

## THE JEWISH POST

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## Women's Position In Judaism

It is astonishing to note the amount of hostile misrepresentation that exists in regard to woman's position in Bible times. "The relation of the wife to the husband was, to all intents and purposes, that of a slave to her master," are the words of a writer in the Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics.

That this judgment is radically false may be proved from hundreds of instances throughout Scripture. God created man and woman in His image (Genesis 1, 27) — both man and woman are in their spiritual nature akin to God; and both are invested with the same authority to subdue the earth and have dominion over it.

The wives of the patriarchs are almost the equals of their husbands; later generations regard them as quite alike. Miriam, alongside her brothers, is reckoned as one of the three emancipators from Egypt (Michah 6, 4); Deborah is "Judge" in Israel and leader in a war of independence; and to Hannah her husband speaks: "Why weepest thou? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?"

In later centuries, we find a woman among the Prophets (Hulda); and in the days of the Second Temple, on the throne (Queen Salome Alexandra). Nothing can well be nobler praise of women than Proverbs 31; and as regards the reverence due to her from her children, the mother was always placed on a par with the father (Exodus 20, 12, Leviticus 19, 3). A Jewish child would not have spoken to his grief-stricken mother as did Telemachus, the hero's son, in the Odyssey: "Go to the chamber, and mind thine own housewiferies. Speech shall be for man, for all, but for me in chief; for mine is the lordship in the house."

The property rights of woman became clearly defined in the Talmudic period. Her legal status under Jewish law "compares to its advantage with that of contemporary civilizations" (G. F. Moore). An infinitely more important proof of her dominating place in Jewish life is the undeniable fact that the halloving of the Jewish home was her work; and that the laws of chastity were observed in that home, both by men and women, with a scrupulousness that has hardly ever been equalled.

The Jewish Sages duly recognized her wonderful spiritual influence, and nothing could surpass the delicacy with which respect for her is inculcated: "Love your wife as yourself, and honour her more than yourself. Be careful not to cause woman to weep, for God counts her tears. Israel was redeemed from Egypt on account of the virtue of its women. He who weds a good woman, it is as if he had fulfilled all the precepts of the Torah." (Talmud)

In modern times, friend and foe of the Jew alike speak with admiration of his home and echo the praise of the heathen seer: "How beautiful are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwelling-places, O Israel."

From the Commentary on the Pentateuch by J. H. Hertz (1872-1946) (Soncino Press).

## MESSAGES FOR 1969

Thank you for allowing me to wish you one and all a Happy New Year. We leave an old year filled with unrest and violence, or so it seemed from reading the press. But there was much good in 1968 which should carry through 1969.

We live in a country of free men and we enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. We are developing a greater concern for those elsewhere not so well off.

Our growth and increasing prosperity burdens us with greater responsibility — the responsibility of leadership and example due by the fortunate to the less fortunate.

Canada's role in world affairs grows larger with each passing year. We are respected and trusted because we are not suspect of selfish motives in international disagreements. The burden of discharging our responsibility to others is shared by all Canadians. As Canadians we owe the world an example of how one country of varied people and origins can live in harmony and good-will so that all enjoy a better life. Happy New Year.

RICHARD S. BOWLES,  
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

The beginning of a New Year is the one great link between the past and the future.

It is a time of stocktaking — of measuring our past accomplishments — and a time of firm resolve to progress in the year ahead.

In Manitoba, we can look back to a year of increased confidence, and of generally steady growth. The year was not without its disappointments, and its problems, but we saw good advances in the general condition of our human resource. The resolution, the spirit and the industriousness of Manitobans retained their quality undiminished.

These characteristics will be put to new tests as they are each year. Next year this present decade will give way to the challenges and changes of the 70s. We want to establish a solid base of accomplishments next year from which to launch effectively the celebration in 1970 of our centennial as a province. We will try to marshal our forces so that Manitoba will truly "grow to beat '70."

In the year ahead, let us go forward together,

## THE IRAQI THREAT

By BRIGADIER PETER YOUNG

(Brigadier Young, head of the Military History Department at Sandhurst, commanded a regiment of the Jordanian Arab Legion from 1953-1956).

Recent clashes between Israel on the one hand and Jordan and her Iraqi allies on the other are making people ask whether we are about to see a new Arab-Israel War in the Middle East, a war whose aim might be to compel the Iraqis to go home.

Such an operation is certainly not one which Jordan could anticipate with any relish, for though she may to some extent have replaced the men and tanks lost in June, 1967, neither her army nor her air force is capable of making any headway against the Israeli Defence Forces.

This is not only a question of numbers but also of training. Moreover, Jordan has only two air bases, Mafraq and Amman, both within ten minutes' flying time of the numerous bases in Israel.

How much difference would the presence of Iraqi forces make? Certainly some, since Iraq has something like 200 aircraft. On the other hand, these would not suffice to win the Arabs air superiority of even such a measure of parity as to give protection to their mobile forces on the ground.

Even in the unlikely event of Egyptian and/or Syrian intervention, the Israelis could be counted upon to win the battle for air superiority as decisively as they did in 1967, though it is not impossible that, this time, the Arabs might make serious bombing attacks on centres of population. This could have an adverse effect on civilian morale, but it is, after all, a double-edged weapon.

On the ground, the Iraqis have not more than about one-fifth of their mobilized strength de-

with enthusiasm and high purpose, resolved to do our part to enhance the quality of life and the opportunities for all Manitobans.

On this note, please accept my warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Premier of Manitoba  
WALTER WEIR,

To all Manitobans, I send my very best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

As the old year passes into history, let us look forward to 1969 with confidence, assurance and pride in Manitoba.

Let us also rededicate our efforts to achieve a better life for all Manitobans in 1969. We must build an even greater province with the human resources and natural resources that abound in Manitoba; we must build an even stronger province in which development flourishes and in which all citizens reap the benefits of economic expansion.

Let us work together as Manitobans toward this goal and encourage greater participation by everyone in the affairs of our province.

Let us make 1969 the launching pad for the kind of Manitoba we want for ourselves — and for our families — in the 1970s.

Leader of the Opposition  
GIL MOLGAT,

I wonder if I can help you with your New Year's Resolutions? Perhaps if you have enjoyed good health this past year you will resolve to be thankful for this blessing in the coming year?

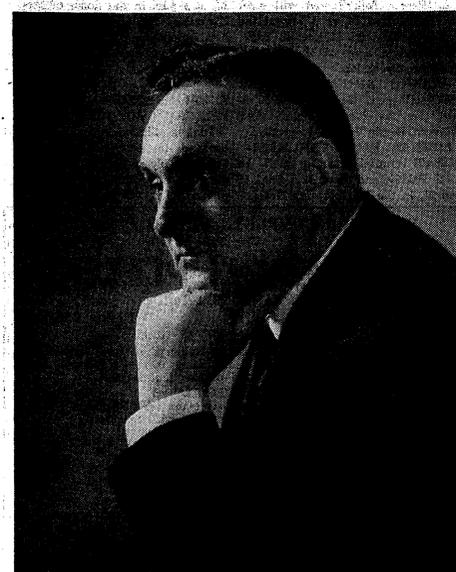
Did you enjoy a year of good fortune in 1968? Did you have enough food to eat? Will you then resolve with me to share your bounty with those less fortunate than ourselves? Will you resolve to be mindful of those who may be injured by a careless word or action of ours in 1969?

The resolutions we could make might number the stars in the Milky Way, but these few I have recited can, if observed, I am sure, result in you enjoying a healthful, helpful New Year.

1969 will be a year beset with many problems. This will apply in the field of Civic Affairs and will require careful management to cope with rising costs. I hope I can rely on each one of you to assist in any way you can.

MAYOR STEPHEN JUBA

## Town Hall Event Jan. 12



DR. ISRAEL KNOX . . . Guest Speaker

Dr. Israel Knox, noted author, philosopher and scholar will address a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 8:30 p.m. in the YMHA Community Centre. The outstanding lecturer will speak to the total community on the topic, "The Moral Crisis and the Jewish Response." The topic embraces questions such as, in what sense is our age a "time out of joint"? To what extent is the impact of science upon religion a factor in the moral crisis, and the impact of technology upon the family and community as contributing factors in the crisis? How do the philosophies of Marx, Existentialists and Postivism in the light of Jewish Ethics attempt to provide the answers to the moral crisis in our present world?

Dr. Knox has studied at the Col-

## Histadrut Parley Set For Jan. 12



ISRAEL SPECTOR

Nominations and election of officers for the coming year will take place at the annual Histadrut Conference of Organizations Sunday, Jan. 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Rosh Pina Synagogue.

Chairman of the conference will be Israel Spector, whose committee

is drafting resolutions to be considered by delegates. The deadline set by the committee for resolutions is Jan. 5. Mr. Spector urges all organizations to name their delegates to the conference now.

