

SUMMER EDITION

*Kehilath
Jeshurun*

Bulletin

AUGUST 21, 1964

VOL. XXXII, NO. 41

ELUL 13, 5724

SISTERHOOD PLANS FOR 1964-65 SEASON

PREPARE FOR SELICHOH

On Saturday, August 29th, the traditional Selichoth Midnight Service will be held. In the next issue of the Bulletin full details on that service will appear. In the meantime, we are alerting our people to that important religious experience which serves to usher in the High Holy Day Season.

We are, to some extent, handicapped this year because of the building activity now in progress. Some of the facilities previously available to us for a "Midnight Snack" and the like, may not be ready. We are, nevertheless, doing everything possible to have "our religious business go on-as usual".

WELCOME HOME RABBI AND MRS. JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN

Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein returned last week after several weeks in Europe. While there, the Rabbi attended a conference of the World Council of Jewish Education, which took place in Geneva. The Rabbi was elected at that conference as Co-ordinator of the World Council of Jewish Education.

Mr. Max J. Etra, President of the Congregation, attended the Geneva Conference. He was part of a delegation from the United States comprising some of the outstanding leaders of Jewish Education in this country.

We are happy to announce in the name of Mrs. William Lebowitz, President of the Sisterhood, and Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon, Program Chairman, that the heat of the summer in no way dampened the ardor and enthusiasm of the officers and committee chairmen of our Sisterhood. While many members of the Sisterhood were on vacation, the planning went on intensively.

As this Bulletin goes to press the program plans for the year are almost complete and the printed cards on which that program will appear have already been arranged for the printer. The program is a new one in many respects. In one respect, however, it is in keeping with past Sisterhood tradition: it is interesting and promises to be stimulating too.

We would like to announce at this time the new chairmen and co chairman for the Kehilath Jeshurun Sisterhood committees who will implement the program for 1964-65.

Program

Mrs. Abraham R. Kirshon

Membership

Mrs. Joseph H. Lookstein

Donor Luncheon Committee

Mrs. Samuel Gross

Mrs. Saul Linzer

Mrs. Reuben N. Popkin

Mrs. Meyer Texon

Hospitality

Mrs. Frank Roth

Mrs. Samuel Garfinkel

(continued on page 3)

THE WEEKLY PORTION

KI TETZE

"Do Not Judge God"

This week's portion contains, among its many mitzvot — it has the greatest number of all the weekly portions — the famous rule of "kan tzipor." This provides that if one walks along the way and finds a bird's nest, he may take the young birds only after chasing away the mother.

Various commentaries consider the aim of this mitzvah to be the teaching of mercy. As the Netziv (Rabbi Naph-tali Zvi Yehudah Berlin, head of the Yeshiva in Wolozin) explains, this is an example of measure for measure. The mother could easily have flown away. She remained behind only to protect her young from danger. Because of her mercy we must show mercy to the mother by sparing her the grief of seeing her young taken.

Following this explanation, the Netziv adds, enigmatically: "Nevertheless this is nothing more than a decree." It would appear that after having offered a rational explanation for this mitzvah, thus attributing it to the "wisdom" of God, the Netziv then reverses himself and declares the mitzvah to be an arbitrary manifestation of the "will" of God.

Actually there is not so much a reversal as an halakhic "ledge", so to speak, for which there are several reasons.

First, the rationality of the law is itself open to question. If mercy is indeed the object, then why allow man even to take the young birds. The act of killing living things for food is essentially unmerciful — for which the community of ethically motivated vegetarians are ample testimony.

Second, even such an obviously rational law has arbitrary elements in it. If the man is sufficiently hungry, and he is forbidden to take the mother bird from the nest, then the mitzvah

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is readily seen as a manifestation of God's will rather than an outgrowth of His reason (Another example of this ambivalent attitude toward the law might be the case of the starving poor man who must steal in order to eat).

Finally, the Talmud implies that ascribing this law to God's mercy opens the Pandora's Box of the problem of human tragedy in the world. If God is merciful toward the bird, then why do the righteous suffer. The late Milton Steinberg in his memorable book, "As a Driven leaf" vividly portrays the disintegration of one man's faith when he saw a small boy fatally injured as a result of his efforts to perform the mitzvah of "sending the mother away" scrupulously.

