

THE YOUNG ISRAELIGHT

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NEW YEAR'S EVE BANQUET TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Our New Year's Eve affair was a happy, successful occasion. Those members and their wives who were fortunate enough to be present, witnessed an hilarious evening which they will long remember.

It was very evident that we were happy to ring the new year in at a Young Israel festival, where the music was sweet, hot and entertaining. The food was deliciously prepared and served by "expert" waiters. And the liquor..... well..... it's best not to say too much about that lest we cause the embarrassment of some of our distinguished members who mistook it for aqua pura. It was pleasing to note, however, that despite the present-day anxieties and the strife of this war-time world, the morale of most of the people is still high. They can still assemble and have a heck of a good time.

We greatly appreciate the splendid efforts of our Entertainment Committee which worked so diligently and efficiently, so that our affair would be the "talk of Parkchester", and from all indications their efforts have been well rewarded. So, hats off to Sam Feinberg, Abe Kirschenbaum, Irv Pollack, Jack Slove, Manny Reiss, and Jerry Rosenblum; and thanks for a splendid job.

To Ned Backhaut, the Chairman of this committee who suddenly and unfortunately took ill -- and is still in the hospital -- we regret that you couldn't share this memorable evening with us. You would have taken great pride in seeing how we finished what you started. Get well, quick, Ned. We need your leadership for our future social functions.

WOMEN'S GROUP FULL SPEED AHEAD ON RAFFLE SALES

With the cooperation of the women who volunteered to make it, the afghan, in all its glory, is now completed. The gorgeous hues and shades of wool, worked up in a modern pattern, has become a beautiful afghan, or throw blanket, far beyond the expectations of the committee in charge, headed by Mrs. Irving Pollack.

The honest efforts placed therein are greater than any monetary evaluation. This has given the Women's Group an incentive towards the sale of many raffle books, and should give impetus to the additional sale of tickets by all the affiliated groups of Young Israel.

Mr. Jack Ratner, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Men's Group, has announced that the Committee has decided to give each woman, who sells 10 or more books, a box of Max Factor's Face Powder or Pancake make-up. Suitable awards to men who accomplish the same feat, will also be made.

On the eve of Washington's Birthday, February 21st, 1943, the afghan will be raffled off to the lucky winner at a gala affair, the details of which are still being planned. The committee in charge, however, has let it be known that there will be plenty of fun for all at this affair. So reserve the date!

The Women's Group meets regularly the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at members' homes. The last meeting was held at the home of Betty Furshpan, and a committee was appointed to visit the OCD and offer the services of the organization. On this committee were named: Betty Furshpan, Shirley Ratner, and Dorothy Feinberg.

(See page 5 for further news)

ARE YOU A TEN-PERCENTER?

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EDITORIAL

The object of war is to win victory. A war is only won by fighting battles, and battles are won only by taking the offensive. These combat principles are neither new nor revolutionary; they are as old as man. They apply with equal force to the battle for armed victory, as well as for the battle of ideas and principles of social groups such as ours.

In time of war and mass hysteria, popular thinking tends to be loose and unrealistic. Yet, at no time should thinking be more clear and logical. First and foremost, the Allies are doing everything in their power to insure a quick victory for the United Nations. But in the meantime, they are also planning ahead for a new post-war world. In other words, they are setting up certain goals and traditions for which we are willing to fight, and, if need be, die.

We, the Young Israel of Parkchester, should also choose a certain goal

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for which our membership would gladly work hard, and strive to achieve. Why not select an objective now, and keep punching at it until the war will be over and victory ours?

We, the Editorial Staff, therefore take the initiative to urge our membership to start a Building Fund drive immediately. Let's organize a capable and conscientious committee whose sole purpose shall be to raise funds and make necessary preparations so that when conditions become stabilized, we can lay the cornerstone for our own beautiful center.

Now is the time to start working if we want to achieve our objective in time. Victory, we hope, is not too distant. So let's go, men, women, and intermediates of Young Israel of Parkchester. Keep punching until that building is completed, so that we may enjoy our new way of life under the Four Freedoms, in our own inimitable fashion.

Now that the New Year's Affair is water under the bridge, and we've had our fun, we turn to our next important activity on the agenda. You have all received your raffle books by this time. Please do not find a comfortable spot for them in your desk drawer, and forget about them completely. It is important that you put them in circulation immediately and sell as many books as you can, because the money that will be raised is going to start the ball rolling on that beautiful center we are planning to build.

