

# Community bulletin

A Monthly Newspaper —  
of, by, and for the  
Syrian-Jewish Community  
of Brooklyn.

VOL. III—No. 8

DECEMBER, 1951

BY SUBSCRIPTION

## Center, Ahi Ezer To Fete Hanukah With Play, Dance

Hanukah celebrations are being sponsored by several community groups. The Junior Ahi Ezer Congregation is starting everything off with a dance, Monday evening, December 24th. Donations will be \$1.50.

Hanukah celebration program will be held in the Center the following Sunday at 8:30 P.M. Aside from being free the program will feature Rabbi Max Kirshblum, Vice President of the Mizrahi Organization of America speaking on "Hanukah: Its Significance Today," Anuga Feinstein leading in Israeli folk dancing and singing; and a group of Yeshiva children performing a play and singing. Refreshments will be served.

The Ahi Ezer Talmud Torah will put on a Hanukah Performance on Sunday evening, Dec. 23.

## Blind Syrian Cigar Dealer Advances Despite Barriers

By CHARLES SUTTON

The self-assurance of Sam Sitt, and the fresh, resounding quality of his voice seem to belie the fact that he was a shy bookworm as a kid. But he was.

Today Sam talks smoothly and with gusto; there's no hesitation in his voice, no cringing in his attitudes.

But when he walks—without the aid of his dog—Sam walks slowly and cautiously. His movement isn't as swift as decisive as his speech, or as powerful as his vocabulary.

You see, Sam is blind. His dog is his guide. He's been blind for 11 years now, and has had impaired sight ever since birth.

### Self-Assurance

Most people would say that blindness has given Sam his strength and self-assurance. Chances are his blindness has had something to do with it. What counts though is the fact that today, at 41, Sam continues to press forward.

He's a salesman for a stationary firm, but he is also working

### New Year's Card Party

The "slightly older" folks will not be ignored this New Years Eve. The Center is providing them with a card party with all the trimmings: midnight supper, liquors, party favors and noise makers.

Reservations for the affair can be made any evening, from 8 until 11 p.m. by contacting Mr. Boxerman or Morris Cotton, who will also be there all day Sunday.

## Council Plans New Year's Party; Colossal Affair To Feature Dinner

The most feverishly planned for, and most eagerly anticipated New Year's Eve, promises to be one of the most memorable evenings in the history of the Community.

The Young Adult Council is cooking up quite a fancy bill of fare complete with all the trimmings. Fully catered, the affair will be attended by couples with reservations made in advance, in the festive atmosphere of the lavishly decorated main ballroom. Good music, unique decorations and favors, food and liquor (all you can drink) will be plentiful

## Membership Tops 600 In Mass Center Drive

By HARRIET COHEN and PAULETTE BEYDA

After three weeks of soliciting membership for the Center, 632 members were enrolled, with more than half, completely or partly paid up. The Center goal is 1000 by early 1952.

Since the drive started, numerous volunteer workers have devoted their Sundays to a door to door canvassing for membership, which accounts for the encouraging turn-out so far. For those who are not yet members, or have not been approached yet, there is always someone at the Center enrolling people.

From applications registered, choice of activities have been

indicated, from which classes and clubs will be formed. Programs for the Juniors will go into operation during the early part of January and committee's are working on programs for the Young Adults and married couples.

### Tremendous Turn-out

Open house brought a tremendous turn-out to the Center where all age groups participated in the various festivities that were held. In fact, since C Day, the Center has been humming with activities. Bowling and ping-pong have been keeping many happily occupied, while the juke-box and snackbar have also proved to be a great attraction.

The Adeana Girls group who have established the Center as their headquarters are devoting much time towards achieving the goal of the membership campaign and helping in other activities. The Phi Alfa Delta has enrolled many members along with the other groups who did a very good job.

After January 1, 1952 members only will be admitted to the Center, therefore, those who wish to use the Center's varied facilities are advised to join now.

### Almanac

Date	Lighting Of Candles
Dec. 28	4:16
Jan. 4	4:21
Jan. 11	4:28
Jan. 18	4:35
Jan. 25	4:43

hard at establishing his own business as an independent cigar dealer. His business philosophy gives some idea of his determination to make a decent living for himself, his wife Ida and his dog Korah.

