

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 28

Friday, March 16, 1945

Nisan 2, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint **WHAT IS SPIRITUAL?**

by Oscar Z. Fasman,

Rabbi of Ottawa Jewish Community

Words are subject to frequent abuse, but few suffer so constantly in Israel as the adjective "spiritual." When we keep in mind that the meaning of a term is derived from its social context, that its significance depends upon the history of the group that uses it, we discover that the adjective in question has been tossed about mercilessly. It is true that insurance companies and railroad lines preach to their workers about the spirit of their organization, yet nobody would think of describing them as spiritual concerns. Among our people, however, it has become a loose habit to mark every activity undertaken by a group of Jews, even if they are atheists, with the lofty label "spiritual." Clarity and honesty demand that we define our terms and Jewish tradition teaches one lesson which is distinctly unmistakable: nothing divorced from the Torah is spiritual. Just as the uncovered head may be a token of reverence everywhere else, but highly disrespectful in a synagogue, so must we of Sinai's witnesses refuse to bestow upon any concept or program that is Torah-less the description "spiritual."

It is ironic that certain groups of Jews proclaim themselves the guardians of the Hebrew spirit, while they undermine the structure of our faith. They blast at the Commandments and the observances, they ridicule those who fulfill the requirements of our religious code, they rear a generation of children who will mock at at every form of Jewish ceremonial, but they persist in telling the world that theirs is a spiritual solution to the ills of our people. Recognizing the profound instinct towards religion. Thus, for example, there has come into being the "Dath Ha'avodah" which states that to labour is the sole form of modern piety. How tragic such a doctrine appears, when its exponents go to work on the Sabbath Day with joy in their hearts!

These few lines are written with

(Continued on page 2)

DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES EDITOR JEWISH DAY TO DISCUSS JEWISH EVENTS AT BIBLE CLASS

**Mr. and Mrs. Harry Appel Hosts in Honor of Their Son's Betrothal
Topic: "The World Jewish Scene Today"**

MORRIS LEVINE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN SOUVENIR ALBUM



Morris Levine

We are happy to announce the appointment of our Director Morris Levine to serve as Chairman of the Souvenir Album Committee in connection with the Reception to be tendered to Harry Appel Sunday evening May 27th.

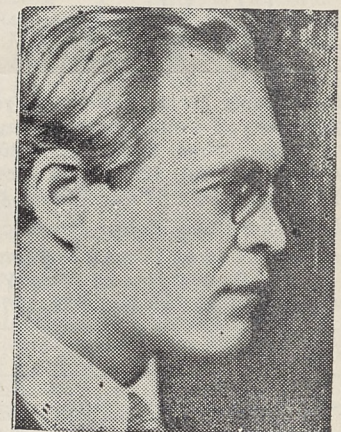
We invite all of our readers to join the many who express their friendship for our Institution to send their own advertisement for the Souvenir Album, and get their friends to do the same.

THE CONGREGATIONAL SEDORIM

If you desire to join us at the Riverside Plaza Hotel on the Seder Nights, please send in your reservations immediately. The price is \$7.75 per person each night, which includes caps, Hagadahs, and all gratuities.

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS SOLEMNLY NEEDED

Those interested in taking the Girl Scout Leader's Training Course (which begins, on Monday Evening, April 9th at 7:30 o'clock), should please phone GIRL SCOUT CENTER OF GREATER NEW YORK, 670 Lexington Ave. PLaza 3-3288.



Dr. Samuel Margoshes

Dr. Samuel Margoshes, prominent Yiddish writer and editor of the "Jewish Day" will be the next speaker at Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class this Monday evening. Dr. Margoshes will impart first-hand information in a discussion of the vitally important topic, "The World Jewish Scene Today."

Dr. Margoshes was president of American Federation of Galician and Bucovina Jews and later Director of the Keren Hayesod in Canada. He became editor-in-chief of the "Jewish Day" in 1926. Do not miss hearing this vital message from one who has been on the inside of the discussions that affect American and World Jewry.

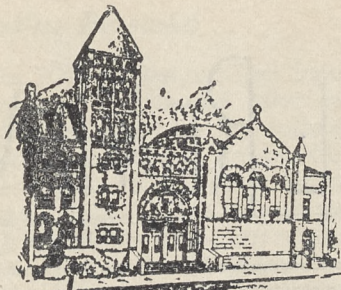
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Appel invite friends for refreshments at the Social Hour following the meeting.

Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class begins promptly at 8:40.

OUR MEMORIAL PARK

Mr. Joseph Buchsbaum, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee invites all those interested in acquiring a plot to discuss details with him.

