

Leaves from The Tree of Life

Former president Theodore Roosevelt spoke from the pulpit of the Tree of Life Synagogue, April 12, 1912.

Mayor George Guthrie and Rabbi Aaron A. Ashinsky were principal speakers at the dedication of the present synagogue in Craft Avenue in 1907.

The bodies of three Civil War veterans are interred in the Tree of Life Cemetery.

The first service of the Tree of Life Congregation was held in 1864 in the home of Gustav Grafner, 80 Second Avenue, downtown.

Did you know that Rabbi Herman Hailperin is a member of the Society of American Magicians. Only one other rabbi in America is included in the membership, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass.

The Tree of Life Synagogue was one of the first to enroll in the United Synagogue of America.

The record of 50 years service as sexton and teacher held by Abraham Goldstein is unique in American Jewish annals.

The first sexton of the Tree of Life during the Civil War days signed a contract with the Schul to perform weddings at no more than \$5 each. He also agreed to carry all invitations to members for meetings, and serve as Chazan, Schochet, Shamas and Baal Koreh.

William H. Cohen, son of the president, was Bar Mitzvah in the Tree of Life Synagogue in 1867, earliest recorded instance of this ceremony.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Tree of Life was organized in 1899 in the home of Mrs. K. Solomon, 937 Beech Street, old Allegheny.

In 1881 the Tree of Life Congregation held services for the Holy Days in the historic Lafayette Hall, 4th and Wood, scene of the founding of the Republican Party.

In 1894 the Tree of Life abolished the ancient custom of separating the men and women while at worship and established family pews.

The property at 4th and Ross which the Tree of Life bought for \$10,000 from the Baptist Church in 1882 was sold in 1907 for \$87,000.

Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffee, for many years with the Tree of Life, left to become national secretary of B'nai B'rith.

One of the first Jewish members of the Pittsburgh police force was an early active member of the Tree of Life. . . . we refer to the late Police Lieut. Benjamin Rosenblatt.

Remember when people called the Tree of Life "Fink's Schul" . . . so important a part did Alexander Fink, president for 20 years, play in its affairs.

Did you know that such outstanding men as Dr. K. I. Sanes, Henry Jackson, Sol Rosenbloom, J. H. Frank, Marks Browarsky and Isaac Seder were extremely active in the Tree of Life congregational life?

Dr. Hailperin's Historical Research

By Professor George B. Hatfield

University of Pittsburgh

(Specially Written for The Jewish Criterion)

SINCE one can always be assured that the Jewish people have a deep interest in the works of their rabbis which have to do with intellectual pursuits, it is entirely proper in this commemorative year of the Tree of Life Congregation to speak of the happy and generous support they have given Dr. Hailperin by way of time and consideration of his labors that he might be able to contribute to the field of scholarship.

It is a pleasure to me to speak of the study and writing which Dr. Hailperin has been able to do under my direction in the University of Pittsburgh over a number of years, and to make acknowledgement of how much it has meant to me. Such research as he has made has required time, for his work has been extensive in the Hebrew and Mediaeval Latin fields primarily, to say nothing of attention he has had to give to Islamic and Greek culture.

His research into the history of the cultural and philosophical relations of the Jews and Christians to 1500 C. E., can rightly be described as an important work to do. It is important because it endeavors, on the basis of original materials and by careful judgments, to portray the social and legal relations of Jews and Christians of Europe along with their theological interchanges so that those who read this work may be able to see the historical truth. This is no defense of Judaism and Jews, nor is there condemnation of the Christians. There were antagonisms in those days, it is true, but there was little of diatribe in their earlier literature on either side. Rabbi Hailperin has not approached his investigation with the persuasion that he should produce an apologetic for the Jews, nor an argument that in the exegesis of the Scripture the Christian thought was dependent upon the knowledge of the Hebrew ideas and traditions as to the Christian Old Testament. His deeper purpose, along with the delineation of relations of Jews and Christians through men and books, is to show that for many centuries these peoples in Western Europe could make what on the whole were peaceful approaches to each other and could live side by side with reasonable understanding as to their mutual obligations. It seems true to say that for neither Jew nor Christian was the saying, Dina Demalkutha Dina, an idle phrase.

One of the duties, and the main one, of the social historian and the historian of philosophy is to describe and define life and ideas as they were in the times of which he writes. When a true historian has done his work in this way, he sees and enables others to see how many dangers have arisen from the habit of carrying present-day impressions back into earlier times as the basis of judgments upon what was the situation

he would portray. But that procedure is not, unfortunately, the result of unconscious error; it is too often an intentional act. Our day has no greater need in its use of history for lessons upon the course of mankind than to measure correctly the character and force of social problems arising among peoples who have been set in different cultures and live under different institutions.