A statement issued by Histadrut officials this week pointed out that Canadians are not being asked to contribute to Israel's defence. "We are being asked to help the Histadrut in its continuing effort to strengthen Israel's people through providing health and education services and facilities," it stated.

Confidence was expressed that the many causes served by Histadrut in Israel will continue to win the support of those concerned about Israel's growth and survival. In view of the serious situation faced by Israel, this conference is one of the most important to date.

A ranking financial administrator to three American presidents will be guest speaker at the banquet, it was announced by Leon Mitchell, See HISTADRUT, page 16

## To Hold Drive For New Members



WILLIAM S. KATZ . . . membership chairman

Sharon-Weizmann Zionist Club is going to start the new year with an intensive membership campaign. It was announced this week by William H. Pith, president, and Harry Saunders, 1st vice-president.

The drive will be conducted under the leadership of William S. Katz, membership chairman, and Leibel Escott, membership co-chairman.

## Peretz School Men's Dinner Set



SAUL A. MILLER . . . dinner chairman

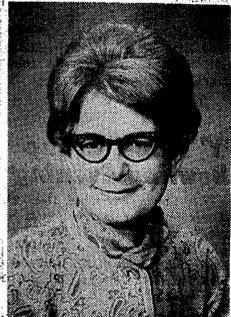
Tenth annual men's dinner of the I. L. Peretz-Folk School, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5, in Rosh Pina Synagogue, under the chairmanship of West Kildonan Mayor Saul A. Miller, MLA, it was announced this week by L. Raper, school president.

The dinner is a major source of revenue for the school's maintenance and building fund, and will be held this year following completion of the eight-room addition on Jefferson Ave.

Mr. Miller's co-chairman for the dinner is W. Z. Chudnow.

Prospective sponsors are now being contacted, and ticket sales will commence shortly. The sponsors committee is headed by J. B. Sheps and Morris Hirsh, co-chairmen; ticket committee, A. A. Shanas; chairman; Frank Weinfeld, co-chairman; publicity, Laurie A. Mainster; William Litwin, treasurer; Irv Nisenholt, program and arrangements committee.

## Hadassah Women Plan Medical Aid Luncheon



MRS. MEL SWARTZ . . . co-chairman

A lively musical program, "Musical Reminiscences — Land of Milk and Honey," will highlight the annual \$10 Medical Aid Luncheon, 12:30 noon Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.

The function is sponsored by the wives of the medical, dental and allied professions, for Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Winnipeg, with Medical Aid chairmen of Hadassah chapters handling reservations.

Starring in the program will be Miriam Breitenman, the Chai Folk Ensemble directed by Sarah Sommer and a Hadassah ladies' choir conducted by Mrs. M. E. Burke.

Funds this year will be earmarked for support of medical projects in



MRS. H. TOWE . . . publicity

Israel, Mogen David Adom hospitals and medical aid stations, and in particular the Asaf Harofe therapy centre.

Mrs. A. A. Keenber, national chairman of Asaf Harofe, who has just returned from Israel, will speak about the vital work of this project.

Mrs. Mel Swartz and Mrs. Noel Book are co-chairmen of the luncheon, and committee members are Mesdames: H. Towe, publicity; E. Snell, follow-up; J. Mendelson and Allan V. Goldstein, decor and luncheon arrangements; H. Rykiss, program, and A. E. Thompson, treasurer.

Door prize will be a crystal torte tray, courtesy of The Glass House.

## S. Z. Sisterhood Plans Inter Faith Luncheon



MRS. LEON RUBIN . . . chairman

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood presents its 7th annual Interfaith Luncheon to be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the synagogue. Guest speaker will be Mr. Justice Samuel Freedman.

Mr. Freedman was appointed a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba in 1952. In 1960 he was elevated to the Court of Appeal for Manitoba. From 1959 to 1968, Mr. Justice Freedman served as Chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

Musical selections by members of the choir under the direction of S. Zur will be offered. Mr. Zur, born in Berlin, went to Palestine with Youth Aliyah. He has devoted most of his life to music, doing

choral, orchestral, and having worked with youth music throughout Israel and Brazil. The Shaarey Zedek choir will present Israeli and Jewish songs.

Chairman of the luncheon is Mrs. Leon Rubin. Members of the committee include Mesdames: H. Gelfant, past president; M. Manishev, president; S. Udov, publicity; L. Diamond, invitations; M. Margulius, A. Chisik, M. Rosenfield, recreations; M. Wilder, M. Kahane, S. Parks, social; B. Katz, treasurer.

Members are urged to make their reservations early and invite guests. For reservations phone synagogue office, GL 2-3711.