

THE INSTITUTIONAL I.S.

"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

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NOVEMBER 8, 1935

HESHVAN 12, 5696

W. P. A. ORCHESTRA TO GIVE CONCERT

Symphonic Program Will Be Presented This Saturday Evening

The third type of entertainment to be sponsored by the Works Progress Administration at the Institutional Synagogue Main Building Auditorium will be held tomorrow evening, at 8:30 P.M., promptly, when the Hudson Symphony Orchestra will conduct a concert.

The orchestra is composed of twenty skilled musicians and has arranged a program of delightful selections.

Last Saturday evening, a capacity audience filled the Auditorium to witness the showing of the famous Yiddish comedy "Uptown and Downtown."

The action, the plot, and the various situations in Boris Thomashefsky's play on American-Jewish Life, kept the audience in gales of laughter. Nothing but praise was heard from the many people who attended this performance. Waves of applause consistently interrupted the performance, as some especially fine bit of acting was appreciated.

Included among this series of dramatic and musical performances to be given under the auspices of the W.P.A. are: "Skinners' Dress Suit," a hilarious comedy of the American businessman, which will be shown on Saturday evening, November 16th; a Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta, concerts, and the presentation of another Yiddish show.

A cordial invitation is extended to all our friends and members to attend these performances, usually held on Saturday evenings, at the Main Building Auditorium. There is no admission charge.

Sat. Afternoon Services

This Saturday afternoon, a new staff of boys will conduct the Saturday afternoon services at the West Side Branch. Isadore Karpf will be the speaker; Buddy Udell will read the Torah, and Benjamin Newhouse will act as Cantor.

Preceding the Mincha Services, Simeon H. F. Goldstein will deliver the second in a series of lectures on outstanding events of Jewish History. The hostesses of the Sabbath Afternoon Circle for the Seuda Shilishis will be Elaine Goldberg and Joan Friedman.

Women's League To Hold Rummage Sale

An unusually well attended meeting of the Women's League of the I.S. was held last Monday afternoon. After the regular Bible Class, led by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, there was an extended discussion concerning the forthcoming Rummage Sale, which is to begin on December 15th. The women were requested to pledge themselves to go out for merchandise and to secure the use of cars for one, or more, afternoons a week.

Mr. Isaac Settel, with his inherent big-heartedness, has most generously consented to once again give them a store for this important fund-raising project.

Mrs. David Ullman, President, announced that a highly unique Dutch Supper will be given under the auspices of the Women's League sometime during January for the men and women of the congregation. Mrs. Albert H. Cohen and Mrs. Julius Leff were unanimously acclaimed Chairman and Co-Chairman, respectively, of this big event. The meeting was followed by a delightful social hour over which Mrs. Moses Langer and Mrs. Henry Mandelbaum acted as hostesses.

MANY ATTEND GALA FREE GAME AND DANCE IN GYM

Several hundred enthusiastic members and their friends attended the first free basketball game and dance of the season, held last Sunday evening at the I.S. gymnasium. The feature event of the occasion was an exciting court contest between the I.S. Quintette and the Macabee Five of the Bronx.

Through the courtesy of the W.P.A., the popular ten piece Gotham Orchestra played music for the dancing.

In what proved to be a closely played contest, the visiting courtmen defeated the home squad by the score of 20 to 19. Coach Hy Munitz's men showed up well under the short time the squad has been assembled. Indications are that the team will have a bright season.

Bar Mitzvah

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jacobs extend a most cordial invitation to their relatives and friends to be present at the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Herman, which will be held this Saturday, November 9th, at the West Side Branch.

"PARADISE LOST" SET FOR DEC. 23

New Production Chosen For The Nineteenth Annual I. S. Theatre Party

"Paradise Lost" by Clifford Odets will be the presentation of the Group Theatre at the Nineteenth Annual Theatre Party of the Institutional Synagogue, on Monday evening, December 23rd, at the Cort Theatre.

The Paradise of the title is the home of the Gordons, a fairly well-to-do family. The Gordons are kindly, lovable people. As home is their heaven, so their children are their angels; the oldest an Olympic Athlete, handsome and optimistic, is sure that his fame as a sportsman guarantees his future; his sister, Pearl, is a pianist with ideals; the youngest son, Julie, plans a gilded career in big business.

Into this warm household are introduced a number of unusual, yet representative figures. Gus Michaels is a neer-do-well neighbor of long standing, a person as fantastic and as funny as any in the whimsical works of James Barrie, though twice as real. Also, there is Lucas Pike, the furnace-man, a kind of wraith like evocation of the spirit of '76 in modern clothes.

