

Duluth Moses Montefiore Hebrew Institute

By RABBI ISRAEL LEBENDIGER

The Moses Montefiore Hebrew Institute of Duluth is the leading Jewish Conservative institution in the northern part of the state. It represents the tendency in Judaism manifest of late, in the form of Jewish Community Centres, a tendency that looks for the solution of the Jewish spiritual and social problem not exclusively in synagogue or Hebrew School, but in a centre that embraces all activities of young and old—synagogal, educational, and social. While the Talmud Torah, or Hebrew School is its most conspicuous feature, the Hebrew Institute also has all the other features that entitle it to a place among the Jewish Community Centres in the country.

The Institute owes much to two people, who were among its founders, and who have since incessantly worked for its welfare and progress—Mr. Joseph Polinsky, and Mrs. Ida Cook. The Board of Directors and other active workers are: S. Natelson, Pres.; A. Saxsonoff, Vice Pres.; Julius Garon, Treas.; Monte A. Greenblatt, Sec.; Joseph Polinsky, Mrs. Ida Cook, L. Fox, F. Labovitz, B. Aarons, the late A. Fieldman, B. Davidson, Mr. Lindika, Mr. Terran, H. Shapiro, H. Segal, Sam Mendelson and Mr. Kaplan.

The activities and affiliated associations of the Hebrew Institute are: The Talmud Torah, Sunday School, Friday Evening Services, Sunday School Alumni, The Sisterhood, Young Folks' League, several chapters of Young Judea and the "Duluth Jewish News," appearing at intervals as the official organ of the Institute.

The Hebrew and Sunday Schools have an attendance of about two hundred and fifty (250) children. The curriculum covers the Hebrew Prayer Book, Hebrew, the Bible, Religion and Jewish history. Instruction in the Ivrit-B'Ivrit method is given daily by three teachers—Messrs Braverman, Meckler and Kowel. Under the supervision of the teachers, the children in a body, participate in the Friday evening and Sabbath morning services. At a recent public examination of the pupils, the following prizes were awarded: Marvin Goldstein, attendance; Edward Lisman, scholarship; Sydney Green, Sam Braverman, Morris Litman, and Chas. Rubin. Twenty-five other prizes for various merits were given to other pupils. The prizes were contributed by members of the Board of Directors, and Rabbi Lebendiger.

The Sunday School was organized within the last year, with Mr. S. Natelson as chairman of the Sunday School Committee. The teachers are: Misses Alice Daneiko, Anna Laskowitz, Sarah Polinsky, Anna Winer, Lillian Harris, Bessie Litman, Eva Passon and Helen Cook. The pupils take an active part in the Holiday celebrations, and many are members of Young Judea Clubs. At the recent graduation exercises of the Sunday School, diplomas were awarded to: Bessie Vertelney, Ida Seiden, Dorothy Litman, Diana Kaplan, Leona Cook and Helen Winer, who have since organized as the Sunday School Alumni with Miss Alice Daneiko, their former teacher.

Another feature introduced within the last year—the Friday evening services, consists of congregational singing, responsive readings, and a sermon by Rabbi Lebendiger. The Hebrew Institute can point with pride to the attendance at these Friday evening services. At times, there were not seats enough to accommodate all who came, and many had to

stand during the entire service. The "Smiroth Vettishbachoth Lelel Shaboth" by Rabbis I. Goldfarb and I. H. Leventhal, are used in connection with the services.

A very valuable asset to the Institute, is the Sisterhood, recently reorganized at the home of Mrs. H. Y. Josephs. Mrs. Ida Cook, in recognition of her noble work, was unanimously elected honorary president for life. The officers are Mrs. A. Davidson, pres., Mrs. J. A. Kolen, vice-pres., Mrs. M. G. Altman, recording secretary, Mrs. J. Rosenstein, financial secretary, and Mrs. B. Goldish, treasurer; trustees: Mesdames Friss, M. Cook, H. Y. Josephs, I. B. Aarons, and M. D. Nides. The Committee chairmen include: Mrs. Lyle



RABBI ISRAEL LEBENDIGER.

Rabbi Israel Lebendiger was born in Russia, where he received his Talmudic training, obtaining his Hatorath Horoah (ordination) from Rabbi Boruch Baer of Holusk. He came to the United States in 1904. In 1912 he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University, and in 1914 the Rabbinical diploma from the Jewish Theological Seminary, with distinction. He is the author of a treatise on "The Minor in Jewish Law," which was published in the Jewish Quarterly Review. Before coming to the Moses Montefiore Institute in Duluth he had held Rabbinical positions in Youngstown, O., and Union Hill, N. J.

Oreck, social committee; Mrs. H. Y. Josephs, program committee; Mrs. M. D. Nides, membership committee, and Rabbi Lebendiger, publicity committee. The Sisterhood which has a membership of about one hundred sixty and has already become affiliated with the Women's League of the United Synagogue. An important activity is the monthly social affairs—the proceeds of which go for the maintenance of the Talmud Torah. Of great help in making these affairs a success are Mrs. Lyle Oreck, and her various committees including: Mesdames Friss, Nides, Lavick, J. A. Kohn, Teplesky, Davidson, Labovitz, Natelson, Aarons, Bennet, Lebendiger, A. Karon, Oxman, Davis, H. Segal, J. Altman, Goldish, Sanders, Cook and Rosenstein. The Young Folks' League has been instrumental in bringing the young men and women of the city together, largely thru the community dances held at the in-

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DULUTH

stitute. With the coming of cooler weather, the League has arranged for more elaborate affairs. Twelve dances have been given thus far, the largest being that of March 6th at the Shrine Auditorium, where beautiful gifts, donated by Max A. Kohen, jeweler, were awarded the most popular girls. The league presented \$200 to the Talmud Torah and provided the children of the Hebrew School with gifts at the Lag Bomar Celebration. The officers of "The League" are: E. Maurice Labovitz, pres.; Cecil Laskowitz, vice pres.; Sadie Kremen, sec.; and Wm. Joelson, treas. Frank Krupp is chairman of the committee in charge of the dances, and is assisted by Wm. Joelson, Sarah Weinberg, Cecil Laskowitz and Mamie Weinberg.

"The Young Folks League" was also instrumental in issuing the first number of the "Duluth Jewish News", which will be published from time to time as the official organ of the Hebrew Institute. Active on the first issue were Maurice Labovitz, Sam Davis, Miss Sarah Weinberg, Mrs. H. W. Josephs, Mrs. I. Lebediger and Rabbi Lebediger.

Members of the "Young Folks' League" are above the age of eighteen. The boys and girls below that age are organized into young Judea groups. There were three such groups. The Junior Judeans consisting of boys and girls of High School age, under the leadership of Rabbi I. Lebediger and Mr. Sam Mendelson and two younger groups, the "Herzl Club" and the "Buds of Zion" under the leadership of Misses Passin, Laskovitz and Polinsky. The Young Judea did splendid literary and educational work, and gave several plays at Chanukah, and at Chamis-hah Oser B'shvat on a much larger scale, "Gordon versus Gordon." They presented the Talmud Torah with a gift of \$100 and a metal booth for a moving picture machine that was installed in the Institute, for showing pictures and stereopticon views of Jewish history. The officers are Rudolph Segal, pres.; Marjorie Rocklin, vice pres.; Nathan Cohen, treas.; Eva Lent, sec. The "Junior Judeans" disbanded for the summer, but the two younger groups were re-organized under the leadership temporarily, of Mrs. I. Lebediger, into the "Flowers of Zion"—age of members, twelve to fifteen and the "Buds of Zion"—nine to twelve years of age, and held joint meetings all summer in the form of picnics, hikes, outings, etc. With the approach of fall, the regular literary and educational work will be resumed for all the groups. The senior group has been reorganized into two chapters—a girls' chapter—"The Daughters of Zion" with Mrs. I. Lebediger as leader, and a boys' chapter, now being organized under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Gofen, city editor of the "Duluth Herald." At the recent election of the "Daughters of Zion" Chapter, Miss Bessie Litman was elected president, Miss Edith Sherman, vice pres.; Miss Eva Lent, sec.; and Miss Lillian Harris, treas. As a result of the activities of the Duluth Young Judeans, the boys and girls of Superior were stirred into action, and organized a Young Judea group, of high school age. Thus started a friendly rivalry, and a debating contest on some current Jewish topic is being planned between the Young Judeans of both cities. A silver cup will be awarded the winning team, by the Sisterhood of the Duluth Hebrew Institute.

It can readily be inferred from the above, that the Hebrew institute with its manifold activities wields no small influence on the life of the Jewish community of Duluth. At present it is looking to the Jewish people of Duluth to respond even more heartily than before, as it should appeal to those who want to

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Western State Bank of Duluth

ORGANIZED 1904

STATEMENT AS AT CLOSE OF JUNE 30, 1921

Resources	
Loans and Discounts	\$593,872.53
Bonds	81,755.16
Overdrafts	229.43
Cash and Due from Banks	54,664.34
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures	11,164.22
Other Real Estate	5,542.40
	\$747,228.08
Liabilities	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	30,000.00
Undivided Profits Net	10,181.29
Deposits	657,046.79
	\$747,228.08

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DULUTH HEBREW INSTITUTE

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see Judaism perpetuated in this country. To those who for some reason are not interested in religious work the Institute is doing, we say that they owe us their support from a humanitarian point of view. "Kol Yisroel Chaverim"—(all Israelites are brethren) the Jews have a collective responsibility, and the world holds us collectively responsible. A wrong done by one Jew is charged against the whole race. What Jew, then, can refuse to support an institution which besides inculcating the religious principles in the children, implants in them the elementary morals without which society would face ruin? The public school does not have as its aim development of moral character. That task is left to the denominational institutions. In this country, the task is carried on for the Jew by the Hebrew and Sunday Schools. Many parents whose children are enrolled in the Hebrew School, are unable to pay their tuition. The tuition fees that come from those who can pay, covers only about half of the cost of education. A Talmud Torah like a University IS not, and CAN not be supported by tuition fees alone. The deficit must be made up by membership dues and contributions. It is, therefore, the duty of every Jewish resident of Duluth, to give both his financial and moral support to this institution.

The great need now is a new building. The present building is entirely inadequate to meet all demands. It needs larger and more spacious classrooms, more commodious club-rooms, a more spacious auditorium and synagogue, and other equipment needed for the modern community centre.

Let us hope that the propitious moment will arrive—and may it be in the very near future—when the Jews of Duluth will have the will and the means to carry out this great project. May God bless them for that they have done until now, and give them a "K'sivah Va'chasimo Tovah."

HOLIDAY SERVICES AT THE HEBREW INSTITUTE.

Services on Rosh Hashonoh and Yom Kippur will be held this year, as heretofore, in the Moses Montefiore Hebrew Institute.

Rabbi Israel Lebendiger will preach on Monday morning on "Self-Sacrifice, the Basis of Jewish Existence." The topic of the sermon for Tuesday will be "The Meaning of the New Year." The Board of Directors wishes to

remind the members and friends of the Institute that the greater part of the proceeds from the sale of seats and contributions, goes for the upkeep of the Talmud Torah, surely a most worthy cause.

MINNEAPOLIS IN 5681

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ute to the appreciative community as it is for the recipient of its honors.

Conclusion.

And now, as we stand on the threshold between two years, in spite of the discouraging financial conditions of which we hear so much, in spite of the difficulties that very naturally lie in the way of truly worthy achievement, we cannot but be optimistic. The Jewish spirit seems to have been aroused, and Jewish self-respect has taken the most desirable course, that of deepening and intensifying Jewish education and loyalty. The community faces a period of growth and expansion. A new Home for the Aged will ultimately be built. The proposed Young People's Synagogue strives to materialize into a modern-Orthodox Synagogue on the North Side. The Adath Yeshurun contemplates carrying its spirit and ultimately its "plant" into the "Lake district" where it is about to establish a Talmud Torah that shall be a branch of a city-wide system with the Talmud Torah on the North Side as the centre and heart. The young people are astir with a mighty desire for self-improvement along Jewish lines. The outcome of the Zionist congress points the way to a united effort of the Zionists of America, which will probably have its rejuvenating, if expensive, effect on Minneapolis, which like many another city considers the money it gives for Zionism as an investment rather than as an expenditure. In short, we can foresee a year of endeavor that will be the fulfillment of the olden Jewish prayer: "May it be God's will that our maturity shall not disgrace our youth." So we conclude, invoking on Minneapolis, in common, with all Israel everywhere, a very Happy and worthy New Year.

AFTER STRANGE GODS

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been very foolish to come at all. Thank heavens, she hadn't explained what had drawn her back to the Ghetto. The strange gods she had followed had showered her with gifts;

why should she turn back to a past that derided and mocked her?

But that night as her maid brushed out the singer's luxuriant hair and placed the jeweled diadem of "Elsa" upon her head, the girl was puzzled to hear her mistress humming strange words to an unfamiliar melody.

"I never heard Madame sing that before," she ventured.

She never heard Marianna sing it again. It was a simple Yiddish lullaby Marianna had often heard Jewish mothers sing as she trotted home from school with Jacob at her side.

WITH THE BOYS AT CAMP COVENANT

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ial attention given boys who, because of physical defects, require certain kinds of exercise.

In the minds of some the question must arise: Is all of the energy and money devoted to the enterprise worth while? Anyone who has seen these boys in camp, their happy faces brimming over with life and energy, making up for all the recreation that had been denied them, would answer, "No amount of effort in that direction can be too great." The boys are the better for it both physically and

mentally. Certainly no effort that assists in strengthening boys and equips them with a greater vitality to enable them a little better to fight the battle of life is too great. We cannot do too much for the boys.

A mass meeting attended by 3,000 people has been held in Posen by the Anti-Semitic League. The chairman announced that the league had a large number of secret branches in various localities. The meeting called the Polish people to a holy war of Christians against Jews, and demanded that the government should discharge all Jewish officials—even those who had been baptized. It further urged the government to close the Polish frontiers against all Jews.

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