

THE INSTITUTIONAL

"THE PLACE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY"

"THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE"

Publication Office: 37-43 West 116th Street, New York City

IX, No. 2

SEPTEMBER 13, 1935

Ellul 15, 5695

Leaders' Council Resumes Activities

UP PREPARES FOR FORTH- COMING SEASON

The Leaders' Council of the Institutional Synagogue, composed of leaders of clubs or societies and those interested in becoming leaders, will resume its activities Tuesday morning, September 17th, when the first meeting will be held at the Main Building. This adult group has not remained inactive during the summer months. A steering committee has met several times and, as a result, a definite program of activities for the entire year will be presented for the approval of the council at the forthcoming meeting. Included on this program of activities are such events as the presentation of dramatic entertainment by the leaders, sponsoring of the Purim Carnival, lectures, debates, formal talks, and social gatherings.

The council has been active in I.S. club affairs for the past two years and has done splendid work toward the raising of funds for the Camp Ta-a-noog Scholarship Fund. In addition, they have participated in and sponsored many of the club mass activities, as well as acted in an advisory capacity to the staff of the Department of Center Activities.

An invitation is extended to young men and women interested in becoming leaders of clubs or activities at the I.S. to attend this meeting.

Tournaments to Feature Gym Program

Prominent among the many features of the new program of activities for the Gym and Pool planned for the coming season are the various athletic and aquatic tournaments between the members of every class of membership.

There have been scheduled tentatively for the immediate future, a handball tournament, a basketball tournament, and a swimming meet. In addition, plans have been perfected for the formation of a house basketball team to represent the I.S. in inter-institutional games.

We mourn the loss of Mrs. Saffer, wife of our active member, Mr. Morris Saffer. To the bereaved family we extend our most sincere condolences.

*Tickets for High Holy Days
Now Available*

Institutional Synagogue

HARLEM: 37-43 West 116th Street

WEST SIDE: 148 West 85th Street

ANNEX: 2307 Broadway

The Religious Committees meet every evening from seven to ten P.M., and Sunday mornings from ten to twelve, at the West Side Branch, 148 West 85th Street, and at the Annex, The Lorraine, 2307 Broadway, and all day and evening, at the Main Building, 37-43 West 116th Street. Reservations and inquiries regarding seating capacities of all synagogues may be made by phoning Executive Director, Abraham Bernstein at UNiversity 4-6729—6730.

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.

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Moving Pictures for Children of West Side to Take Place Sunday Morning

RALLY TO OPEN NEW SEASON

A gala event and a real treat is in store for the children living on the West Side, who, together with their parents, are invited to attend the opening of the Talmud Torah to be held in the West Side Building, 149 West 85th Street, this coming Sunday morning, at eleven o'clock.

Comedy Films to be Shown

A screamingly funny motion picture will be the main attraction of the program. Delightful refreshments will be served to all children attending. This rally will precede the opening of the Talmud Torah registration at the West Side Branch.

During the coming week, registration will be accepted daily between the hours of four and six in the afternoon. Parents are urged to attend with their children and to become acquainted with the program of activities of the Talmud Torah. Extensive plans for extra-curricular activities have been prepared which will add to the enjoyment of children's studies. Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will personally welcome the newly enrolled pupils to the Talmud Torah.

CLUB COUNCIL TO HOLD FIRST MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

Department of Center Activities Prepares Comprehensive Program of Activities

The Club Council of the I.S., composed of representatives of the clubs, groups, and organizations of the Department of Center Activities, will be the guests of the Department of Center Activities on Wednesday, September 18th, at 8:15 P.M., when they will hold their first meeting at the Main Building.

The Club Council was organized last September with the view of giving the groups and organizations of the I.S. a voice in the management of club affairs. Each group has its representation and vote in the council.

Altho but newly organized, the Council did excellent work during the past season. One of their outstanding achievements was the publication of the "Intermediary," a Club newspaper for, of, and by the members of the Department of Center Activities.

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THE INSTITUTIONAL

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Editor Rabbi Philip Goodman
Associate Morris A. Urieff

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Vol. XIX, No. 2 September 13, 1935

Light Candles Friday Evening, 6:54

Sedrah for Week, "Sovoh"



FALL IS HERE

With the arrival of the fall season, we become aware of the need of a well-balanced leisure time program.

A perusal of the Institutional Synagogue program for the coming year leaves nothing wanted. The opening of the gym puts at the disposal of the membership, physical facilities every night in the week. An intensive religious program containing many interesting features has been prepared to satisfy our spiritual needs.

