

# New Year Message

By Ezra Z. Shapiro  
World Chairman, Keren Hayesod

One more year has elapsed. In this period, the State of Israel has experienced its highest moments in celebration of its 25th anniversary and its most challenging, difficult and dangerous days of the Yom Kippur War.

Few families have been spared the pain and suffering attendant upon the loss of dear ones, near or distant. Even as these words are written, the yet unhealed wounds have been reopened as all Israel accompanies its fallen soldiers to their final resting place. The sadness, grief, and occasional despair have been somewhat dispelled by the return of our prisoners, and the promise of some surcease from fire, if not the full blessings of peace, which is the prayer and hope of all Israel.

If ever there was a time to prove the absolute solidarity of the Jewish people with Israel, it was indicated this year. During all of this period, Jews throughout the Diaspora, exulted with the Yishuv in Israel in its joys and shared in its tribulations and moments of bitter sorrow. Jewish communities throughout the world, no longer felt nor acted as silent or even active partners with Israel, but rather as one organic, indivisible Jewish People, with its heart and the chief concern lodged in the State of Israel.

Consequently we, the people of Israel, need not thank nor express to you our gratitude for your extraordinary efforts and assistance. We are one people and what each has done, in his own way, has been for the survival and well being of the other. Rather, we express our esteem and respect for the same valour and self sacrifice which you showed in your "field of battle" during this period.

It should be noted that, especially during this trying period, among Israelis in all sectors of the yishuv, there has evolved a greater awareness, knowledge and even appreciation of Diaspora Jewry's contribution and total commitment to the cause of Israel. Israel knows that its one, most permanent, ever-constant ally, is the World Jewish Community.

## LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

What now of the months which lie ahead! The War, in all of its aspects, military, economic and social, has imposed an unbelievable financial yoke upon Israel. Generations of Israelis yet unborn, may have to bear this burden.

The challenge which faces the Diaspora Communities is imbedded in their willingness and readiness to accept their full share of this responsibility.

Together, we shall meet and overcome the challenge.

On the threshold of this new year of 5735 we pray for increased strength and progress towards the peace we so fervently desire.

## FIVE CHALLENGES FACING ISRAEL

WASHINGTON (WNS) that one-third of -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin outlined to 36 American Jewish leaders at a meeting at Blair House the five challenges facing Israel: political, military, economic, social problems within Israel, and the relationship between Israel and the diaspora.

The Jewish leaders present included representatives of 33 organizations in the President's Conference and

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he left the meeting "encouraged" by Israel's future prospects although "it has a long hard road ahead." Rabbi Miller said Rabin told the Jewish leaders that Israel is facing up to its challenges. He said the Israeli Premier was much encouraged by the parallel views expressed by the American and Israeli governments.

Rabin emphasized

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Max Fisher, chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency; Stanley Lowell, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; and Paul Zuckerman, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Most

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of those who attended the Blair House meeting later were at the dinner or reception Ford gave at the White House for Rabin.

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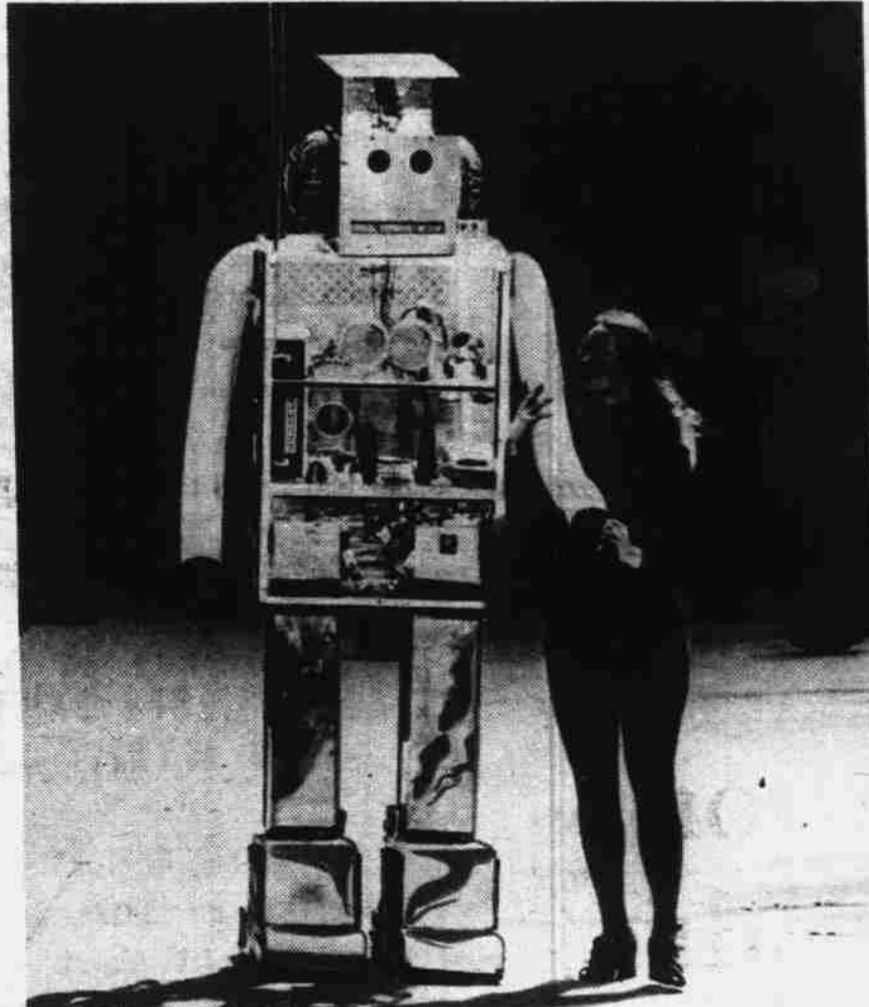
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