

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. IX, No. 2

Friday, September 14, 1945

Tishre 7, 5706

RECONVERSION

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

This Rosh Hashonah marks the beginning of the first new year in our Post War World. What one word is it that is on the lips of all, from our President in Washington down to the humblest citizen on the roadside. It has begun to affect us all. That word, as you well know, is, RECONVERSION. For the vast majority of men and women, the word reconversion connotes the physical and material phase of life. I do not want to minimize the material aspect of reconversion but **we** must concern ourselves with the religious side of reconversion as well, **כי לא על לחם**

לכדו יחיה האדם. "Not upon BREAD ALONE doth man live, but upon everything that proceedeth from the mouth of the Lord." As food is essential to keep the body alive, so religion is indispensable to keep the soul alive. A man with a starved soul, is bound to sink to the level of a two legged beast. It is only the spiritual values emanating from religion, which give to the individual a vibrant, holy, living soul.

Many men and women have come to the Synagogue and have brought with them exquisite hats, precious jewelry, but failed to bring along their souls. Rosh Hashonah is a call for the **reconversion** of our souls, for the betterment of our lives in a manner that will please both G-d and man.

זכרנו לחיים מלך "Remember us for Life, Oh Sovereign (of the Universe). May it be that kind of life which will please Thee", is our prayer this day.

If I were asked what is expected of us on Rosh Hashonah, I would put it in the form of an Advertisement,—**"WANTED—, RESOLUTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS RECONVERSION WITH A STRONG RESOLUTION TO CARRY OUT THE NEW RESOLUTIONS."** Many of us come to the Synagogue only on the High Holy Days, or G-d forbid when sickness or sorrow enter into our lives, and find ourselves feeling like strangers in a strange land. We are then as immigrants in the Synagogue and our children become accordingly sons and daughters of **Foreigners** in G-d's Embassy,—

The Synagogue. Whether our stunted religious growth was due to lack of inclination, or lack of opportunity NOW is the time to reconvert ourselves. Now is the time to begin a richer, a fuller and a happier Jewish way of living. Will we allow these High Holy Days to glide away without making some resolution? Let us decide to come more often to the Synagogue. Let us decide to take greater interest in Judaism, in Jewish Law, and in Jewish Literature, and thus familiarize ourselves with the way of Life, which G-d has set for each and every one of us.

Now let us examine the social side of our lives—our conversations and our general relationships. We tell a lie as easily or more easily perhaps than we tell the truth, and so we should make a resolution for more careful attention to truthfulness. There are at least three beings present when we speak, the speaker, the listener and G-d. Many a man has been a regular attendant at Synagogue, a fine man in Shul. However some people say to me about this type of man, "Rabbi, you see him at his best,—in the Synagogue, but if you would see him as we do in business, you would find him a totally different type of person." And perhaps there are some who are beginning to say to themselves, I am getting on in years, let me now become wiser rather than smarter. Let me not mislead, misrepresent nor chisel anymore, but rather resolve that my religion shall be **תוכו כבדו** that my inner life shall conform to my outer life.

Now let us turn to the domestic side of life, where husband and wife seem always to stress the **little** things that bring on great misunderstandings. Forgive me, if on this very serious and Holy Day I tell you of a pathetic conversation between a husband and a wife, which has a humorous note. The wife said to the husband, "I can read you like a book," to which the husband quickly You skip what you don't like in a responded, "Why don't you then?"

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KOL NIDRE

The Holiday is formally begun with the evening service at sunset which ushers in the tenth of Tishri. This service is called Kol Nidre (All Vows) from the first words of the formula of the remission of vows that begin it. It recalls the atmosphere of hushed expectancy, the feel of a crowded Synagogue, visions of white-robed, swaying figures, and the pleading tones of the suppliant cantor. The wonderful and stirring melody and the haunting strains of Kol Nidre have made an imprint on the observance of Yom Kippur eve, that the evening is often referred to as the "Eve of Kol Nidre."



CANTOR ZALMON YAVNEH

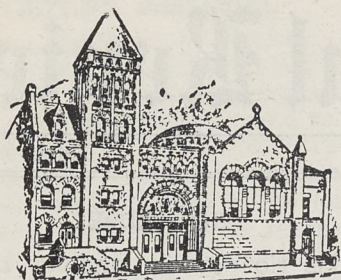
The Fast:

The fast begins at sundown and lasts until the stars appear after sunset on the following day. The fast is commanded in the Bible as a sign of affliction (Numbers 29:7). The wearing of shoes made from leather is prohibited as a sign of affliction. It points to the natural quality of all men, subject to the same natural laws, and inculcates sympathy for the hungry and needy.

Memorial Services:

Yizkor, or Memorial Services are held during the morning services. At this service each worshipper makes mention of the name of his departed and prays for the peace of their souls. Special prayers — El Maleh Rachamim — (G-d, full of compassion) are also recited by the cantor.

