

Going out Jewishly

I have been going out a lot lately, and not only lately, but even before lately. I am really trying to keep up with things Jewish. Now don't misunderstand, I am observing Yontiffs and Shabboses as is proper, but I am thinking about all the other outgoing and going-out events that Los Angeles Jewish life offers.

My bride Betty and I need the *koach* of teenagers to try to keep up with the Jewish opportunities for senior citizens. There just ain't time enough.

These are some highlights and only some highlights of our Jewish agenda lately:

First of all, we have attended a fabulous orchestral program with Jewish content and Jewish association by that wonderful group, the Jewish Symphony. Conductor Noreen Green and impresario Ian Drew have fashioned a fully professional orchestra to present works by Jews and/or of Jewish interest.

Recently at the Gindi, the Jewish Symphony had to repeat performances when the demand for tickets was overwhelming, undoubtedly due to the fact that word-of-mouth favors that group with a lilt and tune of genuine approval. The Performing Arts Council of the University of Judaism, under the wise, dedicated and experienced professional leadership of Rabbi Dr Jack Schechter, deserves another thank you for this.

Another delightful musical treat was also at the Gindi in recent days. Jason Garner and his orchestra performed the modern and the contemporary, but in a manner harmonious with the classical. Garner is an accomplished musician, composer and conductor.

Sometimes it seems that music controls him until you realize that he is the master of how it is expressed. He has taste and he has charm, and he is certainly talented.

Across the street from the Gindi-UJ, and adjacent to the Milken Community High School, on what we call California's Mount Zion is the Skirball Cultural Center. It is of interest that our local Mount Zion is still growing, with expansion plans at the university, the high school and the cultural center.

My bride Betty and I enjoyed another trip

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My Shtetle California

through the Skirball museum. It was a visual treat seeing Larry Rivers' multi-massive panels, called "The History of Matzah," which is the history of the Jews dominated by the freedom-seeking theme. The accompanying film on Rivers made for happy teaching.

The visual aides at the Skirball are a museum in themselves. When I go to the Skirball, I get the feeling that every Jew should belong to a synagogue, a Zionist organization, the Home for the Aged, the home away from home which is Hillel for

the collegiate crowd, and the Skirball, while supporting kids at Jewish day schools and summer camps. And of course the *yeshiva* of one's choice such as those of Chabad, the Ziegler and HUC/JIR in our area.

I apologize in advance for leaving out your favorite organization, which may well be one of my favorites. Herb and Dan Brin I tell everybody to support HERITAGE.

Another growing important venue for the expansion of the Jewish mind and the tuning-up of the Jewish soul is the Irmas campus of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, an West Los Angeles. There we heard Dr. David Hartman of the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem. He is a brilliant scholar and disarmingly charming with his wit.

For example, while commenting on the pressures that Orthodoxy and non-Orthodoxy are putting on each other, he called for a change of attitude. With voice and body language, he implied that it is really stupid to hate your opponent, because by doing so you empower him. The implication is that by hating you diminish yourself and aggrandize the other.

Now my bride Betty and I understand Shabbat. G-d ordained the seventh day of rest so that we could avoid not only business affairs but also Jewish meetings and entertainments. Too much of a good thing is not bad, it's just too much.

They used to say that you had to have the stomach of a *goy* to digest a lot of Jewish cooking, and I would say that you have to have the strength of a bar or bat mitzvah to run all the very worthwhile Jewish affairs. At my age, it's hard to run this Jewish marathon.