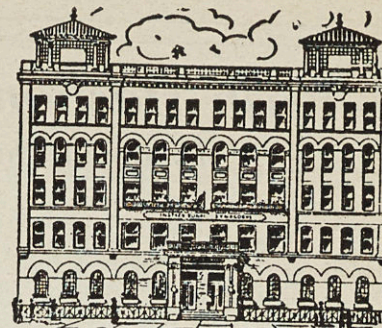


INSTITUTIONAL

JUDAISM CHARACTER SERVICE



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

Vol. XXII—No. 3

Ellul 27, 5698

SEPTEMBER 23, 1938

Members Welcome Gym Renovations

Tournaments Scheduled

Varsity Basketball Team Starts Practice

A pleasant surprise awaited our membership upon their return from their summer vacations. The complete renovations effected in the last month lent the physical education facilities an entirely new appearance, while the new equipment, which has recently been purchased, found immediate users.

Tournaments in every phase of athletic activities have been scheduled. The Handball Tournament will be conducted along entirely different lines than heretofore, and in such a manner that it is sure to win the approbation of the adherents of this sport.

The varsity basketball team tryouts are now being conducted, according to a call for candidates issued by Mr. Milton T. Rosenberg, gymnasium director. Practice sessions are now being held on Thursday evenings. Those interested are requested to see Mr. Rosenberg in the Gymnasium Office.

Individual instruction in the art of swimming is being offered, under the tutelage of expert swimming instructors. Appointments may be made in the gymnasium office any evening. There will be no fee charged for this service.

Institutional Synagogue

37-43 West 116th Street

Memorial Card

The undersigned hereby requests
you to offer the Memorial
Prayer for the coming
holidays

for

(state here what relative)

Name

and herewith subscribe \$.....

Name

Address

The above card must be mailed into the office before Monday, October 3rd, preferably sooner, so that it may be had for the memorial services.

Inter-Club Council To Be Featured As Members Return For Fall Activities

Last Sunday, September 18th, 1938, marked the beginning of activities for the clubs connected with the I.S. As in the past, the members of the clubs will have the use of our gymnasium and swimming pool facilities on Sundays. Scheduling of the various periods is now going on. The choice of periods will be given in order of application.

An innovation in the club program will be begun this year when the Inter-club Council begins its operations in the very near future. This body will consist of representatives of each of the clubs. It has been formed for the purpose of creating a greater cohesion among the clubs, as well as allowing the membership to participate more intimately in the planning of their activity programs and projects.

The council will be given the power to initiate the various tournaments and contests usually conducted among the clubs, and to supervise the execution of their plans.

We wish to welcome back again the Spades Club, who have begun their fourth year of activities in the I.S. This group has been very active in the past, and has twice been awarded the "Best All-Around Club Award." Under the leadership of Mr. Bernard Defrin, they have also won the Dramatic Award and the Debating Trophy.

The Cardinal Club will begin their second year of activities on Sunday morning. The members of this group made an excellent record for themselves last season, and are anxious to better it this year. They are under the leadership of Mr. B. Opperman.

S. N. Siegel To Conduct C.C.N.Y. Radio Course

The College of the City of New York has announced a new course which will be conducted by Seymour N. Siegel, the son of our president, Hon. Isaac Siegel. The course, which is titled "Radio Broadcasting: Theory and Practice," is a practical training course, designed to prepare young men and women for constructive work in the radio broadcasting industry. Mr. S. N. Siegel now holds the position of Director of Programs for New York City's Own Station, WNYC.

As guest lecturers for his course, Mr. Siegel has invited nineteen of the foremost radio authorities in America.

Grobstein Bar Mitzvah This Saturday Morning

Sidney Grobstein, a pupil of the Institutional Synagogue Talmud Torah for several years, will become Bar Mitzvah this Saturday morning in our synagogue.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Grobstein, extend a cordial invitation to the members of the Parents' Association, the pupils of the Talmud Torah, and the members of the congregation to attend the ceremony.

Mrs. Grobstein is an active member of the Parents' Association, while her daughter, Helen, is a pupil of our Hebrew High School.

Jewish History Quiz Contest Starts In This Issue To Stimulate Study of Nation's Cultural Background

With this issue, the "Institutional" inaugurates a Jewish history contest that will be a feature of the publication for several months.

The purpose of the contest is to arouse a further interest in the background and history of our people. Participation will also aid in building a personal knowledge of the subject.

The contest winners will be awarded valuable prizes at the termination of the series of questions.

The first set of questions appear on page two of this issue of the "Institutional." Printed below are the rules of the contest.

1. The Jewish History Contest is open to all readers of the "Institutional." There is no age limit nor entry fee.

2. Beginning September 23rd, and continuing each week thereafter for ten weeks, the "Institutional" will publish ten questions based upon a period in Jewish History.

3. Answer the questions briefly, giving only the information requested. For aid in answering the questions, a bibliography is appended to each list. A shelf in the I.S. library will be devoted to these books.

