



CHAVRUSA

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
RABBINIC ALUMNI

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ברכות סיג

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Jan., 1957

Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 22

The traditional mid-winter conference of the R.A. this year will take place in the Hotel Croydon on East 86 Street, New York on January 22, 1957, it was announced by Harry I. Wohlberg, Rabbinic Alumni President. Chairman and co-chairman of the Conference are Judah Washer, Teaneck N.J. and Samuel Fox, Lynn, Mass.

The conference this year will be a one day affair with sessions in the morning and afternoon followed by an evening dinner which will conclude the program. A new trend has been established in the dinner program. In accordance with an increased emphasis on the Alumni of the Alumni Association, for the first time the dinner will honor a colleague whose major activity is in the field. The Alumni Association will probably continue this new trend thus giving honor to its own members who have proven themselves loyal and devoted through their communal activities on behalf of Yeshiva. This year's guest of honor is Joseph H. Lookstein, past president of the Alumni Association.

With an intelligent, realistic approach and a vigorous determination to be creative practically, the conference committee has chosen vital topics for its sessions. The morning sessions will be devoted to methods by which the rabbi can achieve a maximum effectiveness.

The first session, to be chaired by Charles Bahn, New Haven, Connecticut, will deal with the area of pastoral responsibility in relation to personal problems. I. Fred Hollander, in charge of pastoral psychiatry at the New York Board of Rabbis, will be speaker at the session. He will discuss such vital items as the relationship between the rabbi and psychiatrist or psychologist, the limitations of pastoral help and a basic bibliography on the subject that should be read by every rabbi. Colleagues will also learn about the plans of an Institute of Pastoral Psychiatry that will be introduced at Yeshiva and for which a grant has already



Herman Wouk



Sen. Jacob K. Javits

been received from the National Institute of Mental Health. Fred Hollander will be in charge of the institute.

The second morning session will be devoted to the maximum efficiency a rabbi can attain through judicious apportionment of his time. To be chaired by Solomon Sternstein, Yonkers, New York, this session will deal with distribution of the rabbi's time to such responsibilities as synagogue activities, men's club, youth groups and communal activities. Gilbert Klaperman, Lawrence, New York will present a paper on the topic. Proper scheduling of activity has been a very vexing but insoluble problem for the rabbi and a stimulating, constructive discussion is awaited.

The luncheon program will feature Senator Jacob K. Javits as speaker and will be chaired by Irving Miller, Woodmere, N. Y.

The afternoon sessions will deal with goals a rabbi should strive for and how the Alumni Association can

help him. There will be two sessions. In the first session Moses Tendler, Assistant Dean of Yeshiva College, will present the philosophic implications of these goals, and Nathan Bulman, Fallsburg, N.Y. will discuss them.

David M. Wachtfogel, Philadelphia, Pa. will chair the first session. A view from an organizational standpoint in the second session will be provided by Solomon Roodman, Louisville, Ky. Berel Rosenzweig, Toronto, Canada, will chair the second session.

The dinner program, which usually is a conference highlight, will feature this year Herman Wouk, as guest speaker. Greetings will be heard from our revered President, Dr. Belkin, Rabbi Soloveitchek and the guest of honor. Rabbi Turk, an ardent worker for the Alumni Fund, and its chairman, will read a report of the past year's activity. Our esteemed president of the Alumni, Harry I. Wohlberg, will conduct the annual appeal for pledges of support to Yeshiva University.

CHAVRUSA

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Editor's Prerogative

At our recent convention, many colleagues expressed their gratitude to the Yeshiva for its proficient servicing in various areas of communal need. Field visits by C.S.D. personnel tend to enhance a rabbi's prestige and standing and contribute invaluable counselling in numerous aspects of practical rabbinics.

These paeans of praise, however, served to accentuate the plaintive pleas of others who bemoaned the insufficiency of these services. The limited personnel resources of an assiduously dedicated but overworked C.S.D. staff perforce reduces such occasions of helpfulness to a barest minimum. Tours of duty by staff members and regional conclaves organized by the Yeshiva hardly satisfy the overwhelming needs of congregations. It is indeed a tribute to the competency of the C.S.D. staff that the demand for their services is ever-widening and so insatiable.

At a session devoted to C.S.D. staff reports, and also in lobby and meal-time discussion, a pattern of comment was discernible. Many alumni would wish their congregations more fully embraced by the Yeshiva through a direct organizational affiliation. The Yeshiva Synagogue Council, as presently constituted, is more of a noble aspiration than an achieved realization in most areas of its endeavor. They pray for a continual liaison which should not necessarily be seasonally concurrent with fund-raising, to project the Yeshiva as the parent body and academic patron of their congregations.

