
Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 24, Folder 1, Institute on Israel for Christian Clergy, 1970.
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date February 25, 1970

to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

from Eugene Du Bow

subject WESTCHESTER BOARD OF RABBIS -- INSTITUTE ON ISRAEL FOR THE CHRISTIAN CLERGY

This is a report of the recently held Institute on Israel for the Christian Clergy.

Several months ago, we were advised that the Board of Rabbis was looking into the possibility of holding such an Institute. We put ourselves in touch with Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann, Chairman of the Westchester Board of Rabbis, who told us that no definite plans had been established, but that the holding of such an Institute had been suggested to him by both the New York Board of Rabbis and the American Zionist Council. At first, Rabbi Nadelmann was not at all anxious to have any "cooperation", but, after thinking about it, he called us back and stated that he would like some assistance. A meeting was set up to plan the Institute and, even though all the Jewish human relations agencies were invited, we were the only ones to show up. It was decided that an Institute should be held in Westchester. At our suggestion, the major speakers were to be Dr. Eugene Borowitz and Yehuda Avner, of the Israeli Consulate, who had spoken to an AJC audience in Westchester about two years ago.

We undertook the job of doing all the printing, mailing and publicity for the Institute and also offered the services of Rabbi A. James Rudin, as one of the participants. By the way, an interesting fact is, that the Westchester Board of Rabbis has never functioned as a meaningful organization in the County. This Institute was really their first attempt at getting a program off the ground.

In any case, we gathered lists of Christian clergy from the various rabbis and the mailings went forth. It was interesting to me, that during the course of the planning and mailing that Rabbi Nadelmann came to lean very heavily upon us for advice and some of the actual doing.
At the last minute, Avner was unable to attend the Institute and Rabbi Nadelmann called me in a "sweat". I was able to set his anxiety to rest by volunteering the services of Rabbi Rudin. He accepted gratefully and the program then became Borowitz and Rudin.

The Institute itself, was marvellous and very successful. Both speakers made excellent presentations and they are described in the attached newspaper article from the White Plains Reporter Dispatch. Forty four Christian clergy attended, including Mother Hargrove from Manhattanville College and Sister Celeste, the President of the College of New Rochelle.

One of the pluses that has come about because of our participation, has been a desire on the part of the Westchester Board of Rabbis to "followup" on the Institute. I will be meeting with Rabbi Nadelmann and Rabbi Jack Stern, as soon as Rabbi Stern returns from Israel, to see if we can develop some further interreligious programs in the County.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Rabbi Rudin for his help and participation in the Institute.

cc: Will Katz
cc: Sam Katz
cc: Isaiah Terman
cc: Rabbi A. James Rudin
cc: Eleanor Ashman
Rabbis Share Jewish Perspective With Members Of Christian Clergy

By BARBARA CONGEMI

A seminar sponsored by the Westchester Board of Rabbis for the Christian clergy, Protestant and Roman Catholic, of Westchester yesterday aimed at sharing insights into the essence of the Jewish perspective.

Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann of Tuckahoe, president of the Board, welcomed the Jewish and Christian clergy to the meeting at Temple Israel and asked that they join together on behalf of peace and understanding.

The Rev. James Stewart, Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, said in the opening prayer that, judging by the successful attendance at the seminar, there was a recognition by all for a "fellowship of the concerned".

The morning speaker, Dr. Eugene Borowitz, pointed out that theology at Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion, spoke on "The Relevance of Biblical Studies to the Jewish Community in the Contemporary State of Israel." Dr. Borowitz explained the meaning of the Jewish people as an "ethnic folk," in a specific sociological sense, the people of God.

People, to the Jew, is a word literally meaning an ethnic nation rather than a strictly religious group, he said. From the biblical tradition the Jews are a large family with connections to one another.

People of God

The people of God, as the Jewish tradition teaches, are a nation with myths and heroes and a language.

Dr. Borowitz noted that biblical Jews wrote about politics and society. They were not primarily concerned with religion, with building the "temple," he said. In Roman history too the Judeans were referred to as an ethnic community rather than as a religious one. The ruling monarchs during the feudal era allowed the Jews a certain political autonomy within their segregated communities, he said.

Dr. Borowitz related the past history of the Jews to the modern "demythologized and secularized" Jew who has converted his religiosity into developing a government concerned with human welfare. The State of Israel is to be understood in these modern terms which are rooted in the past history of theological Judaism, he stressed.

