

**LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE**  
 PHONE 870-1255  
 Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Price per copy 15¢ - Per year \$7 - 2 Years \$12  
 P.O. BOX 14096 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89114  
 Editor and Publisher . . . . . Jack Tell  
 Business Manager . . . . . Bea Tell, 870-1255  
 Vegas News . . . . . Helene Stadler, 384-3685  
 Jack Entratter, Trude Feldman, Barney Glazer,  
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**2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.**  
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# DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



"As for me, Max, I'm neither Orthodox, Conservative or Reform . . . I'm mediocre."

## Jews of Mexico

By Rabbi Samuel Silver  
 Often we hear about a small colony of Mexican Jews who are surrounded by an ocean of Catholicism. Recently, the kosher stamp was placed upon these people by an American rabbi now serving a congregation in Mexico City.  
 Rabbi Samuel Lerer declares that these people, who look like Indian-Mexicans and who claim they are descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes, are eager to remain Jewish. They live in Pachuca Province of Hidalgo, 60 miles from the capital; they are about 100 strong. They sent a young man to Israel to get a Hebrew education and train their children.  
 Now they would like to send some more young people to Israel, and they are in need of financial help. The Jewish Agency is being approached, so is the United Jewish Appeal. The Mexican Jewish community will give its aid.  
 Rabbi Lerer, by the way, is doing marvelous things in Mexico City. He organized workshop services for the Jewish athletes at the Olympics. He has brought together the Jews and the Israeli embassy officials. He has pioneered in interfaith work. A joint Thanksgiving service for all religious was a "first," with the U. S. Ambassador, Fulton Freeman, reading the President's proclamation, and the rabbi delivering the sermon. The scene: a Protestant church.  
 Rabbi Lerer is also "ecumenizing" the Jewish group. He wants amity among traditional and liberal Jews, and they are responding to his call. He is doing a fine job in an important community.

## Progress Despite Dissent

By ROBERT E. SEGAL  
 Sharp winds, laden with hostility towards Jews still blow from without the Jewish community; and occasional internal gales tear at the web of Jewish unity regardless of the weather outside.  
 Consider the balance sheet of the recent plenum of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, conducted in Cleveland: Many of the 250 concerned delegates representing nine large national Jewish organizations and 85 local community relations councils were greeted with a Cleveland Press feature article captioned "Anti-Semitism Reported Rising With Christians." Then they went into a four day-and-night meeting and took note of intramural differences dividing the Jewish community.  
 The winds blowing from without are not the prime topic of this short essay. The newspaper article referred to simply noted that dedicated Christians who have an impressive grasp of the meaning of Jewish peoplehood and sympathetically cognize the ongoing threat to Israel are deeply disturbed because many of their fellow citizens have forgotten the intensity of the Nazi holocaust and persist in their dislike of Jews.  
 Observing that many people hostile to Israel, claiming they are not anti-Jewish but only "anti-Zionist", are indulging in rationalization amounting to "disguised, unavowed anti-Semitism," Father Edward H. Flannery spoke (through the Cleveland Press) for those Christians greatly bothered by the unconscious acquisition by certain fellow Christians of "a religious and secular bias against Jews."  
 Internal Jewish unrest is something else. It manifests itself when certain church-state issues or the complex struggle for Negro rights or quarrels over potential Jewish vigilantism or the alleged dichotomy attending disparate views on Cambodia and the Middle East are aired.  
 Thus, at the NJCRAC plenary sessions here under discussion, representatives of one segment of the Jewish community dissented from the traditional stand, reaffirmed, of opposition to government aid for private religious schools. The group unhappy about that majority stand could not be expected to go along with a consensus critical of the proposed "voucher system" whereby states will make grants to parents, leaving it up to the fathers and mothers to spend these "school stamps" in educational institutions of their choice.  
 Again, a handful of delegates have grave doubts about some of the effort made by community relations agencies to work for an end to poverty or for opening up more job opportunities for blacks or in insisting on a strict adherence to due process of law for everybody in the United States.  
 Nor did all attending the sessions see eye to eye on a distinction between civilian volunteer patrols under police auspices in troubled city areas and citizens patrols operating without the supervision of the police arm of government.  
 Finally, those meetings at Cleveland concerned with criticism of the current administration in Washington and with the propriety of impropriety of Organization A or Organizations taking a stand on Vietnam and Cambodia reflected a cleavage deep and rather bitter.  
 Yet despite these differences and the passions attending their expression, the fact that the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council is stronger than ever in point of service to the Jewish community, in ability to develop sound community relations programs that stand time's test, and in a fascinating magnetism attracting thoughtful people whose dedication to the goals inherent in the common cause of America's 6,000,000 Jews appears unparalleled.

## AJC Charges Bl. Panthers

New York - The American Jewish Committee charged that the activities and statements of the Black Panthers had been so consistently anti-Zionist and anti-Israel that it was almost impossible to make the distinction between that attitude and anti-Semitism.  
 In a report issued by Seymour Samet, Director of its Intergroup Relations and Social Action Department, the Committee noted that "for a variety of reasons, attacks on Jews as Jews are no longer politically effective in this country. In recent years the anti-Semite has conveniently camouflaged his purpose under a cover of anti-SZionism."  
 The study, prepared by Milton Ellerin, Director of AJC's Trends Analyses Division, includes compilations of public statements by Panther functionaries, and editorials and news stories in The Black Panther, the Party's official publication, all of which indicate the group's support of Al Fatah and the Arab guerillas, and opposition to Israel and its supporters.  
 The report quotes Stokely Carmichael, at that time a high functionary of the Black Panther Party, as telling the annual convention of Arab students at the University of Michigan on August 31, 1968 that "we will fight to wipe it (Zionism) out wherever it exists, be it in the ghetto of the United States or in the Middle East."  
 As far back as June 1967, the report shows, Black Power printed "an obscene anti-Semitic song entitled 'Jew Land.'" Since that time, Panther publications and leaders have "consistently and vigorously supported Al Fatah and other guerilla movements," the report declares.  
 The American Jewish Committee study quotes Panther Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver, in a December 1969 interview in Algiers, as stating that "Zionists, wherever they may be, are our enemies. We totally support the armed struggle of the Palestinian people against the watchdogs of imperialism."  
 The report also quotes a news story from the International edition of the Herald Tribune, which reported on December 29, 1969 in a story from Algiers that "Al Fatah leader Yasser Arafat and Eldridge Cleaver, an American Black Panther leader, hugged and kissed each other at a meeting with Palestine refugees here yesterday . . . that Cleaver climbed the rostrum to deliver a fierce attack on American Zionists."  
 Other Panther leaders who are quoted as supporting Arab guerillas are David Hilliard and Ray "Masai" Hewitt.  
 The study quotes the Jan. 30, 1970 report of CBS correspondent Richard C. Hottelet from Algiers on an Al Fatah-Black Panther alliance. The Al Fatah guerilla organization, Mr. Hottelet declared, "is discussing training Black Panthers in actual combat against Israel to prepare them for a sabotage and assassination campaign in the United States."  
 The AJC report notes that the August 30, 1969 issue of The Black Panther charged in a full page article headed "Zionism (Kosher Nationalism) Imperialism equals Fascism" that "the Zionist fascist State of Israel is a puppet and lackey of the imperialists and must be smashed."  
 Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

## Methodical Mating

By Rabbi Samuel Silver  
 Like the word Brooklyn or Peoria, the word shadchan is good for a laugh among some people.  
 And when you mention scientific match-making you get a real guffaw.  
 Methodical mating has had good results, though. Many of your parents were brought together by a shadchan, who did a good job. The cause of outside help in matrimony has also gotten a boost from the success of the song about the matchmaker in "Fiddler on the Roof."  
 Some of the groups seeking to stimulate romance are indeed questionable and evoke not only a laugh but a sneer.  
 But neither should attend the news I'm giving you about the Scientific Marriage Foundation, because that agency is absolutely kosher. If you are a singleton and want to be paired, you can go to the S.M.F. with confidence and without fear that you are going to be taken. For one, the Scientific Marriage Foundation was founded by Dr. George Crane, the noted medical authority and moralist who was motivated by an interest in happy family life. Furthermore, the S.M.F., which functions with a computer, won't accept your \$25 fee or application unless you first are screened by a clergyman.  
 So if you want to ascertain whether there is a felicitous partner for yourself or for someone else you know, don't write me. Write to the Scientific Marriage Foundation, Melott, Indiana, and those nice people will take it from there. They'll help you find someone both computible and compatible.

NEW YORK -- A delegation of forty Viennese Jews, all survivors of Hitler's concentration camps, made a pilgrimage to the head office of the Joint Distribution Committee in New York to thank the organization for the assistance it gave them in the years following their liberation 25 years ago.

LONDON (WNS) - Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal who tracked down Adolf Eichmann, Franz Paul Stangl and 900 other Nazi criminals, has called for international pressure to help save his Documentation Center in Vienna from what he feared was imminent closure by the Austrian government. He noted in a letter his apprehension over "heavy attacks and defamations" made against his center by Austria's ruling Socialist Party and wrote that a party leader called the center a "secret-agent organization." He added that "we know very well that the Socialist Party needs the votes of the former Nazis to reach a majority. It is reported that there might be a Nazi amnesty," he said.

NEW YORK (WNS) - The Jewish Theatre for Children is offering a \$1,000 prize for the best full-length play for children in English on a Jewish theme. Manuscripts must be submitted by April 15, 1971. Contest rules are available from the organization at 426 West 58th St., New York 10019.

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OUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

NEW YORK - There are positive and hopeful signs that the black and Jewish communities are moving toward "coalition and alliances, rather than confrontation and polarization," Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the Interreligious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, declared.