

West Side Institutional Synagogue
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West Side Institutional Review

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January, 1974

Teves-Shevat, 5734

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Our Annual Dinner Grand Event



**Vice President William Foont
Plaque Recipient**

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The gala Dinner on Sunday evening, December 2nd, highlighted our social calendar of the year and will long be remembered by all who attended. The Guests of Honor and recipients of the Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein Medals were: Mrs. Irving Balmuth, Dr. Arnold Beller, Harry Denberg, Julius Falkenstein, and Abraham Perchick. The spirit of the evening could be summed up in the words of a guest who said, "It's always good to come home to the W.S.I.S."

Our First Vice President William Foont was pleasantly surprised with the presentation of a bronze plaque to him in recognition of his devoted services to the Synagogue.

Congratulations to Chairman Isaiah O. Zucker and to the members of the various committees for this outstanding congregational affair. Serving on the committees were: Mrs. Sol Anstendig, Sol Bellsey, Gerard Benjamin, Alan J. Cohen, Herman H. Cohen, Murray Cumsy, Max Denberg, Alexander Dimant, Fred Ehrman, Benjamin Etzkowitz, Mrs. Paul Foont, Mr. and Mrs. William Foont, Benjamin Glazer, Emil Glucker, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Goldstein, Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein, Mrs. Kate Goodman, Carl Grossberg, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gursky, Fred Heiser, H. William Hirsch, A. James Jacobs, Mrs. Jeannette Jacobs, Jonas Leisten, Alexander Rauchman, Mrs. O. Asher Reichel, Joseph L. Rosenberg, Murray Rosenberg, Julius Schreiber, Mrs. Louis Shlansky, Lipa Silberstein, Dr. Irwin Smigel, Bernhard Spira, Mrs. Simon Steinlauf, William T. Steinlauf, Leo Sussman, and Nathan Werblud.

In conjunction with the Dinner a Souvenir Journal will be published very shortly. We trust that all our members and friends will take advantage of this extension of time for inserting their ads and soliciting others. Ad blanks are available upon request in our office.

WSIS OPERA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE LA BOHEME

Saturday Nite — March 2

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ALL WELCOME

Public Lecture

Sunday, Jan. 20

11:15 A.M.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH DUNNER "Oil Diplomacy, Israel and Another Munich"

Professor of Political Science at Yeshiva University for the past ten years. Prominent in public affairs. Received graduate degrees from the Universities of Frankfurt and Basel. Among first hundred activists in Germany to be officially expatriated by the Nazis. Former foreign correspondent, guest lecturer and professor at leading universities here and abroad. Prolific author.

Refreshments

Admission Free

This series sponsored by the
Rebecca F. Goldstein Memorial Fund

CHAMISHAH ASAR B'SHEVAT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Chamishah Asar B'Shevat (the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month Shevat) is the Jewish "Arbor Day." In Temple times this day determined the dating of the produce relating to tithes. The Mishnah refers to this day as Rosh Hashanah L'Ilanos (New Year for Trees). It is also called Tu (the *teth* and *vav* Hebrew letters total fifteen) B'Shevat.

Chamishah Asar B'Shevat is observed by the eating of fruit products for which the Holy Land is noted, such as dates, figs, olives, pomegranates, grapes, almonds and carob ("bokser"). We partake of one of these fruits, which we have not as yet eaten during the year, for the purpose of making the blessing of "Shehechyanu." The Tachanun prayers are omitted thereon.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL RATES

Gold Page	\$300.00
Silver Page	\$200.00
White Page	150.00
1/2 Page	85.00
1/4 Page	50.00
1/8 Page	25.00
Chai Greeting	18.00
Booster	10.00

WSIS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, Jan. 13

11:00 A.M.

AGENDA

- * Election of Trustees
- * Such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Refreshments

MR. AND MRS. LEAGUE NEWS

The Board meeting on Wednesday, January 9th, will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Stein.

The hosts at the Board meeting on Wednesday, February 13th, will be Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Benjamin. One half hour before the meeting, at 8:00 P.M., Rabbi Reichel will lead in a discussion on gems in the current Sidrah.

