

Brooklyn's First Jewish Sunday School

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That the Jews celebrate the Sabbath upon Saturday is a matter of history; but many Brooklynites may be ignorant of the fact that Jewish Sunday schools for the teaching of the Bible to the young have been conducted for many years past in this city. The first school established was the one at present located on the corner of Boerum and State streets, known as Baith Israel Sunday School. It is attached to the Temple Baith Israel. Among the originators of the movement was Mr. Julius Corn, now superintendent of Baith Israel Sunday School. In 1864 Mr. Corn and a number of gentlemen interested in this spiritual welfare of the Jewish people determined to establish an association, to be known as "The Hebrew Free Sunday School Teachers Association." On February 28th, 1864, it was incorporated, and Baith Israel Sunday School was formally opened with the following corps of teachers: Superintendent, Julius Corn, Miss Baum, principal, assisted by Simon Bass, Miss Sampter, Miss Rachel Asher, Miss S. Jacobs, Mr. Lind S. Coleman, Miss Ada Linden and Miss S. Kalish. Shortly afterward three other schools were organized – Temple Israel on Greene near Clermont avenue; Beth Elohim, on Pearl street, and one on Keap street. All have struggled slowly along, and are now in a comparatively flourishing condition. In 1874 the managers of the Baith Israel School became dissatisfied with the rules of the Hebrew Free Sunday School Teacher's Association, broke away from it and resolved to "paddle their own canoe." They reorganized with Mr. Corn again as superintendent, and resolved not to depend upon the congregation of Baith Israel for support. Money came in slowly, however, and finally the scholars began to bring small sums every Sunday, and the custom has been followed to the present time. When the school was first opened there was a lack of proper furniture, all the rooms being badly furnished. Now the teachers, by their own exertions alone have provided the school with a first class organ and settees similar to those used in Christian Sunday Schools. Entertainments have been given from time to time by the boys and girls and by this means a library of 400 books has been provided for their use.

The officers and teachers of the Sunday school are: Superintendents, Julius Corn and Michael Furst; Librarians, Aaron Levy and Alfred Newman; Teacher of Bible Class, M. J. Harris; the other classes, nine in number, are attended to by Messrs. Jesse M. Henry, E. Citron, David Harris, Samuel Josephs, M. S. Bierman, and the Misses Rebecca Martin, Jennie Straus, H. Collman and Rose Citron. Some few of the teachers are graduates of the Sunday school, among them being Michael Furst, who is indefatigable in forwarding anything that will tend to aid the school. There are at present one hundred and thirty five scholars, and it is the intention of the managers to sell the building they now occupy and remove to a more spacious edifice."

Editor's note ... *This story was reprinted from a newspaper clipping found in the Sunday School teachers association minutes book of 1893.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL BETH ISRAEL.

Closing Examination Previous to a Vacation Until the Second Sunday in September.

The Israelitish Sunday School of Beth Israel, on Boerum place and State street, was examined publicly yesterday afternoon. The congregation is composed of orthodox Israelites, and has been in existence for over twenty years. It numbers among its members many persons of social influence. Its house of worship is unadorned, but scrupulously exact in its arrangements. The Rev. Dr. Jacobson, a gentleman of ~~approved scholarship~~, is the minister, Mr. J. M. Bierman is President and Mr. S. Morris Vice President of the synagogue.

Yesterday afternoon the curtain shut out the sanctuary from view, and an elaborately embroidered covering was thrown over the altar. The perpetual lamp over the sanctuary was burning. There was a large attendance of the congregation and friends of the children. The school numbers one hundred and twelve, and few were absent. The Sunday School is under the superintendence of Mr. Julius Cohn, a gentleman of character and education. The teachers are Messrs. Michael Grauschenki, Henry Celler and P. Franklin; and Misses Theresa Celler, Jennie and Emma Piinner and E. Shanegood.

The examination was conducted by the Superintend-

ent, Mr. Julius Corn, in a very able manner. The children, who were tastefully attired, were examined in classes, being arranged on the platform or pulpit for the occasion. After a short opening address by Mr. Gruschenaski, the pupils were put through an exact questioning in the catechism of Bible history, and their answers were apt and appropriate. With the fundamental principles of the Jewish religion, the elder pupils showed a thorough acquaintance, and all evinced a very satisfactory knowledge of the doctrines of their faith. Hymns were sung in English and Hebrew, and the effect was very fine. Miss Theresa Coler presided at the piano, and performed her part with grace and admirable taste.

