

The Synagogue Journal

1856-2006

March 10, 2006

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Shabbat Zachor

View the Contents of Issue 10 at
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Issue 10 Purim

First Purim Festival – Sunday Evening, March 5, 1882

Baith Israel Sunday School celebrated with “an original Sacred play.” The current exhibit at the synagogue, “Keeping the Faith In Brooklyn,” displays a copy of the handbill to “Queen Esther.”

“Purim Ball. Annual Festivities of the Eastern District Hebrew Benevolent Society. The Feast as an Occasion for Enjoyment for the Rich and Relief for the Poor.”

Credit: Brooklyn Eagle, March 11, 1884, Page 1

The remarks of the toastmaster connect this gala benefit to Purim.

“Hebrew Benevolent Societies. A Joint Civic and Masquerade Ball Given Last Night”

Credit: Brooklyn Eagle, March 20, 1889, Page 1

The Hebrews partied in those days. The last dance ended near daybreak on Wednesday morning.

“Reopening of a Synagogue”

Credit: Brooklyn Eagle, March 22, 1889, Page 6

A notable article as it states there were two celebrations held during the day.

“A Purim Entertainment By the Scholars of Baith Israel Sunday School”

Credit: Brooklyn Eagle, April 3, 1889, Page 6

This financially successful event benefited the synagogue’s new decorations and alterations.

“The Royal Jewess – Successfully Performed by the Pupils of Baith Israel Sunday School”

Credit: Brooklyn Eagle, March 27, 1891, Page 4

The musical play was revised, arranged and directed by Baith Israel’s rabbi, Rev. M. Friedlander.

Purim Messages to the Congregation

Past articles from the *Brooklyn Eagle*, *The Scroll* and e-mails from Ba8aLou, comment on Purim themes as related to anti-Semitism teachings, the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, and the current atrocities in Darfur.
(scroll to article)

“Don’t Come As You Are”

Credit: The Scroll, 1987; artist: Carol Levin

Purim cartoon announcing the 1987 festivities
(scroll to flyer)

“Purims Past” *Credit: The Scroll, February 1986*

Kane Street Synagogue’s Purim Raffle began in 1979. This page from the 1986 Scroll includes articles on winning the raffle written by two winners, Fred Cohen and Rena Schklowsky.
(scroll to article)

“Purim Letter” Alan Rubenstein has organized twenty-seven Israel Raffles for the synagogue. Here is his letter for year 2006.

(download letter)

In this issue ...

On Shabbat Zachor, in addition to the Torah Portion, T'tza'veh, we add a short reading from the book of Deuteronomy about the need to remember what the murderous nation of Amalek did. The first word of the reading is *ZACHOR*, which is an imperative that means "Remember!" The Rabbis later understood this as a Mitzvah to always be wary of and combat radical evil. This is a Shabbat of remembering.

Articles this week touch on different facets of the congregation's Purim celebration: the struggle against radical evil, the providing of charity to those in need, the giving of shalach-manot, the masquerading in costumes, and the uninhibited celebration. Jonathan Ginsberg's message in 1987 said, "Purim is an opportunity to focus on these issues, to rededicate ourselves to defying the Hamans of the world, to 'feast and be glad.'" It is an annual reminder that with God's help, the Jewish people survive adversity."

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About the Journal ...

The "Synagogue Journal" is a one-year online publication at www.kanestreet.org/historical_journal.html, designed to highlight the three periods of the Kane Street Synagogue congregation: the first fifty years as Congregation Baith Israel at both the Atlantic Street and the Boerum Place sites; the middle years (1905-1956) with Rabbi Israel Goldfarb as spiritual leader of the consolidated Congregation Baith Israel Anshei Emes at the present location that was known as Harrison Street, and the last fifty years, as the synagogue evolved to be the Kane Street Synagogue that we know today.

We welcome submissions of reminiscences, letters and photographs to help shape the BIAE story. For a list of themes for upcoming issues and to read past issues, please see "Archives," located under the banner.

Many thanks to KaneStreet.org webmaster Dugans, Rabbi Sam Weintraub and Paul at www.PaulBernsteinphotography.com. We gratefully acknowledge The Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online™, Brooklyn Public Library for access to articles about our predecessor Congregation Baith Israel and Jewish life in nineteenth century Brooklyn.

