since much can be learned during this period. Enrollment is taking place at the West Side Branch, 148 West 85th Street, on weekdays between 4 and 6 P.M., and on Sunday mornings; at the Main Building, 37-43 West 116th Street, on weekday between 4 and 7 P.M., and on Sunday mornings.

TICKETS FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS ARE NOW ON SALE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE

Harlem:
37-43 WEST 116th STREET

West Side:
148 WEST 85th STREET

The Religious Committee meets every evening from 7 to 10:30 and every Sunday morning at the West Side Branch, 148 West 85th Street, and all day and evening at our Main Building, 37-43 West 116th Street. Reservations and inquiries concerning seating capacity of both Synagogues may be made by phoning Executive Director Abraham Bernstein at UNiversity 4-6729-6730.

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FRIDAY EVENING LIGHT CANDLES AT 6:47

SEDRAH FOR WEEK: NIZAVIM-V-YALECH

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ROSH HASHONAH

At the setting of the sun on Wednesday, September 20th, 1933, the Jews the world over will usher in the holiday of "Rosh Hashonah," or New Years. New Years, to the pious Jews, is by no means a carefree festival, nor merely the beginning of a new period of time, but an occasion for the renewal of hopes and righteous efforts. The exceptional nature of this festival can be seen from its characteristic ceremonies, such as: the preparatory month of Ellul, the penitential prayers and customs, and the blowing of the horn; as well as the fact that it marks the beginning of the ten days of penitence. The latter are known as "Yomim Neroim," or days of awe and solemnity, and culminate in the Day of Atonement.

"Selichoth"

"Selichoth" are special prayers, contained in a special prayer book,—known by the same name, consisting of supplications for the forgiveness of sins committed in the past. Since New Years, as well as the other days of penitence, are days of judgment, it is proper to recite such prayers before the advent of the "Yomim Neroim." They are recited before dawn or after midnight during the week immediately preceding ROSH HASHONAH. This year the saying of the Selichoth is begun on Saturday night, September 17th.

Arub Tabshilin

Since New Years is followed this year by a Saturday,—it is necessary to make an "Arub Tabshilin," to permit the cooking on the holiday for Saturday. The "Arub Tabshilin" consists of a slice of bread and some cooked dish,—a piece of cooked meat or fish. These articles of food are to be put aside on the eve of the holiday shortly before sunset and kept until everything has been prepared for the Sabbath. Though that would permit the eating of the "Arub Tabshilin" on Friday late in the afternoon, it is usually kept until Friday evening. When the "Arub Tabshilin" is made, a certain prayer is said which is found in every good-sized prayer book.

The Special Penitential Prayers of Rosh Hashonah Proper

The Holiday of Rosh Hashonah lasts two days, which coincides this year with Thursday and Friday, September 21st and 22nd. All the services of New Years — evening, morning, additional, and afternoon rituals—are interspersed with special prayers, called "piutim." The latter abound in praises to heaven, panegyrics, or laudations which are very numerous in the two morning services. Since the High Holiday services are contained in a special book known as the "machzor"—we need not discuss them in detail. However, a few words will be said about the prayer of "Unthane Tokef" and the "tashlich" ritual.

The Prayer of "Unthane Tokef"

The prayer of "Unthane Tokef" is recited in the additional morning services of both days as well as on the Day of Atonement, with special solemnity, by the whole congregation. It is so called because of the first two words which mean "Let us tell the strength" (referring to the Holiday). What a remarkable picture of the High Holidays is found in this prayer! We are told that even the angels in heaven tremble on these days of judgment and that our Heavenly father passes judgment on every creature, taking into consideration everybody's deeds. We are cautioned that this or that decree may be passed concerning us (enumerating all possible misfortunes that may befall the human being); but at the end we are informed that "teshuvah," "tefilah" and "tzodakah,"—repentance, prayers, and charity remove the evil decree, for God is merciful. Many tears have been shed by worshippers during the recitation of this prayer, many spiritual stains have been whitewashed, and many a noble resolve and action have been born at the same time.

The "Tashlich"

The "Tashlich" consists of a simple ceremony performed after the afternoon services of the day of New Years, or of the second, in case the first falls on Saturday. The worshippers go to some

(Continued on Page 4)



1933-34 GYM AND POOL SCHEDULE

Under the directorship of Mr. Bernard Wolken, the following is the fall and winter schedule for the gymnasium and swimming pool.

