

Community bulletin

VOL. II—No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1948

BY SUBSCRIPTION

'Back Israel In U.N.' Aim Of Rally Here

The third community-wide demonstration in support of the State of Israel will take place at the Magen David Synagogue, 2025-67th Street, on Monday evening, November 29th, the first anniversary of the United Nations resolution to partition Palestine.

Sponsored by the Israel Aid Committee, the theme of the assembly, pending latest developments, will be to urge United States support of Israel's demands for direct peace negotiations with the Arab states, de jure recognition, and abandonment of the Bernadette Plan in the U.N.

Considering Appeal

The report that the Israeli Government is considering an appeal to the United Nations to relieve the plight of Jews in Arab countries at war with Israel is of particular significance to this community, according to Abe I. Hedaya, chairman of the Committee.

"Because many of us still have relatives there, and because the evidence is piling up to show that Arab states are persecuting, and fostering mob violence against their Jewish nationals, I urge everyone to attend. As members of the Syrian-Jewish community, public support of this move by the Israeli Government is extremely urgent," he said.

Arrangements are in charge of the Executive Committee, headed by Abe I. Hedaya and Stella Sardell, and will feature a prominent speaker to be announced later.

The national food for Israel

campaign reached into this community on Sunday, November 21st, when members of the Israel Aid Committee, and other volunteers conducted a door-to-door collection of various items of canned food and cereals, for immediate aid to alleviate the food shortage in the Jewish State.

Chairman of the Food Drive Committee was Meyer Tawil, assisted by Mae Kishk, Gloria Altaras, Marilyn Bijou, Anita and Estelle Setton.

Halloween Dance

The Halloween Dance held Sunday evening, October 31st, under the auspices of the Israel Aid Committee, at the Main Ballroom of the Jewish Community House, was "a decided social success" according to Joe Safdey, chairman of the arrangements committee.

Rens Matut won the door prize, a handsome RCA Victor Portable radio. The arrangements committee included Al Cohen, Stella Sardell, Ellis Safdey, Al Churba, Morris Sardell, Gloria Altaras, Marilyn Bijou, and Estelle Setton.

Yeshiva Lunchroom Pleases Parents, Kids

By TUNEE KASSIN

Delicious, nutritious, appetizing and filling!

That describes the typical hot lunches being served the twenty-five to thirty students of the "Magen" David Yeshivah who have lunch together every day at naantime.

The boys and girls meet at 12:05 and go down to the clean, nicely-decorated lunchroom where the first thing they do is wash their hands and say the Blessing over it. When that's done, they move on to where the bread, already buttered, is waiting for them. They pick up a slice, make the Blessing on that and are then ready for the meal. This is served to them by the Cook and her assistant while the children are seated around the tables.

Then, everyone goes to town! The hub-bub begins as the little ones pick up their knives and forks, start eating and talking and comparing today's meal with yesterday's and discussing all the important subjects little people talk about. When the meal is through—with all second helpings taken care of—the last Blessing of "Berchet Ha'maron" is said and the children run out to play in the schoolyard.

Who plans these meals and shops for food? The new, young, progressive-minded principal of

the Magen David Yeshivah and Talmud Torah, Rabbi Harbitar, is the guiding director. He plans the meals carefully, making sure that each meal consists of a fruit juice, a protein, fresh fruit, both green and white vegetables, milk, crackers and jam or cookies. It goes without saying that each person can have as much bread and butter as he would like with each meal. That goes for the milk, too! The canned foods are ordered from a wholesaler while the fresh fruits, vegetables and milk are brought in daily from the neighborhood grocery.

It was Rabbi Harbitar who saw to it that the kitchen is arranged sensibly and has such modern conveniences as a formica-top

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Ground Breaking Ceremonies Mark Historic Step Forward



Featured at the ceremonies were above, left to right, Rabbi Jacob S. Kassin, Mr. Isaac Shalom, Mr. Abe Sultan, Center president, and Rabbi David De Sola Pool, of the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue. At bottom is part of the crowd attending.

Leaders Hail Community Idea At Center Site

After five years of planning, a long-awaited dream came true when, before a crowd of over a thousand people, Rabbi Jacob S. Kassin broke ground for the Magen Community Center at Avenue P and West 12th Street.

The ceremonies, which included speeches by prominent political and religious personalities, were conducted on the dais by Mr. Norman Jemal. Also on the dais, in addition to Rabbi Kassin, were Rabbi David De Sola Pool, Rabbi Murad Maslato, Rabbi Abraham Hecht, Judge Daniel P. Gutman, Isaac Shalom, Abe Sultan, Sam Lindado, Isaac Matalon, Harry G. Anderson, William E. Fox, and Kenneth P. Sutherland.

