

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 24

Friday, February 21, 1947

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AFTERMATHS OF CRISES

By Dr. Sidney Hoenig

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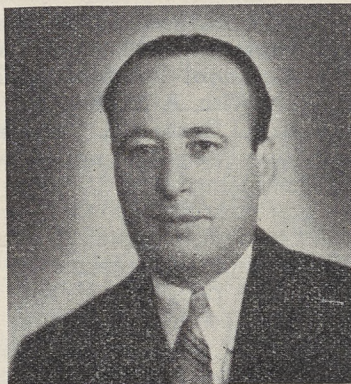
Our Jewish determinism for survival and spiritual revitalization was not even marred by the evil schemes of Torquenda and his Inquisition in Spain. Banished in 1492, the Divine Spirit had already laid the groundwork for Israel's growth in a new world and new hemisphere. Meanwhile, Jacob spoke again in Palestine and under the guidance of devout mystics, even at the moment of extreme darkness, did not forsake to sing the songs of the Sabbath rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Our **Lecha Dodi** is thus a product of those times. Contemporaneously, Rabbi Joseph Karo produced in these years of stress, the supreme Code of Jewish practice—The Shulchan Aruch. Again, **Crisis** did not weaken our people. Instead, its aftermath was only greater spiritual unity. In the same vein, after the bloody Cossack riots in 1648, which decimated Jewry in Poland, there flourished soon again a compact Jewish life of piety, devotion and learning which remained as a model for all Jewish communities till the last holocaust of the Nazis in 1943.

Thus, down the pages of Jewish history, the story of the **phoenix** repeats itself. From the very ashes, a new spirit **always** rises—as even Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, emerging from his coffin, strengthened Jewish existence in the face of world conquerors. The years 70, 1492, and 1648 may then be remembered as years of labor pains and spiritual rebirth rather than as annals of woe and destruction in Israel.

And now, too, Jewish history in the divine pattern herald a new era for us. Though, both in the Yishuv and in the far flung corners of the Diaspora, the rays of warmth, haven, refuge and joy have not yet broken through the dark clouds of suffering, nevertheless, the historic signs of a renaissance are already apparent. Our own Jewish community in these United States now possesses the greatest aggregation of

(Continued on Page 2)

"MADAME BUTTERFLY" 9 DAYS AWAY



LESTER UDELL

Just a few more days left to purchase your tickets for our Benefit Performance of the entire Opera, "Madame Butterfly" to be held at the Metropolitan House, Sunday Evening, March 2nd, at 8:15 P.M.

Our President, Lester Udell, is leading by a nice margin in the sale of tickets, and we are very proud of him, as always. Even though the time is short, you may still try to follow the fine example that he has set. Do your part to make our Benefit a huge success.

BUDDY FRIEDMAN POST

Speaker: Meyer Levy

The next meeting of the Buddy Friedman Post will take place Wednesday evening, Feb. 26th at 8:30 P.M., at our building.

Mr. Meyer Levy will speak on, "Notable Characters in Jewish History." Mr. Levy is a former president of the Bronx County Bar Association and former president of the Bronx Zionist Region. He was also a delegate to the World's Jewish Congress at Geneva, and the Zionist Congress at Zurich.

All the members of the Synagogue, their Ladies, and their friends, are invited. Refreshments will be served.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 24th

PLACE: SYNAGOGUE

TIME: 8:30 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS

WOMEN'S LEAGUE EYE WITNESS REPORT FROM ZIONIST CONGRESS AT BASLE

On Monday afternoon, February 24th at 2:00 P.M., our Women's League will have the privilege of getting a first-hand report of the recent Zionist Congress which was held at Basle, Switzerland.

Mrs. Nachman H. Ebin, a national vice-president of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, and one of the delegates from that organization to the recent Congress, will bring to us a vivid portrayal of that historic gathering.

A most enjoyable and enlightening afternoon is in store for all who attend. A social hour will follow the talk.

