

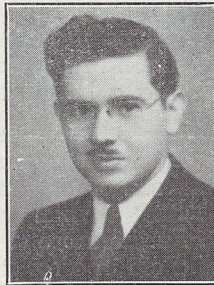
WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VI, No. 13

Friday, December 4, 1942

Kislev 25, 5703

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT



"EXPERIENCED" JUDAISM

By Rabbi Uri Miller

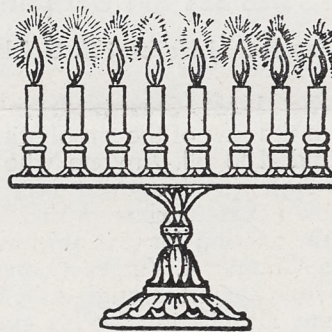
I recently had occasion to read an article in which the point was made that one ought not to say "I believe in Democracy" but rather "Last Tuesday I experienced Democracy". Democracy ought to be no academic subject but a living experience.

This same viewpoint applied to Judaism would have remarkable results. If one were not to judge Judaism by such mouthings as "I am proud to be a Jew" etc. but in the light of actual living Jewish experiences, much that is undesirable in Jewish life would disappear.

Firstly it would do away with much of the hypocrisy that is so prevalent in Jewish life. Recently I was informed of a dinner in which the main speaker spoke beautifully of Jewish traditions including the dietary laws. The dinner was "trefa", and but a handful of those present remarked at the incongruity of the speaker's remarks. There has been far too much of this "verbal Judaism", especially amongst our so-called leaders. Indeed "after-dinner-spoken-Judaism" has become a fad often deceiving the practitioner himself. It is time this hypocrisy was done away with, and, if "experienced Judaism" were to be the one criterion, much of this would surely cease.

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ATTEND MEMBERSHIP MEETING— THIS MONDAY NIGHT AT 8:30



CHANUKAH

During every generation, the pall of persecution casts its ominous shadow over our people — somewhere in the world. Yet, comes Chanukah and everywhere, throughout the Universe, the Jewish people, in lighting the Chanukah Menorah, dispel this shadow and the children of Israel again see the Horizon.

The lights are symbolical of liberty — that liberty for which every Jew strives, the liberty he perceives through his religion — the liberty of the freedom of the soul.

The Feast of Dedication, (also called "Feast of the Maccabees,") which is celebrated during eight days from the twenty fifth day of Kislev (December) chiefly as a festival of lights, was instituted by Judas Maccabeus, his brothers, and the elders of the congregation of Israel, in the year 165 B.C.E.

The Talmud sources ascribe the origin of the eight day Festival, with its custom of illuminating the houses, to the miracle said to have occurred at the dedication of the purified Temple. This was that one small cruse of consecrated oil found unpolluted by the Hasmonean priests when they entered the Temple, it having been sealed and hidden away, lasted for eight days until some new oil could be prepared for the lamps of the holy candlestick.

Chief importance is attached by rabbinical law to the kindling of the

(Continued on page 3)

Almost everyone has, at one time in his life, been tempted to take apart a watch or clock to see how it works—what makes it tick.

This Monday night the Forum period which follows Rabbi Goldstein's Bible class will be devoted to revealing to members the workings of our Institution. What makes our Institution "tick" will be gleaned from the various reports which will be submitted concerning our manifold activities.

As a member of the W.S.I.S. you surely want to know what is going on in connection with our Talmud Torah; how our numerous club activities function, and how well they meet and serve the needs of their specific group. The reports will most certainly hold your interest, from the Scout Clubs right through to our scholarly Laymen's Institute.

We are proud of the fact that we are an INSTITUTIONAL Synagogue in the full sense of the word.

Come get acquainted with **your** Institution! How better learn about an institution's administration than through its detailed reports? You will find that ours are far from being "dry statistics"—on the contrary—they are all extremely human, interesting and enlightening. They furnish an insight into what makes us "tick".

Members will ballot for trustees and directors at this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Don't be late for Rabbi Goldstein's Bible class. It starts promptly at 8:30.

