

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 17

Friday, January 3, 1947

Teveth 11, 5707

"CONFESSIONS"

By Dr. Nathan Birnbaum

V

OUR GUILT

One after another of the true Jews exchanges his harmonious and beautiful way of life for the common and empty fashions of modernity. And the unity and discipline of the Jewish spirit are sacrificed to insipid formlessness.

Yet this sad drama of apostasy cannot dampen my mood for long. It cannot rob me of the feeling that a cloak of eternity is draped around my people's shoulders; it cannot take away from the sense of certainty that the threads which the Jews have spun between the divine and the earthly, between G'd and humanity, will not be torn in the future just as they have never been torn in the past.

Without any sense of shame I admit that I altogether disbelieve a philosophy of history that operates with comparisons and analogies. I do not subscribe to the theory that economic and technical developments inescapably govern the course of history. I just do not believe that man's inner, higher life is completely dominated by economic and technical facts; does not man in the contrary, learn more and more to rule nature? I am of the firm conviction that the physical world has to serve, and that humanity has to use it, for the practical realization of its intellectual and social goals. Sooner or later, I think, all men will come to make an end to the threat posed to the spiritual (or relatively spiritual) life by the crudely materialistic forces in the world. This, in any case, has been the endeavor of the Jewish people throughout its history, and I do not doubt that it will remain loyal to it. Despite all those Jews who drift away from Judaism, there has always remained a group firmly devoted to its responsibility; to save the honor and immortality of Israel.

(Cont. on P. 2)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY NIGHT BOROUGH PRESIDENT ROGERS TO SPEAK

OUR BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

Every year for many years our Synagogue has taken the Metropolitan Opera House for its Annual Concert. However, this year for the first time, we are fortunate in being able to present, in place of the usual concert, a complete performance of the Opera, "Madame Butterfly."

For those who attend, a wonderful evening is in the offing. But there is an opportunity for all those who are able to purchase tickets, whether or not they can attend, to help our Institution carry on the work of which we are so proud. Your ticket of Admission entitles you to see "Madame Butterfly," but more than that, it entitles you to the feeling of satisfaction that comes when you know that you have done something for your Synagogue.

You can procure your tickets, which range from \$2.50 to \$20.00 each, by writing to the Synagogue office. The earlier your reservation the choicer your seat.

MRS. JOSEPH ANDERSON'S FEDERATION LUNCHEON

Our Women's League is deeply indebted to Mrs. Joseph Anderson, one of its honorary presidents who most graciously entertained a large number of our members at a very lovely dessert luncheon at her home recently.

The guests on this occasion helped to establish a "new high" for our Women's League annual drive, for the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

The Federation, as well as our own Women's League are grateful to Mrs. Anderson for her wholehearted cooperation.



HON. HUGO E. ROGERS

This week we are highly honored to have as our guest speaker Hon. Hugo E. Rogers, the Borough President of Manhattan. Mr. Rogers' career has been a colorful one. He is both an engineer and lawyer. A veteran of World War I, having served as a combat sergeant, he is also a veteran of World War II, having served as Captain in the Transportation Corps.

Although this is his first elected office, Borough President Rogers was a former secretary and counsel of the State Legislature. As one of the eight members of the Board of Estimate, highest ruling body of the City, his engineering as well as his legal background is of tremendous value in his role of taxpayer's and businessman's champion.

FAMOUS SPORTS ANNOUNCER TO BE AT BASKETBALL CEREMONY

The young people of our Talmud Torah are fortunate indeed, as are the rest of the schools in the Basketball League of the Committee on Orthodox Jewish Education of the West Side.

Our own Morty Cohen announces that Marty Glickman, WHN sports

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WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Published weekly from the Second Friday in September to the Second Friday in June by the West Side Institutional Synagogue, 120-138 West 76th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. TRafalgar 7-8281.

