

10/2/64

Memo: Concerning Simhat Torah

Simhat Torah 1964 was somewhat of a Purim nature than Simhat Torah. In addition to the usual **horseplay**, several parents, such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], saw fit to have their infant children accompany them to the bimah when they were accorded various honors. The singing of different holiday melodies during the Mussof sounded a bit like drunken wine songs.

The best way to remedy this is to limit the flow of spirits downstairs in time, and perhaps to prepare the major culprits in advance. Most important, it should be emphasized from the pulpit that the nature of merriment on Simhat Torah is distinctive; in keeping with that, both rabbis should actively participate in the dancing and the singing, and perhaps in that we raise the level of the rest of the gaiety to one that better accords with the dignity of the synagogue.

Mr. Max Stern should be brought into all consultations on these matters.

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