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JUNE 3, 1938

## I. S. Staff Dinner To be Held June 9

### Interesting Program Being Arranged

The Annual Staff Dinner of the Institutional Synagogue will be held this Thursday evening, June 9th, in our building. This function is anxiously awaited by the members of the staff as it presents an opportunity for evaluating the past season and marks the preparation for the coming summer's activities.

Congressman Isaac Siegel, our President, will be the guest speaker.

Members of the Leaders' Council are preparing a one-act play entitled "Tonight I Dance." This drama is based on an anti-Nazi theme.

A delicious meal, community singing and other features will round out the program.

## School Tutoring Given To Members Before Exams

Members who are preparing for their school examinations and who may desire assistance in their studies or clarification of difficult features of their courses are urged to avail themselves of the free and capable tuition offered them by the I. S. Staff. They may see Rabbi Goodman all this week in order to arrange for appointments with the staff member who will assist them.

Tutoring in grammar school, high school, and college courses—both academic or commercial—can be arranged for, free of charge, by securing appointments.

## Camp Information

In accordance with past policy, the Department of Centre Activities is again ready to offer its services in assisting parents or young folks who desire to secure information as to the best camps for summer vacations.

We have on file booklets from various camps and information concerning the best places in which to spend your vacations according to your personal desires.

## I. S. Camp Ta-a-Noog Offers Complete Program Of Education And Recreation

### Home Camp Starts Fifth Season June 27th. Early Registration of Children Urged

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.

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.

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

### ALPHABET OF ACTIVITIES

Athletics  
Breakfast  
Crafts  
Daily Morning Services  
Entertainments  
Friday Night Services  
Group Singing  
Hebrew Classes  
InterCamp Activities  
Journalism  
Kindergartening  
Luncheon  
Motion Pictures  
Nature Study  
Overnight Hikes  
Physical Examinations  
Quiet Games  
Rest Period  
Swimming  
Theatricals  
Unusual Projects  
Visits to Historic Places  
Weekly Outings

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### TYPICAL DAILY PROGRAM MONDAY

8:15—Boys: Sr.—Morning Services  
8:50—Boys: Sr.—Breakfast  
9:15—Roll Call and Inspection  
9:30—Boys: Sr.—Dramatics  
Int. — Arts and Crafts  
Jr.—Gym  
Girls—Hebrew  
10:30—Boys: Hebrew  
Girls: Sr.—Dramatics  
Int. — Arts and Crafts  
Jr.—Gym  
11:30—Wash up  
11:45—Lunch  
12:45—Sr. and Int.—Table games and reading  
Jr.—Rest  
1:15—Boys: Sr. — Arts and Crafts  
Int. and Jr.—Stories  
Girls: Sr. and Int.—Gym  
Jr.—Stories  
2:00—Boys: Sr. and Int.—Gym  
Jr. — Arts and Crafts  
Girls: Pool  
3:00—Boys: Pool  
Girls: Sr. — Arts and Crafts  
Int.—Stories Jr.—Dramatics  
4:00—Milk and Crackers  
4:15—Sr. and Int. — Hobbies, Camp Paper  
to Jr. Boys: Arts and Crafts  
5:00—Jr. Girls: Dramatics

## Low Summer Rates For Gym and Pool

### Special Three Month Membership Available

Last Wednesday evening, June 1st, marked the start of the summer schedule of activities for the Gymnasium and Swimming Pool. A three month's program specially adapted for hot weather was inaugurated.

Of primary interest during this period will be the activities carried on in the swimming pool. There is nothing more refreshing than an invigorating needle shower, followed by a plunge in the sparkling waters of the pool. Regular instruction will be offered for both beginners and advanced swimmers, and courses in life saving will be conducted. At regular intervals, examinations in Red Cross Life Saving techniques will be held by licensed examiners and suitable emblems awarded to those who qualify.

In the gymnasium, activities will be provided for as strenuous a "workout" as the member desires.

Beginning with June 1st, the gymnasium and swimming pool will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. A summer membership entitles you to make use of these facilities until September at the following rates: Junior House members and Talmud Torah Students (up to and including sixteen years of age), \$1.50; Junior Non-housemembers, \$2.00; Intermediate Housemembers (seventeen to nineteen years of age), \$2.00; Intermediate Non-Housemembers, \$3.00; Senior Housemembers, \$3.00; Senior Non-Housemembers, \$4.00.

