

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XLVII No. 6

March 1984

Adar II 5744

ב"ה

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Week of February 26

Sunday Shacharis 8:30

Daily Shacharis 6:45, 7:50

Minchah followed by Exposition
of Halachos by Rabbi Reichel 5:35

Fri., March 2 — Candles by 5:29

Minchah 5:35

Sat., March 3 — Sedrah: *Pekudei*

Rabbi Reichel's Sedrah Class 8:15

Shacharis 8:30

Parshas Shekolim

Blessing of Chodesh Adar II

Rabbi Reichel's Talmud

Brachos Class (in English) 4:40

Minchah... 5:25 / Sabbath Ends... 6:26

Sun., March 4 — *Rosh Chodesh Adar II*

Shacharis 8:15

Mon., March 5 — *Rosh Chodesh Adar II*

Shacharis 6:30, 7:40

Week of March 4 — Minchah 5:40

Fri., March 9 — Candles by 5:38

Minchah 5:45

Sat., March 10 — Sedrah: *Vayikra*

Sedrah Class... 8:30 / Shacharis... 9:00

Talmud Class... 4:45 / Minchah... 5:30

Sabbath Ends 6:33

Week of March 11 — Minchah 5:50

Thurs., March 15 — *TAANIS ESTHER*

Morning Shacharis and Selichos 6:45

Minchah (*Vayechal*) 5:35

Fri., March 16 — Candles by 5:45

Minchah 5:55

Sat., March 17 — Sedrah: *Zav*

Parshas Zachor

Sedrah Class... 8:30 / Shacharis... 9:00

Talmud Class... 5:00 / Minchah... 5:40

Sabbath Ends 6:40

MEGILLAH READING

Sun., March 18 — *PURIM* Shacharis .. 8:00

MEGILLAH READING

Week of March 18 — Minchah 5:55

Fri., March 23 — Candles by 5:53

Minchah 6:00

Sat., March 24 — Sedrah: *Shminee*

Parshas Parah

Sedrah Class... 8:30 / Shacharis... 9:00

Talmud Class 5:00

Minchah... 5:50 / Sabbath Ends... 6:48

CHOIR TO ACCOMPANY OUR CANTOR, MARCH 3 & 31

Cantor Barron will again be accompanied by the Choir for Shabbos *Mevorchim*. The Choir is composed of young Jewish professional singers, some being members of major opera companies, and appealing boy soloists. The WSIS is the only local Ashkenazic Synagogue to offer such an attraction. We urge our reader to publicize this series in the community.

The Choir has been made possible by our member, Abraham Widlanski, through the spring. Those who wish to sponsor future Shabbos or Yom Tov appearances should contact Cantor Barron.

ANNUAL DINNER TO HONOR WILLIAM AND SYLVIA FOONT AT THE WALDORF-ASTORIA, SUNDAY, MARCH 25

We urge each and every member and congregant to participate in honoring William and Sylvia Foont, Couple of the Year, at our Annual Dinner on Sunday, March 25th at The Waldorf-Astoria, Park Avenue and 50th Street. Black Tie optional. Smorgasbord 5:30.

Make your reservations now for this gala affair and place your advertisements and greetings in the Souvenir Journal. Admission is by a contribution of \$100 per person or by \$200 in journal ads per person. Please call our office 877-7652 for dinner reservations and ad blanks. A schedule of Journal rates appears on page 3.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDORIM

Joint Congregational Sedorim will be held on Monday and Tuesday evenings, April 16th and 17th, at the Lincoln Square Synagogue, 200 Amsterdam Avenue. Rabbi Reichel and Cantor Barron will officiate at the first Seder. Paid reservations must be made before April 4th in our office. For details call 877-7652.

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The O-U Passover Kashrus Directory will be available gratis in our office.

Week of March 25 — Minchah 6:05

Fri., March 30 — Candles by 6:00

Minchah 6:10

Sat., March 31 — Sedrah: *Sazria*

Sedrah Class... 8:20 / Shacharis... 8:40

Parshas Hachodesh

Blessing of Chodesh Nisan

Talmud Class 5:10

Minchah... 5:55 / Sabbath Ends... 6:55

Week of April 1 — Minchah 6:10

Tues. — *Rosh Chodesh Nisan*... 6:30, 7:40

We appeal to our congregants to attend the daily morning and Minchah services in order to assure our uninterrupted *Minyanim*.

PURIM NOTES

READING OF MEGILLAH SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 17, AND SUNDAY MORNING

Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of Persia from extermination by the plot of Haman, Prime Minister of King Achashuerus of Persia, 2,340 years ago. He chose the 13th day of Adar by casting lots from which the name Purim is derived. By the vigilance of Mordecai, who exposed a conspiracy against the king's life, and the intervention of his cousin, Esther the Queen, the Jews were saved. The crafty Haman was hanged on his own gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the King appointed Mordecai Prime Minister in his place.

(Continued on page 2)

YOUNG COUPLES SHABBATON LUNCHEON MARCH 17

Young Couples in our community are cordially invited to attend with their children a Shabbaton Luncheon on Saturday, March 17th, following our morning service.

