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West Side Institutional Review

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April 10, 1964

ב'ה

28 Nisan, 5724

ISRAELI CONSUL GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR SABBATH SERVICE



Haim Zohar

In honor of Israeli Independence Day (the 5th of Iyar — April 17th), Israeli Consul Haim Zohar will speak at our Sabbath service tomorrow morning, April 11th.

Mr. Zohar has an impressive background. He was an officer in the

DR. GRANTHAM GUEST SPEAKER AT PUBLIC LECTURE THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 23rd, at 8:30



Dr. Marcus Grantham

"The Wonderful World of the Midrash" will be the fascinating subject of Dr. Marcus Grantham on Thursday evening, April 23rd, at 8:30 o'clock. All our congregants and neighbors are cordially welcome.

Our guest speaker was born in England and educated at the Universities of London and Oxford and at the Sorbonne. He was Barrister at Law at the Middle Temple in London and lectured at the Universities of Oxford and Southampton as well as New York University. He has done post-graduate and clinical work in psychology and particularly in its relation to law. He is the author of many scholarly works including "The Psychology of Evidence." For the past decade he has been leading the Seminar of the Midrash Society of New York at our neighboring Shearith Israel Synagogue.

Dr. Grantham is a gifted lecturer. An unusually enlightening and inspiring evening is in store for all who come. Admission is free.

HEBREW SCHOOL NOTES

Report cards have been distributed to our pupils. Parents are requested to study the reports and sign them at once.

Registration is now in progress for the new season in September. Inquiries are welcome. Call TR 7-8281.

RECEPTION FOR OUR NEW LINCOLN CENTER NEIGHBORS

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Goldstein have graciously made available their home for our Rabbi and Mrs. Reichel to greet in person our new neighbors of Lincoln Center on Wednesday evening, April 15th, between 8:00 and 10:00 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein reside in the Presidential Towers, 315 West 70th Street, Apartment 15A. Our readers are requested to urge their friends in the Lincoln Center area to step by that evening. No formal invitations necessary.

Israeli army, teacher, broadcaster, correspondent and government official in Israel, before his recent appointment as Consul in New York City.

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- ☐ I wish to place a greeting in the Souvenir Journal, in honor of Mr. H. William Hirsch, which will be presented to him at a Reception on Tuesday evening, June 16th. Enclosed is check for \$..... (Copy of text is attached).

NAME

ADDRESS

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Full Page	\$100	One-Seventh Page	\$15
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One-Quarter Page	25	Patron Subscription	5

West Side Institutional Synagogue

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ISAAC HALEVY - ORTHODOX JEWISH HISTORIAN

By Rabbi Dr. O. Asher Reichel

Excerpts from "Giants of Tradition" section of *TRADITION*, a journal of Jewish thought published by the Rabbinical Council of America.

* * *

The history of Orthodox Jewry at the turn of the twentieth century has been deeply enriched by the indelible imprint of Isaac Halevy. His accomplishment in spearheading a religiously oriented Jewish scholarship goes beyond the projection of his *magnum opus*, the *Dorot Ha-Rishonim*, a polemical work on Jewish history (of which five volumes covering the Biblical, Talmudic, and Gaonic eras have been published) in which he took up the cudgels in defense of the traditional Orthodox viewpoint. It is regrettable that Isaac Halevy's role as a champion of Orthodox Judaism in modern times has not been adequately recorded for posterity.

A recently discovered collection of Halevy's correspondence [utilized by this writer for his doctoral thesis at Yeshiva University] reveals hitherto unknown aspects of his dynamic leadership in Jewish scholarly circles and in Orthodox organizational movements.

I

Isaac Halevy Rabinowitz was born in the year 1847 in Iwenec, Province of Minsk, Russia. On his paternal side he was a descendant of Rabbi Samuel ben Avigdor (died 1791), the renowned last occupant of the position of head of the Bet Din of Vilna.

Halevy witnessed the closing of the Volozhin Yeshiva by the Russian government as a result of the relentless efforts of the *maskilim*. This distressing experience undoubtedly contributed to the vituperation in his writings against the *haskalah* elements throughout his life.

Halevy was on intimate terms with the foremost Russian rabbinical personalities of his time, and they leaned heavily upon his advice in communal affairs. When confronted with weighty problems all looked to Halevy to come forward with the necessary weapons in defense of Torah.

Unfortunately the failure of his business forced Halevy to leave Russia in 1895. This ultimately turned out to be a blessing in disguise. In the course of his travels in various parts of Europe, including Germany, Rumania, Austria, and France, he arranged for the publication of Volumes II and III of the *Dorot Ha-Rishonim*.

