



# THE YOUNG ISRAELITE

YOUNG ISRAEL OF PARKCHESTER  
1375 VIRGINIA AVENUE  
THE BRONX

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## The Significance of Purim

Purim is in a large sense, symbolic of the fate of Israel among the nations. It teaches the Jews not to place too great reliance on the good will of goyische rulers, and not to despair in the face of cruel persecution when conditions seem hopeless and unbearable. Salvation is to be secured through courage to fight for Israel's convictions and faith in the Eternal Helper of the Eternal People.

Purim never grows old. In every age, in every clime, the Jew is challenged and attacked by Hamans and their like. But Purim symbolizes the recurring triumph of Israel. Tyrants and oppressors have come and gone throughout time, but Israel and its cultural heritage have survived all onslaughts, to rise up and attain ever greater heights.

Purim has particular significance for our own day. Not only Jews, but all persecuted minorities will find in it a ray of light and hope. For all men and all nations must strive to make the world a better place to live in, and a better world can only be achieved by guaranteeing to all good folks, everywhere, their G-d given rights to live and to create and to make their own distinct contributions to the advancement of civilization.



## Purim Services

FAST OF ESTHER — MONDAY, MARCH 3rd.....	6:30 A.M.
READING OF THE MEGILLAH (Scroll of Esther)—	
MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 3rd.....	6:30 P.M.
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 4th—	
First Service .....	6:00 A.M.
Second Service .....	7:30 A.M.

FREE GRAGGERS TO ALL CHILDREN

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1375 Virginia Avenue, The Bronx

Tel. TAlmadge 2-9576

Maurice L. Schwartz.....*Rabbi*Sidney Robinson .....*President*Harry Brooks .....*Pres. Men's Club*

Fannie R. Brown

*Pres. Women's League***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***by Sidney Robinson*

The great outpouring of Orthodox Jews protesting the slaughter of nine Jews in Baghdad, both at the rally sponsored by the National Council of Young Israel at the United Nations and the mass demonstration at the Iraqi embassy on the following week brought home most forcefully the effective role that Orthodox Jews are beginning to play in American political life. Orthodox Jewry is surely showing evidence of climbing out of the shadows of passiveness into the sunlight of active participation in the mainstream of American life.

We are now making our voices heard in the legislative halls of our states — whether it be on the subject of shechita or the civil rights of Sabbath observers. We have become the vanguard of militants seeking to attain equal rights from public officials who have attempted to make their own ethnic groups their only bailiwick. In this we are upholding an old American custom of peaceful assembly for the redress of wrongs.

More and more we are becoming recognized as a group whose faith in the Lord and practice in traditional mitzvot

make us completely compatible with the best of American democratic values. We are overcoming the suspicions of Americans — gentiles as well as many "liberal" Jews — that we are a clan interested only in our own immediate welfare.

The formation of the Public Affairs Committee of the National Council is testimony to our newly awakened interest in the secular. The tremendous growth of Yeshiva University and junior yeshivos and day schools with their equal emphasis of religious and secular studies are positive indications of our progress in modern education.

On all fronts Orthodox Jewry is moving ahead to claim its rightful place in American Jewry. It does not, nor should it, claim to speak for Conservative or Reform Jews. But by taking the lead in secular affairs it can prove itself to be a dynamic rather than a moribund force. It will thus continue to carry on the great traditions of countless generations who gave of their best for the advancement of every country of which they were citizens.

**FROM THE MEN'S CLUB**

As we go to press I am still recuperating from a most harrowing experience of being stranded in my car some eighteen hours on the parkway during the storm of February 9th.

I'll have more to tell you in our next issue.

Keep well.

HARRY BROOKS, President



## PURIM LAWS AND CUSTOMS

According to Hebrew reckoning, Purim occurs on the 14th day of Adar, corresponding to March 4th of this year.

"Purim" is the Hebrew term which means "Casting of Lots". The holiday, per se, lasts only one day, and all necessary labor is permitted on that day.

There is much feasting and merry-making associated with Purim. Appetites are enhanced by observing the fast day of Ta'anis Esther, which occurs the day before Purim, March 3rd. Ta'anis Esther was the day appointed by Haman for the execution of his edict against the Jews. On this day also, Esther and all the Jews of the Persian realm fasted and prayed to G-d for deliverance. The noise-making comes in mostly during the reading of the Megillah, at every mention of Haman's name, and is produced mainly by use of the "gragger" and the stamping of the feet.