WSIS Prayer Schedule

Week of January 6

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Class	9:00
Daily Mornings	*7:05, 7:50
Minchah — Followed by Exposition of Halachos by Rabbi Reichel	5:35

Friday, January 11

Kindle Candles Before	5:31
Minchah	5:40

Sat., Jan. 12 — Sedrah: Shemos

Rabbi Reichel's Sedrah Class	8:30
Morning Services	9:00
Rabbi Reichel's Talmud Sanhedrin Class (in English)	4:20
Rabbi Pekier's Talmud Kesubos Class (in Yiddish)	4:20
Minchah	5:20
Sabbath Terminates	6:29

Week of January 13

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Daily Mornings	*7:05, 7:50
Minchah	5:40

Fri., Jan. 18 — Candles by

Minchah	5:45
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Sat., Jan. 19 — Sedrah: Va-era

Blessing of New Chodesh Talmud Classes	4:30
Minchah	5:30
Sabbath Terminates	6:37

Week of January 20

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Daily Mornings	*7:05, 7:50
Thurs. — ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT	*7:00, 7:40

Minchah	5:50
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Fri., Jan. 25 — Candles by

Minchah	5:50
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Sat., Jan. 26 — Sedrah: Bo

Talmud Classes	4:40
Minchah	5:40
Sabbath Terminates	6:44

Week of Jan. 27

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Daily Mornings	*6:55, 7:50
Minchah	6:00

Fri., Feb. 1 — Candles by

Minchah	6:00
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Sat., Feb. 2 — Sedrah: Beshalach

Talmud Classes	4:45
Minchah	5:45
Sabbath Terminates	6:52

Week of Feb. 3

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Daily Mornings	*6:50, 7:50
Minchah	6:05

Fri., Feb. 8 — Candles by

Minchah	6:10
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Sat., Feb. 9 — Sedrah: Yisro

Talmud Classes	4:55
Minchah	5:55
Sabbath Terminates	7:00

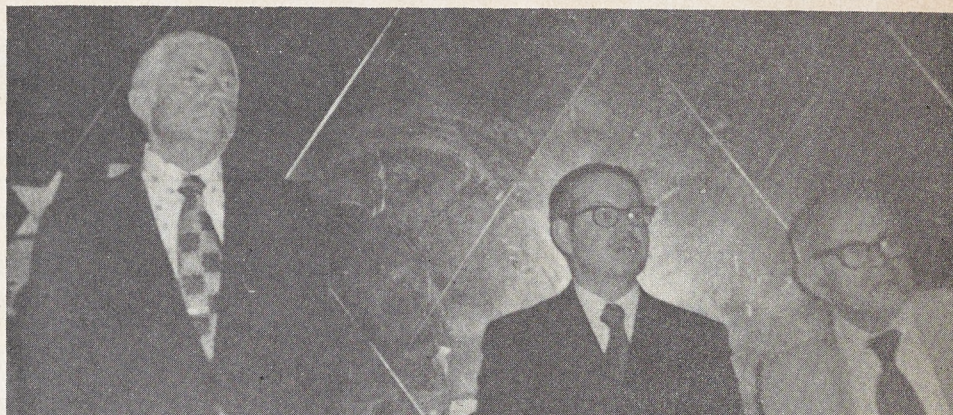
Week of Feb. 10 — Minchah

Sunday Morning	7:30, 8:30
Daily Mornings	*6:45, 7:50
Minchah	6:15

* With the advent of Daylight Savings Time, the Mishnah class will be conducted before the services at the first minyan for several weeks.

MEN'S CLUB NOTES

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED FOR ANOTHER TERM — TO BE INSTALLED ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, AT BREAKFAST MEETING



Men's Club President Gerard Benjamin, on right, with Rabbi Reichel and Hon. Abraham D. Beame, guest speaker, at our monthly public lecture last spring in our auditorium.

Congratulations to our Men's Club officers who were re-elected at our last meeting: Gerard Benjamin, President; Frederick E. Goldstein, Vice-President; Murray Rosenberg, Vice President; Benjamin Etzkowitz, Treasurer; Alan J. Cohen, Recording Secretary; and Bruno Bayer, Sergeant-at-Arms. The installation ceremonies will be held at the Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, January 20th, at 10:00 A.M.

All are invited to the public lecture (see p. 1) following the meeting.