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WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Rabbi Philip H. Singer Ass't. Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME

We extend a very cordial welcome to our new members who have joined our Institution in the last few months:

Jacob Baron, Sam. Baumgold, Philip Berman, A. David Bernstein, Al Braff, Herman H. Cohen, Joseph F. Cohen, Mrs. A. Davis, A. Dresner, Leo Feingold, Jacques Fertel, Capt. Frank E. Fink, Louis Fried, David Gilbert, Harry Gluckin, Sidney Goldberg, David Goldman, I. Gross, Seymour M. Gross, Mrs. J. Gutman, Louis Herman, Mrs. Anna Jules, H. Kellner, Joseph L. Klein, Max Kochen, Alexander Kourland, Louis Margolis, Hyman J. Messeloff, Sidney Messer, Wm. A. Muney, Albert B. Nager, A. L. Oltarsh, Samuel Pincus, Maurice M. Rattinger, Arthur Roggen, Max M. Saffir, Al M. Sanders, S. B. Schlessinger, Joseph Schmeidler, Max Schwartz, Isidore Shapiro, Irving Silverstein, Henry Sobel, Abraham Solomon, Jesse Speesman, Oscar Stein, George Vogel, Joseph Wasserstrom, Harry S. Wolfe, L. Zabar.

We sincerely hope that you will participate actively in our activities.

RECONVERSION

(Continued from page 1)

book, but in me, you linger over it." I earnestly hope that there are husbands and wives, children and parents who are now making resolutions to understand each other better, to be just as charitable to one another as they are with strangers. Let us remember that husbands and wives, parents and children are human beings with human frailties, and that we must be ready and willing to forgive them as we want them to forgive us.

But dear friends, why do we break all these good, fine and noble resolutions that we make? There are at least two reasons. One is that we do not put enough Resolution, enough firmness into our promises, our resolutions. They remain pious wishes. They are wish bones, but not back bones. Wish bones are easily broken whilst the backbone is the firmest part of our anatomy.

The second reason is that stray resolutions will not do the trick. We must change our point of view. We must change our entire lives. We must be born over again as it were. Stray resolutions are like pieces of gold, precious in themselves, but not most valuable by themselves. If we would try to put a piece of gold into a bubble, the bubble would burst and the piece of gold would fall to the ground. So it is with us. If we are going to continue to live empty, bubble like lives, our stray resolutions like the precious gems will find themselves too heavy for their surroundings and will rapidly drop out of our lives.

A few stray resolutions cannot go very far towards making this year a better one. We must be prepared to reach down to our inner selves to warm up our hearts so that our entire lives may fall in line with the will of G-d, His Torah, His message and His way of life, remember the words of the Psalmist that תורת ה'

תמימה "The Torah, the law of G-d is perfect, and when we adhere to it then

"it reconverts the soul." On Rosh Hashonah I am always reminded of the Poet, who describes the child coming up to the teacher's desk and crying, "Dear teacher, I have spoiled my copy book." The teacher replies, "Do not cry dear child, I will give you another. Do better now try not to repeat the same mistakes."

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PENITENTIAL SEASON

by Rabbi Philip Harris Singer

Superior to all our spiritual feats is the sacred season of ten days which yearly opens with our New Year or Rosh Hashonah and closes with the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. It is impossible to imagine holy days more sublime in aim and nature. Religious history furnishes no example of such a divine effort to triumph over the lower proclivities of human nature. Man is imperatively called upon to look into his self, scrutinize his inmost being with an eye of severe impartiality, review his past life, give thought to the higher ends of his sublunar existence; arraign self before self; break the shackles that chain him to grossness and sensuality. And on the wings of prayer and repentance, coupled with resolves of a worthier future, he rises to a realization of world's vanity, the serious aspects of life, the justice of G-d, the beauty of virtue, and the certainty of Divine Judgment. Few are they in the camp of Israel who at the approach of these "awful days" are not aroused from their religious lethargy, not stirred to an endeavor of rising above the common level of thought and feeling. A spiritual wave seems to strike every Jewish home, fill every Jewish heart except such as are utterly lost to any and every sense of faith and reverence.

During this season the sound of the Shofar takes an iron grip on our soul, disrupting our dreams, unmasking our illusions and putting us against the wall — "Awaken from your slumber." In the sound of the Shofar we hear the voice of the Highest Throne that commands: "Make peace with self, thy fellow-man, and thy G-d!" We hear the message and know that we stand among the stars responsible to none but our Author.

Peace is the motto, the look, the breath, and wish of every good Israelite. An extreme effort is made to suppress the low instinct. Passion is conquered. Enemies shake hands and make peace. Parents rest their blessing hand on the head of their dear ones, and tears roll profusely.

