

PURIM ISSUE



VOLUME VI, NUMBER 4

ADAR 5708

MARCH, 1948

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 25th. 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.

GALA PURIM FESTIVAL

To celebrate the jolly festival of Purim, the men's and women's Leagues of Young Israel of Parkchester are sponsoring a Purim party on Saturday evening, March 20th, at the Jewish Center of Unionport, 2137 Ellis Ave. An elaborate program of entertainment has been arranged.

You will also have a chance to play your favorite card game, and Mah Jong for the ladies. Refreshments, of course, galore, a la Young Israel. Admission price is only 75 cents.

Come one, come all, for an evening of fun and good fellowship.

* * * * *

The Keeper of Israel

"My help cometh from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be
moved;
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel,
Doth neither slumber nor sleep."

-Psalms

CHILDREN'S PURIM PARTY - MARCH 28TH

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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Vol. VI, No. 4

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A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ ISRAEL

On the 17th day of Kislev 5708, the 29th of November 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided by an overwhelming majority to create a Jewish State in Palestine. This decision recognized the historic right of the Jewish people to rebuild its ancient homeland, to provide a haven and a secure future for hundreds of thousands of homeless Jews all over the world. This decision also marks a new period in the relations between the nations of the world. Power politics and Arab threats were silenced by the upright and courageous voice of the United Nations which recognized the right of even a small people to freedom, self-determination and independence.

For nearly two thousand years Jews prayed for national deliverance. In song, in prayer, in their hearts and thoughts they remembered Zion. Jews kept alive the vision of the Return to Zion-"quickly and in our time". It is happening in our time.

Ours is the generation which is called upon to proclaim and to build the Third Jewish Commonwealth. Our hopes, our longings, our sacrifices, the struggles of a martyred people which sanctified God's name and for centuries cried for justice - all these memories well up and find expression in one great, joyous cry: Ha'medina Ha'ivrith Beyameinu - the Jewish State is arising in our time!

EDITORIAL

Purim is the jolliest of all holidays. Most of us know the story of Purim which is so interestingly told in the Book of Esther. We recall Haman's plot to destroy the Jews of Persia and Media, and how Mordecai and Esther saved the day enabling the Jews to defend themselves and turn the threatened massacre into victory.

Jews have always interpreted holidays not only in terms of fact but also as symbolic of their own times. In our glorious history, there have always been oppressors and Hamans to make the story of Purim alive to us.

We, in our day, need no prompting either. The events of the past decade or two are haunting memories. The past few months have demonstrated that Hamans still exist. They oppose us and block us at every step of the way. We may not even enjoy the "luxury" of defending ourselves in our own Eretz Yisroel.

If the story of Purim means anything to us, however, it should fill us with courage and optimism. Tyrants can be destroyed even as Haman was. But, we must help in their destruction. It is not the Jews of Eretz Yisroel alone who have the fight; all of us have. Their victory and survival will but assure ours.

The reading of the Megillah should imbue each and every one of us with the duty of giving of ourselves, our money, our all, in order to help win the battle. If we do that, we cannot lose.

Let us hope that, on Purim 1949, we shall shout the words of victory:

"Layehudim hoysah orah v'simcha v'sason v'kar."

W.P.

In this truly great hour of history American Jewry faces a great challenge and a splendid opportunity. Let us accept the challenge of history! Ours is the fortunate generation, the generation that may write a new brilliant and fortifying chapter of Jewish history. New Judea beckons to us. Let us arise and build!

FOR A GOOD TIME - RESERVE MARCH 20TH!

Among Ourselves

-Pitput

Good news to report as we announce additions to our Young Israel Family.... President "Kelly" Winkler is now the proud papa of a son and heir, Neil...The Jack Bernsteins now have a boy, too, and the Pausacks have presented little Myrna with a baby sister. Mazel Tov, Babes!

More to come, momentarily, at the Irv. Pollacks, also at the Sapersteins ...and a little later at the Sterns - "Zol zein mit glick"...

Bernie Friesler is making greener fields in Ole Chicago and hopes to bring his family there soon...Good Luck Old-timer!...

Regretfully we bid au revoir to a pair of stalwarts, the Kirschenbaum brothers, Abe and Irving, who are leaving Parkchester to take up their abode in Stuyvesant Town...We will miss these two pillars of Yiddishkeit, but feel that the cause will not lose for they will carry on for Judaism wherever they settle. The zeal which they have developed will remain with us as an inspiration for greater achievement.

A HEARTRENDING APPEAL

What did you do today from morn to dark?
How many times did you complain about things that are really a lark?
When are you going to start to do all the things you say,
A displaced person asks you this, if he may.
A fellow Jew died in my arms today, I can feel his warm blood yet.
His cries of terror and fear are ones I can never forget.
There are so few of us left and the hour is so dark,
It is to you that we turn to give us that spark.
Will you not help us, give us comfort, so sad is our plight?
Please try, do something for your fellow Jews, please try with all your might.

The above plea speaks for itself. Our fellow Jews in Europe and Palestine are suffering. Please help them-the best way, the speediest way-through the United Jewish Appeal. Send your contributions now to Jack Slove, 1558 Unionport Road, Bx.

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Proudly we report that the Women's League of the Young Israel of Parkchester has been gaining ground steadily since its reorganization last fall. Its membership has increased and its activities have borne fruit. Our recent theatre party for the show "Look Ma I'm Dancin'" was a smash sellout.

Coming events include the joint sponsorship with the men of a gala Purim festival to be held Saturday evening, March 20th, at the Jewish Center of Unionport, 2137 Ellis Ave. (see page 1). In addition, another theatre party is being arranged for the show "Inside USA" based on the best seller of the same name by John Gunther, for June 7, 1948.

All women interested in Young Israel should join with us. This is our answer to the need of the day: An informed and alive Jewish womanhood.

Reba Posner

KIDDIES' PURIM PARTY

On Sunday afternoon, March 28th, the annual Purim Party, sponsored jointly by Young Israel and The Jewish Center of Unionport, will be held in our auditorium. A grand program of fun has been arranged. Our "Zionettes" led by Miss Chickie Berl, joining with the Center's Talmud Torah group, will present a play. There will also be specialty dancing, songs and games. The kiddies will come in masquerade costumes and prizes will be awarded. Movies and goodies for the kiddies will top off the program.

Come early for a good time. The show goes on at 2 p.m.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, March 28, 1948, the National Council of Young Israel will assemble the seventy branches of the Movement to celebrate its 36th 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)

GET TICKETS FOR OUR THEATRE PARTY -- JUNE SEVENTH!!!

Purim Background of Today

2500 years ago, the earth was made witness to what was the mightiest empire yet described on her surface. Even observed from modern times the dominion of the Medo-Persians is only second to that of the Caesars. Its greatness can be attributed to two of its kings, Cyrus the Great, founder not only of the empire but of the Persian nationality, and his son Ahasueros or as historians have designated, Cambyses, conqueror of Egypt. Under their benign rule, the Hebrews were reinstated after 70 years of Babylonian exile. As the secret of success of the empire lay in the one word, "autonomy", the Israelites, except for the regular contribution of a military contingent and tribute, were in effect given back Palestine as a gift.

However, there were forces working to undermine the interests of the Jews. The principal embodiment of these forces was Haman, a Satrap or governor and favorite of the king. While his ambition to annihilate the Children of Israel was never realized, his own demise presently was, largely through the efforts of Mordecai and his niece Esther, wife of Ahasueros. The latter had a self-appraising air in that extreme form peculiar to despots. Esther was taking her life in her hands when she came to Ahasueros unsummoned.

Today, we too make our way unsummoned, to proclaim what is ours, among a host of Arab nations whose hostility is showing itself more pronounced every day. But we, like Esther, have right on our side. We have awaited what will presently come to pass for 1900 years. We have gone from Roman hands to Byzantine, to Arab, to Turkish, to British, and now the Arabs again attempt to claim what is rightfully ours.

But you can squeeze an olive just so much before it will stop yielding oil. We have shown our potentialities to the world, thanks to such organizations as Haganah, Protectors of the "Yishuv". Let this show be a warning to those who would attempt again the fixing of a yoke with a 1900 year time lock on us. And "us" truly means just that, for we are equally as formidable as our brothers. It is imperative that we realize it.

Barry Henning

PURIM SERVICES

A special program of Purim Services will be held at our quarters on Wednesday evening, March 24th, 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 26th	5:54 P.M.
Friday, April 2nd	6:01 P.M.
Friday, April 9th	6:09 P.M.
Friday, April 16th	6:16 P.M.
Friday, April 23rd	6:23 P.M.

THE YOUNG ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES opened its Spring Term on February 9th. 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, 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.

SHALACH MANOTH

The interchange of gifts or "Shalach Manoth" and the giving of presents to the poor is an important feature of the celebration of Purim which should be remembered. It is observed by feasting, merry-making, masquerading, and in Palestine by carnivals too.

GET ADS AND MORE ADS FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL