

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. III, No. 35

Friday, May 3, 1940

Nisan 25, 5700

WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO HOLD

DESSERT LUNCHEON MONDAY

Our Women's League, as their last affair of the current season, will entertain at a Dessert Luncheon and Strawberry Festival for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund. The affair will be held at our building next Monday afternoon, May 6. Tickets, priced at \$1 may be obtained at the office. Considering the skill of our ladies, this affair, which will feature strawberry shortcake, will be outstanding from a culinary as well as a social point of view.

Chairman and Co-Chairman in charge of the affair are, respectively, Mrs. Siegfried Bendheim and Mrs. Sam W. Siegel. Other members of the Committee in charge are Mrs. Samuel K. Beier, Mrs. Ethel Hiller, Mrs. Morris Jablow, Mrs. Moses Langer, Mrs. Jack Levine, Mrs. Harry Mirken and Mrs. Lester Udell.

WPA RECREATION

"Special Activity" Week, May 20

The week beginning May 20 has been set aside as "Special Activity" Week for WPA Recreation groups throughout the country. During that week, the work of the Recreation Department at our building will be shown at an exhibition of arts and crafts made by our children under the supervision of Albert Lazarus, Herbert Carter, Harold Jacobs and Miss Jeanette Singer. Parents of the children, as well as all friends of the W.S.I.S. are invited to attend the exhibits, which will be held in the Social Hall.

Another feature of "Special Activity Week" will be a Ping-Pong Tournament.

MEN'S CLUB CORNER

Our Men's Club, nearing the end of the most successful season in its history, announces that the last meeting of the year will be held next Wednesday evening, May 8, at 8:30. An enjoyable evening is promised to all the members who attend. Plans will be discussed for next year's activities, and the usual social period will follow the business meeting.

TRIPLE BAR MITZVAH



MICHAEL SCHEIN



JACOB FRANK



RALPH BURACK

Tomorrow's Sabbath will be the occasion of three Bar Mitzvah ceremonies in our Synagogue. The trio of fine boys who will mark the attainment of mature status in Judaism are: Jacob Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mauretz Frank, of 100 West 80th Street; Michael Schein, son of Mr.

and Mrs. Jacob Schein, of 258 West 88th Street and Ralph Burack, son of Mrs. Gerdy Duborsky of 239 Central Park West and Mr. Fred S. Burack, of 817 West End Avenue. We offer our heartiest congratulations to the Bar Mitzvah children and to their proud parents.

YOUTH SERMON CONTEST ENTERS FINAL WEEK

Only one more week remains during which our young men may submit sermons and thereby vie for the honor of preaching from our pulpit on Saturday morning, May 25, the Sabbath during "Youth Week." The deadline for manuscripts, which should be unsigned and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the contestant's name and address, is next Friday, May 10.

The Committee of Judges, which includes Lester Udell, Max E. Sanders, Samuel W. Siegel and Rabbi Emanuel L. Lifschitz, announces that a number of excellent sermons have already been entered in the competition.

Parts are now being assigned for the reading of the Service and the Torah at the "Youth Service," and the details will be announced in the next issue.

OUR RUMMAGE SALE

We will hold our annual Rummage Sale within the next few weeks. If any of you have contributions to add to those we have already received, kindly bring them into our office or notify us, and we shall arrange to send for them.

CLUB NOTES

The **SCOUT-O-RAMA**, a "Cavalcade of Youth" presented by a cast of 1500 Scouts, Sea Scouts and Cubs, will take place at Madison Square Garden Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18. Members of all three of our Scouting units will participate in this gigantic show, which will feature pageants and tableaux of all aspects of Scouting. Physical training, drills and formations, Indian dances and ceremonies, sea scouting and model airplanes are but a few of the subjects.

Tickets for the events are priced from 50 cents to \$2.50, and may be secured from any of our Scout officers or at the office.

Our newly-elected **Club Governing Board** held its first meeting last night at our building. To launch the new administration, the Board announces that a Ping-Pong Tournament will get under way next week and Debate Tournaments will be continued. Further plans for the Clubs will be announced later.

Habonoth, our club for girls of high school age, invites new members to its weekly meetings, each Wednesday evening at 7:45. Under the leadership of Miss Helen Charin, the girls, who range in age from 14 to 17, follow a recreational and social program that includes arts and crafts work, listening to popular recordings and social dancing.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Vol. III, No. 35

May 3, 1940

George L. Livingston

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MORE REFUGEES

The world is filled with them. Millions of homeless in China; all over Europe we now have a new crop of misery. We read daily of the battles and air raids in Norway, but very little has been heard of what is happening to the people. Plain, simple-hearted, democratic folk--where are they now?

Here is a repetition of the same old recital of man-made misery:

"Adequate food and clothing are lacking for the refugees from the Namsos, Namdalen and Steinkjer areas. Among children and older persons illness is occurring with practically no medical aid or medicine available north of Trondheim.

Tragic scenes are enacted nightly in the region when refugees slip down from the mountains into the valley communities to poke through the ashes of their homes seeking lost possessions.

Mountain huts, especially in the Namsos district, are so crowded that refugees must take turns sleeping indoors. This is the district where bombing planes have caused the greatest civilian damage in proportion to the population."

There is only one conclusion. This must be stopped. Neutrality is gradually becoming synonymous with stupidity. England learned it, Norway did, and Sweden will.

We should take stock of our position, which is none too secure, and decide if it were not healthier for us to help destroy the destroyers by giving material aid. At the present time, England and France are able to meet the requirements of cash on the barrel. This cannot last forever. The Johnson Act will have to be revised sooner or later so that the uninterrupted flow of supplies necessary to fight the invader will not cease.

NEW NATIONALITIES

"To-morrow the world is ours," has been the Nazi threat. By fire and sword, trickery and treachery, they seek to extend their sway. Crushing their little neighbors, they are gradually becoming more ambitious. Now they seek to take over the British Empire and to reduce France to vassalage.

As an evidence of their expansion mania, they recently announced that England had forfeited all right to claim Shakespeare as her own. The immortal bard is henceforth but propaganda stuff for Goebbels.

Of course, the mad Adolf must throw a bone to the equally mad Benito. It will not do to hog all honors. If the poet of Avon is embraced in Lebensraum, something just must be done for Il Duce. So - o - o - o, as Ed Wynn would say, in his inimitable way, Berlin solemnly decrees that, henceforth, Napoleon is no Frenchman but an Italian. He hailed from Corsica, didn't he? And isn't Corsica part of Mussolini's future Lebensraum? Hence, the little corporal is now a swastika lollypop, stuck on the south end of the axis.

Haven't they, however, overlooked a partner, the party of the third part to the contract, the boy with the walrus moustache, Joey Stalin? Aren't they going to give him a break?

We can assist them there. How about bequeathing him the late, unlamented Benedict Arnold, the arch double-crosser in our history? He ought to be a man after honest Joe Stalin's heart.

RESPONSE TO RABBI

In response to a letter appealing for recognition of Jewish holidays as an excuse for non-attendance at New York University, Rabbi Goldstein received the following reply from Henry G. Arnsdorf, Registrar:

"While it is not practicable to close the University during the periods of religious holidays, the University does not penalize any student who is absent because of the observance of such holidays."

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



THE 22nd COMMANDMENT

By RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

The 22nd Commandment deals with the redemption of the first male born of the donkey, as it is said in Exodus 13:13, "Every first born of the ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb." The redemption must take place within thirty days of its birth. If its owner has no lamb, he may pay the cost of an average lamb instead. The redeeming lamb becomes as a "common possession" of the Priests. This means that it need not be sacrificed upon the altar.

One purpose of this commandment is to remind us of the plague of the first born in Egypt. There is also a rabbinic tradition that the donkey was distinguished from the other beasts and declared sacred because it acted as Israel's burden bearer in the Exodus from Egypt. Even today, in the Orient, it is not uncommon to see a Jew riding on his donkey instead of using a carriage or automobile.

