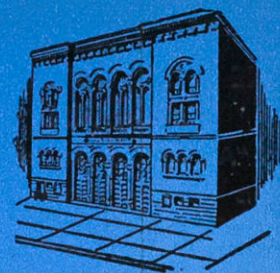


Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin

FEBRUARY 7, 1964

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TEENAGERS' SABBATH CULTURAL LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHT OF PROGRAM YEAR

Our Teenage Group held its third Sabbath Cultural Luncheon this past Saturday, in the social hall. It was interesting to note that neither rain, gusty winds nor biting cold weather could keep the forty-two present, from attending.

Shabbat "Zemirot" were followed by an interesting and informative session that featured Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein in a program entitled "Meet the Rabbis."

The format of the activity followed that of the popular T.V. Program "Meet the Press." A panel of four youth members, Fannie Fox, Steven Gross, Robert Pik and Steven Silberblatt, asked questions of topical interest to the Jewish world. Harriet Garfinkel served as moderator and coordinator of this event.

The Rabbis answered questions, on such subjects as the "The teenager and interfaith dating," "Jewish reaction to Protestant missions in Israel," "The place of the mitzva in our daily routine," in depth and clarity. The unusual feature of this program was shown when both Rabbis interpreted the events of our time from the standpoint of the experiences of their generation. Their answers blended splendidly, showing the true character of Traditional Judaism — the linking of one generation with the other through classical interpretation and the display of understanding and keen perceptiveness of the world around them.

Our thanks to a parent's committee which helped in the arrangements and again derived considerable pleasure from the whole affair. The members of the committee were: Mrs. Samuel Garfinkel, Mrs. Nathan Kalischer, Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein, Mrs. Greta Pik and Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin. Both the adults and youth present felt that the Rabbis had created a wonderful air of infor-

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Sisterhood Hears Rabbi Haskel Lookstein Discuss Current Best Seller

An Open Luncheon Meeting of the Kehilath Jeshurun Sisterhood was held last week in the social hall of the congregation. A fine gathering of women assembled for the meeting and heard Rabbi Haskel Lookstein review the current best seller by Jessica Mitford, "The American Way of Death." Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin presided.

Prior to the Rabbi's talk, reports were rendered by several of the committee chairmen of the Sisterhood. Mrs. William Lebowitz and Mrs. Meyer Texon discussed plans for the Donor Luncheon, to be held on Wednesday, April 15th.

Movie Party, Thursday, March 19th

Mrs. Joseph S. Gershman, discussed the need for the women's participation in raising and giving funds for this year's United Jewish Appeal Campaign. Following her presentation, Mrs. Eugene Hollander, Chairman of the Movie Party Committee, announced plans for seeing the new film "Becket," on Thursday evening, March 19th. Requests for tickets can be made directly to Mrs. Hollander or forwarded to the synagogue office.

Following a most creative introduction by the Program Chairman, Mrs. Seppy I. Silberman, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein proceeded to his review of Miss Mitford's book. The following paragraphs are a synopsis of the salient ideas presented during his talk.

"The American Way of Death" is an important book for several reasons. It presents information on a fact of life with which all of us have to deal at one time or another. It is a disclosure of the widespread merchandising practices of many funeral directors who have brought about a terrible waste of resources in the conduct of final arrange-

ments for man's stay on earth. Two years ago, the average cost for a funeral in this country was almost fifteen hundred dollars. Americans spent more on funerals than they did on police protection, fire protection and higher education.

The importance of this type of book for people of our congregational family is that it is an eloquent statement, by implication, of the wholesome character of the traditional Jewish funeral which contrasts in virtually every way with the current vogue in America. Many well-meaning people have departed from the traditional practices in this matter not out of a conscious desire to do so but because some have played upon their emotions at a most critical period, while experienced public relations men have created a climate where people feel obligated to indulge in all kinds of excesses in an area of life which should be marked by the greatest simplicity.

There is a statement which appeared in the Funeral Trade Journal, which sums up one part of the merchandising technique, that concerned with status seeking. The author writes "if a person drives a Cadillac, why should he have a Pontiac funeral?" This is a blatant appeal to the sense of vanity which many of us display in life. In death, however, we have the great equalizer. Surely, when life comes to an end, we must realize that pride, vanity and haughtiness have no meaning. We all return to dust equally and in that return we are rendered equal.