The study of Dr. Hailperin upon the many centuries of European history is, therefore, an earnest and honest endeavor to bring into a true relief the intellectual relations of Jews and Christians; not only by close definition of common ideas but by a disclosure of the personal and social relations and recognitions of these groups which felt then as many thinkers do today that in their ethical background of Hebrew lawgiver and prophet they possessed a great and common heritage.

I am happy to be able to make use here of a few of the communications that have come from noted scholars who have read the published abstract of Dr. Hailperin's Dissertation. Doctor Cyrus Adler, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America writes: "It is a fascinating subject, a work of importance and a real contribution to history." Professor Louis Finkelstein of the same institution, successor to Solomon Schechter in the chair of Theology, says: "Your wide reading both in Jewish and general sources and your clear presentation of the material is admirable." The late Rabbi Enelow, who was a profound scholar, writes: "Your article shows you are doing a fine piece of work." Dr. Charles Singer, Editor of the significant book, "The Legacy of Israel," says: "I have read your work with the greatest interest and pleasure and have learned a great deal from it." Professor George A. Cooke, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford University, England, says: "You have chosen a capital subject for research, and I have read the abstract of your dissertation with interest." Professor Mordecai M. Kaplan writes: "I am happy to see that you have used your surplus time for the kind of study that, in my opinion, is most essential for the understanding of the development of Judaism, and that you have done such excellent work in it." Other letters of the same import come from Claude G. Montefiore, London author of many scholarly studies; Dr. J. L. Magnes, Chancellor of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Dr. Jacob Mann, Professor of History, Hebrew Union College; Dr. A. A. Neuman, Professor of History, Dropsie College, Philadelphia; Dr. David S. Blondheim, Professor, Romance Languages, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

The writer of this article cannot but take great pleasure in the part he has had in bringing to fruition a line of investigation that is, he believes, full of historical value and only the more so because it can truly be said of it that it is without the elements of polemic or apologetic. The serious intention of this work has been above all to try to be truly fair to all persons, peoples, and institutions.

25 Years Ago . . . Did Your Family Live Downtown Or In Old Allegheny?

Tree of Life Synagogue historical records uncovered during preparations for the 70th anniversary celebration bring to light very interesting data concerning the homes of prominent Jewish families of more than a quarter century ago and as far back as 40 years ago. It is fascinating to note how Jewish homes were scattered throughout the downtown section, East Liberty and across the river in old Allegheny.

The members of Tree of Life congregation early in 1900 were as follows:

