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AND THOSE OF YOUR DEAR ONES
IN THE NEW SANCTUARY

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XXXI, No. 15 | March 22, 1968 | ב"ה | 22 Adar, 5728

A MESSAGE FROM OUR UJA CHAIRMEN

Herman H. Cohen
Brunch Chairman

Abraham M. Druckman
General Chairman

All our members and congregants should attend the Synagogue's UJA Brunch in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. O. Asher Reichel on Sunday, May 5th, in our ballroom. Please make the task of the Committee easier by sending your reservations this week ($2 per couple, $1 per person).

The emergency is not over — not for the people of Israel, not for hundreds of thousands of our brethren overseas in danger or need, and not for us!

W.S.I.S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Friday, March 22nd
Light Sabbath Candles Before 5:52
Minchah 5:55

Saturday, March 23rd
Morning Service 8:50
Sedrahs: Vayakhel-Pekudei
BLESSING OF NEW CHODESH
PARSHAS PARAH
Junior Congregation 11:00
Rabbi Reichel's Talmud Class (in English) 4:40
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class (in Yiddish) 4:40
Minchah 5:40
Reader of Service: Robert Levine
Reader of Torah: Charles Hecht
Seudah Shlishis
Host: Mr. Isaac Oksenberg
Sabbath Terminates 6:47

Week of March 24th
Sunday Morning 7:15, 8:30
Mon. thru Fri. 6:45, 7:50
Minchah Daily—Followed by Exposition of Halachos by Rabbi Reichel 6:00
Wed.—Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 8:00

Friday, March 29th
Light Sabbath Candles Before 5:59
Minchah 6:00

RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL
will preach tomorrow on
"PRELUDE TO JEWISHNESS"

PLEASE NOTE

The names of the Donors to Shabbos Shkolim Yeshivos Appeal will be recorded in the forthcoming REVIEW. Let us hear from all our readers . . .

Sat., Mar. 30-ROSH CHODESH NISAN
Morning Service 8:50
Sedrah: Vayikra
PARSHAS HACHODESH
Junior Congregation 11:00
Rabbi Reichel's Talmud Class 4:30
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class 4:30
Minchah 5:30
Reader of Service: Hillel M. Reichel
Reader of Torah: Michael Widlanski
Seudah Shlishis
Host: Mr. Morris Tiefenbrunn
Sabbath Terminates 6:54

Week of March 31st
Sunday Morning 7:15, 8:30
Mon. thru Fri. 6:45, 7:50
Minchah Daily 6:10

Friday, April 5th
Light Sabbath Candles Before 6:07
Minchah 6:10

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY FOR OUR SEDORIM

We are delighted to inform our readers that the Congregational Sedorim will be held this year at the Esplanade Hotel in cooperation with our neighboring Lincoln Square Synagogue. Rabbi Reichel will conduct the Seder on the first night and Rabbi Riskin will conduct the Seder on the second night.

Mr. Samuel Silver, Chairman of our Seder Committee, urges our readers within walking distance who wish to attend the Sedorim to make their reservations at once. The cost for each night is $15 per person. Checks should be forwarded to our Synagogue by April 4th, payable to "Esplanade Caterers."

B. DAVID DRENGER TO SPEAK ON THE HAGGADAH

We will have the pleasure again to hear our member, Mr. B. David Drenger, speak on "Oddities About Haggadahs" on Saturday, March 30th at the Seudah Shlishis. For the past number of years, Mr. Drenger has been editing Haggadahs from far-flung Jewish communities of yesteryear. His latest is the Haggadah of the B'nai Israel of India, with the participation of scholars.

Please note that Minchah on Saturday, March 30th, will take place at 5:30, following the Talmud classes. All are welcome.

OUR BAZAAR
Coming Soon

Co-sponsored by our Men's Club — Mr. & Mrs. League

We need all kinds of new merchandise N O W !

You may send merchandise to the Bazaar Committee, WSIS, 120 West 76th Street — or leave word at the Synagogue office for our volunteers to pick up your donations, TR 7-8281.

From the New York Times, March 10, Real Estate Section, page 8.

A West Side Synagogue Stays Traditional in New Setting

Rabbi O. Asher Reichel stood in the brightly modern new sanctuary of the old West Side Institutional Synagogue last week and said:

"From an esthetic point of view, this is a tremendous advancement. All the traditional aspects of Orthodox Jewish worship have been incorporated into a modern format without being diluted."

Around him were walls with wood-grained vinyl surfacing. An acoustical speaker's board over the pulpit rose to an off-white ceiling of contemporary lines. Benches, a pulpit and a **bimah** (a table for the reading of the **Torah,** the holy scroll) of smooth blond oak contrasted neatly with richly colored stained-glass windows and elaborate brass chandeliers similar to fixtures several hundred years old in a synagogue in Amsterdam.