Mr. Sultan, president of the Center, was the first to speak, and with a few words of encouragement turned the proceedings over to Mr. Jemal.

Introduces Speakers

After greeting all who turned out, Mr. Jemal introduced Rabbis Kassin and Maslato, who delivered the blessings and invocation, the former in Hebrew and the latter in Syrian.

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Youth League Launches Varied Activities Program

With the promotion of community welfare, Jewish culture, and social activities as its basic objectives, a new youth group was formed recently under the guidance of Rabbi Kurt Klappholtz, of the Shaare Zion Congregation.

Now known as the Young Folks League, its purpose, according to Eddie Dayan, chairman, "is to provide a more wholesome atmosphere for young folks, and its membership is open to boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 21."

Besides being one of the sponsors of the community-wide Chanukah Pageant, the group is preparing a farum on Israel for the meeting on December 23rd. Future plans also include parties for members and would-be members, winter rafts, ice skating, and a ragsuerade.

An Opportunity

In calling for new members, Eddie said: "If you sometimes wonder about the future of the Syrian youth, and want to do something about it, we have the way

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Hanukkah Story Subject Of Community Pageant

A Hanukkah Pageant, depicting the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus 2,000 years ago, the rededication of the Temple, and relating it to today's struggle for a Jewish State in Israel, is being planned as a joint project of the Israel Aid Committee, and Young Folks League.

Scheduled for the week of December 26th, the presentation will feature two dramatic sequences, and a musical program. Talent is being recruited from among members of both groups, and other young folk in the community. Further details will be announced later.

Magen David Junior Group Elects Board

Elections for 17-man executive board were held at the Bnei Magen David on Saturday, November 6th. This board will constitute the governing body of that congregation this coming year.

The other members are: Max Tawil, Joe Cattin, Mike Harary, David Salem, Mae Catton, Isaac Cabassa, Ralph Shamah, Irving Ashkenazi, Albert Kassin, Jae A. Safdieh, Isaac Gindi, Meyer S. Saff, Eli Cabassa, Eddie S. Saff, Mike Mizrahi, Abe Rudy, Hy Chalam, Jae Shamah, Nat Rudy, Eddie Shalom, Morris Heffes, Isaac Semah, Joe E. Dweck, Albert E. Cahen, and Jae I. Mizrahi.

One of the first executive acts of this newly elected board was to approve a "nine-point program"

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Announcement

The mailing list is under revision. If your address has changed, or you know of new additions to our community, please mail in to the Community Center Office, 55 West 42nd St., N.Y.C., Room 205.

Center Dinner Held At Waldorf

The fourth annual dinner-dance at the Magen David Community Center took place on Saturday evening, October 30th, at the Waldorf-Astoria's Starlight Room.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served in the lounge before dinner. The guests then went into the Starlight Room, to round, candle-lit tables, set for ten, and a delicious meal ending with the ever-present demi-tasse.

Orchestra and Comedy

Irwin Kent's orchestra played for dancing, with Judy Lynn shaking the maracas, and vocalizing. Bab Douglas, who played in 'Carouse!' and 'Oklahoma', sang several numbers. Comedy was supplied by Johnny Woods and Nora Morales made a brief appearance.

Norman Jemal was emcee. Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Hadid, of Mexico City, were guests of the Jemals. Special mention was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gellin, and Mr. Abraham Goldstein.

The Roots Are Deep

In approaching the solution for our present day social problems, sociologists have found the technique of medical science most effective and have adopted and applied these methods with some degree of success. Instead of simply trying to arrest the manifestations of a particular problem, they have extended their diagnosis down to its roots.

Punishment for delinquents, for example—just as isolation of early malaria victims—was found to be no solution, but only a partial and wholly inadequate alleviation. A need was seen for a thorough examination and understanding of the problem and in the field of delinquency, this resulted in the discovery of the many environment factors, such as poverty, slums and insecure home life, which contributed to the delinquency. Unless these factors were changed, it was concluded, no amount of reform schools would solve the delinquency problem.

Our Own "Delinquency"

In our community there are signs of a growing "delinquency." Leaders, particularly religious leaders, have been alarmed at the extent of its growth and have begun rendering advice on methods for coping with the problem. Thus far, parents have been urged to concern themselves more closely with their children's conduct, and more specifically, were advised to encourage earlier marriage. They also appealed for speedier completion of the Center as one step toward the solution of this problem. There can be no doubt, that the guidance offered by our leaders is sincere and is given with the conviction that it will help solve this problem. But there is a question whether this advice, however, noble its purpose, reflects a thorough examination and understanding of the factors giving rise to the problem. It is singularly to be noted that the group most directly concerned, i.e., the young, unmarried people, have not been sounded out. One can hardly imagine any solution possible without attempting to understand their particular problem.

