

# Community bulletin

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

VOL. III—No. 3

FEBRUARY, 1951

By SUBSCRIPTION

## Rabbi Talks On Brotherhood At Interfaith Rally

On February 12, the Organization of Jewish War Veterans of Bensonhurst held an interfaith rally on the occasion of Brotherhood Week in America. The gathering place was the Building of Sergeant Julius Goldstein, a World War I veteran, at 20th Avenue and 67th Street.

The participating speakers were clergymen from the three major faiths: a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi. Rabbi Kurt Klappholz of the Shaare Zion Congregation was asked to represent the Jewish faith.

### Equality Of Men

He spoke about the meaning of Brotherhood and its origin in the Bible. Rabbi Klappholz emphasized the fact that "religion today with its inherent ideas of brotherhood, equality of men before G-d is the most powerful ally of Democracy in its struggle against the rising tide of totalitarianism."

Concluding, the spiritual leader declared, "All religions must work in unison in order to stem the tide of dictatorship which tries to engulf all the free countries in the world."

## A Syrian's First-Hand View Of China's Dislike Of West

By CHARLES SUTTON

The Chinese people's present tendency to view Americans and Europeans in a very unfavorable light may be due in part to the way the Chinese were formerly treated as individuals by the foreigner, thinks China-born Abe Abraham.

Abe, a black-haired, silvery-haired young man who spent the better part of his life in China, doesn't believe the past poor treatment of the Chinese is the decisive or most important factor in anti-foreign feeling today. But he does consider it a contributing factor of serious implication.

"The Chinese people," he declares, "just don't want to be

dominated, and we acted as if China were our own country."

Residing near Bay Parkway for almost two years, Abe spent the first 21 of his 25 years of life in the teeming city of Shanghai.

According to Abe, the Chinese, in varying degrees, were always considered the inferior. And from

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### Announcement

The catered affair at the East Midwood Jewish Center which was scheduled for February 22, has been called off. It will be held at some future date to be announced later.

We have an idea that the reason why the Center people postponed this affair was because they have in mind a grand opening affair in the new Center building itself.

## What Price Control..? Local Dealers Inquire

By PAULETTE BEYDA and NAN MIZRACHI

A survey on the recent price freeze conducted by your reporters both in the Bay Parkway and Ocean Parkway areas led us to conclude that the only thing that's freezin' is the weather.

Six retailers—2 grocers, 2 butchers and 2 vegetable dealers—were approached. All agreed that, despite government edicts, the price barometer was still rising, causing a drop in consumer purchasing and subsequent grumbings on the part of the housewife.

One dissenting opinion held that prices should stay at their

present high to compensate for the increase in labor costs while five retailers felt that prices should be rolled back to June 1950 (or former) levels and then frozen.

"Why did the government freeze prices so late?" the five asked. "Prices are the highest in American history. Meat, for instance, is 4 times as high as in 1939. Seems like the administration wants inflation," one concluded, thinking nostalgically of F.D.R.'s O.P.A.

### No Black Market

They all felt, however, that under the present ineffective price freeze there will be no black market. The absence of rationing and the shrunken value of the dollar explains this. People can't pay present prices—no less black market costs.

In addition, they pointed out that future effective controls, including former O.P.A. practices, both on the wholesale and retail levels would do away with possible black marketing.

The retailer has been greatly affected by inflationary prices. The consumer does not buy as much. Therefore, his turn-over and profits are less. Nevertheless, they unanimously advised the housewife to continue resisting high prices by buying only what is necessary. None.

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And—something new has been added!!! Mrs. David Beyda, Mrs. Lou Diamond, and Mrs. Isaac Shalom have been appointed to fill three vacancies in the Board of Directors.

Abe Sultan, the new president said, "Since the Center will be ready for use soon much of the work will now require both the active participation and the views of our women. Program planning is an example."

Representatives of boys and girls of all age groups will soon be asked to participate in activities, programs, and also to

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## Rabbi Hecht Establishes Bureau For Servicemen

A Serviceman's Bureau has been established by Rabbi Abraham Hecht for problems requiring spiritual guidance and moral assistance of those in the service.