The new sanctuary marks a happy ending to a story whose first chapter was inscribed two years ago by the flames of a three-alarm fire. On Friday night of the Thanksgiving weekend in 1965, flames ate through the domed roof and burned out much of the main chapel in the Romanesque-style stone structure at 120 West 76th Street, between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.

Synagogue officials and firemen saved the 14 **Torahs** and there were no injuries among the 140 firemen who fought the blaze in the 78-year-old fortress-like building, which the synagogue had purchased in 1937 from the old St. Andrew Methodist Episcopal Church.

But the sanctuary was so extensively damaged that leaders of the 500-member congregation decided to rebuild it entirely. They engaged Emery S. Tabor, a New York architect who has designed a number of synagogues.

To provide a new sanctuary for the congregation — which has been called one of the bastions of Orthodox Jewry in New York City — Mr. Tabor conceived a distinctively 20th-century motif for the centuries-old equipage of Orthodox worship. In preparation for reconstruction, the fire-damaged chamber was stripped bare of its furnishings and decor and transformed into a hollow shell.

In the old sanctuary, the Holy Ark, where the **Torahs** are kept, had been framed by a huge decorative arch that was in the same Romanesque style as the building's exterior. In the rebuilt chamber, the Holy Ark has a far different backdrop — a large stained-glass window by George L. Payne of Paterson, N. J., a trim, black-tiled arch that helps support the upward-soaring acoustical board, and an "eternal light" in a sparkling casing of multicolored glass.

The eternal light recalls the candelabrum that was kept continuously lighted in the sanctuary of the Holy Temple in ancient Jerusalem.

The old dome, 45 feet in diameter and supported by four columns that obscured the views of some worshipers, has been replaced by the modern plaster ceiling.

A new seating arrangement has been put in. In the old sanctuary, all the benches faced the Holy Ark. Today the benches in the rear half of the sanctuary face the Ark but those in the front portion are perpendicular to it as they face the **bimah** from the side walls.

This is an arrangement more commonly found in Sephardic Jewish congregations — those made up of descendants of the 15th-century Jews of Spain and Portugal — rather than in Ashkenazic congregations like the West Side Institutional Synagogue, which are made up of persons from northern and middle Europe or their descendants.

The blond oak of the benches, pulpit and **bimah** are in contrast to the dark wood of the previous decor. But an essential element of Orthodox tradition — the placement of the **bimah** toward the center of the sanctuary — is unchanged.

"In Reform synagogues and Conservative ones, the **bimah** is eliminated from the central area and the **Torah** is read from the front pulpit area," Rabbi Reichel said. "But Maimonides, the 12th-century compiler of Jewish law, stresses that the **bimah** should be central, and we have kept it separate from the pulpit."

Also retained is the **mechitzah** — the separation of men and women at Orthodox services — "in a manner that is esthetic and dignified," the rabbi said. Previously the women sat near the side walls. Now they sit in the area of benches facing the pulpit and immediately behind the **bimah,** an arrangement that the architect feels gives the women a greater sense of participation in the service while maintaining the separation of the sexes.

Red carpeting, red cushions and a shimmering brass railing around the pulpit area enhance the brightness of the 800-seat chamber.

The building's exterior is basically unchanged and still offers a sharp contrast to the rows of townhouses and brownstones that flank it. However, to relate the old-style outside to the modern inside, Mr. Tabor has added an anodized bronze screen to the facade and has designed a new entranceway of stone blocks and bronze doors.

As part of the $600,000 rebuilding, a smaller sanctuary, used for daily services, was redecorated after it was damaged by water and smoke during the fire.

While the main sanctuary was being rebuilt — it was completed just in time for the High Holy Days last October — Sabbath and holiday services were held in the ballroom of the synagogue's annex, a narrow, six-story structure of contemporary design that was built in 1958 and that houses classrooms, offices and social facilities.

The West Side Institutional Synagogue is an offspring of the Institutional Synagogue organized in Harlem in 1917.

Rabbi Emeritus Herbert S. Goldstein, founder of the original Institutional Synagogue and the father-in-law of Rabbi Reichel, recently delivered the dedication message honoring the rebuilt sanctuary.

Wondering Where To Have Your Simchah?

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RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL.....*Editor*

MEN'S CLUB NOTES

A regular meeting will be held on **Monday, April 1,** at **8:00 P.M.** Henceforth meetings will commence at the earlier hour and close about 9:00 o'clock so that there will be more time for socializing and the leisurely enjoyment of the refreshments.

The unveiling of the monument in memory of our late member **Julius Lipman,** husband of Mrs. Sayde Lipman, will take place on Sunday, March 24th, at 2:00 p.m., at Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

The meetings of the REBECCA F. GOLDSTEIN WOMEN'S LEAGUE will be resumed right after the Passover Festival.

CONDOLENCES

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

Israel Cumsky — brother of Trustee Murray Cumsky.

