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West Side Institutional Review

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ב'ה

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Colossus of Jewish Tradition: Rabbi Isaac Halevy (1847-1914)

The history of Orthodox Jewry at the turn of the twentieth century has been deeply enriched by the indelible imprint of Rabbi Yitzhok Isaac Halevy. Yet he is virtually unknown in our day.

Halevy's role as the master architect and self-sacrificing pioneer in championing Orthodox Judaism in modern times resulted in the founding in 1912 of Agudath Israel, a world-wide religious movement. To this day he has not been given due recognition nor have his accomplishments been adequately recorded for posterity.

In his magnum opus on Jewish history, six volumes entitled **Dorot Horishonim** (Generations of Yore), the fundamentals of Jewish tradition were reaffirmed. This aspect of Halevy's accomplishments spearheaded a religiously oriented Jewish scholarship. However, his lasting achievements and influences beyond his creative pen might have remained a forgotten chapter of his life were it not for a collection of his heretofore unpublished correspondence that has come to light.

Although Halevy lived at the turn of this century (I have been in contact with some of his contemporaries), ironically the bulk of the source materials relating to Halevy's activities have been lost — almost all were destroyed in Europe during the holocaust of World War II. Thus in 1948 when I interviewed Jacob Rosenheim, president of the Agudath Israel World Organization, who had received over one thousand letters from Halevy dealing with every detail of the Agudah's development from 1908 until Halevy's death in 1914, he did not possess even one of those letters. As for the archives of the **Freie Vereinigung**, (Halevy was a leading figure in its Commission for the Holy Land), Dr. Salomon Ehrmann of Zurich, one of its officials, ruefully informed me that nothing of significance remained. Despite constant prodding, Halevy's

LAG B'OMER SUNDAY

Sunday, May 28th marks the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer and is known as Lag B'Omer, a minor holiday in the Jewish Calendar.

On Lag B'Omer Bar Kochba defeated the Romans in his unsuccessful revolt (132-35 C.E.). During that same period a plague broke out which raged among the disciples of Rabbi Akiba and ceased on Lag B'Omer.

Though it is in the "Sefirah" period, weddings and haircuts are permitted on Lag B'Omer. Inasmuch as this year Lag B'Omer falls on Sunday, it is also permissible to take a haircut on Friday, May 26th, in honor of the Sabbath.

SENIOR LEAGUE ONEG SHABBAT FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 26th

Our Senior League (collegiates and young adults) at their Oneg Shabbat tonight at 8:40 o'clock, will welcome Richard Epstein, son of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Epstein, who has completed his year's tour in Vietnam in the armed forces. He will report on Jewish life there. Richard was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

family resident in Israel likewise did not contribute any biographical data. One grandson wrote: "Even to us very little is known about our grandfather's life."

In the summer of 1954 it was brought to my attention that a collection of Halevy correspondence was for sale. I lost no time in purchasing these original letters, copies, and drafts, numbering about 175 items. One hundred and twenty-five were addressed to Halevy's close friend, Dr. Heimann Kottek, the Rabbi of Bad Homburg, near Frankfurt. Others were addressed to such rabbinic personalities as Salomon Breuer, Haim Ozer Grodzensky, Abraham I. Kook, Sholom Duber Schneersohn (of Liubavich) and Haim Soloveichik, as well as to Wolf Jawitz, Jacob Rosenheim, and Halevy's son, Samuel. Many of the figures involved in the Halevy correspondence are listed in various encyclopedias.

(Continued on page 4)

W.S.I.S. Prayer Schedule

Friday, May 26th

*Light Candles Before	7:58
*Mincha	6:40

Saturday, May 27th

Morning Service	9:00
Sedra: Bechukosai	
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class	
(In Yiddish)	7:10
Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class	
(In English)	7:10
Mincha-Perek IV	8:10
Reader of Service: Mervyn Frankel	
Reader of Torah: Avery Neumark	
Sabbath Terminates	8:59

Week of May 28th

Sun. Morn — Lag B'Omer	7:15, 8:15, 8:45
Mon. & Thurs.....	6:45, 7:45, 8:30
Tues., Memorial Day.....	7:15, 8:15, 8:45
Wed. & Fri.....	6:45, 7:45, 8:15
Mincha Daily — Followed by	
Exposition of Halachos	
by Rabbi Reichel	8:10
Thursday Nights —	
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class ...	7:10

