

# The Synagogue Journal

## 1856-2006

June 30, 2006

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Shabbat Korach

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### Issue 26 Summertime

#### In this issue ...

About summer at Kane Street Synagogue, we commemorate July 4<sup>th</sup> with an item from the *Brooklyn Eagle* on Baith Israel member James Gruschenske's fireworks fiasco in 1876. The greatest casualty in Brooklyn during the Declaration of Independence centennial celebration was the death of the sexton's son from the Harrison Street church (now Kane Street Synagogue.) The 1879 article about the exclusion of Hebrews at hotels relates to the 1897 news of vacationing Brooklynites, which lists members of our congregation.

Colorful details from the *Brooklyn Eagle* describe outdoor events that Congregation Baith Israel opened to the community. The Sunday school, the Literary League and the Hebrew Progressive Society held picnics and excursions to a number of locations, including Schuetzen Park, Bay View Park, Prospect Park, Ulmer Park, Manhattan Park, Stimmel's Park and Forest View Grove. Specially hired trolley cars transported our "young scholars" to the parks, where the festivities lasted from noon throughout the evening. The Eagle estimated that up to eight hundred people were in attendance at the height of one party. The events featured dancing, fireworks, croquet and lawn tennis. Commentary in the 1879 and 1885 articles notes the joyous participation of Hebrew Orphan Asylum children at the festivities. The 1884 field day was the first annual "union picnic" of three Hebrew Sunday schools in Brooklyn.

Joseph Goldfarb, Rabbi Goldfarb's son, recalls Sunday school trips to Prospect Park. "For a number of years there was an arrangement with the BMT, which was a private company in those days, not connected to the city transportation system. It was a street car then, with two different kinds of cars, for either warm-weather or colder-weather. For Lag B'Omer, the BMT line that ran along Court Street would come by with its cane seating cars and make stops along the cross streets, picking up all the children and take them to Prospect Park where we all went to play and celebrate the holiday." A report in 1935 minutes mention the United Synagogue field day.

In 1978, Kane Street Synagogue held the first Shabbaton weekend at the Hotel Melbourne in Ellenville, NY. Subsequent Shabbatons were at lakeside camps in Brewster, NY, Carmel, NY and Falls Village, CT. Shabbaton enthusiasts Bob Weinstein, Ed Brill and Roberta Kahn wrote about the retreats for *The Scroll*. Bob described them as "one of the highlights of the synagogue year."

This year our Kadima and USY youth groups enjoyed several field days during May and June, 2006. They canoed at the Delaware Water Gap, engaged in sports at Prospect Park, adventured at Great Adventure and marched on Fifth Avenue at the Salute to Israel Parade.

Services during the summer months are held Friday evenings in the Chapel at 7PM and on Shabbat morning at 9:30 AM in the Community Room. Our July 28<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Synagogue Journal* will coincide with Tisha B'av.

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## **Brooklyn Eagle reports on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Summer Events**

### **"On Columbia Street"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 5, 1876, Page 4. James Gruschenske's fireworks on the July 4th centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence resulted in a fire at his hat store and neighboring dry goods and cigar stores. It is part of a larger article, "Destruction. What the Centennial Cost Brooklyn".

### **"The Hebrews. The Relative Rights of these People and Hotel Keepers"**

Credit: July 22, 1879, Page 4. "Mr. Austin Corbin, of the Manhattan Beach Hotel, says he does not want their custom, and gives his reasons for it. Interviews with several well known Hebrew citizens, including a rabbi and a distinguished Hebrew journalist – the social, religious and legal aspects of the question."

### **"Vacation News From the Summer Resorts"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 25, 1897, Page 8. Lists names of Brooklynites summering at Long Island hotels.

### **"Beth Israel Sunday School"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 15, 1878, Page 3. Describes the day's events from noon to evening at Manhattan Park, concluding with, "Gaslight could easily have been dispensed with in the pavilion, for it was bright moonlight."

### **"Beth Israel. Annual Picnic of the Boerum Place Congregation"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 7, 1879, Page 3. "The Sunday School numbers two hundred scholars, and although the congregation is not very large, Beth Israel is known as one of the most prominent Hebrew Institutions in the city, and receives the support and encouragement of all thorough going Hebrew citizens."

### **"Pleasing in the Extreme"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 7, 1879, Page 3. "The inmates of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum were invited to participate in the pleasures of the day. This invitation was accepted, and twenty little boys, who know not the blessings of a parent's affection, joined the scholars at the park."

### **"Hebrew Sunday School Picnic. A Day of Enjoyment at Prospect Park"**

Credit: *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 8, 1885, Page 3. This picnic at Prospect Park included children from Congregation Baith Israel, the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Temple Beth Elohim and Temple Israel.

**The Scroll on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Kane Street Synagogue Summers** – The Winter 2002 issue notes, "Activities include spiritual services, study sessions, Motzie Shabbat campfire and sing-along, as well as swimming, boating, softball, tennis, nature walks and general socializing and fun."

