



CHAVRUSA

בייה

**YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
RABBINIC ALUMNI**

אין התורה נקנית אלא בהכורה
ברכות ס"ג

VOL. 3, NO. 4

SUMMER, 1959

Y. U. R. A. CONVENTION NOVEMBER 9-11

Plans for the Alumni convention are already made according to our president, Rabbi Israel Miller. Rabbi Ephraim Kolatch, Long Beach, New York has been appointed chairman and Rabbi Max Schreier, Bridgeport, Conn., co-chairman. This year's convention will be held P.G. Mon., Tues. and Wednesday, November 9, 10, 11 immediately after the High Holiday and Succoth at the Brunswick Hotel in Lakewood, N. J. Most alumni are already acquainted with the excellent facilities of the hotel which include an indoor swimming pool and a health club.

Another first in convention programming will be credited to this administration. The convention plans to take a subject in Jewish congregational life and treat it exhaustively in all its aspects: halachically, programmatically and philosophically. Papers by our Alumni who will have done research in an aspect of the subject will be read and Alumni reported to have practical ideas on the subject will be involved in the panel workshops as discussants. Thus, through these deliberations convention delegates

will come away with a wealth of material to aid them in their calling.

The theme of this year's convention will be the Sabbath. This subject was chosen because of its importance and its centrality in Jewish life. Sessions will be devoted to Sabbath halacha, with emphasis on the practical, the philosophy of Sabbath as an institution in Jewish life, a rationale of its laws and the possible programs of interest that can be created for the Sabbath on the synagogue, adult, youth and even family level to amplify its spirit.

Included in the program are a workshop on the Friday Evening which will include such topics as the Service, Attendance techniques, Oneg Shabbat,

Forums. A workshop on the Sabbath Morning will discuss An Effective Bar Mitzvah Service, How to Make Ein Yaakov, Mishna, Chumash, etc. more Alive with Supplementary Materials and New Approaches, Youth Groups on Sabbath Afternoon, The Seudah Shlishis as a Social and Educational Force and a workshop on the Philosophical Concepts
(continued on page 4)

ALUMNI SHIUR, AN APPRECIATED PROGRAM

This administration of the Alumni will be remembered as a pioneering one in increasing the opportunities of learning for the Rabbinic Alumni. Every month, on the third Wednesday of the month, at eight in the evening, Rabbinic Alumni gather from New York and neighboring cities to hear words of Torah from our great teacher, Rabbi Soloveitchik. This year the tractate of Megillah was chosen for study.

The program started in May and so far the average attendance has been over 200. This proves that our colleagues were just waiting for such an opportunity and are taking full advantage of it. "Maareh makomos" are sent out in advance and Alumni come prepared to Shiur. Individual attendance is exceptionally regular.

It is interesting that Alumni not in the rabbinate but in other fields attend in great numbers. In instituting the program the committee especially arranged for the evening hour so that these "forgotten Alumni" could be present.

Efforts are being made for those out-of-town colleagues who cannot attend to receive outlines of the Shiur prepared by some of the members of Rabbi Soloveitchik's class.

Rabbi Leonard Rosenfeld is the chairman of the Shiur committee.

CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMEN



Rabbi Ephraim Kolatch



Rabbi Max Schreier

CHAVRUSA

is published by the Rabbinic Alumni of Yeshiva University, in cooperation with the Community Service Division of Yeshiva University, Amsterdam Ave., and 186 Street, N.Y. 33, N.Y.

Dr Samuel Belkin*President*
Yeshiva University
Rabbi Israel Miller*President*
Rabbinic Alumni
Rabbi Morris H. Finer*Director, CSD*
Rabbi Abraham R. Besdin*Editor*
Rabbi Moses Malinowitz*Asst. Editor*
Rabbi Jacob Goldberg*Asst. Editor*
Rabbi Solomon J Spiro*Exec. Editor*

Editorial Board**Rabbis**

Theodore Adams — *Rabbinic Welfare*; Morris H. Finer — *C.S.D.*; Jacob Goldberg — *Our Roshe Hayeshiva*; Sidney B. Hoenig — *Books*; Emanuel Holzer — *Alumni Profiles*; Joseph I. Singer — *Periodicals*; Solomon J. Spiro — *Alumni Personals*; Joseph Weiss — *Halacha*.