It is a perfect self-consecration of humanity to the Divinest Ideal. It is a celestial triumph of the spirit over the body, the spiritual over the material in man's nature.

HEBREW SCHOOL NOTES

Classes of the Talmud Torah and High School will commence on Tuesday, September 18th.

Parents are therefore urged to enroll their children for the Fall term during the opening week.

SUCCOS RESERVATIONS

Regular meals will be catered in our Succah by Lou G. Siegel throughout the holiday. All reservations must be made immediately.

All those wishing to purchase an Esrog should see Rabbi Hurwitz.



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Weekly Portion — Haazeenu

Friday Lighting Candles	6:50
Mincha	6:30
Saturday morning	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's Pilpul	6:15
Mincha	7:00
Sabbath Terminates	7:41
Sunday Morning—Selichos ..	6:30 & 8:00
Erev Yom Kippur Mincha ..	2:00 to 4:00
Lighting Candles	6:44
Kol Nidre	6:40
Monday morning	8:30
Junior Congregation	10:00

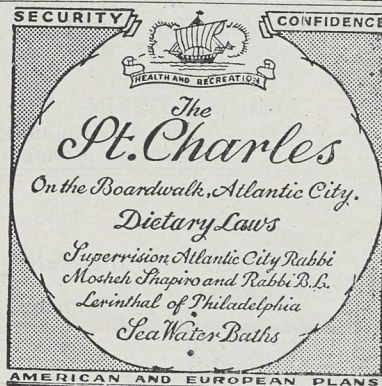
DAILY SERVICES

Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 6:50
followed by class in Shulchan Aruch,
conducted by Rabbi Goldstein.

KOL NIDRE

(Continued from page 1)

Before lighting the candles for Yom Kippur it is customary to kindle a "Yahrzeit" light (Memorial Lamp) that is to burn through Yom Kippur. Any of the candle left after Yom Kippur is used for the Havdallah light, thus symbolically carrying into daily life, the light of the spirit and eternity.



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RECONVERSION

(Continued from page 2)

May G-d give a new Book of Life for the coming year, to each and every one of us, and may you and I endeavor to correct our mistakes of last year, so that the New Year will find us truly reconverted to G-d and His Holy Torah.

May we all be allotted a year of life, health, happiness, spiritual reconversion and the fulfillment of our hearts desires, for good and let us all say Amen.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our condolence to the families of:

Lt. Commander Bruno Solby
(Solomonica)

Mrs. Anna B. Levy

upon the loss they have recently sustained.

HAPPY

NEW YEAR

TO ALL

GETTING PERSONAL

Chasimoh Tovoh . . . We were glad to see the Synagogue and the overflow Services filled to capacity . . . Thanks to Alexander Kirsh and Harry Ward for their assistance in the office in the disposal of High Holy Days Seats . . . And we are sure that you have enjoyed our impressive and inspiring services . . . Mr. Israel Kestenbaum added much to the spiritual uplift, in his inimitable way he blew the Shofar . . . Thank you . . . Our distinguished Director, A. M. Davis read the Maftir the first day . . . And Mrs. Isaac Naiditch, universally beloved figure in World Jewish circles in behalf of the Holy Land, read in the Maftir the second day very appropriately "For there shall be a day that the watchmen upon the hills of Ephraim shall cry: Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion" . . . Was sure glad to see Mr. Adolph Meirowitz back . . . he and his son-in-law Jerry Kurtz met with an automobile accident . . . Mrs. Albert H. Cohen was with us after an illness . . . We pray and wish for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Gusti Brandt now ill at Bolton Landing, N.Y. but who was with us in spirit . . . And we pray for the recovery of Daniel Bayer, son of Jacob Bayer . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Mirken and to grandmother Mrs. Anna Mirken upon the birth of a son . . . Judith Wald, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Albert Wald, has graduated from Syracuse University and is attending Tobe-Coburn School . . . Birthday Greetings to Sanford Mark Ward . . . Jeanne Carol Rafsky, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Rafsky graduated cum laude from Pembroke College, Brown University and has entered New York University Medical College . . . Did you see Harry Appel beam when his Coast Guardman son Bernard opened the Ark ocean-wide. . . . Moe Oltarsh was not with us because he volunteered to act as Cantor in Deal, N. J. . . . Did you know that one of the soldier sons of David Postal returned from Europe . . . We welcome home from Service Le Roy Lippman, who was reported missing and Sanford Josephson our scout master, Sidney Harris skipper of our sea scouts and Eric Katz whose letters from the far flung corners of the world were published in the Review . . . Laurence Rosan who was in charge of Junior Congregation received the Phi Beta Kapa and in addition his Masters Degree . . . Joe Tillem looked fine in his Navy uniform . . .

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