



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

Vol. XXII—No. 17

Tebeth 8, 5699

DECEMBER 30, 1938

Clubs To Engage In Forensic Activity

Debate Tourney Scheduled To Start In January

The forensic artists among our club members will be given an opportunity to display their oratorical ability in the next few weeks. The Inter-Club Debating Tournament is scheduled to begin within a few weeks. This contest will be in the form of a round-robin, with every group debating meeting their opponents at least once.

A series of ten debates have been scheduled. The first of these discussions will be held on January 29th. Based upon the decision of the judges, a number of points will be awarded to each team. The team scoring the highest number of points at the end of the tournament will be declared the winner.

Each team will consist of two speakers, with one or more alternates. The time limit of the speeches has been set at seven minutes for the presentation and four minutes for the refutations. All topics selected for discussion must be approved by Mr. Morris A. Urieff, Director of Club Activities.

Club Spade And Barbers Win In First Games

CLUB SPADE and the BARBERS emerged victorious in the first group of basketball games of the inter-club round robin tournament which commenced on Sunday, December 24th.

CLUB SPADE defeated the CARDINALS by the score of 29-17 and the BARBERS took a four point lead over the SCHOLASTICS in a final score of 20 to 16.

Hoffman, Fischer, Silon, Jaffe and Goldberg defended CLUB SPADE against the vigorous onslaught of Mangot, Finklestein, Seltzer, Opperman, Goldstein, and Opperman of the CARDINALS. Goldberg was high-scorer with ten points.

The score was 10-9 at the end of the half and only through a burst of extraordinary playing did the CLUB SPADE bring the score up to 29-17.

In a closely-contested game, ably refereed by Sam Gross and Murray Margolies, the BARBERS took over the SCHOLASTICS on the same afternoon. Reiner, Black, Kletter, Ackerman, Dvorkin, Markowitz, and Stern played for the BARBERS, and the SCHOLASTICS were represented by Rosenbaum, Steingart, Gainin, Malitzok, Nussbaum, Ross, Schatzky, and Simon.

Notice

The Annual Meeting of the entire membership of the Institutional Synagogue will take place on Thursday evening, January 26th, 1939, at eight-thirty o'clock promptly. The main business of the meeting will be the election of the members of the Board of Directors. All members in good standing are urged to attend.

I.S. Varsity Team To Face Bronx 'Y'

First Game Of "At Home" Series Set For 15th

The Bronx Y.M.H.A. will be the first opponent to face the I.S. Varsity team in an "at home" series of Sunday evening basketball games and dances. The games will be part of the inter-community center basketball tournament now being conducted by the Metropolitan Section of the Jewish Welfare Board.

This series will be begun on Sunday, January 15, and will be continued for a period of several months.

Among the other teams that will be seen in action on our court will be the Federation Settlement, the Hebrew Educational Society, the Central Jewish Institute, the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst and many others.

The I.S. Varsity, under the expert tutelage of Milton T. Rosenberg, is rapidly rounding into a well-trained aggregation that will give a good account of themselves in the forthcoming contests.

Second Henning Series Comes To Successful Close As I. S. Dramatic Groups Play To Capacity Audience

The Second Series of Henning Programs was concluded last Saturday evening, December 24th, with a brilliant evening of Chanukah dramatic presentations. Before the largest audience of the series, the students of the Talmud Torah and the members of the Junior Clubs staged a dramatic history of Chanukah through the ages entitled "At This Season." In six colorfully costumed scenes this presentation gave a brief resume of the highlights of Jewish history. Included in the cast were Nathaniel Feldman, Abe Matza, Ernest Kohn, Harry Cherwin, J. Haughton, Moses Finfang, Lou Beraha, Murray Begun, Sidney Grebstein, Elaine Schlefstein, Gertrude Fried, Stella Matza, Selma Schlefstein, Libby Begun, Ricka Podvil and Harold Begun. Mr. Henry

Parents Association Sponsors Yiddish Theater Party On Tuesday, Jan. Third

Tickets For Annual Function At Second Avenue Playhouse Now Available At Office

The Parents Association of the Institutional Synagogue will conduct their annual Yiddish Theatre Party on Tuesday evening, January 3, 1939. Reservations for a bloc of seats have been made at the Second Avenue Theatre for that evening. Although the show that will be seen

Plan To Organize Journalism Group

Press Club To Study News And Its Handling

Announcement was made yesterday by Rabbi Philip Goodman of the organization of a journalism club which is shortly to be founded at the I.S.

The purpose of the group will be to instruct its members in the fundamentals of journalism. Elements of make-up, lay-out, news writing, and headline making are to be studied.

Methods of publicity and how to write for publication will also be investigated. Opportunities for news reporting, re-writing, and work in the print-shop will also be afforded members.

Trips to newspaper plants, to see the inner workings of the metropolitan news sheets have also been outlined.

Mr. Marc M. Siegel will act as adviser to the group. Those interested may see him in reference to this new group on Tuesday evenings in the I.S. office.

that night has not as yet been announced, the management of the theatre has assured the Association that it will be up to their usual standards and will prove to be excellent entertainment value.

The officers in charge of this affair are Mrs. Vogel, President of the Association, Mrs. Aaron Wartels, honorary chairman, and Mrs. Ida Bernstein, chairman.

At the last meeting of the Association, Mrs. Vogel in addressing the members, said in part: "We must urge all our friends to help make this affair a real success. The increasing need for the work that we are carrying on among the Talmud Torah pupils makes it necessary for us to exert every effort we can to attain our goal."

Over 2,000 People Attend Second Henning Series

Last Saturday night saw the conclusion of the Second Series of the Henning Programs. These programs were made possible by funds endowed to the I. S. by the late Fanny Henning, and were conducted in her memory.

Nine programs of Jewish cultural treats were offered to the public at purely nominal prices. Large blocs of tickets were also distributed gratis to worthy organizations.

Over two thousand persons, men, women, and children, attended the Henning Series. The Hebrew Home for the Aged, and the Harlem Daughters of Israel were among the guests of this series.

Women Lose Traditional Title In Talk Fest Upset

The CLUB SPADE emerged victorious from their Quiz Contest with the DELTA RHO SORORITY of Schiff Center on December 17th, 1938. They are now planning another of these contests with the same group at the I. S. some time in January. Their immediate program calls for basketball, debating, and a social.

Turning The Pages

by Ben Tovim

CRISIS AND DECISION by Solomon Goldman. Harper and Brothers, New York. 206 pages. \$2.00.

Most Jewish problems from many angles are touched upon in the latest work of Rabbi Solomon Goldman—"Crisis and Decision." The book illuminates the Jewish struggles of yesterday, today and tomorrow. In seventeen papers and addresses, the author, President of the Zionist Organization of America, covers a wide range of subjects pertaining to vital questions that Jews and many non-Jews are concerned with. The frankness and even boldness of his justifiable criticisms of various conditions and personalities in Jewish life should arouse many to a clearer understanding of critical issues facing the Jewish people.

Dr. Goldman discusses such questions as: Has American Jewry a leadership? Do Jews play a high role in Bolshevism? Is there such a thing as Jewish Unity? Is there anti-Semitism in America? What is the status of the Zionist movement?

As an outstanding Zionist and a Hebraic scholar, the love of the author for Palestine and for Jewish learning is evidenced in every chapter. While realizing the worth and need of philanthropic efforts for relief, Goldman deprecates the fact

that not enough money is expended for constructive endeavors as education and the Jewish National Homeland. He writes:

"American Jewry is preoccupied with good will and charity. These are worthy efforts, but they do not make for the preservation of a folk.

"Had the rich and influential Jews willed it, the whole of Palestine, Transjordan, not excluded, might today have been ours. Millions of East European Jews could have found a home there. An amount equal to the millions of dollars spent on relief in the Ukraine, Poland, Russia and Germany might have given us four more Tel Avivs and ten more Emeks. The present German horror, or at least its humiliation, might have been averted. The rich and influential Jews were experimenting with a formula. The poor Jews, driven by an inner conviction, created at least one Tel Aviv and one Emek."

While we may disagree with some of the convictions and conclusions of the author of "Crisis and Decision," we must recommend the book as a stimulating and thought-provoking volume, designed to shed a new light on many problems. It should be read by every Jew who is interested in the Jewish struggle for existence.

WIT & HUMOR

WOULD NOT SMOKE AWAY THE EMPEROR'S GIFT

Rabbi Simon Schreiber, the famous Rabbi of Krakow, son of the renowned "Chassam Sopher," was also a member of the Austrian Parliament, and was once invited on a Sabbath afternoon, by the late Emperor Franz Joseph, to the palace. The Emperor treated the Rabbi to a cigar, which the Rabbi was naturally bound to accept.

On account of the Sabbath, the Rabbi kept it unlighted in his hand.

Graf von Pfuffendorf, a renowned Anti-Semite, who happened to be present also, thought he saw an opportunity of embarrassing the Rabbi. He soon lighted a match, and approached the Rabbi saying, "I know you are accustomed to smoking, Rabbi, will you not have a light?"

"No, thank you," answered the Rabbi.

"Perhaps," said von Pfuffendorf, maliciously, "the Emperor's cigar is not good enough. His Majesty will then order some better ones."

At this remark the Emperor himself glanced up with surprise. There was only one thing for Rabbi Schreiber to do, to follow the advice of David, who said (in Psalm exix, 46) "I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings and not be ashamed," and tell the Emperor outright that it was Sabbath, and he was forbidden to smoke. But the Rabbi did not wish to raise the Sabbath law as an excuse for his action, as it would imply that the Emperor had been lacking in

tact to give a cigar to a Rabbi to smoke on the Sabbath. Rabbi Schreiber therefore turned to Graf von Pfuffendorf, and said, "My dear honorable Graf, would you think it right for me to let His Majesty's present to me vanish in smoke?" and putting it away in his pocket very reverently, he said, "I will keep it for an everlasting remembrance."

