

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XX, No. 1

September 14, 1956

Tishri 9, 5717



What is Rosh Hashona?

Yom Kippur? Succoth?

What is a Shofar? A Machzor?

These are the subjects about which your children will receive a thorough knowledge if they will be enrolled in our Hebrew School before the Holiday season. **All Classes in our Hebrew School are already in session.** We urge you to enroll your children at once in our Religious School. Our principal, Rabbi Reichel, will be glad to discuss with you the educational program of your child.

Yom Kippur Begins This Evening at Sundown; Only Few Days Left for Succos Preparations

With the coming of Yom Kippur, we all become aware that the festival of Succos is almost with us. Succos is one of the most beautiful holidays in the Jewish calendar. Its beauty can be enhanced if it is celebrated in the traditional manner, including meals in a succah and the purchase of a lulav and esrog.

A beautiful and traditional lulav and esrog can be obtained through our sexton, Rabbi Pekier. He can be reached at the synagogue office, TR 7-8281, or at his home in the evening, SC 4-5163. May we urge you to contact him at once.

Reservations for meals in our congregational succah should be made at once through the Synagogue Office. The charge is \$4 per person per meal. Meals will be served on holiday afternoons and evenings and in the evening during Chol Ha-Moed. In addition, breakfast is served in the Succah following the morning service during the week for a nominal charge.



Our Cantor Zalmon Yavneh who will chant the traditional Kol Nidre in our Main Synagogue this evening, to usher in the fast of the Day of Atonement.

Yom Kippur Eve

Today, Friday, is the eve of the high-point of the penitential season with which the Jewish year begins. Our Sages have equated the spiritual preparation for the Day of Atonement to the sanctity of the fast itself. Especially important, our Rabbis tell us, is the need for the reconciliation of man with his fellow man. "The Day of Atonement will atone for sins between man and G-d, . . . but not for sins between man and man until the two men are reconciled to each other" (Yomah 85b). Maimonides in discussing the laws of repentance makes the application of this principle quite broad: "Even if one has only annoyed his neighbor through something he said, he must placate him, and beg for forgiveness . . . And a man may not be cruel and refuse to be appeased, but all should be easy to placate and hard to anger." (Hilchos Teshuvah 2:9-10).

Kol Nidre

The Kol Nidre formula, which gives the name to the entire Yom
(Continued on Page 3)

An Open Letter To The Congregation

To our fellow congregants:

We would like to call to your attention a matter which is of much concern to us, namely that of synagogue decorum. Ours, thank G-d, is a large congregation and we must be doubly watchful to keep the synagogue what it should be, a place of prayer and worship.

We, therefore, request all our worshippers to observe the following Rules:

1. All the halls of the Synagogue must remain cleared at all times.
2. During the reading of the Torah, no one should go to his seat but rather wait silently until the end of the "aliyah" in the rear of the synagogue.
3. There is to be no talking during the prayer service.
4. While the Rabbis are speaking, the doors are to remain closed and no one is to be allowed to enter or to leave.

Our Board of Ushers is making every effort to maintain the proper standard of decorum in the Synagogue. Please give them your every cooperation.



West Side Institutional Review

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MEMBER CONGREGATION



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RABBI O. A. REICHEL Associate Editor
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Our Social Department has something worthwhile for your sons and daughters.

We have activities — social, cultural, and recreational, throughout the week.

We have groups — clubs and classes for every age level from the youngest to the oldest.

If you have children who would be interested in our Scout Troop, Cub Pack, or Brownies, please indicate on the form below.

Won't you help us bring this to the attention of the members of your family by filling in the attached questionnaire and mailing or bringing it in to the W.S.I.S. 122 W. 76th St. without delay.

NAMES OF CHILDREN
AND AGE LEVEL

.....
.....
.....

(List married children separately)

Signed

Address

Phone

THE PRAYER BOOK

COMMENTS BY RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

The 'Shma'

"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL", ETC.

