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Debators Gain New Forensic Honors

Heated Discussion Marks Annual Debate Series

In a spirited debate on Wednesday evening, April 27th, the Institutional Synagogue debating team chalked up another victory to their credit when they defeated the members of the Port Chester Jewish Center debating team.

The topic under discussion that evening was: "Resolved, that the partition plan of Palestine, as projected by England, would benefit the Jew." The I. S. team upheld the affirmative, while the Port Chester team argued the negative.

The members of the I. S. team were Nathan Lichtenholtz and Sherman Lefkowitz. In their presentation, the I. S. representatives traced the struggle of the Jew to return to his homeland, and gave a detailed analysis of the proposed plan. Their opponents presented the various difficulties attendant to the plan but did not offer any solution to the problem. In a heated refutation, Sherman Lefkowitz answered these questions and summed up both cases on a comparative basis.

The debate was held at the Port Chester Jewish Center, under the auspices of the local branch of the Hadassah.

Staff To Dine

A surprise novel program of entertainment will feature the annual staff dinner, which is scheduled to take place this year on Thursday evening, June 9th, in our building.

This function acts as a fitting climax to the season's activities and as a starting point for the summer program. It presents an opportunity for the staff members to review the past season's endeavors, as well as to lay tentative plans for the future.

Unveiling

The "Institutional" desires to take this means of informing our members and friends that the unveiling of a monument in memory of the late Executive Director of the Institutional Synagogue, Abraham Bernstein, will take place on Sunday, May 15th, at 1:30 p.m., at the Mt. Zion Cemetery, on the grounds of the Empire City Benevolent Society.

MOTHERS' DAY

by Hon. Isaac Siegel

During the time that I was a member of the House of Representatives, Congress enacted a law providing that on the second Sunday of the month of May, Mothers' Day should be observed throughout our country.

The originator of this most splendid thought is Professor Frank E. Hering of South Bend, Indiana.

The love of a mother touches every individual, and leaves with us, something we should remember each day and treasure as long as there is breath in us.

How can we celebrate the day? By giving a daily thought to what our mother has sacrificed for us and what we owe to her. As I have often said, the display of love and affection on one day of the year does not carry out the commandment which reads, "Honor thy father and thy mother."

If we will give some thought to the influence that our mother has been to us, we will endeavor in our own way to help make this world better than what it is.

A year ago I told this story which had been repeated for a number of years. I believe it is worthwhile repeating again this year. A little boy named Sidney who has now grown to manhood, when young in years presented a bill to his mother one morning. It was worded something like this:

"Mother owes Sidney for running errands—25c,
for being good—25c."

A number of other items brought the amount to the large sum of \$1.18. The mother quietly took the bill, and on the following morning she placed the bill with an envelope containing \$1.18, on Sidney's plate. In the envelope with the money, was another bill:

"Sidney owes Mother, for the years of happiness—
nothing; for nursing him through his last long
illness—nothing; for being good to him—nothing."

Other little notes were added to the bill, and at the bottom the grand account was marked, "nothing." Sidney read the bill. Tears filled his eyes; he rushed to his Mother and flung himself into her arms, crying, "Oh, Mother, let me love you, and do things for you for nothing."

Let me add that Sidney is now a physician helping humanity. He is an idealist who lives with the thought that he is practicing medicine, not for the amount of money which he can make, but he gives his heart and soul in the service which he renders. He is very much beloved by his patients. He knows that his hand is guided by the One above, when he is serving them.

Again I say, God bless the Mothers of America.

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Camp Ta-a-Noog Fills Need For Children

Complete Recreational And Educational Program

The I. S. Camp Ta-a-Noog, offering a complete program of educational and recreational activities, will solve the problem of many children who are faced with the difficulty of finding something to do with their summer vacation from the public schools. It is a well known fact that, unfortunately, only a few are able to go away for the entire summer. Many others find it possible to spend a week or two at nearby camps. Camp Ta-a-Noog, however, provides for a portion of the great mass of children who cannot leave the city during the summer months. The Home Camp, conducted at our building, offers a wholesome, happy, and active summer, free from the dangerous and hot city streets.

