

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 13, Folder 12, Carter, Jimmy, 1978-1979.

→ Carter

Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas
611 Mount Curve Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware, the coming national elections are crucial for the United States and have deep implications for the rest of the world as well. It is for these reasons, after thoughtful consideration, that I urge you to support Governor Jimmy Carter and Senator Walter Mondale for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. I believe their positions on domestic issues offer the best hope for all the American people. Their open approach to government is necessary to keep democracy responsive to the wishes and needs of all the people. Their foreign policy is shaped toward preserving and strengthening the position of the free world.

Of course, like you, I am concerned about the State of Israel and the condition of Jews throughout the world. It is precisely here that I feel most strongly about supporting Carter and Mondale. Both men have visited Israel and held lengthy conversations with its leaders. I have read Jimmy Carter's statements carefully and I believe him to be a true supporter of Israel.

I have been a close personal friend of Walter Mondale for over twenty years. In addition to being a person of great integrity and having high ideals, he is a true friend of the Jewish people. He has walked with me on behalf of Soviet Jewry. He called on the eve of the Six-Day War and just after the Yom Kippur War to offer his full support. After the infamous anti-Zionist resolution of the United Nations, Senator Mondale sat next to me at a Twin Cities Rally and in his talk told 7000 Jews that "The cause of Israel is the cause of humanity." He was given a standing ovation not only because of that statement but because it was backed up by years of commitment and hard effort on behalf of Israel. Given the opportunity, his national leadership can be most valuable.

I hope the information I share with you will be helpful when you vote.

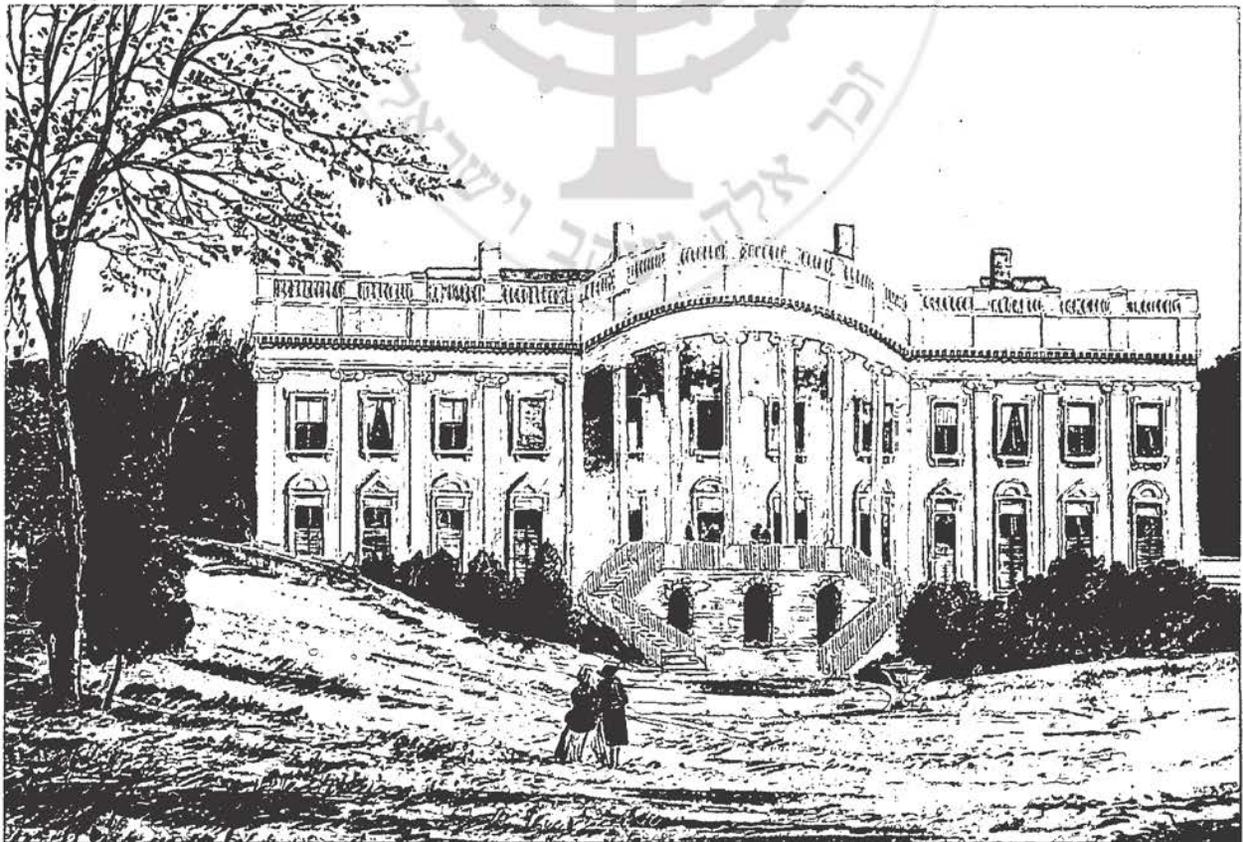
With every good wish for a שנה טובה, I remain

