

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XI, No. 34

Thursday, April 29, 1948

Nisan 20, 5708

Passover Sermons

by

Rabbis Goldstein and Reichel

PASSOVER—THE ORIGIN OF DEMOCRACY

By Rabbi Samuel Belkin
President, Yeshiva University

Every people associates the essence of its national life with certain origins which caused its coming into being, and no sooner does a nation divorce itself from the basic philosophy upon which its foundations

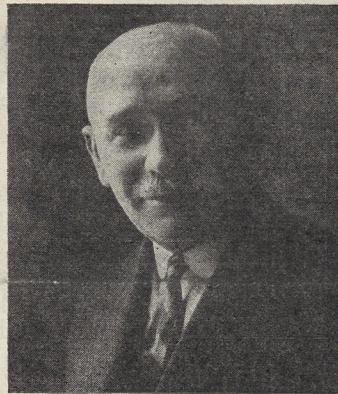


DR. SAMUEL BELKIN

rest, than it immediately causes its own disintegration and self-annihilation. Monotheism is one of the greatest contributions that we as Jews have made to the world, and the divine words of the Torah have always been the main guides of our lives. The origin of our nationhood rests, however, upon the often repeated words in the Torah—"I am the L—d thy G—d, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt." In these words are summed up our entire religious philosophy. It is through the belief in a spiritual and godly emancipation that Israel became united as a nation. Our concept of G—d is revealed not in philosophical speculations but in human experience, in the protest against slavery and human oppression. Judaism is based upon the fundamental con-

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



Aaron Wartels

This Saturday, our Vice President, Aaron Wartels, will celebrate his birthday. The Congregation extends to him their heartfelt wishes for good health. We pray he will soon be back with us in his usual vigor and happy spirit.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S REUNION SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1st

"American Youth and Palestine" will be the theme of the Young People's Reunion, Saturday afternoon, May 1, at 4 o'clock, at our Isaac Settel Synagogue House. Young people of our Congregation, (young women over 18 and young men over 21) are cordially invited to join in the discussion. Of course there will be singing and Passover refreshments.

The co-chairmen for this event are Lenore E. Druckman and Nathaniel Margolis.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICES May 17, 1948 — 8:30 P.M.

This year we will continue our custom of holding a Memorial Service in honor of the departed, whose names are inscribed on the Synagogue's Memorial Tablet. The service will be held in our building on Monday night, May 17th, at 8:30 p.m.

Invitations will be sent to the families of the departed.

The services will include an address by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, who will be assisted by Rabbi O. Asher Reichel, and the chanting of the Memorial Prayer by our Cantor Zalmon Yavneh.

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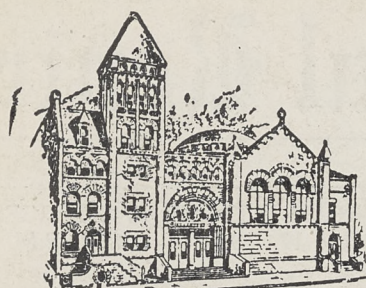
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Rabbi H. S. GoldsteinEditor
Rabbi O. Asher Reichel ..Ass't. Editor
Morris JablowManaging Editor

YOUR CHILD'S SABBATH

By RABBI AARON BAER

T. T. Staff Member

Sabbath is one of the most precious gifts bestowed upon Israel by G-d, for it is not only a holy day, but a day of bliss and pleasure as well. The true spirit of the Sabbath is very well expressed in the institution known as the Oneg Shabbat, which takes place at our Synagogue every Saturday afternoon at 3:30 P.M. Children who attend the Oneg Shabbat, find it very enjoyable. Not only are they given refreshments, but they also sing Hebrew songs, hear interesting stories taken from our rich history, and participate in informative discussions. By being provided with spiritual and physical nourishment, they are made to feel the Sabbath atmosphere. Attending the Oneg Shabbat is a worthwhile experience for all children, for it teaches them an appreciation of Sabbath, and leaves a lasting impression. If you want your child to look forward to the pleasure of the Sabbath, send your child to our Oneg Shabbat.