Even a cursory examination of the social life of the community reveals an unwholesome situation, discouraging enough to cause a disappointed and frustrated member reluctantly to look elsewhere. It appears that there is something peculiar to our community which, in many cases effectively bars a normal boy and girl relationship. If we are to determine the cause of the barrier, perhaps discussion of the background and the practical difficulties presently encountered would be helpful.

Was No Problem

One would gather that a generation ago, there appeared to be no serious social problem since for the most part parental influence and pressure figured in the joining of a couple, and it was seldom that the individual asserted his or her independence. Outside of pre-marital courtship, friendly dating was not a common practice. As the influence of American ways was felt, the young people rebelled and began to seek more freedom of choice and as a result there is a degree of independence which, at first glance, may seem welcome, but on further study appears to pose unforeseen problems. The outcome was that now one was on his own. There was little difficulty at the start since a suitable mate was found—even if the choice was more discriminate. But what happened when the choice being relatively limited, no suitable mate was found? No one would disagree that all things equal, one from the community would be the desirable choice. However, things aren't always equal and one is faced with the choice between looking elsewhere, or being satisfied with the best available. Unfortunately, there are some who failed to find one suitable in the community, and have gone to the extreme in looking elsewhere.

On the surface, this appears to be the over-sill problem, but upon breaking it down, one discovers some disturbing facts. Those closest to the problem, the young boys and girls, have expressed their feelings as to the probable cause of the difficulty. Many sincerely insist that the consideration given the financial status of the future mate is so great that it alone represents the most serious obstacle to the normal co-mingling of boy and girl. To be sure, disavowals of personal guilt were asserted with equal conviction. No doubt, this is somewhat exaggerated. However, the fact that many take this position would appear to give it some validity. Collateral to this is the desire on the part of some to acquire a "name", something evidently not everyone has. That this serves to exclude and discriminate, there can be no doubt, but such artificial standards would

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Spirit Of The Thing

By ELLIS S. JACOB

George Santayana said, "Whoever searched to the heavens with a telescope and found no G-d, would not find a soul if he examined the brain with a microscope." Perhaps not, and quite naturally, just as the substance of a book is not in the crass black-and-white of the printed word, or the underlying spirit of a community of men and women would not be seen by the clothes they wear.

And I believe that is just as well. Let's take ourselves, right here. If you will stop and think, fair and soberly, you will sense, if not see, that whatever our shortcomings, we are really a fine and healthy community despite all our insular attitudes, mutual distrusts and social envies. It is a matter of inner faith, not something to be seen. Yet, the more we become conscious that we are one of the few great religious Sephardic communities of the world, the more we will have power to accomplish things pertaining to communal health and happiness greater than things to be seen. You do not SEE the love in a well-knit family—you see a lot of quarrels and bickering, and even rancor, but you know there is love underneath it all. We need to wean ourselves into consciousness of our underlying strength of spirit.

Uplift Our Women

To preserve our community, we must uphold our women. A man cannot stand too well on his faith with a wife totally ignorant of the basis of his faith, and who too easily "mistakes change for progress." Man is the structure of a house, but the spirit of a home is a woman. A man cannot stand alone. For too long we have neglected our women, our spirit. The girls who are our future mothers are too ill-informed, yet they must be the marrow of our communal bone. We must strengthen the marrow NOW, as a carrying mother feeds the baby not yet born.

I submit that an absolute minimum of fifty per cent of our communal effort should be directed towards and for our women. I submit that a Talmud Torah for girls is equally as important as one for boys. I venture to say our community can remain healthy ONLY by such means. That is, in recognizing wherein our spirit lies. For it is not by materialistic means alone that one can achieve health. As in a similar connection, a modern rabbi put it, "Happiness in marriage does not come by finding the right person, but by BEING the right person."

The Almighty is with our community, if we open our inner eyes to see. Only let our leaders who have heavy historical responsibilities on their shoulders become more conscious of the value of what is not visible to the eye. Which recalls to my mind what an eminent philosopher once said, "Naked I came to the Earth, and naked I shall leave it. And a good thing it is, too, for it reminds me that I am naked underneath my shirt."

The Stuff Inside

A story is told about a small boy, a Negro lad, who stood fascinated before a display of toy balloons of every color. The man in charge of the exhibit was having a busy time with his sales.

Suddenly, one of the red balloons broke away, rose rapidly and disappeared. The little fellow drew nearer and said, "mister, would a yellow balloon go as high as that red one?" The man grinned and replied, "it sure would, son." Encouraged by the answer, the lad questioned again, "and would a white one go as far and as high?" He got the same answer but he had a final question, "Mister do you think a black balloon would go up like that? The man in charge of the balloons said, "Boy, it isn't the color that makes it rise; it's the stuff inside!"