**"Sun, Fun and Torah"** September 1985, article by Bob Weinstein

**"A Sense of Community"** May 1986, article by Ed Brill

**"Clippings from the May/June 1994 Scroll"** "Seven Reasons to Come to the Shabbaton" by Roberta Kahn; "The Shabbaton Approaches!" by Bernice Rosenthal, Ed Brill and Bob Weinstein; "Summer Shabbat"

## **About the Journal ...**

The Synagogue Journal" is a one-year online publication at [www.kanestreet.org/historical\\_journal.html](http://www.kanestreet.org/historical_journal.html), designed to highlight prominent individuals and events during the Kane Street Synagogue congregation's past 150 years.

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

Special thanks to: Rabbi Samuel Weintraub, Vivien Shelanski, Dugans Martinez and Jack Levin; Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online™, Brooklyn Public Library; [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle)

**ON COLUMBIA STREET.**

At half-past five o'clock yesterday afternoon, a fire was discovered in the hat store of James Gruschenake, No. 252 Columbia street. The owner had been setting off fireworks in the rear of his store during the afternoon, after which he locked up and went on a visit to his father. It is supposed that he had neglected to extinguish some of the sparks, and that they had ignited the inflammable materials with which the store was filled. Before the firemen could arrive the flames had extended to No. 250 Columbia street, occupied as a dry goods store by Francis Meyenger, and to James M. Levy's cigar store, No. 252 Columbia street. The flames were extinguished with the following losses: \$5,000 on Grueschenake's stock and fixtures; insured for \$3,500 in the Pacific of Brooklyn. Meyenger's store was damaged to the extent of \$1,000, covered by insurance, and Levy lost \$500 on stock and fixtures. Insured for \$5,000 in the Brooklyn & Etna. The buildings which are three stories high are owned by William Fry, and have sustained \$3,000 damage, which is covered by insurance.

# THE HEBREWS.

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## **The Relative Rights of these People and Hotel Keepers.**

**Mr. Austin Corbin, of the Manhattan Beach Hotel, Says he does not Want their Custom, and Gives his Reasons for It. Interviews with Several Well Known Hebrew Citizens, Including a Rabbi and a Distinguished Hebrew Journalist—The Social, Religious and Legal Aspects of the Question.**

The question of the respective rights of the people of the Hebrew faith and hotel keepers has been again brought forward in rather a vigorous and direct manner by way of an interview with President Austin Corbin, President of the Manhattan Beach Railway and Hotel, published in the *Herald* this morning, and given below. This resurrection of a question which caused so much talk when originally raised by Judge Hilton, in connection with the Grand Union Hotel at Saratoga, was the more unexpected from the fact that the Manhattan Beach Hotel has been and is doing all the business it can manage, and because any apprehension that Hebrews were interfering with it by their presence and driving away the more fastidious guests of other persuasions had not been apparent. The article in the *Herald* is as follows:

The war against the Jews which was carried on at Saratoga two years ago is apparently to be revived at Coney Island. This time it is in a quarter where the Jewish residents of New York City are particularly aimed at. Several days ago a rumor was circulated to the effect that Austin Corbin, the President of the Manhattan Beach Company, had taken an open stand against admitting Jews to the beach or hotel. This report was on Sunday strengthened by a statement from Mr. P. S. Gilmore, the leader of the Manhattan Beach band, who said that Mr. Corbin told him he was going to oppose the Jews, and that he would rather sink the two millions invested in the railway and hotel than have a single Israelite take advantage of its attractions. A representative of the *Herald* called upon Mr. Corbin at his banking establishment in the new Trinity building, No. 115 Broadway, yesterday, to ascertain what foundation there was for these most extraordinary rumors. Mr. Corbin at first exhibited some timidity about talking on the subject, but finally invited the reporter into his private office, where he was joined by his brother and partner, Daniel O. Corbin.

#### THEY EXPECT TOO MUCH.

"You see," he began, "I don't want to speak too strongly, as it might be mistaken for something entirely different from its intended sense. Personally I am opposed to Jews. They are a pretentious class who expect three times as much for their money as other people. They give us more trouble on our road and in our hotel than we can stand. Another thing is that they are driving away the class of people who are beginning to make Coney Island the most fashionable and magnificent watering place in the world."

"Of course, this must affect business?"

"Why, they are hurting us in every way, and we do not want them. We cannot bring the highest social element to Manhattan Beach if the Jews persist in coming. They won't associate with Jews, and that's all there is about it."

"Do you intend to make an open stand against them?"

"Yes, I do. They are contemptible as a class, and I never knew but one 'white' Jew in my life. The rest I found were not safe people to deal with in business. Now I feel pretty warm over this matter, and I will write a statement which you can publish."

