

IS INSTITUTIONAL

JUDAISM CHARACTER SERVICE

PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, 37-43 WEST 116th STREET

Vol. XXI No. 19

Tebeth 27, 5698

DECEMBER 31, 1937

Leaders' Council Campaigns For New Members

Popular Orchestra To Play At Annual Dance On January 29th

Beginning their fifth year of activities in the Institutional Synagogue, the Leaders' Council has instituted a drive for new members. The Council is composed of staff members, leaders of clubs, and young people interested in the work of the Institutional Synagogue. One of its primary aims is the support of the Home Camp Scholarship Fund.

Young people are cordially invited to attend the next meeting of the Council. Membership is open to young men over twenty years of age, and young women over eighteen. Further information concerning the requirements may be secured from Mr. Abe Roht, President of the Council.

On Saturday evening, January 29th, the Council will sponsor their Fifth Annual Dance at the West Side Institutional Synagogue, 120 West 76th Street. The "Rhythm Kings" will supply scintillating, "swing" tunes on that evening.

Tickets for the affair are now available in the office, at the reasonable sum of fifty cents. The entire proceeds will be turned over to the Home Camp Scholarship Fund.

Game Room

Abe Matza Winner of Jr. Checker Tournament

The long awaited championship checker game of the Junior Checker Tournament was conducted last Sunday afternoon, with Abe Matza and Ernest Kohn as the finalists. After a keenly contested match, Abe Matza proved his superiority and was officially declared the Junior Checker Champion.

Without any interruption in the series, the next contest for the Juniors will get under way immediately. The first round of the Ping Pong Tournament will be posted this week, and the games will be begun. A great many entries have been received for this popular contest. The contestants have been practicing for a long time in anticipation of their entry in the tournament. There will be many surprising results as their new skill appears in the tournament games.

Talmud Torah and Clubs Plan To Observe Jewish New Year For Trees

Pupils' Outings

Interesting Trips Mark Winter Vacation

Taking advantage of the fact that Public Schools were closed during the past week, Rabbi Philip Goodman, Principal of the Talmud Torah, arranged a full week of extra-curricular activities for the pupils.

On Monday morning a group of pupils were taken on a visit to the Hydrox Ice Cream Plant. Here they witnessed the various stages in the making of their favorite confection, and were regaled with samples. In the afternoon, another group went on a similar visit to the Breyer Ice Cream Plant.

The News Building was the scene of their visit on Tuesday. Here they saw a metropolitan newspaper being printed. On Wednesday, the pupils witnessed a special children's play now being produced by the W.P.A.

Yesterday, the Museum of Natural History was the place visited.

Suggested Program Out- lined For Celebrations

Preparations are now under way for the celebration of Chamisho Oser B'Shevat, which occurs this year on January 17th, by both the Talmud Torah and the clubs. The pupils are at present working on an elaborate program for their Chamisho Oser B'Shevat Assembly.

In order to aid clubs planning on holding a celebration, a suggested program follows:

1. Opening remarks by Chairman.
2. Reading of Significance of Chamisho Oser B'Shevat from "Institutional."
3. Musical selection.
4. Recitation, reading or story.
5. Play.
6. Principal address by invited speaker.

(Speakers will be furnished to clubs provided sufficient notice is given).

7. Debate or general discussion on: Palestine.
8. Games and refreshments.

Material for the above program may be secured upon application at the office.

Thespians Select Vehicles For Annual Inter-Club One-Act Play Contest

Comedy, drama, tragedy and mystery will stalk across the I.S. stage early in February when the thespians of the clubs will appear in the glare of the footlights at the Annual One-Act Play Contest. Already the clubs are choosing those plays that will best display the acting abilities of their members. Rehearsals are now under way, and discussions are heard concerning lighting effects, costumes, and other technical details.

The rules under which the tournament

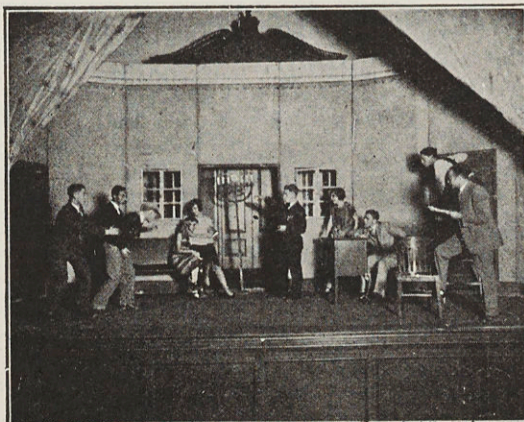
will be held follow:

1. Each play must be approved by the Department of Center Activities prior to its acceptance for the contest.
2. Every member of a club is eligible to participate. Two members of the opposite sex will be permitted to appear in any production.
3. Entry blanks must be submitted not later than Sunday, January 2nd.
4. Reservations for the use of the Auditorium must be made at least one week in advance for rehearsal purposes.

