

THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE  
OF NEVADA

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

Editor and Publisher . . . . . Jack Tell  
Business Manager . . . . . Bea Tell, 870-1255  
Vegas News . . . . . Helene Stadler, 384-3685  
Reno News . . . . . Diane Neiman, 1622 York, Sparks  
and Barney Glazer, Harry Golden, Percy Villa

**2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.**  
Member American Jewish Press Association  
Member of Worldwide News Service

## Today's American Jew

By Dr. Samuel Silver

What John Gunther did for so many nations Rabbi Morris Kertzer, in an exciting new book, has done for American Jewry.

The book's called "Today's American Jew," and it bounces with the same vivid style of previous volumes by the same author, "What Is a Jew?" and "The Art of Being a Jew," etc.

Some years ago when the New York Times wanted an authoritative series on Russian Jewry, it called upon Dr. Kertzer. Before that, when Look Magazine wanted an authentic delineation of Judaism, it was that same rabbi (now of Larchmont, N.Y.) who was asked. And he wrote the unforgettable, "What Is a Jew?"

In the new book you get the tingle of recognizing yourself for the author X-rays American Jewish life as it has never been done before. He takes the reader on a tour of Judaism: charity organizations and synagogues, business firms and country clubs, resorts and chasidic establishments (a shifbel-chase?)

There are telling profiles and delicious anecdotes about Arthur Goldberg, Maurice Samuel, Kivie Kaplan, Charlotte Jacobson, Sam Levenson, Morris Abram, Jan Peerce and other Jewish notables. There are full chapters on Miami Beach, San Francisco, New York and "Magnolia Judaism." A series of typical rabbis is depicted.

In the book's 19 chapters we read about devotees of Yiddish and what's new in interfaith activities and the state of Jewish marriage and a penetrating analysis of why more American Jews aren't in government.

## Modern Hanukkah

After the unforgettable Six Day War a youngster said, "Mother, I will never disbelieve the Bible again."

It is hard to discredit miracles if you see one before your very eyes.

As Chanukah comes back to us again, we feel that we shall celebrate it this year with extra fervor. We have always admired the story of the Maccabees, but today's "fighting Jews" in Israel have brought the holiday up to date. They have not only emulated their ancient predecessors; they have outdone them.

And yet Chanukah and its message are still urgently needed today. For the way in which the holiday has been transmitted to us provides an antidote to jubilation exclusively motivated by successful belligerence.

Our sages have always cautioned us not to go all-out in the Chanukah hoop-la over the military achievements in the story. They have stressed the need to understand not only that Judah and his men fought well but also to prize what they fought for.

And the purpose of their struggle was not to prove that they could defeat the enemy. It was designed to establish the principle of religious liberty.

The noblest trait of today's Maccabees in Israel is their abstention from vindictiveness. Menaced by an enemy who promised to exterminate them, they have not

## Gentiles Support Israel

NEWARK, N. J. (WNS) -- Two priests, one of them a theologian who was closely associated with Augustin Cardinal Bea in the work culminating in the Ecumenical Council's declaration on relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jews, issued a statement of conscience, appealing to the Christian world to support Israel in this time of crisis. The statement, issued in the name of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, was signed by Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher, who served as Cardinal Bea's aide, and by Rev. Edward H. Flannery, a leading Catholic advocate of rapprochement with the Jews.

The statement called on Christians, as Christians, to make their voices heard in support of Israel and when necessary "sound the alarm" when Jews and Israel were in danger. The statement then made five "affirmations" on the Mideast crisis.

The first was a denial of Arab-Soviet charges of Israeli aggression in June. The statement said that Israel's initial strike at the Egyptian air force was "clearly an act of defense" and "the operation of a country that refuses to be strangled." The second was a ringing defense of Israel's right to peaceful existence. The statement traced Jewish ties to the Holy Land over the centuries and said the

sought to humiliate those whom they vanquished. No voice is raised for vengeance. Today's heroes in Israel seek not the extinction of the foe, but the removal in the heart of the foe of the evil intentions which drove him to aggression.

When you confront an Antiochus or a latter-day Antiochus like Nasser, there are two dangers. One is that you may be beaten. The next one is even worse, that, if you defeat him, you may succumb to his tactics or his outlook. Thank heaven that the wisdom of our sages, those who gave spiritual leadership to the Hasmoneans of old down to those who provide the same moral guidance today, has kept us from capitulating to the ways of the enemy after overcoming him in battle.

Chanukah extends beyond the area of warfare. It is a time of family gatherings, for the fortissimo-ing of the joys of the home. It is a time for the blessing of the candles, symbols of the brightness we can bring to our loved ones and to society at large. It is an occasion for prayers of thanks to the Invisible Source of strength Who urges us on to a better life. It is a time of gift-giving not only to our children but also to causes which will make freedom and brotherhood more enduring.

It is not enough to "retell the things that befell" us. We must so act that we are worthy of other miraculous events in which, working heart in heart with the Author of Life, we bring ourselves to a state of Chanukah, i.e. of dedication, to a finer future.

## Drinks on the House

Dr. Samuel Silver

Every once in a while you read something so witty or trenchant that you want to share it with others.

That's how I felt about the following statement which appeared in the Post-Intelligencer of Seattle, Washington. The article, in its entirety, follows:

"Since you cannot refrain from drinking, why not start a saloon in your own home? Be the only customer and you will not have to buy a license.