Our Memorial Park is located in Mt. Eden Cemetery at Mt. Pleasant, N. Y.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Rabbi Zev Zahavy Ass't Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

FIRST STEP FORWARD

We have been seriously concerned in recent weeks with the future security of minority groups in our country. Many words have been written and spoken deploring the possible trend towards racial inequality in social and economic spheres.

From the legislative body in New York State comes the first constructive attempt to convert those words into action. For the first time legal procedures will be applied, to combat racial and religious intolerance—the greatest menace threatening our post-war security.

We hail the passage of the Ives-Quinn Anti-discrimination Bill as one of the greatest forward strides taken by our state in its march towards progressive government. We are proud of our state. We hope that such a step will encourage similar legislation in other states and on a national scale.

It is vital that an enlightening educational program be embarked upon to aid the application of the law. The wide and representative popular support which it deserves will insure a wholehearted effort to carry out its terms.

Z.Z.



213th COMMANDMENT

Turn Not Into Idols
by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We read in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 4, "Turn ye not into the Idols—I am the L-d your G-d." The Prophet said, "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope." (Isaiah, Chapter 5, verse 18). Sin is at first only as weak as a cord, but when left unchecked it develops into the strength of a rope. First it is as the Hebrew original renders it, as "nothingness," then idol, the "nothingness" become venerated. Thus every bad practice or tendency should be checked right at the beginning.

Bad thoughts are not regarded as

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deeds with one exception, namely thoughts concerning idols or strange worship. The law forbids us to give regard to the means that lead to idol worship, and he who transgressed it, as for instance, by kissing an idol received stripes.

214th COMMANDMENT

The Law Concerning the Making of Idols

We are forbidden to make any idol as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 4, "Nor make yourselves molten G-ds; I am the L-d your G-d." The Rabbis in the Sifrah add the word לאהריו. In other words idols are not even to be made for others. Vessels for an idol, as for instance, for incense and so forth are forbidden for usage, or profit if they have been used once for idolatry. The Bible is vehemently against idolatry because it has always lead to immorality and world destruction. The laws concerning idolatry pertain to all places and all times, to male and female. One who makes an idol for an Israelite or for an Idolator receives stripes once. If he makes it for himself he has violated two commandments לא תעשו לכם and receives stripes twice.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued on page 2)

the purpose of warning the reader against being misled by a word that has been mutilated and impressed into the service of strange gods. If it is a spiritual value you are seeking in Jewish life, be sure that it is firmly rooted in the rich soil of our Torah. Do not allow yourself to be taken in by the false banner and the deceptive slogan. Do not allow your heart-strings to vibrate rapidly, merely because the man who has appealed to you has spoken glowingly of the spirituality in his cause. Ask yourself whether what he is talking about harmonizes with what the Torah is talking about, and until you can reply to yourself in the affirmative, request of him that he go find another adjective. Remember! Nothing divorced from the Torah is spiritual.

YOUNG FOLKS SABBATH

AFTERNOON CONFERENCE

At the next session of the Young Folks Sabbath Afternoon Conference which will take place at our Synagogue tomorrow at 6 P.M. Adelaide Gottlieb will lead the discussion on "Church and State in Palestine" and Marilyn Wohl will be hostess.

INTERESTING PROGRAM

FOR COOKING CLASS

The new Cooking Classes for our Talmud Torah girls and interested adults will offer a tempting variety of recipes for Jewish cooking.

The girls in our Talmud Torah will have two classes on Sunday morning and another group will meet Tuesday evening 7:00 P.M. to 8:30. The class for adult women meets Tuesday evenings from 8:30 to 10 P.M.



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IN THE RABBI'S MAILBAG

Feb. 3rd, in Germany

Dear Rabbi:

Got your letter re Passover package and also the Reviews. Both were welcome. Please say "Mazel tov" to pop and Mrs. Wartels for me; also all my best to them for many, many years of healthfulness and happiness together.

I sent your letter, both for myself and another chap in my Company, to our Chaplain, through my Battalion Adjutant. Hope there is still time to get the packages as it would be grand to be able to observe Passover up in the Front. Wish the Jewish Welfare Board particularly could see that the Jewish boys in the Infantry receive these as no doubt there are many boys who know nothing concerning these pks. In fact, I am willing to bet they even don't know the date as we lose sight of time. I, myself, would like to have a Jewish calendar booklet so that I may keep informed of the holy days without having to write to my sister in London for the dates. Please try send me one, if it is not too much trouble.

The news really looks good with the Russians "going to town" and I know that they are not showing any mercy for which I don't blame them one bit. They know what the "Nazis" really are. From observation of the towns and villages, it will take a long time to get back to normal.

