

Community bulletin

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

VOL. IV—No. 6

SEPTEMBER, 1952

BY SUBSCRIPTION

Center Improved During Summer; Backyard Paved

By SOPHIE DWECK

Returnees from Bradley Beach after a long summer vacation would hardly recognize our Center building, what with all the new finishing touches that have been put to it.

The back-yard has been completely paved with concrete and ready for use in various sports. Basketball backboards will be installed shortly, thereby making the backyard well suited for this popular pastime. In addition to the concrete paving, a high wire fence completely surrounding the backyard has been put up.

The once bare interior of the Center has been tastefully decorated and painted, making it a truly handsome sight to behold. The Yeshivah classrooms have been finished and finely-constructed wardrobe-closets have been installed.

The long awaited Health Club is on it's way towards becoming a reality. It is promised that the Club will be fully-equipped and in operation before the end of October.

Center's New Athletic Head Emphasizes Co-Ed Activities

The Center has recently appointed its first Athletic Director, and, efficient reporters that we are, we ran down to the place on Avenue P to get the low-down and introduce you to this "new face." We found him there in the person of young, charming (and single) Marty Wolfson. For the vital statistics, read on . . .

He is originally from New York but was brought up in Illinois; was graduated from Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio with a Bachelor's Degree, and from the University of Illinois with a Master's. During the war he served in the Navy and has had experience at the Veteran's Administration teaching sports.

For one year he taught Corrective Therapy at the Univers-

Sh-h-h Dance

Don't you be telling anybody, but the Young Adults are planning something big for Monday night, September 29th—after the Yom Kippur fast. (Personally, we think it's going to be a dance—in fact, we're positive, so be sure to keep this date open.)

Weekend Wilhelmina Wearied With Woeful, Weepy Weekend

By FRANCES DAYAN

When summer comes, can thoughts of Bradley be long in coming? Not for Weekend Wilhemena. She's dying to get out of the dismal dirty dreary city. So what if she'll see the same people, only dressed in different clothing—she's dying to see them. She's dying to see the nevergreens and monmouths and to frustrate the Bradley Beach police with her driving.

Although a coffin would be more appropriate for our heroine in her condition, she decided to impose upon a friend and hitch-hike to Bradley. What a wonderful trip! It took only five hours (no traffic . . . a slow driver). The turnpike smell was out of this world and it should stay there.

Weekend Wilhemena arrived in Bradley about eleven. She quickly put on her snappiest dress with the ten-ton crinoline, her barrel of jewelry, her exotic perfume a la 5 & 10 and last but not least her best smile. She is now ready to face the line-up on the railing.

ity of Illinois and has worked with young folks at various "Y's" in Ohio and Illinois. His field isn't only limited to athletics though, as he has also given lessons in modern ballroom dancing.

And what does he propose to do for our members in the way of athletics? "Primarily I'd like to utilize all available outdoor space for outdoor activities to be conducted during the autumn months—such activities to be possibly co-ed volleyball, basketball, co-ed badminton and shuffle-

(Continued on Page 4)

Youth Mass Meeting Planned For Sept. 16

By HARRIET COHEN

The first big fall event for the Young Adult Group is a mass meeting scheduled for September 16th, Tuesday Evening, at the Center in the Social Hall at 8:45 P.M.

The Young Adult Council is planning to put before the members it's plans for the coming year. Activities are already getting underway with the end of the summer.

In addition to the presentation of it's future program the Council will conduct this mass meeting on the style of the New England Town Meeting. Members of the community's youth will be given an opportunity to express their opinions and suggest new ideas for the betterment of the Center.

New Athletic Director

Included on the agenda is an address to the young folks by Mr. Abe Boxerman, the Center's Executive Director who will also introduce our new Athletic Director, Mr. Martin Wolfson.

The various committees of the Young Adult Council will continue to function but on a more active basis. It is expected that membership on these committees will be broadened to include those volunteers who are not members of the Council. Those interested in participating in the work of the following committees will be given the opportunity of joining at this meeting:

Program Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Social Committee, Publicity Committee, Arts and Crafts Committee.

But alas—the fates (all three of them) were against her. By the time she got to the planks the only line-up to be seen was that of the onlookers, and THEY had fallen asleep on the job!

