

## VENICE CHIEF RABBI TO ADDRESS FIRST MEN'S CLUB SEUDAH SHELISHITH

A traditional practice will be revived in a somewhat new format on Saturday afternoon, February 15th, when the Men's Club of the congregation will sponsor a special Seudah Shelishith — third Sabbath meal — between Mincha and Ma'ariv services.

As part of the Sabbath program for that day, the Men's Club has invited the Chief Rabbi of Venice, Rabbi Avraham Piatelli, to address the men and women who will gather for the occasion.

Rabbi Piatelli, who traces his ancestry in Italy for a period of nearly two thousand years, is a native of Rome and was graduated from the Rabbinical School of that city. His general education was gained at the University of Rome where he majored in Italian Literature.

As Chief Rabbi of a city which was once a great center for the publication of Jewish books, Rabbi Piatelli lives in the ghetto of Venice — the only ghetto still intact in Europe. He worships with his congregation, in rotation, in each of the five synagogues of the ghetto. In this way, he guarantees, at least symbolically, the continuity of Venetian Jewry.

We know that our congregational family will find in Rabbi Piatelli a fascinating representative of the old world and a living testimony to the irrepressible nature of the Jew. Characteristically, Rabbi Piatelli's title for his talk will be: "A Young Voice from an Old Ghetto."

A cordial invitation is extended to men and women, young and old, to attend Mincha services on Saturday, February 15th, and to remain after that for the Seudah Shelishith, the cultural program, and the services which will conclude the Sabbath.

### THE KEHILATH JESHURUN MEN'S CLUB

invites you and your friends to greet and hear



### RABBI SOLOMON GOREN

Chief Chaplain of the Israel Defense Forces  
and Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv

at a

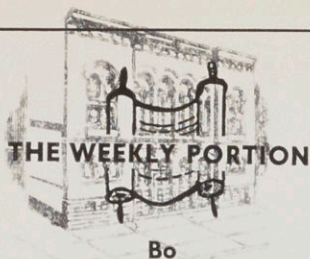
### SPECIAL CONVOCATION

This Wednesday evening, January 29th, at 8:30 o'clock  
in the Auditorium  
of the Synagogue House

A reception in honor of Rabbi Goren will follow

**RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN WILL PREACH THIS SATURDAY AT 11:00 A.M.  
"EXODUS, CHAPTER 12, VERSE 2 — THE TORAH TREATS FIRST THINGS SECOND"**





Bo

**"Did Pharaoh Have Free Will?"**

Judaism, as a religion and as a philosophy, accepts the view that man has free will to determine his own behavior. We read in this week's portion, however, that "God hardened Pharaoh's heart" and, in effect, made him reluctant to free the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery.

Two questions immediately come to our mind: First, if man has free will, was Pharaoh's behavior free or determined by God? Second, if Pharaoh's will was determined by God, how could he have been held accountable for his behavior and punished for his failure to free the Jewish people?

The answer to the first question essentially is found in the dynamics of free will as Jewish philosophy understands it. Man is free to choose alternate courses of action, not because God cannot determine man's behavior, but rather because God allows man free decision. God is omnipotent and therefore can determine everything. He restrains his power in the case of man, however, and permits man free choice.

According to this view, God could always withhold the power of free choice from a man by exercising His full omnipotence. This is what God does with Pharaoh in order to demonstrate to the world through the Ten Plagues that God's providence is continuous and unending. Why then is Pharaoh punished for his intransigence when it was God who determined his behavior? The answer to this question is to be found in a basic philosophical idea called "The Doctrine of Agreement." According to this Doctrine, even if man's behavior is determined by an external force, man may be held accountable for his behavior if he follows an evil or good pattern with full agreement.

