

## PURIM ISSUE



VOLUME V, NUMBER 4

ADAR 5707

MARCH, 1947

### THE FEAST OF PURIM

The story of Purim takes place towards the end of the seventy years of the Babylonian exile (516 B.C.E.), or some years after, for although the Jews had been given permission to return to Palestine, they still remained under Persian rule.

Purim פורים celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from extermination by the plot of Haman, Prime Minister of King Ahasuerus of Persia. He chose the 13th day of Adar by casting lots or "pur," from which the name Purim is derived. By the vigilance of Mordecai, who exposed a conspiracy against the king's life, and the intervention of his cousin Esther, the queen, the Jews were saved, and the crafty Haman was hung on his own gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai. The king appointed Mordecai as Prime Minister in Haman's place.

Purim occurs on the 14th of the month of Adar, corresponding this year to Thursday, March 6th. On Wednesday evening and the following morning, the Megillah (Scroll of the Book of Esther), written on parchment is ceremoniously read with traditional intonation in the synagogue.

Purim is an historical feast, and its message is most characteristic to the Jews as citizens of the world.

### ANNUAL AFFAIR UNDER WAY

Our sixth annual affair promises to be the outstanding event of the season in Parkchester. Departing from the past practice of having an affair in the form of a New Year's Eve banquet, the Social Committee this year decided to have a more moderate affair, omitting the elaborate dinner, fanfare, etc. We are told, however, by Chairman Boris Stern that the function will not be any the less a GALA AFFAIR. On the contrary, the committee has gone to great lengths to give our members and friends a program of dance and song entertainment and refreshments such as will long be remembered, and all at the moderate cost of \$1.50 per person. Jot down these important details:

Date: Saturday, April 19th - 8:30 PM

Place: Social Hall, Jewish Center  
of Unionport, 2137 Ellis Ave.

Occasion: Annual Affair, Young  
Israel of Parkchester-  
Entertainment and Dance

To give purpose and meaning to this affair, in addition to the purely social aspects, we will have our annual journal at the same time. Already ads are com-

(continued on Page 2)



# The Young Israelight

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

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Jack Slove, Editor  
William Posner, Assoc. Editor

Barnett Harris, Production  
Bernard Friesler, Advertising  
Gene Nussbaum, Circulation

Vol. V, No. 4

March, 1947

## THE SPECIAL SABBATHS Preparatory to Passover

There are five. The names of the first four are derived from the additional passages of the Torah read on these Sabbaths.

Sabbath "Shekalim" is the first. It is the one preceding Rosh Chodesh Adar, or coinciding with it. The extra reading refers to the half a shekel that every Israelite, of twenty years of age or over, rich or poor, gave as his equal share toward the support of the Temple. (Ex. 30:11-16.)

Sabbath "Zachor" or "Remember" is the second. It is specifically the one preceding Purim, because Haman was assumed to be a descendant of the Amalekites, the arch enemy of Israel. He and his family were eradicated which is regarded as the fulfillment of the prophecy in the portion read. (Deut. 25:17-19)

Sabbath "Parah" is the third. Passover was approaching and the time had arrived for the unclean to become ritually clean in order to be permitted to partake of the Passover sacrifice. The law of purification is contained in the selection from Deut. 19.

Sabbath "Hachodesh" or "The Month" is the fourth. It is the Sabbath before Rosh Chodesh Nisan, or coinciding with it. The additional passage begins with: "This month shall be the head of the months for you." It also contains the law regarding the Passover sacrifice. (Ex. 12:1-20)

## EDITORIAL

It has been correctly said that the future of a people lies in its Youth. This idea is part of the basic philosophy of the Young Israel Movement. Its Youth Department has already found its place among the foremost Youth Organizations in this country.

In its own small way Young Israel of Parkchester is doing its bit for the Youth of our community. Elsewhere in this issue is described the formation of our Boy Scout troop. This latest effort on the part of our organization promises to become a most successful venture. One is heartened to see the interest and activities of these boys not only with respect to Boy Scout ideals but also in regard to Jewish ideals generally.

Our Sunday morning Bible classes for children from the ages of 4 to 7 has actually become the talk of the town. It is progressing most successfully.

In addition, there are other Youth Clubs going on all the time.

All of these efforts deserve the support not only of our membership but of the community as a whole. Our doors are open to all Jews of the community. We look forward to your interest and support.

William Posner

## Annual Affair Under Way (continued)

ing in, Chairman Bernie Friesler reports, but he won't be satisfied until he sees an avalanche of ads. Says Bernie: "I want to be swamped with ads!" Every penny realized from the journal goes into our Building Fund except a small portion earmarked for Youth Activities. We must make this a banner year, and with the help of all our members and friends, the goal should be easy to reach. Send in your reservations promptly. The committee consists of Boris Stern, Chairman, 1553 Unionport Road, Kalman Winkler, 1919 McGraw Ave., Louis Gross, 2128 E. 177th St., Irving Pollack, 1553 Unionport Road; Bernard Friesler, Chairman, Journal Committee.

FOR A GOOD TIME - RESERVE APRIL 19th



## Among Ourselves -Pitput

Wedding bells will chime for Nat Saperstein and his lovely bride, Ruth Kirschenbaum at Pythian Plaza, on Sunday, March 16th--loads of luck to both of you--may you enjoy married bliss for many years to come---The Abe Kirschenbaums will be rushing back from their Florida vacation to make the wedding--hope you don't miss the train, Abe!

Our genial president, Bill Posner, became the proud father of a second son, Simon Bernard with the closing of the Old Year--mazel tov, Posners, may you raise more presidents for Young Israel--Not to be outdone, the same week, the Sam Feinbergs gave forth their first tax exemption - a cute little tyke, named Vivian--lots of nachas, Dorothy and Sam!

