

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 12

Friday, November 29, 1946

Kislev 6, 5707

P'R'D'S

By Rabbi Solomon Wind

II

At first the Essenes were viewed with favor by our sages on account of their modesty and piety. Some Tanna'im even belonged to them. But when their ideology was discovered, they were classed as "min-im" (heretics) and association with them was forbidden. Similarly, the Allegorists of Alexandria were subject to attacks, and the translation of the Pentateuch into Greek, (Septuagint), extolled in Alexandria, was considered a national calamity. The Tanna Elisha ben Avuya who delved in Greek learning was termed an "acher" (a stranger) and any laws which his pupils recorded were concealed under the anonymous name "acherim" (Hor. 13). The Essenes were distinguished from the "chasidim" who were a class of simple folks famed for meekness and strict observance of the Revealed Law. At times our Sages resorted to the ban. They banned Greek learning simultaneously with the raising of swines in Palestine (Sota 49, Min. 99).

The exponents of P'R'D'S' were at war with each other for centuries. Occasionally we observe an attempt at concillation, especially in the case of our illustrious commentators. Rashi often combines the method of "Peshat" and "Derash." Ibn Ezra explains the texts grammatically but often hints to esoteric meanings. Ramban uses the Peshat and the Derash method and occasionally hints at Kabbalistic concepts. There were also great Talmudists who were versed in Kabbalah. Rabbi Joseph Karo, the author of the Shulchan Aruch — the great body of revealed and traditional law was also steeped in mysticism and allegedly received instruction from an angel. (Roziel Hamaloch.)

Maimonides, on the other hand, saw in the Torah only rational laws. Difficult passages in the Bible he explained metaphorically, never allegorically. Theoretic Kabbalah he passed over in silence and practical

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DR. TRUDE WEISS-ROSMARIN TO LECTURE MONDAY NIGHT

TOPIC: WHAT MAKES US JEWS?



Dr. Trude Weiss-Rosmarin

WOMEN'S LEAGUE MUSICALE AND LUNCHEON

Only a few days are left before the Women's League will hold a Musicale and Luncheon in the Grand Ballroom suite at Pierre's, 61st and Fifth Avenue at 11:30 o'clock on Tuesday, December 3rd.

Your Reservations

If you have not already done so, will you please make your reservation at once by sending your check of \$15 to the order of Women's League of WSIS, to the Chairman, Mrs. Samuel W. Siegel, 440 West End Avenue or phone her at SU 7-5068.

ADDITIONAL DONORS TO THE SHEMINI ATZERES APPEAL

We have already received over \$9,000.00 of the \$10,000, that was pledged by the Congregation as a result of the appeal in our Synagogue on behalf of Vaad Hatzala and Agudas Israel, Refugee and Immigration Division. The following have sent their donations since last week.

M. Brownstein, Eisik Goldman, House of Gross, David Kamerman, Charles H. Landis, Miss Regina Levy.

This week our guest speaker will be Dr. Trude Weiss-Rosmarin, an exponent of Jewish survivalism. Dr. Weiss-Rosmarin is a scholar of note and the author of several books: RELIGION OF REASON, HIGHLIGHTS OF JEWISH HISTORY, NEW LIGHT ON THE BIBLE, JEWISH WOMEN THROUGH THE AGES, etc. Her latest volume, JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY: THE DIFFERENCES, has been hailed as the most authoritative treatment thus far of this theme.

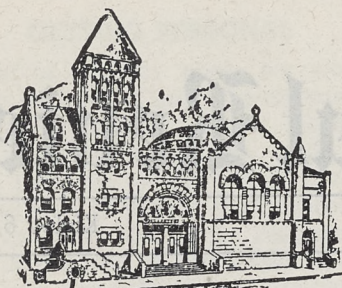
As the editor of THE JEWISH SPECTATOR, and a frequent contributor to MENORAH JOURNAL, JEWISH BOOK ANNUAL, CONGRESS WEEKLY, NATIONAL JEWISH MONTHLY, and other periodicals, Dr. Weiss-Rosmarin is well known in the American Jewish community. She is a dynamic and challenging lecturer, and she takes great pride in her many return engagements.

Dr. Weiss-Rosmarin was born and educated in Germany. She received her Ph.D. (University of Wurzburg) at the age of twenty-two for a thesis on the "Earliest History of the Arabs," which was published by the "Society of Oriental Research." She has contributed to the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, as well as to numerous journals in the fields of Bible and Semitic languages.

Together with her great eloquence, Dr. Weiss-Rosmarin brings to the lecture platform authoritative scholarship and sound reasoning.

