

Reserve
April 19
For Annual
I. S. Dinner



Don't Forget
The Women's
Matinee Party
This Thursday

"THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE"
Publication Office: 37-43 West 116th Street, New York City

Vol. XIX, No. 28

MARCH 13, 1936

ADAR 19, 5696

Dramatic Contest Creates Interest

Final preparations are now being made by the various clubs for participation in the annual One-Act Play Contest, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday evenings, March 28th and 29th, in the Auditorium of the Main Building.

To date there are ten clubs scheduled to present plays on either of these evenings. The competition is bound to be keen and interesting. The choice of productions varies from heavy melodrama to hilarious farce. Included among these selections are several original plays, written by members of the clubs.

The groups that will participate in this event are: the Numas Club, the Celtics, the Nohtaram Girls, the Spartans, the Vitas, the Rayo Club, the Valspars, the Elons, the Versatiles, and the Club Norton.

The winning group will be awarded the One-Act Play Contest Cup; while the two best performers, whether in the winning production or not, will be presented with medals.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Silverstein upon the engagement of their daughter, Martha, to Mr. Phil Sagon.

ATTENTION DIRECTORS

A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday evening, March 18th, at 8:15 promptly, at the West Side Building, 148 West 85th St. All Directors are urged to attend.

Hon. Isaac Siegel, President

'Call It A Day' Chosen For Women's League Matinee

Mrs. David Weisberg, who presided at the last meeting of the Women's League, announced that there were a number of tickets to be had for the matinee which will be held on Thursday afternoon, March 19th. The play is to be "Call It A Day," one of the pronounced successes of the season. It is said of this play that once you have seen it, you can never forget it. The affair will take place at the Morosco Theatre. The members of the committee are: Mrs. D. L. Messing and Mrs. I. Lauer, Co-Chairmen; Mrs. I. Siegel, Mrs. J. Sedwitz, Mrs. M. Pargament, Mrs. H. M. Millstein and Mrs. H. S. Goldstein.

The Women's League was happy to welcome back the President, Mrs. David Ullman. The hostesses of the afternoon were Mrs. Isaac Siegel and Mrs. Benjamin Spanbock.

The League was happy to greet Mrs. Isidore Fischman, who has been unable to attend meetings for quite some time.

New Jewish Talking Film To Be Shown

The latest successful Sholom Aleichem's Jewish Talking Picture, "Menachem Mendel, the Matchmaker," will be presented at the I.S. Auditorium on Saturday evening, March 14th. The performance will begin promptly at eight thirty o'clock.

This picture is considered as one of the greatest of Sholom Aleichem's comedies ever filmed. Like the rest of his work, it presents an intimate and sympathetic study of a cross-section of Jewish life.

In addition to this feature, an added attraction will be shown. This will be the talking picture "Yossel Cutler's Marionettes." The additional picture will consist of several short skits entitled "Simcha and his Wife," "Kosher Dance," "Peppery Jews," and "Jazz."

Admission for this performance has been placed at the nominal price of fifteen cents for adults and ten cents for children. We urge you to come early in order to secure choice seats.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PRAYER ESSAY CONTEST

An Essay Contest on the subject of "Prayer" is being sponsored by the Young People's Conference for the members of the Talmud Torah. The contest will close on Sunday, March 22nd.

The rules of the contest are that only pupils of the I.S. Talmud Torah may enter; the essay should not be less than fifty words nor more than two hundred; and the essay may deal with any phase of prayer.

The essays will be judged by a committee consisting of Arthur Goldstein, Leona Kessler, Albert Levine, and Dr. I. Silverstein.

The winner will be presented with a copy of the Standard Prayer Book. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be made.

Rabbi to Broadcast

This Sunday morning Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will continue his series of Sunday morning addresses over station W.M.C.A. between ten forty-five and eleven o'clock.

