

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. III, No. 27

Friday, March 8, 1940

I Adar 28, 5700

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

The Women's League Membership Tea, Mah Jong and Bridge held last Monday was a highly successful function. Besides being responsible for a very gratifying increase in our membership, it proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon for those who attended.

All new members, as well as old ones are urged to set aside their Monday afternoons for our Women's League. Rabbi Goldstein gives a class on the "Doctrines of Judaism" prior to each meeting. On the first Monday of the month, a guest speaker is invited to address the group. The constructive activities of our Women's League merit the whole hearted co-operation of every woman in our congregation.

YOUNG FOLKS ROUND TABLE

Our Sabbath Afternoon Young Folks Round Table has actually reached the standing - room - only stage.

Miss Bernice Breitbart will be the Hostess at the Social Hour following to-morrow's Round Table Discussion. Rabbi Goldstein meets this group at 4:30 P. M.

The following will participate in the Young Folks Mincha Service to-morrow afternoon:

Speaker: Buddy Friedman, Reader of the Service; Selig Katz, Reader of the Torah; Gabriel Goldstein.

MEN'S CLUB CORNER

The Men's Club has made arrangements to hold a PURIM FESTIVAL and SUPPER DANCE on Saturday, March 23, 1940, at 9 P. M. in our Social Hall.

The Committee has been making every effort to provide a most enjoyable evening, featured by dancing, card playing and mah jong. Supper will be served at 11 P. M.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th, at 8:30 P. M. A symposium will be conducted on chain stores vs. independent stores. Mr. Godfrey Le Barr, Editor of "Chain Store Age" will be one of the guest speakers. Another prominent guest has been invited to participate in the discussion. We urge all members to be present and bring their friends.

PEARL BERNSTEIN GUEST AT FORUM

On Monday evening, March 11th, following Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class, we shall have the pleasure of listening to Pearl Bernstein, Administrator of the Board of Higher Education. She will speak on the topic "The Jew and Higher Education."



PEARL BERNSTEIN

Graduate of Barnard College and Fordham Law School, Pearl Bernstein, is well known as a prominent figure in the City Government. She served for seven years as Secretary of Municipal Affairs of the New York City League of Women Voters. From 1934 to 1938, she was Secretary to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Several years ago, Miss Bernstein was a Lecturer in the Department of Government at Barnard College. Since April 1938, she has been Administrator of the Board of Higher Education, which acts as the Board of Trustees of the four municipal colleges. Pearl Bernstein has long been a member of the National Board of Junior Hadassah.

Miss Bernstein is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Julius Bernstein and the wife of Professor Louis William Max of New York University.

LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS IRVING DAVIDSON

Last Monday night a large crowd was amused by a very humorous talk by Mr. Irving Davidson. He spoke on "Jewish Wit and Humor."

Following the meeting, Rabbi and Mrs. Goldstein tendered an elaborate party in celebration of their Silver Wedding Anniversary. The refreshments were delicious and plentiful.

OUR ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1940

WALDORF-ASTORIA

In planning our chief social event this year, we fixed an earlier date, Sunday, April 14, 1940, before Daylight Savings time goes into effect, to afford our guests more time for their enjoyment.



SAM DAVIS, Chairman, Reception Comm.

We are happy to announce that Mr. Sam Davis accepted the appointment as chairman of the Reception Committee. His special talent and experience will materially add to the success of the evening.

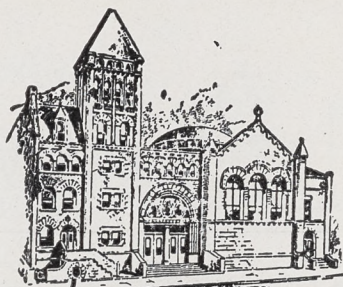
Mrs. David H. Ullman, the new Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, promises to provide exceptional entertainment.

We count on your help. Tickets are Twenty-five Dollars per couple.

The Souvenir Year Book, to be issued in connection with the Dinner-Dance, is under the chairmanship of Morris Levine. Help him by obtaining an ad.

INTER-FAITH YOUTH RALLY

Numerous conferences between youth representatives from more than 25 churches and synagogues have culminated in the formation of a permanent West Side Inter-Faith Committee. The Committee will initiate its program of activities with a rally to be held on Sunday, March 10th at 2:30 P. M. at the Community Center of the Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, 270 West 89th Street. The rally which is expected to attract West Side youth of all faiths will be addressed by Dr. Frank Kingdom, President of Newark University. A social hour will follow the speaking program.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Gordon Tiger	Associate Editor
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OTTO'S COMPLAINING

Otto, for many years the spearhead of his ambitious mother's desire to restore the Hapsburg dynasty, is our latest visitor. Rumor has it that his mission is to arouse sympathy and get help.