For example, if a starving man steals, one might argue that his criminal act is caused by external environmental conditions. Philosophically, his behavior is determined, but he could still be held accountable for it if he stole with enthusiasm and without a sense of guilt. In other words, while his bad behavior is determined by external forces, his mood and method are motivated by his own lack of a sense of guilt. He is punishable not for the externally determined act but for

**THE KEHILATH JESHURUN SISTERHOOD**

invites all ladies to hear

**MRS. YOSEF TEKOAH**

discuss

**"DIPLOMATIC LIFE — THE ROSES AND THE THORNS"****This Monday, January 27th, at 12:30 o'clock**

in the Social Hall

Coffee and cake will be served prior to the meeting

**WITHIN OUR FAMILY****Birthdays—**

Many happy returns of the day to Mrs. Lewis Braff, Samson Eichler, Joseph N. Friedman, Martin G. Haber, Morton Kamerman, Dr. Max Miller, Mrs. Abe Newborn, Mrs. Norman Orentreich, Stanley G. Reiss, Mrs. J. William Rosenbluth and Carlo K. Zipfel.

**Anniversaries—**

Warmest greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Barany.

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY**

A hearty Mazel Tov to our esteemed members, Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon, upon their forthcoming fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 26th. May they celebrate this happy milestone together in health and in happiness, and may they continue to be able to enjoy such blessed anniversaries for many years to come.

the free internal agreement and acceptance of the act.

This concept is extremely important in analyzing various forms of errant and criminal behavior. It is because of this view that many Germans in the 30's and 40's could be held accountable for atrocities that they perpetrated while allegedly under compelling orders from a higher authority.

Pharaoh was drowned in the Red Sea not for what he did to the Jews but for the enthusiasm with which he did it. He met his watery grave as a punishment for the hardness of heart which he strengthened in himself. He was plunged into the depths of the sea as a punishment for the arrogance which was his own creation.

There is here an implicit practical lesson for us. Many of our good deeds and our sins can be attributed in part to environmental influences. Our accountability for good or evil in those areas depends less upon what we do and more upon the way in which we do it.

H. L.

**In Memoriam****HARRY ABRAMSON**

We record with sorrow the passing of our esteemed senior member, Harry Abramson. A regular worshipper in our synagogue for many years, his happy countenance in the House of God radiated warmth and enthusiasm to all who sat near him.

Harry Abramson, in his younger years, was a cantor. He appreciated Jewish liturgical music and he knew how to daven well. He enjoyed his moments with us and we enjoyed having him as part of our congregational fellowship.

We offer our sincere expressions of condolence to his dear wife, Dora, and we pray that she may be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

**HERMAN DAVIDOWITZ**

We regretfully inform our congregational family of the sudden and untimely passing of our devoted member, Herman Davidowitz. Mr. Davidowitz passed away in Italy en route to an extended visit in the Land of Israel.

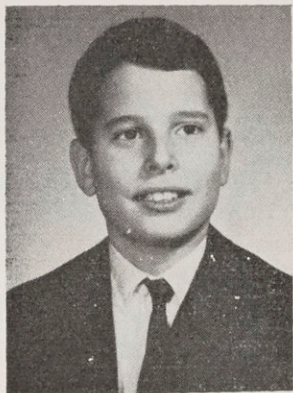
He, too, was a regular worshipper in our midst for many years. Together with his late wife, he amassed a collection of ceremonial objects of Jewish art which ranked among the finest private collections of its kind. He loved the objects because he thoroughly enjoyed the ceremonies and rituals associated with them.

His final resting place is the Land of Israel where he was laid to rest by his two sons. May the family be spared further sorrow.

Harry Abramson and Herman Davidowitz were part of the congregational family in life; they will not be forgotten in death. May God reward them for their good works.



RON COHEN  
BAR MITZVAH



Congratulations and all good wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Cohen upon the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ron. The celebration of this happy milestone will take place at services in our synagogue this coming Sabbath morning.

Ron is an honor student in Form II of the Ramaz Upper School. He is setting the pace for his younger sister and brother who are also students at Ramaz. He will chant the entire portion from the Torah as well as the Prophetic portion at our services this week.

