

Chanukah Greetings



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KISLEV 27, 5694

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND MACCABEAN FESTIVAL ATTRACT WIDE ATTENTION

The Commencement Exercises and Maccabean Festival which will take place this Sunday evening, at the Main Building Auditorium, at 8 o'clock has attracted wide attention in all of the daily Jewish Newspapers, and the English Press.

An interesting program has been arranged with the combined facilities of the Talmud Torah and Center Activities Departments. With the greatest impatience ever seen manifested in the Talmud Torah the entire student body is eagerly awaiting this eventful evening.

The program includes several one-act Chanukah plays, which as yet have never been presented and many novelty numbers.

One of the "most anticipated" events of the Talmud Torah will likewise take place on this evening. A number of Students will be presented with the diplomas of the Institutional Synagogue Talmud Torah.

A capacity audience is expected on account of the publicity given to this affair in the daily press and we, therefore, urge our members and friends to come early. Tickets are available upon the presentation of eight cents "Chanukah Gelt."

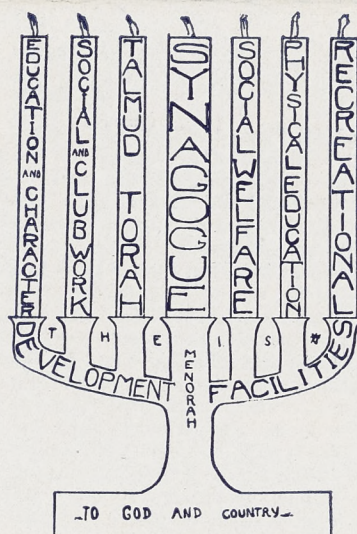
COMMITTEE PREDICTS CAPACITY AUDIENCE FOR 17th ANNUAL THEATRE PARTY

With the date of the Theatre Party rapidly approaching, the Theatre Party Committee has redoubled its efforts to achieve its goal of hanging an "S. R. O." sign in front of the Biltmore Theatre, on the evening of Sunday, January 7th.

The Annual Theatre Party has always been noted for the chance it gives all the members and friends of the Institution to meet once again, and to renew old friendships. With the splendid program of entertainment planned for this evening, here is YOUR opportunity to enjoy a pleasant evening with your friends.

Mr. Lester Udell is Chairman of the Theatre Party Committee, Mr. William Basser is Chairman of the Diary-Journal Committee, Mr. Lou G. Siegel is Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. Max E. Sanders is Treasurer, Mr. David H. Gluck is Secretary and Mr. Abraham Bernstein is Executive Director.

The I. S. Menorah



INSTITUTIONAL FIVE CONQUERS AGAIN

The Institutional Five continued on its unbroken record of victories and chalked another victory against the hitherto undefeated C. J. I. Five by the overwhelming score of 28-17. It is very apparent that our boys wait until the going gets real torrid before they can get sufficiently excited and throw those dual pointers through the hoop. Captain Pollak, Ruby Nevins, Ruby Klampert and Allie Gebiras played their usual stellar game. Joey Abrams The I. S.'s Musical Comedy Favorite threw up the first ball. The Yeshiva College of New York will appear at our court as soon as negotiations are completed.

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BIBLE COMMENTS

Sedrah for Week "Miketz"

By RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

Chapter XLI, Verse 1. "AND IT CAME TO PASS, AT THE END OF TWO FULL YEARS THAT PHAROAH DREAMED; AND, BEHOLD, HE STOOD BY THE RIVER." According to the Rabbis, Joseph actually spent twelve years in prison. Originally Providence decreed that he should be in prison for ten years to atone for the sin of his relying upon the butler for his freedom instead of praying to God for this, his release was postponed for two years more. Hence King David says in Psalm 146, verse 3, "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth (he dies, or) on that very day his thoughts perish." He forgets his promise, or his desire to help vanishes). According to the Rabbis, the dream took place on Rosh Hashonah, when God decides the fate of individuals and of groups.

The Rabbis, it must be remembered, made the study of the Torah their life mission. They literally fulfilled the injunction, "And thou shalt meditate in it day and night," and became so expert in Bible interpretation that not only were they able to read the lines, but between them as well. They explain the reason for the seven years of plenty and for the seven years of famine as follows: In Genesis, Chapter 15, verse 13 and 14, we read the divine plan which God revealed unto Abraham in the words, "Know of a surety that thy children will be strangers, etc., four hundred years, and afterwards they shall come out with great substance." Hence, when the time of deliverance arrived, it was urged upon the people (as we read in Exodus, Chapter 3, verse 22, and Chapter 11, verse 2), to ask for garments, gold and silver so that Israel's compensation might be commensurate with the length of time it had suffered in Egypt, a famine had to be decreed so that previous to this Egypt be granted seven years of plenty. By this plan Egypt became the granary of the adjacent countries, and all the precious metals and all kinds of valuables poured into its treasury, as we read in Chapter 47, verse 14.

"AND BEHOLD HE STOOD BY (OR RATHER) UPON THE RIVER." The river referred to here is the Nile which is the main support and sustenance of Egypt. In Egypt there is no rain, and the water supply for fertilization of the soil is obtained only from the periodic overflow of this river, which is utilized by means of canals, for irrigation. Hence the river became an object of worship to which the ancient Egyptians offered all kinds of sacrifices. No narrative concerning the agricultural situation in Egypt would be complete without mentioning that very important river.

Verse 2. "AND BEHOLD THERE CAME UP THE RIVER, ETC. AND THEY FED IN A MEADOW." The Hebrew word means "IN BROTHERHOOD." When there is plenty, people are well disposed and are brotherly toward one another. The Messianic era which the prophets proclaim as the age of universal peace will be so because it will be age of universal plenty. The plowshares and the pruninghooks will not be only favored more than the sword and the spear but will also supplant them and make them unnecessary. Most of our modern wars are prompted by economic considerations only. Religion, morals and even race peculiarities are mere pretenses.

Verse 3. "AND, BEHOLD. SEVEN OTHER KINE CAME UP AFTER THEM OUT OF THE RIVER, ILL FAVORED AND LEAN FLESHED, AND THEY STOOD BY THE OTHER KINE UPON THE BRINK OF THE RIVER." They were "ill looking." Famine and want are the usual origin of ill temper and of uncharitable attitude of one creature towards another.

"AND THEY STOOD BY THE OTHER KINE, ETC." Signifying that the famine came so close on the heels of the years of plenty that it appeared that the years of plenty were coexistent with them (the years of famine) as we read in verse 54, "And there was a scarcity in all the lands but in the land of Egypt there was bread."

Light Candles Friday Evening, 4:12

Chanukah Candles should be Lit before Sabbath Candles

SOCIAL ROOM NOW OPEN

The Department of Center Activities takes great pleasure in announcing the addition to its staff of Mr. J. M. Bueler, popularly known as "Jerry," as Social Director.

Under Mr. Bueler's capable direction our new Social Room will be open on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 P.M., and during the week from 8 to 10 P.M.

House-members are admitted to the Social Room only on presentation of their Membership Cards.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 699 ORGANIZED

An enthusiastic group of youngsters attended the organization meeting of Boy Scout Troop 699 last Thursday evening.

Mr. Jack Greenfest and Mr. George Karp will act in the capacities of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for this newly formed troop. Both have long been associated with the Boy Scouts of America in their respective offices and are well prepared to lead this group.

New patrols are still to be organized. Those boys, twelve years or older, who wish to join should attend the next meeting of the Troop, which will be held on Thursday evening.

SENIOR HANDBALL TOURNAMENT RECEIVES MANY ENTRANTS

Entries must be in by December 24th

Many of the Senior members have already signified their intention of competing in the Annual Senior Gym Members Handball Tournament which will be held in the very near future. The winning teams will receive trophies, as well as other worthwhile prizes.

Twenty-five entry blanks have been received to date and we wish to remind our Senior members that no blanks will be received after December 24th. All rules pertaining to the tournament are posted on the Gymnasium bulletin board. For further information see Mr. Bernard Wolken in the Gym Office.

BOOKS WANTED

You undoubtedly have books at home that you have not read for a good many years and have no use for any more. Among these may be children's and young folk's books—books that would interest our Junior and Intermediate membership. At present the Library of the I. S. is badly in need of this sort of books.

If you have such books why not donate them to the library? A beautiful book-plate, on which will be inscribed the name of the donor, will be placed in each book.

If you wish to donate any books please bring them into the I. S., or we will have someone call for them if you phone UNiversity 4-6729, 6730.

**MORE "ADS" NEEDED
FOR DIARY - JOURNAL
SEND YOURS NOW.**

YOUR CHILD And His Education

No modern parent—certainly no Jewish parent—will knowingly neglect his child's education.

What should such an education include? Is the secular education in public or private school enough? Will added training in music, dancing or art provide the finishing touch?

The modern viewpoint is that every child must have a religious education as well. Scientists now insist that man has a spiritual nature which must be nurtured and developed. The religious school begins where secular education leaves off, it prepares the child for the spiritual enjoyment of life.

As a Jewish parent, there is one fact in particular you must face. Your child, when grown to manhood and womanhood, is going to face a far different world than other children. Your child will have to understand what it means to belong to a "singular" people, what special place the world accords the Jew, and what the special heritage of the Jew entails. Such knowledge will stand him in good stead in later years in college, in business, in every calling.

A Jewish education is indispensable to your child because it will save suffering, bewilderment, humiliation. It will help your child to stand before the world self-reliant.

What does a Jewish education consist of?

