

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 15

Friday, December 15, 1944

Kislev 29, 5705

THE DRAIDLE

A NOVEL SPIN—AN OLD CUSTOM

by Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig

The Chanukah lights are burning brightly, the appropriate pages have already been sweetly recited, the delicious 'latkes' eaten, — and now we are ready for the "playing of the draidle."

In its various facets, the story of Chanukah—the story of an unexpected but happy reversal of events is clearly visualized.

As the name implies, the draidle is a "Spinning top" but symbolically it recalls to us the "turn-over" of events of centuries ago. As well known there are inscribed upon this spin-top the Hebrew letters Nun, Gimel, Hay, Shin which are but the initial letters of the historic phrase inscribed upon Judah Maccabee's banners **Nes gadol haya shum** — "A great miracle occurred there." However when taking the Draidle in hand, these letters become paying directors for a "put and take" game. The nun may mean "nothing" gimel—"give", Hay—"half", shin—"sure win." But moreover, the Draidle emphasizes that the game of chance in life goes on evermore.

Though the playing of the "teetolem" (draidle) originated in medieval days, our scholars sought in the Bible for a confirmation of the game. They found the letters in the Biblical portion of the Week in the story of Judah's coming to Goshen. The Bible relates that when Jacob planned to come to Egypt he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to **show** the way **להורות לפניו** (Genesis 43:34. These letters of **Goshen** **גשנה** are similar to those on the draidle, emphasizing that Judah, the son of Jacob, as well as Judah Maccabee **showed** the way for Israel. The very fact that the letters **גשנה** are equal in numerical equivalent (gematria) to **משיח** (Messiah), (both evaluated as 358), even inspired many to believe that the Messiah, of the House of Judah, would be the anointed one to **show** the way for further unexpected and miraculous

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WM. HERLANDS TO ADDRESS MEN'S CLUB

Will Speak on The Synagogue's Role in the Post-War Period

ISAAC SLIFKIN, NEW YORK COUNTY COMMANDER JEWISH WAR VETERANS WILL LEAD THE DISCUSSION

December 8, 1944

Vaad Hatzalah
132 Nassau Street

I am happy to be able to report to you that approximately 1,355 Hungarian Jews have arrived in Switzerland from Camp Bergenbelsen. They arrived during the night of December 6th to 7th and are temporarily near St. Galen.

Very truly yours,
John W. Pehle

Executive Director, Executive
Office of the President, War
Refugee Board, Wash. 25 D. C.

All Men Invited To Attend
This Interesting Meeting



Hon. William B. Herlands

Young People Meet Harold Levine Elected Pres.

The new group of young people above the age of twenty have formulated interesting plans for the season.

The newly-elected officers are: Harold Levine, President; Lenore Kaplan, Vice-President; Dan Schachter, Secretary; Sylvia Kestenbaum, Treasurer.

At the next meeting, this Sunday evening at 8:30 promptly, Morton Cohen will review Sumner Welles recent book, "Time For Decision."

Women's League Demonstration

"Victory Fashions"

Mrs. Warren Goldsmith, co-chairman with Mrs. Paul Shapiro of our program committee has arranged a very delightful program for an open meeting on Monday afternoon, Dec. 18th at 2:15 o'clock at our building.

Mrs. Charlotte Wilkinson Macy's Fashion Consultant, will give a lecture and demonstration on "Victory Fashions." A social hour will follow.

All the women of the Congregation and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

This Monday evening, Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class will give way to an open meeting of The Men's Club. Hon. William B. Herlands Member of New York Bar and former Commissioner of Investigation of New York City will be the guest speaker. His topic "A Plan for Aid to War Veterans Through the Synagogue" promises a timely and novel exposition of what will soon prove to be a major problem for the nation.

Mr. Herlands is a member of our Congregation and among his numerous cultural activities are the following—Vice-President of the Union of America, Chairman of the Inter-Group Relations Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board. Director of Yeshiva College and Chairman of the Yeshivos Board of Education.

Isaac Slifkin, New York City Commander of the Jewish War Veterans will also take part in the discussion of this vital subject on the evening's agenda.

We can assure all men an interesting and an enjoyable evening and we therefore invite your male friends to attend.

A collation will follow.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Published weekly from the Second Friday in September to the Second Friday in June by the WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, 120-188 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. VII, No. 15 Dec. 15, 1944

Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor

Rabbi Zev Zahavy Ass't Editor

Morris Jablow Managing Editor

Eight Little Candles

The Chanukah candles although small in size and of different color are nevertheless quite important.

We have often wondered why such importance should be attached to these candles, since the Jewish custom throughout the year requires the lighting of large, beautiful white tapers every Sabbath and Yom-Tov.