BRING A CAN OF FOOD FOR OVERSEAS.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDORIM April 4th and 5th

This year our Congregational Sedorim will be held at the Hotel Riverside Plaza, 253 West 73rd Street. The price is \$8.75, per person, each night, including all waiters' and checking gratuities.

YESHIVA APPEAL

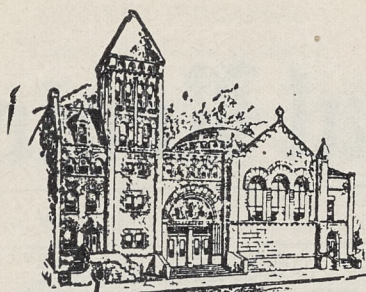
Last Shabbus at the Synagogue a stirring appeal was made by Rabbi Goldstein and our President Lester Udell on behalf of 104 Yeshivas in both Europe and Palestine. It includes 21 in Hungary, 40 in Germany, 40 in Palestine, 1 in France, 1 each in Italy, and Belgium.

As the contributions are received the names of the donors will appear in our "Review." We urge that you send your contributions as soon as possible. PLEASE MARK THEM "YESHIVA FUND."

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ONEG SHABBUS

The second Oneg Shabbus of a series sponsored by the Young People's Council, will be held at the Synagogue this evening at 8:30 P.M.

All the young people of the Congregation are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served, following the discussion.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Vol. X, No. 24 February 21, 1947

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

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATION AT NEWPORT

It is heartening to read the following extract from George Washington's letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport:

"It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoy the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants. . . . May the Father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way everlastingly happy."

May this be America's creed always.



274th COMMANDMENT The High Priest May Not Have Conjugal Relationship With A Widow

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

The High Priest may not have marital relationship with a widow even if he has married her, for it is written in Leviticus, Chapter 21 verse 15, "And he shall not profane his seed among his people". If the High-Priest married a widow and lived with her he received two sets of stripes, one because he violated the commandment, "A widow shall he not take", (verse 14) and second, because he violated the commandment, "He shall not profane his seed". A widow became defiled only when she had married a High-Priest. A widow was and is permitted to marry an ordinary priest. Therefore, not until after her mar-

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riage to the High-Priest did she become "profaned". Whilst a harlot or a divorcee was ipso facto unfit for a plain priest.

The purpose of this commandment is as we said before, that the High-Priest is to be aloof from all physical or mental or spiritual or moral impurities. This commandment prevailed only in Temple Times and if violated the High-Priest was punished with stripes.

275th COMMANDMENT A Priest Who Has A Physical Blemish Shall Not Serve By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

I

We read in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 21, Verse 17, "Speak unto Aaron saying whosoever he be of thy seed. . . that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his G-d". First of all, common sense should direct this, even if one be ignorant of the Divine behest. Would we bring our gifts to the President, through one who is deformed? The expression, "the bread of his G-d" refers to the Holy food.

The purpose of this commandment is that the כהן the Priest, should be pleasing and inspiring to those who see him.

AFTERMATHS OF CRISES

(Continued from Page 1)

Jewish populace, rabbinic learning, Yeshivot and cultural and financial energy necessary for a perfect Jewish revival. With it, all Jewish communities in the world look toward us with the prayerful tune: "Whence shall come my salvation?" The Crisis is passing but can we remain oblivious to the powers of the Aftermath? Will the new chapter of Jewish glory and history be written now in the United States, as even earlier chapters were written in Babylon, Spain and Poland? Will the Jewish community in America now serve as the font of encouragement, learning and inspiration, to be a pattern of sincere Jewish life to the Diaspora in Australia, South Africa and South America—now that we have closed the chapters on European Jewry? Will history repeat itself, with a new Maccabean independent age in the present Holy Land with a corresponding Jewish spiritual advance in the Golut of America? Yes—

The answer seems to be:

"The people that walked in
darkness
Have seen a great light

They that dwelt in the land of
the shadow of death
Upon them both, the light
shined."