The principal subjects are the following: Jewish religion and ethics, customs and ceremonies; the Hebrew language; Jewish history; the Bible; Jewish current problems with special emphasis on the American Jewish scene.

The modern Jewish Religious School includes all of these subjects, or as many of them as possible. It is a well-equipped and efficient institution. Its teachers are as well qualified as those in the finest secular schools. The instruction, of course, is in English, except where the direct method may be used in teaching the Hebrew language. The modern Jewish Religious School is a place your child will like.

ISAAC VAN GROVE TO SUPERVISE MACCABEAN FESTIVAL

Isaac Van Grove, who directed *The Romance of a People*, will supervise the production of *Reunion in Tel Aviv*, the dramatic presentation which will be the outstanding feature of the fourth annual Maccabean Festival which will be held in Madison Square Garden on Saturday evening, December 23rd. In addition to the series of tableaux depicting the return of the Jews to Palestine, the festival will also be the occasion for the appearance on a single program of an unusually large number of celebrities of radio, screen and stage, Morris Magulies, who conceived the idea of the festival, announced yesterday.

Associated with Mr. Van Grove in the production, will be Lasar Galpern, the noted ballet master who was brought to this country to stage the opening ballet for Radio City Music Hall; Emil Hilb, intimate friend of Prof. Einstein, and former conductor to the ex-Crown Prince of Germany; Eugene Fuerst, conductor of Russian symphonic and operatic music; Hammond Kroll, noted stage designer and Mark S. Joffe, well known Jewish historical painter. The world's largest Menorah is being built for the prologue of the Maccabean Festival.

Significance and Historical Background of Chanukah

(Continued from Last Week)

The Effect of the Attack

The effect of the attack on the Jewish religion was the reverse of what the Syrian government, misled by the Greek faction in Judea, expected. Judea, instead of being crushed, became entirely independent. The Syrian army was, beyond any question, larger, richer, and better organized, than the army which Judea could have placed on the battlefield, had it even a chance to prepare for the attack. Judea, however, had its advantage over Syria in an attack on the former. The Judeans naturally knew the geographic conditions of their country better than the Syrians; after the attack on the Jewish faith, the question of expelling the Syrian army from Judea became a question of life and death, and the Judeans naturally fought with greater zeal than the Syrians; and finally the Almighty supplied to the Jews, in the person of Judas Maccabeus, of whom we shall speak soon, a general who was never equaled nor surpassed. Many were the martyred sons of Judea; but at the end Judea was triumphant; the Temple was purified and Judea became entirely independent of any foreign power.

The Uprising In Modin

In the small town of Modin lived the Asmonean family which became very famous later. It consisted of the aged priest Matathias, who happened to witness how a Jew brought a sacrifice on the altar erected to the idol Zeus; at the same time that Matathias was ordered by the officers of the Syrian garrison in Modin to do likewise. This was more than the pious priest could stand; and drawing his sword and killing the Jewish traitor, he exclaimed, "Who is for God follow me!" In response to this call he was joined by his five heroic sons and a small band of other Jewish heroes. This small band in a heroic feat of valor was successful in routing the whole Syrian garrison in Modin.

The Asmonean Family

The Asmonean family is also known as the Maccabees. The origin of this name has two different explanations, both of which are based on true historic facts. According to some, it originated from the word "machbi", meaning hammer, and was applied to this family, because it smote the Jewish enemies as if with a hammer. Another explanation claims that it originated from the abbreviation of the Hebrew phrase, "Mi Komecho boElim Adonai", "Who is like

unto You among the mighty, Oh God!" This phrase was used by the Asmoneans to encourage the Jewish heroes in their fight for their faith. But, be it as it may, there is no doubt that the Asmoneans were both steadfast in their faith and very skillful on the battlefield. The aged Matathias soon passed away; but before he died, he appointed his son Judas as the leader in the war against the heathens, and the other sons agreed to follow him.

The Battle of Emmaus

The appointment of a military leader was absolutely necessary, since the success in Modin was only a beginning. Many a battle had to be fought, before the way to Jerusalem became clear. Of all the encounters with the Syrian army the most interesting and most critical was that at Emmaus. This battle Judas won as a result of a trick he played on the enemy. Leaving the lights in his camp burning, Judas went around and attacked the numerous Syrian army from the rear. Since the Syrian army used many elephants, it was therefore very unwieldy; and when attacked from the rear was at the mercy of the Jewish heroes. This success not only encouraged the Jews; but also strengthened them financially. The Syrian general was so sure of success, that he had invited merchants to come with their purses to buy the Jewish slaves he expected to capture; but it proved that the Syrian officers sold the bear's skin a little too soon. After this victory the Jewish army was well provided with money and arms, and soon overcame a still larger Syrian army at Beth-Zur, near Jerusalem. After that Judas with his men entered Jerusalem, destroyed the idols, purified the Temple, and re-established the Temple services.

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