5. The winning club will be awarded the dramatic plaque, while the two outstanding performers will receive medals.

Arrangements may also be made for the services of a dramatic coach.

Further information concerning the use of the auditorium, the services of a coach, and additional details about the tournament may be secured from the office.



Parents Contribute To The Support of The Talmud Torah

Rummage Sales, Theatre Party Net Handsome Profits For Group

The Talmud Torah of the Institutional Synagogue was the recipient of a handsome contribution of five hundred dollars from the proceeds of the Rummage Sales that were conducted recently and the Theatre Party that was held on December 21st.

A great deal of credit for the splendid work of the Parents' Association during the past several months is due to the indefatigable President, Mrs. P. Vogel. She has been a source of inspiration, leading the membership to strive for greater goals.

The success of the Rummage Sales can be attributed to the conscientious work of the Chairman, Mrs. Rose Levit and the other members of the Committee including Mesdames Bernstein, Perman, Vogel and Vosberg.

The Theatre Party Committee consisted of Mrs. Aaron Wartels, Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Ida Bernstein, Chairman, and Mesdames Levit and Vosberg.

At the last meeting of the Association best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to Mrs. Elgart.

First Aid Classes

Regular Courses in First Aid and Life Saving Given

Meeting nightly in the gymnasium and swimming pool, regular courses in both first aid and life saving are being held under the direction of Mr. Alfred Wolken. Both these classes have a similar aim in view, that of preparing the members to be able to face an emergency when it occurs.

At appropriate intervals, regular Red Cross Life Saving examinations are held by licensed examiners for those members who are qualified to take them. The official insignias are awarded to those members successfully meeting the requirements of the examinations.

Both these courses are offered free of charge to members. All that is necessary in order to enroll in either of them is to see Mr. Wolken in the gymnasium office. He will supply further details about the classes.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

Published weekly, from the last week of August to the mid-week of June, by the INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, 37-43 WEST 116th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. Phone UN-iversity 4-6729.

Subscription: One Dollar Per Year.

Editor Rabbi Philip Goodman
Associate Morris A. Urieff

Entered as second-class matter February 15, 1924 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3rd, 1917, authorized February 15th, 1924.

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Light Candles Friday Evening 4:20

Calendar of Services

Friday Evening 4:20 P.M.

Saturday Morning 9 A.M.

Sedrah: Vo-aroh

Saturday Afternoon 4:15 P.M.

Weekday Mornings 7:15 A.M.

Culled From The EDITOR'S PEN

A NEW YEAR

Tonight the Sabbath peace will be blasted by a bedlam of noise which will reach throughout the city, jarring the nerves of an already nerve-shattered population. Dances and parties will attract large numbers of people. Unrestrained drinking will be evident everywhere. Hilarity and even obscenity will have its place in this great celebration of ushering in a new year.

Tomorrow's newspapers will again carry the headlines, "Crowds Jam Times Square," "Cabarets and Night Clubs Shatter All Records Since 1929," "Seven Killed As Automobiles of Drunken Celebrants Collide," "Bellevue Treats Scores for Intoxication."

Compare with Rosh Hashonoh:

As the evening sun is setting, here and there, Jews are found hastening to attend the Synagogue services. The Synagogue is jammed from door to door as the holiness of the Divine Spirit descends upon the Congregation. Even those who have absented themselves during the entire year are drawn on this day to unite with their co-religionists in worship. As the Congregation ponders over the thought that the books of life and death are open, a deep solemnity predominates. As the service continues, in a simple, dignified manner, a spirit of peace and serenity enfolds the worshippers.

The Life of Don Isaac Abarbanel

by Rabbi Philip Goodman

WORLD Jewry is commemorating this year the 500th anniversary of the birth of Don Isaac Abarbanel. Don Isaac, a descendant of the House of King David, was famed both as a statesman and as a scholar. He first saw the light of day at Lisbon, Portugal, in the year 1437. His religious instruction he received from Joseph Chaim, the rabbi of his birthplace. While yet a young man, his enthusiasm for Jewish learning led him to write on important religious subjects. A keen mind and sincere devotion made him an apt pupil of Talmudical literature as well as religious philosophy.

The great mass of wealth that Don Isaac had inherited from his father aided him, upon assuming the latter's position, as Portuguese Treasurer. Before long, he earned for himself, due to his exceptional political abilities, the confidence of Alfonso V, King of Portugal.

Notwithstanding Abarbanel's affluence, he did not segregate himself from his persecuted brethren and continually sought to improve their sorry plight. He was instrumental in securing large sums of money for the redemption of Jewish captives who were sold as slaves upon the conquest of Arzila by the Moors.

