

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. IX, No. 34

Friday, May 3, 1946

Iyar 2, 5706

Sedrah of the Week

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Holiness קדושים

"YE SHALL BE HOLY". "Holiness" means not only abstention from anything sinful, but even abstention from some actions which are legally permissible. One may do things which are not prohibited and yet through them, drift far away from godliness, as for instance, a man may become a glutton though he eats only permitted food. The Torah wants us to avoid excesses.

Parents

3. YE SHALL FEAR EVERY MAN HIS MOTHER, AND HIS FATHER, ETC." The term "man" used in this connection does not exclude "woman", for the verb used in the second person plural "Ye shall fear". The reason the term "אִישׁ" "man" is used, is because it is not always possible for the woman (on account of marriage) to do her full duty by her parents. (See Talmud Kiddushin 30b.)

Since one is apt to fear the father more than the mother, because he is the stricter of the two, the Torah places the mother first, and says, "Ye shall fear every man his MOTHER and his father". On the other hand, one is apt to honor the mother more than the father, because the father is less popular with his children in view of the fact that he is usually stricter, and then too his love is not as demonstrative as that of the mother. Therefore the Bible, in regard to honoring the parents, places the father before the mother as we read in Exodus, Chapter 20, verse 12, "Honor thy FATHER and thy mother."

"AND KEEP MY SABBATHS, I AM THE L--D YOUR G-D." Though the Torah enjoins us to pay extreme regard to the wishes of our parents, yet there is one case in which parents may and should be disobeyed and that is when they order the breaking of the Sabbath or any of the divine commands. In such instances, the authority of the parents is overriden by the higher authority of the L--D whom we and THEY are to obey. (See Talmud Yevamot 62a and Baba Metzia 32b).

FULL SPEED AHEAD ON SOUVENIR ALBUM JOIN THE BANDWAGON OF WELL-WISHERS TO MORRIS LEVINE

YOUTH SABBATH



Ralph Kestenbaum

Beginning this evening Youth Sabbath will be observed in our Synagogue with the young people conducting all of the services in addition to reading the Torah.

Friday evening services will be chanted by Ralph Kestenbaum. Sabbath morning services will be read by Kurt Stern, and Ralph Kestenbaum. The Torah will be taken from the Ark by David Geldzahler. Those participating in the reading of the Sedrah of the week will be: Jason Jacobowitz, Leisha Langer, Arthur Udell, Alan Mirken, Jean Paul Weil, Kurt Stern, Gideon Goldman, Harvey Shapiro, Samuel Ward, Jack Verschleiser, and Herbert Perlman. David Buchsbaum will read the Haftorah. Hagbah and Galigah will be shared by Leonard Ehrman and Robert Hausman.

At the Sabbath Mincha service the Torah will be read by Gideon Goldman and the service will be read by Morty Cohen. Others who will participate in Youth Sabbath are Richard Gilbert, Jacob Goldman, Eugene Blode, Emanuel Hochfeld, Arthur Rosett, Murray Yavneh, Melvin Bedrick, and Robert Kirsh.

The preacher will be Ralph Kestenbaum.

Only a short time remains before our Souvenir Album goes to press. We therefore urge all our friends to make haste while there is yet time and submit their personal complimentary ads to Morris Levine.



Moe Oltarsh

Mr. Moe Oltarsh, Chairman of the Souvenir Album Committee, is not only doing a splendid job in securing ads, but is inspiring others to do likewise. Let us get behind Moe and together produce an Album which will be indeed a tribute to our loyal director, Morris Levine, for his zealous devotion to the WSIS.

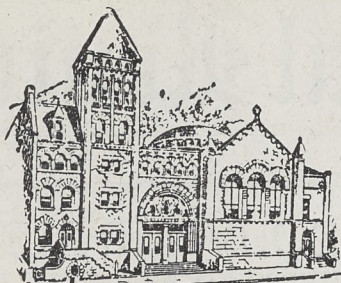
Plans are under way for the Reception which will take place Sunday evening, June 9, 1946.

WSIS HELPS EUROPEAN JEWISH RELIGIOUS RECONSTRUCTION

WSIS recently received an appeal for a Sefer Torah from the French Jewish Community in Grenoble, France, now in the process of re-establishing its religious life. Our Board of Directors immediately voted to present the Community in need, with a Scroll of the Law. By this time it is on its way across the seas to bring the inspiration of Torah and faith to our people who are in need of American Jewry's comforting cooperation. In addition the Board of Directors appropriated a sum of money, with which to adopt the Grenoble Jewish Congregation, and furnish them with their religious needs, such as books, prayer shawls, phylacteries, etc.

ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

will be held in our Synagogue the second day Shevuoth, June 6, 1946



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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Rabbi Emanuel L. Lifschitz Ass't Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

GOVERNOR LEHMAN

Our readers will surely be interested, in the following words by former Governor Herbert H. Lehman which he uttered at a dinner given in his honor last month.

"It came to me only this morning while I was dressing that today was Purim. I suddenly realized how little I remember from my youthful instruction as to the details of the history and traditions of Jews. It came to me as a shock how much I had forgotten. And I have come from a religious home. My father and mother were deeply religious people. They gave their children a good Jewish education, and yet — under the stress and hurly-burly of a busy world, I have forgotten a lot, and I am not sure whether, in addition to educating the youth, which of course will always remain the main work of this organization, it will not be possible to give us older people some kind of a refresher course."

We are proud that the West Side Institutional Synagogue, through its Laymen's Institute, is certainly making every effort to meet the needs of Adult Jewish Education.



249TH COMMANDMENT Ye Shall Not Use Any Enchantments or Omens

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We are not to follow omens as it is said in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 26, "Neither shall ye use enchantments." The Rabbis in the Sifri and in the Talmud, Sanhedrin 65b, say that if a piece of bread fell from one's mouth or came fell down or a serpent passed on one's right or a fox passed on one's left, and as a result of any of the omens one restrains doing the thing he had in mind, this is a violation of our commandment, "Thou shalt not follow after enchantments or omens". The Jew is to be free from the weight of superstition. It is interesting to note that large masses of people who regard themselves as intel-

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uals, philosophical and rational when it comes to religion, act most superstitiously otherwise. Once they leave their house for a journey they will not turn back lest it may be a case of bad luck, or if they are driving and a black cat should cross in front of the automobile they believe that something is going to happen on the way, or if a bat should fly into the house it is a sign of bad luck. All of this is in violation of our commandment. It is interesting to observe the psychology of people. They will not observe their faith but they are very meticulous in observing superstitions. Knocking wood, for instance an illustration. In German, the word for superstition is "aberglauben", which mean more than believing. Would that people kept their "glauben", faith, and not their "aberglauben".

The purpose of this commandment is to keep the holy people who have been given the Torah of truth away from such folly and madness as superstition. Superstitions lead people to cults away from the Holy Torah.

This commandment prevails at all times and at all places and refers to male and female and one who transgresses it having been warned against doing so in the presence of witnesses, receives stripes.

A TIMELY 'PRESCRIPTION'

By Rabbi Emanuel L. Lifschitz

No period in history has made it necessary for Jews to muster as much courage and heroism, in order to survive, as the present one. Never before were Jews obliged to make such great sacrifices, to endure so much physical and spiritual hurt, in order to maintain our faith and tradition.

In this hour of trial, there are those who grow weary. They seek peace and quiet of mind at any price. They are ready to give up their religious heritage and faith in order to achieve an imagined security. The Hellenists tried it before. Spanish Jewry, too, attempted it, en masse, while thousands have attempted and are attempting to give up their religious heritage in our day as well. For those we have little sympathy. They are cowards, seeking to flee from their people. They are unfaithful to the noblest privilege ever accorded man, the privilege and obligation to bear aloft the torch of justice and mercy — the Torah, in a world sorely in need of God's word.

They find no peace even in their attempted assimilation. They soon discover that the vision of a long last peace and freedom, anticipated through renunciation of Judaism, is a futile dream.

Freedom for the Jew has ever meant self dedication to the service of God and man. Freedom and peace of mind for the Jew is still to be found by participating in the struggle for the ultimate realization of the Kingdom of God on earth.

To that ideal and task, our patriarchs and forefathers dedicated themselves. That was the underlying message of the Prophets and later Rabbinical teachers. To those "ideals" we, in our day, if we are to be free, must rededicate ourselves.

To the faint-hearted we say, re-arm yourself spiritually, acquire a heightened sense of God consciousness. Study and become aware of the pivotal position and the contribution of Hebraism, the medium of Torah, to the world. Do that, and you will be sustained.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Election of Officers

On Monday afternoon, May 6th, at one o'clock, the Women's League will hold its next regular meeting. The program of the afternoon will include a Session of Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class, as well as the installation of the newly elected officers for the ensuing year, by the Rabbi.

