

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

VOL. I, No. 17

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1938

ADAR 24, 5698,

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

As usual, Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will conduct the Bible Class on Monday evenings at 8:30 o'clock. More and more, the men of our congregation are becoming accustomed to spend Monday evenings attending the Bible Class. They find it intellectually stimulating. All adult males are cordially invited to attend.

Mr. Harry Gell, an authority on European Affairs, recently returned from abroad, will deliver a short talk on "The Present Situation in Europe" on Monday evening, February 28th, about 9:15 P. M., after the Bible Class.

TALMUD TORAH

A newspaper group has been formed by some of our Talmud Torah pupils. Miss Grumer has been appointed faculty advisor. They are planning to issue a Purim edition in the very near future and we wish them success.

A ping pong tournament will begin on Sunday, February 20th; the winner to be the champion of the Talmud Torah.

The group played the Harlem I. S. boys in an indoor baseball game, losing 2 to 1. Masters Kramer, Goldberg, Levine, Spector, Weiss, Cohen, Silver, Kanowitz, Bermitz, Meisenberg and Kaufax were on the W. S. I. S. team. Better luck next time.

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS TO YESHIVAH FUND

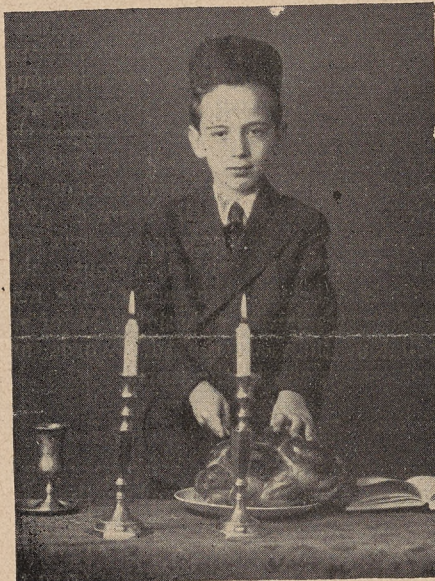
Moses Langer, A. M. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Lebowitz, Simon Bloch, William Sukloff, Mrs. A. Goodman, Mr. Harry Appel, Mr. Morris Levine, Mr. Samuel W. Siegel, Mr. Julius H. Rosansky.

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE RUMMAGE SALE

Will Open the First Week in March.

Anything You Don't Want Can Be Used at the Rummage Sale.

Please co-operate by sending your package to our building without delay.



Light Candles Friday Evening 5:28 P. M.
SHABBAS SHEKALIM

Weekly Portion: VAYAKHEL
Prayers for the New Month

Friday Evening Service.....5:25 P.M.
Saturday Morning Services.....9:00 A.M.
Children's Service10:00 A.M.
Rabbi Hurwitz class in Talmud.....4:00 P.M.
Young People's Mincha Service.....5:10 P.M.
Daily Services:
Mornings6:45, 7:30, 8:00
Afternoons5:30
Between afternoon and evening services a class in Mishnayis is led by Rabbi Goldstein.

BAR-MITZVAH

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Pantzer will celebrate, at our synagogue, the Bar-Mitzvah of their son Arthur. Our congratulations are extended to them, their relatives and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

The wife of our sweet-singing Cantor gave birth to a daughter, Yonina, on Thursday, February 17th. Our sincere congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Zalmon Yavneh.

THE COUNCIL

With all groups cooperating, a gala Purim Festival, on March 20th. in our ballroom, will be the most ambitious venture of our Council. The program includes several dramatic and comedy sketches, singing, dancing and refreshments. Admission, 50 cents per person. To all members fulfilling certain requirements, a free ticket of admission will be granted. Those between 14 and 24, who join the Council, are eligible for the prize.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The February 14th meeting of the Women's League was one of the most enjoyable sisterhood gatherings held this season. Over a hundred women were present at this Membership Tea.

The charming Mrs. David H. Ullman presided. Mrs. Albert H. Cohen, the efficient Chairman of the Program Committee, who had arranged the program, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Ralph Gilbert Ross, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Newark, who delivered a stimulating address on "MODERN YOUTH IN THE WORLD TODAY".

Rabbi Goldstein greeted the guests, emphasizing the privilege and pleasure of working for the West Side Institutional Synagogue.

The hostesses for the afternoon were Mesdames Joseph H. Anderson, Albert H. Cohen, Ethel H. Hiller, Jack Levine, William Horowitz, Benjamin Lunitz and David Ullman.

Incidentally, this was the first time the League occupied its new, lovely Women's League Club Rooms, for the completion of which it is indebted to its indefatigable and tireless House Committee Chairman, Mrs. Meyer Mirken, and her associates, Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz and Mrs. Harry Millstein.