TOOTSIE ASSIN

SIGNIFICANT QUOTE

"I believe that among Jewish organizations in this country, the synagogue on the one hand and the Jewish Center on the other can be sources of infinite light. Between them there should not be a spirit of petty rivalry and grim competition. We should have the statesmanship to understand that they supplement one another. Recreation and informal Jewish education are necessary, but they are not sufficient factors for a full Jewish life. Formal Jewish education and worship and study are basic ingredients for a meaningful Jewish existence.

(Joshua L. Liebman, Chicago, 1948.)

LOOKING FORWARD

By RABBI A. HECHT

Almost everyone has heard about, or read of the now famous best seller Kinsey Report, entitled "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male." Its shocking revelations as to the sexual experiences and crimes committed by the male members of society, beginning from earliest youth, have caused a tremendous upheaval to take place in the minds and workings of sociologists and leading experts, interested in the moral and social advancement of the human race. There has been much talk, as a direct result of this report, to institute more extensive courses of sexual education in the public schools and high schools of the nation.

Deplorable Conditions Exposed

In a most revealing article in the November issue of Magazine Digest, it is pointed out that this deplorable condition exposed in the Kinsey Report does not apply to boys and young men alone. Dr. Kinsey has been quoted as saying, "My next study will show an even greater variation in the age of sexual maturity in girls, than in boys." "A very significant proportion of the women in the population are involved in pre-marital sex relations" is another conclusion drawn by the Kinsey investigators.

A casual glance at the daily headlines are enough to cause nausea and disgust. Sex crimes are reported on almost every page. Many of these crimes are committed by teen-agers and other young people.

It is alarming indeed when one tries to visualize what kind of society one can look forward to, on the basis of this report and findings. Unless something drastic is done immediately to repress the tides of immorality, the very foundations upon which social life is predicated will be destroyed. All that civilization has aspired to, and strived for, in the elevation of mankind above the level of the animal world, will be lost forever.

Leads To Destruction

The Bible story, recounting the story of the Flood in the days of Noah, stresses the point that immorality was the chief abomination practiced at that time. With adultery and sexual perversions leading the list of other transgressions, and the laws of moral and ethical conduct abused and discarded, the inevitable result was the utter debasement of humanity. A chaotic condition of this type hastened the destruction of the world, through the devastating flood, which sought to wash off the serious and almost indelible imprint left on it by the hordes of sensualists who violated and abused the very basic elements of decency and morality. It was indeed the practice of immorality which brought about the mortality and the destruction of the world.

The Jewish people have forever maintained a high moral standing, in comparison with all the different nations of the world. The ideals and principles of purity, chastity and holiness in Jewish family life have been praised by the leading sociologists of all ages. The quintessence of our survival throughout almost two millennia of exile amongst different peoples and sects has been the high and lofty conceptions of sexual purity and chastity which protected our youth, at all times and in all places, against the attractions of the lewd and lascivious.

Illicit Love Condemned

Our Torah condemns and makes punishable with death the practices of illicit love. We are warned against following the practices of the pagan nations, who culminated their religious worship with nauseating sexual orgies. The prophets cry out in disgust and consternation against these abominations. Israel is directed to maintain a high standard of morality and holiness, as befitting a "chosen people of G-d." Our mission amongst the nations of the world is to show and advise them the ideal ways of social life, by setting a perfect example ourselves.

Many a great nation and mighty people have been reduced to slavery and servitude because of their general degeneration. History records, for all posterity, the dissolution of strong empires and powerful governments because of their excess indulgence in the immoral and illicit. The doom of these great empires, governments, and prominent leaders and rulers was sealed by their immoral practices and sensuous adventures, thus substantiating the observation made at the beginning of this article, that mortality and fatality is determined, in great measure, by the standard of morality maintained.

(First of a Series)

MAN ABOUT TOWN

By JACK MASLATON

Hiya, fellow Turks! Once again we've come prepared to cheer you up... so collapse, I mean relax, while we give you the goose... oops—I mean the news of the month...

At last the building of the Center is on its way... now let's hope we don't have to wait another five years for them to put another cornerstone... Moe Bibi and Frieda Adjmi will share their troubles this coming year... We've heard reports that things are so tough that cows are now giving grade "B" milk... in boycotting British goods one SY woman goes so far as not buying "Royal Pudding"... The reason why we've never had a woman for president is because a president has to be over 35 years old...

Meyer Saff, I'm told, likes to comb his hair way back... Yean, WAY WAY back!... Moe Sardell tells me luncheonettes are now featuring a "Honey-moon Sandwich"—Lettuce alone, no dressing... Our hats off to Dave Attie. His painting made the cover page of Coronet Magazine, November issue... Now put your hats on again while forward you some odd facts taken from the Talmud and other books of Hebrew learning... According to the law, the wedding ring is placed on the bride's first finger of the right hand... Normally a Cohen is the first person to go up to the Torah... However, in a town where there are nine Cohens and one Israel, strange as it may seem, the Israel goes up first... The length of one's nose is equivalent to the size of a person's small finger (pinkie)... Before proceeding, here's the Joke of the Month...

