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THE DAWN



Volume 2

Wilmington, Del., December 24th, 1921

Number 8

The Why of Chanukah; Chanukah in the "Y"

By Rabbi Moses Baroway
Rabbi of Temple Beth Emeth, Wilmington, Del.

Chanukah, which commemorates the victory of the little Maccabean army over the well-equipped legions of the Syrians, is the great reminder of the manner in which courage can overcome insuperable obstacles in Jewish life. The policy of Antiochus Epiphanes of imposing upon the Jews the customs and fashions of the Syrians, which the weaker-fibred of the people were ready to adopt, led to a moral crisis in Palestine that might have resulted in the disappearance of Jewry. It was the unusual virtue of the Maccabees that they could not submit to the abject yielding and weak-kneed imitation of Syrian customs, and that they had the military genius and moral courage to put an end to the Syrian menace.

The recital of the story of Maccabean heroism is not a mere lesson in ancient history. Its importance for us lies in the fact that in the momentous changes which have oc-

curred in Jewish life the occasion for lessening our loyalty to our ancient heritage has frequently arisen. Even the present situation in American Jewish life is one in which many,—too many,—young Jews and Jewesses give no evidence of a profound appreciation of their Jewish background, and imitate things foreign to the Jewish spirit, probably because they have not been taught to appreciate the beauties and sublimities of Jewish life.

If the kindling of the lights in the newly cleansed Temple in Palestine marked the beginning of a Jewish revival there, the celebration of Chanukah in Y. M. H. A.'s and synagogues ought to mark the beginning of our revival, of a newer understanding of our past and a keen desire to learn more of it. The Y. M. H. A. stands for the revival of an appreciation of our Jewishness, for that kind of a revival which lends dignity to our life. May it always be a Menorah for us.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

December 28th, 1921, at 8 P. M. Sharp

The biggest community get-together to witness the best of the children's efforts in the Y. M. H. A. Songs, dances and recitations. The selected Chanukah plays of the season.

Come and see the excellent dramatic accomplishments of our children. The earlier you come the better seat you get.

Tickets, 35 cents. At the office or from the club leaders.

BOOST THE "Y." BOOST THE "Y." Come to the "Y's" Chanukah celebration.

Program of the Week's Activities

Sunday—League Basketball.
Sunday, December 25th, Y. M. H. A. Jrs. vs. Maccabees; Delaware Jrs. vs. Freshmen.

Regular meetings of Tifereth Zion Club, Dorsche Daas, Flowers of Zion, Pioneers, Jolly Juniors, Eagles, Freshmen.

At 7 p. m., Children's Entertainment; Jolly 17 in "The Capture;" Flowers of Zion in "The Last Candle."

At 8.30.

Monday—Basketball practice—first team, regular meeting of Delaware Jrs.

Tuesday—Gymnasium class for girls, gymnasium period of Boy Scouts (8.30-10). Regular meeting of Boy Scouts,

Troop 28; meeting of the Y. M. H. A., annual election of officers in Y. M. H. A. Regular meeting of Jolly 17 Maccabees, Indian Arrow Club, Wilmington Jolly Club.

Wednesday—Meeting of Pioneer Club, Sunshine Club, F. F. C. Club, Triple J Club.

Thursday—Game and Dance, regular meeting 1920 Girls.

Saturday—Junior basketball games with outside organizations.

Children's Entertainment at 7 P. M.

December 25, 1921
Program

1. The Last Candle.
Characters: Jennie Bogdonoff, Matilda Bell, Rose Rudnick, Rose Novack.
2. Song, by Anna Stein.
3. The Story of Chanukah—poem, Anna Frankfort.
4. Chanukah lights—recitation, Bertha Gold.
5. Piano Solo, Dorothy Lincoln.
6. Ghetto Musicians—recitation, Anna Locochevsky.
Leader of the club and coach for the play, Miss Alice Greenberg.
7. The Capture by the Jolly 17.
Leader of the club and coach for the play, Miss Dora Reches. Staging of the play assisted by Miss Zipporah Topkis.