PURIM BALL.

Annual Festivities of the Eastern District Hebrew Benevolent Society.

**The Feast as an Occasion for Enjoyment
for the Rich and Relief for the Poor.
The Scene at Turn Hall—Remarks by
Mayor Low, Moses Kessel, Rev. Dr.
Wintner and Ira L. Bamberger.**

The members of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of the Eastern District held their seventeenth annual civic and fancy dress Purim ball, in Turn Hall, on Meserole street, last night, for the benefit of the poor of their race. The affair, socially, was as pleasant and enjoyable as could have been desired, and, financially considered, it was a much greater success than would appear from the number of persons in attendance, large though it was. The spacious hall was tastefully decorated, and Professor Jacob Nova's orchestra, stationed in the gallery, furnished the music. Quite a large number of young ladies and a few gentlemen appeared in fancy costumes and wore masks. The toilets of four-fifths of the ladies were of rich material, and costly diamonds depended from their ears and glittered at their throats, while the large area of snowy shirt fronts which the men exhibited was studded with precious stones. His Honor the Mayor was present during the greater part of the night, and he entered into the festivities in his usually quiet way. He was attired in full evening dress. His Honor participated in a few square dances and executed them with a grace and precision which attracted general admiration from the ladies.

The festivities were opened with a fan drill on the stage in which eight young ladies attired as what were termed "dudeens" and an equal number of young men costumed as dudes appeared. The ladies were dressed in pale blue satin with Lillian Russell bonnets, blue masks and fans, while the young men wore in evening dress, wore masks and carried short canes to represent dudes. The way in which the male dudes carried on a flirtation with the girls and afterward united with them in various movements on the stage was both entertaining and amusing. The drill was well executed under the direction of Professor P. S. M. Monroe, and closed with the formation of a square in which they received Mayor Low who, after briefly returning thanks, formally opened the ball by leading the procession in the promenade around the hall. The Mayor then retired to the stage with Mr. Moses May, ex-Supervisor Nathan, ex-Charities Commissioner Kessel and a few other gentlemen and watched the dancing for a short time. The festivities were kept up, with but short intervals for rest, until nearly 1 o'clock, when all marched down to supper.

Ex-Commissioner Kessel, president of the society, sat at a table at the head of the diningroom, and on either side of him were Mayor Low, Rev. Dr. Wintner, pastor of the synagogue Beth Elohim, and Mrs. Wintner, Mr. Moses May and Mrs. May, Mr. Henry May and Mrs. May, Mr. Nathan May, Mr. Marx May and Mrs. May and Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Bamberger. When all had partaken of the meal President Kessel opened the feast of reason by welcoming all present to their annual ball and hoping that they had enjoyed the dancing, eating and drinking with as much zeal as the poor people for whose benefit the entertainment was held will enjoy the provisions and other necessaries of life which will be purchased with the proceeds and distributed among them. Their charity did not extend to beggars, it was for poor but honest people who, through some misfortune, were unable to procure the necessaries of life, but who would rather starve than beg. Widows with small children and heads of families who through sickness or other causes were unable to work were the people most generally if not exclusively assisted. He closed by thanking the members of Friendship Social Union for the interest they took in the ball.

The Rev. Dr. Wintner responded to the toast "The Day we Celebrate." He said that the occurrence on which the festival of Purim was founded dated back thousands of years, and in the olden times was ushered in with religious ceremonies and wound up with feasting and drinking in the family circle. Presents were also sent to friends and alms were distributed among the poor and the needy. So charity, after all, predominated at the festival and that feature especially has survived. Dancing and feasting in public halls are now substituted for amusement in the home circle. The Israelites were a peculiar people and were in no sense a temperance people, for they drank good wine the year around when they could afford it and if they could not afford it they drank a poorer wine. They were not inclined to discuss a water extension bill to-night but were prepared to consider a wine extension bill. [Laughter and applause.] After extolling Mr. Kessel for his energy in behalf of a worthy charity he invoked a blessing on the Hebrew Benevolent Society.

The chairman next proposed "The City of Brooklyn, may she prosper in the future as she has in the past." He added that he believed, as did all present, he was satisfied, that as long as Mayor Low was at the head of the city government they would take no backward movement. [Applause.]

