

AIFL President Celebrates 80th Birthday A TRIBUTE TO HERBERT TENZER

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On my desk, as I write these words, is a small bronze plaque that reads, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go, if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." That sign, whose message I have endeavored to incorporate into my own life, was given to me by Herbert Tenzer. Never have I come across a man who more completely personified this gem of wisdom.

Herbert Tenzer never claims credit, directly or indirectly—which may account for how much he has done and how far he has come in his four score years. Herbert has served with distinction in the U.S. House of Representatives and retired from his congressional duties undefeated. He is one of the most eminent



lawyers in our city, and his reputation in the real estate community is beyond reproach. He has founded and headed synagogues, Jewish schools, rescue operations, and all kinds of organizations dedicated to enhancing friendship and mutual trust amongst human beings. Thus, he has assumed leadership roles in the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and is president of the America-Israel Friendship League. A distinguished Orthodox layman and a vigorous leader of the United Jewish Appeal, he is aware of the possible frictions and tensions amongst his various loyalties—Jews and Christians, America and Israel, Blacks and Whites, Republicans and Democrats. Yet, Herb Tenzer is above all one who seeks to avoid confrontations, and to bring people and groups together. In this, he has been a most enviable success. Perhaps the greatest test of his personal, life-long triumph as a man of peace and conciliation is the warm, loving, and precious relationship between Herbert and his beloved Florrie!

The Talmud records a fascinating incident which Maimonides in his *Guide for the Perplexed* cites as one of the most precious Talmudic anecdotes. R. Hanina was present at a service conducted by a prayer-leader at a time before the Prayerbook was reduced to writing. In the repetition of the Amidah, he expanded upon the four standard phrases of praise (God, Who is Great, Mighty and Awesome) by adding a long string of elaborate adjectives of his own devising. When he finished, and looked to the rabbi with an obvious expectation of approval for his liturgical creativity, R. Hanina scolded him instead, and asked: "Is that all?" When the cantor showed his perplexity at this response, R. Hanina explained that really we ought not to say anything at all about the Creator, because everything we say implies that only that which we articulate is true of Him,

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Ambassador Honors Tenzer at Luncheon

On December 16, nearly 100 leaders of the American Jewish community and prominent supporters of Israel gathered at the Harmonie Club in New York City to pay tribute to the Honorable Herbert Tenzer for his tireless work on behalf of Israel. The luncheon was hosted by the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, Hon. Meir Rosenne.

The event highlighted Mr. Tenzer's work with the America-Israel Friendship League, as a number of friends and officials of the League delivered their greetings. In addition, a written message was delivered from President of Israel Chaim Herzog, commending him on his "splendid roster of past achievements" and the "effective functioning of the America-Israel Friendship League."

Journalists Exchange

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In addition, the Israelis travelled on a week-long excursion to Atlanta, Ga. and Washington, D.C. In both cities, they were hosted by local families. In Atlanta, the students visited the headquarters of Cable News Network (CNN), local television and radio stations, as well as the offices of local newspapers. In Washington, the group was briefed by State Department spokesmen and by officials at the Israel Embassy, thus gaining insight into press-government relations.

The participants' comments reflect overwhelming satisfaction with the program, and confirm the fulfillment of its goals. "I was able to enter the large world of the U.S. media, and could better understand how it works and how it succeeds," said Yoram Rotem of Galei Zahal, the Israel Defense Forces radio station. Orit Harel, of the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*, said the program "gave me a great overview and inside look at the dynamics of American journalism and a deeper understanding of the American press, as well as a chance to try out new fields in journalism."

The program for the American delegation shared the goal of providing cross-cultural exposure, but had a fundamentally different orientation than the program for the Israelis. It was designed to give the participants, all journalism students at New York University, a chance to witness firsthand the dynamic, pluralistic, and thriving democracy that is Israel.

The group spent 10 days in Jerusalem, five days in Haifa, eight days in Tel Aviv, and the remaining time touring the country from the Gaza Strip to the Golan Heights, from Judea and Samaria to Kibbutz Kfar Giladi at the Lebanese border. Throughout the four weeks, the students participated in meetings, interviews, and lectures with government officials, journalists, academicians, and representatives of Israeli minorities. Trips were also arranged to historical and archaeological sites.

These activities heightened the students' awareness of the problems, paradoxes, and personalities that make up Israel. In their future roles in the American media, their 1985 trip to Israel will form a foundation they can use to produce more sensitive and accurate reports on Israel in particular, and the Middle East in general.

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but no more, thus limiting His greatness. The four phrases of praise are permitted to us only because the "Men of the Great Assembly" used those adjectives, and therefore we must limit ourselves to those terms and no others.

In a manner of speaking, making provision for the obvious and infinite difference between the Creator and His creatures, this accounts for my feeling that all the genuine love and profound esteem that a grateful community feels for Herbert Tenzer is best left unsaid, lest what we really want to say—no matter how lengthy or eloquent—prove inadequate. Indeed, what can one say that will neither offend his innate modesty nor pale by comparison with his actual record?

I have had the personal privilege of knowing Herbert Tenzer for most of my life, and I have worked closely with him in his role as chairman of the board of trustees of Yeshiva University for almost a decade. I know that my experience writ large is that of all the various individuals and institutions whose lives Herbert has touched: a marvelous combination of strength and sympathy, perseverance and sensitivity, fortitude and faith, valor and charm.

The America-Israel Friendship League is joined by the host of organizations which have benefited from his leadership, and from the even greater number of individuals whose lives have been enriched by him, in wishing Herbert Tenzer a very happy 80th birthday. May he, and his beloved wife and family, enjoy the years to come in health and contentment, and with renewed vigor may he continue his creative contributions to his country, his people, his faith, and all humanity.

High School Ambassadors

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sadors of goodwill and understanding.

The function was attended by well over 200 guests. Besides the students, representatives from the various organizations cooperating in the exchange were present, as were civic leaders, educators, members of the religious establishment, and friends of the League. Nathan Quinones, chancellor of the New

BLACK LEADERS

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leaders participated in the seminars, which resulted in efforts to improve relations between Black Americans and Israel, and between Blacks and Jews here in the United States.

Perhaps the most exciting development, made by a group from the first seminar, was the commitment to bring two Ethiopian Jews to the United States to visit selected Black communities. Another participant, Ms. Gracia Hillman Bates, organized a meeting at the Joint Center for Political Studies in Washington, D.C., that dealt with the issues raised in the seminar. In addition, several participants have scheduled speaking engagements in their communities and in Jewish communities. A number of them have also joined or initiated Black-Jewish dialogue groups.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS

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Rev. Barnett Thorogood, of Norfolk, Va., best exemplified this appreciation when he noted Israel's commitment to safeguarding the holy sites for all faiths. "Now, under the Israeli government, I watched the Jews praying down in a hole—at what is just a remnant of a supporting wall—not even the Temple wall, and on the Temple Mount is a magnificent mosque where Muslims freely come to pray," he said, "Why doesn't the world appreciate this!"

The tremendous need for positive action on behalf of Israel among various churches throughout the States makes this group of leaders a most vital one, and the participants indeed returned with a commitment to effect change.

The unqualified success of this year's program has warranted its addition to Project Interchange's annual list of programs, along with the seminars for Hispanic and Black American leaders and key congressional aides.

York City Board of Education, was present, as was Isaiah Robinson, vice president of the AIFL and father of the high school exchange program. Mr. Herbert Rickman, special assistant to the mayor of New York, delivered a proclamation from Mayor Koch, designating November 18, 1985 as "America-Israel Student Friendship Day."