The Rabbis say that this commandment was a direct result of the former incident. Moses pointed out that the Tephilin served as a daily reminder to the people, both of G-d and the Torah. Since the Tephilin were not used on the Sabbath, the one who "gathered the sticks" desecrated the Sabbath because he was without a spiritual reminder on that day. As a remedy

for this situation arising out of human weakness, G-d gave the command concerning the ציצית "the fringes" which are worn every day, including the Sabbath, as a constant reminder of G-d and His commandments, as we read in the next verse "that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them."

"AND THAT THEY PUT UPON THE FRINGES OF THE BORDER A THREAD OF BLUE."

This "thread of blue" was a woolen thread dyed blue with an extract from a certain rare Kosher fish. The fish cannot be found anywhere now-a-days hence this "blueing" process has been suspended. The different parts of the ציצית "the fringes," have distinct symbolic significance. Following is a detailed description of how the ציצית "fringes" are made. Four threads of wool are inserted in each of the four corners of the garment or "talit." For the sake of clarity, let me here emphasize the fact that each of the four corners is treated in exactly the same manner, and that the following description refers only to one corner. First the four threads referred to above are knotted twice leaving eight threads suspended. One of these eight threads must be twisted around the others seven times. Next comes two more knots followed by eight more twists of one of the threads around all the others. The total number of the

twisting is 15 which is the same number as the numerical value of the first two letters of Tetragrammateon, that is, the "incommunicable name" of G-d. Then comes a third set of double knots, followed by eleven more twistings of one thread around all the others, corresponding to the numerical value of the last two letters of G-d's ineffable name. A fourth set of double knots followed by 13 twistings corresponds to the numerical value of אחד (1+8+4) "One," the last word of the שמע "Hear O Israel, the Lord

our G-d, the Lord is One". Finally comes a fifth set of knots, from which the eight threads remain suspended.

The five double knots correspond to the Five Books of Moses, and to the five senses which are to be utilized in the service of G-d. The eight threads correspond to the eight principle limbs of the body — ears, eyes, nose, mouth, hands, feet, sexual organs, and heart, — which may be instruments of sin or virtue.

Our beautiful synagogue cemetery plot in

Mt. Eden Cemetery

is available to members of the W.S.I.S.

Single graves and family plots are available

Call the Synagogue Office

Yom Kippur Notes

(Continued from Page 1)



Kippur eve service, has a long and interesting history. It was originally suggested in Talmud Nedarim, not as a prayer, but as a legal declaration nullifying future vows of a personal nature, which involved only a person's individual interests. Contrary to the false accusations of Israel's enemies, it never had anything to do with governmental vows or secular promises.

Much of the fervor which has attached to the section, as well as the haunting melody associated with it, is said to be derived from the days of the Marranos of Spain. In reciting the prayer regarding vows, these unfortunate people were reminded of the oaths to strange religions that they were forced to take at the point of death.

Observance of Fast

In addition to abstention from eating and drinking on this day, it is also the law that one should not wear leather soled shoes on Yom Kippur. Rubber soled, or other non-

leather soled foot wear are appropriate and we urge as many of our congregants as possible to make their observance of the fast complete in this way.

It is also customary to wear a kittel, or white garment, on Yom Kippur. Several explanations have been offered for this custom included our desire to purify ourselves, or to show our festive feeling trusting in G-d's mercy and deliverance from the trial of the Days of Judgement. We hope, too, that as many of our congregants as possible will wear a kittel during our services.

Neilah

The Yom Kippur services conclude with an extra prayer of Neilah. The service takes its name from the Hebrew phrase, "closing of the gates." Just as at this time, the city gates were closed, so too do we feel that the gates of the prayers of the Day of Atonement are drawing to a close. We take this last opportunity of the day to beseech the Almighty for forgiveness before our fates are sealed.

MEN'S CLUB TO INSTALL OFFICERS ON OCTOBER 8

The Installation of Officers of our Men's Club will take place on Monday evening, October 8, at 7:30 o'clock in the Hotel Franconia. All the men of our congregation are cordially urged and invited to attend this installation, both to participate in the festive occasion, and to demonstrate their support for the officers and activities of our Men's Club.

Invitations for the event have already been sent out, but any one who is interested in attending is urged to contact either the Synagogue Office or the committee in charge. The couvert for the evening has been set at a nominal \$8.50.