This summer the first session of the camp will take place on Monday, June 27th. The camp will be in session for a period of eight weeks.

The camp meets daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, from nine in the morning until five in the afternoon, with the exception of the older boys who will come at 8:30 for morning services.

Parents desiring to register their children for the I. S. Camp Ta-a-Noog are urged to do so as soon as possible. Due to the ever-increasing popularity of our Camp, an exceptionally large registration is anticipated. Of course, those who come early will naturally receive preference.

Applications for registration and scholarships may be obtained from Rabbi Philip Goodman, Director of the Camp.

Gym Summer Session To Start June 1

The Department of Physical Education will begin its three month summer season on June 1st, emphasizing both gym and pool activities.

A complete program of swimming activities will be carried out throughout the summer, with classes being offered for both advanced and non-swimmers. The purpose is to teach our members to take care of themselves in the water.

A variety of activities will be scheduled for the gymnasium, including handball, basketball, baseball, badminton, fencing and calisthenics.

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Culled From The EDITOR'S PEN

This Sunday Mothers' Day will be celebrated throughout the length and breadth of this land. There is, however, a growing tendency to replace "Mothers' Day" by "Parents' Day." A celebration which singles out one class of parent does not truly reflect either the spirit of Jewish family life nor the attitude of the Bible and our Sages.

We find that Rabbi Judah the Prince very ingeniously interpreted the two commands, "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother" and "Ye Shall Fear Every Man His Mother and His Father." In one command the father is mentioned first, in the other the mother first. Rabbi Judah says, "God knows that a child honors the mother more than the father because she soothes him with gentle words. Therefore in the command to honor parents, the father is mentioned first. God knows likewise that the child fears the father more than the mother because he teaches him the law. Therefore, in the injunction to fear the parents, the mother is mentioned first."

Although legally and ritually the mother is less bound than the father, in the ethical relationships of children and parents the mother stands at least on the same level.

Let us observe Parents' Day this Sunday not only by presenting material gifts to our parents, but, also, let us put aside some time during the day to contemplate upon what our parents mean to us; how they have enriched and made beautiful our lives; of the noble sacrifices that they have made for us; let us consider what we can do to honor and respect them in their lifetime on this earth. Alas, too often, children fail to make these considerations until, God forbid, they can only honor them in their death. Let us not wait until it may be too late. Let us give them that which is their due now.

From Darkness To Light

by Rabbi Philip Goodman

At this time the Jew finds himself in a very precarious situation. Oppression and subjugation are the present rule of his life. Browbeaten, despondent, he finds himself the scapegoat of the world. Persecuted by fascist and communist dictators, stamped on by a Nazi maniac, what comfort can he find? As the doors of his ancient homeland are being gradually closed in his face, where can he find a place of refuge? Threatened with economic chaos, even in those countries where there is less anti-semitism, might we not consider that he is facing a dreary and dismal future? There is hardly a ray of light to be seen for the illumination of the Jew. The picture is further darkened with the realization that the proper leadership to guide the Jew in his plight is not forthcoming. Many of his own brethren, admitting defeat, are urging him to surrender his hold upon Jewish life and to assimilate himself. A good number of Jews are being cowed and are falling by the wayside. They are afraid to join hands and suffer the lot of all Israel.

If you will make a cursory glance through Jewish history you will find that this plight is a familiar one to our brave ancestors. But they did not sit with folded hands and await the impending doom. In the darkest days of oppression the great literature and philosophy of Judaism was born. While the pessimistic utterances found in the Bible were made in the days of the great glory of Solomon, notes of optimism were sounded while the Jews were in exile. Our forbears did not lack the confidence and faith in the future. They believed that Jewish life was worth living and that it was as worthwhile to die for the sanctification of His Divine Name. The fact that we are a people today is conclusive proof of the spiritual battles which they fought and won. The great philosopher William James in his concluding paragraph of the essay on "Is Life Worth Living" says:

"Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact. The 'scientific proof' that you are right may not be clear before the day of judgment (or some stage of being which that expression may serve to symbolize) is reached. But the faithful fighters of this hour, or the beings that then and there will represent them may turn to the faint-hearted, who here decline to go on, with words like those with which Henry IV greeted the tardy Crillon after

Mother

There are soft words murmured by dear, dear lips

Far richer than any other,

But the sweetest word that the ear hath heard

Is the blessed name of "Mother."