COMMUNAL SEDERS

Last week's announcement of our Communal Seders to be held at the Synagogue Building on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 15th and 16th, brought immediate response. It must be borne in mind that our accommodations are very limited and that as soon as the available seats are reserved, no more can be booked. Therefore, all those who are thinking of coming, whether one night or both, should make their arrangements at once. Rabbi Goldstein will preside and Cantor Yavneh will lead in the singing.

THE APPLE TURNS RED AND GREEN

Harry Appel, the originator of the Red Apple of our Bazaar days, has modified his colors, so that they are now red and green. He is determined to supply the hilarity at our Dedication Dinner and, book peddler that he is, we are sure to have many pleasant surprises. A very literary evening is in store for all.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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VOL I, No. 17 February 25, 1938

GEORGE L. LIVINGSTON, *Editor*

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Max Lazarus	Harold Udell

Associate Editors

Robert Breitbart	Simeon H. F. Goldstein
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Contributing Editors

Bernard Udell, *Business Manager*

SERIOUS TIMES

The events occurring on the international horizon with such rapidity, have sobered up the most flighty individuals. We are now face to face with the stark reality of what is going on in the world. The years preceding 1914 are apparently being repeated and an international conflagration is, so the world agrees, unquestionably in the making. It only appears a matter of time before the fire will start. The countries of the world now seem to be jockeying for position, some seeking more time to prepare better, while others seek to hurry the catastrophe, to prevent such preparation.

Our country has, with the assistance of the upheavals elsewhere, become the chief home of democracy, free speech and culture. In spite of our economic difficulties, home relief, W.P.A. and C.C.C. activities, nevertheless the rank and file of our people are still infinitely better off than they are in most other countries. While we all hope for a substantial improvement, we certainly do not wish to see our people descend to the standard of living of those other countries.

The most recent occurrences have convinced us that there is no such thing

in international affairs as an agreement being kept, gentlemen's or otherwise. In fact there are no international gentlemen. Double crossing seems to be the order of the day. The only law that appears to be observed is the law of the jungle. The stronger destroys the weaker.

Therefore, the position of our country—and we Jews have most to lose if the destruction of democracy continues,—should be one of the most thorough and ample preparation. Cost what it may, our fleet should be the biggest that we can possibly get together and our other preparations for defense most ample. It is all very well to preach pacifism but, when one goes into a dark alley in a tough neighborhood, a stout club is usually a better argument to the marauding stranger who disclaims honor and religion, than all the soft words and noble examples in the world.

THIS AND THAT

Many "once-a-year" observers pity themselves a great deal when they fast on Yom Kippur. "Imagine," they say, "not even water must pass our lips." They can get some consolation from the Malay Mohammedans. Carveth Wells, in his "Six Years in the Malay Jungle," describes the fasting month of Ramadan as follows: "in fact, the really good Mohammedans not only fast all day but they refrain from swallowing their own saliva; consequently there is an unpleasant amount of spitting." "Ky-und-shpy" is bad enough but "sphy-un-ky" must be terrible.

* * *

That pessimism as to the future of the world has always been rife, is indicated in the little poem, "Going to the Dogs," author unknown:

My grandpa notes the world's worn cogs

And says we're going to the dogs.
His granddad in his house of logs
Swore things were going to the dogs.
His dad among the Flemish bogs
Vowed things were going to the dogs.
The caveman in his queer skin togs
Said things were going to the dogs.
But this is what I wish to state—
The dogs have had an awful wait.

* * *

Sir Arnold Wilson, M. P., in a speech in the House of Commons said:

"The Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey . . . will go down in history as a man who was the foremost in keeping the bond of this country when he thought that the interests of the country required it."

* * *

Frau Austria sings to Hitler: "By Mir bist du Schwein."

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

THE PROPER READING OF SCRIPTURE

I.

Reading Scriptures properly is the most sublime act of man. In the proper reading of Scriptures, we seek to learn the will of God. In praying, we beseech Him, we ask Him for something. When we delve into the Bible, we try to find out what God wants. When we pray, we declare what we want.

For whom was the Bible written? King Solomon, the wisdom preacher, answered this question when he declared, that it was "to give to the simple, prudence; to the youth, knowledge and discretion. The wise will hear and will increase his information, and the man of understanding will obtain wise counsels." In other words, the Bible stands preeminently, as no other book does, as life's elixir for every age and for every type of individual,—the simple, the young, the wise, and the understanding. It is as the "manna" of old, suiting everyone's taste.

