

# Salute to Haym Salomon

By Rabbi Samuel M. Silver

As we observe the 200th birthday of our nation, we recall with pride that Jews and Judaism played important roles in the exciting events marking the birth of our beloved country. We are proud that Jewish people and Jewish ideas are still deeply involved in the continuous spiritual growth of the United States.

A number of patriots surrounded George Washington when this country staged its great struggle for independence. The number of Jews in the armed services was then, as it has always been, in a higher ratio than the Jews in the general population. And no wonder. The Jews in the colonies were treated as equals. They were not given every prerogative, but in the main they were looked upon as residents entitled to the rights of citizenship, without those disabilities and denials which typified a lot of Jews in the Old Country.

The best known colonial hero of the Jewish faith was Haym Salomon. Although the early immigration of Jews to these shores is often described as a Sephardic "wave," there were many Ashkenazic Jews here in the early days. Salomon was indeed an immigrant from Poland and one of the languages that he was familiar with was Yiddish.

Indeed, Salomon was a linguist, as is often the case with Jews. In this regard he typified the stress on cultural attainments which has been part of the Jewish heritage. His prowess as a linguist served Salomon in good stead in one episode of his exciting life. When he was a prisoner of the British, he was given special liberties because he served as translator. Salomon was astute as a financier. This skill reflected the fact that many European Jews, denied the right to own land and denied the right to join various occupational guilds in Europe, took to commerce as a source of livelihood.

Salomon embodied also the longtime propensity of the idealistic Jews to give his heart to his adopted land when that nation needed him. In the Bible we read about Joseph saving the country of Egypt. Mordecai saved the life of the king in ancient Persia. A cluster of Spanish Jewish diplomats and statesmen enriched the life of Spain before it went inquisitorial. Disraeli put England on a larger map.

Salomon naturally gravitated towards the support of the colonies yearning to breathe free. He fought bravely on the side of the freedom-seekers. He also gave this nation, in its critical accouchement the art of financing. He was able to secure loans for the infant nation in a manner emulated by few others.

He was praised by Secretary of the Treasury Robert Morris as a man who refused to profit from his skill as a fiscal magician. Love of country was greater in him than love of lucre. It is for these reasons that Haym Salomon is the perfect prototype of the Jew who senses the synchronization of a democratic land and Hebrew idealism. He risked his life for his country. He scorned the temptation of profiteering. He aided the good cause over and beyond the call of elementary duty. He was a model to all of us of selfless devotion to glistering causes.

Much has been written about the question of whether this nation displayed adequate gratitude to the man who helped underwrite the costs of our Revolution, whether his heirs have been properly recompensed.

There is little doubt, however, that we cannot adequately repay Haym Salomon or his memory for what he did to assure the preservation of the life of our land when it was frail and ready to topple into the outstretched hands of predatory imperialisms which were ready to abort it.

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SCOTT

Scott Farrow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Farrow, was called to the reading of the Torah and Haftarah on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on March 5, in the course of Sabbath Eve Services at Congregation Ner Tamid. The services were conducted by Scott Farrow and Rabbi Stephen W. Weisberg. Congregation Ner Tamid holds its services at 2900 Palomino Lane.

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## SERVICES AT BETH SHOLOM DEDICATED TO LATE BELOVED

### CANTOR KINNORY

Oscar B. Goodman, President of Temple Beth Sholom, 1600 E. Oakey Boulevard, announced that the Temple's Choir Loft will be dedicated to the memory of the late beloved Cantor Herman Kinnory, during Sabbath Services on Friday evening, March 12, 1976. Services are held in the main Sanctuary and will commence at 8:30 P.M.

Rabbi Philip Shnairson will conduct and officiate the Services and deliver a special dedicatory address for the occasion. Cantor Joseph Kohn will chant the liturgy accompanied by the Temple's Teen Choir, with Annette Graziani conductor and Martha Olson at the organ.

The decision to dedicate the Choir Loft was arrived at unanimously by the Temple Board of



CANTOR KINNORY

Directors as a most appropriate perpetuation of the memory of Cantor Kinnory, who served the Temple and the Jewish community devotedly for many years.

Kinnory arrived in Las Vegas in 1951 and was the Cantor of Temple Beth Sholom until he retired in 1959, at which time he was granted the status and title

"Cantor Emeritus." He remained closely bound to the Temple, and until his demise on December 4, 1974 he was actively engaged in working with the youngsters of the Religious School as a tutor and Bar Mitzvah instructor. Gertrude Kinnory, widow of the late Cantor, as well as members of the family from California, will be present. Community friends of the Kinnory family are cordially invited to attend and participate.

Sisterhood will host the congregation to Oneg Shabbat refreshments in the Entratter Social Hall immediately after the conclusion of the Services.

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