

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 6

Wednesday, October 16, 1946

Tishri 21, 5707

A BUSINESSMAN DISCUSSES RUSSIA

By Israel Kestenbaum

From a recent issue of
Soviet Russia Today

Part I

I am not a politician nor do I lay any claims to statesmanship. I am just an ordinary businessman who cherishes the freedom this country offers. And, like many others, I am becoming frightened by statesmen who, day after day, preach hatred and distrust of Soviet Russia. In bewilderment, I asked myself where is it all leading to? Is it possible that so soon after six years of slaughter we shall again have to sacrifice the lives of our children in a war more terrible and devastating than any war in history? What can an ordinary man like myself do to prevent it?

I wish to emphasize again that I am a plain businessman very far from being a Communist. I have never even read the "Daily Worker". I mind my business and my family. I never miss my daily prayers and have never mixed in politics.

As peaceful and disciplined men and women, we have been educated to leave matters of state to our political leaders. But strange as it seems from 1933, when Hitler came into power, until before the outbreak of the war, almost every ordinary man understood what Hitler was after. Only the politicians, who were supposed to guide us and who could have prevented the war without firing a single shot, did not understand. Now history seems to be re-

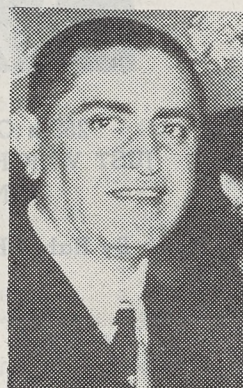
(Continued on Page 2)

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When you make your Last Will and Testament and desire to make a bequest to our Institution, please be sure and name our Institution in the following manner: "I give, devise and bequeath to the West Side Institutional Synagogue, a religious Corporation of the State of New York, located at 120-138 West 76th Street" . . . Please be certain that the name appears correctly



Gustave Roth



Adolph Meirowitz



Lester Udell

SIMCHAS TORAH CHASANIM

We are glad to announce that the Congregation has honored the following members: Gustave Roth as Chasan Torah, Adolph Meirowitz as Chasan Breshis and Mr. Lester Udell as Chasan Maftir.

RABBI AND MRS. HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN, AT HOME

Don't forget that the Rabbi and Mrs. Goldstein, as is their annual custom, will entertain the entire Congregation at their home Thursday afternoon, October 17, 1946, from 2:45 to 4:45 P.M. They reside at 229 West 78th Street. They are anxious to meet and greet all the worshippers, both young and old, of the W.S.I.S.

KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Last Sunday morning our kindergarten class, for children between the ages of 4 and 6, opened its sessions, under the expert guidance of Annette Peikus.

Remember that, "As the twig is bent so the tree grows."

OUR SUCCAH

The usual Beauty of our Succah this year is due for the most part to the conscientious devotion and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bendheim and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wiener.

For the very attractive, colorful touches we are indebted to Mrs. Harold Kaplan, Mrs. Saul Bergman, the Misses Tillie Lewton, Josephine H. Goldstein, Minette Verschleiser and Murray Yavneh.

"SHEMINI ATZERES" AND "SIMCHAS TORAH"

"Shemini Atzeres" means the Eighth day of Retention, and the nearest parallel to this festival is what is called a farewell party. This festival lasts two days—the first is called "Shemini Atzereth," and the second "Simchas Torah."

On "Shemini Atzeres" Memorial Services for the Departed are held. We, also, pray for rain in the "Musaf" service.

"Simchas Torah"

Simchas Torah means rejoicing over the Torah. We complete the reading of the Torah on this day and begin reading it over again. On that account we rejoice. This notable event is celebrated in the evening and in the morning by seven joyful processions in the Synagogue (Hokofas). These seven processions are patterned after the processions around the City of Jericho (Joshua: 6.). The children participate in these processions, following the Scrolls, carrying flags and joining in the songs of praise and rejoicing.

For the Simchas Torah readings three Torahs are used. In one the Torah is completed, and the man called up for the reading of the last verses is called "Chason Torah" — the Bridegroom of the Torah; in the second the Torah is begun again, and the man called up for the read-

(Continued on Page 3)



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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Lester A. Lazarus..... Ass't. Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

UNTIL NEXT ROSH HASHONAH?