THE DAWN

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—EDITORIALS—

THE DAWN

The request for contributions and suggestions for improvements that was made in the last issue has brought encouraging returns. Many of the clubs have responded promptly with worthwhile articles of a high order. Some of these are published in this issue. For lack of space all the contributions could not be inserted at this time but efforts will be made to enlarge the Dawn sufficiently to include all the material that was submitted.

Contributions for Just A Second have not been so successful. Apparently our humorists have been shy. No doubt they are waiting for another coaxing. Again then the editor urges our comic writers to bring their puns and quips and flashes to the attention of the community that appreciates it. **BOOST THE DAWN AND YOU BOOST THE "Y."**

NEW BUILDINGS FOR OLD

Clear thinking is a valuable virtue. Let us do some clear thinking.

Many of our friends persist in repeating, "What we need is a new building." Agreed, but pray, how do these friends propose to get the new building? Shall we burn down this one. Shall we shut up our present quarters? Of course we need a new building. How shall we get it? Is it not clear that the best, wisest, and quickest way is to build up our activities that more elbow room will be so essential that a campaign for a new building will be successful before it begins?

Let us not fool ourselves. The road to a new building is through the development of our activities in the old. It is idle to say "What we can do in this building." On the contrary, infinite things can be striven for and actually attained even in our dilapidated shanty known as the Y. M. H. A.

We all want a new building. Do YOU want it? Help the old.

1922

Jewish people are lucky. They are provided with two opportunities to better themselves. Whatever resolutions were made on October 3rd may be made once again with the beginning of the calendar year 1922. If one of those resolutions was not, "I resolve to help the "Y" more than I ever did before," that resolution should be made now. It is a resolution that is worth keeping.

A CALL FOR HELP

The Emergency Relief Fund Committee of Wilmington is appealing to all our citizens to help them raise \$100,000 for the relief of suffering and distress in this community caused mainly through lack of employment. The membership of the committee assures an efficient and proper distribution of the funds subscribed. The Dawn indorses the campaign and urges the friends of our institution to help liberally to keep our neighbors from starving or freezing. All pledges should be sent to Mayor LeRoy Harvey, Treasurer, or to any bank or trust company of Wilmington. The Jews of Wilmington have never shirked their duty. They should not shirk it now.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The passing of 1921 should make every member of our association aware once more of his obligation to the Jewish Community Centre of Wilmington. The Y. M. H. A. now is in full swing. A visit to the institution any evening of the week witnesses a host of young boys and girls at work on a play or in preparation for a Sunday evening program, or in preparation of some successful social event. We are now so overcrowded that literally there is no more room for new clubs. Our Sunday evening entertainments have brought large audiences to listen to instructive addresses. Our debate of Sunday, December 11th was a triumph from the point of view of the number of present and the high class of the thing presented. Our children's entertainments are now permanently re-established. The reorganization in our athletic work has brought renewed interest and activity in sports. The Jews in this community who are delinquent in their dues should respond to our efforts and send in their dues for the past year or for the coming year. The "Y" is striving to be the heart of the Jewish Community and to make that heart circulate decency and high standards and cultural development and Jewish consciousness. **BOOST THE "Y."** It is worthy of your support. Send in your membership dues.

THE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS START WITH BOOM

The first of the children's entertainments of the season was held on December 11th with the Girls of 1920 in charge of affairs. The girls gave a brilliant performance of the play "What's Tonight?" In spite of the fact that the play is a very popular one and the time of preparation for the first of the series being small, the play thrilled the large audience of children who packed the auditorium. The cast included Esther Paikan, Sarah Krigstein, Sylvia Epstein, Sarah Corbin, Estella Rodgers and Marion Fisher. The chairman for the evening was Mr. Saretsky, Executive Director. The play was long enough to fill the program and so no other features were added. The judges of the best children performances were there and made notes, with a view towards comparing this play with the other plays that are to follow in order to pick the best for the Children's Performance. The honors for the performance were shared by Miss Helen Weinberg, the leader and Miss Zipporah Topkis, who lent her able assistance to coaching the play and staging the performance.

VICTORY FOR THE TIFERETH ZION CLUB

The most enthusiastic audience that ever came together on Sunday witnessed the battle between our people and the Herzl Seniors of Philadelphia. The topic of the cause of mental conflict was, "Resolved that industry and commerce are more beneficial to Palestine than agriculture." Mr. Morris Goldman, Mr. Louis Wertlieb and Mr. Jacob Yanoff represented the Philadelphia debating team, and Mr. Charles Levy, Miss Rose Evans and Mr. Maurice Uman did the honors for the local club.

The Tifereth Zion Club took the negative side of the debate and urged the following points. Mr. Charles Levy explained the need of having a people prepared to sustain themselves from within, that importation was difficult because of lack of credit, and that agriculture would be the only way to meet the problem of food. He then described graphically the physical conditions of Palestine to justify his contention that Palestine soil was fertile enough to yield the proper supply of food.

Miss Evans hammered the injustice that would be done if immigrants from factory towns were to go to Palestine and enter other factory towns. "What a sad thing it would be if we were to transform Palestine into a country full of mills and factories and shops, and then stretch out our hands to those who have dreamed of the great Palestine and say, "Come to Palestine, where instead of working on coats and shoes, you can work on carpets and rugs. On the other hand what a splendid appeal we could make if we told the overworked masses in our factory towns,

"Come to Palestine where you will be given a plot of land and where you will be near God, in the open, with the perspiration trickling down your happy faces as you breathe the open air." Miss Evans continued to explain that industry would bring about greed and profiteering, that agriculture would be less likely to promote concentration of wealth and its companion, greed.

Mr. Uman proceeded further to justify the position taken by the negative by adding two additional arguments: one, that the great amount of agricultural accomplishments during the last 10 years gives ample evidence of what might be done to expand and intensify agricultural developments; two, that the claim that the Jews have no Daniel Boones among them would fall to the ground if the Jews were to do pioneering in Palestine, thus showing their willingness and readiness to turn a wilderness or a plain into a prosperous and busy country.

The judges for the debate were Mr. Nathan Plofker of Chester, Mr. Charles Rogers of Wilmington, and Miss Sadie Rothman of Norma, N. J. The Adas Kodesch Congregation contributed to the success of the occasion. The choir of the synagogue led by Miss Alice Greenberg and Miss Arshl sang "Ez Hiam Hi," and "Hear the Voice of Israel's Elders." Miss Bertha Gold of the Adas Kodesch recited very beautifully the poem in Yiddish, "Die Mame," and another recitation was given by Miss Shub of the Tifereth Zion Club entitled "And Shouldn't Thou Know." The poem was so interesting that several members of the audience requested that the poem be reprinted in the next issue of the Dawn. Complying with the request the poem will be found in the next issue of the Dawn.

The decision of the judges announced a unanimous verdict for Wilmington and capped the climax of a really enjoyable and memorable evening.

Dr. VROOMAN'S ADDRESS OF December 18th

A good-sized audience listened appreciatively to the words of Dr. Vrooman, pastor of the Unitarian Church and Executive Secretary of the Prisoner's Aid Society. Topic for the evening was, "What shall we do with the law-breakers?" Dr. Vrooman pointed out that there had come about in our time a great change for the alleged law-breaker. That in place of the idea that men should be punished in a revengeful spirit, they should be treated as those who require instruction in right living and proper conduct.

The old idea of punishing criminals for revenge had changed, he said, and people were beginning to realize that better results would be attained by trying to educate the prisoner for a long or short term, such as befitted the condition of the criminal, with the idea that eventually become a good citizen and capable of living in harmony with the ideals of the community.

Dr. Vrooman was warmly congratulated by many in the audience who expressed their gratitude for his enlightening point of view.

WITHIN OUR CLUBS FROM WITHOUT

Wilmington Jolly Club

Its president, Mr. Morris Fisher. Its vice-president, "Abe" Haber. The secretary and treasurer, Mr. Joseph Allman. The aim: 1, To have good times 2, To help others to have them.

