

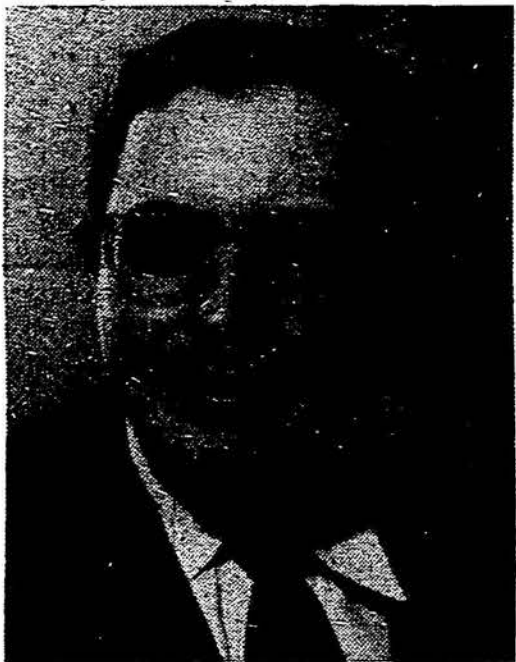
Graduate Division Director Appointed Abe Stern, Dr. Hoenig Chosen to Hold New Y. U. Community Service Posts

Dr. Bernard Lander, assistant professor of Sociology at Hunter College, was appointed Visiting Director of the Graduate Division of Yeshiva University, it was announced by Dr. Samuel Belkin.

A former associate director of the Mayor's Committee on Unity in New York City, Dr. Lander has been a technical research consultant to the New York City Youth Board, and consultant on Human Relations problems to the American Jewish Committee and the Trenton (New Jersey) Commission on Human Relations.

Dr. Lander received his bachelor of arts degree from Yeshiva University in 1936 and master of arts degree from Columbia University in 1943, where he also received the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1949.

Ordained a rabbi by the University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Dr. Lander



Dr. Bernard Lander

served as spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Congregation in Baltimore, Maryland, from 1939 to 1944 when he was named a consultant to the State Commission on Juvenile Delinquency and a member of the Baltimore Youth Commission.

Authored Book

He is the author of *Towards an Understanding of Juvenile Delinquency*, published by Columbia University Press and has contributed to numerous scholarly publications.

Active in many civic and communal organizations, he is chairman of the Social Action Committee of the Synagogue Council of America and a member of the Executive Boards of the Mizrahi Organization of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. Dr. Lander is also a trustee of Bar Ilan University, now under construction in Israel.

Adult Jewish Education and Practicum in the Use of Projective Techniques in Guidance are two new courses offered by the Bernard Revel Graduate School this semester, revealed Mrs. Pearl Kardon, supervisor of the Graduate School.

Condolence

THE COMMENTATOR joins the student body, faculty and administration of Yeshiva University in extending its sincere condolences to Dr. Pinkhos Churgin, dean of the Teachers Institute, upon the loss of his wife Rosetta. May he be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Graduate Exams May Be Required of Y. U. Seniors

There is a strong possibility that all seniors at Yeshiva College will be required to take the Graduate Record Examinations, announced Dr. Simeon Guterman, dean of the College. Examination scores will be used by the administration of Y.C. in evaluating the accomplishments of the men who have studied here, with an eye toward curriculum improvement. The scores will not be a factor in determining the student's eligibility for graduation.

The faculty committee on Tests and Measurements, whose chairman is Dr. Helmut Adler, assistant professor of Psychology, proposed such action at an assembly of the faculty, Sunday, October 24. It is expected that the Committee's recommendation will be accepted, to be effective this year.

Although the examinations, prepared by the Educational Testing Service, consist of three sections, at first only one of them will be administered. The section to be given will include comprehensive written and achievement tests.

The Middle States Association, which is the organization that awards Yeshiva College its creditation, recommended the administration of these examinations at its last visit to Y.C. in 1948.

Freshmen Choose Council Delegates

Leonard Shapiro '58, was elected president and Herman Stone '58, vice-president of the Freshman class in elections held Monday, November 1.

Mr. Shapiro polled forty-one votes on the first ballot to defeat his opponent Mendell Ganchrow '58, who received thirty-five votes. There were three write-in ballots.

On the third ballot, Mr. Stone received thirty-eight votes to defeat Abraham Shapiro '58, and Robert Klein '58, who received eighteen and sixteen votes, respectively. Carl Minkus '58, dropped out on the first ballot and Reuben Heller '58, was eliminated on the second ballot.

A graduate of Uptown Talmudical Academy, Mr. Shapiro was vice-president of its General Organization and Circulation Manager of the Academy News. He is a pre-med student at Yeshiva.

Herman Stone, (winner of a State Scholarship), is a pre-dental student. He is a graduate of Uptown Talmudical Academy and was a member of its General Organization.



Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig

Abraham Stern

Abraham Stern has been named director of youth activities, and Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig, chairman of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College, has been appointed director of adult education for Yeshiva University's Community Service Division, revealed Dr. Samuel Belkin, president.

Mr. Stern has served as executive director of Mizrahi Hatzair of America; associate director of the Youth Department, National Council of Young Israel and as a consultant on youth activities to the Union of Jewish Orthodox Congregations of America. Dr. Hoenig is professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University and author of the recently published work *The Great Sanhedrin*.

In outlining the plans of the recently organized youth bureau, Mr. Stern said that the bureau must first determine the present status of American Jewish youth as related to the synagogue. Survey questionnaires were distributed to congregations in the East which are led by Yeshiva University alumni. On the basis of this survey the youth bureau will attempt to develop the organization of Jewish youth by fostering the creation of youth programs and groups where they are found lacking.

Plans Cited

Mr. Stern's plans include the assisting of synagogues in organizing their young Jewry by placing men trained in youth leadership and by distributing brochures of programming material. One such brochure, *You and Your Group*, for synagogue youth leaders, has already gone to press.

The youth activities bureau will coordinate the activities of the various departments of Yeshiva University that lie in the youth education and sociological fields. Students

(Continued on page 6)

Unity Among Y. U. Students Revealed During Home Fete

By Zev Wanderer

Deep inner feeling necessitates outward activity, for content must have form. It could only have been a true, sincere love and appreciation for Torah which found expression in what has been called "the greatest *simcha* that Yeshiva has ever seen."