The prize to be raffled off is an afghan, elaborately made by the Women's Club, and the drawing will be held on February 21st, at the Center.

CHAMISHO OSOR B'SHEVAT

Jerome H. Rosenblum

January 21st of this year will mark the world-over celebration of Chamisho Osor B'Shevav, the Jewish Arbor Day. It is therefore timely to say a few words about this obscure holiday.

The word "obscure" is used advisedly. Holidays of all sorts are of two types: Natural and Historical. Those in the former category are celebrated because of an event inherent to the land in the country observing these particular holidays. An Historical holiday is celebrated by a people, no matter where they are, in commemoration of an occurrence of importance in that people's history. The importance of the majority of Jewish holidays lies in the fact that although they may have a "natural" origin -- and therefore would be celebrated only by the Jews living in Palestine -- historical significances have been attached to them, to insure world-wide Jewish observance. For example, Passover was originally solely celebrated as a "spring festival"; today, its universal commemoration lies in the historical importance of the exodus from Egypt. Likewise Shevuoth ("day of the first fruits") and Succoth (holiday of harvesting crops) are today observed the world over because of historical bases -- respectively, the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai; and the fact that the Jews lived in tents after their deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

Unfortunately, Chamisho Osor does not enjoy this significance. Its bases are purely "natural", as we learn from the first Mishnah in Tractate Rosh Hashonah. This Mishnah tells us that there are four Rosh Hashonahs, one of which is "Rosh Hashonah L'Ailonos", the New Year at which time the tithes on fruits of trees were to be given.

Today, we celebrate this festival
(continued on the next column)

FORUM SEASON CLOSURES

Our Forum program during the month of December featured two prominent men. On December 4th, Councilman Meyer Goldberg delivered a very stirring talk on Freedom of Speech. He gave us some very interesting side-lights on the origin of this fundamental principle, which is a sacred part of our democratic system of government.

On December 11th, Reverend J. Russell Chandler was our guest speaker. A very large crowd turned out for this forum, and was rewarded with a most entertaining and informative discourse. Rev. Chandler, who was a missionary in China for several years, gave us a bird's-eye view of that picturesque country, and described very vividly its quaint people and their unique characteristics. A heritage of ancestral philosophy combined with a new world of freedom portrays our fighting ally, China, as a nation that will play a prominent part in the world of tomorrow.

Mr. Charles Rubinstein, President of the United Civic Association of the Bronx, was to speak on December 18th. Unfortunately, the sudden illness of a relative caused this engagement to be cancelled.

During these past few months, we have conducted a series of forums on diversified subjects. Not only has this been profitable as an educational program, but it has also served as a medium of social contact among our members and friends. We sincerely hope that our future endeavors will be carried on in the same spirit.

with the eating of fruits -- figs, dates, "bucksa" -- from Palestine's trees. In Palestine, the holiday is observed by ceremonious processions through the streets, wherein the fruits and produce are exhibited amid the singing and rejoicing for which the "halutzim" have become famous.

From our INTERMEDIATE GROUP

It ain't the guns nor armament,
Nor funds that they can pay;
But the close cooperation,
That makes them win the day.

It ain't the individual,
Nor the army as a whole;
But the everlasting team-work
Of every blooming soul.

R. K.

In accordance with a previous announcement in the YOUNG ISRAELITE, the Intermediates held their first social at the Center. Those present shared an enjoyable evening. The dance music provided by the orchestra, was "par excellence", and the Pincus Radio Singers made a hit with the crowd. We hope to see more of them in the near future.

At this time, the Intermediates wish to express their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Murray Schaffer, and Mr. Jerry Rosenblum, and friend, who were present and assisted with the refreshments. Mr. Abraham Kirschenbaum, Vice-president of the Men's Group, deserves special mention for the great help he gave in providing the "franks", which were so eagerly devoured by all present.

The officers, including our new treasurer, Miss Pearl Schneider, conducted the affair like veterans. We are indeed sorry that Mr. Bernard Friesler, who so graciously came to pay his respects, could not remain a while longer.

It is regrettable that more of the Senior Groups were unable to be present. We hope that in the future, ample notice will be given, so that everyone will manage to attend and participate in the festivities.