There is intense drama here, even tragedy, yet comedy so full and brilliant that the play will long be remembered for its laughs. This play has a far wider scope than the author's first achievement, "Awake and Sing," for it is not a play of the few, but of the whole middle-class. It is realistic, poetic, theatrical. "Paradise Lost" definitely fulfills the promise of America's "most promising young dramatist," Clifford Odets.

The Theatre Party Committee is under the chairmanship of First Vice-President Lester Udell and consists of Messrs. Max E. Sanders, Aaron Wartels, Maurice Greenstein, and Max Moskowitz.

RESERVE DECEMBER 23

Reserve the evening of Monday, December 23rd for the I.S. Nineteenth Annual Theatre Party. A scintillating performance, and a congenial atmosphere assure you of a pleasant and enjoyable evening. Tickets may be reserved through Mr. Abraham Bernstein, Executive Director, at the Main Building Office.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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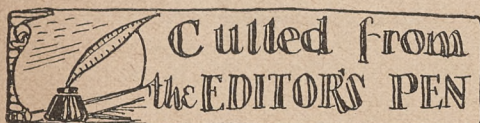
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Vol. XIX, No. 10 November 8, 1935

Light Candles Friday Evening, 4:30



ASSISTANCE NEEDED

It is not a pleasant duty, in the least, to make an appeal for funds through the medium of these columns. Certainly it is more pleasant to discuss matters of more enjoyable connotations. It is because of the present financial situation that the I.S. finds itself in dire straits.

Our staff have not been paid for weeks. They are anxiously awaiting the fulfillment of your pledges, so that there may be enough in the treasury to have their checks honored. The current expenses of the building, although they have been kept at a minimum by Mr. Bernstein, the Executive Director, are large enough to cause a deficiency in the little we have on hand. Is it not fair that we ask you to continue in fulfilling the noble purposes which you have undertaken?

The present economic conditions, unemployment, etc., have all done material damage to the cause of charity. As bad as our predicament is, there is no doubt that we will not shirk our task in fostering Jewish education and learning. Such things we should value above gold, for they are price-



The ink is hardly dry on our pen from last week's column . . . when its time to take it down again to relate . . . to our **FOUR READERS** (400% increase!) . . . what has occurred . . .

Scene at the Carlo Dance . . . about two hundred and fifty bottles of Coco-Cola disappeared . . . down thirsty throats of the dancers . . . (figures official from the C. C. Co.) . . . Seymour Siegel, ATTEMPTING to stop Lindy Hopping . . . the sudden popularity of one of the newer additions to the I.S. . . and, finally . . . the constant allusions to the "weather" . . . Anyway, Herbie Hershbain needed a couple of towels after the affair . . . he looked, and felt, as tho it were mid-July instead of October . . .

Milty, what "practice" kept you away from a W.P.A. production the other Saturday night?

Bernie Schnitzer, we understand . . . attended a formal affair the other p.m. . . . and came home . . . with exactly six cents in his pockets . . .

Bernie Baily cracked wise . . . "I'm going to the Hunter Prom . . . don't know the girl . . . don't know when its being held . . . but . . . I'll be there!" Oh, Yeah! It's ok Bernie . . . there's one female around the I.S. . . that's looking for a partner to go to the affair with . . . why not get together? . . .

Who said there were no Jews left in Harlem? . . . over one thousand attended the showing of "Uptown and Downtown" last Sat. night . . . and did they enjoy it! . . .

Another Sherlock Holmes needed . . . to round up the actors . . . when a rehearsal of "The Enemy" is in session . . . wanderlust seems to attack the female contingent regularly . . . a ball and chain would be in order . . . (special discount for quantity).

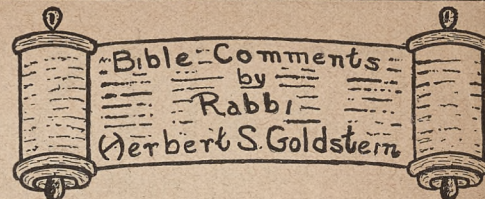
Question Box . . . is Harry Hankin as old as he looks? . . . What makes George Elkins look so fit and spry every time we see him? . . . Answers welcome . . .

The Leaders' Council will soon move into their new meeting room . . . specially furnished for their use . . . we wonder . . . how long will it last? . . . By the way, did you know that the chairman of the Leaders' Council uses a HAMMER for a gavel? . . . what would happen if some recalcitrant member refused to come to order? . . .

FEDERATION

Will all those women who intend to contribute to the Emergency Campaign of Federation kindly send their contributions to Mrs. David H. Ullman in care of the I.S. so that the Women's League may receive due recognition.

less. We appeal to you, dear friends, to fulfill your pledge that you so generously made recently, so that we may continue in our labors.



SEDRAH FOR WEEK: "LECH L'CHOH"

Genesis, Chapter XII, Verses 15, 16, 17.

She was, nevertheless, detected by the King's spies and was forcibly taken into the palace. Abram was treated royally with all kinds of presents. Pharaoh, however, was plagued, so as to keep him from touching Sarai, who therefore went out from the royal grip undefiled. According to tradition, the King presented her with the whole territory of Goshen and gave her Hagar, his own daughter, for an attendant. Two hundred and five years later, when the Israelites came to sojourn in Egypt, they occupied this territory.

According to our sages, the story contained in this chapter is a miniature replica of what was going to happen to Abram's descendants in later years. As Abram went to Egypt because of famine, so did his descendants. As Abram was in danger and there was eagerness to appropriate the woman, so later was it decreed that "Every son that will be born, you shall cast into the river and every daughter shall you preserve alive." As the King was plagued, so were ten plagues visited on Pharaoh. As Abram was the recipient of much riches when leaving, so were the Israelites laden with all the riches when departing. As Sarai went away unscathed and undefiled, so were the Egyptians unsuccessful in contaminating our daughters. Our stock was so pure and free from Egyptian admixture that God himself laid His holy name as a seal upon it, testifying to its purity.

Verses 18 and 19. "AND PHARAOH CALLED TO ABRAM," ETC. He upbraided him for having told a lie.

This is the usual practice of our enemies in every generation. They besprinkled us with dirt and mud and then rebuked us for being dirty. They deprived us of every means of making a living, forcing us to resort to usury, and then branded us as Shylocks. Pharaoh, the King with unlimited power, tolerated such lawlessness that he who was fortunate, or rather unfortunate enough to have a pretty wife was in danger of losing his life. Abram was therefore forced to tell a lie to save his life. Yet Pharaoh had the impudence to ask of him why he had said something which was untrue. All the moral deficiencies that may occasionally be found in our midst which, by the way, are in a much lesser degree than they are found among our slanderers, are a product of our oppressors, and cast shame upon them, rather than upon us.

WIT and HUMOR

WOULD NOT SMOKE AWAY THE EMPEROR'S GIFT

Rabbi Simon Schreiber, the famous Rabbi of Krakow, son of the renowned "Chassam Sopher," was also a member of the Austrian Parliament, and was once invited on a Sabbath afternoon, by the late Emperor Franz Joseph, to the palace. The Emperor treated the Rabbi to a cigar, which the Rabbi was naturally bound to accept.

On account of the Sabbath, the Rabbi kept it unlighted in his hand.

Graf von Pfuffendorf, a renowned Anti-Semite, who happened to be present also, thought he saw an opportunity of embarrassing the Rabbi. He soon lighted a match, and approached the Rabbi saying, "I know you are accustomed to smoking, Rabbi, will you not have a light?"

"No, thank you," answered the Rabbi.

"Perhaps," said von Pfuffendorf, maliciously, "the Emperor's cigar is not good enough. His Majesty will then order some better ones."

At this remark the Emperor himself glanced up with surprise. There was only one thing for Rabbi Schreiber to do, to follow the advice of David, who said (in Psalm cxix, 46) "I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings and not be ashamed," and tell the Emperor outright that it was Sabbath, and he was forbidden to smoke. But the Rabbi did not wish to raise the Sabbath law as an excuse for his action, as it would imply that the Emperor had been lacking in tact to give a cigar to a Rabbi to smoke on the Sabbath. Rabbi Schreiber therefore turned to Graf von Pfuffendorf, and said, "My dear honorable Graf, would you think it right for me to let His Majesty's present to me vanish in smoke?" and putting it away in his pocket very reverently, he said, "I will keep it for an everlasting remembrance."

At this neat parry, the good Emperor Franz Joseph smiled, "and confusion covered Haman's face," or rather von Pfuffendorf's, who scowled at Rabbi Schreiber, without any ready retort.