The next day was a beautiful day, weatherwise. Otherwise the beach was crowded with people without badges; the Monahan brood were on their way via the grapeline; even the fish were biting (although the swimmers didn't like it).

Playful Boys

It was an eventful day for Wilhemena. Some playful boys (show me one that isn't) started dunking her. They claimed they wanted her to see the sea below us. Then she was hit by a ball just as she was reading the "no ball playing on this beach" sign underneath the lifeguard's chair.

She was relieved and very religious after she retrieved the five hundred and one itsy bitsy slitsy woosy from her big toe. About eight in the afternoon she was asked for a date by one of the dunking boys. After he stopped twisting her arm, took his

(Continued on Page 3)

Almanac

Date	Lighting Of Candles
Sept. 19	Erev Rosh Hashana 6:39
Sept. 20	Rosh Hashana, 1st Day
Sept. 21	Rosh Hashana, 2nd Day
Sept. 22	Fast of Gedaliah
Sept. 26	6:27
Sept. 28	Erev *5:24
	Yom Kippur
Sept. 29	Yom Kippur
Oct. 3	*5:16

* Eastern Standard Time

Community Bulletin

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Happy New Year

With this New Year issue the COMMUNITY BULLETIN is happy to resume publication after a well-deserved summer vacation. And on this occasion, the staff wishes to express its best wishes for a happy new year to the community.

As we look back at the accomplishments of the C.B. this past year, we find that despite the furor caused by two or three printed items, a cool and objective examination of its work justifies the conclusion that it has served the community well.

In addition to its devotion to the aims and purposes of our Center, it gave a helping hand to various community organizations by publishing their timely news and announcements. In many instances, the publication schedule was changed in order to accommodate some of the more important announcements.

Interesting Personalities

Through the means of the interview, our readers were introduced to interesting community personalities. Our features were sometimes silly, sometimes witty but always entertaining. Letters and pictures of servicemen were frequently included to acquaint the community with the activities of our young men all over the world. In addition, every effort was made to get the C.B. dispatched to these boys as quickly as possible — no matter where they were.

All in all the C.B. is a good paper, one the community can be proud of. It is hoped that during the next year it will be able to continue to keep up the good work.

High Holiday Messages . . .**Rosh Hashana 5713**

"A day of blowing shall it be unto you"

Numbers XXIX, 1

Above all anniversaries that people celebrate and remember, the Jew observes the anniversary of the Soul: A spiritual anniversary that reminds him of his past, present, and introduces him to the new coming year.

Our Rabbis tell us, the purpose of blowing the ram's horn is, to awaken those who were in deep slumber during the twelve months of the past year; To bring near those who gradually drift away from the Jewish duties and responsibilities. This continuous voice urges everyone to utter true repentance for the past, and eternal return to the Torah and its Tradition.

My message to every member of our blessed Community: to harken attentively to the Shofar's voice this coming new year. Let's all resolve to improve our deeds by repossessing the Jewish atmosphere and prestige that reigned in the olden days of Israel. Only then we will be worthy to witness the final redemption of Israel in the very near future.

May the Almighty G-d bless everyone of you, by inscribing you in the book of righteous men. May the new year be blessed with physical and spiritual life, success, prosperity, and happiness. Amen!

DR. JACOB S. KASSIN
Chief Rabbi

Judaism believes in the freedom of choice of the individual. Our lives are not predetermined. While God is our Father and Creator, he has set limitations for us only in the physical universe. He has endowed us with complete freedom in the domain of the moral universe. In other words, he has put into our hands the gigantic responsibility of choice between spiritual life or extinction, between good and evil. The Bible has given this thought its classic formulation in the following verse:

"I have set before these this day the life and the good, the evil and death."

While we must decide for ourselves which path in life to choose, the Torah provides guidance for us in the recommendation:

"Thou shalt choose life so that thou and thy seed may live."

The High Holiday period, therefore, is a time of special introspection. Man takes his spiritual inventory in these days. He faces his Creator in a spirit of humility and asks Him to inscribe him in the Book of Life. He seeks atonement for his sins. The sound of the Shofar arouses us from our spiritual lethargy throughout the year. Its clarion call reminds us of our duties toward God and man. It helps us clarify our position in the universe. It leads us to repentance, prayer, and good deeds.