Mrs. Manuel Bergman and Mrs. Philip Wohl will be the hostesses at the Social Hour preceding the meeting. All the women of the congregation are cordially invited to attend.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE

"Adjustments in Early Years of Married Life"

Mrs. Edward Weinstein, Chairman of the Junior Women's League of the WSIS, cordially invites all the young married women of the congregation to attend the next Open Meeting of this group which will be held at the Synagogue House on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:30 o'clock.

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will give a brief talk on Shevuot customs and ceremonies.

Dr. Moses Jung who is an authority on the subject of "Marriage", will address the women on "Adjustments in the Early years of Married Life" and will answer questions on this vital subject.

Mrs. Bernard Udell and Mrs. Leon Roth will be the hostesses at the Social Hour following the meeting.

Mrs. Harold Epstein, Membership Chairman, reports progress in the growth of the Junior Women's League.

A QUESTION. — ANSWERED

April 24, 1946

Dear Rabbi Goldstein:

Will you please enlighten me as to whether it is proper for women to attend the Synagogue Services in HATLESS FASHION.

Your answer in the REVIEW will give me too.

Thank you, and with kindest regards, I remain,

Respectfully,

Your answer is: — It is highly improper to enter the Synagogue bare-

H. S. G.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Today is the 17th day of the Omer
Light Candles Friday Evening 7:35
Weekly Portion "Kdoshim"

Youth Sabbath

Friday Evening Service6:30
Saturday Morning9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Rabbi Lifschitz's Class6:45
Rabbi Hurwitz's Class6:45
Mincha7:45
Sabbath Terminates8:25
Sun. morning Service6:45, 8:45
DAILY SERVICES

Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha7:45
Followed by class in Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL EXERCISES

May 27, 1946, 8:45 P. M.

On Monday night, May 27th, at 8:45 Annual Memorial Services will be held for those departed whose names are inscribed on the Synagogue's Memorial Tablet.

Invitations are being mailed to the families of the departed, whose memories will be honored on that evening.

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CHATS ABOUT W. S. I. S.

By Morris Jablow

On the last day of Passover an appeal was made in our Synagogue on behalf of a particularly worthy institution, the Jewish Community School located at 30 West 74th St.

This is in keeping with the policy of the W.S.I.S., to use its influence and prestige to help other worthy causes.

The merit of this school lies in the fact that it educates the child thoroughly in the ways of Judaism and at the same time provides a broad training in secular knowledge. The school day is from 9 A. M. until 4 P. M.

The Jewish Community School has 140 pupils and has already outgrown its present quarters. To meet this growing demand and to provide for future expansion a school building, occupying a whole block front further uptown, has been purchased. Funds are needed to meet the down payment upon the new purchase.

You, our readers, interested in Jewish education are urged to support this foundation-stone of Judaism by contributing as liberally as you can. Please make checks payable to the Jewish Community School and mail it to us.

Getting Personal

Glad to hear that Director Samuel K. Beier is well on mend. We feel sure that in Sam's case spiritual therapy was a significant factor in his recovery from virus pneumonia. . . . A hearty mazeltov to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Klein on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. . . . Speeding out of the South Pacific after several years of duty, Lt. Harold Gross of the House of Gross visited the Synagogue in 'civies' to offer prayers of thanksgiving. . . . Our heartfelt prayers for a speedy recovery to our member and devoted friend of the Synagogue, Mr. M. Weitzman. . . . Glad to hear from Pvt. Jack Flaks from Camp Crowder, Missouri. . . . Congratulations to Capt. Nathaniel E. Margolis upon his discharge from AUS. . . . One birthday candle to little Esther Haselkorn, grandchild of our member, Mr. Isaac Haselkorn. . . . We missed one of our most regular worshippers at services, Vice-President, Max E. Sanders. . . . Congratulations to Hilna, daughter of "Aunt" Sarah Moss, who was married to David Wolper, son of Dr. and Mrs. Max Wolper. . . . Mr. Felix Gouled donated a sewing machine to the Synagogue. He also presented Madam de Gaule with twenty machines in appreciation of France's hospitality to 175,000 Jewish refugees. . . . Welcome to Rabbi Fruchter from Memphis, Tenn. . . . Happy to see Cpl. Arthur Bach, nephew of Mr. and Mrs. David Galton. Arthur was a fine student of our Talmud Torah and is doing well in Uncle Sam's Army, instructing in the Air Corps. Keep it up Arty. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Schlengel (nee Gert Felsenburg) who were married in our shule last Saturday night. . . . Heartiest congratulations to our Director and Mrs. William Horowitz upon their 30th wedding anniversary yesterday.

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