

SABBATH SERVICES TOMORROW AT 8:45;
LAST DAY PASSOVER, YIZKOR, TUESDAY —
SERVICES AT 8:30

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XIX, No. 30

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Nisan 18, 5716

BOOK REVIEW

The Strong Hand

by Michael Blankfort

All of us enjoy reading a good book. Too often, however, the book we read is just a tale of happenings, adventure and suspense, without any particular significance. Not so with *A STRONG HAND* by MICHAEL BLANKFORT. It is not only a story interestingly told, of characters sharply drawn, of an intensely sincere love, but it also depicts dramatically a conflict of love and a strong religious conviction. It will arouse you emotionally and will provoke some thoughtful and intriguing speculations.

I will not relate the story — you should read the book — but it tells the story of a young Rabbi who firm in his belief in the Orthodox faith, falls in love with a beautiful and brilliant girl who returns his love. Through circumstances beyond their control, a religious issue arises. The young Rabbi cannot marry his beloved without doing violence to his faith. The ending is unhappy because of his strong and inflexible belief in the sanctity of the Orthodox law.

Mr. Blankfort's characters are natural and sincere. His reference to religion can be judged by the following quotations:

"Each (prayer) marked off a moment in which he became conscious and aware of life".

We (orthodox Jews) have learned a way of using the past to make the present more exciting and more understandable. But, most of all, to make us more fully alive".

Incidentally, I recognize in the description of the Synagogue referred to in the book a great similarity to our own West Side Institutional Synagogue.

Not only will you enjoy reading this book, but you will also experience a sense of keen pride and exaltation in our faith.

—Morris Jablow

"Service Merits Recognition" Set as Slogan For This Year's Effort for Souvenir Album

ALBUM CHAIRMAN CALLS UPON ALL TO DO THEIR PART

Souvenir Album Chairman, Herman H. Cohen, announced recently a most fitting slogan to spur the work on behalf of this year's Album drive: "Service Merits Recognition." Pointing to the fine work and spirit of our "Man of the Year," Vice-President Max Moskowitz, Mr. Cohen said that he felt every member and friend of our institution ought to be glad of the opportunity to show their support of the ideals for which Mr. Moskowitz's life and activities have stood, and with the help of G-d, shall continue to stand.



THE COUNTING OF THE OMER

On the second night of the Passover holiday, we began the "counting of the Omer," in accord with the Biblical injunction, "From the morrow of the Pesach, from the day of your bringing the Omer, shall ye count seven full weeks, forty-nine days." The Omer was a special offering of barley gathered from the newly ripened grain which permitted the use of the **Chadash**, the new spring harvest.

The counting of the Omer should take place after sunset. Immediately before stating the number of the days and the weeks in the Omer, we make the benediction, Al Sefirath Ho-Omer. This should be done while standing. If one had forgotten to count the Omer during the night, he should count during the day, without the blessing. However, if one skips an entire day, then; thereafter, he may count, only without the blessing.

The counting of the Omer continues for the seven weeks until the holiday of Shavuous. The Rabbis and commentators have given several reasons for the Biblical injunction. The most widely accepted is that the counting of the days between the two holidays demon-

(Continued on Page 2)

HEBREW SCHOOL NOTES

All Hebrew School classes will be resumed on Wednesday, April 4th. The classes on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4th and 5th, will meet one hour earlier than the regularly scheduled periods.

We hope that all our readers will take the words of Mr. Cohen to heart and consider it a personal obligation to make an individual effort on behalf of our Souvenir Album. We hope that when we present the Album to Mr. Moskowitz at the Reception in his honor this June, that it will contain the greetings of 100 percent of our friends.

When the Souvenir Album committee or the office contacts you to solicit for greetings, please respond generously.

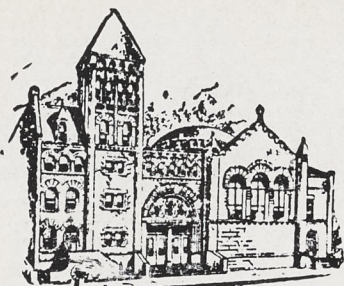
WELCOME TO OUR JUNIOR CONGREGATIONS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

At the Kiddush of our Senior and Junior Congregations this Saturday morning, all the youthful congregants will sing "Happy Birthday" to their schoolmates who celebrate their natal days during the month of March.

We are happy to add our good wishes to: Kenneth Cohen, Vivian Sue Geisenberger, Jack Lubiner, Harold Meyer, David Padawer, David Shapiro, and Michael D. Steinlauf.

