

### Abraham

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

On the High Holydays the Torah reading tells about the near-sacrifice of Isaac by his father, Abraham.

The Bible tells us that Abraham speedily obeyed the will of God. Nor did he protest.

This same Abraham, however, protested like mad when the vicious people of Sodom and Gomorrah were to be wiped out.

He "bargained" with God. He asked the Lord of justice to have mercy on those wicked people.

Why did Abraham silently accept the possible loss of his own son and expostulate against the loss of strangers who were vile?

Because Abraham was the altruist par excellence.

Abraham is the prototype of the saintly person who will accept harshness for himself and will strive to alleviate the plight of others. Abraham, the first Jew, is the last word in nobility.

He smashed idols. He offered mankind the first example of hospitality.

He proved that young people have no monopoly on youthfulness; he set out on his mission to be a blessing at the age of 75.

The life of Abraham, as recounted in the Bible but embellished by the Talmudical sages, has just been beautifully recorded in a perfectly marvelous book called "Abraham: Friend of God".

The author is Rabbi Amos Miller, of Long

beach, N.Y.

Published by Jonathan David, the book takes us on the journey through the adventures of Abraham and shows us how the courage of the patriarch, his gentleness and selflessness have been delineated in rabbinic literature.

But more than that, The deft biographer shows us how Abraham's examples can bring benefit to each of us today.

The Shofar, which made its first appearance on the ram which Abraham offered up instead of his son, is a call to finer living.

Abraham was a human Shofar, summoning us down the ages to function in keeping with the higher nobility of which we are capable.

And Rabbi Miller, in a book dedicated to his own parents, has made Abraham live with extraordinary vividness.

### KISSINGER SUPPORTS USSR FAVORED STATUS

WASHINGTON (WNS)

-- Dr. Henry A. Kissinger during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on his nomination as Secretary of State repeated his support of most-favored nation status for the Soviet Union in trade with the United States.

When Sen. George S. McGovern (D.S.D) drew a parallel with the Nazi destruction of Jews and Soviet repression, Kissinger noted he was a

victim of Nazi persecution. But he said that reducing the danger of war and "forcing the Soviet Union in a cooperative system" may "over a period of time mitigate their system."

Meanwhile, Sen Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) told a press conference that Kissinger is dead wrong in refusing to insist that the Soviet lift emigration restrictions in return for U.S. trade benefits.

Jackson later told the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry that sentiment in Congress "is stronger than ever" in support of denying the USSR trade concessions and is underscored by the Soviet repression of intellectuals as well as Jews.

### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

BY STEVE HERMAN

Women's Yoga has returned to the long list of the Center's activities. Yoga classes are held every Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30. There is a fee of \$3.00 for Center Members and \$3.50 for non-members. The fee is for each lesson.

Princess Marliza Pons is continuing her belly dancing classes, which are held every Wednesday from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

Mrs. Sandy Singer will instruct this Fall's Slim, Trim and Sauna for the ladies. These Sauna Sessions are held every Tuesday from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. and will be followed by such activities as volleyball, racquetball etc.

International Folk Dancing is also returning! The dancing will begin October 8, with beginners classes from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M. and intermediate classes from 8:30 to 9:15 P.M.



STEVE

The eight week course costs \$15 dollars for individuals and \$25 for couples. Instructor is John Chookasian.

The Second Annual J. C.C. Handball Tournament has gotten underway. I'll have the final results in two weeks.

Here are some changes in operating hours during the remainder of the High Holidays: Oct. 5 & 6- Center closed completely, October 10- Center will close at 6 P.M., October 11 & 12- Center will open at Noon, office closed all day. October 18 & 19- Center opens at Noon, office closed all day.

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