

Jewish Affairs

Rabbinical Court Settles Civil Dispute

Boston — (RNS) — Reportedly for the first time in American history a rabbinical court has adjudicated a civil dispute between tenants and a landlord in what could become a precedent setting decision.

The Rabbinical Court of Justice of the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts entered into the case at the request of the (Boston) South End Tenants' Council which claimed that the real estate holdings of the Mendick family were "hazardous for habitation."

After three months of arbitration by the court, traditionally concerned with such religious questions as the interpretation of Jewish law, disputes between synagogues, and Jewish divorces, its decision was agreed to and ratified by both parties in a legal document enforceable in civil law.

Rabbi Samuel I. Korff, rabbinic administrator of the court and an Orthodox rabbi, expressed hope that the action taken here would set a pattern for rabbinic courts elsewhere and for church courts.

Boston's South End has been a lower income ghetto area until recently when it began to gain some affluence through a return to the city of upper income families. Real estate values in the area went up with urban redevelopment and the increased desirability of a South End address.

As a result the poor saw their rents going up and many alleged they were evicted from their homes on short notice so that slum dwellings could be converted into fashionable residences.

Some charged that landlords were letting their homes rot so that tenants could be forced out and the houses sold at a profit.

The Mendick family, which has extensive real estate holdings in the South End, is Jewish and the Tenants' Council were urged by a friendly rabbi to bring the case before its religious court.

Among religious Jews a summons to the rabbinic court is considered quite serious. A Jew who refuses to appear before the court or to abide by its decisions can be cited for contempt of court and thereby lose many religious privileges.

The family — which includes Israel Mendick, a cantor at a Boston synagogue — duly appeared before the court when summoned by the rabbi.

Negroes and Puerto Ricans in the 44 tenements owned by the

family charged that the Mendicks had allowed the buildings to become "rat and roach infested." They also claimed "rent gouging" and that reprisals had been taken against tenants who had filed complaints.

The landlord, in turn, charged that tenants threw garbage out of the windows, damaged the building faster than it could be repaired, and that it was difficult to get tenants to pay rent.

In the final agreement signed by both parties a board of arbitration was established to mediate all future disputes between the tenants and the landlord and to oversee the implementation of other points in the agreement.

The provisions require that the landlord allow the Tenants' Council the option of purchasing any building when a third party has offered to buy it and that the council may do so at the same price offered by the third party.

The landlord is obliged to provide daily janitor service, to keep the building in repair and order, to put locks on all doors and provide tenants with keys, to provide shades and screens for windows, and to maintain a 68-degree temperature in the houses.

Eviction for illegal activities or non-payment of rent can be carried out only 14 days after the tenant has been notified.

Failure of the landlord to make repairs or fulfill other responsibilities does not constitute sufficient reason for the tenants to withhold their rent. However, the chairman of the arbitration board may hold the rents in escrow when he has evidence that the landlord does not intend to make the repairs. The rents thus collected may be used by the chairman to finance repairs.

A board of review to hear appeals made against the decision of the board of arbitration, composed of three members of the community appointed by the rabbinical court, was also established in the agreement.

The tenants, on their part, must maintain their rooms in a clean condition, refrain from destructive activities and cooperate with the landlord in getting residents to fulfill their obligations.

The Tenants' Council, recognized as the sole bargaining agent of the tenants, has the responsibility of cooperating with the landlord in getting residents to fulfill their obligations.



A young Miami mother of two daughters set a precedent when she sang as cantor during Rosh Hashana services at Temple Judea in Coral Gables, Fla. "She's a natural," Rabbi Morris A. Kipper said of Mrs. Rita Shore. "She's very inspiring." Mrs. Shore, who was born in The Bronx, New York, and grew up in a home of Greek background, is no stranger to music, however. When she was 16, she enrolled in the preparatory division of the Julliard School of Music in New York City and studied opera for the next five years. The congregation is scheduled later to vote on making her the regular cantor.

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As I See It

Doris Day P

By PAT COSTA

Some shows you'd like to see succeed. The neighbor, whose color television set we were watching, and I both had our fingers crossed for "The Doris Day Show". I don't know why exactly. Maybe it was because Miss Day, well into her 40s, is living proof that freckles, middle age and "glamour" can be quite compatible.

Or maybe it is because Miss Day has never played anything but a wholesome woman, every virtue as conspicuously present as those freckles. And in spite of what the consumer research boys and the other statisticians would have us believe, that's a trait widely admired if not always emulated by most women.

The premiere show, however, didn't live up to those hopes we had.

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures:

Paramount—"Helga" (adults, with reservations); "Planet of Life" (No rating).

Regent—"Rachel, Rachel" (Adults).

Cinema—"For Love of Ivy" (Adults).

Warning—"Custer of the West" (Adults and adolescents); "Project" (Adults and adolescents).

Monroe—"War and Peace" (Family).

Riviera—"Bonnie and Clyde" (Adults, with reservations); "Wait until Dark" (Adults and adolescents).

Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations).

Loew's—"Deadfall" (Objectable in part for all).

Stoneridge—"Yours, Mine and Ours" (General); "Fortune Cookie" (Adults).

Panorama—"The Odd Couple" (Adults).

Towne—"The Thomas Crown Affair" (Objectable in part for all).

Stutson—"Salt and Pepper" (Objectable in part for all).

Fine Arts—"Kiss the Other Sheik" (Objectable in part for all).

Little—"Zita" (Objectable in part for all); "The Fifth Horseman is Fear" (Condemned).

Lyle—"A Woman in Love" (No rating).

TV

Week of Friday, Oct.

Ratings are those given by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures. A-1: morally unobjectionable; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults; B: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; C: all; C-: condemned. No Rating: National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures of Decency. N.B. Before A-3 class indicated morally unobjectionable.

Movie listings supplied by TV Guide

Friday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|-------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Odette |
| 9:00 p.m. | 10 | Make Mine |
| 11:30 p.m. | 10 | Kansas City |
| 11:30 p.m. | 13 | A Stranger |

Saturday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|--------------|
| 9:00 p.m. | 8 | Khartoum |
| 11:00 p.m. | 10 | Sherlock Hol |
| 11:15 p.m. | 13 | Hondo |
| 11:45 p.m. | 8 | The Giant of |

Sunday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|-------------|
| 2:00 p.m. | 13 | Cat Ballou |
| 9:00 p.m. | 13 | Do Not Dist |
| 11:15 p.m. | 13 | Five Star F |
| 11:50 p.m. | 10 | Simon and I |

Monday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | The Eve of |
| 9:00 p.m. | 8 | The Bare Bi |

Tuesday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|-------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Black Magic |
| 9:00 p.m. | 8 | Gambit |
| 11:30 p.m. | 13 | The Hours o |

Wednesday,

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|-------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Lydia |
| 9:00 p.m. | 13 | Wings of F |
| 11:30 p.m. | 13 | Love and Ki |

Thursday, Oct.

| Time | Channel | Movie |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Wing and a |
| 9:00 p.m. | 10 | The Glass Bo |
| 11:30 p.m. | 13 | In the Frencl |