CHEVRA KADISHA

The first meeting of the Chevra Kadisha was held a week ago Monday night. The next meeting will be held on Monday night, December 2nd. The following officers were elected: Aaron Bernstein, Gabbai, Aaron Wartels, Treasurer, Henry L. Kessler, Secretary, Max Moskowitz, Trustee, Joseph Schmeidler, Trustee, Harold Kaplan, Trustee.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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

"BOOKS"

Lord Bacon in his essay "Of Studies", said, "Reading maketh a full-man". He who is well read in Jewish and Holy Literature, is to be sure, at least, an understanding Jew.

One way to check our illiteracy, especially among our young people, is to make it possible for them to get the best in our literature, in our own homes. Do not command them to read. Leave some of the books you want them to peruse laying around. They will pick them up, and make their own decisions. They may or may not decide to read these books. The next week, or the next month, try the same method with other volumes of interest, on Jewish themes. In the long run, we predict you will be successful.

This month has been proclaimed as "Jewish Book Month". We advise first, that all of us determine to read at least one chapter of the Bible, a day. In two years we will have completed the whole Bible, without much loss of time. Second, we urge that every home contain a goodly number of books on Jewish literature in the English language.



264th COMMANDMENT DEFILEMENT OF PRIESTS TO THEIR FAMILIES

II

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

There are two different periods in regard to mourning. One, is before the person is buried and the other is for 12 months after death. Before the burial, the mourner is called an **אונן** during which time he may not eat meat or drink wine. He is not obliged to carry out any of the commandments whatsoever. He does not put on Tefilin or say his prayers or make a blessing for bread or say the Grace after meals, etc. As soon as the body is interred and the earth is placed upon the bier, from that moment on, one is an **אבל**, "a mourner," and mourning begins. We do not practice any laws of mourning for a child under 30 days of age because if an infant is not past 30 days, we are not certain whether he or she is going to live.

There are first, the seven days of Shiva, and the thirty days of intense

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mourning, and the twelve months of mourning for a parent, G-d forbid. For the other relatives, thirty days suffice for the period of mourning. The garments are supposed to be rent immediately after the death when the mourner grieves most. For a parent, the rending is done on the left side, near the heart, for the other relatives, on the right side. Although there is no mourning of Shiva during Chol Hamoed (the intermediate days of a Holiday), however there is **קריעה** "rending" of the garment. The rent in the garment for relatives other than father or mother may be sewn up completely, for those of father and mother may only be seamed. On Holy and joyous days of the Jewish calendar, it is forbidden to deliver a eulogy. It is customary for the members of the family other than those who sit Shiva to participate with them as much as they can to indicate to the bereaved their sympathy which always promotes family welfare, peace and love.

The **מצוה** of the defilement of the Priest to his near relatives pertains, at all times and places to the males, in the Priesthood. The females may if they want to defile themselves. So too the laws of mourning for all Israel pertain to all times, to male and females. The Priest who does not want to defile himself to his near relatives or the Israelite who does not want to mourn for these relatives, transgress a positive Commandment.

P'R'D'S

(Continued from Page 1)

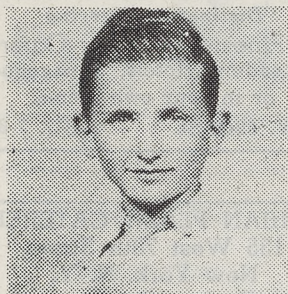
Kabbalah, like the writing of amulets, be condemned. The great Talmudist Solomon ben Adereth (Rashba) restored the ban on Greek learning, whether in metaphysics or in science, until one attains the age of 25 and had previously acquired a knowledge of Talmud. Rabbi Jacob Emdin, Talmudist and Kabbalist of the 18th century, who incorporated many Kabbalistic concepts in his Siddur, later denounced the Kabbalah when he saw the havoc it had wrought in Jewish life, and proved the human authorship of the Zohar and deprived it of all authority and sanctity. Samuel David Luzzatto, scholar and author of the 19th century identified Kabbalah with Platonism and denied it any Jewish origin. (Debate Over Kabbalah.)

In our times the conflict about P'R'D'S' ceased. Economic pursuits

absorb all attention and the paths of the Torah are abandoned singly and collectively. Ignorance of the Law is more deplorable than a state of conflict about the Laws.

An assumption is here ventured. All learning is a unity when it emanates from an original source of life. Conflict abounds when originality is lacking. The Proverb advises, "Drink water out of thine own cistern and running water out of thine own well." (Prov. 5:15.) An autonomous Jewish state in Palestine will restore to us the Law intact. Life and learning emanating from Jewish soil and soul will reflect original glory and unity. This view is expressed in our belief that Elijah will appear on the eve of our Statehood and clarify all doubts. He will make us a united people guided by ONE Law. For true learning comes only from Zion and the law of G-d from Jerusalem.