This year, for the first time in many, Yeshiva students decided to participate in their own *Simchat Torah* celebration. There was no exodus to other *yeshivot*—the Yeshiva student declared the *bet medrash* to be his home. The result was that the older and younger students united and grew to know each other better.

I. R. S. Forum Features Discussion on Elections

Newbold Morris, former president of the New York City Council, and Abraham J. Multer, member of the House of Representatives, spoke at a pre-election assembly sponsored by the International Relations Society, Monday, November 1, in Lamport Auditorium.

Mr. Morris represented Congressman Jacob K. Javits, then Republican candidate for State Attorney-General in yesterday's election. Mr. Multer spoke for Mr. Javits' opponent, Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

Opening his talk with an attack upon Congressman Javits' voting record, Mr. Multer declared that "Javits has made false claims to liberalism." The Brooklyn Congressman cited Mr. Javits' votes in favor of a 15% rent increase, for President Eisenhower's "rich man's" tax bill and against a Democratic proposal for a \$100 across the board tax reduction as instances of "anti-liberal" votes.

Mr. Morris reviewed the Republicans' twelve year record in New York State and stated that "they have to their credit achievements which they have not publicized."

He recalled Mr. Javits' "fight against his party leaders on the question of public housing" and described him as "a man of principle who will stand up against his party when necessary." Citing his legal experience, Mr. Morris called for Javits' election as "the better qualified candidate."

Newbold Morris was a candidate

(Continued on page 6)

The partition which seemed to exist between fellow students was torn down. Each felt the common bond, the common direction, the common emotions. As his hands clapped to the tempo of the song, the student felt that he was responding to the heart of the group united in spirit.

Unity Gives Courage

The individual, at such moments, knows of the external resistances to be encountered in an environment hostile to the teachings he cherishes, and feels great surges of courage, knowing that he is not alone.

Perhaps it has been this very sense of oneness and common identity that has been lacking at Yeshiva. Perhaps we had been contaminated in the past by the competitive atmosphere charged with the individualism so evident in our society and unfortunately extended as far as the lecture hall.

But this past *Simchat Torah* has brought into focus the great good that can come about only through a pervasive feeling of unity and mutual responsibility. Would that we continue the dance of *Simchat Torah* throughout the year, in all our activities, in our yearning for Torah, in our actions as Jews. Would that Yeshiva University might move as a common body in one direction.

It Happens

THE COMMENTATOR apologizes for misspelling in its last issue the names of Dr. Herman Ausubel and Dr. Harold C. Syrett, visiting professors of History at Yeshiva College, and also regrets misnaming Dr. Syrett's book, *A History of the American People*.

Council Book Exchange Run As A Free Service

The Used Book Exchange, operating free of charge for the first time, sold 90 books worth \$128 during the first two weeks of the term, announced Aaron Borow '55, vice president of Student Council.

Mr. Borow also announced that Herman Wouk, assistant professor of English and author of the best-seller *The Caine Mutiny*, will address the first Fireside Chat of the year in Riets Hall, Wednesday, November 10, at 7 p.m.

Afterwards, Prof. Wouk will conduct a regular session of his advanced English class which will be open to outside visitors.

At its meeting of September 20, Student Council approved the formation of a special Student Alumni Committee, and Howard Spear '55, Council president, announced the appointment of Theodore Phillips '55, vice president of the Senior Class, as acting president in the absence of Judah Harris, who is studying in Israel on the Teachers Institute Scholarship program.

The Commentator

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YESHIVA COLLEGE

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Yeshiva Students Friendly and Nice Says Dr. Ausubel

By Allan Scher

Dr. Herman Ausubel, visiting assistant professor of History, is one of the most recent additions to the Yeshiva College faculty. He is a native New Yorker, having been born and raised in Brooklyn.

As a child, he attended a *Talmud Torah*, where he received his Hebrew education. He was graduated from Brooklyn College in 1940 and received his M.A. from Columbia University in 1942 and his Ph.D. in 1948. Dr. Ausubel is married and has two children.

The course which Dr. Ausubel gives at Yeshiva, "Europe from 1870 to the Present," is similar to the survey course in European history which he teaches at Columbia University. In addition, he leads a lecture class and a seminar in English history at Columbia.

Dr. Ausubel was amazed by the tremendous amount of work and the long hours put in by Yeshiva students. He says that in the short time he has been associated with Yeshiva, the students have been "very friendly, cooperative and nice." He believes that the caliber of the students is the same as in most good liberal arts colleges.

Dr. Ausubel did his graduate work in English history and has written a short history, *The Late Victorians*, which will appear in January, 1955, in pocket book form.

Law School Test

The Law School Admission Test, required of all applicants for admission to several leading American law schools, will be given on the following days: November 13, February 19, April 23 and August 6.

Special Sunday exams are given on the Sunday following each of the above dates.

Each candidate must apply separately for admission to each law school of his choice and should inquire of each whether it is necessary to take the exam.

Bulletins and applications for the test should be obtained four weeks before the testing date from Law School Admission Test, Educational Testing Service, 20 Nassau Street, Princeton, N. J.

New Liberal Arts Proposal Menaces Old School Charm

By Nat Geller

Yeshiva University is in immediate danger of losing its quaint medieval charm. It appears that the administration is deliberating upon the possibility of including subjects in the liberal arts for all students and is plotting the inception of a Renaissance. While radical changes are yet unforeseen, the students have ceased arguing angel hierarchy and several embryonic scholars have already reaffirmed their belief in the roundness of the world. Others, less daring, are satisfied with the prospect of visiting a local museum.

Experience has shown that museums which do not charge admittance fees are quite beneficial for the inculcation of aesthetic values. It is gratifying to be able to see the Mona Lisa without a mustache or to gaze entranced at a Dada interpretation of a boneless and skinless sardine. Beside Art, there are to be found many fine collections of archaic manuscripts, foremost of which is a venerable exhibition of Babylonian crib-sheets with all pages intact and numerous diagrams.

The process of assimilating the vast knowledge of liberal arts may be expedited by the simple method of going to school and attending classes. The novelty of this experience may, however, lead to certain difficulties which only time and kind-hearted "profs" can overcome. The entire learning process takes no longer than four years, at which time the production of a perfect renaissance man is guaranteed.

