

NOW IS THE TIME
TO ORDER OPERA TICKETS
WE NEED EVERYONE'S COOPERATION

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XXIV, No. 15

December 23, 1960

Teves 4, 5721

MEN'S CLUB INSTALLATION SUNDAY EVENING, JAN. 8th



Dr. Herman P. Mantell
Installation Dinner Chairman

In honor of the outgoing Men's Club President, Mr. Leon Herman, and our present Men's Club President, Dr. Frank E. Fink, and their fellow officers, a grand Installation Dinner will be tendered in our Grand Ballroom on Sunday evening, January 8th.

Our Men's Club is pleased to announce that its member, Dr. Herman P. Mantell, prominent educator and lawyer, will serve as Chairman of the Installation Dinner, and that our Synagogue President, Mr. Lester Udell, will serve as Toastmaster.

Dr. Mantell, the distinguished principal of our neighboring Public School 87, is President of the Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service which represents 82,000 members on all governmental levels.

The cost for the evening which includes a buffet dinner is only \$6.00 per couple. All our congregants and friends are invited to attend this gala event. Kindly send your reservations at once to the attention of our Men's Club.

A TIMELY NOTICE

Contributions to Religious and Educational Organizations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE to the extent of 30% of your income.

To take advantage of this benefit for this year, payments should be made on or before December 31st, 1960.

Eugenio Fernandi To Appear in "La Gioconda" At Metropolitan Opera Sunday, January 15th



Eugenio Fernandi

ASARAH B'TEVES THIS THURSDAY

The minor fast day of Asarah B'Teves, the tenth day of Teves will be observed this Thursday, December 29th.

This fast commemorates the beginning of the fatal siege of Jerusalem by the armies of Nebuchadnezer, king of Babylon, which culminated in the destruction of the first Temple in 586 B.C.E.

Being a minor fast, it is observed by fasting from daybreak to sunset of the same day. Selichos prayers are said in the morning and a special portion of the Torah is read both at the Morning and at the Mincha Service.

COLLEGIATE REUNION FRIDAY NIGHT

Rabbi and Mrs. O. Asher Reichel will be the hosts to our collegiates, tonight at 8:30 o'clock, at their home, 230 West 79th Street. Out-of-town students will have an opportunity to meet their old friends on this occasion.

Eugenio Fernandi, the renowned tenor, was born in Pisa and began his training at the Turin Conservatory. Joining La Scala's School for young artists, he made his debut at the Milan Theatre in Napoli's "Masianello" in 1954, and appeared the same year in the world premiere of Mortari's "La Figlia del Diavola". Mr. Fernandi has made guest appearances in other European countries as well as in South Africa.

Also appearing at our benefit performance of "La Gioconda" on Sunday evening, January 15th, will be such stars as Eileen Farrell, Robert Merrill, and Nell Rankin. An enjoyable evening, is, therefore, assured to all who obtained tickets to this entertaining event. We still have many choice tickets in the orchestra ranging from \$12.50 to \$27.50 as well as in the rest of the theatre ranging from \$2.50 in the rear of the Family Circle to \$17.50 in the choicest sections of the Grand Tier.

Call our office, TR 7-8281 or 8251, at once. We need the cooperation of all our friends to help us make this benefit performance benefit us in the full sense of the word.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The teen-age Saturday afternoon Mishnah class which flourished under the leadership of Mr. George Klein, will now be led by Mr. Seymour Ukeles. The class will meet this Saturday at 2:45 o'clock.

The Sunday morning High School group which is conducted by Mr. Avie Waxman will meet this Sunday, December 25th, at 12 noon, instead of 10 A.M. The members of this group are planning a BOWLING PARTY, following a brief session in our building.

All young people are welcome at these activities.



West Side Institutional Review

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RABBI H. S. GOLDSTEINEditor
RABBI O. A. REICHELAssociate Editor
MILTON BELLERAssistant Editor
HAROLD KAPLANManaging Editor

Vol. XXIV, No. 15 Dec. 23, 1960

OUR VERY BEST WISHES



Henry Blankfort

Our heartiest congratulations to our Director Henry Blankfort, who is celebrating his 80th birthday.

May the Almighty bless him with many more happy birthdays in good health and vigor.

CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL GROUP

In order to make our Sabbath services even more melodious, Cantor Greenfield plans to organize a Congregational Choral Group with the cooperation of our young men, teen-agers, collegiates as well as young adults.

Our readers are requested to inform those young men who would be interested in participating in this project to contact the Synagogue office at once.

THE PRAYER BOOK

COMMENTS BY RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN

HAGGADAH AND ITS INTERPRETATIONS

IT HAPPENED ONCE IN ISRAEL, MORE THAN EIGHTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THAT RABBI ELIEZER, RABBI JOSHUA, RABBI ELEAZAR BEN AZARYAH, RABBI AKIBA AND RABBI TARFON RECLINING AROUND THEIR PASSOVER TABLE IN B'NEI B'RAK DISCUSSED THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH. The question is, why were these men chosen? The answer is, these were the greatest of their time.

SAID RABBI ELEAZAR BEN AZARYAH, "HERE I AM AS A MAN OF SEVENTY, AND ONLY NOW THROUGH BEN ZOMA'S INTERPRETATION HAVE I ATTAINED AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT SHOULD BE RECOUNTED AT NIGHT" There are two interpretations for the statement of Rabbi Eleazar Ben Azaryah as to his age, namely, that he was a man of 70. Although he was a man of 18 when he became the head of the Jewish Community, he became gray over night after his appointment and looked like 70. The other explanation is that although young in years, he bore the responsibility of a man of 70. Therefore, he could rightly state that he was AS a man of 70.

Furthermore, these men, Eliezer who was a Kohan, Joshua who was a Levite, Eleazar ben Azaryah and Rabbi Tarfon who were Kohanim, would have been freed from service, — and Rabbi Akiba was a proselyte. All these men were not in Egypt. Why did they then spend so much time on the story of the Exodus? The answer is that these leading religious spirits among the Jews, though not enslaved in Egypt, emphasized the religious and spiritual lessons and implications of the story of the exodus of Egypt. They emphasized not merely the bodily, but the spiritual freedom as well.

HEBREW SCHOOL NOTES

We are pleased that our children enjoy many holidays when they do not have to attend classes. On the other hand, we are not so happy when our children make their own holidays. We hope to see all our children at their regular classes this Sunday morning, December 25th.

Following the mid-winter vacation all classes will be resumed on Tuesday, January 3rd.

DONORS HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN ISRAEL (Continued)

Arthur Murray Aibinder, Mrs. Rachel Barowsky, Henry Blankfort, Minnie Dankner, Jacob Deley, Mrs. Sadie Eisenman, Abe Glaser, Warren R. Goldsmith, Gabriel F. Goldstein, Dr. Samuel Greenberg, Dr. Mortimer Greer, Jess E. Gross, Rose and Kay Horing, Edward Jacobs, Henry Kaufman, Jacob Lurie, Rose Schwager, Martin Scharman, Nathan Schwartz, S. Schwartzman, Louis Shlansky, I. Silver, Samuel Silver, Ben Spieler.

NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our Associate Cantor needs the use of an apartment, within walking distance of our Synagogue, for the weekends that he officiates at our Sabbath Services.

Should any of our readers know of some families who are away weekends and would be willing to rent their quarters, kindly contact Mr. Harold Kaplan at the Synagogue office, TR 7-8281.

ALL OUR READERS MAY JOIN THE WEEKLY ADULT HEBREW CONVERSATION COURSE

*** Tuesday Nights at 8:00
VISIT US THIS WEEK

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathy to our Director, Phillip F. Frankel and our member, Evan M. Frankel upon the loss of their sister, Frieda Plesser.

OUR JUNIOR
CONGREGATION MEETS
SATURDAYS 10:40 A.M.

The Story of Ponchielli's "La Giocanda"

By Herman H. Cohen

Co-Chairman, W.S.I.S. Opera Committee

ACT. I. Barnaba, spy for the Inquisition, cynically observes the throng of gay Venetians who gather in the courtyard of the Ducal Palace to celebrate a regatta on the Grand Canal, whither they presently repair. Left alone, Barnaba muses on his passion for the beautiful ballad singer La Gioconda; she now appears with her blind mother, La Cieca, who expresses gratitude for her daughter's loving care. In order to get Gioconda in his power, the spy persuades the returning populace that La Cieca is a witch and has caused the gondolier Zuane to lose the boat race. Not even the presence of Gioconda or the appearance of the sea captain Enzo, whom she loves, can protect the old woman from the angry crowd, which threatens to burn her at the stake. Alvisio Badoero, leader of the Inquisition, and his wife Laura, masked, arrive just in time to save La Cieca, who turns to the kindly voice and thanks Laura by giving up her cherished rosary. The sly Barnaba, realizing that Enzo is actually a proscribed Genoese Nobleman formerly in love with Laura, thinks he can win Gioconda's affection if he proves her lover to be faithless. Accordingly he tells Enzo that he can arrange for Laura to visit Enzo's ship that very evening. Overjoyed, the Genoese prince has no sooner rushed away than Barnaba dictates news of Laura's impending desertion to the public scribe Isepo and, exulting in his power, thrusts the accusation into the bronze Lion's Mouth, repository for such missives. Gioconda has overheard; she bewails Enzo's betrayal of her love.

ACT II. Although swarms of Enzo's sailors guard his ship, which is moored beside an island in the Fusina lagoon, they do not question Barnaba when, disguised as a fisherman, he brings Isepo to spy upon the captain and then departs. Enzo appears, gives sailing orders and, passionately awaiting Laura, extols the beauty of sky and sea. She is ferried to her lover's side by Barnaba, who withdraws mockingly as the two fall into each other's arms. While Enzo prepares for the voyage, Gioconda

emerges from the hiding-place where she has been waiting for vengeance. Goaded by Laura's passion for Enzo, she is about to stab her rival when she catches sight of the rosary, her mother's gift. Filial devotion prevails. Gioconda warns Laura that Alvisio is in hot pursuit and offers her skiff; Laura escapes just in time, as Barnaba leads in the furious Alvisio. Rather than yield to the vengeful husband, Enzo puts his vessel to the torch.

