

ROSH HA SHANAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF ROSH HASHANA, JEWISH NEW YEAR OF 5728, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH FALLS ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH OF TISHRI, THURS., OCT. 5, AND FRIDAY, OCT. 6. ROSH HASHANA MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE, AWE-INSPIRING DAYS, CULMINATING AT YOM KIPPUR, ON OCT. 14.

They Came Through

by Albert Remon

Years from now children in the United States will ask their grandfathers what they did during the third Arab-Israel war and the question will bring forth an answer that will prove to be a glowing page in the history of American Jewry's organized effort in the building and survival of the State of Israel.

It is an easy device to compare the action of the Jews in America to the heroic stand of the Israelis on the battlefronts of the Sinai Desert, the Syrian hills and the Jordan River. But there is really no need to go that far to bring into floodlight prominence the waves of personal generosity and involvement which the crisis and the subsequent six-day war produced only a few short months ago.

What happened in the Israel Bond campaign provides striking testimony to the extraordinary character and scope of the response to Israel's hour of gravest peril and challenge. Record sales of Israel Bonds were recorded in every community throughout the country. Those who participated in the Israel Bond drive in the past sharply increased their purchases. Many others who never bought Bonds at all came forward at this time and invested in Israel's future in very substantial amounts, in order to identify themselves with the strengthening of the country's economy and to support the wide program of economic reconstruction which will be needed the coming months.

Episodes which would have been most unusual a few months earlier became almost commonplace. In many communities Bar Mitzvah and graduation parties were cancelled and the money invested in Israel Bonds. Bar Mitzvah gifts were turned into Israel Bonds, cheder classes chipped in and bought Israel Bonds for their schools, banks gave low-interest and even interest-free loans to people who wanted to buy Israel Bonds.

Some of the individual stories that have been reported give a truly heart-warming picture of the strong desire to help Israel.

In New York two non-Jewish sailors from a U.S. Navy ship entered the Israel Bond office with money for Bonds which they had collected from every member of the crew. They then rushed out, explaining that another ship was due in port momentarily and they wanted to get there to collect for Israel Bonds before the crew had a chance to spend all its money ashore.

A Pennsylvania truckman was making a delivery at the time that an Israel Bond luncheon was in progress. After listening to the proceedings for a few minutes, he bought a \$5,00 Bond. Then he approached all of the members of his association and they purchased a total of \$42,000 in Bonds. The payment was delayed because the truckers wanted to have 100 percent participation of the members, and they had to wait for four of their number who were on the road and could not be reached. This group, incidentally, is composed of Americans of Italian extraction.

TELL TALES
(Continued from Page 4)

every one, and adis every good intention and deed, everyone can embark upon his or her, preparedness for the new year with complete confidence. And even if certain matters in the bygone year give cause for profound regret, there is, at the same time, the overriding joy in the realization that the Almighty has given man the ability to convert even willful transgressions (God forbid) into accomplishments. It is also self evident that when something is done with joy and confidence, it is accomplished with a greater measure of success.

May the Almighty help each and everyone, man and woman, in the midst of all our people Israel, to take advantage of this opportunity in the fullest measure, and with joy and gladness of heart.

With the blessing of Kesivo va Chasimo Toivo
For a happy and sweet year,

On another occasion, an Israel Bond volunteer took a cab to a meeting. Entering into conversation with the driver, he told him the purpose of the gathering which he was attending. Upon arriving at the destination, the cab driver refused to accept payment for the ride, bought an Israel Bond from his passenger, and drove off with a pile of subscription forms and prospectuses, promising to try to sell Bonds to all his fares.

There were numerous individuals like the elderly man who walked into the office in one city with \$300 in cash to buy a Bond. It was his life's savings, he said. When asked how he would get along, he answered in Yiddish, "God will take care of me." In a similar occurrence, a working girl brought in her life's savings and bought Bonds, explaining that as long as she was working she would get by, and she wanted Israel to have the use of the money. A young man of 22 invested his family's life savings of \$2,700 in Israel Bonds -- \$1,000 he had received as a wedding gift, \$1,000 his wife had received, and \$700 they had saved for their two-year-old child.

A bank in a small community was overrun with people making withdrawals or taking loans in order to buy Bonds. The atmosphere was electric, the enthusiasm was catching--and the bank itself made a \$75,000 purchase. In another community, a group of Jewish farmers, joined by many of their Christian neighbors, wanted to buy Israel Bonds despite the fact that they had no ready cash due to a bad season. Borrowing from local banks, they bought over \$300,000 in Israel Bonds, nearly double their previous record.

Some of the stories are amusing, some of them are deeply moving, all of them are encouraging in terms of the human spirit.

One woman entered an Israel Bond office and asked for the ladies' room. She emerged a short time later carrying a money belt which she had just removed. Result? A purchase of \$10,000.

An elderly lady came into one Bond office with \$250 -- the price of the new dentures she needed, representing all the money she had. She explained that Israel needed the money immediately, and added: "I have waited so long for my new teeth, I can wait a little bit longer."

A newspaperman, who lost his job in the recent closing of the New York World-Journal-Tribune, took his entire severance money and invested it in Israel Bonds.

In another community, the Bond office received a call from the wife of a man who had just undergone major surgery. She said: "The first thing my husband asked when he came out of the anesthetic was that I tell you that he wants to increase his purchase substantially. Please announce this increase at the Israel Bond dinner next week."

Various groups undertook efforts of a scope and intensity that they had never tried before. In Philadelphia, plant owners and union leaders canvassed the city's entire men's clothing industry, selling more than \$285,000 in Israel Bonds, mainly to non-Jews. A group of teen-age boys and girls, students at a Hebrew academy, sold \$40,000 in Israel Bonds within a few days by ringing doorbells.

On another occasion, a small synagogue group got together to plan an Israel Bond meeting to be held two days later. There was no intention of selling Bonds at the planning meeting. But when the session ended, a spontaneous current swept through the group, and they bought \$29,000 in Bonds. One of the members, a working man of limited means, the next day brought in a fistful of crumpled bills of different denominations -- an additional \$1,000 purchase.

One of the most impressive stories concerns a small synagogue which had never scheduled any activity for Israel Bonds. During Israel's period of crisis, the synagogue officials called the Bond office on their own initiative, and asked that someone come to a meeting to tell them about the campaign. The Bond worker who planned to attend had a flat tire while driving out, and arrived at the synagogue to find the building almost completely dark, and the Rabbi getting ready to leave. The Bond representative didn't know whether the meeting had been held or not, but the Rabbi reassured him that it had taken place, and turned over checks totalling \$190,000. This occurrence was a good instance of the role of volunteers in Israel's emergency; in numerous instances, when the heavy meeting schedule made it impossible for a Bond professional to be present, the people went ahead anyway and produced outstanding results for Israel.

These are but a few examples of the unprecedented response to the Israel Bond drive which was evoked by the events of the recent past. Americans once again demonstrated in the most compelling terms their warm feeling for Israel, and their faith in it as a courageous, democratic nation.



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