HIS SILENCE WAS SUSPICIOUS

The blind mendicant and his seeing partner bought a basket of cherries, and agreed, as gentlemen, to eat them one cherry at a time. Then, all of a sudden, the blind man arose in fury, and with all his might, slapped his crony on the face. "You are a cheat and a scoundrel," shouted the blind beggar, "that's what you are!"

"What's that for?" demanded the other, "Are you crazy or what?"

"If I am taking two cherries at a time and you don't protest," explained the blind fellow, "then I am sure you must be taking three or four at a time, and you are nothing but a scoundrel."

Armistice Day

On Armistice Day, November 11th, 1918, throughout the entire civilized world wherever men and women gathered, grateful and appreciative of the coming of peace, there the psalm which we quote below, was read in every place of worship throughout the lands of the Allies. Today, the whole world realizes that it is essential to maintain peace if the world is to make any constructive progress. It is for this reason that every Saturday morning at the Institutional Synagogue service, the prayer for Our Government is said and contained therein, is the wish and hope that the world and Jewry may be blessed with peace.

Psalm 100

"Shout unto the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord He is God;
It is He that hath made us, and we are his,
His people, and the flock of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise:

Give thanks unto Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good; His mercy endureth forever;

And His faithfulness unto all generations."

HON. ISAAC SIEGEL.

EMPLOYMENT

The files of the Department of Center Activities Employment Bureau are full with applicants, experienced in stenography, bookkeeping, secretarial, and general office help, who are desirous of observing the Sabbath. Many of these persons are high school and college graduates. They have fine records, and will make capable employees.

The services of this bureau are free to employers and employees. If you know of any vacancy in your organization, phone University 4-6729 or write to the I.S. and we will be glad to send you capable applicants.

T. T. SONGSTER

One of the most complete songbooks of popular Anglo-Jewish and Hebrew Melodies is now being placed at the disposal of the Talmud Torah pupils. The books will be used at assemblies and gatherings.

The book presents in both English and Hebrew, songs for the various Jewish Holidays.

Chanukah melodies, Chamisho Osor B'shvat songs, and Purim and Passover tunes are but a few of the many numbers contained.



NOVEMBER 8th

Synod in Rhineland, 1223. The practice of holding Rabbinical synods to discuss matters of general importance, introduced into France by Rashi and his disciples, had been taken over from them by the Rabbis of Germany. The three important Rhineland communities—Spire, Worms and Mayence—naturally took the lead, so that the conclusions arrived at were known after their initials as the Takkanot 'SHUM.' The first of these assemblages was held in 1169; it was succeeded by three others between 1200 and 1223. The latest, held at Mayence or at Worms, confirmed in the main the provisions of the preceding ones. It endeavored to promote solidarity amongst the Jews by forbidding recourse to Gentile courts in cases of internal dispute or the appointment to offices within the community by secular authorities. In domestic affairs, it endeavored to raise the intellectual level by forbidding gambling and introducing specific times for study. Amongst the famous scholars who subscribed to these provisions were Eleazar of Worms, author of the famous mystical work, the Rokeah, and Eliezar ben Joel, a noted Rabbinical scholar, known by the initials of his name as "Raabiah." A final assemblage of this sort took place in the Rhineland in 1250.

NOVEMBER 12th

Family names enforced in Austria, 1787. Surnames had been general among Sephardic Jews from the time of the expulsion from Spain, or even earlier; but amongst their Ashkenazic brethren, they remained for long afterwards rare in the extreme, each man being known by his name and that of his father. Part of the policy of Aufklärung adopted by the Emperor Joseph II was to end this curious state of affairs. By an edict of November 12th, 1787, he ordered that every Jew should in future assume a surname. Commissions of officers were appointed to supervise this; and if any Jew hesitated or demurred, some name was created and registered out of hand, frequently with ridiculous results. This measure, and the others to which it set the example in other countries, gave rise to the wholesale creation of artificial and sometimes ridiculous surnames, of which the nomenclature of a large portion of Ashkenazic Jewry still bears the traces.

Our kindly deeds and our generous gifts go to heaven as messengers, and plead for us before our heavenly Father.

He who turns away from the works of life and charity, turns away from God.

Among the Clubs

The CARLO CLUB held their first affair on Thursday evening, October 31st, at the Coco-Cola Reception Room. A small but enthusiastic crowd attended the affair and kept the attendant on the run serving the cold drinks. The hardest worker, that is dancer, was Herbie Hershman (in his pleated shirt) wet to the skin with perspiration.

This is the first of a number of socials planned by this active group.