Secretary Gene Nussbaum is convalescing at home after a siege at Parkchester General Hospital--watch those slippery floors, Gene, we need you to get the mail out!

Scoutmaster Lou Gross performed like a major as Scout Shabbos services--and the boys of Troop 266 did us proud in running the service--bouquets to Bernie Schneir for his swell sermonette and to Cub Scout Martin Slove for his rendition of "Yigdal".

## CONDOLENCES

We extend heartfelt condolences to our member, Mrs. Frances Pausack, upon the passing of her beloved father. May the memory of the deceased be a blessing and may the bereaved family be spared further sorrow for many years to come.

## THE FAST OF ESTHER

This fast, falling on the day before Purim, commemorates the thirteenth of the month of Adar, the day that Haman had chosen to annihilate the Jews. It also recalls the fast that Esther had ordered upon the Jews as a prayer to God to help her save them. Thus we participate in the troubles of our people as well as in their triumphs and joys.

## BOY SCOUTING IN YOUNG ISRAEL

Scout troop #266 is now well organized under the able leadership of our Scoutmaster Lou Gross.

On Tuesday, February 11th, our troop was officially inducted into the Bronx Scout Council District #7, in appropriate ceremonies at James Monroe High School. The charter was presented to the committee consisting of Bernie Friesler, Chairman, Jack Slove, Boris Stern, Kelly Winkler, Nat Saperstein, Julius Proser and our President, William Posner. District Commissioner Al Ruzinsky made the presentation.

During Boy Scout week, our troop conducted the entire Sabbath service. They provided the cantors, and the sermonette was delivered by Scout Bernie Schnur. After the services, refreshments and candy were served to the scouts and congregation.

Scoutmaster Lou Gross announces that meetings of the troop are now held at P.S. 106 every Tuesday night between 7:30 and 10:00 o'clock. All boys between the ages of 12 and 15 are invited to join.

The following boys are the charter members of troop #266:-

Arthur Getzkin - Patrol Leader	
Neil Acker - Patrol Leader	
Laurence Eisen - Asst. Patrol Leader	
Allen Kantor - Scribe	
Herbert Smohler	Harry Lehner
Howard Weber	Philip Lehner
Joseph Cohen	Sidney Frohlich
Emil Hirsch	Martin Miller
Jack Liebowitz	Harvey Ehrenstein

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, March 30, 1947, the National Council of Young Israel will assemble the seventy branches of the Movement to celebrate its 35th anniversary.

A banquet dinner has been arranged to be held at the Hotel Astor. This spectacular event is a major function

(continued on Page 4)

WATCH FOR OUR THEATRE PARTY -- COMING SOON!!!



## WHY WE DO IT

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

### PURIM

Historical Background: During the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes) in Persia, 485 to 464 B.C.E., the Jews enjoyed considerable freedom and privileges. Ahasuerus, a rather foolish king, once became enraged at his wife, Vashti, and deposed her -- only to find himself lonesome for a mate. A province-wide beauty contest conducted to find a wife for the king resulted in the selection of Esther, cousin of Mordecai the Jew. Esther's religion is kept secret until such time as she pleads for the rescue of her people who had been doomed for extinction by Haman, Ahasuerus' Prime-Minister, as an act of revenge to Mordecai. Through Esther's intervention, the Jews were saved, and Haman and his family were executed instead on the same gallows and on the same day (the 14th day of Adar) set aside for the Jews' destruction.

Celebration: In token of the thanks the Jewish nation offers to G-d for their salvation, the 13th of Adar -- Wednesday, March 5th this year -- is a day of fasting, known as the Fast of Esther. The following day is a day of rejoicing called Purim (which means Lots, because Haman cast lots to determine the day on which the Jewish nation was to be destroyed).

In the Synagogue: On the night of the 13th of Adar and the morning of the 14th of Adar (March 4th and 5th, respectively), the Megillah -- a scroll containing the complete story of Esther -- is read. The reading is accompanied by varieties of noise-making (the most common device for which is known as the Grager) at every mention of Haman's name.

On Purim, too, an additional prayer is included in the Amidah prayer -- that of Al Hanissim.

In the Home: The Purim "Seudah" or Feast

## PURIM SERVICES

A special program of Purim Services will be held at our quarters on Wednesday evening, March 5th, at 6:30 P.M. After the reading of the "Megillah", refreshments (homen-tashen, etc.) will be served. Come early and bring the kiddies.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIME

Friday, March 7th .....	5:36 P.M.
Friday, March 14th .....	5:43 P.M.
Friday, March 21st .....	5:51 P.M.
Friday, March 28th .....	5:58 P.M.

THE YOUNG ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES opened its Spring Term on February 10th. Courses are available in BIBLE, Hebrew, Jewish History, Jewish Ethics and Philosophy, Jewish Laws and Customs, Contemporary Judaism, Mishnah and Talmud. Classes are held Monday to Thursday evenings at the National Council Building, 3 West 16th Street. The New York State Board of Regents recognizes these courses for College Alertness Credits.

### National Council Anniversary (continued)

in New York. Prominent religious and political leaders will attend.

The Council receives its main sustenance from this one annual affair and it is incumbent upon every Young Israelite to do his utmost to make it an overwhelming success. The Council has expanded its Institute for Jewish Studies, its Youth Department has grown by leaps and bounds, extending even to a large radio series, the Veterans' Bureau and Employment Office have been enlarged. It is up to you and you to see that it remains possible to carry on this vast program of activity.

is a happy family affair, comparing in festivity with the Passover Seder. Favorite dishes include Kreplach, Turkey and Bubb (beans boiled in salt water). The universally known Hamantaschen are a famous Purim delicacy.

GET ADS AND MORE ADS FOR OUR JOURNAL