

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. IV, No. 31

Friday, April 11, 1941

Nisan 14, 5701

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



MR. AARON WARTELS

This week the entire congregation joins in celebrating the seventy-second birthday of our popular, amiable and ever-young Vice President, Aaron (Pop) Wartels. Here's wishing him many more years of good health and good spirits.

PASSOVER RELIEF FUND

There is still time for you to make a contribution to the Passover Relief Fund. If you have not as yet made your contribution, mail a check TO-DAY to the synagogue office, in care of the Passover Relief Fund. Mrs. Annie R. Morris is Chairman of the Committee and Mrs. Samuel Michael; co-Chairman.

SERMON CONTEST OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEN

Youth Service To Be Held on May 10th

A sermon contest is once again being held to determine who will deliver the sermon on "Boys' Week" Sabbath. Competition in this contest is open to all young men of our congregation. The manuscripts, which should be unsigned and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the contestant's name and address, must be submitted by Thursday, April 24th.

"Boys' Week" Sabbath will be held on Saturday morning, May 10th.

Those who would like to participate in the service on that morning should please communicate with Gabriel Goldstein.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening 6:13

1st Day Passover - Exodus XII-21-51

Friday Evening Service 6:20

Saturday Morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Saturday Evening Service 6:20

Sunday Morning Service 9:00

2nd Day Passover - Leviticus XXII-26, XXIII - 44

Junior Congregation 10:00

Mincha Service 6:20

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:30; 7:40; 8:10

Mincha 6:25

Followed by the Interpretation of the Mishnah by Rabbi Goldstein

Last two days of Passover - Friday and Saturday, April 18th and 19th

ATTENTION

The conspicuously displayed Hebrew words, "Kosher Le Pesach," do not necessarily make foodstuffs Kosher. We should look for the mark of supervision of a recognized Rabbinical authority.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR OUR FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

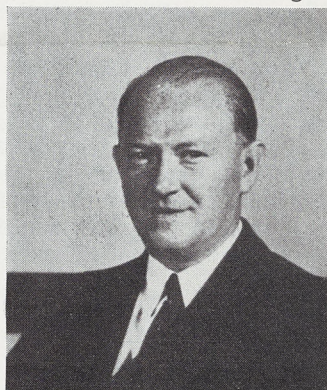
Mr. Max E. Sanders, Chairman, Urges Cooperation

Mr. Harry Appel, Chairman of the Arrangement Committee and Mr. Sam Davis, Chairman of the Reception Committee are cooperating to the fullest extent, to make our Fourth Annual Dinner-Dance a huge suc-

cess. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, on Sunday evening, April 27th. Tickets are \$25 per couple. The entire Dinner-Dance Committee wishes to urge all members and friends of

the W.S.I.S. to attend this function and spend a most pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Mr. Morris Levine is once again Chairman of the Souvenir Year



MR. HARRY APPEL



MR. SAM DAVIS

Book, issued in conjunction with the Dinner-Dance. Advertising rates range from Five dollars for one-sixteenth of a page to Fifty Dollars for a full page. He urges all our friends to procure ads.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Published weekly from the Second Friday in September to the Second Friday in June by the WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, 120-138 West 76th Street, New York, N. Y. Phone TRafalgar 7-8281.

Subscription: One Dollar Per Year
"Entered as second class matter September 22, 1938, at the Post Office at New York, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. IV, No. 31

April 11, 1941

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PASSOVER

The traditional season dedicated to the celebration of our ancient deliverance from bondage, will soon be occupying our thoughts. Already we hear talk at home of seder arrangements, guests, plans in general. We have grown to accept Passover as the beginning of the season of sunshine, when good food and drink and family reunions spread a warmth of fellowship.

However, we must give heed to the shadows of misery that hover over the world, and threaten to engulf us all. The Angel of Death passed over our ancestors in Egypt, but he seems not to have been so solicitous of our brethren in Germany, in Eastern and Southern Europe. There the toll is frightful. Disfranchised, impoverished, shamed, beaten, maimed or killed, the Children of Israel have not been passed over by suffering and terror. Scattered to the four winds, they are again the wandering tribes, seeking a haven where they can work out their destiny and worship God as free human beings.

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



THE 58th COMMANDMENT (continued)

Plaintiff and Defendant

By RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

Movable Objects

If A owes B money, and A sells his movable things, they cannot be taken away from the new owner, as being subject to debt. They remain only as a mortgage in the possession of A until they are sold.