326th COMMANDMENT

"The Sabbatical Year of the Land"

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

One was not to work or till the earth in the seventh year as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 25, verse 4, "But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land." The purpose of this commandment is to show that the land belongs to G-d, as we read in the next verse **כִּי לִי הָאָרֶץ** "for the land belongs to Me." In regard to landed wealth there is a different conception than in regard to personal property. In regard to the Jubilee year, as we shall see later, the land could not be perpetually in the hands of one family. G-d is the owner of the land and man is the trustee for him.

The observance of the **שְׁמִיטָה** "The Sabbatical Year" was surely an evidence of Israel's faith in G-d, and in His Providence. Whilst other

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people were ploughing, sowing, and harvesting, the Israelite was spending the year in prayer, and in Holy Study. The Midrash Rabbah commenting on this fact says, "Is there a greater hero than he",—the observant Israelite? This might also be said of our Sabbath observers today, whilst they are at Synagogue, on Sabbath morning, they know that their competitors are transacting business. The Psalmist put it,

גְּבוּרֵי כֹחַ עוֹשֵׂי דְבָרִי לְשִׁמְעַת בְּקוֹל דְּבָרִי "who are the mighty ones? Those who carry out His commandments and hearken unto the spirit of His Word."

In a year of general cessation from regular work the Israelitish farmer would be able to cultivate his mind, broaden his vision and purify his heart with fear and love of G-d. Thus the whole of Israel became a holy, wise and understanding nation. This did away with an ignorant peasantry. There are still Jews in Palestine who observe a sabbatical year.

It is interesting to note the cycle of seven,—the Sabbath at the end of the week; Pentecost at the end of seven weeks; the Seventh month, as the sacred month studded with Festivals, the Sabbatical year, and the Jubilee, which came after Seven Sabbatical years.

(Continued from Page One)

cept that our national and individual lives can continue to function properly as long as we believe in the dignity of every individual, in the inviolability, infinite worth, and sacredness of each human being.

Passover symbolizes our belief that human freedom, which is the essence of democracy, is not merely political theory but profound religious truth upon which the entire structure of Judaism is based. Upon the divine words, "I am the L—d thy G-d who brought thee out of Egypt," is based the entire spiritual and religious philosophy of Israel.

The American concept of democracy is indeed deeply rooted in the religious and spiritual democracy of historic Judaism. A call to a renewed loyalty to our democracy, as it is expressed in the simplest words in the Declaration of Independence, is an echo to the louder call for the loyalty to the fundamental principles embodied in our Torah. The more loyal and devoted we shall be to the tenets of the Torah, the greater shall be our contribution to our American democracy. We, who enjoy political and intellectual free-

dom, must assume the final defense and ultimate vindication of our people, and spiritual history. We who have not experienced the degradation of the modern Egyptian bondage, but have enjoyed true citizenship of a great democracy, must make our beloved United States the center of a resurrection of all the lofty ideals which were transmitted to us from generation to generation, and upon which the true concepts of a democracy are based.

YISKOR SERVICES

Yiskor Services will be held at the Synagogue this Shabbus. Beside the regular Service in the Main Synagogue, there will be an overflow Service in the Social Hall at 11:00 A.M.

We are desirous of accommodating all those who wish to pray. However, the space that we have is limited. We hope, therefore, that those who are with us Shabbus, will bear with us if we are overcrowded. All those who come will be given an opportunity to say Yiskor. Our regular worshippers are urged to come early, in order that they may be assured of obtaining their seats.

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The next meeting of the Men's Club will be held Monday evening, May 3, at 8:30 o'clock. Refreshments will be served. Bring your friends, meet new friends, and have a good time.

YOUR SPRING CLEANING

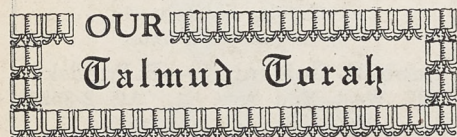
When you are giving your closets, and chests, etc., their Spring Cleaning, you will doubtless come across many items for which you no longer have any use.

Articles of apparel which do not have the "new look" will be just as welcome, overseas, as if they were in the height of fashion.

Thrift Sale

Bric-a-brac, utensils, or anything else which you wish to discard will be most acceptable for the Thrift Sale which our Women's League is planning to hold.

Bring your packages to the Synagogue or phone TR. 7-8281 and leave word for Mrs. Jules Shaftan, Chairman of the Thrift Sale, to have them called for.