Cordially yours,

Bernard S. Raskas

Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas

copy to
Lep.../Raskas



The President's House, Washington

by Lefevre Cranstone 1860

The President's House, Washington is a watercolor which is part of the permanent collection of The White House and hangs in the Lincoln Bedroom.



*With best wishes
from our family
for a
happy holiday season*

Jimmy Carter Rosalynn Carter

**BLACKS EXPECTED TOO MUCH OF CARTER,
SAYS LEADER OF BLACK BAPTIST GROUP**

By Wesley Jackson
Religious News Service Correspondent (8-16-79)

NEW ORLEANS (RNS) -- The peril of our nation is that it is incapable of self-analysis, the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., was told at its annual conference here.

Dr. William Augustus Jones Jr., 45-year-old leader of the one million-member black Baptist denomination, described this peril as "a sickness that cannot be cured by changes in Cabinet personnel, staff re-arrangements or long protracted rap sessions. There's a sickness at work that eludes the political pundits," he said.

"The sickness is so pronounced and so pervasive that most of the nation is utterly uninspired by the President," he said. He gives the appearance of a man caught in the clutches of indecisiveness. He went to Camp David the other week, and came down worse than when he went up. He came down with no clear revelation."

"Perhaps he made the mistake of not emulating Moses completely. Moses went to the mountain alone and came down in a state of clarity. Carter went up not alone, but summoned others to join him, and came down in a state of confusion," the FNBC president said.

"I'm sure we've come to expect too much of the princes and politicians," he said. "Perhaps black people expected too much of Mr. Carter, owing to his 'born again' status. If the election of '76 taught us anything, it should have taught us to avoid unthinking and undemanding loyalty. In '76 we gave too much and got too little."

Addressing an overflow crowd at the FNBC's 18th annual meeting, Mr. Jones continued, "After all, politics is means, not Messiah. The political process is not synonymous with the divine strategy. God will work through it if He can. God will work around it if He must."

Mr. Jones referred to the black Baptist denomination's convening here in ironical overtones, commenting that there is "a river that flows by this city, known as 'Old Man River,' the emblem of black suffering, black toil, black deprivation and black death," aptly described in the lyrics of the song "Old Man River":

"Colored folks work on the Mississippi.

"Colored folks work while the white folks play.

(more)

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"Power is really freedom and freedom is power," he declared. "Power is courage to tell the truth, regardless of consequences. Power is the strength to say 'No' to a lie. Power is boldness in the face of demagogues. Power is fortitude and firmness in the face of evil systems."

"There is a power that disease can't harm, that death can't conquer, that the grave can't hold, and that hell can't handle. There is a power that equips you for living and fixes you for dying. It's the good news of total redemption. It's the glad tidings of liberation," he concluded.

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LAY BUDDHIST ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN OPENS MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO PEACE

By Religious News Service (8-16-79)

TOKYO (RNS) -- Soka Gakkai, the influential laymen's Buddhist organization in Japan has opened a new peace memorial hall in Yokohama, dedicated to the expansion of the "Soka Gakkai peace movement," it was announced here.

The "Soka Gakkai Toda Peace Memorial Hall," a two-story red brick building, was established as a tribute to the organization's second president, Josei Toda, who, in September 1957, called on Japanese youths to initiate an extensive campaign against nuclear armaments.

According to the official announcement, Mr. Toda's appeal, issued at a sports festival of the organization's Youth Division, "constitutes the root of the Soka Gakkai peace movement."

Soka Gakkai (Value-Creation Society), though based on the teachings of a zealous 13th century Japanese Buddhist monk, who sought to demystify and simplify Buddhism, has little in common with Zen or other meditative Buddhist sects.

With a view to eliminating "corruption" in government, Soka Gakkai in 1964, founded the Komeito, or Clean Government, party. Though the party, since 1970, has been theoretically independent of Soka Gakkai, believers in the sect are said to account for about 90 percent of Komeito party membership, and to wield vast political influence in Japan.

Soka Gakkai asserts it has a membership of 5.7 million in Japan and also some 500,000 members abroad, mainly in Brazil and the United States.

The new peace memorial hall will house various records, pictures and other pertinent materials that depict "the horrors and cruelty of war," as a way of arousing "peace-promotion sentiments among people," the announcement said.

A renovated western-style building in the former Yokohama Foreign Settlement, the memorial hall is located near Soka Gakkai's Kanagawa Cultural Center, overlooking Yokohama harbor.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1978

To Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

Thank you for sending me your book on Evangelicals and Jews in Conversation. I appreciate your inscription; I need your prayers in the search for peace. I am grateful for your contribution to the foreign aid meeting. I hope that this meeting can be the beginning of a fruitful dialogue.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Carter

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

400 1 1 1978

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1978

Dear Hy,

Thank you very much for your help with the High Holy Day statement. Please tell Rabbi Tannenbaum he did an absolutely splendid job, one thoroughly in keeping with the occasion as well as the President's wishes. There were very few changes but I'm enclosing the revised text for your final o.k.

The firemen did get in the speech -- note the underlined enclosure. Don't feel bad -- Jerry Rafshoon missed it too.

