

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE
 PHONE 870-1255
 Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada
 Price per copy 15¢ - Per year \$7 - 2 Years \$12
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 2ND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LAS VEGAS,
 NEV.
 Member American Jewish Press Association
 Member of Worldwide News Service
 Now in the 7th Year of Continuous Weekly Publication
 Serving the Jewish Community of the State of Nevada.

Jewish Aspects of Attica

The tragedy at Attica which took the lives of 10 hostages and 31 inmates, and shocked and split the nation into factions which support or deplore the storming of the prison to quell the four-day uprising, has resulted in a call by Reform religious leaders for an inter-religious inquiry into America's penal system.

Religious and lay leaders of Reform Judaism have characterized Attica as a moral failure and called for a reform of the nation's penal system to emphasize rehabilitation rather than punishment of its inmates.

This Reform Jewish concern with the uprising which occurred at the upstate New York penitentiary is based on Jewish tradition and law which goes back in time to the days of the Prophets who emphasized justice, equality and dignity for all men.

It is this belief, and the Jewish law, emphasized by our rabbis through the ages, that all men are entitled to justice, which lies behind the insistence of Reform Jewish leaders that not even the prisoner who has been convicted of the most heinous crime can justly be deprived of his dignity and humanity--which is what they have accused the American penal system of doing to its inmates.

At this time of the year, when American Jewry has celebrated the High Holy Days, sought forgiveness of sins, and recognized individually and collectively responsibility for the welfare and well-being of his fellow men, it is incumbent upon us to investigate our society to determine in what ways we have failed our fellow Americans. For we must not forget what our rabbinic and lay leaders have long warned -- when justice is denied to any segment of our population, justice can be denied to all of us.

How About a Sukkah?

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

I have a suggestion for families who would like to do something pleasant to highlight their Jewishness.

Arrange to have a sukkah on your lawn. True, apartment dwellers would have trouble putting up a sukkah, but even they could manage it if they wanted.

But today, when thousands of Jews have spacious backyards, it would be simple to erect a sukkah.

The holiday of Sukkot is most meaningful. It reminds us that our forefathers lived in frail abodes whilst trekking towards freedom in the desert. It reminds us also that many people today do not have housing much better than the huts we build on Sukkot.

The original holiday of gratitude, Sukkot is **ITS RENEWAL TIME RIGHT NOW** --

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YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

MRS. KATZ HEADS WOMEN FOR ISRAEL BONDS



MRS. KATZ

Mrs. Lloyd Katz has accepted the 1971 chairmanship of the women's committee for State of Israel Bonds in Las Vegas.

In accepting the chairmanship Mrs. Katz said, "I am personally honored to be able to work for the Las Vegas Committee for State of Israel Bonds. I know of the important work of Israel Bonds in building up the economy of that country and its courageous people."

Named as co-chairmen with Mrs. Katz are Mrs. Sidney Boyers, Mrs. Susan Frye, Mrs. Morton Salger, Mrs. Victor Schiller and Mrs. William S. Weinberger.

Highlight of the 1971

campaign will be the Oct. 17 State of Israel Bonds Tribute Dinner at which Gov. Mike O'Callaghan will be presented Israel's City of Peace Award. The dinner will be held at the International Hilton Hotel.

Named to serve on the women's committee are: Mesdames Ray ben David, Arthur Bittker, George Brookman, Seymour Brown, Julius Cohan, Ada Cohen, Joel Davidson, Arthur Engler, Donald Fine, Neil Galatz, Ken Glick, Kenneth Goodman, Robert Gordon, Herman M. Greenspun, Henry Kronberg, Cal Lewis, Marvin Meyers, Steve Molner, Jerry Polis, H. W. Ratner, Abe Saltzman, Melvin Shapiro, Sigmund Stein, Murton Strimling, Herbert Waldman, Julius Walker and Aaron Zivot.

The Honorable Yitzhak Rabin, ambassador of the State of Israel to the United States, will come to Las Vegas Oct. 17 to present his nation's City of Peace Award to Gov. Mike O'Callaghan.

the basis of the American Thanksgiving Day observance.

A lot of Jews, alas, shlep trees into their home on Christmas.

Putting up a sukkah can be easy. It needn't be an elaborate structure. Just some kind of bower, open at the top, bedecked with the foliage and fruit of the harvest season.

It's a great way of saying thanks to the Almighty for his many favors. And it's a great way for a family to do something together for the enhancement of one's religious faith.

How about it? Sukkah, anyone?

WASHINGTON DATELINE

By Trude B. Feldman

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Secretary of State William P. Rogers said that both Israel and Egypt have asked the United States to continue in our efforts to bring about an interim settlement in the mideast conflict.