Friday, June 2nd

*Light Candles Before	8:03
*Mincha	6:40

Saturday, June 3rd

Morning Service	9:00
Sedra: Bamidbar	
Blessing of New Month	
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class	7:15
Mr. Allen's Talmud Class	7:15
Mincha — Perek V	8:15
Reader of Service: Levi Pekier	
Reader of Torah: Michael Widlanski	
Sabbath Terminates	9:05

Week of June 4th

Sunday Morning	7:15, 8:15, 8:45
Mon. & Thurs.	6:45, 7:45, 8:30
Tues. & Wed.	6:45, 7:45, 8:15
Mincha Daily	8:15

Fri., June 9 — Rosh Chodesh Sivan

Morning Services	6:30, 7:25, 8:15
*Light Candles Before	8:08
*Mincha	6:40

*Those who usher in the Sabbath with the Congregation at an early hour should recite the "Shma" paragraphs and the Omer at night.

West Side Institutional Synagogue

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RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL.....Editor

MAZEL TOV**Gale Fuchs**

Heartiest congratulations to Trustee & Mrs. Bernhard Spira upon the engagement of their son, Steven, to Gale, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fuchs, and granddaughter of Mrs. Anna Blachowitz.

The bride-to-be, an alumna of Ramaz High School, attended Long Island University and graduated from Brooklyn College School of Nursing. She is a Registered Nurse at Beth Israel Hospital. The groom-to-be, also a Ramaz High School graduate, will receive his B.A. from N.Y.U. this June and will continue for his doctorate in psychology.

TORAH SCHOOLS FOR ISRAEL

A Million Dollar Campaign will be launched at the annual Dinner of Torah Schools for Israel on Sunday evening June 4th at the Hotel Pierre. It is the call of the hour to secure this religious educational network which encompasses 4,500 children, 1,800 teachers, in 245 schools in 157 Israeli communities.

Our Rabbi Emeritus Herbert S. Goldstein will receive a Chassan Torah Award.

For reservations call 924-8500.

Condolences

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

Stella Tartakoff—sister of Mr. Abraham Emen, member of Synagogue and Men's Club.

Eugenie Von Freudeger—mother of our member, Mrs. Dezso Goldner.

Yetta Wohl—mother of Mrs. Jess E. Gross, Women's League member.

MEN'S CLUB NOTES**MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 5th, 8:30 P.M.**

* * * *

BRUNCH AND BASEBALL PARTY SUNDAY, JUNE 11th

The members of the Women's League and Mr. & Mrs. League are invited to a Brunch on Sunday morning, June 11th at 10:30 following which we will attend the annual baseball game benefit of the Men's Club at the Yankee Stadium — a double header between the New York Yankees and Chicago White Sox. **Choice tickets are still available.** Please contact Murray Rosenberg, Chairman, H. William Hirsch, President, or the Synagogue office.

S. G.

GETTING PERSONAL**By Sanford Solarz**

On a recent Sabbath afternoon our congregants were afforded a spiritual treat with a learned discourse by Rabbi Samuel Hurwitz, who was in the City on a visit from Los Angeles. He was associated with us at the founding of the W.S.I.S. . . . We point with pride to: our Women's League Hon. Vice-President, Mrs. Sadie Balmuth, who was Chairman of a most successful Yeshiva University Women's Organization Bazaar; our members, Rabbi Morton Garfiel, who was invited to deliver the Benediction at the Annual Memorial Service of the 307th Infantry Society at the Central Park Mall; our member, Mr. Arthur R. Stein upon his election as Senior Vice Commander of the New York County Council of the Jewish War Veterans . . . Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Tumpowsky upon the forthcoming marriage of their son, Roy Stuart, to Marcia Ann, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Feldman. The "Aufruf" will be held at our Sabbath morning Services on June 3rd . . . Mazel tov to Mrs. Bertha Moses upon the birth of Glenn David to her children, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Moses; to our members, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Plottel, upon the birth of a son to their children, Mr. & Mrs. Roland Plottel . . . Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, Professor of Mathematical Statistics at New York University, son of Mrs. Esther Ehrenfeld, has been invited to join the Faculty of Berkeley University during his Sabbatical year. He is leaving with his family for his new post this June . . . Our prayers for a speedy recovery for Mr. Walter Freeman and Mrs. Jakob Rath . . . All good wishes in their new home to Mr. & Mrs. Philip Gertner . . . Welcome home from points south to Trustee & Mrs. Jules Cohen and Alan, and Rabbi & Mrs. Bernard Twersky and Barrie; and to Mr. Benjamin

Spanbock from Israel . . . As we go to press we heartily congratulate Trustee & Mrs. Fred Goldstein and the great-grandfather Mr. Pincus Cohen, upon the birth of a girl to their children, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Gelman.

