

Learning Through Doing

Training Leaders for the Jewish Community of Tomorrow

By JULIUS BISNO

How Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith's youth organization, is training leaders for the American Jewish community of tomorrow by means of a day to day program of communal service known as the learning through doing process is described in this timely article by Mr. Bisno, executive director of Aleph Zadik Aleph.—Editor

Not so many weeks ago, the Jewish press headlined a dramatic report from Montreal telling of a Talmud Torah building which had been reclaimed by a group of young boys from anti-Semites, who had turned it into their headquarters when the dwindling Jewish population of the Papineau district found it necessary to rent the structure to non-Jews. Thanks to the efforts of these youngsters, who had organized themselves into the B'nai Sholem chapter of Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith's youth organization, not only did the Mogen David and the Menorah displace the swastika, but the whole Papineau Jewish community was revived under the inspiration of the A.Z.A. boys. Today the Talmud Torah is the center of all Jewish communal efforts in a bustling Jewish neighborhood.

This narrative is but one of scores that can be cited at random from the records of A.Z.A. to emphasize the participation of the various chapters in the communal life of their communities. Hewing fast to a cardinal principle of A.Z.A.—communal service—the members of B'nai B'rith's

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youth daily perform tasks intimately related to the welfare of the American Jewish community.

One of the most striking instances of A.Z.A. service to a community was the two-year census

of the Jewish population of Salt Lake City taken by the chapter there. An identical undertaking was sponsored by the chapter in Shenango, Pa. In both instances A.Z.A. made it possible for community leaders to gauge more intelligently the communal needs of their people. In Lorain, Ohio, and Flint, Mich., A.Z.A. chapters edit and publish the community's only Jewish paper.

Recognizing the importance of philanthropy in American Jewish life, A.Z.A. chapters make it a practice to organize or participate in the junior division of welfare fund drives and campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal. In Worcester, Mass., the Welfare federation's junior drive was an A.Z.A. undertaking while in Portland, Oregon, the A.Z.A. chapters constituted themselves as the junior division of a JDC campaign, soliciting funds from all other youth groups. In Milwaukee, one chapter was a committee as a whole for the Jewish Welfare Fund campaign.

All chapters participate in one way or another in local philanthropies. Through the medium of Passover baskets for the less-fortunate, Chanukah parties at orphanages, Purim plays at homes for the aged, and a wide variety of other holiday festivals, the members help enhance Jewish living among those who would otherwise be sadly impoverished without

Preparing for Leadership Tomorrow By Doing Today



(Left) A member of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith youth organization, turns over a check to the chairman of a Jewish welfare fund at the completion of a junior division drive directed by AZA as part of its local communal service work. (Right) This food bag is one of thousands filled annually by AZA boys to bring relief and good cheer to the needy and underprivileged.

To the Jewish press of America—the eyes and ears of American Jewry—we send our best wishes for a 5701 full of big news that is good news for all mankind.

BERNARD POSTAL
Director of Publicity,
National B'nai B'rith

this youthful display of interest. The Cedars of Lebanon Chapter in Los Angeles distributes magazines to the children's ward of the local hospital; a Detroit chapter sponsors food dances for a food agency; a St. Louis chapter holds an annual swimming party and picnic for the orphanage; Altos Chapter (Montreal, Canada) has

annual Chanukah parties at the orphanage, as has the Kansas City, Kansas, Chapter.

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