



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 53, Folder 7, Yaseen, Leonard, 1985-1986.

LEONARD C. YASEEN

Dear Marc -

Please consider the enclosed check a first payment on what I hope is an ongoing relationship. Your first Rabbinic impulse, I know, will be to attempt to return it. Please do not. This project and any good it may accomplish are important to me - and it can't be done without you.

Thank you for your wonderful contributions yesterday. Our love to Georgette and admiration for her skills with the alarm clock and computer -

As Always,
Leonard

P.S. Marc, I think this relationship should be maintained on a Confidential basis.

LEONARD C. YASEEN

2 BAY AVENUE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK 10538
(914) 834-0040

August 22, 1985

Dr. Marc Tanenbaum
45 East 89th Street
New York, N.Y. 10128

Dear Marc:

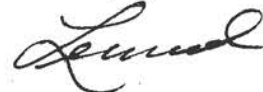
It was wonderful to see you and Georgette Sunday. I hope the glow from your Hawaiian holiday is still with you.

Werner Linz just telephoned to tell me that corrected copies of the book are being sent to you and should be in your hands shortly. Meanwhile, he wondered whether we were beginning to contact the four or five religious leaders who would do mailings under their letterheads to their constituencies. Again, I am also hoping that we can find a tax exempt foundation for our purposes. He mentioned that Mrs. Wexler was now head of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

And then, of course, you were going to attempt to get in touch with Michael Deaver for a White House presentation. I am enclosing several articles from the Philadelphia Inquirer on what is happening in various departments of the government under Reagan's influence. It is absolutely frightening.

This is an awful lot to put upon your broad shoulders but just remember it's all your fault to begin with!

As always,



P.S. The situation with the farmers is particularly disturbing and I wonder whether the ministries who are helping to agitate on the local level are subject to any higher authorities.

Mr. Joseph Berger, Religion Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 St.
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Joseph,

I hope this finds you in good health.

This is a special letter for me. I don't normally write to friends like you in the media asking for special attention /particular for a possible story idea.

But I do so for Leonard Yaseen's just-published book, The Jesus Connection - To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism (Crossroads Books.)

I believe it is a unique work with an important religious - and interreligious - message which urgently needs to be heard today.

Charles Silberman has written in his A Certain People that anti-Semitism today is not a serious problem. Yet the vast majority of American Jews are deeply troubled and anxious by these manifestations-- Louis Farrakhan's bitter anti-Semitism; The rash of anti-Semitic bigotry in the farm belt crisis; The continuous anti-Semitic attacks both within and outside the United Nations by the Soviet Union, the PLO, and Arab League states and their supporters in the U.S. (the Arab Anti-Discrimination League ads attacking Zionism and Israel, perceived by Jews as new political forms of anti-Semitism.)

Leonard Yaseen shares that majority Jewish viewpoint and he addresses the sources of anti-Semitism in the Christian West. He dramatizes powerfully the contradiction between Christians who venerate Jesus and denigrate his people, the Jews. His portfolio of photographs of prominent Jews who have enriched every aspect of American culture drives home the absurdity of that contradiction as seldom done before.

I think there is a fascinating interview to be written about this man. One of the most successful American businessmen - the former president of Fantus Corporation - he could have retired on his laurels. Yet he has devoted decades of his life studying seriously the history of Jewish-Christian relations, and he has written an important book not for the incestuous circle of the Jewish-Christian specialists But for the wider audiences of intelligent Jewish and Christian lay people. In many ways, he is a model of altruism and public service.

This book can perform an outstanding service of closing the gap between the specialists and the millions of lay people who have not yet been touched by this concern.

I hope you will read the enclosed copy of The Jesus Connection, and will feel moved to interview Leonard Yaseen or write a column or book review based on his message. The introductions by Dr. Billy Graham, Father Theodore Hesburgh, and myself are also of particularly newsworthy.

With warmest good wishes, I am,

Corddally, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

The Joseph Berger letter should be sent, personally addressed, to the following (their names are on the media list):

Richard Ostling, Religion Editor
Time Magazine (Dear Dick)

Kenneth Woodward, Religion Editor
Newsweek Magazine (Dear Ken,)

Mr. George Cornell, Religion Editor
AP (Dear George)

Mr. David Anderson, Religion Editor
UPI, Washington, D. C. (Dear David)

Ms. Marjorie Hyer, Religion Editor
Washington Post (Dear Marjorie)

Mr. Dick Ryan
New York Post (Dear Dick)

Mr. Charles Bell, religion editor
New York Daily News (Dear Charles)

Mr. John Dart (Dear John)
Mr. Russell Chandler (Dear Russell)
Los Angeles Times

Mr. Bruce Buursma, Religion Editor
Chicago Tribune (Dear Bruce)

Mr. John Franklin, Religion Editor
Boston Globe (Dear John)