* * * * *

MEN'S CLUB SABBATH FEBRUARY 2

Our Synagogue is fortunate in its lay talent. On Men's Club Sabbath our members will again have the opportunity to apply their talents by leading in the services. Bruno Bayer will be Cantor for Kabbalas Shabbos, Benjamin Etzkowitz will chant Pesukei Dezimrah, Jacob Frankel will be Cantor for Shacharis, Samuel Gursky will chant Maftir, Gerard Benjamin will speak, and Jacob Goldberg will be Cantor for Musaf. The Men's Club will tender a Kiddush to the entire congregation and will also be the hosts at the Seudah Shlishis.

Yahrzeit of Rabbi Goldstein

The Yahrzeit of Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein of blessed memory, will be on the 24th of Teves. Mrs. Goldstein and her family will sponsor the Seudah Shlishis on January 12th in his memory.

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YOUNG COUPLES GET-TOGETHER WEDNESDAY EVE., JANUARY 9

Our Young Couples and their friends are cordially invited to attend a social evening on Wednesday January 9th at 8:15 o'clock in the Lounge. The guest speaker will be Mr. Lawrence Kobrin, a prominent attorney who is deeply involved in Jewish affairs, both here and in the Holy Land.

COMMUNAL EVENTS

Our neighboring Manhattan Day School (Yeshiva Ohr Torah) which has recently moved into its modern quarters at 310 West 75th Street, will hold its annual Dinner on Sunday evening, January 13th, at The Plaza.

YESHIVA CHOFETZ CHAIM OF WEST SIDE ANNUAL DINNER — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, AT STATLER HILTON HOTEL. For reservations call EN 2-1435.

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REBECCA F. GOLDSTEIN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

OPEN MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend an OPEN MEETING on Monday, January 21st, at 12:30 P.M. MRS. HELEN DAYTON will give us a book review on *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok. Those of us who have heard her review other books know that there is a great treat in store for us to hear her again. Bring your friends. Coffee and cake will be served.

* * * * *

DONOR LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Our *Annual Donor Luncheon* will be held on *Tuesday, March 12th*, at the *Esplanade Hotel*, 305 West End Ave. We need your cooperation to sell your Subscription Book (\$20 donation for twenty certificates). For this donation you are invited as our guest at this beautiful gala luncheon. Get to work at once and let us hear from you as soon as possible.

* * * * *

PLEASE COOPERATE with the national sisterhood organization, The Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Our Synagogue is the depot for collecting 100% wool helmet liners for Israeli Soldiers. El Al is cooperating in shipping to Israel in bulk. The closing date is January 21st. Knitting instructions are available in our Synagogue office.

GETTING PERSONAL

Among our Seudah Shlishis hosts were Emil Glucker and Alfred Florsheim.

Welcome home from abroad to Trustee Alexander Dimant, Mrs. Emil Glucker, Mr. and Mrs. George Klein, Warren Moscovitz, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rudnick.

Congratulations to Marvin Sussman, grandson of our Women's League Board member, Mrs. Helen Bernath, upon his passing the Bar.

Congregational thanks to Mrs. Leon Bitner, Mrs. Lucy Gold, Miss Shoshana Hecht, Mrs. Max Markowitz, Mrs. Herbert Rudnick, Mrs. Max Schwarz, and Mrs. David Waters for their assistance with mailings in our office.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Heartiest congratulations to our members, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Carter, upon their 40th wedding anniversary.

Happy Anniversary to the:

(Jan. 15 - Jan. 31)

Prof. Josef Alexanders, Bennett Carters, Dr. Simon Dacks, Fred Ehrmans, Leslie Katz, Irving Kobrins, Adolph Meirowitz, Herbert Ortner, Rabbi Mayer Portnoys, Elliot Wohls.

(Feb. 1 - Feb. 13)

Saul Bergmans, David Bronners, Joseph E. Cohens, Dr. Arthur H. Hechts, Leon Hermans, Harold Kaplans, Stephen Kleins, Martin Millers, Norman Ostrows, Sigmund Schlesingers, Max Selskys, Harvey Z. Shapiros, Leon Taubers, Max Zahlers.

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(Jan. 15 - Jan. 31)

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(Feb. 1 - Feb. 13)

Audrey Adelson, Mrs. Rebecca Becker, Kenneth Benet, Rabbi Isidor M. Binder, Henry Cohen, Mrs. Joseph E. Cohen, Vice-President William Foont, Mrs. Jacob 4—West Side Institute Syna HU Frankel, John D. Garrett, Mrs. Ben Glazer, Michael Goodman, Mrs. Arthur H. Hecht, Deborah Krauss, David Lerner, Linda Levine, Chanoch Portnoy, Robert Smigel, Mrs. Myron Smith, Richard Weinstein, Abraham Widlanski.