Having in mind that Purim is that very night, Mr. Nash Aussenberg, our Ba'al Tokei'a, will speak on "Cantillations of the Megillah: The Purim Drama Set to Music."

Paid reservation, \$6.00 per person (children \$3), should reach our office by March 9th. Please include address and telephone. For further details call Chair Trudy Zimmern at 595-6921 or Co-Chair Betsy Goldstein at 874-2449.

REPRINTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

AN OPEN LETTER TO AMERICAN REFORM JEWS

We take the liberty of addressing you publicly through the pages of the New York Times in order to assure that our message — emanating from hearts filled with pain and great concern — will reach every one of you, clergy and laity, in the hope that you will accept it in the sincere spirit in which it is written.

At your recent convention in Los Angeles (March 15, 1983), you dealt with the very serious problem of intermarriage plaguing American Jewry. Since Jewish law dictates that children of intermarriage assume the religious status of the mother, and since the majority of intermarriages are between Jewish men and non-Jewish women, their children, according to Jewish law, are not Jewish. The result is a decimation of the American Jewish population.

To solve this problem, the convention adopted a resolution by a show of hands to institute a principal change by conferring Jewish status upon these children, thus "solving" the problem and "insuring" the Jewish future in America.

It would be amusing, were it not so tragic, since this solution is tantamount to treating an epidemic by declaring its symptoms to be the mark of good health. . .

A three-fold question may be asked:

1. By what authority does your organization arrogate to itself the right to institute a radical change in the very definition of what is a Jew, in complete contradiction of the Biblical *sine qua non* of Judaism?
2. What right does any Jewish organization have to deny an innocent child his Biblically endowed heritage and status?
3. By what authority does an organization confer Jewish status upon a person without the prescribed procedure of conversion?

Being a Jew is not a matter of opinion. It is a matter of fact, based on principles established and prescribed by the Torah. In a case of intermarriage, the child, having been an integral part of his mother for the nine months of its embryonic state, is naturally endowed with the religious status of its mother. If the mother is Jewish, the child is Jewish. If the mother is non-Jewish, so is the child; no one has the right to change the status of such a child without a conscious choice on the child's part upon reaching maturity.

For much of our history, we were the victims of acts of coercion which sought to deny us our Jewish heritage. Dare we now be guilty of such a sin?

Your resolution will cause great confusion in Jewish life and will **place a cloud over the Jewish status of everyone identified with the Reform movement.** Since the overwhelming majority of Jews the world over adhere to the clear and explicit Biblical requirements as to the status of children, every member of a Reform family will henceforth be subject to scrutiny to determine whether he or she is genuinely Jewish by Biblical definition, or is an *ersatz* Jew by convention resolution. Children brought up in the belief that they are full-fledged members of the Jewish people will discover, as they approach marriage, that the bulk of **Klal Yisrael** does not recognize their status, with potentially tragic results.

It destroys Jewish unity. In our efforts for the State of Israel and in our communal undertakings here in the United States, American Jewry has adopted as its rallying cry, "**We are One**", indicating that differences in philosophy and attitudes may be overlooked in order to facilitate working for a common cause as a united Jewry. That unity will be totally shattered by the Los Angeles resolution, which has introduced for the first time a difference in the very definition of being Jewish. Such disunity may well affect adversely the campaigns for the *United Jewish Appeal, Federation, Israel Bonds*, and others.

It advances assimilation. The conference's deliberation was a reaction to the dangerous inroads intermarriage has made on American Jewry in the last decade. If until now concern for the status of children served as a deterrent to intermarriage, your resolution will remove this barrier and will encourage and legitimize intermarriage.

In the name of Jewish unity, for the sake of your own children's right not to have their religious status clouded by uncertainty, we appeal to all our brothers and sisters in the Reform movement to stand up and be counted, to urge your clergy to rescind this ill-conceived, ill-advised, tragic step and to prevent the irreparable harm and ultimate detachment from **Klal Yisrael** to which your resolution may lead.

We place our hopes in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, (LXVI, 22) "*For as the new heavens and the new earth which I make remain before Me, said the L-d, so will your children and your name remain.*"

*Committee for the Maintenance of
Jewish Standards
Merkaz Horabonim —
United Orthodox Rabbinate
Rabbi Pinchas M. Teitz, Chairman*

MEN'S CLUB

BREAKFAST MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Members and prospective members of the Men's Club are invited to the monthly Breakfast Meeting on Sunday morning, March 4th at 9:30.

* * * * *

Public Lecture to follow
meeting on April 8

MR. & MRS. LEAGUE NEWS

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Rudnick will host the League's meeting on Wednesday evening, March 7th. One half hour before the meeting Rabbi Reichel will lead in a discussion on gems in the current Sedrah, at 8:30 P.M.

Purim Notes

(Continued from page 1)

The Purim theme starts on the Saturday before Purim when we read in an additional Scroll of the Torah, "Zachor — Remember what Amalek did to you" (Devarim XXV: 17-19), describing the cowardly attack of the Amalekites against the Israelites in the desert. Haman was a descendant of the Amalekites.