Mr. Darrell Turner
Religious News Service (Dear Darrell)

Mr. Tom Lorsche, Managing Editor
National Catholic News Service (Dear Tom)

Mr. Murray Zuckoff, Editor
Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Dear Murray)

Mr. Walter Ruby (Dear Walter)
Long Island Jewish World

Ms. Eleanor Lester (Dear Eleanor)
Jewish Week

Mr. Stuart Ain (Dear Stuart)
N. Y. Daily News

--Other major dailies, write religion editors, use last names
--Christian Science Monitor, USA Today
--Christian publications - Christian Century (James Wall-Jim);
America; Commonweal; Christian Herald; entire list

Same letter to Religious TV
change Paragraph 7:

I think there is a fascinating interview to be held with this man.

Last parag:

I hope you will read the enclosed copy....and will feel moved to interview Leonard Yaseen on one of your programs.

Ms. Pamela Ilott, Vice-President
Religious and Cultural Programs
CBS-TV (Dear Pamela,)

Ms. Helen Marmor
NBC-TV (Dear Helen)

Mr. Sidney Darion
ABC-TV (Dear Sid)

Mr. Russ Barber
First Estate
NBC-TV (Dear Russ)

--But major emphasis should be given to Producers of
Today, Good Morning America, CBS Morning News, Sunday Morning
New York Board of Rabbis (Rabbi Paul Hait) sponsors a whole slew
of programs on networks and locally. (see attached clip; use my name).



IMPORTANT NOTICE

When the all Omnipotent One decreed that a star studded merger was necessary to bring joy and contentment to all earthly and heavenly bodies, He (She), realizing that ordinary people would not suffice, chose Georgette and Marc.

The record of marital success in recent decades had been dismal--mortals were floundering, lawyers were prospering, homo sapiens was getting sappier.

Unaware that their destiny was preordained, Georgette and Marc got hitched, and the judgment of the Lord was rewarded.

Almost immediately, satellite observers in the outer hemisphere, zooming in on a skyborn apartment in a city called New York, reported a shining, a glow, a compelling radiance.

Visitors to that hallowed kingdom on Madison Avenue appeared to stumble in, haggard, dull of visage, and doltish in attitude. Having seen the LIGHT, they floated out, departing renewed, inspired---many with books under their arms.

"Reach Out and Touch Someone", "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself", "Take Thy Friends to Tennis Matches"--these ancient parables come to mind when thinking of this remarkable duo.

Many personages, even those with little or no fame, react gratefully to joyous moments graciously provided by this Olympian couple. Comments from friends have been noted such as, "May they live for a hundred years" and "May the Lord's countenance shine upon them", and "Wow! What a terrific couple".

An objective report
prepared by observers
H.F.Y. and L.C.Y.
September 30, 1985



Audio TV Features

Suite 804, 149 Madison Avenue, N.Y. 10016
(212) 889-1327

October 14, 1985

Leonard C. Yaseen
2 Bay Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

Dear Leonard:

You'll find attached a script for the radio news-feature spot. I debated whether to tie it in with current events and decided to let the stations do that if they wish when the spot is broadcast; otherwise we would not catch the essence of the book in the spot, which goes about a minute.

The bold face lines are your comments, which we can record either with you here in our studio when you're in the city or on the phone. Studio quality is best, but phone quality is used often and is acceptable. You may, of course, make changes as you see fit.

We record and produce the spot and it will then be fed out to approximately 2000 stations via satellite on the AP and UPI radio networks. Usage generally runs from 200 to 300 stations depending upon a number of factors. I'll also mail the spot on tape to some local stations.

You'll be billed \$500., which is discounted from the \$675. we generally charge for one spot.

I want to say again that I enjoyed working with you and that I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,



Bob Kimmel
President

BK/dt
Enc.

"THE JESUS CONNECTION" - YASEEN

DRAFT #1, OCTOBER 11, 1985

The bonds between Christians and Jews could be strengthened immeasurably if many myths persisting for 2000 years could be dispelled.

So says author Leonard Yaseen in The Jesus Connection - To Triumph Over Anti Semitism, published this month. Yaseen says theologians agree that Jesus was born, lived and died as a Jew, and never repudiated Judaism.

TAPE: (YASEEN) IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE CHURCH, PARTICULARLY TO CONVERT ROMANS AND OTHERS, EARLY CHURCH LEADERS DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM JUDAISM AND BLAMED JEWS FOR THE CRUCIFIXION. HOWEVER, MANY CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS HAVE CONCLUDED IT WAS THE ROMANS WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS.

The Jesus Connection includes a section describing some 150 people of Jewish heritage, in order, as Yaseen says, to show the Jewish presence and contribution to everyday life in America.

TAPE: (YASEEN) I WANTED TO SHOW HOW CHRISTIANS IDENTIFY WITH JEWS EVERYDAY IN AREAS OF MEDICINE, AS PUBLIC SERVANTS, SCIENTISTS, MUSICIANS, PERFORMERS AND WRITERS.