Halevy's wanderings ended when he became a *Klausrabbiner* in Hamburg, Germany, in 1902. In that position he was able to devote all his time to his-

torical research and to involvement in pressing communal affairs.

II

In a letter written in 1887 to Dr. Jehuda Lob Kantor, editor of the journal, *Ben Ami*, Halevy revealed his reason for delving into Jewish history and for re-examining the historicity of the prevalent Jewish scholarship. He pointed out that he was concerned with defending traditional Judaism with historical and literary instruments in the face of the Russian *haskalah* literature and German Jewish scholarship of his day, both of which he considered destructive and misleading. He was appalled by the deep inroads into Jewish life made by the Russian *maskilim* who, following in the footsteps of the German scholars, falsified Jewish history and ensnared the youth.

The historian, Wolf Jawitz, in his exposition of Halevy's historical method observed that scholars like Graetz did not approach the study of Jewish history with reverence for the sacred elements of tradition. Where any historical source differed from the accepted traditional viewpoint, there was no question where the loyalty of these Jewish scholars lay. They were more concerned with fitting Jewish historical events and values into the framework of higher criticism and other prevalent philosophies of history than in reconstructing the history of the Jews in terms of its inner spiritual core.

Markus Elias likewise noted that nineteenth century Jewish historians based their views on the philosophical outlook of their times. It was Halevy who fought against this approach to Jewish history. Halevy saw the crystallization of the Oral Law as a unique historic process that suggested a special perspective for its interpretation.

In the annals of Jewish history, Halevy was not the first to take up the cudgel in defense of an uncompromising traditional viewpoint. Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888) is known for his polemics against Graetz, Frankel and others. A later work, published in two parts (1907 and 1910), which was concerned primarily with refuting I. H. Weiss's views on the Biblical era and the Oral Law, is the *Dor Yesharim* by Jehuda Lipschitz.

It is the historian Halevy, however, who has been considered one of the foremost spokesmen of the traditional school of Jewish history in modern times.

Halevy's *forte* was his mastery of Jewish sources coupled with a capacity for penetrating analysis of Roman and Greek primary sources. To him Jewish tradition had a valid basis which must have a place in the arena of historical fact. He went to great lengths to reconcile

MEN'S CLUB

MEETING MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 20th

A regular meeting of our Men's Club will be held on Monday, April 20th, at 8:30 P.M. in the Gold Room. Guests are always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

* * * *

We hope that our Men's Club will help make our subscription tickets sale go over the top this year in honor of M. C. President Hirsch, W.S.I.S. Man of the Year.

Talmudic sources with Josephus as well as the Greek and Roman historians. He quoted extensively from the works that he criticized and from the primary sources.

Halevy's volumes of the *Dorot Ha-Rishonim* were not intended for popular reading, but rather for scholarly circles. His admirer, Rabbi Aaron Hyman, who referred constantly to Halevy in his own encyclopedic work, *Toledot Tannaim Ve-Amoraim*, observed that Halevy's subject matter is not easy to comprehend. This may account for the fact that neither Halevy's name nor his ideas are generally known.

Halevy related to Jacob Rosenheim that he would prepare his manuscript during the daytime relying mainly on his photographic memory when referring to the primary sources. Evenings he would check his manuscript with the original texts. Rosenheim noted that Halevy's phenomenal knowledge made possible his unique creative writings.

Meyer Waxman's concluding remarks in his section on Halevy are worthy of repetition:

"Halevy, in the long course of his discussion, corrected a large number of historical details in the works of earlier scholars who veer in the opposite direction, and endeavor to minimize the force of continued tradition in Jewish history, making the complex Oral Law a result of haphazard caused and imaginary conditions. No new history of the ramified subject of the Oral Law can be written without the work of Halevy."

III

A short time after Halevy arrived in Germany he attracted a group of young rabbinic scholars who launched a religiously orientated scholarly organization, the *Judisch-Literarische Gesellschaft*, which undertook to sponsor a yearbook (beginning with 1903) as well as other scholarly works. Halevy's views were promulgated in its publications.

During his early years in Germany he took an active interest in contemporary religious and communal events in Russia, Turkey and Germany, as well as in the Holy Land. He had a keenly alert and practical approach to such matters as organizing a religious weekly in Russia and the appointment of a Chief Rabbi in Constantinople.

Of significance was his dynamic interest in all phases of religious education in the Holy Land through his official capacity in the Palestine Commission of the *Freie Vereinigung* in Germany, of which Jacob Rosenheim was the executive vice-president. Halevy was

(Continued on Page 3)

Rebecca F. Goldstein Women's League

BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 13th

Mesdames Henry L. Kraushar, Morris Segerman, Louis Shlansky and Frank L. Taks cordially invite the members of the Executive Board to be their guests at a LUNCHEON to be followed by a MEETING on Monday, April 13th at 12:30 P.M. in the Women's League Clubroom.

It is very important for each member to attend this meeting. We need your ideas and suggestions for our activities for the rest of the season.

SEFIRA CHECK LIST

Night Of: Omer: Night Of: Omer:

Fri: ☐ Apr. 10 — 14 ☐ Apr. 17 — 21
Sat: ☐ Apr. 11 — 15 ☐ Apr. 18 — 22
Sun: ☐ Apr. 12 — 16 ☐ Apr. 19 — 23
Mon: ☐ Apr. 13 — 17 ☐ Apr. 20 — 24
Tues: ☐ Apr. 14 — 18 ☐ Apr. 21 — 25
Wed: ☐ Apr. 15 — 19 ☐ Apr. 22 — 26
Thurs: ☐ Apr. 16 — 20 ☐ Apr. 23 — 27

ISAAC HALEVY

(Continued from Page 2)

in direct contact with the rabbinic authorities in the Holy Land concerning this educational work.

Utilizing the Freie Vereinigung as a stepping stone, Halevy was able to realize his life-long dream of creating a worldwide Orthodox movement, the Agudath Israel (this name was suggested by Halevy). He was not only its founding father but also the mentor of Jacob Rosenheim, its first president. He was the master architect of the Bad Homburg and Kattowitz Conferences which led to the organization of the Agudath Israel. It was Halevy's unique personality that brought together the Orthodox Jews of East and West for the first time.

In his autobiography, *Zikhronot*, Rosenheim acknowledged Halevy's steady flow of creative ideas and his encouragement in the educational work of the Freie Vereinigung and in the founding of the Agudath Israel. Halevy was very active behind the scenes in this movement until his sudden passing on May 15, 1914.

In Halevy's life we behold a giant of mind and action in both scholarship and piety whose spiritual heritage is an eternal inspiration for his people.

W.S.I.S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Friday, April 10th

Light Candles Before 6:12
Mincha 6:15

Saturday, April 11th

Morning Service 8:50
Sedra: Shmeenee
Blessing of New Month
Junior Congregation 10:45
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class
(in Yiddish) 4:45
Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class
(in English) 4:45
Mincha 5:45

Reader of Service: Mervyn Frankel
Reader of Torah: Levi Pekier

PEREK I

Seuda Shlishis

Host: Mr. Harry Perlman

Sabbath Terminates 7:08

Week of April 12th

Sunday Morning—
Rosh Chodesh Iyar ... 7:00, 8:00, 8:40
Monday—Rosh Chodesh

6:30, 7:30, 8:10

Tues., Wed., & Fri. 6:45, 7:45, 8:15

Thursday Morning 6:45, 7:45, 8:30

Mincha Daily 6:25

Wed. — Rabbi Pekier's Class 8:00

Friday, April 17th

Light Candles Before 6:19
Mincha 6:20

Saturday, April 18th

Morning Service 9:00
Sedra: Sazreeah-Metzorah
Sermon by Rabbi Reichel
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 4:50
Mr. Allen's Talmud Class 4:50
Mincha 5:50

Reader of Service: Larry Hecht

Reader of Torah: David Kahn

PEREK II

Seuda Shlishis

Sabbath Terminates 7:16

Week of April 19th

Sunday Morning 7:15, 8:15, 8:45

Mon. & Thurs. 6:45, 7:45, 8:30

Tues., Wed. & Fri. 6:45, 7:45, 8:15

Mincha Daily 6:30

Friday, April 24th

Light Candles Before 6:26

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Our Annual Memorial Services for the departed whose plaques are on the Memorial Tablets in our Synagogue will be held on Monday evening, April 27th at 8:30. Rabbi Reichel and Cantor Ellner will officiate.

CONDOLENCES

We sorrowfully record the passing of the following of our Congregational Family and extend our sympathy to their dear ones:

Louis J. Buch — our late member.

Francisca Reinhold — our late congregant.

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SAMUEL W. SIEGEL 1st Vice-President
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H. WILLIAM HIRSCH Men's Club Pres.
MRS. O. ASHER REICHEL Women's League Pres.
MRS. SAMUEL GURSKY Mr. & Mrs. League Pres.

