

*New Year 5734*

*"Year of Crisis"*

"The New Year 5734 is a year of crisis" declared Rabbi William Berkowitz, President of the New York Board of Rabbis, in the Board's High Holy Day Message. In America, the chief threat to our survival remains spiritual rather than physical. The alienation of our young people, the inadequacy of our programs of religious education, the increased incidence of assimilation, mixed marriage and the general secularization of American life are all matters of profound concern. External forces continue to challenge Jewish existence with unabated ferocity. The Arab nations surrounding the tiny State of Israel have reiterated their uncompromising hostility and their aim of ultimate destruction. The Soviet Union has not abated its program of spiritual genocide and active persecution of those who have avowed their Jewish loyalty and who seek to migrate to Israel.

"Offsetting these negative factors are positive developments. Among them is the miracle of Soviet Jewry, rising like the dead bones of Ezekiel's vision to the affirmation of Jewish life and loyalty. There is the unbelievable courage and determination of the Israelis facing uncertainty and danger with unshaken confidence. There is the increasing awareness by the American Jewish Establishment of necessary priorities - youth, education and spiritual commitment. In the U.S. Congress, the Jackson, Mills, - Vanik bill, which would deny most favored nation status to the Soviet Union unless it allows free emigration and stops the harassment of those wishing to leave, has given the Jewish community tremendous moral support in the universal effort to alleviate the plight of Soviet Jewry.

"The New York Board of Rabbis shall continue to unite the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbinate of the largest Jewish community in the world in the true spirit of the oneness of the people of Israel. We shall strive to galvanize the resources of American Jewry for the fulfillment of their responsibilities to fellow Jews all over the world. Creative Jew-

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

ish survival must be our primary objective. At the same time we shall exert our efforts to struggle against the imperfections of our society that it may be brought nearer to the vision of the Kingdom of God on earth."

*A New Year's Message*

BY EDWARD GINSBERG

(CHAIRMAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMM.)

As we approach the Rosh Hashana season we look back on the year that is ending as a year of both achievement and shortcoming. We look back with satisfaction because we were able to assist in one way or another close to 400,000 needy Jews overseas, and we look back with regret that insufficient finances prevented us from giving more help to more people.

Rosh Hashana comes at a time when we at the Joint Distribution Committee begin to consider our responsibilities and shape our priorities for the coming year. To the extent that we can influence the destiny of our people we will rededicate ourselves to the task of bringing them material and spiritual help.

Rosh Hashana is a period of assessment - personal, organizational and communal. All of us at the Joint Distribution Committee are deeply committed personally to preserve our heritage and to serve our people. We are committed organizationally to aid our fellow Jews wherever they may be and to help bring them to a safe haven. Beyond that we are committed communally to provide the organizational structure and the funds to make it possible for the needy to live - and to live as Jews.

As we join our fellow Jews in prayer during Rosh Hashana services, uppermost in our thoughts will be the tens of thousands of Russian Jews brought to Israel during the past year and the problems they still face. We think of the countless thousands still barred, not only in the Soviet Union but also in some of the Arab and Moslem countries, whose prayers for freedom will not be answered until next year, or the year after, if at all. We will continue to do all in our power to bring help and hope to them until such time as they too can be rescued and brought to freedom.

In the name of the hundreds of thousands of

Jews overseas who have been helped by JDC and who continue to be helped, we send Rosh Hashana greetings to American Jews and to Jews everywhere who have made the work of the JDC possible.

*New Year Message*

BY MRS. DAVID M. LEVITT

(PRES. NAT. FED. OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS)

With the arrival of the religious New Year 5734 and the Days of Awe we join with fellow Jews throughout the world in spiritual renewal and contemplation during these sacred Holy Days. We fervently pray that the coming year will see all nations and peoples usher in an advance toward a period of development, social justice and peace.

Our special prayers on these Holy Days turn in two directions: to Israel and to our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union. We pray for a directly negotiated and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

**NEW YEAR**

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*Happy New Year*



**A Happy**  
**NEW YEAR**

to the  
**Entire**  
**Jewish Community**

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