ACT III. To the sound of distant dance music, Alvisio vows to poison his erring wife. When she enters his study, dressed to receive his guests, he tells Laura that she is to die before the song she hears is ended. Alvisio leaves her to drink the deadly draught, little knowing that Gioconda is waiting to substitute a sleeping potion.

In a magnificent hall of the Ca d'Oro, Alvisio greets the nobility of Venice and offers for their entertainment the Dance of the Hours. Suddenly Barnaba drags in La Cieca, whom he has caught praying beside her dear benefactress. Enzo too believes Laura dead and unmasking, bitterly addresses her memory. But Gioconda, knowing that Laura lies on her bier asleep, whispers to Barnaba that she will yield to him if he can save Enzo and bring Laura's body to the Giudecca. He agrees but seizes La Cieca as hostage, while Alvisio, tearing aside a curtain, reveals the motionless Laura to his horrified guests.

ACT. IV. Two street singers bear the sleeping Laura to the ruined palace where Gioconda awaits her rival. With nothing to live for, the unfortunate woman resolves on suicide. When Enzo arrives to find that Gioconda has had Laura removed from the vallet, he tries to stab her, but his hand is stayed by the voice of the awakening Laura. Overcome with gratitude for the woman who has saved both him and his beloved, Enzo leads Laura to the waiting skiff; they bid Gioconda farewell. When Barnaba comes to claim his reward, she stabs herself, leaving him to scream vainly that he has murdered her mother.

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W. S. I. S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday
Evening Before4:15
Weekly Portion: Vayigash
Friday Evening Service4:20
Saturday Morning Service8:50
Junior Congregation10:40
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class2:45
Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class.....2:45
Young People's Mishnah Class.....2:45
Mincha3:45
Reader of Torah: Jed Abraham
Reader of Service: Stanley Kaplan
The Sabbath Terminates5:08

Daily Services

Sunday Morning7:15, 8:15, 8:45
Monday Morning7:00, 8:00, 8:30
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Mornings6:45, 7:45, 8:15
Mincha4:25
Thursday Morning (Asara Betveves
Slichos followed by
Services)6:30, 7:30, 8:10
Thursday Mincha4:10
Wednesday Night
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class.....8:00
Friday, Dec. 30th
Light Candles Before4:19
Mincha Service4:25
Saturday, Dec. 31st
Morning Service8:50

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W. S. I. S.
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BRING YOUR FAMILY
TO OUR SABBATH SERVICES

GETTING PERSONAL

by Sanford Solarz

Our Congregational Chanukah party last Saturday eve, which was co-sponsored by our Men's Club, Mr. and Mrs. League, and Women's League, was a gay and festive affair and will long be remembered by the hosts of our members and friends who were there . . . Glad to have with us Mrs. Max E. Sanders for a visit from California . . . We were also happy to have with us Mr. Morris J. Sydney, our life member, after his recent illness . . . Our prayers for a speedy recovery to our beloved Rebbetzin, Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein, Mrs. Herman P. Mantell, and our Director Joseph Settel . . . Representing the W.S.I.S. in sunny Florida are Director Abraham M. Druckman, Director and Mrs. Henry L. Kraushar, and Treasurer and Mrs. Samuel Silver and Mr. David Wiener . . . The host of our weekly Sabbath afternoon Seudah Shlishis tomorrow will be Mr. Jacob Frankel . . . Mazel Tov and all best wishes to our Director and Mrs. Samuel K. Beier on the marriage of their daughter Judith Ann to Jerry S. Pressner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Pressner. The wedding was held at the Waldorf-Astoria . . . One of our loyal members attended our Hebrew School Chanukah Assembly which filled the daily Synagogue last Sunday morning after reading about it in the **Review**. At the close of the Assembly, he made the following comment, "I was very happy to see so many children and their parents celebrate Chanukah in this way. It makes me feel good to know that my contributions to the Synagogue are used for such worthwhile purposes."

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Birthday Greetings

December

- 24—Mrs. Milton M. Bernard
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Mrs. Alexander M. Golden
Director Adolph Meirowitz
Reuben Richman
- 25—Charles Cohen
Mrs. Julius Cohen
Max Horowitz
Mrs. Leo Lindenbaum
Rose Pekier
- 26—Simeon H. F. Goldstein
Mrs. Bertha F. Rafsky
Sidney Stein
- 27—David Don
Morton Leonard Landowne
Gerald Bruce Weiss
- 28—Gene Andre Bilgrey
Mrs. Harry Shalita
Douglas Weill
- 29—George Jablow

* * *

Anniversary Greetings

- 23—Mr. & Mrs. Abraham M. Goldberg
- 24—Mr. & Mrs. Aaron W. Gross
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Perlman
- 25—Mr. & Mrs. Max Horowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Irving Sabsevitz
- 26—Dir. & Mrs. Joseph Landowne
- 27—Dir. & Mrs. George L. Livingston
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Neustadter
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- 28—Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Diamond
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