WE MUST BELONG

William Posner

Group belonging-ness always has been, and always will remain, the best source of courage for the Jew. Though I speak only of importance to the Jew, in reality it is a concept which is true for the whole human family. Centuries ago, the family was the most basic group. Even today, we recognize what the family means in terms of our relationships. It is so vital and necessary to normal development. It helps the individual grow up and be part of our society. In early days, of course, the family served as a place not only where the individual members could identify with one another in terms of protection; it served likewise as a unit of control for those persons who deviated from its rules and ways.

Identification with a group seems to have even greater importance in these times. Jews, probably more than any other people, have always lived in like times of stress and upheaval. Anti-Semitism is as old as the Jew himself. And when we begin to think upon the reasons for the survival of the Jew, we begin to see that in a large measure, the Jew has always had a group sense. This has been true whether in our own land or in exile.

In these days of stress, it behooves all of us to face reality. Reality today means living as happily as we can in our environment with all its negative implications. To achieve this we cannot live alone, but only in relation to others of our group. To feel a sense of belonging can mean the difference between ennobling our faith or shattering it. It would be easy to run away from being a Jew, but then you have all the consequences of self-hatred. The alternative is real identification with the group, and finding real courage together.

Here are some New Year's resolutions for us to make and keep. LET'S RESOLVE:

- 1) To attend meetings regularly and partake of the organization's various activities.
- 2) To bring at least one new member into the organization -- that is, each one of us.
- 3) To sell enough raffle books, so that we can continue our activities without financial head-aches.
- 4) To pay our dues and pledges as soon as possible to Mr. Slove (1558 Unionport Road), so that he can keep our accounts in order.
- 5) To attend Sabbath morning services.
- 6) To attend Bible Classes, which are being inaugurated this Friday evening. (The first, this week, will be held at Kelly Winkler's, 1919 McGraw Avenue, Apartment 1 D).

OUR BONER DEPARTMENT

Still feeling the effects of New Year's eve, the Editorial Board forgot a number of items which should have appeared in previous pages. So, here goes:

OFFICERS OF MEN'S GROUP:

Samuel Feinberg. President
 Abraham Kirschenbaum Vice. Pres.
 Martin Dym. Rec. Secy.
 Murray Schaffer. Corr. Secy.
 Jack Slove. Fin. Secy.
 Ned Backhaut. Treasurer

OFFICERS OF WOMEN'S GROUP:

Dorothy Feinberg. President
 Ruth Pollack. Vice. Pres.
 Lee Reiss. Rec. Secy.
 Frances Gootnick. Corr. Secy.
 Shirley Ratner. Treasurer

WE HEARD

(but shouldn't have).....

...that Boris Stern had to make some concessions in order to come down New Year's Eve. Is that why he bought so much liquor?.....that Jan. is the 3rd wedding anniversary of the Ratners. No doubt he's giving her a raffle book as a gift.....that Rabbi and Mrs. Silver are heir-conditioning their home for the summer.....that Bernie Friesler was so "el stinko" New Year's Eve that he gave Perry a bottle of Robbi Burns (with a nipple on it) instead of moo-juice..... Abe Kirschenbaum is laid up at home. A speedy recovery, Abe.....Mac Katz and Manny Reiss were trying to get Sam Feinberg odsified, but the tables were turned (and Manny still insists he was sober)Ruth and Irv Pollack had a mad-on. It seems he kissed Calverts instead of her when lights went off.....January 15 is Jack Witlieb's 5th anniversary. Congrats!.....Bea Lookstein leaves this Wednesday to join the WAACS. Lots of luck, and come back soon.....that Sol Spitz's voice is changing, which is why he refuses to grace the Cantor's podium at services.....that Jack Slove has chosen Schenley's over water. Says the world goes around faster. He oughta know, after the affair.....The Imperial Gardens is suing Jerry Rosenblum for damages to the floor, which accrued after he and his girl friend took a spill.Kelly Winkler kissed Beverly at midnight New Year's eve, instead of his wife. Mistake?.....

RICHARD FRIEDMAN TO BE

CONFIRMED ON JANUARY 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Friedman announce the Bar-Mitzvah of their Son, Richard K. (our Junior cantor) on Saturday, January 30th, at the Young Israel. Among the guests who will attend are a paternal grandmother and three aunts from Detroit, who are coming in to the city for the occasion.