A priest in conversation with a Rabbi said, "In celebrating holidays the Jews always start their holidays from sundown. But how come Purim is different and your feast takes place the evening after Purim?" The Rabbi smiled. Said the priest, "The Gentiles are quite to the contrary, for their holidays start past midnight, yet why do they celebrate Christmas on the eve of the approaching day?"... The Rabbi smiled again and said, "I'll attempt to answer that myself. We Jews are thankful to a gentile named Haman for the Festival of Purim, and so we celebrate it according to your fashion. On the other hand, the gentiles owe their Xmas to a Jew, therefore, they observe it according to our fashion."

En now for some more facts... The lioness gives birth once in three years and the snake once in seven years... (It's a good thing they believe in birth control)... the highest court we have is "Sanhedrin," consisting of 71 judges. If all of them come to a verdict that the defendant is guilty, believe it or not, he's automatically freed! The only two trees that don't blossom before bearing fruit are the fig and walnut trees. We cut in to bring you this bulletin... Connie Serouya, won the grand prize and a \$100 watch on Alexanders Quizdom Show. No less than a dozen persons called her mother to tell her, "You know, your daughter was on television"... Among the thousands of animals that roam the earth, we're only allowed to eat but ten, yet we're familiar with only three types. There are certain fishes that come to shore on Friday night, rest on the Sabbath, then return to the water Saturday night... Tears of happiness are cold, while tears of sorrow are warm... The word "Goodbye" is short for "G-d be with you," better known to you all as "Allah Ma-ak"... That's all for now, so with sincerest regards to you all, I remain, your Turk reporter who says, "Let's be thankful to G-d that we're cutting a turkey while nations are out cutting other peoples lands." So long for now!

Musicians Urged To Join Orchestra

With such an encouraging response to the ad in last month's BULLETIN for all players of musical instruments to get together and form an orchestra, the date for the first open meeting, is Tuesday evening, November 30th, is at the Talmud Torah Building, 2025-67th Street, 8:38 p.m. All those interested, and this means pianists, drummers, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone players, viola and other string instrumentalists, are urged to attend. First project will be to supply all the music for the Chanukah Pageant.

IS YOUR 3-room apartment too small. Our 6-room house is too big. How about a trade. Box D-1226, Bulletin Office, 55 W. 42nd Street, Room 205.

Gift Kits For Israeli Army Are Available

A means of expressing the good will and admiration of the American people for the soldiers of Israel has been made available by "Kits for the Army of Israel, Inc.", a non-profit organization which has the endorsement of Zionist and fraternal organizations.

According to Ephraim Kaufman, director of the organization, the kits hold underwear, toilet articles, cigarette lighters and other small essentials. Its cost is \$10.00. A special kit has been prepared for the Women's Army, CHEN.

He emphasized the importance of enclosing a personal letter in each package sent to Israel. "The personal approach between the sender and the recipient of the kit," he declared, "will play a big part in raising the morale of the Israeli soldier, inasmuch as the letter will bring home to him the knowledge that America is wholeheartedly with him in his fight against the Arab aggressors."

Locally, the Israel Aid Committee is cooperating on this drive. Kits may be purchased at the national office, at 250 W. 57th Street, or checks may be sent with a personal letter to a soldier, c/o the Bulletin, Room 205, 55 W. 42nd Street, New York City, who will forward it. This is to keep a record of the participation of our community in this project.

Milestones

ENGAGED

Frieda Adjmi—Morris Bibi
Joyce Beyda—Irving Betesh
Charlotte Esses—Murray Zalta
Frances Hedaya—Morris Bijou
Katie Mishan—Jack Sultan
Annette Missry—Neville Teubal
Pauline Hissry—Victor Dweck

MARRIED

Rose Cohen—Albert Harari
Jeanette Dayan—Morris Sutton
Sara Franco—Ezra Rsfif
Esther Kairey—Marty I. Cohen
Frieda Natkin—Louis Douer
Miriam Serure—Joe Harary
Lily Sultan—Moses Tzafaty
Beatrice Missry—Sonny Esses

BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. & Mrs. David A. Beyda... Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph A. Cohen... Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Rspih S. Dayan... Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chabott... Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Semah... Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Ray. Shamah... Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Shamah... Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Nat. Schewky... Bey
Mr. & Mrs. Abde Sultan... Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Hafif... Bey

BAR MITZVAHS

Eli Mizrahi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Mizrahi.

