

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

VOL. I, No. 6

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1937

TEBET 6, 5698

BAZAAR AND SHOW

Until recently, Harry Appel and Joe Settel were running a neck and neck race, Harry to put over the Bazaar in a big way and Joe, not to be outdone, to make the Show a standing-room-only affair. At the last Board of Directors' meeting, they teamed up so that they are now riding both horses at the same time like a couple of fancy riding Cossacks. The Synagogue is getting all the breaks as a result. Merchandise is coming in, tickets are going out and Morris Jablow is going dizzy trying to keep all in step and system. And Joe has two fine allies in Dave Ullman and Moe Langer.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Gerald Kapiloff, of Lloyd's Press, Inc., dropped in and graciously presented us with 50,000 advertising cards for the Bazaar. Thanks, 50,000 circulars can't go wrong.

LADIES TO BLAME

Among our fair sex who helped us obtain merchandise, are Mrs. Jos. Anderson, Mrs. Ralph Guttchen, Mrs. Mose Goodman, Mrs. Israel, Mrs. Swisgold, Mrs. Alesker, Mrs. Hyman Schwartz, Mrs. S. Kommel, Mrs. J. Sedwitz, Mrs. A. Wiener, Mrs. S. Michael, Mrs. Steinberg and Mrs. H. Davis.

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Light Candles Friday Evening 4.14

Weekly portion : YAYIGASH

Saturday Services 9:00 A.M.
Children's Service 10:00 A.M.
Rabbi Hurwitz's class in Talmud.....3:00 P.M.
Young People's Mincha Service.....4:10 P.M.

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:45, 7:30, 8:00
Afternoon 4:15
Between afternoon and evening services a class in Mishnayis is led by Rabbi Goldstein.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

An appropriate celebration of the Chanukah Festival was held at our building on Sunday afternoon, December 5th, 1937. A playlet, "Chanukah Lights and Hitlerites", was produced under the able coaching of Mrs. Mae Berland Rogin.

The cast was as follows:

Mr. Goldenson, Stanley Sardinsky; Ruth Weinstein, Marilyn Lunitz; Judah, Jack Masser; Paul, Jerold Malamud; Old Man and Elijah, Arnold Loebel; Mr. Bitler, Joseph Tilem; Mr. Citler, Donald Ditchik; Mr. Chitler, Eugene Blode; Mr. Ditler, Billy Label; Mr. Fitler, Monroe Lunitz; Mr. Gitler, Bobby Golding; Mr. Kitler, Emanuel Yavneh; Mr. Mitler, Tanny Bogdanove and neighbors, Elaino Applebaum, Josephine Goldstein and Naomi Goldstein.

Songs and recitations were rendered Richard Jacobs furnished the music. An address was delivered by our Rabbi, after which refreshments, prizes and candy were distributed to the children.

Co.; Norwalk Knitting Mills; Olive Coat Co.; Progressive Underwear Co.; Plottel Bros.; Park Laundry; Manny Pressner; Perlman Diamond, Inc.; Playtoys, Inc.; Phillips-Jones Corp.; Riner Dress Co.; Max Rothstein; Murray Resnick; Mrs. H. Rippin; Max Shevrin; Elias Savada; Louis Surut; Siegel Bros.; Sailor Made Dress Co.; Stavisky Bros.; Dr. Nathan Settel; Benjamin Spanbock; Mr. Silverstein; Spanbock & Schaeffer; Hyman Schwartz; George Sutton; Town Tailored Frocks; Albert Turner; Universal Brassiere & Justrite Corset Co.; David H. Ullman; Venus Lingerie; Wilson & Co.; Washington Shops; Mannie Weinstein; Wahlcrafft Mfg. Co. (Elias Jacoby); Harry Ward.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Our Institution has taken on the appearance of a beehive during the busy season. One cannot keep up with all that is taking place. In every nook and corner you come upon some meeting. Committees are as prolific as snowflakes in a blizzard. Enthusiasm oozes, in fact gushes all over the place.

After the regular meetings and the Bible classes conducted by Rabbi Goldstein, social hours were had, Mrs. Alesker and Mrs. Kommel, having been the hostesses on November 29th, and Mrs. Pauline King and Mrs. Harry Mirken on December 6th.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

If the gentlemen of the Congregation wish to know why the speakabilities of their better halves have developed so decisively of late, let them drop in on the class in public speaking conducted, without charge, for the ladies of the Congregation, Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

As a boy, the editor joined a choir and remained a member until the Cantor found out what was wrong with the choir. He certainly could have made good use of the class in Congregational singing conducted every Monday evening at 8 by Cantor Yavneh for the benefit of all our members, regardless of age, sex or previous condition of voice.