You are cordially invited to attend the

**19th Anniversary
Dinner-Dance**
of the
Institutional Synagogue

to be held
SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 19th, 1936

SAVOY PLAZA HOTEL
59th Street, East of Fifth Avenue

Twenty-five Dollars
per plate

Your Early Reservations Are Requested

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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Editor Rabbi Philip Goodman
Associate Morris A. Urieff

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Light Candles Friday Evening, 5:42

The Poet's Corner

ISRAEL IMMORTAL

The sun and moon for ever shine—by day
And night they mark the Eternal's high
design,
Changeless and tireless, speeding on their
way,
The sun and moon for ever shine.
Symbols are they of Israel's chosen line,
A nation still, though countless foes com-
bine;
Smitten by God and healed by God are they;
They shall not fear, safe 'neath the Rock
divine,
Nor cease to be, until men cease to say,
The sun and moon for ever shine.

YEHUDA HALEVI, 1140

TOLERANCE

Thou art the Lord, and all beings are Thy
servants, Thy domain;
And through those who serve idols vain
Thine honor is not detracted from,
For they all aim to Thee to come;
But they are as the blind,
That seeking the royal road could not find;
The one sank in destruction's well;
Another into a cavity fell,
And all thought they had reached what they
sought
Yet toiled for nought.

SOLOMON IBEN GABIROL, 1050

Among The Clubs

The BARBORS have finally succeeded in getting their social activities under way. From what we can learn, a definite program of social activities has been made a part of each meeting. At a recent meeting, Ben Opperman with his trained harmonica was the feature star. Good work, boys, let's see more of the same at your next meeting!

The NUMAS CLUB are very much interested in the one act play they plan to present next week. It is quite evident that Eugene O'Neill's dramas have impressed these youngsters. By the way, they plan to hold their first big social event during the latter part of the month.

The VITA CLUB has undertaken a number of interesting projects. In addition to their regular program of activities, they are practicing for the inter-club swimming meet. They have also laid plans for the organization of a club orchestra. Of course, they are also entered in the one-act play contest. This active group is now open for new members.

The CLUB SPADES, under the direction of B. Defrin, are now planning a dance to be held in the near future. At their last meeting, one of their members, Norman Perse, gave a very interesting ad-

dress on the "Jew In Sports." A general discussion on this topic by the members followed the talk.

The NOHTARAM GIRLS have evinced a keen interest in their production of the one-act play they have chosen for the contest. It is not an unusual sight to see them rehearsing their play, under the leadership of Miss Bertha Greenstein, two and three times a week. If practice makes perfect, these girls have a good head start on the other participants.

Of course, the GIRL SCOUT TROOP, newly organized under the direction of Miss Yetta Margulies, are very busy preparing for their tests. Their meetings, should one enter their room, would remind one of a sailor's convention. All they seem to be talking about is knots, knots, and knots. They all look forward to that part of the meeting devoted to the playing of games, not that we blame them for it!

The ADELPHI CLUB'S interest in public speaking has been augmented by their carrying off of the Inter-Club Debating Placque. Their Debating Team has enrolled en masse for the I.S. debating team, and they will represent the institution in the coming inter-community center debating series.

Thoughts on the Bible

The Bible is the book of the ancient world, the book of the Middle Ages, and the book of Modern times. Where does Homer stand compared with the Bible? Where the Vedas or the Koran? The Bible is inexhaustible.

A. HARNACK, 1901

*Within this awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries;
Happiest he of human race
To whom God has given grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, and learn the way;
And better had he ne'er been born
Who reads to doubt, or reads to scorn.*

SIR WALTER SCOTT

How many ages and generations have brooded and wept and agonized over this book. What untellable joys and ecstasies, what support to martyrs at stake, from it! To what myriads has it been the shore and rock of safety—the refuge from driving tempest and wreck! Translated into all languages, how it has united this diverse world! Of its thousands there is not a verse, not a word, but is thick-studded with human emotion.

WALT WHITMAN

Apart from all questions of religious and historical import, the Bible is the epic of the world. It unrolls a vast panorama in

which the ages move before us in a long train of solemn imagery from the creation of the world onward. Against this gorgeous background we see mankind strutting, playing their little part on the stage of history. We see them taken from the dust and returning to the dust. We see the rise and fall of empires, we see great cities, now the hive of busy industry, now silent and desolate—a den of wild beasts. All life's fever is there, its hopes and joys, its suffering and sin and sorrow.