Real estate can be taken even after it is sold. In regard to real estate, the law is that if a certain field or a certain house is designated as a guarantee, then the specified house or field only, is as a mortgage for the debt. When the lender takes the field that was mortgaged for the debt, then he (the lender) must return to the one who bought this field the expense which he incurred to improve the field. However, if the improvements cost \$90 for instance,

Hence, Passover this year takes on a new significance. All our previous feelings of security and stability have been shaken. The physical pleasure of Passover must give way to the spiritual. We must think in terms of the future.

The least we can do, however, is to join with others in two movements; one, to help those that are now the victims; two, aid in advertising a catastrophe in which we, ourselves or our children may become future victims.

The watchword this Passover is "Help". The need is dire. A failure to respond would be at our own peril.

G. L. L., 1940

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Rabbi Goldstein's article was thought-provoking in suggesting to the lawyer the distinction that lies in the breadth of approach toward controversy by Biblical Law on the one hand and by secular law on the other hand.

and the fruits that came from that field by virtue of the additional expenses are only worth \$10, then the lender must only pay \$10.

Equity

The Bible recognizes the law of equity deriving it from the verse 'ועשית הישר והטוב בעיני ה' Deuteronomy 6:18 "And thou shalt do what is right and good before the Lord." The borrower whose field was taken away for a debt, under the laws of equity, may always buy it back unless it was resold, inherited, or given as a gift before he offered to rebuy it.

In the case where no oath can be taken, there are times when a "charem" a curse is invoked. As for instance, one who says to his neighbor 'maybe you owe me \$100, and the defendant says "absolutely no", then the defendant cannot take an oath. But the plaintiff may thereupon ask the Beth Din to invoke a "charem". In this "charem" the defendant's name is not mentioned. The Beth Din merely declares that he who takes money that does not belong to him should be cursed. This has the effect sometimes of making the person return the money to the lender. We never invoke an oath on the claim of a deaf mute, a simpleton or a minor. Testimony is never received by the Beth Din unless the defendant is present.

(Please Turn to Page 4)

In our secular law, we strive above all to think restrictively. We confine ourselves solely to the "case at bar". Matters "irrelevant" must be sternly excluded. We must distinguish other cases from the case before us in the respects in which they differ in detail however broadly similar they might be. Those distinguishing factors become magnified to Gargantuan proportions to serve a cause. There is no actual or intellectual dishonesty in this, let us hasten to add. It is a mode of precise thinking that preceives in relief, as it were, every factor in a case seemingly decisively important issues.

In Biblical Law, the search we should say is more actually for justice in its truest sense. Psychology, recognition and consideration for man's frailties and his integrity are more widely applied in determining not only technical but rather moral and spiritual guilt or innocence; moral and spiritual liability or non-liability.

Sincerely,

Ruth R. Kessler

LIBERTY

By Emanuel Yavneh, Age 12

Many people do not realize what liberty means. They believe it is a luxury and a common thing, but they are wrong. Liberty is a thing to pray and die for. Some do not realize the hardships and pains that the free people of Europe are enduring in order to preserve liberty. People are dying to preserve a thing handed down to us by our forefathers. They defeated Caesar, Napoleon and fought for the Independence of America. They fought to preserve Liberty but now it is perishing under the mad guidance of a drunken paper-hanger. The people of England, Greece and Yugoslavia are dying to preserve that which some men are trying to break - Liberty! It only took a few men with a strong will to defeat the outnumbering odds in the Revolutionary War and now we need a few more English, Greeks and Yugoslavs, and Liberty and Democracy will not fail.

YISKOR

"May God remember the soul of

..... and the soul of all my relatives. For that I offer charity for the memorial of their souls."

These are the significant words in the prayer with which we honor the memories of our departed at Yiskor Services on the last day of Passover, Saturday morning, April 19. According to these words, our prayers for the dead may best find concrete expression in charity--help for the living.

For those who would like to mark this occasion by making a contribution to our synagogue, we print the attached form.

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I hereby request you to offer the Memorial Prayer for the coming Holiday for my

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CLUB NOTES

The Governing Board of the Council held a meeting last week to discuss the various problems of the clubs in the building. A committee was formed, the function of which will be, to analyze all the club programs, attend meetings and confer with the club leaders. This committee, under the guidance of Mr. Wittenberg, will submit a complete report to the Board of Directors of the Synagogue.