HELPING HANDS

The Association for Welfare of Soldiers in Israel is distributing useful gift parcels to wounded Israeli soldiers. If you have access to such items as *teflin*, batteries, shampoo in plastic containers, lip salve, flashlights, utility pen knives, nail clippers, etc., please contact the Synagogue.

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Women's League Presidium
MRS. SAMUEL GURSKY, Mr. & Mrs. League Pres.

* * *

RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL Editor

CONDOLENCES

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

Israel Baum — father of our member, Mrs. George Klein.

Wolf Elbaum — brother of our member, Mr. Mark Elbaum.

Sol Goldman — our congregant.

Anna Goldstein — wife of Dr. Benjamin Goldstein, our past Board member, and mother of Dr. Jerome J. Goldstein.

Florence Gottlieb — wife of our member, Mr. Arthur B. Gottlieb, and mother of Mr. Joseph Gottlieb.

David Haber — our congregant and benefactor, husband of Mrs. Rose Haber, our Women's League member.

Maurice Hoffert — our member, husband of Mrs. Ethel Hoffert, our Women's League member.

LA BOHEME

by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giacose and Luigi Illica
Based on a novel by Henri Murger
Scenes de la Boheme

Principal Characters

Mimi, a seamstressSoprano
Musetta, a coquetteSoprano
Rodolfo, a poetTenor
Marcello, a painterBaritone
Schaunard, a musicianBaritone
Coline, a philosopherBass

If someone who had never heard an opera were seeking one to taste as a sample, there could hardly be a better choice than La Boheme. Unlike the many operas with "the eternal triangle" as a central theme this is a simple love story with a tuneful score, neither of which presents a challenge to the uninitiated. The score is a continuous flow of melody of the kind that is hard to keep from whistling. Leoncavallo also wrote a Boheme, but he is remembered almost entirely for his Pagliacci whereas Puccini's Boheme remains one of the all-time favorites. It proves that you don't have to be Italian to enjoy Italian Opera.

Act I

An attic studio in the Latin Quarter. The scene is an unheated garret shared by Rodolfo and Marcello as a studio. In a desperate effort to warm themselves, they build a fire in the stove, fed by pages from Rodolfo's manuscript, the only fuel they have. They are soon joined by Coline and then Schaunard who has had a stroke of fortune. He comes laden with food, drink and money, and the four friends are in the midst of an unexpected repast when a knock is heard at the door. Benoit, the landlord has come to collect his rent. While pouring glass after glass of wine for him, they goad him into talking about his flirtations with young girls and then, pretending shock at his infidelity to his wife, usher him out unceremoniously. Rodolfo stays behind to finish an article he is writing as his three friends leave to celebrate the evening at the Cafe Momus. He promises to join them soon. Again there is a knock at the door. This time it is an attractive neighbor, Mimi, who is accompanied by the first of the opera's truly haunting melodies, the Mimi theme. The draft on the stairway has extinguished her candle and as she asks to have it relit, she is overcome by faintness. Rodolfo revives her and after relighting the candle, accompanies her to the door. Mimi notices that she had dropped her key during her faint. As Rodolfo joins her in searching for the key, both candles are extinguished and they are left in the dark. Rodolfo finds the key and, while still apparently groping for it, he reaches her cold hand and again Puccini's magic weaves another great melody, the aria "Che Gelide Manina." After he tells Mimi

his story, she responds with the beautiful "Mi Chiamono Mimi." The melodies follow so rapidly, they almost collide. Rodolfo's friends call from outside, asking what is detaining him. "Coming", he says and the curtain falls as Mimi and Rodolfo exit slowly with stars in their eyes and their arms interlocked.

