



Vol. XXI No. 14

Kislev 22, 5698

NOVEMBER 26, 1937

Musical Comedy To Be Attraction Of Theatre Party

I.S. Parents' Association Sponsor Annual Event On December 21

The Parents' Association of the Institutional Synagogue will conduct their annual Yiddish Theatre Party at the National Theatre, 117 East Houston Street. This affair will take place on Tuesday evening, December 21.

A popular musical comedy will be presented on that evening.

Tickets for the Theatre Party are now available and may be secured from any member of the Association or in the office. In order to get a choice selection of seats, you are urged to make your arrangements to attend the affair as soon as possible.

Although the proceeds of this affair are for the support of the Talmud Torah, tickets are being sold at box office prices.

The Theatre Party Committee consists of Mrs. P. Vogel, ex-officio, Mrs. Aaron Wartels, Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Ida Bernstein, Chairman, Mrs. Ray Vosberg, and Mrs. Rose Levitt.

Chanukah Program

Holiday Bulletin Issued By Welfare Board

The historic struggle for religious and cultural freedom carried on successfully twenty-one centuries ago by the ancient Israelites, under the leadership of the Maccabees, will be commemorated on the Festival of Chanukah from Sunday evening, November 28 to Monday, December 6, inclusive. Jewish Community Centers, YMHA's and YWHA's will avail themselves of the material and suggestions contained in the Bulletin on the Observance of Chanukah, issued by their parent body, the National Jewish Welfare Board, in arranging colorful mass and club celebrations. Detailed explanations of the significance of this historic festival and of its distinctive customs and ceremonies are also set forth in a booklet entitled "The Jewish Holidays—Two Hundred and Fifty Questions and Answers on Their Origin, Significance and Observance," published this year by the Jewish Welfare Board.

Talmud Torah Pupils and Club Members To Observe Festival of Chanukah

Can You Write?

If you think you can write an article of interest to our readers, we will be pleased to hear from you. Contributions should concern themselves with matters of Jewish and civic import. Feature articles, short stories and poems are solicited.

Spades Leading The Debating Tourney

Government Ownership Subject of Debate

The Spades debating team continued their unbroken record of victories in the inter-club debating tournament when they defeated the representatives of the Barbers Club last Sunday afternoon. B. Goldberg, J. Hoffman, and S. Seltzer composed the winning team, while S. J. Black and B. S. Opperman were the representatives of the Barbers. The topic was "Resolved that the government own and operate public utilities."

Next Sunday afternoon, the Immac Club is slated to meet the Co-op, while on Tuesday evening, November 30, the Spartans will face the Club Cardinal. After these have been concluded, there will be but two more debates in the elimination rounds of the tournaments. The four highest ranking teams will then participate in the final round to decide upon the winner.

Elaborate Programs Set For Next Weekend

Appropriate celebrations of the Festival of Chanukah will be held by both the pupils of the Talmud Torah and the members of the clubs on Saturday evening, December 4, and Sunday afternoon, December 5.

The club members have been invited to attend a Chanukah Social on Saturday evening, December 4. The feature of this affair will be a "Chanukah Dreidel" contest in which those attending will participate, as well as in other Chanukah games. Singing, dancing and refreshments will round out the evening's program. Members will be admitted free; non-members may secure tickets of admission at the office for the nominal sum of twenty-five cents.

The Talmud Torah will conduct its annual celebration of Chanukah on the following afternoon. The Dramatic Club will produce a Chanukah farce, "What's Tonight?", as well as "Dancing Chanukah Lights," consisting of a dance and recitations. Community singing of both Hebrew and English songs is also included on the program.

Tickets for the Chanukah Festival may be secured at the office for the very nominal sum of eight cents "Chanukah Gelt."

In connection with the festival, the Arts and Crafts Workshop has issued a special folder for the pupils of the Talmud Torah containing various holiday games, a Menorah, and holiday pictures for coloring.

Keen Interest Among All Clubs Fostered By Tournaments

Club Activities Increase As Winter Program Is Begun

Interest in club activities has increased noticeably during the past few weeks. Several new groups have affiliated themselves with the Department of Centre Activities, and those who already belong have extended their programs to include activities for the winter months.

The members of GIRL SCOUT TROOP 116, under the leadership of Miss Florence Barbour, find that time is too short for the many things they want to do at their meetings during the coming winter.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Lena Roht, a club for girls between the ages of 16 and 18 is now being formed. This group is open for membership; inquiries should be addressed to Mrs. Roht.