Few people will deny, however, that the epitome of culture is to be found in Greenwich Village. Here, the embattled arts have fought untiringly against the corruption of vice, and the results are self-evident. Not only has individualism reached its zenith in the "Village," but the bars are the only ones in the city that serve genuine Schweppes tonic.

As a final word of advice to those who would explore the fine arts, I should like to say that all of us are endowed with a spark of divine fire. Buy a set of crayons and find out for yourself. Until then, let a stamp collection be your guide to better living—and your key to liberal arts.

Exams, Forms, Orientations Greet Registering Freshies

By Jerry Wohlberg and Joel Kaplan

Said some quixotic gentleman, "To be orientated is to be forewarned." In accordance, a group of uncertain, befuddled freshmen walked through the University doors for their first experience with the process of indoctrination. They were greeted by Mr. Dan Vogel, assistant registrar, who wished them a pleasant stay at Yeshiva and with an ominous smile on his lips told the "frosh" that he would be seeing more of them. At this point, "Abandon all Hope, ye who enter" was unanimously adopted as the class motto.

Standing behind Mr. Vogel were three men, holding reams of paper. What was thought to be circulars containing information about Yeshiva College, turned out to be a Hebrew placement exam. It is fortunate that the freshmen were immediately made cognizant of the fact that college is a glorified quiz program. Some introduction to college . . . some orientation.

Silence prevailed as the "frosh" began to write their examinations. Sweat broke out on their foreheads as they deciphered the questions. Some demanded their application fees be returned, others glanced furtively at their neighbors' papers. Such cooperation, however, was discouraged by the proctors who evidently did not believe in the "honor system." It seems the students had the "system," leaving "honor" to the proctor.

A speech placement test followed. The "freshies" were sent to two different rooms and were told to talk. Those whose speech was classified 01 went to the other room and were promptly reclassified 1a. It's all a matter of "system," I suppose.

After a twenty minute lunch hour, the freshmen were rushed into the gym, and some seniors—the know all, see all and tell all variety—herded them into lines resembling a Scrabble board at the end of the game. The "frosh" soon discovered that the only thing that registers on registration day is the cash register.

Forms Completed!

After three hours of inspired writing, the various registration forms were completed. The innocent victims of orientation rested their weary hands and closed their bloodshot eyes. Several "freshies" who had conscientiously filled out their multicolored forms became color blind.

They thought that they were finished, they had been told that they were finished. But alas, such was not their lot. Upperclassmen gleefully informed them that they had registered for the worst teachers in every course. More hours and many colored cards later, their registration was finally approved. The big, red "OK" marked on the face of their schedule was written in blood, sweat and, quite often, tears. At long last they went home—thoroughly orientated, completely exhausted.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor of
THE COMMENTATOR:

If the persistent lack of school spirit was ever due to the fifty cents admission cost to basketball games, this "reason" will soon be on its way out. I am happy to be able to use this column to announce that it will soon be possible for Yeshiva rooters to purchase season tickets for all home games at a great discount.

We are preparing two types of season tickets for sale in the near future. One will be "admit one" and the other will be a "date ticket" which will admit two to each home

game. In all, there will be eight home games this year with Cathedral, Pace, Rider, Queens, Panzer, Fairleigh-Dickinson, Newark Rutgers and Cooper Union appearing at the Needle Trades court. Prices will be announced in the near future.

These tickets represent an attempt on our part to awaken the Yeshiva student body spirit. Coach Saracheck speaks of a promising team and a tough schedule. All that is needed is the kind of grandstand push that spurs a team on. You students will provide that.

(signed) JOE POLANSKY
Athletic Manager

Who Will Pay?

Administration of the Graduate Record Examinations to all seniors raises the question of who will pay the required fees. This year, only one section of the three-part test will be given and the charge will be approximately \$3.50. However, in ensuing years, when students will take all three sections the fee will amount to twelve dollars. We think that the College should bear these costs.

It should be noted that the school is administering these exams as a requirement for all students and not as a service to those who desire them. Most students need not take the test to be admitted to the graduate school of their choice. Also, passage or failure of the tests bears no relation to a student's graduation. It is quite evident, therefore, that many students stand to benefit nothing.

Another fact to be remembered is that many students must take one other exam such as the Law School Admissions Test or the Medical Aptitude Test. The charges for these exams in addition to college graduation fees are enough of a burden to the students' pocketbooks. It would be grossly unfair to add still another charge for an undesired and non-beneficial "service."

Shades of Pasteur

We have been informed that the pillows in the dormitory were recently sterilized for the second time in over two decades. Mrs. Purvis, who remembers the time when pillows here at Yeshiva were "Rinso White," directed Operation Sanitation. We are pleased to note that science students will now have to seek elsewhere for their bacteriological cultures.

Sleep well, fellows.

Teachers, Take Note

This term, for the first time, the Student Council Used Book Exchange was run as a free service. The Exchange handled over ninety books and served many students.

To assure the complete success of its endeavor, Student Council had requested all members of the College faculty to submit to it a list of their texts for this semester. Of a faculty body of more than sixty men, only sixteen responded.

It takes little of an instructor's time and effort to write the name of his text on a post card and drop it in a mailbox. All that is needed is the willingness to help. We hope that all instructors will cooperate this term and help us make the Used Book Exchange a complete success.

Spotlight on the American Jewish Tercentenary

The three-hundredth anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in America has provoked much deserved comment and praise. America has been good to her citizens of Jewish faith and the Jews, in turn, have done a great deal for the growth of this country. We think that the Tercentenary is the opportune time for studying and evaluating these many contributions.

A long list of Jewish names appears before us. We note those who have contributed greatly to literature, politics and the arts and sciences of America. All represent outstanding examples of achievement in their respective fields, and display an individual ingenuity resultant of one thousand years of inbreeding among an intellectual people.

But the question must be raised; may we as orthodox Jews take special pride in their work? Proud, we certainly are. Their accomplish-

An Editorial

ments nullify, once again, the classical anti-Semitic caricature of the Jew as a parasitic Shylock. Our co-religionists have always enriched community life whenever given the opportunity to express themselves. America has provided them with such opportunities. Here, they put to use those varied talents which had been stifled in the ghettos of Europe. In the final analysis, however, we feel that these deeds are not enough.

What connection do these contributions have with traditional Jewish culture? Have any of these men and women of genius added to the great number of Jewish moral and ethical concepts which civilization has already adopted? The fact that these

people were of Jewish birth and faith proves nothing.