Our alumni appreciate, of course, that additional finances are a necessary requisite for extended Yeshiva servicing. They may even concede, perhaps, that some of our colleagues

Our Roshe Hayeshiva

By JACOB GOLDBERG



The beloved Rebbe we honor this month, הרב שמואל גרסטנפלד שליט"א, Rabbi Samuel Gerstenfeld, is a classic example of "Ben Shmonim li-gvorah". Though advanced in years, B. H., and physically weary after a long and active career, his mind is keen and alert, his smile ever-present and warm, his eyes still twinkling and sparkling. No one in the Yeshiva can ever remember when Rabbi Gerstenfeld was less than vigorous and wholehearted in anything he did — in teaching, in counselling, in being a friend to his host of talmidim. He remains to this day tireless and enthusiastic in his work and thought for the cause of Torah. Our Rebbe was born in Rawarusko in Galicia. He showed his aptitude and genius for the Talmud at an early age, and continued his Torah studies at the Klausenberger Yeshiva in Hungary. After receiving S'micha from the then Klausenberger Rebbe R'Moshe Shmuel Glazner, רמ"ג, (a most beautiful and unusual document which is in our Rebbe's proud possession) Rabbi Ger-

have been somewhat less than dedicated in fund-raising. However, it is a logical corollary that an extended affiliation and servicing would redound to the Yeshiva's financial benefit. There is an inescapable connection between financial responsiveness and communal identification.

The C.S.D. represents an impressive stride in community service. Many of our colleagues plead, however, for a virile Synagogue Council and an expanded C.S.D. with additional personnel and financial resources commensurate with the pressing need. These impressions drawn from comments by our fellow colleagues warrant serious consideration by our alumni as well as by the Yeshiva Administration.

Abraham R. Besdin

stenfeld spent twelve years in England working in various capacities at the English Ministry under Chief Rabbi Adler. This was the time when he acquired his famous Oxfordian English accent, which stood him in such good stead in his later years at Yeshiva.

Arriving in America during World War I, he was privileged to meet Dr. Revel שליט"א in 1917, and a few days later was invited to give his first Shiur at Yeshiva. Among his first students in Montgomery Street were talmidim who later became the first American-born traditionally ordained Rabbis in the United States. Our Rebbe pioneered in giving a Shiur in Yoreh Deah, and has maintained to this day a close and personal friendship with his hundreds of students.

Humble, good-natured, sincere and friendly, R. Gerstenfeld has been a beloved figure in the halls of Yeshiva these many years. He has represented to three generations of Yeshiva students "Oxford English with a Beard", (no one else describes *lemifraya* and *meyachshav* as retroactive and prospective) and his ill-concealed disdain for "chazonisheh draidlach" have enlivened many a Shabbos and Simchas Torah Services. Now Professor Emeritus, and resting from an active career, he still finds time for communal affairs and scholarly articles, and receives with love the respectful calls of former talmidim. The walls of his home are adorned with testimonial plaques and tributes from Yeshiva and other organizations. We, his former students and friends, always wish him nachas and contentment for many years to come. We pray for a *refuah shlamah* for the Rebitzen, and for many occasions of joy from children and grandchildren. Rabbi Gerstenfeld will be very pleased to hear from his former talmidim who wish to re-establish a liaison with him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Rabbi Weiss:

... I've enjoyed your column "Modor Hahalacha". Rabbi Norman Lamm's latest contribution ... was very interesting reading. The thought ... is whether you are doing justice to the concept of a "Modor Hahalacha" by printing under its mast head a research paper, no matter how brilliantly or scholarly written.

Even secular research has established a style and format of its own. Certainly *halacha* and *sheilot* and *tshuvot* have a style of their own. If this was a *sheiloh* it should have been addressed to the *gedolim*—if it was a *chidush* or

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Perusing Periodicals

Joseph I. Singer

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Achad Haam will be fully exploited by Jewish publications in popularizing his ideas. Already the September issue of the *Jewish Affairs* had an article by Isaac Gass on Achad Haam — "Is his message valid today"; Trudy Weiss-Rosmarin writes about him in two articles in the December issues of the *Congress Weekly* "Prophet of Jewish Survival."

This centennial will be surely noted by rabbis in sermons and lectures. It is desirable that before rabbis speak about Achad Haam to ascertain what should be their attitude to him. Boruch Kurzweil assigns to Achad Haam an important place in the secularization of the Jewish People. Did Achad Haam consider G-d to be a "decorative relic?" And what role does religion play in his conception of a "Spiritual Center?"