4. Number each answer to correspond to the questions. Do not copy the questions.

5. Write your name and address at the top of each page.

6. Mail or bring your answers so that they are received on or before Friday of each week by Rabbi Goodman, Institutional Synagogue, 37-43 West 116th Street.

7. Awards will be in the form of books of Jewish interest. Every contestant who submits a full set of answers will receive a gift.

8. In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be made.

9. The decision of the judges, selected by the "Institutional," will be final.

Here is an opportunity for you to participate in an interesting and worthwhile contest. Don't neglect this chance of reviewing and adding to your knowledge of the history of our people.

Rosh Hashonah 5699 Starts Sunday Eve

Seat Reservations Urged

I. S. Host To 200 German Jewish Refugees

This Sunday at sunset the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashonah, will be ushered in by Jews throughout the world. As in the past, traditional High Holy Days services will be conducted in our spacious and airy auditorium.

Rabbi Philip Goodman will preach the sermons throughout the holidays. His topic for the first day is "From the Depths of the Heart," while on the second day he will discuss "Jewish Education—Sine Qua Non."

Rev. Samuel D. Taitz will lead the congregation in the traditional singing of the service.

Dignity and decorum characterize the High Holy Days services at the Institutional Synagogue.

On the request of the National Council of Jewish Women a bloc of two hundred seats has been made available free of charge to German refugees who are being recommended by the Council.

Invitations have also been issued to Jewish members of the Municipal Civil Service to be our guests, as well as to the students of neighboring colleges.

Upon application unemployed people, home relief recipients, and children will be given free seats.

"The High Holy Days and Succoth at the I.S.," a booklet containing the significance of the holidays, has been prepared and is now available for distribution. This booklet presents the biblical background of the various ceremonials in a concise and lucid fashion. It explains the present day religious significance of the holidays in an interesting and easily understood manner and also contains suggested programs for the observance of the holidays by clubs and groups.

These booklets may be secured, free of charge, upon application at the office.

With Rosh Hashonah but two days off, members and friends of the Institutional Synagogue are urged to make reservations immediately. Reservations and inquiries can be made at the Synagogue, 37-43 West 116th Street, or by phoning Rabbi Philip Goodman, University 4-6729.

The office of the Synagogue will be open Saturday night, following evening services to 11 p.m., and all day Sunday from 8 o'clock in the morning.

Rosh Hashonah Thoughts

by Rabbi Philip Goodman

(Continued from Last Issue)

Selichos

From the Sunday preceding Rosh Hashonah and daily thereafter, Selichos or penitential prayers are read in the synagogue. If, however, the New Year occurs on Monday or Tuesday, they are begun from the Sunday of the preceding week. It is proper that the reader who recites the Selichos as well as the Cantor who conducts the services on Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur should be men, learned in the Torah and respected by the community.

On the eve of Rosh Hashonah one is enjoined to prepare himself physically by a thorough cleansing. Another symbol of purity is the wearing of the Kitel, white cloak, worn on Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur. This is likewise symbolic of one's donning shrouds to meet his Maker.

The Name

Rosh Hashonah falls on the first and second days of Tishri, the seventh month of the Hebrew year. While Rosh Hashonah is the traditional and most familiar name, it is not mentioned in the Bible. The Biblical names are: 'The Memorial of Blowing of Trumpets' and the 'Day of

Blowing the Trumpet.' In the prayer book we find it as: Yom Zichoron, the 'Day of Memorial.' While the new moon was the occasion of the blowing of the trumpet, special significance was attached to the seventh new moon. We find the number seven playing an important role in the calendar: the seventh day, the Sabbath; the seventh year, the Sabbatical year; the seven Sabbatical years before the Jubilee year. While the ordinary new moons are marked by the recital of the joyous Hallel, the seventh new moon is a solemn occasion though not a mournful one.

On the First Night

On the first night of the New Year, following the evening service, it is customary for one to say to a friend, "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." Upon leaving the synagogue, it is proper to go in quiet decorum and with a heart full of happy confidence that the Lord will mercifully hear the voice of one's prayers and the sounds of the Shofar. One should eat and drink according to the bounty of the Lord which he has bestowed upon you; at the same time it is necessary to guard oneself against eating to excess. In the feast made at night, it is customary to use symbols of a good year; thus, a portion of the bread, on which the blessings has been said, is dipped in honey, and after a piece about the size of an olive is eaten, one should say "May it be His Will to renew unto us a good year." The same procedure is followed with a piece of sweet apple. It is also customary to partake of the head of a sheep in commemoration of the ram of Isaac.

Tashlich

In the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashonah, if it does not fall on the Sabbath, Jews assemble along the banks of a river or stream for the ceremony of Tashlich. Verses from the prophets and prayers to be found in the machzor are recited. The source of this custom is found in the Book of Michah: "He will again have compassion upon us, He will subdue our iniquities, V'tashlich, and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." M. Friedlander, in his book, 'The Jewish Religion,' writes that Tashlich gives one an opportunity "to reflect on the purifying effect which water has on the body, and to be reminded that even as the body is purified by water, so ought our souls be purified by repentance and the appeal to the help and mercy of God."