Brilliant minds are not limited to one people. Other ethnic groups settled in America can make the same claim to greatness. The Armenians, the Italians, the Scandinavians and the Irish have also contributed to the growth of the American community. They too have derived benefit from this democratic atmosphere and have molded men and women of genius, each a credit to his race.

The work of the many eminent Jews evokes, therefore, no special pride in us. They are simply the products of an ethnic group long in a society which accords equal opportunities to all.

We must remember that our people were chosen to be the moral and ethical teachers of mankind. We are extremely proud of the few great American Jews who have remembered this.

Dr. Grinstein Reveals Findings on Education

By Rabbi Arthur Silver and Arnold Enker

With the rebirth of *yeshiva* education in America, there has come a consequent revitalization of Jewish life. We say rebirth for according to Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein, registrar of the Teachers Institute and professor of History at Yeshiva College, the American *yeshiva* is the product of an evolutionary process and not the parvenu of our contemporaries. Dr. Grinstein believes that the children of the early Jewish settlers were educated in schools maintained by the religious community, whose curriculum consisted solely of Hebrew subjects.

"The first Jewish settlers were orthodox in affiliation and, so it seems, in practice, too," stated Dr. Grinstein at a recent interview. "They were well aware of the importance of educating their children in the observance of Jewish rituals."

During the early years of American settlement, there were no public schools and education was mainly in the hands of the religious communities. "It is only natural to assume that the Jews, too, established their own schools," Dr. Grinstein said.

Theory Finds Support

In support of Dr. Grinstein's thesis, we find among the earliest extant minutes of the Congregation Shearith Israel (Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue) mention of a "Yeshivat Minchat Areb." While the term "yeshivat" as used here is not to be taken in exactly the same sense as it is today, it does indicate that Jewish study was then under the supervision of the community. Later minutes, instructing the *chazan* to teach the children of poor families at no financial recompense, lend further support to this theory.

Hours of instruction at these schools were from 9-12 every morning and 2-5 Thursday afternoons. Dr. Grinstein believes that the other afternoons were left free so as to allow the children to pursue secular studies under the instruction of private tutors.

"First in the minutes of 1755, do we find mention of the inclusion of secular studies in the official school curriculum, indicating that until then only Hebrew subjects were taught," said Dr. Grinstein. "Instruction in Spanish, English, writing and arithmetic were then added. The school took back the afternoon hours it had left free since private tutorship in secular studies was no longer necessary," he concluded.

Religion on Decline

As religious observance waned, the importance of the religious schools declined. It is in the minutes

of 1757 that we find the statement, "In the Name of the God of Israel.

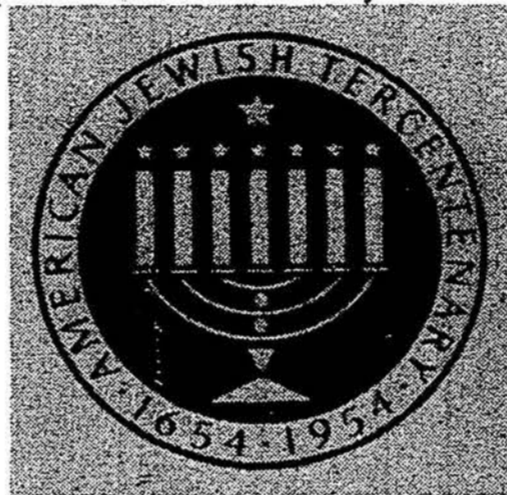
"The Parnassim & Elders having received undoubted Testimony That severall of our Brethren . . . have



Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein

and do dayly violate the principles of our holy religion, such as Trad-

Anniversary Symbol



Shown above is the symbol selected by the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee for use during the observance of the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. Designed by the artist, William Metzger, of New York City, the symbol depicts a menorah in a stars and stripes motif, illustrating the freedom Jews have found within the democratic framework of the United States.

ing on the Sabbath, Eating of forbidden Meats & other Heinous Crimes . . . therefore whosoever for the future continues to act contrary to our Holy Law by breaking any of the principles command will not be deem'd a member of our Congregation, have none of the Mitzote of the Sinagoge Confered on him & when Dead will not be buried according to the manner of our brethren." (sic)

(Continued on page 4)

Political and Social Advances Cited Anniversary Marks Jewish Growth;

By Larry Kirschner

The Tercentenary is an anniversary festival marking three hundred years of Jewish development, achievement and contributions to American society. No other minority in the entire course of history has had such an influential effect upon the formation and growth of the majority, as the Jew here in America. For it is only through freedom that man may advance and live in a beneficial society with his fellow man.

Having gained the precious right of citizenship, the Jew became an integral part of the community. The various advancements that he made in social welfare and philanthropy were no longer for the exclusive amelioration of the Jewish community, but were now adopted by, and used for the betterment of their gentile neighbors as well.

Labor-management arbitration, for example, is an extension of the Jewish practice of "pshora", settlement of arguments by compromise. In fact, the first labor unions to adopt arbitration were the Amalga-

mated Clothing Workers and the I.L.G.W.U. whose leaders and members were predominantly Jewish.

Furthermore, the Jewish community pioneered the idea of having orphans raised by foster parents. They also instituted the first school for the purpose of teaching deaf children to speak.

Another example of Jewish philanthropic work benefiting the entire community was the district apportionment of a city for the purpose of dispensing charity. Formerly, one charity officer was responsible for an entire city. By following district apportionment each district was assigned a warden and thus, closer contact with the poor was assured, and the distribution of charity was expedited.

(Continued on page 4)

Community Celebrates Freedom Won in U.S.

This year more than five million Americans are celebrating the three-hundredth anniversary of Jewish settlement in this country, under the direction of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee. Geared to the theme, *Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom*, the observance was launched officially with a Reconsecration Service held Sunday, September 12, at the Congregation Shearith Israel of New York, founded in 1654 by the origi-

Publications which is supervising the preparation of a ten-volume documentary history of the Jews of the United States and hopes to sponsor a master bibliography of American Jewish history, an index to American Jewish periodicals and



KICKOFF: Anniversary celebrations began with a service at the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue.

nal Jewish settlers.

The American Jewish Tercentenary is a committee of 1300 men and women representing a cross-section of the American Jewish community. In fashioning its program, the committee endeavors to extend the observance not only geographically throughout the entire United States but also into all areas of Jewish life. It helps national and local organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to introduce Tercentenary themes into their regular activities during the anniversary year.