The traditional Jewish manner of treating the departed is to conduct everything with respect and dignity, realizing that the human body was the bearer of a human soul and per-

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

"A RELIGIOUS EVALUATION OF WEALTH"

THE WEEKLY PORTION

MISHPATIM

"An Eye for an Eye"

In this portion, where the Torah details many of the so-called civil laws of Judaism, we find the first source in scripture for the expression, "an eye for an eye". The sages of the Talmud understood quite well that this verse was not to be interpreted literally. What the Torah meant was that if a man blinded another, the former had to pay the value of the other's lost sight.

This interpretation of the "lex talionis" in monetary terms is considered by the Talmud to be an interpretation given to Moses at Sinai. In other words, the rule was never intended by God to be applied literally. That which seems barbaric to us — the taking of an eye for an eye — was also unacceptable to God. Why, then, is the law recorded in the Torah without the oral explanation? If nothing else, such explanation would have forestalled much of the bitter criticism of Judaism which the simple expression of "lex talionis" has brought about through the centuries.

An answer consistent with Judaism's world view is readily forthcoming. If one deprives another of sight, a monetary payment cannot possibly suffice as compensation. Firstly, it may be argued, there are some things which simply do not carry a market value. Sight, hearing, motor ability, the use of hands and the like, are not replaceable by cash. The courts may award damages, but such an award is never adequate compensation. One can compensate another for the loss of a house, a job, an economic good; but physical capacities are essentially not given to compensation.

Furthermore, if compensation were possible, how would it be fairly determined in a system of absolute justice. The practice in old days was to pay the damaged party the difference between his market value as a slave before the damage and his value subsequent to the damage. This may be the only workable method, but is it just in absolute terms? How shall we judge the economic value of the eye of an artist, the hand of a great surgeon, the hearing of a musician, the clarity of mind of a scientist or a great Talmudic scholar? When these qualities are damaged, an absolute estimate of their worth is unattainable.

The only form of justice which can apply here is: an eye for an eye, a

SISTERHOOD THEATRE PARTY

"BECKET"

starring

Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole

Thursday evening, March 19th

Loew's State Theatre

For reservations contact Mrs. Eugene Hollander
or call the synagogue office

TEENAGERS' LUNCHEON

(Continued from page 1)

mality and imported a wealth of knowledge in the highest spirit of the Sabbath.

ACTION — M'lava Malkah —
February 15th

Members of the K. J. Youth Group are cordially invited to a regional M'lava Malkah to be held at the Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center, Saturday night, February 15th, at 8:00 P.M.

The prize winning Foreign Film "Hand In Hand" will be shown. Entertainment, singing and dancing will round out the program. For further information contact the Youth Activities Office.

Habimah Has Come to Town

A limited number of tickets are still available to Shachar members for the March 7th Habimah presentation of "Children of the Shadows". For further information contact David Popkin, SC 4-6069 or Mr. Noam Shudofksy.

hand for a hand, etc. The one who damages, must experience the same anguish as the one whom he damaged. This would be absolute justice.

In the realm of practice, such justice is inapplicable: It may be just but it is too severe. It may be fair but it would be inhumane. In practice, therefore, the damage is compensated for by a payment. To have written of such a payment in the Torah, however, would be an indication that no matter what a person does to another, he can pay for it in cash. The Torah, therefore, states the formula of absolute justice — "an eye for an eye" — while the Oral Law was enunciated for the humane practice — the damage penalty is not in the flesh but in economic reward.

H. L.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays —

Many happy returns of the days to Mrs. Victor Binstock, Maks L. Birnbach, Adolph Citron, Mrs. Adolph Citron, Samuel Goldblatt, Edward Lebowitz, Adolph Levy, Oscar Perlberger, Joseph A. Perlman, and Mrs. I. Jerome Riker.

Anniversaries —

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander A. Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Eletz, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lefkowitz and Mr. and Mrs. Saul Linzer.

Get Well —

We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Ida Golub Kitay, who is recuperating from recent surgery.

Mrs. Frank Goodman recently underwent surgery. Our best wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

Joseph B. Rossant has returned home from a brief stay at the hospital. We extend to him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations

Our heartiest congratulations to Miss Karen Herzig, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William F. Herzig, whose paintings have been accepted for exhibition by the Ligoa Duncan Gallery. The exhibition, now in progress at 215 East 82nd Street, will run through February 14th.

SISTERHOOD
KIDDUSH HOSTESSES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

Mrs. Herman Davidowitz
Mrs. Isidore Epstein
Mrs. Morris S. Galler
Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon
Mrs. Haskel Lookstein
Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin
Mrs. Henry M. Rem
Mrs. Adrian Skydell

SISTERHOOD MEETING

(continued from page 1)

sonality possessed of a divine stamp. This does not mean, however, that we glorify the body once the human soul and personality have left. We merely treat it with respect.

The practice of viewing the remains, a practice which is virtually unknown throughout the world, is one which has been "sold" to the American community by an aggressive industry. It has no background in American tradition and certainly no precedence in former Jewish practice.

The purchase of expensive metal caskets and concrete vaults is a further merchandising technique by the industry. According to pathologists, these extravagant containers serve no useful function in preserving the remains. On the contrary, according to the Chief of Pathology, at the San Francisco General Hospital "you're really better off with a shroud and no casket at all." Interestingly, this simple method of burial is the one which is universally practiced in the State of Israel.

In general, the funeral industry has tried to create an atmosphere where the relative is hardly aware of the fact of death. The deceased is embalmed and "made-up" to give an impression of health. The burial service is not complete; the coffin is merely lowered to ground level and then covered with a grass blanket as if to give the impression that the ultimate destiny of man is not really burial in the earth. Instead of the rending of the garment an esthetic black ribbon is attached as a decoration for mourning purposes.

In contrast with this, the traditional Jewish practice calls for a realistic acceptance of the fact of death. The coffin

**RABBI AND MRS.
JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
IN A NEW HOME**

Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein moved from their former residence at 55 East 86th Street and are now in their new home at 1160 Park Avenue. Our best wishes for health and good fortune to them in their new home.

We extend similar good wishes to them on the occasion of their departure to Israel next Sunday. In Israel, the Rabbi will of course attend to many affairs of Bar-Ilan University of which he is Acting President. He will then proceed to Brussels for a session of the Presidium of the World Council on Jewish Education. The Rabbi is a member of this Presidium.

is a simple one and the shroud is an unassuming garment. The garment of the relative is torn as an outward sign of the inward experience of grief. The family remains at the graveside to supervise a dignified and complete burial in order to assure the proper respect for the departed loved one. Simplicity and dignity are the main requirements. Personal involvement in the preparations on the part of the mourners is essential. Beyond this, if one wants to memorialize the departed properly, a contribution to charity in his honor is made.

The funeral industry has created the term "grief therapy". If there is such a psychological need at the time of death, it is probably best served by a realistic approach to the matter by a simple and dignified arrangement for the funeral and by the generosity of friends and relatives in immortalizing the departed through charitable contributions.

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th****Cantors**

Richard Gelfand
Roger Oppenheimer
Lewis Trencher

Sermonette

Alvin Smilow

Torah Reader

Aaron Hostyk

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have in recent weeks, received applications for membership from the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Etra
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Linn
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Neustadter
Mr. Ralph Perlberger
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Zuger

All applications will be processed in accordance with the established practice of the congregation. In the meantime, we extend a hearty welcome to the applicants and their families. We hope that their affiliation with the congregation will be a long and happy one.

SISTERHOOD HAPPY DAY FUND

We acknowledge with thanks contributions to our Sisterhood Happy Day Fund from Mrs. Hyman Abrams, Mrs. Jack Kurzweil and Mrs. Seppy I. Silberman.

Contributions should be sent to Mrs. Jacob P. Shulman, 115 East 82nd Street, Chairman of the Happy Day Fund.

THE JEWRY BOX**WEEK OF JANUARY 26th**

SOLOMON E. GREEN
LEON GRONOWITZ

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9th

HARRY HEYMAN
DR. NORMAN B. JAVITT

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

**FATHER AND SON MINYAN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th****Cantors**

Simon Lerner
Marvin Binstock
Peter Muller
David Popkin

Breakfast Sponsor

The Men's Club

Men's Club Silver Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday Evening, March 10th

— Guest of Honor —

IRA F. WEISMAN

Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun

125 East 85th Street
New York 28, N. Y.
Sacramento 2-0800

Synagogue Officials

Joseph H. Lookstein Rabbi
Haskel Lookstein Assoc. Rabbi
A. Joseph Cohen Cantor
Israel D. Rosenberg Ritual Director
Noam Shudofsky Youth Director
Joseph Glatt Exec. Director

Officers of the Congregation

Max J. Etra President
Joseph Roth Vice-President
Dr. H. Harold Gelfand Secretary
Elgin Shulsky Treasurer
Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin Pres., Sist.
William Lebowitz Pres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**FRIDAY**

Lighting of Candles 5:00
Evening 5:10

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 Thurs-
day, February 13th and Friday,
February 14th.

Evening 5:10

Torah Reader

Abram Orwasher

Conclusion of Sabbath 5:55

SUNDAY

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

DAILY SERVICES

Morning 7:30
Evening 5:20

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to
our esteemed member, Max Sadinoff,
on the passing of his beloved brother,
Nathan.

Our heartfelt sympathies are exten-
ded to Mrs. Joseph Glatt on the passing
of her dear father. May she, together
with her family, henceforth be blessed
with uninterrupted happiness.

We pray that the Almighty will spare
the families further grief for many
years to come.

RAMAZ SPORTS NEWS**Victory is the Password —**

The Ramaz Basketball Team has been
making splendid progress in the Metro-
politan Jewish High School League.
The team is virtually assured of at least
a second place finish. It has to its
record, 7 wins and 2 losses.

The Ramaz "Rams'", captain is
Danny Beller. He, together with his
teammates Stuart Podell, Jack and
Andy Hausman and Johnny Schor have
their hearts set on becoming the league
champions in the play offs which will
be held later this month.

We congratulate the team and
commend the skilled team coach, Mr.
Marvin Hershkowitz on the success
thus far attained. We look forward to
continued success in the forthcoming
play offs.

Good Luck!

YAHREZEITS**February**

8—CHARLES I. LEFF
8—YECHIEL MICHEL
YAKOV ETRA
9—ABRAM A. SHEPARD
9—MORRIS PROPP
10—CHARLES BOGDONOFF
10—JOSEPH M. ZOOK
10—BERNARD JAVITT
10—SARAH WECKER
10—MOSES BERGMANN
11—MINNA TRAUTMAN
11—BETTY KLEIN
12—ELIAS GOTTFRIED
13—JENNIE EICHLER
13—HERMAN KAHN
13—LOUIS RUBINSTEIN
13—KATE COHEN
13—CHAIYA MORGENSTERN
14—ALEXANDER GARFEIN
14—MORDECAI SHOCHETMAN
14—DORA KOPIIT
14—SOLOMON FARBRIDGE

LIPSTADT MEMORIAL COMPANY**Monuments**

370 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

TR 4-6843

Closed Saturdays

Open Sundays

K. J. CALENDAR**SATURDAY
3:00 P.M.**

Junior Girls
Auditorium

Junior Boys
Gymnasium

**MONDAY
11:00 A.M.**

Studies in the Bible
(A class for women)

8:00 P.M.

Talmud
Advanced Hebrew

**WEDNESDAY
8:00 P.M.**

Adult Institute Classes
Sabbath Prayers
Maimonides' Code of Law
Cantillation
Elementary Hebrew

COMING EVENTS**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th**

Sisterhood
Tour of Jewish Museum

A MODERN RITUALARIUM

is located in our community
at 158 West 97th Street
MOument 3-0300

RIVERSIDE

Memorial Chapel

Funeral Directors

76th ST. AND AMSTERDAM AVENUE

ENdicott 2-6600

CHARLES ROSENTHAL, Director