GAME ROOM READY

Have you visited our renovated game room on the upper floor of the Synagogue House? Ping-Pong, checkers, chess and a variety of other games are there for your enjoyment.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Vol. VI, No. 13 December 4, 1942

Rabbi H. S. Goldstein *Editor*
Rabbi E. L. Lifschitz *Ass't Editor*
Morris Jablow *Managing Editor*

PEARL HARBOR and PEACE AIMS

December 7th marks the first anniversary of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

What are we fighting for? Essentially our struggle is one for freedom — religious, racial and economic. Religious freedom, we pray will be attained even in Soviet Russia. Racial freedom, we trust, will find complete expression in the United States with full justice to the Negro. Economic freedom, we hope, will be granted not only to nations but to individuals as well. Only last week a marvelous statement was issued in Ottawa to employers who have made race and religion the bases for employment. The statement reads as follows: "Until such time as it is satisfactorily established that all such discriminations have stopped. "such business will be closed. This will do away with the offense given to Jews and Catholics, in advertisements — "Gentiles Preferred" and "Protestants Only".

It would be well for us here in the United States to take the principle established by the Canadian Government to heart. Our utilities and banks and even labor unions might well become more American.

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



121st COMMANDMENT THE SET SIN OFFERING

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

The 121st Commandment deals with the law of the sin offering commanded to all. Anyone who sinned through error against any of the known commandments had to bring a sin offering for it is said in Leviticus, Chapter 4, Verses 27 and 28, "If anyone sinned through error he shall bring his offering for his sin which he hath committed." This offering was called **חטאת קבוע**, "the set sin offering" which was to be the same for all or common to all. It was brought when the sin if done with intent was punished by excision. All these cases refer to the violation of a negative commandment, where an act causes the transgression. The transgression was caused by an act of commission rather than through omission.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

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Secondly, the paucity of our Judaism would be exposed by this test. To a goodly extent we have substituted words for living experience. We ourselves do not realize how meager are our actual experiences. It would be well for us to be conscious of the fact that reading the Anglo-Jewish press weekly and hearing a Jewish speaker is not sufficient spiritual food to activate our Jewish consciousness. Writing a check for synagogue dues is a meritorious act but hardly a vital "Jewish experience". Book knowledge is absolutely necessary—but it is not sufficient in itself, if we would train a Torah-conscious generation.

Finally this test would impel us to actualize our ideals. The consciousness of our failing is a perlude to rectification. Perhaps we might talk less and do more. If we realized

The transgressors must bring the **חטאת קבוע** except the unclean person who unwittingly eats Holy food, or the unclean person who unwittingly goes into the Holy Temple, although if this was done wittingly the sinner comes under excision. Nevertheless in these two cases he who sins unwittingly does not have to bring the **חטאת קבוע** but brings a **חטאת עולה ויורד** — that is, an offering in accordance with his means. The rich sinner brings a sheep. If that was beyond the means of the sinner then he was to bring two pigeons or turtle-doves. If this too was beyond his means, then he was to bring a handful of flour.

There are 43 transgressions out of the 365 negative commandments for which the sinner brings the

חטאת קבוע when he has sinned in error. Furthermore, whenever we speak of a sin in error it means first, that the person did not know it was a transgression when he performed the act, and second, he must be in error from the beginning to the end of the act. It is interesting to note that one may have to bring many offerings for one sin committed in error. As for instance; he ate "trefa" fat and was told it was "trefa" and then forgot and ate a second piece. He must then bring two sacrifices instead of one, for the knowledge of the sin, at any stage of the act, makes the future act separately liable.

WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE

The Synagogue takes pride in the record it has achieved in the sale of War Bonds. Since an agency for Bonds was established in our building, members and friends have availed themselves of our facilities to purchase their bonds through the W.S.I.S.

KEEP BUYING BONDS. When you give a gift—give bonds. It's the present with a future.

how much we talk and how little we do, all would be well.

