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OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infrac-
tion of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the
world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appropriate
remedial action in the event of threatened or actual invasion
or restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrimination
with respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of economic,
social and educational opportunity; to alleviate the consequences
of persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews,
wherever they may occur; and to compass these ends to administer
any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which may
be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the aforesaid
objects or for purposes comprehended therein.

—Extract from the Charter
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
HIGHLIGHTS OF 1949

BY IRVING M. ENGEL
Chairman, Executive Committee

It is the custom, in annual reports, to speak of achievements, and the record of
the American Jewish Committee in the past year is a record of progress and
accomplishment. As a matter of fact, as we embark this month upon our 44th year
of continuous service in the protection of the civil and religious rights of Jews, and
in the furtherance of human rights for all men, we can say in all truth that we are
better equipped than ever before to deal with the disease of anti-Semitism, as well
as with the other social evils of discrimination and racial and religious prejudice.

In the past year, however, the Committee did more than pursue its normal
objectives with its usual vigor. Because we are at a juncture in history, at this mid-
century mark, when we must consolidate our gains and prepare the ground for
new advances, we took time out to scrutinize closely the long-range purposes of
the agency itself. Nineteen hundred forty-nine was, above all, a year of re-evaluation
for us, a process in which policy and program were clarified, emphases were shifted,
and new sights were set.

Israel and its impact upon the thinking and attitudes of Jews everywhere, espe-
cially in our own country, naturally invoked our constant attention. Our long
service in helping to bring about the establishment of this haven for Jews who
need or wish to resettle was recognized by the new nation. In response to a personal
invitation from its prime minister, Jacob Blaustein, John Slawson and I visited
Israel last spring.

Visit to Israel

It was a tremendous experience. We found Israel bursting at the seams with
energy, facing its manifold social and economic problems in such high spirits as to
defy description. However, we realized that these problems could only be resolved
by outside aid—not only through large-scale financial aid from Jews in the U.S.
and other countries, but also through governmental loans and foreign investors.
Unquestionably, we felt, the AJC had a continuing role to play in helping this
fledgling nation, which is now the home of 1,000,000 of our fellow Jews. That role
we have played since our return. We have maintained close contact with President
Truman, our State Department and with Israeli officials in this country. Our services
have been warmly appreciated by all concerned. Recently, we have also been in
direct contact with Ambassador Roger Garreau, chairman of the U.N. Trusteeship
Council, on the internationalization of Jerusalem, and have discussed his proposals
with Israeli officials.

Sympathetic though we were and are with the upbuilding of Israel, we have
nonetheless realized that the new state could create serious problems for us. We were
forthright in expressing our concern to Mr. Ben-Gurion and other Israeli officials

1 Prepared for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Jewish Committee, held
in the Hotel Plaza, New York City, on January 20–22, 1950.
both there and in this country. We particularly urged that Israel should at all times
observe a clear distinction between Jews who are its nationals and Jews who are
nationals of other countries, and should represent itself as official spokesman only
for the former. It should, we emphasized, scrupulously avoid interference in the
internal affairs of American Jewry, as, for example, by promoting large-scale immi-
gration from this country, either as a duty to Israel or as an escape from American
anti-Semitism which, incidentally, is grossly over-estimated by many Israelis, though
not, fortunately by their responsible leaders.

On all of these points, we received ample reassurance. For the most part, Israeli
leaders have fully lived up to their assurances. In his address on the occasion of
Israel's admission to the U.N., Foreign Minister Sharett categorically declared that
Israel "claimed no allegiance from Jews in other countries, but held an open door
to all 'Jews who need a home.' " Nor has there been any effort by the Israeli Gov-
ernment to increase or exploit feelings of insecurity on the part of American Jews.
However, from expressions in the Israeli press, we are aware that there are elements
in that country, as there are here, too, who are wedded to the concept of world
Jewish nationalism that we abhor, and who contend that there is no possibility for
Jews to live fully and naturally except in Israel. We continuously follow the propa-
ganda put out by those who represent this faction both here and in Israel, and
frankly we have been disturbed by it. However, so long as it does not represent the
official point of view either of the Israeli Government or of the Zionist Organization
of America, we do not deem it necessary to take direct counteractive measures.

However, we were seriously alarmed when, on September 1, 1949, the JTA Bulletin
attributed to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion a statement indicating that Israel planned
to agitate for large-scale immigration of American Jews, particularly the young.
You are aware of the steps we took then—steps leading both to a clarification by
Mr. Ben-Gurion and to an important public statement by Mr. Daniel Frisch,
president of the ZOA. In his cable to Mr. Blaustein, the Israeli Prime Minister
stated that the hope of his Government was to obtain selected immigrants from
America, chiefly technicians, whose aid is so badly needed there. In general, it can
be said that there is no present indication that Israel plans to promote or expects
anything resembling mass emigration from this country. Mr. Frisch's statement,
too, was most constructive. In it, he affirmed the undivided political allegiance of
American Jews, declaring that as citizens of this country they remain here by choice
and look forward to a future in this country. He further asserted that the ZOA
has no program for stimulating large-scale emigration from this country. This
official statement went far toward undoing the effect of earlier expressions from
Zionist sources.

During the past year, we have also been deeply concerned by publicity emanating
from the American Council for Judaism. That organization has been the source of
numerous statements in the general press, including an article in the widely read
Reader's Digest, whose effect, whatever their intent may be, is to spread, and in our
view, even to create doubts of the loyalty of a substantial segment of American
Jews. While we share with the Council an unalterable hostility to world Jewish
nationalism, we differ with it as to the extent to which American Zionism reflects
that ideology. It was the consensus of our Executive Committee and of our chapters
that the Council's publicity is "injurious to the position of the Jew in America." The
officers of the AJC were accordingly instructed to negotiate with the Council in
the endeavor to persuade it to alter its publicity methods. A conference was held
between our leaders and theirs on December 16, 1949 and another is scheduled for
the end of January, 1950. We believe that we should exhaust all our resources of
negotiation and persuasion before proceeding differently against the Council. All
the other national agencies and most of the local members of NCRAC harbor the
most intense feelings in regard to the Council. It is only with the greatest difficulty
that we have restrained the NCRAC from issuing to date a vehement denunciation
of it in the general press.
America-Centered Attitude

What happened in 1949—and what is almost sure to recur in 1950 and perhaps subsequent years—is that the existence of the State of Israel posed new and extremely subtle and complicated problems for Jews. More than ever American Jews are under the necessity of making a wholesome adjustment to the fact of being at once Americans and Jews. Anticipating this need, we have for some time been considering, and, during 1949, took the first step toward initiating a program designed to inculcate and reinforce among American Jews a balanced America-centered attitude. Such an attitude, without diminishing sympathetic interest in Israel, will at once make American Jews proof against the propaganda of Jewish nationalism, and enable them to give fuller expression to their Jewishness. A two-year educational program has now been evolved and enthusiastically approved by our Executive Committee. As a beginning, there is now in production the first of a series of twenty to thirty leaflets, accompanied by discussion guides, whose general purpose is to strengthen faith in the Jewish future in America. Prepared for use in the first instance for our chapters, it is expected that their effects will be felt in far wider circles, and steps are being undertaken to enlist the cooperation for the entire program, of theological seminaries, of Jewish educators working both with children and with adults, of the Community Center movement, and other pivotal Jewish institutions.

So much for Israel and its impact. Let me now try to give you some idea of our work for Jews in other lands. I cannot hope to give you more than the sketchiest report of our activities in this or, indeed, in the many other areas in which our complex agency is so active. Some of our work is directly concerned with the Jewish communities in many different countries. To that I shall come presently. But first I want to tell you something of our activities in behalf of Jews regardless of their national allegiance or place of residence. One may cite as an example, our efforts in the field of restitution. It is self-evident that to the extent that compensation can be obtained for the Nazi despoliation of Jews, to that extent we lighten the load that falls on our international philanthropic agencies, notably, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Jewish Restitution Activities

Significant material aid is accruing to the Jews of several European countries through the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization established last year, and representing major Jewish agencies in the U.S., France, Great Britain and Germany. In Holland, at our prompting, representative Dutch Jewish groups formed a successor organization to marshal and administer heirless Jewish property in Holland. In March of 1949, King George of Greece signed a royal decree transferring to the Jewish Restitution Foundation heirless Jewish property in that kingdom, to be used, as elsewhere, to rebuild Jewish cultural and social welfare institutions. In Austria, efforts are continuing to work out legislation for the creation of a Jewish successor organization in that country. An improved restitution law for the British zone of Germany including provisions similar to those suggested by the AJC and other Jewish organizations, and bringing it closer to the law we were instrumental in having adopted in the American zone, was put into effect in April, 1949.