Taanis Esther Thursday, March 15

The day before Purim is ordinarily observed as a minor fast day — the Fast of Esther — in commemoration of the fasting of the Jews who had come under the evil decree of Haman before their deliverance through Mordecai and Esther. When Purim falls on a Sunday — as it does this year — inasmuch as we are not permitted to fast on the Sabbath, the fast is moved to the Thursday preceding Purim.

PLEASE NOTE: On Taanis Esther morning, there will be one service at 6:45.

Children Welcome

It is obligatory upon men, women and children to listen to the reading of the entire Megillah both at night and day because all were included in the evil decree.

REMINDER: Since we will need the Megillah Scrolls on Saturday night after Maariv, they should be brought to the Synagogue on Erev Shabbat.

The children will receive greggers and hamantashen with the compliments of our Women's League.

Purim Mitzvos

The Book of Esther also enjoins us to make Purim a special occasion for giving gifts, known as *Mishloach Manos*, consisting of at least two portions of prepared food. We are also to give charity that day to the poor.

On Purim day we are obliged to partake of a festive meal, usually before sundown.

The day after Purim is called Shushan Purim in commemoration of the Jews of Shushan who defended themselves for two days.

**ON SUNDAY, MAY 6, FOLLOWING OUR UJA-FEDERATION
BREAKFAST, JOIN THE SOLIDARITY MARCH TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FOR SOVIET JEWRY.**

REBECCA F. GOLDSTEIN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

OPEN MEETING MARCH 12

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend an OPEN MEETING on Monday, March 12th at 12:30 P.M. Surprise program. Refreshments will be served.

BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 26

Cecile Cane, Pauline Krampf and Claire Weisberg cordially invite the members of the *Executive Board* to be their guests at a *Board Meeting* to be held on Monday, March 26th at 12:30 P.M. Coffee and cake will be served.

Our *Ma'os Chitim* (Passover Fund) drive is under the Chairmanship of Pauline Krampf. Our readers may participate in the *mitzvah* by sending checks to the Women's League earmarked "Passover Fund."

The Jewish Learning Exchange

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Sunday, March 4, 8 P.M. — Public Lecture by
RABBI NOTA SCHILLER: "THE IRONY OF PURIM"

CONDOLENCES

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

Ine Heilbronner — sister of our member, Nathan Heilbronner.

Esther Sonnenschein — mother of our Men's Club member Marc, and Jane Rabbhan, sister of our past president William Foont, Abe, Leon and Dora.

SHABBOS SHEKOLIM

March 3 — Services 8:30 A.M.

Saturday, February 12th, marks the first of the Special Sabbaths preparatory to the Passover Festival. This day is known as Shabbos Shekolim and falls on the Sabbath preceding Rosh Chodesh Adar — in a leap year, Adar II.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem it was the custom to remind all of their obligation to give the half *shekel* on the first day of Adar. The special Torah reading, *Parshah*, refers to the half shekel that every Israelite, twenty years of age or over, gave as his equal share toward the support of the Temple services (Exodus XXX: 11-16).

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RABBI O. ASHER REICHEL Editor

GETTING PERSONAL

Congregational thanks to our Trustee Murray Rosenberg upon hosting a Kiddush and a Seudah Shlishis in celebration of his birthday; to Rabbi Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Haberman for hosting a Kiddush in memory of his mother; and to Herbert Rudnick for hosting a Seudah Shlishis in memory of his mother.

Ned Kirsh's name was omitted from the Dinner-Journal Committee.

Happy Birthday to:**(March 1-13)**

Trustee Harry Altman, Mrs. Jules Cohen, Melissa Dick, Mrs. Paul Foont, Mrs. Lucy Gold, David Hecht, Richard Kalker, Michael Mostel, Cynthia Rybakoff, Eugene Ten Brink, Mrs. Albert Wald, Samuel Ward, Raphael Yavneh.

(March 14-31)

Mrs. Ariella Ahren, Mrs. Sol Anstendig, Jay Ball, Leslie Bellsey, Mrs. Frank Bisinger, Mrs. Joseph Buchsbaum, Mrs. Walter Freeman, Russell Aron & Adam Franklin Gaines, Emil Glucker, Mrs. Herschel Gold, Frederic S. Goldstein, Samara Goodman, Mel Gross, Mrs. Max Hecht, Lawrence Kalker, Mrs. Henry Kaufman, Robert Kirsh, Ida Langsam, Mrs. Jules Levine, Herbert Ortner, Dr. Alan Shalita, Mrs. Benjamin Shapiro, Leonard Stecher, Martin Tauber, David Ullman, Jonathan Vorchheimer, Dr. William Weiss, Mrs. Joseph Zahler, Steven Zahler.

Happy Anniversary to the:**(March 1-13)**

Lawrence Kobrins, Avram Steins, Larry Tiefenbrunns, Sandy Wards.

(March 14-31)

Paul Foonts, Dr. Leo Kagles, Stuart Oltarshs, Arthur Rogers', Yitzchak Rubinfelds, William T. Steinlaufs, Joel Wachs', Murray Weinsteins.

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