

New Tasks For Zionists

From... a Word to the Wise... "Beth Tzedek Bulletin"
By RABBI STUART E. ROSENBERG
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I have great admiration and respect for committed Jews whose lives are profoundly shaped by their Jewish loves and loyalties. I consider Zionists to be among the most committed of Jews and for this reason I respect them very much. But I would earnestly hope that the Zionist leadership would stop playing some of their old records and begin to ask themselves: What now? Two negatives do not produce a positive; being "anti anti-Semitism" does not produce Judaism. I think that we who are Zionists ought now also to be telling ourselves, morning and evening: important as these are—countering Arab propaganda, fighting Russian lies and distortions, or even excelling in being "anti anti-Israel"—simply won't produce Zionism.

What will? What does Zionism require of us now? This is the real question we have to answer. What now? Many answers should be studied, argued, and some even acted on, if there is to be a serious effort to transform what is supposed to be a movement, from merely being an organization.

I have one serious suggestion to put forth. Just one, at this time. And I wonder how many Zionists in Canada would be willing to think it through to fulfillment.

One Suggestion: A Second Home In Israel

Every time I ponder what Jews have done to build Florida I wonder why they can't do the same for Israel. A drive northward along the sea-coast from Miami Beach to Palm Beach—a stretch of less than 100 miles—reveals a shoreline that is punctured, acre after acre, with high-rise apartments and condominiums. I do not believe that all of Jewish North America lives in these golden miles of houses, mile after sun-drenched mile! But a conservative "guess-timate" suggests that many hundreds of thousands of Jews, from all over the continent, now live in Florida a good part of each year—as apartment tenants or condominium-owners.

The idea of a "second home" has obviously taken root among many North Americans, among whom there are many Jews.

Imagine what could happen to us as Jews—to our children's and grandchildren's Jewish souls—if we Zionists seriously undertook to build up a Jewish coastline from Tel Aviv north to Haifa, a stretch of miles similar in geographical distance as Miami is from Palm Beach. (But, oh, what a difference in historical and cultural distance!) Imagine what would happen to us as Canadian and American Jews if we had a "second home" in Israel. We could change Jewish history—dramatically change the Jewish future.

Is this a task for Zionists? Well, isn't this what Zionists are supposed to be worrying about? How to secure the Jewish future, personally and collectively? How to secure Israel's future, and intertwine our lives in unbroken connection with Israel's future.

If every major Jewish community in North America would undertake a "Five-Year-Program" to develop, build and sell a "second home in Israel" to the many thousands of Jews who form their loyal Zionist leadership corps, couldn't that lead to one important achievement Zionism should aspire to, now—the securing of our Jewish lives by linking them personally to the land of Israel, itself.

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If all the Jewish builders and developers in North America have created in the last twenty-two years alone—just since the birth of Israel—were to be put together, the lands and the buildings would probably fill an area ten times the size of Israel, and sustain a population twenty times as large.

Why shouldn't some of our ingenuity, foresight, imagination—and daring—be offered to Jewish history. Why only to American geography?

Jews and Israelis

What does "being Jewish" mean? What is the relationship between being Israeli and being Jewish?

Do Israelis see themselves as part of the continuity of Jewish history? How strong are the bonds between Israelis and the Jewish community in the Diaspora?

To find the answers to these questions, which are of particular importance for the first generation of Jews to grow up in Israel as members of a majority in their own state, Simon N. Herman, an associate professor at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, conducted a study among a representative sampling of Israeli youth born in 1948, financed by a grant from the Israeli Office of the American Jewish Committee.

Random House has just published his findings in a new book, "Israelis and Jews: The Continuity of an Identity", the second in a series of books about modern Jewish civilization being published by Random House in cooperation with the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, under the general editorship of Moshe Davis.

According to this survey, the thread of Jewish historic continuity remains unbroken—Israelis, contrary to the claims of some observers, do not regard themselves as an entirely new people. More than 3,000 young people were examined, both in written questionnaires and verbally, with special stress on the impact of the Eichman Trial and the Six-Day War; their parents were studied to find out how their views differed. Despite varying attitudes, over 80 per cent of the students felt that their fate was bound up with that of Jews in and out of Israel. And the vast majority of Israelis felt that being Jewish and Israeli was interdependent.

Professor Herman presents four profiles that give concrete examples of how Israeli youth see themselves. Here, in their own words, the young people best express what they feel:

"A Jew and an Israeli, as I understand it, are essentially one and the same things. A Jew is more completely such in Israel."
from a religious student

"These customs (Jewish) have in effect become Israeli customs, observed in practically every home, with no connection to religion... Faith is the private affair of the individual."
from a non-religious student

"What is important is to feel oneself Jewish, to consider oneself part and parcel of the people, and to observe at least some of the Jewish customs which symbolize the special character of the Jewish people... I consider myself to be a link in that chain of Jewish life which has remained unbroken through so many vicissitudes."
from a traditionalist student

"I am Jewish all day, every day of my life. My feeling of being an Israeli is stronger in times of crisis—as when there is a threat on the borders."
from a Yemenite student

ISRAELIS AND JEWS "may be the most rigorously objective and comprehensive analysis on the problem of ethnic 'identity,'" according to Publisher's Weekly, and the Kirkus Review considers it "certain to evoke widespread comment".
Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of people at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all men everywhere.

Letter to Kosygin

ED. NOTE: The writer of this letter is Albert Schlossberg of Milton, Mass. He is a National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

Premier Alexi Kosygin
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the U.S.S.R.

Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Almost twenty-six years ago, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. fought side by side to defeat the Hitler war machine which had devastated your country and brought indescribable suffering to millions of your people and those of other nations. Among those who died were many Americans and Soviet citizens of Jewish heritage. Others returned home wounded and maimed. Much of the leadership of our own as well as that of your country served in the war against Nazism.

Our joint World War II experience is the basis for writing this letter. Furthermore, many Jewish citizens of this country are descendants of those who were forced to flee the persecution of the Czars whose inhuman treatment of Jews is also part of our common heritage. Indeed, it would be presumptuous to recite to a Soviet leader the cruelties of the Czars. Who knew it better than your people? In the painful memories of Jewish suffering, only Hitler ranks higher.

It is these haunting memories that make Jews deeply sensitive to apparent manifestations of officially tolerated anti-Semitism in your country. Such acts have always been the harbingers of a worse fate to come.

As Jews, we have no illusions about what is happening in your country. It is not easy to be a Jew in the Soviet Union, to profess a Jewish identity, to acknowledge a kinship with the people in Israel. We have heard repeated assertions by Soviet officials to the contrary that such accusations are false, that the Jews have a good life in the Soviet Union; that they are free to be themselves.

Evidence indicates otherwise. The recent trials of Jews for an alleged hijacking attempt and the resultant sentences are glaring examples of such evidence.

There is simply too much history to acknowledge that the Jew must give up his sense of Jewishness to survive as a citizen of any State. He will be a good and loyal citizen of any State that allows him the dignity of being himself, as it is our right in the United States.

Why should a Jew be denied his Jewishness anywhere on earth? Or a Christian his Christianity? A Muslim his Islam? Jewish identity will persist. Jews have suffered for it. Jews have died for it. They should not—indeed, they will not—give it up.

The animosity towards treatment of the Jews in your country does not come only from Jews. It comes from people who believe, above all, in the dignity of self, of being what you are, wherever you may reside. It is a world-wide phenomenon. It is happening also in the Soviet Union, and no amount of repression will halt it.

We do not believe in tactic of violence as either necessary or productive in the effort to call attention to the fate of Jews in your country. Just as we do not believe that the tactic of violence used by Soviet officialdom against the Jews in your country will succeed.