#### AN "OFFICIAL" EXPRESSION.

Mr. Corbin sat down at his desk and wrote a few sentences on a slip of paper as follows:

"We do not like the Jews as a class. There are some well behaved people among them, but as a rule they make themselves offensive to the kind of people who principally patronize our road and hotel, and I am satisfied we should be better without than with their custom."

"There," said he, handing the statement to the reporter, "that is my opinion, and I am prepared to follow up the matter. It is a question that has to be handled without gloves. It stands this way: 'We must have a good place for society to patronize. I say that we cannot do so and have Jews. They are a detestable and vulgar people. What do you say, eh, Dan?'"

This last sentence was addressed to his brother, Mr. Daniel Corbin, who had taken an active part in the conversation. Dan said with great emphasis, "Vulgar? I can only find one term for them, and that is nasty. It describes the Jews perfectly."

Mr. Austin Corbin then spoke warmly of the loss sustained by the Manhattan Beach Company in consequence of Israelitish patronage.

"Do you mean, Mr. Corbin, that the presence of Jews attracts the element of ruffianism?" asked the reporter.

"Not always. But the thing is this: The Jews drive off the people whose places are filled by a less particular class. The latter are not rich enough to have any preference in the matter. Even they, in my opinion, bear with them only because they can't help it. It is not the Jew's religion I object to; it is the offensiveness which they possess as a sect or nationality. I would not oppose any man because of his creed."

"Will the other members of the Manhattan Beach Company support you in your position?"

"I expect them to. They know just as much about it as I do, and no reasonable man can deny that the Jews will creep in a place just as it is about to become a grand success and spoil everything. They are not wanted at the Beach and that settles it."

"Have you spoken to any other members about it?"

"No, but I guess they know my opinions."

Mr. Corbin rose from the chair he had been sitting on and paced the floor. "I'll tell you," said he, running his fingers through his hair, "if I had had my way, and there was no one to consult in the matter but myself, I would have stopped the Jews from coming long ago. You just publish my statement. It covers the whole ground, and I mean every word of it."

Mr. Corbin concluded the conversation by telling the reporter to be sure and not give the impression that he was warring against the Jewish religion, but he stigmatized the Jews as having no place in first class society.

#### **What President Murphy Says.**

An EAGLE reporter this morning called upon the Hon. Henry C. Murphy, President of the Brooklyn, Flatbush and Coney Island Railway, and asked his opinion on the question raised between President Corbin and the Hebrew people, and whether any difficulty had arisen from the attendance of Israelites at Brighton Beach.

President Murphy was reluctant to speak on the subject, but finally expressed himself as follows: "We have never had any trouble with the Hebrews at Brighton Beach. In fact, I have never found them there in sufficient numbers to be observable. We have received no complaints from our other patrons on the score of their visits to the hotel at the terminus of our road."

As to the action of President Corbin or its probable effect on the beach President Murphy declined to be interrogated.

#### **Wechsler, Abraham & Co.'s Views.**

In the absence of Mr. Abraham, of the

## BEITH ISRAEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The annual picnic of the Sunday School attached to the Synagogue Beth Israel on Boerum place, took place yesterday afternoon and evening, at Manhattan Park, Sixtieth street and Third avenue. This is the only Hebrew congregation in the city that gives a picnic. This being the case, the other tabernacles are usually well represented at the picnic of Beth Israel. The occasion is regarded as one of the best and happiest of the festive occurrences among the people of this denomination in Brooklyn. It is looked forward to with joyous expectations. No person is said to have turned away from these gatherings with other than feelings of pleasure and regret. The festivities are conducted with unusual decorum. The Sunday School children met at the Synagogue about 12 o'clock. They looked happy and were dressed to suit the occasion. After forming in line, they marched to Court street, where they were taken to the Park in two special cars. Upon their arrival there they found plenty to engage their attention for an afternoon. They were the only persons in the grove, for their parents had not yet arrived, and they did what they pleased without interference.

The soups and the merry go rounds were not long still. Other youthful amusements were indulged in. Some apple and pear trees were stripped of their fruit by the boys. The girls amused themselves by plucking sour grapes and throwing them promiscuously around. A number of gallons of ice cream had been purchased for the little ones. As soon as their superintendent announced to them that the cream was about to be served there was a great rush for seats, but the number of seats was not sufficient to accommodate the young battalion, and those who could not find a place to sit down tried to do so by forcing others out of their seats. The superintendent came to the rescue. The cream was very palatable. It disappeared in about ten minutes. At four o'clock the adults began to put

in an appearance, and as soon as there were about a dozen couples the dancing commenced with a grand march. The ladies were greatly in the majority, and some of them were quite bewildered because they could not find partners. Ladies who brought their husbands felt contented, and seemed to appreciate the sad plight of those who danced with their own sex. After six o'clock the park began to fill up. Every motor brought two car loads of picnickers, until nine o'clock, when the homeward flow began. After that hour only a stray visitor now and then came in. There was room for all, with no discomfort or inconvenience to anyone. Gaslight could easily have been dispensed with in the pavilion, for it was bright moonlight.

