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**Shalom:** The official publication of the **Atlantic Jewish Council**, in conjunction with the  
Canadian Zionist Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress  
Lord Nelson Arcade, 3rd floor, 5675 Spring Garden Road B3J 1H1  
The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily of the  
Atlantic Jewish Council or its editorial board.

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The Enigma of  
Cristobol Colon  
  
The Saudi Peace  
Plan: Myths and Facts  
  
The Voyage of the  
"St. Louis" May-June, 1945

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*Deadline For Next Issue  
Of Shalom, January 12, 1982*



## Editorial



# Happy Chanukah

From All of Us at  
the Atlantic Jewish  
Council Office

*Shirley Fox*

*Kassie Seltzer*

*Lillian Noytall*

*Howard Karp*

*Marlene Sullivan*

*Lis Silliker*

*Laura Stock*

## Letters To The Editor

### FUTURE OR FINALITY

by Rabbi Philip Lefkowitz

It was a long, but never the less comfortable drive to Sydney, Nova Scotia to attend the annual meeting of Atlantic Jewish Council. The beautiful landscapes of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton filled me with a sense of hope, of future and confidence in the fruitful outcome of the weekend gathering. I came prepared to join my fellow Jews of the Atlantic Region in discussions concerning our collective problems and needs as well as to attend sessions which would give us new insights into creating a more vital Jewish experience for ourselves and our children in this most Eastern Region of Canada. When I embarked for home two days later the hope, the confidence and the sense of future were all but gone. Instead I left with a feeling of pessimism and despair.

Entitled "Options for the Eighties" one would have thought that the major portion of time at this 6th annual convention would have been spent upon the needs and future of Atlantic Jewry. In reality little or no time was spent dealing with our communities. A great deal of time was spent in presentations and good old-fashioned "pitches" from various National and International Jewish groups. Don't get me wrong, I have the greatest admiration for all Jewish activities on the National and International scene. I understand its value and importance in Jewish life and personally am supportive of it. Yet, surely, every Jewish community must at some time in its existence spend serious hours and days contemplating its state of affairs, its shortcomings, its needs and of course the means to facilitate its healthy and vital future. For in the final analysis it is the local Jewish community that is the bedrock upon which is built the massive structure of National and International Jewish activity.

In the few waning hours of Sunday afternoon, after some, because of travel arrangements had out of necessity, already left, with the balance of those present a bit tired and dulled by the weekend's activities, we were treated to a very short and may I add shallow business meeting pertaining to local programs and activities. Very little discussion ensued on any of the reports given; the few discussions that were held were done so in the most general of terms. We were reminded that our packet contained our Executive Director's report; a report which I would have thought extremely important to the proceedings. Never formally presented,

those present were asked if they wished to question any of its data; this based upon the premise that those present had during the weekend carefully read through this very well prepared presentation.

The conclusion of the business meeting dealt with the presentation of resolutions which were solicited by the resolutions committee prior to the annual meeting. I was shocked when I realized that only 4 resolutions had been submitted for consideration, the 4 emanating from the same source, namely myself.

I have served as Rabbi in Moncton for only 2 years. In that time I have heard many Jewish residents of this Region bemoan various and sundry situations in Jewish communal life. Yet, when a forum for presenting these concerns is made available, no one steps forward. This weekend only reaffirmed for me the reality that Atlantic Jewry has yet to deal in a formidable manner with issues that form the centrality of Jewish concern in almost every other Jewish community. Jewish education, our teens, our collegiates, our singles, the support of traditional Jewish lifestyle, are but some of the vexing problems that plague Jewish leadership across the globe. Not so in Atlantic Region!!!

I fear that the key word in defining Jewish life in Atlantic Region vis-a-vis the attitude shown by much of its population is "FINALITY". It seems to me most apparent that few in our Region take seriously the future of Atlantic Jewry. They are rather arranging for the "Kaddish" to be said. Not a Kaddish offered with love and devotion by a Jew standing among his peers restating again his commitment to G-d and our Jewish heritage but rather the Kaddish that unfortunately is all too common in Jewish life—the empty meaningless Kaddish of the mourner said only as a symbolic gesture for a loved one who has passed into eternity.

I hope and pray that others left this annual meeting feeling as I did. Maybe, and I pray to G-d that this may come to pass, maybe, if there are enough of us we can turn pessimism into optimism and lethargy into activity with the result that Atlantic Region will yet blossom anew as a vital and flourishing Jewish Region in this great Dominion of Canada.

*As Rabbi Lefkowitz has asked that his letter "To The Editor" be published and because it is in the nature of an open letter to all of us, the Executive of the Atlantic Jewish Council has asked me to reply.*

*I am not ready to mourn the loss of Atlantic Jewry nor to recite a last kaddish over us. I, as well as, the other members of our organization serve Atlantic Jewish Council only to help, to cause to grow, to encourage,*

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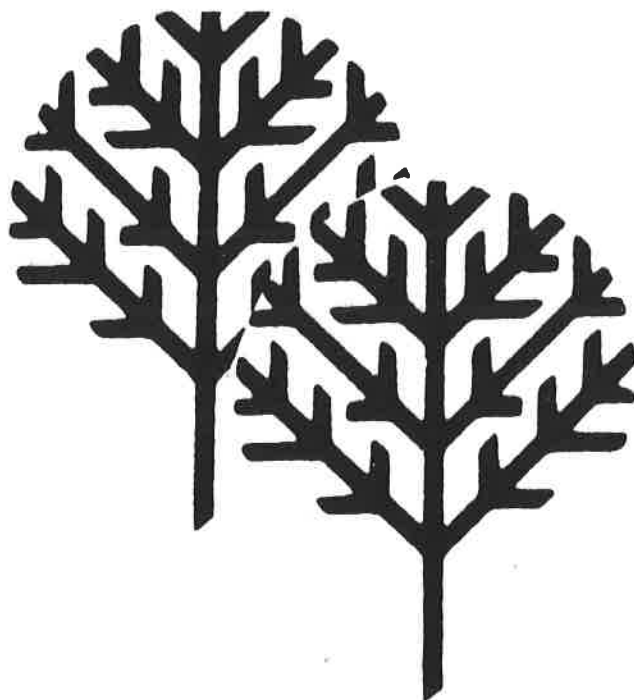


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# Baron de Hirsch Congregation Celebrates 90th Anniversary in Halifax

by Anita Dubinsky

The Baron de Hirsch Hebrew Benevolent Society has made its home in the Beth Israel Synagogue, 1480 Oxford Street, Halifax, since this beautiful synagogue was erected in 1957, but the Congregation's history goes back to 1891 when it was first formally organized and named to honour the great Jewish philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch of Munich.

From 1891 to 1894, regular religious services of this Congregation were conducted in private homes and High Holy Day Services were held in the premises of such community-minded organizations as the Masons and the I.O.O.F. With the purchase and renovation of Chalmers Baptist Church on Starr and Hurd Streets in 1894, the Baron de Hirsch Congregation had a Synagogue of its own. On December 6, 1917, the day of the tragic Halifax Explosion, this Synagogue was totally destroyed. In 1920, the Robie Street Synagogue was completed and served as the spiritual and social home of the Congregation members, visitors, holocaust survivors, university students and service personnel in World War II. The expansion of the congregation and its needs resulted in the building of the Beth Israel Synagogue at 1480 Oxford Street, where dedication ceremonies were held on October 21, 1957.

As throughout its ninety-year history, the Baron de Hirsch Congregation continues to maintain its orthodox traditions,

continued from previous page

to develop the life of everyone of our Jewish community. We serve as a volunteer organization involving the widest possible range of Jewish personal beliefs. Our constituency runs from the most assimilationist minded or secular Jew to the most observant. Our job is to co-ordinate activity, to serve all and certainly to promote cohesion and not divisiveness.

All the issues Rabbi Lefkowitz has listed—Jewish education, teens, collegiates etc, are concerns and are a part of our Jewish community agenda. Each is critical to the total. We are addressing and working with each as well as a dozen other problems. We are not satisfied with our accomplishments so far nor are we done trying. We are striving earnestly to improve the life of all of our Jewish families, but we sincerely believe more will be accomplished developing consensus and co-operation than by seeking strident confrontation.

Lloyd Newman

with observances of all Holy Days and Festivals, minyanim, (prayer assemblies) twice a day, Talmud Torah classes for children, provision of burial services through the Chevra Kadisha Society, supportive activities of the Sisterhood, Sunday Breakfast Club, and Study Groups, films, lectures and cultural and social events.

For almost a century, the continuing growth and vitality of this Congregation must be attributed to the many rabbis, teachers and members, men and women, whose dedicated efforts are remembered with gratitude on this significant occasion, the ninetieth anniversary of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation at the Beth Israel Synagogue.

A weekend celebration of the anniversary began Shabbat morning, September 12, 1981, with Aliyot given to the Minyanaires, the regular attendants at daily morning services. **Mr. M.B. Fineberg** chanted the Haftorah. In his sermon **Rabbi Marvin Pritzker** reflected on the timeless vitality of Torah and the ongoing strength required to continue the ninety years of activity in the congregation. The large assembly enjoyed a Kiddush following services.



Rabbi Joseph Deitcher

Sunday night, September 13, 1981, a widely attended banquet captured the festive spirit of the ninetieth anniversary. **Earle Bowman**, Dinner Chairman, conducted the evening's program with appropriate brief comments on participants and their contributions to synagogue life. Distinguished special guests included the **Hon. John E. Shaffner**, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and **Mrs. Shaffner**, the **Hon. John Buchanan**, Premier

of Nova Scotia, and **Mrs. Buchanan**, the **Hon. Robert Kaplan**, Solicitor General of Canada, the **Hon. Edmund Morris**, Minister of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, Halifax Mayor **Ron Wallace**, Rabbi and **Mrs. Joseph Deitcher**, Rabbi and **Mrs. Marvin Pritzker**, Cantor **George Lieberman**, Rabbi **Gershon** and **Mrs. Friedlin**, and **President Dr. Ed. Rosenberg** and **Mrs. Rosenberg**, Shaar Shalom Congregation.



