

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorials

The End of an Era

Recent events in the Middle East have brought to an end one era, and with the beginning of the New Year we stand on the threshold of a new era. Prominent and great leaders have departed from the scene with the passing of Moshe Dayan, for whom all Jews all over the world mourn, and the assassination of Anwar Sadat; two leaders who led their countries toward the peace process in the best way they knew. What will happen now? Only time will tell. The stage remains the same, the scene does not change, only the characters will change. New leaders will emerge and we hope continue the process.

We live in a world of constant change. Let us pray for a change that will lead us to a lasting peace.

In our own community we begin a new era too. The community complex stands on the horizon as a reality. Our community leaders are constantly engaged in meetings and discussions to make this dream a reality. They are working together and striving together towards a Jewish community that will work, play and pray together in harmony. We know they will succeed.

Terrorism

Most distressing is the existence of evidence indicating that both "Red" and "Black" terrorists are part of a network which is getting support for its infrastructure from the Soviet Union. Synagogues in Vienna, Paris and Antwerp bombed by terrorists, an assassination attempt on the Pope, the assassination of Anwar Sadat... who are the people behind these incidents? International terrorism not only includes the likes of left wing fanatics such as the PLO and Baader-Meinhof Gang, but also right wing neo-Nazi and neo-fascist organizations.

Terrorism exists not only in Europe and is not only directed towards governments, but has also been directed towards Jews. A recent report from ADL analyzed terrorism on three dimensions; destruction of democracy, destruction of Israel and anti-Semitism, the hatred of Jews as Jews. Americans have not escaped the violence of international terrorists even though few incidents are reported within our borders. Between 1968 and 1980 more than one third of the terroristic actions were directed at U.S. citizens or U.S. installations around the world. American diplomatic personnel of all ranks have been killed, wounded, raped or been held hostage.

The time is now to awaken and realize that international terrorism is not just a problem for the citizens of Israel, but a real concern for Jews everywhere and for all who believe in and support Western Democracy.



A Thought From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Torah Business Inc.

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

Whoever busies himself with Torah and with charity and prays with the congregation, I consider it for him (says the Almighty) as if he had redeemed Me and My sons from amongst the nations of the world. Why is such an outstanding expression of merit and virtue accorded to someone who "busies himself with Torah...?" Isn't Torah-study the outright duty of every Jew? Isn't this what each of us accepted and pledged ourselves to at Sinai? But the secret lies in the words "busies himself." Torah-study is indeed the duty of every person, but special merit is reserved for one whose preoccupation with Torah-learning, with charity, and with prayer is like that of the businessman with his business.

The hired worker always keeps an eye on the clock. When the hours of his employment are over, he leaves behind the affairs and the worries of the business, and goes home. Not so the businessman. Even while he sits at the supper table, though he seems to be eating and drinking like everyone else, a careful look at his facial expression, at the

thoughtfulness in his eyes, reveals that the affairs of his business are very much on his mind, and although the business may be doing very well - there is always room for improvement! Even when he goes to sleep, the thoughts that were uppermost in his mind all day find expression in his dreams, which center on business.

"Whoever busies himself with Torah, with charity..."

The morning Shiur, the Torah-study session, may be over, but Torah is his business, and he cannot leave it completely behind. He may seem to be eating and drinking like another, but his mind is still absorbed in the passage of Torah he studied earlier. He may already have fulfilled his obligation of giving Tzedekoh by donating at least a tenth of his income to charity, but charity is his business; he is constantly looking for someone in need of a favor or in need of financial assistance, so that he can help them. With these thoughts he goes to sleep and around them his dreams revolve.

When a person becomes a "Torah businessman" then, G-d considers him as meritorious as if he had redeemed the Shechina (G-d's Spirit) from exile.

For The Record

By Norman Olshansky
 Regional Director
 Anti-Defamation League

He was praised, honored, cursed and despised; sometimes all at the same time. The Anti-Defamation League published excerpts of his comments on Anti-Semitism, Jews, Christians, race relations, blacks, whites, civil rights, states rights, the south, the north, social action and other items in 1966. He moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in 1941 and began publishing the Carolina Israelite. In 1954, he attracted national attention with his tongue-in-cheek solutions to racial tensions: The Golden Vertical Plan. He proposed that if you removed all chairs and seats from restaurants and classrooms, blacks and whites wouldn't have any trouble as long as they were standing. It was only when they sat down together that racial tension developed. He was a bestselling author: "Only In America". His outspoken battle for civil rights prompted bomb threats and a few cross burnings. He has been described as a "...merry gadfly who was loved, despised, embraced, scorned and most of the time just barely tolerated. He was the burr who would never fall out from under the saddle, the giggling child in the back row who would never shut up."

"This man, a member of the world's most oppressed minority, gave and took his licks defending his country's most oppressed minority. ...A Jew from New York, (he) spoke and taught and wrote that segregation was wrong. He came south to be a newspaper man and wound up a lightning rod, an often lonely spokesman for an unpopular cause."

Harry Golden (Harry Goldhurst) of Charlotte, North Carolina has died.

Dore Schary who was an outstanding leader not only in the arts but also in the Jewish community and with the Anti-Defamation League had the following to say about Mr. Golden. "(He) may be charged with some oversimplifications or for a few hasty conclusions, but he must be commended and applauded for what he has achieved by being outspoken when others were frozen into silence and for exhibiting a healthy and abrasive use of language, which forces the reader to examine his own convictions and opinions. In the Bible, Saul asks of David, 'Be thou valiant for me, and fight the Lord's battles.' Harry Golden is valiant and fights for the Lord."

Harry Golden, the publisher, the civil rights activist and the Jew has made a mark on southern history which will be remembered long after he is gone.



Across The Editors' Desks...

Thanks Harry!

Thanks for showing America the courage of a Jew to speak out for what he thinks is right when nobody wants to hear it; not even his fellow Jew.

Thanks for holding a mirror to our character, showing us our foibles and prejudices. You have exposed our standard of values for all of us to evaluate.

By making our Judaic tradition a force for the betterment of every man and woman, you have now earn-

ed our respect and honor.

Thanks, Harry.

We salute you in your finest hour.

Gil Portnoy

The Educated Jew

I enjoyed reading the article "What Kind of a Jew Should You Be?" (October 1981) by Saul Brenner. Although the facts were analyzed properly, the solution in my opinion is a bit different. THE

EDUCATED JEW WILL ENSURE SURVIVAL. Proper study of the sources, Torah study and its commentaries, leads to an understanding of the essence of Judaism. Once one has the essence, one has everything.

Proper understanding will eliminate the problem of belief among American Jews. Most non-believing Jews had little, if any proper Jewish education, and don't even know in what they don't believe.

Faith Transcends

knowledge. The more one knows the deeper one believes.

Sincerely yours,
 Rabbi Yoseph Groner

The Editors welcome comments and letters expressing all points of view and reserve the right to edit.