After a luncheon served by the Sisters of the Temple Israel Center, the afternoon session began with an invocation by the Rev. Father Henry D'Anjou, of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Scarsdale.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, assistant director of interreligious affairs, of the American Jewish Committee, Institute of Human Relations, New York City, spoke on "The Road to Peace in the Middle East."

Rabbi Rudin explained that Israel represents and ideal and a reality to the Jewish community upon which they can "restore their self-respect and authenticity." He asked that the Christian clergy understand this attitude and judge the Israeli policy without agreement or disagreement.

"Double Standard"

The Jewish people have realized since the Six-Day War, according to Rabbi Rudin, that they must take action to insure their survival as a community chosen to serve God. Rabbi Rudin asked that a "double standard" not be used in judging the actions of both the Israeli's and the Arabs. Each nation, he continued, feels the righteousness of its purpose and that purpose, according to Rabbi Rudin, is, for the Israelis, survival and for the Arab's pride and dignity.

The Rabbi said he sees hope in honestly helping the Arab in Israel to learn a skill thereby restoring his dignity. The hope for a safe refuge is symbolized by the State of Israel for the Jews in other countries. The Jews in the United States are ready with financial and emotional aid to abate these problems, he said.

Rabbi Rudin called upon Christians and Jews alike to immediately and firmly condemn the civilian acts of violence predominant in today's headlines. He asked that the civilian violence connected with the Middle Eastern situation be condemned as violence with the United States is.

The physical nation of Israel as a place where oppressed Jews can go to participate in freedom and the importance of Israel to Jews as being real and symbolic to their survival as a people, were the ideas related by the rabbis who spoke during the open discussion following the main speeches.

THE REPORTER DISPATCH

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Offices: White Plains 10 Church Street;
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WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., THURS., FEB. 19, 1970
Rabbi And Israeli Official Key Speakers At Conference

Dr. Eugene B. Borowitz, Professor of Theology, Hebrew Union College Jewish Center of Religion, and the Hon. Yehuda Avner, First Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, will be the key speakers on the religious and political significance of Israel, at a major conference sponsored by the Westchester Board of Rabbis, to be held at Temple Israel Center in White Plains on Wednesday, February 18, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Designed to acquaint Christian clergy in Westchester with the unique role of Israel in the culture of Jewry and its importance in the total political and economic development of the Middle East, this conference will provide ample opportunity for participants to share in a give-and-take with the major speakers and additional resource consultants.

Dr. Borowitz is one of American Jewry's leading educators and thinkers. He is not only professor of Education and Religious Thought at Hebrew University College - Jewish Institute of Religion, but is also the visiting lecturer in contemporary theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary. This is the first time one professor has taught at two rabbinical seminaries concurrently. He has been particularly active in ecumenical affairs and serves as the Trustee for the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research of the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. His subject will be "The Religious Significance of Israel".

"The Road to Peace in the Middle East", will be examined by the Hon. Yehuda Avner. Beside being the First Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, he has had lengthy experience in America and Israel as a journalist specializing in political affairs.

Before going to Washington, Mr. Avner was the Israeli Consul in New York, and has also served as the Director of Political Publications in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

To supplement these presentations, Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann, President of the Westchester Board of Rabbis, has indicated that several resource consultants will be available to add additional insights and information during the discussion period. In the religious area, Rabbi James Rudin, Assistant Director of the Department of Interreligious Affairs of The American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi Murray Grauer, will be available for questions. Rabbi David Golovensky will serve as the political resource consultant. Chairman of the meeting is Rabbi Jack Stern, Jr. The Rev. James S. Stewart will give the opening prayer. The summary will be by Rabbi Maurice Davis and there will be a Benediction at the close of the conference by Rev. Charles E. Houston.
Focuses On Israel's Role

A conference designed to acquaint Christian clergy in Westchester with "the unique role of Israel in the culture of Jewry and its importance in the total political and economic development of the Middle East" is planned by the Westchester Board of Rabbis for Wednesday.

Dr. Eugene B. Borowitz, professor of theology at Hebrew Union College Jewish Center of Religion and Yehuda Avner, first secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, will be the speakers at the meeting at Temple Israel Center, Old Mamaroneck Road at Miles Avenue.

"The Religious Significance of Israel" will be discussed by Dr. Borowitz, who is also visiting lecturer in contemporary theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He is the first professor to teach at two rabbinical seminaries concurrently, is active in ecumenical areas and serves as the trustee for the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research of the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

"The Road to Peace in the Middle East" will be examined by Mr. Avner who is also a writer specializing in political material.

Before going to Washington, Mr. Avner was the Israeli consul in New York.