The November issue of the New York University Law Review is devoted mainly to a symposium on the book *Morals and Medicine* by Joseph Fletcher. Rabbi Emanuel Rackman participates in the discussion with an article on "Morality in Medico — legal Problems; a Jewish View." He treats the following challenging problems; patients' right to know the truth, contraception, artificial insemination, sterilization, and euthanasia. Rabbi Rackman presents, on the whole, a balanced approach based on reason and supported by Halachic sources. However, some of his premises and opinions are subjective and require greater study and clarification. He deserves, nevertheless, commendation for his forthright and honest treatment of subjects which did not yet receive any definitive study.

I trust that we shall soon see the day when the rabbis of the Yeshiva and the doctors of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine will undertake fraternal and cooperative studies in order to expound the Jewish attitude on many medical problems.

Mirage over Miami: The National Jewish Post lists in its Miami section the various Synagogues and Temples and indicates the "denomination". I was surprised to see Torah Temple listing itself as "American Judaism." Perhaps Miami became jealous of Moses "a la Hollywood" and decided to go a step further and even make its own brand of American Judaism. I am certain that it is either a printer's mistake or a publicity gimmick. Whatever the cause it is an error. For a Synagogue to designate itself as adhering to "American Judaism" is to express wittingly or unwittingly, its disbelief in the universal and transgeographic character of the Torah which the Seed of Abraham have carried with them from land to land.

Within the Four Ells

By Irving A. Margolies

Yeshiva is experimenting with a new program designed to accommodate students on the college level who have had no previous training in Jewish education. Under the new plan, such students receive a special program of Jewish studies that will qualify them to enter either the Yeshiva or Teacher's Institute within two or three years. Praising this newly created program, Dr. Belkin is quoted as saying: "Nothing could be more beneficial to the Jewish community of America than the process of taking young students with Jewish backgrounds that are almost nil and turning them into well educated Orthodox Jews."

The first two years of the new three-year Smicha plan have just been completed by about 70 candidates for ordination. In addition to Tractate Chulin, Yoreh Deah, Kiddushin with Eben Haezer, the curriculum includes courses in Chumash, Jewish philosophy and Musar. The tape-recording fad is now catching up with Smicha students who find it unnecessary now to take notes during the Rov's Shiur.

Rabbi Moses D. Tendler, newly appointed assistant dean of the College is conducting a class in "Laws Pertaining to Marital Halacha." This course is open to all engaged students, and to seniors who intend leaving Yeshiva upon college graduation.

Among the recent appointments to the college faculty is our own prexy Rabbi Wohlberg as instructor in Bible. In the Graduate Division, Professor Morton Teicher of the University of Toronto has been named Director of the Department of Social Work in our School of Education and Community Administration.

Dr. Irving Agus was promoted to Professor of Jewish History, Dr. Philip Kraus to Professor of Education and Dr. Boris Levinson, whose recent paper on the intelligence of "bums and tramps" drew national attention, was elevated to Professor of Psychology.

Did you know that . . . Yeshiva College has enrolled 137 Freshmen this year and now has a total registration of 430, R.I.E.T. S. leads all schools with 758 enrollment . . . Dr. Belkin opened the new WCBS-TV show "The Way to Go" on Sunday, September 9th. A kinescope of the show which presented the views of Dr. Belkin on many pertinent subjects will soon be available . . . Professor Jekuthial Ginsburg is due to appear on the TV show "Omnibus"; watch for the date . . . athletics at Yeshiva is getting ready for another year of intercollegiate competition. The basketball team, hoping to improve over last year's 16-2 record will visit Scranton and Wilkes Barre in Pa., over the week-end of January 19-20 . . . The College Inn Restaurant located at 1201 Morris Park Avenue, opposite the Medical School, serves excellent dairy and meat meals and is open on Sundays . . . No parking problem.

(Undergraduate information supplied by Seymore Essrog)

RABBINIC WELFARE

By Theo. L. Adams

I feel it is important to bring the following reminder to the attention of our colleagues. The opportunity which the Social Security Law, amended in 1954, gives clergymen to be included in coverages, expires in April 1957. If you are not included by that time you will forfeit your right permanently. This may result in a loss of approximately \$52,000. to your family in the event of your premature death, G-d forbid, or of a life income of \$162.00 per month to yourself on retirement, if G-d spares you. Do not delay! If you have not signed up yet, do so now!

