

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 8

Friday, November 1, 1946

Cheshvan 7, 5707

We herewith print the first of a series of articles which Rabbi Goldstein will write, from time to time, in this column.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF JUDAISM

I

For many years I have been anxious to put down in writing, a clear and concise statement of just what are the teachings, beliefs and practices of the Jewish Religion.

First of all, let us define our terms. What is Religion, and then what is the Jewish Religion? Religion, I should say, is "the belief in G-d and the feeling of being responsible to Him." Then comes the adjective,—describing the kind of religion—Jewish, Christian, Mohammedan, Brahman, Buddhist, et cetera.

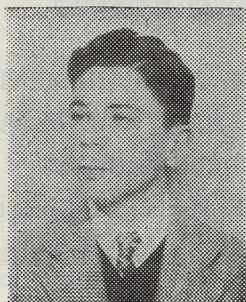
It is interesting to note that the Bible declares, through its Philosopher, King Solomon, "The beginning of wisdom is the fear of, or reverence for G-d, or religion." In other words, the first sign of a wise man, is his fear of G-d. This is religion with a capital R.

Now we ask, what is the Jewish Religion? The answer is, the Jewish Religion is a Divine way of Life as described basically in the Pentateuch, the Five Books of Moses illustrated in the Talmud, applied to changing discoveries of the times, and set down in detail in the Shulchah Aruch,—The Codes.

The details explaining how the Biblical Laws were and are to be practised or lived, are found in the Talmud. Let me cite some examples of what I mean. The Bible says, "You shall take on the first day (of the Succos Holiday) a beautiful fruit . . . and rejoice before the L-d." Now what fruit was used; was it an apple, an orange, or what? The Talmud states the practice which has existed from time immemorial, and declares this fruit to be the "Esrog" or the Citron. Let us take another law. The Bible says "And thou shall bind them upon thine hand as a sing, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes (the Tefilin." Now where, upon the hand?—The Talmud gives the answer, not upon the palm, as the Ka-

(Continued on Page 2)

BAR MITZVAH



Leslie Levine

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Meyer H. Levine upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Leslie, which will be held this Shabbos in our Synagogue.

THIS WEEK IN THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY

"Detinue" — 8:30 P.M. — Council Room: A Social group for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 16.

SUNDAY

"Hebrew Conversation Group"—10:30 A.M. — Council Room: Young men and women under the leadership of Rabbi Gotthold.

"613"—2:30 P.M. — Young men and women between the ages of 21 and 29. This will be the inaugural Tea Dance of the season, in the Council Room.

"Blue N' White" — 2:30 P.M. — Men's Club Room: Boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 21. For this week's program a round table forum on Zionism is planned, to be followed by dancing.

"Open House"—8:30 P.M.—Social Hall: A discussion on the aspects of militant Zionism, will be followed by dancing. All the young people of the neighborhood are invited to attend.

TUESDAY

"Buddy Friedman Post"—8:00 P.M. — Social Hall: A gala, Election Eve Affair, to which all the veterans, their families and their friends are invited.

"B'nai B'rith"—8:30 P.M.—Council Room: Closed meeting.

WEDNESDAY

"Dramatic Club" — 8:30 P.M. — Council Room: For all those young people of our neighborhood interested in the theatre.

DONORS TO THE

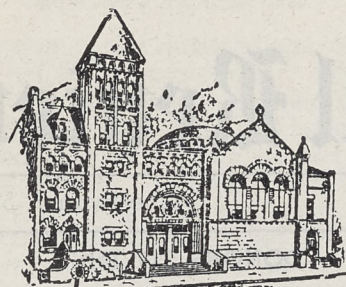
SH'MINI ATZERES APPEAL

The appeal in our Synagogue on behalf of the Vaad Hatzala and Agudath Israel, Refugee and Immigration Division, has already met with a generous response. Of the \$10,000 pledged, \$5,000 has already been collected. The following have already sent in their donations:

Joseph Anderson, Jacob Bayer, Samuel K. Beier, Sigfried Bendheim, Jack Berlin, Mrs. Samuel Blumberg, Fannie Baranow, Julius Bayer, William Ball, Joseph Buchsbaum, Henry Blankfort, Saul Bergman, Mrs. R. Barowsky, Samuel Cohen, David Cohen, Jack Cohen, Nathan Diamond, Samuel Diamond, S. M. Druker, Mrs. Rebecca Dack, Mrs. A. Dworkin, Isidore Ehrman, A. Eisenman, Maurice M. Faber, Abraham Friedberg, Mrs. D. Felder, Simon and Annie Foundation, Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, Josephine H. Goldstein, Naomi Goldstein, Samuel Greenman, Hyman Gottlieb, Jean Goldwurm, S. Gellman, Mose Goodman, I. Goldstein, Geo. A. Gold, Philip Gertner, Leopold Hirsch, Max M. Horowitz, Max Harris, Mrs. L. Herbst, Clarence Horowitz, Herman Herring, Mrs. Barnett Joseh, Samuel Klein, A. Kronfeld, Jacob Kaplan, Irving Kobrin, Henry L. Kessler, Mrs. Pauline King, Harry Kossoff, Herman Kaminsky, Abraham Levy, Herman Levine, Mrs. Sarah Levine, Morris Levinson, F. Margulies, Harry Miller, Mrs. Bertha Mirken, Mrs. Anna Mirken, Bernard Maltin, Adolph Meirowitz, Irving Marks, Henry M. Mayper, Arnold Oshrin, Jeanette H. Percy, Mannie Ringel, Louis Reisman, Sol Redlich, Isaac Rauch, N. Robins, Samuel Silver, Irving Silver, Elmer H. Settel, Mrs. Goldie Seltzer, Gus Seligman, Mrs. Dora Schlegman, Morris G. Shapiro, Joseph Shapiro, Benjamin Spanbock, Mrs. Ada Turcsan, Mrs. Jane Udell, Julius Whartman, Ben Weiner, Jess Ward, Dr. Harvey H. Wiggs, Anna Waldman, Philip Wohl, Harry Ward, S. Wander, J. Yabrow.

LAYMAN'S INSTITUTE

Watch for further announcements, next week.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Vol. X, No. 8 November 1, 1946

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

A QUESTION TO MR. BYRNES

Our Secretary of State, James F. Byrnes in his historic speech on the United States policy in Germany delivered at Stuttgart last month said in part: "The United States has returned to Germany practically all prisoners of war that were in the United States. We are taking prompt steps to return German prisoners of war in our custody in other parts of the world."

The American people want to help the German people to win their way back to an honorable place among the free and peace-loving nations of the world."

We do not know what are the political implications to be garnered from these words of our Secretary of State, but we do know that no such speed on the part of our government to help those who have suffered for all humanity is evident. Of course we refer to the displaced persons still in German, Austrian and Italian camps. Their welfare and needs should certainly concern our government as much as those who fought to enslave us. We ask who should receive priority, German prisoners, Nazis, or displaced persons, the sufferers for humanity? It would be well for the Christian world to give true meaning to the 53rd Chapter of Isaiah.



262nd COMMANDMENT THOU SHALT NOT IMITATE THEIR MANNERS

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We are bidden not to walk in the ways of the seven nations for it is said in Leviticus, Chapter 20, Verse 23, "And ye shall not walk in the customs of the nations which I am casting before you; for they did all these (abominable) things, and therefore I abhorred them." This is what is popularly called "Chukas Hagoy."

Dr. Hertz in his Bible Comments said, "In later times, these Hebrew words, חוקת הגוי "Chukas Hagoy" gave the name to the important principle in accordance with which Jewish life was jealously

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guarded against adopting the religious customs of surrounding nations."