J. G. FRAZER, 1895

Written in the East, these characters live forever in the West; written in one province, they pervade the world; penned in rude times, they are prized more and more as civilization advances; product of antiquity, they come home to the business and bosoms of men, women and children in modern days.

R. L. STEVENSON

The Bible thoroughly known is a literature in itself—the rarest and the richest in all departments of thought or imagination which exists.

J. A. FROUDE, 1886

It is to its intrinsic value that the Bible owes the extraordinary veneration in which it is held by so many nations and generations.

J. W. GOETHE

A PURIM MESSAGE

RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

Today, Jews everywhere are celebrating Purim, a festival which is essentially one of rejoicing over the deliverance of the Jewish people from a cruel plot to annihilate them. On the very day, when all the Jews of Persia were to be slain, the leaders of the Massacre, Haman and his family, were themselves put to death. The Megillah, a colorful narrative, which you will find as "The Book of Esther," in the Bible, tells the story of Purim and relates how the Jews were given much freedom under the rule of Persia, until King Ahasuerus, himself friendly to the Jews, while in a state of intoxication, granted a royal decree to the intriguing Haman, his prime minister, condemning all Jews to death on the ground that their 'religious laws differed from those of every people.' The rest of the story is well known. Mordecai, whom Haman hated, because as a Jew, he rendered homage only to God and would not bow to Haman who wore about his neck the image of an idol, urged his cousin, Esther, to disclose her Jewish identity to her husband, the King, and to risk her life so that her people might be saved. I do not want to go into further detail. I want you to read for yourself the story in the "Book of Esther" in the Bible. I want you, at present, however, to recall these very pertinent words "their religious laws are different." For this charge of Haman's, the Jews were to be all annihilated, but ironically enough, it resulted in the destruction of Haman.

"Their religious laws are different." In it is the whole story of persecution in every age. "The Jew," said the late Israel Zangwill, "is the barometer of civilization." It is the dislike of the unlike which indicates the low level of humanity. It is only in America, that the realization has been implanted in the minds of our people that it is the differences, the traditions, the intrinsic beliefs and practices of every racial and national group, which taken together, make of American life a richly colored tapestry reflecting the beauty of every faith.

Some people in their spiritual weakness declare, "Why should we not have one religion?" Let me say that just as religion is universal, so is art, and yet it would be foolish to suggest that mankind should have one art, one strain of music, one style in architecture, one school of painting. Our Rabbis say in the Talmud, "All the prophets prophesied one truth, but their styles were all different." The prophet Micah envisaged the Messianic era not as a period when all people shall have one religion, but a time when all people will be ideal enough to permit each and every man to worship his own God in his own manner, "with none to make him afraid."

The task of civilization, is not to force mankind into one mental mold, but rather, to encourage all mankind to practice their respective faiths. The minds of men, their intellectual approaches are different, their practice, their deeds, however, might be the same. Thus our Sages say, "The saintly adherents of all faiths, shall have a portion in the world to come." This is the answer of the Jew to mankind. Not one religion for all men, but reverence for all the truly pious. To ask the Jew to surrender his unique contribution would starve him spiritually, and undernourish mankind. The Jew, on the other hand, who has given to the world the Bible "the light to the nations," does not want others who find happiness in their respective faiths to surrender to him.

Anti-Semitism not only springs from the fiendish desire to discredit and abolish Judaism, but it arises also from political and economic jealousies. These jealousies breed the irreligion of Anti-Semitism. When these monsters appear, then Hitler, and his prototypes forget the contribution the Jew makes in blood, in intellect, in finance, and in the civic weal of the state.

