

INSTITUTIONAL

JUDAISM

CHARACTER

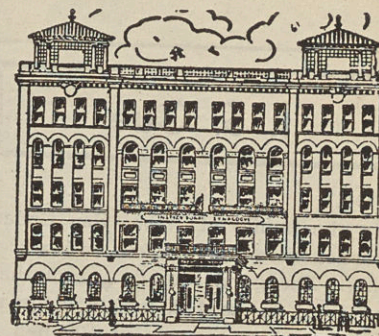
SERVICE

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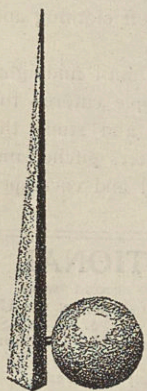
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Iyar 16, 5699

MAY 5, 1939



... At the Fair



The first official action of the opening day of the Fair was the noonday dedication of the Temple of Religion. Twelve hundred invited guests filed into the temple through the portal above which is inscribed, "For All Who Worship God and Prize Religious Freedom."

The keynote of the significance of the Temple of Religion at the Fair was struck by the terse speech delivered by Governor Lehman. The Governor said, in part:

"It is eminently fitting that the very first official ceremony in connection with the dedication of this Fair should be religious in character. I am convinced that the greatest safeguard of democracy is a sincere recognition by its people of the eternal truths on which all true religion is based."

"But when I talk of religion I do not have in mind lip-service, or mere conformance with the external forms of religion. I envisage a national and personal spirituality that recognizes the universal Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

"If many will live up to those simple concepts of all religion—charity, justice and tolerance—democracy will be safe. No man, whether he worships in a church, cathedral or synagogue, can be true to his God or to his country if he does not adhere to those fundamental concepts on which religion and democracy are based."

Attention Directors

A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday evening, May 17th, promptly at 8:30 o'clock, at 37-43 West 116th Street. As matters of importance will be discussed, all directors are urged to be present.

Isaac Siegel,
President

Donations Requested For Rummage Sale By Parents' Group

All Kinds Of Saleable Goods Needed For Bazaar

Plans for a bazaar and rummage sale to be held in the near future were discussed and acted on at the last meeting of the Parents' Association of the Institutional Synagogue.

Merchandise Needed

Anticipating an even more successful bazaar than that run this year by the same organization, the tentative committee in charge of the bazaar has requested that friends of the institution contribute saleable merchandise of any nature to help in stocking the rummage sale.

The Parents' Association sent wishes for a speedy recovery to both Mr. and Mrs. P. Vogel. Mrs. Vogel is the president of the organization.

Counselors Wanted

Rabbi Philip Goodman has announced that applications for positions as counselors at Camp Ta-a-noog, the I.S. Home Camp, are still being considered.

Campers And Counselors Enjoy Annual Get To-gether Last Sunday Afternoon

A large group of former campers and counselors of Camp Ta-a-noog met last Sunday afternoon, April 30th, for their annual re-union. Under the leadership of Elaine Schlefstein, a committee of the campers had prepared a complete program of entertainment for the afternoon which included the singing of camp songs, a question bee, and other novel numbers.

Camp Movies Shown

Moving pictures of activities at Camp Ta-a-noog, taken during the past three

years, were shown and greatly enjoyed by both the campers and counselors. A comedy was also flashed on the screen for the entertainment of those present.

Campers Committee Chosen

A committee of campers consisting of Elaine Schlefstein, Helen Grobstein, Ida Finfang, Harry Goldstein, Harry Chervin and Moses Finfang was selected to prepare suggested activities for this summer.

I. S. To Hold Field Day In Annual Lag B'Omer Outing

I. S. League Opens Membership Drive At First Meeting

Objectives Outlined In Panel Discussion

Over fifty persons gathered at the Hotel Peter Stuyvesant, located at 86th Street and Central Park West, on Thursday night, April 27th, when an informal meeting and get-together of the newly formed I.S. League was held.

Speaks on N. Y. Jewry

The main address of the evening was delivered by Congressman Isaac Siegel, President of the Institutional Synagogue, and concerned itself with "Changes in New York Jewry During the Past Twenty-Two Years."

Meeting to be Announced

The next meeting of the League, to be held soon, will be announced in the "Institutional."

Congratulations

Our sincerest good wishes are extended to Miss Ruth Yellin, former I. S. bookkeeper, and Mr. Morris A. Urieff, director of club activities, upon their marriage which will take place this Sunday. May they sail the ship of matrimony most happily.

Attractive Gym Rate For Spring Season

A special three-month membership designed to cover the months of May, June and July is now available at the nominal sum of three dollars. Use of the gymnasium and pool, as well as other I. S. facilities is included in this special membership. The spacious I. S. gym and the fifty-foot pool meet the requirements of both fun and instruction.