Morris Goldman — brother of Trustee Abraham Goldman, Messrs. William P. and Emanuel Goldman, and Mrs. Hyman Ross.

Bertha Goodman — wife of Mr. Elias Goodman and aunt of Trustee and Mrs. Louis Weinstein.

Harry Miller — our member.

Solomon A. Storch — husband of Mrs. Muriel Storch.

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RABBI MOISHE C. PEKIER, *Reader*

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GETTING PERSONAL

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Congregational Citations of Merit to: our Women's League Honorary Vice-President, Mrs. Sadie Balmuth, W. L. Board member, Mrs. Tonie Iger, and W. L. members, Mrs. Norman Liberman, Mrs. Reuben Metchik and Mrs. Jules Shaftan, who were honored as presidents of their respective chapters of the Yeshiva University Women's Organization in its annual Souvenir Journal which was dedicated to them; and to our member, Mr. Charles H. Bendheim, and Mr. Arnold Neustadter, who served as Co-Chairmen of the annual Dinner of the American Netzivim of the Ponevez Yeshiva . . . All good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schmeidler in their new home . . . Congratulations to our member, Hyman Joseph Kitain, upon his **marriage** to Debbie Friedman in our Synagogue; and to our members, Mr. and Mrs. (W. L. Recording Secretary) Walter Freeman, and to the great grandmother, W. L. member, Mrs. Morris Hurwitz, upon the **Bar Mitzvah** of Stephen Larry, son of their children, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Cohen . . . Our prayers for a speedy recovery for Mrs. Caroline Thalheimer . . . Welcome back from points South to Trustee and Mrs. Abraham M. Druckman, Trustee Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Greenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Horowitz, Trustee and Mrs. Edward Jacobs, Mrs. Sophie Karpf, Mrs. Max Koch, Mrs. Harry J. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Soffer, Mrs. Fannie Spicehandler. Also Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Denberg, Mrs. Jacob Kaplan, Vice President Jonas Leisten, Mrs. Celia Tanger, and Dr. and Mrs. Leon Wulman.

MAZEL TOV

Fayge Ellner

Mazel tov to Mrs. Gertrude Ellner, our Women's League Board member, upon the engagement of her daughter, Fayge, to Joseph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Deutsch of Spring Valley. The kallah is the daughter of our late Chazan Joseph Ellner.

Fayge is presently working at the Rockefeller University and is attending Hunter College and the Teacher's Institute of Yeshiva University. Joseph is a student at Yeshiva University where he will receive his Bachelor's Degree in June.

Happy Birthday to:

Mrs. Sol Anstendig, Mrs. Harry Appel, Jay Ball, David Beier, Leslie Bellsey, Louis Cohen, Mrs. Louise Cohen, Mrs. Abraham M. Druckman, Morris Edelson, Hyman Feld, Mrs. Herschel Gold, Eleanor Goldman, Mrs. Warren R. Goldsmith, Frederic S. Goldstein, Michael Goldstein, Melvyn Gross, Trustee Samuel Gursky, David Hanover, Mrs. Max Hecht, Herbert Hirsch, Laurence Jacoby, Avrum Kaplan, Robert Kirsh, Elliott Landowne, Trustee Moses Langer, Mrs. Jules Levine, Robert Livingston, Ellen Mackler, Herbert Ortner, Mrs. Winnie Pack, Gary Rotto, Dr. Alan Shalita, Mrs. Benjamin Shapiro, Mrs. Alberta Smith, Leonard Stecher, Morris J. Sydney (his 94th) Martin Tauber, Max Turkeltaub (104), Trustee David H. Ullman, Trustee Jack Verschleiser, Jonathan Vorchheimer, Trustee Harry Ward, Rachel Ward, David Weisenfeld, Mrs. William D. Weiss, Mrs. Joseph Zahler, Max Zahler and Steven Zahler.

Happy Anniversary to the:

Maurice L. Barnetts, Harry Buraks, Clarence Liebermans, Stuart Oltarshs, Samuel W. Siegels, and Murray Weinsteins.

Young man with extensive traveling experience, multilingual, available as companion to individual or group, planning to sail to Europe this April. Call Mr. Siegel, daytime at TR 3-5050.

PASSOVER GUIDE

The Directory of Passover Foods published by the Ⓤ is available free of charge in our synagogue office.

SALE OF CHOMETZ

Derivatives of wheat, rye, barley, spelt and oats, in contact with water are chometz unless prepared according to Jewish law.

Since we may not possess chometz on Passover it is necessary to transfer ownership of chometz before Passover. Chometz which cannot be disposed of before Passover and will therefore be sold, should be kept out of bounds. Rabbi Pekier will be available for the sale of chometz during the hours of daily services. For those who cannot come personally to the Synagogue the coupon may be used.

I (we) hereby authorize Rabbi O. Asher Reichel to dispose of all Chometz in my (our) possession, in accordance with Jewish Law.

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