Yaseen says anti-semitism can be overcome by putting Jesus's philosophy into effect:

"love thy neighbor as thyself."

This is.....

Indy
Phone

Leonard C. Yaseen
2 Bay Avenue
Larchmont, New York 10538

Marc -

I will call you
in this -

all the best -

Leonard



KENNETH LIBO
365 West Twentieth Street
New York, New York, 10011

April 6, 1984

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

Enclosed is a somewhat different version of REVELATIONS. Notice in particular pages 1, 4, 12, 13 28, 29, 30, 34 and 34A.

What you said yesterday about Christians having the capacity to take the poison out of their faith we found most stimulating, and will work at incorporating this into the text.

Any suggestions you might have regarding the manuscript as it now stands would be much appreciated, in particular relevant developments of the recent past that you think might strengthen our work.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Libo

LEONARD C. YASEEN

April 28, 1986

Dr. Marc Tanenbaum
45 East 89th Street
Apartment 18F
New York, N.Y. 10128

Dear Marc:

I hope the guests at your Seder dinner this year shared the same warm, moving experience we have had on previous occasions. How do you and Georgette do it all?

I am enclosing copies of recent reviews which are becoming more and more encouraging. A full page ad will appear Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of this week in the New York Times.

A million thanks for all your guidance--

Gratefully,



LCY/d
Enclosures

LEONARD C. YASEEN

April 21, 1986

Dr. Marc Tanenbaum
45 East 89th Street, 18F
New York, N.Y. 10128

Dear Marc:

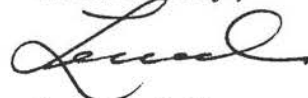
I have never written you formally before this to thank you for the part you have played in the education of L.C. Yaseen.

Without your knowledge, your willingness to take up your valuable time to fill this vacant head with needed information, and your encouragement, the book would never have been written and my responses to difficult questions, limited and inadequate.

Yesterday, thanks to you, all went well--there were probably 500 people in the audience and a lot of books were sold. The message was received sympathetically, and I think we made some new friends.

Helen joins me in love to you and Georgette.

Gratefully,



Leonard Yaseen

LY/d

Dear Max -

Long time no see!
Hopefully all is well
with you and Genette -

I'm enclosing
newwritten concision
Chapter which is far
more detailed since
after all it is at the
very heart of anti-Semitism.

I'd like to get a
strong message across
but without alienating
Christians - would you
be good enough to check
(OVER)

it from that standpoint?

I have had a number
of radio interviews
(via telephone) and
yesterday had a two
hour session with the
Ft. Lauderdale Sun-
Sentinel. Silberman is
still a stumbling block.

I'd like to talk
with you for an hour or so
some evening (or any other
time) prior to our meeting
on March 5th about a
forthcoming session on the
Barry Farber program. All the
best and love to Sam & Genette

THE NEW TESTAMENT

According to Matthew 27.11--"All the Jews cried, 'Have him crucified.' Pilate says, 'I take no responsibility for the death of this man.' The whole crowd roars 'Let his blood be on us and our children'."

- (1) This inflammatory rhetoric appears in no other Gospel--not Mark, Luke or John.
- (2) What crowd? A tiny faction, the Sanhedrin, the quislings beholden to Rome, may have been involved. The Jewish crowd was for Jesus not against him.
- (3) Can you imagine the murderers of Mahatma Ghandi, President Lincoln or President Kennedy crying out--"Let his blood be on me and my children."?
- (4) Pontius Pilate is depicted as a faint-hearted weakling merely acquiescing to "the Jews". Historians more accurately describe him as insolent, rapacious and cruel accounting for the crucifixion of thousands of Jews.
- (5) Even if Matthew knew something that other Gospel compilers didn't, are children responsible for the deeds of past generations? Are you responsible for the actions of your own father?

This single allusion in the New Testament attributed to Matthew, a reformed Jewish tax collector, has damned innocent people through the dark pages of history and is still a factor today.

In John 19.1, there is an equally strange statement. The Jews are purported to have said "If you set this man free (Jesus), you are no friend of Caesar. Caesar is our King and no other." The Jews despised Caesar! Many believed that Jesus was the Messiah that would free them from Roman oppression and years of crucifixions and deprivation. This is comparable to suggesting that Poles, Czechs, hungarians and Rumanians love the Communists who steal their food, deprive them of their freedoms and control their economies.

(Q.) Are you suggesting that the Gospels are not to be accepted at face value?

(A.) An eminent Catholic theologian can answer that. Father John Harden in his book, Christianity in the Twentieth Century, observes that the Gospels had a tendency to obscure and embellish, if not distort, the facts to meet the demands of an idealistic faith. After hundreds of years of repetition, myths take on the semblance of reality and are perceived as events that happened exactly as portrayed.