Among the pupils who distinguished themselves were David Harris, of the first class boys, and Hannah Corn and Esther Joseph, of the first class girls; Masters Bierman and Coleman of the second class boys, and Fanny Leman of the second class girls; and of the third class boys, Master Levy. Many others also performed their part in a most creditable way, but it was difficult to ascertain their names. The proceedings, which lasted over three hours, were closed with an address by the Superintendent, Mr. Julius Corn. He referred to the progress of the school and the praiseworthy manner in which the teachers and pupils had done their work. He announced that the school would remain closed until the second Sunday in September, and that the second annual picnic would take place on August 8, at Schuetzen Park.

Interesting Entertainment of the Pupils of the Jewish Sunday School.

The anniversary exercises in connection with the Sunday School attached to the congregation Beth Israel took place at the synagogue, corner of State street and Boerum place, yesterday afternoon, and proved highly interesting. A large number of the parents and friends of the pupils were in attendance, and were much pleased with the creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves and at the marked progress which they have made in their religious studies. Mr. Julius Corn, the superintendent of the school, presided, and seated with him in the altar were the other officers. The children, to the number of over 180, marched in single file from the basement, the girls leading, and took seats in the centre pews. Their ages ranged from three to thirteen years, and in no Sunday School in the city could better conducted or more intelligent looking children be collected. After the reading of a portion of the Old Testament Scriptures by Mr. Corn, the hymn "Blest be Thou, oh God of Israel" was sung by the school. Mr. Corn then offered up a prayer, which was followed by the hymn, "Ardon Ol-lum," in Hebrew, in the singing of which even some of the most youthful voices were heard.

COUNSELOR MICHAEL GRUISCHENKE,
a devoted friend of the school, was then introduced and
made a brief address.

He said that it was the second occasion on which an invitation had been given to the parents and friends of the children to come and witness the public examination of the pupils and the other exercises accompanying them. It afforded the officers and teachers of the school great pleasure to see so many persons present, and although much could not be expected, no was confident that they would be satisfied at the manner in which the children had attended to their studies during the past year. They meet only once a week, so that a great deal of instruction cannot be given. It is of great importance and benefit to Jewish children to be called together for two hours every Sunday morning, to be instructed in their faith, and the great work which this school has accomplished cannot be over-estimated.

Many of the children, without this instrumentality, would be neglected and would be running round the streets. The organization of the school was attended with great difficulty, and there were many failures before it was established. But now it is a success in every sense of the word, and so great has been the rush of pupils during the past year that it became necessary to call in volunteer teachers. The appeal for these was not made in vain, and now every branch of the school is in thorough working order. Since the last public examination in this synagogue, there has been an addition of seventy-five children to the roll, and the increase is steady. From personal experience, he could say that the deportment of the children has been unexceptionable, their attendance regular and their progress all that could be desired. Mr. Gruischenke closed by making honorable mention of the teachers, and particularly of Miss Theresa Celler, who had labored indefatigably for the benefit of the school from the start.

THE EXAMINATION.

At the close of the address, the children were summoned to the altar, class by class, beginning with the youngest, and examined in the commandments, the creeds of the Jewish Church, and in their knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. The questions were propounded by Mr. Corn, and the result of the test in almost every instance was eminently satisfactory, the children showing perfect familiarity with the above subjects.

Creditable recitations were also given by the following pupils: Emanuel Newman, David Levy, Theresa Sedenberg, Emanuel Levy, Joseph Krone, Dora Tintner, Pauline Sedenberg and Mary Levy. A dialogue by Mr. Cohen and Ephraim Bass brought this pleasant feature of the programme to a close. The most agreeable part of the exercises to the children was the presentation of prizes, which were in the form of books, and which were distributed in order of merit. The entertainment was brought to a close by the singing of the hymn "The Pity of the Lord" in English and "Zigdal" in Hebrew, Miss Celler accompanying on the organ.

The following are the teachers of the school: Julius Corn, Superintendent; Henry H. Celler, Michael Gruischenke, Henry H. Davis, Michael First, George Gruischenke, Miss Ultman, Miss Celler, Miss Corn and Miss First. The number of pupils is now over 150.

A HEBREW SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The First Combined Picnic to be Held In Prospect Park.

Two hundred children of Beth Israel Sunday school, of Smith street ; 150 from Temple Israel, in Green avenue ; 150 from the Keap street Temple and nearly 100 from the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, together with the friends, parents and teachers, will assemble in Prospect Park to-morrow morning and will picnic throughout the day.

This is the first time the Hebrew schools have tried to combine for any such purpose, and Colonel Culyer, who encourages every activity and helps anything that will give pleasure to children, is making special preparations for accommodating the party.

The children will start for the park at ten o'clock, Beth Israel Sunday school taking the cars at the City Hall, the Keap street children coming up on the Franklin avenue line, and the Greene avenue children taking the cars at Flatbush avenue. They will bring plenty to eat and drink, and any number of games, lawn tennis, croquet, foot ball, base ball, etc., and will find swings on the ground. Beth Israel School will bring its drum corps and supply lively music.