Mr. Low was greeted with applause. He said that he had been so often called the father of the city that he hoped they would allow him to address them as his children. [Laughter.] It was a pleasure to see them enjoy themselves as he had to-night. When he went to a ball he thought probably that he would like to sympathize with Daniel who, when he discovered himself in the lion's den, congratulated himself upon not having to make an after dinner speech. [Laughter and applause.] He thanked the Hebrew Benevolent Society on behalf of the City of Brooklyn for what it had done for the poor, and if they took for his speech as Mayor the thanks of those whom they helped he would be much obliged. He was loudly cheered as he sat down.

Mr. Ira L. Bamberger next responded to the toast, "Charity," in an eloquent and felicitous speech. He said that his people were the people of God, who was charity Himself. As he looked along the long vista of the ages it was apparent that the attribute of charity was given to them. The arrows of prejudice may be flung at them by enemies, yet the tower of charity raised by them in the past and present formed a bulwark which could not be successfully assailed. He spoke eloquently of charity, and said that he supposed he had been selected by the chairman, whom he eulogized, to respond to the toast since he knew that he (the speaker) would not be uncharitable enough to talk them to death. [Laughter.]

A letter from Police Commissioner Partridge expressing his inability to be present was received.

The company next ascended to the ballroom, and dancing was resumed and kept up until 5 o'clock.

Among others present than those already mentioned were Philip Strauss, Auditor Voega, Justice Kiehl, ex-Assemblyman John A. Dillmeier, John J. Bernstein, costumed as the Prince of Wales, and Miss Rose Bernstein as Iolanthe; Hymen May and wife, Mrs. Ernst Nathan, Louis Israel and wife, Samuel Klotz and wife, Elias Durlach and wife, Simon Moog and wife, Morris Bruckman and wife, Solomon D. Monday and wife, Joseph Kessel and wife and Miss Wiegand, Asa Wright, Alfred A. St. Arnaud, Louis J. Levy, Henry Bernstein and wife, Assistant Chief Engineer Smith and wife, Joseph Wild and Miss Emma Ball, Alexander Nova, Isaac Igelheimer, the Misses Lena and Hattie Sandman, of Glen Cove; Captain Kaiser, Jacob Ballin and lady, Henry Stellheimer, Mrs. J. Wernberg, William Straus, Miss R. Igelheimer, H. Heyman, M. Rosenstock, L. Mitchell, B. Braum, Joseph F. Knotz, Lucius Goetz, Nathan May, Charles H. May, Benjamin Holzer, Arthur Levy, J. Reimer, L. Lesser, J. Engel, Miss Rosenwald, C. L. Bornheimer.

The ladies who took part in the fan drill were the Misses Rosa Nova, Sarah Baum, Jennie Baum, Esther Brookheimer, Lillie Wertheimer, Sarah Strauss, Brush and Osterman.

The arrangements were in charge of the following committees:

Floor—Joseph E. Klotz, Joseph Mayer, Arthur Levy, Emil Litt, J. Engel, I. S. Moog, Julius Reimer, J. Wertheimer, M. Breckheimer, Leo Lesser, B. Holzer, B. Baum, S. Middle, H. Bach, E. Besthoff.

Reception—J. Egelheimer, L. Bloch, S. Monday, Morris Adler, Leo Michel, N. Bernstein, Henry May, E. Durlach, H. Newman.

Refreshments—D. Volman, Marx May, Maurice Weil, Joseph Weil, J. Durlach, H. Bornstein, H. Heyman and J. Wernberg.

HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

A Joint Civic and Masquerade Ball Given Last Night.

At the Clermont Avenue Rink last night a joint civic and masquerade ball was given under the auspices of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of the Eastern District, and the Hebrew Benevolent Association of the Western District. There was a very large attendance and the affair was a most pronounced success in every particular. The hall was elaborately decorated. Many of the costumes were both unique and beautiful, and the music was delightful. It was nearly 10 o'clock when the grand march was inaugurated and nearly daylight when the last number on the dancing programme was finished.

