

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

# LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

OF NEVADA

*For Those Who Deserve The Best*

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### New Passover Questions

Four new questions ought to be included in the Hagaddah in line with new times. What is Israel? Where is it going? How did it get to where it is now? What should it strive for? The answers given may very well determine whether the 2000 year - old struggle of the Jewish people to assert their unity, identity and freedom will prevail or go down the tube of history.

Israel is wracked by social, political, economic and moral crises. Some of it is due to the almost 28 years of existing in a sea of Arab hostility, wars, border skirmishes, terrorists assaults and general instability in the Middle East as a whole. But a great deal of the crises plaguing Israel are due to a loss of direction, perspective and ideal that the founding fathers of Zionism and the early pioneers envisaged for the Jewish homeland.

Many, if not most, diaspora Jews contend that Israel is imperiled by the Mideast arms race and the bellicose nature of Israel's neighbors. Many Israelis share that view. Yet, this is only part of the problem Israel faces. More menacing to the Jewish State are the developments within her own borders. Almost daily reports from Israel show that there is a growing rate of crime prostitution, drug addiction; corruption in high places; mounting unemployment and inflation; and a social gap that is ever widening between the Jewish and Arab population and between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. In addition, more and more Israelis are leaving their country and settling elsewhere. The ruling Labor Party is being torn asunder by its own internal crisis and its leadership is rudderless.

The nation's leaders, and many Jews in the diaspora, try to explain away these developments by insisting that the danger of war, ever-present, prevents any deep-going and lasting amelioration of these conditions -- at least for the time being. But the threatening shadow of war is all the more reason why Israel must deal with and solve these waxing problems: to assure the continuing security of Israel under the military opposition it faces from the Arabs, the nation's morale must be at its height.

But there are many Jews in the diaspora who prefer that the crises within Israel not be aired. What good is it to publicize them, they ask? Doing so only gives our enemies more anti-Israel and anti-Zionist ammunition. Those who offer such counsel are wrong and in fact are doing a disservice to Israel. This is the earmark of many diaspora Jews who are more

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# DAYENU

BY HENRY LEONARD

## CHINESE KITCHEN

### CANTONESE FOG



concerned with what the "goyim" may think than what is necessary for Israel.

The fact is, and reports from Israel bear this out, that the Israelis themselves have no anxiety about dealing with their internal crises and giving vent to them publicly. They are deeply concerned about them and bring them to light in order the better to deal with them. Hidden from public view and scrutiny these problems can only fester and infect the entire body of Israel. Out in the open they can be analyzed and solved.

Moreover, these problems are well known to Israel's enemies in any event. It is far better for Jews themselves to acknowledge that these problems exist, seek out their causes, deal frankly and openly with them and be armed with all the necessary information to combat the tirades and canards of Israel's enemies. The strength of Israel and world Jewry rests on knowing what's going on and dealing with it on the basis of their own awareness and consciousness. The truth shall make us free may be an old saw but its cutting edge must be more honed today than ever before.

### Passover Message

By Frank R. Lautenberg  
(UJA General Chairman)

This Passover, as we celebrate the deliverance of our people from Egyptian bondage, the ancient prayer of "Next Year in Jerusalem" holds a new urgency - - - a dramatic reality - - - for the American Jewish community. For in 1976, we have the opportunity to participate in a modern - day journey to the land of Promise...a very special celebration of Jewish life...as we proudly proclaim: "This Year in Jerusalem."

Each American Jew who takes part in this historic pilgrimage to Jerusalem in October will be reaffirming the lessons of Passover: that we are bound together by the traditions and spirit of a 4,000-year commitment to freedom and human dignity...that we are one people...that our faith in the Jewish future has remained unshakable, unchanged in intensity, from generation to generation.

The Passover Seder is an event in Jewish life that brings us together in family celebration and links us with our Jewish past. As we are strengthened in the knowledge that all over the world families like ours are retelling the same story of deliverance, and expressing the same hopes for redemption, we too can lend strength...through our unity, our oneness of purpose. Just as we open the door symbolically for the prophet Elijah, we must symbolically open the door to our fellow Jews who suffer oppression.

As we sit down to the Seder table this Passover, let each of us answer the ancient prayer with a vow of "This Year in Jerusalem." On

# TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

Jewish male babies cast into the Nile. That's when Moses was set adrift in a waterproof basket and was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter, to grow up in the palace.

Moses, who never forgot he was a Jew, belted an anti-Semite and had to go into hiding. He married the daughter of a Priest and became a sheep grazer.

One day near Mt. Sinai, a voice from a burning bush commanded Moses to set the children of Israel free. Moses tried to reason with Pharaoh but it was no use. Strong measures were needed. A plague brought death to every first-born Egyptian. Pharaoh was glad then to get rid of the Hebrews, who took off in a hurry. Three days later, Pharaoh changed his mind and set out after the Jews with the Egyptian army. The Israelites practically had to eat on the march and as for prepared food didn't have time to let the dough rise, so the short-baked bread came out unleavened - now known as matzo's.

Then came the incident at the Red Sea where the waters parted to let the Hebrews across, only to come together again to drown the Egyptians. After 40 years of wandering, the Israelites settled in Canaan, the Promised Land beyond the Jordan River. But Moses never got there.

It was God's will that Moses should get a look at the Promised Land from Mt. Pisgah before he died of old age. Exactly when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God is not clearly identified. Our belief is that Moses was in constant touch with God and all liturgical law was promulgated through him. From the Ten Commandments came all accepted criminal codes and mandates of human ethics practiced in civilized countries.

Leo Tolstoi, the Russian novelist and philosopher who died in 1910, came up with several answers to the question: "What is a Jew?" Some of his responses are appropriately significant to the story of Passover.

He wrote: "Let us see what kind of peculiar creature the Jew is, which all the rulers and all nations have together and separately abused and molested, oppressed and persecuted, trampled and butchered, burned and hanged - and in spite of all this he is yet alive.

"The Jew is the religious source, spring and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions.

"The Jew is the pioneer of liberty. The Jew is the pioneer of civilization. Ignorance was condemned in olden Palestine more even than it is today in civilized Europe.

"The Jew is an emblem of civil and religious toleration," wrote Tolstoi, who went on to quote Moses in remote and savage times when the principal ambition of the nations consisted of crushing and enslaving one another: "Love the stranger, Moses commands, "Because you have been stranger in the land of Egypt."

"The Jew is the emblem of eternity," wrote Tolstoi, who continued, "He whom neither fire nor sword norquisition was able to wipe off from the face of the earth, he who was the first to produce the oracles of God, he who has been for long the guardian of prophesy, and who transmitted it to the rest of the world - such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is everlasting as is eternity itself."

After reading the writings of Tolstoi, who authored "War and Peace," "Anna Karenina," and other monumental works, you kind of get the unequivocal, indisputable feeling that the Jewish religion is here to stay. Let's keep it that way no matter how you celebrate Passover.

Incidentally, Tolstoi was not Jewish.

this sacred night let us proclaim anew the promise of Passover...for our brothers living in danger in the Soviet Union and other lands of distress...for the people of Israel beleaguered by hostile neighbors...for those in need in our own communities. This Passover, let us demonstrate -- before the whole world -- that we are one