There is a rule that we may increase the status of holiness, but never decrease it. Therefore, if a mule, which is a lower form of animal, is born of a donkey, it need not be redeemed. It seems that God, in His scheme of creation, planned that the lower forms of existence should serve the higher. The mineral kingdom, for instance, serves the vegetable kingdom; the vegetable serves the animal kingdom; and the animal serves man. (This, perhaps, explains the theory behind sacrifice--that the offering of an animal serves man as an atonement for his sin.) Man, in turn, serves God. Emerson, in his essay on "Nature," gives voice to the thought underlying this scheme of creation when he says, "A thing is good only so far as it serves."

These laws in regard to the redemption of the donkey pertain to the possessions of all men and women, excepting those of Cohanim and Levites.

THE SONG OF SONGS

Rabbi Goldstein, in his sermon last Saturday morning, said:

The world's greatest need is love. Today, strife and not love is in the ascendancy. How can we attain the twin love toward God and man? My answer is, only through religion. German Kultur has proven to be a veneer because it was not based upon religion.

The world has tried breathlessly to run away from religion and to put its trust in science and knowledge alone. There is nothing wrong with science or knowledge when synchronized with an awareness of the supremacy of God. If we love God, then science will be used to help His children rather than to destroy them. Knowledge will be employed as a means of uplifting men rather than as a pretext for the preaching of hate. When we have religion, we accept the command, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God" coupled with "And thou shalt love thy neighbor." The world today still stands in need of this religious message of love. Unfortunately, religion, to most people, is as a garment which they wear in the House of God, but remove as soon as they leave it. No, religion is our very life. It is like the skin of our body, from which we cannot escape. Those who want to get "out of their skins" are nervous, sick people. Those who want to flee from religion are weak, soul-disturbed beings.

**THIS
AND
THAT**



RABBENU TAM; THE TOSAFISTS

By RABBI EMANUEL L. LIFSCHITZ

Commentators of the Talmud up to and including the time of Rashi concerned themselves with the "Peshat," the plain meaning of the text. The Tosafists, as those following Rashi were called, assumed a more critical attitude. Their commentary did not offer a running explanation of difficulties in language, thought and meaning of each of the Rabbis' statements, but rather limited itself to the difficult (halachik) legal passages of the Talmud. They isolated difficult passages, examined them from all possible angles in a casuistic vein, and solved the most complicated and involved legal problems with the greatest of ease. Their writings are of greatest value to those well advanced in the study of the Talmud.

The earliest Tosafists were Rashi's sons-in-law and grandsons. Though they had the deepest veneration for their master, they nevertheless examined his work, commented upon it and added to it, as is implied in the word תוספות (Tosofoth.)

The most distinguished of the French School was Rabbi Jacob ben Mæir, popularly known as Rabbenu Tam, a grandson of Rashi. He was born in 1100 in Ramerupt on the Seine, a town not far from Troyes, which his grandfather had made famous. A man of great wealth and political influence, Rabbenu Tam nevertheless followed the ancestral example and spent most of his time in the study of the Talmud. After the death of his father, Mæir, he assumed charge of the local Yeshiva. At one period he gave instruction to eighty scholars who subsequently became ordained Rabbis themselves.

His latter days were saddened by plunder at the hands of a band of pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land during the Second Crusade. In the year 1147, the mob, in an attack upon the Jewish quarters of his city, seized all of his earthly wealth, burned his books, tore to shreds his scrolls of the Law and left Rabbenu Tam himself badly injured.

(To be continued)

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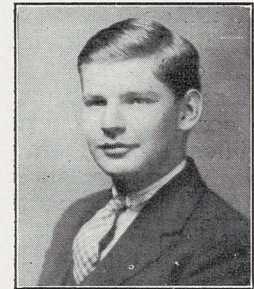
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OUR SUCCESSORS-TO-BE



BENJAMIN NEUHAUS

A veteran among our excellent group of young folk is Benjamin Neuhaus, loyal, good-natured son of our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Neuhaus.