Protestant scholars like Bernhard Olson in his book Faith and Prejudice says, "Most Christian churches continue to teach the old story that the Jews killed Jesus, whereas many Christian scholars have concluded it was the Romans who crucified Jesus.



FIRST DRAFT
JEW, NOT A JEW: Host/Extras #1

FRANKEN/DAVIS/DOWNEY

10/25/85

(W/VT)

(OPEN ON: HIGH ENERGY FAMILY FEUD TYPE
GAME SHOW SET.)

(THERE ARE TWO FAMILIES, THE JOHNSONS AND THE
KNOFFLERS, STAGE RIGHT AND STAGE LEFT
RESPECTIVELY.)

(THE HOST IS IN THE MIDDLE.)

(BEHIND AND ABOVE HIM IS THE BIG BOARD WITH
A HUGE PICTURE OF PENNY MARSHALL ON IT.
SOMEWHERE ON THE SET WE SEE THE NAME OF THE
GAME SHOW-- JEW, NOT A JEW.)

HOST:

(POINTING TO THE BIG BOARD)

Star of ABC's long running hit,
Laverne and Shirley, she was married
to All in the Family's Meathead.

Penny Marshall, Jew, or not a Jew?

(ONE OF THE KNOFFLERS RINGS HIS BUZZER.)

(SFX: BUZZER)

HOST: (CONTD)

O.K., take it Knofflers! Penny
Marshall, Jew, or not a Jew?

(AS THE KNOFFLERS HUDDLE, THE AUDIENCE
MEMBERS START YELLING THEIR OPINIONS.)

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

Jew! Jew! Not a Jew!.....

(CUT TO: KNOFFLERS IN A HUDDLE TALKING
AMONG THEMSELVES)

KNOFFLER #1:

She's funny.

KNOFFLER #2:

Sounds like she's from Brooklyn

(MORE)

Bill
A *D*

Yes, No *7*

KNOFFLER #2: (CONTD)

or somewhere....

DAD KNOFFLER:

We're gonna say, "Jew."

(SFX: BUZZER. (THEY'RE WRONG)).

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

(DISAPPOINTED)

Oooooooooh.....

HOST:

No. No. I'm sorry, the Marshall's
are Italian Catholic. Italian
Catholic. O.K., let's review the
rules for Jew, Not a Jew.

(RAPID FIRE SPEECH)

According to Jewish law, anyone whose
mother is a Jew is a Jew. So, if an
individual's father is a gentile
and his mother is Jewish, that
person is considered a Jew. However,
reverse the bloodlines and that
person is.....Not a Jew. But, for
the purposes of our game

Correct?

(HE SLOWS DOWN)

anyone with any Jewish blood at all
will be considered a Jew. O.K., now
back to our game....

(A PICTURE OF MICHAEL LANDON COMES ONTO THE
BIG BOARD.)

(MORE)

HOST: (CONTD)

Star of Highway to Heaven, he was
Charles Ingals on Little House on
the Prairie and Little Joe on
Bonanza. Writer, producer, star
Michael Landon, Jew, or not a Jew?

JOHNSONS:

(THEY BUZZ)

(SFX: BUZZER)

HOST:

O.K., take it Johnsons...Michael
Landon, Jew, or not a Jew?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

✓ (YELLING)

Jew, jew! Not a Jew!

(CUT TO: JOHNSON'S IN A HUDDLE)

JOHNSON #1:

I heard somewhere he's Jewish.

JOHNSON #2:

Are you sure?

JOHNSON #1:

Yeah. When he was on Bonanza, I
read it.

JOHNSON #3:

No, you're thinking of Lorne Greene.

JOHNSON #1:

No, I think he's Jewish.

(MORE)

JOHNSONS #2 & #3:

O.K., if you're sure.

DAD JOHNSON:

We're gonna say Jew.....Bob.

(SFX: BELLS GOING OFF.)

(AUDIENCE IS HEARD CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

HOST:

That's right. He was born Michael
Horowitz in Brooklyn New York. Good,
Johnsons, ten points. O.K., let's
continue....

(PICTURE OF MAYOR KOCH COMES ONTO THE BIG
BOARD.)

HOST: (CONTD)

Mayor of.....

(SFX: BUZZ COMING FROM THE KNOFFLERS)
(APPLAUSE)

Well, I was going to read his achievements
but....O.K., Knofflers, Ed Koch, Jew
or not a Jew?

DAD KNOFFLER:

(WITH ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE)

He's a Jew, Bob.

(SFX: BELLS ARE HEARD IMMEDIATELY)

HOST:

Right, ten points, Knofflers. And
now we'll be right back after this
word from IBM.

(CUT TO: ART CARD: WHICH READS, IBM'S
YOU MAKE THE CALL.)