Among the guests were Mayor Alfred C. Chapin, Police Commissioner James D. Bell, Rev. M. Friedlander, Hugo Hirsh, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Warsawer, George Levison, Harry Newman, S. Rosensohn, H. Suttner, Simon Newman, Morris Posner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roth, Julius Reiner, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Strauss, Miss Fanny Sweetman, Mr. and Mrs. William Strauss, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seligman, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stettheimer, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Samuels, Mr. and Mrs. Isidore G. Souwerne, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Stettzelback, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ullman, Mr. and Mrs. Verbelowsky, Morris Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Weil, Mr. and Mrs. David Wollman, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weil, Isaac Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Lazarus Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wernberg, Rev. Dr. L. Wintner, Mr. and Mrs. Wattsman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. L. Arensberg, Mr. and Mrs. S. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. S. Altheimer, Mr. and Mrs. D. Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. L. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. G. Baum, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bamberger, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bloch, Mr. Benoit Bloch, Mr. and Mrs. L. Blumenau, Mr. M. Blumenau, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Brenner, Mr. and Mrs. M. Bruckheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bloch, Mr. and Mrs. A. Baum, Mr.

and Mrs. M. Bierman, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Corn, Mr. and Mrs. A. Conrad, Mr. H. H. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Emsheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Flato, Mr. Louis S. Firuski, Mr. and Mrs. S. Firuski, Mr. and Mrs. I. Freudenthal, Mr. and Mrs. M. Furst, Mr. and Mrs. J. Foss, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fragner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goetz, Mr. A. Goldschmidt, Mr. and Mrs. S. Goodstein, Mrs. Gottlieb, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gottscho, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gutman, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Gutman, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders Gutman, Mr. Michael Gru, Mr. and Mrs. E. Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. E. Goldsmith, Mr. Henry Harrison, Rev. Leon Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harris, Mr. M. J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Harlem, Mr. and Mrs. Nisan Hess, Mr. N. Hess, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hertzog, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Indig, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Israel, Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Isaacs, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. S. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. S. Klein, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lamm, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lazansky, Mr. and Mrs. B. Levin, Mr. and Mrs. H. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Asher Levy, Mr. and Mrs. John Levy, Mr. and Mrs. P. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. I. Levison, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Liebmann, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Levy, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Manne, Mr. Henry Manne, Mr. and Mrs. S. Manne, Mr. Jacob Mathias, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mayer, Mr. G. Merzbach, Mr. and Mrs. H. Metzger, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Miller, Mr. and Mrs. S. May, Mr. and Mrs. L. Metzger, Mr. and Mrs. I. Nussbaum, Mr. and Mrs. F. Oppenheimer, Mr. S. Parson, Mrs. Pike, Mr. and Mrs. L. Pulvermacher, Mr. and Mrs. R. Raphael, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Raphael, Mr. and Mrs. William Reiss, Mr. and Mrs. B. Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rothschild, Mr. C. Schwartz, Mr. David Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. B. Schellenbegl, Mr. and Mrs. A. H.

Seidenberg, Mr. and Mrs. P. Seldner, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Shenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. S. Simons, Rev. and Mrs. William Spagger, Mr. and Mrs. S. Solomon, Mr. Isaac Sternberger, Mr. and Mrs. E. Steinhardt, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schellenberg, Mr. and Mrs. S. Tobias, Mr. Van Morreck, Mr. H. Wechsler, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wechsler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Wechsler, Mr. and Mrs. D. Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Max Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Weil, Mr. Isidor Weinberg, Mr. B. Wechsler, Mr. and Mrs. Asher Wright, Mr. and Mrs. S. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. Ira I. Bamberger, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bruckheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Bruckheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bloch, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Bloch, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Bloch, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bauer, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bach, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Block, Mrs. J. Ballin, Mr. Isaac Durlach, Mr. Elias Durlach, Dr. and Mrs. J. Fuchs, Mr. Asher Foist, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Flechenheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Getz, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Hagenbacher, Mr. and Mrs. Isidore G. Hagenbacher, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hart, Mr. Isaac Hamburger, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hessberg, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heyman, Mr. Aaron Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. David Igelheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Igelheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Igelheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Igelheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Isaacs, Mr. Moses Kessol, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Klotz, Mr. Joseph S. Klotz, Mr. Jacob Klotz, Mr. Abraham Kodziesen, Mr. and Mrs. Michel Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lowenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Liebman, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Levy, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. M. Leslau, Mr. and Mrs. Moses May, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan May, Mr. and Mrs. Marks May, Mr. and Mrs. Heyman May, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Moog, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Moog, Mr. Solomon Monday, Mr. and Mrs. David Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Michel, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Michel, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Ernst.

The following are the officers of the associations:

Western District—Henry Manne, president; L. Blumenau, vice president; David Schwartz, secretary; S. Merzbach, treasurer. Eastern District—Moses Kessel, president; M. Hessberg, vice president; A. Kodziesen, secretary; Philip Strauss, treasurer.

Floor Committee -- Joseph S. Klotz, Henry Manne, Aaron Hirsch, Benoit Bloch, Mark Goldstein, Gus Blumenau, Henry Roth, Louis L. Firuski, W. Strauss, George Levison, M. B. Schmidt, Isaac Moog, Michael Furst, Isaac Weil, David Harris, I. Hamburger, Isaac Flato, Morris Weil, Henry Newman, Moses Koch, A. Goldschmidt, I. Durtach, Julius Reiner, I. G. Hagenbacher, H. Bach, Joseph Manne, I. L. Bamberger, Isidore Weinberg, Jakob Klotz, N. Hess, Jr.

Reception Committee—Moses Kessel, L. Blumenau, J. Emsheimer, Philip Hart, Philip Strauss, M. Hessberg, S. Koch, M. Blumenau, I. Sternberger, I. Levison, A. Kodziesen, I. Israel, Moses May, G. Merzbach, H. Stetheimer, Leopold Michael, David Schwartz, N. Hess, I. B. Shenfeld, Michael Gru.

REOPENING OF A SYNAGOGUE.

The Synagogue Baith Ysroile, on Boerum place and State street, has been closed for some weeks, while repairs were being made. On Sunday morning it will be reopened and consecration services will be held by the Rev. M. Friedlander, the rabbi of the congregation, assisted by several rabbis from sister churches in this city and New York. In the evening an entertainment in commemoration of Purim will be given for the benefit of the Sunday school.

A PURIM ENTERTAINMENT

By the Scholars of Baith Israel Sunday School.

A Purim entertainment was given a few evenings ago by the scholars of Baith Israel Sunday school at the synagogue on the corner of Boerum place and State street. The synagogue has been undergoing repairs and the entertainment had to be postponed until they were completed. The entertainment, which consisted of vocal and instrumental music and recitations, was an artistic and financial success. The programme was well rendered and highly appreciated by the large audience that filled the synagogue. Between the first and second parts of the programme Mr. Joel Krone made an eloquent and graceful presentation address to Mr. Julius Corn and handed him, in the name of the Sunday school, a handsomely engraved silver goblet. Mr. Corn has just completed the twenty-fifth year of his service as superintendent of the school.

Among those who took part were: Overture, under the leadership of Professor J. Franklin; hymn, by the school; Master Henry Selner, recitation; Miss K. Goldsmith, piano solo; Miss K. Moses, recitation; Miss L. Hart, vocal selections; Mr. Ira Moore, recitation; Professor H. Goldsmith, violin solo; Miss Sadie Warsaw, recitation; Master Rudolph Jacobs, piano solo; Miss Bella Miller, recitation; Miss Nagle, vocal selections; Master Jacob Miller, violin solo; Miss Francis Sonnenstrahl, recitation; a farce by Messrs. U. J. Colemann, M. Wolf, J. D. Folkart and Miss B. Folkart.

At the conclusion of the programme refreshments were served and the guests went home well satisfied with their evening's enjoyment. On Sunday the synagogue, in all the glory of its new decorations and alterations, will be formally dedicated by the pastor, Rabbi M. Friedlander, assisted by several of the leading ministers of Hebrew congregations of New York. The consecration services commence at 2:30 P. M.

"THE ROYAL JEWESS"

**Successfully Performed by the Pupils of
Baith Israel Sunday School.**

"The Royal Jewess," a play which depicts in three acts the story of the saving of the Hebrew race by Esther from annihilation, was successfully performed by the pupils of the Baith Israel Sunday school at the atheneum last night. The Jewish festival of Purim, which commemorates this occurrence, keeps ever fresh the story in the minds of the Hebrew people. It is told in different ways to the children, but none better than that of last night. The play was revised and arranged by Rev. M. Friedlander, pastor of Baith Israel synagogue, and under his careful auspices the children were able to perform their parts with success. Professor William B. Marsh directed the performance.