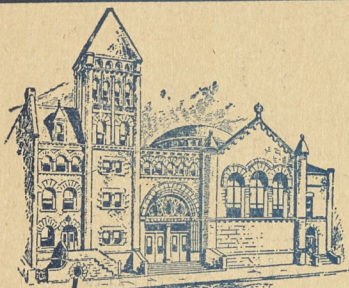
BAR MITZVAH

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Cohen of 124 West 79th St., who will celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son Justin. We also felicitate Mrs. Annie Mirken, the grandmother of the Bar Mitzvah.

OUR SHOW

"Barchester Towers," with Ina Claire, at Martin Beck Theatre, Monday evening, December 20th. Tickets at the office of the Synagogue. See page 2 for review.

Bazaar Opens This Saturday Night, December 11th, (at the former Merl Bldg.) 76th St. and Broadway



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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VOL. I, No. 6 December 10, 1937

GEORGE L. LIVINGSTON, *Editor*

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THE PENDULUM SWINGS BACK

"The Times," this week, carries a dispatch from Mexico City that 22 per cent of the persons deported from Mexico this year had been Jews, it having been said that "their form of business often conflicts with that of our (Mexican) nationals." History verifies that the most oppressed tend to become the worst oppressors and Mexico seems to follow the pattern.

The disquieting point is, what are we doing about it. We seem to be divided into three groups; first, those poorly off, whose sole worry is to get along; secondly, those well off, who feel that they are all right and do not worry about the other fellow; and the last group, a small but clear-thinking minority, who voluntarily shoulder everyone's burdens, who face facts and study consequences. It is to the last group that we must turn to attend to our ultimate salvation.

Why not join this last group? Hitler and his ilk do not seem to differentiate between rich and poor Jew, full and half-blooded Jew, or great and humble Jew. So, in the language of the streets, "Hadn't we better get wise to ourselves" and give serious attention to our mounting problems?

THE PLAY-BOY

By ROBERT BREITBART

The outstanding event of the last fortnight has been the return, after too long an absence, of one of Broadway's brightest lights—Miss Ina Claire. We are happy to report her light still shines brightly.

As we must all know by now, "BARCHESTER TOWERS" is an adaptation of Anthony Trollope's novel of the same name. Aply paced by Miss Claire, it becomes a portrait of what the Victorians should have been but weren't. History's loss is our gain.

Jo Mielziner's excellent settings brings us the genteel Victorian era, and Miss Claire's Madeline is a masterly portrayal of Victorian unconventionality. Madeline, who returns from Italy to the small cathedral town of Barchester Towers after a spat with her husband, proceeds to set the astounded inhabitants on their collective and figurative ears. Confined to wheel chair and couch due to a feigned illness, Madeline nevertheless manages to show a healthy aversion to the smugness with which the town is afflicted and an unhealthy disregard for the sanctimoniousness, if not the sanctity, of the gentlemen of the cloth.

In the space of three acts, this designing and beguiling hussy woos and wins the somewhat dazed Mr. Arabin and then gives him back to the timid Miss Bold, puts a designing churchman and meddling woman in their places and generally upsets various churchmen before she decides to return to her husband.

Thomas Job, the adaptor, has given Miss Claire some of the wittiest lines of the season. In spots, on opening night, the bon mots came with such machine-gun rapidity that some were lost in the laughter—a fault which has no doubt been corrected by now.

The supporting cast, not blessed with the witticisms or the witchery of the star, manages to do a more than adequate job (no pun). The delicately lovely Miss Matteson and Mr. O'Flynn are a thoroughly acceptable juvenile pair. Mackenzie Ward, as Madeline's conniving brother, manages to be almost as unctuously designing as Miss Claire—which is no small feat. And J. M. Kerrigan, who vies with Donald Duck as a scene-stealer, makes the most of a small role as a human romantic archbishop.

"AS R'CHASH SEES IT"



By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

THE BALANCED JEW

This is the 500th anniversary of the birth of Abarbanel. Of what interest is this to us today?

Every now and then we pick up the newspaper and we read of some discovery made by a Jew in medicine, art or engineering. We are surprised that we have never heard of the name before. What is the reason? These Jews are wittingly or unwittingly selfish. They strive to advance their own personal interests with utter disregard of their people's interests. They are unbalanced Jews. The balanced Jew is the one who can climb the ladder of success in his own professional or commercial sphere and, at the same time, scale the ladder of Jewish endeavor to equal heights.

Today, when we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Isaac Abarbanel, we are honoring a man who was not only an outstanding statesman but a great Jewish commentator. Abarbanel was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1437. On July 30, 1492, to the disgrace and ruin of the country, every unbaptized Jew and Jewess was expelled from Spain.

