

**ZEBULON VANCE AND THE SCATTERED NATION** edited by Maurice Weinstein. Wildacres Press-\$12.00

By Richard A. Klein

There is but one disappointment with the recently published "Zebulon B. Vance and 'The Scattered Nation.'" It's that Maurice A. Weinstein, the editor of this splendid treasure, didn't live long enough to enjoy the acclaim he richly deserved.

Maurice, who passed away on July 25, was among the few who clearly understood the impact of Vance—dead for over 100 years—on North Carolina, the nation and the Jewish people. Somehow, Vance's wisdom and accomplishments have largely been relegated to the pages of textbooks.

What a shame! Maurice takes but 132 pages to remind us that Vance's contributions remain an inspiration even as we enter the 21st century.

The book is divided into four parts: The author's chapter that summarizes Vance's fascinating life in law, politics and war; Selig Adler's commentary on Vance's immortal oration, "The Scattered Nation"; Vance's "The Scattered Nation" talk; and five exquisitely written memorial addresses presented at different times after Vance's death.

This book is especially significant to readers of The Charlotte Jewish News. Mountain-born Vance adopted Charlotte as home for ten years and made many friends here, including those in the Jewish community. "The Scattered Nation" talk is, perhaps, one of the most stirring, pro-Jewish statements in history.

But what makes "The Scattered Nation" even more significant is the individual who delivered it, the beloved Vance—North Carolina's Civil War Governor and three times advanced to the U.S. Senate. His oratory talents were legendary. When he died it was said: "Zeb Vance is dead! Few and short are these cruel words which men with lips compressed and cheeks all blanched have whispered one to another; and yet they bear the message of the greatest grief which ever yet has filled the Old North State."

A beautiful mystery surrounds "The Scattered Nation." While it was said that no "Israelite" ever voted against Vance, his career was certainly not dependent on the few Jews living in North Carolina. Yet there was Vance, giving this eloquent talk, year after year, to one audience after another. This oration, often given by Vance in churches, is 30 pages long in Maurice Weinstein's book.

What motivated Vance? Adler speculates it could have been the statesman's love of Biblical history

and his mastery of the Old Testament. It may have been the influence of Dr. Arnold De Welles Miller, minister at Charlotte's First Presbyterian Church. Or was it because of his special friendships with Charlotte Jewish friends as Samuel Wittkowsky, B. Koopman or S. Frankenthal?

Reading "The Scattered Nation" will leave any Jew in awe of Vance's mastery of history, and his sensitivity for a long-oppressed people. He begins by noting: "The Jew is beyond doubt the most remarkable man of this world—past or present. Of all the stories of the sons of men, there is none so wild, so wonderful, so full of extreme mutation, so replete with suffering and horror, so abounding in extraordinary providences, so overflowing with scenic romance." He continues: "His history is the history of our civilization and progress in this world, and our faith in that which is to come."

Vance was invited by Jewish audiences to give his talk, but Adler notes that "adequate Jewish appreciation of Vance's services did not come until after his death." While Vance's passing was mourned nationwide, many Jewish presses didn't mention it.

But it was Zeb Vance who noted so well the irony of anti-Semitism: "We affect to despise the Jew, but accept and adore the pure conception of a gold which he taught us, and whose real existence the history of the Jew more than all else establishes."

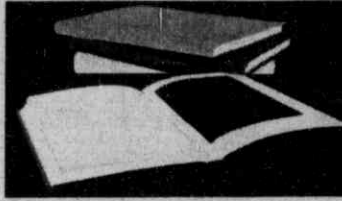
Maurice Weinstein has taken the advice given by another Jew, Samuel Wittkowsky, Vance's old friend: "And now, fellow-citizens, let us perpetuate (Vance's) memory and teach our children to instruct their children and their children's children to revere his memory, and that wherever their lot may be cast and they are asked where they came from, to point with pride to the State which gave birth to Zebulon B. Vance."

Maurice Weinstein gave much to Charlotte over his many years of service to the community. He delivered a talk last year about Vance for The Charlotte Jewish Historical Society, which was videotaped.

"Zebulon B. Vance and 'The Scattered Nation'" was one of his final contributions that should be enjoyed and savored by all. Most importantly, it should serve as a lasting inspiration to perpetuate Vance's good name, and to emulate his service to country and God.

