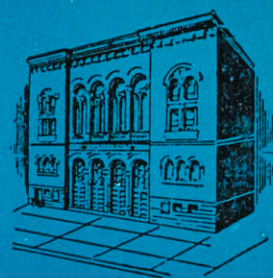


Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



FEBRUARY 17, 1961

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ADAR 1, 5721

RABBI ABRAHAM BESDIN DISCUSSES SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH AT FINAL ADULT INSTITUTE LECTURE

The Adult Institute Open Lecture Series came to a close last Wednesday evening when a surprisingly large group of students braved the six degree temperature to hear Rabbi Abraham Besdin discuss "Samson Raphael Hirsch and the Challenge of Modernism." Rabbi Besdin was the concluding speaker of our four part series on the subject "Problems and Personalities in Jewish Philosophy."

The lecture series this year attracted many members of the congregational family who had not participated in such forums previously. The attendance at the first three lectures averaged between 90 and 130. We are happy to say that nineteen people attended each of the four lectures and will, therefore, be entitled to receive course credit for the series. Their names appear at the conclusion of this article.

A New Interest in Hirsch . . .

Rabbi Besdin cited the resurgence of interest in recent years in the philosophy and program of Samson Raphael Hirsch. This founder of Modern Orthodoxy, born in the early years of the 19th century, was confronted in Germany by a Judaism which had deviated far from the traditional stream. When he came to Frankfurt in the mid 19th century he was summoned by a small splinter group of Orthodox Jews. The rest of the community was controlled by the proponents of classical Reform Judaism. The Jewish Community Council which was recognized by the Municipal Government was most unfriendly to Orthodoxy, or Torah True Judaism as Hirsch called it. The council prohibited teaching of Talmud. Violators of this prohibition were fined heavily.

By the time this great leader died there were 500 members in this Torah True community; a new synagogue had had been erected and the first modern Jewish day School had been planned, conceived and erected. In this school, Hirsch was able to fulfill his ideal of

All men are cordially invited to attend the

Special Father and Son Minyan

and

Men's Club Brunch Meeting

This Sunday Morning, 9:30 o'clock

— Guest Speaker at Meeting —

RABBI ISIDORE MEYER

— Topic —

"THE AMERICAN JEW IN THE CIVIL WAR"

"Torah Im Derech Eretz" — the fusion of the principles of the Torah with the civilization of the modern world.

In the Day School, religious subjects were taught and general knowledge was dispensed. The general knowledge, however, was presented from the Jewish viewpoint. This approach was criticized from the right and from the left. The extreme religionists accused Hirsch of bringing too much secularism into Jewish Life. The intolerant reformers charged him with over emphasizing Judaism.

The American scene bears witness to the keen foresight of Samson Raphael Hirsch. The spectacular rise of the Day School movement in America and the development on these shores of a Yeshiva University are eloquent testimony to the fact that the synthesis of Judaism and contemporary civilization are both feasible and practical, and that the integrated personality of an American Jew, who is at home in

Americanism and rooted in Jewish traditions, is both desirable and necessary.

Below are the names of the students who will receive credit for having attended each of the four lectures.

Jerry Bruss
Randolph Chester
Mrs. Charles Cohen
Dr. Charles Cohen
Mrs. Victor Helfand
Victor Helfand
Mrs. Joseph Hostyk
Abraham R. Kirshon
Edward Lebowitz
Mrs. William Lebowitz
William Lebowitz
Mrs. Haskel Lookstein
Dr. Louis I. Posner
Mrs. Frank Roth
Mrs. Joseph Roth
Joseph Roth
Jacob P. Shulman
Dr. Miriam E. Trachman
Dr. Sadie E. Trachman

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein will preach this Sabbath at 11:00 A.M.

"...AND THEY SAW THE GOD OF ISRAEL..."

What Did They See?

THE WEEKLY PORTION

Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

"The Institution of the Hebrew Slave"

In the view of the Torah, there is no such institution as a Jewish slave. Although our portion this week opens with a detailed account of the rules concerning the "Hebrew slave", our opening statement is not to be construed as mere apologetics. The institution of slavery, as the world knows it, does not exist for a Jew according to the Bible.

Slaves as Property

Slavery exists when a man or a woman may be sold as property and retained in the estate of the owner, if the latter so desires. This rule never applied to the "Hebrew slave". As a matter of fact, a woman could never be sold in this sense. A young girl under twelve years could be sold to a wealthy man in the hope that he would ultimately take her as a wife — thus ensuring her a future, devoid of poverty. If the owner did not exercise his marital option, she was automatically freed upon reaching the age of twelve years.

Even in the case of a man slave, however, there were no significant rights of property. He could be sold by the court in the event that he had stolen something and could not make restitution. He could sell himself if he were hard pressed financially and could not otherwise support his family. He could never however be sold by one owner to another. He could not be inherited by the owner's heir. He was automatically free after six years of work or upon the advent of the Jubilee year — whichever came first.