#### AMONG THOSE PRESENT

were : Mr. H. Wechsler, Mr. Samuel Wechsler, Mr. N. Selig, Mr. Max Indig, Mr. S. Peterman, Dr. Edwin F. Lindridge, Mr. J. Celler, Mr. Nathan Leopold, Mr. S. Kock, Supervisor Nathan, Mr. Benjamin F. Hertz, Mr. Julius Corn, Mr. Jacob Matthias, Mr. Julius Matthias, Mr. P. Ketchum, Mr. Robert Lamm, Mr. M. Hirsch; Mr. Morris Ullman, Mr. S. Morris, Mr. M. Lowenthal, Mr. L. Jacobs, Rev. Mr. M. Pinther, Mr. P. Simons, Mr. M. Newman, Mr. Goldschmidt, Mr. Capinus, Mr. Louis La France, Mr. Bazer, Mr. J. S. Brusky, Mr. Samuel Cohen, M. H. Goldstrom, Mr. Jacob Franklin, Mr. Adolph Cohen, Mr. N. Schterzelbach, Mr. William Morris, Mr. L. Cohen, Mr. Morris Nathan, Mr. Lewis H. Davis, Mr. Baldwin F. Strauss, Mr. A. Jacobs, Mr. H. Seidenberg, Mr. J. M. Bierman, Mr. L. Bass, Mr. H. Levy, Mr. Jacob Brenner, Mr. George Gruschenske and Mr. Michael Gruschenske. Most of the above were accompanied by ladies.

The officers in attendance were : Floor Manager, Henry H. Davis ; Assistant, Michael Furst ; Floor Committee, George Gruschenske, Henry H. Celler, Jacob Brenner, Michael Gruschenske ; Reception Committee, Julius Corn, Chairman ; Lewis Jacobs, Assistant Chairman ; S. Morris, H. Levy, L. Bass, J. Levyson, H. Seidenberg, W. Morris, P. Simons, J. M. Bierman ; School Committee, Miss S. Ullman, Miss T. Celler, Miss H. Corn, Miss S. Furst.



above named firm, who is in Europe, and of Mr. Wechsler, who had gone to New York for the day, no expression of opinion could be had from either of the firm. Mr. Collins, the third partner, is a New England man and resides in New York City. The business manager of the house, Mr. Hurd, also a New England man, had nothing to say on the subject, and could not tell what views the gentlemen of the firm would hold on the subject. Mr. Wechsler is a frequent visitor to the Island, going down after business hours to enjoy the attractions of the music and the beach. Mr. Abraham is a resident of New York, and rarely visits the Island for this reason, and because of the additional fact that his Summers are mainly spent in Europe.

Mr. Wechsler, senior member of the firm of Wechsler & Brother, of Fulton street, had not read the article and had not learned of the position of Mr. Corbin, on the subject of excluding the Israelites from Manhattan, until informed by the reporter. He thought it a mistake on the part of the hotel proprietor, and said that it was not a good plan to exclude any one sect or people from public places. So far as the Jews were concerned, he thought they would never go to the Manhattan again, and said, that while he was a liberal himself he could not but be hurt at the feeling exhibited toward his race. Mr. Wechsler was unwilling to talk at all, and gave only the most moderate replies, declining positively to state more than a general opinion, not being entirely conversant with the position taken by the hotel people on this subject.

#### **Judge Hilton's Policy.**

A reporter of the EAGLE called at Judge Hilton's store, on Broadway and Tenth street, to learn from him the results of his policy of exclusion of Israelites from the Grand Union Hotel, Saratoga. Neither Judge Hilton nor Mr. Libby was in town, and there was nobody to represent them on that subject.

#### **What the Rabbi Brandenstein, of Congregation Beth Elohim, says:**

The wholesale denunciation of the Jewish people as a class, by Mr. Austin Corbin, President of the Manhattan Beach Railway, published in a morning contemporary, seems fated to revive the war against this

race which was carried on with so much animosity two years ago, at Saratoga, by Judge Hilton. Mr. Corbin expressed himself as being strongly opposed to the Israelites patronizing either his hotel at the beach or the railroad leading to it, on the same grounds taken by Judge Hilton, that they have the effect of driving away the wealthier and better class of people. An EAGLE reporter called this morning on the Rev. George Braundenstein, rabbi of Beth Elohim, at his residence, No. 223 Bridge street. The reverend gentleman had not seen the article in question, and when it was pointed out to him he read it with an expression of surprise on his countenance, not unmingled with a slight tinge of contempt.

"What do you think of Mr. Corbin's opinions?" asked the reporter.

"I was not aware," answered the rabbi, "that such a prejudice still existed among civilized people. I don't know where Mr. Corbin imbibes his views from, and I cannot imagine what he has against the Jews. This animosity seems to be

#### CLEARLY RACE PREJUDICE,

as he advances no reasons for his distinction other than we are Jews. This seems to me very foolish for a man of supposed intelligence."