We read further, "And ye shall be Holy unto me . . . that ye should be Mine." The Rabbis say that when Israel observes the Torah, and will be called His, as we read, "that ye should be Mine". Otherwise Israel will be forced to pay allegiance to its oppressors. As the Sifrah points out, "If ye be separated from the Heathen nations then ye belong to Me, but if not, ye belong to Nebuchadnezzar and his colleagues."

The purpose of this commandment is that we are not to imitate the ways of the nations as for instance, to witness the gladiators in combat, attend a bull-fight, at the cost of the animals' blood. We are to keep distant from all things that will lower our morale or weaken our religious loyalties.

This commandment pertains at all times, at all places, refers to male and female and one who transgresses it should receive stripes and one who is scrupulous in the observance of this commandment against assimilation, his life and soul will be elevated and heightened and "his seed shall inherit the land".

THE PHILOSOPHY OF JUDAISM

(Continued from Page 1)

raites believed but upon the arm, opposite the heart. So, also, we may ask, where, between the eyes, shall the Tefilin on the head be set? The Talmud gives the answer, "upon the forehead, where the hair begins to grow, opposite the brain." Thus, in putting on the Tefilin, we are to bind heart and mind in the service of G-d. In the realm of punishment, the Bible says, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, et cetera." What was the actual practice? Supposing the one who knocked out the tooth of his neighbor had no teeth? The Talmud points out, that all these statements, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a foot for a foot", mean, money restitution and not the actual taking of the part of the body referred to. From this we may infer two facts, (1) that without the Talmud, the basic laws of the Jewish religion cannot be understood (2) The Gentiles as a rule do not understand the real meaning of the Bible, because they are ignorant of the manner in which its precepts were and are practised.

Have you ever noted that all love songs are about "How happy we will be;" but whoever hears a song about how happy we ARE? However, the royal bard, speaking of the Torah in his Psalm of Adoration of the Law, declares, "Thy Statutes ARE my songs in the house of my pilgrimage." (Psalm 119)

People who seek G-d and His Law never wake up in the morning with a dark brown taste in their mouths or with the feeling that "vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Before we can discuss these Laws, it will be necessary for us to have the proper approach to them so that we may be willing to accept them and live by them. This approach will be the basis of our next article.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORUM

A lively and stimulating discussion has been planned for the Young People's Sunday Evening Forum this week. The topic for discussion will be, "Can the militant and the diplomatic aspects of Zionism be reconciled for effective action." Prominent speakers representing both schools of thought on this subject will lead the discussion.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Helena Rubenstein, Associate To Be At Our Women's League

Mother and Daughter Afternoon

On Monday afternoon, November 4th at two o'clock, our Women's League is to hold one of its interesting and enjoyable open meetings. The guest speaker will be Irene Schiller, Associate of Helena Rubenstein. She will talk on "Beauty, Poise and Fashion." A Tea will follow the talk.

All the women of the Congregation and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

TROOP 530

Good news about Scout Troop 530, sponsored by the Synagogue.

The troop is now formulating plans for a most active, interesting and entertaining season for boys from 12 years up. There is a new Senior Explorer Unit, and our old Ship 1030 is going smoothly and strong. All boys of this age who wish to join are urged to contact Dr. Frank E. Fink, SU 7-0309, Scout Master; Paul Kamin, Explorer Leader, EN 2-8297; Herb Hirsh, Skipper, TR 7-4845, or Jules Hausman, Cub Master, EN 2-7284.

The Troops meet every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M., at the W.S.I.S.

BUDDY FRIEDMAN POST No. 297

Just a final note to remind you of the gala affair which will be held by the Buddy Friedman Post on Election Eve. All veterans, their families and their friends are invited to attend.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our sympathies to the family of our esteemed member
Joseph Richman
who has been called to the great beyond.