A special dispensation was given to Abarbanel to remain in the country because he was King Ferdinand's and Queen Isabella's treasurer. He did not avail himself of this privilege but joined his brethren in their flight from Spain. He went to Italy and here, too, his talents were employed by the various Italian rulers who engaged him in their diplomatic service. In Venice he negotiated a commercial treaty between the Venetian Republic and Portugal. At the same time, he was leading his people, and was writing works on Jewish philosophy. We may well say of Isaac Abarbanel, in the words of the Psalmist, "He was among the princes, even among the princes of his people."

Would that we might be able to proclaim similarly of our Jews of talent and fortune today, that they not only win fame in secular fields, but are "princes among their own people" as well.

INTERESTING STAMPS

By JOSEPH E. DAVIDSON

VI. KING FERDINAND, QUEEN ISABELLA
AND ISAAC ABARBANEL.Scott's Salvador
A-29

A PLAY IN TWO SCENES

Dramatic Personae, in the Order
of Appearance:Don Isaac Abarbanel, *Treasurer to Ferdinand and Isabella*Don Abraham Senior, *his partner, purveyor to the armies of Spain*

King Ferdinand

Queen Isabella

Don Tomas Torquemada, *the Grand Inquisitor*

SCENE I: The interior of a small Moorish home on the outskirts of Granada. The room facing the street is dimly lighted, and near one of the windows a stately man in his middle fifties stands looking out expectantly into the street. He appears agitated. He begins pacing the floor and from time to time takes his place in front of the window. At length he nods an acknowledging glance to a passerby who ascends the threshold and enters. The newcomer is Don Abraham Senior, Purveyor to the armies of Their Catholic Majesties, Ferdinand and Isabella. The man at the window is his partner, the scholarly Don Isaac Abarbanel. It is about midnight of March 29th, 1492.

Abarbanel (extending his hand in greeting as Senior enters): You need not talk, your countenance tells me everything.

Senior (dejectedly drops into an armchair): There is no hope. It is baptism or expulsion. The Queen herself has told me so!

Abarbanel: Methinks an audience with the King may still help. He is a practical man, and the sound of the jingling ducats may succeed where appeals to justice, fairness and mercy will not avail. I shall go to the King tomorrow and offer him my entire fortune as a ransom for our people. His insatiable greed may still be the means of our salvation.

Senior (shakes his head sorrowfully): You may know the King, but you do not understand Dona Isabella; it is she who is Los Reyes d'Espagna and Ferdinand but does her bidding.

I have known her since she was a

young girl, heiress to the Throne of Castile, and at odds with her brother, the King, to whom she did not speak for years. It was he who commissioned me to effect a reconciliation between them. It was then I first learned how unbending she was, and it was the King who had to make all the concessions to his sister, as the price of peace. When I finally became her adviser and enjoyed her fullest confidence, she entrusted me with the delicate task of bringing about her marriage to her cousin, the then Heir Apparent to the Throne of Aragon. Again she triumphed, and the King no doubt to this day still feels that it was he who first thought of the plan.

I did gently remind Her Majesty of my services and of her grateful appreciation in the past. I pleaded with her to accept the princely annuity which she still allows me, and to forsake her intentions towards our unfortunate brethren. (Points to wall.) I might just as well have pleaded with that wall. Gently she patted me on the shoulder and expressed her regrets that I did not view the situation in a more cheerful light, and ended by commanding that I accept baptism and so set a commendable example to our people.

Crestfallen, I asked her, "Were there then to be no exceptions? How about your own girlhood friends whom Your Majesty has cherished like sisters for these many years? Suppose they refuse to accept baptism?"

Nonchalantly she answered, "They will have to leave Spain, and if they do not, they shall be subject to the penalties of the Holy Office."

I paled. "Does Your Majesty mean"—I faltered—I could not go on. "Does your Majesty mean that ladies like Dona Maria—are to be subjected to the rack and the thumbscrew?"

The Queen gazed at me sorrowfully before answering. "It would be unfortunate and very distressing to me were that eventuality to become necessary. There is something infinitely more precious than life," she began in her slow measured and well-modulated tone. "However, I should not lift a finger were the Grand Inquisitor to order her to be consumed by fire, knowing as I do that by destroying her heretical body, her God-given soul would be saved for all Eternity!"

I stood almost petrified. Again she patted me on the shoulder. "Think it over, dear friend, and let me know of your decision tomorrow. In the meantime and until then, adios," and bowing, she retired to her chamber.

SCENE II: Granada, March 30th, 1492.

Ferdinand and Isabella seated on thrones and surrounded by courtiers are listening to the impassioned

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OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

SAMUEL SILVER

We have heretofore taken liberties with the great folk of our Shule, but it's all off now. You just can't get funny with Sam Silver. Nobody does,

He's one of those guys
With solemn eyes,
Who crosses all t's
And dots all i's.

