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West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XXXII, No. 8

December 20, 1968

ב"ה

29 Kislev, 5729

MASSENET'S MANON **A GREAT MUSICAL EVENT** By Alexander Rauchman

Manon by Jules Massenet is an opera that does not appear in the repertory too frequently. This despite its beautiful melodic line and a story that is captivating. The reasons for the rarity of its performance is that Manon needs above all two things — elegance of style and sensuousness of voice, and singing in the French style.

The great Manons are indeed rare, for precedent was set by the great Mary Garden and Maggie Tate followed in later years by Lucrezia Bore, Bidu Sayao and Victoria De Los Angeles. Today there are only two artists who sing in this tradition with appropriate voice and manner for the delectable exasperating heroine, Manon, namely Beverly Sills and Patricia Brooks — both singing with the New York City Opera.

A musical encyclopedia states that Manon will outlive many other great operas because it possesses a potent quality of charm. This is sheer understatement of fact. Manon, when given the proper production, unfurls as a human drama and as a morality play without being Victorian. Although written in the 19th century, one living in the 20th century still finds the story believable.

Manon as produced by the New York City Opera captures a way of life in the 18th century France. This is done dramatically by its director Tito Capobianco and musically by Julius Rudel, musical director of the New York City Opera, who makes a careful study of style—and every slight rubato, every emphasis, and every idiomatic nuance of the score is miraculously set forth.

One had to wait three decades for a great production of Manon and that one is now given by the New York City Opera. In fact, Harold C. Schonberg, music critic of the New York Times, even goes further by stating that the City Opera's Manon was beautiful and perhaps the most stylish production of the Massenet Opera to hit New York. It is no wonder every performance of Manon has

DR. ARIE ALTMAN **GUEST SPEAKER** **THIS SATURDAY MORNING**

Tomorrow, Shabbos Chanukah, we shall have as guest speaker Dr. Arie Altman, Israeli statesman and lecturer. Born in Russia in 1902, he was arrested in his youth by Russian authorities a number of times for his Zionist activities. In 1947 he was detained at Latrun (in the Holy Land) by the British authorities. After the proclamation of the State of Israel, he served as a member of the Provisional Governing Council, Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister's office, and member of the Israel Knesset (Parliament). He also represented Israel at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. His travels in the course of his political and diplomatic activities have taken him around the world, through Europe, South America, South Africa, Egypt, Australia, as well as the United States.

Our congregants and neighbors should not miss the opportunity to hear such a colorful personality.

SHALOM—WELCOME

We are delighted to note that new families are moving into our neighborhood. Should you know of newcomers, please invite them to our services and to our social activities listed in the **Review**. Rabbi Reichel will be glad to personally welcome them. Kindly send us their names, addresses and phone numbers.

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877-7652

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been sold out and the indications are that the WSIS benefit performance of Saturday evening, March 1, 1969 will also be sold out—but only with your help.

There is an order blank for your convenience on page four — or you may call the Synagogue office TR 7-7652 and make your ticket reservations.

W.S.I.S. PRAYER SCHEDULE

Friday, December 20 — CHANUKAH
 Kindle Chanukah Lights

Before Sabbath Candles Until.....4:13
 Minchah4:25

Saturday, Dec. 21 — ROSH CHODESH
TEVES and CHANUKAH.

Morning Service9:00

Sedrah: Miketz

Rabbi Reichel's Talmud Class

(in English)3:15

Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class

(in Yiddish)3:15

Minchah4:15

Reader of Service: Robert Levine

Reader of Torah: Michael Widlanski

Sabbath Terminates5:12

Week of December 22 —

Sunday Morning—*ROSH CHODESH*
and CHANUKAH7:15, 8:20

Monday Morning—

CHANUKAH VIII6:45, 7:50

Daily Mornings6:45, 7:50

Legal Day7:30, 8:30

Minchah Daily—Followed by

Exposition of Halachos

by Rabbi Reichel4:20

Wednesday—Rabbi Pekier's

Talmud Class8:00

Friday, December 27

Light Candles Before4:17

Minchah4:30

Saturday, December 28

Morning Service9:00

Sedrah: Vayigash

Junior Congregation10:40

Rabbi Reichel's Talmud Class.....3:20

Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class.....3:20

Minchah4:20

Reader of Service: Richard Kahn

Reader of Torah: Steven Spira

Sabbath Terminates5:16

Week of December 29

Sun. and Legal Day7:30, 8:30

Daily Mornings6:45, 7:50

Minchah Daily4:25

* * *

Tuesday—ASARAH B'TEVES

Morning Services

and Selichos6:30, 7:30

Minchah (VAYECHAL)4:15

* * *

Wed.—Rabbi Pekier's Class.....8:00

Friday, January 3

Light Candles Before4:23

Minchah4:35

West Side Institutional Synagogue

120-138 WEST 76th STREET

New York 10023

TR 7-7652, 7653

Published bi-weekly from the Second Friday in September to the Second Friday in June. Subscription: One Dollar Per Year. Entered as second class matter Sept. 22, 1938, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y.

RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL.....Editor

A SURVEY OF JEWISH HISTORY**Editor's Note:**

Jewish festivals as well as many religious observances, commemorate historical events. While a fairly comprehensive history of the Jews would require more space than the REVIEW columns could accommodate, we believe that the bird's-eye view of Jewish history written by Dr. Moses Auerbach, a Jewish historian and educator of note, will be of abiding interest to our readers. His sweeping survey of the highlights of our Jewish heritage should indeed inspire us to further reading and study. Dr. Auerbach's essay appeared in an English translation in the First Series of "The Jewish Library" edited by Rabbi Leo Jung.

* * *

The history of the Jewish people may be divided into two main periods: Israel in its homeland, and Israel in exile. The line of demarcation comes somewhere at the end of the second century of the common era.

The First Period — Preliminary Stage: From Abraham to Moses (1225 B.C.E.)

How Israel became a nation may be designated as the preliminary stage of the first period. Abraham, impelled by the voice of G-d, left home to teach the strangers of Canaan the belief in One G-d as Creator of heaven and earth, and to live in accordance with this belief. He seemed a veritable prince of G-d to his amazed and admiring neighbors. After many vicissitudes, his only son, Isaac, who resembled him, also asserted himself; but only one of the sons of Isaac, Jacob, remained loyal to the family tradition. Jacob succeeded in rearing all his twelve sons as heads of tribes, who through hardship and struggle became worthy upholders of the mission of Abraham.

This family of Jacob multiplied and a great people suffered physically and spiritually through the long years of exile and slavery in Egypt. Only faint traces of the idea of G-d remained in this horde of slaves; their strongest memory was the glory of their ancestors. Their miraculous liberation, coming not from their own strength but because of their destiny to become G-d's people, and

MEN'S CLUB NOTES

Reserve Monday night, January 6th, for a regular meeting; and Monday night, January 20th, when we shall have an interesting guest speaker.

the destruction of the forces of Pharaoh, transformed these slaves into a nation. But the people could not yet understand the loftiness of its mission. Even Sinai found it still unprepared, and despite Israel's participation in this tremendous event, reaction followed only too soon. The Law delivered from Sinai was no outgrowth of the spirit of this people; it came to them from without, pointing the way to the right life. Weighed by centuries of slavery, the masses quickly fell from the divine heights into the depths of idol worship. Only a tangible god could fully express their thought and feeling. It was during the period of forty years' wandering in the desert that Moses took a new generation, free in spirit and in body, and made of it truly a people of G-d. This generation was deemed worthy to enter the Holy Land and to begin building G-d's state.

The Conquest of Canaan to the Destruction of the First Temple (1180-586 B.C.E.)

Now began the new life of these people as the nation of the Torah — the realization of the G-d idea through a people as a political unit. That a few religious individuals should strive toward holiness was not sufficient; the entire organized mass, the state, now became the worshipper of G-d, in addition to shouldering the ordinary economic burden of a political division from which they had been free in the desert. Within a framework like that of other nations, Israel had to succeed as a theocracy, a nation ruled by divine power, to emphasize the central idea of G-dliness and the life that strives for sanctity. Never before had a task of like loftiness been given to a people. To have been considered worthy of such a task must remain a distinction for all time, even though the goal be never fully attained.

(To be continued)

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CHANUKAH NOTES

On Friday, we light the Chanukah candles **before** the Sabbath candles; on Saturday night the Chanukah candles are kindled **after** Havdalah is made.

ASARAH B'TEVES FAST TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31st

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. Selichos prayers are said in the morning and a special portion of the Torah is read both at the Morning and at the Minchah services.

BIKUR CHOLIM COMMITTEES NEED YOUR COOPERATION

Our sages have listed **Bikur Cholim**, (visiting the sick) among those good deeds which merit the most bountiful blessings of the Almighty. Our Bikur Cholim Committees welcome volunteers to join them in visiting as well as being of assistance to the ill members of our Congregational Family. Mr. Leo Jacobowitz, the Chairman, will be glad to hear from you. His number is EN 2-9425.

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 this year, payments should be made by December 31st.

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JANUARY CALENDAR

6th — Board Meeting
20th — Open Meeting

"THE JEWS OF SILENCE"

By Sanford Solarz

The practice of the Jewish religion in Soviet Russia, if not its three million Jewish inhabitants, is being subject by governmental decree to slow and gradual but certain extinction. And to the believing Jew, to the sons and daughters of the Covenant, to deny them their Judaism is to take from them the very life-force itself. Hitler's final solution was to exterminate the Jewish people; it seems that Politburo's is to exterminate Judaism. The Jewish people by instinct are and by practice throughout the ages have been their brothers' keepers. What is American Jewry doing about the condition of their co-religionists in Soviet Russia? What about our great American Jewish organizations? Are they not devoting a disproportionate share of their time, organizational talents and funds to civil rights, and this and that matter of particular concern to American Jewry, no matter how justified and commendable, and all too little, and in some cases none at all, to the plight of the Russian Jew?