I prayerfully wish all the members of my congregation, the students of our Yeshivah, all members of our community, our valiant sons in the armed forces of the United States, our brethren in Israel, and Jews everywhere a very happy and prosperous New Year.

RABBI KURT KLAPPHOLZ
Shaare Zion Congregation

To all my dear friends in the community:

I extend my best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year. May the new year bring multiple blessings for all.

May you all celebrate the High Holiday season with happiness and delight and may the parents together with their dear children and beloved ones, be inscribed for a prosperous New Year.

RABBI MURAD MASLATON
Ahi Ezer Cong.

On the eve of this Jewish New Year 5713, I send my heartiest good wishes to all the constituents of our community. May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

I pray that the New Year may bring: For the world—Peace on Earth. For the community—success in all its enterprises. For the individual—Peace of mind and serenity of spirit.

May all your fondest wishes and desires be realized this year. Amen.

RABBI ABRAHAM HECHT
Spiritual Leader
Magen David Community Center

We the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Ahi Ezer Congregation, take this opportunity to express, on behalf of our Rabbi, our President and the entire Congregation, our Sincerest and Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year and Tizkoo Leshanim Rabboth Neimoth Vetoboth.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AHI EZER CONGREGATION**

Bellah Suffah

Bellah Suffeh, since she was a bride, really wanted to look nice these holidays, but what didn't happen to her . . .

What would you have done if . . .

. . . you had dropped a stitch making your knitted suit and it unravelled as you pulled it on?

. . . you opened the shoe box, and found two left shoes, in different heel heights, no less?

. . . you bought something from the Starlight Room in Mays, and what a change in the daylight?

. . . the truckman from Bradley had delivered all your clothes to the wrong house and you had nothing to wear?

. . . while shopping in Loehmann's, the police, seeing all the half-dressed women running around, thought it was a branch of the vice-rings and raided it?

. . . well, whatever you would have done, it would have been better than Bellah's solution—she borrowed a dress from her mother that was six sizes too big, and now the whole town is sure she's . . . but who are we to repeat rumor.

A Letter From Korea

Monday 16 June 1952

Dear Editor:

I received a letter from a friend of mine who asked me to write to you concerning the COMMUNITY BULLETIN.

You'll have to excuse the poor handwriting. You see, I am operating a switchboard now at 3 A.M. and there have been and still are artillery rounds coming in from the Chinese. Some landed a few feet away from me and it has suddenly become very



Here is a photograph of Bob Saka and Eddie Zonana, taken in Chorwon, Korea.

dangerous here. One man was hurt by shrapnel already.

This has been continuing for the past week as there is heavy fighting, which you probably read about in the newspapers, in the Chorwon sector, the heart of which we are in here.

I have had my friend send me several copies of the C.B. However, I thought if I write to you, you might arrange to have it sent to me monthly. I would appreciate this very much.

I have met Eddie Zonana, who, I believe, is the only other S.Y. boy in Korea other than myself and he told me that he is receiving the C.B. regularly.

I met him in Seoul where we had attended Passover Services.

In closing, I would like to say that I miss everyone back home and hope, God willing, that I'll be with them soon.

Robert Saka

Announcement

An Arts and Craft Group is in the process of being organized. All those who are interested in participating in this type of activity may get information from Jerry Dweck, at ES 7-6861 or Mr. Abe Boxerman at the Center, BE 6-6587.

Girl Classes Begin At Hebrew Institute

The Magen David Hebrew Institute announced the formation of special classes for girls at our Talmud Torah Building, three times weekly, from 10 to 12 noon on Sundays and from 4 to 6 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The course of study has been especially adapted to the needs and desires of young girls, and the classes will be conducted by young women trained professionally to make the subjects interesting and educational. Girls from the age of 8 to 12 years are eligible to join. Transportation facilities are available.

Enrollees will be taught Hebrew, Conversational, Reading and Writing; Hebrew songs and dances, Jewish History, Ceremonies, Laws and customs, and they will be taught to appreciate Jewish values and Hebrew culture.

Registration hours are from 3:30 to 7:30 daily at the Talmud Torah Building, 2025 67th Street.

Wilhelmina Wearied By Woeful Weekend

(Continued from Page 1)

elbow out of her throat, she accepted. What could she do . . . he was taller than she.

On Sunday, Weekend Wilhemina felt fine except for a split vertebrae (the one in her neck) and a broken arm (she never used her left arm anyway). She had no trouble getting on the beach after she tied and gagged the policeman to his blue umbrella. The fish weren't biting that day . . . they were all at the dentist.

Eye Matched Colors

She felt better that night—her black eye matched the colors of her dress. The onlookers finally awoke and every one was hav-

An S.Y. In Mexico

By ABE SHALO

An auto trip through Mexico is, at different times, interesting, exciting, fascinating and enjoyable, but whether you're riding donkeys, basking in the Acapulco sun, or climbing mountains eight thousand feet high, it's all well worth the time, trouble and money. What is of peculiar interest to a kibbeh-hungry S.Y. tourist from Brooklyn is the Syrian-Jewish community in Mexico City and it is this colony which will be noted in these observations.

Of course, the similarities between the Mexican S.Y.'s and those in Brooklyn are many. The language—namely Arabic—the food, the religious services, the music and many other aspects of both cultures are identical. It takes no more than a visit to a Mexican S.Y.'s casa to feel very much at home. There is the same S.Y. hospitality, the same riz, kibbeh, hammud and stuff. A walk down one of the streets in the S.Y. neighborhood is reminiscent of a stroll down 66th Street—the air is seldom empty of audible Arabic conversation.

But while there are many similarities, it is the differences that I found noteworthy. The most marked differences exist in the social life of the young folks. I was startled to find that dating, as we know it, is almost non-existent. When I asked one of the young fellows about the possibilities of a Saturday night date, he sh-shed me as though this was highly improper language. It later developed that there was good reason for the youth's embarrassment: when you ask about "girls" in Mexico it's about the other kind.

I was soon fully informed of the S.Y. custom regarding dating—and what follows holds true of non-S.Y. Mexicans, too. If a young fellow desires the company of a particular S.Y. girl, he must first make his intentions known to her parents, namely her father. If the father looks upon him as a favorable prospect for a son-in-law, then the green light is given—for the date. There is no chaperoning, as popular belief has it.

This custom appears to be a carry-over from the old country. I soon discovered that the young S.Y.'s in Mexico feel they can well do without it. To those here in Brooklyn who might complain about our "old fashioned" customs, one can say, "you never had it so good." It should be noted, however, that while this custom sharply restricts the social life of the girls—(you don't have to worry about the boys, they do all right down there)—the average marriageable age for them is 15. Perhaps, therefore, it isn't too much of a hardship. Schooling, for the girls, is seldom over six years; they attend school from the age of six through twelve and then attend the "school of the house," as one young girl put it. In Arabic, it sounded like this: medrist-il-beht.

In reporting on the S.Y. Mexican social life, mention should be made of the parties, or fiestas, held for the young folks. These are about the only occasions for socializing between the boys and girls. Sometimes they take the form of dances, as we know them, sometimes they're part of a wedding or engagement and oftentimes are Sweet Fifteen celebrations. These fiestas are rather elaborate affairs and usually run until five or six in the morning without any noticeable eyebrow-raising. I attended one affair where the eight-piece band played the regular assortment of rumbas and fox trots until four o'clock in the morning! (We're lucky if we can get the band to play after one.)

ing a good time for their benefit. Nothing exciting happened that night—the other arm was broken—so was a leg (the boys were at it again). This solved Weekend Wilhemina's transportation problem. They took her home in an ambulance.

Needless to say Weekend Wilhemina had a wonderful time. In fact she's going back next weekend. By the way do you have any room in your car?

NOTICE

A special introductory subscription to the COMMUNITY BULLETIN is now available for one dollar. This will bring you the C.B. for the next five months. Send money to COMMUNITY BULLETIN, c/o Magen David Community Center, 34 Avenue P, Brooklyn.

Athletic Head Cites Plans; Co-Ed Sports

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board. Right now plans are under way to get a Health Club going with steam rooms, heat lamps, and massage tables. We hope it will be completed in a few months depending, of course, on your committee functioning."

He also would like to conduct "Health Improvement" and slenderizing classes for adults. "One of my prime thoughts is to help the women organize leagues in bowling, and to develop co-educational programs," he adds.

And how does he propose to accomplish these, especially with the limited space the Center has? "Main thing," Marty replied, "is to first find out through the representative groups what people want. Secondly, to organize the groups so that they may successfully complete plans for activity." There must be organization and cooperation on the part of all concerned so that your Center will grow and thrive. "Anybody with ideas is welcome and, in fact, urged to come and air them, either to me directly, or through the group representatives."

"And what is your impression of those people you have already

MILESTONES

MARRIED

Ann Hidary.....Joseph Shamah
Elvira Zonana.....Maurice Blanco
Frieda Chira.....Ben Rosner
Bertha Tovi.....Herbert Gersten

ENGAGED

Freda Safdeye.....Sam Anzaroot
Rene Harary.....Happy Labaton
Barbara Mathalon.....Ralph Cohen
Anita Sultan.....Raymond Shwecky
Raymonde Abitbol.....David Betesh
Anita Kohn.....Edmund Levy
Rose Fallas.....Jules Menaged

BAR MITZVAH

Harry Catton—Son of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Catton

BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Sol Hedaya.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Kboundi.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kboundi.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Dweck.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Dushey.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Morris I. Cohen.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bibi.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Elie Sutton.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Haddad.....Boy

met at the Center?" we asked. "I've found them very warm and agreeable and they have been very cooperative."

And with that encouraging note we left him pouring over a book on gymnasium equipment which by the grace of G-d and the paid members, may be soon purchased.

—S. K.

THIS AND THAT

By EENIE, MEENIE, MINIE and MOE

Dis an' Data: The mad cycle continues from 4th Avenue, Bradley Beach to Stilwell Avenue (The Center), Brooklyn . . . Summer Romances which may reap in the Fall: Sara Esses and ? ? also D. H. and D. S. . . . Going, going almost gone . . . R. M. . . . Also G. L. . . . C. J. is knitting for O. H. . . . Dave Attie and our Editor spent three weeks in Mexico this summer and managed to miss each other in every conceivable way south of the border—by the way, how are the senioritas down there? . . . Variety is the spice of life says J. S., and his red hot tongue burns.

Constantly constant: L. A. and R. S. . . . H. S. and V. C. . . . also C. S. and J. G. . . . If the Romans could make 26 letters for the alphabet, I don't see why we Syrians can't add a few more . . . It's necessary in order to keep my avid readers happy . . . M. S. and V. H. going in a sweet and nutty way . . . add summer romances which may reap this fall: N. F. and S. H. . . . among those seen more often than just casually—is the well-matched couple, S. D. and E. L. . . . Does anyone know why R. C. had been frequenting Brooklyn during the summer when her family was in Bradley—could it be the weather here?

Summer Slop: Favorite drink at resorts—Kick-A-Boo Juice . . . ingredients: two quarts of grape fruit juice mixed with one quart of gin, on rocks. Taste not too effective, but after effects can be very effective! . . . Making the rounds together are—(here we go again)—R. M. and P. K., M. G. and R. S. . . . M. G. and I. G. . . . Gals who languished idly on vacation defend themselves with, "I'm not too athletic, my sport is conversation" . . . The reason C. M. is not seen around town is that she's seeing the town! . . . Our social initiate, Shirley S., seen at the Copa . . . The ex-Tunee Kassin returning to the States for the first time since her marriage—Welcome Home! . . . We suspect that the reason for the business boom in Mal Serure's linen shop is the acquisition of C. A. . . . How serious is M. S. with her summer romance?

More Summer Observations: It seems like California lent us one of their pretty brunette bomb shells, P. A., this summer. Was there any Syrian boy who DIDN'T take her out in Bradley? . . . Another of California's gifts, a member of the Sutton clan, also created a stir in the S. Y. summer colony—especially with M. M. Continuing the trend of out-of-towners taking up the S. Y. social slack is J. R. from D. C. to see L. C. of 72nd Street . . . With all the long-distance courting that's going on these days, (note: the two romances of E. G. and H. C.) cupid could thank the speedy railroads and super highway systems for their helping hand.

Congratulations Dept.: Anita Sultan and Raymond (Jet) Shwecky—a really sweet couple . . . Congrats also are due to one of the more popular names hereabouts, Happy Labaton, and his lovely fiance Rene Harary. Good luck, we're sure you'll be happy, Happy . . . Additional felicitations to Edmund Levy, our slow and slumbering Editor's brother, and his beauteous fiance Anita Kohn.

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