BAR MITZVAH



Mark Feldman

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Feldman upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Mark, which will be held this Shabbus in our Synagogue.

BUDDY FRIEDMAN POST

Next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday Evening, December 4, 1946.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family of our esteemed member, the late

Isaac Rauch.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Eve. 4:10 P.M.
Weekly Portion: Vayetzay
Friday Evening Service 4:20 P.M.
Saturday Morn. Service ... 9:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:00 A.M.
Rabbi Hurwitz's
Talmud Class 3:15 P.M.
Mr. Isaac Allen's
Talmud Class 3:15 P.M.
Mincha Service 4:15 P.M.
Reader of Torah: Murray Yavneh
Reader of Service: Herbert Perlman
Speaker: Morton F. Langer
The Sabbath Terminates ... 4:56 P.M.
Sunday morning

Service 6:45, 8:45 A.M.

DAILY SERVICES:

Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30 A.M.

Mincha 4:15 P.M.

The Saying of *טל ומטר*
begins Wednesday night.

TALMUD TORAH NEWS

We are happy to report that the register of our school has increased considerably, but we feel that we are far from our goal of a "Jewish education for every boy and girl in our neighborhood."

High School class for young men and young ladies from 16 and up attending Sunday mornings. Subjects taught are Survey of Jewish History, Conversational Hebrew, Bible, and discussion on the philosophy of our faith.

In addition we have the following extra curricular activities: Student Council, Keren Ami Fund, Pikuach Nefesh Club, library, dramatics, arts and crafts, newspaper and a basketball team.

Our principal, Mr. Simon Kono-vitch, will be very happy to discuss with the parents of our Synagogue any education problems related to their children.

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CHATS ABOUT W. S. I. S.

By Morris Jablow

The Director of our social activities, Lester A. Lazarus, introduced an innovation this season, that should interest you, our readers, especially those of you who have sons and daughters who may want to attend our various clubs and groups.

Every Sunday evening is Open House at the WSIS for the young folks. To make it interesting and to offer variety, a forum is arranged on alternate Sunday evenings upon a subject of current interest, with a speaker thoroughly versed in the subject leading the discussion, followed by questions from the floor. On the intervening Sunday evenings motion picture revivals are shown, followed by dancing.

This program has the obvious advantage of making it possible for the young people to spend a pleasant Sunday evening at our building without making plans in advance.

It is hoped that our Sunday Evening Open House program will serve to familiarize the young people with our manifold activities and interest them in further participation in our social program. The scope of our activities is so arranged as to encompass all of the many and diversified interests which one finds among our young people.

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GETTING PERSONAL

We trust, that Sandy Ward, pious little son of Director and Mrs. Jess Ward, has recovered from his recent tonsilectomy and that he will soon be coming to services again. . . . Although the Synagogue was crowded to capacity last Saturday morning, we missed Mrs. Annie Eisenberg and Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Pargament, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Settel, Mrs. Julius Bayer, Adolph Meirowitz and Mr. and Mrs. Kalman Kinzler. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wohl and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Richman upon the engagement of their son Harold and daughter Peggy. We get special satisfaction from seeing two Synagogue families become one. . . . And congratulations go again to the Richman family upon the marriage of their son Freddy to Miss Rita Shaine. . . . Cupid has had a busy week. We extend our congratulations to Sophia Travis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Travis and David Alster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hersch Alster, who were married in our Synagogue last Sunday. Representatives of International Jewry were present. They included Rabbi Langer of Paris, Rabbi Hecht of Chicago, Mrs. Bernard Revel, wife of the late Dr. Bernard Revel, President of Yeshiva College, Mrs. Vigdor Schoenfeld of London, and Moreinu Jacob Rosenheim, President of World Agudas Israel. . . . It was nice seeing Louis Katz and Edmond Weil in Schule last Shabbus. . . . Let's all turn out for the meeting of the Chevra Kadisha this Monday night at 8:00 P.M. promptly. . . . We were happy to see Mr. and Mrs. Ben Levine visit our Synagogue with her daughter, Mrs. Duke and her two children. Mrs. Levine is doing wonderful work for the success of the Women's League Luncheon. This week our birthday greetings go to Gustave Roth and his grandson William Gabel, Morris Levine, Jacob Kaplan, Henry Blankfort, Michael Blankfort and Mrs. M. Bergman. . . . Wedding Anniversary Greetings go to Mr. and Mrs. S. Bergman.

SUNDAY EVENING
Promptly at 8:30 P. M.
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORUM

Topic
The Future of
Orthodox American Jewry
Speaker
Rabbi Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky

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