Let us imagine the reverse. Suppose one of our ambitious politicians were to fly to the other side to acquire friends and financial support. Imagine the hue and cry in this country.

This contrast clearly indicates how remote our system of government and its fundamental ideas are from the European. We should hesitate before criticizing those in public office, bearing in mind that, in spite of the fact that some of our administrators are not so accomplished as we should like to save them, they are infinitely preferable to the type we find prevalent abroad.

WHERE LIFE IS CHEAP

An American aviator, employed on a commercial route in China, called for assistance from by-standers. A group responded and a little girl was thrown overboard. The current began to carry her away. No one attempted to rescue her. The aviator jumped in and brought her ashore.

Some time later when the aviator again arrived at this town, he was

promptly greeted by a constable with a summons to pay for the support of the child. The constable explained that when the child had fallen into the water, she was, in the minds of the community, classified as a lost soul; that when the aviator brought her back, he became responsible for her support, till her marriage, as she was then a newcomer in the community.

There are indeed, many spots in this world where life is cheap. We, who are accustomed to complain over many ills, should not forget there are places in this world where our worst conditions would be deemed Paradise.

"CHARITY AND JUSTICE"

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein in a sermon delivered on Saturday morning March 2, said in part:

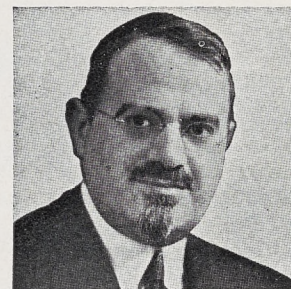
"Great Britain unfortunately is repaying the Jew evil for good in its attempt to localize the Jew to certain parts of Palestine only. The Jew is England's greatest friend. On the day the White Paper was promulgated, a Palestine Army unit was placed behind the Western lines and in it, seventy-five percent were Jews and twenty-five percent were Arabs, in spite of the fact that the Jewish population in Palestine is only about thirty-three percent.

I am a great friend of England, and what shocks me more than even the restriction of land to the Jew is the fact that the word of so outstanding a nation as Great Britain is not its bond.

The Biblical conception of charity is justice. The nations of the world, however, have another conception of charity which invariably leads to injustice. When charity is based upon love, it is a precarious giving. When charity is based upon justice, it is equitable. "Justice exalteth the people, but the charity of the nations is a sin."

I often wonder was the Balfour Declaration a matter of charity to the Jew. If it was a matter of charity, I well understand the changing emotions of the English people. At times, they can afford to be philanthropists, and at times, they find it difficult to give charity. At this moment, it is hard for them to stand by the Balfour Declaration and easier to be charitable to the Arabs. If the Balfour Declaration is an instrument of justice to the Jew, then all the canons of law and ethics bind the English people to keep their word as sacred. This war has come about because England could not take Germany's word. I ask, "Can the League of Nations, mankind and the Jew today take England's word as its bond?"

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



THE 15th COMMANDMENT

By RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

The 15th Commandment tells us that no one may take his meal of the Pascal offering, and eat it outside of the group, as it is written in Exodus, Chapter 12, verse 46 "In one house shall it be eaten."

The Pascal Lamb in itself represents Israel's preparedness for sacrifice. It sacrificed the Lamb, which was the idol which the Egyptians worshipped, and put its trust in God. Sacrifice, in order to be successful, must be practiced not merely by individuals, but by the whole group. A Moses, or a Mattathias or a great rabbi can show the way. However, unless he succeeds in inspiring the group to follow him, that group will not be spiritually successful.

The familiar Jewish expression has it, "We cannot make Shabbus for ourselves." In other words, we, as individuals, may observe the Sabbath and be smugly contented and satisfied. If, however, we fail to help make Sabbath observance possible for others, when our children grow up, we will find to our utter dismay the problem of finding for them Sabbath-observing positions. Some men may be content with their prayers in the barest and most uninviting room, but unless they make provision for fine, beautiful, orthodox Synagogues, our children when they grow up amid modern luxurious surroundings, will rebel and turn to conservative or reform Synagogues.

If we are contented merely in providing a private teacher for our children's religious education, and have no thought of the large number of children about us, then, when our children grow up and become friends with the vast throng of uneducated and irreligious young people, we will, in all likelihood, lose our own children spiritually. Spiritual epidemics like physical epidemics know no boundary lines.

Thus the Bible set down the commandment of the Paschal Lamb meal, as the lesson of group responsibility.

She is a fine musician and painter and has received her education at the Alcuin and Julia Richman High Schools. She has also attended other Art Schools.