A. Z. A.

The Gotham Chapter of Aleph Zadek Aleph meets every Sunday evening in our building. The officers of the group are as follows: Daniel Loventhal, President; Stanley Baskowitz, Vice-President; Lucky Kramer, Secretary; Harold Hofflin, Treasurer. The A. Z. A. has a five-point program consisting of athletic, cultural, social service, social and religious

activities. Mr. M. S. Weil is the advisor to the group.

JUNIOR COUNCIL

The Junior Council, a co-ed group, meets regularly on Sunday evenings in our building. Under the leadership of Mr. Aarons the club has held many interesting discussions. All boys between the ages of 18 and 21 and girls between the ages of 17 and 19 are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Junior Council.

JEWISH YOUTH LEAGUE

Mr. Lester Lazarus has been elected President of the Jewish Youth League. This group meets in our building every Thursday evening at 8:30 P. M. All boys between the ages of 17-19 and girls between the ages of 16-18 are urged to attend the meetings of the J.Y.L. and participate in its numerous social and educational activities.

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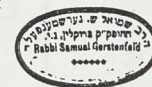
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58th COMMANDMENT

(Continued from Page 2)

Oral Debts

The law is that if one says I have not borrowed, it is as if he said "I have not paid". He is then regarded as a confirmed liar. The only way his statements can be substantiated is through witnesses. There are times when people confess a debt jokingly. However, if while the defendant confesses a debt he said to two people "you are my witnesses," he can never say "I was joking". This is the reason that the Jewish law requires "Kinyon" the ceremony of transfer for possession. Because if there were a mere verbal agreement, either side could say "I was joking".

Tenure

When there is no legal instrument then, if the defendant is in possession of the thing being claimed for at least three years it is regarded as his, unless the plaintiff can bring witnesses or a legal instrument showing that it belongs to him. The question arises, why did not the plaintiff protest that the possessions belonged to him. The plaintiff claims that the possessor was a racketeer and was therefore afraid to protest to him. However, if the defendant died he has the right to go to the heirs or in his lifetime to Beth Din to protest against the possession by the racketeer.

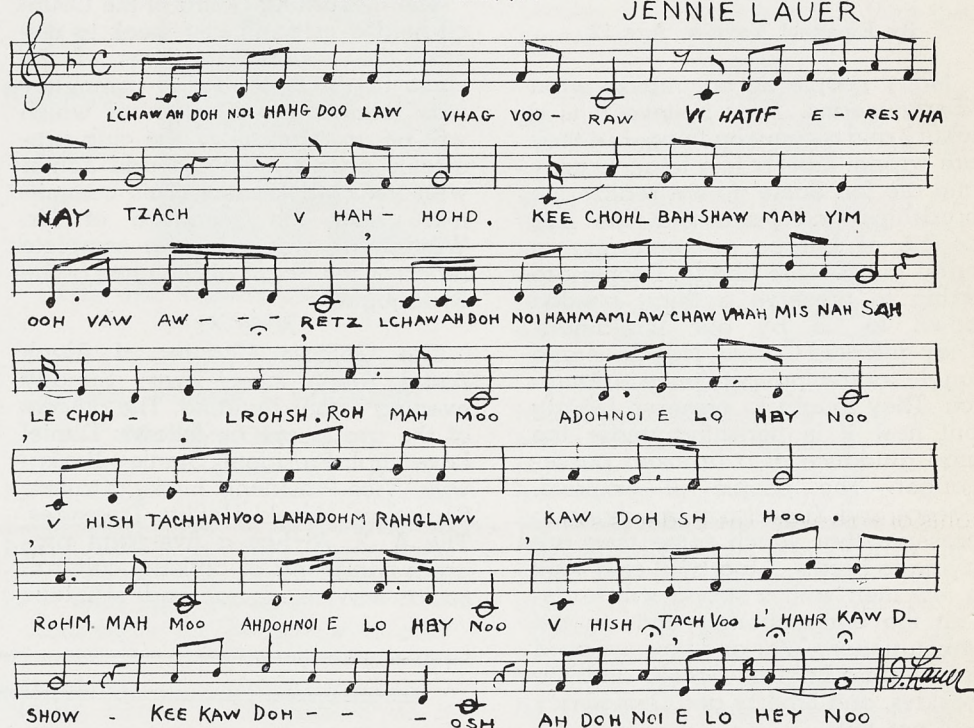
Rights of the Neighbor

Whenever, one sells his land, his neighbor has the first right to purchase it, provided of course he gives him the same amount offered by any other buyer.