("Zebulon B. Vance and 'The Scattered Nation'" is published by the Wildacres Press, Charlotte, and available for \$12 at Shalom Park)

(Richard A. Klein was founder and past-chairperson of The Charlotte Jewish Historical Society)



## Speizman Jewish Library

### New On The Shelf

By Amalia Warshenbrot-Librarian, Speizman Jewish Library

The following is only a sample of new additions to the Judaica Collection at the Speizman Jewish Library:

#### FICTION

*The Palace Thief* by E. Canin  
*The Assistant* by B. Malamud  
*A Scrap of Time* by I. Fink  
*Minyan Miracle* by A. Cohen  
*Prizes* by E. Segal  
*Carousel* by B. Plain  
*Murder on a Kibbutz* by B. Gur  
*Redemption* by L. Uris  
*Rabbi Rabbi* by A. Kane

#### HOLOCAUST

(Juvenile Literature)  
*We Are Children Just the Same* by M.R. Krizkova  
*Parallel Journeys* by E. Ayer  
*Hiding to Survive* by M.B. Rosenberg  
*Hidden Children* by A. Stein

#### JUVENILE BIOGRAPHY

*Netanyahu* by D.N. Speregen  
*Hilde and Eli* by D. Adler  
*Raul Wallenberg* by S. Linnea

#### YOUNG ADULTS

*Are You There on Purpose* by N. Werlin

*The Star and the Sword* by P. Melinkoff

*Drummers of Jericho* by C. Meyer

#### ISRAEL

*Understanding Israel* (new edition) by S. Scharfstein  
*Cooking the Israeli Way* (easy menu ethnic cookbooks series by J. Bacon)

#### EASY READING FOR THE VERY YOUNG

*The Stonecutter* - Adapted by Getzel  
*King Solomon Figures it Out* by S. Steinberg  
*The Tower* by L. Mayer  
*Thunder Cake* by P. Polacco  
*One Up One Down* By C. Snyder  
*K'onton's Sukkot Adventure* by S.R. Weilerstein  
*Moses* by L.E. Fisher

We gratefully acknowledge all the generous donations which have made it possible to expand the collection of Judaic resources in the Speizman Jewish Library.

For more information and a list of the new children's book collection, please stop by the library or call 366-5007 Ext. 258.

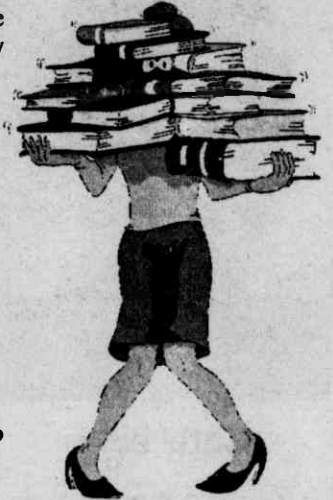
## The "Book Star" Is Changing Its Face

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Librarian Speizman Jewish Library

After two sessions of the reading incentive program offered to the Hebrew School children we are proud to offer it again, with some changes. The prizes for reading will be bigger but the demands will be a bit higher.

The major change is the star itself. After each book is read, the reader will write on the star briefly describing the following:

- ★ How does the book start?
- ★ How does the book end?
- ★ What is the main event?
- ★ Who is the main person?
- ★ What did you like about this book?



The program will run from September 5, 1995 till January 31, 1996. The children who read the most books will receive book prizes.

Please remember, we accept stars only on books you have not previously read and that are available in the Speizman Jewish Library. The book prizes are sponsored by the Halailah B'nai B'irth Women in memory of Becky Shulimson's dedication to Jewish education.

The Speizman Jewish Library will be open on Sundays from 9:30 to 1:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., and Wednesdays 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

If you have questions please call 366-5007, Ext. 258.

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#### Experience:

U.S. Senate Watergate Committee

Attorney: Erdman, Hockfield & Boggs, L.L.P.

#### Education:

Duke University-B.S.E. 1971

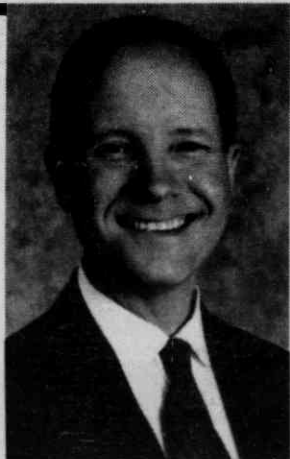
(Biomedical Engineering)

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