GETTING PERSONAL

Back from Florida this week, minus the usual Florida sun-burn which they doubtless left behind in their hurry to come back to us, are Miss Leah Moskowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Landowne, Harold Kaplan and Dave Ullman. . . Hurray, Mrs. Samuel W. Siegel was back in the Synagogue again. Here's hoping she and her family stay well now. . . More good news, for Mrs. Jane Udel Friedman was also back again. . . Our old friend, Max Braun, pinch-hitted for Cantor Yavneh and gave a beautiful rendition of the service as he is well qualified to do. . . That was a lovely Kiddush which Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Buchsbaum provided for the Congregation last Saturday, in honor of the recent wedding of their daughter Shirley to Harold Charles Miller. The groom acquitted himself most favorably when he was called up to the Torah. . . We were pleased to welcome Gertrude Buchsbaum into our midst and trust she will now become one of our regular attendants. . . Welcome to Mrs. Henry Rosen whom we have not seen in a long time. Likewise to Mrs. Emanuel Lifschitz on her return following her recent illness. . . The Settel bench in our Synagogue is beginning to look quite natural again with Joe back and Meyer Pargament alongside of him. . . Here's hoping Isaac Settel and Dr. Settel will soon be back in our midst. . . The devotion of the late Lillie Silver to our cause was again evidenced when Sam brought in a charity box the other day which she had been filling up for us. . . Congratulations to Muriel Livingston, this week's "Successor to Be" on her birthday. . . Also to Harriet Friedman on her birthday. . . Mr. Henry Ripin is a commendable fellow. He thinks of us smokers. Thanks for the smoker's accessories. Someday, when we'll pluck up enough courage to defy the wife, we shall present a beautiful cuspidor. . . Another monumental fish story from Isidor Lauer in Florida: "I caught a very large 30 pound grooper and, after a big struggle, when I did bring him in, I had to lie down to rest up for half and hour." We always lie when we go fishing. . . Thanks to Averick, the florist, for his donation of flowers, which were worn by the audience last Monday night in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein's 25th wedding anniversary. . . In honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Goldstein's 25th wedding anniversary, Mrs. Herman Livingston presented a special cake to the Women's Membership Tea. . . We all wish a speedy recovery to our good friend, Mr. E. M. Frank.

THIS
AND
THAT

ELISHA ben ABUYAH

By RABBI EMANUEL L. LIFSCHITZ

The life of Elisha ben Abuyah is a story of the eternal conflict between faith and reason. He was born in Jerusalem around the year 70, the son of an esteemed and wealthy citizen. He was trained to be scholar and a teacher of the law and excelled in both. The Talmud relates that while he was teaching in the beth ha-medrash, he kept forbidden books (sifre minim) hidden in his clothes. Elisha lured many of his disciples to his heretical ideas while instructing them in the Torah. Meier, who later became Rabbi Meier the distinguished teacher of the Mishna, was one of Elisha's devoted students. Though he was attached to his master, absorbing his rabbinical teachings and dialectical methods, Meier was strong enough to resist his influence.

At first the rabbis were proud to consider Elisha as a colleague. Later when his heresies became pronounced, their opposition became so intense that they refrained from even mentioning him by name, but referred to him in terms used to designate some vile object "dabar acher" meaning another thing. Thus Elisha was subsequently referred to as "Acher" the "other".

Rome was then in power over Palestine having defeated the Jewish people physically but failing to conquer them spiritually. To accomplish the latter, Emperor Hadrian introduced measures forbidding the Jews to observe the laws of the Torah and severely persecuted those who disobeyed. When the Jews were ordered to violate the Sabbath by working thereon, they tried to conform in a way which could be technically considered as not profaning the Sabbath and thus circumvent Hadrian's injunctions. Thereupon, Elisha, already estranged and driven from his people by his heresies, turned informer and betrayed his people to the Roman authorities.

The story of this brilliant heretic is the theme of the stirring, historical novel by Rabbi Milton Steinberg, entitled "As a Driven Leaf".

CLUB NOTES

The last regular meeting of the **West Side Junior Hadassah** was held on Tuesday evening, March 5th. The Junior Hadassah meets regularly the first and third Tuesday evening of every month. The next meeting will be held on March 19th.

Opportunities are open to join the **Sea Scout Ship** in the Synagogue. Young men between the ages of 15 and 18 who are interested in learning sea lore, customs, yachting and seamanship, may apply any Thursday evening at 8:30 P. M.

On Saturday evening, March 9th, the **American Palestine Youth Group** will hold its second social function in our building.

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Mr. Nat Trotzky:
The dinner in honor of Theodore Ornstein, Mayor of Long Beach, which you catered on Sunday, was excellent in every detail.

Charles Silver
President, Temple
Israel, Long Beach.

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