Venturing forth on a very ambitious program, the EAGLE CLUB has made definite plans for the coming year. Athletics, debating, dramatics, hikes, outings, visits to places of interest, etc., are only a few of their many contemplated activities. At the last meeting, the following officers were elected: President, Harold Gabel; Vice-President, Herbert Meyer; and Secretary, Moses Finfang. The club continues under the leadership of Mr. Abraham I. Rhine.

The IMMACS, although but recently affiliated with the I.S., have readily joined in all the activities. Their first attempt in the debating tournament was not very successful, but undeterred, they are now preparing for their next debate from which they hope to emerge victorious.

We are happy to welcome a new group, the DE MOLAY BOYS, under the leadership of Mr. Harry Hankin. This group shows promise of being very active. At present they have raised a fund to present Thanksgiving baskets to four needy families of the neighborhood.

Living up to their name, the CO-OP CLUB, is actively cooperating in whatever they undertake. At the present time they are busy issuing their club newspaper. This started with but two pages, for the first issue, and they now have five pages in the second. The interest displayed in this venture by all the members, speaks well for the group. Mr. Ralph Nadel is the leader, while H. Schepps is the President.

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Editor Rabbi Philip Goodman
Associate Morris A. Urie

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Light Candles, Friday Evening 4:12

Calendar of Services

Friday Evening 4:10 P.M.

Saturday Morning 9:00 A.M.

Sedrah: Vayeshev

Saturday Afternoon 4:10 P.M.

Weekday Mornings 7:15 A.M.

Culled From The EDITOR'S PEN

NER TOMID

Twenty-one hundred and two years ago, with the defeat of the armies of Antiochus an accomplished fact, a lamp, which symbolized victory against persecution and paganism, was lit. Little hope was held out for its continued burning, until a permanent lamp could replace it. To the consternation of the enemy, and the wonderment of the faithful, the lamp persisted in glowing for a period of eight days. "What a miracle there was!"

This light has become the symbol of Israel's fight for its ideals of tolerance throughout more than twenty-one centuries. The Eternal Light of Israel has been a guiding beacon through times of adversity and times of joy.

Is it not a phenomenon? Is it not a miracle? And this miracle has been repeating itself daily for the past twenty-one centuries. Then it was Antiochus, today it is Hitler. We have lived to see the frustration of the aims of the former. We shall live to celebrate another festival of our victory over the persecution and paganism of the latter.

In our celebration of the festival of Chanukah this year, let all express the fervent prayer that by the Grace of God, the "Ner Tomid," the Eternal Lamp of Israel, shall continue to cast its rays of hope and tolerance for all mankind forever.

The History of Chanukah

by Women's Branch, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

As the sun on the twenty-fourth day of Kislev, which corresponds this year to November 28, 1937, will be about to set—the Jews the world over will usher in one of the two minor holidays, Chanukah (the other being Purim, which is celebrated two and a half months later). At the lighting of the Chanukah candles, three benedictions will be chanted; in the first we shall thank God for commanding us to light candles on this occasion; in the second we shall thank the Almighty for the miracles he performed for us twenty-one centuries ago; while in the third we shall express our gratitude to God for granting us life and sustaining us up to this day. The third benediction is said only on the first day of Chanukah.

Besides the lighting of the candles, the festival of Chanukah is marked by two special prayers; Hallel, which is recited every morning as on any of the three major holidays; and "Al Hanissim," which is said in the middle of the grace after every meal, and in the silent devotion, as a part of these prayers. Chanukah is distinguished by several interesting customs, such as the giving of money presents to the children, eating of pancakes, and playing of the top, known as the trendle. Just as the religious ceremonies give to this holiday a solemn coloring, the customs make it very joyous, and it is remembered by children as well as grown ups. It is permissible to work during this entire festival which continues for eight days.

The Political State of Palestine Twenty-One Centuries Ago

During the Second Temple, before the events that gave rise to the Chanukah celebration, the Jews lived in Palestine as a separate nation and were free to direct their internal affairs as they saw fit; but they were not entirely independent. Judea was at that time tributary to Syria. When Antiochus Epiphanes, or as he was later surnamed Epimanes (the first means illustrious, the second madman) came to the throne of Syria, a change took place in the attitude of Syria towards Judean independence in religious and national matters.

