

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. IX, No. 35

Friday, May 10, 1946

Iyar 9, 5706

Sedrah of the Week

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

אמור Judaism — Living Religion

1. "AND THE L-D SAID TO MOSES, SPEAK UNTO THE PRIESTS THE SONS OF AARON AND SAY UNTO THEM, THERE SHALL NONE BE DEFILED, FOR THE DEAD AMONG HIS PEOPLE". The priest or כהן may not come in contact with dead bodies excepting in the case of the seven near relatives enumerated in verses 2 and 3. Every idolatrous religion finds its origin in the veneration of a dead person. All the mythological deities and semi-gods, were plain mortals who distinguished themselves in one way or another. Thus a grave is frequently found as the shrine for the worshipping pilgrim and nearly every house of worship is an annex of a graveyard. Judaism, as a living religion serves and worships only the living G-d. Judaism, in no unequivocal or doubtful terms, prohibited its priests not only from coming in contact with, but also from being within four cubits of or in the house of a dead person. If the כהנים "the priests" violated this law, they become defiled and were for a time disqualified from serving and ministering in the Tabernacle or Temple.

Furthermore, the priest who is the superior man, should not need the lesson of death to frighten him into faith, therefore he is not to come in contact with the dead.

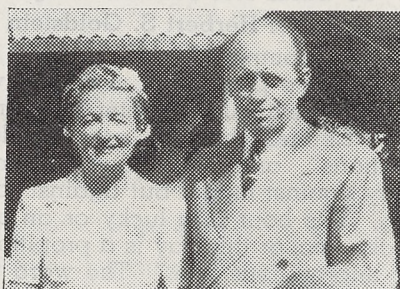
כהן

8. "HE SHALL BE HOLY UNTO THEM, ETC." The Rabbis say in the Talmud in Gittin 59b that when he (the priest) is in company with his equals (namely where there is no Rabbi or scholar greater than he), he should be the first one called up to the reading of the Torah, and should be honored with the privilege of leading in the saying of the grace after the meals. At the present time, since the line of demarcation between the varying degrees of scholarship is not very clear, the priest is invariably called up first, to the reading of the Biblical portion, in order to eliminate quarrels at the reading of the Torah.

EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT NEEDED TO PUT OVER SOUVENIR ALBUM

WOMEN'S LEAGUE SPRING PROJECT

"A Day In The Country"



Mr. and Mrs. William Horwitz
Sponsors

In honor of their 30th wedding anniversary, our Director, William Horwitz, and his good wife, Martha, (nee Wartels), member of the Executive Committee of our Women's League, have most generously volunteered to sponsor the Women's League Spring Fund Raising Project, —"A Day In the Country".

On Wednesday, June 12th at 10 A. M., the members of our Women's League and their friends, will leave by bus and private cars for the beautiful Padawer Estate, at Rye on the Sound.

The subscription price of \$5 per person will include, Transportation, Lunch, Games, Mah Jong and Swimming.

Make your reservations at once, by calling Mrs. Harry Ward, Chairman of this project, TR. 7-7328.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Maurice Greenstein, conscientious President of our Women's League, urges all the members of the Executive Board to attend a very important meeting which will be held on Monday afternoon, May 13th at one o'clock sharp at the Synagogue House.

A social hour will precede the meeting.

President Calls Upon You To Aid Album Project

Due to the Passover holidays there has been a lull in securing complimentary ads for the Synagogue's annual Souvenir Album to be dedicated and presented to our director, Morris Levine, at a reception on



Lester Udell

Sunday evening, June 9, 1946. Mr. Levine has during his years of association with us consistently and indefatigably served the Synagogue in its every endeavor. By honoring Mr. Levine with your complimentary ad you will aid the Synagogue to continue to carry on its telling program of Jewish religious, cultural and social life in the community.

You are therefore urgently requested not to delay in sending your personal complimentary ad and getting your friends to do likewise. For your convenience you may use the attached ad blank. Additional blanks may be secured in the Synagogue office or by phoning TRafalgar 7-8281—8251.

CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISEMENT

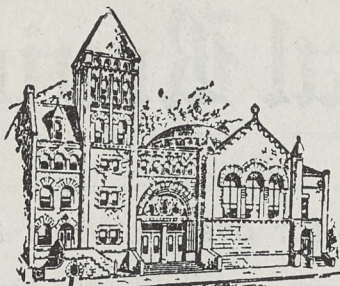
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WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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

TOO SOON TO REJOICE

The Anglo-American Committee has published its report permitting 100,000 Jews to enter Eretz Yisroel at once. Our elation is unwarranted, for Mr. Atlee has indicated that England is not ready to carry out the Committee's recommendations unless Palestine Jewry demobilize the Haganah, its "Jewish self-defense." The Haganah has done yeomen service for several decades defending Jewish life and property in Palestine. Had England conscientiously fulfilled its responsibility to her Palestine mandate the Haganah would never have been established. Palestine Jewry's hand was forced and will so continue to be until England determines to fulfill the spirit and letter of the Balfour Declaration — to establish a Jewish National Homeland in Palestine. To accomplish the latter, a definite, honest, outspoken platform of concrete, specific British intensions regarding the ultimate establishment of a National Jewish Homeland, in Eretz Yisroel, is necessary. Jewry will not comprise with its God-given and manconfirmed rights to its ancient homeland. Unto that end Israel is dedicated. With God's help our hopes shall be realized.

E. L. L.



250TH COMMANDMENT

Ye Shall Not Practice Magic
By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

This commandment warns us against the practice of magic as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 26, "Neither shall ye practice divinations", and it petitions us not only against magic but against saying, "this hour is a lucky or an unlucky one; or this day is a propitious or unpropitious one." The word for divination may also be translated as "Observing times or season". This is interpreted by the Rabbis to refer to the habit of some people to refrain from beginning a business journey on the 13th or holding back from doing anything on a certain day of the month which is consider-

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

ed unlucky, (See Talmud Sanhedrin 65b). Our commandment is also a prohibition against human efforts which cause us to believe that the magicians have supernatural power and that they are performing miracles, which of course is all folly. This commandment is understood by some as forbidding conjuring or the use of illusions which by deception of the vision seem to perform actions which are contrary to nature, as for instance, one will throw up a coin into the air and then remove it from a drawer that has been closed. All this is the result of sleight of hand tricks and optical illusions.

The purpose of this commandment is as we said above, to keep man away from wrong thinking and to restrain him from ascribing the causes of things to any agency other than the G-dhead.

This prohibition prevails at all times and places, and refers to males and females and one who trespasses it, including both the diviner as well as the one who follows him, is to receive stripes. Of course, both transgressors are to be warned against violating this law. The warning is to be made in the presence of at least two witnesses.

POST-WAR JEWISH EDUCATION

By Dr. Pinkhos Churgin

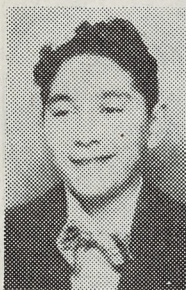
The present facts about Jewish education in American are of unique significance. On the one hand, there is a more positive attitude towards Jewish education. The old perfunctory place assigned to Jewish education in the life of the community is rapidly giving place to one of prominence and centrality. There is a definite shift in sentiment on the part of community-wide organizations, like federations and community councils, toward Jewish education. The federations are now taking the initiative in bringing the local Jewish education problem within their purview.

The changed attitude of these agencies reflects the change of heart, on the part of the Jewish leaders and the Jewish masses in general, regarding Jewish education. With the exception of Palestine and Relief, nothing in Jewish life has a stronger appeal to the Jewish heart, at the present moment, than Jewish education. There is to be seen in this renewed interest in Jewish education a growing conviction on the

part of the American Jew that, Jewish education, is the most potent factor in the survival and the security of Judaism in this country. He is beginning to recognize the simple fact that by knowing and appreciating Judaism, our younger generation will gather strength and courage to carry on the struggle for the preservation of Jewish life in this country.

Out of this conviction stems the present trend for a more comprehensive and wholesome Jewish education. American Jews who hitherto were the easy victims of the persuasive views of proponents of minimum Jewish education are now turning towards the ideals of maximum Jewish education. The name Yeshiva or the institution of the Day School, larger and smaller, no more makes him tremble with horror. On the contrary, he displays a genuine interest in it, and even an eagerness to help sustain the effort on its behalf. The Day School, or the Elementary Yeshiva, is the highest expression of the ideal of maximum Jewish education, and, as such, is appealing to the reawakened conscience of Jewry in the United States.

BAR MITZVAH



Herbert Rosen

Noel Schiff

We congratulate the parents of this Sabbath's Bar Mitzvah boys, Herbert Rosen and Noel Schiff.

TALMUD TORAH STUDENTS AID
IN OVERSEAS RELIEF

The Pikuach Nefesh (Save A Life) organization of our Talmud Torah is pleased to announce that in its recent drive it has collected 274 cans of food and in addition has been able to ship 31 packages containing kosher food, medication and prayer books to Jewish communities in Germany and Poland. Plans are under way for our Talmud Torah to "adopt a religious school abroad.



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MEN'S CLUB MEETING

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 13TH

The next meeting of the Men's Club scheduled for Monday evening, May 13th at 8:30 o'clock will be highlighted by the presentation of more elaborate and detailed plans for the proposed alterations of the Synagogue buildings. All members are invited to be present. Refreshments will be served.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Today is the 24th day of the Omer

Light Candles Friday Evening 7:40

Weekly Portion "Emor"

Friday Evening Service6:30

Saturday Morning9:00

Junior Congregation10:00

Rabbi Lifschitz's Class6:50

Rabbi Hurwit's Class6:50

Mincha7:50

Sabbath Terminates8:30

Sun. morning Service6:45, 8:45

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30

Mincha7:50

Followed by class in Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the family of the late

BESSIE SETTEL

and to the family of the late

ELIAS MERKIN

upon their irreparable loss.

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

All of you, our readers, are surely interested in the plans initiated by the Men's Club for the alteration of the Social Hall and the Synagogue House.

Originally it was contemplated to confine the work of re-habilitation to a new entrance to the Synagogue House, a new stairway from the main lobby, an enlarged Social Hall, new check-rooms, and a new kitchen.

As discussions, investigations and exchange of ideas among the members of the Men's Club, a committee representing the Board of Directors, architects and several experienced builders continued, it became apparent that the original plans will have to be broadened to include uniform and imposing entrances to both buildings, new school rooms, an elevator to reach the upper floors, perhaps a balcony in the main Synagogue and the main lobby extended to both buildings. New plans are being drawn so that estimates of cost and construction-time, can be obtained.

Presently, when these ideas will have been reduced to more concrete form, we will call upon our friends to make possible their realization.

Getting Personal

We are happy to welcome the following new members to our Congregation. Mrs. Irme Heumann, Henry Kass and Benjamin Wiener. . . . Youth Sabbath was terrific. . . . All the young men who participated in reading the service, the Torah as well as the preacher did exceedingly well. . . . Happy to report that Sgt. Emanuel Warshawer son of Mrs. Bertha Warshawer has been separated from the Service and has returned to law practice. Best of luck. . . . Two of our bright congregational stars, David Buchsbaum and Joel Burstein, have been admitted to Columbia, the only condition precedent is a slight exam which to these boys will be a mere formality. . . . Our prayers for a speedy recovery to Mr. Nathan Schweitzer. . . . Morton Samuel, our former Sea Scouts Skipper has been discharged from the Navy. Congrats. . . . Many thanks to A. M. Druckman for his constructive suggestions. . . . Birthday greetings are in order for Mrs. George L. Livingston, Saul Redlich, and director Jess Ward. . . . Happy to see Mrs. Samuel K. Beier in schule after her protracted illness and we look forward to have Sam joining her very soon at Synagogue. . . . Happy to see David Kurtz, Adolph Meirovitz's "mechutin," with us last Saturday. . . . Sorry to learn that Arlene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Harris has been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Our prayers go to Arlene for a speedy recovery. . . . Those who were absent from services last Saturday afternoon missed the thrill of their life in the extemporaneous presentation by Barbara Kaplan (daughter of our Director and Mrs. Harold Kaplan) of a Biblical verse with Rashi commentary both in Hebrew and English translation. . . . If anybody has any doubts as to what Yeshiva Or Torah is doing, let them ask those present. How about a contribution for a larger building? . . . Happy to see Maurice Spanbock in civilian clothes.

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