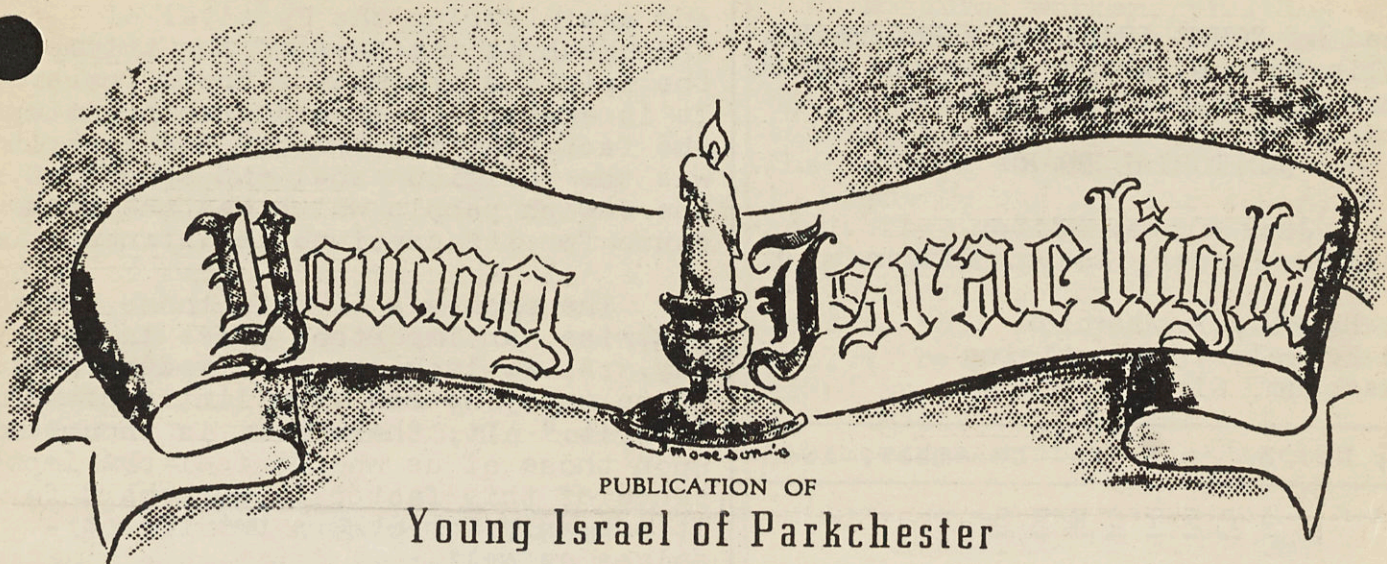


## CHANUKKAH ISSUE



VOLUME V, NUMBER 3

KISLEV 5707

DECEMBER, 1946

### ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED FOR GALA CHANUKKAH AFFAIR

On Tuesday evening, December 24th, the Young Israel of Parkchester will hold its annual Chanukkah Celebration at its headquarters, 2137 Ellis Avenue.

A committee under the leadership of Kalman Winkler has been making special preparations for the occasion. Mr. Winkler announces that in addition to the beautiful candle lighting ceremony his Committee has arranged for a program that will feature a galaxy of talent, fun contest and package party. Lucious refreshments will be served - Latkes! Knishes! You will be able to make records of your own voice and participate in other novelties.

COME ONE - COME ALL

BRING A PACKAGE - JOIN THE FUN



### CHANUKKAH

THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

December 18th to 25th

The celebration of Chanukkah commemorates the Jewish victory against the demoralizing and oppressing Syrians and ancient Greeks, who aimed to eradicate Judaism. The revolt was started by the high-priest Mattathias, the Hasmonean, and it continued under his son, the great commander Judas Maccabee. On the 25th of the month of Kislev (164 B.C.E.), three years after the Temple had first been defiled, the brave Jewish soldiers victoriously entered Jerusalem, cleansed, repaired, and re-dedicated the Temple.

They prepared to kindle the perpetual light, but discovered only a small cruse of unpolluted oil, the seal being unbroken, as required. It was believed to be sufficient only for one day's service, but it miraculously lasted eight days, until olives were obtained and fresh oil was made. Therefore the lights are kindled eight days, the number increasing by one daily, from one to eight, in order to magnify the event. Services were joyfully resumed with song and psalms to God, and the celebration continued eight days.