Committees Plan Events

Through its committees and staff, the committee initiates national events and programs, establishes resources for research and information and makes such material available to the community. Among its committees are:

the Committee on Religious and Educational Participation which is sponsoring a Tercentenary Sabbath, November 27, and provides a summary of educational material for use in Jewish schools,

the Committee on Research and

a series of monographs in the field of American Jewish history.

the Exhibit Committee which is in charge of the national historical exhibit of the Tercentenary, "Under Freedom," at the Jewish Museum in New York and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. and the Fine Arts Committee which is arranging showings of an exhibit of painting and sculpture by American Jewish artists.

Ralph Samuel, Chairman

Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee is Mr. Ralph Samuel, vice president of the American Jewish Congress. Mr. Samuel, a former president of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, also served during World War II as head of the Greater New York Army and Navy U.S.O.

More than two and one half years of planning have gone into the development of the nationwide Tercentenary program. Initiative came first from the American Jewish Historical Society and then the American Jewish Committee, which were later joined by other major Jewish groups.

Book Review

By Prof. Morris Silverman

The Jews in America: A History by Rufus Lears. 382 p. The World Publishing Company, Cleveland. \$6.

Adventure in Freedom, Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life in America by Oscar Handlin. 283 p. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. \$3.75.

Much of the celebrating being done for the 300th anniversary of the first organized Jewish settlement in the United States is devoted to emphasizing our gratitude to America and to self-congratulations. This is not enough; there must also be an effort at self-understanding. This is the proper occasion for looking back at the past and summing up in order that we may proceed on the right path in the future.

Several specialized works doing this have already appeared recently (such as David de Sola Pool's works on New York and histories of the Jews of Chicago and Rochester, among other cities), and several ambitious plans for the future have been announced (such as a complete biographical dictionary of American Jews and a ten volume documentary history of the Jews in this country).

One might think that there could be so much repetition in two such works as those I am reviewing that it would not be worthwhile to read both, but this is not so. The two authors have produced studies that complement each other very well.

Oscar Handlin, who was born in Brooklyn in 1915 and received his B.A. from Brooklyn College, is Professor of History at Harvard University. In addition to writing many articles and editing many works, he has written five other books one of which, *The Uprooted*, a study of nineteenth-century immigration, won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1952.

Rufus Lears (a pen name, incidentally; in Hebrew it is *Sofer Yisrael* backwards) was a New York City high school teacher for many years before he devoted himself to writing, and produced good one-volume histories of the Jews and of Zionism.

Mr. Lears's book is more the traditional type of textbook, which attempts to present the full picture and supplies detailed information on the major events and personalities of American Jewish history. Indeed, the effort to cover the whole scene results in certain sections being largely lists of names without an adequate explanation of their possible significance.

Dr. Handlin, on the other hand, presents an interpretation. He often either takes it for granted that you know the facts or presents them very sketchily. For example, Lears devotes twenty pages to the Caribbean settlements of the Jews, Handlin only two. He really intends to discuss certain major trends in the United States in general, and among the Jews in particular. It is therefore best to read Lears to familiarize yourself with the factual developments before attempting Handlin's interpretive essay.

There is another fundamental difference in approach. Mr. Lears has written a history of the Jews; Dr. Handlin has written an American history, with the Jews simply an illustration of what one ethnic and religious group among several achieved in this country. There is room for both types of books, though this reviewer is more interested in Lears's approach.

Those chapters in Dr. Handlin's book, therefore, that deal with the integration of Jewish and general American history—especially those dealing with his specialties, immigration and social adjustment, and the closely related topics of economic development and discrimination—are the best in the book. For example, this book is the only one I have seen that points out that the Populist movement had strong anti-Semitic elements in it.

On the other hand what he has to say on internal, strictly Jewish matters, such as the modern Jewish community, is unsatisfying. The material on Jewish education is woefully inadequate. While not exhibiting open bias it is quite clear that he is unsympathetic to Zionism, at most giving it grudging approval. He is pro-American Jewish Committee and disparages its rivals, the Congress and the Conference. He does not grasp the social forces behind the struggles between these organizations. Also, his sympathies very definitely lie on the side of Reform rather than Orthodox Judaism.

Lears, on the other hand, is a known Zionist, sympathetic, yet able to maintain his objectivity. In general, this reviewer believes that Lears has been able to maintain the more unbiased and unslanted approach to many topics. Furthermore, many topics slighted by Handlin—such as Jewish education, and the modern Jewish contributors to American culture—are given more adequate treatment here.

Both authors are to be commended for avoiding major errors of fact, though this reviewer strongly disagrees with certain interpretations, some of which have been pointed out already. Both authors, I believe, over-emphasize the factor of Jewish persecution and social inferiority in Europe as a cause of immigration and underemphasize economics, which was the major cause. The economic causes also determined which social classes came here. Also, neither has quite covered all social and communal aspects of American Jewish life properly. For example, the shift from synagogue—*kahal*—to *chevra-kahal* is not clear in either. Both authors list some men as Conservative that I believe were really in the Orthodox camp.

Each book has a combined chronological and topical presentation which has been well done. Both authors' styles are excellent and interesting. Handlin has handled the integration of his material very well. For example, most earlier one-volume American Jewish histories have too much genealogical material, especially on Colonial times, and also tend to become recitals of individual success stories, but Dr. Handlin has avoided this and produced a well-organized and smooth-flowing book.

Lears's language is rich and beautiful, sometimes approaching the poetic (as on pages 4-5), but he does not overdo it, and it is very readable. He has also handled his material intelligently.

While not overlooking the great problems facing modern American Jewry—communal, religious and educational—both authors are optimistic, and after reading their works one feels they are justified in their bright hopes for the future.

There are minor errors, mostly typographical, in the two books. This reviewer noticed about half-a-dozen in Lears and about three times as many in Handlin.

(Continued on page 6)

Jewish Education

(Continued from page 3)

Until then, members of the community held strongly to their religious beliefs and practices. During the latter half of the eighteenth century, however, religious observance weakened, necessitating the adoption of strong measures on the part of the community. Under the influence of the Revolutionary War

ting even the barest essentials of Judaism. As a result several all day schools, termed *yeshivot ketanot*, were founded. Here, in addition to a full elementary school program, long hours were devoted to Jewish studies.