What is the message that Purim brings to young people to-day? To the Jewish Youth, it should be a reminder that human reactions do not change and that even to-day, when mankind is credited with a greater degree of enlightenment than in ages past, there still exists the same tendency to turn upon the Jew as the most likely scapegoat. Yet, the message of Purim also teaches us that Israel endures and emerges victorious despite the most vigorous efforts of its foes. Like the slave girl in the Indian basket trick. Knives and spears are thrust into the basket from every conceivable angle. Yet when the basket is opened she emerges unhurt. She even manages to smile. It is this smile, this optimism triumphant over flood tides of darkness and despair which has inured and disciplined the Jew against whatever "barbs and arrows" fortune may fling. To our detractors, we reply in the words of the motto of the great English University "They Say! What do they say! Let them Say!" The Rabbis tell us that Mordecai went out among the innocent Jewish children, during the time when the decrees of Haman were broadcast, to hear what they had learned, and they pronounced the following verses, which gave him renewed faith and comfort. They innocently uttered the following words, (which we say after the Alenu prayer), "Be not afraid. Take counsel together, and it shall come to naught. Let them our enemies speak the word and it shall not stand, for God is with us."

Wit and Humor

A DANGEROUS COMBINATION

A Jewish woman in a small western town sued her husband for divorce. He had left her and refused to support her, she said. The case was presented to the judge by a Jewish attorney who thus concluded in his petition:

"Your honor, this good-for-nothing husband is a most undesirable citizen. He drinks like Lot, sins like Haman, and curses like Balaam."

"The divorce is granted," said the Judge, "and as for this fellow's dangerous associates, I will see to it that they are all apprehended and punished accordingly."

SPEAKING OF ACROSTICS

A beggar from Poland called to see Myer Amschel Rothschild of Frankfurt, popularly known as "Reb" Amschel. The beggar was told that the banker was extremely busy, but he insisted on seeing him and assured the clerk that he would be brief.

On being ushered into Rothschild's private office, the 'schnorrer' said: "Knowing that you have no time I shall confine my remarks to one word: 'Gemora.'"

The banker became interested. "What does that mean?"

"Good Morning, Reb Amschel."

"That's very clever," said the banker, "But what is your main mission here?"

"This, too, I shall explain in one word: 'Gemora.'"

"What does that mean?"

"Give Money, Reb Amschel."

"Your wish shall be granted," said the banker and handed the schnorrer a crown.

"Before I go, may I say one more word?" begged the schnorrer.

"Go ahead."

"Gemora," said the schnorrer.

"What do you mean now?" said the banker, amazed.

"Give More, Reb Amschel."

The banker gave him a few more coins and the beggar left the place satisfied that he had won the day.

FOR A WORTHY PURPOSE

A noted Jew was once asked to address a charitable organization. After the meeting the president offered him a monetary compensation which he refused to accept.

"Since you don't wish to take the money," said the chairman, "I shall with your permission, apply this sum toward our special fund."

"That's O.K. with me," agreed the speaker, "What is this special fund for?"

"For obtaining better speakers for our organization next year," replied the president.

(Excerpts from "The Jew Laughs", by S. Felix Mendelssohn, published by L. M. Stein, Chicago).



BASKETBALL TOURNEY TO END

The Annual Inter-Club Basketball Tournament will be completed this Sunday morning, when the final games will be held. Thus far in the tournament, the Rayo Club have eight victories and no defeats to their record. The tournament was conducted over a period of several months, under the direction of "Hy" Munitz. The standing of the teams follow:

Rayo	1.000
Versatile833
Barbors713
Mortons625
Spades625
Numas	500
Elons375
Vitas333
Valspars143
Pawnees143

The winning team will be awarded suitable prizes.

SWIMMING MEET

Final instructions have been issued for those who will participate in the Inter-Club swimming meet, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 22nd, at one o'clock. All entries must be handed in at the gym office not later than Sunday, March 15th.

The meet will consist of a series of aquatic events designed to test the skill and ability of club members. Diving, relays, dashes, as well as novelty events are included on the program.

Individual as well as club prizes will be awarded to the winners.

INDOOR BASEBALL CONTEST

The next in a series of athletic contests for clubs will be an Indoor Baseball Tournament, which will begin early in April. The tournament will be an elimination contest and will be played in the I.S. gym.