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# The Young Israelight

Published by YOUNG ISRAEL OF PARKCHESTER,  
2137 Ellis Avenue, which meets the first  
and third Tuesdays of the month.

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## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

A very successful idea has been introduced by our Education Committee. While the kiddies are busy with their bible stories, picture coloring and what not - the daddies who wait around participate in a very lively discussion on current topics dealing with the Jewish scene, occasional bible study, etc.

## EDITORIAL

One theme which is repeated again and again during the Festival of Chanukkah is the idea of the triumph of the spirit over that of brute force. It is emphasized in order to point up the fact that all through the ages it was the religious zeal and spirit of the Jewish people which was the main cause for its continued existence.

The emphasis of this theme has, likewise, an important place in our own day. As we look upon the modern Jewish scene today we see very little of this "spirit." It, therefore, is incumbent upon those of us who do feel the importance of this factor to work hard for it not only for others but for ourselves as well.

We in Young Israel believe that we can play a special part in the revitalizations of the Jewish spirit. This we can do particularly through our religious activities. For to those of us who have participated actively in our religious activities, Young Israel has had a special meaning. It is through Young Israel that we have come to a realization that religion and ritual can be expressed in a rich and beautiful way; through song and through the active participation of the whole Congregation.

We should like to feel that others can gain similar feelings of richness and beauty by participating in our religious activities.

At this Chanukkah time therefore we extend an invitation to the Jewish Community of Parkchester to rededicate itself to the Jewish spirit and to join with us in our services at all times.

We want the Community to know that our house of worship is open to all Jews regardless of economic or social status. All of us are equal before God.

William Posner

Bill Posner has been leading this group and all who attend have found it most profitable. Come down Sunday morning 10 to 11 and join this group. All are welcome.



## AMONG OURSELVES

-Pitput

Abe Kirschenbaum was recently guest of honor at a beautiful ceremony at the National Council of Young Israel, tendered in appreciation of his generous donation of a room at the National Building, 3 W. 16th Street. Watching all his friends dispose of oodles of hors d'ouvres, delectable knishes, wienies and other assorted tidbits, without being able to partake, must have been too much for Abe, for following this party Abe was taken sick and had to be confined to his home for two weeks - - - -

Israel Upbin, Executive Director, leaves the National Council after ten years of faithful service to Young Israel--farewell, Srully, and our best wishes as you embark upon your business career--

Our most eligible bachelor, Nat Saperstein, has gone and done it--have you seen the sparkler Ruth Kirschenbaum has been sporting?--Julie Horowitz was "testimonialized" in grand style at a reception given by Young Israel of Bronx Gardens on Dec. 8th in connection with their building campaign--"Kelly" Winkler and "Bunny" Harris have been sneaking away for driving lessons lately--we wonder why? We're itching to report the visit of the stork at the Posner's and at the Feinberg's, but it looks like we'll have to wait for the next issue--Jack Slove celebrates a birthday December 30th, mazel tov Jack, remember, life begins at 40--

Scoutmaster Lou Gross and the Missus celebrate their 13th anniversary December 16th -- good luck to you and your little "cubs."

## NEW YEAR'S EVE AFFAIR

For the past five years, Young Israel of Parkchester has had its main annual affair on New Year's Eve. This has been the outstanding social event in the Jewish community of Parkchester. Unfortunately, rising food costs have made it necessary for us to forego this

## LAUGH DEPT.

A social worker, visiting a home, was shocked to find a four-year-old boy busily sucking at a nursing bottle. She began lecturing the child's mother, telling her it was wrong for a child that old to be still using a bottle--it might be bad for his teeth, would lead other children to make fun of him, they'd call him Baby, and the boy might get an inferiority complex. She had more to say, but just then the boy pulled the nipple from his mouth and asked succinctly:

"Hoits you, maybe?"

--American Medical Association Journal

## EVERYBODY'S DICTIONARY

HEREDITY: if your father didn't have any children and your grandfather didn't have any children, you won't have any children.

--Quote

CONFERENCE: a group of men who individually can do nothing, but who as a group can meet and decide that nothing can be done.

GOLF: a five-mile walk, punctuated by disappointments.

--Dublin Opinion

SECRET: something that is hushed about from place to place.

--National Grange

CYNIC: one who, when he smells flowers, looks around for the coffin.

--H. L. Mencken

WOMAN: a person who reaches for a chair when she answers the telephone.