Pending the establishment of the promised heirless Jewish fund, we have asked the Austrian Government to give a rehabilitation loan of twenty-five million schillings to the Jewish community in Austria, and recently the United States and E.R.P. authorities agreed to the payment of an advance of five million schillings from U.S. army counterpart funds.

To obtain the passage of restitution laws and then to set them in effective operation are necessarily laborious tasks. For example, in the American zone of Germany,
163,000 claims were filed by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization of which the AJC is a constituent member. No one can predict what percentage of the claims will finally reach settlement, but even if the net result should fall short of full justice, the effort would have been worth making.

In the field of reparation from German external assets held in neutral countries, we have obtained fairly satisfactory results. The Paris Reparation Agreement provided that twenty-five million dollars of German assets be released to the International Refugee Organization, for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of Nazism. So far, Sweden and Switzerland have contributed on that basis a total of seventeen million dollars to the IRO. Efforts further along the line are proceeding. Early in the year, working closely with the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency and the World Jewish Congress, we succeeded in prevailing upon the IRO to repay nine million dollars to the JDC and the Jewish Agency for the transportation of DP's to Israel.

The American Jewish Committee also supported actively a bill introduced into our own Congress which would secure the release to a successor organization of heirless assets vested in the U.S. Custodian of Alien Property. The Senate has unanimously adopted the measure, but the House has so far failed to act. We are renewing our support in the current session.

It was an AJC brief submitted to the State and Justice Departments which resulted in an official legal opinion by these Departments directing the Custodian of Alien Property to deny, from now on, recognition to German transfers and confiscations of persecutee assets vested with the Custodian here, if such transfers and confiscations were based on German discriminatory laws. This ruling will prevent decisions by U.S. courts of the type brought forth in the well-known case of the Bernstein shipping lines.

Another important development of the last year was the enactment of a German indemnification law in the U.S. zone of occupation, which provides indemnification to Nazi victims for various types of non-property damages, like damages to life and limb, and also for a fixed payment for every month spent in prison or a concentration camp.

The victims of the war and Nazism have many needs, some of them so fundamental as to escape the eye of the average man. For example, to the individual survivors of the Nazi terror, particularly the displaced Jews of all nationalities, the Convention on Declaration of Death of Missing Persons, now under consideration by the United Nations, is of vital import. Thousands of surviving relatives of persons who have disappeared are in urgent need of declarations of death, which will be internationally recognized, in order to establish rights of inheritance, to re-marry, etc. Planning and projecting the Convention to meet this need was a major activity of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations this past year.

Work with U.N.

As you know, the AJC, the Anglo-Jewish Association of Great Britain, and the Alliance Israélite Universelle of France are the three constituent organizations of the Consultative Council, which has been operating for the past three years with the status of official consultant to the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations. Through the CCJO, the Committee enjoys a permanent, working relationship with the supreme international organization in the world today, rendering yeoman service to the cause of implementing the guarantees of human rights.

The work of the CCJO on behalf of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is known to you. In this connection, I might add that later this month, your president is due to testify on the ratification of the Convention before the Subcommittee on Genocide of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate.

During 1949, the Consultative Council worked closely with the Commission on
Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In a memorandum to the Sub-Commission last May, the CCJO submitted that the most effective method of protecting minority rights lay in removing the traditional concept of separate, corporate group rights from the thinking of national governments, except insofar as freedoms peculiar to the nature of the group are concerned, such as freedom of worship. The purpose of the Sub-Commission is to see that in all treaties now being written, discriminatory measures against certain groups in the population shall be removed while the rights peculiar to them shall be sufficiently safeguarded.

The CCJO at the same time urged the Human Rights Commission to grant to individuals, or to collective bodies representing them, the right to initiate action before international bodies through petitions on grievances connected with the violation of these rights. We also urged the need for a functionary to operate as, so to speak, an attorney-general. Almost 1,500 copies of this memorandum to the Commission on Human Rights are now in the hands of interested personages, including more than 1,000 members of U.N. delegations, government representatives, U.N. Secretariat officials and accredited consultant groups.

The fundamental services rendered by the CCJO are best described by a quote from its third annual report: "The best clause imaginable in a Covenant on Human Rights would be meaningless if that Covenant remained but a scrap of paper. . . . The international protection of human rights is within the realm of practicality; it has long since graduated from the 'do good' stage and entered into the realm of practical politics. It is incumbent upon private groups to prod the governments to stand by their declared policies and to assist them in giving form and substance to these policies."

At the fourth annual conference of the Consultative Council, held in London, on November 23 and 24, 1949, at which, incidentally, I represented the American Jewish Committee, the delegates elected Jacob Blaustein, our president, as a co-chairman of the Council, together with Leonard Stein, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and Professor René Cassin, president of the Alliance Israélite, who is also vice-president of the Council of State of the French Government and French delegate to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. Our representatives in the CCJO, in addition to our president, are Judge Proskauer, Senator Lehman and myself. The conference itself was attended by the French Ambassador to Great Britain, representatives of the British Foreign Office and of the International Law Association, and members of the British Parliament as observers.

The AJC's work relates to the UN in many ways. In addition to the support we give to the American Association for the UN, and to the tremendous quantity of materials we supply to the organizations cooperating annually in the observance of United Nations Week, we are working closely with the UNESCO Relations Staff of our Department of State, seeking areas of cooperation on those aspects of UNESCO's program which parallel our own aims and program.

Thus the Committee devotes its energies to measures intended to add to the dignity of human life everywhere in the world by creating protective barriers against discrimination, persecution and hardships resulting from war. We are continuing our support for a more liberal Displaced Persons bill on our own statute books. The present law has worked out rather better than expected as far as Jewish DP's are concerned. As of December 31, 1949, out of a total of 115,000 persons admitted to this country under it, 32,000 were Jews. Nevertheless, because the legislation is tinged with racist doctrine, we are working for a revision more in line with traditional American concepts.

Jewish Communities in Europe

This cursory survey of general measures and activities by the American Jewish Committee requires for a rounded picture mention of our efforts in individual
Jewish communities. The scope and ramification of these activities necessarily restrict this report to a mere citation of examples. This necessity becomes plainer as it is realized that in Western Europe alone, while, in general, it may be asserted that the situation is greatly improved, each community faces major problems of post-war reconstruction and is taxed by difficulties peculiar to itself. In France, for instance, where the controversy over the Holy Places in Jerusalem has led to the appearance of propaganda hostile to the Jews, and where some publications still circulate anti-Semitic canards, there is urgent need for an over-all defense program, yet no central, well-organized group in France exists for this purpose.

We are attempting through agencies in France to revitalize the Jewish community there, and to stimulate long-range programs of public information and community relations work.

In the Iron Curtain countries, Jews are undergoing both economic suffering and repression of their communal and cultural activities, and there are powerful urges to emigrate. Emigration, however, is absolutely forbidden by the U.S.S.R., and is made extremely difficult in the satellite countries. While we have, of course, no access to these lands, we have accumulated an enormous body of authentic information about Jewish life there. Pending more permanent publication of the facts concerning Jews behind the Iron Curtain, we have supplied memoranda to the U.S. State Department, emphasizing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Articles in the press and magazines, based on our data, and memoranda supplied to local Jewish community relations agencies, have helped to dispel the illusory notions held by many in this country concerning the position of Jews under Communism.

No survey of Jewish communities in Europe can ignore the fact that 20,000 to 30,000 Jews will remain in Germany after the last DP camp has closed. The AJC is, of course, concerned with their security and enjoyment of full citizenship rights. However, the German problem transcends the problem of the Jews in Germany. It is part of the problem of democracy versus totalitarianism. The American Government has assumed the responsibility of ensuring that Germany becomes a stable democratic country. Unfortunately, without some change in the American occupation program, it may again become a totalitarian, anti-Semitic nation and a threat to peace. A serious portent is the fact that former Nazis are infiltrating increasingly into positions of responsibility in the political as well as the economic life of that country. Realizing the extraordinary complexity of the problem, we recognize that strong pressure from groups representing an important cross-section of the American public would be required if any change in our government's policy is to be achieved. In association with the other NCRAC agencies, we have attempted—with results that are still dubious—to join forces with non-sectarian and Christian voluntary organizations to that end.

