

# JNF Highest Award Given Parade Editor Jerry Lewis Toastmaster At Sheraton

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Walter Anderson. But if I were there, I'd pay tribute especially to his organizational talents, his political courage, his fine sensitivity to the pulse of America and his personal kindness and warmth. That's a rare combination of talents in publishing, or indeed anywhere else."

Another telegram came from Norman Mailer, who said: "It is especially ironic that I couldn't be here tonight to help honor a man who has always been there for me and for the many writers who call him both friend and colleague. For Walter, the distinction between friend and colleague has no meaning; to work with him is to become his brother, to be enriched by his companionship."

Jerry Lewis, who recalled that as a youngster he had collected money for the JNF in its traditional blue and white box, closed the program by stating: "Over the years I have rubbed elbows with the great. But I don't remember being in a room such as this for the reasons that we are here; I can't recall feeling such chemistry in the air. It's totally upbeat. All those here are exuding that feeling. I feel it up here (on the dais) for Walter, and it's very unusual, very unique."

Lewis is the head of Jerry Lewis Films Inc. and Jas Productions Inc. in Las Vegas. He is also the 'Father' of the telethon for Muscular Dystrophy each Labor Day.

Among those gathered at the Sheraton's Regency Ballroom to honor Anderson were each of the General Managers of the six Sheraton hotels in New York City, together with the members of their hotel executive committee. Also present was S.I. Newhouse, Jr., Chairman of Advance Publications, which publishes the Conde Nast magazines, some of which include Vogue, Vanity Fair, Mademoiselle and Glamor.

Anderson singled out Mr. Newhouse as having given him his most important position -- Editor of PARADE.

Others in attendance were Phyllis George, former Miss America and Chairman and Chief

Executive officer of CHICKEN BY GEORGE (in Kentucky); Bernard Gavzer of Gavzer Productions; Jack Scovil, Vice President and Editorial Director of the Scott Meredith Literary Agency; Morton Frank, former publisher, Family Weekly; Marc Jaffe, Editor, Houghton Mifflin; Patricia Kennedy Lawford; Attorney Andrew Vachss and his wife Alice, an Assistant District Attorney of Queens; Clay Fiker of the magazine, Manhattan Inc.; and a PARADE Senior Editor, Herbert Kupferberg.

Kupferberg, who is also President of the Overseas Press Club of America, said that as Editor of PARADE, Walter Anderson commands the largest reading audience of any American publication, and that he had not hesitated to inform those readers about the plight of Soviet Jews.

"In fact, he introduced Elie Wiesel's writings on Soviet Jewry to the vast audience of PARADE readers," Kupferberg noted. "Also, on a personal visit to the USSR, Walter spoke candidly to Soviet officials and newsmen about human rights. He told them their policy is wrong on Jewish emigration. It took great courage to do that. He did it because he feels it, because he is committed to the cause of justice."

Kupferberg added: "Over the years, Walter has become acquainted with Jewish lore and Jewish customs, and he is truly deserving of the JNF award."

John Mack Carter, Editor-in-Chief, Good Housekeeping Magazine, put it this way: "The award to Walter serves as an inspiration to all magazine editors by recognizing the genuine good that we can do."

Thirty-six hours after the accolades at the Award Ceremony, Walter Anderson waxed philosophical on what the 'Tree of Life' citation and the Jewish National Fund mean to him. In a reflective interview in his office at PARADE, he said, "Receiving that honor affords me an opportunity to be part of something larger than myself. I am proud of the recognition because it focuses attention on the noble work of the Jewish National Fund and also because it emphasizes the work of Israel in giving life to a people who have suffered so much. I have been a consistent supporter of Israel, and I remain so now at a time when Israel needs understanding more than ever."

Anderson added that he was especially gratified that so many friends were present when he was given the award because they are "the bright lights that illuminate the dark labyrinth that is life itself."

The brightest light for Walter Anderson during his childhood and school years was his mother. And it was with much pride and joy that, now at age 75, she was present at his 'Tree of Life' testimonial.

"Walter didn't have an easy life, as those who read his book will discover," Ethel D'Ambra told me. "But he met every obstacle with courage and determination. For me and his stepfather, the

'Tree of Life' presentation was emotion-laden. We were overwhelmed at the amount of praise bestowed upon Walter by a variety of friends, and we'll always treasure the memory of this beautiful event."

Born in 1944 in Mt. Vernon, New York, Walter Anderson was a high school dropout at age 16. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for five years, rising to the rank of sergeant. A summa cum laude graduate of Mercy College, where he majored in Psychology, he was valedictorian of his class.

Prior to joining PARADE in June, 1977, he was an investigative reporter, a freelance writer and an editorial executive with the Gannet Newspaper chain. Since he became Editor of PARADE in November, 1980, its circulation has risen from 21 million to over 32 million.

Walter Anderson's first book, "Courage is a Three Letter Word" was published by Random House two years ago, when The Reverend Norman Vincent Peale described it as "extraordinary."

Anderson said he wrote the book to help people who are lonely, afraid or who feel inadequate. "I wrote it not only to share my own discoveries of how to conquer fear," he said, "but also to reveal how successful personalities have learned to use anxiety as a source of strength."

His next book, "The Greatest Risk Of All," will be published in October by Houghton-Mifflin. "In it," Anderson said, "I have written about people like Elie Wiesel, Jim Webb, (actress) Carol Burnett, Ms. Magazine's Gloria Steinem; Vitale Korotich (Editor of the Soviet Magazine, Ognonyok) and others who have come to know themselves, and how that self-knowledge has helped them to achieve success and a feeling of inner peace."

## The Basic Threat Of Drugs

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

A special horror hangs over the recent brutal killing of young police officer Edward Byrne in Queens, N.Y. His savage execution-style death at the hands of hired drug thugs dramatically raises to the public consciousness the seriousness of the underground drug war that is sapping the values and morale of this nation.

The murder is an arrogant statement by a drug lord that he controls the streets of South Jamaica, Queens, not the police who are charged by society with maintaining law and order. It was important and reassuring that the police arrested the suspected killers so quickly. That is a message to drug lords and their couriers that they do not own the streets of New York or of America.

But this tragic drama raises the larger issue that we ought not to allow to disappear. This nation is under assault by drug-producing nations whose effects can be as devastating to our morale and productivity as any external invasion by a totalitarian aggressor.

Criminologist Dr. Georgette Bennett estimates in her landmark book "Crimewarps" (Doubleday & Co.) that illicit sale of drugs in the United States is as high as \$75 billion a year. New York Mayor Edward Koch is right in calling for a massive national response to curtail the drug supplies at the borders.

After all, it is time we ourselves end our complacency and self-indulgence and mobilize the conscience of America to contain the drug epidemic before it consumes us from within.

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Passover**

**Claudia Wichinsky  
& Children**

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