As the blind businessman himself puts it, "A dollar in my pocket is far better than in the other fellow's pocket." A tough philosophy by some standards, but one that nets results, thinks Sam.

### Building A Clientele

What Sam is doing is building up a clientele of cigar smokers—men who will trust him to deliver to their offices and stores their favorite brands at regular

(Continued on Page 3)

the order of the evening. . . . At only \$15.00 a reservation for two, tickets are already at a premium. . . . The number of couples must be limited due to the size of the ballroom.

The Mr. and Mrs. Club has been so swamped by requests for tickets to their affair, that they have had to raise their maximum in order to accommodate as many couples as possible.

### Stupendous Dinner

The Ahi Ezer Congregation is planning a cabaret style evening, which features, besides a stupendous 17 course dinner (by the famous Salem caterers) a top girl singer to augment the festivities.

Big doings are also being planned by the various "Clubs."

Club 100 is featuring for its members a "Dinner-Dance."

Club 26 is having Arabic Entertainment by Anton Abdel Ahad and his orchestra and as an added attraction, Jose Curbelo, a well-known name band.

Country Club of Brooklyn plans a regular party for 40 couples to be held on their own premises with professional entertainment and band.

## Community Bulletin

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## Responsibility

When the idea of a center was first conceived, the underlying desire was to provide for the youth of our community. The older folks were to take on the responsibility of getting the building constructed, but once built, it was to be turned over to the young folks as its own responsibility.

Today, after construction of the building, our leaders continue to manifest this desire to turn over the responsibility to the youth. Much to their credit, the latter have accepted this responsibility and undertook the great burdens attached to it.

While there is the manifest desire to turn over the responsibility and the welcome enthusiasm to accept it, recent events indicate a variance between intent and practice.

### Great Responsibility

At present, the Young Adult Council is shouldering a great responsibility, but authority commensurate with it has not been forthcoming.

With responsibility must come authority. If the present practice of checking or overriding Council decisions as to details continue, then the Council will not be the responsible body it was intended to be. It will be but a group of volunteers.

Lines of authority must be set if the youth are to take the responsibility. Then, with commensurate authority, the young people, in time, will demonstrate their ability to undertake a job and carry it out successfully.

## What NEJAS Stands For

(The following is a letter which the C.B. feels should be read by its readers. Its message is clear enough. The author is a leader of the Shaare Zion Congregation and active in community affairs.)

The United Nations voted the division of Palestine Saturday night November 29. On December 1st the Arabs of Aleppo marched on the Jewish quarters and burned about 200 stores and homes. With this one march over one hundred people who used to be self-supporting and contributors to other charities became themselves beggars.

A telegram to that effect reached the Near East Jewish Aid Society who immediately wired them substantial amounts from funds at hand and made two special collections in December and January for the total amount of about \$30,000. Aleppo has been since then receiving a steady support of between \$3000-\$5000 from the NEJAS, monthly.

### Not One Could Go Out

A month or so after that, all the Jews of Damascus were confined to their neighborhood (ghetto) for protective custody. For about a year not one of them could go out to look after his business or for a job. The NEJAS kept sending them a steady supply of funds and is still sending \$3000 monthly until today. Last March the Damascus committee wrote that they needed additional funds to tide them over the holidays. An additional sum of \$1500 was then sent to them.

Right now we have on hand a request for medications; namely sulfa, penicillin, aureomycin for about \$1800 which will be shipped to them as soon as a license is obtained.

The NEJAS is one of the oldest of our Magen David organizations and probably has the finest records that we all can be proud of. Even the Joint Distribution Committee recognizes the fine record and contributes yearly to its maintenance.

NEJAS is one of the original beneficiaries of the Federation and when we give to Federation remember where your dollars go—to Israel, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Damascus and Lebanon—to the sick and needy.

SAM SUTTON

## An Ode To Youth

Youth is like birds, that sing and fly  
So flippant and happy and free in the sky.  
Youth is like flowers, that bloom in the grass  
So pure and so lovely they're hard to surpass.  
Youth is like morning, a new day has come  
To awaken the eyes to the glories of sun.