J. Abrams, 5629 Jackson Street
L. Amshel, 1302 Locust St., Allegheny
L. I. Aronson, 646 Fifth Avenue
C. Agelman, 719 Fifth Avenue
J. Bennett, 972 Liberty Avenue
Joseph Bennett, 10 Wilmut Square
M. Browarsky, 814 Wylie Avenue
H. Browarsky, 1229 Fifth Avenue
J. Broida, 519 Wylie Avenue
H. Braun, 905 Fifth Avenue
C. Cohen, 1923 Beaver Avenue, All'y.
W. G. Cohen, 925 Aiken Avenue
H. Cuff, 1607 Bluff Street
M. A. Cooper, 4325 Butler Street
S. Davis, 723 Liberty Street
H. Davis, St. John Street, McKees Rocks
H. DeHaan, 3702 Fifth Avenue
B. Davis, 815 Bluff Street
M. Fink, 712 Smithfield Street
E. Fink, 42 Bidwell Street, Allegheny
L. Frankel, Carnegie, Pa.
A. Friedland, 1426 Fifth Avenue
F. Freedman, 904 Locust Street
J. H. Frank, 1517 Bluff Street
Finkelhor Bros., corner Fifth Avenue and Chestnut Street
Simon Fisher, 1120 North St. Clair Street
Max Fisher, 7938 Tioga Street
Harry Frankel, 363 Ophelia Street
L. Gross, 5125 Liberty Avenue
H. J. Goldstein, 22 Federal Street
I. Gelder, 514 Wylie Avenue
M. Gibansky, 194 S. Main Street
Louis Gordon, 822 Fifth Avenue
P. Ginsberg, 404 Penn Building
H. Grinberg, 1314 Fifth Avenue
B. Goorin, 1116 N. Euclid Avenue
D. Gelb, 1417 Carson Street
M. H. Goldstein, 677 Preble Avenue, Allegheny
M. Haas, 1914 Sarah Street
L. M. Haas, 6 Seneca Street
H. Harris, 404 Penn Building
M. Hirsh, 960 Liberty Avenue
H. Jackson, 954 Liberty Street
I. Jackson, 954 Liberty Street
Joseph Levy, 27 Chestnut Street
G. Levy, 542 Smithfield Street
Dr. A. Lewin, 3703 Penn Avenue
C. Lewis, 3438 Boquet Street
L. Levin, 5442 Baywood Street
C. Little, 1011 Bluff Street
H. H. Livingstone, 543 Neville Street
A. Lippard, 615 Wylie Avenue
Jacob Levy, 1800 Locust Street
Julius Levine, 1806 Forbes Street
M. Landow, 804 Penn Avenue
L. Leuchner, 3536 Fifth Avenue
Abe Lewis, 356 Meyran Ave.
Ben Marks, 815 Ward St.
H. Marks, 628 Fifth Ave.
D. Markowitz, 503 Cato St.
M. Markowitz, 1309 Carson St.
S. F. Mohe, 908 Liberty St.
H. Newman, 1021 Bluff St.
V. Richtman, 139 Moultrie St.
M. Rosenbloom, Braddock
L. Rosenbloom, 29 Diamond Square
Max Robin, 33 Federal St.
D. Rosenthal, 806 Fifth Ave.
D. Rapport, 1509 Bluff St.
Barney Rosenthal, 3429 Ward St.
J. Spandau, 4319 Butler St.
Charles Spandau, 542 Smithfield St.
S. D. Strasberger, 240 Franklin St., Allegheny
M. Segal, 1609 Colwell St.
C. Sunstein, Fayette St., Allegheny
D. Shaeffer, 288 Lombard St.
J. Susman, 800 Millvale St.
S. Saul, 1015 Fifth Avenue
M. S. Shapiro, 1125 N. St. Clair St.
Simon Sedersky, Finleyville, Pa.
Sam Saul, 1700 Beaver Avenue, Allegheny
Harry Tapolsky, 806 Fifth Ave.
Z. Teplitz, 204 Market Street
Leonard Tintner, corner Seventh Avenue and Smithfield
Joseph Van Ullem, 115 Van Braam Street
The members of the ladies' auxiliary are as follows:
Mrs. S. Abrams, 5633 Jackson Street
Mrs. L. Amshel, 1302 Locust Street, Allegheny
Mrs. M. Browarsky, 447 Atlantic Avenue
Mrs. H. Browarsky, corner Friendship and Graham Streets
Mrs. John Bennett, 5401 Black St.
Mrs. C. Cohen, 1923 Beaver Avenue, Allegheny
Mrs. M. Cooper, 234 Forty-fourth St.
Mrs. M. G. Cohen, 925 Aiken Ave.
Mrs. H. Cuff, 1607 Bluff St.
Mrs. S. Davis, 1130 Mellon St.
Mrs. A. I. DeRoy, 514 Wylie Ave.

Mrs. S. Fisher, 1120 North St. Clair Street
 Mrs. S. Finkelhor, 1004 Vickroy St.
 Mrs. F. Friedman, 1220 Colwell St.
 Mrs. M. Friedman, 88 Federal St.
 Miss Gordon, Locust St.
 Miss A. Goldstein, 917 Congress St., Allegheny
 Miss M. Goldstein, 679 Preble Ave.
 Miss I. Gelder, 514 Wylie Avenue
 Miss B. Gelder, 3612 Boquet St.
 Miss L. Goldstein, 4713 South Atlantic Avenue
 Miss J. Goodman, 3404 Juliette St.
 Mrs. Joseph Gordon, 600 Wylie Ave.
 Mrs. S. J. Goldstein, 825 Ohio St., Allegheny
 Mrs. M. L. Haas, 6 Seneca St.
 Mrs. W. H. Hoffman, 463 South Atlantic Ave.
 Mrs. Hirsch, 110 Jackson Street, Allegheny
 Mrs. H. Harris, 5445 Black St.
 Mrs. M. Haas, 1914 Sarah St., South Side
 Mrs. H. Jackson, 201 Evaline St.
 Mrs. J. Jacobson, 621 North St. Clair Street
 Mrs. J. A. Koler, Craig Street
 Mrs. H. Livingston, 543 Neville St.
 Mrs. L. S. Levin, 5442 Baywood St.
 Mrs. A. L. Lewin, 3104 Penn Avenue
 Mrs. S. Markowitz, 504 Cato Street
 Mrs. H. Moses, Breckenridge St.
 Mrs. Mishken, 1007 Wylie Avenue
 Miss Rosa Nussbaum, 2106 Fifth Ave.
 Mrs. Plato, 1831 Webster Ave.
 Mrs. O. Radin, Forbes Street
 Mrs. I. Richtman, 139 Moultrie St.
 Mrs. J. Sussman, 800 Millvale Ave.
 Mrs. S. L. Schnitzer, 671 Preble Ave., Allegheny
 Miss Ida Simons, 4713 S. Atlantic Avenue
 Mrs. Van Baalen, 4713 S. Atlantic Avenue
 Mrs. J. Wise, 504 Cato St.
 Mrs. M. Weinthal, 2108 Webster Ave.
 Mrs. L. D. Zeugschmidt, 215 South St. Clair Street
 Miss F. Zeugschmidt, 215 South St. Clair Street