"What do you think the effect will be on your people who have heretofore patronized Manhattan Beach?"

"I think they will go somewhere else. That is, all self respecting Jews will. Coney Island is too large a place, and the field for amusement is too wide to confine the people who go down there to Manhattan Beach. I think Mr. Corbin makes this pronouncement rather late in the day. Why did he not speak out when Manhattan Beach was first started. This resort is now in its third year, and its success is established beyond all peradventure, and by whom? Why, by the very people Mr. Corbin so bitterly denounces. The Jews patronized the Beach from the start, and it was owing mainly, perhaps, to this very patronage, once coveted but now despised, that the resort owes its success."

"You think, then, that Mr. Corbin does your people an injustice in publishing such sentiments?"

"I do, and I would like Mr. Corbin to state through the EAGLE his

#### REASONS FOR ABUSING THE JEWS

—in what manner they can be detrimental to his business, or injure him. I would like to ask him if they have not always behaved themselves respectably at this hotel—more so, perhaps, than even other people? It would gratify me to learn if he has any just cause for his wholesale abuse. I don't think he will find any drunkards among his Jewish patrons, or any thieves, or rascals."

"In case any of your people were refused entertainment at the Beach, what do you think they would do?"

"I cannot tell that, but I don't see how Mr. Corbin is going to make his distinctions, after all. Suppose a man sits down to a table and orders dinner, is he going to ask him, 'Are you a Jew?' The resemblance between many Americans and Jews, and *vice versa*, is now so great that I think it would be a difficult matter to distinguish between them. However," said Mr. Brandenstein, in conclusion, "I don't think that what Mr. Corbin has said is such a serious matter after all. It looks to me very much like an advertising dodge, for a man who would stoop to such slanderous and unwarrantable abuse as Mr. Corbin has been guilty of would

**BETH ISRAEL.**

**Annual Picnic of the Boerum Place  
Congregation.**

The fifth annual picnic of the Sunday School attached to Beth Israel, on Boerum place, took place yesterday afternoon and evening, at Manhattan Park. The weather was all that could be desired, and the cooling breeze that swept up from the bay fanned the cheeks of the picnickers, and made the park a very pleasant spot. The congregation Beth Israel has been fortunate in being blessed with fair weather on the occasions of its annual festive gatherings. Last year's event also occurred in Manhattan Park, which is unexcelled as a picnic ground, possessing as it does a delightful interchange of hill and dale, and those facilities for enjoyment which all pleasure seekers expect to find. In point of management the picnics of Beth Israel have always been successful. In point of attendance and management the event of yesterday surpassed its predecessors. At no time were there less than three hundred people in the park, and when, at about nine o'clock in the evening, the attendance reached its height, fully eight hundred persons took part in the festivities. The Sunday School numbers two hundred scholars, and although the congregation is not very large, Beth Israel is known as one of the most prominent Hebrew institutions in the city, and receives the support and encouragement of all thorough going Hebrew citizens. Consequently any effort put forth in behalf of its Sunday School receives extensive patronage.

The social attractions of a picnic are appreciated, and the pleasure of meeting friends on such an occasion, and in behalf of such an object, is certainly not the least of the enjoyments of the day. Mr. Julius Corn is Superintendent of the Sunday School, and under his management the children yesterday took special cars at eleven o'clock in the morning, and were conveyed to the park. Mr. Corn was assisted by the teachers, ten in number, six gentlemen and four ladies. The appearance presented by the pupils was

#### PLEASING IN THE EXTREME.

Dressed in gala attire, with delicate ribbons fluttering in the breeze, and bright smiling faces, the little ones needed nothing more to make their happiness complete. No word of reprimand was needed from the overseers, and as the cars passed through the streets, ringing, merry voices, betokened the mission of pleasure. But while the managers of the picnic were not lacking in administering to the enjoyment of the scholars, they did not forget the less fortunate brethren around them. The inmates of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum were invited to participate in the pleasures of the day. This invitation was accepted, and twenty little boys, who knew not the blessings of a parent's affection, joined the scholars at the park.

Under the direction of Superintendent Lewis they arrived about noon. They at once commingled with the other children, and in no manner whatever were they made to feel their position in life. With eagerness characteristic of the mind of childhood, they entered into the games, romped on the hills, and, for the time at least, seemed to forget their situation. But they were guarded with watchful eyes, and the home to which they were to return had become endeared by the kind treatment there received. At one o'clock they partook of a substantial lunch, fresh air having done much to sharpen the appetite. While the children amused themselves in their own particular way, the elder folks also found means of diversion. The dancing platform was the chief attraction, and not once was it deserted. It was decorated with flags and bunting, and what other ornamentalions there were occupied places where their charms would not be lost to view. To those, however, who preferred a more subdued mode of enjoyment than dancing, there were plenty of shady places where papers could be read or where quiet conversation could be held without the unbearable buzz of the mosquitos. To say that there were no mosquitos in the park would not be true, for many faces showed evidences of being punctured by the little insect's sting. It was not until evening arrived, however, that

#### THE TIDE OF PLEASURE

flowed unstemmed, and the gatekeepers were kept busy. The lights in the park showed that some festive event was in progress, and the strains of music were sufficient to prove that a dancing programme had not been forgotten. Gilbert's band furnished the music, and the programme was as lengthy as varied. The lancers followed the quadrille, the waltz followed the lancers, the polka followed the waltz, the Caledonians followed the polka in countless succession, until the programme was finished, and the words "Home, Sweet Home," gave evidence that the time for leaving the scene of so much pleasure was at hand. The pop of the rifle and the jingle of glasses were constantly heard during the evening. Judging from the condition of things yesterday, however, heavy drinking is not a characteristic of the Hebrew nature, for not a single person in the park showed evidence of having imbibed too freely. It was twelve o'clock before the musicians began to grow weary, and the violins sounded as if they needed more rosin.

There are some people, however, who know nothing of the word "enough," and a fair representation of this class were at the park. All went home, however, well satisfied with their day's or evening's enjoyment, and wishing that the festivities given by Beth Israel would occur more frequently. The floor manager was Mr. Michael Furst and a more efficient officer it would have been difficult to find. He was assisted by Messrs. George Gruschenske, Henry H. Celler, Jacob Brenner, Henry H. Davis and Michael Gruschenske.

The Reception Committee were Julius Corn, Chairman; H. Seidenberg, Isaac Levyson, William Morris, Rev. E. M. Myers, Lewis Jacobs, Thomas Newman, P. Simons and Louis Bass.

The School Committee were Miss Theresa Celler, Miss Sarah Furst, Miss F. Boskowitz and Miss Hannah Corn.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT

were the following gentlemen, most of whom were accompanied by ladies:

L. H. Davis, Supervisor Ernst Nathan, Baldwin F. Strauss, Joseph Strauss, John S. Busky, Dr. George Boskowitz, Louis Berwin, David Davies, Jacob Levy, Isaac Levy, Philip Ketchum, Isaac Goldstein, S. Goldstein, Abraham Wechsler, S. Wechsler, B. Goldsmith, Benjamin F. Herts, Charles Herts, Sam'l Siegman, Henry Manne, S. Metzger, S. Fragner, Louis Bass, Charles S. Manne, Simon Manne, Myron J. Furst, A. Frankel, William Morris, William Bass, B. P. A. McCarty, Thomas Newman, William Powers, Officer Barr, Isaac Levyson, H. Seidenberg, Samuel Koch, Simon Young, Thomas Lewis, Joseph Harris, Samuel Hart, Harry Ross, Henry H. Celler, Bernard Cohen, Barnett Seckels, L. B. Shenfield, Goodman Grodjinski, Samuel Prager, S. Medicus, Adolph Ketchum, B. Drayfuss, Samuel Hess, Nathan Hess, Jacob Brenner, Louis La France, Bernard Simons, N. Denglow, M. Wellman, H. Sheinberg, A. Lissner, Joseph Berry, Benjamin Baker, John Conraddy, M. Samuels, Isaac Lowenstein, Bernard Rush, Coleman Newman, Isaac Gold, Charles Gold, Isaac Coleman, George Coleman, Peter Farrell, Isaac Worden, Mr. Lyons, Jacob Cohen, I. Lesser, Officer Burke, Isador Schmitzer, Joseph Martin, Joseph Levy, George Hosner, and Mr. Rosenberg.

## **HEBREW SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC.**

### **A Day of Enjoyment at Prospect Park.**

The second annual union picnic of the Hebrew Sunday schools of Brooklyn took place yesterday in Prospect Park. The children of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum of Temple Beth Elohim, on Keap street, E. D., of Temple Israel, on Greene avenue, and of Temple Beth, on Boorum place, assembled at their respective headquarters at nine o'clock in the morning and boarded cars engaged to convey them to the Park. They proceeded by diverse routes to the pleasure grounds which were specially roped off for them. The day was all that could have been desired and young and old at once set about having a good time. Croquet and lawn tennis games were begun and continued throughout the day. The swing was kept busy and youngsters swarmed about the goat carriages and the donkeys that never get tired. Lunch baskets were emptied in a twinkling and gallon upon gallon of ice cream disappeared. Exploring parties were made up in the afternoon and visits were paid to the well and other places of interest. Many enjoyed a row over the placid waters of the lake. In short, everybody had a good time and the committee was well pleased. Among those present were Earnest Nathan, president of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum; Mrs. Wintner, Rev. G. N. Chapman, Henry Manne, Miss Benjamin, Miss Augusta Shenfeld, Miss Enoch, Miss Megill, Mr. Joseph Manne, Mr. M. J. Biegan, Mr. T. Levy, Mrs. Jacob Fragner, Mr. J. D. Folkart, Mr. and Mrs. Eisner, Mr. Julius Corn, Mr. Michael Furst, Mr. M. J. Harris, Mr. E. Citron, Miss Citron, Miss Strauss, Miss M. Taylor, Miss Levy, Miss Martin, Miss Seldenberg, Mr. David Harris, Mr. Alfred Newman, Mr. J. Alexander, Rev. Dr. Wintner, rabbi of Beth Elohim; Mr. B. Kutner, Mr. Oppenheim, Miss Brunswick, Mrs. Louis Sanders, Mrs. Nathan May, Mrs. Henry Newman, Miss Nellie Hagerbacker, Miss Gussie Driftness, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sandak, Mr. Abraham Kodzieson, Mr. and Mrs. Max May, Mr. A. Wollman, Mr. E. Levy, Miss Helene Wintner, Mr. and Mrs. S. Solomon, Mrs. Berendson, Mrs. Altheimer, Mrs. S. Manne, Mrs. A. S. Manne, Mrs. Francis Stern, Mr. B. Rappaport, Mr. Henry Harrison, Mr. Samuel Koch and Mr. G. Merzbach.