* * *

This is the first time we've had an opportunity of saying "Hello" to the new clubs that have joined during the past two months. We would like to welcome:

The SPADES, who are interested in athletics, and are led by Sam Stamler, President; and Leonard Greenberg, Secretary.

The PAWNEE CLUB who have planned an interesting program of activities centered around socials and basketball. The newly elected officers of this group are Isidore Liebowitz, President; B. Birnbaum, Secretary, and G. Levy, Treasurer.

The RAYO CLUB who have already met several times under the leadership of Mr. G. Elkins. The results of their recent elections were: Abe Silber, President; Jack Kafare, Secretary; and Jack Posner, Treasurer.

* * *

With their dance held but a few weeks off, the CELTIC CLUB is set for the finishing touches in completing their program for an interesting evening. We understand that they have arranged for a basketball game with a team that will offer an interesting and skilful exhibition of that fast game. Dancing will be to the strains of a com-

petent orchestra. An added attraction will be the vaudeville entertainment that will be held prior to the game and dance. See one of the club members to get a ticket.

The Boy Scout Troop, meeting for their third season in the I.S., have resumed their activities. We understand that two of their members are studying for their Eagle Scout examinations, the highest rank in scouting.

* * *

The SPARTAN CLUB is back again, all set to "come, see, and conquer." They have an addition this year in the shape of Mr. Bernard Bailly, their new leader. Time will tell, boys!

The VALSPAR CLUB is still making the racket they were known for last year . . . you don't have to wonder if they are in the building, they let you know! However, their noise bespeaks activity, and with the help of Mr. Harry Hankin, their advisor, we expect to hear more from this group of active young men.

CLUB MORTON, known last year as the Aces, are out for new members this season. Their first addition was their new leader, Mr. Jack Wasserman. With new members coming in, and the program they have, an active year is before these youngsters.

YESHIVA THEATRE PARTY

The Yeshiva College Women's Organization has taken the highly successful Broadway production "Jubilee" for its benefit performance on Tuesday evening, November 19th, 1935.

Your co-operation is sought in this very worthwhile cause.

COMING EVENTS

November

Sat. 9	Hudson Symphony Orchestra Concert 8:30 P.M. Adm. Free.
Mon. 11	2:30 P.M. Bible Class for Women. 8:30 Bible Class for Men.
Tues. 12	Leaders' Council Meeting. C. Frederickson of the Na- tional Recreation Association.
Sat. 16	"Skinners' Dress Suit" by Drama Dep't. P.W.A. 8:30 P.M.
Sat. 23	8:30 P.M. Vaudeville, Unit A, Drama Dept. W.P.A. Ad- mission Free. Celtic Club Dance 9:30 P.M.
Sat. 30	"Uptown and Downtown" by Boris Thomashefsky, Yiddish Show by P.W.A. at 8:30 P.M. promptly. Admission Free.

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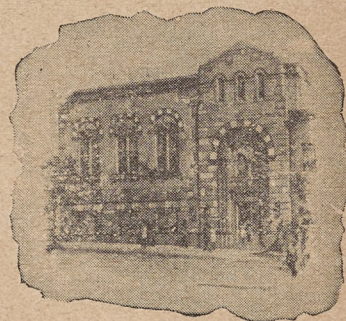
SHYLOCK

Shylock is 'the Jew that Shakespeare drew'. He is not the Jew of real life, even in the Middle Ages, stained as their story is with the hot tears—nay, the very heart's blood—of the martyred race. The medieval Jew did not take vengeance on his cruel foes. Nay, more than this: with a sublime magnanimity he could actually preach and practice widest benevolence towards his oppressors. Throughout the Middle Ages, when Jews were daily plundered and tortured, and done to death 'for the glory of God', not a word was breathed against the morality of the victims. They suffered because they were heretics, because they would not juggle with the conscience and profess a belief that did not live in their souls. But Jewish ethics soared to still nobler heights. The Jew preserved his integrity in spite of his suffering; but more than this, he forgave—ay, even blessed—its author. The Jews hunted out of Spain in 1492 were in turn cruelly expelled from Portugal. Some took refuge on the African coast. Eighty years later the descendants of the men who had committed or allowed these enormities were defeated in Africa, whither they had been led by their king, Don Sebastian. Those who were not slain were offered as slaves at Fez to the descendants of the Jewish exiles from Portugal. 'The humbled Portuguese nobles', the historian narrates, 'were comforted when their purchasers proved to be Jews, for they knew that they had humane hearts.'

MORRIS JOSEPH, 1891

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