You will probably smile when you read the following that has come to our attention: The President of the Congregation in Bismark, North Dakota at the close of the Yom Kippur services, announced to the Congregation, the hour for services for the next Rosh Hashonah. However if we reflect for a moment, is not the condition which prompted the President to announce next year's services pertinent to many of us. We too come to Synagogue and do not expect to attend religious services until next year. Certainly we do not act that way towards those whom we love. To abstain from visiting the Synagogue and to desist from worshipping G-d from one year to the next is surely not an indication of love for or of friendship with G-d. At best we're only acquaintances.

How can we expect the rest of the family to be G-d fearing when we do not show the example? A little cold will keep us away from business; why should we not look for an excuse to attend a Sabbath Service at least once a month? Men and women in every walk of life have made it possible to visit with G-d. Won't you make the try for the coming year?



259th COMMANDMENT JUST WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND SCALES

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

II

The Jewish court is to appoint inspectors to visit shopkeepers in order to safeguard the buyer that he receives the proper amount of goods or liquids he buys. He who falsifies with his weights or measures should receive physical punishment or imprisonment. This law prevails at all times and at all places and refers to males and females. The reason for the heavy penalties and the severities concerning the violation of this Commandment is that a man cannot do teshuvah or penance in the matter because he

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

does not know, in the rush of business, whom he deceived, and therefore cannot make the proper restitution.

260th COMMANDMENT CONCERNING THE CURSING OF ONE'S FATHER OR MOTHER

I

We read in Leviticus, Chapter 20, verse 9, "For whatsoever man there be who curses his father or his mother, shall surely be put to death." This Commandment concerning the cursing of one's father or mother has been stated heretofore in the Book of Exodus, Chapter 21, verse 17. The repetition is due to the fact that we do not punish without a warning and therefore the Commandment has to be repeated so as to include a warning as well as an announcement of the punishment. The punishment, of course, must be meted out by the court after a trial has been held by the judges. In other words the parents themselves are not to take the law in their own hands. It is said that in Rome, "a father was allowed to put to death a grown-up son, even for no cursing whatsoever."

(Continued next week)

A BUSINESSMAN DISCUSSES Russia

(Continued from Page 1)

peating itself. We have been subjected to anti-Russian propaganda for over twenty years by people who for ideological reasons wanted to see Russia destroyed, propaganda which gave Hitler the encouragement he needed and without which the world would not have been plunged into a war. These people are at work again and they have already succeeded in persuading many Americans that Russia is a menace and is bent on aggression.

It is a pity that so few persons have visited Russia since the Revolution and that so many have had no opportunity to get an understanding of the Russian people. Most of those who did go there were already biased by the incessant propaganda and were looking for the dark side.

For about twenty years prior to the war, I did business with Soviet Russia and visited that country about four times yearly. An ordinary businessman without political or ideological attachment, I met with neither suspicion nor with any personal restrictions. I felt and was free to move about, go wherever I

liked, see what I liked, and talk with whomever I liked. I read their newspapers, listened to their speeches, mixed with the crowds in their parades, in restaurants and in parks. In the course of my business I have conversed with high officials in their offices and with workmen at their work, and through all these years I have never found anyone there with a desire to conquer other lands. In fact, at no time was there any sign of propaganda for war nor any endeavor on the part of the government to prepare the people for war of aggression or expansion. What one did notice was a constant fear of aggression by other nations and a keen, patriotic feeling deeply rooted in the hearts of every Russian, young and old, a resolve to stand united behind their government and, if necessary, give their lives in the defense of their land in case an aggressor should try to conquer it. One can easily understand the existence of such fear if one considers that ever since the birth of the Soviet Union, they have been ostracized and attacked, that incessant propaganda has been poured out against them and many have even conspired to destroy them.

(Continued next week)

CONDOLENCE

We extend our sympathies to our members,

David L. Messing upon the loss of his father

Nauchem Messing.

Louis Finesilver and Sam Silver, our Treasurer, upon the loss of their brother

Isaac Finesilver.

Henri and Joseph Schmeidler upon the loss of their mother

Pauline Schmeidler.