Activities:

A glimpse backward, moonlight event.
Still recalling the Simchath Torah Dance.
Fond recollections, the smoker.
Looking forward—

Y. M. H. A. FRESHMEN

The president, Hyman Cohen; their vice-president, Harry Zutz; its secretary and treasurer, A. Frankfort. Purpose for its existence: to make noise and win games.

Activities: they gave a good show some time ago and sang Bulbes.

Program for future: to give a better show, to get more members, and to give Frankfort a good present.

Manager of the team, Yankel.
The most popular, Nutty Lipzin.
The most good-looking, Mishke.
The most foolish, Harry Zutz.
The richest, A. Frankfort, he has our money.
The best singer, Isadore Berger.
The best dresser, Hyman Cohen.
The best pool-player, Jake Feinberg.
The best talker, Abe Vittes.
The one who talks most, Yankel Toki.

The best worker for the "Y," nobody in particular in this issue, but everybody in the bunch next issue.

The most comical, Snowflake.

Ping-pong marvel, Harry Zutz; Lipzin a close second; Barney Cohen a close last.

BOY SCOUTS

The scribe speaks. "For the past year or more Troop 28 has been practically at a stand still because of incompetent leadership, and secondly because there was too much basketball playing at the meetings.

With the coming of Mr. Isadore Schagrin to the position of Scout Master, the troop has been built up and has regained its place among the troops of Delaware.

Mr. Schagrin has been admirably assisted by Mr. Osear Groll, who has been a member of Troop 28 for three years.

Scout Master Schagrin announces that the registration for the troop will be open at the end of this month. All boys wishing to join the troop are invited to appear at the meeting Tuesday evening.

1920 GIRLS

They did it once. They'll do it better at Perryville. They've come back with flying colors. Do you doubt it? Wait for the reports of the Perryville newspapers.

Y. M. H. A. FRESHMEN'S LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

"He didn't know the difference, but I did."

I was born in the last year of the century, and the last month of the year, and the last week of the month, and on the last day of the week. I am a twin and my brother and I look very much alike.

I was working very hard this summer and saved \$40 to buy a suit of clothes. (Editor's Comment—This must have been composed during the war.) The time came for me to go and buy myself a new suit of clothes. I was not quite ready, but my brother being a lazy boy did not work and always had on his fine clothes. My mother thinking it was me, bought him a suit of clothes. He didn't know the difference, but I did.

Five years later when I was about to be married, I was late, so they took him for me. He didn't know the difference, but I did.

Fifty years after I died. When the hour for my burial took place, I was a trifle too late, so they took him. This time I didn't know the difference, but he did.

Al Charles Vittes.

AMBITIONS OF Y. M. H. A. FRESHMEN

Nathan Lipson and Harry Zutz—two weeks of school and two weeks of loafing.

Abe Frankfort—to put a ball in the basket from the center of the floor.

Max Zutz—three Nick Carters in one day.

Herman Cohen and Barney—to be paid-up members.

Al Charles Vittes—to get a chance to speak at a meeting.

Jake Feinberg—to make a combination on the billiard table.

Isadore Berger—to learn the steps of the fox-trot. Has he ever reversed?

SUNSHINE CLUB

The sweet girlie who is secretary of this club wrote in such a very fine write-up for the Dawn that the club editor is not going to change one word of it. Here it is.

Dear Editor of Club News:

The Sunshine Girls are always happy and intend with their bright and sunny smiles to do some very good work for the Y. M. H. A. Although they are very young and are a newly organized club, they intend to let the Y. M. H. A. know what they can do. So watch, look and listen.

From the Sunny Sunshine Club.

DELAWARE JUNIORS

Leader: Nathan Breuer—hail the chief, tried, trusted and true.

President—Harry Rubenstein.

Vice-President—Morris Shames.

Secretary and Treasurer—Sam Spigler.

Aim of the organization: It's in the constitution, and the constitution is being revised.