"Give your wife \$55 to buy a case of bar whiskey. There are 240 drinks in a case. Buy all your drinks from your wife at 60 cents a drink and in 12 days when the case is gone, your wife will have \$89 to put in the bank and \$55 to buy another case.

"If you live 10 years and continue to buy all your whiskey from your wife and then die in your boots, your wife will have \$27,085.47 on deposit--enough to bring up your kids, pay off the mortgage on the house, marry a decent man and forget she ever knew a drunken bum like you."

Jews had a right to remain securely on the soil which they had reclaimed and additionally, "a vocation to live for the Lord. We hope that it will be granted them to bear witness to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as never before."

The third affirmation fully backed Israel's insistence on holding present cease-fire lines until permanent boundaries were established by permanent peacetreaties, calling that stand "reasonable and fair." The statement also gave full support to Israel's stand on the future of Jerusalem, rejecting proposals to inter-nationalize the city -- which remains the official position of the Vatican -- and expressed certainty that Israel would be a "faithful guardian" of all holy places.

The fifth affirmation categorically denied that the Jews drove the Arabs out in the 1948 war and denounced the Arab countries for shutting refugees up in camps.

However, "for the sake of justice and peace," the statement said Israel should again offer financial compensation to refugees who lost homes and farms, as well as aid in uniting separated Arab refugee families. It called for an international resettlement fund for the refugees but warned that solution of the problem probably would have to wait until Arab-Israel peace was established.

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



## 'Family Tree' For All

A most entrancing book came in the mail. It is called "Family Tree." It will be an important part of our permanent library from now on.

"Family Tree" is a compilation of excerpts from literature of all times and all lands depicting all family relationships, from Husbands and Wives to Family Gatherings. Here is an anthology put together by Johanna Johnston and Murry Karmiller, who modestly state that "Nobody could collect everything that has been written about husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews." We disagree. The next words in the introduction tell the store: "The family tree is a giant, embracing the world. But we hope that among the leaves and branches of this particular Family Tree there will be fruit for everybody." There is.

It is beyond conception to realize a relationship attached to every person living in the world which is not reflected, in some aspect, between the covers of this 545 page book. It is a monumental collection of rich wordage from story, legend, poetry and fact embracing the world's most distinguished sources ranging from The Bible to The New Yorker. Abundant acknowledgements reflect the compilers' respect for true authorship. But the awe inspiring value of this literary production is in the selection, categorizing and grouping into chronological order, glimpses of changing expressions through the years. The mature and professional application of what must have taken thousands of hours of research speaks the whole story of family relationships for all people for all time, past, present and future.

We cannot help but relate excerpts from two excerpts in "Family Tree" which show the depth of its content. They are from the opening chapter on Fathers and Sons and may be found within the first 64 pages of the book.

The initial one was written in 1895 by Lafcadio Hearn offering this Japanese reflection on the value of a son: "And therefore," continued Asakichi, "one who has a son can die with a cheerful mind....It is because every man needs someone to love him after he is dead." We do not know how this passage applies to other religions, but there is an overwhelming significance here in the traditional and solemn Kadish in Judaism. How simple this description of Japanese logic is stated yet it encompasses more than 5,000 years of conformation with Holy Writ.

The second story that was indelibly planted in our mind, and which we felt fitting and proper to bring to the readers of the Israelite, was a vignette by Danish writer Carl Ewald, "My Little Boy" published soon after the turn of the century.

"Oh," he says, modestly, "it was only a Jew boy whom we were licking."

I jump up so quickly that I upset my chair. "A Jew boy? Were you licking him? What had he done?" "Nothing....."

"Come....come....we must find him and beg his pardon!" I can see by my little boy's face that he is ready to do what I wish. For he is still a mercenary, who does not ask under which flag, so long as there is a battle and a booty to follow.

"Let me tell you, the Jews are by way of being quite wonderful people. You remember David, about whom Dirty reads at school, he was a Jewish boy. And the Child Jesus, Whom we worship and love although He died two thousands years ago: He was a little Jew also."

The old Hebrews rise before our eyes in all their splendour and power....Moses and Joseph and his brethren and Samson and David and Saul. We hear wonderful stories.

We hear of the destruction of Jerusalem and how the Jews took their little boys by the hand and wandered from place to place, scoffed at, despised and ill-treated. How they were allowed to own neither house nor land... and how Christian robbers took all the money which they had got together. How, nevertheless, they remained true to their God and kept up their sacred customs in the midst of strangers who hated and persecuted them.

We learn that the most famous man now living in Denmark is a Jew.

And when evening comes and mother sits down at the piano and sings the song which Fahter likes above all other songs, it appears that the words were written by one Jew and the melody composed by another.

My little boy....turns restlessly in bed and talks in his sleep.

"He is a little feverish," says his mother.

(Continued on Page 5)

OY VEY

I FORGOT TO SEND MY SUBSCRIPTION IN TO . . . . .  
LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE - P. O. BOX 549,  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

Dear Jack:

I am deeply interested in the welfare and growth of our Jewish Community.

Please add my name to your fast growing list of subscribers:

Name (Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

One year (52 issues) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 6.00

Two Years (104 issues) \_\_\_\_\_ 10.00

YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED