

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 31

Tuesday, April 3, 1945

Nisan 20, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint THE PARADOX OF FREEDOM

A Passover Message

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Life is made up of a plethora of paradoxes. Ben Zoma, in the "Ethics of the Fathers" presents a number of these apparent contradictions. He asks, "Who is wise?" He answers, "He who learns from all men." It is commonly supposed that to learn from others, is a mark of intellectual inferiority, whilst in truth it broadens one's mental horizon. "Who is mighty?" he further asks. He answers, "He who subdues his passion, as it is said in the Book of Proverbs, 'He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty' ". "Who is rich?" Ben Zoma again asks and answers, "He who rejoices in his portion." It is commonly believed that riches implies an abundance of material possessions, whereas in reality it means satisfaction with one's own possessions, be they many or few.

I should like in the same vein to present this paradox, in the spirit of Passover, by asking the question, "Who is free?". I answer paradoxically, "He who seeks to obey the law." It is commonly believed that freedom means to do as one pleases. No, that is false freedom. That is anarchy. Liberty is law. We think of law as anything but liberty or freedom. We commonly regard law as a restraint. This is another of life's paradoxes, as a great preacher once said—"He who stoops to wear the yoke of the law, becomes the child of liberty, while he who will be free from G-d's laws wears a ball and chain through all his years."

Life without law is not freedom but chaos. The safety of the individual is guaranteed by obedience to the law. Let me give you an illustration of this fact, from our daily experience. When we cross the streets, the traffic light is either red or green. If we obey the laws of traffic which these lights represent, we are safe, if not, we may be injured. If the light is red, and we cross the street, we may be hurt, but if we wait for

(Continued on page 2)

VE DAY

On VE Day, please assemble at the Synagogue at 8 P.M. for prayer and thanksgiving.

MEN'S CLUB SPONSORS THEATRE FUND

Proceeds of Benefit To Be Used
For Men's Club Building Fund

Moe Oltarsh, Chairman



Moe Oltarsh

Our Men's Club have embarked upon a very ambitious undertaking in order to enhance their Building Fund to be used for complete renovation of the Social Hall and the Isaac Settel Synagogue House. They have taken 1200 seats in the Majestic Theatre for the night of Monday, June 4th, 1945. The outstanding Musical Comedy, "Carousel" which will be produced by the Theatre Guild will be the enjoyable presentation.

There are seats available at various prices which may be obtained through Moe Oltarsh, 1441 Broadway.

FROM OUR SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

The banner for the winners of the Jewish Book Month prize was presented to the Chaverim Club by Joel Bernstein, the president of the Junior Club Council.

Martin Tilem of the Alumni Club won the Ping-Pong tournament and Herbert Perlman of the Chaverim was second place winner. A W.S.I.S. Ping-Pong Team is being formed to play other institutions.

SOUVENIR ALBUM DRIVE GETS UNDER WAY

Enthusiastic Response to Synagogue Reception For Director Harry Appel

Our members and friends have displayed an enthusiastic response to our plans for the Synagogue Reception and Souvenir Album to be tendered in honor of our Director Harry Appel.

We are anxious to make this year's Album and Reception one of our most outstanding events. To accomplish this we need the further continued wholehearted cooperation on the part of our well-wishers.

May we suggest that those who have already inserted their own compliments continue their good work by procuring the good wishes of their friends.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

All the women of the Congregation are cordially invited to attend the next regular meeting of our Women's League and session of Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class which will be held on Monday afternoon, April 9th, at 2:30 o'clock sharp.

In honor of the recent Bar-Mitzvah of her son, Mrs. Harry Ward will be Hostess at the Social Hour following the meeting.

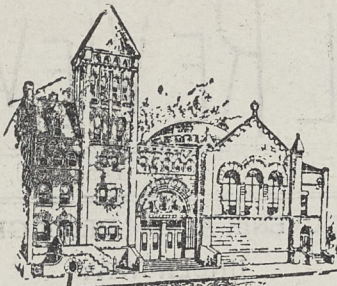
YESHIVOS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations for the Yeshivos fund have been received from Morris Friedman, Joseph Taylor and Aaron Wartels.

We are grateful for the ready and generous response of our members and friends to the recent appeal in our Synagogue in behalf of the institutions of higher learning abroad and in this country.

LAST CALL FOR COOKING CLASS

The first Jewish Cooking Class has met with enthusiastic response. New students will be accepted for the next lesson. The class meets on Tuesday evenings from 8 till 9:30.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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

IS THE BLACK MARKET BLACK?

Is the Black Market Black? The answer is yes and no. It is **not** black in the sense of being something engaged in only by people who are hidden and wrapped in mystery and darkness. It is kept up by plain people buying from the same dealers from whom they bought before, who convince themselves that they are not doing wrong, etc. It **is** black in the moral and patriotic sense.

Women buy in violation of O.P.A. regulations because they think they have to do so in order to feed their families.

This idea should be ridiculed. There is enough if we don't insist on having certain foods and always eating meat rather than fish. We might use a fraction of the ingenuity employed in getting around the regulations, for planning meals without scarce items. The newspapers publish suggested menus to help in this matter.

If every one of our readers would realize that it is the consuming public that is most at fault, and act with that sense of guilt, we would all be observing the law.



216th COMMANDMENT by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein Laws Concerning The Corner of the Field II

Well may the world stand entranced at the Jewish notion of צדקה, charity. The Prophet has well said, חסד לאומים חמאת "the love of the Gentiles is a sin." In other words, the charity of the nations is a sin. Why, you may ask. The answer I think is that the Gentile notion of charity is based upon love. Love is an emotion and therefore unstable. Love may be blind and prejudiced. The Jewish conception of charity is not based upon love but upon justice. Charity belongs to the poor. It is an injustice to rob them of what is due them. The Prophet Malachi asked the question, "Can a man rob G-d?" and the answer is, surely, if

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he fails to give his tithes to the poor. Until recently the nations of the world have been interested primarily in safeguarding the rights of the possessing classes. Judaism more than 3200 years ago has made the poor a partner to the possessing classes.

The laws refer not only to the produce, but include corner of the field of fruits as well. The poor may collect as soon as the produce or the fruit is one-third of its growth. If by mistake the owner of the field harvested all, he must return at least 1/60th to the poor. What we call produce means that which is grown from the earth from the air. Dye is not included in produce because it is not food. Figs are excluded from the law of the corner of the field because they do not ripen at a certain time. A poor man cannot throw his garment over the corner of the field and say, "It is mine." So similarly if one finds something he cannot throw something over it and say, "It is mine" until he actually takes hold of it and possesses it. Our rabbis say that a man is obliged to increase the size of the corner of the field if it is very small or if the poor be many or if he was blessed with a large bounteous harvest. These laws pertain to male and female, and to Palestine only whilst the majority of Israel dwells therein.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 1)

the green light to cross, we know we are safe. Take also the mariner at sea, if one fine day he says, "I do not want to be bound by the compass, the law of the sea," and tosses his compass overboard with the joyous cry, "Now, I am free! I can sail as I please and not bother looking into that thing's face for permission," is he really free? Yes, he is free to do as he pleases, but not free to steer his steamer safely across the sea. He now becomes a slave to the winds. He may figure them out correctly, and then he may not. But with his compass, the directing law of the sea, he is free to travel North, South, East or West surely and safely.

The stone obeys one law, gravity, and is without motion. The worm obeys two laws, and has movement. The bird obeys three laws, and can fly as well as stand or walk. And as man increases the number of laws he obeys, he increases in richness of nature, in wealth, in power

and in influence. So, too, in the realm of the spirit, the more laws we obey the stronger and grander is our character. Yes, we are made better, worthier, nobler, because of the many religious commandments. The more of these we follow, the less is our danger of going wrong. Our Judaism, because of its legalism, with its very many minute and detailed commandments, points out and indicates the safe road for every individual to travel through life. Thus, the Israelites were made worthy when G-d gave them much law and many commandments.

Liberty, truly interpreted, means the freedom to act in the area of freedom. There is physical freedom which distinguishes the citizen from the slave. There is spiritual freedom which distinguishes the refined man from the wild beast.

As we conclude the Passover Festival, the Festival of Freedom let us approach it with its implication, that the more of G-d's laws of our faith we observe, the freer we are to travel aright, with G-d, with Man, and with our conscience.

TALMUD TORAH

SAVE YOUR CHILD A TERM BY REGISTERING NOW

Many parents are contemplating sending their children to Talmud Torah after the summer.

We are pleased to inform these parents that a new beginners class has been formed and they may register their children immediately.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH KEREN AMI COUNCIL

The Keren Ami, student organization of our Talmud Torah has thus far collected and allocated over four hundred dollars for the upbuilding of a religious Palestine and the furtherance of Hebrew culture. The present officers are: Tillie Lewton, President; Zonia Prochnik, Vice-President; Bernice Jacobowitz, Secretary; Sam Flaks, Treasurer; Manfred Kochen, Kurt Salzinger, Editors.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The newly elected officers of the Junior Congregation are: Harold Gold, President; Donald Bergman, Vice-President; Arthur Rosett, Secretary; Murray Yavneh, 1st Gabbai; Norman Seritzky, 2nd Gabbai.