For those who are socially inclined, numerous clubs offer opportunities for social outlets. For others there are dances, stunt nights, and other mass activities of a social nature. On the whole, the coming year is one to be anticipated by the Institutional Synagogue membership with its opportunities for participating in a variety of activities. Be among the first to take advantage of your opportunity.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

The Constitution

by MORRIS A. URIEFF

With the mailed fist of dictators rising over the landscape of Europe; with the unstable conditions of governments throughout the world; it is particularly fitting that on Constitution Day, September 17th, we pause and look at the background, as well as the meaning of the Constitution.

Before the Constitution, and under the Articles of Confederation, the thirteen colonies were loosely governed. The Articles of Confederation provided only for a legislative department. Congress had the right to do anything; but the power to do nothing. Each of the thirteen colonies was a petty kingdom in itself; ready, at a moments notice, to fly at the throat of the other colonies. The utter weakness of the Confederation, the prostration of trade and manufactures, the poverty of the farmer, and the general contempt in which the government was held everywhere in the world, finally compelled the leaders of the colonies to call a convention to remedy these evils. As a result, in 1787, the Constitution was presented for ratification to the thirteen colonies. When the Constitution was adopted, the crisis of the new country was passed.

The new Constitution provided for three departments, carrying out the theory of "Checks and Balances" in such a manner that no one part of the governmental machine could function without the assistance and co-operation of the others.

William Pitt, perhaps the greatest statesman of his time, made the statement: "The Constitution will be the wonder and admiration of future generations, and the model of future constitutions." How strangely prophetic were his words—for they have come true. The Constitution is the leading document of its kind in the world; it has served as the example for many nations.

As Randolph Leigh, one of the leading authors of to-day, says: "No world power of the present time has a government which reaches back so far as ours without a break. France, Italy, Germany, Austria, all have experienced tempestuous changes in government since the adoption of our Constitution. France has made the circuit twice from half-hearted representative government to mobocracy and then to despotism; today it is a democracy. Germany has swept through many stages from petty despotism and central absolutism to the chaos of today. Russia has passed from absolutism to democracy and then to Sovietism." But the Constitution is still going full blast, with but twenty-one amendments. Compare these comparatively slight changes of government with the changes that have taken place in the governments of the world.

Classes Begun At Harlem Talmud

Registration Now Going On

The opening of the 1935-1936 Torah Season was heralded last week by a side-splitting puppet show. This was presented through the courtesy of E. R. B. and was enjoyed immensely by the children. The serving of lollipops greatly enhanced the enjoyment of the opening rally.

Registration increases are noted as the day goes by and the full quota is expected to be reached within a few weeks. Practically the same staff of teachers that with the Talmud Torah last year have been re-engaged. The classes have been re-organized and sessions are held daily between the hours of 4 and 7, and Sunday morning.

Rabbi Philip Goodman, the Principal, now engaged in a campaign to increase registration. Trying to discount the fact that the Jewish population of Harlem is gradually dwindling away. Rabbi Goodman hopes to have a registration as numerous that of last year. Letters and circulars have been sent out to the parents reminding them of their duty to furnish their children with a Hebrew education, and various means of arousing interest have been undertaken.

MUSHROOM SYNAGOGUES

(Continued from Page 1)

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 activities.

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.

What does the Constitution mean to the Citizen today? Cannot it not be said, without fear of contradiction, that it means as much today as it did in 1787? For the Constitution still remains the bulwark of our liberties, granting to each individual the right to exercise personal freedom, provided that in the exercise of such freedom, he does not infringe upon the rights of others.

During the long period of time of its existence, the Constitution has undergone the acid test of crises and has proven itself to be so basically and fundamentally sound in principle, that we need have no apprehension as to our future.

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM ISAAC HACOHN KOOK

CHIEF RABBI OF THE HOLY LAND

By Rabbi Philip Goodman

On the fourth of Ellul, 5695 (September 1935) a brilliant luminary amongst the great stars of Israel was extinguished. A pillar of fire that guided the Chosen People through the vicissitudes and trials of this generation, was dimmed. Abraham Isaac Hacoen Kook, Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, has severed his earthly chains and gone to the realm of eternal life. May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing!

Acclaimed the greatest religious scholar of this generation, undoubtedly one of the most venerable figures of this age, Rabbi Kook was beloved by the orthodox and liberal elements of the Jews. As Talmudist, philosopher, Kabbalist, and poet, he excelled in each particular field. He harmoniously and uniquely blended his knowledge, reaching the acme of Jewish learning. World worry can ill afford the great loss which they now must bear in their critical struggle for religious survival.