Factions in Judea

The change in policy was brought about by internal quarrels in Judea itself. There was a Greek faction in the Jewish ranks. That faction always strove to introduce Greek culture into Judea, while the other Jews looked upon the former as a group of traitors. Greek culture, or as it is otherwise known, Hellenism, was dominant over the civilized world. No wonder, therefore, that it made inroads also in Judea. The Jewish Hellenistic faction was powerful enough to introduce certain immoral Greek games, but beyond that it could not go without foreign help and some of its representatives resorted to the latter. The semi-insane Antiochus relying upon his military power and the promise of the Jewish Hellenists, then tried to force idol worship upon Judea.

The Attack

A terrible time came upon the Jews, who remained steadfast in their faith. Syria's soldiers were stationed in all the important towns of Judea; altars were erected for the Greek idols; and the Jews, under penalty of death, were forced to worship. Even the Temple in Jerusalem

was defiled by idol worship.

The effect of the attack on the Jewish religion was the reverse of what the Syrian government, misled by the Greek faction in Judea, expected. Judea, instead of being crushed, became entirely independent. The Syrian army was, beyond any question, larger, richer, and better organized, than the army which Judea could have placed in the field had it even a chance to prepare for the attack. Judea, however, had its advantage over Syria in an attack on the former. The Judeans naturally knew the geographic conditions of their country better than the Syrians; after the attack on the Jewish faith, the question of expelling the Syrian army from Judea became a question of life and death, and the Judeans naturally fought with greater zeal than the Syrians.

The Uprising in Modin

In the small town of Modin lived the Asmonean family which later became very famous. It consisted of the aged priest Matathias, who happened to witness how a Jew brought a sacrifice on the altar erected to the idol Zeus; at the same time Matathias was ordered by the officers of the Syrian garrison in Modin to do likewise. This was more than the pious priest could stand; and drawing his sword and killing the Jewish traitor, he exclaimed: "Who is for God follow me!". In response to this call he was joined by his five heroic sons and a small band of other Jewish heroes. This small band, in a heroic feat of valor, was successful in routing the whole Syrian garrison in Modin.

(Concluded next week)

Choice Plots Available

The Institutional Synagogue is in possession of choice plots at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Anyone interested in these plots is requested to get in touch with Rabbi Philip Goodman for full information regarding same.

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Basketball Contest To Start Sunday

Clubs To Participate In 'Double Round Robin'

The inter-club basketball tourney will get under way Sunday morning, with the first game scheduled to take place between the Club Co-Op and the Club Spade, according to an announcement made by Mr. Milton T. Rosenberg, Director of the Gymnasium. The Tournament will be in the form of a "double round robin"; each team will have the opportunity of playing the others twice before the schedule is completed.

It is planned to continue these games until February, when the victors will be selected. The winning team will then engage in several games with other community centres, which have been tentatively planned for the months of February and March.

The schedule of games follows:

November 28 and January 9

1. Co-ops vs. Spade 11:30 A.M.
2. Melrose vs. Barbers 1:15 P.M.
3. Immacs vs. Barbers 2:00 P.M.

December 5 and January 16

1. Immacs vs. Melrose 11:30 A.M.
2. Co-Ops vs. Cardinals 1:15 P.M.
3. Spades vs. Barbers 2:00 P.M.

December 12 and January 23

1. Spades vs. Cardinals 11:30 A.M.
2. Melrose vs. Barbers 1:15 P.M.
3. Co-Ops vs. Immacs 2:00 P.M.

December 19 and January 30

1. Co-Ops vs. Melrose 11:30 A.M.
2. Spades vs. Immacs 1:15 P.M.
3. Cardinals vs. Barbers 2:00 P.M.

December 26 and February 6

1. Cardinals vs. Immacs 11:30 A.M.
2. Co-Ops vs. Barbers 1:15 P.M.
3. Spades vs. Melrose 2:00 P.M.

Swimming Team Seeks Candidates

A call for new candidates for the I.S. swimming team has been issued by Alfred Wolken, Swimming Director. Regular practice sessions will be held under the coaching of Mr. Wolken every Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Sunday mornings.

It is not necessary to be an expert swimmer in order to be eligible for the team. If you have a fairly good crawl or overhand stroke, or if you are interested in diving, Mr. Wolken will be glad to give you the necessary coaching to develop into an expert swimmer or diver.

Regular team practice will begin this Monday evening. All those interested are urged to leave their names in the Gymnasium Office as soon as possible.

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