## Parents' Association Plan Strawberry Fete

The Parents' Association of the Institutional Synagogue will tender a Strawberry Festival on Tuesday evening, June 21st, at 8 p.m. in our building. Short-cakes, ice cream, jam, cookies, all strawberry flavored, will be served to the guests on that evening. In addition, there has been arranged for this evening a splendid program of entertainment, including addresses by prominent Rabbis and laymen.

Tickets are available for the very nominal sum of fifty cents, either in the office of the Talmud Torah or from any member of the Parents' Association.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL

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### Calendar of Services

Friday Eve. Light Candles 8:04 P.M.  
 Friday Evening ..... 6:30 P.M.  
 Saturday Morning ..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Sedrah: Bamidbar  
 Saturday Afternoon ..... 8:00 P.M.  
 Sunday Morning ..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Sunday Afternoon ..... 8:00 P.M.  
 Monday Morning ..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Yizkor ..... 10:15 A.M.

### Employment Assistance For Sabbath Observers

The files of the Institutional Synagogue Employment Bureau are full with applicants, experienced in stenography, book-keeping, secretarial, and general office work, who are desirous of observing the Sabbath. Many of these persons are high school and college graduates.

The services of this bureau are free to employers and employees. If you know of any vacancies in your organization, phone UNIVERSITY 4-6729, or write to the I. S. and we will be glad to send you capable applicants.

### CHOICE GRAVES

Available at

### MT. ZION CEMETERY

On Institutional Synagogue Grounds

For Further Particulars  
Phone UNIVERSITY 4-6729

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### Memorial Chapel, Inc.

115 W. 79th ST., NEW YORK  
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## Shevuoth

### by Women's Branch, U.O.J.C.A.

The Feast of Weeks is observed on the sixth and seventh days of Sivan (commencing this year at sundown on Saturday, June 4th and lasting through Monday, June 6th). It commemorates the giving of the Torah. The Hebrew date is derived from the Torah reading of the first day which is found in Jethrah (Exodus XIX and XX) and deals with the giving of the Torah. The text begins with a statement that the Israelites arrived in the desert of Sinai on the first of the third month (which is Sivan), then they were ordered to prepare for the receiving of the Torah. The decree to prepare for the great event was imparted to the Israelites not on the day of the arrival, since they were too tired from journey, but on the second day, as the rabbis explain. The three days of preparation began on the night following the second day; and, when we add the three days, the giving of the Torah took place on the sixth day of Sivan.

The main ceremonies that are characteristic of this festival are: The recitation of "Tikun" on the first night, the chanting of "Akdomuth" before the reading of the Torah, on the first morning, and the reading of the Scroll of "Ruth" before the reading of the Torah on the second morning of the holiday. Besides that, memorial services for the departed will be held before the Musaph, the additional service of the second day, as is done on the last day of every other festival. On the whole, the Feast of Weeks is the shortest and simplest of the three pilgrimage holidays, though it commemorates the greatest event in our life as a people, namely,—the giving of the Torah on the Mount of Sinai.

### DAIRY DISHES

In this connection, mention is to be made of the custom to serve dairy dishes during the Feast of Weeks. This custom is of very vague origin, and has a multitude of explanations, of which one or two will be mentioned. When the Torah was given, all the utensils used by the Israelites became "trefe," as the dishes of the non-Jews. Unable to cleanse them on the Holiday (which, as tradition has it, occurred on Saturday then), the Israelites had to resort to dairy products. Another explanation connects this custom with simplicity, which is characteristic of Shevuoth. At any rate, this custom is a very useful one in warm climates where it is difficult to keep meat for two successive days during the hot summer, and the more so when it is preceded by Saturday and we have to prepare for three days, as it is this year.

### THE RECITATION OF "TIKUN"

The Feast of Weeks or "Chag Hashevuoth" is also called "Z'man Matan Torosenu," the season of the Giving of the Torah. It is called Feast of Weeks, because the Israelites of old spent the seven weeks between their deliverance from the land of bondage and the receiving of the Torah in preparation for the latter event; and "Z'man Matan Torosenu," because of the nature of that great event. To show appreciation for and love of such a gift as the Torah, many a pious Jew passes the whole of the first night in the study of the Torah. This indicates that we love the Torah so much that as soon as we receive it, we try to complete it. Since it is impossible to complete the reading of the Written and Oral Law in one night, a collection of small portions from all parts of the Written and Oral Torah was compiled. This collection or abridgement is called "Tikun" and is studied on the first night of Shevuoth.