These laws of defendant and plaintiff are pertinent to men and women alike and at all times and in every place. If the judges can see to it that the laws are carried out and they fail to do so, they have sinned grievously. They have annulled a positive commandment "and these are the commandments which ye shall execute". Such sin causes destruction, for no country is at peace without justice. Our sages say, that upon three things the world is established and one of these is JUSTICE. (See Genesis 2:16 and comments in Talmud Sanhedrin 56b also Bible Comments for Home

LCHAW AHDOHNOI HAHG'DOOLAW

COMPILED BY ISIDOR LAUER
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JENNIE LAUER



Reading, Vol. 1 Page 7) Ceremonial laws, however, are not incumbent upon all mankind, as for instance, T'filin and the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, concerning which the Bible says "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel."

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for

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THE LAWS AND SYMBOLISMS OF PASSOVER

(Continuation of the explanation of the
Laws and Symbolisms of Passover).

Matzohs:

The Matzohs are intended to remind us of the bread prepared in haste when the Israelites fled from Egypt. Since they did not have time to let the dough rise, it remained flat, and they baked it in the hot desert sun.

The Seder:

This means "Order of Service," and is the name given to the service held in the home on the first two nights of Passover. The Seder is symbolic of a royal banquet: the father, dressed in white kittel, is the king; the mother is the queen; and the children, the princes and princesses.

The Hessebet:

These are the cushions placed on the left side to lean upon. They represent the oriental custom that all freemen recline at their banquets. The practice here symbolizes the fact that Jews are no longer slaves.

The Three Matzohs:

Three Matzohs are set upon the table, representing the three classes in Jewry--Cohen, Levi and Israel.



The Four Kosos:

These are four cups of wine, representing the four words in Hebrew meaning "to set free."

The Ten Drops of Wine:

The pouring of ten drops of wine recalls the ten plagues. Our cup is not full when others, even though they be our enemies, suffer.

The Five Dishes:

1. **The Bitter Herbs** are symbolic of our bitter life in Egypt.

2. **Charoses**, a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine, represents the mortar and clay with which the Israelites had to build when they were slaves in Egypt.

3. **The Salt Water** represents the tears shed by the Israelites in their misery.

4. **The Roasted Bone** represents the Paschal lamb sacrificed by our people before they left Egypt and also when the Holy Temple was in

existence in Jerusalem.

5. **The Egg** is symbolic of the special holiday offering (Hagiga) that had to be brought for sacrifice (in the time of the Temple) in addition to the customary Paschal offering.

The Cup of Elijah:

Passover is the festival of redemption. Therefore, we set a special cup for Elijah, who, according to Talmudic tradition, will come to announce our final redemption.

The Opening of the Door:

We open the door during the Seder Service to indicate our belief in the special divine protection of Israel and to show that we are unafraid of our enemies.

The Afikomen:

This is a piece of the middle one of the three Matzohs placed before the master of the house. It is the last thing partaken of at the Seder, because it represents the Paschal offering, which formerly was eaten last.

The "Hagada":

The outstanding feature of the Seder is the reading of the "Hagada," which relates the history of the Exodus from Egypt. The Bible commands us to relate the story of Passover and explain it to our children.

SONG AND PRAYER

The Spiritual Significance of the "Hagada"

By Cantor Zalmon Yavneh

From time immemorial, singing played an important role in the worship of God. King David, in his Psalms, urged us to worship God with song and prayer. Singing induces a spirit of holiness and, at the same time, provides the pleasing refrains of worship in the synagogue.

The orthodox synagogue is ever the spiritual center that unites all Jews in their times of trouble and hardship. In the synagogue, the Jew is wont to unburden himself of all things that afflict him. On such occasions, the singing of the prayers tends to bring cheer, comfort and hope to the wounded souls of our brethren.

The sweet incense burned upon the



CANTOR ZALMON YAVNEH

altar in the Temple ascended to heaven. So, today, the prayer with song brings with it the spiritual elevation of the Jewish people.

Armies of the world well know the value of songs that inspire the marching soldiers with courage. Religious songs enable people to carry on steadfastly even though they are wearied by their worldly woes.

During the Passover holidays, when we are seated at the Seder singing and reciting the "Hagada," let us not forget that when we pray and sing to God, we are doing so not only for ourselves, but for the rest of the Jews, some of them indeed unfortunate, who are scattered to the four corners of the earth. Let us thank God that we in America can have a Seder with song--without fear. Let us make use of our privilege of prayer through song and implore the Almighty that we may, some day in the near future, be reunited in the promised land of our forefathers. Let us hope that, in the near future, all Jews throughout the world may once again be free from persecution and worship in perfect freedom and joy.