Thus, the unequivocal judgment of God's wisdom in His Law can lead to the judgment of His conduct of the universe. Therefore, having offered a tentative interpretation of this mitzvah, the Netziv ledges and says: "Nevertheless, this is nothing more than a decree".

H.L.

THE IMPORTANT NEXT BULLETIN

The new Bulletin will contain very important information on the progress that has been made over the summer in the construction of the Ramaz School Building and the reconstruction of our Synagogue House. In picture and words our people will get a fine idea of the progress made. Watch for the next Bulletin.

SISTERHOOD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

(continued from page 1)

Raffles

Mrs. David Pik

Neediest Cases

Mrs. Joseph Roth

Happy Day Fund

Mrs. Jacob P. Shulman
Mrs. Harry Heyman

Gift Shop

Mrs. Edgar Trautman

Kiddush

Mrs. David Pik

Sukkah

Mrs. Oscar Perlberger
Mrs. Elgin Shulsky

Theatre Party

Mrs. Eugene Hollander
Mrs. Joseph Roth

Federation

Mrs. Oscar Perlberger

United Jewish Appeal

Mrs. Joseph Gershman
Mrs. Alexander Gross

We congratulate these women on their assignments and on the trust which the Sisterhood has placed in their hands. We are confident that they will lead the Sisterhood to the finest season in its history this coming year.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Birthdays —

Many happy returns of the day to Ben Eisenstein, Harry Etra, Paul Gourary, Joseph Hostyk, Joseph M. Jame, Mrs. Herman Merkin, Arnold Neustadter, Mrs. Arnold Neustadter, Aaron H. Onish, E. David Rosen, Adolph Schimel, Mrs. Murray J. Schlusel, Irwin Shapiro, Mrs. Romie Shapiro, Mrs. Leon Sigall, Mrs. Seppy I. Silberman, Mrs. Joseph Sonenberg, Michael E. Sorock, Dr. Sadie Edith Trachman and Miss Lillian Zucker.

Anniversaries —

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. James Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Flatow, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Fromer, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham I. Holzer, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Klein, Mr. and Mrs. William Lebowitz, and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Spilky.

Condolence —

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Samuel S. Silverstein upon the loss of her beloved father.

We pray that the family may be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

WELCOME HOME BENNETT

We are happy, and proud to welcome home Bennett Gershman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Gershman from a six week tour of duty on the front lines of the civil rights struggle in Mississippi.

Bennett, a student at New York University School of Law, served as a legal assistant in Mississippi. He won the admiration of Negro and White alike for the splendid manner in which he conducted himself and carried out his sensitive tasks.

We congratulate Bennett for what he did, and we are relieved and happy that he has returned safely from his experience.

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
Irwin Shapiro Secretary
Elgin Shulsky Treasurer
Mrs. William Lebowitz Pres., Sist.
William Lebowitz Pres. Men's Club

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st**

*Evening 6:15

SATURDAY

Morning 9:00

Weekly Portion: Ki Tetze
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
Haftorah: Isaiah 54:1-10

Evening 7:30
Conclusion of Sabbath 8:15

DAILY SERVICES

Morning 7:30
Sunday Morning 8:30
Evening 6:15

*Sabbath Candles are kindled twenty minutes before sunset. Those, however, who conform to our schedule of ushering in the sabbath at 6:15 P.M. should also light candles at that hour.

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YAHRZEITS**August**

22—CELIA KOTTLER
23—AIDLE GROSS
23—ANNIE FRIEDMAN
23—IDA CUMMINGS
23—RACHEL GOTTFRIED
23—ABRAHAM REISER
23—CELIA SCHENKER
24—MARIE DANIEL
24—ABAHAM LINN
25—SAMUEL KOLKER
25—MAX BREINER
25—ALBERT SOKOLSKI
25—ALBERT A. KAPLAN
25—SOLOMON GERSHMAN
25—MAX BREINER
25—FEIVEL WEILER
25—ROSALIA MANDELBAUM
26—JACOB M. HOLZER
26—ANNIE SPIEGEL
26—HARRY WECKER
27—RACHEL BACHRACH
27—NANCY WECHSLER
28—CHARLES SCHLANG
28—SIGMUND ROTH

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