North Africa and the Middle East

The Arab lands of North Africa and the Middle East were a particularly critical area during 1949, as they had been in 1948. Reaction to the establishment of Israel and the defeat of the Arab armies put Jews in these countries into serious jeopardy of life as well as property. In protecting these Jews, we felt that direct contact with the representatives in the U.S. of the Arab governments, and indirect contact with the ruling powers in these countries would be more effective than publicity and public protests. To establish such contacts and to carry on negotiations with Arab leaders was not easy. But the obstacles were surmounted.

It is gratifying to report that the danger in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria has now subsided. In Iraq, the situation, while less appalling than it first appeared to be, is still not satisfactory. We have succeeded, however, in gaining postponement of the expulsion from Iran of 2,000 Iraqi Jews residing in that country, and have hopes
that, as the result of a conference of our president with the Shah of Iran, when he was in New York last month, the expulsion order will soon be rescinded.

In addition to these emergency measures, we contemplate a long-range program of aid to the Jewish communities in Africa and the Near East. It will be based on a comprehensive study undertaken some time ago, and now approaching completion, that we have made in cooperation with the Anglo-Jewish Association in the Near East and with the Alliance Israélite Universelle in North Africa.

For our overseas work, we maintain offices in Paris, London, and Buenos Aires, necessarily with very limited staffs. In addition, we have correspondents who keep us informed of current developments in ten countries, including Israel. Our overseas staff has found that publications, such as *Evidences* in Europe and *Yedies* in South America are an effective means of supplementing their direct activities and furthering our objectives. *Evidences*, published in French, has been welcomed by non-Jews, as well as Jews, as a needed source of information and a forum of opinion on Jewish matters. It serves a purpose similar to that of *Commentary* here. *Yedies* is a Yiddish news-letter which services 63 publications in 23 Latin American countries. It, too, has been extraordinarily well received. *Foreign Scene*, a monthly pamphlet in English, prepared by our own New York staff, has been the medium for giving our members and others in this country badly needed background on situations abroad. Unfortunately, the continuance of these valuable publications is threatened by our budgetary situation.

**Domestic Activities**

Limited though this report of our work for Jews beyond our own borders is, it is much more extensive than an account of our domestic activities can compass here. To do even rough justice to the multi-faceted programs zealously carried out by the members of our domestic affairs departments, including our field staffs, would require many times the amount of time at my disposal. Each of our domestic departments has its own program, ably directed under the Executive Vice-President by its department head, and guided by an active lay committee. These programs are closely coordinated and carefully related to the overall program of the agency.

Our civil rights program cuts across all of the domestic departments. I need not dwell on its rationale. With the abatement in recent years of organized anti-Semitism, we realized that we had been given a breathing space—and we trust a lengthy one—to attack the problem of group relations in a long-range and affirmative fashion. This meant that we had to concern ourselves with strengthening American democracy by bringing American practices affecting not only Jews, but the members of other minority groups more in line with American ideals. Obviously, this is no task for the AJC alone. Other national agencies, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are likewise involved. Our plans are coordinated in the first instance with those of the ADL, then with those of the other NCRAC agencies, and finally, with special-purpose agencies—to name one example, The National Council for a Permanent FEPC.

The Civil Rights program embraces plans for many years to come. During 1949, besides engaging in numerous immediate projects, we organized a staff committee, representing many departments whose function it was to develop a blueprint for future social action—at local, state, and national levels—which would envisage an ever more active role for the chapters. Such broad planning calls for an even greater intensification of our efforts to eliminate racial and religious discrimination from housing, employment, education, health, welfare and public accommodations. We have assigned to non-discriminatory housing top priority on the well-founded assumption that no single factor is more operative in promoting better group relations than providing opportunity for people to work, live and play together.

The most that can be offered in this report of our concerted efforts in these varied areas is a glimpse of the highlights, within the limits on such activities allowable
by law, in the area of discrimination in employment. Our Civil Rights Division has aided in organizing campaigns for state FEPC laws, preparing memoranda for use in a number of states on organizing state campaigns and drafting model bills, making recommendations on bills submitted for analysis, and advising community organizations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, California, Oregon and Minnesota.

In the interests of a national FEPC law, the Committee's efforts were likewise helpful. Chapters have been active in making representations to legislatures and community organizations. I testified in the name of our agency before a Congressional subcommittee on May 25, 1949. The AJC was among the organizations participating in the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization, in Washington on January 15-17, 1950, to urge enactment of the President's civil rights program at the current session of Congress.

In the sphere of housing, following the pattern that proved so successful in leading to New York's Quinn-Olliffe Act, the pioneering fair educational practices legislation against discrimination in college admissions, our New York Chapter was active in the creation of a State Committee on Discrimination in Housing. Activities on behalf of non-discriminatory housing, included aid to local communities attempting to secure non-discriminatory ordinances, representations and negotiations with the FHA and other agencies concerned with the financing of housing, and the submission jointly with the ADL of an amicus curiae brief in the Seawall v. Macwithey case, which concerned racial segregation in public housing projects in the City of East Orange, New Jersey.

In the field of education, the AJC, together with the ADL, submitted a joint amicus curiae brief in the case of Sweatt v. Painter before the Supreme Court of the U.S. This case sought to test the constitutionality of the "separate but equal" doctrine of educational facilities for Negroes in Southern universities.

The AJC has kept abreast of a variety of civil rights developments that have engaged the interest and concern of Americans. We took a position against the poll tax, urging its abolition on May 12, 1949, in testimony on behalf of the Norton Bill before the House Committee on Administration; we submitted a statement to appropriate subcommittees of both the House and the Senate, on June 22, 1949 in support of the proposed federal "Civil Rights Act of 1949"; we testified against segregation in the armed services on April 25, 1949 before the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services; we gave aid to the drive in New Jersey which resulted in the adoption of omnibus civil rights legislation which stands as a model for other states. We also collaborated with other organizations in bringing pressure upon the American Bowling Congress to discontinue its practice of excluding Negroes from tournaments.

Church and State

Another area of intensive activity, in which many departments collaborate, involves the relations of Church and State. We and other organizations have for some time been concerned lest the gradual encroachment of sectarianism into our public schools break down the traditional and essential separation between them. Here, there has been nothing to enlist the interest of the American public, as the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights enlisted it in the area of civil rights. We have therefore been cooperating closely with the group of outstanding educators, political scientists, and religious leaders who constitute the Institute of Church and State, which is calling attention to the danger. In addition we have been exceedingly active in the formulation through the NCRAC of sound policies for the guidance of the Jewish communities in such matters as released time, holiday observances, compulsory Bible reading, etc.

Now for a hasty glance at a very few other accomplishments. In the area of overt anti-Semitism, it must suffice to mention that not only did Jefferson Military College turn down an endowment from the bigoted George W. Armstrong but tax exemption
has been withdrawn from the foundation established by him for the propagation of anti-Semitism and anti-Negro bias. Mention should also be made of our handling of the Peekskill incident and its aftermath. The involvement of professional anti-Semites in that ugly incident was unearthed by us, and the facts made available to the proper authorities. Through our Community Service Department and our chapters, we advised what should be done in other cities where Paul Robeson appeared. In none did untoward incidents develop. In Peekskill itself, we and the ADL have initiated a long-range program for improving community relations.

Public Information and Education

The really massive work of our Department of Public Information and Education is particularly difficult to describe. It utilizes every conceivable avenue for creating an impact on the American public in relation to the manifold projects of the agency for eliminating stereotypes, creating a favorable climate of opinion, for civil rights and humane immigration legislation, disassociating Jews and Communism, etc., etc. The media vary from comic books and radio and television programs to newspaper and magazine articles, audio-visual materials, speeches by opinion-molders, and the like. The special area divisions within this department—labor, veterans, youth, inter-faith—each in its own way is making an important contribution. Our National Labor Service continues its progress toward its goal of having organized labor make intergroup relations a part of its own program. Similarly, our Youth Division is making youth organizations aware of their responsibility to give their members a healthy orientation in human relations. Our excellent contacts with Veterans' organizations, too, are reflected in many of their policies. We can report further progress, too, in the momentous matter of Christian religious teachings. Theological seminars are proving highly sympathetic, and we have obtained the hearty cooperation of the editors of Protestant Sunday School materials in respect to interpretation of the crucifixion. The Catholic Biblical Association is surveying with us parochial school textbooks.

