



Publication Office: 37-43 West 116th Street

Vol. XVII, No. 21

JANUARY 26th, 1934

Shevat 10, 5694

I. S. TO BE REPRESENTED IN METROPOLITAN LEAGUE ORATORICAL CONTEST

House Finals on February 8th

The Institutional Synagogue will conduct its annual oratorical contest Thursday evening, February 8th, at 8 P.M., to decide its entry in the Manhattan Finals of the Metropolitan League of Jewish Community Centers Oratorical Contest, which will be held on February 11th at the Washington Heights "Y".

The contest is restricted to I. S. members between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two. The orations will be judged on the basis of fifty per cent for content and composition and fifty per cent for delivery and form. Orations must not be longer than ten minutes.

The following are the topics:

1. "The New Role of the American Jewish Youth in the New Order."
 - a. "How will the Jewish Youth Fare Economically?"
 - b. "How will the New Deal Affect the Jewish Youth in America?"
2. "The Status of the Jews in the Western World."
 - a. "New Manifestations of Anti-Semitism."
 - b. "Political and Economic Problems of the Jew."

Those interested in entering the oratorical contest, which will culminate in a national oratorical contest, should consult Rabbi Goodman immediately.

ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST IN FULL SWING

With the final date for entering the One-Act Play Contest approaching the clubs are preparing their respective plays for presentation.

Many clubs have already made their selection of what they claim will be the winning production, but are now at work searching for a better play or putting final touches on the one selected prior to entering the contest.

The winning production will represent the I. S. in the Metropolitan League One-Act Play Contest which will be held in March. Two years ago the I. S. representative won the Metropolitan League Contest. In addition they will also have their names inscribed on a beautiful plaque.

Entry blanks are now available at the office. They must be completely filled out and returned before February 1st, in order that arrangement may be made for rehearsals. For further information apply to the office.

TALMUD TORAH CELEBRATES CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHVAT

Parents' Association Gives Fruit Party

The Institutional Synagogue will usher in the holiday of Chamisho Osor B'Shvat Tuesday evening by holding a special Parents' Association meeting at the Main Building. Mrs. I. Stein will preside. All parents interested in the welfare of the Talmud Torah are urged to attend.

On Wednesday afternoon the children of the West Side Talmud Torah will entertain their friends with a short program and appropriate refreshments, including Palestinian fruits and candies.

On Wednesday evening the celebration of Chamisho Osor B'Shvat will take place for the Harlem Talmud Torah students. At this time the Parents' Association will give the children a fruit party. This will be a busy day for Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein as he is scheduled to address all three affairs.

Throughout the week an exhibition of Palestinian pictures will be on view in the library of the Main Building. Pictures brought to this country by Rabbi Goodman, which have never been available here, can be seen by asking the librarian.

MRS. ROGIN TO ENTERTAIN AT WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING

A Social Meeting of the Women's League will be held at the home of Mrs. George L. Livingston, 300 Central Park West, on Monday afternoon, February 5th, 1934, at 2:15 P.M.

Immediately following the regular Bible Class by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, there will be a reading by Mrs. Morris Rogin of the Chicago cast of "Counsellor at Law." She will present selections from "Peace on Earth" with musical accompaniment.

JUNIOR LEAGUE CONDUCTS BRIDGE FOR HOME CAMP

Eva Stein, President, Leads Active Group

The Junior League is cooperating with the Department of Center Activities in raising funds for the Home Camp Scholarship Fund of the Institutional Synagogue. They will conduct a Gala Bridge Party, Entertainment and Dance at the Coca-Cola beautiful and spacious reception hall, on Tuesday evening, February 13th, at 8 P.M. Prizes and refreshments will add gaiety to the occasion. The all-inclusive price is 50 cents per ticket and may be secured through Miss Eva Stein, President of the Junior League, 251 West 92nd Street, SCHUYLER 4-6174.

Published weekly, from September 8th to June 15th inclusive, by the Institutional Synagogue, 37-43 West 116th Street, New York, N. Y. 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 rates of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 15, 1924.

OFFICERS

Hon. Isaac Siegel President
Lester Udell First Vice-President
David H. Gluck Second Vice-President
Aaron Wartels Treasurer

Isaac Goldman Financial Secretary
Morris Jablow Recording Secretary
Herbert S. Goldstein Rabbi
Abraham Bernstein Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William L. Basser
Abraham Bernstein
Henry Blankfort
Hon. Sol Bloom
Maurice H. Bob
A. M. Davis
C. Joshua Epstein

David H. Gluck
Isaac Goldman
Dr. Benj. Goldstein
Felix Gouled
Maurice Greenstein
Morris Jablow
Morris Levenson

Jack Levine
George L. Livingston
Max Moskowitz
B. Rothblatt
Samuel N. Samuels
Isaac Settler
Max E. Sanders

Hon. Isaac Siegel
Samuel Silver
Max Slomka
Max Stavish
Jerome Udell
Lester Udell
David Wald
Aaron Wartels

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Harold Kaplan

Emanuel Gluck

Clarence Liberman

Rabbi Philip Goodman, T. T. Principal and Director, Dept. of Center Activities

Vol. XVII, No. 21

JANUARY 26th, 1934

Shevat 10, 5694

BIBLE COMMENTS

Sedrah for Week "B'shalach"

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Chapter XIII, Verse 17. "AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN PHARAOH HAD LET THE PEOPLE GO, THAT GOD LED THEM NOT THROUGH THE WAY OF THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES FOR IT WAS NEAR." The nearness here referred to is that of a blood relationship between the Philistines and the Egyptians, and it is possible that God purposely kept the Israelites away from the land of the Philistines when he took them out of Egypt, because he wanted to save them from the vengeance which the Philistines, as loyal relatives of the Egyptians, might have been tempted to wreak upon the Israelites.

There are differences of opinion as to what "it was near" refers to. Some say it refers to the road, and others say that it refers to time. The children of Ephraim became impatient and did not wait for the deliverance by the hand of Moses. Thirty years before the Exodus, they marched ahead, and met a crushing defeat at the hands of the Philistines. The rest of the people never got over this terrible catastrophe, and therefore had to be led through some road other than the one which their impatient predecessors had taken. There are some, again, who say that the road was too near. The time it would take to cover the distance from Egypt to Palestine, going by way of the land of the Philistines, would be so short that there would not be time enough for the children of Israel to assimilate the Torah. The deep study of the Torah must be undertaken by a mind free from worry. Therefore God led them through the wilderness, where they were sustained by the daily downpour of manna. Being free from material concerns, they were able to give themselves up wholly to the study of the Torah.

Verse 18. "BUT GOD LED THE PEOPLE ABOUT, THROUGH THE WAY

OF THE WILDERNESS OF THE DEAD SEA." He led them through territory where they would not be likely to be distracted by such things as are found in inhabited places, since such distractions might deter them from complete application to study.

"AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WENT UP ARMED." Some of the Rabbis say that armed refers to weapons which they took with them. Others take it to mean that they were "armed", or equipped, with great faith in God's Omnipotence and did not oppose the plan of journeying through the wilderness. They believed that He would be able to feed them even in a desert.

Verse 19. "AND MOSES TOOK THE BONES OF JOSEPH WITH HIM." Whilst the others were busy collecting their belongings, Moses was engaged in redeeming the promise made to Joseph (see Genesis, Chapter 50, Verse 25), namely, to carry up his bones thence. The Rabbis say in the Talmud, in Sota 9b, that we have here a case of measure for measure. Joseph, though he was second to Pharaoh, did not deem it beneath his dignity to honor his father by carrying his remains to the cave of Machpelah, so in turn he was honored by having Moses take care of his remains, and when Moses died, he was buried by God Himself.

Chapter XIV, Verse 3. "FOR PHARAOH WILL SAY OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THEY ARE ENTANGLED IN THE LAND. HE (THE BAAR-ZEPHON SHUT THE WILDERNESS AGAINST THEM." It was an accepted superstition among the Egyptians that this idol was the guardian of the frontier, that it rounded up all escaping slaves to bring them back to their masters. When the Egyptians beheld the children of Israel fleeing their trust in this idol impelled them to pursue after them.