ELITE CLUB NEWS

At our last meeting the following officers were elected: Norman Dickert — Pres., Hugo Redelsheimer — Vice Pres., Sue Kushner — Treas., Elaine Levy — Asst. Treas., Leah Sobel — Corresp. Sec., Bea Lippman — Social Sec., Jean Eisnitz — Recording Sec., Dave Kurland — Cultural Chairman, William Goffin — Social Chairman, Bea Lippman — Social Co-Chairman, Louis Sharkey — Program Chairman.

Single people (32-45) are invited to join our Elite Club. Dues are only \$3.

* * *

E. C. COMING EVENTS

Tues., April 14, 8:15 P.M.

Social Meeting

Thurs., April 30, 7:45 P.M.

Musical Evening

Admission free for members.

Nominal charge for guests.

ETHICS OF THE FATHERS

On the Sabbath after Passover we begin the recitation of the Ethics of the Fathers at Saturday afternoon services. These chapters from the Mishna contain some of the most pithy and concise moral philosophy known to man. We urge all to spend some time in the study of these chapters. You may use Rabbi Goldstein's interesting comments on these chapters, which will be available at our Sabbath afternoon service.

GETTING PERSONAL

By Sanford Solarz

Our Congregational Citation of Merit to Trustee Henry L. Kraushar upon his election as Chairman of the Board of the Mirrer Yeshiva of Brooklyn . . . Mazel tov to our members, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Neustadter, upon the birth of Jonathan S., to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vorchheimer; and to Trustee and Mrs. Harry Ward upon the birth of a daughter to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ward . . . We have been vicariously honored by our member, Rabbi Morton Garfiel, who delivered the opening prayer at a recent session of the New York City Council . . . Our welcome mat was happily spread out for Mr. Bernard S. Bernard, Trustee Martin Romerovski, Mrs. Henri Schmeidler and Mr. Albert Schmeidler upon their return from Europe; for Dr. and Mrs. David Beilock, and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mann from points west; and for Mr. and Mrs. Murray Cumsky, Mrs. Jacob H. Silverstein, Dr. and Mrs. William D. Weiss, Alan and Cathy, from points south . . . Bon voyage to Miss Rose Schwager upon her European trip . . . Our prayers for a speedy recovery for Mr. Louis Fischer, Mr. William Namenson and Mrs. Harry Ward.

DONORS TO OUR MIDTOWN MIKVAH BUILDING FUND (Continued)

Abraham M. Davis, Ruth Davis, Cantor Joseph Ellner, Abraham Emen, Arthur B. Gottlieb, Carl Grossberg, Stephen Klein, Abraham Krumbein, Charles H. Landis, Joseph Liebergall, Albert Reinhard.

UOJCA DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America will be held on Sunday evening, May 3rd, in the New York Hilton Hotel. A very impressive program has been planned. For reservations call AL 5-4100. There will be no appeal.

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April

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11—Ted William Gross
12—Mrs. Milton Bass
Peter C. Dachs
James Herlands
Stanley R. Kaplan
Norman R. Ostrove
13—Emanuel Yavneh
15—Stuart Jacobowitz
17—Helen Brooks
Mrs. Philip Gertner
Daniel Gribetz
Charles Hecht
18—Mrs. Irving Feuerlicht
Rabbi Morton Garfiel
Lisa Anne Liebergall
Benjamin Shapiro
19—Saul J. Beck
Mrs. Edward J. Enteles
Mrs. Max E. Sanders
20—Jeanne Ellen Finkelstein
Marcia Goldberg
21—Steven Charney
Stephen H. Shlansky
22—Bambi Gross
23—Mrs. Joel M. Divack
Leonard Feinstein
Stanley Klein
Carolyn Susan Schwartz

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

- 12—Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chernis
Mr. & Mrs. Zave Kuber
14—Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fischer
15—Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hausman
16—Mr. & Mrs. Max Dabek
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Gelman
Trustee & Mrs. Jess Ward
17—Mr. & Mrs. Harold N. Reich
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ukeles
19—Mr. & Mrs. Fred Vorchheimer

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ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MANHATTAN DAY SCHOOL AT OUR YIZKOR SERVICES

On the last day of Passover an appeal was made in our Synagogue by Rabbi Reichel and Mr. Charles Bendheim for one of our most important local educational institutions — the Manhattan Day School (Yeshiva Ohr Torah). It offers to over 400 students in elementary school and kindergarten a rich program of Jewish as well as secular studies. It is recognized as one of the outstanding Yeshivos Ketanos in the country and has served as a model school for many communities.

The School, founded in our building, is very close to the heart of the WSIS. Our 1st Vice-President Samuel W. Siegel is its President.

Those who were present at the Yizkor Service responded most generously. Those who were not in Synagogue should also join in support. Checks made payable to "Manhattan Day School" may be sent to our office. The names of all donors will be listed in the "Review."

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