OUR Talmud Torah

PARENTS NOTE

Please do not send your children to school on this Friday (Passover).

PALESTINE DRIVE

The following pupils of our Hebrew School have been leaders in the Keren Hayishuv Drive, for Palestine.

The list is headed by Richard Saul and Sidney Cassel; Irene Sommerfield, Rita Malagis, Milton Nathan, Jacqueline Biron, Adele Lieberman, Ed Behrens, Marshall Greenberg, Frances Newman, Elaine Aibinder, Edgar Gross, Milton Ellenbogen, Eli Pretner, Alan Shalita, Ira Tumpowsky, Seymour Buvitt, Michael Friedman, and Fannie Steinmetz.

Our Synagogue is a depot for clothes and food for our brethren in Europe and the Holy Land.

CONDOLENCE

Our heartfelt sympathy to our Director, Abraham M. Davis, and our members Meyer, Ruth and Henrietta, upon the passing of their sister

CELIA DAVIS

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Thursday Evening	
up to	7:28
Thursday Evening Service	6:30
Friday Morning Service	9:00
Light Candles Friday Evening	
up to	7:30
Friday Evening Service	6:30
Saturday Morning Service (YIZKOR)	8:30
Junior Congregation	10:00
Oneg Shabbos (Boys 8-12)	3:30
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class	6:30
Mr. Isaac Allan's Talmud Class	6:30
Mincha Service	7:30
Reader of Torah: Samuel Ward	
Reader of Service: Herbert Perlman	
The Sabbath Terminates	8:18
Sunday Morning Service	6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:	
Mornings	6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha	7:25
Followed by the Explanation of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.	

MRS. MOSES LANGER, HOSTESS WOMEN'S LEAGUE BOARD MEETING

On Monday, May 3rd, Mrs. Moses Langer will be hostess at the Executive Board Meeting of our Women's League which will be held at her home, 271 Central Park West, corner 87th Street.

Coffee will be served promptly at 1:00 and the meeting will follow immediately thereafter.

All the members of the Board are urgently requested to attend as important matters will be presented for their consideration.

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Getting Personal

Felicitations to Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig, who has been promoted to Associate Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University. Dr. Hoenig conducts a class in our Laymen's Institute on Tuesday nights, at 8 o'clock, in Modern Jewish History and the Prophets. . . . Heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lavin of Chicago, (better known to most of us as Joan Friedman) upon the birth of a son. . . . Rabbi and Mrs. Reichel would like to use their Afikomen wish for exchanging their 3½ room apartment from 311 East 72nd St. to one closer to the Synagogue. . . . Happy Birthday to: Mrs. Noel Aronovitch, Emanuel Buchalter, Jess Gross, Mrs. George L. Livingston, Mrs. Sol Redlich, Mannie Yavneh, and Jess Ward. . . . Anniversary Greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Baskowitz, and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Weinstein. . . . Thanks to Mrs. William Ball and to Mrs. Samuel Newman for the flowers and other goodies, at the impressive and decorous model Sedorim conducted by our Hebrew School pupils. . . . Do the Hunter College girls know that there is a kosher kitchen at the Roosevelt House? Mazel Tov, Mr. and Mrs. Isak Haselkorn, upon becoming grandparents. . . . Contributions are still being received as a result of the appeal made in our Synagogue on behalf of Yeshivos abroad, and in the United States. Thanks to E. Schreiber for his response. If you have not already sent your contribution, please do so now! . . . Welcome home to Morris Segerman from China and to Hank Epstein and Buddy Udell from their trip out West . . . and it was good to see Mr. and Mrs. Louis Landowne and son, Mrs. Ben Lunitz, and Mr. and Mrs. Felix Gouled and niece back in our midst. . . . The names of our Directors Moses Langer, Bernard Lax, and Morris Levine—all the L's—were inadvertently omitted by the printer in last week's issue reporting on the U.J.A. Drive held at Rabbi Goldstein's home. Their presence, however, was very much felt. . . . Many thanks to our Director, Samuel Silver, for helping make our Congregational Sedorim the huge success that it was. . . . Jay Ball from our Talmud Torah asked the "four questions". . . . We hope that those of our readers who were not able to be with us this year will make reservations early for the coming year.

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