Personals

Esther Garfunkel, that cherubic, pleasant faced Damsel is conspicuous by her absence . . . Whassamatter, Esther? . . . Joey Abrams, that personable dynamo, is working currently in Vodvil at the Gerard Theatre in Philly . . . Zul Zein Mit Glick, Yussel . . . The Amici Girls and Miss Taitz' Varsity Girls are as busy as the proverbial bees raising money for the Home Camp Scholarship Fund . . . We'd like to see you exceed your quota, girls . . . The Amigos are contemplating an affaire for their parents . . . Joe Koppelman is busy coaching the Senippah Girls in their vehicle for the One-Act Play Contest . . . Where did you learn dramatics, Joe? . . . The Boy Scouts are busy passing tests just now . . . what's on the program for their "Charter Ceremony?" . . . The Seas will bear watching in the coming One-Act Play Contest . . . watch their smoke! . . . Ever since Leo Katz commenced absenting himself from the gym he has gained some 20 pounds of avoirdupois—warning: beware of the big bad wolf—obesity . . . Regina Feiner's pet ambition is now being realized . . . she's actually producing a real, live, operetta . . . The Avalons may "produce an original play" . . . there is a rumor that the Pickwick Girls are taking a trip to Palestine . . . will you take us with you? . . . Two of the Versatile Clubmembers were seen in Shul Saturday . . . come again, boys . . . The Varsity Girls plan to hold a dance and show in the very near future . . . address upon application . . . Our latest addition to the club roster is that group of charming girls who call themselves the "Debs" . . . they claim we'll be hearing things about their activities soon . . . The Acme Girls are frequent visitors at Prof. "Jerry" Bueler's dancing forums . . . We wonder . . . will the members of the Intermediate Basketball Team need larger hats . . . after their long string of victories . . . We learn that there's a swimming meet to be held here very shortly . . . how will our "poor fishes" make out? . . . We don't know what to write about the Sigma Phi's . . . but . . . they seem to be a nice bunch of boys . . . and . . . so . . . another day nearer heaven.

LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES IN ESSAY CONTEST

All those contemplating entering the Jewish Essay Contest are urged to hurry their preparations so that their entries may be accepted in time. The final date for the entries has been set for February 7th. All essays should be submitted to Rabbi Goodman prior to 9 P.M. on this date.

The winners of both divisions will receive medals and have their winning essays published in the "Institutional." The first prize in each division will be a silver medal, appropriately inscribed, and the second prize will be a bronze medal.

Essays should not be less than three hundred nor more than six hundred words. Topics for the essays may be secured from the office.

CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHVAT Jewish Arbor Day

Besides the religious New Year, which the Jews the world over observe in the fall, we have also a natural New Year. (The sages of old counted four different New Years; but the significance of the other two faded after the destruction of the Temple.)

The observance of more than one New Year is not due to any mistake or doubt. This has a distinct significance.

Just as the fall with its withering away of all vegetation and decline in temperature is the best time for the observance of the religious New Year marked by repentance, so is the awakening of nature from its winter stagnation the best time for the celebration of the natural New Year. In this connection mention is to be made of the fact that we take in consideration the climatic conditions of Palestine only. This fact proves the attachment of the Jews to their ancient homeland and because of that this festival has a charm of its own. It is called "CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHVAT" because it occurs on the fifteenth day of the Jewish month Shevat; and this year it coincides with WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31.

In Palestine this festival is known as Arbor Day (arbor is the Latin name for tree), because it is the occasion for the annual planting of thousands of trees all over the land. In the diaspora it has long been customary to celebrate it by eating fruits which are known to grow in Palestine, such as raisins, almonds, figs, dates, Palestinian oranges, and St. John's bread (bokser).

In recent years the "Rosh Hashanah L'Ilonoth", the New Year for trees, has also been observed by entertainment and lectures appropriate to the occasion. But there can be no doubt that the best method of celebrating this festival is through the making of large contributions to the Jewish National Fund, thus enabling the redemption of the Palestinian land.

In brief, CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHVAT, known as the Jewish Arbor Day, and also as "ROSH HASHANAH L'ILONOTH", the New Year for trees, through its very persistence proves that we have remained true to our old oath: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning." It is in the land of his ancestors that the Jew will prove his ability to become rejuvenated.

MRS. MORRIS SCHATZ.

THANK YOU

A donation has been received providing for two scholarships for a full season in the I. S. Home Camp, in memory of Clarence Brown, late I. S. Club member. We extend our condolences to his bereaved family and friends.

AD ERRATUM

In the report of the Rummage Sale of the Women's League published recently the following names were omitted from those who materially aided in making the Rummage Sale a success:

Mrs. Abramowitz, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Landsdowne, Mrs. Pargament, and Mrs. Harry Ward.

TO THE GLORY OF JERUSALEM

Beautiful height! O joy! the whole world's gladness!
 O great King's city, mountain blest!
 My soul is yearning unto thee—is yearning
 From limits of the west.
 The torrents heave from depths of mine heart's passion,
 At memory of thine olden state;
 The glory of thee which was born to exile,
 Thy dwelling desolate.
 And who shall grant me but to rise and reach thee,
 Flying on eagle's pinions fleet,
 That I may shed upon thee dust, beloved,
 Tears, till thy dust grow sweet?
 I seek thee, though thy King be no more in thee,
 Though where the balm hath been of old—
 Thy Gilead's balm—be poisonous adders lurking
 Winged scorpions manifold.
 Is it not to thy stones I shall be tender?
 Shall I not kiss them verily?
 Shall not the earth taste on my lips be sweeter
 Than honey—the earth of thee?

—by Jehuda Halevi.

—o—

CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHVAT
QUESTIONS

How Many Can You Answer?

1. What does Chamisho Osor B'Shvat mean?
2. By what special Hebrew name is "Chamisho Osor B'Shvat" known?
3. What does Rosh Hoshonah L'Illonoth mean?
4. What peculiar custom has been in vogue in Jerusalem in connection with the planting of trees?
5. How is Chamisho Osor observed in Palestine?
6. To what special use were these trees put?
7. How do Jews outside of Palestine observe Chamisho Osor?
8. In what manner do the Hebrew Schools in Palestine celebrate Chamisho Osor?
9. What special functions do the classes and clubs in Hebrew Schools and Jewish Community Centers arrange on Chamisho Osor?
10. Name three kinds of trees that grow in Palestine?
11. Name five Palestinian fruits.
12. What American festival does Chamisho Osor resemble?

ENDicott 2-3600

PARK WEST MEMORIAL CHAPEL
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

115 WEST 79th ST., at Columbus Ave.

Herman E. Myers

Alpert Brothers

Health Habits

IRWIN I. LUBOWE, M. D.

SWIMMING

Physicians and athletes believe that of all active sports that young men and women indulge in, the most beneficial and the best health builder is swimming. It makes no difference where one swims, whether it be in a magnificent pool in Hollywood, or in a little sparkling creek in a country town, the results are the same.

The effect of cool, refreshing water upon the skin or body is to activate the circulation, and to stimulate the nerves and nerve-endings with the desirable toning up of the entire body. The immediate contact of skin and delightfully cooling water is the causation of stimulation and invigoration.

An individual may be tired, inactive, and in a state of relaxation, but when a plunge is made into the lake or pool, a specific amount of latent energy is transformed to a mobile and active form of energy. In the act of swimming, practically every fiber and strand of the muscles of the body are brought into play. In order to locomote while in the water, certain definite strokes must be applied which will propel the body forward. Moreover, the breathing must be definitely and correctly timed if any progress is to be made.

The lungs inhale and exhale deeply. With every few strokes, the lungs take in fresh, purified air, and at the same time, the pectoral or breast muscles, and the accessory muscles come into action. With the habitual swimmer, the chest broadens, the shoulders enlarge, the lungs become active and healthy, the hip and calf muscles become hardened, the bicep or arm muscles develop. Besides, the heart pumps harder and faster to supply an active circulation to a fast moving mechanism, namely, the human body.

Charles Rosenthal, Member of the I. S.

..the unexpected
courtesies and
thoughtfulness

RIVERSIDE
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ENDICOTT 2-6600

76th Street & Amsterdam Ave