These schools, according to Dr. Grinstein, were actually a re-adoption of the congregationally sponsored parochial school of Shearith Israel.



HATRED OF BROTHERS: This cartoon was published in 1881 and depicts the attitude of the German Jew toward his East European co-religionist.

and the generally prevailing atmosphere, observance declined so far that in 1804, the Synagogue adopted a new constitution which no longer required these practices of its members.

Assimilation was the fashion of the nineteenth century. Jews in America sought the favor of their Gentile neighbors by showing that they were different from the old type Jew who had been the victim of anti-Semitism in Europe. A cartoon published in 1881 showed the contempt many German Jews held for their East European co-religionists and their desire to be different from them.

But assimilation was not limited to the German Jew alone. "The East European Jew introduced a new complication," said Dr. Grinstein. "When he came to America, he originally settled in the slum areas of the big cities and his children, in flight from their neighborhood, turned their backs on everything it represented, including naturally, religion," he explained.

Sunday Schools Develop

With the advent of the public school system and the growth of assimilation, Jewish education declined and the Jewish all-day school ceased to exist. The congregations, realizing the necessity of continuing Hebrew education, attempted to maintain classes after public school hours. The general trend, however, was to follow the Protestant system of Sunday schools and soon religious training was limited to Sunday mornings.

The inadequacies of Sunday school education eventually gave rise to a return to after-school study and the Talmud Torah was born. The curriculum called for classes to be held every day after public school hours in addition to Sunday mornings.

It soon became evident that the Sunday school and the Talmud Torah were incapable of transmit-

Y.U. Participates In Varied Phases Of Tercentenary

Yeshiva University has joined ranks with other leading institutions participating in the Tercentenary program. The University, its administration and faculty are represented by their membership on the various committees which are responsible for planning, research and celebration.

Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University, and Mr. Max J. Etra, chairman of the Board of Trustees, are among the co-chairmen of the Planning Committee. This body is responsible for the many ceremonies and events which are taking place throughout the entire country and the coordination of the national Tercentenary program.

Dr. Grinstein Active

Registrar of the Teachers Institute and Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva College Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein is a member of the Publications Committee. He is doing research work on a six-volume history of the Jews in America and will be the author of the fourth volume in that series. The book will cover the period from 1865 to 1885.

Dr. Grinstein is also engaged in gathering material for a picture album which will contain seven hundred photographs of various places, people and events of Jewish interest in New York City before the turn of the century. The pictorial record will be entitled *Jewish Album of Old New York*.

In regard to the actual celebration, Yeshiva University is dedicating its annual dinner to the American Jewish Tercentenary. The program for this affair is still in the planning stage but will probably include an invocation and presentation in line with the Tercentenary theme.

Contributions

(Continued from page 3)

The various contributions made by the Jew, be they the product of individual ingenuity or social and philanthropic advancements, are accomplishments precipitated by freedom. In participating in the Tercentenary commemoration, American Jews cannot help but be cognizant of the fact that they are the ones who must conserve their Jewish heritage and freedom so that they may further benefit their country while benefiting themselves.



DEDICATION OF A BUILDING: A group of rabbis and laymen at the dedication of the East Broadway building after Yeshiva's union with Eitz Chaim, in 1915.

On the Sidelines

Commercialism in School Sports

By Aaron Freiman

Commercialism in college basketball has caused much hardship to many an institution of higher learning. At some it has left wounds that can never be healed.

Yeshiva University is endeavoring to build a top ranking small college basketball team, without employing this vice. At Yeshiva, scholarships are not offered to students solely on the basis of athletic ability. Two incidents of recent occurrence emphasize this point.

The first involves an out-of-town boy of unusually good athletic ability who was admitted to the school. He showed his wares at the early basketball practices, and was expected to be a great asset to our team. Little time passed before this individual asked for special rights and privileges—including financial assistance—all on the grounds that he can play ball. The request was denied. His motives for being at Yeshiva apparently did not coincide with the policy of the school, and he left.

The second case is not as severe as the first, but still deserves mention. It also involves a boy of good athletic ability and a top notch prospect. His ideals did coincide with those of the University. However, his scholastic achievements did not meet those set as the standard for entrance to our College. He therefore could not be, and was not accepted. His basketball ability proved to be no argument for admission.

In the past there have been indications that this was not the policy of Yeshiva University, but these incidents are very encouraging factors in favor of the non-commercial policy.

In a few weeks the Mighty Mites will embark on what is expected to be a very promising season. They will play without the aid of "bought ballplayers." Too many colleges fell to this temptation, but our institution has resisted.

The aim of Yeshiva sports is twofold. In the first place we want to show communities in and outside the metropolitan area that the "Jewish team from New York"—as we were once referred to in an out-of-town newspaper—can compete with and even emerge victorious over opposing squads.

Secondly, as the Athletic Department puts it, "We want to develop respectable American citizens, able to enter their chosen fields. Athletic competition helps build good character."

The latter cannot be accomplished by buying ballplayers and pampering them with special privileges so that they do their best on the court. It can only be done with those boys who have the interest of Yeshiva at heart.

One may say that the primary aim of building a winning Yeshiva team could better be accomplished by engaging in such commercialism. However, in the long run the reward is much greater by not straying toward this tempting vice. The players, the Athletic Association and the entire student body, by knowing that they've done it themselves, will achieve far greater satisfaction from victory than if they had employed the help of outsiders to fight their battles for them. This is true even if it means a few less successes on the courts.

If more colleges would take heed of the situation concerning big business in school sports, there would be no chance of a repeat of the calamity four years ago which threatened the extinction of public interest in college sports.

Let Yeshiva University be the example of a school which is on its way up in college sport ranks without the aid of athletic scholarships.

Fencers Face Nine In Biggest Season; Open December 14

Fencing Schedule

- Tuesday, December 14—St. Peters College—Home.
- Wednesday, January 5—Brooklyn College—Home.
- Wednesday, February 9—Newark Engineering—Away.
- Sunday, February 13—Pace College—Home.
- Wednesday, February 16—Drew University—Away.
- Monday, February 28—Fairleigh Dickinson—Home.
- Wednesday, March 9—Bridgeport University—Away.
- Monday, March 14—Newark Rutgers—Away.
- Sunday, March 20—Cooper Union—Home.

The 1954-55 fencing season, which gets under way December 14, is expected to be the toughest ever experienced by the Y.U. duelists. Since its inception, the team has never faced so long a schedule which includes nine intercollegiate matches and extends through the last week in March.

Four intercollegiate squads which weren't on last year's list have been included in this season's competition. They are Newark College of Engineering, Drew University, Fairleigh-Dickinson College and Bridgeport University.

Old Opponents Rescheduled

The fencers open at home against St. Peters College, by whom they were edged in a close 14-13 match last year. They then play a second home contest against Brooklyn College to whom they also lost last season.

Rounding out the schedule are Pace College, Rutgers of Newark and Cooper Union. The Yeshiva swordsmen were victorious over the latter two squads last year by scores of 18-9 and 15-12, respectively, but lost to Pace.

In last year's competition, the team posted a mediocre record of three wins and four losses. As Coach Tauber said, "We will have to wait until actual competition gets under way, in order to know where we stand in the way of depth and winning know-how."

Practice Scrimmages Show Color of Mites

By Danny Frucher

Even as I entered the Needle Trades building, a loud, bellowing voice was heard echoing throughout the halls. Without giving it a second thought, I knew that Yeshiva University's Basketball Team was upstairs practicing. There could be no mistake! It was the voice of coach "Red" Sarachek. Further investigation revealed that the voice was coming from the third floor gymnasium.

I was amazed to see so many players present at one session. More amazing, was the fact that the players were practicing in great earnest. Their backs glistening with perspiration, even "Bam" Soddan and "Red" Blumenreich were running up and down the court.

Everyone was on the move except "Red," Sarachek, who throughout the proceedings, injected constructive sideline criticisms. Marv Hershkowitz, former Y.U. great, and "Dolly" King, former All-American from Long Island University, helped "Red" apply these criticisms.

Close Relationship Detected

Despite "Red's" characteristic "Get the heck down court" and "Where the h— did you learn to play basketball," an unusually close relationship between players and coach was easily detectable. There is something about "Red's" personality which, although it cannot be pinpointed, is nevertheless present and pervasive.

Although a practice is basically hard work, a touch of humor was added. Maybe it was due to Sarachek's addiction to the adage, "What's in a name?" Meiselman became anything from Meiselson to Meiselwitz, Chaikin was called Jerkin and Barry Hochdorf was renamed "Hot Dog" or something to that effect. There is still much speculation as to what "Red" Blumenreich would have been called if not for his red hair.

This year's team has an improved spirit over that of last year. The mainstays show great improvement and so does the bench. The new talent is composed of players who, in my opinion, will soon blossom into stardom. With such good talent, so high a spirit and so superior a coaching staff, we can only anticipate a highly interesting and successful season.

J. V. Schedule Lists 6 Games

Six encounters are listed in the schedule of the newly formed Junior Varsity Basketball Team for the 1954-55 season. The program features two with the New York State Tech. quintet. Additional games may be added in the near future.

The Junior Varsity squad is composed mainly of freshmen and is under the guidance of Marvin Hershkowitz.

J.V. Schedule

- Tuesday, January 4—New York State Tech. Away.
- Saturday, January 29—Pace College J.V.—Home.
- Monday, February 14—Brooklyn Polytechnic J.V.—Home.
- Thursday, February 24—New York State Maritime J.V.—Away.
- Monday, February 28—New York State Tech.—Home.
- Saturday, March 5—Cooper Union J.V.—Home.

New Net Skills Course Sees Large Enrollment

Thirty Yeshiva students are enrolled in the recreational net skills Physical Education course, announced Mr. Eli Epstein, instructor of the class.

Mr. Epstein, who is coach of the Y.U. Tennis Team and tennis pro at Grossinger's, will emphasize tennis fundamentals, but instruction will also be given in squash, badminton, ping pong and golf.

Promising members of the class will be invited to varsity tennis turnouts which will begin in the near future. Practice sessions will be held Tuesdays at the 15th Regiment Armory.

The class meets each Thursday from 9 to 11 p.m. in the Yeshiva gym.

A ten-game schedule has already been arranged for the varsity squad for the 1955 season, announced Herb Hoffman and Paul Rogoway, co-managers of the team.

Phys. Ed. Notes

Swimming Pool

A city swimming pool, located at Twenty-eighth Street and Ninth Avenue, has been acquired for the exclusive use of the Senior Life Saving course. Morty Kwestel has been placed in charge of this program.

Appointment

Mr. Sidney Sneider has been appointed instructor in the weight-lifting course.

New Course

Dr. Abraham B. Hurwitz, professor of Physical Education, has announced the addition of an instructors' course in First Aid, provided enough students enroll. Students possessing Advanced First Aid Certificates are eligible to take the course.

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YESHIVA COLLEGE CO-OP STORES

M. Miller, Sec'y of Board of Trustees of Yeshiva, Is Dead

Morris Miller, secretary of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University and noted philanthropist, died Wednesday, October 5, at his home in Brooklyn. He was 74, years old.

Born in Lithuania, he arrived in the United States at the age of 16 and two years later entered the cotton goods business, later switching to real estate in which he was engaged until 1929.

Mr. Miller had been a leader of the Hebrew Free Loan Society, Brooklyn Hebrew Home and Hospital for the Aged, United Israel Appeal,



Mr. Morris Miller

Beth Moses Hospital, Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities, American Jewish Congress, Brooklyn Jewish Center, Zionist Organization of America, Pride of Judea Children's Home and the United Jewish Appeal.

Funeral services were held at the Brooklyn Jewish Center, 667 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn.

Chesterfield Appointment

Ralph Schuchalter '55, was appointed the Chesterfield campus representative at Yeshiva College for the current academic year, it was announced by the Campus Merchandising Bureau, Inc., representative of the cigarette firm.

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Book Review

(Continued from page 4)

There is one serious criticism of both authors: neither makes any attempt at documentation. Since no sources are quoted, it is impossible to check on the accuracy of the readings or follow through for further research. Mr. Lears lists a half-page bibliography and refers the reader for further information to the librarian of the American Jewish Historical Society. Professor Handlin has a fairly good four-page list of "Suggestions for Further Reading."

In conclusion, while one notices errors in these works (but mostly of omission rather than commission) and can disagree frequently with the authors' interpretations, nevertheless, here are two readable and stimulating works which can be highly recommended to both students and faculty at Yeshiva.