Rabbi Kook was born on the 18th of Ellul, 5635 in Graiva, near Dvinsk, Latvia. He was a descendant of a long line of eminent and distinguished Rabbis, both on his paternal and maternal side. Upon his entrance into "cheder" for the first time at the early age of four, he obstinately refused to begin the study of the prayer-book. His teacher scolded him. "Abraham, why do you not desire to study? Every Jewish child must study, and if not. . . ." The remainder of the sentence, although left unspoken, was clearly understood by the little child as he saw the threatening hand of his new teacher.

"I do want to study," answered Abraham, "but not from a small book. I want to study from these large books," pointing to the huge volumes of the Talmud on the bookshelves. Due to his phenomenal memory and his earnest studiousness, his desire was soon gratified.

As a bottomless pit, he devoured each and every word of his teacher, soon acquiring a wide knowledge of the Bible. Two years later, he commenced the study of the Talmud. His extraordinary abilities paved a smooth path for the young student to the acquisition of a deep and wide knowledge of the fathomless depths of that difficult study.

On becoming older he travelled from yeshivah, imbibing learning from the greatest fountains of the Torah, including the former Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, Elijah David Rabinowitz Teomim, then Rabbi in

Ponivez, who was destined to be his father-in-law. In the famous yeshiva of Volozhin he was the diligent pupil of Rabbi Chayim Soleveitchik and Rabbi Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin.

The engagement of Rabbi Kook to the daughter of Rabbi Elijah David, soon followed by marriage, took place when he was eighteen years of age. He then planned to enter business in order to provide for the support of his family. However, that world-acknowledged sage, "Chafetz Chaim," persuaded him to devote his unusual talents to the service of his people and God.

In 1888 he assumed the duties of his first official rabbinical position in Zemal, Lithuania. He later occupied important positions in different Jewish communities of Eastern Europe.

Upon the death of Rabbi Naphtali Hertz of Jaffa, Palestine, the community extended a most cordial invitation to Rabbi Kook to act as their spiritual leader. Many of the most prominent communal heads pleaded with him to remain in Europe. At the same time, he was offered important and desirable positions in various communities. Unable to overcome the deep longings of his soul to tread the soil of the Holy Land, he was obliged to decline the many generous offers and proceeded to Eretz Yisroel.

In 1904, upon his arrival in Palestine to occupy the Rabbinical seat of Jaffa, a new stage in the purposeful life of Rabbi Kook commenced. It is well-nigh impossible to describe his ecstatic emotions when he set foot for the first time on the holy soil.

The new spiritual head was immediately faced with the most weighty problems to solve. On one hand, there was a definitely negative attitude on the part of the young pioneers in the new colonies to religious life. On the other hand, there was a forceful opposition to the rebuilding of Zion by non-religious elements on the part of the older religious groups in Jerusalem. His extreme foresight and keen mind was instrumental in moderating the attitudes of both extremists; consequently influencing both factions towards the true ideal he envisioned—the restoration of the Land of Israel in accordance with the Law of Israel.

In Jaffa, Rabbi Kook founded and directed a yeshivah which functioned as an ideal center of spiritual endeavor. His lectures attracted and influenced many of the "intelligentsia" of Jaffa and the neighboring colonies who came to listen to the wisdom of this sage.

Concluded next week

Bears Ago - This Week Chapters of Jewish History

September 14th

Death of 'Maharil,' 1427. Jacob ben Moses Mölln was born about 1365, and studied under R. Shalom of Austria at Wiener-Neustadt. Afterwards, he took up his abode at Mayence. Even in his youth he had won a reputation for learning as well as for piety; and how he became recognized as one of the greatest Rabbinical authorities of his age. Questions came in to him from all parts of Germany; and his pupils eagerly observed all of his actions, however minute, for their personal guidance in the future. One of them, Zalman of St. Goar, subsequently published his notes, which obtained a wide circulation. They were written for purely legalistic purposes; but inevitably the figure of the saintly rabbi about whom they center stands out above all in clear-drawn lines. So much so is this the case that it has been possible to call the author, with good reason, 'a Jewish Boswell.' Jacob Mölln, was one of the first persons to be distinguished with the new rabbinical title of 'Morenu,' now universal; hence his name, Morenu haRav Jacob Levi, of which 'Maharil' is an abbreviation.

