

HANUKAH FEATURE
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The October war in the Middle East saw Israel assailed in the north by Syria and in the southwest by Egypt. Roll back the pages of time and you find the Jews in the days of the Maccabees caught between the hammer blows of Syria under the dynasty of the Seleucids in the north and Egypt under the Ptolemies in the south-west. Between these brackets of history, many wars have been fought for territory, for booty, for trade; yet few save those into which the Jews of antiquity and the Jews of today have been drawn are marked by battle cries in the name of liberty.

Some among us who note similarities between the battles of the Maccabees and the tank and Phantom battles of present-day Israelis will call attention to the need and the right, to

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

defend a people with arms on holy days. For just as the Arabs' unconscionable attack upon the Israelis on Yom Kippur obliged those assailed to leave the synagogue and go to the front on that holiest day of the year so did the patriarch of the Maccabees—Mattathias—find it necessary to go into the fray on the Sabbath. "If any one be zealous for the laws of his country, and for the worship of God, let him follow me," cried the fearless Mattathias. And later when Appelles, the Syrian King's general, attempted to pressure the Jews into submission on the Sabbath, Mattathias told his trusting followers that they must fight on the Sabbath rather than yield on that solemn day to those who threatened their right to worship as they desired. "Unless you go into battle on the Sabbath," Mattathias reminded those who put their trust in him, "you become your own enemies, by observing the law while your adversaries still assault you on this day."

It may be that we have come to look upon Chanukah as a festival to be celebrated largely by our children. To say this is not to detract from the importance the day holds for our sons and daughters. But in these times when freedoms in addition to religious freedom are threatened in the U. S., we have every right to honor the Maccabees and to observe the holiday that tells of their valor for reasons reaching beyond the struggle for religious liberty.

For the Maccabees should be recognized as the first martyrs for freedom of conscience in history. Antiochus called upon them to desert the altars they had built to God; but he had wider zones of persecution in mind. His Syrian nationalism was to be their nationalism; his trust in arms was to be their depositary of hope; his work was to be their law.

By not submitting by daring death rather than yield the Jews of that turbulent era raised an ensign inspiring to us all in these days of electronic snooping and undemocratic commands to conform. When we oppose un-called-for censorship today, we can do it in the spirit of the Maccabees. When we object to illegal wiretapping, we follow a Maccabean principle. And when we demand the valued freedoms of assembly, press, and association, as well as freedom of religion, we honor the Maccabees and celebrate Chanukah as truly grateful men and women.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Despite some scattered incidents there has been no evidence to date of anti-Semitic backlash stemming from the energy crisis.

NEW YORK (WNS) --- Three Israeli professors, speaking at a press conference at the Israeli Consulate here, agreed that the Middle East peace conference in Geneva will not achieve a permanent peace settlement because it is totally unrealistic "to expect the Arabs to accept Israel."

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Leaders of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry told Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Walter J. Stoessel that "the Jewish community is solidly behind" the Jackson Mills-Vanik legislation linking trade benefits to the Soviet Union to relaxing of USSR emigration restrictions.

HAPPY HANUKKAH



Kay Wallerstein



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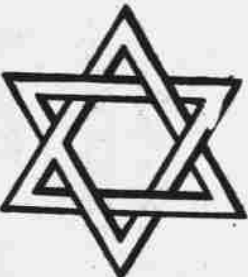
HENNY

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The Jewish Community



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Fran & Carl Cohen

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TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

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