(MUSIC: SPORTS TYPE)

(MORE)

ANNCR: (V.O.)

And now, IBM presents; you make the call...

(CUT TO: VT: STOCK FOOTAGE OF SANDY KOUFAX
PITCHING.)

ANNCR: (V.O.) (CONTD)

On October 8, 1965 Sandy Koufax shuts
out the Minnesota Twins to lead the
Dodgers to victory in the seventh
game of the World's Series. You make
the call, Sandy Koufax, Jew, or Not a
Jew?

(CUT TO: PRODUCT SHOT OF AN IBM COMPUTER)

ANNCR: (V.O.) (CONTD)

Jew, Not a Jew, is brought to you by
IBM.

(CUT TO: LOCKER ROOM FOOTAGE OF SANDY KOUFAX
WEARING A STAR OF DAVID AROUND HIS NECK.)

ANNCR: (V.O.) (CONTD)

If you said Sandy Koufax was a Jew,
you made the right call! Sandy Koufax,
baseball great, Jew.

(END OF VT.)

(CUT TO: GAME SHOW SET)

(MUSIC: GAME SHOW THEME INDICATING THE END OF
THE SHOW.)

HOST:

That's it for today. Tune in tomorrow
when we'll have.....

(PICTURES OF THE PEOPLE HE MENTIONS FLASH ON THE
BIG BOARD)

(MORE)

HOST: (CONTD)

Bruce Springsteen, Goldie Hawn,
Jose Ferrer, and Casper Weinberger
on Jew, Not a Jew.....

Goodnight everybody!

(APPLAUSE)

(QUICK CRAWL (TO COME))

(FADE)



#2
JEW NOT A JEW- Tom/Randy/Nora/ Robert/
Damon/Danitra/Extra/Pardo (V.O.)

FRANKEN
DAVIS

REV. 12/9/85

(w/VT)

(OPEN ON: SIGN IN GAME SHOW SET THAT
SAYS, "JEW, NOT A JEW.")

(MUSIC: HIGH ENERGY GAME SHOW MUSIC)

(DURING THE VOICE OVER, WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL
GAME SHOW SET, A LA FAMILY FEUD. THERE ARE
TWO FAMILIES, THE JOHNSONS (DANITRA, DAMON,
AND AN EXTRA) AND THE KNUTSENS, (RANDY, NORA,
AND ROBERT) STAGE LEFT AND RIGHT RESPECTIVELY.
IN THE MIDDLE, UPSTAGE IS THE BIG BOARD)

PARDO: (V.O.)

It's time for the game that all
Americans, Jew and Gentile alike,
love to play, Jew Not a Jew! And
here's your host, Bob Tompkins!

(TOM ENTERS AS THE HOST)

(APPLUASE)

TOM:

O.K. Let's say hi to our champions,
the Knutsens.

(TOM GOES TO STAGE RIGHT TO THE KNUTSENS)

TOM: (CONTD)

Gregg, Knutsen is what kind of name?

RANDY:

Swedish, Bob. My father is Swedish
Lutheran.

TOM:

Gee, I thought most Swedes were blonde?

RANDY:

Well, My mom is Irish Catholic.

(MORE)

(MORE)

TOM:

Interesting.

(GOING TO NORA AND KISSING HER)

Debra, delightful to see you
again.

NORA:

It's great to be back, Bob.

TOM:

Debra, what was your maiden
name?

NORA:

Rochat.

(PRONOUNCED TOSHAY)

We were French Heugonot. Pretty
hard core Protestants, Bob.

TOM:

(TO AUDIENCE)

So, we've got a real mishmash
here, don't we?

(TO ROBERT)

Are you all mixed up, Ted,
or can you handle it?

ROBERT:

(CLEARLY, WELL-ADJUSTED)

Well, I went to Episopalean
Sunday School 'til I was
twelve, and now I'm at a
Catholic private school,
because it's the best school

(MORE)

ROBERT: (CONTD)

in the area. I don't know, it's
great.

TOM:

O.K. Johnsons!

(APPLAUSE)

Now let's meet our challengers
the Johnsons.

(HE GOES STAGE LEFT TO DAMON, DANITRA, AND
EXTRA)

TOM:

William Johnson. You are, of course,
from Africa?

DAMON:

No, I'm from Cleveland.

TOM:

I mean your geneology.

DAMON:

Oh yeah. Well, Johnson
is a slave name. My mom and dad
came up from South Carolina, and
they were Baptist. But after
that I have no idea.

TOM:

O.K.

(KISSING DANITRA)

Hi, Charlotte, what is your
maiden name?

(MORE)

DANITRA:

(NOT IN A WEST INDIAN ACCENT)

Benjamin. My parents are from
the West Indies. Antigua. So,
I think the British brought
us from West Africa, around
the early 1800's.

TOM:

Alright, and Andre, you must
be proud of your roots.