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THROUGH GENTILE EYES

By JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

Excerpts from an article published in the April issue of "Opinion - a Journal of Jewish Life and Letters".

That there can be no solution of the world's problems today except on fundamental spiritual lines must be agreed by all men whose thinking is not utterly materialistic, or atheistic.

I should turn to the Hebrew prophets. For these prophets were not only men who lived in their own personal experience the reality of God, but were statesmen who guided, or attempted to guide, the policies of state by the idea of God and of His holy will for men. In their teachings was implicit a philosophy of history, unique in the annals of mankind, which finds the destiny of the race in its accord or discord with God. If Israel prospered it was because of her fidelity to the law of the Most High. If Israel fell upon disaster, it was because of her disobedience to the divine commandments.

Now, it is the tradition of this "spiritual force," without which there can be no escape from the doom which today impends upon us, that the Jews possess beyond all other peoples. For centuries they have maintained it under every circumstance of danger and distress. If they have been stripped of what has been the heritage of other men -- home, country, altar, soil and security, prosperity and peace -- it may be that this has been to equip them the more rigorously for the guardianship of this which is their own special heritage--the law of God for men. As the Chinese had their sages,

and the Greeks their dramatists and philosophers, and the Romans their soldiers and law makers, and the English their poets, and the Germans their musicians, so the Jews had their prophets--the sign and seal of their moral mission to mankind. And that mission was never so urgent, or so exacting, as at this hour.

What is the mission of the Jew in this war? To fight, to recruit, to raise money for armaments, to support policies of government? Perhaps! So many at least insist. But, above and beyond all these casual duties of the hour, it is his mission to guard, like the eternal light within the synagogue, the light of the spirit among men. It is from Israel, if from no one else, that we have a right to seek that "spiritual force which can only rebuild the world." The prophets must speak again if we care not to lose all and perish.

Yes, let Israel be faithful to America, or England, or Canada, if she will. But let her above all be true to herself--to God's call spoken to her from the beginning of the world. As Moses in obedience to God, led the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the Wilderness and on to the Promised Land, so let Israel lead humanity. We would escape from this Pharaohnic world of blood and tears; we would pass through any wilderness that may bring us to the heaven of peace and plenty. But upon what road can we journey if not upon Isaiah's "highway of our God"? To make "straight in the desert" this highway, that God may tread it to the triumph not of our weapons but of His will--this is the task of Israel.

W.S.I.S. BASEBALL TEAM

OPENS SEASON

Victorious in game with
Claremont Boy's Club

The W.S.I.S. Baseball Team opened its season last Tuesday afternoon playing the Claremont Boys Club in Central Park. The members of the W.S.I.S. team are as follows: Merrill Wallack, Buddy Levine, Herbert Goodfriend, Ira Jossen, Nathan Nadien, David Nadien, Jimmy Walker, Arthur Finkelstein, Buddy Gallagher, Murray Bender and Daniel Kornfeld. The final score of the opening game was W.S.I.S. 6, Claremont Boys - 3.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON "GROUP" PLANNED FOR CHILDREN

A few weeks ago we announced plans for the formation of a Saturday afternoon 'Group' for youngsters. This group would enable them to play together on Saturday afternoons during the Spring under supervision of qualified counselors. In this way the children can enjoy an afternoon of fun without desecrating the Sabbath. All parents of children between the ages of 7-12 are urged to cooperate with us in forming this group. If you are interested please communicate with Rabbi Lifschitz.

THIS
AND
THAT



ETERNAL PASSOVER

By RABBI EMANUEL L. LIFSCHITZ

The festival of Passover recalls God's great deliverance of Israel, which transformed our enslaved forefathers into a people possessing spiritual genius and ready to live as a spiritually and creative people on its own soil.

Many will pause during the gay festivities, attending the Seder and Synagogue services, pause to ask themselves these questions: Why celebrate Israel's deliverance when daily suffering and tragedy are being heaped upon our people? Why celebrate redemption when the chains of slavery are closing in on our people, crushing their spirit and breaking their heart; Jewish young men pushed into hard labor gangs and Jewish maidens kidnapped and exposed to the fiendish excesses of conquering soldiers? What hope is there when innocent peoples are illegitimately invaded and their capital cities sent up in flames? What hope is there when nations are enslaved for mere economic and material advantage?