Studies in Prejudice

Our Scientific Research Department is making notable contributions, both immediate and long-range, to the understanding and combatting of anti-Semitism and other group prejudices. Its findings, derived from intensive interviewing of representative samples of the population in Baltimore and the Twin Cities, have substituted knowledge for guesswork as to how other people there feel about Jews, and how Jews feel about themselves. With the help of our Community Service Department and our local chapters, these findings are interpreted to the local Jewish communities and strongly influence local programming. Through other surveys conducted by the Scientific Research Department, we have derived invaluable information about the attitudes of the American public toward Israel, the most striking being that the ordinary American is uninformed and uninterested on that subject that is constantly so much to the fore and frequently so controversial in the Jewish community. One phase of the Department's long-range activity is nearing completion. Soon, all five of its studies probing the roots of anti-Semitism in the individual will have been published. Three have already appeared, and have been enthusiastically reviewed. Max Lerner, for example, hailed them as epochal and overdue in throwing new light on the causation of prejudice. There can be no doubt that they will stimulate a host of corollary researches by social scientists in the years ahead. Meanwhile, our Department has already embarked on a new series of scientific studies, of which the unit is not the individual, but the group. These researches into group dynamics are expected to add enormously to understanding the origin and development of social tensions.

Our Community Service and Community Activities Departments are our links
with the Jewish community. Through the former we channel to local community organizations and to key individuals our materials, our project suggestions, and, not least, our reasoned and reasonable strategies of community relations. Through the latter department, last year, we added three new chapters, for a total of 38, with a membership of some 18,000. Increasingly, these chapters affect the thinking of the national organization. Increasingly, too, they are making themselves felt at the local level. Many of them have undertaken important specific projects, often in conjunction with local school systems or local colleges. Others have put their emphasis on building up local non-sectarian community relations agencies, or developing interracial councils among people living in tension-ridden areas. And the chapters have continued to demonstrate too, their value in disseminating our philosophy of Jewish life. Through the medium of discussion groups on important topics, their members absorb our point of view, and become its spokesmen in the local Community Relations Councils and among their friends throughout the community.

The influence which our magazine, *Commentary*, wields among intellectuals both here and abroad, goes on increasing. For example, two basic social science textbooks, published in 1949, reprinted several articles each; several colleges and universities report using its contents in courses and seminars; and the State Department published in the German Occupation Zone and broadcast over the Voice of America no fewer than twenty *Commentary* articles.

For basic information and standard reference, the *American Jewish Year Book* has long been unique and indispensable. We have now taken over its publication in addition to its editing. The 51st volume, just out, has been given expanded content and handsome new format.

**Inter-Agency Relationships**

Our inter-agency relationships have never been better. Not only do we raise funds jointly with the ADL, but program coordination between the two organizations is smoother than ever before. A joint lay committee appointed last year to adjudicate inter-agency differences, has received almost no complaints. A year ago we were in conflict with the Jewish Labor Committee. That conflict has been settled to the complete satisfaction of both parties, and machinery is operating whereby there is coordination of our labor program with that of both the ADL and the JLC. As regards the over-all coordinating agency, the NCRAC, our representatives were among the chief architects of the plan devised at its last plenary session to improve its operations, and our lay and staff people are very active in its executive and numerous functional committees. Last year’s report referred to our initial misunderstandings but improving relations with the Large City Budget Conference, a group of several of the most important Welfare Funds. In the interim there has been agreement that an evaluative study of the whole community relations field, to be financed by the LCBC, shall be made via NCRAC, the plan of study to be acceptable to a joint committee, in which the national agency members of NCRAC are to have four votes, the local members, four, and the LCBC, two.

We of the American Jewish Committee take pride in what we have been able to do, as Americans and as Jews. We feel we have given a full measure of substantial help to the cause of greater security, dignity, inward peace and honor for Jews the world over. While not invariably successful in our manifold endeavors, among all people, everywhere, we have retained our integrity. We have not sought selfishly our own organizational ends. We have objectively weighed and calmly determined our actions, and have demonstrated that our sole bias is that pardonable one which leads us fervently to seek to protect the security of Jews, to further the cause of American democracy, and to support the freedoms of all mankind.
THE STATEMENT OF VIEWS

We of the American Jewish Committee are associated under the mandate of our Charter, adopted in 1906, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews in any part of the world and to secure equality of economic, social and educational opportunity.

We join with all Americans, of whatever creed or color, who devote themselves to the continued fight against those who through bigotry and prejudice endeavor to imperil the rights of any group in this land and thus divide our country and undermine the foundations of American liberty.

We join with men of good will everywhere in the effort to obtain for all mankind the essential human rights, as set out in America's basic documents of freedom. We hail the historic Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We call upon our own nation and the nations of the world to protect and enforce these rights by every appropriate means, domestic and international. We urge upon our own and all other countries the adoption of liberal, just and non-discriminatory immigration laws.

United with our brethren of all faiths in the bond of American citizenship, we cherish the ideals and traditions of America and dedicate ourselves to the common effort to develop and enrich its cultural and political life.

We reaffirm our devotion to our religion and pledge ourselves to maintain and perpetuate the vitality of our spiritual heritage, which has constituted and will continue to constitute a basic contribution to the development of civilization and democracy.

We hold the establishment of the State of Israel to be an event of historic significance. We applaud its recognition by our own and other governments. We look forward to Israel's assumption of its full place among the family of nations as a government guaranteeing complete equality to all its inhabitants, without regard to race, creed or national origin, and as an advocate of liberty and peace in the Near East and throughout the world. Citizens of the United States are Americans and citizens of Israel are Israelis; this we affirm with all its implications; and just as our own government speaks only for its citizens, so Israel speaks only for its citizens. Within the framework of American interests, we shall aid in the upbuilding of Israel as a vital spiritual and cultural center and in the development of its capacity to provide a free and dignified life for those who desire to make it their home.

In these critical times, when totalitarian forces and ideas again threaten the liberties of the world, we rededicate ourselves to the struggle for the maintenance and advancement of individual dignity and freedom.

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Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-SECOND YEAR

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(as of August 1, 1950)

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1st Vice-President
JUSTICE HORACE STERN

2nd Vice-President
EDWIN WOLF, 2nd

Treasurer
SOL SATINSKY

Secretary and Executive Secretary
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DR. JACOB R. MARCUS

Editor
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL

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REV. DR. JUDAH I. GOLDIN .................................... Iowa City
REV. DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN ................................ Chicago
REV. DR. ROBERT GORDIS .................................... Rockaway Park

1 Term expires in 1951.  2 Term expires in 1952.  3 Term expires in 1953.
THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

The sixty-second Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on February 26, 1950, at The Society’s National Headquarters, 222 North 15th Street, in Philadelphia, Pa., at four o’clock in the afternoon. The Honorable Louis E. Levinthal, President of The Society, presided. Members of the Board of Trustees and of the Publication Committee, as well as a number of members, were in attendance.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee takes pleasure in presenting this report. We unanimously recommend the following as officers, honorary officers, and trustees of The Society, the officers and honorary officers for a one year term, and the trustees for terms as designated.

