

Keep Cool
in the
I. S. Pool



Keep in Trim
in the
I. S. Gym

"THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE"
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Vol. XIX, No. 38

MAY 22, 1936

SIVAN 1, 5696

SHEVUOTH MARKED BY T. T. ASSEMBLIES

Playlets, Songs, Recitations
Comprise Program

The Talmud Torah will celebrate the Festival of Shevuoth by conducting elaborate assemblies for both branches. The program at the West Side will be held this Sunday morning, May 24th, at 11 o'clock promptly. On Monday afternoon, the affair will take place at the Main Building.

Plays, songs, and recitations will comprise the greater part of the program. A beautiful play entitled "Moses and the People", which portrays the giving of the Torah to the Children of Israel, will be featured. A short ventriloquist act dealing with the festival of Shevuoth, entitled "Sammy Blintzes and the Professor", will also be produced.

The legends of the giving of the Torah will be narrated by several pupils.

The program has been planned by Rabbi Philip Goodman, Principal of the Talmud Torah.

A Shevuoth Message will be delivered by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein.

Among the children participating are: Seymour Reichlin, Stanley Sardinsky, Max Fried, Ernest Kohn, Sigmund Kohn, Stanley Parker, Annette Forman, Hyman Gattegno, Clara Levy, Leon Weiss, Deborah Burstein, Miriam Burstein, Ira Millstein, Kenneth Cohen, Norman Weiner, Ida Finfang, Marilyn Mirken, Helen Grobstein, Renee Langer, Judith Wald, Louise Benyacar, Dorothy Benyacar, Annette Moskowitz, Marcia Stebbins, Edith Rudow, Rebecca Gattegno, and Marilyn Lunitz.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The Parents' Association will conduct their Annual Strawberry Festival on Tuesday evening, June 16th, at 8:30 P.M., in the Main Building.

A large assortment of delightful strawberry refreshments, including strawberry ice cream, strawberry shortcake, and strawberry preserves, will be a feature of the evening.

Plans Made to Accommodate Large Registration at Camp Ta-a-noog

STAFF DINNER TO BE HELD MONDAY

Seven thirty o'clock, next Monday evening, will find the members of the Staff of the Institutional Synagogue gathered at Lou G. Siegel's Restaurant for their Annual Staff Dinner.

This affair is anxiously awaited by the members of the Staff as it presents an opportunity for evaluating the work done during the past season and marks the preparation for the coming summer's activities.

A special program has been prepared by the members of the staff for this affair. A resume of the various activities of the I. S. during the past year will be presented, via the microphone, in the form of a radio broadcast.

Congressman Isaac Siegel, Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, and Executive Director Abraham Bernstein will deliver short addresses. Rabbi Philip Goodman will act as chairman.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE HOST TO U. O. J. C. A. THIS MONDAY

The Women's League of the Institutional Synagogue will act as hostess for the Shevuoth Gathering of the Women's Branch of the Union of Jewish Congregations, this coming Monday afternoon, May 25th, at the West Side Building, 148 West 85th Street.

The program of the afternoon will include a talk by Tony Sonda, former member of the German Reichstag, whose subject will be "An Exile Talks". Our own Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will give a Shevuoth message.

Mrs. David H. Ullman, President of our Women's League, will welcome the guests on behalf of the Institutional Synagogue. Mrs. Legis Isaacs, President of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Women's Branch, will bring greetings to the gathering.

Jewish Content Program of Camp Proves Successful

Camp Ta-a-noog the Home Camp Project of the Institutional Synagogue, which was conducted so very successfully for the past two summers is now open for registration.

Due to the demands of parents and children it has become necessary to enlarge the facilities in order to provide for a larger number of children.

The Institutional Synagogue Home Camp was organized primarily to broaden the scope of the Talmud Torah and to provide a recreational program for the underprivileged children of the neighborhood during the summer months.

It is to these children that Camp Ta-a-noog offers a wholesome, happy and active summer of well spent leisure in a Jewish environment.

The success of the Jewish Content Program that we executed during the past two summers was due to the fact that it was not considered a special activity to be heralded by a fanfare of bugles, but rather as a normal, integrated part of the daily camp routine, thus impressing upon the minds of the children that Jewish living is not confined to the four walls of the Talmud Torah classroom, but rather pervades every action and thought of the Jew.

Applications for registration and scholarships may be made to Rabbi Philip Goodman, at the Main Building.

