

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 33

Friday, April 20, 1945

Iyar 7, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint

THE MODERN SYNAGOGUE AND THE MODERN JEW

by Rabbi Zev Zahavy

Our great, tragic war has resulted in the turning of many minds to a Divine Power, for reliance and assurance. In fact, it greatly resembles a reawakening of the spirit of the devout Jew, who found the answer to his prayer for comfort and hope.

מעין יבוא עזרי

"From whence cometh my help"

עזרי מעם ה' עושה שמים וארץ

"My help cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth."

We are living in times of adversity, and at such moments the Jew inevitably turns to G-d. For this reason, the Synagogue has taken on added significance because the traditional Jewish home life has been found wanting in many respects.

Unfortunately, there exists today the "Synagogue Jew" whose practice and adherence to the religion of his fathers is restricted wholly to that which takes place in the four walls of the "Beth Haknesses". Such a Jew who lives and breathes Judaism only when he attends a House of Worship is violating the basic principles of our faith. He fails to realize that Judaism is much more than a series of incantations. Judaism is a way of life, affecting the entire community.

Another illustrious frequenter of the Synagogue is the "Kaddish Jew" whose first duty is to complete his eleven months term of Kaddish recitation. Thereafter he pays his respects to the Synagogue once a year on Yahrzeit and at the sparse intervals of Yizkor. A Jew of this type represents the greatest challenge to the future security of Synagogue vitality. He lacks entirely any sort of awareness of a living Jewish past. And a living Jewish past must be the forging link to strengthen a revitalized Jewish future.

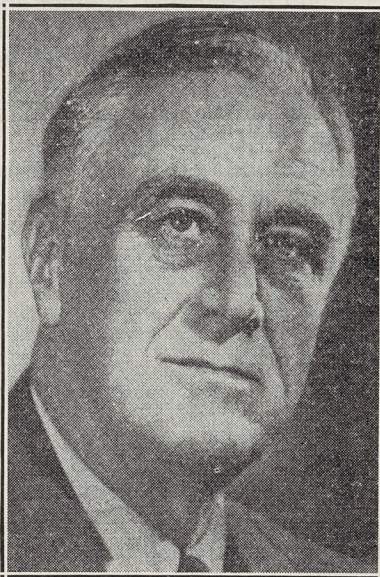
We may note that in the days gone by the Synagogue was the Community. The origin of all communal problems and undertakings had its

(Continued on page 2)

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

CHAMPION OF TOLERANCE, EQUALITY AND LIBERTY FOR ALL

Roosevelt's inauguration took place the year Hitler came to power. It witnessed his rise to world-wide significance in opposition to the forces of bigotry and oppression.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

From its inception the Roosevelt administration outspokenly condemned the Nazi cruelties and their acts against religious and political liberalism as well as the excesses levelled against the Jews.

Facing practical necessity, Roosevelt called a 28 power Refugee parley in 1938 to discuss possible resettlement opportunities for refugees.

The late President was not only kindly favored towards all Jewish activities but was also an outspoken supporter of the interfaith movement. Roosevelt's repeated expression of interest for establishing a Jewish national home in Palestine made him a beloved figure by all who cherish Zion. His friendship, respect and great tribute to Israel kindled within the heart of the Jew an eternal flame of love and admiration for his memory.

HAVE YOU JOINED OUR SOUVENIR ALBUM BRIGADE?

Our good friend Harry Appel, who is scheduled to be the recipient of the Souvenir Album, on Sunday Evening, May 27th, is looking forward to your co-operation. His aim is, and has always been, to help the WSIS in every way. When you submit your "ad" for our souvenir album, you are doing your share to aid the WSIS achieve its goal.

Don't delay! Join today, the great album brigade.

UNNRA CLOTHING CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Samuel Greenman, Chairman of the Clothing Drive in connection with UNNRA, announces that our clothing drive has met with enthusiastic response. The following members of the Women's League are part of her hard working committee. Mesdames D. Elfenbein, L. Ende, H. Hirsch, M. Kaplan, J. Shaftan, J. Ullman, H. Verschleiser and P. Wohl.

Please send all donations of clothing to the Synagogue office, packed and mended.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE Monday Evening, April 23rd

In accordance with our annual custom, a special Memorial Service in honor of all the departed whose names have been enshrined on our Synagogue Memorial Tablet will take place this Monday evening, April 23rd at 8:30 P.M.

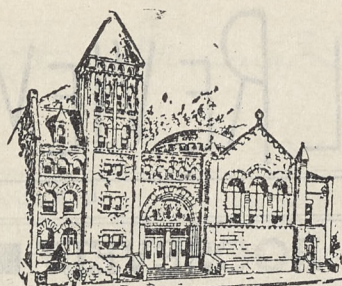
Rabbi Goldstein will officiate at the Service assisted by Rabbi Zahavy and Cantor Yavneh will recite a memorial prayer.

The families and friends of the departed are invited to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

All the women of the Congregation and their friends are cordially invited to attend an open meeting and installation of officers of the Women's League, by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein on Monday afternoon, April 23 at 2:15 o'clock at our Synagogue building.