Mr. & Mrs. I. Stein and Family,
216 West 99th Street, extend best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to their relatives and friends; Parents' Association, Officers and Members of the Institutional Synagogue.

Mr. & Mrs. (Eva Stein) Blotnick
of Capetown, South Africa, extend New Year Greetings to all of their relatives and friends.

JEWISH ODDITIES

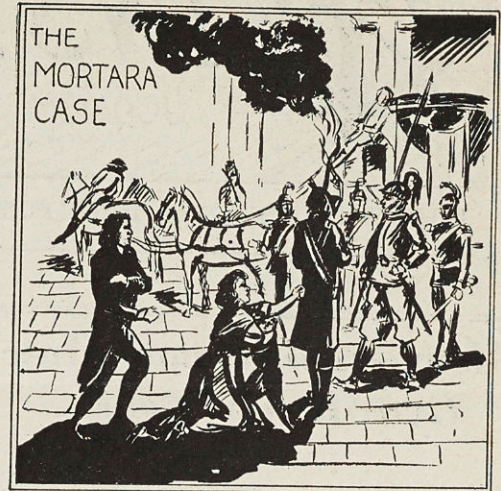
Just eighty years ago in the city of Bologna, Italy, an incident occurred which brought a Jewish family to the foreground of the news in every city on the continent.

The case of the forcible abduction of Edgar Mortara, the six year old child of an Italian Jewish family, created a sensation which, in its villification of Pope Pius IX, is said to have been a contributory factor in the downfall of the Papal States.

Anna Morisi, a servant at one time in the employ of the Mortara family, confessed to a priest that about four years before the abduction, when the child Edgar was very ill, she had secretly baptised him in order to save his soul if he should die.

The priest, to whom she confessed, reported the matter to Rome, and papal orders were issued that the child must be taken forcibly from his parents and educated as a Christian.

A force of papal soldiers commanded by a Swiss officer went to the house of the Mortara family June 23rd, 1858, at ten o'clock at night, and showed an order



Albert Wasserman

for the arrest of Edgar Mortara. The parents were certain that the order was a mistake, and explained that Edgar was but a child of six years.

The orders were nonetheless complied with and, despite the intervention of Francis Joseph of Austria and Napoleon III of France, the child was never returned.

Edgar grew up in a monastery, took holy orders, and was a papal missionary in various German cities. At one time, he also preached before the Italian Catholic congregations of New York City.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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Calendar of Services

Light Candles Friday Evening, 6:39
Friday Evening 6:30
Saturday Morning 9:00
Sedrah: "Ni-Tzo-Vin"
Saturday Afternoon 6:15
Daily Morning 7:00
ROSH HASHONAH
Sunday Evening 5:30
Monday Morning 7:30
Monday Afternoon 4:00
.. followed by Tashlich
Monday Evening 5:30
Tuesday Morning 7:30
Tuesday Afternoon 5:00

This Year Is Yours

By J. Back

God built and launched this year for you;
Upon the bridge you stand;
It's your ship, aye, your own ship
And you are in command.
Just what the twelve months' trip will do
Rests wholly, solely, friend, with you!

Your log book, kept from day to day—
My friend, what will it show?
Have you on your appointed way
Made progress—yes or no?
The log will tell, like guiding star,
The sort of captain that you are.

Contrary winds may oft beset,
Mountainous seas may press,
Fierce storms prevail and false lights
Lure,
You e'en may know real stress.
Yet, does God's hand hold fast the helm,
There's naught can e'er your ship o'er-
whelm.

For weal or woe, this year is yours;
Your ship is on life's sea;
Your acts, as captain, must decide
Whichever it shall be;
So now, in starting on your trip,
Ask God to help you sail your ship.

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 Rev. Barnet Kramer will take place on Sunday, October 2nd, 1938, at 2 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Cemetery, on the grounds of the Institutional Synagogue.

ALWAYS DO RIGHT—Mark Twain

HISTORY CONTEST

ABRAHAM TO MOSES

1. To whom did God first make the promise that the land of Canaan would be given to Israel?
2. What was the name of his son?
3. Describe briefly the relationships of Abraham and Lot.
4. Under what circumstances did Eliezer meet Rebecca?
5. What were the characteristics of Jacob and Esau?
6. What did Jacob do to gain his wives?
7. What made his brethren envious of Joseph?
8. What led to the appointment of Joseph as ruler over Egypt?
9. What provisions did Joseph make for his brethren in Egypt?
10. Did Jacob live to see his son in Egypt?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bible—Genesis, Chapters XII through L.
M. H. Harris, The People of the Book—Vol. I, Book II.
Louis B. Abrahams, A Manual of Scripture History—Part I.
Sulamith Ish-Kishor, The Bible Story—Vol. I, Chapters V through XII.
From time to time further details concerning the contest will be published in the "Institutional."

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