

Community bulletin

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

VOL. IV—No. 5

JUNE, 1952

BY SUBSCRIPTION

Center's Bazaar Very Successful President States

By RUTH GINDI

"The Magen David Bazaar was tremendously successful both financially and socially," declared Mr. Isaac Matalon, President of the Community Center.

The Center's first annual Bazaar which was held the week of May 3rd, opened its doors to the members of our community and neighboring communities who sought fun and bargains.

Mr. Bert Dweck, head of the Bazaar Committee and assisted by Joseph Chabbott, Lou Diamond, Mal Serure, Leo Shamah and many others too numerous to mention deserve thanks for their programming of the Bazaar.

"Club 100, Club 26, Ahi Ezer Congregation, and the C.C.O.B. greatly helped in making a success of their respective evenings," Mr. Matalon stated.

"Thank You's" are also in or-

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Notice

With this issue the COMMUNITY BULLETIN begins its summer vacation. After nine months of faithful service, the hardworking C.B. staff has earned this welcome three-month respite.

So we'll be seeing you come September when the C.B. will resume publication with its Rosh Hashana issue.

First Center Production Billed For June 11th

By SOPHIE DWECK

The first production of the Community Theatre Guild, a dramatic group which is sponsored by the Young Adult Council of the Center, will be Francis Swann's, "Out of the Frying Pan." The play, a comedy in three acts, will be performed Wednesday and Thursday, June 11th and 12th, in the Seth Low Junior High School Auditorium, West 12th Street and Avenue P.

"Out of the Frying Pan," which had a successful run on Broadway some years ago and which was also produced on television recently, starring June Haver, is the story of six budding actors who are trying to get a break in the theatre and their attempts to get a producer, Mr. Kenny, to see their rehearsal.

The cast of 11 will include Morris Ashear, Renee Ades, Paulette Beyda, Pearl Braha, Al Cohen and Sam (Sonny) Laniado as the six prodigies, Walter Serure as the producer, and Marlene Dweck, Norman Greenberg, Marge Hanono, and Sarah Harari as sundry other characters. The play is directed by Sy Motel and the sets are designed by Ezra Cohen. The props are donated by members of the community.

Tickets for the show are on sale at \$1.25 each, at the Center, and they may also be purchased from the members of the cast and the members of the Young Adult Council. There are no reserved seats for the performance, first-come-first-served. Because the school will have to be evacuated early, the play will begin promptly at 8:30 P.M.

The dramatic group was organized as one of the extra-curricular organs of the Center in February.

Twenty Exuberant Amateurs Stage Hectic Show At Center

By CHARLES SUTTON

In what probably marks an historic occasion for this sleepy community, about twenty brash and presumptuous youngsters staged an amateur show at the Center a couple of weeks back, putting on as rough and rowdy a demonstration of raw talent as has been seen by some people in a long time.

But despite its many kinks and rough spots, and its unfortunate lack of facilities, the show was well received by a crowd of about 200 eager and fascinated compatriots. They were fascinated not so much by the mere entertainment value of it all, but rather by the odd fact that there on the stage before them were people whom they knew as friends and acquaintances, people whose talents only three or four years ago would have been lost under a welter of outdated customs and mores.

As far as could be ascertained, a good part of the credit for producing and directing the show goes to Lorraine Betesh.

Master Of Ceremonies

Connecting the acts on stage was master of ceremonies Jack (Dapper) Dweck, a tall, red-headed, somewhat shy young man whose voice, oddly enough is not a little bit like that of a fellow Brooklynite named Phil Silvers.

Alfonse Missry, a teen-ager with a lively and animated sense of humor, opened the show with a good imitation of Johnny Ray. The sad thing about Mr. Missry's performance was not his quick and crackling playfulness on the stage, but rather his singing choice. The fact is, it's always a little disheartening to hear someone with anything remotely resembling a singing voice ape some other singer.

Head Of Appreciation

If anyone in the contest deserved an unqualified heap of

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Customs Are Not Inflexible According To Rabbi Mizrahi

Rabbi Baruch Ben-Haim Mizrahi is one of those rare people whose name is often mistaken but whose intelligence rarely if ever goes unnoticed.