The audience was large and appreciative, every striking part of the play being applauded to the utmost. Floral offerings were numerous, each of the girls who took part receiving one or more bouquets. The cast was as follows:

King Ahasuerus.....	Hol. Selner
Haman.....	Daniel Newman
Mordecai.....	Henry Selner
Barnazabus.....	Louis Moses
Teresh.....	Jesse R. Jacobs
Bigthana.....	David Alexander
Machachus, } Levi, }	Abs Sonnenstrahl
Herald.....	Henry Levison
Queen Esther.....	Etta Taylor
Queen Vashti.....	Beatrice R. Levison
Captain of the guards.....	Jennie Grittlefield
Maid of honor to Queen Esther.....	Gazella F. Weiss

Miss Weiss, who is only 13 years old, was introduced as the youngest prima donna in America. She made quite a hit, her singing being one of the features of the entertainment. Lillian Hanover, another little miss, added to the attractiveness of the performance by giving several exhibitions of fancy dancing. Professor Franklin furnished the music.

Purim Messages to the Congregation

This *Brooklyn Eagle* article of 1923 below reports on a Purim program held at another Brooklyn congregation with a similar name. The sentiment expressed by the Hebrew school teacher at this Temple is typical of Rabbi Goldfarb's Purim message during this time of rising anti-Semitism.

In the 1987 Scroll, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsburg wrote of the plight of Ethiopia Jews, "Rarely in history have we had the opportunity to feel as intimately connected to these themes as we do this year. Thousands of our fellow Jews have been rescued from poverty and almost certain death in Ethiopia and been brought to our people's homeland. At the same time 10,000 Jews remain behind. In addition we are standing by, hoping against hope that the 3 million Jews in the Soviet are not doomed to forced assimilation. We draw courage from their strength and will continue to work for their freedom.

In 2006, the Congregation continues to fight evil. The following message appeared in this week's issue of the *Kane Yirbu*:

Help Save Darfur! Today, the Sudanese government and its allied militias are committing genocide against the people of Darfur. 400,000 have been murdered. Gunmen on camel and horses shoot and pillage. Militiamen rape and torture. Thousands die of malnutrition, while two and a half million people have been forcibly displaced. Jews must respond, because of the *mitzvah* to intervene to save life (Leviticus 16:19), because of our history, and because for the first time most Jews now live as empowered citizens in free countries with the resources to make a difference. We invite you to join other Kane Street members and friends in three specific actions:

(1) Attend a **Symposium and Action Fair on Darfur** in the Edmund Safra Hall at the **Museum of Jewish Heritage** in Battery Park, **Sunday, March 12, 1 - 5:30 p.m.** There will also be photographs of Darfur by photographer Richard Levine, and the screening of the MTV documentary, *Translating Genocide: Three Students Journey to Sudan*. (2) Join in a **national demonstration in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 30**. The demonstration is sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition, and is widely supported by the organized Jewish community. (3) Support the **"Million Voices for Darfur"** initiative of the Save Darfur Coalition, which sends postcards, e-mails, and petitions to U.S. political leaders Go to **www.savedarfur.org** and click on "Take Action Now". We would like to have Kane Street members and friends join together to attend the March 12th Symposium and Action Fair, and the April 30th demonstration. We hope to organize three *minyans* (30 people) for the March event, and 10 *minyans* (100 people) to travel to Washington on April 30th. Please RSVP to David Sherrin at sherrind@yahoo.com if you plan to attend either or both events. Todah Rabah.

ANSHE EMES HOLDS PURIM CELEBRATION MAR 5 1923

"Henry Ford attributes all of the strife and ills of the world to the Jewish people of today. Knowing that this is an age of anti-Semitism, I urge all you parents to have your young ones attend the Hebrew school, so they may be equipped with sufficient knowledge to face the world and refute such statements." Thus admonished Miss L. Reich, a teacher in the Hebrew School of the Temple of the Congregation Anshe Emes, Stanhope St. and Myrtle Ave. last night.