--What's Funny--and Why

--Chicago Daily News

event this year. Instead we are planning a grand affair the early part of next year. We are sure that the "regulars" who have attended our annual New Year's Eve parties will bear with us and will be with us at our affair later in the season.



## A TIMELY MESSAGE---

The theme of the hour, the focal point for all eyes the world over is Palestine. It is our desire and duty to redeem the Holy Land, call it once again our home, and to welcome within its boundaries all of our displaced co-religionists.

How much longer shall we be tenants on this planet when by covenant and by recorded deed in the scriptures that are accepted by all nations, we own an area on the face of the globe which G-d set aside for us.

Could it be that the nations deny us our rights and privileges because we claim a large slice of the earth? By looking at a map it can be seen that Palestine is a small segment facing partly on the Mediterranean Sea, and bounded by Egypt, Trans-Jordania, Syria, and Lebanon. We desire no other territory than that which is rightfully ours.

Can the Jews of the Western Hemisphere continue a passive role, when in the so-called great, cultured, civilized countries of Europe over five millions of our people have been butchered, burned, gassed and poisoned? They do not permit us to live on borrowed land, and they refuse to give us back our own land!

We gave to the pagan world the Torah, the Commandments, a culture and a civilization that was the basis for all learning, for all great philosophies.

The foundation for social justice is to be found in the religious and social principles given to the Jewish people as directives for their national life.

The supreme principle was that of unity. Our G-d was one G-d; and we were one people, one social organism, bound together by our common heritage and the principle of love and mutual service.

From our laws, customs and ceremonies, the world learned to live.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Our Youth Department is very proud of its progress.

The Sunday morning Bible Club, with over 50 children had to be divided into 2 sections. One for youngsters from 4 to 6 which meets from 10 to 11 A.M., and the second for youngsters from 6 to 9 which meets from 11 to 12.

It is interesting to note that a parents discussion group is held on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11 A.M.

The Assorted Charms, consisting of girls about 15 years of age hold their meetings on Tuesday evenings. They are already discussing plans for a dance to be held in February.

The Intermediate, a co-ed group, (girls 15 to 19, and boys 16 to 21) held a Thanksgiving Day Membership Dance to enjoy a social evening together, and increase the membership of the group.

Plans are progressing for the formation of a Boy Scout Family consisting of the Troop, Senior Scouts and Cub

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And when the other nations began to torment, attack and persecute us, the world lost its beauty, its righteousness, and its claim to exist. Wars brought other wars, each succeeding one more ghastly than the one before. And finally World War II has given birth to a new weapon, that, if ever used in a new conflict, will wipe off the face of the earth all humanity.

There is only one antidote against such a holocaust. Give our people back the land which the Torah speaks of as our heritage so that we may rebuild our Temple and worship Him in the manner prescribed in his Holy teachings, that the G-d of Israel and of all peoples shall dwell among us and bless us with a final peace for all time, happiness within our ranks and with brotherly love towards all nations on the face of the earth.

A.I.K.



THE OLD COUNTRY  
- A Review of the Book -

This collection of Sholom Aleichem's tales is more than a book. It is the epitaph of a vanished world and an almost vanished people. The salty and hilarious folk of whom it tells - the Jews of Europe - are dead. All the Tevyas whose souls and sayings, whose bizarre and tender antics Sholom Aleichem immortalized in the richest Yiddish prose ever written, were massacred, six million strong, by the Germans. And all the quaint and heartwarming villages in which the Jews of Europe lived are no longer on the map.

Sholom Aleichem's capering tales, full of rueful laughter, are not merely the report of a people; they are their historical farewell to a civilization that has wiped them out.

The desperate wit of this great Yiddish writer animates these tales in the English translation. That they lack the import of the original masterpieces is no fault of the translators, Julius and Frances Butwin. The Butwins have done an inspired job. The lack is one which must befall anyone who touches the genius of Sholom Aleichem and tries to carry it into another tongue.

For Sholom Aleichem's was the genius of idiom. He and his characters all spoke as if literature had never been invented. They more than spoke, they acted. The words are as full of hidden chuckles, grimaces and meanings as if they were part of a plot - a plot called "Jews" - rather than of a vocabulary. Sholom Aleichem's stories take their place beside the best of Mark Twain, Dickens, Ring Lardner and the translations of Gogol and Gorki.