On the Sabbath prior to Purim we read the Portion "Zachor" for Maftir, relating Israel's war with Amalek and reminding us not to forget the evil which Amalek did to us following our Exodus from Egypt. This portion reveals to us that in every generation there is a struggle between good and evil.

The Megillah is read on Purim night, Monday, March 3rd, and all (including mourners) are obligated to read it. The Megillah is read in a traditional tune following the recitation of three blessings — (a) enjoining us to read the Megillah; (b) "Who wrought miracles for our fathers in those days at this season"; (c) "Shehechianu". The ten chapters of the Megillah contain the following:

- 1—The demise of Vashti
- 2—Enthroning of Esther
- 3—Haman's evil design
- 4—Mordecai's appeal to Esther

- 5—Esther approaches the king
- 6—The king honors Mordecai
- 7—Esther pleads for her people
- 8—Esther's request is granted
- 9—The Jews destroy their enemies, and the Purim Feast
- 10—The greatness of Mordecai.

Before the reading, three half-dollars (Shekalim) are customarily donated to the poor, and after the reading we say special prayers—"Shoshanas Ya'Akov", "Yariv Es Rivenue", etc. During the Amida of the evening, morning and afternoon services and also during the Birchas Hamazon (Grace) we include the "Al Hanisim" passages in our prayers. The famous Purim Seudah (feast) commences before sundown on the 14th of Adar. We celebrate our deliverance from the wicked designs of Haman rather than our revenge on our enemies. The feast continues far into the night. The 14th and 15th of Adar are given over strictly to rejoicing. Since the Jews of Persia celebrated Purim on the 15th of Adar, this day is called *Shushan Purim*.

Shalach Manos (Sending of Gifts) is practiced on Purim and Shushan Purim. These gifts are mandatory, not voluntary. Every individual must give a present to two poor people (one present to each). It is also necessary to give at least two presents to one person, and these usually consist of portions of food.

It is interesting to note the comment of our sages to the effect that in time to come when all other standard holidays are abolished, Purim alone will be retained. According to Maimonides only two sacred books will be remembered in the days of the Messiah: the Pentateuch and the Megillah.

## MAZEL TOV

*Our heartiest felicitations to:*

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bohm, on the marriage of Fred Graff to Penny Herschfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Miller, on the birth of their granddaughter, Andrea Lauren Newman.

**FROM THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Dear Sisters:

The weather outside was frightful but the glow of happy faces, gathered to do homage to Sol and Fay Spitz, inside was delightful — so let it rain, let it snow, it really doesn't matter, for warmth and good fellowship was inside.

At our March 12th meeting we will celebrate Purim, the joyous holiday that occurs the week before.

Purim, the Feast of Lots, is in commemoration of the deliverance of the Persian Jews from the wicked schemes of the arch enemy, Haman. The reading of the story in the Megillah emphasizes our continued trust in Almighty G-d.

So it is true today. The Six Day War showed our enemies that we are a strong nation and not easily put asunder, and those who persecute Israel shall receive the same fate as Haman of old.

Once again it will be my pleasure to greet you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,  
FANNIER R. BROWN  
President

**CONDOLENCES****Our deepest sympathy to:**

Mrs. Gertrude Bruckenstein, on the loss of her beloved sister, Mildred Kushner.

Mrs. Ruth Glassberg, on the loss of her beloved brother, Edward Stark.

Mrs. Ruthe Kuhn and Family on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Edward Kuhn.

Mrs. Helen Roth, on the loss of her beloved sister, Phoebe Haas.

Mrs. Helen Roth and Mrs. Ruth Rosenbaum, on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Benjamin Roth.

Mr. Mack Waldman, on the loss of his beloved brother, David Waldman.

May they be comforted amongst the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS**

A large delegation of our women attended the gala L'Maan Hayeled luncheon at the Statler Hilton on Feb. 4th. Our Women's League was able to turn over a large sum to help support this most worthy project — a home for children in Bnai Brak, Israel. Our appreciation to you wonderful people who support this worthy charity. If you wish to participate, call Betty Waldman for a card to be sent to one in sorrow or in gladness.

Many thanks to Helen Sochrin and Betty Waldman for their untiring efforts in making the "Dear World" theatre party the success that it was. Hours of time and much work is devoted to every theatre project they undertake, and we want Helen and Betty to know that we appreciate their endeavors.

Ceil and Fred Kerner will island hop in the Caribbean; Fay and Sol Spitz returned from Florida where they attended nephew Steve's wedding; Eugenia Shulman is going to Israel; Betty and William Werner are visiting Florida. Happy landings to all!