Mrs. Lili Peller of the Guild Study Association will speak on "The Parent And The Growing Child." Social Hour will follow.



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April 20, 1945

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

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

The world has lost its First citizen, the United States its greatest American, and Jewry one of its staunchest friends in the passing of President Roosevelt. The President was born into a wealthy family. He was brought up as a rich man's son, sent to a private school, attended Harvard and went to France to complete his education. All this should have led him into the channels of smug complacency and of self-interest. Instead however, Franklin Delano Roosevelt cast aside the worship of the idol of wealth and pursued rather the Divine command to do justice to the poor. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a big brother to the "forgotten man" and the forgotten people. It must be remembered that he recalled our Ambassador from Germany the day Hitler ordered the burning of the Synagogues. His life was rich with opportunity for service which he never shunned. In his death his enemies are silenced and in his immortality mankind can forever be proud.



219th COMMANDMENT The Laws Concerning Gleanings by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Here we have the law of the gleanings stated negatively "Neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of the harvest," (Leviticus Chapter 19 verse 9) they must be left for the poor.

220th COMMANDMENT The Gleanings of the Vineyards

We read in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 10, "And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard . . . thou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger. The term "gleaning" referring to the vineyard means the same as Peah (the corner of the field) and the same rules apply to the gleanings of the vineyard עוללות as do to Peah, the corner of the field.

221st COMMANDMENT The Laws of the Gleanings

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

Now we have the commandment concerning the gleanings of the vineyards stated in a negative way, as we read in Leviticus Chapter 19, verse 10, "And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard." Of course the term "gleaning" is specific for vineyard as the term "Peah" is for the corner of the field. In other words, gleanings mean the corner of the vineyard. This is the opinion of the Rambam, (Maimonides.) However, the Ramban, (Nachmonides) differs and says that gleaning does not refer to the corner of the vineyard but the word Peah includes vineyards as well as fields. According to him the gleanings mean the small grapes which should be left for the poor in addition to the corner of the field. The small grapes are those that remain on the stalk which has no arm,—grapes hanging down directly from the trunk.

If one failed to leave the gleanings for the poor the court can force the owner to give them to the poor or to pay for them. If the vine is made up entirely of gleanings (grapes upon the trunk) it belongs to the poor because the Bible says, "Thou shalt not glean thy vineyard." On the other hand the poor may not come to take the gleanings until the owner begins to get the grapes off the vines.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 1)

inception in the Synagogue. In our modern setting, however, we find the duties and interests of the Synagogue gradually being swept away. This is a direct result of the momentous changes brought about in the last 60 years. Jewish needs became so great that it was necessary to set up separate new institutions in the fields of philanthropy, education, recreation and social welfare. These different institutions were established outside and independent of the Synagogue.

Another factor which further aggravated the weakening of Synagogue influence was the growing distinction between religion and secular knowledge. All religious matters alone were relegated to the environment of the Synagogue. The gravest error committed by our leaders in Israel, even among members of the rabbinate was to permit the Synagogue to restrict itself principally to religious undertakings.

What are some the most important duties which the Synagogue must endeavor to carry out as part of its program of revitalization.

It must first of all make itself in-

dispensable to the Jewish Community. One means by which it may enlarge its sphere of influence, is to assume the role of the teacher. From the portals of the Synagogue, instruction in the Jewish way of life should be disseminated. This can be done through classes, lectures, and even letters or notes from the rabbi. It must be prepared to return a constructive reply to any questions propounded by its puzzled constituents.

Its task in this matter is not completed until the Synagogue has implemented that same knowledge and understanding with a firmly rooted desire for **religious practice** in the home as well as in the House of Worship.

The Mishna Avos clearly tells us:
לא המדרש העיקר אלא המעשה

"Not learning alone, but doing is the chief thing." The modern Jew must become acquainted with all of the laws, customs and ceremonies of our faith. However, this knowledge must also be succeeded by the desire to observe and to practice them both in the home and the Synagogue. Then will we be assured that the faith of our fathers will be kept alive.

BAR MITZVAH



Steven Hirschhorn

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hirschhorn upon the Bar-Mitzvah of their son, Steven, which will take place at the Synagogue tomorrow morning.

ADDITIONAL UJA CONTRIBUTIONS

The following donations have been received in response to the recent Synagogue appeal for the United Jewish appeal.