OFFICERS

JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, President (2nd term)
JUSTICE HORACE STERN, 1st Vice-President (39th term)
EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, 2nd Vice-President (2nd term)
SOL SATINSKY, Treasurer (2nd term)
LESKER ZUSSMAN, Secretary and Executive Secretary (1st term)
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, Chairman, Publication Committee (2nd term)
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, Editor (12th term)
HONORARY OFFICERS

J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., Honorary President

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Jacob Blaustein, Baltimore
Samuel Bronfman, Montreal
Rev. Dr. Henry Cohen, Galveston
Mrs. Irving M. Engel, New York
Lee M. Friedman, Boston
Frank Goldman, Lowell
Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, New York
Mrs. Moses L. Issacs, New York
Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, New York
James Marshall, New York
Rabbi Irving Miller, New York
Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, Philadelphia
Mrs. Louis A. Rosett, New Rochelle
Murray Seasongood, Cincinnati
Philip Slomovitz, Detroit
Michael A. Stavitsky, Newark
Frank L. Weil, New York

TRUSTEES

Philip W. Amram, Washington (1 year)
Walter H. Annenberg, Philadelphia (2 years)
Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia (3 years)
Dr. Benjamin Fine, New York (3 years)
Bernard L. Frankel, Philadelphia (2 years)
Dr. M. Leo Gitelson, New York (1 year)
Jacob C. Gutman, Philadelphia (3 years)
Dr. Maurice Jacobs, Philadelphia (3 years)
Al Paul Lepton, Philadelphia (1 year)
Judge Benjamin Lenchner, Pittsburgh (1 year)
Judge Theodore Levin, Detroit (1 year)
Howard S. Levy, Philadelphia (2 years)
Philip W. Lown, Auburn (1 year)
Sidney Neumann, Philadelphia (2 years)
Gen. Eugene Oberdorfer, Atlanta (1 year)
Dr. Kurt Peiser, Philadelphia (3 years)
Louis M. Rabinowitz, New York (1 year)
Frank J. Rubenstein, Baltimore (2 years)
Louis H. Silver, Chicago (1 year)
Harry Starr, New York (3 years)
Dewey D. Stone, Brockton (3 years)
Roger W. Straus, Jr., New York (3 years)
Adm. Lewis L. Strauss, New York (3 years)
Morton H. Wilmer, Washington (1 year)
Howard A. Wolf, Philadelphia (2 years)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Rubenstein, Chairman
Samuel H. Daroff
Jacob C. Gutman
Edwin Wolf, 2nd
The report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, submitted the following changes in the Constitution of The Society:

Article III, Section I, shall be changed to read "thirty trustees," in place of "eighteen trustees" as at present.

Article III, Section II, shall be changed to read "thirty trustees divided into three groups of ten trustees each," in place of "eighteen trustees" as at present.

These constitutional changes were adopted unanimously.

The President, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, submitted his Annual Report (as printed below).

The Treasurer, Sol Satinsky, submitted the financial report (as printed on page 550).

Dr. Solomon Grayzel offered the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION EXTENDED TO DR. MAURICE JACOBS**

Dr. Maurice Jacobs has served The Jewish Publication Society for fourteen years, first as Executive Secretary and later as Executive Vice-President. His rare understanding of the problems faced by the American Jewish Community, his devotion to Jewish life, his fervent interest in the dissemination of Jewish culture, as well as his inexhaustible energy, his executive ability and his personal acceptability among wide and varied circles, have ever been at the service of The Society. He helped to give it new life; he extended the circle of its friends; he consistently advocated the expansion of its program.

In recognition of his qualities and in appreciation of his devoted services, The Jewish Publication Society, in Annual Meeting assembled

**RESOLVED that The Jewish Publication Society, recognizing these qualities and appreciating his devoted services express to Dr. Maurice Jacobs the gratitude of its Officers, Trustees and members; that it extend to him every good wish for his success in whatever he undertakes; and that it enter this minute upon its records and publish it in Volume 52 of the American Jewish Year Book.**

In seconding the above Resolution, Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., expressed his personal appreciation of Dr. Jacobs' assistance during the period of his incumbency as President of The Society.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein was then called upon for an address. In speaking of the challenges which The Society must meet for the good of American Judaism, the speaker urged greater attention to the publication of books which may serve to revitalize the Jewish spirit. He called special attention to the need for republishing and translating Jewish classical and religious literature.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LESSER ZUSSMAN,
Secretary

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**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1949**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is with mixed feelings of gratification and disappointment, of pleasure and regret—but definitely with increased faith in the future of our Society—that I submit this report of its activities and operations for the calendar year 1949.

I am happy to be able to record that, despite staggering financial difficulties, our
organization continued its valuable educational and cultural service without the slightest interruption or abatement. We published all the books we had planned to issue during the year, and our publications were hailed by the reviewers and approved by our members as worthwhile additions to the impressive collection of excellent books of Jewish interest produced by our Society during the 62 years of its existence.

1948 Publications During 1949

At our last annual meeting, it was reported that three of our 1948 books were still unpublished: The Purim Anthology, by Philip Goodman, Volume 50 of the Year Book, and To Dwell in Safety, by Mark Wischnitzer. All three volumes were distributed during 1949. We had a printing of 4,000 copies of The Purim Anthology, of which 2,913 were sent to members and 380 were sold during 1949. This book, which is the third volume in our Holiday Series, is a fitting companion to our Hannukah and Sabbath books, and should, like the others, be popular and saleable for years to come. Volume 50 of the Year Book was issued early in 1949. We have distributed 2,633 copies of the Year Book to members and have sold 751 copies. To Dwell in Safety had a printing of 3,000 copies, of which 1,526 were sent to members and 494 sold.

1949 Publication Program

The first title of 1949 was the two-volume set of Trial and Error, the autobiography of Chaim Weizmann, which we published with Harper and Brothers. Our original order of 5,000 sets was distributed very rapidly, and it was necessary to go to press again. We distributed 7,074 sets to our members and sold 100 sets during the year. The second title in the 1949 list was In the Beginning, the second volume of Dr. Solomon Goldman's books on the Bible. This, too, was co-published with Harper and Brothers. Of our first printing of 5,000 copies, 2,860 were sent to members and 48 sold. We have a sufficient supply on hand of each of these publications to take care of our needs for the year 1950. The third title, and the fourth volume, was Dr. Julian Morgenstern's collection of essays, As a Mighty Stream. Of a printing of 3,000, 1,064 were distributed to members and 105 were sold in 1949. The fourth title was the four-volume set of The Jews, edited by Louis Finkelstein, co-published with Harper and Brothers. Our original order called for 4,000 sets, of which 3,000 were financed by the Gitelson Fund and 1,000 by The Society. These volumes were distributed at the very end of the year. We sent 2,208 sets to members and sold 16 sets, up to January 1, 1950. The final publication, Volume 51 of the Year Book, was the first book distributed under the new arrangement with the American Jewish Committee, whereby the Committee, in addition to continuing to serve as Editor, joins The Society as co-publisher of the Year Book and is also responsible for the printing of the volume and the distribution of all copies not reserved for The Society's membership. We bought an edition of 3,000 copies for distribution to our members. We sent out 1,759 copies prior to January 1st, and since that date we sent out additional copies, exhausting the first binding of 2,000.

The co-publishing of eight of the nine volumes included in our program for 1949 is a departure from our general practice. It may be questionable whether that was the best policy for us to pursue. It should, however, be remembered that our corporate purpose is not only the "publication" but also the "dissemination" of literary works. Indeed, during the early history of The Society, when Henrietta Szold was our Secretary, we republished four works issued by other publishers at earlier dates. All of our 1949 co-publications appeared simultaneously with the book-trade editions. Our members benefited substantially by receiving these valuable volumes at the special membership rate. Furthermore, the co-publication of so
many of our works is probably the principal reason for our having been able to distribute our books when scheduled. As already indicated, we not only published during 1949 the three unpublished volumes of our 1948 program, but we also distributed all nine books planned for last year, so that a total of twelve volumes were distributed during this twelve-month period.

It should be borne in mind that we are primarily interested in initiating the publication of good, solid literary works, regardless of their "commercial" worth. But it may be reasonably assumed that trade publishers are willing and ready to publish popular, readable books of Jewish interest, and that authors generally will prefer a commercial publisher's imprimatur. Co-publication, therefore, will frequently prove mutually advantageous to all parties concerned, including The Society. It should, however, remain our principal task to encourage and stimulate authors to write needful and useful books which otherwise might not be produced, and this task we should perform whether "profitable" or not, from the businessman's point of view. We should also do more than we have in the recent past been able to do in sponsoring the translation of classic and contemporary books of major Jewish interest appearing in Hebrew and other languages. In this way we shall best meet our two-fold corporate responsibility of both publishing and disseminating works "giving instruction in the principles of the Jewish religion and in Jewish history and literature."

Reprints

Because of our limited finances and the necessity to reduce our inventory, our reprint program for 1949 was temporarily and reluctantly curtailed. During 1948, we had reprinted 33 titles (37 volumes) in a total amount of over 98,000 copies, of which 25,000 were the Bible. This year we reprinted 4,000 copies of Graetz's *History of the Jews*, which should be more than sufficient for our early requirements. A special printing of 8,450 copies of the Bible, just enough to meet our immediate needs, was completed in the early fall. Our entire reserve stock of the Bible has been disposed of, and it will be necessary for us to print additional copies during this year. *Pathways through the Bible* had a printing of 4,944 copies, completed in September, and entirely sold out before the end of the year.

We hope that the time will soon come when we may afford to reprint many more of our standard old publications in sufficient quantities to supply the requirements of our members and of the book trade. We are, however, determined not to increase our inventory of books beyond our current needs. Sound business practice and ordinary common sense dictate caution in refraining from tying up our inadequate cash resources in slow-moving stocks of books.

Publication Distribution

The total number of books distributed during the year 1949 was 110,310 (substantially less than the total of 124,500 distributed in 1948). We distributed 53,565 to our members, as against 61,973 in 1948, and we sold 52,291 copies, as against 55,755 in 1948. The balance of 4,454 were distributed as bonus or free books.

Jewish Book Month and Religious Book Week

We are proud of the part our Society has played in fostering the promotion of Jewish Book Month, which is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board and its Jewish Book Council. Our Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, is the President of the Council and Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, a member of our Publication Committee and the author of one of our most popular publications, is the Editor of *In Jewish Bookland*, published by the Council. We are also pleased to note that
Dr. Maurice Jacobs has recently been named Chairman of the Publication Committee of the Center Division of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

During the celebration in 1949 of Religious Book Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, three of the four Jewish publications singled out for recognition were works published by The Society: Solomon Goldman's *Book of Books*, Friedman's *Pilgrims in a New Land*, and Goodman's *The Purim Anthology*.

**Public Relations**

We are indebted to the English-Jewish, the Yiddish, and the Hebrew press throughout the world for their cooperation in publicizing and reviewing the works of The Society. Unfortunately, our organization still is less known than its record and program merit, and the advantages to be derived from membership in it are not generally appreciated. Your Officers are hopeful that an active campaign of publicity may result in bringing home to more English-speaking Jews the notable service of The Jewish Publication Society of America, and may lead to a substantial increase in its membership and its financial support. We have a dramatic story to tell. It is no minor accomplishment to have placed at the disposal of the English-reading world more than 250 titles, and to have distributed more than four million volumes. We should not rely solely on an occasional book-review for a casual reference to The Society as publisher. The recent article by Dr. Grayzel in *The New Palestine*, with a circulation of over 250,000, is an illustration of the type of legitimate and appropriate publicity which, if multiplied in other journals and periodicals, may be expected to arouse the dormant interest of intelligent Jewish men and women and to enlist their membership and support.

**The Press**

I am pleased to report that after a delay of over three years from the time we purchased our building, we were able to move the Press into our own establishment. The moving was completed at the end of the year, and we are now operating one of the finest typesetting plants in America. We have ample space for expansion, and adequate room for storage of standing type. The Press billed $144,335 in 1949, as against $163,383 in 1948. Our work for customers amounted to $135,014, as against $145,569 in 1948, and our work for The Society amounted to $9,320, as against $17,814 the previous year.

During the year 1949, we filled the following contracts at the Press:

- A reprint of several volumes in the "Harishon" series for the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education; four issues of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*;
- Kisch's *Jewry-Law in Medieval Germany* for the American Academy for Jewish Research; *Proceedings XVII and XVIII* for the American Academy for Jewish Research; *Central Conference of American Rabbis Year Book*, Volumes 58 and 59;
- four issues of *Conservative Judaism* for the Rabbinical Assembly of America; four issues of the *American Jewish Historical Society Publications*; four issues of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*; *Hebrew Union College Annual*, Volumes XXI and XXII; two pamphlets for the National Interfraternity Conference and the *National Interfraternity Conference Year Book*; two issues of the *Westminster Theological Journal*; *Structure and Philosophy of Curriculum* by Louis Katzoff; the completion of the Old Testament and New Testament of the *Ragoli Bible* for the American Bible Society; composition for the two-volume Marx *Festschrift* for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; *1948 Rabbinical Assembly Year Book*; reprint of *Reshith Binah* for Dr. Sidney Fish; *Hiwi al-Balkhi* for Dr. Judah Rosenthal; a reprint of *Sippuri I* for Gratz College; composition on Goldman's *In the Beginning* for Harper and Brothers; Hebrew typesetting for a new book by Oscar Divinsky; Volume 8 of the *Jewish Book Annual* for the Jewish Book
Council of America; three Song Books for the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education; a reprint of Volume I of Elements of Hebrew for the Jewish Education Committee of New York; a volume in Latin for the Mediaeval Academy of America; the Greek composition for the first volume in the Dropsie College series on the Apocrypha; Finkelstein's Ha-Nesiut Ve-Kat Ha-Perushim for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; the composition on the first book of Scrolls for the American School of Oriental Research; composition on Solomon Goldman's Letter to the Jews of Yemen; part of the composition on the Diesendruck Book of Essays for the Hebrew Union College; composition on the Lexicon of the Bible in Yiddish for the Yehoash Bible Committee; part of the composition for Chomsky's Kimhi's Grammar; part of the composition on a new book for Dr. Philip Bookstaber; composition on Finkelstein's Abot of Rabbi Nathan for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; part of the composition for a book in Hebrew by Dr. Moshe Davis of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and several smaller contracts.

We have a right to be proud of the invaluable contribution of our Press in the field of scholarship. But important as this adjunct to our Society's functions may be, it is still an adjunct. We must not permit our concern with the Press to result in the subordination of the major and prior objectives of The Society.

Membership Statistics

The status of our membership enrollment in 1949 was extremely disheartening. When it is borne in mind that back in 1913 we had a membership of 11,568; in 1917, 14,245; in 1920, 16,436; and that our membership at the end of 1948 was 12,129, one can readily understand why my predecessor said in his last presidential report that "our membership should be five times what it is today." It is discouraging to be compelled to report that of the total of only 11,093 members at the end of 1949, we enrolled 3,240 new members during the year and we lost 4,276 of our prior year's membership. This is obviously a dangerous condition which must be corrected at once. We must put first things first. We must concentrate our efforts on membership, stressing the value of Library and Contributing memberships, of $11.50 and $17.25 per annum respectively. We must never forget that to do its best work, our Society must have the encouragement not only of large numbers of readers but also the support of large numbers of patrons.

Treasurer's Report

A condensed audited report of the finances for the year 1949 has been distributed. Please note that our income from dues, $100,566, is the largest in the history of The Society. You will recall that for the first time we have charged 25¢ per book for postage in the United States, and 40¢ for postage outside the United States. This represents an increase of only 6% in our charge to members, although publication costs have risen 85% in recent years. Book sales amounted to $91,695, which is quite gratifying, in view of the fact that of the total of 12 books issued in 1949 (three of which were of the 1948 program), eight were co-published with commercial concerns and we were permitted to sell those volumes to our members only.

An analysis of the Treasurer's report for the year 1948 showed a bookkeeping loss of $30,432.96, to which should be added the sum of $2,748.41 received as non-recurring donations during that period, so that the total loss in operations amounted to $33,181.37 for 1948. The prior year of 1947 showed a real loss of $15,183.99 (made up of the bookkeeping net loss of $11,091.36 plus the non-recurring donations of $2,286.90 from Welfare Funds and $1,805.73 from individuals). For the year 1946, we had a loss of $14,905.80 (made up of the bookkeeping net loss of $10,720.62, plus non-recurring donations of $3,386.75 from Welfare Funds, and $798.43 from
individuals). In the year 1945, while the accountant’s profit and loss statement showed a net profit of $230.02, there was actually an operating loss of $5,737.06 that year also (for the non-recurring donations were $3,281.25 from Welfare Funds and $2,685.83 from individuals). It will thus be seen that during the four years immediately preceding 1949, we had lost in operations a total of $69,008.22. It should be obvious that no enterprise—private or public—can long survive if its expenditures year after year exceed its income.

My predecessor pointed out in his last report the gravity of our fiscal situation. “With inadequate working capital, capital funds tied up in inventory, stock and plant, your Society had to increase its bank loans and indebtedness. . . . Your Officers and Trustees have carefully reviewed our 1949 program and have budgeted the affairs of The Society so that we definitely expect to operate in the black.” He went on: “By adding a mailing fee of 25¢ per book, we will be netting an additional $10,000. . . . By carefully budgeting the cost of new books and eliminating the number of reprints in proportion to our needs, the budget for 1949 will definitely be balanced, and we hope to return some of the money borrowed to carry on in 1948.” I am sorry to have to report that we have not been able to realize those expectations. As the Treasurer’s report indicates, we incurred a further deficit in 1949, though not nearly to the same extent as in recent years. If it had not been for the generous support of a group of friends of The Society, who loaned it $49,500 to meet its most pressing needs, I dread to contemplate what might have happened. Fortunately, too, with the help of Mr. Justice Horace Stern, Mr. Sol Satinsky and Mr. Edwin Wolf, II, and with the cooperation of Dr. Kurt Peiser and a few other friends of The Society, we succeeded in obtaining contributions in cash of $38,837 and pledges of $4,785. We now have a substantial beginning toward the $250,000 capital working fund so vitally needed by The Society. We hope that in the near future other communities, in addition to Philadelphia, will undertake to raise the balance of this Fund. While visiting Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Montreal and New York, for purposes unconnected with The Society, I explored the possibilities of obtaining substantial contributions for The Society. I am convinced that we can speedily attain our goal of $250,000 if we have the united and active support of the friends of Jewish culture and literature.

**Internal Executive Changes**

When I assumed the presidency last March I said that the administration of my predecessor had established an enviable record in many directions, and that “not the least of his noteworthy achievements was the enlistment of the valuable services of Maurice Jacobs.” I went on to say that I looked forward with pleasure to an even closer association with him than I had been privileged to enjoy during the ten years of my chairmanship of the Publication Committee. You will therefore realize how sorry I am to report that on December 9, 1949, Dr. Jacobs tendered his resignation which the Board of Trustees unanimously but regretfully accepted. He has agreed to continue until March 15, 1950, when he will have concluded fourteen years of continuous service with The Society. In leaving his post as the business manager of our organization, he takes with him our gratitude for his devoted labors and our warmest good wishes for his happiness and success in whatever enterprise or activities he may engage in the future. I am confident that he will assist and cooperate with us whenever called upon.

We were fortunate in being able to secure, on very short notice, the services of Mr. Lesser Zussman as our Executive Secretary. We hope and believe that he will prove an efficient director of our business affairs, and that under his management our membership will be steadily and substantially increased, so that we may be enabled to publish more and better books year after year. We also feel confident that with his experience and training, more particularly his background as a community welfare-fund executive, he will prove helpful in obtaining support from
community funds throughout the country, to supplement our normal income and to enable us to enrich and popularize Jewish literature and scholarship. When American Jewry is made aware of the role The Society has played, and can in the future play, I am certain that our organization will receive the full measure of support it so urgently needs and so richly deserves.

Necrology

During the past year The Society suffered the loss by death of one of its distinguished authors, Dr. Henry Berkowitz, author of *The Fire-Eater* and *Boot Camp*, who died on March 1, 1949, and of two of the outstanding friends of our Society: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, an Honorary Vice-President, who died on April 19, 1949, and Dr. David Philipson, a member of our Publication Committee, of our Jewish Classics Committee, and of the Board of Editors of our Bible translation, and the author of our *Old European Jewries* and *Letters of Rebecca Gratz*, who died on June 29, 1949. Memorial resolutions, adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee, appear in Volume 51 of the *Year Book*, at page 575.

Publication Committee

Our Publication Committee, composed as it is of many of the outstanding Jewish scholars, writers and teachers in this country, as well as a few laymen with Jewish literary interests, provides a gratifying demonstration of unity of action, without uniformity of opinion, in the field of Jewish communal service. There is an erroneous impression among some people that our Committee has followed a “partisan” policy with respect to books which fall within a religious or political conflict. On the other hand the Committee is sometimes criticized for taking a weak “neutral” position concerning such controversial literary products. The truth is that the Committee has been guided by considerations of genuine merit and sound criteria of public welfare. There has been no sign of fanaticism or dogmatism in any of its decisions. On the contrary, a spirit of mutual respect for the opinions of others has constantly prevailed. Here we have another illustration of the truth of the timely and significant statement of David E. Lilienthal in his recent book *This I Believe*: “The considered judgment of men who reason together embodies more than ‘tolerance,’ which is, after all, a somewhat thin and negative concept. It is rather based on an affirmative belief in the value of blending diverse experiences, diverse backgrounds. Such a composite or group judgment can be sturdier than any of the individual judgments that make it up. The harmonizing of conflicting views into a common conclusion is not merely the trader’s ‘splitting the difference’; it is not compromise for its own sake.”

Judge Sulzberger, in a most felicitous address delivered at the 25th anniversary celebration of The Society, described the Publication Committee not only of his day, but of ours as well, when he said: “Avoiding all narrowness, we have succeeded in a measure, in perhaps a greater degree than any other organization that was ever started among the Jews of the United States, in welding into one body men whose views were strictly traditional and orthodox, on the one hand, and men who were scarcely conscious of having any views at all, on the other hand, and yet all, whether consciously or subconsciously, recognized that in some way, somehow, they were related to each other by a common tradition and by some unformulated opinion, and thus the Jewish Publication Society began and has advanced, looking both to the right and to the left, ignoring no one, recognizing that the religion it represents is a world religion, and that the accident of birth or residence plays no part in destroying the unity of the Jewish people.”

The distinguished members of the Committee, under the tactful chairmanship of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, have generously volunteered their valuable time, efforts and talents in reading manuscripts and in studying projects submitted to them for
consideration. We are also fortunate in enjoying the devoted and capable professional services of Dr. Solomon Grayzel as the Editor of The Society. During the past year he has examined more than 140 manuscripts and books submitted to him, with or without our solicitation. Of these, he has, for various reasons, found more than 120 to be outside the scope of our program. The balance, in addition to numerous other projects and outlines, are being given further consideration by him and by members of the Committee. In addition to his invaluable contributions in passing upon and editing manuscripts, reading proofs and seeing books through the press, he is a convincing lecturer and a persuasive writer on the past achievements and the future potentialities of The Society.

**Board of Trustees and Officers**

The Board has unanimously adopted a resolution recommending the amendment of our By-laws to increase the number of our trustees. We consider it important to add other representative leaders of Jewish communities throughout the country to those already included in our governing body. I should like to make public acknowledgment of my gratitude to my fellow-officers and trustees for their assistance and cooperation. We are fortunate in having two such active and enthusiastic vice-presidents as Mr. Justice Horace Stern, the oldest member of our Official Family, and Mr. Edwin Wolf, II, the youngest. Each of them has been a source of inspiration to me. They have not only given us wise advice and helped formulate our plans. They have themselves participated in the task of carrying these policies into practice. The legal adviser of The Society, Mr. Bernard L. Frankel, has generously continued to render invaluable service for which we are deeply grateful. But with due respect to those I have named and the others of whom I should like to make special mention, The Society is truly blessed with a rare type of treasurer in the person of Mr. Sol Satinsky, who assumed office at our last annual meeting. He has not only been the prudent custodian of the rather limited funds of The Society. He has also devoted his energies and his resourcefulness, his business acumen and his communal experience, to the introduction of sound economic practices into the management of The Society's affairs. Thus we are now assured of our organization's future solvency and stability.

I am grateful that during the past critical year we have enjoyed the loyal and efficient cooperation of the members of our staff in the office and at the Press. We look forward to a continuance of the pleasant harmonious relationship now so happily prevailing in our organization.

**The Challenge to American Israel**

Many serious problems still confront us. The difficulties yet to be overcome are not to be minimized. But I believe that the American Jewish community, which has performed amazingly well in the area of philanthropy at home and abroad, has the means and the ability—but lacks the understanding, the vision and the determination—to produce on the American scene a rich, creative Jewish civilization, one that may rival the golden ages of Babylonia and of Spain. We must do all in our power to make American Jews aware of their responsibility and duty, their opportunity and privilege. This accomplished, we need have no concern about the future of The Society. Then will Jews realize that merely giving an occasional contribution to a community fund, or even listening to speeches by eloquent orators, cannot be depended upon to preserve our ancient heritage. They will understand that if the God of Judaism is to be not only the God of our fathers, but also the God of our sons and daughters, the culture, the thought, the history, the poetry—the Torah—of our people must be recorded and perpetuated by the written word. Then we shall be in fact, and not only in name, the am ha-sefer, the People of the
Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1949</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 627.02</td>
<td>$ 1,680.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>52,518.64</td>
<td>42,320.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>121,256.94</td>
<td>118,220.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan to Classics Fund</td>
<td>6,120.07</td>
<td>5,818.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>67,899.86</td>
<td>57,405.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plates, copyrights, plant and equipment</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid publication costs</td>
<td>11,605.31</td>
<td>6,855.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid insurance</td>
<td>4,064.96</td>
<td>4,485.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid interest</td>
<td>109.06</td>
<td>156.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>677.13</td>
<td>981.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$264,880.99</td>
<td>$237,929.74</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>$ 28,093.83</td>
<td>$ 35,717.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>53,837.22</td>
<td>23,877.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans from funds</td>
<td>21,047.84</td>
<td>62,873.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>59,811.59</td>
<td>60,151.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customers' deposits</td>
<td>2,313.57</td>
<td>2,179.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>22,457.53</td>
<td>27,612.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding taxes</td>
<td>1,268.84</td>
<td>1,260.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage payable</td>
<td>24,500.00</td>
<td>28,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus reserves</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>19,754.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (Deficit)</td>
<td>41,550.57</td>
<td>(23,496.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$264,880.99</td>
<td>$237,929.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Principal and accumulated income of funds, December 31, 1949 ................................................................. $  31,686.17

Consisting of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 3,687.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics Fund publications</td>
<td>$9,266.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loeb Fund publications</td>
<td>3,803.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaned to The Society</td>
<td>21,047.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less, amount advanced by The Society to the Classics Fund to carry inventory</td>
<td>6,120.07 $ 31,686.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMBINED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1949</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$100,566.04</td>
<td>$ 91,013.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>573.36</td>
<td>748.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Hebrew Press</td>
<td>135,014.46</td>
<td>145,569.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Jewish Pub.</td>
<td>91,687.32</td>
<td>91,741.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,157.44</td>
<td>1,596.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,734.33</td>
<td>3,348.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$331,732.95</td>
<td>$334,017.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses and pub.</td>
<td>335,568.15</td>
<td>366,450.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss to Surplus</td>
<td>$ 3,835.20</td>
<td>$ 32,432.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sale of books published by funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>$ 2,554.83</td>
<td>$ 2,943.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loeb</td>
<td>1,405.00</td>
<td>1,829.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,959.83</td>
<td>$ 4,772.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Memoriam

Since we met at our last Annual Meeting, The Jewish Publication Society of America suffered the loss by death of two distinguished members of its "Official Family":

REV. DR. NATHAN KRASS, a Trustee from 1924 to 1946, and a member of the Publication Committee since 1944, who died on November 22, 1949.

REV. DR. MILTON STEINBERG, a member of the Publication Committee since 1940, who died on March 30, 1950.

The Jewish Publication Society of America deeply mourns the loss of these outstanding members of our "Official Family" whose contributions enriched the cultural life of American Jewry. It cherishes their memories. In grateful recognition of their part as members of the "Official Family" of our Society, it has been

RESOLVED that The Jewish Publication Society of America extends to the families of these departed members of our "Official Family" its heartfelt sympathy; that these Resolutions be spread on the Minutes of The Jewish Publication Society; and that they be published in Volume 52 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, President
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary
JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Members

Section 1. Any person or organization paying the annual dues fixed by the Board of Trustees for any class of membership shall be a member of The Society.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees may classify members and prescribe the benefits and dues pertaining to each class of membership.

ARTICLE II

Meetings of Members

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of The Society for the election of officers and trustees and the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Trustees may designate.

Section 2. Special meetings of the members of The Society may be held at any time at the call of the President or by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees, or upon the written request of fifty members of The Society, setting forth the purpose or purposes of such meeting.

Section 3. All meetings of the members of The Society shall be held at such place and at such time as the Board of Trustees may designate.

Section 4. Notice of all meetings of members shall be sent by mail to each member at his address appearing on the books of The Society. Notice of the annual meeting of members shall be mailed at least twenty days prior to the date of such meeting, and notice of any special meeting of the members setting forth the purpose or purposes for which such meeting shall be called, shall be mailed at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting.

Section 5. At any meeting of the members of The Society twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If there be no quorum the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is secured.

ARTICLE III

Board of Trustees and Officers

Section 1. The affairs, administration and property of The Society shall be in the charge, management and control of a Board of Trustees which shall consist of thirty trustees together with the elective officers provided for in Section 7 of Article III of these By-Laws. The trustees and said elective officers, all of whom shall be members of The Society, shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting of members.

Section 2. The trustees elected by the members shall serve for terms of three years each; provided however, that the thirty trustees first elected pursuant to these By-Laws shall be divided into three groups of ten trustees each; the term of office of the respective groups shall be fixed to expire at the end of the first, second and third years from the date of their election.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such times as the Board of Trustees shall designate. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held whenever called by the President, and he shall call a special meeting of the Board of Trustees upon the written request of five of its members, setting forth the purpose or purposes of such meeting.

Section 4. Ten members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. Written notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be given
to each member of the Board at least five days prior thereto. The notice of any special meeting shall set forth the purpose or purposes for which such meeting shall have been called.

SECTION 6. Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees (whether among the trustees or the officers) shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next annual meeting of the members.

SECTION 7. The officers of The Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Publication Committee, and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may from time to time deem necessary.

SECTION 8. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of members and shall serve for the term of one year and until their respective successors shall have been elected.

SECTION 9. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members; of the Board of Trustees, and of the Executive Committee. He shall sign, together with the Secretary, all documents, contracts, and papers necessary for the conduct of the business of The Society, and perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of President.

SECTION 10. The Vice-Presidents shall in order of their seniority, during the absence or disability of the President, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, have the same duties and powers as the President.

SECTION 11. The Secretary shall have the usual duties and powers pertaining to the office of Secretary. He shall attend and keep minutes of meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees and record all such minutes in books to be kept for that purpose. He shall give all notices required by law or these By-Laws.

SECTION 12. The Treasurer shall have the custody of and shall administer all funds and investments of The Society. He shall keep proper books of account and perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

SECTION 13. The Chairman of the Publication Committee shall preside at all meetings of the Publication Committee. He shall appoint, and be ex-officio a member of, all sub-committees of the Publication Committee.

SECTION 14. The funds of The Society shall be placed in such depositories as the Board of Trustees designates and checks for the withdrawal of such funds shall be signed by such persons as are designated by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV
Committees

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Publication Committee to serve for one year. The Publication Committee shall include the Chairman of the Publication Committee and at least four other members of the Board of Trustees. It shall be the duty of the Publication Committee to read manuscripts and make recommendations for the publication thereof to the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees shall appoint an Executive Committee which shall have the power to act for the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee shall consist of those members of the Board of Trustees who are members of the Publication Committee together with the officers of The Society.

SECTION 3. The President shall appoint from the members of The Society all other standing or special committees with such rights and powers as the Board of Trustees may from time to time determine. The Chairman of all such committees shall be members of the Board of Trustees, but otherwise membership shall not be limited to members of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V
Fiscal Year

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of The Society shall begin on January 1st of each year.
ARTICLE VI
Nominations and Elections

SECTION 1. At least thirty days before the annual meeting of members the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than five members. The Nominating Committee by a majority vote of all its members shall nominate candidates for trustees and officers to be elected at the annual meeting and shall submit its report of such nominations at such annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Fifty members of The Society may, independently of the Nominating Committee, also nominate candidates who have consented to have their names placed in nomination. Such nominations shall be given to the Secretary in writing accompanied by the written consent of the candidates, at least twenty days before the annual meeting.

SECTION 3. The election of trustees and officers at the annual meeting shall be only from among the candidates so nominated.

SECTION 4. Election of trustees and officers shall be by ballot unless otherwise determined at the meeting at which the election is held.

ARTICLE VII
Amendments

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be amended by the vote of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting. Any amendments so adopted shall be submitted for ratification at the next annual meeting of members. Such ratification shall require the vote of at least two-thirds of those members present at such annual meeting.