Here two years, the 30-year-old assistant to Rabbi Jacob Kassin, his father-in-law, is still mistaken as Rabbi Baruch, whereas his proper title is Rabbi Mizrahi. But two years have settled one fact in the minds of those who know or have met him: he's something of an intellectual star in the community.

Born in Jerusalem in 1921 of orthodox religious parents, the young Rabbi was educated in the world-famous Porat-Joseph Yeshiva, (known also as the largest Hebrew University in the world before being destroyed in the late Israel-Arab war).

He came here after spending some time as a rabbi in the south of Africa, in a British colony called Southern Rhodesia. But Rhodesia, (despite all the worldly comforts that an aristo-

cratic slave-owning existence lavishes upon a white man down there), did not satisfy all the spiritual needs and ambitions of the Rabbi.

His Way To Brooklyn

Driven by this need for complete spiritual satisfaction and recognition, he finally found his way to Brooklyn, and among a group of people known around the world for their amazing adherence to orthodox Jewish religion. And amidst these people, he has chosen to live and work.

He has some interesting things to say of the community. For example, "It is the only Sephardic group in the United States which is so strong in its ortho-

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Almanac

Date	Lighting Of Candles
June 6	8:04
June 13	8:08
June 20	8:11
June 27	8:12
July 4	8:11
July 11	6:08

NOTE: Above times are
Daylight Savings Time

Community Bulletin

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Our Pledges

Walking through the corridors of the Center, one cannot but ask himself why the place hasn't been painted. After all, he might well reason, the building has been open for more than a year, yet the hall and Yeshiva classrooms are still naked of any paint.

Goodness knows that the hard-working and very much concerned officers of the Center are quite conscious not only of this missing item but of many others essential to the dignified appearance and proper functioning of the building. That they are most anxious to complete the job goes without saying.

But for those who wonder, the reason is quite obvious, namely lack of adequate funds. However, merely to limit the answer to this phrase would be inaccurate, or at least incomplete.

Has Ample "Funds"

The Center, in a sense, has ample funds to meet both the cost of these immediate requirements and many deferred major improvements as well. These "funds" are tied up in that well-known and oft-referred to item called "Uncollected Pledges."

This item, representing more than \$80,000, will soon be the basis for a concerted fund-raising effort on the part of the board of directors, and all those who have made pledges in the past—of whatever amount—will be solicited.

When contacted, the answer should be "Where shall I send the check?" These pledges are long overdue; so also are the necessary improvements to our Center. Let's pay up the pledges and finish the job.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
of the
MAGEN DAVID FEDERATION

As the newly elected Chairman of the Magen David Federation I believe it is important to understand the purpose in forming the Federation and to outline the functions it is performing. We have within our Community certain institutions that are necessary to the welfare of our people. These are the Yeshiva, Talmud Torah, Community Center, Maoz and Near East. Each of these institutions performs its own individual function and is essential in its own sphere in the work it performs.

The Federation was formed in order to avoid any possible conflict between these worthwhile institutions in the raising of funds for their operation. The use of the Federation as a central agency for the raising of funds for several independent institutions is too well established to be questioned at this point. Moreover, it acts as a neutral agency to determine how the total amount collected is to be divided and at the same time reduces the number of fund raising drives that would otherwise be necessary.

Just as we have included other organizations in our Community in the Federation, likewise we have recently included the Magen David Community Center. It, too, performs an important function in the social life of our Community and is deserving of our utmost support.

As you know, the Federation Committee has just been reorganized and consists of seventeen members composed of representatives from the different synagogues, the clubs, the Center, Talmud Torah, Yeshiva, Maoz and Near East. Our annual budget is estimated at \$100,000, and is absolutely necessary in order to support adequately all of these affiliated institutions, including the Center.

It occurs to me that our Community is strikingly different from most other communities in that all of us residing in Bensonhurst and Ocean Parkway are directly or indirectly related by marriage or by blood relationships. In that sense ours is in reality a family—a large family—and for that reason the bonds between us should be all the stronger. Instead of Magen David Community our name should rightfully be Magen David "Family." Our interests, therefore, in these organizations that are affiliated with the Federation arise not merely because we live in the same Community, but because we have that deeper interest in them that only comes from a close blood relationship.

It should, therefore, be accepted by all of us without question that we should individually and willingly donate our fair share toward the support of the organizations included within the Federation. This is not a matter of charity, but rather an obligation that should be undertaken without question and without pressure of any sort. It is an obligation that is very similar to one's obligation as head of a family to see that the members of his family receive the best care that his income will permit. No man would want to refuse to shoulder his fair share of our joint burden, and if we all willingly perform our obligation toward the organizations comprising the Federation, we are bound to succeed in this most worthwhile work.

It should be a matter of pride to us that we

Serviceman At Bat

Dear Editors:

I have been receiving the C.B. each month since I've been in the Army and I would like to write a few lines about what I think of our paper.

The articles about who is going out with whom are interesting and help keep the boys in the service up to date as to what is going on.

I was particularly interested in the news about the Center and the role that the young people are playing in planning the various activities around the Center. It is a tremendous step forward. The combination of experienced people and inexperienced people on the Board is a very good idea. The older folks can supply the know how and the youth, the zeal which they alone are capable of contributing.

There are a few things that I feel are lacking and their inclusion may help the paper.

1. Letters from the men in service telling about things of interest here in Europe or wherever they happen to be stationed.

2. Cultural articles like book reviews, essays, short stories, and poetry by famous Jewish writers. There are many people who do not know of these authors and I think you will be doing the community a great service by introducing them.

3. News about important events in Israel. How the country is developing and what the major obstacles are. Very few newspapers carry this news, and it should be known by all.

I hope these few lines will help give the editors an idea of what some of us think of the paper. We appreciate the job you are doing. Keep up the good work.

Yours,

MORRIS COHEN

Wiesbaden, Germany

IN MEMORY OF
RABBI SELIM ASHKENAZI (Blessed Be Hel)

By **JACK MARSHALL**

Oh, hail to thee noble spirit
Seer of ages gone by,
Who by the Sweet Kiss of the Master
Has ascended to the sky.
To those who thou hath loved most
Hast thou softly rose to meet,
To Israel's great Treasured Host
Hast thou sped, in Death to greet.
Oh Look! Oh hear! For one so dear
They, on sorrowed earth, do mourn,
Behold! See here, a fallen tear
For such shall ne'er be born.
Beside fair David's shalt thy
Throne be set
For on this earth, much anguish
Thou hast met.
Farewell, farewell! Have a gentle flight
For thine is much of Heaven's Light.

can point to our Community as self-supporting and that our people recognize their obligation to see that the total sum necessary to carry on our annual budget is raised. I know that I can count on the support of every person in our Community, and I look forward to a year of activity and worthwhile achievement.

JOSEPH ASHEAR

Center Amateurs Give Hectic Show

(Continued from Page 1)

appreciation for his or her performance, it was "little" Frances Dayan.

Miss Dayan is no Martha Graham (a professional), but she performed her own modern dance to the music of "On The Trail," from the Grand Canyon Suite, in a manner which made the music literally yawn and gallop as you might expect it to do if it were suddenly to become alive. It was a refreshing and wonderful pleasure to watch her.

A fellow named Al Cohen, decked in a white robe and brandishing the quick, clipped utterances of a sophisticated Arab from Brooklyn, proved to be something of a major sensation. Peppered with genuine good humor, Mr. Cohen's act, however, contained a bit too much slapstick for comfort.

Clearly Rooted

But he was funny, and the act, based upon a fine idea, deserves further development; for it's something clearly rooted in the community.

Ruth Tawil sang a couple of popular tunes with the zest and lustiness of a veteran performer, while Sarah Esses and Walter Serure did a pleasant job in a singing duet.

Charles Harary, Grace Levy, Shirley Sutton, Florence Schleicher, Carol Schwartz, Abe Sasson and Morris Ades and a few others whose names were missed performed with a courage that can only be likened to that of a hunter who, facing his first lion, chooses to fight instead of run.

Bazaar Very Successful; Credit Goes To Many

(Continued from Page 1)

der to the merchants who contributed merchandise so generously, to Mrs. Joyce Betesh, Mrs. Pauline Grazi, Mrs. Victoria Altaras, and the other members of the Ladies Auxiliary, to the Young Adult Council and all the volunteer workers who worked so zealously and lastly to the entire community for their enthusiastic response.

The proceeds acquired from the Bazaar will be reinvested in the Center with the hope of bettering the Community.

And Summer, Too!

The always-alert Young Adult Council announces that its program and social functions will continue during the Summer hiatus. Events are being planned for the young folks both here in Brooklyn and in Bradley Beach.

Customs Changeable Rabbi Mizrahi Says

(Continued from Page 1)

dox way. There are others, but not half so strong.

"If this community were like the others," he adds, "it would not command as much recognition as it does."

Separation, or the tendency among Syrian Jews to lock themselves off from other groups, both Ashkenazi and Christian, has kept the community strong and given it its name, he explains.

Nevertheless, there is a growing contradiction in the community, warns the Rabbi. "There's a conflict between youth and the adult generation, and we can't go on this way for long."

Can Continue To Live

At the same time, he adds, there is no reason to feel that the two ways of life can't get together. The Rabbi contends that the youth, "who have been brought up in the tradition of this country," can continue to live a modern life without diluting the orthodoxy of their religion.

The key to the problem of merging the two ways of life lies in an understanding of Jewish law, declares the Rabbi.

Essentially, it is his feeling that some of the laws upon which life in this community are based are not rooted in original Jewish law, but instead are the off-spring of age-old customs and folklore. It is the latter group which can be modified so as to permit a greater compatibility of orthodox Jewish religion and 20th century living, he thinks.

As the Rabbi puts it: "We must adapt the customs and traditions that we have in such a way that they will be based upon original Jewish law."

—C. S.

I & M Luncheonette
21 West 37th St.
New York City

Six Community G.I.'s Meet In Nurnberg On Passover



Here is a picture of the six Brooklyn boys who got together last Passover. They are, left to right, Pfc. Eddie Shamosh, Pfc. Chichi Dweck, Haskel E. Doueck, Pfc. Robert Missry, Sgt. Michael Mamiye and Pfc. Melvin (Bimbo) Blumenthal.

NURNBERG, Germany, (SY Overseas Tele-Special)—Six Brooklyn SY boys, presently stationed at various military Posts throughout Germany, held a re-union in the city of Nurnberg during the recent Passover holy days.

After attending Seder services at their various camps, they converged on Nurnberg and spent the first three days of the holy days together. Each camp made special arrangements to set up clubs and special halls to hold the Seder services. Kosher wine, matzoh, and chicken with all the trimmings, prepared by a Jewish community in Holland, was provided, with the food donated by the Jewish Welfare Board of New York.

Who Was There

Included in the get-together were: Pfc Eddie Shamosh, (don't have his parents name or his unit); Pfc Chichi Dwek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Selim A. Dwek, Beirut, Lebanon, and related to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Esses, 1972—62nd Street; Pfc Haskel E. Doueck, son of Mrs. Victoria Doueck, 2166—63rd Street.

Also in the gathering were Pfc Robert Missry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Missry, 2150—63rd Street; Sgt Michael Mamiye, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mamiye, 451 Avenue "S"; Pfc Melvin (Bimbo) Blumenthal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Blumenthal, 1118 Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Story submitted by Sgt. Michael Mamiye

Mr. and Mrs. Abdo Sultan

Wish Everyone A Very Happy Summer

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Center's First Educational Films Get An Enthusiastic Reception

By NORMA SUTTON

The Center's first attempt at an educational program through the use of films found an enthusiastic reception the first evening it was shown. The three films entitled "Courtship and Marriage for Young Moderns," dealt with the varied problems arising in present-day social relations.

Typical of those who felt that the films were of definite merit was Nudie Cohen who thought "that the second and third films contained a very good moral for all, but the first was definitely on a very low intellectual level." Favorably commenting was Pat Doueck who said, "that they definitely helped young people to understand the confused social standards of life."

In sharp disagreement with these remarks was Jet Schwelky, who claimed the situations in the "first film were very much unrelated and inappropriate" and resulted in less interest in the film. Jean Dayan felt that "though not apropos to the Syrian community, the questions posed are of general interest and importance."

Believing the subject "of extreme importance in our community," Walter Serure declared "the films showed that there must be more than 'just a certain feeling' towards the other party to a marriage."

MILESTONES

MARRIED

Alice Ades.....Morris Setton
Nellie Dayan.....Morris Tadjer
Jacqueline Kooperman.....
Morty Hirsch

ENGAGED

Rita Tawil.....Edouard Setton
Sonia Cohen.....Joe Betesh
Sylvia Labaton.....Ralph Betesh
Esther Betesh.....Hyman Haddad

BIRTHS

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mizrahi...Boy
Mr. & Mrs. David B. Cohen..Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Zookie Shamah..Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Blanco.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Ike Esses.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Mach.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Murray Shabot...Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Sutton.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tawil.....Boy

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THIS AND THAT

By EENIE, MEENIE, MINIE and MOE

OUR "FOREIGN LEGION" . . .

ROLL OUT THE BARREL: A new group in our community is spreading slowly but surely. This group now widely known as the "Foreign Legion" consists in fact of a brand new generation who has come to make its home in this country from different parts of the world mainly Egypt, Syria, Haiti, French Morrocco, etc. Now, recruits from South America are closing in to "fill up the gaps."

We note with pleasure the recent engagement of one of our supporters Edouard Setton (known as Azrak) to Miss Rita Tawil, whose wedding will take place very soon. Good Bye Jamaica and our best wishes to the new couple.

HENRY ALDRICH: The other day one of our adherents J. S. manifested the desire of approaching Miss P. B. on more friendly basis, but our E. T. didn't even give him a chance. By the time he was ready to ask her out, E. T. had already arranged a date with her for the very same Saturday! Hard Luck, J. S.! You are too late. Fasten your belt and next time reserve your comments and act quick. Later, for some reason, the date was called off and neither one had succeeded.

Ocean Parkway beauties are giving our "Egyptian Dancer" a hard time, or vice-versa. He arrived from "The Land of Pyramids" only about 6 months ago but has already become a popular Don Juan in our Center. Anyway, rumors are spreading fast and, in no time, we will be able to announce a good match.

HAPPY TIMES: Life in Venezuela was depicted at a party given lately by the Abadi girls. Our lovely "Ballet Dancer" Bertha performed for a few minutes to keep the boys quiet, but could only drive them crazier! . . . The Foreign Legion was helping sister Connie celebrate her 21st birthday on a "one candle cake" . . . The party was a success and the boys had a lot of fun . . . her sister, Chela, is leaving us soon to join her fiance in Venezuela where the wedding will take place. May we wish her and her "husband-to-be" the best wishes of our Foreign Legion.

SENTIMENTAL DOINGS: The camera of our reporter has spotted, on a Saturday evening, at the "Riviera" a strictly Foreign Legion party. A few couples, very well matched, deserve your attention . . . amongst them, we noted E.D. with a newcomer from Panama, R.H. . . . Our Egyptian Dancer was this time seen dancing the Tango with his tall brunette. She does not like him to dance Syrian but does it herself. Hands off, boys. She is taken!

Good Job, Foreign Legion. Keep going, you are gaining strength.

SHADES OF NOAH: The rains came and down the drain went the lunch-baskets . . . with them the hopes of new romantic attachments . . . many a young folk peered from their warm (and dry) beds and went back under the covers. Our community's first boat-ride to Bear Mountain was thus never realized. Better weather next time.

FEMALE JOE DiMAGS: Trek out to the Seth Low ball park these Sunday afternoons . . . the figures won't disappoint you . . . there you will view our future female Joe DiMaggios and Ted Williams' in the persons of Shirley Kassin and Linda Betesh . . . keep hitting those long drives.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT: We're happy to note that another one of our community has passed the New York Bar Examination and is on his way to becoming another member of an honorable profession . . . Our Congratulations to Charles M. Sutton . . . Also due for the community's bouquets is Eddie Labaton who was accepted by both Harvard and Yale Law Schools. We understand he favors Yale and he expects to begin his studies in September.

AIRLIFT: Some kind of a medal should be pinned on the broad chest of Saul Dayan for his six-day isolated vigil in the Lederle Laboratories at Pearl River, N. Y. . . . As one of the scientists there he had to be fed by helicopter airlift while he was strikebound, and helped keep the thousands of animals alive.