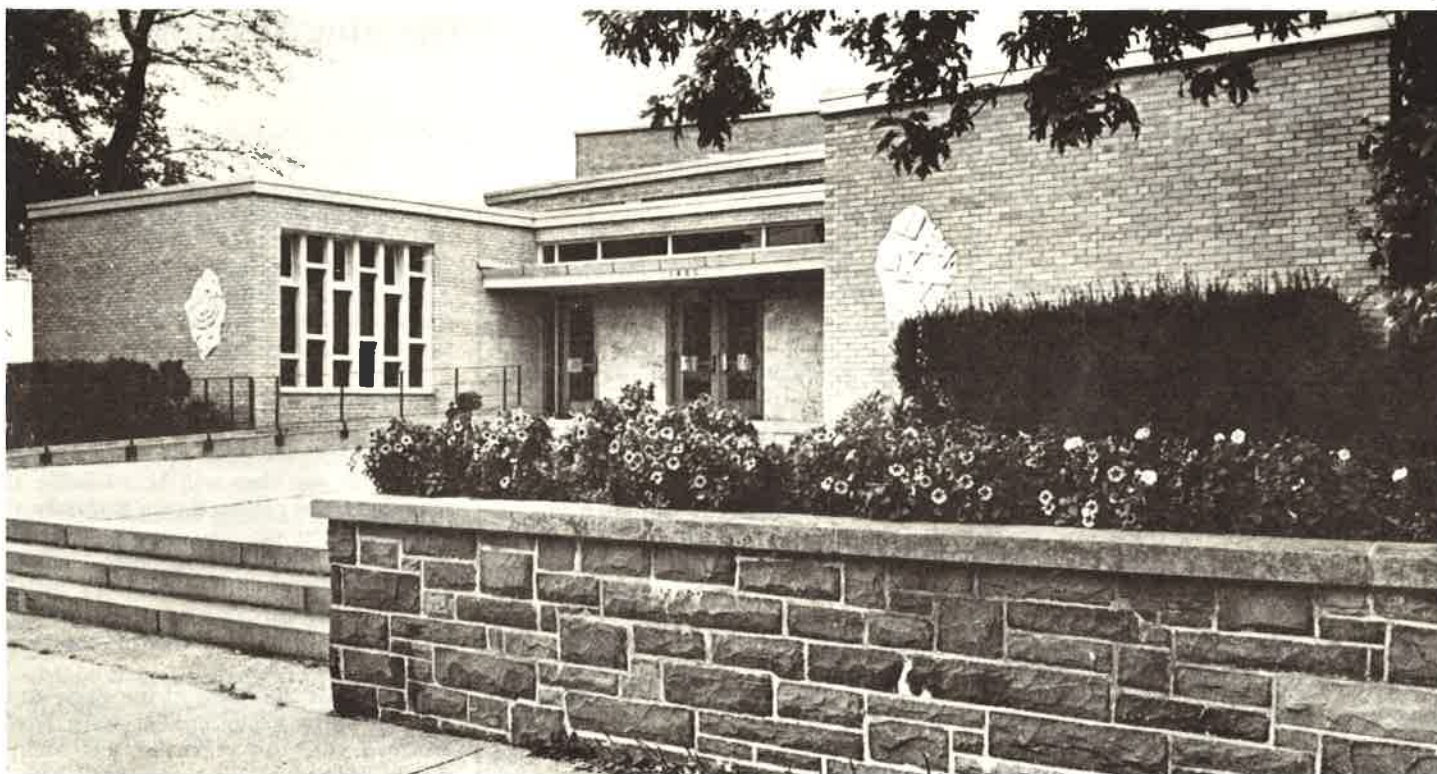
Hon. Bob Kaplan

**Rabbi Marvin Pritzker**, spiritual leader of the congregation, delivered the Invocation and Hamotzi. **Lieutenant-Governor John Shaffner** proposed the toast to the Queen. The toast to the President of the State of Israel was proposed by **Lenore Schelew**, President of the Sisterhood of Beth Israel Synagogue. **Cantor George Lieberman** led the Birchat, following the sumptuous dinner. The **Hon. Mr. Justice J. Louis Dubinsky**, speaking in English, Yiddish and French, introduced the guest speaker, the **Hon. Bob Kaplan**, Solicitor General of Canada, who also is fluently trilingual. Mr. Kaplan spoke briefly, charming his audience with his warmth and wit, as he described his governmental responsibilities. His achievements include a long commitment to Jewish communal activities in Toronto. **Dr. Jayson Greenblatt**, a Past President of the Congregation, expressed the appreciation of the gathering to Mr. Kaplan.

Introducing the special guest **Rabbi Joseph Deitcher**, was the pleasant task of **Dr. I.K. Lubetsky**, a Past President of the Congregation. Rabbi Deitcher, now of Chicago, served this congregation for five

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*Beth Israel Synagogue*

continued from previous page

years and, together with Mrs. Deitcher, received a warm welcome from everyone. **Ruby Jacobson**, a Past President of Sisterhood, extended the thanks of the audience to Rabbi Deitcher.

Messages of Congratulations were received from former spiritual leaders, **Doctor H.C. Dobrinsky**, Vice-President, Yeshiva University, New York, and **Rabbi A. Greenspan**, Toronto, as well as other friends and congregants.

President **Dr. Ralph Loebenberg** thanked the many patrons and donors of the anniversary who made the event so financially beneficial to the Synagogue. The Patrons received engraved Silver Kiddush Cups.

**Shirley Burnstein** presented lively musical entertainment, assisted by vocalist **Dr. Lowell Shore**, and musicians **Michael Laing**, **Belarie** and **Martie Zatzman** and **Bunny Shore**.

Concluding the program, **Earle Bowman**, who is also a Past President, paid tribute to the Dinner Committee comprising **Larry Freeman**, Chairman and Chef; **Philip Arnold** and **Dr. R. Loebenberg**, Patrons and Sponsors; **Paul Lipkus** and **Edwin Rubin**, Tickets and Reservations; and **Anita Dubinsky**, Editor of the Souvenir Booklet given to all guests. Special mention was made of the permanent display of photographs of all Past Presidents, under the direction of **Barbara Rafuse**. The calligraphy of

names of Presidents is the handiwork of **Millie Meretsky**. An exhibit for the occasion by **Lenora Freeman**. **Steven** and **Gloria Pink** were in charge of table arrangements.

Monday night, President Dr. Ralph and Carol Lee Loebenberg were hosts to all members of the Congregation at their home to honour Rabbi and Mrs. Deitcher, who were houseguests of the Loebenberg family. A special guest for the festivities was Ralph's father, **Mr. Max Loebenberg**, Monsey, New York, who is a frequent welcome visitor here.

The pleasure of this simcha will serve as a significant prelude to the New Year as we assess the past and prepare for the future.



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## In Halifax

# Women in ORT, the Community and Work Force

by Sandy Gordon

So much has been said about the working woman. Many women feel they have made their contribution by raising their families, but after their work is finished, they are in limbo. What can be done to fill in the spaces? Where to start and how? **Linda Raskin**, President of Halifax Women's ORT says she would like to see more women get involved in volunteer positions, possibly with the view of applying their experiences to the work force. This could apply to many women who have so much to offer but are afraid to do so after having been away from it for many years. National Women's ORT is taking a firm stand on this issue and we, Halifax Women's ORT, are in the foreground of support.

One of the perils that must be overcome in the society in which we live is sexual harassment of women on the job. As **Lloyd Axworthy**, Minister of Employment and Immigration and Minister of State responsible for the Status of Women, said in a speech to the "Women in Trades Conference"—Winnipeg in September 1980.

"Women will not achieve equality in the work force until the demeaning stereotypes that are at the root of sexual harassment are eliminated, along with the discriminating practice itself." . . . "The federal government is deeply committed to reversing the dim economic future of half our population . . . We have begun a vigorous program to equip women to take charge of their economic rights, to ensure equality of access, to improve our performance in the field of women's employment and to meet the nation's labour needs in the economy of the future."

Attitude is more important than aptitude in determining one's success! Get involved.

## ORT National Board Meeting

by Linda Raskin

**Gail Green**, National Board Member/Vice-President and **Linda Raskin**, President, attended an ORT National Board Meeting on September 21, 1981 at the Inn on the Park in Toronto. The main objectives of Women's Canadian ORT were presented by President, **Ruth Druxer-man** . . . "ORT must be strengthened through programming, education and expansion". The National Executive Committee recommended that W.C.O. be divided into two districts. The eastern district would consist of Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, and Windsor, while the Western district would be composed of Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Hence, the first eastern meeting will be held in Montreal in mid-January, to be followed by a joint National meeting in Toronto in late March. This innovative move should prove to increase communication and productivity within each region.