Calendar of Services

Friday Evening	- - -	6:30 P.M.
Saturday Morning	- - -	9:00 A.M.
Sedrah - Bamidbar		
Saturday Afternoon	- - -	7:55 P.M.
Ethics of the Fathers, Chapter VI		
SHEVUOTH		
Tuesday Evening	- - -	8:05 P.M.
Wednesday Morning	- - -	9:00 A.M.
Wednesday Evening	- - -	8:00 P.M.
Thursday Morning	- - -	8:45 P.M.
Yiskor	- - - -	10:00 A.M.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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Editor Rabbi Philip Goodman
Associate Morris A. Urieff

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Light Candles Friday Evening, 7:54

I. S. PARTICIPATES IN J. W. B. YOUTH RALLY

"The Role of American Jewish Youth in the Changing Social Order" will be the central theme of a Youth Rally and discussion, arranged under the auspices of the Metropolitan Section of the Jewish Welfare Board, to be held at the Lavanburg-Corner House, 331 East 12th Street, Sunday evening, May 24th, at 8:00 p.m. Ezekiel J. Londow, field secretary of the Jewish Welfare Board, will act as discussion leader.

Representatives of the Institutional Synagogue will take part in the rally.

I. S. ORATORS DEFEAT H. E. S.

Completing a series of inter-community centre debates last Sunday afternoon, the I. S. Intermediate Debating Team defeated the representatives of the Hebrew Educational Society.

The members of the I. S. team who participated in this debate were: Nat Lichtenholtz, Sherman Lefkowitz, and William Finger. The representatives of the Hebrew Educational Society were: Miss Bebe Goldstein and Louis Shapiro.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN HONORED

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein was chosen to succeed Mr. Peter Wiernik as a member of the Cultural Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee.

A FATHER'S LETTER TO HIS SON UPON GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE

By RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

My dear son:

You are now about to receive your degree of Bachelor of Arts. Your mother and I have long been waiting for the moment, when your hand will grasp the much coveted parchment which marks the fulfillment of the requirements necessary for your graduation from College.

Your days at College were as work-outs. The battle itself will not begin until that impressive looking diploma has been set aside for the want-ad section of the daily newspapers.

Jewish young people, fresh from college, are not long in making the sad discovery that the bread of existence is not bought at a standard price by all people. You will learn, my son, that the Jew survives in this preponderantly Gentile world of uncompromising competition, by his tenacious spirit and unending enterprise. You will learn that you will have need of being twice as capable as your neighbor. Only then will you be rated an equal.

You may want to make expediency your guide, and seek the subterfuge of Assimilation. Germany has shown the futility of such action. Many have taken that way of escape. They have changed their names. They have sworn all of the traditional observances of their faith. They have leaned so far backward in their effort to ape the gentile that they can never walk erect in Jewish self-respect again. But the day inevitably comes when they cross the threshold of a Jewish home, and feel the glow of Jewish religious family life of which they have known nothing for years. It is then that the unending ache sets in, and the heart cries for the lost bonds of true Judaism which have shriveled up and died. Do not risk assimilation. You will find that you have put your trust in wings of wax and like Icarus of old they will betray you.

Cling to your altars. Guard them from the desecrator with a fervor a thousand times as great as that which you attached to your college colors. They represented the truth and beauty of a few brief years. Judaism is the truth and beauty of endless ages. It is your all-embracing, timeless "alma mater". You remember on those thrilling afternoons before you took the field with the rest of your team in some struggle, (of transient but "terrible" importance), with a rival school, how your coach called you together in the locker-room and said: "The school is counting on you; I'm counting on you out there,—don't fail us".

Life is a far more telling test of strength. Each day sees another goal defended, won

or lost. You are graduating, my son, you are about to take your place on the field again, a bigger and a broader field, that has seen many a stout heart struggle to a hard-won victory. Let me echo the words of your coach with a deeper meaning: "Judaism, is counting on you, your religion, your mother and father are counting on you. Do not fail us". I say this with the tongues of all parents of all our people.

As a Jew you will be regarded as the symbol of your race and faith. By what you do a million of your kind will be damned or blessed. Treat not too lightly this grave responsibility. Remember what I have said repeatedly that the name of the Jew, tarnished anywhere, reflects upon the Jew everywhere.

In particular, I would adjure you never to forsake the rich streams of precept and example, history and legend, literature and law, which form a part of your Hebraic birthright. Their richness, their grandeur, their truth may illuminate many a corridor that might otherwise be dark and cheerless. Remember well the words of the Psalmist, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart". It may be said that where knowledge ends, there faith begins. Perhaps it is quite as true that where faith ends, all ends. You have had the benefits and advantage of a course of secular education. For the time being it supplanted your religious education. This is unfortunate. Secular education should supplement religious education and in turn be supplemented by it. Each should supplement, but never supplant the other.

Secular education may broaden you; beware lest it uproot you. Regardless of how much you may learn from men and from the things men do or write about, there is a certain teaching that can only be learned from God. There is a strain of knowledge, even perhaps of genius, inherent in your being, as a Jew, which must be given full play in the study of your own people's culture. Otherwise you will be more lost, worse abandoned, than a man without a country.

You must become better acquainted with God. Your affairs with mankind terminate with this span of life, but your relations with God go on through all eternity. He is your oldest and closest friend.

My dear son, I take it for granted that you want to become one of the successful men of your generation. May I attempt

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHEVUOTH

The Feast of Weeks

The Feast of Weeks will commence this year at sundown of Tuesday, May 26th, and will last through Thursday, May 28th.

The main ceremonies that are characteristic of this festival are: The recitation of "Tikun" on the first night, the chanting of "Akdomuth" before the reading of the Torah, on the first morning, and the reading of the Scroll of "Ruth" before the reading of the Torah on the second morning of the holiday. Besides that, memorial services for the departed will be held before the Musaph, the additional service of the second day, as is done on the last day of every other festival. On the whole, the Feast of Weeks is the shortest and simplest of the three pilgrimage holidays, though it commemorates the greatest event in our life as a people, namely,—the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Dairy Dishes

In this connection, mention is to be made of the custom to serve dairy dishes during the Feast of Weeks. This custom is of very vague origin, and has a multitude of explanations, of which one or two will be mentioned. When the Torah was given, all the utensils used by the Israelites became "trefe", as the dishes of the non-Jews. Unable to cleanse them on the Holiday (which, as tradition has it, occurred on Saturday then), the Israelites had to resort to dairy products. Another explanation connects this custom with simplicity, which is characteristic of Shevuoth. At any rate, this custom is a very useful one in warm climates where it is difficult to keep meat for two successive days during the hot summer.

"Akdomus"

We express our gratitude to heaven for the great gift that made us an eternal people and a model of virtue to the rest of the world by chanting a special laudation prepared for the purpose called "Akdomus", because it begins with this word. This prayer is in the main, a praise to Heaven and an appreciative description of the great-

ness of the Torah. It is recited by the whole congregation on the first morning of the holiday as soon as the Torah is placed on the reading-desk to be read.

The Story of Ruth

The festival under discussion is also known as "Chag Hakotzir", the Feast of Harvest and "Chag Habikurim", the Feast of the First Ripened Fruit. These two appellations are indicative of the season when the Festival is celebrated. Shevuoth occurs at the time when the wheat harvest begins in Palestine. This is also the time when the first ripened fruits were brought in great display to the Temple in days gone by. For this reason before the reading of the Torah on the second day, we read "Megillath Ruth", a story which occurred at that time of the year.

Women's Branch, U. O. J. C. A.

NEW GYM & POOL RATES ANNOUNCED FOR SUMMER

The new summer schedule of the gym and pool went into effect on May 15th, offering lowered rates and a greater variety of activities to its members.

Emphasis will be laid on the swimming activities, in our spacious and cool swimming pool. Classes for both beginners and advanced swimmers will be conducted under expert instructors. Training in Red Cross Life Saving techniques will also be offered, at no additional charge.

Sessions of the gym and pool will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. A summer membership extends from May 15th to September 1st, at the following rates:

Junior Housemembers and Talmud Torah Students (up to and including 16 years of age)	\$1.00
Junior Non-Housemembers	\$2.00
Intermediate Housemembers (17 to 19 years of age)	\$2.00
Intermediate Non-Housemembers	\$3.00
Senior Housemembers	\$3.00
Senior Non-Housemembers	\$4.00

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the engagement of Miss Sophia Gerstein, Secretary of the I. S., to Mr. Abraham I. Rhine, President of the Leaders' Council. May they continue to carry on together the ideals of the Institutional Synagogue, for which they have so ardently striven until now. Our heartfelt and sincerest wishes are extended to them for their future happiness.

Clubs Vie for Journalistic Honors In Final Contest

The final club competition for the year, the "Institutional" Publication Contest, is now in full swing. With but one more week in which to submit their newspapers, the editors of the various club publications are putting the final touches upon the editions they will enter in this tournament.

The contest is designed to determine the best club publication issued by a group or organization of the Institutional Synagogue. The publications will be graded according to make-up, contents, and physical appearance.

Entries for the contest must be received not later than Sunday, May 31st. Editors may select any issue of their paper published during April or May for the contest. Two copies must be submitted. It is planned to hold an exhibition of the various entries in the Social Room.