Junior Congregation Services begin at 10:30 o'clock. Gifts will be distributed to the celebrants with the good wishes of our P.T.A. Passover refreshments will be served.

We hope to greet all the celebrants and their parents.



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Holiday Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

strates the fact that without spiritual redemption, which took place on Shavu'ous with the giving of the Torah, physical redemption, which occurred at Passover, can have little or no meaning. During the days of the Omer, we count time for the preparation of the spiritual redemption.

Historically, many tragedies have befallen the Jewish people during this season of the year. For that reason, we observe a "partial mourning" period during this time.

Last Days Yom Tov

The Passover holiday ends with two additional days of Yom Tov.

The reading for the Torah consists of the portion in Exodus concerning the deliverance on the Red Sea. Traditionally, this event took place on the seventh of Passover. On the eighth and final day, the portion of the Torah from the Book of Deuteronomy is read dealing with the Passover holiday and the counting of the Omer.

THE PRAYER BOOK

COMMENTS BY RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

Blessings Before The 'Shma'

"O KING WHO ALONE WAST EXALTED FROM AFORETIME"

According to the Hebrew text the rendering should be "O King who alone was exalted." His excellence does not consist in mere comparison. It is not necessary for His laudation to parade derogation and failings of others, so that He compares favorably with shortcomings elsewhere. As we read in the Sabbath version of this prayer — "There is none to be compared unto Thee."

Some render this verse thus — "There is none to be able to make an estimate of Thee, etc." There is no one who is able to comprehend all His attributes so as to be able to give an estimate or to present a full appreciation of His attributes. Con-

tinuing the Sabbath version, we read "There is none but Thee our Redeemer for the days of the Messiah, etc. . . ." When our redemption will be an accomplished fact we will become convinced that all those agencies that meddled with our redemption have been rather a hindrance than a help. By their interference they rather retarded, than advanced the cause of our Independence. We will then see that it is He alone, who deserves the gratitude for our freedom. Our present-day situation in Israel seems to be eloquent testimony as to the futility of putting our trust in the hands of governments.

"WHO WAS EXALTED FROM AFORETIME"

The word "AFORETIME" in Hebrew is **יְשׁוּעָה**. The Rabbis in the Midrash make a thought-provoking reference to this word. They say that G-d's Kingdom was established at **יְשׁוּעָה** or "aforetime." "Thy throne set firm from aforetime" or **יְשׁוּעָה**. See Psalm 93. As we read in Exodus, Chapter 15, Verse 1, "Then **יְשׁוּעָה**

sang Moses and the children of Israel." We recite this Psalm 93 on Friday mornings, Sabbaths and Holidays. In other words, G-d was exalted at the crossing of the Red Sea, when He performed the miracle of taking out a horde of slaves, from a powerful nation like Egypt, and made them into a nation.

"O, EVERLASTING G-D IN THINE ABUNDANT MERCIES"

This sudden cry for mercy in the midst of a paean of praise requires some explanation. Avudraham has this to say: According to the Jerusalem Talmud (Taanis IV, 3) the light we perceive, is not the light as it was created in its original purity and power. It comes to us in a diminished form. "Let there be light; The word light is not written in its full form **מֵאֲרוֹרָה** but, **מֵאֲרָה** without the "vav," making it incomplete, — to correspond to our own

state of imperfection. Child and infant mortality, which could only have been caused by the transgressions of their parents, was held to be a manifestation of this imperfection. Accordingly, the **אֲנָשִׁי מִשְׁמֵר** would fast on the fourth day (Wednesday), the day of the creation of the "great lights,"

הַתִּינוּקוֹת שֶׁלֹּא יַעֲלֶה עֲלֵיהֶם אֲמִכְרָה
This explains also the inclusion of the cry for mercy in the blessing of **וְיִצְרֵךְ אֱוֶר**

In addition, we recite only the Half Hallel on these days, omitting two chapters from the regular Hallel. Our rejoicing cannot be complete, say our Sages, since the redemption from Egypt involved the destruction of other of G-d's creations as we read: Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth." (Proverbs 24:

After the Holiday

We are not permitted to benefit in any way from any forbidden cha-

metz which remained in the possession of a Jew during the Passover holiday. This, which is known as 'chametz she-avar alav ha-Pesach,' is strictly forbidden. Therefore, it is important that we take care that all baked goods from Jewish stores which were prepared for sale on the last day of Passover should not be bought. Only bread or baked goods prepared completely **after** the Passover holiday are permitted.