Youth can be ice, so bitter and cold.  
Youth can be thunder, so brazen and bold.

Youth is like music, so merry and glad,  
Or music that's pensive, mellow or sad.  
Youth is a beauty beyond all extreme,  
A garden of roses, or dew on a stream.  
Youth is the seed and the strength of the land.  
Youth is what finally grows into man.

F. S.

## Yeshiva News

### Chanukah Play

A large number of Yeshiva students will take part in the Chanukah festival of the Magen David Community Center to be held on December 30, 1951 at 8:00 P.M. Students of the highest Yeshivah classes will present a Hebrew play and the Choir composed of Yeshivah students will render Chanukah songs and help conduct the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

### Recess

No Hebrew classes will be held on Monday, December 31st and January 1st. The English Department will also not conduct any classes on Friday, December 28th. Kindergarten classes will not be in session on Friday, December 28th, Monday, December 31st, and Tuesday, January 1st.

### Public Examination

A Public Examination of all Yeshivah students from the second grade up will be held on Sunday, December 30th at the Auditorium on the second floor, at 10:00 A.M. sharp.

### New Principal of the English Dept.

Mr. Louis Levy, assistant principal of Seth Low Junior High School, a distinguished educator, has been appointed Principal of our English Department. He has taken over the active leadership of our English Department since November 15, 1951.

### Mothers' League of Yeshivah

A few weeks ago a Mothers' League of Magen David Yeshivah was formed of all mothers of the students. The League has held two meetings already and has appointed a temporary executive committee. The Mothers' League will aid the Yeshivah in conducting the lunchroom activities as well as in beautifying the classrooms and kindergartens.

### Klappholz Reappointed

Rabbi Kurt Klappholz, principal of Magen David Yeshivah has been reappointed member of the Board of Education of the Yeshivah of Flatbush. The Board of Education is comprised of distinguished Rabbi's and outstanding educators.

## Talmud Torah

In the past six weeks, the Magen David Talmud Torah, under the careful and capable guidance of it's new principal Rabbi Abraham Hecht, has shown a marked degree of progress.

All classes have been re-organized, curriculum's revised, teaching methods modernized and registration increased.

The Talmud Torah program is designed to train the children to become good, useful Jews, proud of their religion and cognizant of their duties—a credit to their parents and people.

## Syrian Cigar Man Carries On Trade Despite Handicap

(Continued from Page 1)

intervals. He says he makes sure prices are right for each customer.

Right now, his own business isn't so large as to allow him to quit his job. So he's selling both



SAM SITT AND KORAH

stationary for his employer and cigars for himself.

Sam, who lives at 1941-65th Street, was born in Aleppo, Syria. He came to this country when he was but two years old.

Though over 40, he says he doesn't "feel 40. But then, I don't know what a man should feel like at 40." Anyway, the red-haired Mr. Sitt eats wheat germ

### Adena Girls Jr. League

of the

Magen David Community Center

Extends a Joyus Hanuka to All

### Hillbilly Festival Planned For Jan. 13

A Hillbilly Festival sponsored by the Adeana Girls Junior League, will be held Sunday evening, January 13, 1952, at the Center.

Details are secret but, the girls tell us, this date should be kept in mind.

—a food many dieticians today recommend for vim and vigor.

Of Syrian-Jewish extraction, Sam's eating habits have a rather cosmopolitan flavor. Thus, while he goes for the wheat germ advice of an American nutritionist, he loves Polish Borscht and thinks there's no finer dish than Syrian Laham Agine.

#### Has Other Interests

Sam has a number of other devotions besides food. First there is Ida, his Polish-born wife whom he met about eight years ago. Ida herself is partially blind.

The other member of the family is Korah, the seeing-eye dog to whom Sam is also very close. Korah is a strong, beautiful German Shepherd who distinguished herself as an actress in the picture, Naked City, which was filmed in New York.

For those who are interested in buying their cigars from Mr. Sitt he can be reached at the Associated Blind, Inc., 147 West 23rd Street, New York. Telephone ALgonquin 5-1122.

Compliments of . . .

WHITEY SITT

Compliments of . . .

