

THE CENTER NEWS LETTER
A Monthly Publication of
THE WILLIAMSBURG JEWISH CENTER
189 South 2nd St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Editor.....Mollie Goodman
Yiddish Editor..... Gussie Citrin

"EVERY MEMBER A NEW MEMBER"

by Rose Lipson, President

As we approach our third anniversary, we can look back at our beginning with modest pride at what has been achieved. A lot of courage and a great deal of effort on the part of all organizers and workers was exerted to get this far. Our courage and our great efforts have to be maintained and extended to go ahead. In order to do so, new members have to be added continuously. That is not easy. It never has been.

The most common argument given when we ask some one to become a member is that "the people are moving out of this neighborhood." That was true 25 years ago as it is today. The facts are that since Williamsburg is close to the center of the city and the rentals are comparatively much lower than in other sections, there will still be more people here than in some of the out-of-town neighborhoods that have beautiful Centers.

We have to overcome these and other arguments by appealing to people's better nature. Whether we live here a year or ten, we will have the satisfaction of having helped to bring about something of lasting value.

So let's go ahead! And please remember we want a Center! Therefore, every member a new member.

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday evening, March 30th. Important matters will be discussed. Please attend.

CHAMISHA ASAR B' SHEVAT CELEBRATION

by Pauline Shreider

On Jan. 22nd we celebrated Chamisha Asar at the Center.

Rabbi Teitz explained the meaning of the holiday with some thought to growth of fruit in relation to mankind. He compared a well-kept orchard to a home where children are brought up with a sense of responsibility to religion, morality, and mankind.

There is a close link between these spheres; but to lead posterity in the right path is a task never finished. It presents something which should make us guide our judgment and conduct.

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Kosansky, members of the Center, gave us a wonderful and intelligent report on Israel. Their vivid description of life in Israel made a deep impression on us all. The democratic life of those amazing people who think nothing of privation and personal sacrifice, their overwhelming efforts, have given remarkable results.

It must not happen that this magnificent work should be hindered by disagreement. Not one able-bodied person, male or female, should remain inactive. All should share the burden in forming the Jewish destiny.

Dr. Joshua H. Friedman, a well-known Williamsburg physician and district leader, then spoke on "The influence of religion -- the important function which religion has to perform on social life of man".

The function of this education should help the young to grow up with fundamental principles. A person thus informed and enlightened appears to be free of selfish desires, has a feeling of aspiration for the good, the honest, as well as the spiritual.

We'd like to add that our Mr. Irving Hirsch certainly deserves a round of applause for the wonderful refreshments and decorations that he provided. Needless to say, this event was enjoyed by everyone attending.

LECTURE REPORT

by Rachel Heslowitz

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 9th, Miss Leila Morgan of the Williamsburg and Greenpoint Health Center, spoke on "Health Needs of the Community."

Miss Morgan stated that it was wise to take a chest X-Ray once a year. This service is given at the Health Center, 151 Maujer St. In this manner infectious diseases can be detected and treated, thus safeguarding the other members of the community and saving the patient who is unaware of his danger.

The Cancer Detection Clinic is also located at the Health Center. Laboratory and physical tests are given free to the people of Brooklyn who are 30 years of age or over. It is for well people. If, during the examination, anything should be found wrong, in its early stages it may be corrected. Thus, it will save time, money, mental anguish, and even life itself. Therefore, the people of Williamsburg should take advantage of the services in their midst.

A Mental Health Clinic has also been opened at the Health Center. It is available to the people of the community who are 15 years of age and over.

A vote of thanks to Miss Morgan for bringing to our attention the advantages we have in this neighborhood so that we can enjoy better health and longer life. "Life can be beautiful."

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WE TEACH

1. YIDDISH
2. JEWISH HISTORY
3. JEWISH LITERATURE
4. HEBREW
5. MEANING OF ALL JEWISH HOLIDAYS,
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THE CHATTER BOX

by Sid Steinberg

Happy 17th Birthday to Marcia Frank who celebrated this event on Feb. 16th.. A belated greeting to David Berkowitz who birthday'd on Jan. 1st... Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Isabelle Teitz... Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Maurice H. Kronowitz on their 18th wedding anniversary on Feb. 16th... Dr. Ruth Levenbook celebrated her birthday on Feb. 21st. Happy Birthday!... Susan Kronowitz celebrated her birthday on Feb. 6th... Our fellow member, Mrs. Sternblitz, wishes to announce the wedding anniversaries of her sons, Albert, Charles, and Jesse, on Feb. 14th, 16th, and 22nd, respectively... Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Gross celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Feb. 16th. (Mrs. Gross is Fan Pavony's sister)... Little Ira J. Blank celebrated his birthday on Jan. 17th... And Mr. and Mrs. David Blank observe their wedding anniversary on March 20th... Mr. and Mrs. Murray Watsky celebrate their wedding anniversary on March 20th... Norma Berkowitz observes her birthday on March 10th, while mom, Anna, birthdays on March 18th... Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Lipson announce their 37th wedding anniversary on March 25th. Mazel Tov!

IN MEMORIUM

In honor and in memory of my dear father, Samuel Weitz, whose Yahrzeit was on March 8th. On the day of his passing, the idea of the Williamsburg Jewish Center was born.

Rose Lipson

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Our condolences to the family of Adolph Weitzner who was called to eternal rest last January.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Schorr.

NOTES 'N' NEWS:

ADULT'S YIDDISH COURSE

A basic beginners' course in Yiddish (for adults only) is now well under way at the Center. Advanced lessons in Hebrew literature and the Talmud will be given later on. Classes conducted by Rabbi Teitz are held every Wednesday evening at 9:00 P.M. This should interest you readers who have never had the opportunity to even learn elementary Yiddish, or those of you who could use a "brush-up" course in reading and writing Yiddish. For further inquiries please call Mrs. Shreider at EV 7-8120.

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YOUTH GROUP

Several meetings of the new young people's group have stimulated a great deal of interest both among the young people and among the general membership of the Center. These may be the beginning steps which will provide a youth group as a real part of the Williamsburg Jewish Center. The purpose of the group is to provide an opportunity for alert young people to get acquainted with some of the useful and interesting ideas of modern psychology. The group chooses and discusses those topics which it feels are most important and most interesting. The discussion is informal and provides a basis for friendly social contact. Young men and women in the age group of 16 and over are invited to attend these meetings on Sunday evenings, at 8:00 P.M., at the Center.

- David Lipson
Discussion leader

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You are invited to attend a Purim Party on Saturday evening, March 27th to be held at our headquarters. For your contribution of 99¢ you will be assured of a memorable evening for the Committee has arranged an interesting program including a Purim play. Appropriate delicacies and many other pleasant surprises are in store for you. So call Mrs. Shreider at EV 7-8120 for your tickets.

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On Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 P.M. you hear happy children's voices. For on these afternoons, under the guidance of 2 volunteer mothers, the youngsters of our members have their club meetings at the Center. The older children busy themselves sewing or knitting or playing different types of games, while the younger children color and paint. Do encourage your children to become members, and let them also enjoy the activities of the Center.

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The Hebrew Class (for children) which was formed on January 18th has proven successful and inspiring. We have a very nice-sized class; and the children are happy with their classwork, classmates, and their teacher. They are learning that getting a Hebrew education can be enjoyable as well as informative. We are still able to accept a few more students for this term. So anyone interested can call Mrs. Jean Behar at EV 7-2082 for further information.

AROUND THE TOWN

by Rachel Heslowitz

An American Theatre Wing play, with professional actors, was given at Eastern District H.S. on Feb. 23rd, on the subject of child guidance. The title of the play was "The Random Target". It was stressed that if parents understand a problem and handle it properly, it could prevent imagined physical ailments and bottled-up frustrations, which lead to mental disturbances in later life. Proceeds of the play went to the Wmsburg. and Greenpoint Mental Health Clinic.

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A play given by the students under the sponsorship of the Parents' Ass'n. of E.D.H.S. was presented on March 9th in the auditorium. "The Clue of the Red Ribbon" by Robert Forbes was the selection.

A SHEINER GELECHTER

Only a Civil Question;

Once Benny Leonard, famous lightweight champion of the world, was on his way to a bout in Chicago in the company of his manager, Billy Gibson. As dusk was approaching, the door of their Pullman car opened and a huge, muscular-looking fellow came in. Looking belligerently to right and left, he called out in a gruff voice, "Is there a Jew in this car?"

Benny Leonard turned fiery red with anger. He made an effort to rise from his seat, but his manager pulled him gently back. "Keep your shirt on, Benny," he tried to soothe him. "This guy must be drunk."

And Benny thought the better of it and sank back into his seat, as the man left the car.

A few minutes later the same formidable-looking fellow returned. Again turning right and left, he asked challengingly, "Is there a Jew in this car?"

Benny, now livid with rage, could no longer restrain himself. Despite Billy Gibson's efforts to pull him back, he leaped forward and took a defiant position toward the huge fellow, saying, "Yes! I'm a Jew! What do you want to make of it?"

The scowl suddenly lifted from the giant's face, giving way to a delighted grin. "Thank God!" he murmured. "Now we have the tenth man for a minyan so we can hold our Minchah service in the empty car ahead!"

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