

New Year Message

By RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

The Jewish New Year is a time for spiritual renewal and moral regeneration. It is also a time for hope. When we exchange New Year greetings it is more than an amenity. It is an invitation to courage, for it expresses the confidence that the New Year can be a shana tova, a good year.

This is not an easy year in which to take courage. The continuing attacks on our fellow-Jews in Israel; the hanging of innocent men on trumped up charges of espionage in Iraq; the continuing repression of Jewish life in the Soviet bloc; the injustice that taints human relationships almost everywhere in the world -- all appall and repel us.

And yet they do not mislead us into despairing and resigning from the struggle. We still rejoice in the human capacity to achieve: what men will, they can do. This is the lesson of the year now ending.

But it is not enough that men have landed for the first time on another spot in space. We must also ask: how are people faring on the earth? Are all men sharing in what we are capable of producing in food and shelter and material goods? Do all men have productive assignments and the dignity of self support? How can we achieve peace in our cities, in our institutions, in the world?

We Jews are a religious people -- sustained by our faith, nourished by our heritage, and believing in the potentiality of man. To these elements we add another source of strength -- our determination to perfect the world in consonance with the injunction of our tradition -- not only for ourselves but for all mankind. In this spirit, we wish all our fellow Jews and all our fellow Americans shana tova, a good year.

Happy New Year

by RABBI ISRAEL MILLER
CHAIRMAN AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

With the advent of the Jewish New Year, our thoughts and prayers as American Jews are primarily with our brethren in Israel, who after more than 21 years of statehood are still beset today by problems on many fronts.

We summon Jews in all parts of our land to become active participants in the greatest creative endeavor of the Jewish people in 2000 years -- the preservation and up-building of the Land of Israel which calls out to our people for understanding and support.

We say to our brethren in Israel to whom peace has not yet come: American Jewry recognizes your struggle to build a homeland, in which you will find spiritual regeneration,

where the lives of your citizens will be safe and secure. We express our solidarity with you and stand with you in that struggle, for we recognize the re-establishment of Israel as a nation as the fulfillment of the Biblical and historic aspirations of our people, the fulfillment of the Zionist ideal. We pray for the development, peace and safety of unified Jerusalem, the spiritual and cultural center of the Jewish people everywhere.

It is our fervent hope that Israel's neighbors will come to accept Israel, not only because of the justice of her cause, but also because friendship and amity between those two great peoples will redound to the benefit of the entire region, Arab and Jew alike.

Zionists bear a special responsibility to the advancement of the unity and creative continuity of the Jewish people in the year ahead. Vile and vicious propagandists have maligned and denigrated Zionism and Zionists. At this Season of Affirmation we firmly affirm the Zionist idea as basic and fundamental to Jewry and Judaism, for it is an idea which will ultimately lead to the betterment of all mankind.

Our prayers go forth for our country, the United States, and its citizenry. May we witness a year of peace and the ushering in of an era in which brotherly love and understanding will be inscribed to all the peoples of our planet.

Build a Sukkah

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Sometimes we neglect to do things which could afford us much satisfaction.

One such source of much joy is a sukkah. If you think about it, you can readily understand that a sukkah in your yard or your lawn could bring you and your family a great deal of pleasure.

True, your synagogue probably has a sukkah, but you ought to have one of your own.

A sukkah is a lovely and meaningful item. It reminds us that our forefathers lived in tents as they wandered in the desert. It reminds us, too, that freedom fighters today live under difficult circumstances in order to achieve a better world.

Spending a few moments in the sukkah gives us the "taste" of deprivation, and makes us more sympathetic to the plight not only of ancient peoples but also of those who today suffer from inadequate housing.

And it's really not too hard to put up sukkah. Children will get a charge out of building one and decorating it. It's a much easier chore, l'havdil, than putting up a Christmas tree. Some firms now make pre-fab sukkot; you may find an advertisement of such a firm in your favorite anglo-Jewish newspaper.

The sukkah is an American symbol too. When the pilgrims endured their bad winter here they wanted to show appreciation to the Almighty for delivering them.

So they reached back into the Bible and created a latter-day version of Sukkos, which we call Thanksgiving Day.

What emotion is more stirring than gratitude! If you take the time to build a sukkah, you will be reminding yourself and all who see the lean-to that we ought to take more time to enumerate our blessings.

So make plans now for putting up that sukkah, or booth, as it is sometimes called. And have a happy Booth-Day!

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Zionist Organization of America has published a pamphlet on Arab terrorism and its strategy following the Six-Day War. The publication, Arab Terror, Blueprint for Political Murder, available from the ZOA's Publication Department, 145 East 32nd St., N. Y. 10016, for 75 cents.

Happy New Year

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