Rabbi Hecht will be glad to minister to all the needs of these young men and will endeavor to help wherever possible. The address is 2030 — 66th Street and the telephone number is BE. 6-6587.

### Almanac

Date	Lighting Of Candles
Feb. 16	5:07
23	5:15
Mar. 2	5:23
9	5:31
16	5:38

**Community Bulletin**

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**Selim Grazi**

Last month found our community mourning the loss of one of its first and most devoted leaders. At this time, it is fitting to pay some tribute to the man whose singular leadership and humanitarian ideals contributed much to the growth of the community.

That man was Selim Grazi. Back, before the 1920's, when the community numbered fewer than a hundred families, he was instrumental in establishing the synagogue of the Magen David Congregation. In addition, it was largely through his efforts that the Talmud Torah adjoining it came into existence.

**Our First President**

As the Congregation's first president, Selim Grazi helped develop it into the vigorous organization it was to become. He was constantly devoted to the task of educating our youth and his countenance was a familiar sight in the classrooms.

He served our community faithfully for many years, always concerned with its welfare. Even when he moved to another neighborhood in the interests of his wife's health, his heart was ever so much with us.

Embodied in this sympathetic character were those rare qualities of leadership: capacity, vision, intelligence, understanding and conscientiousness. Many of us who knew him and who were guided and counselled by him, will realize his passing and feel low in heart. And may we say to his bereaved family that their loss is also our loss.

But the enduring spirit of Selim Grazi is with us and the time will be long before this kind and unselfish man and his many worldly deeds will be forgotten.

**A Modest Proposal**

(With Apologies to Sattrist Swift)

By NAN MIZRACHI

I had hoped not to write a political article but to speak of books and music, the treasures of our earth. The pressure of events, however, have postponed this resolution. Today, humanity finds that it has sinned grievously and must be called to account.

Today, humanity is on trial and history's dreams the defendant. Today, 21 convicted Nazi war criminals (Field Marshals, munitions makers, etc.) have been taken down from the gallows and had their property rights restored, "in accordance with the growing demand of the German people."

One might ask which German people? A Herald Tribune dispatch of Sept. 1950 reports: "Mr. Kummernuss (head of the Transport Workers Union) maintained that most of the 5,000,000 organized workers in West Germany oppose an army . . . because they distrust the Adenauer government . . . there is widespread apprehension among the workers that the old Nazi military police will return to power . . ."

**Saved From Hanging**

Two months ago I warned that high-ranking Nazis ruled behind the German scenes. Now, they have saved their comrades from hanging (as the 142 GI's of Malmey never were saved, as the six million Jews never were saved). Now, I suppose, we must be truly sorry for Hitler's death.

For, if Herr Adolph had been given a crystal ball back in '45, he would not have deprived us of his "precious" leadership, but taken himself off to some Alpine retreat and returned five years later, the savior of mankind. Indeed, it is a "crime against humanity" that our Allied armies forced suicide upon this man, one that no trial of Nuremberg can erase.

It is a pity and we must beat our breast in penitence. But that is not enough. In view of this crime which we have committed, I submit a modest proposal. One which can never assuage our guilt, but one which might build a humble monument to our "honored dead."

**Preach Mein Kamp**

First let us elect from the 21 Nazis a man most likely to succeed Herr Adolph. Then let us go into our libraries and withdraw his "sacred" philosophy, preach Mein Kamp on our streets. Let us enter our school-rooms and tell our children of his soiled "greatness." Let us tell each and every Jewish child that Dachau and Buchenwald was just.

Let us contribute vast sums of money, taxes to build concentration camps, death ovens. Then, let us enter these "sanctified" places, leading our children by the hand.

Let us condemn the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto and spit upon those who fought for Israel's liberation. Let us forget the Jewish patriarch waiting in front of Hitler's ovens, the Jewish mother torn from her unproductive child, the Jewish husband watching his wife being shipped to a Nazi brothel.

Let us not raise our voices in protest. Let us submit and cry Mea Culpa. Bygones are bygones . . . on to Russia.