Happy Anniversary to the:

Dr. Gerald Blankforts, Arthur G. Dengens, Rabbi Morton Garfiels, Dr. M. S. Gershweirs, Warren R. Goldsmiths, Mac Goldsteins, Jess E. Gross', Philip Hershs, Leo Jacobowitzs, Jerome Kamermans, Dr. Norman Ostrovs, Rabbi O. Asher Reichels, Murray Rosenbergs, M. Daniel Rotos, Julius Schreibers, Samuel Tesslers.

Happy Birthday to:

Mrs. Bernard Bercu, Eugene Bergman, Scott Bergman, Mrs. Larry Bernard, Melissa Dachs, Mrs. Monroe Gaines, John D. Garrett, Rachel Goldsmith, Mrs. Mac Goldstein, Jacob Gross, Sandra Grossman, David Jacobowitz, Michael Samuel Kantrowitz, Alexander Kirsh, Mrs. Irving Kobrin, Seth Krauss, Louis Landowne, Leisha Langer, Marilyn Langsam, Mrs. Mark Linker, Mrs. Harold Miller, Mrs. Allen Moskowitz, Mrs. Edgar L. Rybakoff, Harvey Z. Shapiro, Buddy Udell, Mrs. Fannie Vogel, Mrs. Harry Weisenfeld, Vivian Weisel, Murray Yavneh, Mrs. Max Zahler.

SEFIRA CHECK LIST

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Rebecca F. Goldstein Women's League

BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 29th

Rebbetzin O. Asher Reichel, President Mrs. William Wedeen, and Vice-President Mrs. Louis Ettlinger cordially invite the members of the Executive Board to be their guests at a LUNCHEON to be followed by a MEETING on **Monday, May 29th at 12:30 P.M. at the Synagogue.** Please make every effort to attend as there is much important business to discuss.

* * * *

OPEN MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5th

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend an OPEN MEETING on **Monday, June 5th at 12:30 P.M. at the Synagogue.** This is a very important meeting for making final reservations for the Spring Luncheon so please be sure to attend. Coffee and cake will be served.

Invite your friends to come this afternoon to an "Afternoon of Games" of all kinds which will follow a very short meeting.

* * * *

SPRING LUNCHEON TO BE HELD MONDAY, JUNE 12th IN HONOR OF MRS. JACK HEYMAN

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Our **Gala Spring Luncheon** in honor of **Mrs. Jack Heyman** will be held on: **MONDAY, JUNE 12th at 12 NOON**

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RABBI ISAAC HALEVY

(Continued from page 1)

Since Halevy's pen was a major means of communicating the events in which he played key roles, the observation of Thomas Jefferson is significant here: "The letters of a person, especially of one whose business had been chiefly transacted by letters, form the only full and genuine journal of his life." The Halevy correspondence with its extensive bearing on his communal activities and his views on Jewish scholarship, must be considered an integral part of his writings in Jewish history and Jewish thought.

Halevy made his mark in two dif-

ferent worlds — in the leading rabbinic circles in Russia until 1895, and in the Orthodox Jewish-German community until his death in 1914. What makes Halevy's life story unique is that his august reputation in Talmudic-centered Russian Jewry blended with his scholarly pursuits and communal endeavors in western Europe.

Halevy's historic accomplishments as defender of his people's spiritual heritage on the intellectual as well as communal battle fronts in the last two decades of his life were attained in the face of great personal misfortune. Until his dying day his mantle of faith and righteousness

remained unruffled as during the days of his youthful enthusiasm. His life and works have proved him worthy of the title, "Prince of Israel."

* * *

The calligraphy of the Halevy correspondence is so majestic and readable that it is worthy of reproduction for posterity. Thus a selection of Halevy's original letters are reproduced in the Appendix of this work. [A Hebrew edition of this work which is being published in Jerusalem contains copies of the entire Halevy collection].

**Excerpts from Introduction
to the Forthcoming Book
by Our Rabbi Reichel**