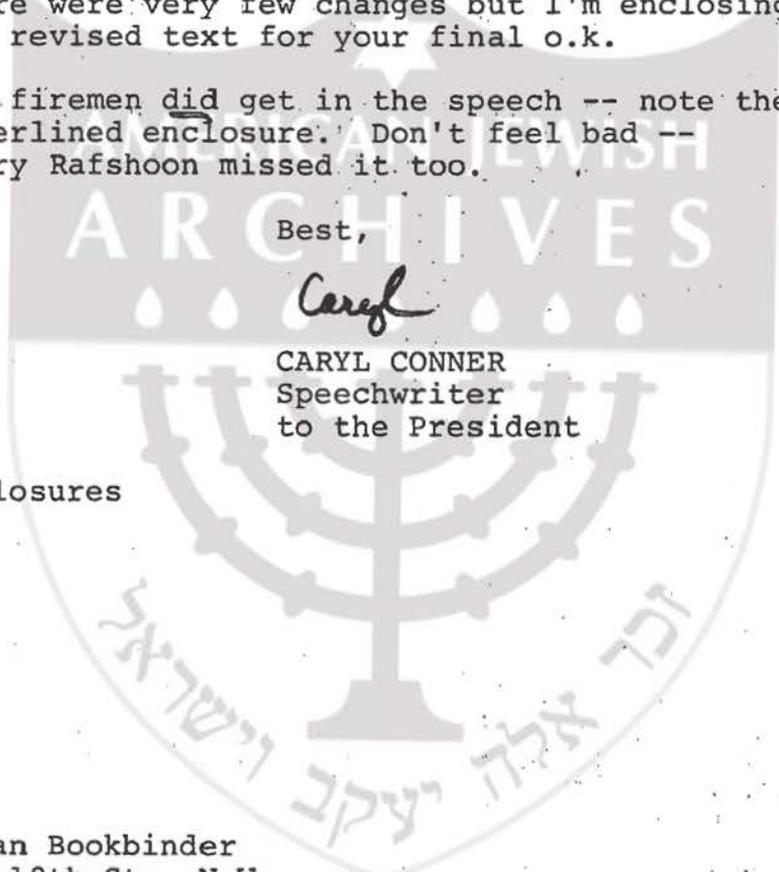
Best,

Caryl

CARYL CONNER
Speechwriter
to the President

Enclosures

Hyman Bookbinder
818 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006



Final Version

C. Conner
8/11/78

JEWISH NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Rosalynn and I are confident we express the sentiments of millions of Americans in extending to our fellow citizens, the Jewish people of our nation, our deepest respects and heartfelt greetings on the eve of the Jewish Holy Days.

Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur are a supreme moment of moral and spiritual stock-taking in one's personal life as well as in evaluating our role in society.

There are few more moving and ennobling utterances of the human spirit than that found in the Jewish High Holiday prayers: "May they all (all people) form one companionship to do Thy Will with a single heart."

That yearning for solidarity among all persons, which the Jewish people bequeathed to our nation and to humanity, has seldom been more compelling than it is today. Our nation and the human family have paid too great a price in human lives as a result of religious, racial, and ethnic prejudice and hostility. We thank God for keeping America free of the religious and racial wars that dominate other continents.

The theme of human solidarity is based on profound respect for the right of each group to be itself, and to be true to its own heritage and culture. This philosophy has been translated into unique reality in the religious pluralism and mutual caring which are distinctive features of American democracy.

In a world that continues to be threatened by ideological fanaticism, our 300 year American experience with unity in the midst of diversity may be the single most important cultural and spiritual example we have to offer the world. May the Jewish people, their fellow Americans, and the entire human family enjoy a good and, above all, a peaceful, New Year.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1979

Because of your expressed interest in the important national issues facing our country today and in specific administration programs and policies, I thought the enclosed document might be of interest to you. This is the third in a series of annual reports which summarize for the public the objectives, programs and accomplishments of the Carter Administration.

I hope you will find this material informative and useful.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Wexler".

Anne Wexler
Assistant to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

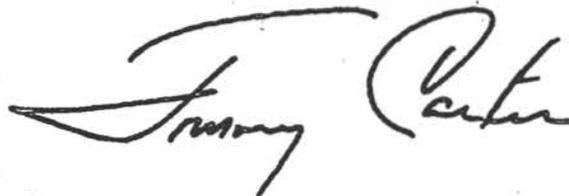
WASHINGTON

On the occasion of the High Holy Days, Rosalynn and I welcome the opportunity to greet our fellow Americans of the Jewish Faith.

The New Year is a time of self-examination and moral rededication. The traditional commitments you make on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are an important contribution to the strength and vitality of our nation. The New Year is also a time to reaffirm those common, cherished, ethical principles and values which form the foundation of our democratic society.

We pray with you as you seek sustenance and as you set out refreshed and recommitted to our common effort to defend peace and protect the lives and human rights of all our fellows on this globe. We face a formidable task, but as the great Jewish sages remind us, while we are not required to complete our task, neither are we free to shrink from it. Therefore, let us continue in the pursuit of that which is right for our nation and for people throughout the world.

Rosalynn and I trust you will find personal renewal in these Holy Days and that your prayers and acts will advance our shared hopes for a just and peaceful world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial "J".