The entire congregation will be the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Cohen at kiddush following services.

#### SISTERHOOD NEEDIEST CASES

We acknowledge with thanks recent contributions to our Sisterhood Neediest Cases Fund from Mrs. James Clark, Mrs. Leon A. Feldman and Mrs. Bertha Rafsky.

Contributions should be sent to Mrs. Joseph Roth, 891 Park Avenue, Chairman of the Neediest Cases Fund.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

#### SHACHAR'S SECOND CULTURAL LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker  
DAVID SCHEINFELD

Chairman of Hatzaad Harishon,

Topic  
"THE DILEMMA OF  
THE BLACK JEW"

## COUPLES CLUB DISCUSSES CRITICAL ISSUE AT MEMORABLE MEETING

The Couples Club of the congregation held a meeting last Saturday night which could only be described as unforgettable. Those who were present at that meeting will surely testify to that fact.

The location was the new home of Dr. and Mrs. Moses Nussbaum. Our hosts were most gracious and provided a very warm and interesting atmosphere for the meeting.

The subject of the meeting was Black — Jewish Relations. The discussion of that subject elicited a broad range of extemporaneous observations which no doubt reflected the wide divergence of opinion which exists among the Jews of New York concerning this critical issue. Several conclusions seemed to evoke a consensus:

1. The Jewish community must face up to the growing Anti-Semitic mood of the Black community.

2. The primary function of the Jew-

ish community is self defense and the protection of its own rights.

3. The greatest danger of this Anti-Semitism is that while it began among a certain core militant group, it has now begun to touch and move the masses of underprivileged Blacks in this city. Furthermore, recent events have indicated that Anti-Semitism is gaining a new respectability and can touch even the sacred precincts of the Museum of Art. This development surely must be fought with full strength.

4. There may be very little practical purpose gained in allowing ourselves to lose all perspective in this matter. While steadfastly defending Jewish rights, we have to press for the solution to the social ills of this city which constitute the causative factors for the burgeoning Anti-Semitism that we see around us. In order to do this, we must maintain clarity of thought on the social problems of poverty and ghetto life.

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

### The Jewish Stake in Liberal Movements

*(In the December 1968 edition of Midstream, there appeared a summary of a discussion held between Albert Memmi, the well known French Jewish Author of "Portrait of a Jew" and other books, and a group of young people who took part in the Paris Student uprising last spring. The discussion touched on the relationship between their Jewish identity and their revolutionary aspirations. We reprint one exchange for its obvious importance to our readership).*

**Jean-Claude Rabinowicz:** Let me take an example you're all familiar with: the Algerian War. I took part in the movement for Algerian independence without any consideration for the problem of anti-Semitism or for the views of the Algerian nationalist leaders concerning Israel. And I do not regret having done so, for I do not believe that both liberty and progress can be achieved in a single stroke; rather there are always retrogressions as well as steps forward. Algerian liberation had to be achieved first, even if this meant that Algeria had to pass through a phase of extremist nationalism before achieving a condition of true democracy.

**Albert Memmi:** Here, in fact, is the prime difficulty in the Jewish condition in our time, the savage dilemma that people seem to want to impose

upon the Jew. For isn't it scandalous to make it seem that the liberation of a people entails the extermination of your people, and of yourself as an individual? I hold it against the French Left for having ignored or tried to hide the possibility of this outcome. If a revolution of the Left today can take place only at the expense of the Jewish community, you may regard this as legitimate if you wish, but I, for my part, do not think so; I am not an historical masochist. I see no reason why the Jews should be offered up in a sacrificial Holocaust for the sake of the forward march of History. Any liberation of a people, wherever it is to take place in the world, that requires the extermination of the Jews as its accompaniment, is not a real liberation.