O magical word! May it never die

From the lips that love to speak it,

Nor melt away from the trusting heart

That even would break to keep it!

Was there ever a name that lived like this?

The angels have reared in heaven a shrine

To the holy of name of "Mother."

—Anonymous

a great victory had been gained: "Hang yourself, brave Crillon! We fought at Arques, and you were not there."

If we are to wage a battle for the life of Judaism, the faint-hearted and weary amongst us must rally to our cause with optimistic faith predominating in their minds. They must cast aside the fear that grips them, the blind fear that robs them of proper vision. As Carlyle so strongly put it:

"Wherefore, like a coward, dost thou forever pip and whimper, and go cowering and trembling? Despicable biped! Hast thou not a heart; canst thou not suffer whatsoever it be; and, as a Child of Freedom, thou outcast, trample Tophet itself under my feet, while it consumes thee? Let it come, then; I will meet it and defy it! And as I so thought, there rushed like a stream of fire over my whole soul; and I shook base Fear away from me forever..."

If the Jew will cast aside the fear of his oppressors, the fear of ruthless dictators, the fear of cunning England, the fear of being a Jew, he will then realize that the indomitable faith of Israel may be bent but can never be crushed. Penina Moise said:

"Put off each ling'ring weakness now!
Faith will your minds with strength endow

Self-conquest to achieve;—

Will give you fortitude to bear

The chastenings, frequent and severe,

You may on earth receive."

We are told that when Rabbi Akiba and a group of Rabbis were visiting the Temple site, the latter wept bitterly as they saw foxes roaming about. Surprisingly, Rabbi Akiba appeared quite content. His colleagues respectfully reproached him for this unseemly attitude that he took. He replied, "Now that I see this prophecy fulfilled, I feel assured that all the promises of the prophets will be redeemed." This beautiful thought of comfort and optimism which Akiba struck in that discordant atmosphere should point the way for us. Let us learn to use optimism as our guiding rule which will point the way out of darkness to light. In the words of the poet:

"In life's rosy morning
In manhood's pride
Let this be your motto
Your footsteps to guide:
In storms and in sunshine,
Whatever assail,
We'll onward and conquer
And never say fail."

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WIT & HUMOR

A SIMPLE TASK

Early one evening in September, an immigrant Jew and his wife from Poland arrived in New York harbor. As the boat passed lower Manhattan everybody on deck was greatly impressed with the countless lights which dotted the various skyscrapers. "America is not stingy about light," remarked the Jew's wife.

"Here's what's on my mind," replied the husband. "Since they have so much light in the port of New York, why do they make such a big aye-aye-aye about Columbus having discovered America?"

* * *

STICK TO YOUR LAST

A large audience witnessed the premier presentation of "The Jewish Soul" in a Second Avenue theatre. At the end of the performance there were calls for the author, an East Side physician, who had ventured into playwriting. The bewhiskered gentleman appeared on the stage and nervously addressed the audience as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: For many years I had devoted Monday and Thursday afternoons to pinochle playing. Six months ago, however, I decided to spend this time in writing a play with the results you saw this evening. For your sakes, friends, I gave up pinochle!"

As he concluded shouts came from the audience: "Play pinochle, doctor, play pinochle!"

* * *

A CONFUSION OF TONGUES

Shortly after his arrival in New York a German Jew took a walk on Brooklyn Bridge. It was a beautiful spring morning and the sun brilliantly illumined the tops of the skyscrapers lining lower Broadway. The entire scene filled the Jew with exultant enthusiasm. A little boot-black happened to pass and inquired of the Jew:

"Shine?"

"Nicht scheine, wunderschein!" exclaimed the immigrant.

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