Socially-Minded Citizen Is Honored Again

Mr. Sidney A. Bachman was again signally honored when he was re-elected president of the Jewish Big Brother Association. He has been associated with the work of this organization for ten years, during which time he has contributed greatly to the growth of the Association, as well as to the extension of its service.

Mr. Bachman takes a dynamic interest in communal affairs. He is actively interested in many social agencies, among which are The Pennsylvania Committee on Penal Affairs, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Welfare Fund and Federation of Social Agencies.

The Jewish Big Brother Association is an affiliated organization of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and is financed by the Welfare Fund. It was organized in 1919; its functions are to look after problem boys and boys with problems, men in penal institutions and transients. From its inception it has emphasized the treatment and prevention of delinquency. It aims to help the boy when he is most in need.

Some boys and parents appeal for help themselves; others who begin to show evidence of bad behavior are contacted through the schools, the neighborhood, the social centers and social agencies. The main emphasis is placed on understanding the boy and his difficulties. Medical, psycho-

logical and psychiatric attention is utilized.

The effectiveness of the work of the staff is demonstrated by the many successful adjustments, by the small number of boys who appear in the Juvenile and Morals Courts and by the very few boys and young men who appear in reformatories and in penal institutions.

The directors of the board are;—Dr. Lawrence Wechsler, vice-president; Arthur D. Gatz, secretary; Benjamin Raphael, treasurer; Harvey M. Aronson, Dr. L. B. Bernstein, Richard J. Blum, John Cohen, Walter S. Cohen, Leon Falk, Jr., William Finkel, Herbert I. Frank, Harry Fleishman, Robert J. Frank, William K. Frank, Rabbi B. B. Glazer, James D. Haber, Julian J. Hast, Benjamin L. Hirshfield, Frank R. S. Kaplan, Albert C. Lehman, J. Lewis Palley, Richard S. Rauh, Jerome Seder, Dr. William Shapera, Dr. Martin Snyderman, Eugene B. Strassburger, and Ferdinand T. Weil.

The staff consists of A. Z. Pittler, director; Cecil Schwartz, Alfred L. Goldenberg, Samuel Port and Dorothy Maret.

Dr. Silverman Going to Spain

Dr. Alexander Silverman, head of the Department of Chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh, has just been notified that he is to be one of six councillors to represent the National Academy of Science and the



Dr. Alexander Silverman

National Research Council at the 11th Conference of the International Union of Chemistry to be held in Madrid, Spain, April 5-11, 1934.

The International Union is, as the term implies, a clearing house for chemistry and for the establishment of international standards. Meetings are held every other year in a different country and each nation is entitled to a certain number of delegates. Those holding the title of

councillor have a voting power at the official sessions.

Dr. Silverman will also be a delegate of the American Ceramic Society to the 9th International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, which meets in Madrid during the same week. At the latter meeting he will present a preliminary report on "Causes of Opalescence in Glass," which is being prepared jointly with Mr. H. H. Blau of the Macbeth-Evans Glass Company.

Dr. Silverman was a delegate from the Research Council and the American Ceramic Society to the international meetings that were held in Liege, Belgium, in the fall of 1930. He is sailing March 24 on the Ile de France and will return from Havre, France, April 18, on the Paris. Dr. Silverman also expects to spend some time in France visiting educational institutions and museums there as well as in Spain.

German Scientist to Have New Laboratory at Tech

Dr. Otto Stern of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, one of the exiled German scientists who came to this country after the advent of the Nazi regime in Germany, is to have a \$25,000 laboratory at the Institute, where he, together with Dr. Emmanuel Estermann, his assistant, will continue their study of the splitting of the atom, related problems and the use of the molecular beam. The announcement was made by the Buhl Foundation, which is making the grant. Charles F. Lewis, director of the Foundation, said that Dr. Stern ranks among the first half-dozen of the ablest experimental physicists in the world, and sees a great contribution to the educational stature of Carnegie Institute of Technology with the establishment of the new laboratory.

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