

**Guest Columnist
Rabbi Mordecai Levy**

FROM Temple Beth Hillel
Mattapan, Mass.

What's In A Name?

All of us wonder if different times - what really is there in a name? Do names in themselves have distinctive qualities? Wasn't Shakespeare who said that Juliet by any other name would still be Juliet. And Gertrude Stein wrote: A rose is a rose is a rose. Some people wondering about the Mosaic authorship of the Bible conclude after a while that if it wasn't Moses who wrote the Bible, it must have been some other persons by the name of Moses.

How often Jews (and others as well) Americanize their names shortening them, dropping foreign endings, changing the spelling (to make it easier, more lyric sounding, or even "less Jewish"). Oftimes, there is a quixotic connection between the length of the name and the length of ones financial success. The larger the success, the smaller the name. Pickschanski the financial wizard - becomes Pike; on the other hand remember Joseph Singokowischanski who appeared before the judge to change his name. The judge asked him what change we wanted and he said make it Robert Singokowischanski.)

The late revered Rabbi Solomon Goldman saw no harm in "Americanizing" a long difficult Russian - Polish "Jewish" name if the purpose was to simplify spelling and pronounciations; but if it were to escape the past of Judaic (then it was an offensive act).

And so I thought of a great poet who might have changed his name. Harry Nathan White was a strong forcefully physical man whose countenance exuberated a uniquely dynamic quality. He was one of those rare men of genius. He published his first poem at the age of 17. He never dreamt that he would become a national hero, the uncrowned Master of Letters, the bridge between two continents and many generations. He merely wished to express the emotions of love and concern for his people, never realizing he'd become a national poet laureate.

He lived a major portion of his life in his beloved Israel, watching youngsters living in a Jewish homeland. He made the Bible and Talmud live again. He described

the pathos of European Jewry, its grandeur and greatness, its eventual fall. His words stirred a generation. They were symbolic. Poems become national epics. But with equal verse, he would describe the streets of Tel Aviv, its ounds, its noise, its beat. (If Carl Sandburg "eulogized" the fog, H. N. White eulogized the sound of a horn.

His wordf were learned by young and old; recited in class, sung in the streets until they reached America, another great Jewish Center, Harry visited these shores in an effort to revive the language of his poetry. He lived, drank, talked culture. He planted trees here, symbolic of his people (in Cleveland, Ohio). His life was filled with the especial joy that only a poet knows.

Harry Nathan White achieved this pinnacle of greatness because he knew "What's in a name" (or even, what's in a language.)

He didicated his life to singing the creative gifts of his sublime spirit, always centered about his people. His words stirred them. They were exhilarating, diligent words. Harry wrote in the vein of a great nationalistic poet, the laureate of his people. He bridged the gap between the Biblical Talmudic generations, European Jewry and the emerging generation in Israel. His peoples woes and troubles were his and H. N. White dramatized this with words. A cultural, spiritual, nationalistic spirit of Zionism emerged from his works.

Harry Nathan White lived his life for his people. So that now his people remember his life. Who was Harry Nathan White. It all hinges upon -- what's in a name. He could have been called that but we remember his best as Chaim Nachman Bialik! (Author's note: Chaim-Americanized is Harry; Nachman becomes Nathan; Bialik remembers the Russian word for White!)

JERUSALEM (WNS) Israel's Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nisim has indicated he would now have no objection to archaeological tems digging for antiquity near the West Wall providing the sanctity of the area is preserved and its use as a place of worship and meditation is unimpaired.

LETTERS

Dear Jack:

The Boys' Club of Clark County opening night presentation of "Gone With The Wind" was a smashing success! You and the members of your editorial staff played an integral part in this accomplishment. On behalf of the Officers, Founders Board, Board of Directors and the staff of the Boys' Club - plus the more than 1700 boys in Clark County who constitute our membership - may I extend our gratitude for your unstinting cooperation.

Very truly yours,
L. Henry Kovell
Publicity Director

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tell;
Herewith \$10 for two years subscription. Your paper is honestly wonderful and informative. I send it to my dear sisters who live in the Bronx and there are so many Hadassah women who pass it on from member to member. I shall gradually get them to subscribe to your knowledgeable and up-to-the-minute news about our precious Jewish People.
Mrs. Leon Berger
(Stroudsburg, Pa.)

Dear Mr. Tell:
Thank you for the copy of ISRAELITE. It is a very impressive paper and I enjoyed reading it.
Sincerely,
MARKETING SERVICES
Ben F. Witsell
President, Marketing Service,
Las Vegas

Dear Mr. Tell,
My best wishes to you and

all yours for a very happy and kosher Pesach.
Very sincerely,
Yehuda Krinsky
(Lubavitch News Service)

Dear Sir,
I am interested to correspond with Pen friends from your country about General Affairs.

Details: I am Israel Born, 48 years old, Police Sgt. Married and have 6 children, I will indeed be happy and enjoy and visit at my home of any friend from your country.

I appreciate any answer from you in this respect and many thanks in advance.

Yours Very Truly
Alber & Ruth Shaki,
P. O. Box 14
Tiberias, Israel

Dear Mr. Tell;
I have enjoyed reading your weekly newspaper very much. I am going back to Israel to work in the television station.
M. Kirshenbaum

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