The gym will be open every evening from 6:15 to 10:30, and all day Sunday, except Friday evenings.

The schedule of periods for the various groups follows:

	Sundays	
	Gym	Pool
Intermediates —	9:30—10:30	10:30—11:30
Seniors—	10:30—12:00	12:00—12:30
	Weekdays	
	Gym	Pool
Juniors—	6:15—7:00	7:00—7:45
Intermediate—	7:00—8:15	8:15—9:30
Seniors—	8:15—10:00	10:00—10:30

Seniors will not be permitted on the gym floor before 8:15 P.M.; pool facilities may be used at any time during the evening.

Each division will be treated as a separate group conducting its tournaments in various sports. Teams will be formed to represent the I. S. in all athletic sports.

It is our aim to make every member a good swimmer by next spring. Instructions in swimming will be given in class groups every evening.

A regular program will be made up, and a definite time set for the different activities.

Now is the time to re-join and get into the swing of activities. Our first tournament will be started within the month.

TALMUD TORAH STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN ROSH HASHONAH-YOM KIPPUR QUESTION CONTEST

With the High Holy Days approaching, a special contest appropriate to the season will be held for the pupils of the Talmud Torah. Although this contest is not designated as an examination, it will be a fitting test of the students' knowledge concerning these religious holidays.

All Talmud Torah pupils are eligible for the contest, which will take place this coming Monday, September 18th, in the I. S. Library, between the hours of 4 and 7 P. M. The pupil scoring the highest number of points will be awarded a prize; second highest scorer will receive an honor card; and those participants earning 75 or more points will be accorded honorable mention.

In order that every student be well equipped to take part in this event, and to enliven and make keen the competitive spirit, the teachers during the past week have covered in their classrooms the general information on which the test is based. Rules and regulations governing the contest were formulated by Rabbi Goodman, Principal, and the staff of instructors, who will also constitute the board of judges to select the winners.

The list of winners will be mentioned in an early issue of the Institutional.

ACTIVITIES—COURSES—CLASSES

An attempt is here made to summarize briefly the activities of the season. Detailed information will be given upon request. Study the list and check those which interest you. Tear off this outline, and mail or leave it at the Institutional Synagogue, writing your name, address and membership classification, at the bottom. Classes are FREE to members. Notice will be given of dates and hours of classes.

CULTURAL COURSES

- ☐ *Institutional Players.* Play production including staging and active participation in musical comedy work and lectures.
- ☐ Debating. Formal, informal, and teams.
- ☐ Journalism. Visits to newspaper plants. Films on newspaper production. Lectures by prominent journalists.
- ☐ Art Group, Art Appreciation. Drawing and poster work.
- ☐ Music Group.
- ☐ Elocution. Classes and individual instruction. Under the personal supervision of Miss Sara E. Taitz.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES

- ☐ Academic Subjects. Languages, sciences. (French, Sidney Braun).
- ☐ Business law (for seniors and adults) Morris Spitzer L. L. B. N. Y. Bar.
- ☐ Bookkeeping. Morris A. Urieff.
- ☐ Accounting.

JEWISH SUBJECTS

- ☐ Timely Topics (Symposium) Lectures and Open Discussions on Jewish topics by prominent Rabbis and laymen.
- ☐ Bible Class. Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein.
- ☐ Hebrew. For beginners or advanced students.
- ☐ Jewish Religious Customs and Ceremonials.
- ☐ Baal Korei & Jr. Cantors Class. Saturday afternoon.
- ☐ Yiddish Lectures (adults)
- ☐ Jewish History.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ☐ Gymnasium. See Page 3 for Fall and Winter Schedule. Bernard Wolken, Director.
- ☐ Pool. Beginners, advanced, life saving, diving. Alfred Wolken, Instructor.
- ☐ Special Class for Adults.
- ☐ House Teams.