**The Wall**

A BOOK REVIEW BY TUNEE KASSIN

The Wall is the finest work of fiction published in 1950. The fact that it has been number one on the Best Seller's list, has won great critical acclaim and has had many honors heaped upon it is a testimonial to this fact.

The Wall is the best work of fiction published in 1950. Author John Hersey, in telling his story, used a device of finding old archives and records written by a "Boswell" who carefully and objectively recorded all that happened to him and his friends in Warsaw during 1939-1942 (when the Nazis established their infamous Ghetto there) and then buried the papers in metal boxes with the hope that they would be dug up later and the world would learn their story.

The Nazis literally made the Jewish people build their own high stone wall around the neighborhood where most of them lived and the "Ghetto" became a fact rather than just a figure of speech. All Jews were forced to move into this tiny area.

**Sent To "Labor" Camp**

Then, even this space was not allowed them. A rule of the Nazis demanded that tens of thousands of men, women and children were to be sent weekly for work in a "labor" camp, no one that left was heard from again.

The book clearly shows how the people realized slowly and unbelievably, the horror and truth of what was being decreed for them and of how they made efforts to save the children, the workers, the leaders and indeed, everyone who could be saved from the death lists by trying to appease the warlords with the old and sick and infirm until even these numbers were exhausted.

It is a story of people who happened to live in one apartment house and included plain, home-looking Rivka who gradually found herself the leader to whom people turned for guidance, Dolek Berson who was notorious for switching from job to job in order to find himself but who finally became a beloved leader of resistance, Pan Apt who looked like a Pole and who used his riches in a vain effort to avoid his fate while his own children fought in the underground—even if living meant existing on garbage and living in underground sewers and pipes.

**One Wonders Why**

These people were made to suffer so harshly because they were Jews, no other reason or excuse was necessary for the Nazis and one wonders why the world did nothing to stop the slaughter.

It is good that the Jewish people, in spite of all the misery they have encountered throughout history, still have the inner strength to raise families, continue their studies, uphold their cultural and artistic heritage and also realize that they are the only ones to help themselves.

Mr. Hersey realizes this and powerfully develops it in his story.

The story is well-told, interesting and hard to put down. Every well-read person should be sure to read it.

## Cutie Incidents

By LUNA SHOMER

"Why the hell doesn't someone shut off the dryer?" I yelled. "Hey you."

It was a Saturday afternoon and the whole of Brooklyn was out to have its hair set. Frantically I yelled; my ears were sizzling and a faint but terrifying aroma of singed hair, wafted delicately through the atmosphere. My date was going up in smoke!

"Help," I cried, and desperately switched off my dryer. Nothing doing. There seemed to be a conspiracy against me! Again and again, I applied the switch. The dryer kept on running.

Finally I noticed a woman laughing and angrily poked out my head to defend myself.

"You've been turning off my switch all the time."

If you have any cute incidents that may have happened to you or any of your friends, send them to Cutie Incidents c/o Community Bulletin.

## Shaare Zion's New Officers

On December 16, 1950, the Shaare Zion Congregation held its annual election. Mr. Issac Mizrahi, a tireless and conscientious worker, was elected president. The other newly elected officers are:

Sam Sutton.....1st Vice-Pres.  
Bert Chabot.....2nd Vice-Pres.  
Jack M. Gemal.....Treasurer  
Abe M. Cohen.....Rec. Sec'y

Members of the Executive Committee are: David Bibi, Samuel Franco, Ely Liniado and Aslan Safdeye. A "new synagogue building" is their goal for 1951.

## Employment Bureau

An Employment Bureau for the Syrian Community is being conducted by Rabbi A. J. Hecht. Job-seekers as well as employers interested in hiring reliable people can apply at 2030-66th Street, or telephone BE 6-6587.

# A Syrian's First-Hand View Of China's Dislike Of West

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every angle. Politically, until the end of the war, the British dominated the city council. The Americans, English and French paid them low wages for long hours of work. They never got equal pay for equal jobs. In other words, a Chinese doing the same job as a white man would never get paid the same salary.

