

ALBUQUERQUE B'NAI B'RITH

N E W S L E T T E R

January 28, 1966

IMPORTANT NOTICE!! Would you like a FREE breakfast of lox, cream cheeze, bagels, eggs, coffee and sweet rolls? It's yours!! Bring a male Jew over 21 years of age, who is not a member of B'nai B'rith and you and your guest will be admitted free to the Lodge Breakfast, February 6, 1966, at 10:00 A.M., at the Kirtland NCO Club (1½ blocks west of Carlisle and Gibson, then south on Kirtland Drive 4 blocks, then 1 block west). Anyone who does not bring a prospective member will have to pay \$1.50.

In addition to the free meal, your Lodge membership committee will present a brief skit on why the prospective member should join the growing B.B.; we will also have a report from Allan Moskowitz of the AZA on the Regional Convention in Denver. Finally, your program committee has obtained a film on Israel Today, narrated by EDWARD G. ROBINSON, written by LEON URIS (Author of EXODUS).

Delegates for the District Convention in Chicago will be elected.

And, if all that isn't enough - Brother Ralph Goldberg will receive a unique award!! So, all of his friends should plan to attend.

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Have you made your reservation for the Albuquerque B'nai B'rith Lodge Bonds for Israel Dinner, February 20, 1966? Tickets are \$9.00 per couple. This price includes drinks (6:30 - 7:30) dinner and GEORGE E. JESSEL. How can you afford to miss this one?? A member of our community will receive a special award that night.

Now, who was it that said your lodge doesn't do anything??

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Speaking of doing things, one of our projects - the BBYO Sweetheart Dance - will be Saturday, February 12, 1966, at 9 P.M., at Temple Albert. A SLOW dance band is promised. The members of the chapters have the tickets. All proceeds go to our own BBYO chapters.

E D I T O R I A L

WHY ARE YOU A JEW? Have you ever asked yourself that question? What answer have you found? For the last few years, with the unprecedented religious and economic freedom that we enjoy in Albuquerque and in America, that question has received more and more attention. No one forces us to be Jews by making us live in ghettos or shtetls (little Jewish towns), and we don't have to embrace Christianity as the only alternative (as we did during the Spanish Inquisition). Why, then, do we remain associated with a religion that has been the world's scapegoat for 2000 years? As free men we can freely seek a firm foundation for remaining Jews. Your editors do not profess to be great scholars in this field or even exponents of a "new way of looking at the Jew." But we have read a book published in 1957, by your ADL which has helped us - as laymen - to feel that there is a reason for us to remain Jews. The book is entitled "Your Neighbor Celebrates." The Very Reverend James A. Pike, Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in his foreword said, "for it is worship above all, which makes its profoundest imprint upon the conscious and unconscious minds - souls of men." In this book young people of all religions can learn about the history of the Jewish people and develop a closer understanding of the vital faith that has kept Judaism alive. The book is about the Judaism practiced in America today. Reading it should convince you that there is still reason for you to remain a Jew. We will not review the entire book - you can obtain it, we understand, through the ADL, 1640 Rhode Island, NW, Washington, D.C., at about \$2.50 per book. But, may we share with you some of the thought that had the profoundest effect on us? The book contains description of most of the major and minor Jewish holidays.

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**Rosh Hashanah:** When Jewish people resolve to live better lives. They pray for forgiveness and a year of peace and happiness for themselves and all the world...(for) the time when all of the people of the earth shall be brothers, and wickedness and tyranny shall pass away..."

**Yom Kipper:** A compliment to Rosh Hashanah for "simply asking for forgiveness is not enough. Wrongs must be righted whenever that is possible." Prayer and fasting are meaningful only if they "lead to good deeds toward man."

**Succoth:** When a man may look up at the stars and direct his thoughts heavenward... that it is only by trusting in the Lord that man is able to make sense of his life and give it meaning." The symbols of Succoth are also meaningful - the tall palm leaves depict a proud person, the drooping willow one who is humble, the myrtle a person with beautiful qualities but little accomplishment, the fragrant citron, a person abundant in good deeds. "The true brotherhood of man...was the result of all such persons living together in harmony just as the symbols are held together in the service."

**Simhath Torah:** Demonstrates that the study of God's word is an unending process. Through all his life man may find inspiration and guidance from the word of God."

**Hanakkah:** Symbolic of the light of religious freedom that Judah Maccabee and his followers kept alive. Because Hanakkah symbolizes the triumph of faith in God over brute force, it has long been a source of inspiration to the weak and small in number who fight for liberty and justice against stronger and tyrannical forces. It strengthens the conviction that religious freedom is the right of every people.

**Purim:** Although "a day of triumph," the Jews realize amid all their gaiety that Haman's defeat was but a temporary one. For, in every age, they have witnessed how selfish men eager for power have tried to destroy whatever people or groups stood in their way. Purim is a happy reminder that, while evil may seem all-powerful at times, it can be defeated if people of good faith work together."

**Passover:** Its universal significance best expressed in the final benediction of the Seder calling upon the shattering of "all fetters of oppression and hastening the day when swords shall at last be broken and wars ended. Soon may He cause the glad tidings of redemption to be heard in all lands so that mankind freed from violence and from wrong and united in an eternal confidence of brotherhood may celebrate the universal Passover in the name of our God of Freedom."

**Lag B'Omer:** Symbolic of man's passion for truth.

**Shavuoth:** Dedicated to confirming and renewing our promise and man's need, to obey the Ten Commandments and communicating the ideals and ethics therein contained to succeeding generations.

**Sabbath:** Commemorating the sanctity of the home, obedience to God and parents, and the blessing of children. The Sabbath provides an opportunity to realize that the earth of God's handwork is good.

Thus in today's world as in the world of the last 5000 years the job of the Jew remains; that is: The teaching of the individual sanctity of each man; of his obligations for his own sins; of his personal and direct relationship to God; and of the world's need for a group of people whose ethical and moral beliefs constitute a banner to view, a standard to emulate, a goal to be reached. You cannot abandon this task to a dead martyr nor can you leave it to the other fellow. Even if you don't believe in God - the ethical standards cannot be abandoned if you want your children to live in a safe and sane world.



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