Act II

A Square in the Latin Quarter. The scene is a busy square with a tumultuous crowd in which street hawkers ply their wares. The Cafe Momus sits in the midst of a variety of shops and Schaunard, in front of one, is negotiating for a pipe and horn while a short distance away Coline is occupied with a clothes mender with whom he had left his coat. Mimi, proudly wearing the new bonnet Rodolfo had just bought her, strolls in on his arm and they join Rodolfo's three friends at a table in front of the cafe. Already, they are deeply in love. There is an amusing interlude as Parpignol, the toy vendor, passes through with his cart and leaves, followed by a swarm of urchins. Enter Musetta, Marcello's erstwhile sweetheart, for whom he still carries a torch. Her escort is her latest conquest, Alcindoro, an elderly, overdressed and wealthy admirer. The irritation mounts in Musetta at Marcello's lack of attention and reaches its peak when she bursts forth in the famous aria known popularly as "Musetta's Waltz." In order to get rid of Alcindoro, she suddenly feigns that her shoe is pinching and is very painful. As Alcindoro leaves at her behest to buy her a new pair of shoes, Musetta flies into Marcello's arms and he gladly embraces her. Comes the bill and the four friends are embarrassed by the lack of funds. Musetta extricates them from their predicament by nonchalantly telling the waiter to just add it to Alcindoro's bill. The group leaves in high spirits and as Alcindoro rushes in hard on their heels clutching the new shoes, he is greeted with the two bills. This is a little too much for the old roué and he falls into a chair, overcome by despair, as the curtain falls.

Act III

A toll-gate on the outskirts of Paris. In this act the opera turns from the comic to the tragic. Tragedy begins to mount and grows. Rodolfo and Mimi have been having lovers' spats which have brought them to the point of impending separation. Musetta, although in love with Marcello, also loves the pleasures of life too much to be constant to him. It is also in this act that the genius of Puccini as a creator of melody reaches its peak. Rarely has there been such a beautiful flow of pure melody from the pen of an Italian composer. The curtain rises on a ragged group clamoring to be let through the gate. A guard finally passes them through. Sounds of revelry come from a tavern at the left with living quarters now tenanted by Marcello and Musetta.

Mimi comes here in search of Marcello and when he appears from the tavern, she pours out her heart to him. She confides to him that she can no longer endure Rodolfo's jealousy and feels it is best that they part. Rodolfo also emerges from the tavern where he has been sleeping, Mimi conceals herself. Unaware of Mimi's presence, Rodolfo tells Marcello that he plans to separate from Mimi because of her fickleness, but, when pressed for a better reason, he admits with great emotion, that Mimi is very ill and, in the poverty she shares with him, her doom is sealed. As Mimi hears this, she comes out of hiding to bid her lover a fond farewell. Meanwhile, back in the tavern is heard Musetta's piercing laughter and Marcello rushes in to her like a mother to a crying child. While Mimi and Rodolfo dwell on their past happiness and the pain of parting (what Music!), Marcello and Musetta rush from the tavern quarreling. Musetta dashes off, hurling imprecations at Marcello. Mimi and Rodolfo walk off slowly, arm in arm after having decided to postpone their separation until Spring. The curtain comes down on the notes of their rapturous duet.

Act IV

The same scene as in Act I. Rodolfo and Marcello who found it so hard to live with their sweethearts, now find it more difficult to live without them. Their privations seemed to be so much easier to bear when they had someone to share them. They try to force gaiety with a dance which ends in a mock duel. Musetta bursts in on horseplay with a deeply concerned look at her face. Mimi had spent all her strength trying to climb the stairs and had barely made the landing. Rodolfo and Marcello rush to her and make her as comfortable as possible in the poor accommodations the studio affords. Musetta whispers that Mimi, knowing that she was dying, wanted to spend her last hours with Rodolfo. To obtain money for medicine, Musetta leaves to sell her earrings and Coline follows with a sad farewell to his coat, which he will now sell. (The famous "Coat Song".) Mimi is seized with a violent coughing spell as she and Rodolfo rhapsodize about the happy days they spent together. Musetta and Marcello return with the medicine and Musetta brings Mimi the muff of which she is so fond. Rodolfo goes to lower the blinds so that Mimi can sleep better. Schaunard walking softly over to Mimi discovers that Mimi's sleep is one from which she will never awaken. He motions to the others who approach. Rodolfo, turning from the window, reads the truth in the expression on the faces of his friends. Racked with sobs, he falls on Mimi's lifeless body calling her name in anguish. The curtain falls as, out in the audience, countless handkerchiefs are being applied to moist eyes.

By Herman H. Cohen
Opera Committee Hon. Chairman

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