The white man, moreover, always got priority on buses and in entering theaters.

At the Shanghai race course at one time, comments Abe, the British even put up a sign saying: "No Chinese or dogs allowed."

"When the Japanese moved into the city in 1941, they occupied a lot of the main buildings and hotels in Shanghai," says Abe, "and when they moved out in 1945, the Americans literally took their places and

didn't allow the Chinese to occupy them." All this resulted in resentment toward the Americans.

Soon, he says, anti-American slogans blossomed out all over Shanghai. Examples of these were: "Get out Yank," "Free China from Aggressors," and "Get out G.I." This, Abe points out, took place as early as 1946, or before the present Korean situation developed.

The Communists promised the peasants land and an end to the corruption which was so rampant under the regime of Chiang Kai Chek.

At first fairly indifferent, as compared to the violently anti-foreign students, the masses began to feel, says Abe, that perhaps the Communists did have more to offer than Chiang. He also contends the Chinese don't know what Communism is, but that they pined for a change.

## Abe Sultan Head Of Center Board; Women Picked Too

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organize various clubs. A Program Committee has been formed. It is headed by Mr. Abe Shamah.

According to Mr. Jack Gemal, membership dues will be collected very shortly. By paying at once and without any hesitation we will all be of the greatest aid in helping things to start rolling.

In addition to classrooms, the spacious Center building has facilities for many activities and games. Ping pong, table tennis, billiards and bowling are but a few. There will also be a snack bar and two large social rooms.

## What Price Control..? Local Dealers Inquire

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they pointed out, are hoarding.

Lastly, they believe that retailers and consumers should work together to bring their silent grumblings to the attention of the nation. The wholesalers, they contended, are being allowed to profit to the detriment of the American people.

## For Servicemen

The C.B. is anxious to send a copy of its monthly issue to those in the community who are in the service, but no list of servicemen's names and addresses is obtainable. Those wishing to have a copy sent to their serviceman relative or friend may do so by mailing the name and address on a post card to the COMMUNITY BULLETIN, 2030 - 66th Street, Brooklyn 4, N. Y., or by calling the Secretary during the business day at BE. 6-6587.

Also, the C.B. welcomes letters from servicemen, so if you receive any that are interesting for the community — send them along and we'll print them.

## THOUGHTS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

By RAE ASHKENAZI

Butterfly dreams, and endless schemes  
Fly through my mind all day  
Of love, romance, a moonlight dance  
And words that you should say.

Let impulse be the kind of plan  
The world a wondrous fairyland.

Now is the time, to wine and dine  
And throw stiff pride away  
Let hearts be light, like stars at night  
On this St. Valentine's day.

So whisper low and take my hand  
Into the realm of Paradise land.

And sing to me and bring to me  
Love's fresh and magic glow  
Of sweet delight and love so bright  
That everyone should know.

All I desire will be mine  
If you will be my Valentine.

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**GIVE to the  
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## "The Nut-Cracker's Suite"

By FRANCIS DAYAN

One of the places in which all Syrians, of walking age, sooner or later find themselves situated is at 6817 Bay Parkway. Within this haunt, which is nearly a block in length, many pounds of bizer have been consumed.

Upon questioning Mr. Langbart, the tall stocky manager of the Marboro Theatre, we found that his knowledge of this huge consumption was non-existent.

In regard to the background of the theatre he told us that April is the month one can celebrate the Marboro's birthday. Although its exact age, like that of many humans, is questionable it had definitely passed the twenty-one year mark.

### Aids Education

In addition to the many good movies it has shown during these years, the Marboro Theatre has aided education by letting the graduates of Seth Low Junior High School hold their commencement exercises on its premises. It is only on these solemn occasions that the 2,200 seats in the theatre are used in the morning.

The high point of movie attendance throughout this country was reached in 1946. Since that time, due to the increased popularity of television and fewer good pictures, this figure has dropped 20%.

In order to prevent this situation from progressing further many theatres are installing television sets for those who are bored with the feature on the screen. By 1952 most of the important movie houses in the country are expected to be equipped with television sets. A problem which could easily arise in the future is whether popcorn should also be sold to those watching television.