When you read this, does there not come to mind, this or that officer of a Congregation, or this or that candidate or elected official, who speaks glibly about Judaism, and practices little of Judaism.

The "Mitzvas Asay", the positive action, must be enthroned once more in Jewish life.

MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE

Last week Mr. Joseph Settel, Concert Chairman, announced that our annual concert at the Metropolitan Opera House is scheduled to be given on February 21, 1943. We were pleasantly surprised to find that immediately after the announcement appeared reservations for seats start coming in.

To those who have the foresight to provide themselves with tickets at this time naturally go the choicest of choice seats. Orders will be filled in the order in which they are received. You too may insure a choice location for yourself by acting promptly. Drop us a line or phone us at the office—TR. 7-8281.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

The Luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria last Tuesday was a social and financial success. As usual this function was attended by a very large and representative gathering of women from all parts of Greater New York. Rabbi Goldstein delivered a most inspiring message. Rabbi Lifschitz led in the saying of Grace. A most delightful and entertaining program was enjoyed by all present. A particularly thrilling feature was the presentation of the extraordinary number of beautiful and unusual prizes. All present were unanimous in the sentiment that they are looking forward to our 1943 Luncheon.

We are deeply grateful to all those who rendered whole-hearted cooperation in making this function the success that it was.

The next regular meeting and session of Rabbi Goldstein's Bible class will be held this Monday afternoon, December 7th at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Isidore Friedman will be the hostess in honor of the marriage of her daughter Harriet to Staff Sergeant Mervin J. Dattelbaum, who is now in Officers' Training School in Aberdeen, Md.

All the women of the congregation are cordially invited to attend.

CHANUKAH

(Continued from page 1)

Chanukah lamp, the sole object of which, however, was originally not the lighting of the house within but the illumination of the house without, so that passers-by should see it. And thus the Menorah remains the symbol, not merely lighting the House of Israel, but spreading its rays of hope throughout the world.

CHANUKAH AT W.S.I.S.

For their part in the Chanukah activities of our Synagogue the Madajabs, Detinu and Alumni Groups are combining their efforts in a Joint Chanukah Festival and Dance to be held on Sunday evening, December 6th at 8 P. M.

Minette Verschleiser will open the program extending Chanukah greetings. The lighting of the candles will be by Anita Burk and Ann Samuels. Joseph Tilem will chant the blessings.

A poem entitled "Chanukah", by Penina Moise, will be recited by Maxine Waxman. Jules Waxman will give "The Meaning of Chanukah". Community singing of traditional Jewish songs will be led by Minette Verschleiser. Refreshments will be served and dancing will follow.

TALMUD TORAH

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

This Sunday morning at 10:45 the children of the Talmud Torah, and Kindergarten will present a Chanukah program in the Assembly. The program will consist of: The lighting of the candles by Leonard Ehrman, Rosalyn Freides and Samuel Ward; participating in the Candle Drill, are, Simon Dresner, Phyllis Fox, Walter Gut, Richard Gilbert, Kenneth Kasha, Judith Nussbaum Eva Passweg, Martin Sage, and Sue Waldman; recitations by Jerome Benjamin, Robert Fine, Robert Ginsberg, and Lionel Lober; original essays on the Chanukah theme by Josephine Goldstein and Tillie Lewton; "The Song of Revolt" by Sara Prochnick; Chorus, Ruth Ornstein, Norma Ritter, and Goldie Rogowin; Psalm 30, a recitation by Bernice Jacobowitz with musical background by the Daled-Aleph class; participating in the play "The Last Candles" are Jay August, Eleanor Abramson, Arthur Goldberger, and George Lowy; "Byom Kayitz" a vocal selection by Suzanne Stern. Assisting in the program preparation are Miss Ethel Grumer and Mrs. Shulamith Danon.