The winning club will be awarded the Baseball Plaque. Further information, as well as entry blanks, may be secured from the gymnasium office.

ANNUAL ATHLETIC CARNIVAL

The Annual Athletic Carnival will be held this year on Saturday evening, April 4, at 8:30 P.M. A complete program of athletic events has been scheduled for that evening. Included on the program are exhibitions of basketball, handball, swimming, fencing, American ball, apparatus work, tumbling, and many surprising novelty features.

Tickets for the Carnival are priced at the nominal sum of twenty-five cents. The entire proceeds of the affair will be turned over to the Home Camp Scholarship Fund. Tickets may be secured from the gym office.

TALMUD TORAH CELEBRATES PURIM FESTIVAL JOYOUSLY

Purim was celebrated with all the traditional merriment, joy, noise and festivity at both branches of the Talmud Torah last Sunday, March 8.

At the West Side Building, the festivities began early in the morning, when the pupils of the Talmud Torah and their friends assembled to participate in the annual Purim Carnival. Extensive preparations had been made for this occasion, and the decorations came as a complete surprise to the youngsters.

Games, noise makers, and refreshments aided in providing the proper holiday spirit. The feature of the program was the masquerade. Moses, Esthers, Vashtis, Mordecai, policemen, and Mexicans paraded around the room. The program was concluded with the showing of moving pictures.

At the Main Building, a similar program was held in the afternoon, for the pupils of the Main Building. A large and enthusiastic group of children and their parents participated. In addition to the above program, a special feature, in the form of a Purim play, was presented by the pupils of the Talmud Torah.

PURIM CARNIVAL DECLARED BY ALL HUGE SUCCESS

The Second Annual Purim Carnival, sponsored by the Leader's Council, was held last Sunday night in the Main Building Gymnasium. While some of the many couples present danced to the rhythmic tunes of the "Musical Ramblers," most of the others were trying their luck and skill at the numerous games provided. The refreshment booth did a rushing business as the "red hot" frankfurters disappeared down the merry-maker's throats.

It was the general consensus of opinion that a delightful evening was spent in this novel method of the celebration of the festival of Purim. All the proceeds of this function were turned over to the Home Camp Scholarship Fund.

Do You Want Sales?

The "Institutional," in accordance with its annual policy, will issue special issues prior to the Passover holidays. Our publication can serve your firm as an excellent advertising medium. Considering the large number of readers, our rates are exceptionally reasonable. A full page ad is only thirty-five dollars an issue; a half page is twenty dollars; and a quarter page is twelve and a half dollars. There is a discount of five per cent on 'ads' appearing more than once.

Welcome

We are glad to welcome back Marvin Livingston and we wish him continued good health.

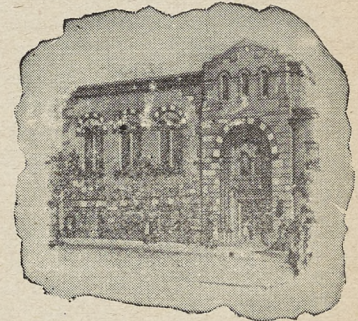
PATERSON 'Y' TO DEBATE I. S. INTERMEDIATE TEAM

This Sunday afternoon, March 15th, the newly organized Institutional Synagogue Debating Team will meet their first opponent in a series of inter-community center debates, at the Main Building, at 3 P.M. The Paterson, N. J., Y.M.H.A. debating team will be the first team to be the guests of the I.S.

The topic for this debate will be "Resolved that the present jury system be abolished." The I.S. will uphold the affirmative, while the visiting team will defend the negative. The members of the I.S. team who will participate in this debate are Sherman Lefkowitz, Nat Lichtenholtz, William Finger and Marcus Smith.

The following Sunday, March 22nd, they will make the trip out to Paterson for a return engagement. At that time they will defend the negative of the same question.

Although this is their first attempt at meeting the representatives of other institutions, they feel confident that they will acquit themselves nobly. The debate will be held in the library, promptly at three o'clock.



ENdicott 2-3600

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