EXTRA:

Yeah.

TOM:

Alright, Johnsons! Let's play
Jew, Not a Jew!

(APPLAUSE)

(TOM POINTS TO THE BIG BOARD WHERE A
PICTURE OF PENNY MARSHALL APPEARS)

TOM:

Star of ABC's long running hit,
Laverne and Shirley, she was
married to All in the Family's
Meathead. Penny Marshall, Jew,
or not a Jew?

(NORA RINGS HER BUZZER)

(SFX: BUZZER)

TOM: (CONTD)

O.K., take it Knutsens! Penny
Marshall, Jew, or not a Jew?

(MORE)

(AS THE KNUTSENS HUDDLE, THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS START YELLING THEIR OPINIONS)

(SFX: AUDIENCE MEMBERS)

Yes! Yes! No!....

(CUT TO: KNUTSENS IN A HUDDLE TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES)

NORA:

She's funny.

ROBERT:

Sounds like she's from Brooklyn
or somewhere...

RANDY:

We're gonna say, "Jew."

(SFX: BUZZER. (THEY'RE WRONG)

(SFX: AUDIENCE MEMBERS)

(DISAPPOINTED)

Oooooohhh....

TOM:

No. No. I'm sorry, the Marshall's
are Italian Catholic. Italian
Catholic. O.K., Now let's take
a minute to review the rules for
Jew, Not a Jew.

(RAPID FIRE SPEECH)

According to Jewish law, anyone
whose mother is a Jew is a Jew.
So, if an individual's father
is a gentile and his mother is
Jewish, that person is considered
a Jew. However, reverse the

(MORE)

TOM: (CONTD)

bloodlines and that person
is...Not a Jew. But, for the
purposes of our game

(HE SLOWS DOWN)

anyone with any Jewish lineage
all will be considered a Jew..
O.K., now back to our game...

(A PICTURE OF MICHAEL LANDON COMES
ONTO THE BIG BOARD)

TOM: (CONTD)

Star of Highway to Heaven, he was
Charles Ingals on Little House
on the Prairie and Little Joe
on Bonanza. Writer, producer, star
Michael Landon, Jew or not a Jew?

(DANITRA BUZZES)

(SFX: BUZZER)

TOM: (CONTD)

O.K., take it Johnsons...Michael
Landon, Jew, or not a Jew?

(CUT TO: JOHNSON'S IN A HUDDLE)

(SFX: AUDIENCE MEMBERS:)

(YELLING)

Yes! No! Yes!.....

DANITRA:

I heard somewhere he's Jewish.

DAMON:

Are you sure?

DANITRA:

Yeah. When he was on Bonanza, I
read it.

DAMON:

No, you're thinking of Lorne
Greene.

DANITRA:

No, I think he's Jewish.

DAMON:

O.K., if you're sure. We're
gonna say Jew.... Bob.

(SFX: BELLS GOING OFF)

(AUDIENCE IS HEARD CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

TOM:

That's right. He was born Michael
Horowitz in Brooklyn New York.
Good, Johnson, ten points. O.K.,
let's continue...

(PICTURE OF MAYOR KOCH COMES ONTO THE
BIG BOARD)

TOM: (CONTD)

Mayor of New....

(SFX: RANDY BUZZES)

Well, I was going to read his
achievements but...O.K., Khutsens,
Ed Koch, Jew or not a Jew.

RANDY:

(WITH ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE)

He's a Jew, Bob.

(MORE)

(SFX: BELLS ARE HEARD IMMEDIATELY)

(APPLAUSE)

TOM:

Right, ten points, Knutsens.
And we'll be right back after
this word from Feldman's Kosher
pickles.

(CUT TO: ART CARD: WHICH READS, FELDMANS
PRESENTS , YOU MAKE THE CALL)

(MUSIC: SPORTS TYPE)

PARDO: (V.O.)

And now, Feldman's Kosher Pickles
presents, you make the call...

(CUT TO: VT: STOCK FOOTAGE OF SANDY
KOUFAX PITCHING)

PARDO: (V.O.) (CONTD)

On October 8, 1965 Sandy Koufax
shuts out the Minnesota Twins to
lead the Dodgers to victory in
the seventh game of the World
Series. You make the call, Sandy
Koufax, Jew, or Not a Jew?

(CUT TO: PRODUCT SHOT OF FELDMAN'S KOSHER
PICKLES)

PARDO: (V.O.) (CONTD)

Jew, Not A Jew, is brought to
you by Feldman's Kosher Pickles.
You don't have to be Jewish to like
Feldmans..But it helps!

(MORE)

(CUT TO: LOCKER ROOM FOOTAGE OF SANDY KOUFAX WEARING A STAR OF DAVID AROUND HIS NECK)

PARDO: (V.O.) (CONTD)

If you said Sandy Koufax was a
Jew, you made the right call! Sandy
Koufax, baseball great, Jew.