IN THE RABBI'S MAILBAG

IN FRANCE
6 March 45

Dear Rabbi Goldstein,

As you can see by the dateline, "Army Tours, Inc." have given me a gratis visit to old France, and while, from time to time, our accommodations have left something to be desired, it has on the whole been quite an interesting visit. France is, of course, very different now from that country I read about in a geography book. War has been a very real thing to these people, and the suffering they endured during the German occupation seems to have been terrible indeed. It seems to me that even with Allied help, the effects of the ruthless German confiscation of property will be a long time in erasing. Even more severe have been the human casualties inflicted by war — the tearing asunder of families. Interesting to me is the way in

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

7th and 8th Day of Passover

Light Candles Tuesday night 7:04
Tuesday evening Service 6:30
Wednesday morning Service 9:00
Jr. Congregation 10:00
Light Candles Wednesday night 7:05
Thursday morning 8:45

Yizkor Services Thursday Morning

Thursday Mincha 7:15
Friday Morning 6:45, 8:00, 8:30

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Prayer for the New Month

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Friday & Saturday, April 13th & 14th

Light Candles Friday Evening 7:08

Weekly Portion: Shemini

Friday Evening Service 6:30

Saturday morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Talmud & Ein Jacob Classes 6:10

Mincha Service 7:10

The Sabbath Terminates 7:57

Sunday morning Service 6:45, 8:45

Daily Services

Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30

Friday Morning (Rosh Chodesh)

..... 6:40, 7:40, 8:20

Mincha 7:15

Followed by the study of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

which the lowliest laborer is completely abreast of the latest news. I have yet to see a home without a radio, around which the whole family sits in the evening, carefully following the progress of the war — usually on a large map. Perhaps these observations are trite, yet when one sees these things first hand one cannot help but be impressed. My best wishes, at Passover time, to you, Mrs. Goldstein, and the others. Please remember me to the others of the WSIS family.

Always yours,
Maurice

CONDOLENCE

We extend our sympathies to the family of our friend and contributor Isaac Guzy.

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CHATS ABOUT THE W.S.I.S. by Morris Jablow

We have been urging you, our readers, to insert advertisements in the Souvenir Album of 1945.

The purpose of this undertaking is two-fold.

First, we desire to honor Harry Appel, a consistent, loyal and devoted friend of this institution, by presenting him with the Souvenir Album on Sunday evening, May 27th, 1945, at a Reception in the Synagogue.

Second, we hope to meet our budgetary requirement for the work we are doing, by the funds obtained through the advertisements.

Each department of our organization exerts every effort to attract to Judaism both young and old. This beautiful edifice is open for religious services every day of the year. Our Hebrew School seeks to educate the young people. The Social Department aims to promote the educational, cultural and social opportunities of the young people.

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Getting Personal

We extend our heartfelt felicitations to our beloved first Vice-President, "Pop" Wartels who observes his 76th birthday on the last day of Passover. Our prayerful good wishes are sent forth that he may enjoy many more years of health and happiness . . . Delighted to see Lt. Albert I. Edelman at Sabbath Services . . . We wish Mrs. Segalowitz a speedy recovery . . . We were happy to see Mrs. Annie Dworkin and her son from the Southland . . . We hear that our Director, Samuel Fasten is ill. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery . . . Minette Verschleiser was elected president of her class at Hunter College. Congrats and best wishes . . . Birthday Greetings of this week are extended to Aaron Gross, Mrs. Max E. Sanders, Robert Kirsch and Emanuel Yavneh . . . Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Rafsky upon their wedding anniversary . . . We were glad to have a visit from Pfc. Arnold Sabin during his leave in this city. It wasn't so long since he was Bar Mitzvah in our Synagogue. . . . The Institution and installation of the Buddy Friedman Post was a memorable event which will long be remembered. We congratulate our vice-president, Max E. Sanders and all the officers of the post upon the wonderful reception . . . Glad to read that Sgt. Sidney Reiss in his spare time is acting as Assistant to the Chaplain at Santa Ana, Army Air Base, Calif. . . . We hope that Mrs. Hyman Steuer is over her illness and that we will see her soon . . . Very glad to hear that our Director Joseph Kraeler is much better.

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