CREDITS

Photographs of the Center ground breaking were taken by Alvin S. Addie of 318 E. 57th Street, Brooklyn. Phone: DI 8-7149 for service.

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THE CINEMA CORNER

OLIVIER'S "HAMLET"

By Max Mishan

This is a film which everyone must see. The superb acting and fine photography help to make a great human drama come to life. But what was so profoundly impressive was that quite often the characters would think their lines, while the words would be heard by the audience and appropriate scenery would accompany the various lines. This really brings home the power and force of Shakespeare better than hours of study.

Laurence Olivier plays the part of the moody and melancholy Prince of Denmark as near perfectly as one could hope for. We see the two contrasts to his character, the one musing and reflective, the other when his will can be roused to sudden activity. This helps us to understand his character, so difficult to describe.

In shortening the play some of the important soliloquies were cut. Certain characters were also eliminated, and some of the lines were, therefore, voiced by other characters. However, the famous "To be or not to be" is in, accompanied by very impressive scenery.

Eileen Herlie as the Queen has been made to look just right—mature enough to be the mother of a grown son, yet voluptuous enough to have had murder committed on her behalf. The King, played by Basil Sydney, is the one who commits the murder for her and the crown. Villian though he is, drunken and lustful, we yet feel a pity for him as we do for so many of Shakespeare's villains.

Felix Aylmer provides us with comic relief as the blundering, meddling, eavesdropping Polonius, while Jean Simmons, as his daughter, Ophelia, plays a difficult part with success that could have come only with much hard work.

All in all, it was truly a magnificent performance. One came away feeling that the production of this great tragedy was worthy of the Poet who wrote it. Unforgettable scenes were Hamlet meeting his father's ghost on the lonely misty battlements of Elsinore Castle; the silent and agonized love scene between Hamlet and Ophelia; the play within the play, having its climax and uproar together with Hamlet's mocking laugh at his incestuous uncle, and the fencing bout towards the end.

For the first time I was convinced that the screen can be as noble as the stage.

THE SINAI INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Announces that Registration for the Fall-Winter Term, 1948-49, is now in progress, and will continue until November 30th.

Fill in the courses desired on the registration form below, and remit with your registration fee. Classes start November 30, 1948. Each course will consist of 10 Lectures for the Fall-Winter Term.

CURRICULUM

- A. JEWISH HISTORY. A survey from the Beginning of Creation to the Present.
Wednesday: 9:45-10:05 p.m. Rabbi Dr. Selemem Wind, Ph.D., Instructor.
- B. CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW. Introduction for the beginner to the living Hebrew spoken today.
Wednesdays: 8:00-9:00 p.m. Rabbi Dr. Selemem Wind, Ph.D., Instructor.
- C. JEWISH LAWS AND CUSTOMS: JUDIASM IN PRACTICE.
Tuesdays: 8:00-9:00 p.m. Prof. Charles B. Chavel, Ph.D., MA, LLB.
- D. JEWISH PHILOSOPHY
Tuesdays: 9:45-10:05 p.m. Prof. Charles B. Chavel, Ph.D., MA, LLB.
- E. CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE, CURRENT EVENTS, MOVEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON THE JEWISH SCENE, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS ZIONISM.
Mondays: 8:38-10:00 p.m. Guest Lecturers.
RABBI A. HECHT, Director

For further information, write or phone

MAGEN DAVID COMMUNITY CENTER

LONGACRE 3-5922 55 W. 42nd St., New York 18

REGISTRATION FEE—\$5.00 EACH COURSE—\$5.00 APPLICATION

Gentlemen: I wish to enroll for the courses checked below:

JEWISH HISTORY CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW
JEWISH PHILOSOPHY JEWISH LAWS & CUSTOMS
CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE

Enclosed is \$5.00 Registration Fee, and \$..... tuition for the courses I have chosen.

Bill me later..... Signature.....

Name..... Address.....

Occupation..... Age.....

Ground Breaking Ceremonies Mark Historic Step Forward

(Continued from Page 1)

Boy Scout Troops No. 388 and 552 of the JCH presented the colors. The crowd sang the Star Spangled Banner and Hatikvah, led by Cantor Noah Levine.

A happy interruption occurred when the Israeli Soccer Team passed by and threw some soil from Israel on the site. They had returned from the dedication of the Ocean Parkway playground in memory of Col. David Marcus.

Finally, at the end of the ceremony, Rabbi Kassin turned up the first shovel-full of earth.

Mr. Harry G. Anderson, of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Welfare Board, who, on behalf of his organization, wished "Success for the institution you are founding today."

Learning Kept Alive

Appearing on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President John Cashmore, was Judge Daniel Sittman, of the Municipal Court of Brooklyn. He told the story of Johanan ben Zachai, who, when the Romans were destroying the last vestiges of Judaism, asked only that he be permitted to build a school and how it was that this school spread and kept alive Jewish learning. He said, "May G-d bless you in this noble endeavor!"