(END OF VT)

(CUT TO: GAME SHOW SET)

(MUSIC: GAME SHOW THEME INDICATING THE END OF THE SHOW)

TOM:

That's it for today. Tune in
tomorrow when we'll have...

(PICTURES OF THE PEOPLE HE MENTIONS
FLASH ON THE BIG BOARD)

TOM: (CONTD)

Bruce Springsteen, Goldie Hawn,
Jose Ferrer, and Casper Weinberger
on Jew, Not a Jew...

(APPLAUSE)

(QUICK CRAWL TO COME)

(FADE)

JAN 31 1986

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

January 29, 1986

TO: LEONARD YASEEN
MARC TANNENBAUM
MORT YARMON
HAINA JUST
MIKE LEACH
ULLA SCHNELL
JULIAN BACH
MIKE SLOSER

FROM: BETSY NOLAN

RE: NEW PRESS MATERIALS ON THE JESUS CONNECTION

Here is the new stuff hot off the press. I'm getting it out now.

Leonard will go to Philadelphia for a day of media on Thursday, March 6, and we'll start now with the southern Florida media and New York.

More to come.



The American Jewish
Committee

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December 6, 1985

Mr. Arthur Anderman
108-18 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Dear Mr. Anderman,

These are the titles from Rabbi Tanenbaum for his speeches
at Hillcrest:

Jews in the Modern World

- Israel and the Prospects for Peace
- Religious Fanaticism - Islamic, Christian, Jewish
- Jewish Unity - Luxury or Necessity?

Also, I have enclosed the glossy and the bio.

Happy Chanukah!

Sincerely,

Rita Reznik
Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

Script for Radio or Television Interview

INTERVIEWER: With us in the studio today is the author of a new book titled The Jesus Connection. Theologians of every faith have praised this publication and Billy Graham, Father Theodore Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum have written enthusiastic introductions. I would like to welcome the author, Leonard Yaseen to ----- . I wonder if you would tell us something about your objectives in The Jesus Connection.

LCY: Thank you. I am happy to be here. My primary purpose in writing The Jesus Connection is to encourage harmonious relationships between Christians and Jews. The principal stumbling block is the bizarre perpetuation of anti-Semitism. That is a mystery--why 100 generations of innocent people have been condemned for a crime they could not possibly have committed. Even a little boy playing baseball down the street with other kids is held accountable for a tragedy that occurred 2,000 years ago. We all know about prejudice. No one is immune. But anti-Semitism is not just another form of occasional bias--it is a chronic, contagious disease that has shattered millions of lives.

INTERVIEWER: I was particularly impressed with a statement you make in your book (Page __) "Appeals to innate prejudice can lead to a breakdown of all values. People are blinded to the danger of hate as a weapon that will be redirected toward themselves." Certainly, history has proven that the backlash of bigotry has toppled societies and nations. But please tell us, Mr. Yaseen, how does Jesus figure in all this?

LCY: Jesus, unknowingly, is the cause of Christian/Jewish alienation. At the same time, he is the reason why they should be compatible. Jesus, the symbol of Christianity, is the connection with Judaism. He was born and lived his entire life as a Jew. One billion decent, loving Christians revere him but are contemptuous of his origins. If he were to return to earth tomorrow, he would not be allowed to enter restricted luncheon, golf or yacht clubs.

INTERVIEWER: You say Jesus was the symbol; wasn't he also the founder of Christianity?

LCY: Jesus never heard of Christianity. He died as a Jew. Everything he preached or expanded upon was from the Hebrew Scriptures. His disciples were all Jews-- Saul, Simon and Levi became Paul, Peter and Matthew.

When visiting the heart of Christendom, St. Peter's in Rome, it's shocking to realize that it commemorates a man who was born a Jew--as were all the original saints.

INTERVIEWER: Many Christians have believed that Jesus was critical of Judaism and also that the Jews rejected him. What are your views on that?

LCY: 2,000 years ago there were diverse sects within Judaism just as there are today in Christianity. When Jesus criticized certain attitudes of the existing religious hierarchy, he was no more anti-Jewish than Luther or Calvin were anti-Christian in their criticism of the Church. Furthermore, he was not rejected by his followers--all of whom were Jewish--in fact, they believed he was the Messiah. Christianity was a Jewish sect for 40 years after Jesus' death. Services were held in synagogues. Even today church services are patterned after those synagogue customs.

INTERVIEWER: I was pleasantly surprised to read in your book how Christian services emulate the ideas set forth thousands of years ago in the Hebrew Scriptures--

the concept of heaven and hell, the Psalms, the words Amen and Hallelujah, the Lord's Prayer, the ritual of baptism, the observance of a Sabbath, the belief in a messiah and resurrection.

LCY:

All of that is true. Even Jesus' last words on the cross, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" are Hebrew Psalm 22.