Mr. Milton T. Rosenberg, Gymnasium Director, has announced at the same time, that special classes in swimming for beginners, swimming for advanced groups, and both junior and senior life-saving courses have been organized to operate over this period of time.

Set For Sunday At Pelham Bay

In accordance with the traditional observance of Lag B'Omer, Sunday, May 7th will be spent out of doors. It is planned to hold an all day outing to Pelham Bay Park, where an ample field has been reserved for the I.S. for that day.

Archery to be Feature

A complete program of activities has been arranged. The feature event of the day will be the archery contest, which most of the children are already anxiously awaiting. Last year this proved to be the high spot of the outing, with more participants than any other event.

Field and Track Events

Regular field and track competition will be conducted, as well as numerous novelty races. In the afternoon, following the lunch hour, several baseball games are scheduled to be played. Provision has been made for both boys and girls to participate in these games.

Those planning to attend the Lag B'Omer outing are again urged to take only "milchigas" for lunch as it is planned to serve milk during the lunch period.

To Start at 9:30

Weather permitting, the group will assemble at the I.S. promptly at nine-thirty o'clock. As soon as possible thereafter they will go to Pelham Bay Park, where the day's activities will be begun immediately.

Registration Opens For Sixth Camp Season

Registration for the sixth season of Camp Ta-a-noog was opened last Monday afternoon. Registration will continue until camp opens, at the start of the vacation period.

Those planning to attend Camp Ta-a-noog this summer are urged to make application as soon as possible. The Camp can accommodate only a limited number of campers and those applying first will be given preference.

Details concerning the Camp and its activities, as well as registration blanks, may be secured in the office daily or by phoning Rabbi Goodman at UNiversity 4-6729.

I. S. Cue

STORY

In the family of Rabbi Ben Cohen statistics were always taken with a credulity. The good Rabbi's grandfather who lived to be 110, was a singular ancient, and at the age of 100 had a tremendous argument with the town haberdasher as to how a hat was to be made.

"Look here, Mr. Cohen," said the haberdasher, becoming impatient, "why do you make such a fuss about a hat? You are 100 years of age. Do you expect to make great use of it?"

Mr. Cohen looked at him severely. "My good man," he said, "don't you know that very few people ever die after the age of 100. Statistics prove it!"

WISE WORDS FROM A WISE BOOK

Yesterday's successes belong to yesterday, with all of yesterday's defeats and sorrows. Today is HERE. The TIME is NOW.

A businessman is a man who gets the business.

Every quarrel begins in nothing and ends in a struggle for supremacy.

It is better to be an Is-Now than a Has-Wasser, and as for a Not-Yet-But Soon, why he is always one.

HERE AND THERE

Bella Fried is angry at all men these days . . . we wonder if it is because that budding romance with a certain musician . . . ain't . . .

Nathaniel Feldman of our Talmud Torah is certainly an erudite young man . . . converse with him and be pleasantly surprised . . .

What ever happened to "Jewish Oddities" . . . is New Jersey such a big state . . .

Best wishes to Bernard Feinberg upon his moving to a new domicile . . . same to Morris Urieff . . .

Bill Berkowitz has threatened to sue us for libel . . . since a certain item appeared in this column . . .

For a school teacher Milton Rosenberg is fortunate in having a wife . . . to prepare the lessons for his classes the following day . . .

American Alumni Form Hebrew University Group

Eighteen alumni, commemorating the fourteenth anniversary of the founding of the Hebrew University, gathered at a luncheon on Sunday, April 16th, and acting for the entire body of former American students of the University, 75 of whom are now residing in the United States, formally organized the American Alumni of Hebrew University.

The newly formed Alumni body resolved to cooperate with the American Friends of the Hebrew University to help bring the importance of the Hebrew University to the attention of American Jewry, to be of as much material assistance to the University as possible.

Rabbi Philip Goodman was selected as a member of the Executive Committee of the organization.



A Pilgrimage To Meron



A traveler who visited Palestine describes the pilgrimage on Lag B'Omer to the tomb of Rabbi Simeon ben Yochai as follows: "On the thirty-second day of Omer, I happened to be in the town of Safed, in northern Galilee. There I heard of the pilgrimage which was to take place that very same day to the tomb of ben Yochai. I resolved to set out immediately for the village of Meron.

"When I approached the village I saw the roads crowded with people who were heading the procession with a Sefer-Torah carried under a canopy. There were also many Ashkenazi Jews, Bedouins, Arabs and Christians who were going out of sheer curiosity.