In a remarkably moving little work, "THE JEWS OF SILENCE," this is what the renowned French Jewish author Elie Wiesel, has to say, based upon his personal observations in Russia:

"One may question whether we have any way of knowing that the Jews of Russia really want us to do anything for them. How do we know that our shouts and protests will not bring them harm! These are very serious questions, and I put them to the Russian Jews themselves. Their answer was always the same: Cry out,

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cry out until you have no more strength to cry. You must enlist public opinion, you must turn to those with influence, you must involve your governments—the hour is late.

"In Kiev a Jew said to me: I hope you will not have cause to regret that you have abandoned us. And in Moscow a religious Jew said: The preservation of human life takes precedence over all six hundred and thirteen commandments. Don't you know that? Don't our cries reach you? Or do they reach you, but not move you? If that is so, then we are truly lost, because you live in a world wholly guilty, and your hearts have become foul. In every city I heard dozens of cries like these, almost without variation. I was not to forget, I was to tell it all, I was to warn the Jewish communities of the world that their continued indifference would be accounted a horrible crime in the years to come. I promised I would do it, but I wept before them as I promised. I wept because I knew that nothing would help. Our Jews have other problems on their minds. When you tell them what is expected of them in Russia, they shrug their shoulders. It is exaggerated; or we can do nothing about it; or, we must not do too much lest we be accused of interfering in the cold war. The Jewish brain has killed the Jewish heart. That is why I wept. — But what torments me most is not the Jews of silence I met in Russia, but the silence of the Jews I live among today."

How shall we American Jews answer Elie Wiesel?

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CONDOLENCES

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

Edward Post — nephew of our Trustee and Mrs. Harry Altman.

Dr. Henry Waldman — uncle of our Trustee and Mrs. Alexander Rauchman.

Moe Weisenfeld — brother of Mr. Harry Weisenfeld, our member.

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GETTING PERSONAL

By Sanford Solarz

A sure way to remember our Synagogue's new phone number (the exchange remains the same) is to bring to mind the street of our Synagogue "76" and that the W.S.-I.S. serves us "52" weeks of the year. Thus, the new number is TR 7-"76" "52". We thank our Rebbetzin O. Asher Reichel for this idea.

Mazel tov to our member, Mr. Oscar Fensterheim, upon his **marriage** to Mrs. Ella Lewis; and to our members, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bendheim, upon the **birth** of a son to their children, Rabbi and Mrs. Harris Guedalia; and to Judith, daughter of our late Trustee Henry L. Kraushar, upon her **marriage** to Rabbi Shlomo Nayman.

Welcome home from abroad to Mr. Miron Bystritzki; and to Trustee Martin Romerovski; and from points south to Trustee and Mrs. Frederick E. Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Glucker, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parker.

Our prayers for a speedy recovery for our Women's League President Mrs. William Wedeen, Mrs. Max Horowitz, and Mr. Herbert Tumpowsky.

* * *

Happy Anniversary to the:

Harry Cohens, Herman H. Cohens, William Fishers, Isidore Gershunoffs, Abraham M. Goldbergs, Dezso Goldners, Fred Goldsteins, Herman B. Gross's, Max Kleins, Harold Levines, Jerome Milchs, Harry Perlman's, Irving Sabsevitzs, Louis Weinstains, and David Williams's.

CELEBRATING THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Trustee and Mrs. Phillip F. Frankel



Congregational congratulations to our Trustee and Mrs. Phillip F. Frankel who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. May the Almighty bless them with many more happy years in our midst.

HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

Classes will meet on Sunday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 24. New pupils are welcome.

Happy Birthday to:

William Ball, Mrs. Kurt Benjamin, Mrs. Milton M. Bernard, Gene A. Bilgrey, Dr. Gerald Blankfort, Mrs. Barret Broyde, Charles Cohen, Judith Ellner, Trustee Frank Frohman, Mrs. Alexander M. Golden, Seth M. Goldstein, Simeon H. F. Goldstein, George H. Heller, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hersh, George Jablow, Alan Kalker, Mrs. M. J. Kleinfeld, Morton I. Landowne, Beth Levine, Dr. and Mrs. Leo Lindenbaum, Julianne Lloyd, Trustee Adolph Meirowitz, Rose Pekier, Mrs. Bertha F. Rafsky, Reuben Richman, Rebecca Romerovski, Mrs. Harry Shalita, Patricia A. Shenker, Susan Tilem, Mrs. Jess Ward, Douglas Weill and Gerald B. Weiss.

YESHIVOS INVITATIONS

Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta—Annual Dinner Sunday, January 12—Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.
(For reservations call 633-8000)

* * *

Manhattan Day School (Yeshiva Ohr Torah)—Annual Dinner Sunday, January 19—The Plaza.

(For reservations call MO 3-5200)

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Yeshiva Samson R. Hirsch—Annual Dinner Sunday, January 26—Americana.

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