WANTED

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Sabbath Observer
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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Eve.4:34
Weekly Portion: Lech L'Chaw
Friday Evening Service4:45
Saturday Morning Service9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class.....3:40

Mr. Isaac Allen's
Talmud Class3:40
Mincha Service4:40
Reader of Torah: Jason Jacobowitz
Reader of Service:

Ralph Kestenbaum
Speaker: Morty Cohen
The Sabbath Terminates5:28
Sunday Morning Service6:45, 8:45

Daily Services:

Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Tuesday Morning6:45, 8:45
Mincha4:40

Followed by the Explanation
of the Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein

OUR LIBRARY

More books are needed for our library.

INTERESTED IN BASKETBALL?

Our Synagogue is forming a basketball team from the students of the Talmud Torah. This team will be a member of the Basketball League of all the Orthodox Talmud Torahs of the West Side. Any student interested please contact our Social Director, Lester A. Lazarus.



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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

A very interesting and thought-provoking comment was made in our office recently. I am repeating it here with the earnest hope that it will impress you as seriously as it has impressed me.

"My attention was focussed a few weeks ago on the subject of Jewish Education. My interest was aroused by an article on that subject that I read in a magazine. I began to take notice of the number of children who attend Hebrew Schools or receive private instruction. After a few weeks I arrived at the conclusion that a distressingly small percentage of Jewish children receive Jewish education or training. I discussed the subject with a number of parents, but almost every one of them advanced the identical excuse — that their children were too busy with their school-work, to attend Hebrew School."

"My suggestion is that we institute a campaign to demonstrate to Jewish parents the importance of giving their children training in Jewish subjects, and urge them to do so at once. Justice to the children demands it. Concern for our future commands it."

Will you, our readers, actively join in this endeavor?

JACOB D. COHEN, "J. D."

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GETTING PERSONAL

We start our column this week with a picture of our beautiful Succah in mind. We're thinking of some of the floral decorations, and for those we would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Abe Glazer who brought them to the Synagogue from their Long Island Estate. . . . We've heard that Mrs. Jennie Greenfield is ill. We hope that she will have a rapid recovery. . . . The stork is here again. Heartiest congratulations to Seymour and Renee Raden upon the birth of a son, Joel Michael, and also to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Freedman. . . . We share in the joy of our Director and Mrs. Jacob Kaplan and family, upon the discharge from Service of their son Lewis. . . . Congratulations to Irving Belsky and Sylvia Liquerman, upon their marriage in our Synagogue Friday afternoon. . . . Wedding anniversary greetings go to Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Lunitz, Mr. and Mrs. Kalman Kinzler, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Segerman, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Feinstein, and Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Roth. . . . Happy Birthday to Deborah Jane Goldstein, Martha Kirsh, Pearl Kaplan and Cantor Zalman Yavneh. . . . Not that we want to make any of you jealous, but if you weren't at the Chasanim party last Saturday afternoon you certainly missed a wonderful time. We heard from Isaac Allen, from Rabbi Goldstein, Rabbi Hurwitz, Morris Jablow, Harold Kaplan, Jacob Kaplan, Israel Kestenbaum, Bernard Lax, Adolph Meirowitz, Chester Roth, Gustave Roth, Max E. Sanders, Mrs. Sam Siegel, Lester Udell, "Pop" Wartels and Cantor Yavneh. Following the tradition of the Synagogue all the speeches were short and to the point. . . . Speaking of parties that shouldn't have been missed, Dan Sachacter gave a party last week at his home for the members of the "613" club. There was an abundance of food and drink and everyone had an enjoyable time. Seen around the Synagogue office this week working for their clubs were Morty Langer and Leon Weiss (Blue Ribbon); Eva Drukker and Roslyn Fuchs ("613"); Renee Gross and Herman Bosbonn (Blue N' White). . . . Congratulations to our Director and Mrs. George L. Livingston on the birthday of their grandchild Judith Bernstein. . . . Congratulations to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Murry C. Becker, and to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Lawrence, on the birth of a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth. . . . Welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Meyer L. Paragam and Mrs. Annie Eisenberg.

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