I plead for more Bible study. There are too many admirers, and too few users of the Bible. We live in an age when we speak too much about the Bible, and know too little of it. If we read the Pentateuch for instance we will find the original six hundred and thirteen precepts which we are enjoined to observe, beginning with "Be fruitful and multiply,"—an injunction against the prevailing notion of birth-control, and closing with the command to help in the publication of the Pentateuch, in order to disseminate its teachings. The Bible is par excellence a book calling for increased duties, and not merely for the enjoyment of privileges. It is paradoxical but nevertheless true, that the curse of the present generation is the multitude of books in our libraries, or as we read in the closing verses of Ecclesiastes "the making of many books has no end." What should we read first,—the latest novel or magazine? My answer is that there is nothing wrong per se, perhaps with the novel or magazine, but these would be described by our Sages as "extra books", not those of prime importance.

(To be continued)

INTERESTING STAMPS

By JOSEPH E. DAVIDSON

XVII: Jefferson Davis and Judah P. Benjamin
"The Brains of the Confederacy"

Jefferson Davis

The Stamp, Scott's
Confederate States, A-1

Seventy-seven years ago, almost to a day (Feb. 21, 1861), after being chosen President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis appointed Judah P. Benjamin attorney general of the new government. Benjamin, the son of poor West Indian Jews, had to leave Yale after two years of study because of lack of funds.

While working as a notary's clerk, he studied law, was admitted to the bar and after a few years' practice, became the leader of the Louisiana Bar.

Entering politics, he successively served in both houses of the Louisiana Legislature and, from there, was sent to the United States Senate, being the second Jew to attain that high honor.

He soon was recognized as the head of the bar throughout the nation and considered the greatest pleader before the United States Supreme Court.

Benjamin was strongly opposed to secession but, like many other great Southerners, regarded negro slavery as a necessary evil forced upon the South as one of the legacies from Great Britain's colonial policy. He fought secession to the very last, and only became reconciled to it when his own state seceded, feeling that his allegiance came to the State first.

Less than seven months after his organization of the Confederate Department of Justice, President Davis, on September 17th, 1861, promoted him to be Secretary of War. Benjamin was not happy in this department and had to remain silent at the unwarranted criticisms because, to have answered them, would have exposed the weaknesses of the Confederacy to the Federal Government.

Davis, however, knew that Benjamin's self-effacement was the evidence of his intense loyalty to the cause and so within six months (March 22, 1862), made him Secretary of State, and thereafter until the close of the war, Benjamin ran the entire government.

Benjamin, "the Brains of the Confederacy," died in 1884, aged seventy-three.

CONSERVATISM
RADICALISM

RELIGION

(Continued)

by Simeon H. F. Goldstein

II.

The conservatives have been criticized by those who claim that the system the conservatives wish to preserve takes from the poor that which rightfully belongs to them by paying them low wages. Those who oppose conservatism also point out that the Prophets of the Bible often criticized the wealthy men of their day and that the Bible and Jewish Law have a commandment which requires that employees' wages be paid promptly as well as other commandments dealing with employer-employee relations.

The conservatives challenge their opponents to show any place in Jewish Law where it has anything to say on the question of the amount of wages which an employer should pay to his employees. As far as the question of taking from employees what rightfully belongs to them is concerned the conservatives deny that one can figure out a "just wage" which an employer is obligated to pay instead of the wage determined in the market place (by competition between those seeking employment and those seeking employees or by bargaining between unions and employers). Conservatives also claim that even if it could be proved that the system which they support pay employees less than that to which they are theoretically entitled, this would be more than compensated for by the high standard of living which it gives to the masses which was made possible by the incentives which it offers for inventiveness, mass production and skilled management.

The Bible provides for an institution known as the Jubilee year. When the Jews entered Palestine under Joshua, each Jew was given a piece of land which became his property. In the course of time some people disposed of their land while others acquired large holdings. Every fiftieth year was known as the Jubilee year and at that time all non-city land was redistributed to its original owners (or their heirs) so that the land was practically divided up again.

The Jubilee year has been cited to show that Judaism favors an equal distribution of wealth. However, that system applied only to non-city land. This was only one of the different types of property existing at the time of the Bible and the other types of property were not subject to this rule.

Radicals argue that since the desire for money (with which the profit sys-

(continued on Page 4)

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JOSEPH SEDWITZ

This gentleman, whom we all envy as the husband of the charming Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz, has remarkable foresight. In fact, he is half a century ahead of the times.

While the world is shocked to discover that Hitler has taken over Austria and the Jews are beginning to get ready to flee, we find that Joe beat them to it by 55 years, for it is that long since he decided to leave Austria and come to the U.S.A.

He is one of our most active workers and so is his wife. In the dress industry, he is recognized as one of the ablest manufacturers.

He has seven children and three grandchildren.