Secure a form from your local Social Security office and send it in to the proper office. When you file your income tax return for 1956, you pay \$128.00 in addition to your regular income tax and you will be protected.

MEMORIAL FUND

Several Alumni have established the Rabbi Murray Tobias Memorial Fund to be distributed yearly to deserving students at Yeshiva. Your co-operation is urgently requested in this venture of memorializing the name of one of the Alumni that passed away at so untimely an age. Send in \$10 to Al Hollander % Chavrusa.

Late Friday Night Service

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we drawing people closer to Judaism. Is it יצא הפסדו בשכרו or יצא שכרו בהפסדו

One can go along with the argument of the duty to draw people to the synagogue by these late services and offer them a Jewish word or thought, only if regular Services are held on time. In functioning the traditional way, the synagogue represents living Judaism, ready to serve each and all. The late Service then is a Service to draw them closer to the living fountain of Judaism. The problem is more acute where the only Services held are late Friday night. Does not the synagogue by its very time schedule lack the active program for 'Shmiras Shabbos'? On the other hand in cases like these where there is no choice about it, this may be the battle ground for Orthodoxy, which must not be abandoned, but every effort be made *Lechachzir Atara Leyoshno*. A serious rabbi with a strong effort and a high goal, with constant reminders and demands, may perhaps produce desired results. It is of course for the highest authorities to decide whether the gains will outweigh the loss and where this cannot be expected. It is noteworthy to mention in this connection the *Braitha* in *Sukka* 31 which says לא מצא אתרוג לא יביא לא פריש ולא רבון ולא דבר אחר.

THE "FISCH" POND

By Mandel H. Fisch

As winter arrived, trepidation filled the air of Chavrusa's smoke filled, Torah filtered press room. We accepted the wounds of time spurred on by chilly responses from our cloaked readers, which lashed against the pond, motivating a concomittant mobilization of waves of indifference. (Our printer gets paid by the word . . . cash is scarce). The breezy friendly messages however, finally melted the icing, and our "frozen assets" are again, as heretofore, dispensed in the form of the latest personals.

1957 Tax Deductions

And Family Additions:

The Maurice L. Schwartz, Bronx, N.Y., a daughter (for those who can make it, they are having a Kiddush reception November 3, 1956 . . . We are slightly late on this announcement but it's "Open House" all day) . . . The Hayim Donins, Detroit, Mich., equalized it with an 8½ lb. son on November 21, 1:25 a.m. (That is 42nd Street Library research at its best!) . . . Then the male avalanche took over: sons to the Milton H. Elefants, Bangor, Me., the Murray Grauers, White Plains, N.Y., the Eli Greenwalds, Sherbrooke, Que., Can. (Here's the first son-in-law and father-in-law combination in R. A. history — this is a grandson to the Berzons, Bklyn., N.Y.) to the Leon Katzs a son, Avram Yitzchok; the Bernard Landers, Y. U. a son . . . Norman Lamm, Springfield, Mass., now a relative of J. B., new son Joshua B. arrived November 17 . . . the Jack Sables, Riverdale, N. Y., toppled the odds with a daughter; Charles Chavel, Edgemere, N.Y., a grandfather.

Mazel Bureau

Morris I. Goldberg, New Orleans, La., announced daughter's marriage to musmach Yehuda Berenson . . . the Sidney Hoenigs, Bklyn., N.Y. observed the Bar Mitzvah of son Hershel . . . other big Bar Mitzvah bombshells came to the Morris H. Finers of C.S.D. and the Dr. Gershon Churgins, Y.U. . . . Teddy Younger, Cleveland, engaged to Marcia Brinsky of T. I. office . . . Solomon Poupko, Columbus, O., aisled with Esther Walkin, Bklyn., N.Y. Both in-laws are rabbis!

Torah Traffic

New chaps in Chaplaincy: Sy Brickman, Sy Tannin, Alfred Thee . . . Izz Miller again Chaplaincy Comm. Chairman . . . Milton Kain back from Korea . . . Bertram Mond retreated from Europe . . . Moshe Cohen spiritual spire at Jericho, L. I. . . Benjamin Gonsky to Mountindale, N. Y., (real Pioneer.) . . . Melvin Burnstein to Brantford Conn., Benjamin Bleich to West Side Jewish Center, N. Y. C. . . . Henry Hoschander installed in Rochester, New York, Izzy Poleyeff in

New Castle, Pa., Max Schreier in Bridgeport Conn; Louis Bernstein in Young Israel of Windsor Park, N. Y. . . . A public installation and reception of 8 musmachim conducted by Philadelphia (and environs) chapter of Yeshiva University Synagogue Council. They were Jacob Hack, Lebanon, Pa., Manfred Rechtschaffen, Lancaster, Pa., Sol Steinmetz, Media, Pa., Hyman Agress, Clayton, N. J., Harry Nussenbaum, Flemington, N. J., Ishmael Cohen, New Brunswick, N. J., Leo Landman and Harold Schechter of Philadelphia — two short of a Minyan.

In The Mail (Male)

A wire from Toronto November 26 reads: "Rabbi Fisch — Thanks for the Mazel Tov in Chavrusa. Baby not expected until January. Please inform whether it's boy or girl. signed Berel Rosenzweig". Dear Berel and Miriam: Still too early to predict? But its a boy. Please confirm same. (Aside: They are really a nice couple)

Nooseworthy Roundup

Private library of N. Twersky, displayed at Port Lewis, Wash. . . . Harry Wohlberg, new prexy of R. A. . . . Bahn, Grauer, Turk, Miller are vices; Joseph H. Lookstein and Sol B. Friedman Honoraries . . . Abe Marcus PHD'd at Buffalo U. . . . Neil Hecht and Joel Balsalm attending Yale Law . . . Honored at Y. U. breakfasts at their respective synagogues; Honest Abe Besdin, Bklyn., N. Y. Seymour Turk, Bklyn., N. Y. Moses Malinowitz, Yonkers, N. Y. . . . Synagogue testimonial to Harold Hershman, Union City, N. J. . . . Joseph H. Lookstein elected member New York City Federation's Board of Trustees . . . David Golovensky, New Rochelle, N. Y. writing a series of articles for "Congress Weekly" . . . Emanuel Rackman received New York City Federation's Annual Rabbinic Award . . . Hershel Schacter, Bronx, N. Y. went to Vienna as a member of an inter-religious committee to supervise religious needs of Hungarian refugees . . . Sidney Hoenig's "Jewish Family Purity" is now in 6th edition . . . The R. C. A. Midwinter Conference headed by Ephraim Kolatch, Long Beach, N. Y. and William Cohen, West Hartford, Conn. due February 4th in Atlantic City . . . R. A. Midwinter Conference, January 21 in New York City.

Condolences

Simon Raskin on sudden loss of mother . . . recent unveiling for Murray Tobias held.

Very Special Bouquet's Dept.

The Young Israel of Montreal, under the leadership of Mendel Lewittes, has made a gift of \$10,000. to a budding Orthodox congregation,

in Val Royal section of Montreal. This gift will make it possible for the congregation to purchase a piece of property on which they will erect a new Orthodox Synagogue. This is the type of Jewish life insurance that more large congregations should be interested in.

APPENDIX (Don't get sick — It's not serious)

Well it's '57 and here we are at the brink of a new calendar year. The rabbi continues to stand in the front line barracks being judged, appraised, praised, dissected, the most talked about man in town and all he wants is a little serenity, tranquillity, privacy and anonymity. Along comes Chavrusa and washes away his dreams. We believe the only time a rabbi is really alone is when he asks for a raise! Send us your personals.

Letters To The Editors

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t'shuva then writing torah has a definite style — *loshon kodesh*.

Rabbi Lamm's piece was a very fine bit of research, so should it not be labeled as such? Again the wise are to be careful with their words and to put into printed English the choice of making a choice between Maimonides and Tosfos does seem a bit risky . . .

(Rabbi) Freddie Wolf

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dear Rabbi Weiss:

First, I should like to congratulate you on your decision to accept halachic articles from our musmachim for your column "Modor Hahalacha". This should stimulate greater halachic interest and activity on our part.

If I may, I would like to voice my disagreement with the basic premise of Rabbi Lamm's article in the September issue of Chavrusa; namely, the equation of the question of Late Friday night services to Maariv of *motzei shabos beshabos*. By praying the *maariv shel motzei shabos beshabos* you necessarily preclude the possibility of *tosefes shabos* by the content of the *maariv shel chol*, however, by praying the late Friday service, you don't preclude the possibility of *tesefes shabos*. One can be *mosef shabos* without *maariv shel shabos* also. I strongly believe that this objection definitely invalidates Rabbi Lamm's premise and hence his entire thesis, which according to him seems to involve so many halachic authorities from Amaraic times through the period of the Ashkenazic and Sephardic Rishonim who presumably aligned themselves on opposite sides of the halachic fence with regard to this recent and contemporary question of Friday night services . . .

(Rabbi) Gilbert L. Shoham