MORRIS SITT

## So What's New?

By DAVID I. COHEN

I have a vague sneaking suspicion that this column's ornate literary style doesn't sit too well with our reading public (yeah, and I still got the slugs to prove it, too. . .)

Ever mindful of our public trust, this department is prepared to clarify any difficult passage or weighty word on request.

Simply mail \$2.95 to cover cost of mailing and handling.

Be that as it may, the staff deemed it wise were I to interview our avid readers and get their reaction on the C.B. as a whole.

Plucking out the stray grapes from between my toes (I'm employed part-time at the Romeo Wine Co.) I set forth on this latest assignment.

My first subject was a prominent Syrian merchant who was busy wiping a borscht stain off his prominence. He immediately made his private opinion felt and it was some moments before I was able to raise myself off his odds and ends counter.

However, he apologized profusely for his rash "opinion" and insisted on again currying my favor by burdening me with a rug at a great sacrifice to himself. . . . ("practically cost price.")

Assuaged somewhat by this noble gesture I met my next subject. (Incidentally, I am now on the market for a good 9x12 floor) She was a fetching young miss, who seemed quite perturbed since her initials didn't appear in the gossip column once, and because her friends were commencing to eye her rather queerly. Ever solicitous of our readers welfare, I advised her on being more newsworthy.

So she immediately went and shot her Uncle Otto in the liver on Bay Parkway. I now hear she is quite popular and is always being invited down to the club 27½ when they need another poker hand.

All in all, although this poll didn't prove much of anything, we did receive many, many hints and suggestions. (However the C.B. will continue to publish. . . . REGARDLESS.)

### Country Club of Brooklyn

sponsors

## GRAND WEEKEND

At The Concord

## January 18-19-20, 1952

Skiing · Tobogganing · Ice Skating · Indoor Swimming

COCKTAIL PARTY

\$35 Per Person for the Entire Weekend

FOUR IN ROOM PRIVATE BATH  
PROCEEDS TO MAGEN DAVID COMMUNITY CENTER

\$10 Deposit Required Before January 10th

For RESERVATIONS Call DE. 9-9729

ANY EVENING AFTER 8

or Contact Dave Haddad, 2058 67th Street

### Mr. & Mrs. Club

of the

Magen David Community Center

cordially invite you to a

New Years Eve Party

at the Center

Subscription \$26 per couple

# Food For Israel Collection Set For Sunday, Dec. 23

In response to the austere conditions prevailing in Israel a food for Israel collection will be made Sunday, December 23.

Collection groups will visit homes to pick up the prepared food items. Donors will receive acknowledgement by having their name appear on the collection bag. The New York Times article of December 4th describing the generally poor conditions in Israel aroused the leadership of the Near East Aid Society to take immediate action to meet the grave food crisis in Israel.

Everyone in the community is requested to please cooperate by contributing generous amounts of the following urgently needed items: vegetable oil, canned fish, canned milk, dried fruits, dried and canned vegetables, coffee, tea, cocoa, jams, jellies, marmalades, hard candies, soap and toilet paper.

### Recent Figures

The magnitude of the critical food shortage can best be appreciated by the recent figures released in Israel regarding food quotas: **Only eight quarts of milk a month per child; only fifteen eggs per month. A general deterioration of twenty percent in the standard of living since 1948.**

You are therefore urged to have the above mentioned items ready for pickup all day Sunday Dec. 23rd. Let us help make Hanukah and all days of the year happier and more wholesome for the needy adults and children of Israel. The special committee running this drive is headed by Messrs. Sam and Dave Sutton and has the cooperation of all synagogues and Clubs in the community.

Volunteers who are willing to help, please gather at the Center Sunday morning Dec. 23 at 10 A.M. If you can arrange to bring your car it will be greatly appreciated.

## Community bulletin

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## MILESTONES

### MARRIED:

Ruth Bijou.....Clement Harary  
Evelyn Shalom.....Maurice Harary  
Fortune Tawil.....Charles Manopla  
Symbol Kassin.....Sonny Haddad

### ENGAGED:

Sylvia Ash.....Maurice Irani  
Gabrielle Toussie.....Joe Levy  
Rita Natkin.....Eli Solomon  
Amy Beyda.....Morris Hefes  
Claire Marcus.....Jack Shweky

### BLESSED EVENTS:

Mr. & Mrs. Al Nahem.....Boy  
Mr. & Mrs. David Gindi.....Boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Saffdieh.....Boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Natkin.....Boy

## Big Concord Weekend Set By Country Club

A grand weekend treat is in store for hardy members of our community on January 18, 19 and 20, 1952.