**"SHEMINI ATZERES" AND
"SIMCHAS TORAH"**

(Continued from Page 1)

ing of the beginning is called "Chason Bereshith" — the Bridegroom of Bereshis; while in the third, the portion dealing with the Holiday is read. It is customary for the two "Bridegrooms" to serve as hosts for the entire Congregation, at a collation in honor of the Torah.



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HOLIDAY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Wednesday—Eruv Tavshilin
Light Candles Wednesday Eve...4:54
Light Candles Thursday Eve...4:53
Light Candles Friday Eve...4:52

Sh'Mini Atzeres Services

Wednesday Evening 4:55
Thursday Morning Services..... 8:45
Yizkor Services, about.....10:30

Simchas Torah

Thursday Evening Services..... 4:55
Friday Morning Services 8:30

Sabbath Service

Friday Evening Services..... 4:45
Saturday Morning Services..... 9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class... 3:50
Mr. Isaac Allen's Class..... 3:50
Mincha Services 4:50
The Sabbath Terminates..... 5:34
Sunday Morning Services 6:45, 8:45

Daily Services

Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 4:45
Followed by the explanation of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein

613 CLUB

As many of you know the 613 Club (young men and women, 21 or over) has sponsored many a pleasant week-end trip this summer. They are beginning the new season with a stimulating program aimed at meeting the varied interests of the young people of the Synagogue and their friends.

**Officers**

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

Those of our readers who were present in the Synagogue during the Kol Nidre Appeal must have felt proud and elated at the generous response by the congregants.

After Rabbi Goldstein delivered his sermon, Mr. Lester Udell, our President explained that with the help of all members and friends we have been enabled to pay all mortgage indebtedness, and in addition, to set aside a sum to be used for alterations and improvements. He explained that the cost of such improvements and alterations will be considerably more, and that in due time we will call upon them for special aid.

Mr. Udell further explained that the work we are doing to strengthen Traditional Judaism requires regular and sustained maintenance, and appeal to those present to be as liberal as possible. The response was generous and spontaneous. It seemed to an observer that each and every one present was ready and willing to share in the task of aiding our work.

A demonstration like the one during the Kol Nidre services encourages and stimulates everyone connected with the WSIS and augurs well for the future of the institution.

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GETTING PERSONAL

Ever since this Institution has been founded, and its membership grown, we have always taken pride in welcoming new members. This week we welcome into our fold the following: Moses Diminstein, Jack Frankfort, Harry C. Kaufman, Sylvester J. Liebman, Seymour A. Rappaport, Abner Riegal, Maurice Ringal, Stanley Schwartz and Abe Shurr. . . . A lot of children are going to be very happy during this Simchas Torah, and for that happiness we must thank Mrs. Leonore Ward. She has donated many flags to the Talmud Torah, which the children will use in the Synagogue procession tomorrow night and Friday morning. . . . During the High Holy Day Season we usually need every able bodied man, to lend his assistance. One of those who is to be seen around the lobby working like ten men is our Roy. Well, this year we really had twenty men helping. Roy's brother, Henry, came up north from West Virginia on his vacation, and Roy put him right to work. Maybe that's no way to treat a brother, but Henry was really a great help and we certainly appreciate it. . . . In our Review this week we have a very interesting article on Russia. That article becomes even more interesting when it is realized that the author, Israel Kestenbaum, is a very devout member of our Congregation, and when you were in the Synagogue during the High Holy Days, and heard the blowing of the Shofar, it was none other than Mr. Kestenbaum, himself. . . . Flash! We have just heard that Dr. and Mrs. Louis Wm. Max (nee, Pearl Bernstein) are the proud parents of a bouncing baby girl. Our heartiest congratulations to them; to the grandfather, Julius A. Bernstein, and to the uncle, Seymour Bernstein. . . . Every once in a while we get a little lax in our work on the Review, and then at the last minute we have to rush to get it out. Sometimes it looks like it is hopeless, as was the case with this issue. But something always manages to turn up and we are saved. This week Susi Stern, President of the Blue 'N White was in the office, while we were in our dilemma. Mind you, without our even asking she volunteered to help, and so to her a special vote of thanks. . . . And finally Birthday greetings go this week to Jesse L. Greenstein, I. J. Bernstein, Alan Fox and Sheila, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Ullman . . . while Anniversary greetings go to Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Ehrman, Mr. and Mrs. Gustavle Roth and Mr. and Mrs. Al Rappaport.

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