

Bulgarian Escapee Will Celebrate Hanukkah For The First Time

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ago, will be celebrating Hanukkah this year for the first time in his life. Jews all over the world will celebrate the Festival of Lights December 19-26. Yosif, 21, defected to the West while with his family on a trip to Tunisia. He then went to Belgium, Germany, and finally to Miami, Fl. "I was a lucky person," he said, but he still worries about his parents, his sisters, his brother, and other members of his family who are still in Bulgaria. Yosif is a student at Yeshiva College, the men's undergraduate, liberal arts and sciences division of the University. He also takes Jewish studies courses at the University's James Striar School of General Jewish Studies. He is shown here at the Yeshiva University Museum, where a new exhibition on "The Art of Celebration" depicts different Jewish holidays. The exhibition will run through June at the Museum, which is located at the University's Main Center in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. Yeshiva University, which was founded by immigrants nearly a century ago, is the educational home of nearly 300 students from some 40 foreign nations.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Israel's new 10,000 Shekel banknote which went into circulation last week carries a portrait of the late Premier, Golda Meir. The currency is the equivalent to about \$16.

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Hanukkah In The Political Trenches

By Robert E. Segal

We read a lot about guerrillas these days. Many view them as the men in the black hats, weapons in hand. They conduct irregular warfare. They promote revolution.

But in far off Biblical days, a glorious guerrilla band arose to whom the world owes much in these times of turmoil and terror. They were, of course, our Maccabees. Hanukka is linked forever with their name. They came down from the hills, defied the death threat imposed by Antiochus Epiphanes for persisting in their own faith. They triumphed.

Theirs was the classic battle for religious freedom. They taught the world the core meaning of the relationship of a human's conscience to the God he worships.

Thousands today are, consciously or perhaps unconsciously, fighting a guerrilla war to preserve an endangered American species -- religious liberty. Those who threaten that sacred possession of all Americans grow increasingly arrogant and active.

They boast proprietary and exclusive claim to morality. They make the fraudulent charge that God is stopped at the public schoolhouse door. They demand government - sanctioned prayer in public classrooms. They cheapen their own faith by erecting creches on government property. They insist that those who would set on court benches must first bow to their code of political religiosity. They claim to have registered 20 percent of this year's new potential voters. They are cheered on by other wings of the new American Right. They are critical of public welfare. They advocate budget cuts that would demoralize the impoverished and disabled of America.

These foes of traditional American freedom seem oblivious to religious cleavages now

traumatizing India. They seemed to have learned little or nothing from the travail of Iran where the Ayatollah Khomeini, at 87, stands taller than ever with the whip of religious bigotry firm in his hands.

In contrast to the brand of religious behavior in America today riding roughshod over the heritage and practices of others, we have, fortunately, notable examples of church and synagogue leaders and congregants courageously defending the rights of others, working to save the starving, heal the sick, free the oppressed, assist the homeless, aid the poor.

These truly righteous include the Catholic bishops of Chile and Central America, the religious faithful toiling on the famine grounds of Ethiopia. In the same ranks are spiritually - motivated Jews and Christians in the United States standing firm against social injustice and against the spoilation of our political structure by glory shouters.

During Hanukkah, the entire American Jewish community must give serious thought to much that threatens religious integrity.

While championing the right, if not the duty, of religious units to essay advocacy roles in the courts, Congress, and state legislatures, we must help awaken America to join the fight to prevent our political parties from victimization by ill advised religious crusaders.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, a reservoir of broad Jewish consensus, is offering a sound guide for approaching the crisis here described. Religious groups, candidates, public officials, and political parties, the NJCRAC insists, must help avoid "polluting both the religious and political main-streams of American life with sectarianism. They must stand guard against any who would identify American politics with any brand of religious views...We look to them to reject categorically the pernicious notion that only one brand of politics or religion meets with God's approval and that others are necessarily evil...Above all, we look to them to oppose...all efforts...to tamper with the First Amendment, the very foundation of American liberties."

I KNOW WE SHOULD GO TO THE FUNERAL HOME



BUT, I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

The fact is that nothing can be said to express adequately our loss or make the bereaved family feel better. But that doesn't mean that a visit and an expression of sympathy won't be helpful. Bereaved persons tell us that it's not the words that are helpful but that someone cared enough to go to the funeral home and express their sympathy in person. Sometimes just a hug or holding your friend's hand briefly is a good way to say "I care." When a friend loses a loved one go to the funeral home. Express your sympathy and offer your assistance. You'll be appreciated for caring.

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Reagan Optimistic That Arabs Are Moving Toward Peace With Israel

WASH. (WNS) — toward negotiations with Israel and said the President Reagan has expressed optimism that moderate Arab states are moving

hopefully encourage this" trend. "I think that there has been some trust built up by moderate Arab states in the United States as an intermediary," Reagan said in an interview with The Washington Times released by the White House.

But the President stressed that the U.S. is "not trying to negotiate the peace" between Israel and the Arab states. "They have to negotiate the peace," he said.

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