I suppose it is futile to recall that I, too, have been a partisan of the liberation of all colonized peoples, of all the oppressed, whoever they may be. But this does not mean that there were not grave contradictions sometimes, both politically and theoretically. I regret that at the time of the Algerian War Jewish intellectuals pretended to believe that the Jews would not be affected. For us today, it is important to determine whether a Left-wing regime establishing itself in France tomorrow would have adverse results for the Jewish community.



**Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun**

125 East 85th Street  
New York 10028, N.Y.  
HA 7-1000

**Synagogue Officials**

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

**Officers of the Congregation**

Max J. Etra ..... President  
Joseph Roth ..... Vice-President  
Elgin Shulsky ..... Treasurer  
Irwin Shapiro ..... Secretary  
Mrs. Leon A. Feldman ..... Pres. Sist.  
Martin R. Rochlin ..... Pres. Men's Club

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES****FRIDAY**

Lighting of Candles ..... 4:40  
Evening ..... 4:50

**SATURDAY**

Morning ..... 9:00  
Junior Congregation ..... 10:15  
Pre-School Service  
Dining Hall ..... 11:00

**Weekly Portion: BO****Exodus 10:1 - 13:16****Haftorah: Jeremiah 46:13 - 28**

Evening ..... 4:50  
Conclusion of Sabbath ..... 5:35

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Morning ..... 7:30  
Sunday Morning ..... 8:30  
Father and Son Minyan ..... 9:30  
Evening ..... 5:00

**YAHREZITS****January**

25—RABBI SAMUEL SCHREIBER  
25—JESSE WILTON GOLDMAN  
25—DORA DERSHOWITZ  
26—BESSIE WALLACH  
26—SAMUEL KLEPPNER  
26—AKIVA SCHWEITZER  
26—BLANKA ROSENAK  
26—FLOYD KATSKA  
27—MAX PHILLIPS  
27—WILLIAM PRINCE  
28—ANNA HABER  
28—JONATHAN I. HIMMELSTEIN  
29—JOSEPH FREED  
30—CELIA KAY  
30—MIREL WARSHAW  
30—RIVE K. WEINSTEIN  
30—LENA URIS  
30—EMANUEL WEINBAUM  
30—STELLE HAYMAN  
31—HANNAH B. ROKEACH  
31—JOSEPH CORAK  
31—DR. NATHAN BERKOWITZ

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION****Saturday, January 25th****Cantors**

Henry Zimet  
Richard Deutsch  
Jonathan Birnbach

Officers elected for the month of  
Shevat are:

President ..... Robert Riederman  
Vice President ..... Steven Berkowitz  
Gabbai ..... Seymour Sub  
Hostess ..... Yonah Usdan

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**ADULT INSTITUTE CLASSES  
THIS WEEK****Monday, 11:00 A.M.**

Studies in Judaism

**8:30 P.M.**

Talmud

**Wednesday, 8:00 P.M.**

Elementary Hebrew

**Thursday, 8:30 P.M.**

Study Group

THE BOOK OF JONAH

**FATHER AND SON  
MINYAN RESUMES**

The Father and Son Minyan, sponsored on Sunday mornings at 9:30 by the Men's Club of the congregation, will resume sessions this coming Sunday morning after a lapse of several weeks during the period of high school examinations.

A cordial invitation is extended to all boys and to their elders to resume coming down to this fine activity this Sunday morning at 9:30. The breakfast sponsor this week will be: William Lebowitz.

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**SPRING STUDY GROUPS****BOOK OF JONAH**

Instructor: DR. MEYER HERSHKOVICS

**Thursdays: January 30; February 13, 27;  
March 13, 27**

Time: 8:30 — 9:45 P.M.

**PRAYER**

Instructor: RABBI MARTIN GORDON

**Wednesdays: February 5th, 19th  
March 5th, 19th, 26th**

Time: 8:30 — 9:45 P.M.

Registration may be accomplished by calling the  
Synagogue Office or at the first session of each group.

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GERTZ BROS., N.Y.C.