Subscription: One Dollar Per Year

Entered as second class matter Sept. 22, 1938, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. X, No. 17 January 3, 1947

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

A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM

At an open discussion of "The Jewish Student On The College Campus" —it was revealed that the Sabbath and the dietary laws were not observed by our Jewish college students. We ask orthodox Jewish parents "If you heard that a law was passed prohibiting your sons and daughters from eating kosher food what would you say"? "Anti-Semitism" would be the cry. Are we not unwittingly doing the same when we help our children go to some out-of-town college, where it is IMPOSSIBLE to secure kosher food?

For four solid years we send our adolescents away from home. When they come back for a winter vacation they are all "dated up" in advance. In the summer they are at some camp away from home. All this as a rule, means a religious breakdown.

All of our Jewish moral and spiritual values are endangered.

What is wrong with our homes, that our young people cannot wait for the moment to leave them?



268th COMMANDMENT

Concerning A Divorcee and A Priest

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

No כהן may marry a Divorcee as it is written in Leviticus, Chapter 21, Verse 7, "Neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband, "divorced." In addition, it should be noted that whilst an Israelite may marry a divorcee he may not retake as his wife, his own divorcee who became a widow by another husband.

The purpose of this commandment is similar to those mentioned in the

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previous ones, namely that the Priest who is wholly dedicated to the L--d shall in no way enter into any defiled relationships. A very young girl who was married through her father, mother, brother or through her own self may up to the age of 12 years and one day annul her marriage without a divorce and then is permitted to marry a כהן a Priest. One who has received "Chalitzah" may not marry a כהן. If a woman is married under false pretenses, then the marriage is annulled without a "get" and the woman is allowed to marry a Priest.

This law concerning the priests prevails at all places and at all times and he who trespasses it and marries a divorcee AND had intercourse with her, should be punished with stripes. The High Priest may even be guilty of receiving stripes four times, if he married 1. a woman who was a widow who then 2. became a divorcee and then 3. became a profaned and then 4. became a harlot. Apparently the Torah plays no favorites.

CONFESSION

(Cont. from P. 1)

There are some who throw doubt on the power and ability of the Jewish masses to survive; and, above all, their worthiness is questioned—by the pagan Jews in the first place.

I certainly do not feel called upon to defend them before the pagan Jews who certainly have the least reason to despise Jewish Jews. Nor do I want to play the apologist before the non-Jewish world. At least at present we can only hold a people to account for the worthiness of its "collective personality"; for its national achievements in the past and its collective conduct in the present. Judged in this way, the pious masses among the Jews can calmly face their challengers. Their ancient and firm faith in God, their spiritual naturalness, their harmonious and disciplined way of life, their unique and unshakeable peacefulness can compare well with the tyranny of the machine, with the propaganda slogans, and the mood of egotist aggressivity, which have spread throughout the modern world. Our guilt, the guilt of the pious Jews, is thus revealed as immense; it seems as if God had never commanded us to be a "saintly people", or as if He had revoked the charge at a

later time. The example of the great men, it is clear, has not had a decisive effect on our people; we have, indeed, stayed within our own sphere of life, the "four cubits of the Law", but we have not risen in it. The knowledge of God, the imitation of His mercy, the spreading of His glory, could have blessed us with holiness; but they have not attained mastery over our people. The Sabbath has not radiated into our everyday existence the awareness, and dignity of a life dedicated to the knowledge of God. This is the indictment; before God, and before ourselves, we have to confess our guilt.

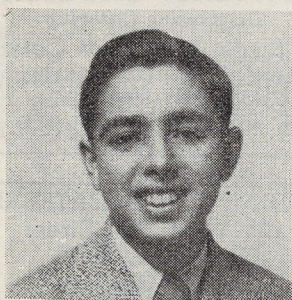
BASKETBALL

(Cont. from page 1)

announcer, will bring with him an array of the city's best known basketball stars, to present athletic uniforms to the teams of the five League Schools.

N.Y.U., City College, St. John's, and L.I.U., court figures will greet our future "Garden" stars, so let's turn out for our school and team, 2 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, January 5th, 1947 at the Jewish Center, 131 West 86th Street.

BAR MITZVAH THIS WEEK



ROBERT POMERANZ

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pomeranz upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Robert, this Shabbus at our Synagogue.

REUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1947

On Sunday morning, Jan. 5th there will be held in our Synagogue vestry rooms a "Reunion Breakfast" for all former students of our Hebrew School as well as for those that became Bar Mitzvah in our Synagogue.

The program for this get-together will be the following:

Morning Services at 8:30 A.M.

Breakfast at 9:15.

Greetings from Rabbi Goldstein.

Greetings from former classmates and friends.

Organization of a W.S.I.S. Alumni Association.

All young men of our Synagogue are asked to take note of this event.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Eve4:20
 Weekly Portion: Vay'-chee
 Friday Evening Service4:30 P.M.
 Saturday Morn. Service4:30 A.M.
 Junior Congregation10:00 A.M.
 Rabbi Hurwitz's
 Talmud Class3:30 P.M.
 Isaac Allen's
 Talmud Class3:30 P.M.
 Mincha Service4:30 P.M.
 Reader of Torah: Herbert Perlman
 Reader of Service: Gideon Goldman
 The Sabbath Terminates:5:05 P.M.
 Sunday Morn. Service6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:
 Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30
 Mincha4:30 P.M.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt condolence to the family of

SAMUEL FASTEN

our esteemed member, and former director of our institution, who had devoted many years of loyal service to our cause.



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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

Our forthcoming benefit performance of "Madame Butterfly" at the Metropolitan Opera House on Sunday evening March 2nd, 1947, is occupying my attention constantly. You can readily realize that the task of disposing of over three thousand four hundred tickets is a gigantic one. Many are bending all their efforts towards that end, but we cannot hope to succeed without your help.

The activities of this institution are planned in accordance with a budget which includes the income from this benefit performance. If the anticipated income is not realized from this major project we will fall short of our budgetary requirements.

You, our readers, will agree that an undertaking of this magnitude cannot possibly succeed with the efforts of only a limited number of persons, no matter how hard they work. Success can be attained only by the combined exertions of a great many friends and supporters of our institution.

I am confident that all of you will join in making this gala night a success, by disposing of as many tickets as possible.

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GETTING PERSONAL

Congratulations to our Vice-President and Mrs. Max E. Sanders and to our Director and Mrs. Joseph Landowne upon the forthcoming marriage of their children Barbara May Sanders to Louis Landowne . . . We are very proud of Allan Grossman, one of our Talmud Torah students, who had his art work purchased by the division of Fine Arts of the New York Public Library, as well as by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. . . We are pleased to welcome into the fold, the following, who have become members of the Synagogue: Julius Cohen, Mrs. Annie Dworkin, Dr. J. D. Levin, Leon Levin, J. Rothberg, Nat Sherman and Samuel Sokolow . . . Congratulations and best wishes for a very successful career to Sylvan Marshall, who has just been admitted to practice law in New York . . . Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Goldstein upon the birth of a granddaughter, Linda Gaye Rosenberg, daughter of Rita and Nat Rosenberg . . . We were very happy to see Jerry Margareten in Schule last Shabbus . . . Missed from Schule Shabbus were our President Lester Udell and family as well as the families of Director Sam Siegel, Director Moses Langer and Max Lazarus, our chief usher away on winter vacations. We hope that they have a pleasant time. . . This week our birthday greetings go to Jacob Golden, Naomi Anderson, Maurice Spanbock, Mrs. A. H. Cohen, Joseph Anderson, Mrs. Samuel Diamond and Richard Grossman. . . Our wedding anniversary greetings go to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Greenstein . . . Congratulations to Mrs. Deborah Karp, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Burstein, who at the age of 22 has been appointed a member of the faculty of the English Department at Hofstra College. . . Just a little reminder at this point to all of our readers who have the intention to purchase tickets for our Benefit Performance of the Entire Opera, "Madame Butterfly" at the Met on March 2, 1947. Reserve your seats now!!

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