CLUBS

- ☐ Junior
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Senior
- ☐ Photo Club. Lectures, demonstrations, visits to photographic agencies and plants.
- ☐ Checker and Chess
- ☐ Library Club
- ☐ Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts
- ☐ Palestine Travel Club (for Juniors) an imaginary trip. Includes preliminary preparation such as getting visa, passport, tickets etc., Palestine stories, songs, dances, photograph visits, slides, hikes etc. Mr. Greenberg.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Cooking. Lectures and demonstrations by the N. Y. Edison Co.
- ☐ Game Room. Checkers, chess, ping pong etc. Tournaments
- ☐ Employment Bureau for Sabbath Observers.
- ☐ Leaders' Council. For volunteer workers and those desirous of becoming such. Theory and practice of club leadership.
- ☐ Social Dancing. Jerry Bueler.
- ☐ Basketball Games and Dances

Suggestion:

Name

Address

ADMITTANCE RULES WIDENED AT YESHIVA COLLEGE

At the request of many Jewish organizations and institutions of learning and of parents interested in the Jewish, as well as the general education of their children, Yeshiva College is opening its doors more widely, beginning this fall term. Hitherto open only to students of the Hebrew departments of the Yeshiva, the College will now accept applications for admittance from all properly qualified students who desire to carry on their college studies in an environment where Jewish faith and culture are held as a vital force of life today. A course in Hebrew studies will be part of the regular curriculum, with college credit.

Yeshiva College, the only college of liberal arts and sciences under Jewish auspices in the country authorized by the State of New York to offer courses leading to the degrees of B. A. and B. S., offers its students the unique opportunity of attending a liberal arts college of high scholastic standing where the spirit of Judaism and the fruits of modern knowledge may be coordinated and compatibly absorbed. Its student body is already drawn from seventeen states and Canada. Tests by educational experts from other institutions indicate a high level of attainment and a truly scholarly attitude.

KIND WORDS TO THE POOR

Who gives his mite to one distress'd,
With many blessings shall be bless'd;
Who gives with words of sympathy,
With twice as many bless'd shall be.

TALMUD BABA BATHRA 9A

PLEASE MAN TO PLEASE GOD

Who gratifies his neighbours' minds,
In him God's Spirit pleasure finds;
Who fails men's minds to gratify,
Doth fail to please his God on high.

TALMUD ABOTH III 13

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ROSH HASHONAH

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water course—river, lake, brook, stream, sea, or ocean—and recite certain special prayers found in the "machzor." After that the participants shake the corners of their garments, which act, suggests that every one thus frees himself or herself of all transgressions.

The New Years Customs

In this connection mention is to be made of the New Years customs—. The most important of these are: the New Year greetings, the dipping of a piece of bread in honey, and the eating of a fruit ripened during the preceding season—one not yet partaken of during the current season.

(To be continued)

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY RENOVATED

Prints, Exhibits, New Volumes Added

Among the more pleasant things to notice at the I. S. this season is a complete change in the character of the Library. Heretofore, this part of the building had been used almost exclusively for the doing of homework and sporadic bursts of reading.

A new and pleasant atmosphere now permeates this useful room. Taking up a prominent position in the library is a showcase containing exhibits of general contemporary interest. To be arranged in the near future around the freshly painted walls and nooks will be paintings and prints of well known artists.

However, it would be incorrect to assume that our library has been converted into a show room. On the contrary, major stress is still upon reading matter of the kind that is useful as well as interesting. To this end, the books have been rearranged so that the most desirable may be reached most easily. New books have been added, but it is very necessary that many more volumes be acquired. The Institution would greatly appreciate receiving any books that have outlived their usefulness to their present owners. Formal recognition of such bequests will be made by inserting library book plates, with the donor's name inscribed thereon, in these books. If you find it inconvenient to bring your books to the building, we will gladly send someone for them.

The library is open to everyone during the hours of 4 to 10 P.M. every day except Friday and on Saturday evening.

THE MIGHTIEST THING ON EARTH

There are ten strong things in the world:—
The rock is strong, but iron breaks it;
The iron's strong, but fire can melt it;
The fire is strong, water can quench it;
Water is strong, the clouds absorb it;
The clouds are strong, the winds disperse them;
The wind is strong, a man withstands it;
A man is strong, but fear unmans him;
Man's fear is strong, but wine removes it;
And wine is strong, but sleep dispels it;
But stronger than all these is—death!
Yet charity can save from death!

TALMUD BABA BATHRA 10A

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