Mrs. M. Abeloff, Adelaide Albert, Harry Appel, William Bassar, Dr. Adolph Berger, Seymour Bernstein, Mrs. L. Betancourt, Henry Blankfort, Abraham B. Block, Theodore Brown, Nathan D. Brown, Joseph Buchsbaum, Herbert H. Crane, Meyer J. Davidson, A.M. Davis, Celia Davis, Henrietta Davis, Leah Davis, Meyer Davis, Ruth Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Eliascheff, Mortimer H. Epstein, Anna Freudenheim, Isidor Friedman, John Gell, Mrs. Goldberg, I. Goldstein, Mrs. Greenspan, Oscar Gruss, I. Haselkorn, Max M. Horowitz, Mrs. M. Horowitz, Mrs. Barnett Joseph, Mrs. Irving W. Karpf, Sidney R. Koenig, A. Kornfeld, Mrs. Esther Lacher, Miss Rose Lacher, Chas. H. Landy, Helene L. Langer, Mr. and Mrs. Lazar, Mrs. Sadie Lesser, Dr. Raphael Meisels, J. Louis Merkur, Miss Sylvia Mentlik, Mrs. Leo Mintz, Mrs. Miriam Morse, Aaron Neustadter, Samuel S. Paymer, Louis Pimstein, Chas. Preiser, Louis Reisman, Albert Rich, Julius H. Rosan, Mrs. E. Rosenblum, Jack A. Rothenstein, E. Samson, M. Segerman, Elmer H. Settel, Nathan Settel, Benjamin Shapiro, Morris G. Shapiro, Hannah Singer, Leon Spanier, Dr. H. I. Stern, Herman Stern, Edward Ukeles, George Weinstock, Dr. Samuel Weiss, M. Weizman, Philip Wohl, Jacob Zagar.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening 7:22
Today is the 22nd day of the Omer
Weekly Portion: Achre-Kedoshim
Friday Evening Service 6:30
Saturday Morning Service 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:00
Talmud and Ein Jacob Class 6:30
Mincha Service 7:30
The Sabbath terminates 8:11
Sunday morning Service 6:30, 8:45
Daily Services:
Mornings 6:30, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 7:30

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

ANNOUNCING OUR ANNUAL SERMON CONTEST

All Post Bar-Mitzvah Boys
Invited to take part

Once again, we are pleased to announce the opening of our Annual Sermon Contest in connection with Youth Sabbath on Saturday May 26, 1945. All of our young men are invited to submit their entries to vie for the honor of delivering the Sabbath Sermon on Youth Sabbath.

Manuscripts must be mailed not later than Friday, May 11, 1945.

Any boy of post Bar-Mitzvah age who is interested in reading on Youth Sabbath should contact Rabbi Zahavy immediately.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Julius A. Bernstein upon the passing of his wife CHAYA ESTHER BERNSTEIN, mother of Seymour Bernstein, sister of Mrs. David Cohen, Mrs. Minnie Horowitz, and the late Mrs. Celia S. Breitbart.

We also offer our sincere condolences upon the passing of our friend LOUIS PIMSTEIN, brother of Mrs. Irving W. Karpf.

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

It is our belief that a Synagogue should exert its influence and extend aid to all truly Jewish causes. You, our readers, will therefore agree that we should do all we can for the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine, and National Refugee Service, who have joined together in New York City under the name United Jewish Appeal.

On the last day of Passover, we requested all who were present at the services to pledge generously for these causes. The response was splendid. Last week and this week we printed a list of those kind hearted contributors who have already sent their checks to redeem their pledges.

I earnestly urge those of you who were not present in the Synagogue at the time Rabbi Goldstein and Mr. Lester Udell made their eloquent appeal, to send your contribution to the Synagogue office without delay. Our brethren throughout the world who are suffering untold hardships look to us for a helping hand. Are we prepared to turn a deaf ear to their pleas?

We hope you will respond NOW.

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GETTING PERSONAL . . .

There was a great outpouring in the Synagogue last Saturday morning to commemorate the memory of our late beloved president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Special prayers were recited by Rabbi Goldstein for the eternal bliss of his soul. In addition, a special service was held in his honor on Sunday evening . . . On Friday afternoon, Rabbi Goldstein delivered a radio message over NBC National hookup, in memory of President Roosevelt . . . We extend a hearty welcome to Henry J. Mayper, back from his vacation . . . We likewise extend our greetings of welcome to Pvt. Marvin Etra and to Gustave Roth, our Directors Max Moskowitz, Samuel K. Beier and Sigmund Schnee, Joseph Schwartz and Louis Katz, all of whom were away for the holidays . . . Congratulations to our Director and Mrs. Harry A. Josephson upon the achievement of their son, Staff Sgt. Sandy, who was Scoutmaster of our Boy Scout troop. He was awarded an Air Medal, and the Citation states: "For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as bombardier of a B-25 type aircraft during an attack upon military objectives in San Michele, Italy" . . . Happy Birthday to Jeffrey Sanders Blankfort, Ruth Davis, Isidor Ehrman, Arnyce Livingston, Capt. Livingston, Larry Mirken and Michele Siegel . . . Wedding Anniversary Congratulations are extended this week to our Director and Mrs. Jess Ward and to our Director and Mrs. Sam Davis . . . We are happy to see Mose Goodman back with us all tanned . . . Emanuel Fine and Sol Redlich increased our Yeshiva Fund with their recent donations, many thanks . . . A speedy recovery and best wishes to Mrs. Lewton, mother of our own very active Tillie . . . Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Abraham Burstein upon the engagement of their daughter Deborah to Abraham Karpf . . . Flash! Chaplain Lifschitz is now a Lieutenant (Sr. Grade). Congrats . . .

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