"We find that in certain respects there are parallel attitudes," he stated. "And we are going to undertake a very active program of discussions between now and the first of the year to see if we can play a useful role in bringing about an interim settlement."

Rogers said it hasn't been achieved yet, but that he has no reason to be discouraged.

"We are quite encouraged by the fact that the cease-fire is still in effect," he continued. "And the language that is used by the parties, although still sometimes a little strong, is much better than it was a year ago. In other words, the rhetoric has improved, and we are in contact with both Israel and Egypt on a fairly active basis."

Rogers disclosed that he intends to speak further on the Middle East situation with Andrei Gromyko in New York when he comes to the opening of the United Nations General Assembly later in the month.

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban will also be at the United Nations at the time. He is expected -- during his talks with Mr. Rogers -- to ask for more Phantom fighter bombers. Sources say that Eban is determined to discuss the delay in the year-old Israeli request for arms aid.

From the United Nations, Eban will go to

SOVIET JEWS . . .
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trouble and provide leadership to others." However, Mr. Abram stated, "the Soviets will not change any aspect of their Jewish policy unless pressures against them are responsible and unrelenting."

Mr. Abram pointed out that Soviet authorities "find it easy to confront the illegal tactics of the Jewish Defense League." In fact, he added, Soviet authorities "delight in attempts to besmirch the whole movement on behalf of Soviet Jewry as if it were one and the same thing as the activities of the J.D.L."

Mr. Abram, who drew worldwide attention in 1964 to Kichko's notorious anti-Semitic volume, **JUDAISM WITHOUT EMBELLISHMENT**, explained that his visit -- to Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad -- had served to alter the opinion he had before leaving on the ultimate fate of Russia's two to three million Jews.

"I left the United States believing that Jewish leadership should concentrate its efforts on removing the barriers to a full expression of Jewish life within the U.S.S.R., equal to that permitted other religious and ethnic groups," he said. "I returned convinced that I was wrong, and that the survival of any significant number of at least one-sixth of world Jewry, as Jews, depends almost entirely on the numbers desiring and permitted to leave the Soviet Union."

Mr. Abram's conclusions were at variance with those of a group of six Israelis who recently visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of Soviet authorities. They declared that most Soviet Jews seemed to want to stay on within the Soviet Union and live viable lives there as Jews. Public expression of the desire of Russian Jews to leave the Soviet Union was visibly stepped up following the Six-Day War in the Middle East in 1967, and in recent months the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union for Israel has been substantially increased.

Mr. Abram explained that as a result of Soviet repression, Soviet Jews largely avoided Jews from abroad. He added: "Aside from the brave and furtive few who approach you wearing a Mogen David on the streets of Moscow, there is no opportunity for meetings and discussions such as I have had with Jews and Jewish groups everywhere else in the world."

Mr. Abram related how he had attended a Friday night service at the Kiev Synagogue, "though every possible obstruction was put in my way -- including misinformation from the SHAMOS (beadle) that the service was to begin at 8 -- precisely the time by which it was concluded while I was in attendance. Some of my colleagues on the trip wept at the sight of this pitiful congregation, many of whom were former concentration camp inmates."

Yet, said Mr. Abram, "on the streets in every city we did meet Jews, and not one who came up failed to express fear, dissatisfaction, and a wish to get out."

Jews, Mr. Abram asserted, "who will sacrifice every vestige of religious interest and every fruitful and meaningful connection with Jews and others abroad, can no doubt survive as persons and even attain prominence in all but a few barred fields in Soviet life. But this survival is conditional and it carries a price."

the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, where he will be guest speaker at the Commemoration Dinner for Israel Bonds. Eban will also confer Israel's Medallion of Valor on California's Governor Ronald Reagan at the event. It will mark the first time the prestigious award has been conferred since 1962. Among previous recipients were Sir Winston Churchill; W. Averill Harriman; Gen. Omar N. Bradley; Gov. Herbert H. Lehman; Gen. Lucius D. Clay and Carl Sandburg.

Gov. Reagan's tribute dinner will be chaired by Theodore E. Cummings, a member of the board of directors of Pacific Coast Properties, Inc., Century City. Cummings explained why Gov. Reagan was selected for the coveted award: "During the crisis of the Six-Day War, June 1967, Gov. Reagan's declaration in support of Israel made at the Hollywood Bowl helped to mobilize a massive outpouring of financial aid from his fellow Californians."

"Again, during Prime Minister Golda Meir's visit to Los Angeles in 1969, Reagan stated in no uncertain terms that support of Israel was in America's own best interests..."