

HANUKAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF HANUKAH, JEWISH 8-DAY TRADITION OF SACRED CANDLE LIGHTING, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH COMMENCES AT SUNDOWN TUESDAY, DEC. 26 AND LASTS UNTIL THE EVENING OF JAN. 3, 1968.

(NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT - CHANUKAH, HANUKKAH, HANUKA, HANUKAH - IT ALL ADDS UP TO HAPPY HOLY DAYS WITH SUCCESSIVE CANDLES ON THE MENORAH.)

On Eve of War

THE HOLY CITY AS SEEN FROM THE JERUSALEM YM & YWHA

by Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, Executive Director, Jerusalem YM & YWHA

The following letter was received by the National Jewish Welfare Board and World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish Community Centers on the morning of June 5, within hours after the war began in Israel, from the Executive Director of the Jerusalem YM & YWHA, an American social worker who volunteered as an ambulance driver. -- Editor

JERUSALEM, June 1, 1967

You might be interested in what is happening here that you won't find in the newspapers. Jerusalem is like a

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LIGHTING THE CANDLES FOR THE FIRST OBSERVANCE OF HANUKKAH IN THE NEWLY OPENED BUILDING OF THE JERUSALEM YM-YWHA ARE TWO YOUNG MEMBERS, JOSEPH MIZRACHI AND CHANA TOUBOULL. THE FACILITY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWS IN THE U. S. AND CANADA TO THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD.

ghost town. You see no young men and very few young women. Traffic is so light that traffic lights were shut off. Movie houses have cut down the number of showings per day for lack of business. Most offices, businesses, stores are at a standstill. The people themselves are gaunt, but brave. Most of us are busy storing up a seven day supply of food (now officially approved), filling sandbags around gas and oil supplies in the home, protecting air raid shelters and attending first aid courses given a number of times daily. (Today I filled my own sandbags and my son filled 200 for a mental hospital.) The Hebrew University is still officially open (so that students don't lose a year's credit) but no teachers or students come to class. The University dorm has been converted to one big hospital and all ambulatory patients at Hadassah have been sent home.

The whole city is patrolled by civilian defense teams who are armed. Most everybody has volunteered for es-

sential work and I have registered for a course to be a volunteer ambulance driver. The truck shortage has eliminated all home deliveries which makes shopping harder and longer.

A scrabbling, factionalized, fragmented people is now unified. Car pools, voluntary pre-payment of taxes, cash gifts to the country, homes hospitality to nearby soldiers (at my home too), more free blood than can be stored, public indignation at those who raise prices -- all this, and more, has produced a high state of morale; which is needed, because instead of a war of guns, there is now a war of nerves, and it takes its toll. You can't imagine the anxiety, the butterflies, the helpless waiting - what all this does to you, with the enemy so close.

The expressions of support from all over the world - not only Jews - have helped a great deal. Volunteers have already arrived from England and the United States. Here, Christian students, including for the Ministry, have come forward. And so we wait - alert, prepared but also jumpy and a little bit scared. No wonder so few can carry on with normal business. We have a Jerusalem YM-YWHA board meeting Sunday but Hava Magnes (president) and I are agreed that we may cancel it that morning based on our judgment whether the members will be in the mood or if they will come at all.

We just wait. Some are fasting today but all of us pray.

HAPPY HANUKKAH



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