September 16th

Conversion of Sabbatai Zevi, 1666. The pseudo-Messiah had left Smyrna for Constantinople amid the frenzied hopes of his adherents all over the world. At last, his hour had struck, and the Sultan himself must recognize his claims, or else be reduced to subjection. In Avignon, the whole community made ready to set sail for the Holy Land; while shrewd business-men in Hamburg and London wagered enormous sums that their hero would shortly be acknowledged generally as King of Judaea. On arrival at the Dardanelles, Sabbatai was arrested by order of the Grand Vizier. This, however, made no difference to his admirers. Was it not inevitable that the Messiah should suffer tribulations before his final triumph? The fortress of Abydos, where he was imprisoned, was called by them by the mystical title of the Tower of Strength; and they thronged to visit him, bearing rich gifts. Prayers were offered up in all the synagogues for Our Lord and King, the holy and righteous Sabbatai Zevi, Anointed of the God of Israel; and the ninth of Ab was generally observed as a feast-day, as the anniversary of his birth. In his prison, the pseudo-Messiah maintained an almost royal state. At last, the patience of the Turkish authorities was exhausted. Sabbatai was summoned to Constantinople, and brought before the Sultan. The alternatives of apostasy or death were laid before

(Continued on page 4)

Classes — Courses

An attempt is here made to summarize briefly the proposed activities for the coming season. Detailed information will be given upon request. Study the list and check those that 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 and activities.

Cultural Courses

- () "Institutional Players." Play production including staging. Lectures.
- () Debating. Formal, informal, and teams.
- () Art Group. Art Appreciation. Drawing and poster work.
- () Arts and Crafts.
- () Academic subjects. Languages, sciences. State definite subjects:

- () Bookkeeping.
- () Accounting.
- () Bible Class for Adults.
- () Jewish Religious Customs and Ceremonials.
- () Jewish History.
- () Hebrew for beginners or advanced students.

Physical Education

- () Gymnasium.
- () Pool.
- () Special Class for adults.
- () House Teams.
- () Swimming Classes.

Clubs

- () Junior.
- () Intermediate.
- () Senior.
- () Cub Scouts.
- () Boy Scouts.
- () Girl Scouts.
- () Palestine Travel Club.

Miscellaneous Activities

- () Game Room. Checkers, chess, ping-pong, tournaments.
- () Savings Bank.
- () Employment Bureau for Sabbath Observers.
- () Leaders' Council.
- () Dramatic performances.
- () Concerts.
- () Social Dancing.
- () Basketball Games and Dances.
- () Motion Pictures.

Suggestions: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Classification _____

YEARS AGO—THIS WEEK

(Continued from Page 3)

him; and, pusillanimously, he chose the former. Donning the white turban of the true believer instead of his Jewish head-gear, he proclaimed his belief in Islam, and left the royal presence as Mehemet Effendi, and a royal pensioner. The most remarkable episode in the whole story followed, as belief in his claims was not shaken by this despicable action. It was imagined that the Messiah must have experience of every side of human life—even the lowest—before he could accomplish his mission; or else that it was only a phantom bearing his shape that had apostasised. Throughout the Jewish world, bands of devoted adherents continued to assert his claims. He himself encouraged them, continuing to consort with his admirers and to practice mystic rites in their company, until, surprised in the act, he was banished to Dulcigno. His cult revived, however, even his death at this place, on the Day of Atonement ten years later (September 10th, 1676).

The righteous man is a pillar upon which all the world rests.

Even he who lives upon charity should practice benevolence.

It is better to lend than to give. To give employment is better than either.

The practice of beneficence will assure the maintenance of one's possessions.

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Club Council

(continued from Page 1)

This publication served as a connecting link between the members of the various clubs and detailed the news and gossip of the Department. The Council was also interested in arranging weekly dances for members, and in the Purim Carnival.

At the coming meeting a comprehensive program of activities, arranged by Ralph Philip Goodman, Director of the Department of Center Activities, will be presented to the Council.

Representatives of the various groups and organizations are urged to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

JEWISH EMANCIPATION

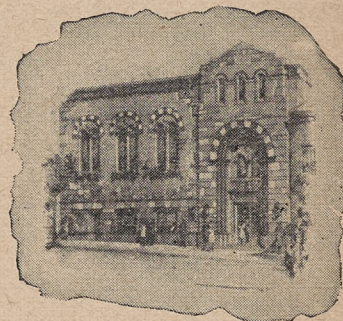
The whole question of emancipation, as concerns only our external condition, is Judaism but of secondary interest. Soon or later the nations will decide the question between right and wrong, between human and inhumanity; and the first awakening to a higher calling than the mere lust for possession and enjoyment, the first expression of a nobler recognition of God as the one Lord and Father, and of the earth as a Holy Land assigned by Him to all men for the fulfillment of their human calling—will find its expression everywhere in the emancipation of all who are oppressed, including the Jews. We have a higher object to attain and this is entirely in our own hands—the enabling of ourselves, the realization of Judaism by Jews.

SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH, 1836

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