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YOUNG FOLKS' SERVICE

SABBATH AFTERNOON

At tomorrow's Sabbath Afternoon Service conducted by the young folks of the Synagogue the Torah will be read by George Weil and the Service chanted by Joseph Tilem.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening 5:13

SHABBOS CHANUKAH

Weekly Portion VAYESHEV

Prayers for the New Moon

Friday Evening Service 5:15

Saturday Morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:00

Mincha Service 5:00

Sunday morning Service

..... 6:55, 7:45, 8:45

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:55, 7:45, 8:15

Mincha 5:15

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GETTING PERSONAL

Winter is sure on its way and despite last weekend's cold weather, the ladies turned out in large numbers. . . Norman Friedman, now serving in the Navy has asked to receive regular copies of the Review to spiritualize his submarine voyages. . . Congratulations to our dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Fensterheim on the Bar-Mitzvah of their son, who bears the additional 'Yichos' of being the nephew of Mrs. Moses Langer. . . Norman Schweitzer, son of our good friends Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Schweitzer, and nephew of our glassware donor, Mr. Alexander Kirsch, has been inducted into the service. . . Mr. and Mrs. Morris Levine and daughter visited the synagogue office last Sunday to purchase war bonds. Little Joan Sara, not to be outdone by her parents' patriotic deed, decided to make her own sound investment by making a donation to the synagogue in honor of her Daddy's birthday, today. . . Happy Birthday Daddy. . . We missed Mr. Max Moskowitz at services. . . We pray that Mr. Bernard Breitbart will soon be well enough to be back with us. . . We were happy to learn that Morty Langer visited with his family over the Thanksgiving Holiday. . . Neil Wald has made his premiere for the Sabbath afternoon Torah reading. . . We hope he will make it a habit. . . From the way Shephard Levmore read the Mincha Service last Saturday, we have a hunch he did some 'cramming'. . . As for Seymour Reich-

lin's essay on 'Making Democracy Function', he bids fair some day to enter the Diplomatic Service. . . Those participating in the Synagogue's radio program, recently broadcast over WABC, were, in addition to Rabbi Goldstein, Isidore Lauer, Dr. Samuel Greenberg, Max E. Sanders, and our own Cantor Yavneh. . . Our youthful hostess at last Sabbath's Junior Congregation was Anna Fuss. . . To honor the occasion Joseph Tilem read the Service, and David Buchsbaum was on hand, as usual, to read the Torah. . . We sure were glad to see Pvt. Jacob Krasner, he's been in the the army sixteen months, and has not eaten Trefa. . . his limited diet agrees with him to the tune of sixteen additional pounds. . . Happy birthday to Mr. Henry Blankfort, and his son Lt. Michael Blankfort. . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Bergman on their wedding anniversary. . . Mazel Tov to Mrs. B. Warshauer on the birth of her grandchild, Allen Michael born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warshauer. . . Believe it or not, Gus Roth has again been the first to pay for tickets for our forthcoming concert scheduled to take place at the Metropolitan Opera House on Sunday evening, February 21, 1943. . . May he continue to do so for another forty-one years. . . Many thanks to Ben Levine for the use of his car. . . P.S. We wish you, one and all a very happy Chanukah. . .

UNITED NATIONS
JUNIOR LEAGUE

Starting this Wednesday, December 2, and every Wednesday thereafter, the United Nations Junior League of the American Jewish Congress will hold discussions on "Zionism and the World Crisis." The topic for the first evening's discussion will be "Zionism To Us As Americans And Jews."

CONDOLENCE

Sincerest sympathies are extended to our esteemed member Emmanuel M. Cohan upon the loss of his beloved father Samuel Cohan.

Heartfelt condolence to Mrs. Samuel Field, upon the loss of her beloved mother, Mrs. Tony Schall.

JUNIOR MIZRACHI

Eleven boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 15 years braved the elements last Sunday evening to turn out for an organization meeting of the Junior Mizrachi.

Temporary officers elected are: Irwin Gleichenhaus, President; Edward Stein, Vice-President; Betty Wolf, Treasurer; Rita Gut, Secretary.

The next meeting of the group will be held on Saturday, December 5, 1942, at 7:30 P.M. Juniors between the ages of 12 and 15 are invited to join.

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