Certainly, reality should dictate that it does no good to enflame latent anti-Semitic tendencies in your own country. What is to be gained by fostering hatred among your own citizens? To what end are such actions by Soviet authorities, in Hitler's image, the cause of so much pain to your countrymen?

On our part, we must tell you that we shall continue to arouse the conscience of the entire world toward the plight of Jews in the U.S.S.R. and to urge you to release those Soviet Jews who wish to go to Israel. We are certain there will be many who will join us in our effort.

Sincerely,
Albert Schlossberg

Peretz Dinner Unqualified Success



PERETZ-FOLK SCHOOL'S ANNUAL MEN'S DINNER January 27 honored two of the school's most dedicated leaders, Louis Sedletsky (left) and Ben Adelman (centre). They are shown here with Oscar Antel, a past president of the school, who presented them with framed scrolls in recognition of their many years of service to the school and their active participation in communal causes.

The planners of the 12th annual men's dinner of the I.L. Peretz-Folk School deserve a prize for successful innovation.

Confounding the skeptics who keep insisting that you need a big-name imported speaker for a major communal function, the committee relied totally on local talent and the dinner was not only a resounding success financially, but the close-to-500 capacity crowd went home happy with what they saw and heard. The dinner, held Wednesday, Jan.

27th, in Rosh Pina synagogue, featured a 40-minute fast-moving concert of songs and dances by Winnipeg's refreshing, vibrant Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble which had the crowd wanting more and more.

Speeches were held to a minimum and to essentials. The closest to being billed as "guest speaker" was Dov Zeira, the school's new principal who stressed the need for Jewish education to unify the Jewish people of Israel and those outside

as "one people".

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of scrolls of honor to Louis Sedletsky and Ben Adelman, in recognition of their many years of dedicated leadership to the school and to communal causes generally.

Making the presentation, Oscar Antel, a past president of the school, praised the honorees for "their love and devotion to Jewish education".

Support of the men's dinner from all sections of the Jewish community had made it a tremendous success, reported Lawrence Nesin, dinner committee co-chairman, who presided. Noting that the school was marking its 56th anniversary, Jack Levit, president, said it owed its continued existence to "the great pride we all take in it" and the support it enjoyed from all dedicated friends of Jewish education.

Discusses Mid-East

The next Town Hall Series on Sunday, February 21st, at 8:30 p.m. at the Y.M.H.A. Reuben Slonim will address the Community on the Explosive Middle East situation. He has covered each of the three Israeli-Arab wars from the front lines and interviewed personalities on both sides of the conflict—Nasser, Hussein, Ben Gurion, Moshe Sharet, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir—Abba Eban, Moshe Dayan and a host of Israeli public figures.

Reuben Slonim, a well known Winnipegger, who has spoken often in our community is internationally known and has appeared as commentator and panels on T.V. and public platform from Newfoundland to British Columbia. He is an ordained rabbi of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

His articles have been published in the Jerusalem Post, the National Jewish Monthly, the Baltimore Times, the World Jewish Congress Monthly and a host of periodicals around the world.

Rabbi Slonim is extremely well qualified to assess and analyse the present Middle East Crisis and all its implications.

Tu B'Shevat Marked

Col. Yekutiel Honigman, emissary of the Jewish National Fund from Jerusalem to Western Canada, called attention this week to the fact that Tu B'Shevat, traditionally known as the Birthday of the Trees, falls on February 10th.

In Israel this holiday has been traditionally observed by planting trees and is considered an important opportunity for children to associate themselves with the rejuvenation of the ancient homeland through re-forestation work.

The fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, has always been associated with the Jewish National Fund since the re-birth of the Zionist dream three-quarters of a century ago.

"Those who have visited Israel, and have seen the green carpet of pines and other trees clothing the barren granite slopes of the hills of Judea and other parts of the country know how vital this re-forestation work is," said Col. Honigman. "It is a duty and responsibility of every parent and grandparent to inculcate these ideals and traditions in their children and grandchildren by utilizing the Tu B'Shevat occasion for buying trees in Israel," he said.

He called upon the entire Jewish community of Winnipeg and Western Canada to identify themselves with the on-going re-birth of the land by buying JNF tree certificates as a symbolic way of participating in the spirit of Tu B'Shevat.

ORT Reminder

Be sure to attend and view the fashion collection, created by ORT students around the world. The Collection is being flown to Winnipeg from Geneva, and will be modelled at a special VALENTINE FASHION SHOW SPONSORED BY WINNIPEG WOMEN'S ORT.

Styles for both men and women will be featured. Commentator will be Mr. Jack Slater, with Mrs. Vern Rosenfeld co-ordinating. The showing will take place at the home of Mrs. J. Dreman, 600 Queenston, Winnipeg 9. Mark the date: TUES. FEB. 9th, at 8:00 p.m. Be sure to come and bring your own special Valentine along.

New Project Dedicated



Flag-Waving Children of Afula greet Mr. and Mrs. S. Bookbinder.

Thirty-six children of Afula Eilat Keren Hayesod-U.I.A., and Ministry greeted Mr. and Mrs. Samuel' of Education in Jerusalem. Bookbinder of Winnipeg with smiles and songs when they arrived in Afula-Eilat Jezreel early in January for opening ceremonies of a kindergarten sponsored by them, to be known as "The Bookbinder Kindergarten". The Kindergarten was officially dedicated by the sponsors in the presence of the Mayor of Afula, Mr. Sol D. Granek—Director General of United Israel Appeal of Canada, as well as senior officials of

the Mayor of Afula, the latter congratulated them upon establishing a living link with Israel, and expressed his gratitude in the name of the residents of Afula. The Bookbinder Kindergarten will assist the community to meet human needs of the new settlers, and constitutes a most welcome addition to many other Keren Hayesod projects already sponsored by Winnipeg families.

'Marriage'—S.Z. Dialogue

"MARRIAGE" will be the topic discussed this Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m. at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Breakfast and Dialogue. The public is cordially invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

What is the purpose of marriage? Who should get married? Can one determine who would make a good spouse? What makes a marriage succeed or fail? Can one prepare for marriage?

These and other questions will be discussed by Rabbi Lawrence Nesin this coming Sunday morning.

Due to the fact that the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue is presently being renovated, this Sunday morning's Breakfast and Dialogue will dispense with its usual Breakfast

Dr. Harvey Short, President of the Brotherhood, has announced that on Sunday, February 21, Rabbi Reuben Slonim, Correspondent and Associate Editor of the Toronto Telegram, will speak about ISRAEL AND WORLD JEWRY. Rabbi Slonim is an authority on Israel and his articles are syndicated across Canada and internationally.

Join us this Sunday morning, February 5th, for an incisive discussion of 'MARRIAGE' with Rabbi Dr. Lawrence S. Nesin.

Other topics which will be covered in the Family Life Series at the Y.M.H.A. include "Social and Moral Issues" which will focus on pre-marital relationships and abortion. The panelists will be Dr. Wm. Bechuck, Miss Lynn Gibson, Dr. Otto Schmidt and Mr. Jack Schnoor. This will be discussed on February 23rd. "Family Values and Community Values: The same or Different", will be discussed on March 9th. "Censorship for a Healthy Society" will be the topic on March 23rd.

The series is open to everyone in the community. There is no admission charge. For further information call the Y.M.H.A.

On Tuesday, February 9th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Y.M.H.A. a panel will discuss the phenomena of youth leaving home. What are the adjustments which both parents and youth must make when youth move out of their homes? What are the problems encountered and how are they resolved? What are youth seeking when they leave home? In order to discuss the topic a panel of youth and professional people have been chosen. Dr. Mel Prosen, prominent Winnipeg psychiatrist; Mrs. Marg McKinnon, social worker with the Jewish Child and Family Service; Mr. Ron Charach, university student; Mr. Mel Horstein, supervisor at the Y.M.H.A.