Nevertheless it is only celebrating and re-experiencing at our tables God's wonders on behalf of our fore-

fathers that we affirm our faith in Him Who is good and just and Who ultimately redeems His sorely tried people. Only by re-enacting the drama of the Exodus whose climactic moment is in the capitulation of the arch-enslaver Pharaoh; only then are we reminded that God ultimately brings to justice those who would enslave the hearts and minds of freedom loving society.

In the ancient Greek fable, when all else had escaped from Pandora's box, Hope still remained. Similarly, though all the blessings of life may escape us, Hope eternal and Faith unyielding will cling to us--Faith that God will redeem us and save us now as He did our forefathers of old.

"In every generation it is for the Jew to envisage himself as going forth from Egypt." Thus the Passover festival affords us a renewal of Faith and Hope indestructible, that God will redeem Israel from the Egypt, from the enslavement endured by Israel in our day.

SCOUTS MOURN LOSS OF PROMINENT OFFICIAL

Ou Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cubs, joined with millions of scouts throughout America in mourning the loss of Percy H. Jackson, who died last week. Mr. Jackson was the President of the Manhattan Council and an Executive of the Boy Scout Foundation. His death was indeed a great loss to Scouting.

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EMANUEL L. LIFSCHITZ, Ass't. Rabbi

ZALMON YAVNEH, Cantor

RABBI S. HURWITZ, Sexton

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HEBREW SCHOOL NOTES

The children of our Hebrew School have already contributed \$14 to "Vitamins for British Children", and they have, for the past two weeks dedicated their Keren Ami (School Charity Fund) to Moes Chittin.

CHILDREN CONDUCT MODEL SEDERS

The children of the Hebrew School conducted typical Seders last Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The children conducted the Seders and participated in all of the ceremonies.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Last week the children attending the Junior Congregation held an election of officers. Joseph Tilem was elected President; Martin Herman, Vice-President; Bernice Jacobowitz, Secretary; William Label, Gabbai Rishon; and Robert Golding, Gabbai Sheni.

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Getting Personal

The rain came down in torrents; the wind blew violently; but still a large crowd attended Synagogue last Saturday Morning. . . . In fact the W.S.I.S. family celebrated two joyful occasions - the Bar Mitzvah of Robert I. Elkon and the celebration in honor of the new addition to the House of Gross. . . . Mr. Bernard Elkon, Robert's Grandfather, gleamed with great delight upon seeing his grandchild become a "son of the mitzvahs" . . . "Daddy" Gross, "Mommy" Gross, "Grandma" Gross, and "Great Grandma" Margareten were all present to celebrate the visit of the stork. . . . It's a bundle from heaven, wrapped up in diapers, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jeanette Steinberg. Little Michael will soon be saying "Hello Grandma" to Mrs. Anna Dworkin. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Pargament came back from Florida looking like an ad for the Florida Chamber of Commerce. . . . Also returning from the sunny south were Mr. and Mrs. Weingarten. . . . Mrs. Annie R. Morris suggests that we buy Rabbi Goldstein a commutation ticket to Washington. Who seconds the motion? . . . A member of the royal family of the W.S.I.S. mingled with English royalty last week. Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein attended a reception at the home of Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman at which Vicountess Halifax was the guest of honor. . . . We are happy to welcome into our congregation Mr. Nathan Schupf and his family. We hope to see you more often. . . . Our "Happy Birthday" greetings are extended to Mrs. Max E. Sanders, Emanuel Yavneh, and our Treasurer Isaac Settel. . . .

WHAT? — Dinner-Dance
WHEN? — Sunday eve. April 27th
WHERE? — Hotel Waldorf Astoria

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



MR. and MRS. NATHAN FRANK

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Frank on the occasion of their fifty-third wedding anniversary. Our best wishes for their continued health and happiness.

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WOMEN DISCUSS LAWS AND SYMBOLISMS OF PASSOVER

The Executive Board of the Women's League held an interesting meeting last week. Plans concerning next years program were discussed. Mrs. Samuel W. Siegel presided.

Last Monday afternoon, Rabbi Emanuel Lifschitz spoke to the women on the laws and symbolisms of Passover.

The Women's League will hold an open meeting on Monday afternoon, April 21st. An interesting program has been arranged and all the women of the congregation are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. Harry Ward is Chairman of the afternoon and Mrs. Louis Landowne and Mrs. Benjamin Spanbock will assist her as hostesses.

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