The occasion was a demonstration of thanksgiving for the fruits bestowed upon the congregation during the past year, it being known as the Purim Celebration. The temple was crowded and the entertainment arranged by Louis Blumenthal, president of the congregation, was highly appreciated.

Prior to the commencement of the program, Dr. William Lueder spoke in praise of the work being done by the brotherhood, as likewise did the Rev. E. Dolganis of the Sumner Ave. Temple. Then followed a violin solo by Samuel Ziswiler and Ladore Leventhal rendered songs and recitations. In a beautiful soprano voice, Hilda Reich, in a rendition of "Eli Eli," scored the hit of the evening. A number of Hebrew opera selections, rendered by the temple choir of 20 male

voices, under the direction of Cantor D. Braginsky, were also heard. Presentation of a glittering Star of Zion and an American and Hebrew flag, was made by H. C. Leventhal to the temple. The Rev. D. Braginsky, rabbi, implored all to lend their financial support to the wing that is to be added to the temple to house the school children. Plans have been formulated and ground will be broken in April for the new structure.

Purims Past

Kane Street Synagogue's Purim Raffle began in 1979. This page from the 1986 Scroll includes two articles written by past raffle winners Fred Cohen and Rena Schklowsky.

Purims Past

Purim 1985 ... Fred Cohen

Being the winner of last year's Purim Raffle for the Synagogue's trip to Isreal, I've been asked to write a few words to entice you to take a chance this year.

So I sat, and pondered. But then I thought, "do I really want to make this an effective pitch, and increase the competition? Perhaps I should try the soft sell, and hope that not too many people buy chances -- increasing my chance of winning again!"

I then started wondering, "Even if I do want to make a real sales pitch, what could I say? Should I mention that I had never thought I had a chance of winning? That I had never won anything like that before? No, those are cliched lines which everyone uses, and the fact that they are the truth wouldn't matter. "Should I mention what a wonderful time I had, spending three weeks in Israel?" Probably not, as that would confuse members. After all, it is advertised as a two wekk trip. But for one person, the prize money sure does stretch. [Please note that I'm not advocating leaving spouses behind!]

"I could mention the five days I spent in Tel Aviv, on the beach and sightseeing; the weck spent in Eilat, soaking up the sun, sailing, and examining the coral reefs; the nine days in Jerusalem, touring the newly opened ruins, spending hours at the Western Wall, taking trips to historic sites, visiting the Conservative Movement kibbutz, scouting around the archeological sites, and feeling enveloped in by the Jewish homeland. But why would people want to hear about my trip anyway?"

Besides, how hard a sell could I have to make? This year there is probably added incentive to buy a raffle. After all, the Synagogue is sponsoring a trip to Israel this summer, and wouldn't it be great to go to Israel with friends and have the trip paid for?

So, what should I send in for the Scroll? I probably don't have to send in any copy, as everyone knows how great it would be to vacation in Israel, everyone is looking forward to touring Israel this summer with the shul, and everyone knows that even if they don't win, the money is going for a good cause -- Kane Street Synagogue.

Good Luck to All!!!

Purim 1984 ... Rena Schklowsky

It was Purim, 1984. My then 4 year old son Pablo had just won 1st prize for his Kermit the Frog Magician costume. It was late, time to go home. I knew it would be silly for us to stay for the Raffle drawing, since I knew I wouldn't win. I was just not "lucky." What possessed me to purchase a chance in the first place, I can't say. Maybe it was Phil Phillip's persuasive style, maybe it was my (erroneous) assumption that I could write the \$100 off as a tax deduction. Whatever it was, I had done it & now I was waiting around to congratulate the lucky winner.

I still remember the shrieks, the laughter, the look of fear on Pablo's face (what was everyone screaming at his mother for?), the thrill of winning. I had won an all-expenses paid trip to Israel. No matter that I went every year to see my parents & sisters, all olim. No matter that my parents were generous in making the annual pilgrimage possible. I had taken a chance & won.

Then why keep on buying a raffle ticket each year, knowing I wouldn't accept again? I buy a raffle ticket because Kane Street is my synagogue. It is a Synagogue that accepts me & my family, gives me solace, offers education for my children as well as myself, is committed to many of the things I stand for, provides a steady supply of warm & giving people that I can feel comfortable with. Buying a raffle ticket is one of the ways in which I can say "Thank You".