Before I close, want to wish all of you a Kosher Passover and enjoyable Seders; also hope that the Passover of 1946 will find all our boys home and we will make up for the Sedorim we have missed.

My best regards to you all.

Sidney (Harris)

P.S. Don't you think we could have a good Jewish Veterans group in the shule. We now have many veterans from both Wars.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to our Director Morris Steinberg upon the loss of his sister ANNIE SHAPIRO of Chicago.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light candles Friday evening 6:45
Weekly Portion: *Vayikrah*
Friday Evening Jr. Cong. 5:45
Friday Evening Service 6:30
Saturday Morning 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:00
Intermediate Group 5:00
Youth Conference 6:00
Talmud and Ein Jacob Classes 6:00
Mincha Service 7:00
Reader of Torah, Phineas Kadushin
Reader of Service, Morty Cohen
The Sabbath Terminates 7:34
Sunday morning Service 6:45, 8:45
Daily Services
Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 6:50
Followed by the study of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE KEEPS
ABREAST WITH THE TIMES

The Dumbarton Oaks

All members of the Women's League and their friends are invited to attend an open meeting to be held at our Building on Monday afternoon, March 19th, at 2:15 P.M.

A most interesting report on the Dumbarton Oaks Conference will be given by Mrs. Jacques Missur, who is a member of the Foreign Policy Committee of the League of Women Voters.

Come and bring your friends along.

A social hour will follow. The hostesses are—Mesdames David Cohen, David Elfenbein, Annie Gross and Minnie Horowitz. Mrs. Maurice Greenstein is President.

Any of our readers who plan to make contributions to the Red Cross may make them through the Women's League. Checks should be made payable to the American Red Cross and sent to Mrs. Max Frank, Chairman, in care of our Synagogue 122 West 76th Street.

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

Ever on the alert to serve the community in various ways, the W.S.I.S. is constantly seeking to reach a greater number of people, and to bring them closer to Traditional Judaism.

Recently Rabbi Goldstein organized a cooking class to teach the girls in the Talmud Torah the art of preparing food in accordance with the laws of Kashruth. The students will prepare and cook those dishes that are typically Jewish, and which have become symbolic of certain holidays. The services of Miss Leona Wolf have been engaged. She is an experienced teacher and her plans include the teaching of the following:

Koshering meat and poultry
Opening a chicken
Gefilte Fish
Baking Chale
Latkes
Haman Tashen
Blinztes
Taiglach
Passover Sponge Cake

Rabbi Goldstein has also arranged a class for adults, and you, our readers, (the ladies) are invited to enroll.

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GETTING PERSONAL . . .

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Elias Winer who celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this Sunday . . . We also send our congratulations to our our Director and Mrs. Jacob H. Silverstein who celebrated on March 6th . . . Similar felicitations are in order for our Second Vice-President and Mrs. Max E. Sanders and to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Toch . . . Welcome to our new members, Jacob Caminez, Mortimer H. Epstein, Aaron W. Gross, Israel Koschland, Fred Kuhn and David Lavien . . . Mr. Joseph Shapiro spoke over the radio recently for Yeshiva Chaim Berlin . . . We were very happy to see Director and Mrs. Joseph Landowne back again making us all look like real pale-faces. Sorry to hear that A.S.P. Louis Landowne is on the sick list again. A speedy 'Refuo Shelamo' . . . We welcome Jack Levine who came back from a business trip . . . Glad to have Abraham Solomon with us at Services . . . Rabbi Goldstein's observations about Sabbath observance were reprinted in Quote magazine . . . Birthday Greetings to Seymour Bernstein, Mrs. Henry Blankfort, Mrs. Joseph Buchsbaum, Norman Friedman, Mrs. Herbert A. Gossett, Four year old Hillel Avrum Gross, and Harold Miller . . . We were happy to see Cpl. David Stebbin and Pvt. Edward Fischman in Schule . . . Double Congratulations are in order for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Jaffin — their daughter, Mrs. Sylvia Singer, the mother of three children, has just completed Law School, and Barry H. Singer the grandson is celebrating his birthday. . . . Congrats to our own Josh Levine upon his promotion to 1st Lieutenant. . . . Happy Wedding Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Moe Oltarsh who celebrate their twenty-first Our President Lester Udell did a swell job for the Lubachiver Yeshivos last Sunday at the Plaza Hotel. His appeal which was the best of his career thus far, netted over forty thousand dollars—"Yasher-Koach."

BUDDY FRIEDMAN POST 297

Jewish War Veterans of W.S.I.S.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the public installation and reception to the newly elected officers of the Post, Sunday evening March 25th at 8:30. Every member get a new member before that night. All the men and women of the Congregation are urged to attend.

Max Sanders,
Commander

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