Greetings from Florida from Fanny and Leonard Eigner and Jeanne and Sam Weiss.

My best wishes for your good health.

SADYE R. LEVINE  
Your News Reporter

**Every Tuesday at noon — Koffee Klotch**

**PLEASE CONTACT**

Donor Merchandise — Gertrude Miller  
UN 3-1655

L'Maan Hayeled — Betty Waldman  
TA 2-3843

Israeli Gifts — Ida Diamond TA 8-9866

Raffle Books--Hattie Haiman UN 3-2837  
or Florence Maslow TA 2-4933

Hand Knit Novelties — Rose Gratz  
TA 9-7688

Women's League news items should be sent to Sadye R. Levine, 1553 Unionport Road.

## PASSOVER FUND (MO'OS CHITTIM)

With the advent of Purim, we realize that Pesach is just around the corner.

There is hardly a local charity in Jewish life that has appealed more warmly to the heart of the Jews than the Mo'os Chittim Appeal, providing Passover needs for poor families in dire and wretched circumstances.

Our Young Israel of Parkchester has never failed each year to put this Passover help into the outstretched hand of every deserving individual and institution, whether in our own locality, in Europe or in Israel. Last year, over \$1,200.00 was dispensed to various worthy causes.

Please send your contribution to the synagogue office and help those who need it most. Your preparations for Passover are not complete without having given your Mo'os Chittim contribution.

## GET WELL

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. William Charifson, Mr. Murray Glassroth, Mr. Abraham Krakowsky and Mr. Louis Milefsky, who are hospitalized.

Our wish . . . A Refuah Shlemah!

It's good to see Mrs. Lillian Ross and Mr. Jack Schneider at home after their recent hospitalization. Keep well!

Best wishes and felicitations to the following members having birthdays or anniversaries in February:

## BIRTHDAYS

(1) Howard Hein (2) Sandra Linder, Susan Messing (4) David Ross (5) Richard Kurzer (7) Michael Wurmbrand, Mac Bernfeld (9) Hy Horn (11) Alexander Smith (12) Rose Fox, Meyer Diamond, Larry Sochrin (13) Mitzi Fink (16) Joan Friedman, Jeanne Weiss (17) Adrienne Bensch (18) Stuart Shelby (20) Nathan Groginsky (21) Eileen Skulnik, David Margulis, Aaron Bernstein (22) Arnold Weinreb, Mitchell Ian Siegel, Abraham Evans (24) Marilyn Sperber, Esther Greisman (25) Meyer Linder (27) Arline Heller, Barbara Heller.

## ANNIVERSARIES

(2) Mr. & Mrs. Julius Solomon (4) Mr. & Mrs. Jack Levy (5) Mr. & Mrs. Leo

Maslow (13) Mr. & Mrs. Jack Parness (15) Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brown (18) Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Fink (20) Mr. & Mrs. Philip Haiman (22) Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Lacher (23) Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Appel (27) Mr. & Mrs. Harold Koch \* \* \* and many happy returns.

**Reserve**  
**Sunday Morning, March 23rd**  
**for the**  
**ANNUAL PARKCHESTER**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**on behalf of**  
**UNITED JEWISH APPEAL**

## TORAH DINNER ON MARCH 8th

On Saturday night, March 8th, our Young Israel of Parkchester will mark the completion of the tractate of the Talmud, Shabbos, with a gala dinner. The Talmud Class, which meets regularly every Saturday afternoon with our Rabbi Schwartz, will be completing this tractate (Gemora) after eight years of diligent study. A wonderful and most exciting evening is in store for all participants, including a catered dinner, an outstanding program of prominent rabbis and cantors, and all at the most reasonable rate of \$3.50 per person. This has been made possible through a group of sponsors, whose names will appear in a special brochure to be published in honor of the Torah Dinner. Those wishing to be sponsors should contact Max Spielberger, who is chairman of the Sponsors Committee. John Greenfield is general chairman of the Dinner Committee and you are urged to get your reservations in as soon as possible as we are limited to sixty-five couples.

**JOIN WITH**  
**ONE THOUSAND OTHER**  
**YOUNG ISRAELITES**  
**On Sunday Eve., March 23rd**  
**at the**  
**HOTEL COMMODORE**  
**to celebrate**  
**THE 57th ANNIVERSARY**  
**of the**  
**National Council of**  
**Young Israel**


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