Benjamin's example is one that speaks eloquently in behalf of the strong ties of loyalty and interest that hold many of our young people to the activities of our Synagogue. While he attended City College, Benjamin participated enthusiastically in many of our activities. At the Saturday Afternoon Young Folk's Meetings, he often served as Reader of the Torah and of the Service. Following his graduation, his business has kept him traveling, usually far from New York, but on all of his visits home, he has never failed to attend our Sabbath and Holiday Services.

To his host of friends at the W.S. I.S., Benjamin is known as a jovial fellow and a fine horseman.

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GETTING PERSONAL

Our Seders were such a success that they remained the main topic of conversation and thought on West 76th Street last week. . . the occasions were both beautiful, and by no means the least effective parts were the fine reading of the Hagada (which acquainted us with a lot of new oratorical skill among our members and friends) and the rousing singing led by Cantor Yavneh, Isidore Lauer and several amateurs including Irving Sabsewitz, David Drosen and Morris Jablow. . . Mr. Lauer probably had most fun when he sang the traditional "Chad Gadya" first to the tune of "Bei mir bist du schoen" and then to "The Farmer in the Dell" . . . the youngest member of the Sabsewitz clan, Arnold, distinguished himself by his fine reading. . . the largest family (um-beschreien and כן ירבו) represented on Seder nights was that of Mr. Joseph Golding. . . . Among our prominent members who celebrated Seder nights with us was Chairman of the Committee, Joe Settel, who led the Settel clan, including Dr. Nathan Settel, the Pargaments and the Franks. . . . on the second night, the Pargaments entertained thirteen nephews and nieces at their table (those who have superstitions needn't worry. . . Mr. and Mrs. P. made it fifteen) . . . Others who were very much there were our Vice President, Max E. Sanders and family, including the Holoschutz tribe and Assemblyman and Mrs. Holley. . . also the families of Gustave Roth, Max Moskowitz and Benjamin Spanbock. . . and, among the "Mr. and Mrs." couples were the Andersons, the Gossetts and the Weingartens . . . Mr. Sam Davis entertained his mother and a large family group. . . that handsome bachelor, Abe Glaser, was there for everyone's entertainment. . . after doing a fine job of Pass-over singing for us, Cantor Yavneh made a special trip last week, accompanied by Danny Weiss, to Sing-Sing Prison, where he conducted special Passover Services for

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE
Light Candles Friday Evening, 7:38
Weekly Portion, KEDOSHIM
Prayers for the New Month, IYAR

Friday Evening Service	6:30
Saturday Morning Service	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's Cllass in Talmud	6:30
Mincha Service	7:35
Sunday Morning Services	6:45; 7:45; 8:45
Wednesday Evening, Rabbi Hurwitz's Class in Talmud	8:30

Daily Services:
Mornings
 6:45; 7:45; 8:15 || Mincha | 7:40 |

Followed by the Interpretation of the Mishnah by Rabbi Goldstein

the prisoners. . . Last Saturday we were desolate at the absence of our President, Lester Udell, who is ill. . . hurry and get well, Lester, because you're one person we can't do without. . . Congratulations have been pouring in on the occasion of "Pop" Wartels' seventy-first birthday. . . . Gustave Roth expressed cleverly and sincerely the affection we all have for "Pop" when he made a contribution of seventy-one shillings in honor of the occasion. . . other birthdays we note on our calendar this week are those of Joan Horwitz, Renee Langer, Mrs. George L. Livingston and Harold Udell. . . Then there is also the wedding anniversary of our dear friends, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Davis. . . many happy returns, folks. . . letters like the one we received last week from Milton Widelitz always make us feel proud of the institution we have built up. . . Mr. Widelitz in brief tells us: "Since February of this year, my father, my brother and I have been attending Saturday morning services each week. I was surprised and pleased when I realized how simply and interestingly the Services are carried out at your Synagogue. . . after the Services were over, I inevitably had a feeling of contentment and satisfaction, knowing I had done the correct thing and was acting as a good Jew should" . . . Accept our belated welcome into our group, and may you be with us for many years. . . .

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