Regardless of the time, the cause or the burden, if the idea be but religious or charitable, you will find Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz, like Abou Ben Adam, among the leaders.

GETTING PERSONAL

by HANK EPSTEIN



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Jacob D. Cohen upon their anniversary . . . ditto Mr. & Mrs. Ben Spanbock . . . At the end of the Bible Class last Monday night Cantor Yavneh supplied the refreshments in honor of his newborn daughter . . . and we all joined in this beautiful Simcha . . . Miss Jeanne Markowitz, charming daughter of Colonel Louis Markowitz was conspicuous by her absence last Saturday morning . . . Mr. & Mrs. Bendheim returned from their cruise, well and full of fight. They are ready to pitch in and help wherever possible . . . It really was a tribute to the W. S. I. S., for last Saturday morning, in spite of the terrific rainstorms, a nice sized crowd attended the service and heard the Rabbi deliver an unusually powerful sermon that One is to keep on striving for higher and better things all the time; that one must not be sure of himself; and, in this way, a fall to lower moral standards will be prevented. Everybody was thrilled . . . We would like to see Harry Appel around Saturday mornings, if possible . . . It certainly peps up everybody when he is around . . . Gabriel Goldstein delivered a beautiful sermonette last Saturday afternoon—to be sure he is following in the footsteps of his Father and Mother . . . Buddy Udell, son of our President Lester Udell, was presented with Mafte last Saturday morning. Buddy, whose motto is the same as a boy scout's, "Be prepared", was ready and delivered a splendid rendition . . . the Moskowitz boys, sons of our Director Max Moskowitz, evidently slept late Saturday morning. But good ole Max was there on time, (as usual). P. S. Your columnist didn't show up either and he can understand their feelings. (Sleep was sweet last Saturday) . . . The rain didn't keep Mrs. Sadie Salinka and her daughter Rhoda from attending services. They had a long walk but in spite of the elements, well you know what I mean . . . ditto Mrs. Ruby Richman and her daughter . . . Sam Silver, Chairman of the Membership Committee is a little quiet these days, but any one of these nights he is bound to bring in a bunch of membership blanks properly filled out. Don't leave it all to

him . . . we should all try to bring in at least one new member every month . . . Bobby Livingston, son of our Editor, Director and co-worker George and Mrs. Livingston, attended services last Saturday morning. He received an honor at the Torah. Nice work, Bob . . . Emanuel Fine popped in from California, attended the Bible Class last Monday night and was at services last Saturday morning. Would like to see you more often, Manny! Little Betty Sanders, daughter of our Vice President Maxie, sat right up in the third row last Saturday morning and had a great, big smile, evidently enjoying the services . . . Would like to see the Mother of our President, Mrs. Jane Udell Friedman, in Schul more often on Saturday mornings. We missed her the past few weeks . . . Rain or shine, the Moses Langer-Sam Siegel combination are at services regularly every Saturday morning. Well, it won't be long now when the Winter vacation will be over. We are looking forward to seeing the Settler-Anderson family back from the South and the West coasts . . . Paging Annie R. Morris who hasn't been seen lately by your reporter. Understand she's been very busy on the rummage sale starting within a few days . . .

Conservatism, Radicalism, Religion (Continued from Page 3)

tem is bound up) is one of the most frequent causes of the violation of the dictates of religion (including the commandments of Judaism) the abolition of the profit system is necessary in order to enable people to be religious. However, a socialistic state would need to have positions conferring great power and honor (incentives which even to-day are often stronger than money) upon those who fill them — since the state would carry on not only the many ac-

tivities now conducted by it but also those activities now conducted by business as well.

Conservatives claim that there is little reason to suppose that the type of individual who uses improper means to reach his goals under the present system would not use improper means in a socialistic state. They say furthermore that those so ambitious would be tempted (much as they are tempted now) stealthily to obtain more of the good things of the material life so that they and their families can obtain more pleasures. The conservatives claim that a socialistic state would therefore require much the same forces as the present system requires to keep people honest.

An answer from the conservative point of view which might be given to almost every argument from a socialistic economy based on Orthodox Judaism is that there are a host of passages showing that the Bible and the Talmud contemplate a system of private property. Two illustrations of this are the fact that the Jewish Law provides procedures for the transfer of various forms of real and personal property and the fact that the mere desire for someone else's property (without any intention of stealing it) is prohibited by the Ten Commandments. Such provisions would be superfluous if Orthodox Judaism required or were meant for a socialistic set-up.

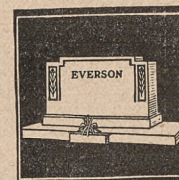
CONCLUSION

The conservatives say that radicals can't be religious. The radicals say that conservatives can't be religious. We ask, why can't everybody be religious?

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