

Rosh Hashanah Reader

To help Jewish families observe Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish Community Information Council has prepared for free distribution a publication called "The Rosh Hashanah Home Reader."

Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin compiled the leaflet and explained that it lists the customs of the High Holidays, as well as a compilation of traditional and modern prayers that bring out the deep significance of the observance. This year Rosh Hashanah will be observed on Thursday and Friday, September 11 and 12. Yom Kippur falls on Saturday, September 20.

All requests, accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, should be sent to Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin, POB 6194, Miami Beach, Florida 33154, U.S.A.

Rabbinic Responsa

Q: From where did the custom originate to head letters and documents with the Hebrew characters bet hey or bet samech daled and why is the abbreviation bet ayin hey sometimes used?
A: The first and last means "With God's help" and the second one stands for "be-sayyata di-shemayya," the Aramaic equivalent, meaning "With the help of Heaven."

The relevant passage is in the Talmud (Rosh Hashanah 18b), where it is stated that when the Maccabees were victorious, they introduced the custom of heading deeds of sale or debt with the name of God. However, in the same passage, it is stated that eventually the sages prohibited this usage because they feared that once the deed was no longer required, it would be thrown away "and the name of God will lie in disgrace."

In the light of this, the custom to which you refer is somewhat odd, unless, as is probable, the talmudic prohibition was intended to apply only to the full name of God.

I have been unable to discover when, exactly, this custom was adopted, though it appears to be comparatively late. In the seventeenth century, for example, the responsa in Rabbi Ezekiel Landau's *Noda B'yehudah* frequently do have this heading, but the famous letter of the Baal Shem Tov to his brother-in-law does not.

Establish Korczak Prize

The Janusz Korczak Literary Competition has been established by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Polish-American Congress, the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, and the North American Study Centre for Polish Affairs.

This international competition honors the memory of Korczak, the Jewish Polish physician, author, and educator, who died during the Holocaust together with the 200 orphans he refused to abandon to their fate.

Prizes of \$1000 will be awarded in two categories: for the best published book of fiction or non-fiction for young readers, and for the best book about the welfare and nurturing of children, directed to parents and educators. Publishers from all over the world are invited to enter.

Books submitted to the competition will be read and judged by an interdisciplinary committee of leading scholars, editors, literary critics, and educators, dedicated to perpetuating the altruism and love of humanity that motivated Janusz Korczak.

The prizes will be presented to the winning authors on October 5, 1980 at an appropriate public function to which the leaders of the Polish and Jewish communities will be invited, as well as dignitaries in academia, theology, literature, and government.

To be considered, at least three copies of each entry must be submitted on or before September 15 of the year in which the award will be made. Books will not be returned. There is no entry fee.

Diaspora's Aid Must Be Economic Only, War Hero Narkiss Tells Bonds Gathering

By LEW FELINOV
Although the Jews of the Diaspora are not in a position to help Israel politically, they are in a position to do so economically, an Israeli war hero told an Israel Bonds luncheon this week.

General Uzi Narkiss, speaking to a small gathering sponsored by the rabbinic cabinet of the Bonds campaign, said "You can not help Israel politically... where you can help us is in the economic sphere."

"I don't even know if Israel can help itself politically," he added. "It's all so complicated. In weighing its political options, he implied, Israel may find itself boxed in no matter what decisions it makes. The questions of whether — and how far — to trust Anwar Sadat, of what to do about the autonomy question, of what will happen with Syria may be unwelcome, he said. They are certainly not questions that Diaspora Jews can answer.

"As you can not help us in these domains," he said, "you must help us economically."
More than a generation after it was founded, Israel has not succeeded in becoming a normal state, said Gen. Narkiss. Instead, it has now become the focus for a resurgent antisemitism around the world.

"The dangers we confront today

are not less serious than those we faced in 1948," even though Ben Gurion and other leaders then spent many anxious moments wondering whether the fledgling state would survive, let alone prevail. Gen. Narkiss was himself one of those leaders. As second in command on the Jerusalem front, he led the attack against the Arab Legion which resulted in the capture of Mount Zion.

And it was to Jerusalem that Gen. Narkiss next turned his attention. "Declarations that Jerusalem will stay united are not enough," he said. "In fact from time to time, they do some harm," he added, in apparent reference to the recent Knesset declaration.

The general, who is now chairman of the Special Projects Fund in Israel, said that he had just come from Costa Rica, a long-time friend of Israel, where the Israeli ambassador "was running like mad trying to convince the president of the country not to move the embassy out of Jerusalem."

No matter what is being said now, Gen. Narkiss warned, "there will come a time when Jerusalem will become the subject of talks. Every hill that remains barren there will be subject to negotiation." If there are houses on them, if there are settlements,

he said, there is less to discuss. (Introducing Gen. Narkiss, Rabbi Nissim Wernick spoke of the "war against Jerusalem" declared by many of the world's nations. He said Jews "do not need to be told of our claims to Jerusalem, where we have been the majority since the early 1800's and which King David established as a Jewish city.")

