

## LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

Phone 870-1255

Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Price per copy 15¢ - Per Year \$6 - 2 Years \$10

P.O. Box 549, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

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2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.

Member American Jewish Press Association

Worldwide News Service

### Editorial

#### What A Letter

By Dr. Samuel Silver

I've read literary passages that deeply stirred me. I've read them in the Bible and in other books and in magazine articles.

But recently I read a few lines which made as much of an impression on my neshama (my soul) as almost anything I've ever read.

I don't even know the author of those lines. All I know is that they were written by a twelve-year-old girl.

They were written to her father who was ill in the hospital. Some hospitals don't permit children to enter, so apparently this young lady had to communicate with her ailing parent by mail. That's a disadvantage, but in this case the liability produced a brief, literary gem which I am about to share with you.

How did I find out about it? I discovered the letter in a temple bulletin. I read dozens of temple bulletins every week and find them to be repositories of an enormous amount of wisdom and valuable information.

In the bulletin of Congregation Temple Israel, St. Louis, the weekly rabbinical column in one issue was by Rabbi Richard F. Steinbrink. In it he told about the father, in the hospital, who showed him a get-well note written by his daughter.

The rabbi gave no names, but he gave me a lift when he reproduced the letter. It goes like this:

"Dear Daddy. It must be hard for you to lie in bed at the hospital, but it's even harder for me to understand why you are there.

"When you get out I'll squeeze you so hard that you'll probably end up in the hospital again.

"It must be hard for you to lie in bed, go up to X-rays and not have home-made food.

"Whenever I get confused by God's strange ways, I always say these words by the Prophet Michah: 'What doth the Lord require of thee? To love mercy, to do justice, and to walk humbly with thy God.' It always seems to help me. Hope it helps you too."

What a letter!

#### Young Fry Take Mitzva

One of the most charming aspects of our annual Feast of Freedom is that, although its basic theme is the liberation of the ancient Israelites from bondage--and, by implication, the immemorial struggle of all mankind against spiritual and physical enslavement--its wonderful folklore and customs are, in the parlance of modern psychology, definitely "child-centered."

Youngsters may or may not grasp the full significance of Passover's radiant message, but no one at least is too young to learn to understand that of all blessings which men may earn, freedom is the most cherished one.

Verily, the essence that makes Passover an endearing experience to youngsters appeals, as well, to the child that subsists in the hearts of people of all ages.

In America today, it seems the young fry play an even more central role in the theme that is Passover than their parents. Perhaps this is so because our youngsters are more outgoing, less reserved than their parents and more conscious of the need for a climate of freedom as a condition to survival.

Indeed, it may be that the kids have taken over the mitzvah that is Passover. If so, so much the better.

Combined Jewish Appeal

# MAY 25

## Lubavitcher Message

by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

To the Sons and Daughters  
of Our People Israel, Everywhere.  
G-d bless you -

Greeting and Blessing:

Pesach, the Festival of Our Freedom, has an added significance this year, in the light of the following brief introduction:

It is a matter of common experience that when a person happens to be in a conducive state of mind, he will react more sensitively to an appropriate occurrence. Thus, when one is in a happy frame of mind, one will respond more excitedly to a joyous circumstance. Conversely, in a depressed mood, any adverse circumstance is likely to provoke a magnified consternation. The same is evident in connection with physical health. When the body is healthy it will be invigorated by any wholesome thing in the fullest measure; when its physical condition has been weakened, even something slightly harmful will considerably aggravate the state of health.

A similar rule finds expression in the Halachic principle: "A thing acts more forcefully upon its own kind".

This year (5727) is a year which, from the start, has been ushered in with the Mitzva (and mood) of Hakhel ("Gather"), the special Mitzva in the post-Shemitta year, prescribed in the words: "Gather the people, men, women and children" - all segments of the Jewish people, for the purpose immediately stated in the Torah: To inspire Yiras Shomaim and foster the study and fulfillment of the Torah.

Likewise in regard to the reason and content of Pesach, namely, Yetzias Mitzraim (departure from Egypt), Unlike the subsequent exiles (Babylon, Media, Persia and Macedonia), when not all Jews came out of Babylon, etc., the Exodus from Egypt was complete; "With our youths and our elders, with our sons and daughters" - ALL the Jews, young and old, departed from Egypt. And the purpose of it was: "When thou shalt bring forth the people from Egypt, you shall SERVE G-d at this mountain" - to become servants of G-d and to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Consequently, though Pesach is a "Mitzvas-asseh conditioned in time" (the kind of precept from which Jewish women are generally excused) - the women must also participate in observing it. As for the children - the very ushering in of the festival, namely, the Seder of Pesach, is based on the precept of "Thou shalt tell it (fully and effectively) to thy son." Moreover, the Seder is accompanied by a variety of detail and ceremony designed to involve the children in the celebration of the Seder; and all this - even before the Mitzvah of "Pesach, Matzah and Moror" are actually fulfilled. And included are ALL the children; for the Seder is not limited to the "Wise" children, but embraces ALL children, from the "Wise Son" down to the "One Who Knows Not What To Ask" - In order to impress upon all of them that "For the sake of this" - the fulfillment of the Mitzvah - hath G-d freed us from Egypt.

Such a TOTAL liberation, as the Exodus from Egypt was, did not occur in any of the subsequent exiles, but it will be repeated at the time of the true Geulo (Redemption) from the present Golus (exile), in accordance with G-d's promise: "As in the days of thy departure from the land of Egypt, I will show him wonders". When this will come to pass, all the Jews, young and old, children and women, with all their possessions, will be redeemed through out Righteous Moshiah, again for the explicit purpose: "that you walk in My statutes....and be a nation unto Me, and I will be G-d unto you".

And just as the liberation from Egypt could take place only after the Jews, imbued with real self-sacrificing determination, rejected all idolatries of Egypt, and yearned for, and eagerly looked forward to, the moment of Receiving the Torah; so must we also today make the necessary preparations for our Geulo - by resolutely rejecting the various "idolatries" of our time; and "with young and old, with our sons and daughters" - each and everyone must liberate himself, with his wife and children, from the state of being "slaves unto Pharaoh" - slavishly following the foreign ideologies prevailing in the world outside - in order to become "servants unto G-d", with a total commitment to the One Above, thereby attaining true Cheirus (Freedom) through a life of Torah and Mitzvoth in the everyday life.

May G-d grant that the coming festival should this year, the year of Hakhel, be received with special inspiration, as indicated above; an inspiration that should express itself throughout the days of the festival and all days following, in actual deeds, in the spirit of Hakhel: "That they shall observe to DO (not substituting by a 'good Jewish heart', nor by a lofty ethical sermon, however good they may be) ALL the commands (not only those which please one's judgment or fancy) of THIS TORAH" (according to the Rambam's definition and Psak-Din, namely each verse and each word, and similarly the Torah-shel-be'al Peh).

And this will hasten the time and complete Geulo through our Righteous Moshiah, may it be very soon indeed.

With blessing for a Kosher and joyous Pesach.

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



### Twain Meet in Heaven

Sam Briskman and Kenneth McSarin, two men who lived as far apart as midnight and six o'clock, died recently, within a month of each other.

One was a multi-millionaire, whose daily menu was under supervision by the most astute dietitians. The other lived from hand to mouth, which was his forte as a "character". He had earned the reputation as Broadway's biggest eater.

Although Sam and Kenneth did not know each other, both were dear friends of this writer. We visited Sam at his penthouse apartment in one of several blocks of real estate he owned on New York's Fifth Avenue. We spent pleasant hours in Kenneth's bare, walk-up flat on West 48 Street. From each the receptions were cordial and warm.

Sam vacationed winters in Florida, where his yacht was practically a fixture tied to the Hotel Fontainebleau dock. If Kenneth took any time off it might have been a summer day's afternoon gazing at the rowboats in a Central Park lake.

Worlds apart as they were, both had one trait in common. They liked to help others. Sam was listed as a philanthropist. He devoted a major portion of the latter years of his life as president of the New York Cardiac Center. Kenneth had no listing, but he could have been described, in part, as a Broadway-style do-gooder. Sam spent his own time and money, and badgered his friends for contributions to his pet charities. Kenneth spent time and effort bothering restaurant owners and clothing manufacturers for gifts to charity affairs, especially telethons and mass meetings.

Our good friend Robert Sylvester, who writes the Dream Street column for the New York Daily News, described Kenneth as a modern Robin Hood: "He took from them which had and gave to them which hadn't. From hotels he collected sheets, towels, soaps and even mattresses. There is doubtless a young star on Broadway who is still sleeping on sheets from the Hotel Astor or Lincoln or Park Central, Kenny's favorite raiding premises."

The lengthy obituary in the New York Times told of Sam sponsoring an annual Christmas party for children at the Mercer Street police station and sending the youngsters for a day's outing on a Hudson River excursion boat.

They had another trait in common. Each acquired a deep interest in politics, but only on specific occasions.

Sam was a close friend of the late Sen. Robert F. Wagner and continued the association with the Senator's son, New York City's former Mayor Robert F. Wagner. A most cherished possession was a badge from the mayor, designating Sam as honorary deputy fire chief.

Kenneth was a member of the Kefauver for President Committee. His major contribution was promoting the Lincoln Hotel for an entire floor to serve as headquarters. It also served as a favorite hunting ground for objects of necessity for Kenneth's friends, like a shower curtain for an aspiring young actress whose bathtub had no protective covering.

Sam's business career, and subsequent success and fortune, emanated from his invention of the pinking shears, scissors with a serrated edge, which prevented material from ravelling by cutting zig zag. The shears are a necessary instrument not only in the textile business and to garment manufacturers, but also in the sewing kits of women all over the world.

Kenneth's business specialty was supplying free crowds for opening nights of movies, tv shows or radio programs, to stamp feet, laugh or applaud on cue. If you needed a young, pretty miss to emerge nude from a birthday cake at a special occasion, Kenneth was the man to see. More thespians got more bit parts through Kenny than all the pounding on agents' doors or cajoling of casting directors. Steve McQueen, to name one, got his start because Kenneth badgered John Graham.

Both Sam and Kenneth had hobbies that were peculiarly individualistic. Sam's stories, in words that mangled the English language, made him one in a million. Kenneth's prowess as an eater, had no brother.

A favorite yarn we remember from Sam was his explanation for leaving Miami Beach's Edon Roc Hotel to return to the Fontainebleau, where he'd stopped every year since it was built. For the opening of the Edon Roc, Sam was persuaded to check in to the newest, swankiest hotel on the beach. Two days later he was back at the Fontainebleau. Asked what was wrong at the Roc, Sam replied: "It's a toilet."

Kenneth could out-eat anyone around. He once devoured a whole pig in Lindy's window for the benefit of the Damon

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