Accomplishments: Gave a play two years ago; at present leading the Junior League.

Program: To do something, to give a play more frequently than once in two years; to boost the "Y;" to help keep order among the younger children; to keep order among themselves in the gym; to hold up the standard of clean sportsmanship in basketball; to contribute something "educational" in the next issue.

TRIPLE J

The Klu Klux Kleagle speaketh.

Although the Triple J is by its constitution a social club, it firmly believes in the maxim, "Variety is the spice of life," and as it believes in having a good time and showing others the same, you "Y" members will soon have an opportunity to see the Triple J in action on the "Y" stage as actors. They will not present a tragedy from Shakespeare nor anything along that line, but a rollicking comedy the name of which cannot be disclosed, but you will find out sooner or later.

The Triple J intends to be the foremost club in the "Y." Watch them.

DORSCHÉ DAAS CLUB

Thursday, January 5th, is the day. On that evening the Dorsche Daas will own this "city." Did you ever hear of the Dorsche Daas speaking of failure? When we speak originality, we must look to the Dorsche Daas for leadership. The doctors of the D. D. have made the following prescription. They have taken good fellowship, good music, good spirit. They have added originality and ingenuity. They have mixed it all with a fine and worthy devotion to the "Y." **BOOST THE DORSCHÉ DAAS AFFAIR.** You will be boosting the "Y."

Colonel Stein will guard the finances.

F. F. C. CLUB

Preparations, and more preparations. 1922 for action. Some time in January. Preparations, sh!

MACCABEAN CLUB

In the last issue of the Dawn the coming of Philip Leshem to the Maccabees was announced. Mr. Leshem is a man of few words. His actions speak for him. The same for his club.

FLOWERS OF ZION

The Flowers of Zion will blossom forth on Sunday, December 25th. You are cordially invited to be present at the Children's Performance at 7 P. M. on that date.

JOLLY JUNIORS

The Jolly Juniors did it and they did it grand. The Dawn is proud of their splendid play on December 18th. We could put in a page about the remarkable triumph of the Jolly Juniors. It was expected of them. They rose to the expectation. Congratulations to Miss Miriam Reches, the leader of the Jolly Juniors. Her club has struck a high note. May other clubs do as much.

INDIAN ARROW CLUB

I told you so. They hit that bull's eye with a bang that resounded over Wilmington and re-echoed among the other Y. M. H. A.'s. in the United States. Keen accuracy. A clean shot, by beautiful arrows.

JOLLY 17

Seriously the banner club of the Y. M. H. A. is tackling its Chanukah play. Their task is a hard one, but was there ever a club that could do more than the Jolly 17? Not a word comes from lips of any of the girls of this club that doesn't bristle with devotion to the Y. M. H. A. and full-hearted support to the Executive Director. Miss Doris Reches, Wilmington, envies you.

AMERICANIZATION

Address made by Samuel Saretsky before the Council of Jewish Women at their meeting in the Adas Kodesch Synagogue on December 5, 1921.

Mr. Chairman and Friends of the Council of Jewish Women:

I am privileged tonight to address the Council of Jewish Women on the subject of Americanization. Anybody who makes a speech on this question always has a very safe beginning, and that is an enumeration of the multitude of definitions that have been given this poor, overworked term. Tonight, however, I shall be breaking a precedent and shall be out of line with tradition by varying the procedure. I

shall begin by telling what Americanization is not. It is not a task that can be done over night. It is not the fulfillment of a simple measure or standard such as the ability to speak English or the ability to sing the Star Spangled Banner, or even the obtaining of citizenship papers. Nor is it what some of our shallow friends would like to have us believe, the ability to sing the latest jazz tune and to do the latest jazz dance. My experience has brought me in contact with people who would have us believe that an immigrant is thoroughly Americanized when he votes a particular party or for a particular candidate. Such points of view are only the outgrowth of a mysterious belief that by a magical twisting of thumbs or recital of a few meaningless phrases an immigrant can be a full-fledged, loyal, intelligent and worthy asset to the community. My concept of Americanization is far from any such simple twisting of thumbs. It involves a continuous process. It is positive; it is functional. And here it is. Americanization is the process of making the new-comer to our shores participate in and contribute to our American life.

From that standpoint anything which helps to make the immigrant participate in and contribute to American life is a valuable factor. On the other hand anything which prevents or hampers that process is a hindrance and a menace to American life.

Let us now evaluate some of the items in the program of Americanization. Take the question of the use of the English language. A newcomer to America who does not understand the use of the English language lives an isolated life. He is put in a position of one always dependent upon an interpreter in order to adjust himself to an everyday situation. He cannot understand our political conflicts; he cannot enjoy American plays; he cannot read English newspapers; he cannot mingle with American people. He is accordingly cut off as if he were upon an island from the influences that play about him. In the understanding of economic problems he is compelled to resort to men rather than to facts. By acquiring the power to speak and read the English tongue the immigrant acquires the power of coming into immediate contact with the situations around him. The study of English, then, is a decided aid in making the alien participate in American life, and to that extent English is a positive factor promoting Americanization.

Coming to a second item in the Americanization program, that of the singing of American songs. We all agree that singing grips people's souls. If we want to feel together, we must sing together. Community singing is therefore a vital asset in the process of securing loyalty among our immigrant people.

A third factor is citizenship. A man whose voice is not part of the community expression has no influence upon community conduct. He sees and suffers from political ills, yet has no redress against political conditions. Or if he should conceive of a necessary addition to our political structure, he has no competence to bring that addition to our structure, if he is not possessed of a vote. A vote is a distinct weapon in the participation process. Accordingly

every clear-sighted Americanization worker realizes the relationship of citizenship to Americanization and tries to hasten the time when our new Americans can use the weapon of democracy, the ballot.

When Americanization goes into mistaken channels its efforts are likely to antagonize rather than to befriend the immigrant. There are some people who believe that Americanization demands that our new friends give up their European dress or customs, or ways of thinking. You cannot take a man with 40 years of traditions and love for another homeland, his birthplace, and say to him, 'Forget about the past; it is impossible for you to be a good American if you don't forget.' To make this concrete: Take any of our Italian friends, who are sincere admirers of Garibaldi or Mazzini or Michael Angelo, or other distinguished Italians, and say to them, "If you want to be good Americans you must forget your Italian patriots; you must think only of Washington."

Is there any doubt that our Italian friends would resent such a thing?

And in the same way, you cannot take a group of Jews who are learned in Talmud and who are sincere worshippers of such heroes as Moses and David and Solomon and Herzl, or who are worshipful of their teaching and say to those Jews, "If you want to be a good American give up those heroes." Let us not make any mistake about this point. There are enough provincial minded people who think it is good Americanism to discard the ceremonies and the ancient customs of a people. Such a point of view would change our American republic into a government composed of 100,000,000 uniform cabbage heads. Such a point of view thinks it good Americanism to discard scornfully such ceremonies of our people as dietary laws, blessings for the dead, religious prayers at weddings.

Come back to our definition. Americanization asks all immigrants participate in and contribute to American life. I can give you a clear example to illustrate what I mean. Miss Margaret Kane of P. S. No. 1, Wilmington, gave some of the children of her class who were of Jewish faith an assignment on "The Feast of the Tabernacles," in connection with their study of Thanksgiving Day. Those little girls came to our library and learned the history of Thanksgiving and found that the Feast of Tabernacles was the first ceremony of its kind which prompted our Puritan ancestors to rejoice at the gathering of the harvests by a Thanksgiving celebration. I ask, did it detract from the Americanism and the loyalty of these girlies to know the value of their background; no, it only intensified their understanding of the American holiday and equipped them to be more intelligent, that is better Americans.

That is what I mean when I urge participation and contribution to American life. Only thus can we obtain the united devotion of our people. This is the message that I want to leave with you this evening. Again I want to thank you for giving this opportunity of addressing your organization and to express my willingness to co-operate with you in the task of building up in Wilmington as elsewhere a loyal, a noble American community.

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