Sponsored by The Country Club of Brooklyn, a weekend at The Concord, with all that goes with it in the way of fine food, skiing, tobogganing, ice skating, indoor swimming and a cocktail party is being provided for all.

The Center will be directly benefited financially. Of the total cost of \$35 per person, \$9 will go to the Center.

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# THIS AND THAT

By TWEEDLE DEE and TWEEDLE DUM

They asked us to write,  
what shall it be?  
"gossip," they yelled,  
so here goes; Let's see. . . .

While waiting on tables in the Waldorf Astoria, Dee, partner of Dum, saw Moe Hidary with one of the Shalom Doll's, and Joe Chera with a doll. . . . In turn Dum, none the less excited, spotted Gloria Cohen with uh-uh-gosh, forgot his name.

**Poisonous Pen.** . . . C. A. is off to Venezuela. . . . C.M. and J.S. have found each other. . . . and so have Riggety and Lou. . . . L.S., can you melt that "Cold, Cold Heart?" . . . **Seen:** Eel and Jet (natch) surveying Kindergarten classes. . . . h m m m.

**Party Line.** . . . A loud applaud for the fabulous party given by Esther Betesh on her sixteenth birthday. . . . Life would be so merry and gay if we knew more about Sunday night cocktails. . . . Deserving mention is the Brunch at the Center with the fine catering of the Ladies Auxillary. . . . Dee and Dum agree it sure is lonely at the Club without Eddie Zonana.

**And What Else.** . . . S and F equals sure fire. . . . Dum says, "Hope Noodie Cohen will become less, and less nervous. . . . What number of boys are planning New Year's in Canada, no less at the Hotel Mount Royal? . . . Moe Maleh being seen with D-! Center already attracting a large crowd; better get your membership in. . . . We understand that the turkey took one look at Joe B., and said: "You're with me-e-e." . . . What two couples were recently seen shopping at Saks 5th, Barbara? . . . Didn't you know E.M. has been going with B.A.?

**Incidental Nonsense.** . . . What is up with the mysterious traveler? Is it only the sun that attracts him? It seems though the Manopla family is taking turns. One comes and the other goes. . . . It never rains but it pours. . . . It seems as though L.A. is trying to follow in his friend's footsteps (Riggity) and his other friend broke his leg trying to keep up with the pace. . . . What about our own Editor's brother; he seems to be cooking up a stew. . . . How is the Hankie and Towel business doing these days? . . . And who threw the towel in between M.S. and J.C.?

**Overheard.** . . . Wonder if J.G. has forgotten his old telephone numbers; he's been seen constantly with C.S. . . . What about the soldier boy who has been going out with a jewel.

**Palatable Tidbits.** . . . Newly arrived from China to join the most eligible eligibles is Dave Hoha. . . . Various people are spending sleepless nights wondering if they will be forced to sleep on New Year's Eve. . . . Life and love goes on. . . . elopements are the latest fad. . . . ten more shopping days' till New Year's Eve. . . . All the girls are wondering about the green Cadillac parked nightly near the Sweet Box. . . . Could it be the prominent bachelor who opened a new store in ---- recently?

**Thanksgivings.** . . . bouquets are in order for the hard working and ingenious Young Adults Council who put over a very grand and successful Thanksgiving Eve Affair. . . . It's too bad that Lorraine Missry suffered a bad cold as a result of her role as a Priscilla in the live publicity sketch with Miles Standish, (Abe Shalo), Massasoit, (Noodie Cohen), and the Witch, (Lorraine Betesh) . . . wasamatta, youse guys, can't ya keep the gal warm?

**Fin.** . . . why not tell us your secrets; we promise to tell them to others. . . . Should the above in any way prove unjust to you please see our lawyer, A.S., goodness knows we had to hire him after writing this column.

Signing off  
Hiding out  
Try and find us  
He-He; How? . . .