

New Year Greetings

By Melvin Dubinsky
Chairman, United Israel Appeal

NEW YORK -- We approach the High Holy Days in a different spirit, after the events of last Yom Kippur and all that has happened since.

The past year has witnessed new expressions of dedication to the State of Israel. With the very survival of the State hanging in the balance immigrants were arriving in increasing numbers, not only expressing their personal need for Israel, but the needs of all Jews throughout the world.

No sight could have more poignantly expressed the paradox of the war better than that which confronted the observer at Ben Gurion Airport -- the planes arriving daily with such different cargoes -- some carrying essentials for the day's existence, the others carrying the immigrants, Israel's hope for tomorrow. Time, people and facilities were diverted from the war effort to welcome these newcomers to the land which, although in crisis, continued to represent the hope for peace and security to the Jewish people.

Today, we continue to dedicate our energies to the ongoing problems of growth in helping the needy immigrant take his place as a vital part of Israeli society, and to continuing the processes so necessary for social and economic life.

As we prepare for the New Year, let us resolve to maintain the level of service to Israel and to the Jewish people that has characterized the United Israel Appeal for more than a quarter of a century. We look forward

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

to a year of renewed growth for the State of Israel, as we pray for a year of peace for Israel and all mankind.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Trustees of the United Israel Appeal, may I wish you a New Year of peace, health and contentment.

New Year Message

By Harold M. Jacobs, UOJCA President

This year we have been painfully reminded that we do, in fact, live by the grace of G-d. We have once again been shown that the mightiest of armies, the wealthiest of nations, and the most powerful of men are only straws in the winds of history. We feel helpless in the face of problems that seem to have grown beyond our control. Inflation, pollution, scarcities of raw materials, issues of war and peace have demonstrated our leaders to be as powerless and confused as the common man. Yet the message of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur brings home to us as Jews that the only true solution to the problems facing us as individuals and the world lies in our own specific reaction to them.

This is not a strange or new concept. Economists tell us that one of the main causes of inflation is the psychology and buying habits of the individual. Ecologists tell us that whether or not the world will be able to continue to support civilization will depend in large part on how willing the individual will be to curb his wastefulness.

We are told on this High Holy Day season to do Teshuva, to analyze our every deed during the past year, to judge each one against the highest standard of Torah conduct, and to correct our ways. The message of Teshuva is that we do, indeed, determine our own fate through our deeds, both good and bad; that we have the power to improve ourselves and the entire world through following the will of G-d and doing his Mitsvos, or to destroy ourselves through ignoring them. These Mitsvos include conservation and thrift, as well as the highest standards of conduct between men. Let us pray for the strength to mend our ways, so that G-d will grant us through our own endeavors a New Year of peace instead of war, prosperity instead of shortage, and good will instead of fear and hatred.

Happy New Year



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