'55 Masmid Staff Selected by Editor

Henry Kressel '55, editor of the 1955 *Masmid*, Yeshiva College undergraduate and senior annual, appointed the following students to the *Masmid* Governing Board: Naf-tali Teitelbaum, managing editor; Leon Taubes '55, and Hershel Weinberger '55, literary editor and associate literary editor, respectively; Manuel Gold '55, and Ephraim Weinstein '56, art editors; William Kotkes '55, Vel Hulkower '55, business managers and Harvey Karten '55, technical editor.

This year's *Masmid* will cost \$3500, the major part of which must be raised through advertisements solicited by the student body. Seniors who wish their pictures to appear in *Masmid* are required to bring in a minimum of \$25 in ads.

Undergraduates are entitled to a bonus of 10% on their solicited ads.

Israeli Institute Opens; Headed by Dr. S. Mirsky

An Israeli Institute, devoted to general and specialized courses stressing the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish Community, was opened Tuesday, October 26, under the direction of Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky, professor of Rabbinics and editor of the Hebrew Journals *Talpioth* and *Sura*, announced Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University.

Courses offered in Conversational Hebrew, Hebrew Literature in English Translation, Backgrounds of Hebrew Law, Social and Political Institutes of Israel and Israel in the Near East will be taught by experts in the various fields.

Those completing the prescribed course of study will receive a certificate issued jointly by the University and the Torah-Culture Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

Faculty Notes

Rabbi Leo Jung, professor of Ethics, contributed an article on "Mitzvot Maasiyot" to the Palestine quarterly, *Hamayan*. During his fifth trip to Israel, this summer, he participated in Rome in discussions with the leaders of Italian Jewry as to the best means of propagating the Torah in that country.

Professor Arnold N. Lowan, chairman of the Physics Department, was consultant during the summer months to the Rocket-Sonde Branch of the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. During this time he studied the problem of cooling the upper atmosphere and its effect on the so-called F layer of the ionosphere. The results of Professor Lowan's investigation were reported at the recent international conference on geophysics at Rome, Italy, by Dr. H. J. Newell of the Rocket-Sonde Branch.

Mr. Abraham Tauber, professor of Speech, will speak at the national convention of the Speech Association of America in Chicago, December 28. He will speak in a panel on the topic "Problems of Ministerial Students."

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, assistant professor of Political Science at Yeshiva College, was the author of

articles entitled, "Ethical Norms in the Jewish Law of Marriage" in the summer edition of *Judaism* and "Can We Moderns Keep the Sabbath?" in the September issue of *Commentary*.

Dr. Ralph P. Rosenberg, professor of German, is now writing the only English biography of Louis Börne, German Jewish liberal of the 19th century. Last year, the *Germanic Review* published his review of Joseph Dresck's *Louis Börne, Etudes sur l'Histoire et les Hommes de la Révolution Française*. Dr. Rosenberg's article, "The Great Books in General Education," appeared in the yearbook of *Comparative and General Literature*, volume III. Professor Rosenberg's third article, "Hugo Julius Walther," based on his *Bibliography of American Doctoral Dissertations in Germanic Cultures Accepted by American Universities 1873-1954* was printed in the *Germanic Review*, volume XXIX.

Dr. Samuel Soloveichik, instructor in Chemistry, presented a paper before the 126th meeting of the American Chemical Society on the use of boric esters as starting materials for the production of others esters by acidolysis.

C. S. D.

(Continued from page 1)

of the Teachers Institute and of the Bernard Revel Graduate School, who require field practice, will be able to work through Mr. Stern's office.

Projects of the School of Education and Community Administration and Sociology departments involving research and tabulation of surveys may be conducted through the services of the bureau.

Group Will Grow

In time, the scope of the youth branch of C.S.D. will be enlarged to a regional level with leadership institutes in New England, the Eastern Seaboard and the South, with plans for national Orthodox youth conferences.

Mr. Stern, a member of the Teachers Institute faculty, was graduated from T. I. in 1947 and Yeshiva College in 1948. In 1950 he was the first to have received a masters degree in social group work from the School of Education and Community Administration.

Dr. Hoenig, the recently appointed director of the Adult Education Bureau of C.S.D., was formerly the educational director of the Young Israel movement.

His bureau will prepare curricula for adult classes in topics in the Jewish Communal area.

S. O. Y. Organizes Guidance Program

Tentative plans for the innovation of a guidance program directed toward aiding high school freshmen in their religious and social problems were revealed by Morton Summer '54, president of the Student Organization of Yeshiva.

Under the proposed program, each freshman will be assigned an upper classman or graduate from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary as a counsellor.

Mr. Summer also disclosed that the S.O.Y. will provide speakers from among students of Yeshiva University for lectures before clubs affiliated with synagogues and Jewish organizations. This program will be run in conjunction with the Speakers Bureau of the Community Service Division of Yeshiva.

The S.O.Y. will soon sponsor a contest on the subject: "Why is the study of Talmud important to Jewish youth?"

Election Assembly

(Continued from page 1)

for mayor of New York City in 1945 and 1949, and in 1952 was appointed by former President Truman to conduct an investigation of corrupt practices in government. He was President of the New York City Council from 1937 to 1945.

Abraham J. Multer has been a member of the House of Representatives representing the 13th Congressional District in Brooklyn since 1947 and a special counsel to former Mayor William O'Dwyer.

A new system for attendance devised by the college office was introduced at the assembly. Each student was assigned a definite seat in the auditorium.

Jacob Heller '56, president of I.R.S. presided.

Special Notice

College rules provide that no poster or notice may be put up with scotch tape anywhere except on an official bulletin board or on an unpainted glass surface.

This rule was adopted because scotch tape is injurious to painted, varnished and plastered surfaces.

Please cooperate.

Club Notes

Eranos

During the coming semester, Eranos, the classical society of Yeshiva College, will present a lecture and slide exhibit on classical sculpture and a dramatic reading of a play by Euripides.

Dr. Maurice E. Chernowitz, associate professor of Languages and Fine Arts, will speak on "The Development of Roman Sculpture," Wednesday, November 3. His lecture will be accompanied by the slide exhibit.

The reading, which will consist of translated sections from *The Ion*, will be presented early in December.

Biology Club

The Biology Society held its first meeting Thursday, October 28. Robert Taub '57, discussed "Two Approaches to the Basic Design of a Brain."

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