In 1483, accused of conspiracy against the new king, Juan II, and almost destitute, as his possessions were confiscated, Abarbanel was forced to flee to Castile in order to save his life. In his new residence, he devoted some time to the writing of biblical commentaries.

The fame of Don Isaac spread throughout the country and very soon King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella invited him to serve as their Minister of Finance. In this capacity he was largely instrumental in securing the gold from the Jewish money lenders for the first voyage that Columbus undertook.

This period was at the height of the Inquisition led by Torque-

mada, the Chief Inquisitor, who persuaded Ferdinand and Isabella to issue a decree banishing all Jews from Spain. Abarbanel appeared before the King and Queen and offered thirty thousand ducats (approximately \$65,000) if this harsh decree would be repealed. While these monarchs were tempted by the money, and perhaps even pitiful for the oppressed Jews, they dared not oppose Torquemada. The Chief Inquisitor reproached them, saying, "Judas sold his Saviour for thirty pieces of silver, would you sell him again for thirty thousand?"

Failing to gain the annulment of the edict, Abarbanel voluntarily joined his brethren in exile.

From Spain Abarbanel went to Naples where he enjoyed the close friendship of Ferdinand I and of his son, Alfonso II. In the year 1508, he died at Venice.

While Abarbanel played an important role in his day as a statesman, he is renowned as well for his extensive writings. The numerous volumes that he produced dealt mainly with Biblical commentaries, general and Jewish philosophy and apologetics. A beautiful summary of his unique abilities is given by S. Hecht:

"But towering high above them as a literary giant stands Abarbanel, who, alternating his diplomatic and exegetical work, left a rich legacy of intellectual treasures. Fully acquainted with the literature of his people, commanding an elegant and lucid style, and familiar with Christian and Arabic philosophy, his commentary to the Pentateuch, the prophets and the Book of Daniel, is a marvel of profundity and clearness. Equally successful, he was in his commentary to the Pirque Aboth, 'Ethics of the Fathers.' All of Abarbanel's writings, critical, doctrinal, exegetical and philosophical, are characterized by glowing enthusiasm for Judaism, independence of spirit, vast research and elegant Hebrew diction."

Fleet of Jewish Ships Planned For Palestine

Within a short time there will be a fleet of Jewish ships on the Mediterranean Sea, whose ports will be in Palestine.

This was learned when a Palestine organization, called the Nachson, Ltd., announced its plans to operate about twenty-five vessels and fishing boats.

In making this announcement it was said that about half a million dollars will be necessary before these vessels can be put into operation. This money is now being raised in America.

It was pointed out that at the present time there is but one freight ship that carries the Jewish flag. Of the fifteen thousand men now employed on boats serving Palestine, only one hundred and fifty are Jewish. The new fleet will therefore provide work for many Jewish immigrants. The boats will also be able to use the new port which has been built at Tel Aviv.

World's Fair

When the World's Fair opens in New York in 1939, there will be a special exhibit of Hebrew.

The exhibit will show the progress and growth of this language in the United States. Millions of people from every state and from foreign countries are expected to view this exhibition.

The development of Hebrew books and pamphlets will also be exhibited.

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WIT & HUMOR

Double Etiquette

FANNY had just finished her luncheon at a fashionable restaurant and was preparing to light a cigarette when the waiter showed an elderly lady to her table.

"I do hope," said the newcomer, acidly, "that you won't mind my eating while you are smoking."

"Not at all," answered Fanny quickly, "so long as I am able to hear the orchestra."

* * *

She Was Undoubtedly Right

MR. GOLDSTEIN stopped to talk to the little girl on the sidewalk who was making mud pies.

"My word," he exclaimed, "you're pretty dirty, aren't you?"

"Yes," she replied, "but I am prettier clean."

* * *

He Knew the Answer

A YOUNG man was praising the work of B'nai B'rith to his father-in-law. He told how the Order sponsored Americanization classes to prepare aliens for citizenship. The old man, however, was not impressed.

"Why waste time on such classes?" he asked. "They ask such easy questions when you become a citizen."

"Is that so?" answered his son-in-law. "What would you answer, for instance, if you were asked the meaning of 'Washington, D. C.'?"

"That's easy," said the father-in-law, loftily. "Washington, de capital."

* * *

Making the Job Complete

MRS. EPSTEIN waited until the filling station attendant had finished wiping the windshield of her car.

"Would you mind," she then asked sweetly, "going over Sammy's face just once?"

* * *

Fooling the World

THE newlyweds had just gotten off their train.

"Jake, dear," said the bride, "let's try to make the people think that we've been married a long time."

"All right, honey," was the answer, "you carry the suit cases."

—B'nai Brith Magazine

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