SUN, FUN AND TORAH  
as reported by Bob Weinstein

For the 7th consecutive year, members of the Kane Street Synagogue left their brownstones behind and spent a weekend in the country praying, playing and learning at the annual Kane Street Shabbaton. This year, 85 adults and children journeyed to Camp Salomon, just north of Brewster, N.Y. during the weekend of June 14 to 16, and participated in our program.

The theme for the discussions this year was "Jewish Theology," and with the help of discussion leaders Jenny Brooks, Steve Cohen, Marion Stein and Rabbi Ginsburg, members of the group had a chance to air their widely varying ideas on God, Faith, Evil and other related topics.

The ritual part of our weekend was enlivened by the participation of Torah Readers Lisa Kleinman and Ron Stein; Haftarah reader Bob Weinstein; and Ba'ale T'filah David Greenwald, Ron Stein and Bob Weinstein.

After Shabbat, while most of the group enjoyed a showing of the film "This is Spinal Tap," Ben Zelman did his usual terrific job organizing the frankfurter cooking, this time under adverse weather conditions. However, not even the pouring rain kept our young people from indulging themselves in a marshmallow-roast at the campfire.

Our waterfront was ably supervised by our lifeguard Maureen Farcell, and the somewhat cool weather did not seem to discourage young people from spending a good deal of time at the lake swimming, boating, and soaking up the ample sunshine. On Sunday, the adults and children played a thrilling, closely contested softball game which the adults won in the ninth inning by a score of 10 to 9.

As usual the camp's kitchen staff, led by Hannah and Paul, served us the traditional meals. Hannah's cheerful "Jewish Grandmotherly" presence is one of the reasons we have been coming back to Camp Salomon for our Shabbatons since 1980.

To those Kane Streeter's who missed out on this year's Shabbaton, be assured that this event will be back for a repeat performance next year. Remember to mark your calendars for the June 6-8, 1986 weekend so that no excuses will keep you from attending the 8th Annual Shabbaton. Our Shabbaton is one of the highlights of the synagogue year, and a wonderful way to get to know other members of the congregation better.

A Sense of Community  
Ed Brill

Since I can write about whatever I want, I think it's about time to write about how our synagogue is getting too large and impersonal. How it's getting away from the shared sense of community that was the main reason for much of its current growth. But, while it is of course not possible to have the same type of atmosphere with a group of 75 as with a group of 600, we can be closer and more cohesive.

This brings me to the subject of our annual retreat or Shabbaton. I have been on the retreat committee for the last four years, a time of tremendous growth in our congregation. However we have the same amount of people going as when we had a third of our current membership. Not only that, it's the same people, year after year, who come. I'm not saying that we want those people to stay home and give others a chance, but I am urging each and every one of you to come this year and to bring your friends and relatives also.

Five retreats ago I took a group picture of three pregnant women; a year later I took the same picture with three women proudly holding their children born during the ensuing year. At last year's retreat Beth Nivin and Mark Ziring announced their engagement, they have recently married. Each year at the children versus adults softball game we see them getting bigger and faster and us getting slower but, possibly, more wily. We first got to know Jonathan at our retreat. I remember thinking how hard a task he had in filling Ray's shoes. But when I saw what incredible energy he had and his rapport with the children, I knew he could do the job.

What has all this to do with me, asks the nominal member? Well, it has everything to do with all the membership. You don't know someone until you live with them, even if it's only for a weekend. You may come and decide that there was a good reason you never got more involved. But, until you come, you'll never know. Before my wife and I joined Kane St. we went on the retreat. We didn't know anyone, but we were made welcome and given tasks to perform. We didn't feel like outsiders who were shown the best side of things, but instead felt as future members of a very fine community.