Although the purchase of Israel Bonds is one of the most important components in helping to build the country, Gen. Narkiss cautioned that important elements "that decide the destiny of nations cannot be influenced." Foremost among these in Israel's immediate future, he said, are the seemingly inexorable rise in the price of oil and the American presidential race, a contest vital to Israel's future.

Though Diaspora Jewry cannot aid Israel in making painful decisions, Gen. Narkiss concluded, it can do much to ensure the state's political survival by helping strengthen its economy. The purchase of Bonds, he said, is one sure road to that goal.

Student Sent to Soviet Labor Camp

Moscow (JCNS) — Grigory Geishis, a 20-year-old electronics student from Leningrad, was sentenced by a Leningrad court to two years' imprisonment in a labor camp on charges of "evading conscription."

His trial was conducted in a particularly hostile atmosphere. During the hearing Mr. Geishis was accused of being a "socially dangerous element." His family fears that this might cause him to get bad treatment in the labor camp.

In 1978, after applying for permission to emigrate to Israel, Mr. Geishis was accused of "treason against the Motherland" and of "behavior unworthy of a Soviet student." Immediately after submitting his application, he was expelled from the Institute of Electronics in Leningrad. He explained to the authorities that his exposure to military secrets would make his emigration to Israel impossible for years to come. For this refusal he is now to serve two years in the labor camp.

Solomon's Building Found

Jerusalem (JCNS) — A monumental public building believed to have been built by King Solomon in his royal acropolis in Jerusalem has been uncovered in excavations conducted by Dr. Yigal Shiloh of the Hebrew University.

Some 250 volunteers from Israel, Europe, and the United States have been digging within the walls of King David's original city to expose this building of 45 feet situated on top of Canaanite remains.

It is believed to have been part

of a complex of palaces King Solomon built for himself and his wife, Pharaoh's daughter. Dr. Shiloh said that no similar structure had been found in any other biblical city. Examination outside and inside might indicate whether it was the tomb of the House of David.

The diggers have also made an initial clearance of the underground system which supplied the city with water when it was under siege. South African mining engineers have reopened a tunnel over the Gihon Springs.

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Libyans Gave Jesse Jackson \$10,000

Jerusalem (JCNS) — In the aftermath of Billy Carter, President Carter's brother, having been forced to register as a foreign agent of Libya, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a black civil rights leader, said that he received \$10,000 last December from Ali Houderi, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Washington.

Mr. Jackson was quoted as saying that the Libyan money was no different to him than a similar gift he had received on the same day from a leading Chicago Jewish lawyer or a much bigger gift from a black businessman. Mr. Jackson's criticisms of Israel led the Israeli government to boycott his visit in September last year, although he was received by Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem. Mr. Jackson heads "Push" — People United to Save Humanity — in the U.S.

Electricity Costs Up 250 Per Cent

Jerusalem (JCNS) — Already bearing the brunt of the recent 25 per cent increase in fuel prices, Israelis will now have to cope with a wide-ranging round of further price increases approved by the Economic Cabinet of the Government.

Pursuing its policy that the Israeli consumer must pay the full amount of increases in the cost of commodities abroad, the Cabinet has agreed to 40 per cent increases in communications services, 25 per cent in electricity charges, and 62 per cent in rents for unprotected tenancies. These increases come despite the recent call of Prime Minister Begin to moderate price rises during the pre-election year. Electricity costs in Israel have soared by 250 per cent during the past year.

Einstein Centre for Theoretical Physics

Rehovot, Israel — A new centre for theoretical physics bearing the name of Albert Einstein has been established at the Weizmann Institute of Science, it was announced by the president of the Institute, Prof. Michael Sela.

Founded on the occasion of the Einstein centenary, with a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany, the centre's director will be Prof. Igal Talmi, dean of the Institute's faculty of physics and holder of the Charles and David Wolfson Chair of Theoretical Physics.

The Einstein Centre will coordinate all Institute research in the field of theoretical physics and work towards the strengthening of ties between physicists in Rehovot and their colleagues elsewhere.

Among the programs it will undertake is an annual "Winter Institute of Theoretical Physics," to take place in Rehovot and to afford leading theoretical physicists from all over the world the opportunity to meet with their Israeli colleagues for the exchange of new ideas and the development of joint research programs.

Say Happy New Year to all your relatives and friends

Your greetings in the September 4th Rosh Hashanah issue of *The Jewish Post* will reach practically all your relatives, friends and acquaintances just before the New Year holidays start.

The *Jewish Post* greeting is the most effective way of expressing good wishes to all those dear to you.

You evidence your interest in the entire Jewish community and you will save the time involved and increased postal expense of sending individual greeting cards, or cut down the number you usually send.

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