

# The Message Of The Sukkah

By Rabbi Ezra Boyarsky

*"You shall dwell in booths seven days; that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel abide in booths when I brought them out of the Land of Egypt."  
(Leviticus 23:42,43)*

The ultimate purpose of redeeming the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage was to turn there heretofore abnormal, insufferable and demeaned existence into a normal, dignified, sovereign national-religious life. And this goal was achieved only when they finally entered the Promised Land and became a self-sufficient, productive nation with agriculture as the main economic under-pinning.

It is for this reason that the three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot) are, in addition to their historical point of origin, also intimately connected with the economy of the Land of Israel. And therefore, these holidays carry a dual significance, one a historical and the other that of a mundane and pragmatic nature.

And it was in no small measure due to the fusion of the religious and national aspects of these festivals that the Jewish people harbored the hope and sustained the faith that an independent Jewish State will once again be founded in their ancestral homeland. It was this treasured hope that led to the political Zionist movement at the turn of the century and ultimately culminated with the establishment of the State of Israel in our own time.

While each festival delivers its own timely

message, the mandatory requirement to dwell in booths on Sukkot carries an especially momentous message to contemporary Jewry who have witnessed the extermination of one-third of their brethren but also experienced their grandest moment of exultation -- the founding of Medinat Yisroel.

This message of the Sukkah, the stark symbol of temporary shelter, transience and instability, calls on Jews outside of Israel to negate the Diaspora which, not unlike the Sukkah itself, offers them, in the long run, only a touch and go existence.....

So as we usher in the joyful and symbolism -- rich Sukkot festival, our hearts and minds focus on the vibrant Jewish state which, after a two millennial-long hiatus, has resumed her role as the never center of Jewish life. We pray that peace and tranquility reign within her borders and that she soon bounce back to a healthy and vigorous economy.

"On that day will I raise up the tabernacle (Sukkah) of David which is fallen and its ruins will I raise up and I will rebuilt it as in the days of old" (Amos 9:1).

Amos' vision has been vindicated before our eyes; the Land of Israel has indeed risen from its ruins and the Sukkah-like existence of the Jewish people is diminishing in direct proportion to the State's growth and development.

But the restorative work is far from being completed. Contemporary Jewry has been entrusted with the historic mission to hasten this process; to pull its collective weight that this privileged assignment be fulfilled at any cost. In essence, this is the sukkah's message to us at this crucial and challenge-ridden uncture in our history.

# B'nai B'rith Renews Appeal To Put Waldheim On Watch List

WASHINGTON — B'nai B'rith International's president, Seymour D. Reich of New York, renewed the Jewish service organization's appeal to the U.S. Justice Department to accept the recommendation of the Office of Special Prosecution and place Austria's President Kurt Waldheim on America's Watch List, which is the Immigration and Nationalization Service list of individuals ineligible to enter the U.S. for a variety of reasons.

In a letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese III, Reich pointed out that "there is now a veritable mountain of evidence of Waldheim's conscious complicity" in Nazi war crimes.

Reich cited the latest revelation, reported in the press recently, which showed Waldheim's initials on anti-Semitic propaganda distributed in the Balkans during World War II. It contained such phrases as "Cursed be the Jews who sit over the necks of our relatives . . . and suck their blood" and "Enough of the Jewish war, kill the Jews . . ."

Declared the B'nai B'rith president, "If our laws on Nazi war criminals mean anything -- and I am sure you will agree they mean a great deal -- Kurt Waldheim must be banned from the United States."

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