To say that the pages of "The Old Country" squeeze the heart, even as they stir chuckles and guffaws, is to report tritely but honestly. The hurly-burly of rabbis, students, beggars, teachers,

## "BOY SCOUT PROGRAM"

The formation of a Boy Scout Troop has been the dream of Young Israel of Parkchester for the past two years, and now this dream is about to become a reality.

A sponsorship committee has been created with Bernie Friesler as its chairman and Lou Gross as Scout Master. The other committee members are, Jack Slove, Nat Sapperstein, Boris Stern, Julius Proser. This committee is feverishly at work to complete the necessary steps in the formation of our troop by the week of February 7, 1947, at which time, plans have already been made to have a Public Induction ceremony, and a formal presentation of the troop charter.

If you have a boy between the age of 12 and 15 who is interested in the Boy Scout movement, please call Mr. Bernard Friesler, his telephone number is Ta 2-4335.

Soon after our first troop will be organized, we expect to form a Cub Pack. This group ranges between the ages of 9 to 12 years.

Register your boy now in the troop sponsored by Young Israel of Parkchester.

Sponsoring Committee



housewives, rogues, gamins, wits and vagabonds, saints and knuckleheads that fill these pages are more real than any troupe in fiction.

To meet them is to meet more than people. It is to meet the life of a people, the thousand and one smells and sounds of a Jewish world now gone.

BEN HECHT

WATCH FOR OUR ANNUAL AFFAIR -- COMING SOON!!!



## WHY WE DO IT

(A New Feature - Explaining Customs and Ceremonies of Judaism. --- Ed.)

### CHANUKAH

The word means Dedication; the name is applied to an 8-day holiday beginning on the 25th of Kislev (December 18th this year).

Known more colloquially as the Feast of Lights, Chanukah commemorates the victory in 165 B.C.E. of the Jews under Judah Maccabeus over the vast army of Antiochus Epiphanes, king of the Syrio-Greeks, who ruled over Palestine. The Jews, called Maccabees - a name derived from the first letters of their slogan "Mi Kamochah Ba-elim Adonai" ( ), "Who is like unto thee, O Lord among the mighty ones?" -- succeeding in driving the Syrio-Greeks from the country after overcoming almost insurmountable odds, and proceeded to eradicate every trace of heathen worship from the Holy Temple which the Greeks had defiled and polluted.

Starting on the night of the 24th of Kislev (December 17th after dark) a Menorah or candelabra containing candles or oil is kindled for eight consecutive nights: one candle the first night, two on the second, and so on. The traditional "Mo-oz Tzur" is sung every night after the candles are lighted.

It is customary to give Chanukah Gelt to the children, and a general exchange of gifts between friends and members of the family usually takes place. The eight days of the holiday also constitute a traditional season of game-playing. This idea originated from the playing of chess. Later on other games were permitted as well, notably Dreidel, a game of put-and-take.

The Dreidel is a four-winged spinning top with the 4 Hebrew letters Nun, Gimel, Hei, Shin -- standing for "Nes Gadol Hayah Shom", "A great miracle happened there" -- engraved thereon.

## CHANUKAH (continued from page 1)

It was then instituted that every anniversary be likewise observed, by the lighting of Chanukah lights, by song and special holiday psalms (Hallel). In the synagogue an appropriate selection in the Torah is read each day, a part of Numbers 7. On the first night, Tuesday evening, December 17th, one light at the right is kindled, and each successive night another one is added; the additional one is lit first, from left to right until the eighth night.

The faith and confidence that these lights symbolize have enabled the Jewish people to survive many enemies and empires. As we light them, they enlighten us with new hopes of existence, and inspire our efforts.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

(continued from page 4)

Pack. Efforts are being concentrated on the formation of the Troop where the age limit is 12 to 15 years of age. There is still room for additional boys. Once this group is on a sound basis and boys pass their Tenderfoot Test, Cub packs will be organized with members of the Troop acting as Cub Pack Leaders.

For further information contact Mr. Nathaniel Saperstein at 2100 East Tremont Ave., Bronx 62, N.Y.C. or call Wo 2-2580.

Each letter represents a "put" or "take".

The word "Chanukah", besides meaning Dedication, can also be broken up into two distinct words " " , which means "They camped on the 25th." It is indeed interesting to note that the Maccabees encamped on the 25th of Kislev, which was the day they completed the task of defeating the enemy, and which was also the day, according to some of our Sages, when the world was created, 3623 years before, in the month which would correspond to Elul.

Jerome Rosenblum

ATTEND OUR CHANUKAH FESTIVAL DECEMBER 24th