

**JEWISH LEADERS MOURN SHAZAR'S DEATH**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- American Jewish leaders mourned the death of former Israeli President Zalman Shazar.

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, noted that Shazar's "commitment to Jewish scholarship and tradition, coupled with his social and humanitarian sensitivities, made him a creative force in the unification of Israel's diverse population and in creating bonds between Israel and the Jewish communities throughout the world." Rabbi Miller said, "A great scholar-statesman he was one of the last of the generation of Israel's pioneer fighters who helped bring the State into being and who guided its destinies with skill and effectiveness. He has left an indelible mark upon the hearts and minds of his countrymen, of Jews throughout the world and of people of spirit everywhere."

Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, said President Shazar "was a leading intellectual light of contemporary Labor Zionism. He combined the traditional roots of Judaism with the modern social view of man's potential."

David M. Blumberg, international president of B'nai B'rith, in a cable to President Ephraim Katzir stated: "We mourn with the people of Israel and

Jews everywhere on the passing of a distinguished leader of our times whose scholarship, love of the Jewish tradition, and faith in the Jewish future distinguished him always."

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization - American Section, said the late President was "one of the heroic figures of the Zionist movement and the State of Israel."

The National Committee for Labor Israel called him "a man of vast learning, great warmth, and profound respect for the dignity of working people in Israel and throughout the world."

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said President Shazar "was one of the last survivors of the generation of Jewish leaders who combined deep Jewish learning with a profound knowledge of modern secular culture. He will go down in the annals of Jewish history as one of the most remarkable men of a unique Jewish generation."

Mrs. Henry N. Rapaport, president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, said the late President "will be missed not only for the talents of mind he demonstrated as an educator, scholar, philosopher and statesman, but for the spiritual qualities which guided his daily living and which he imparted to all who came in contact with him."

**SHAZAR**

(Continued from Page 1)

the time and only a few visitors were allowed, among them President Ephraim Katzir and former Premier Golda Meir. His immediate relatives were not at his bedside at the time of his death since both his wife, Rachel, and his daughter have been hospitalized for a long time.

Schnuer Zalman Rubashov, his real name, was born in 1889 in Mir, Russia. Shazar was appointed to the executive committee of Histadrut and in 1925 he joined the editorial board of the newly established labor daily "Davar." He became editor in chief in 1944 after Katznelson's death and served until 1949. During this time he was active in the World Zionist Organization and toured the world repeatedly for it. Shazar was elected to the executive Vaad Leumi (National Council) in 1929 and he participated in the founding of Mapai. In 1947 he was named by the Zionist General Council to the political committee collaborating with the Zionist Executive in its negotiations with the United Nations. He was a member of the Jewish Agency at Lake Success, N. Y. when the UN General Assembly decided on the establishment of the Jewish State. Early in 1948 Shazar drafted the resolution passed by the Zionist General Council announcing that Jewish independence would be established at the end of the British Mandate.

Shazar was appointed Minister of Education and Culture in 1949 and promulgated the Compulsory Education Law of the fledgling state. Following the refusal of the Soviet Union to accept him as an Ambassador, he became a member of the Jewish Agency Executive and for many years headed its Education Department. From 1956 to 1960, he headed the Agency's Jerusalem Executive.

Elected President in 1963, he was re-elected in 1968. He paid several state visits and came to the U.S. as a personal guest of President Johnson in 1966 and visited President Nixon in 1971. He represented Israel at the funerals of President Kennedy and Sir Winston Churchill. In 1964, he welcomed Pope Paul VI to Israel. During his visits to the U.S. he always called on the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menechem Mendel Schneerson at his Brooklyn, N. Y. headquarters.

**SAMUEL GREENSPUN CHAIR IN JUDAICA**

A religious scholar from Philadelphia has been hired to fill the new Samuel Greenspun Chair in Judaica at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Ira Chernus, a specialist in Jewish philosophy and religion, began his assignment this month teaching classes in the Old Testament and in the history of Judaism.

Chernus comes to UNLV from Temple University, where he earned a master's degree in religion and is nearing completion of a Ph. D.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers University and studied for three years at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia.

The Samuel Greenspun Chair was established this fall on the campus with funds provided by his son, H. M. (Hank) Greenspun, the publisher and owner of the Las Vegas SUN.

Mr. Greenspun, in funding this chair which has proven popular and desirable in universities throughout the nation, said:

"My father's life was devoted to humanity which can only progress through education. If he could have chosen his memorial, it would be a temple of learning for the furtherance of his beliefs.

"The University of Nevada, Las Vegas

meets this criteria. It is a structure of intelligent educational methods."

The proposal to found the Greenspun Chair was presented to the Nevada Board of Regents last year by Lloyd Katz, a personal friend of the late Mr. Greenspun and former president of Temple Beth Sholom in Las Vegas.

Chernus, an assistant professor of philosophy at UNLV, said his classes would serve all students at the university, especially those majoring in philosophy and religion.

"Various religious traditions are an important part of the total cultural heritage of man," he stated. "In a university setting, we try to gain a scholarly understanding of man's existence, and religion has always played a key role."

In 1968, Chernus was awarded a Danforth Graduate Fellowship and the Inter-Faith Activities Award.

He is a member of the Society for Religion in Higher Education and the Association for Jewish Studies.

Chernus said he is utilizing a substantial library collection on Judaic studies which has been contributed over the years to UNLV by the Las Vegas Mack Lodge of B'nai B'rith and that university funds have been set aside to increase the size of the holdings even further.

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