Vol. 3, No. 4

Summer, 1959

EDITOR'S PREROGATIVE

by Rabbi Abraham R. Besdin

With this issue, we conclude three years of active liaison between the Rabbinic Alumni and C.S.D. in the publication of *Chavrusa* and *Ideas*. Despite many difficulties, both administrative and pecuniary, we have managed to maintain a regularity in publication and to achieve standards of relative merit.

The Rabbinic Alumni Publications Committee is deeply appreciative of the spirited cooperation of the entire C.S.D. staff and, particularly, of the zealous dedication of Rabbi Solomon J. Spiro, executive editor of *Chavrusa* and *Ideas*. Rabbi Spiro is both affable and efficient and it has been a pleasurable experience working with him.

Felicitations are especially in order to Rabbi Spiro and to his lovely wife, Sema, as he leaves the C.S.D. staff to assume the rabbinic helm of the Jewish Congregation of St. Martin, of (Montréal) Canada.

We extend our heartiest good wishes to all our Alumni and to their families for a pleasurable and healthy summer.

OUR ROSHE YESHIVA

by Rabbi Jacob Goldberg



**Rabbi Menachem Mendel
Yosef Zaks**

It is a pleasure this month to salute one of the most illustrious Talmudic personalities on the roster of Yeshiva greats Ho-rav Menachem Mendel Yosef Zaks (הרב מנחם מנדל זקס). The bearer of a great and revered tradition of learning, dedicated to the task of awakening and sustaining the enthusiasm of the young for the wisdom of the old, Ho-rav Zaks has occupied a role of major importance in Yeshiva education since his coming to Yeshiva in 1947.

Ho-rav Zaks' position in the educational system of our beloved Yeshiva is of pivotal importance. It is his task — his labor of love is the truer phrase — to acquaint himself with the measure of learning of each incoming "bochur", to assign him to his proper "shiur", and to evaluate his progress as he rises to higher levels of learning throughout the years. Combining rare erudition and mastery of the Talmudic Sea with a warm and friendly personality that shines through sparkling eyes, Ho-rav Zaks is the beloved mentor of thousands of talmidim who have thrived under his loving care.

Ho-rav Zaks represents one of the last great products of Lithuanian Torah learning. A native of Shidlova, a small town in 'Litte', he studied in the Yeshiva K'nesses Bais Yitzchak in Slabodka (forerunner of the Kamenetzar Yeshiva) and imbibed the waters of Torah from the famous R. Boruch Bear and R. Yitzchak Ponavetzer, זצ"ל. He climaxed

his studies under the saintly Chofetz Chaim, whose son-in-law he became, in the Radiner Yeshiva. In 1925, he became the ממלא מקום of his great and beloved father-in-law and entered upon an illustrious activity as head of the Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva for 16 years.

The Second World War caught the Radiner Yeshiva in a web of tragedy. After an odyssey of escape and travel through Siberia and Japan, Ho-rav Zaks, together with his family and a few talmidim arrived in America in 1941.

Their miraculous salvation was due in no small measure to the efforts of Dr. Belkin and Dr. Sar, who used their influence to bring this great scholar to the shores of our free land.

Ho-rav Zaks has succeeded in transplanting the "derech" of the European Yeshiva to the new challenging environment of 20th century America. His vibrant voice and traditional gesture prod the young minds of the students to fathom the profound mysteries of our ancient lore. He is very proud of the growth of our Yeshiva (and he means the Yeshiva proper) and affirms the tremendous progress b'kamus uv'aichus, the greater organization in learning and the more intense hamadah found in Yeshiva walls.

Ho-rav Zaks heartily endorses the present system under which every class studies the same mesechet (next year the Yeshiva will learn P'sachim).

He is equally proud of the achievements and growth of the Yeshivas Chofetz Chayim, which has taken firm root and is thriving vigorously in midtown New York. It is at present a Yeshiva Ketanah of over 200 students, directed by his son Rabbi Hirsh Zaks שליט"א and a unique Kollel which learns every afternoon with Horav Zaks himself at the helm. Thus our rebbe puts in a full day of creative and holy activity as a talmudic master.

We are very happy to say to our rebbe and his dear family of children and grandchildren, "May the blessings of heaven continue to shine upon your life and career producing much nachas and great success in inculcating Torah and sustaining Israel's allegiance to G-d."

ALUMNI PROFILES

by Rabbi Emanuel Holzer

Rabbi Joseph Lookstein began his rabbinic service at the Kings Highway Jewish Center in 1922 where he served for a year. In 1923 he came to Kehilath Jeshurun as assistant to Rabbi M. S. Margolis. He received his Smicha in 1926, and became Rabbi of Kehilath Jeshurun in 1936 following the death of Rabbi Margolis.

Rabbi Lookstein received his B.A. in 1928 from City College and his M.A. in 1929 from Columbia. The dissertation for his doctorate in the field of Sociology at Columbia was accepted but never published. In 1949, Yeshiva University conferred a Doctor of Divinity upon him. In 1931 he began to teach Homiletics and Practical Rabbinics at Yeshiva. Two years later he introduced a course in Jewish Sociology at Yeshiva, the first given in any college in the United States. He now also teaches this course at Stern College.

Rabbi Lookstein was one of the organizers of Bet Midrash La Morot in 1929. This institution recently amalgamated with Teachers Institute for Women at Yeshiva. As administrator, teacher and fund-raiser at \$1.00 a year basis, Rabbi Lookstein was active with the Institution until 1936 when he established the Ramaz School, the first progressive Jewish Day School in the United States.

Many organizations derive leadership from Rabbi Lookstein. He is past president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the New York Board of Rabbis, the Vaad Hachlnuch Hatorane and a member of the Board of Governors of Bar Ilan University. He also served on the Vaad Hapoel of Mizrahi of America and on the Zionist Commission Committee and the New York Hillel Commission. He was chairman of the Latin American Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Chaplaincy Commission of the JWB.

Our subject is a prolific writer and has many articles and monographs to his credit. *What Is The Nature of Man* has an article entitled "Sacred Image of Man" written by Rabbi Lookstein and the Jewish Quarterly Review has an article on the first two hundred years of Jewish life in America by him. "What is Orthodox Judaism?", "Jewish Existentialism" and "Jewish Existentialism As It Applied to Hasidism", "The Jewish Definition of Life", "Goals of Jewish Education", are among the many titles of articles and monographs by Rabbi Lookstein. In connection with his course

**Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein**

in Jewish Sociology, he has compiled readings in the varieties of Jewish nationalism, which includes a number of substantial excerpts from the Hebrew and Yiddish that have never been translated before.

Rabbi Lookstein is married to the former Gertrude Schlang and they are blessed with two children, a daughter Natalie, and a son, Haskel. Natalie received her Master's in Sociology at Columbia, is married and has 4 children. Haskel is assistant rabbi at Kehilath Jeshurun and is following a family tradition of 13 generations of rabbis.

Rabbi Lookstein feels our greatest challenge today is to get away from ad hoc type of Judaism. We had to make certain interim concessions as a result of the fact that we had lost a generation. Had traditional Judaism at that time come with major demands we might not have been able to capture the American Jewish community. Many of us were forced by circumstances to let certain aspects of the status quo stay in an ad hoc kind of Judaism.

For a certain period of time American Judaism, from the traditional point of view, was sliding downhill. We have arrested the downhill trend and turned the cart around. The challenge now is to start going uphill. How? The answer lies in education. Rabbi Lookstein would like to see the congregation school turned into a Hebrew Day School wherever possible.

Our strongest allies are the youngsters educated in the Day School. They will become our ambassadors into the home.

C S DOINGS

by Rabbi Morris H. Finer

G-dspeed, Rabbi Spiro

Rabbi Solomon J. Spiro, on CSD staff for the past five years, has accepted the call of a new congregation recently organized in his own home town, Montreal. He is becoming the first rabbi of the Hebrew Congregation of St. Martin.

As Director of our Program Department and Lecture Bureau and as advisor to the Association of Men's Clubs, Sol was a devoted and valuable member of our staff. Our loss is the gain of the Jewish community of St. Martin. We wish Sol and his charming wife, Seema, every success and happiness in the years ahead.

The appointment of a successor to Rabbi Spiro will be announced shortly. There will be no curtailment or diminution in the services hitherto offered by CSD.

Israel Summer Institute

Twenty-eight teen agers, participants in the Third Annual Israel Summer Institute sponsored by our Youth Bureau, are now enjoying an exhilarating and inspiring stay in Eretz. Guides this year are Rabbi and Mrs. Leon D. Stitskin and Rabbi Israel Wohlgelemler.

The group is not only seeing the sights and observing Jewish life in the Holy Land at first hand but is also receiving an intensive course in Torah studies as well as a rich experience in Torah living. The project is conducted in co-operation with the Jewish Agency through whose good offices Israeli "madrichim" are assigned to the group and arrangements in Israel are expedited.

It is an immensely rewarding experience and we urge you to enroll the young people in your community in the program next year.

Tri-State Council of Synagogues

At the invitation of twelve congregations in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana area, CSD was instrumental in organizing the Tri-State Council of Traditional Synagogues. An initial meeting of the rabbis of these congregations took place in Dayton early in July. The first full conference of congregational representatives is scheduled to be held in the early Fall.

Rabbi Sam Fox of Dayton was elected Chairman of the Council's Rabbinic Advisory Committee. Rabbi Stanley Wagner of Lexington is serving as the Council's liaison with CSD.

(continued on page 4)

PERSONALIA by Rabbi Solomon J. Spiro**Births:**

Rabbis Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Halifax, N. S., a son, Zev Joseph . . . Rabbi Zelo Schusheim, N. Y. C., a son . . . Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, Stamford, Conn., a son . . . Rabbi Leonard M. Buchen, Perrineville, N. J., a son . . . Rabbi Harold Perlman, N. Y. C., a son Isaac Zvi . . . Rabbi Abraham Berman, N. Y. C., first daughter . . . Rabbi E. Rothschild, N. Y. C. first daughter . . . Rabbi Aaron Feder, a son, first child . . . Rabbi Label Green, a son, first child . . . Rabbi Isaac Suna, a girl, first child . . . Rabbi Seymour Brickman, a son, Joshua Howard, first child . . . Rabbi Joel Laks, a son . . .

Bar Mitzvah:

Rabbi Dr. Bernard A. Poupko, Pittsburgh, Pa., Bar Mitzvah of son, Joel Ephraim . . . Rabbi Jacob Handler Bar Mitzvah of son . . . Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Lawrence, L. I., Bar Mitzvah of son, Joel Simcha . . .

Marriages:

Rabbi Samuel Rabinowitz, Newark, N. J., to Shulamith Tellem . . . Miriam Stitskin, daughter of Dr. Leon Stitskin, Yeshiva, to Dr. Oscar Kratzer . . . Judith Turk, daughter of Rabbi Seymour Turk, Brooklyn, N. Y., to Bernard Raab . . . Miriam Bergman, daughter of Rabbi Bernard Bergman, N. Y. C., to Rabbi Avram Koshitzky . . . Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, N. Y. C., to Audrey Katz. . . . Rabbi Melvin Burnstein to Feiga Helfgott . . . A double Yeshiva Simcha: — Rabbi Emanuel Forman to Maxine, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Jacob Leibowitz . . . Chaplain Manfred M. Rechtschaffen to Renee Landau in Brussels, Belgium . . . Rabbi David Rogoff to Shulamit Drandoff . . .