Moreover, if he wanted to redeem himself, the owner was obligated to accept payment and to help him in the following manner. If he had been sold for sixty dollars and worked three years, the owner could charge him thirty dollars for his freedom (anticipating that he had three more years to work).

It can thus be seen that what the Bible calls a "Hebrew slave" was in reality a man who accepted a six year contract during which time all of his labor was at the disposal of an "owner". In return for this "exclusive contract", the owner had to give him food and shelter, provide for the sustenance of his wife and children, and otherwise treat him as an individual with dignity. The rules for his treatment were so liberal that the Tal-

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays —

Many happy returns to Maks L. Birnbach, Mrs. Adolph Citron, Edward Lebowitz, Alexander Lichtman, Joseph A. Perlman, and Mrs. I. Jerome Riker,

Anniversaries —

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander A. Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Davidowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lefkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Newell, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Taffet.

Get Well —

We wish a speedy recovery to our dear member, Mrs. Rose Kolker, who was recently taken ill.

CORRECTION

In our last issue, while listing the names of the students who have been regular in their attendance at the weekly classes of the Adult Institute, we inadvertently omitted the names of the following students who have received credit for the fall term of the Sabbath Afternoon Class in The Commandments of Judaism:

Julius Hamburger
Mrs. Samuel Lerner
Bernard Schiff
Reuben Westerman
Mrs. Israel Wachter

THANK YOU

The columns of this bulletin failed to make note of the dedicated work of Mrs. Eugene Hollander, in the recent Sisterhood theatre party, "Exodus."

The movie was, of course, a stirring production, and the event was a financial success.

We wish to thank Mrs. Hollander and her committee for the wonderful job that was done.

mud could assert without exaggeration that "He who purchases a Hebrew slave has in reality acquired a master for himself".

The Torah itself gives the reason for the incongruity of slavery in the case of the Jew. "For the children of Israel are slaves unto me; they are my servants whom I took out of the land of Egypt; I am the Lord thy God" (Leviticus 25:55). The Talmud comments eloquently on this verse, saying, that the Jew must be a slave to God; it is inconceivable for him to be a slave to another slave.

H. L.

38 BRAVE SNOW TO ATTEND FATHER AND SON MINYAN

Last Sunday, despite the 17 plus inches of snow which covered New York City and without regard to the state of emergency announced by Mayor Wagner, 38 boys, girls and men braved the elements to attend the regular service of the Father and Son Minyan. One by one the worshippers trooped in and exchanged their boots and overcoats for Tallith and Tephillin.

The service was, in point of fact, one of the most beautiful of the season. The cantors were Noah Gurock, David Kahn, Vinny Lloyd and David Popkin. It was most gratifying to see the turnout and the enthusiasm at the Minyan.

The service was a tribute to the popularity of the program of the Father and Son Minyan and to the Men's Club of the Congregation which sponsors this worthy activity.

AM HASEFER GROUP II MEETS THIS MONDAY NIGHT

The second meeting of the year for Group II of the Am HaSefer Group program will be held this coming Monday evening at 8 o'clock at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein, 1235 Park Avenue.

On that occasion the group will discuss "Conservative Judaism", a book by Marshall Sklare, which describes the religious life of American Jews from the viewpoint of the sociologist.

All members of the group are requested to complete their reading of the book and to arrive at the meeting on time so that the discussion may be concluded at a reasonable hour.

FATHER AND SON MINYAN**Fifteenth Service****Cantors:**

DONALD ETRA
WILLIAM DAVIS
STEVEN GROSS
DAVID POPKIN

Breakfast Sponsor:

JOSEPH ROTH

JUNIOR CONGREGATION**Saturday, February 11****Cantors:**

ELLIOTT KAMERMAN
PHILLIP LERNER
AARON HOSTYK

Teen Age Torah Reader

STEVEN GROSS

A SUMMER IN ISRAEL FOR STUDENTS

Arrangements have been completed for the 5th Annual Yeshiva University "Summer in Israel" program sponsored by the Youth Bureau of the University. This year for the first time two completely separate tours will be conducted by the Youth Bureau. One tour will be for high school girls and boys from 15 to 18. The second tour will be for young adults, ages 18 to 23.

The program for these tours is extremely enticing and offers an unparalleled opportunity for young people to spend the summer in Israel and Europe. Extensive guided tours will be conducted to all parts of the country. The group will meet Israel's religious and political leaders. It will participate in receptions and get-togethers with students from all parts of the world. It will visit the theatre, opera, museums and night clubs in Israel. It will spend a weekend at a kibbutz. Finally, it will spend one week at Bar Ilan University engaged in advanced studies.