The committees in charge are : Beth Israel, Messrs. Emil Citron, M. J. Harris and Michael Furst ; Temple Israel, Henry Manne David Harrison and Joseph Manne ; Keap street Temple, G. Sandak, Henry Moyer and Rev. Dr. Wintner. The Orphan Asylum children will be in charge of Superintendent Lewis and President Nathan.

HEBREWS WHO KEPT CHRISTMAS.

How Baith Israel People Surprised an Old Friend.

Counselor Michael Furst, who in addition to being an active lawyer, was until lately the active assistant superintendent of Baith Israel Hebrew Sunday school, was greatly astonished last evening by the appearance at his door of a very large body of teachers and officers of the school, with many of the older pupils. He was still more astonished when a couple of draymen carried a handsome embossed leather easy chair into his parlor and set it down as if it belonged there. Then Superintendent Corn stepped to the front and made a presentation speech in which he said many kind things about Mr. Furst's zeal and activity in work in the Sunday school.

Mr. Furst replied briefly but with considerable warmth. His sister, Mrs. Lissner, seemed to have received a private hint, for she had a collation ready in the dining room before the guests had been half an hour in the house. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. S. Furst, Mrs. Hulda Lissner, Miss Nina Lissner, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Manne, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rothschild, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Dreyer, Mrs. Sarah Bramm, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rossmann, Mr. and Mrs. S. Berendson, Miss Berendson, the Hon. J. Lott Nostrand, Mr. Henry Manne, Miss Manne, Mr. Charles L. Lins, Miss Lins, Mr. Max Indig, Miss Indig, Miss R. Indig, Mr. Joseph Manne, Mr. L. Harris and the officers and teachers of Baith Israel Sunday school in a body as follows: The superintendent, Mr. Julius Corn and Mrs. Corn, Miss Bettie Corn, Mr. Emil Citron, Miss Rose Citron, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jacobs, Mr. David Harris, Mr. Alfred Newman, Mr. James Alexander, Mr. B. Raphael, Miss R. Martin, Miss Taylor, Miss Levy and Miss Seidenborg.

BAITH ISRAEL.

The Sunday School's First Entertainment.

The Brooklyn Atheneum never saw a larger or merrier assemblage than that which attended the first public entertainment and reception at that place last evening given by Sunday School Bait Israel. It was a success in all its features. A well prepared programme was presented, the talent being both scholars and well known amateurs of this city. Mr. S. Franklin was stage manager and to him the success of the affair is due. The programme opened with an overture by the orchestra. This was followed by a recitation, entitled "Pyramus and Thisbo," by Miss Ella Gustave, a pleasant, little lady, who was loudly applauded for her elocutionary ability. Mr. J. Miller also received his due share of applause for his violin playing. By far the best performer of the evening was Miss Kitty Moses, whose rendition of "Bernado Del Carpio" was encored, while afterward as Lady Teazle in a scene from "School for Scandal" she was called before the curtain and applauded to the echo. She was made the recipient of a handsome bouquet of flowers. Miss Ella Gustave as Sir Peter Teazle in the same scene received the same attention. Professor J. J. Stoltz, assisted by Thomas E. Campbell, kept the audience in an uproar for half an hour by his act in mesmerism. Miss R. Franklin's singing of "Marguerite" received a bouquet and much applause from the audience. Mr. Garcia Diamond recited "An English Duke's First Ride in a Horse Car," which was very humorous, after which he gave the "Miser's Death" in an able manner. The scene from "Leah, the Forsaken," in which Miss Matilda Davis assumed Leah, while Mr. J. C. Costello assumed Rudolph, was the hit of the evening, the performers being applauded to the echo. Miss Etta Taylor then recited "My Mother," after which Mr. M. Shuter, who has a fine tenor voice, sang "Oh, I have sighed to rest me," "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall" and "Sally in Our Alley," his receiving two encores. A violin solo by Mr. Allie Lehmann was next in order, after which dancing began and lasted till a late hour.

Beth Israel Sunday school, at Boorum place and State street, is the most orthodox Jewish school in the city. It has not as yet assumed any of the reformed institutions of the other Sunday schools in the city and has been in existence twenty-five years. Under its able management it has prospered beyond the expectations of all concerned, while Mr. M. Phillips, president of the congregation, has assisted the children in various ways. The staff of teachers and others connected with the Sunday school is a good one, being as follows: Mr. J. Moses, assistant superintendent; teachers, Mr. M. Franklin, Mr. W. J. Coleman, Mr. J. D. Folkart, Mr. J. Bass, Mr. L. Jacobs, Miss J. Levy, Miss J. Jacobs, Miss H. Bass, Miss B. Folkart and Miss H. Jacobs; Mr. J. Franklin, organist; Mr. N. Sonnenstahl, librarian; Mr. R. Raphael, assistant librarian; trustees, Mr. Miller and Mr. J. Phillips.

The Committee of Arrangements having charge of the reception comprised M. Franklin, chairman; W. J. Coleman, J. D. Folkart and J. Franklin. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Hyams and son, Mr. and Mrs. Casner, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newman, Mr. Casner, Miss Zachariah, Mrs. H. Isaacs, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim, Mr. Folkart, Miss Folkart, Mrs. H. Morris, Miss Morris, Mr. and Mrs. L. Levy, the Misses Fannie and Hannah Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. M. Shuter, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. William Bass, Mr. and Mrs. M. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Raphael, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, Miss Kittle Moses, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, Mr. J. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Levanston, Mr. and Mrs. Taft, Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. Droyfuss, Mr. Taft, Miss Gross, Mr. and Mrs. Settonburg, Mrs. A. Isaacs and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Corn, Mr. and Mrs. Keiser, Miss Keiser, Mr. and Mrs. B. Miller, son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. B. Folkart, Miss Folkart, Mrs. J. Levy, Mrs. J. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. M. Franklin, Mr. U. Sonnenstahl, Miss Simons, Miss Will, Miss Sarah Newman, Miss A. Raphael, Mr. M. Coleman, Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Steinhart, Mr. Charles Levy, the Misses Levy, Mr. R. Levy, the Misses Steinhart, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jacobs, Mr. S. Sonnenstahl, Mr. David Folkart, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fragner, Miss Jennie Fragner, Mr. Albert Fragner, Mr. S. Fragner, Mr. J. Fragner, Mr. Joseph Hotchner, Mr. A. Sternglanz, Mr. and Mrs. S. Unger, Mr. and Mrs. L. Isaacs.

FOR THE LIBRARY FUND.

An Entertainment Given by the Baith Israel Sunday School.

An entertainment was given at the Atheneum, Clinton street and Atlantic avenue, last evening, for the benefit of the Baith Israel Sunday School, on Boerum place. The school is the oldest Hebrew institution of its kind in Brooklyn. It was organized in 1864 and has now a membership of 160. The Bible class is taught by the Rev. M. Friedlander, Rabbi of the Synagogue. Through his efforts Hebrew is being taught in the Bible class. Mr. Friedlander is now organizing with some success an association to take the place of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, recently disbanded. It is his intention to have lady members. The officers and teachers of the Sunday school are: Superintendent, Julius Corn; trustees, L. Jacobs, I. Levison B. Kalisher, D. Miller; honorary member, Mr. Garcia Diamond; teachers, Rev. M. Friedlander, Bible class; Miss J. Levi, Miss J. Jacobs, Miss H. Jacobs, Miss B. Folkart, Miss L. Clark, Miss T. Marks, Miss L. Kalisher, Mr. Joel Krone, Mr. W. J. Coleman, Mr. S. Lederman, Mr. J. Cellar and Mr. E. Newman; librarians, N. Sonnenstrahl and R. Raphael; organist, Professor J. Franklin.

There was a fair attendance last evening, which would have been larger had the weather been more propitious. The entertainment was good. Messrs. Ormay, Koert and Kronold began it with a selection; Miss Blooma Folkart recited "Mad Madge," and was encored; Mr. Hans Kronold rendered a violoncello solo, "Caprice Hongroise;" Mrs. Selma Koert-Kronold sang "Fidelio" in German and was recalled; Mr. Jan Koert played the violin, and Mr. Julius Ormay rendered a piano solo, "Rigoletto Paraphrase."

Mr. Julius Corn then, in behalf of the Sunday school and Mr. Garcia Diamond, presented Henry Selner and Samuel Alexander with gold medals for proficiency in studies. After making the two young men happy Mr. Diamond proceeded to

amuse the audience, giving a humorous reading, his subject being a school boy's composition on the horse. He was followed by Master Leo a boy of four years, who manipulated the bones in a way that would have caused the eyes of a professional to bulge. He was accompanied by Messrs. Brown, Merschentz and Levy. In addition to his performance with the bones, the youngster gave a clever exhibition of statuary. He was followed by Mr. Jan Koert, who rendered "Fantasiestuck" on the violin; Mrs. Koert-Kronold, who sang; Mr. Hans Kronold, who played the selection "Romance and Tarantelle" on the violoncello. The performance concluded with a serenade in which Mrs. Koert-Kronold and the Messrs. Koert, Kronold and Ormay took part.

The company then repaired to Rivers' Academy, at Court and State streets, where dancing was enjoyed till 2 o'clock. Joel Krone and Miss Sarah Krone led the march, which was participated in by about fifty couples. Messrs. Garcia Diamond and Joel Krone were the committee in charge.