In a way, the Chanukah candles are closely similar to the character of the Jewish people. Like the Chanukah candles, Israel too, is a small and diminutive group and different in appearance but, so very important! The tiny, Chanukah candles are important because they commemorate the never-ceasing flame of the 'Nayr Tamid'—the Eternal Light in the Holy Temple. Israel too, as a small group of people, must always represent the Eternal Light of hope for Tolerance, Justice and Equality—the 'Nayr Tamid' in the Temple of Humanity.

Therefore, in lighting the eight little candles, we should become inspired with a powerful ambition

נר יהא דלוק במקומו

"May the light of Israel ever be kept burning."

Z. Z.



190th COMMANDMENT

The Nakedness of the Mother

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

A son should not uncover the nakedness of his mother as it is written in Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse 7, "The nakedness of thy mother shalt thou not uncover." This is not only disrespectful to the father but to the mother as well. It cheapens her standing. One who transgresses this law breaks two commandments, one because of his mother and the other because it is the wife of his father. It makes no difference whether the father is alive or not; she is always

"AS

R'CHASH

SEES

IT"

THE DRAIDLE

(Continued from page 1)

events. The light of Benjamin was about to be dimmed by his servitude in Egypt when the first Judah made with his zeal, rekindled the flame in his battles for liberty and freedom in Palestine. The struggle of the Hasmoneans was thus also a symbolic reversal of the bondage of Goshen.

As the draidle was usually made of wood, an allusion to it was ever found in the Haftorah of the Week. (Ezekial 37:16).

"And thou son of man take thee one stick and write upon it for Judah and for the Children of Israel his companions." The Draidle with its titles spelt unity for Israel. Since money is needed for the draidle, Chanukah gelt became popular. Even the Chanukah song "Rock of Salvation" מעון צור helped accumulate pennies. But instead of singing Maoz Zur, a Jewish wit would often cynically begin the melody with a slight change of the last consonant of the first word. He would sing only Maos Zur מעות צור Money is my salvation. But only then would he allow himself the amusing "play of words" in order to add to the gaiety and festivity of the occasion. Still the meaning of Chanukah in its ser-

his father's wife. This commandment pertains to all times and all places and one who transgresses it is to be stoned.

191st COMMANDMENT

The Nakedness of Thy Father's Wife

The Jewish religion forbids a union with a step-mother as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 18 Verse 8, "The nakedness of thy father's wife shall ye not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness." (Hertz) As marriage makes man and wife one, (see Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 24), so a step-mother was regarded as a blood relation of the nearest kind. The reason for this is that an immoral act towards a stepmother is a disgraceful act toward one's father, whether it be during his life time or after his death or even if they be divorced. The world is greatly benefited, when parents are respected we listen to what they say. A parent will rarely mislead a child religiously and morally. These laws refer not only to Jews but to Gentiles as well. They refer to all times and all places and one who transgresses this commandment with intent is stoned.

ious vein was never forgotten. All recognized that Chanukah taught that the Jew is essentially a (Shamash) Servant of Light. In the face of any overwhelming storm he maintains his own Light of Liberty and Conscience. Like the Hasmonean of old the Jew of today regards his Light as a Perpetual Lamp. He is ever ready to rededicate himself, in the spirit of Chanukah (Dedication) to the eternal battle for human freedom and Divine worship. He is ever ready to hold the Symbolic Draidle in his hand for he knows that after all the dizzy spinning in the world, the Almighty will not cause His people to be lost. The final spin will be for good fortune.

Bachad Annual

Chanukah Celebration

The Fifth Annual Celebration of The Bachad will take place in our Synagogue Building SUNDAY evening, December 23rd, at 8 P.M. A marvellous evening of entertainment, dancing and song which will feature Philip R. Alstat, who will present his humorous rendition of "Laughing Through Tears" as well as the well known hypnotist Peter Pan, the Magic Man. Admission — 99 cents.

Talmud Torah Chanukah Assembly

On Sunday morning, December 17, the children of the Talmud Torah will celebrate the Chanukah Festival with a special Assembly which will be highlighted with an address by Rabbi Goldstein. In addition to a unique Chanukah play, there will be musical selections, songs and recitations. Special awards will be presented to those students who have done outstanding work and prizes will be distributed to those who have participated in the recent Keren Ha-yishuv Drive.

Once again, the Women's League deserves a note of thanks for distributing Chanukah candles to every boy and girl in the school.

Secure Your Concert Tickets Now

There is no time to lose in reserving your tickets for our Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House, Sunday Evening, January 28th, 1944. Tickets may be purchased from \$1.50 to \$8.50. Call our office immediately for reservations—TR. 7-8281.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to our friend Mrs. Isidore Freedman upon the loss of her father MAX I. LEFKOWITZ, late grandfather of Mrs. Jess Ward.

Our sincere condolence is extended to our member Harry Schwartz upon the passing of his sister JEANETTE BRENNER.



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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Rosh Chodesh Teves—Sat. & Sun.
Light Candles Friday Evening 5:22
Weekly Portion: Miketz
Friday Evening Jr. Cong. 5:00
Friday Evening Service 5:20
Saturday Morning Service 8:45
Junior Congregation 10:00
Sabbath Afternoon Pleasure Hour
..... 3:15
Sabbath Afternoon Intermediate
Group 4:15
Sabbath Afternoon Youth Conference
..... 4:15
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:20
Ein Jacob Class 4:20
Mincha Service 5:20
Reader of Service, P. Kadushin
Reader of Torah, H. Shapiro
Maariv may be said 5:48
The Sabbath Terminates 6:00
Sunday morning service 6:55, 8:30
Daily Services:
Mornings 6:55, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 5:20
Followed by the study of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

Young Folks Sabbath Afternoon Conference

The topic to be discussed at the next meeting of the Young Folks Sabbath Afternoon Conference, which will take place tomorrow at 4:15 P.M., will be "Shall Military Conscription Be Compulsory." Morton Kamerman will uphold the affirmative and Adelaide Gottlieb the negative. The hostess for the afternoon will be Sylvia Kestenbaum.

Bar Mitzvah

Alan Miller

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miller upon the Bar-Mitzvah of their son Alan which will take place at our Synagogue tomorrow morning.



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Chats About W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

An incident occurred recently in the office of the Synagogue, which constitutes such a pointed illustration about being a member of an institution, that I could not resist the temptation to relate it to you, our readers, for your consideration.

A young man who resides in this neighborhood and is trying to enter a medical school, called to interview Rabbi Goldstein in order to obtain from him a letter of recommendation showing the young man's connection with a Synagogue. The Rabbi asked him if he is a member of our Synagogue and the answer was in the negative. The Rabbi thereupon declined to furnish such a letter, since he could not certify truthfully to the young man's religious affiliation.

This tale points to an obvious moral. Each of you should become a member of the West Side Institutional Synagogue. The dues are only Ten Dollars per annum. The satisfaction you will derive from the consciousness that you are helping to support our work will be a reward in itself without considering the possible benefit in the future.

Getting Personal . . .

Mrs. Aaron Goodman is on our sick list and we wish her a speedy recovery . . . Many thanks to our Director Samuel K. Beier for his donations of books to the Synagogue . . . Rabbi Goldstein headed the delegation of rabbis and children to the White House and presented Vice-President Wallace, in the absence of the President (who was away on vacation) two albums containing prayers and petitions of forty thousand Jewish children, attending religious schools in the U.S. in behalf of the children in the occupied territories of Europe . . . Welcome home from the armed forces abroad Corporal Seymour Goldberg, son-in-law of our Director and Mrs. Edward Jacobs . . . Congrats to our member, Dr. Isadore W. Kahn upon his appointment as Professor of Gynecology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. We are proud of you . . . Congrats to Arnold Oshrin, one of our Sabbath afternoon speakers, who was married to Helen Betty Heilbrunn and to Beatrice Lawrence wed to Maurice Joseph Braun . . . Our member Jacob Kaplan received a Scroll of Honor from the Federation of Jewish Charities at a dinner in his honor and in addition we were delighted to have his two sons in shul last Sabbath. Lt. Howard in from Fort Monmouth and ACR Lewis in from Bard College . . . Happy Birthday to Henry Blankfort, Reuben Richman and Al Goldman . . . and to our grand young matriarch, Mrs. Regina Margareten, who celebrates her 82nd milestone, we send our special greetings . . . Rabbi Goldstein delivered the dedicatory message of prayer for Chanukah at the annual meeting of JDC at the Commodore, as well as the opening prayer at the Yeshiva College dinner at the Astor . . . A hearty welcome to new members Maurice L. Barnet, William Fisher, Israel Kestenbaum, and Benjamin J. Weinberg . . . Joel Burstein gave a fine little talk at the Junior Congregation last Sabbath.

FOR INFORMATION

about one grave or a plot in our Memorial Park at Mt Eden Cemetery telephone our office TR. 7-8281.

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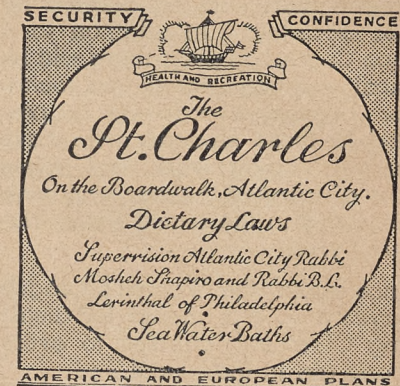
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