YOUNG MEN CONDUCT SABBATH MINCHA SERVICES

The young men of the congregation will resume the leadership of the Sabbath Mincha services as chazanim, and readers of the Torah.

Rabbi Reichel will be glad to add the name of any young man who is interested in joining in this important activity to the list of participants.

Please Note!

A modern Ritualarium (Mikvah) is located in our community, at 158 W. 97th St. MO 3-0300.

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ZALMON YAVNEH, Cantor

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W.S.I.S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Friday, Tishre 9 — Erev Yom Kippur

Mincha service from2 to 4

Light candles before6:49

Kol Nidre6:55

Saturday, Tishre 10—Yom Kippur

Morning services8:20

Junior Congregation10:30

Yom Kippur terminates7:39

Sunday, Tishre 11

Morning services7:15, 8:15, 9:00

Daily Services

Morning services6:45, 7:45, 8:30

Mincha7:00

Wednesday, Tishre 14—Erev Succos

Mincha6:30

BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



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GETTING PERSONAL

By Sanford Solarz

We are grateful to our Director, David H. Ullman, for the "new look" of our Congregation's Custodian Staff, due to his generous donation of new uniforms to them . . . Our hearty welcome home from Hawaii and points west to our Treasurer and Mrs. Samuel Silver, and to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Goodman . . . In Israel for the High Holy Days are our Director and Mrs. Joseph Shapiro . . . Happy to have back with us Mrs. Harry Weisenfeld from Europe and Israel, where she participated in a Seminar with the Mizrahi Women's Organization, of which she is the Jewish National Fund Chairman of its New York Chapter; Miss Avia Bloch and Mr. Morris Wake from Europe; and from Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Saul Whitcup . . . Best wishes in their new home to Rabbi and Mrs. Morton Garfiel . . . Our heartiest congratulations to Barbara Herlands, daughter of our Director, Judge and Mrs. William B. Herlands, and granddaughter of our Director and Mrs. Siegfried Bendheim, upon her graduation from the High School of Music and Art and her matriculation at New York University . . . Mazel Tov and best wishes to Mr. Henry Kessler upon the marriage of his daughter, Leona, to Mr. Frank Bisinger; and to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard M. Schamroth upon the marriage of their daughter, Clarisse, to Mr. Robert Bialkin; and to Dr. and Mrs. Leon Basson, upon their recent marriage . . . Heartiest mazel tov to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Klein upon the engagement of their daughter, Ilah, to Mr. Sidney Kelstein. Mrs. Klein is a member of our Women's League Executive Board.

Birthday Greetings

Sept.

- 14 — Rashi Glazer
Lawrence Kobrin
- 15 — Mrs. Marilyn R. Gershbein
Louise J. Levine
Leslie Jill Mirken
Alan J. Weiss
- 16 — Judith Bendheim
- 17 — Isidore Ehrman
Patricia Jan Weiss

Wedding Anniversaries

Sept.

- 15 — Mr. and Mrs. Edgar D. Schraub
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Wiggs
- 16 — Dr. and Mrs. Jerome J. Goldstein


**OBSERVE THE SUCCOS HOLIDAY IN THE
TRADITIONAL MANNER**

Make arrangements for yourself and your family
to eat holiday meals in our beautiful Succah

Contact the Synagogue Office without delay

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

If you, our reader, or any of your friends have just moved into our neighborhood, we would like to invite you and them to share our synagogue with us, as your spiritual home. Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Reichel will be glad to assist you in making your social as well as religious adjustments. Our phone number is TR 7-8281.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our parents will surely be delighted to learn that our Sunday morning Kindergarten as well as our Saturday morning Kindergarten Service will be resumed right after the Succos holidays.

Registration for the Sunday morning Kindergarten may be made daily in the Synagogue.

ORegon 5-7473 - 7474

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Our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Samuel Schwarzman upon the passing of his brother **Dr. Markus Schwarzman**; and to Mr. Morris Cohen, upon the loss of his wife, **Mildred** (nee Rafsky).

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