

Passover Feature

IN HONOR OF PASSOVER, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF FEATURES. THIS YEAR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL IS INAUGURATED AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, MAR. 26 AND ENDS ON APRIL 3RD.

JWB Honors Celebrities

NEW YORK -- Do you know any outstanding artists, authors, musicians and entertainment personalities who have been associated in some way with a Jewish Community Center or YM-YWHA?

Dore Schary, motion picture executive, playwright and producers, and Daniel Rose, president of JWB, the Association of Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHAs, are seeking the names of such individuals for an honor role they are assembling in connection with a Conference on Jewish Cultural Arts to be conducted by JWB in January 1976 in celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial. Schary is chairman of the National Planning Committee for this Conference.

Schary himself is one of these. His first play was produced by a theater group at the YM-YWHA of Metropolitan New Jersey (then the Newark YMHA), where he later was given his first responsibility as a Little Theater director. He organized and directed drama groups at the Trenton and Plainfield Jewish Community Centers, also in New Jersey.

The 92nd Street YM-YWHA in New York City -- where the Cultural Arts Conference will be held January 10, 11 and 12, 1976 -- spawned many famous personalities. The Marx Brothers cavorted there as boys. Billy Rose and Irving Berlin developed their youthful biceps there. Sam Levenson went to the 92nd Street Y for Jewish studies, musical activities and athletics. Bernard Baruch used to exercise in the gym of the Y when it had a little place on 42nd Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

One Jewish Community Center that played a significant part in American Jewish history -- the Educational Alliance on the Lower East Side of New York City -- helped many who were later to win a name for themselves.

An elderly woman, worried about her orphaned grandson, called on a social worker at the Alliance.

He was sent to Surprise Lake Camp at Cold Springs, N.Y., and there amused his fellow campers -- one of whom was George Jessel -- with songs and impersonations.

Reminiscing about the incident years later, Eddie Cantor laughingly said, "That was the first time my act was held over."

At this famous Jewish Community Center on the Lower East Side, Arthur Murray learned to dance. Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff of the Radio Corporation of America learned English.



THE CHAIM WEIZMANN CENTENARY BOX, WHOSE FIRST ISSUE WILL RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN THE CHAIM WEIZMANN MUSEUM IN REHOVOT, IS BASED UPON A DESIGN OF A TREE OF LIFE, INCORPORATING THE PORTRAIT OF CHAIM WEIZMANN FINELY DRAWN. THE BOX WAS DESIGNED BY ANTHONY ELSON, ONE OF THE LEADING DESIGNERS AND SILVERSMITHS OF THIS AGE. THE SALE OF THE CHAIM WEIZMANN CENTENARY BOX WILL BENEFIT THE YAD CHAIM WEIZMANN DIRECTLY. FOR INFORMATION, CHAIM WEIZMANN CENTENARY OFFICE, P.O.B. 26, REHOVOT, ISRAEL.

The Alliance also gave opportunities for self-development to the celebrated sculptors Chaim Gross, Moses and Isaac Soyer and Jacob Epstein; Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver; Judge Jonah Goldstein; former New York City Comptroller Lazarus Joseph; Judge Simon H. Rifkind; Ruby Goldstein; Judge Anna M. Kross, and a host of others.

The Jewish Ys and Centers of Greater Philadelphia had, among its members, Joseph Kramm, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his play, "The Shrike," Ezra Stone, the original "Henry Aldrich" and later a director of radio and TV programs; Clifford Odets, the author and playwright, and Judge Horace Stern, who was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

It was as a teenager at the St. Louis Jewish community Centers Association that Dr. Abram L. Sachar, historian, author and one-time president of Brandeis University, participated as a debater, Center newspaper editor, and committee member.

Philip M. Klutznick, who served as Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and as international president of B'nai B'rith, began his identification with Centers half a century ago as an active member of the Kansas City, Mo., Jewish Community Center.

You may know others. Send their names, together with any information which you may have, to Irene Heskes, JWB, 15, East 26th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010, by March 31, 1975.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

MR. SY'S CASINO OF FUN

A JOYOUS PASSOVER SEASON

to all our Friends and Patrons

Toasting Dr. Eckardt

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

Let's drink a toast to Roy Eckardt. Being a Methodist minister, Rev. Eckardt might not join us in drinking, but there is no doubt that the world ought to drink in his words.

Dr. Eckardt is a Christian educator who feels that his faith urges him to atone for the ills which Christians have done to Jews.

In his call for repentance he has sounded the most resonant tones in a series of books, lectures, and articles.

The summation of the clergyman's call is that Christianity has an infection which it ought to remove: hostility to Judaism.

Dr. Eckardt goes further. He insists, as he did recently at a massive convocation on the Holocaust, that Nazism got the idea of anti-semitism from Christianity.

Dr. Eckardt knows full well that there is much more in Christianity than this xenophobia. He is aware of the sublimities in the Christian tradition. He asks Christians to acknowledge and delete the hatred in their faith and background. He asks Jews to forgive Christians for the injuries they have afflicted.

He asks the world to understand that the State of Israel is the flowering of what is noblest in the Judeo-Christian heritage.

In the Bible, Hebrew prophets chastised the Jews for their shortcomings.

In our day Rev. Eckardt is a prophet who chides his own people for their failings. He even does this at Lehigh University, where he heads the department of religion.

He (and his wife Alice, too) are performing this prophetic task with greater fortitude and persistence than most others.

Jews should feel indebted to Dr. Eckardt. But beyond what he does for Judaism and for his own faith of Christianity is what he is doing for the cause of truth.

I am delighted to offer him this verbal toast.

MIAMI BEACH (WNS) -- A "Salute to Israeli Veterans" at the Fountainbleau Hotel attended by 1000 persons raised \$605,000 for the Histadrut Mortgage Fund.

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