

New Year Message

Harold M. Jacobs
Pres. Orthodox Jewish Cong. of Amer.

This has been a hopeful year for Klal Yisroel. We have seen our enemies divided against themselves; we have witnessed the bravery of the Israeli Defense Forces inspire free men everywhere, and restore our fallen morale; we have begun a dramatic recovery from the worst economic slump since the Depression. Yet, our problems are barely diminished, and the long-term outlook for the Jewish people and the State of Israel remains darkly clouded.

In the year to come, we shall still be challenged by the same enemies and problems which have troubled us for decades. Israel remains diplomatically isolated, and confronted on three sides by numerous, wealthy, and fanatical enemies. Our domestic communal institutions still struggle desperately for their economic survival; our children are still the target of missionaries; our brethren in the Soviet Union are still oppressed and imprisoned. We must continue to struggle to survive as Jews, both physically and spiritually, and it is to this holy struggle that we must rededicate ourselves in the coming year.

The priorities of the Orthodox Union will remain unchanged. Our hope for the future resides in our youth, and, in the year ahead, we will continue to dedicate our resources to the support of vigorous programs for the Jewish youth of North America.

We will maintain and expand our Kashruth program, synagogue services, publications and adult education programs servicing the entire Jewish community. Through our Achdus program, we will continue to organize the Orthodox synagogues of North America, reaching out to unite all Orthodox Jews in support of our common goals.

As the central spokesman for the Orthodox synagogues of North America, we will continue to speak out boldly for the Torah position on all issues affecting the Jewish community, both in the highest councils of government and the Jewish Establishment.

Rosh Hashanah Message

ESTHER R. LANDA
NAT. PRES. NAT. COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

In a Rosh Hashanah message for the Hebrew year 5737, National President Esther R. Landa of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) called on the organization's 100,000 members to re-dedicate themselves to community service on behalf of those who cannot help themselves, and to advocacy on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

The celebration of the New Year, Mrs. Landa said, following closely the proud commemoration of our nation's bicentennial, is an appropriate occasion to reaffirm a commitment to both the ancient ethics of Judaism and the principles of a free and democratic nation. The combination, she said, forms the foundation on which NCJW was established 83 years ago.

"The spirit of volunteerism," Mrs. Landa stated, "is the living legacy of our faith and a vital component of our national life. As we enter the year 5737 on our religious calendar, we can look back on countless generations of Jewish women who have practiced the tenets of Judaism by helping not only their neighbors, but human beings in need all over the world.

"These solemn and sacred Holy Days represent more than a period of renewal and atonement. It is a time for sober reflection on the status of all humankind. To our sorrow, we find that a true peace among nations is still not a reality. Nor has civilization found a solution to the problem of world hunger. And close to home, we continue with limited success to grapple with the persisting problems of health care, services for the aging, children in trouble, equal opportunity for minorities and a broad spectrum of social and economic issues.

"We can minister to the maladies of our society only if we are willing to fulfill our multiple roles as thoughtful and responsible citizens, as dedicated Jews and as volunteers committed to improving the quality of life.

"The New Year is a re-birth, offering new hope, and new opportunities. We should welcome it with confidence and with gratitude for the

blessings with which we have been favored. "Democracy is still alive in the United States. Courage is still synonymous with the State of Israel. Volunteerism is still the bright hallmark of the National Council of Jewish Women. "My wish is that all of us, in every community in this country and, God willing, in the world, may find peace and happiness in the coming year."

House on the Roof

The House on the Roof is a delightful story of the joyous festival of Sukkot for children ages five to eight. Written by David A. Adler and illustrated by Marilyn Hirsh, it will be published by Bonim Books, a division of Hebrew Publishing Company, on September 28.

Illustrated throughout with vibrant, striking pictures by a leading artist of juvenile books, The House on the Roof is a gentle, humorous, heart-warming story that will appeal to young readers and even younger listeners.

The Sukkot festival, which this year begins on October 9th, is one of the most ancient of Jewish festivals and one of the most colorful. Traditionally, Jewish families erect a "Sukkah" -- a temporary booth or hut -- recalling the booths in which the ancient Israelites lived during their forty-year sojourn in the desert, after the exodus from Egypt.

Meals are eaten in the Sukkah during the holiday. Since the Sukkot holiday is also a harvest festival, fruits and vegetables are hung from the rafters to commemorate the agricultural aspect of the celebration.

America's Thanksgiving Day is believed by many historians to be a direct offshoot of the Biblically-ordained festival.

In The House on the Roof, the author has told an imaginative story of a delightful old man who decides to build a Sukkah on the roof of the apartment house in which he lives. The reaction of the old man's grandchildren, and the protestations of the landlady, combine to weave a spellbinding tale with a surprise ending. The House on the Roof makes the Sukkot holiday great fun -- and is a memorable reading experience.

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