

Mankind at Crossroads

by SAMUEL BELKIN
PRESIDENT, YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

As we prepare to enter the new year, mankind looks to the skies for his greatest technological achievement, whilst at the same time must face the crisis of soul and community here on earth. This conflict of accomplishment, stressing our most noble strivings and our most frustrating failings, reaffirm that neither the heavens nor the earth are man's domain, but that all of the universe is God's creation.

There is little doubt that the world today, in the midst of its greatest struggle for the survival of the democratic heritage, stands at the crossroads of history. Great efforts are being made now, as the turmoil of daily confrontation fills our lives, to create the world anew. The decisions which must be made may fix our course for centuries to come and, if great crises recur in future years, they will spring primarily from the indecisions of today.

If we expect to fashion a better world, we must first determine and understand the causes that have brought and continue to bring, so much misery and misfortune to a time which should be the most advanced in human civilization; a century which may draw upon the common pool of human efforts, achievements and experiences.

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

There was a time when people thought education alone could assure the salvation of humanity, and that human knowledge could save mankind from all misfortune. We find, however, that knowledge alone, while it may lead to material progress and the advancement of human intellect, can never provide a moral mode of living, or insure salvation for mankind. Thus our youth, no longer impressed by the affluence of society are demanding, at many times in unacceptable ways, the spiritual rebirth of a nation. They challenge us to practice what we preach....and also what we teach.

If present-day educators and leaders in government are alarmed that this nation, with its great seats of learning and universities, has failed to stem the force of unrest in the land, it is primarily due to the fact that the modern age has overestimated the power of material knowledge to influence the conduct of human beings. Our knowledge of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities has not failed us; we have failed it by expecting these branches of learning to serve a purpose which is not within their domain--namely, the creation of an ideal society.

The complete divorcement between scientific research, which is based upon the creative ingenuity of man, and spiritual and moral ideals, which are based upon divine knowledge, has brought disastrous consequences to our social order. A society which remains indifferent to the

importance of morality in the life of society becomes, in the course of time, an opponent of morality. Our greatest problem in the field of education is not lack of knowledge, but the responsibility of determining the purpose, end and function of education.

I believe that what is needed most is an unifying principle in the pursuit of knowledge. A principle which begins in the home. A responsibility of teacher as parent, and parent as teacher, each promoting the importance of moral and ethical values which lead to an ideal evaluation of men and the world we live in.

This spiritual philosophy is but a reaffirmation of the noble Jewish concept of the sacred worth of the individual. The knowledge that the world is the sum total of its parts, the nation the sum total of its families, the family the sum total of its individual members, and as our Sages say, each member of the universe laying claim that for his sake was the world created.

We should take careful note of this as we stand precariously on the threshold of the universe. The future form of our government, our social order, and the many diverse groups in society, will depend on the ability of the educator, the parent, leaders of government and community, to implant these ideals in our growing generation. The power of higher moral ideals, when translated into experience can make human society function for the good of all.



A Happy NEW YEAR

to the
**Entire
Jewish Community
from**

ART LIEBERT'S & DICK THURMOND'S

RAINBOW CLUB

DOWNTOWN HENDERSON

CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY FROM 9 P.M.

THE IN SPOT FOR ROUNDERS

to our neighbors
in the Jewish Community

WE
WISH
YOU
A
VERY
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

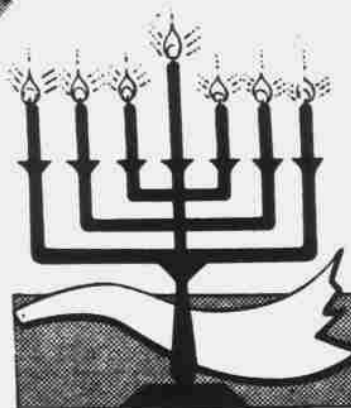


HOTEL & CASINO - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

in honor of



NEW YEAR



extends warm
and sincere
greetings
to the
Jewish
Community