This hope for the future is perhaps best contained in the Midrashic tradition that the world exists six thousand years. We are today in the sixth day of Jewish existence, reckoning "a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is passed." Recognizing that in the Jewish home, the sixth day of the week, Friday is one of extreme toil and earnest preparation, we may in the same sense recall our past years and present decade as times of chaos, disturbance and uncertainty. But thereafter comes the day of Sabbath and rest. The past has been a terrible Friday—full of crises. We now approach the eve of Sabbath—the aftermath of the Friday. It shall bring with it the concomitant blessings of peace and spiritual regeneration. Our Sabbath plea is soon to be realized in history:

"Who is like thy people Israel,
a nation unique on earth
Thou gavest to thy people a
crown of greatness
And a chaplet of salvation
In the day of rest and sanctity."



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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Eve.5:17
Weekly Portion: Terumah
Friday Evening Service5:20
Saturday Morning Service9:00
Junior Congregation10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:20
Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class 4:20
Mincha Service5:20
Reader of Torah: Samuel Ward
Reader of Service: Harvey Shapiro
Speaker: Morton Langer
The Sabbath Terminates:5:59
Sunday Morning Service 6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:
Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha5:20

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

The following conversation took place in our office last Sunday: "I read the article in the Review last week, headed 'Chats', and was somewhat amused at the artlessness of the writer, who expects to have the readers immediately rush to buy tickets for the Benefit Performance on March 2nd. In my opinion the writer will be greatly disappointed."

"I don't agree with you," said the other, "I think people who are friendly disposed towards this institution, will welcome the opportunity of aiding the splendid work it is doing. Orthodox institutions should do everything within their power to attract young people. We oldsters do not expect to live forever. It is our duty to find future leaders of Israel. The WSIS seeks to interest young men and young women in Judaism and to make them more loyal to our cause. It is therefore essential to support this undertaking so as to derive an income for the continuance of that work."

It is my earnest hope that you, our readers, will support this Benefit Performance, at the Metropolitan Opera House on March 2nd.

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GETTING PERSONAL

We didn't know that we had another Fred Allen in our midst, but after the comments received on last week's Getting Personal Column we are convinced that its author, Morty Langer, could give Allen or Jack Benny some pretty good competition. . . Miss Audrey Roberta Adelson announces proudly, on behalf of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adelson, that her recent birth makes her the first grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Adelson. . . A school graduation is a proud enough occasion, but for our own Jack Verschleiser, our pride is fourfold. He not only graduated from the Talmudical Academy, but was awarded the History Prize, the Service Medal, the Americanism Medal, and the Arista Medal. How's that . . . California Here We Come, is the tune from the lips of our Director and Mrs. David H. Ullman, who left for its sunny climes. A pleasant journey to them. Here on a brief visit from the Lone Star State are Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Weiss, son of our own Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Weiss. Our gain, Texas' loss. . . Welcome home from their honeymoon to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wohl (Peggy Richman). But for all they saw, it could have been Florida. We welcome into our fold the following, who have just become members of the Synagogue; Bruno Bayer, Harry J. Gell and Max Hecht. We hope that they will be with us for a long time to come. . . Here's a good one. One of our younger set, Bob Medvin, returned from Florida Monday. Thursday we saw him at the barber's getting a Sun Lamp Treatment. . . What goes up must come down, and those who leave us always return. We welcome home Morty Kamerman and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reichlin. . . We were happy to hear from our "Reporters" that Joe Tillem, Herbert Gossett, Mr. Isidore Ehrman and his son Leonard were in Schule Shabbus. . . We missed Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wiener. . . A birthday comes but once a year. This week our birthday greetings go to Jo Ann Sedwitz, Bernard B. Brandt, Mrs. Gusti Brandt and Alex Kirsh. . . We would like to thank Roslyn Fuchs for all the efforts she has put forth in behalf of the Young People's Council. . . Our Benefit Performance of the Opera, "Madame Butterfly" is all set for Sunday night, March 2, 1947. There are but a few more days left to get your tickets. If you have not already purchased yours, we hope that you will do so immediately.

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