GETTING PERSONAL

by **Sanford Solarz**

We happily and proudly offer a toast to the State of Israel with the exquisitely stimulating kosher champagne, which is one of its latest export products to our country . . . A congregational welcome to our new member, Henry Cohen . . . The host at our weekly Seuda Shlishis tomorrow afternoon will be Mr. William Foont . . . Happy times in Florida to Director and Mrs. Abraham M. Druckman and daughter Lenore, and Director Max J. Zimmer.

Birthday Greetings

March

- 30—Eleanor S. Goldman
Director David H. Ullman
- 31—Samuel Blumberg
Mrs. Emil Kestenbaum
Robert Kirsh

April

- 2—Robert Marvin Livingston
- 3—David Jay Beier
- 4—Hyman Feld
- 5—Mrs. Noah Kobrin
- 5—Michele Siegel

Wedding Anniversaries Greetings

April

- 1—1st V.P. & Mrs. Samuel W. Siegel
- 2—Mr. & Mrs. Maurice L. Barnett

LAYMEN'S INSTITUTE NOTES

The next of Professor Hoenig's lectures, given under the auspices of our Laymen's Institute, will take place this Wednesday evening, April 4, at 8 P.M. All of our readers are cordially invited to attend these stimulating sessions.

COLLEGIATE REUNION

Young folks of college age are welcome to attend a Passover reunion, Friday night, March 30th, at 8:45 o'clock, at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. O. Asher Reichel.

A very interesting program is being prepared.

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W.S.I.S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Friday, Nisan 18 - Chol HaMoed
Light candles before5:59
Evening service6:10

Saturday, Nisan 19
Shabbos Chol HaMoed Pesach

Morning service8:45
Junior congregations10:30
Sabbath Kindergarten10:30
Oneg Shabbos (Boys 9 to 12) 3:00
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 4:40
Mr. Allen's Talmud Class4:40
Mincha5:40
Reader of Torah: Joseph Weisenfeld
Reader of Service: Shelly Schneider
The Sabbath Terminates6:50

Sunday, Nisan 20 - Chol HaMoed
Morning services7:00, 8:00, 8:45
Light Festival candles before 6:01
Evening service6:10

Monday, Nisan 21 - Passover VII
Morning service9:00
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 5:10
Mr. Allen's Talmud Class5:10
Mincha6:10

Tuesday, Nisan 22 — Passover
Morning services8:30
Yizkor prayers will be recited before Mussaf
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 5:10
Mr. Allen's Talmud Class5:10
Mincha6:10
The Festival terminates6:53

Daily Services
Morning services6:45, 7:45, 8:30
Mincha6:10
Followed by the explanation of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein

PLEASE NOTE

Mr. Kestenbaum will not meet with his Friday evening class in Chumosh and Rashi this evening. The regular sessions of the class will resume at 8:30 next Friday evening.

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Dr. Isaac Halevy Herzog
Chief Rabbi of Israel

The World Academy, through its restoration, collation and transmission of the immortal wisdom of the Prophets, will help bring greater "Light to the World" and illuminate many dark corners of our civilization: thereby bringing closer to fulfillment the prophecy, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn the arts of war anymore."

Dr. Samuel Belkin, *President*
Yeshiva University

I am deeply aware of the World Academy's great importance in the spiritual and cultural life of Israel.

Abba Eban
Israeli Ambassador to the United States

It is indeed a pleasure to join with our mutual friends of academic circles in New York City and the broader community, in noting the scholarly work being accomplished on behalf of all mankind at the World Academy in Jerusalem. I am confident that the learned men gathered there, in their ancient setting, are achieving and will achieve much of spiritual value to our world of today and tomorrow.

Dr. Grayson Kirk, *President*
Columbia University

I want to express to you my appreciation for the program of the World Academy in Jerusalem. Its success will be of great benefit to Jewish culture and science.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann
Chairman, Jewish Agency

I am happy to learn that the first "Light of the World" Award will be conferred upon Robert F. Wagner, Mayor of the City of New York.

This historic event will further the fraternal striving for ideals long associated with the stock of Abraham.

These ideals have passed into the great tradition of Western culture and guides all of us associated with the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Everett R. Clinchy, *President*
National Conference of Christians and Jews

Since my recent trip to Israel, where I had an opportunity to visit with the president of the World Academy in Jerusalem, Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevy Herzog, I feel strongly as to the importance of the mission which the World Academy has set out to accomplish, and already has begun to accomplish in an impressive way. Not only will this mean much to Israel and to Judaism, but it will mean much to people of all faiths everywhere.

Rev. James A. Pike, *Dean*
The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

I am greatly impressed by the World Academy's comprehensive and significant program. This is an important undertaking for Jewish and world culture.

Salo W. Baron
Professor of Jewish History, Columbia U.