European Extension Tour

The cost of all the above is \$925, which covers round trip transportation, including three days in Paris and a four day Mediterranean cruise. Needless to say, all accommodations, tours, theatre tickets, and the like are also included in this figure.

For an additional \$170, a ten day European Extension is available. Among the cities to be visited are: Athens, Piraeus, Naples, Pompeii, Rome, Venice, Geneva and Paris.

The Yeshiva University tour has won unanimous acclaim for the content of its programs and for the care with which all details are arranged. Further details may be obtained by calling Rabbi Haskel Lookstein.



Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein, responding to the honor bestowed upon her by the Sisterhood at a recent meeting.

"SNOWBOUND"

An editorial from the New York Times which is more than an editorial.

"The snowstorm that came into this city from the South and Southwest on Friday night was unusual but not unique. It ran in a storm path where storms have run since the memory of man . . .

For a few hours, millions of Americans, even in the cities, were as snow-bound as the farm people of East Haverhill, Mass. in Whittier's poem. Because of the march of our inventions, because of our very conveniences, we moderns lack the idyllic coziness of the poet's group around the blazing open fire. Whittier could ask, "What matter how the night behaved, what matter how the north wind raved?" We cannot do so. Few of us can go to the root cellar and smokehouse for food; few can depend on maple, oak and birch to keep us warm for a long winter evening and longer night; few can wait patiently for several days until the ox teams or the modern equivalent come through to break out a road.

We are the slaves of the machines; country life, like life in cities, is wedded to electric generators, telephone wires, delivery trucks, gas mains, far-hauled fuel. We are not pioneers anymore. We cannot singly hold our own against the eccentricities and violence of nature. It is frightening to be snow-bound, even while it is poetic . . .

It was another New England poet, Robert Frost, who wrote: "Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice", and this is something to think about in front of a cold radiator when the wind screams around the corner outside.

Now, for a while, it is over. Motorists who were trapped in stalled cars while the snow drifted around them; the sick who waited for ambulances or doctors that could not reach them; all those who suffered from the swift paralysis that overtook their daily habits of work and play; all the communities, great and small, that briefly endured a slowing down of pulse and respiration now can breathe easily again.

We are a disciplined race, and when the Mayor orders us not to drive our cars needlessly most of us don't. We have to be disciplined, as the kindly Whittier's family did not. The drill sergeants of the very machines that serve us so well also gives us orders when an emergency, even as brief as this one, overtakes us. And let us have it in mind to prevent any graver emergencies that might be born in the folly of men's minds and hearts."

THE JEWRY BOX

LAST WEEK

EUGENE ALPERT
WILLIAM HEYMAN

THIS WEEK

DR. NATHAN KALISCHER
DR. HARRY KAPLAN
HON. HERMAN KATZ
BENJAMIN KAUFMAN

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to maintain the Daily Minyan.

CONGREGATION KEHILATH JESHURUN

117-25 East 85th Street
New York 28, N. Y.
SAcramento 2-0800

Editor
Joseph Glatt

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Haskel Lookstein Ass't. Rabbi
A. Joseph Cohen Cantor
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Mrs. Meyer Texon Pres., Sisterhood

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY

Lighting of Candles 5:05
Evening 5:15

SATURDAY, SHABBAT SHEKALIM

Morning 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:15
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim
Exodus 21.1-24.18; 30.11-16
Haftarah: II Kings 12.1-17

ROSH CHODESH PRAYERS

Rosh Chodesh Adar will be on
Thursday, February 16 and Friday,
February 17.
Evening 5:15
Conclusion of Sabbath 5:55

SUNDAY

Morning 8:30
Father-and-Son Minyan 9:30

DAILY SERVICES

Morning 7:30
Evening 5:20

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February

11—CHARLES I. LEFF
12—JACOB MARMER
12 ABRAHAM A. SHEPARD
13—CHARLES BOGDONOFF
13—JOSEPH M. ZOOK
13—BERNAD JAVITT
14—MINNA TRAUTMAN
15—ELIAS GOTTFRIED
16—JENNIE EICHLER
16—HERMAN KAHN
16—LOUIS RUBINSTEIN
16—KATE COHEN
16 CHAIA MORGENSTERN
17—ALEXANDER GARFEIN
17—MORDECAI SHOCHETMAN
17—ANNA SPENCER
17—KAUFMANN ADLER

K. J. CALENDAR

SATURDAY—3.30 P.M.

K. J. Junior
Gymnasium

4:30 P.M.

Sabbath Afternoon Class
Commandments of Judaism

SUNDAY—9:30 A.M.

Special Father and Son Minyan
Men's Club Brunch Meeting

MONDAY—8:00 P.M.

Am HaSefer Group II
at the home of
Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein

WEDNESDAY—8:00 P.M.

Talmud Class
Hebrew Classes

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

Sisterhood Open Meeting

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