We express our gratitude to heaven for the great gift that made us an eternal people and a model of virtue to the rest of the world by chanting a special laudation prepared for this purpose called "Akdomus," because it begins with this word. This prayer is in the main, a praise to Heaven and an appreciative description of the greatness of the Torah. It is recited by the whole congregation on the first morning of the holiday as soon as the Torah is placed on the reading-desk to be read.

### THE STORY OF "RUTH"

The festival under discussion is also known as "Chag Hakotzir," the Feast of Harvest, and "Chag Habikkurim," the Feast of the First Ripened Fruit. These two appellations are indicative of the season when the festival is celebrated. Shevuoth occurs at the time when the wheat harvest begins in Palestine. This is also the time when the first ripened fruits were brought in great display to the Temple in days gone by. For this reason before the reading of the Torah on the second day, we read "Megillath Ruth," a story which occurred at that time of the year and of which a brief resume follows.

In order to escape a drought in Palestine, a rich man by the name of Elimelech, left his country and his brethren and went to Moab, taking along with him his family, consisting of his two sons and his wife, Naomi. Perhaps, at first, Elimelech intended to stay in Moab only for a short time; but once there, his sons married noble Moabite women. Soon after this, he and his two sons died, and Naomi remained with her two Moabite daughter-in-law. After a while Naomi heard that the climatic conditions in Palestine had improved, and she therefore decided to return to her land and to her people. At first she was accompanied by both daughters-in-law; but on the way to Palestine she persuaded one to return to Moab, while the other—Ruth—steadfastly stuck to her mother-in-law and the latter's faith, in spite of all the pleadings of Naomi and her warnings that she was destined to endure poverty and misery. At the end, however, Ruth was rewarded for her loyalty to the Jewish faith. The most prominent man of Bethlehem married her; and from her descended David, who laid the foundation of the Davidic dynasty.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

As already mentioned, memorial services for the departed are held on the second day of Shevuoth. No doubt, the praying for the deceased on every holiday helped a great deal in spiritualizing the Jewish festivals and preventing their becoming a occasion for gross hilarity. When we revive in our memories the great events of the past, we recollect also past generations.

## WIT & HUMOR

### A FAIR DIVISION

REUBEN and Simeon went to a restaurant and ordered a double steak. When it was served, Reuben cut off a small slice and gave it to Simeon, leaving the larger portion for himself.

"That's not what you would call good manners," said Simeon, "If I had been dividing the steak I would leave the smaller portion for myself."

"You have no cause to complain," replied Reuben, "for I did exactly what you wanted me to do. I gave you the smaller portion."

\* \* \*

### A COMPROMISE

TWO hasidim were relating the miraculous deeds of their respective Rebbis.

"Let me tell you what my Rebbi can do," said the first Hasid. "Some time ago he was scheduled to spend the Sabbath at an inn in a village, but there was no fish available for the occasion. My Rebbi therefore walked up to the well, waved his handkerchief, and immediately one million fish of all kinds, jumped out and the innkeeper was able to choose as many as his heart desired."

"That sounds quite wonderful," said the second Hasid, "but how can that compare with what my Rebbi can do? The other evening my Rebbi wished to bless the new moon, but on account of cloudy atmosphere there was no moon in sight. He therefore waved his handkerchief and forthwith there appeared in the skies three million moons of all sizes and styles. That's what I call doing something."

"Your story would be indeed remarkable," said the first Hasid, "if everybody did not know that there is altogether only one moon in the world."

"I'll tell you what I'm prepared to do," replied the second Hasid. "You reduce the number of your fish and I'll gladly give up some of my moons."

\* \* \*

### HIS REPUTATION IS ONLY LOCAL

A dignified-looking collector of a Yeshiva called on a wealthy resident of a large city to solicit a donation. The rich man stretched out his hand and said:

"Peace to thee, stranger! Where do you hail from?"

"How do you know I am a stranger?" asked the collector.

"Only a stranger would call on me for a donation," replied the rich man. "Residents of this city know very well that I don't contribute a penny to any institution."

\* \* \*

FEITEL was seen eating on Tishah B'ab and the case was reported to the Rabbi who asked Feitel the reason for this serious violation.

"By eating today I performed a great kindness," said Feitel.

"Kindness, what do you mean?"

"It is like this, Rabbi," explained Feitel. "This morning I heard one woman say to another, 'May God give me a hundred roubles for everyone who will be eating today.' I was anxious that this poor woman should have at least one hundred roubles and that's why I ate."