At this neat parry, the good Emperor Franz Joseph smiled "and confusion covered Haman's face," or rather von Pfuffendorf's, who scowled at Rabbi Schreiber, without any ready retort.

* * *

EVEN AFTER ANSCHLUSS

Hitler, Goering, and Goebbels were discussing things.

"Suppose," said Goebbels, "the German people get tired of doing without butter, potatoes, and sausages, which enable us to buy cannon and airplanes to send to Spain and accumulate on our frontiers? Suppose they rise up against us?"

"Oh, well," answered Goering, "I'm director of aviation, so I'll always have a plane to get me out of the country in a hurry."

"It is even simpler for me," declared Goebbels smugly. "With my nose, I can mix with the crowd and never be taken for a friend of the Nazis."

"And I want to remind you gentlemen," Hitler mixed in, "that I am an Austrian, so that without any effort whatever I will be protected by my status as a foreigner."

JEWISH ODDITIES

Levi Ben Gershon was born in 1288 and died circa 1344. He was also known as Leon de Bagnols and, in Latin, as Magister Leo Hebraeus. He began the study of philosophy at a very early age, and was not quite thirty years old when he began to write the "Milhamot Adonai," the philosophical work which brought him great renown. He earned a livelihood probably by the practice of medicine.

He was a prolific writer and his works include many volumes, among them being a commentary on the bible and a treatise on astronomy. The latter volume consists of 136 chapters, wherein Levi gives a description of an instrument which he had invented for precise astronomical observation and which he calls "megalleh ammukkot." There are also astronomical tables and the results of many years of astronomical observations.

The chapters dealing with the new instrument were translated into Latin by order of Pope Clement VI (1342). Later the whole work was translated into Latin.



LEVY BEN GERSON INVENTED THE FIRST INSTRUMENT FOR OBSERVING THE STARS

IT WAS A SEA QUADRANT AND WAS CALLED "JACOB'S STAFF"

—Courtesy of Pillsbury

Although a distinguished Talmudist, Levi ben Gershon never held a rabbinical office. His commentary on the Bible displays his command of the Arabic tongue in addition to Hebrew and Latin. He makes frequent comparison between the Hebrew and Arabic words in his commentary, while he speaks of Latin as the language of the Christians.

HISTORY CONTEST

FRENCH REVOLUTION 1789 TO PRESENT

91. What did the French National Assembly grant to the Jews?
92. To the memory of what outstanding Jew, who gave much financial aid in the War for American Independence, was a monument recently erected?
93. Describe the "Jewish Pale."
94. What did Mordecai Noah aim to establish?
95. Name several Jews affiliated with the Haskalah Movement.
96. What was the "Dreyfus Case?"
97. When did the large exodus of Russian Jews to the United States take place?
98. Who organized the first Zionist Congress?
99. Describe the present wave of anti-Semitism.
100. Write an essay on the present conditions in Palestine and its effects on World Jewry.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

H. Graetz, History of the Jews—Vol. V, Chapters XI through XXVIII
Margolis and Marx, A History of the Jewish People—Chapters 80 through 98
Lady Magnus, Outlines of Jewish History—Chapters XXXVIII to XLVI
Paul Goodman, History of the Jews—Chapter VI, Numbers IV to XVII
Current Anglo-Jewish periodicals, daily newspapers, etc.

PARK WEST Memorial Chapel, Inc.
115 W. 79th ST., NEW YORK
Phone ENdicott 2-3600
Long Island
1284 Central Ave., Far Rockaway
Phone FAR Rockaway 7-3100
H. E. Meyers Alpert Bros.

THE INSTITUTIONAL

Published weekly, from the second week of September to the first week of June, by the INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, 37-43 WEST 116th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. Phone UNiversity 4-6729.

Subscription: One Dollar Per Year.

Entered as second-class matter September 17, 1938 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.

OFFICERS

Hon. Isaac Siegel	President
Aaron Wartels	Treasurer
Isaac Goldman	Financial Secretary
William Canton	Recording Secretary
Rabbi Philip Goodman	Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William L. Basser	Charles J. Greenfield
Samuel K. Beier	Isidore Lauer
Hon. Sol Bloom	Morris Levenson
Maurice H. Bob	Dr. I. Irwin Lubow
Hon. Joseph E. Brill	Max Moskowitz
William Canton	Hon. Isaac Siegel
Theodore Charnas	Lou G. Siegel
A. M. Davis	Irving J. Silverstein
Isaac Goldman	Philip Simpson
Arthur D. Goldstein	Max Stavish
Dr. Benj. Goldstein	David Wald
Philip Goodman	Aaron Wartels

Calendar of Services

Light Candles Friday Evening .. 4:23
Friday Evening 4:30
Saturday Morning 7:00 & 9:00
Sedrah: Vayigash
Saturday Afternoon 3:45
Study Group 4:15
Daily Morning 7:00

CHOICE GRAVES

Available at
MT. ZION CEMETERY

On Institutional Synagogue Grounds

For Further Particulars

Phone UNiversity 4-6729