### Common Sense

The C.B. does not come into being by itself; it takes the work of many individuals to get it to you. Those who wish to help in editorial or business work are welcome and may contact the C.B. secretary for information. The telephone is BE. 6-6587.

## MILESTONES

### MARRIED

Linda Mamiye—Leon Betesh  
Jean Harari—Henry Elbaz  
Rae Dweck—Moshe Doueck  
Betty Ashear—Mordy Kassin  
Renee Harari—Sonny Nassin  
Marcia Benderoff—  
Abe A. Cohen

### ENGAGED

Gilly Dabah—Joe Safdeye  
Gloria Chera—Rafe Tawil  
Grace Mishan—Joe Gindi  
Ruth Tawil—Saul Kairey  
Shirley Shammah—Max Hidary  
Gertrude Esses—Joe Shasho

### BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Hazan—Boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Nat Shweky—Girl  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Betesh—Girl

If you wish to have a marriage, engagement, bar mitzvah or blessed event included in MILESTONES, you may do so by writing the names on a post card and addressing it to the COMMUNITY BULLETIN, 2030 — 66th Street, Brooklyn 4, N. Y., or by calling the Secretary during the business day at BE. 6-6587.

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## The Talk of the Town

A royal send-off was given to Mosh Dweck by his buddies at the St. Moritz a few days before his wedding. . . . The "last bachelor dinner" was complete with all the trimmings including a risqué French film. . . . Didja have fun, boys? . . . Hardy Sutton smitten by Norma Maleh's charms? . . . Congratulations Peggy Tawil and Albert Hazan. . . . Phew! you really had us worried for a while there! . . . Now I see what they mean by a "whirlwind romance." . . . witness Lorainne Mitrani and Jack Cohen. . . . Which clique of boys is planning to make a special trip to Syria this Spring to get "you-know-what." . . . Note to Gloria "Go-Go" Cohen in Florida: Your many friends wish you'd come home to Brooklyn already! They miss you. . . . We have a sneaking suspicion that this year's crop of H.S. Grads secretly heaved a great sigh of relief when they found out that the prom was to be held on a Friday night this year. . . . Saves them all kinds of "embarrassing" questions.

"I'll Believe It When I See It" Dept.: The day this country drafts women. . . . Tunie Hedaya insists that there is nothing between her and Ike Tawil. . . . They are "good friends." . . . Methinks the lady doth protest too much! . . . Our nomination for the "cutest couple of the year" . . . Betty Ashear and Mordy Kassin.

Esquire Corner: A young businessman, suddenly in the chips, bought a small seagoing yacht and a uniform to match. Anxious to impress his old mother, he invited her for a sail and pointing to his cap, he said, "Look, mama, now I'm a captain." She put her hand on his arm. "Sammy," she said, "by me, you're a captain. By you, you're a captain. But by captains, Sammy, you're no captain." . . . New York is practically a "ghost town" to certain girls we know, since a bunch of boys hit the road last week. Lou Ades, Al Addis, Hank Shalom, Josh Gemal and Eddie Hedaya to mention a few, had better hurry back for absence makes the heart grow fonder for somebody else, you know. . . . Who is Virginia Harary knitting Argyles for? . . . Barbara Haddad, a future cuty. . . . "G.G." fancies herself a second Jane Russell. . . . Oh, we don't know. . . . Hey girls, you'd better watch your "P's and Q's" when "conversing" with Leo Sutton. He doesn't hesitate to correct a grammatical error in public (Oh horrors!). Have a heart Leo, we can't all be perfect.

Leave It To The Girls! Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Alice Shalom, Mrs. Shirley Beyda and Mrs. Molly Diamond for finally earning their way on to the Center committee. . . . They are the first feminine members to be officially elected. Now that women have a voice in our foremost community undertaking, it is an important indication of the progress we are making as a functioning social group. Our women have repeatedly proven themselves worthy of equality with the men and we are glad to see them recognized in an official capacity.

Jerry Lewis says: "Good-looking men are a dime a dozen. I'm a novelty."

## Community bulletin

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