Miscellanea:

Rabbi Meir Felman, Brooklyn, N. Y., dedicated his new Talmud Torah building . . . Rabbi Jacob Green, Baltimore, Md., tendered Bar Mitzvah Dinner for

13th year in the rabbinate . . . Rabbi Mandel Fisch, Brooklyn, N. Y., and his wife on radio station WEVD, N. Y. C. in half hour program . . . Rabbi Yehuda Berenson, N. Y. C., appointed instructor in mathematics at Hofstra College . . . Rabbi Leonard Rosenfeld, N. Y. C., directs Ulpan courses in conversational Hebrew at Yeshiva Graduate School . . . Rabbi Samuel J. Fox, Lynn, Mass., received PhD from Harvard this year . . . Rabbi Paul Hait, Flushing, N. Y., dedicated new building . . . Rabbi Nahum B. Shulman, Middle Village, N. Y., organized first Jewish School for Mentally Retarded Children. It is called the Maimonides Institute . . . Rabbi Reuben Gross, N. Y. C., appointed to staff of American Religion and Psychiatry as a Graduate Fellow in Psychotherapy and also appointed as Chaplain of Brooklyn Veteran's Administration Hospital . . . Rabbi Herman Zwillenberg, Little Neck, N. Y., broke ground for new building.

Rabbi Joseph I. Singer broke ground for new edifice, Manhattan Beach Jewish Community Center . . . Rabbi Norman Twersky of Lawrence, Mass. received signal honor at a community-wide Testimonial Dinner sponsored by the Very Reverend Edward J. Carney, O.S.A., Roman Catholic dignitary . . . Rabbi and Mrs. Philip Kaplan presented to Queen Elizabeth when she visited Sarnia, Ont., Canada, in July . . . Rabbi Samuel Blinder dedicated new building acquired by his Shule, Congregation Sons of Abraham, Albany, N. Y. . . . Rabbi Meyer Kramer of Philadelphia broke ground for new School structure, Congregation Adath Zion . . . Among our musmachim specializing in "gittin" practice is Rabbi Meyer Hirschman, 7701 — 20th Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Condolences:

Rabbi Israel Lerner, Great Neck, N. Y., upon loss of son . . . Rabbi Norman Bernhardt, Wichita, Kansas, on loss of father . . . Rabbi Hershel Schacter, Bronx, N. Y., on loss of father-in-law.

C S DOINGS

(continued from page 3)

Other rabbinic participants are Rabbis Hyman Cohen, David Indich and Bernard Greenfield of Cincinnati, Ohio; Rabbis Samuel Rubenstein and David Stavsky of Columbus, Ohio; Rabbi Maurice Gross of Lima, Ohio; Rabbi Nehemia Katz of Toledo, Ohio; Rabbis Milton Polin and Solomon Roodman of Louisville, Ky.; and Rabbi Seymour Weller of Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Among the activities being planned for the coming year are a Council Bulletin, a lecture tour, an educational conference and a regional youth conclave.

Operation "Information, Please"

Very soon you (if you are in the pulpit rabbinate) will be receiving from CSD a questionnaire designed to secure information about your congregation, its membership, facilities, personnel, program and activities. This will be our periodic survey of synagogues served by our musmachim (the last such survey was made about five years ago) and should provide valuable religio-sociological data to give us a better picture of the constitution and complexion of the American Jewish community today.

Please co-operate by supplying the requested information promptly. The results of the survey will be made public at the forthcoming Rabbinic Alumni Convention in November.

CONVENTION

(continued from page 1)

of Sabbath including interpreting Sabbath to the layman. The latter workshop will be divided into various levels such as adults, college youth and teen-agers.

A workshop for the Rebitzen will explore ways in which the rabbi's family can be kept occupied with Sabbath oriented projects.

The final day of the convention will consist of a program of reports on the various workshops, resolutions, elections and an installation of newly elected officers. Since many workshops will be simultaneous, Alumni will be urged to remain until this last session to hear reports on various workshops which they will not have had an opportunity to attend.

With the new approach to convention programming the convention committee looks forward to a record attendance. Alumni are urged to reserve as soon as reservation notices are sent to them.

IN MEMORIAM
RABBI BENJAMIN LAPIDUS

of Cleveland, Ohio

was called to his eternal reward

Tammuz 1, 5719 — July 7, 1959

Our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family

ת'נ'צ'ב'ה

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rabbi Israel Miller

With the advent of summer and the plans for our annual convention almost complete, I proudly look back with great satisfaction upon many of the Rabbinic Alumni activities sponsored by our group during the course of the past year.

I know that all of you join me in the gratification I feel at the overwhelming success of our Chevra Shas. The Beis Hamidrash was comfortably filled at each Shiur, with more than 300 of our Alumni in attendance. I need not tell you that it is impossible for us to fully express our thanks to Rav Soloveitchik for taking time from his busy schedule once each month to be our *Rebbe* in the truest sense of the word. The more we hear him, the greater is our appreciation of him and the greater nostalgia we feel for our student days. We, of course, intend to continue the Shiurim in the fall.

Several of our chaverim have complained about the fact that the Shiurim are given in the evening hours and at the Yeshiva, rather than at a more centrally located place. We chose the Yeshiva for the obvious reason that it is *the* House of Learning for all of us, and because we felt that it would serve a positive purpose for the students to see Alumni return to their Alma Mater for a regular Shiur. The evening hours were selected in order to make it convenient for the many Alumni who are not in the active Rabbinate to attend. On both scores the results were satisfying.

I hope that those who have not registered for the Chevra Shas this year will do so, please G-d, next year. Our sincere thanks too our Chevra Shas Chirman, Rabbi Leonard Rosenfeld. He will try to send you at the beginning of next year a schedule of all the Shiurim, so that you will be able to mark your calendar accordingly.

Our dignified Chag Hasemicha reception for the new Musmachim and the presentation of scrolls to the Chaplains who have served in the Military Establishment was an outstanding event. It culminated an interestingly programmed weekend which was enjoyed by many of the Musmachim and their guests, and served as a pleasant entree for the impressive Chag Hasemicha the following day.

And now for a future event which promises to be exciting and instructive. As you will note, our Convention Co-Chairman Rabbis Ephraim Kolatch and Max Schreier and their committee have planned a wonderful program, intellectually stimulating and of practical value. For the first time we are scheduling concurrent workshops which should give more of our men an opportunity to participate in a diversity of areas. We have attempted to keep the meal hours free of any formal addresses, other than the reception to Dr. Belkin, in order to permit our chaverim to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. We have scheduled free time each afternoon for recreation and have chosen a date after the High Holy Days when we can all look forward to a few days of relaxation.

You certainly have enough notice. Please make every effort to attend.

My very best wishes for a pleasant and healthful summer.

Executive Meetings Very Cultural

Under the chairmanship of Rabbi Fabian Schoenfeld the executive meetings have developed a new look. Even the business part of the meeting has been enhanced by the introduction of a new element, the cultural program.

To date in this newly initiated activity the Alumni attending the executive committee meetings have heard Rabbi Norman Lamm read a paper on a recommended manner in which to present the rationale of separate pews in an orthodox synagogue and Rabbi Immanuel Jakebovitz of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue read a paper on abortion in Jewish Law. The Alumni have also been afforded the opportunity to see the practical aspects of shechita and nikoor through this program by visiting the meat packing plant of fellow Alumnus Rabbi David Hill.

Talks by prominent members of the Yeshiva faculty on a variety of subjects is expected to continue to supplement the business of executive committee meetings.

Efforts are being made to have a digest of the talks reach out-of town Alumni who cannot attend the meetings.

MEN'S CLUB CONVENTION HUGE SUCCESS

The Third Annual Convention of the Association of Men's Clubs was held at the Pioneer Country Club, Greenfield Park, New York during the weekend of May 29, 30, 31. It was attended by over three hundred delegates from twenty cities in the United States and Canada.

The program consisted of lectures during Shabbat on various topics of interest from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Challenge of the Modern Age to Torah Judaism and Adult Education in the Men's Club. Entertainment and workshops were combined with informative lectures to produce a well balanced variety of activity.

Those Alumni who had delegations in the program were: Rabbi Eugene Cohen, Arverne, N. Y., Rabbi Morris Finer, Yeshiva University, Rabbi Paul Hait Flushing, N. Y., Dr. Sidney Hoenig, Yeshiva University, Rabbi Emanuel Holzer, Astoria, N. Y., Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Lawrence, N. Y., Dr. Bernard Lander, Yeshiva University, Rabbi Bernard Poupko, Pittsburgh, Pa., Rabbi Hershel Shacter, Bronx, N. Y., Rabbi Solomon J. Spiro, Yeshiva University.

Conventions such as this, it is hoped, will bring the laity closer to the Yeshiva and acquaint them with the community service it is rendering. It also puts them in touch with other men who work for Orthodoxy so that the feeling of solitariness that many times besets our laity will be dispelled.

Alumni who wish further information on the Association and its program of service should contact the C.S.D.

Demand for Commission Materials

The Metropolitan Commission on Talmud Torah Education, which is a service of the Yeshiva in cooperation with the Jewish Education Committee in New York City, has issued a kit of materials which is the result of many years of experience in the Orthodox Talmud Torah field in the city of New York. In this kit are included curricula, syllabi and lesson plans for all grades of the Talmud Torah. An unprecedented demand for this material shows the great need it fills.

Alumni are urged to request materials for help in their own Talmud Torah. Address these requests to Rabbi Finer (c/o C.S.D) who is the Advisor to the Commission.

CHAG HASEMICHA — RETROSPECT

Alumni who participated in the Chag Hasemicha program with their baale batim came away with a distinct feeling of their laity having been exposed to an illuminating and inspiring experience. During the entire weekend, which culminated in the Convocation on Sunday, the laymen had a full program of scheduled activity that was oriented toward their interests and responsibilities as community leaders.

On Friday night after services which were charmingly chanted by our own Cantor Macy Nulman, Director of the Cantorial Institute, the guests heard greetings from Dean Sar and Max Etra. Rabbi Israel Miller, Bronx, New York, President of the Rabbinic Alumni welcomed all the guests in the name of the Rabbinic Alumni, explaining also to those assembled how the Alumni as a group seeks to help both the Yeshiva and the communities served by it.

After the Sabbath meal, Judge William B. Herlands of New York, former president of the Union of Orthodox Congregations, and member of the U. S. District Court presided at a Forum in which Professor Sol Green of the Yeshiva School of Social Work read a paper of the role of the rabbi in relation to other Jewish professionals. Mr. Meyer Gasner of Toronto, Canada, member of the President's Council of Yeshiva, led the discussion emphasizing the responsibility of the orthodox layman in lightening the task of the rabbi by representing his point of view in community affairs and in community activities ordinarily conducted by laymen. Rabbis Haskel Lookstein and Norman Bernhard of New York City and Wichita, Kans., respectively, discussed the roles of the rabbi in both large and small communities. The former stressed the special role a rabbi has in fashioning a community spirit in a large diffuse metropolitan area and the latter the opportunities for accomplishment for Yiddishkeit in the smaller metropolitan city. Intelligent questions from the floor supplemented the well developed discussion.

Saturday morning at services the assembly heard an outstanding sermon preached by one of the Alumni, Rabbi Emanuel Forman of Brookline, Mass.

The Sabbath Day Seudah was garnished with a report from Chaplain Jacob Greenberg, since separated from the service, on the opportunities for constructive missionary work among Jewish servicemen.

The afternoon program consisted of a Forum on Torah Education. Participating in this session were Mr. Gerson Bernstein of Far Rockaway, New York, a member of the President's Council of Yeshiva, who chaired the session and Mr. Morris Benathan, consultant to the Metropolitan Commission on Talmud Torah Education which is a service commission sponsored by the Yeshiva. Mr. Benathan spoke on the need for higher standards in the Talmud Torah and on the advisability of an afternoon Hebrew High School. The audience also listened closely as Rabbi Morris Besdin, of our faculty who spoke about the Jewish Studies program of the Yeshiva which he directs.

The Jewish Studies program, commonly referred to as J.S.P., is a new experiment in Yeshiva. It was developed in response to the many demands of our out-of-town Alumni for a program that would accommodate many of their superior Talmud Torah students who were ready to go to an out-of-town college. The curriculum of the Jewish Studies program is so constructed that with even a minimal Jewish education students on the college level can be introduced to Yeshiva studies and gradually integrate into the regular Yeshiva curriculum. Naturally the students entering this program must have above average intelligence and evine a sincere desire to observe what they are taught.

Mr. Jack Holiday, President of the Metropolitan Commission on Talmud Torah Education and Rabbi Norbert Weinberg, Quebec, Canada were discussants at this session.

On Saturday night the Rabbinic Alumni tendered a reception to the newly ordained musmachim. It was attended by over 500 people and was one of the most successful highlights of the program. Rabbi Israel Miller, President of the Alumni greeted the musmachim and Rabbi Hershel Schacter, Bronx, New York made a special presentation honoring Alumni in the service.

On Sunday, the convocation, Presided over by Dr. Belkin, began in the afternoon. As has become the custom, Rabbi Soloveitchik delivered the charge to the new musmach. His words of "musor" were well received. He explained to the musmachim that "Semicha" meant support or leaning. Each rabbi who is ordained leans upon the traditions of his forebears as they in turn lean and depend upon him to carry forward this tradition.

The two new elements which were

FIFTH ANNUAL TORAH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The annual summer session of the Torah Leadership Seminar sponsored by the Youth Bureau of Yeshiva University's Community Service Division will be held this year from August 26 through September 7, 1959 at Camp Monroe, Monroe, New York, it was announced by Abraham Stern, Director of the Bureau.

TLS, an informal Jewish educational experience, is now entering its fifth year. Combining Jewish studies with group work instruction, the Seminar offers young people (14-18 years of age) a chance to learn more about their heritage, while acquiring useful leadership skills.

The Jewish component at the Seminar is transmitted through the medium of a well balanced work and play program. Designed according to participants' varied levels of understanding, six study groups are offered — each presenting a balance of Jewish studies, group dynamics, and leadership skills, in addition to services, meals, committee planning, and a full complement of recreation and evening activities.

Sessions are led by young energetic Rabbis, CSD staff and University faculty with Yeshiva and Stern College students serving as advisors.

Sincere and heart-warming sentiments indicative of religious movement echoed by scores of teen-agers upon their return from Seminars, and the sizable numbers of past participants now full time students at Yeshiva, lend credence to the belief that Seminar as an informal educational medium can become a vital force in the strengthening of Jewish values for our young people.

The thirteen day program lists for \$87.50.

Under Yeshiva University auspices, Seminar represents meaningful teen-age camping at its best.

added at this Chag Hasemicha left a deep and stimulating impression upon those who attended. It is hoped that in the future the Chag Hasemicha will develop to be that event to which our Alumni and their Baale Baatim look forward in the growing relationship between orthodox laity and the rabbinate in the task of bringing the Torah to more and more of our faith.