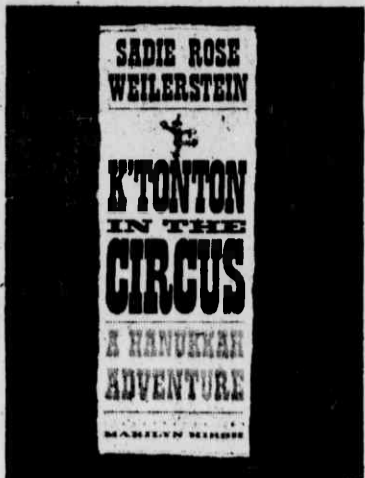


Big Doings By A Small Hero

K'tonton in the Circus. By Sadie Rose Weilerstein; illustrated by Marilyn Hirsh. Jewish Publication Society of America, 117 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. 1981. 85 pages. Age 6 up. \$8.95.

Reviewed by Rita Frischer



One year after his fiftieth birthday, Sadie Rose Weilerstein's thumb-sized hero rides again — this time off to the circus, mounted in front of an advance man in full costume on a white horse, whom Ktonton has mistaken for the Prophet Elijah.

Displayed in the side show as a novelty, "a bigger sensation than that human cannonball," he manages to keep kosher, teach his unusual new friends about Shabbat and Jewish traditions, and introduce them to the joys of Jewish folklore. They, in turn, treat K'tonton to a surprise Hanukkah party when he grows increasingly homesick at holiday time, and with their help and an obliging carrier pigeon, he is finally reunited with his

parents. At the end of the book, our small hero and his family are living in Israel, doing good deeds and awaiting the real Elijah.

This book is in the tradition of the old familiar K'tonton tales, which are still popular with today's children. Marilyn Hirsh, illustrator of *The Best of K'tonton*, has added spice with her exuberant pictures, making this work a successful blend of the talents of an award-winning author and artist.

Rita Frischer is Librarian of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, California.

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Chanukah — Self Sacrifice

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The idol-worshipping Greek rulers of the Holy Land, in collaboration with some Jewish sympathizers (called "Hellenists" because they acclaimed and emulated Greek culture) entered the Hechal (Inner Danctum of the Beis Hamikdosh - Holy Temple) and defiled all the oils. When the Hasmoneans defeated them, one cruse of oil was found, which evidently had not been touched by the Greeks. It contained enough oil for one day. The Menorah was rekindled and the oil miraculously lasted eight days, until new oil could be prepared. Chanukah celebrates the miraculous victory over the Greeks which culminated in the cleansing and rededication of the Beis Hamikdosh. The Hasmoneans, who brought about the miracle of Chanukah by their resistance against overwhelming odds, had a secret weapon - mesiras nefesh or self-sacrifice.

The purpose of all our festivals is to take the lessons of the ancient events which the festival commemorates, and apply those lessons to the present day — to the daily life of the Jewish individual and the Jewish community. When we apply the lessons of the ancient Chanukah miracle to the present day, several points stand out in bold relief.

First, we see that even so holy a place as the Beis Hamikdosh can be made impure under certain circumstances, though outwardly remaining intact. Second, in such a case, cleansing and rededication of the Sanctuary can be achieved only through Mesiras Nefesh, a self-sacrificing determination to resist the "forces of darkness" without entering into any

calculations whatsoever as to "what the odds are" in the struggle. For, since there can be no compromise with an enemy bent on defiling that which is sacred in Jewish life, the only Jewish answer can be unconditional resistance, leaving the final outcome of the struggle to the Divine Will. However, it is a perennial lesson of our history that, when we possess the "secret weapon" of the Mesiras nefesh attitude, the outcome of the battle is never really in doubt.

The ancient events of Chanukah emphasize yet another "fact of life" for the Jew; namely, that in Jewish life, material welfare is always linked to spiritual well being. Thus, in the case of Chanukah, although the Greek persecution started with a spiritual assault, with an attempt "to make them forget Thy Torah and to transgress the statutes of Thy Will," it was soon followed by a policy of robbing the Jews of their material wealth also — and of their children. The same link of physical and spiritual welfare was again evident in the deliverance of the Jews. When, under the leadership of the handful of Hasmoneans, the Jews resisted assimilation with steadfast faith, G-d helped them to completely get rid of the enemy, thereby saving their souls but also their wealth and children.

Nowadays, as often before, Jews who want to remain loyal to the heritage of their fathers find themselves outnumbered and endangered by the "forces of darkness" threatening to engulf the world in general and the Jewish world in particular. Nowadays, our "sanctuaries" are the Jewish home, the Yeshiva

(Torah-school) and the synagogue. These Sanctuaries of G-d are not immune from defilement, and it still requires the same kind of Hasmonean determination to preserve their purity and holiness. But although the odds may seem overwhelmingly unfavorable, the reward for resistance is more than worth the effort — for, with G-d's help, the outcome of the "battle" is certain to be miraculous, the victory is certain to be complete (spiritually and materially) just as it was in the days of Chanukah.

Lani Levine

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enable the audience to understand the feelings of Israeli families during wartime and of how the real needs of the people of Israel are helped by the American women caring and giving commitment.

Lani lives and works in the Arab village of Tamra in the Western Galilee. She is there on a program sponsored by Interns for Peace, an international organization whose purpose is to promote better relations between Jews and Arabs. Lani has been living in Israel since July 1981. For six months, she studied Israeli culture, politics and tradition as well as Arabic tradition and language at Kibbutz Bar Kai. Then she moved to Tamra.

Lani, who was born in Charlotte 25 years ago, has had several experiences in Israel that led her to seek her current position. In the summer of 1973, she participated in a United Synagogue Youth Pilgrimage to Israel led by Dov Kentof who was then Youth Director of Temple Israel. Lani was so inspired on that trip that she yearned to return to Israel. Between her sophomore and junior years of college, she took a year off and studied in Arad, Israel with WUJS (World Union of Jewish Study). She attended Ulpan in Natanya during the summer of 1978, taught in a school in B'nai B'rak, and lived in the home of a friend. Lani graduated from UNCC in 1979 and taught at the Hebrew Academy in Charlotte for one year. She also taught Sunday School at Temple Beth El, was an advisor to B'nai B'rith Girls, worked at the JCC Day Camp, and served as N'siah of District 5 BBYO.

Women's Division is especially pleased to be able to present this first-hand account of life in Israel by one of its own Charlotte women. A minimum gift of \$250 to the Federation Women's Division 1983 Campaign entitles a woman to attend. For reservations, call Maxine Levine (366-1887).

'We are One'

Best Wishes for a Happy Healthy Chanukah



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