Speaking for the mothers of the Community, Mrs. David J. Beyda emphasized that "this marks one of the greatest events in our lives. Best of luck to you and may G-d bless you all of your lives."

A more serious note was injected into the proceedings when Rabbi Klappholtz spoke an intermarriage. He felt that the building of the Center would do much to help prevent this.

Promise of the Future

Highlighting the occasion was the speech of Rabbi David De Sola Pool, who having recently come back from Germany, said

that he had a very curious sensation upon viewing the site of the Center and seeing only barren ground. It was only a few weeks ago in Germany that he saw places which formerly were Jewish Centers for worship now rubble and ruin. "As I stand here," he said, "I feel a sense of Nechama and of comfort. For over there, in a world of destruction, is the place where Jewry is buried. Over here is the place where Jewry is coming to life; it is the promise of the future. The Jews have no kingdom and therefore, here in America, we have organized this concept of the Jewish scene. The young have been mentioned . . . they need this Center! If I may say so, the older generation needs it just as much."

After the speeches of these prominent people, telegrams were read from former Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Samuel Elias, President of the Central Sephardic Community, who were unable to attend.

Next to speak was Mr. Solomon Grazi, who recalled when the first Synagogue and Talmud Torah were planned. "When we went to collect money, there was only \$8000 in the bank and much discouraging advice, but we surprised them!" he exclaimed.

Morris S. Levy, who organized the first Center Committee back in 1943, announced an additional contribution of \$7,500 to the Building Fund.

Part of Life

Congressman Muller expressed the belief that "religious educational observance is a daily part of our lives," and declared, "In the name of the people of the State of New York, I bring you their heartfelt congratulations."

Assembly leader of the 18th A.D., Kenneth F. Sutherland, came from the dedication of the Col. Marcus playground and expressed his pleasure at being included in these ceremonies.

The Roots Are Deep

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hardly be expected to exist in such a pious community, and one as culturally homogeneous as ours.

Much Female Dissatisfaction

Going on further, one finds much female dissatisfaction—even resentment—in the unusual approach to social activities on the part of the young men. In the first place, the boys assume the girls are a showy lot who would not consider themselves adequately entertained unless they are taken to the expensive places. As a consequence, the boy and girl dating not only becomes limited in number, but also becomes restricted to marriage prospects. Certainly this, if reasonably true, is a most unfortunate situation; the resultant lack of excitement and enjoyment can be indeed depressing to the individual. One would imagine the American institution of the date-book and the frequent use of telephone numbers seem to be lacking in the relations between boys and girls in our community. With this in mind, it is not difficult to understand why some give up and look elsewhere.

Those who see only the need for a meeting place may be very much mistaken. The Center, while a desperate need, cannot be expected to be a panacea for these social ills. It goes further than a mere meeting place, and if there is to be any solution, it cannot result without much effort and resolve on the part of all people—leaders, parents, and the young people.

These observations and reflections are admittedly brief and somewhat inconclusive. However, the object was not to set forth a solution, but to reveal what seems to be the core of the problem—the problem closest to the young people in the community and their future happiness. In their sincerity and zeal, our leaders seemed to have overlooked it

Lawyer-To-Be Offers First Advice; Abe Shalo Now Attending N.Y.U.

Lanky, easy-mannered quiet-spoken, Abe Shalo is a valuable addition to the growing ranks of those who have deviated from the general pattern in the community, and have chosen college and a professional career—in his case, Dartmouth, and the study of law.

Aside from the fact that he is a personality in his own right, far more than a symbol, we wanted to write his story so that others, with perhaps better odds than he's had, would be encouraged to go on to college, conceivably to prepare for a career, but equally important to gain a wider perspective of the people and forces shaping our world today. When we told him that, he grinned. "Some encouragement might be possible. I think, however, if they wanted to go, they would go. I feel what I am doing is better for myself." This is a typical Shalo statement, we later decided, for his advice to anyone is to "approach everything with humility." Possibly that is the core of his philosophy, and the reason he has succeeded thus far in achieving his objectives.

At present Abe is going to New York University Law School. His degree is three years off, but he already knows that he would like to work for a labor union, or in criminal law, something "a little more social than spectacular." "I like to help people. As a lawyer, I may be in a position to do just that." I wondered if there was any one person that had influenced his life, and he said not particularly. What made him decide to be a lawyer? Again the grin. "That was an early childhood ambition. I bought my first law books and legal reviews when I was thirteen. At about the same time I read the biography of Red Fallon, 'The Great Mouthpiece.' It had more than passing interest, as you can see."

The road from Bay Parkway, with its scully and punchball games sandwiched between reading sessions in the house and perfect school attendance, through the maze of three years in the United States Army, on to an accelerated course at Dartmouth, has molded 26-year old Abe into a positive, self-assured individual, definitely articulate, with a fresh slant on many things. Money is not the primary interest in his life, although he'd like someday to live in a penthouse. He's worked to support himself all the way through school since he was twelve. College was in his plans even when the draft came along, and he found himself in the Army. While stationed in Hamal a former Dartmouth student he met, encouraged him to apply for entrance, and within a few months after his discharge he was in Hanover, launched on a course of

studies as a Government Major. Senior honors, and the managing-editorship of the college daily, 'The Dartmouth' earned him the title "Big Man on Campus" and prestige and respect with it.

Still on the subject of education, I remarked that while the girls' status in our community had progressed somewhat, from factory, to retailing, to white collar jobs, it was still not the fashion to send the darling daughters on to college. Abe had said that the least a person could aspire to was a college education. He went on, "There is a spiritual value in education which is worth all the money you can make, in the time donated. It is very hard for a young girl to realize the benefits of education. If she would only ask those who had to quit, invariably, the answer is they regretted it. A college girl will turn out to be a better wife and a better mother. Evidently, a great many Syrian girls are under strong parental influence. People who go on to further education would find life worth living. It gives

one a sense of value, and security. It should be the concern of everyone to realize the world has changed rapidly, and requires a different approach to the solution of many problems."

It was my turn to grin when Abe said his hobby was "Women." He likes pretty girls, and says beauty will be a definite factor when he gets married. "My views on sex are very radical. I like necking—I think its very wholesome. I don't think opposites attract, but the boy should be a little brighter, so the girl can look up to him. I like New York girls; they are more appealing, dress better."

The spell was broken, but became thoughtful again. "If you want civilization to advance, don't give everyone what they want. Give them something to reach for. That is the tragedy of the American scene. There should be more leadership."

Abe likes New York, and the community here, "because they are my people." If law is not as fascinating as he expects, he will take up teaching, for which he is qualified. He knows what he wants, and will work to get it. Several weeks after my first session with Abe Shalo as I watched him carefully measure off a column, and say emphatically, "Sixteen inches," I knew why.

Yeshiva Lunchroom Pleases Parents, Kids

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tables, stainless steel utensils, a large refrigerator, steam tables to keep the food always piping hot, a hidden, covered sink, etc. The whole appearance is pleasing to the eye and is always kept hygienically clean.

A proof of the fact that the children like the whole set-up is that they eat everything in front of them and especially on the days when there is soup, for some reason or another, they wipe the plates clean. However, the courses are broken up and are flexible so that if a child sincerely does not care for a particular dish, a substitute will be given him. This doesn't happen very often, though, as the meals are planned with care as to what the children like and prefer.

More Parents Interested

Recently, Rabbi Harbitar has had several more parents ask to have their children have their lunches in school and he has been glad to accommodate them.

As matters now stand, there are facilities and accommodations for seventy people to eat in two shifts of about thirty-five people each.

Needless to add, the mothers whose children participate in this plan find it a wonderful idea as they are assured their children are eating what is good for them and at the same time, are learning good habits on how to eat with others. The mother's head is clear and her worries about what to cook for her child and how to induce him to eat it, are gone. All in all, the plan is approved and strongly recommended by all who either participate in it or have heard about it.

When we realize that these Yeshiva lunches are started only this term, we can understand that they have proven themselves successful in a short three months. More luck to them!

Magen David Juniors Elect Board

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gram suggested by Rabbi Hecht, for which the following committees will be formed:

1. Services Committee, to enhance the inspirational atmosphere, and beautify the service by new melodies and songs.
2. Cultural Committee, to arrange Saturday afternoon and evening classes.
3. Book Committee, to stimulate interest in Jewish publications, and develop Jewish home libraries, on a non-profit basis.
4. Children's Services Committee, to arrange Saturday serv-

ices, classes, and parties for the younger children.

5. Ladies' Auxiliary, to serve as a nucleus for prayer services for the women and girls throughout the year. A special room is being opened to accommodate them in the congregation.

6. Reclamation Committee, to bring back to the Congregation those who have strayed away from religion and community affairs.

7. Social Committee, to help knit our community closer together by dances and affairs.

8. Bikur Cholim (Sunshine) Committee, to visit the sick.

Youth League Launches Varied Activities Plan

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in which you can build up the younger generation, and at the same time learn about Jewish culture in America and Israel. If you like to work behind the scenes planning programs and social functions, we need you on the Research or Social Committee."

"To find out more about this group, and its plans for the future, get in touch with one of the officers, or better still, come to the next meeting—held Wednesday nights in the Shaare Zion Synagogue, Ocean Parkway at Kings Highway," the chairman announced.