This article was supposed to be about the program at this year's retreat. So, I will say that we will have an educational program on the divisions and strife between various groups in our religion and the causes thereof. However, I have found that people do or do not come to a retreat because of a particular discussion theme. But, instead come to share a sense of community that was very common when we lived cheek by jowl in the shtetl or on the East Side and which has been all but lost in our more affluent age. Once again, come one, come all; bring anyone and everyone; members and non all are welcome. The retreat takes place on the weekend of May 30 through June 1, 1986 (This isn't Memorial Day Weekend). Once again, we will be at Camp Solomon of the Educational Alliance, just north of Brewster, N.Y. (For information, contact me or Bob Weinstein)



## Seven Reasons to Come to the Shabbaton

As a twelve year member of this congregation, who regrettably attends services only sporadically, I can honestly say that I owe my major synagogue ties to the Shabbatons. From meeting Phil and Ellen Phillips in the Vista Hotel lobby for a ride to camp sometime in the early '80s, to hanging out in the country sun, some of my best Karne Street associations took root at our annual retreats.

I may not remember exactly where I first spoke to the many familiar faces that I now know from Karne Street, but more often than not, my first encounters were in the country - looking for rides up and back, singing around the piano, and just hanging out, period. So, from my perspective, here are the seven reasons why you shouldn't miss out on a really good time (call the office, or Bernice, if you misplaced your form):

1. Meet New People: While you might tend to check in with the same few people each Shabbat, or are limited to an even smaller circle if you come primarily for the holidays, you're sure to find new friends and faces in a lively study discussion, around a Saturday night campfire, at meal times, or just hanging out.

2. Get to Spend Quality Time with the Folks you nod to on Shabbat: With no committee agendas to complete, and no business or household tasks to get back to, there's much more time for real conversation and relaxed hanging out. You may find a new jogging or tennis partner, or discover a fellow advocate, or new, fun, adversary of a cause you hold dear. And of course, there's much to be said for lazing around with cronies. Whatever you do, it's sure to be time well spent.

3. Strengthen Community Ties: The sense of community abounds in all weekend activities. Whether it's sports, food, study, or prayer, you'll get a renewed sense of the magic that makes Karne Street so special.

4. Enjoy the Fun and Games: There are nature hikes in the woods (led by the indefatigable Ed Brill), a Saturday night cookout, singing around the piano, interesting competitions (one of last year's highlights was a slug-down), the famous Sunday inter-generational softball game (I'm a spectator), lots of z'miroi (led by Bob Weinstein), and two of my favorites - taking naps, and reading. With Bernice, Ed, and Bob taking care of all the pesky details, all that's left for the rest of us is play.

5. Experience a Shabbat with Serenity: That's what it's supposed to be about each week, but this setting really makes it possible. Ushering in Shabbat in a quiet country setting, wearing white while the sun is going down, sets the tone on Friday night that's carried through the weekend.

6. Focus on Study and Prayer: There's plenty of good discussion and time for quiet thinking. How often do any of us get a chance to think about issues and get into the liturgy in a totally casual and relaxed setting. This year's topic is Conservative Judaism, and discussions are sure to be lively.

7. The Price is Right: You'll have a hard time finding an all-inclusive getaway at such a low cost - so sign up right away, and make this year's Shabbaton the best one ever. It's a really good deal!

Roberta Kahn

## The Shabbaton Approaches!

As you know, the Annual Shabbaton is here - June 3-5, and we would like to see you all out in the same numbers as last year, which was by far the most successful in a long time.

The weekend will be full of all sorts of activities including study and prayer, swimming, softball and tennis and, of course, just plain old fun. It is an excellent opportunity to build and renew the sense of community that makes the Karne Street Synagogue unique. If you have been a member of the synagogue for many years, it is a time to laze around with old friends. If you are a new member or have never been to one of our shabbatons, it is the perfect opportunity to make new friends and or spend more than the five minutes usually spent at kiddush catching up on gossip with friends.

We will not vouch for the weather, but if it rains we will still guarantee a good time!

Sign up ASAP, room choices are on a first come, first served basis, with payment in full by May 16 - NO EXCEPTIONS!

We look forward to seeing you all there.

The Shabbaton Committee  
Bernice Rosenthal, Ed Brill, Bob Weinstein

## Summer Shabbat

Summertime means many things, including vacations, sweltering weather, and long, late nights. It also means that Friday Night services can take a while to get started while we wait for a minyan. This is unfortunate, not only for those saying Kaddish, but also because summertime is when many people relocate, and, in the course of investigating a new neighborhood, go shul-shopping. It's always nice to see new people on Friday nights, but a touch embarrassing to have to explain "Well, yes, but we do get quite a crowd on Shabbat mornings during the year."

To ensure that we do have minyanin for the summer, we're asking you to make a commitment to come for a month, a particular week, or to be on call when we do come up short. It's a great opportunity for a mitzvah, and the Friday night service is among the most moving in terms of liturgy and mazmor (tunes).

To sign up, or for further information, please call Brent Powers at (718) 243-2669. Summertime Shabbat is waiting for you!