INTERVIEWER:

You have mentioned that Christianity was a Jewish sect for 40 years. Why did it change?

LCY:

A series of events (combined) to change the course of history. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans, the principal Jewish/Christian synagogue was moved to Antioch, and its leaders felt that, in order to expand, converting pagans would enlarge the sect enormously. We must be reminded that Israel was the only nation that believed in one God--all others, with millions of pagans, were ripe for conversion. One very painful hurdle stood in the way--circumcision, which Judaism insisted upon but which pagan adults objected to. The elders of the church decided to abandon Judaism and eliminate this obstacle.

INTERVIEWER: You stress in The Jesus Connection that the Gospels were compiled about that time and that one of their major purposes was to take services out of the synagogue to establish a new religion. Thus, the "Jews" were blamed for the crucifixion of Jesus. Yet 3 of the 4 writers of the Gospels-- John, Matthew and Mark--were Jews. Would they have deliberately condemned their brethren to a future of torture and repression?

LCY: The answer lies somewhere between the first century when the Gospels were compiled and the fourth century when the first actual complete Gospel manuscripts were discovered. Perhaps the most baffling enigma of all time is entombed in that several hundred year interval. Were the Gospels altered, added to, slanted to reinforce the new religion? Reshaping events already veiled by the passage of time is not unusual. It is generally acknowledged that at least four persons contributed to the Gospel of John, and there are many changes, additions, and contradictions in the Hebrew Scriptures. For example, several differing versions of the Ten Commandments have found their way into ancient manuscripts.

INTERVIEWER: In order to support this possibility, you quote a number of eminent historians, among them Father John Hardon, author of Christianity in the Twentieth Century, who writes, "What developed was a tendency to obscure and embellish, if not distort, the facts to meet the demands of an idealistic faith," so that religious instruction, constantly repeated, conditioning successive generations with mythical arguments, became part of history. Do you believe, Mr. Yaseen, that something that was written 2,000 years ago is the cause of anti-Semitism?

LCY: The result of the Gospel message has been catastrophic. Jews have been accused of causing drought, famine, pestilence, floods, drinking the blood of Christian children. In the year 1298, 100,000 persons whose only sin was being born Jewish were hacked to death in southern Germany. They were accused of desecrating the Host--pounding the wafer, representing the body of Jesus, into a bloodstained mass. Centuries later scientists found that the yellowish wafer kept in damp cellars turned red because of a bacterial growth similar to streptomycin (a life-saving antibiotic discovered by a Jew, Selman Waksman).

INTERVIEWER: It is probably difficult for even the best meaning Christian to understand the tragic impact of bigotry. If only we could put Jesus' philosophy into effect and "love thy neighbor as thyself." Mr. Yaseen, to change the tone a bit, you have some very good news in The Jesus Connection. The book quotes Christian leaders who confirm that the Jews are not responsible for Jesus' death and that Christianity has no need to degrade any other religion to validate itself. This volume also contains a number of personal vignettes illustrating how attitudes are changing and how Christians in this century have risked their careers and their lives to help others. You have also included photographs and brief biographies of 150 persons of Jewish heritage who have enriched our shared universe.

LCY: I am sure many Christians say "Jews don't play a part in my life". Well, there is a vast difference between that abstract perception and real life. Christians identify with Jews every day--watching television, going to the cinema or concert, reading a book, visiting an art gallery, taking medicine, sometimes writing a Congressman. People should know how Jews have favorably contributed to their lives.

That is why I have included film and television entertainers who are the best ambassadors everywhere: Cary Grant, Paul Newman, Kirk Douglas, Goldie Hawn, Debra Winter, Michael Landon, Lorne Greene, Tony Randall, Joan Collins, Shatner and Nimoy of Star Trek--authors, artists and musicians: Bob Dylan, Victor Borge, Dinah Shore, Theodore White, Arthur Miller, Tom Stoppard, Mike Nichols, Louise Nevelson--medical pioneers, scientists and public servants Rickover, Kissinger, Harold Brown, Arthur Burns, William Paley, Jonas Salk-- and giants of the past in their own fields Fiorello LaGuardia, Douglas Fairbanks, Einstein, Freud.

INTERVIEWER:

I enjoyed your observation on Page ____ of The Jesus Connection. "In our day to day existence, Jews are no better or worse than others. And physically, not all Jews resemble Paul Newman or Paulette Goddard any more than Christians compare favorably with Robert Redford and Marilyn Monroe. The human form comes in all shapes and sizes.

LCY:

Well, I am trying to prove that it's not the label but the individual that counts. Today we face monumental problems demanding the brain power, judgment and dedication of all citizens of our composite society. People, not oil or coal, are the greatest resource. To waste human assets because of differences in how we pray to the same God doesn't make sense.

INTERVIEWER: (Closing comments)