"Finally we reached a large courtyard outside the village proper. Near this courtyard, hewn out of bed rock, are a number of chambers, or rather caves, so large and spacious are they. One of these the

people of the place call the tomb of Rabbi Simeon ben Yochai. A quaint little synagogue has been built alongside this cave.

"At night all the pilgrims assembled in the courtyard of the little synagogue. There they lit a huge bonfire and then began to dance around it, to the accompaniment of flutes and drums and strange oriental instruments. Every now and then some youngster would set off a rocket or set fire to some torches which gave off colored light. In a moment, a little crowd would gather around him and begin to dance and sing.

"One group of dancers particularly attracted my attention. It was composed of elderly Jews, and by their faces and clothes I could tell that there were among them Jews from about twenty different countries. As I approached I could make out the words of the peculiar

hymn they were chanting. It ran something like this: 'He did hide within this cave in order to escape death and torture; there he learned heavenly secrets—our master, ben Yochai.'

"Then the onlookers who had gathered in the meantime would answer in chorus: 'Ben Yochai! Ben Yochai! Thou art enthroned; how fortunate thou art!'

"For hours at a time they would thus dance and sing around the fires, which were being tended by youngsters, who had been well supplied with all kinds of fuel, from cans of oil and powders which gave off colored light to pieces of wood, dry twigs and cast-off clothing and rags.

"The celebration lasted until midnight, after which the older people entered the little synagogue to pray and study the Talmud, while the youngsters pitched improvised tents in the field and encamped for the night."

Recent Books Of Interest

Reviewed By Ben Tovim

THE STRANGE DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER. Authorship anonymous. Macaulay, N. Y. 381 pp. \$2.50.

This book which created a furor that broke front pages of newspapers, is as startling as its title. Whether or not its major premise—that the real Hitler died September 29th, 1938, on the eve of the Munich pact and that a double has been impersonating the Fuhrer since—is true, is not important to the readability of such a situation are thoroughly absorbing.

* * *

SOGLOW'S CONFIDENTIAL HISTORY OF MODERN ENGLAND. By Otto Soglow. Stokes, N. Y. c.55 pp. \$1.50.

You don't have to read the columns of foreign news and the opinions of pundits on whether the English are human. All you have to do is look at these outrageous cartoons by Soglow and the entire matter is clear.

Most people shy away from histories

because they (the histories) are too long-winded. Here for the first time in history is a history without any words at all. As light and entertaining reading, at a time when we need it, it is definitely recommended.

* * *

PEACE IS WONDERFUL. By William Saroyan. Modern Age, New York. 177 pp. \$50.

In his by-now-characteristic manner Saroyan has dashed off another twenty-seven stories and Modern Age has put them into immediate circulation. Saroyan is consistently charming, as usual, and is not always certain of what he is trying to say, as usual.

But from the reader's point of view he says what he says well. Sometimes a word or a phrase will move the reader by its absolute validity . . . never with much logic . . . but always with an abundant charm. And this charm, which is Saroyan, is far too scarce in an over-worked, jittery world.

Jewish Book Week Starts On Lag B'Omer

Lag B'Omer, known as the Scholars' Festival and commemorating the unsuccessful revolt of Jews in ancient Palestine against the tyrannical rule of the Roman Empire, will fall on Sunday, May 7th. Jewish community centers will arrange indoor mass and group gatherings in celebration of this event, and will also conduct outdoor athletic games and contests in the form of miniature Macabiah.

As usual, Lag B'Omer will also inaugurate Jewish Book Week, which lasts from May 7th to May 14th. Some centers have found it advisable to conduct campaigns for Jewish books for their libraries during that period. In some communities Jewish centers have taken the initiative in enlisting the cooperation of the local library authorities.

Camp Conference Stresses New Ideas for Home Camps

"New Trends in Summer Camps" will be the theme of the conference on camping scheduled by the Metropolitan Section of the Jewish Welfare Board and the Metropolitan Association of Jewish Center Workers. The conference will be held at the 92nd Street "Y" on Monday afternoon and evening, May 8th, 1939.

The afternoon session will be devoted primarily to the home camp, while the evening meeting will cover all summer camps.

The tentative program of the afternoon meeting includes addresses by Rabbi Philip Goodman on "New Activities Promoted in Home Camps in 1938," Morris Kronenfeld on "Relating the Home Camp Program to the World's Fair," and a series of talks on "New Ideas for Our Home Camps in 1939."

THE INSTITUTIONAL

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Calendar of Services

Light Candles Friday Evening . . 7:34
Friday Evening 6:30
Saturday Morning 7:00 & 9:00
Sedrah: Emor
Saturday Afternoon 7:30
Sunday Morning 7:30
Daily Morning 7:30

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