So meticulous,
So serious,
At your nonsense, how
He'll raise a fuss.

We call him "hundred a month Sam," that is, when he doesn't hear us. In the three months he has been chairman of the membership committee, we have obtained 300 new members. That's the way he is in everything. In his devotion to his wife, his religion, his synagogue and his business, he is 100%, every month.

GETTING PERSONAL

Mrs. Anderson is pretty lonely since she left her husband in Chicago, to continue on his business trip. She returned to assist with the Bazaar... Speaking about the Bazaar, Mrs. Harry Appel hasn't seen her husband in three days. Aside from being chairman, he is also out getting packages... Mr. Samuel W. Siegel will take over the accounting for the Bazaar. He and his staff have a new idea. They work without pay Mrs. Jack Levine hasn't been home to cook a meal in a long time. She's hunting merchandise. Like the Mounties, she always gets her package... That's about all for the Bazaar... Max Moscowwitz leads in congregational singing. His voice is heard above the rest... Simeon Goldstein has been appointed an usher. His new motto is "Kindly help us maintain decorum, and join in our congregational singing..." Mrs. David Weissberg came down from Pelham Manor, to attend the Women's League meeting last Monday. That's the right spirit... Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sigfried Bendheim, upon the marriage of their daughter, Gertrude Carol, to Commissioner William B. Herlands... Harold Eliasberg, grandson of Mrs. Bernard Rothblatt, and son of Dr. and Mrs. Eliasberg, has joined a stock exchange firm... Mrs. Jablow, wife of our esteemed Executive Director, is working hard, night and day for the Synagogue... We admire the spirit shown by Mrs. H. Rippin, who even though confined to bed, has obtained merchandise for our Bazaar... Moses Langer is preparing for the happy occasion of his son's Bar Mitzvah. There will be a big time... Thanks to Sylvan Markowitz and Alvin B. Stein for taking and developing the picture in last week's edition... Our Vice-President, Max Sanders, is busy with plans for the dedication. There will be big doings in January... Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Mayper of the Hotel Willard entertained their children, grandchildren and friends at a dinner on November 30th, to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary... Rabbi Horowitz is drawing tremendous crowds at his Saturday afternoon talks... Those participating in last week's Mincha services were: Leonard Cohen, Speaker; Louis Landowne, Reader of the Torah; and Buddy Friedman, Reader of the Service... The Young Folks League is giving a dance at our building this Saturday night. A novel means of admission was decided upon. Pay by your height, one cent an inch. Lots of fun in store, along with good entertainment. It will be the season's best affair. So I'll be seeing you there... H. E.

(Continued from Page 3)

plea of Don Isaac Abarbanel. Below the throne is a table, and on it is the Pragmatica or Decree of Expulsion on parchment, with an inkwell and quill ready for the signatures of the King and Queen.

Abarbanel: Again I plead with Your Gracious Majesties for those of my co-religionists who, while still loyal to the faith of their fathers, are steadfast in their love for the land of their birth, where not only they have lived, but their ancestors during the many past generations have lived and died, and in whose earth they lie buried.

Do not force them to make the bitter choice which you contemplate, since they will assuredly choose exile rather than abandon that which is dearer to them than life itself—their religion.

ISABELLA: Your people will but show themselves to be perfidious and stiff-necked, should they make any other choice than Baptism. Many have risen to opulence and distinction in our service. It is but little that we ask in return.

ABARBANEL (addressing himself to Ferdinand): Your Majesty has seen fit to honor me with your confidence and has made it possible for me to amass some wealth. I beseech your Majesty to accept my fortune of 30,000 gold ducats and everything I possess, but do not issue the edict which will make homeless beggars of one-half million inoffensive men, women and children of my people. In God's name, Your Majesties, I beseech you to have mercy.

(As he concludes and drops on his knees, one of the adjacent doors opens and a large, evil-looking man, garbed in a monk's raiment, enters holding aloft a crucifix. He looks straight at the throne, and as he hears the words 30,000 ducats, a frown overspreads his face. It is Don Tomas Torquemada, the dreaded Head Inquisitor.)

TORQUEMADA (addressing the Rulers): Judas Iscariot betrayed and sold our blessed Saviour for thirty pieces of silver. You—you (he points his long thin finger at them) would sell him again for 30,000 pieces of gold. (He hurls his crucifix at the table upon which lie the parchment and the quill, turns on his heel and leaves the chamber.)

CONDOLENCES

The members of the Congregation extend sincere sympathy to Mrs. Lena Shaine, upon the death of her brother, Louis M. Kopple, uncle of Maurice L. Shaine.

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