CAMP INFORMATION

In accordance with past policy the Department of Centre Activities is ready again to offer its services in assisting parents or young folks who desire to secure information as to the best camps for summer vacations.

We have on file booklets from various camps and information concerning the best places in which to spend your vacations according to your personal desires.

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"A FATHER'S LETTER" By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

(Continued from Page 2)

to prescribe the formula. Choose your ideal and persevere therein. I have but to refer to Joseph as the prototype of the successful man. The Bible calls him the "Baal Hahchah-loh-mohs", the dreamer, and at the same time the "Ish Mahtslee-ahch", the successful man. If Joseph had failed to persevere in his dreams, his ideals, he would never have been sold, but would have remained simply as one of his brothers. If he had given in to the wanton biddings of Zuleika, he would never have been imprisoned, but would have remained a servant, faithless and sly. No, it is because he persevered, that he emerged "the successful man", the viceroy of Egypt, the first Food Administrator for the World, the savior of his brethren. Yes, my boy, men have dreams and ideals, and yet fail. Why? Because they do not work and persevere to carry them out. A famous painter once said to Emerson, "If a man has failed, you will find he has been dreaming instead of working. There is no way to success, but to take off your coat and work like a digger all day and every day". Concentration and not dissipation is the need of youth.

The unsuccessful man is the very best fault-finder. He finds fault with the world, and with pretty near every one he knows, but rarely, if ever, with himself. The Bible says, "Im Rayk Hoo Mikkem", "If there be something wrong, it is with you, yourself". You, become an idealist, and persevere, and then you will meet with success, and find the world about you becoming better and not worse.

My dear Jonathan, do not accept the mistaken notion so often expressed by youth, "Oh, I will sow my wild oats, I will enjoy myself whilst I am young,—everybody is doing it". These are the cocaine drops which deaden conscience. You have no right to expose your body to the painful, filthy and deadly venereal diseases. What is more, you have no right to handicap the child of tomorrow. What would you call a man who would purposely or in a fit of passion, blind, cripple, or maim for life some innocent babe?

Try to prepare yourself, my son, for early marriage and, please God, for parenthood. Work and save and your mother and I will do all we can to help you make possible an early marriage. In this connection, I pray you will consult your parents much before you will make the proposal of marriage to the lucky girl who will become your wife.

Too much time in the hands of youth, too little idealism in the heart of youth, are the growing causes of immorality. Look at the men you honor most and what do you find? You find the lives of these men full

of enrollments in great causes. Their lives are full of service. They have no time for the frivolous. They have given themselves up to high and engrossing ideals, leaving no room in their lives for the mean, the petty, the selfish, and the immoral. That is what the Rabbis meant when they said, "If the heart is pervaded with Torah, with moral culture and with noble strivings, then it expels the frivolous element of man's nature". Further say our Rabbis that "When lightmindedness pervades the heart, then rightmindedness is expelled".

Remember my boy, that "old age is a regret when youth is a mistake". I would like to paraphrase this dictum as follows, "If youth only would and if age only could". My son, let me warn you against your environment. I want you, to help me to be able to say as did Mattathias of old when he saw many begin to worship idols in the Holy Temple. He exclaimed, "Though all the people will follow the idols, my sons and I will worship God, and who is for the Lord, let him follow me".

To the average young man, a letter of this kind would bring forth the exclamation, "Oh yeah? So what?" with a cynical, simpering, smirking smile, indicative of his light-mindedness. The Talmud tells us in the name of Rabba that after we shall have left this world we will be asked, "Hast thou led a moral life? Hast thou dealt honestly? Hast thou made time for the Torah?", or as we say homiletically,—"Hast thou made the Torah, the eternal, fashion itself after the changing times, or hast thou made the changing times fashion themselves after the immutable Torah?" Thus we have an epitome of what the Talmud regards as most important in life—success, measured by probity, morality and study, and the acceptance of God's word as supreme.

I hope, my dear Jonathan, I have given you some spiritual provisions for the road you are now going to travel, and it is my fervent wish and prayer, that you may find in these words of counsel, the beginning of a successful life.

With love from Mother and myself, I am as always,

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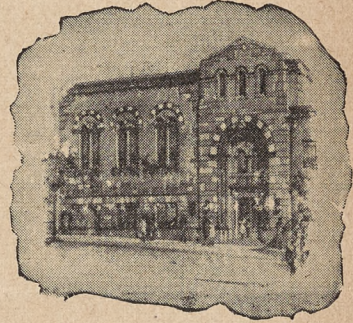
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