Also taking part in the conference will be Rabbi James Rudin, assistant director of the department of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi Murray Grauer of Hebrew Institute, White Plains, who will answer questions. Rabbi David Golovensky of Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle will serve as the political resource consultant. Rabbi Jack Stern Jr. of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale will be chairman.

The Rev. James S. Stewart of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, will give the opening prayer. Rabbi Maurice Davis of the Jewish Community Center, White Plains, will summarize the program. The Rev. Charles E. Houston of Tuckahoe will give the benediction.

Additional information about the conference, which is by invitation from the Westchester Board of Rabbis, may be obtained from Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann of Genesis Hebrew Center, Tuckahoe.
INSTITUTE ON ISRAEL FOR THE CLERGY
Sponsored by the Westchester Board of Rabbis
Wednesday, February 18, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.
Temple Israel Center
280 Old Mamaroneck Road
White Plains, N.Y.

10:00 A.M. - MORNING SESSION:
Welcome ........ Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann,
President, Westchester Board
of Rabbis

Chairman ...... Rabbi Jack Stern, Jr.
Westchester Reform Temple,
Scarsdale

Opening Prayer Reverend James S. Stewart
Scarsdale Hitchcock
Presbyterian

"THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL"

Dr. Eugene Borowitz, Professor of Theology
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion

Discussion

12:00 Noon - AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman .... Rabbi Max Gelb
Temple Israel Center,
White Plains

Invocation .. Father Henry D'Anjou
I.H.M. Church, Scarsdale

Luncheon - (The members of the Conference
will be the luncheon guests of the
Sisterhood of Temple Israel Center)

"THE ROAD TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

Rabbi A. James Rudin, The American Jewish Committee

Conference Consultants: Rabbi Murray Grauer,
Hebrew Institute, White Plains

Rabbi David Golovensky
Beth El Synagogue,
New Rochelle

Discussion

Summation of Conference .. Rabbi Maurice Davis
Jewish Community Center,
White Plains

Benediction ............. Reverend Charles E. Houston
Shilo Baptist Church
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Additional information about this meeting can be obtained from Rabbi Nadelmann at Genesis Hebrew Center.
Rabbi Tells Of Israeli Experiences

'Unspeakable Atrocities Take Lives Of Moslems As Well As Jews'

(EDITOR'S NOTE — This report on his visit to Israel from July 26 to Aug. 26 was prepared for The Daily Times by Samuel M. Burstein, rabbi of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Larchmont.)

By SAMUEL M. BURSTEIN

The Jewish community in Israel is not only fighting for its existence but also for the survival of its culture and way of life. The Israeli army is fighting for independence, but the Jewish people are also fighting for their identity and their spiritual heritage.

Israel is a young country, only 70 years old, but it has a rich history. The Jewish people have lived in the land of Israel for thousands of years, and they have never given up their dream of returning to their homeland. The Zagare family, together with many other Jewish families, have made the difficult journey from Europe to Israel in search of a better life.

The Zagare family is one of many who have made this journey. They came to Israel in 1948, during the War of Independence, and they have been fighting for their freedom ever since. The Zagare family is proud to be part of this great country and to help build a better future for their children and grandchildren.

Israel is a democratic country, but it is also a country that is under constant threat. The Jewish people have come together to defend their country and their way of life, and they have shown incredible resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

The Zagare family is a symbol of the Jewish people's determination to survive and thrive in Israel. They are an inspiration to all Jews around the world who are fighting for their freedom and their future.

The Zagare family's story is a story of hope and resilience. It is a story of the strength of the Jewish people and their commitment to their country and their way of life. The Zagare family is a testament to the enduring spirit of the Jewish people, and they are a source of pride for all Jews around the world.
The United States has provided $425 million to UNRWA, the UN agency that provides humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees. However, the United States has cut its funding to $350 million, a 20% reduction. This is due to the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The impact of this funding cut is significant, as UNRWA provides critical services to thousands of Palestinian refugees. The agency provides education, health care, and emergency relief to those in need.

The United States is one of the largest donors to UNRWA, and its contribution is crucial to the agency's ability to continue its work. However, the decision to reduce funding is unlikely to solve the underlying issues that have led to the conflict in the region.

The United States should reaffirm its commitment to the Palestinian people and work towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict. This includes providing adequate funding to UNRWA and supporting efforts to establish a viable, independent Palestinian state.

In conclusion, the United States should prioritize its support for UNRWA and continue to advocate for a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This will require a comprehensive and inclusive approach that addresses the legitimate concerns of both sides.

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