Once again, membership was a crucial topic on the agenda. **Sharon Blevis**, National Membership Chairman, noted that the Halifax count of 141 paid-up members was down somewhat since last year.

Convention '82 was briefly discussed by **Edie Glazer**. The dates are to be October 31, November 1, 2, and 3, at the Inn on the Park in Toronto. More news on Convention will be reported at a later date.

As Chairman of "Technology and the Community", **Dorothy Soichet** stressed that ORT women must involve themselves in the general Canadian community concerns. Such involvement will inevitably educate the public about the work of ORT.

**Ann Teitelman** reported that Celebration '33 at which time "The Chosen" was shown, was a success in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. The film will not be released for general viewing. However, it might be possible to obtain a copy for a private showing sometime in the near future.

## Jewish Historical Society Meeting

The Halifax Jewish Historical Society Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 21, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. at the Public Archives.

## Opening Meeting

Our opening meeting took place at the home of **Harriet Laing** on September 16. This first meeting, as in the past was a social evening after the business portion had been concluded. Everyone had a good time chatting and seeing old friends. A Life Membership Pin was presented to **Clara Dankner** by **Barb Alberstat** our Life Membership Chairman.

Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls also adorned our meeting that evening and they are to be raffled on December 15, 1981. Tickets for these two lovable are one dollar and they will be available at meetings or by calling **Karen Sadofsky** at 443-4925. You may also purchase a ticket at Mic Mac Mall on November 11 or at Scotia Square on November 11 or at Scotia Square on November 12 and 13, when ORT volunteers will be manning booths at both locations.

Publicity is the name of the game and **Harriet Laing** has offered to assist **Yael Wolloch** with this important job. Many thanks, Harriet.

## Membership News

ORT extends a warm welcome to **Mrs. Sara Raskin**. Sara is the first new member to receive the Gift Membership Card which is now available in Halifax.

Any new member from September 1981 to October 1982 will be eligible for a draw on a free trip to Israel. This draw will take place in October 1982 at the National Convention which is to take place at the Inn on the Park in Toronto.

We urge our members to recruit fifteen new members and you will be entitled to attend the Convention, expenses paid.

## Flowers for Rosh Hashanna

**Yael Walloch** and **Naomi Judah** did a marvellous job. This was the best year ORT has had. Thanks go to the Community for once again supporting ORT.

## Program

The October 28 meeting was held at the home of **Mrs. Sara Raskin**. **Eila Ihsem**, Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Dalhousie University spoke on Self Defence with emphasis on Sexual Harassment of Women.

## Couples Evening

Bowling shoes were taken out of the closet on November 14, when ORT members, husbands and friends met at the Atlantic Colonial Lanes to "strike" up an evening.



## 1982 DIRECTORY ADVERTISING

The Atlantic Jewish Council is seeking a commissioned sales person(s) to sell advertising for its forthcoming Directory. Excellent opportunity for fund-raising. If you are a good organizer, have some experience, let's discuss the possibilities. Call or write, Shirlee Fox, Atlantic Jewish Council, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1H1. Area code (902) 422-7491.



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## Sixth Annual Meeting of

Cape Breton hospitality, interesting programs and speakers, heated debates—all were part of the weekend which saw over one hundred delegates from the region in attendance. Held for the first time in Sydney, N.S., this meeting provided the residents of Cape Breton with the opportunity to become more familiar with the Atlantic Jewish Council, national organizations, the boarder issues of Judaism and Israel and to address many of the Atlantic Region's concerns.

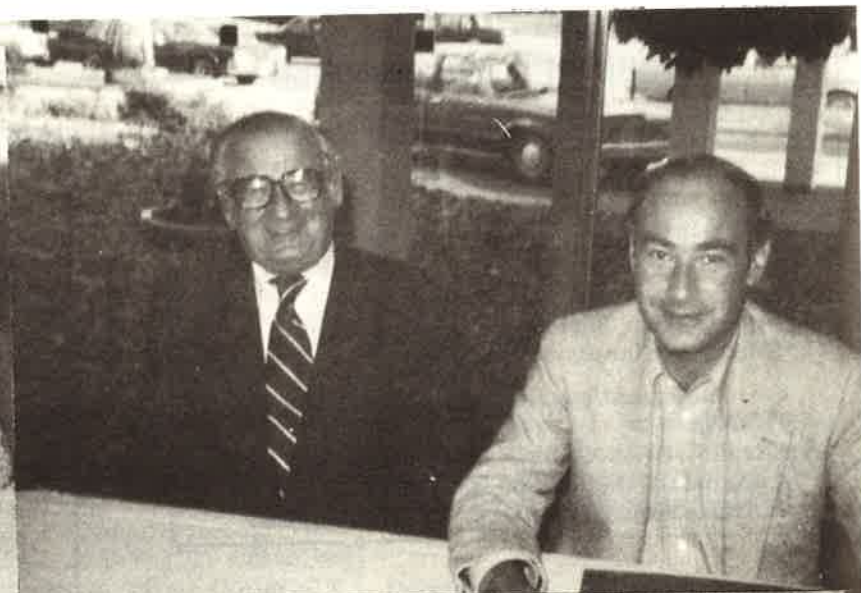
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Speakers included, **Dr. Leon Kronitz**, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Zionist Organization; **Aryeh Lewin**, Emissary to Canada, United Israel Appeal; **Michael Chernack**, Director of Communications, Canada-Israel Committee. Presentations by **Michael Goldstein**, Executive Director, Eastern Region and

**Lt. Col. Yaacov Perez**, of Jewish National Fund; along with **James M. Senior**, National Executive Vice-President of the Weizmann Institute of Science were added features of the very full weekend.

An outstanding address by **Erol Araf**, Director of Communications, Canadian Jewish Congress, who detailed the role of the P.L.O. and World Terrorist groups and the moving address by **Herman Newman** on his visit to Israel during the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors brought standing ovations from the delegates. Representatives from Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Zionist Federation, **Shimon Fogel**, National Director, Community Services and Youth and **Danyael Cantor**, Executive Assistant, respectively, elaborated on new programs which are specifically being implemented for small communities.

A major concern of the Atlantic Jewish Council—the youth of the region, attracted discussion and opinion. **Ken Gor-**





# the Atlantic Jewish Council

*don*, President of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation, reported on the revitalization of this organization. Commending the support and encouragement that he has received from the Atlantic Jewish Council over the past year, he went on to outline the activities and programs that have been available to students and young adults. He noted that initially participation and interest had been excellent and that he expects the coming season to be just as successful. **Pam Medjuck**, Chairman of the Atlantic Jewish Council Youth Committee, along with **Bryan Gaum**, discussed the current concerns regarding Young Judea. Pam stressed that the involvement of parents and adults is crucial to future planning although she acknowledged that the Young Judeans had expressed the desire to "run things themselves".

Asking that the Atlantic Jewish Council make the youth activities one of its priorities, it was unanimously approved at the later Business Session that funds and organizational assistance be given to

the Youth Committee.

Conference Chairman, Harold Schwartz and Martin Chernin, expressed the view that this had been a most successful meeting and the benefits that the Cape Breton community had derived from holding such an event would long be remembered.

Special thanks were expressed to **Shirlee Fox**, Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council for coordination of the weekend conclave. To the gracious volunteers of the Cape Breton Community, especially **Etta Chernin**, **Shirley Dubinsky** and **Avvie Druker**, who were responsible for so many details a special vote of appreciation was given.

Assistance from State of Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund and the Weizmann Institute of Science was much appreciated as was the co-operation of the Royal Bank of Canada in providing delegates with meeting supplies. Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue was thanked for its generous cooperation and for the use of its facilities.





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Assistance from State of Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund and the Weizmann Institute of Science was much appreciated as was the co-operation of the Royal Bank of Canada in providing delegates with meeting supplies. Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue was thanked for its generous cooperation and for the use of its facilities.





# Cape Breton News



Pictured Left to Right: Mrs. Shirley Dubinsky, National Vice-President; Mr. Harvey Webber; Mrs. Sophie Sherman, Council President; Mrs. Shirley Chernin.

## Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo

Following a brief Council meeting chaired by President, **Mrs. Sophie Sherman** on September 9, a presentation was made to an outstanding community worker and humanitarian, **Mr. Harvey Webber**, in observance of Canadian Hadassah-Wizo Month.

**Mrs. Shirley Dubinsky**, National Vice-President, introduced the honoured guest. Quoting the Talmud she said, "It is not the place that honours the man, but the man that honours his place and such a man is Mr. Webber". In presenting him with a framed certificate including his name on the Pillar of Gifts of Magdiel Vocational High School, Mrs. Dubinsky lauded Mr. Webber for his devotion to Israel and his loyalty to Zion.

Mr. Webber fittingly responded. He related many amusing anecdotes about his childhood days regarding his impressions of Judaism and said he was prepared to work for his people because of his sense of pride in his Jewishness.

In his closing remarks, he paid tribute to the Women of Hadassah for their sincerity and dedication. Mr. Webber expressed his gratitude for the award,

saying that the honor was a highlight of his life.

**Mrs. Shirley Chernin**, Past-President thanked Mr. Webber for bringing honour to the community.

A social hour followed with a dessert luncheon.

Special guest for the occasion was the 1980 Winner of the Hadassah-Wizo Month award, **Miss Lottie Morrison**, a prominent Sydney community worker.

## Holocaust Committee

**Herman Newman**, Chairman of the Atlantic Jewish Council Holocaust Committee, recently addressed the Confirmation class at St. Paul's Church in Dartmouth. Mr. Newman, who spoke on the Holocaust, was impressed with their knowledge of this tragic period for European Jewry and felt that his speaking on this topic of faith during adversity would remain with his audience.

Speaking to students aged 16 to 17 at Chester High School, a short time later, Mr. Newman praised their teacher,

continued

## Dry Bones



**George Perry**, who wishes to give his students every opportunity to guide their reading and research on this topic.

Arrangements have been made for Mr. Newman to visit Cape Breton in January to address two high schools.

## WE ARE ONE.



We are one  
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

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# Saint John Happenings

by Louise Adler

## We Appreciate . . .

Towards the close of the summer, B'nai B'rith held its Annual Family picnic at the estate of **Mitch Franklin**. It was a beautiful event in no small measure due to our charming and gracious host and hostess. The children especially enjoyed swimming, boating and riding on the Fire Engine.

Our Jewish community was honored that **Rabbi Roger Pavey** was interviewed on C.H.S.J. TV on the subject "The Jewish New Year". Rabbi Pavey was also a guest on Cable Television in Saint John. His half-hour program was entitled "The Shofar Calls". The subject was "The Jewish New Year as Celebrated by the Family".

## Hadassah-Wizo

The Henrietta Szold Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo opening meeting of the 1981-1982 year was held in the home of **Jackie Meltzer**. It featured a very beautiful, informative, stimulating and delightful program entitled "This is Your Life"—High Holydays—Hadassah-Wizo Style—A 'Live' Magazine Program. The Program Chairman, **Miriam Pavey**, arranged and hosted this event.

The first part was presented by **Sandra Levine**. Her topic "Kids" outlined what this Holyday meant to the children.

Part II was "Rose Freedman Remembers Fifty-eight Years in Saint John". She stressed the togetherness of the community at that time. The home life which made one feel a part of everything. There were two hundred Jewish families in the city then.

**Elizabeth Koven** spoke on "Holy Days". She also discussed the effect of families going away. This was Part III.

**Janet Holtzman** concluded the program by showing an artistic Yom Tov table and she explained the meaning of each item.

## Book Review

The opening session of the Book Review Club was devoted to a report on "The Key to Rebecca". This is a novel by Ken Follett, published in 1980 by William Morrow and Company Inc. and distributed by Gage Publishing Ltd.

The review took place on Sunday morning, October 11 and just followed the period when Anwar el-Sadat was assassinated. El-Sadat, as a young man, plays a part in the story which is set in Cairo.

This is a spy story. Although a novel, it is based on fact.

The basic story revolves around a German-Egyptian spy who has a special radio transmitter, a time signal and a code used in conjunction with the book "Rebecca". He also does not hesitate to use his knife to kill when it is vital to his safety to do so. He is assigned to his home town of Cairo to secure advance information on the British military plans and to transmit these to Rommel.

The spy, Alexander Wolff succeeds in doing this. Thus Rommel's armies push closer to Cairo every day and there seems no way to stop them.

In his activities Wolff has the assistance of three key individuals: Sonja, a famous Egyptian Belly dancer, a very clever master thief Abdullah and Kemel. The latter is an Egyptian Chief of Detectives used by the British but he is part of the Egyptian group who are loyal to their own country and want an independent Egypt, free of the British and the Germans. El-Sadat was part of this national organization.

Major William Vandam, a member of the British Intelligence, was obligated to capture Alex Wolff who always managed to wiggle out of his grasp. The Major was assisted by Elene. She is a Jewish young woman who wanted to go to Palestine but could not obtain permission to enter. She is advised that by assisting Vandam, this might be granted to her.

The action is clever, exciting and most interesting.

The author, Ken Follett is a history buff. The Key to Rebecca is based on fact: "There was a German spy ring in 1942 in Cairo; they did use a belly dancer to seduce an English major so that they could go through his briefcase; the belly dancer did live on a houseboat on the Nile; Anwar el-Sadat did borrow the spies' radio and attempt to negotiate with Rommel; and they were all caught as a result of using forged currency. Subsequently the British did use the Rebecca code as a part of a deception plan for the battle of Alam Halfa."

## ATLANTIC PROVINCES JEWISH STUDENT FEDERATION NOW EXPANDS ITS ROLE

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation is now represented on campus at the University of New Brunswick. Robert Velensky, Fredericton, will be co-ordinating activities on this campus. Plans call for guest speakers and a resource information outlet to be established. All interested parties should contact Robert for further information.

# Fredericton News

by Jennie Brown

## Hadassah-Wizo/Sisterhood

The September meeting of the Lillian Frieman Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo was held at the home of **Daisy Budovitch**. Meeting opened with a prayer, by the President, **Rhona Rubin**. Plans were finalized for the Annual Bazaar. **Leona Brown** gave a report on the pre-sale of Bazaar Tickets. Slides were shown by a guest speaker of the newly formed Transition House for Women. Meeting adjourned following a short meeting of the Sisterhood with the President, **Joan Levine**, presiding. A financial report was given by the Treasurer, **Marlene Unger**. **Jennie Chippin** and **Bessie Handelman** were hostesses for the meetings.

## Greetings to the following who have celebrated anniversaries:

**Alfred and Leona Brown**—17 years; **Ben and Goldie Budovitch**—33 years; **Bernard and Valerie Chippin**—24 years; **George and Lucy Chippin**—21 years; **Warren and Miriam Cohen**—11 years; **Larry and Rose Eusler**—31 years; **Harry and Amelia Goldman**—39 years; **Ezra and Bella Rose**—27 years; **Sam and Rose Satter**—57 years and **Rabbi David and Edith Spiro**—36 years.

## Mazel Tov to the following:

**Bob and Roz Brown**, upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Lorne David**, grandson of **Moe and Sarah Zucker**, Montreal, Quebec, and **Sam and Jennie Brown**. **Sid and Rita Tobin**, upon the marriage of their son, **Barry Martin** to **Debra Wolf**. The couple are residing in London, Ontario where the groom is an attorney. **Professor Bernie and Zena Vigod**, upon the birth of their daughter, **Michelle Yael**. Proud grandparents are **Mrs. and Mrs. Vigod**, Montreal, Quebec and **Mrs. Simcen**, Winnipeg, Man. **Louis Aranoff** on the birth of a grandson, **Jeremy Adam**. Proud parents are **Michael and Judy Aranoff**, Halifax, N.S. **Harry and Amelia Goldman** and **Mrs. P.M. Levine**, upon the birth of a granddaughter and great granddaughter, **Chanah Eli-Shevah**. Proud parents are **Dr. Malcolm and Barbara Goldman**, Moshav Nezer Hazani, Israel. The engagement is announced of **Morton Cohen**, son of **Lillian Budovitch** and **Israel Cohen**, Saint John, N.B. to **Avril Mann**, Toronto, Ontario.

Speedy recoveries to **Bea Abrams**, **Betty Levine**, **Bessie (Sam) Rose** and **Ida Tobin**.

continued on next page



continued from previous page

**Lionel and Annette Goldman** and family have returned to Montreal after visiting his parents, **Harry and Amelia Goldman**. **Brenda Budovitch** has returned to Toronto after visiting her parents, **Ben and Goldie Budovitch**. **Shawn Rosenzweig** has returned to Toronto, and sister, **Simone**, has returned to Boston to resume her studies at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, after visiting their parents, **Irwin and Betty Rosenzweig**. **Robin Payne** has returned to Boston to resume her studies at Brandeis University, after visiting her parents, **Marty and Linda Payne**. **Eric Swetsky** has returned to Toronto, after visiting his parents, **Lou and Gladys Swetsky**. **Sheldon Eusler** has returned to Toronto after visiting his parents, **Larry and Rose Eusler**. **Peter Levine** has returned to Toronto, after visiting his parents, **Harry and Edyth Levine**. **Steven Budovitch** has returned to Halifax, after visiting his parents, **Frank and Daisy Budovitch**. **Arnold Chippin** has returned to Israel, after visiting his parents, **Joe and Jennie Chippin**. **Beth Velensky** has returned to Toronto to resume studies at the Ryerson PolyTechnical Institute, after visiting her parents **Harold and Audrey Velensky**. **Steven and Rhoda (Lang) Fransblow** have returned from Calgary, Alberta, to take up residence in our community. Welcome back.

#### United Israel Appeal Dinner

The annual United Israel Appeal Campaign was held October 25, 1981 in the vestry of the synagogue in the form of a Chinese Buffet Dinner. Guest speaker was **Walter Hess**, National Executive Director, United Israel Appeal of Canada. Chairman for the evening was **Marty Payne**.

**Best wishes for a  
Healthy and Happy  
Chanukah.**

## What's Happening in St. John's

by Linda Berman

On Sunday morning, October 4, 1981, **Rabbi Berman** appeared on the CBC religious affairs program "Dialogue" where he was interviewed by host, **Richard Beaton**. The program, in which Rabbi Berman discussed various topics ranging from his reasons for entering the Rabbinate, to the controversial excavations of what may be ancient cemeteries in Israel, was seen by viewers across Newfoundland and was very well received.

#### Synagogue News

We would like to extend our best wishes for a successful year to our newly elected Executive: **Bernard Nathanson**, our former Vice-President who has now been elected President; **Sheldon Lipkus**, our former President who has now been elected Vice-President; **Dr. Adrian Fine** who has retained his position as Treasurer and **Dr. Lionel Pereria-Mendoza** who has joined the Executive as Secretary. We wish them much success as we enter the New Year.

On Thursday, October 15, 1981, the children of our Hebrew School were treated to a "Supper in the Succah" by our Sisterhood. The program, which was planned and executed by **Rabbi Berman**, featured supper with all of the appropriate rituals and blessings. A good time was had by all, but more importantly, the children were able to participate in the mitzvah of eating in the Succah.

Now that the holidays are past, the sisterhood is once again getting busy. They are preparing for both their annual Fall Thriftshop and Bakesale. These have



*Sheldon Lipkus is shown receiving a plaque in recognition of his efforts on behalf of United Israel Appeal from Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador Yeshayahu Anug. Lt. Col. Yona Gazit Special Emissary, U.T.A. is shown on the right.*

always been successful in the past, and we are sure they will be equally successful this time as well.

The men of the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland held a game evening on Saturday evening, November 14, 1981. Tickets were limited and the event proved to be successful.

Beginning with Shabbos Berayshis, our Synagogue started a Junior Congregation which meets every Saturday morning. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. and is run by **Mrs. Berman** with the assistance of **Mrs. Barbara Fine**. It is followed by a small Kiddush. This is a most important undertaking which will train our children

continued on next page

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Atlantic Jewish Council

# News from Moncton

## United Israel Appeal Dinner

On Sunday, November 8, 1981, a dinner sponsored by United Israel Appeal was held at Keddy's Brunswick Hotel. Our guest speaker for this occasion was His Excellency, *The Very Rev. David Rosen*, Chief Rabbi of Ireland. The Chief Rabbi was a very articulate and dynamic speaker. Our exuberant Chairperson for this event was *Mrs. Betty Druckman*.

The Pre-School is again off to a very successful year under the capable direction of *Mrs. Richardson* and her assistant, *Susan*. Two months have gone by and the children are very involved in the learning process. A new feature has been added, that of a swim and gym program at the C.E.P.S. building on the University of Moncton Campus. This is a one-hour session on the third Thursday of each month. A Rummage Sale and Mini Bazaar to raise funds for the Pre-School took place on November 25 and 26, 1981.

## Young Judaea

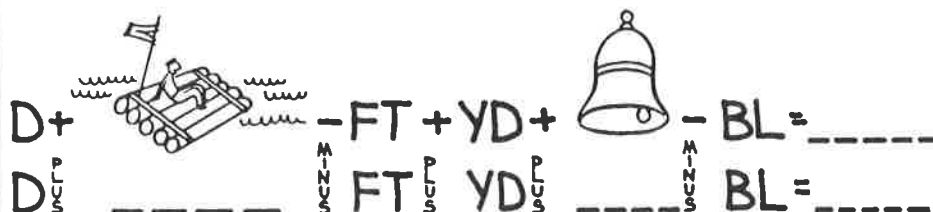
At a meeting of our teens held Thursday, October 22, 1981, which was attended by eight out of our twelve teens in Moncton, it was decided to plan a social weekend—inviting other communities to Moncton. Committees have been established.

On Saturday, November 14, 1981, the Congregation honoured all our Jewish Veterans. Special prayers were offered for those who served in the Armed Forces and have already passed on. Part of the service was the Mailee Rachamim in which the Rabbi recalled by name all those interred at the Cemetery. The service was conducted in conjunction with Remembrance Day Observance.

CROSS OUT THE LETTERS IN THIS BOX WHICH APPEAR THREE TIMES. RE-ARRANGE THE LETTERS WHICH ARE LEFT TO FORM A HANUKAH HISTORY NAME.

B	W	B	J	Q	B	C	L
C	P	S	P	J	E	P	K
D	O	R	S	Q	J	C	M
T	U	X	A	S	I	F	K
G	T	F	U	Q	U	C	M
F	O	T	W	D	Y	I	K
G	X	O	N	V	N	V	N
H	X	H	W	H	V	I	M

BY ADDING AND SUBTRACTING OBJECTS AND LETTERS YOU WILL MAKE A HANUKAH WORD. WHAT IS THE WORD?



WHAT BET CAN NEVER BE WON?  
The aleph.

WHY IS THE LETTER E GOOD FOR SHIN?  
Because it makes the shin shine?

MINI DRAYDEL DI RAEI I FTI YDI BELEI BL HANUKAH

If you would plant for days

—plant grain

If you would plant for years

—plant trees

If you would plant for generations

—plant people



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# International Terrorism

by Ann David

In a polished address, **Erol Araf**, Director of Communications for the Canadian Jewish Congress, emphasized the chronic universal problem . . . international terrorism.

Mr. Araf cited recent campaigns of terror against "innocent, defenseless Jews" in Paris, Antwerp, and Austria, and traced the PLO's organized and systematic links to the neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations.

In his address, Mr. Araf promoted the Camp David Accords saying that a lot of progress was made in a short time, and that there was an 80% agreement on outstanding issues. He also cautiously outlined the United States' role under President Reagan concerning the peace talks.

When asked why the PLO did not accept the Camp David Accords decision, Mr. Araf said, "The answer is simple. The PLO commits itself to the destruction of the State of Israel . . . culturally, politically, and socially." He went on to explain that Israel entered the Camp David Accords willing to "take a chance for peace." He did concede that everything is not perfect presently in the Middle East, but he urged "the critics of the Camp David Peace Talks to give it a chance to prove itself before condemning it outright."

Concerning the assassination of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, Mr. Araf commented that "it was a tragic loss between

two nations, and not between two people."

Responding to a question from the audience to whether or not "Prime Minister Begin, in fact, practiced terrorism during Israel's late 1940's struggle for independence, Erol Araf distinguished between Begin's "freedom fighting and the PLO-style systematic terrorism." In his terms, a terrorist exercises "pure and simple unacceptable acts of terrorism."

The chairman of this event, **Mr. Ben Prossin**, thanked those in attendance for "exercising tolerance" while Mr. Araf lectured about this controversial issue. This event sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation, and the Canadian Zionist Federation (Atlantic Region), was held at the McInnes Room at Dalhousie University and drew an audience of over 150 people.

continued from previous page

to become full participants in the regular services subsequent to their Bar Mitzvah.

In June, the Sisterhood sponsored three shows by the well known children's entertainer, Mr. Dress-up. The three shows were all sold out and it was real feather in the cap of our sisterhood and its President, **Marge Smilestein**.

Congratulations to **Naomi, Simon, David and Rosemary Skoll** and **Mrs. Leah Joseph** who have become Canadian Citizens. Congratulations to **Linda and Neil Tock** on the birth of their second child, **Corey**. Good Luck is wished to **Aaron and Doris Tock** on the opening of their new bakery. We especially thank them for their kosher bagels. What a treat for us!

With a heavy heart, we note that **Dorothy and Philip Riteman** and family have sold their home in St. John's and are now living in Halifax. They are long time members of the Synagogue and very good friends of the Jewish Community. Their presence will be greatly missed. We wish them much success and happiness in their new home and hope that they will visit us often.

Condolences to **Mrs. Leah Joseph** on the passing of her sister, **Mrs. Millie Nathan** and to **Mrs. Doris Tock** on the passing of her father, **Mr. Harry Oberfield**. May G-d comfort them among the mourners of Zion and Israel.

## Conference on Multiculturalism for Teachers and Educators

The Atlantic Jewish Council was invited to participate at the Conference on Multiculturalism for Teachers and Educators held at St. Patricks High School on November 20 and 27, 1981.

Three hundred teachers from across the city attended each of these one-day seminars. Two more seminars will be held in the Spring of 1982.

Exhibiting as part of the Resource Fair, the Atlantic Jewish Council provided teaching aids, films and reference material for use in classrooms.

Commended for the display and diversity of material, the organizers singled out the Atlantic Jewish Council table as one of the best. Continuous showing of the film, "The Jewish Canadians" has resulted in requests from many teachers to borrow the film for classroom viewing.



Interested Teachers are shown examining material.

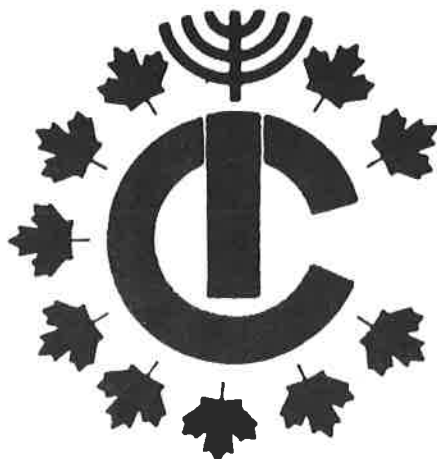


Atlantic Jewish Council display proved popular



Left to right: Ken Gordon, President, Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation and Erol Araf, Director of Communications, Canadian Jewish Congress.





## canada - israel committee

The Canada-Israel Committee will tender its *Annual Parliamentary Conference and Dinner* on Tuesday, March 30 and Wednesday, March 31, 1982, at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa.

Plans are underway to ensure that this year's event will be an exciting and stimulating experience for all of those who attend. As is our custom, our program will feature a distinguished array of prestigious national and international personalities.

## Happenings and Events



*Atlantic Jewish Council Executive Meeting  
October 28, 1981*



*Reuben David and Martin Herschorn, Co-Chairman of the Halifax/Dartmouth State of Israel Bonds, were presented with Ben Gurion plaques during the recent "kick-off" brunch at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Julius Briskin, Q.C. of Montreal addressed the large attendance.*

### APPOINTMENTS

*Martin Chernin*, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council, is pleased to announce the following appointments to the Board. *Mr. Lou Michelson*, Saint John, N.B., *Miss Anita Wolman*, Halifax; *Mr. Ken Gordon*, Halifax and *Mr. Leon Zelikovitz*, Halifax/Sydney.



*Mr. Ken Gordon, President of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation, has been appointed to the National Executive of NETWORK CANADA.*

## Happenings and Events



*Remembrance services were held recently in Moncton, N.B.; Saint John, N.B. and Halifax, N.S. Shown above are the members of the Halifax Jewish War Veterans of Canada.*

### NOVA SCOTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND AND NEW BRUNSWICK DELEGATES TO THE 29th BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF HADASSAH-WIZO OF CANADA NOVEMBER 15 - 18, 1981 OTTAWA, ONTARIO



*Erol Araf, Director of Communications, Canadian Jewish Congress, recently addressed large audiences at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S. and Dalhousie University, Halifax. His subject entitled "Israel Security Environment in the 1980's" and "Terrorism - The P.L.O., the Centre of the International Terrorist Conspiracy", provoked many comments from the audiences (See article page 14).*



*Individual pictures of the above may be obtained by contacting Barbara Paton - 423-4844.*



# History of St. John's and Corner Brook, Nfld, Hebrew Congregation as Remembered by Arthur Kolonel

In 1906, *Simon Kolonel* immigrated from England to St. John's, Newfoundland. Shortly after, he arranged for his brothers, *Abraham, Nathan* and *Jack* to make the same trip to Newfoundland. Sometime in 1915 he arranged for *Simon Levitz* who was living in New Haven, Connecticut, at the time, to make his home in St. John's.

Leaving his brothers in St. John's, Simon and his family in 1908 moved to the United States. However his brothers remained in St. John's. Due to a misunderstanding in the pronunciation of the name, Kolonel, his brothers assumed the name of Cohen and when Simon and family returned in 1919 they too, used the name Cohen. (It was not until 1957, that Arthur, now married decided to return to the States and resumed using the family name of Kolonel).

Simon opened a business in Grand Falls under the name of S. Cohen and Sons and then went on to buy a farm on the Portugal Cove Road in St. John's where he started the Newfoundland Poultry Farm. This was managed by his son Arthur, while brothers, Michael and Jack managed S. Cohen and Sons.

It was sometime around 1928, that *Ida Simon*, Arthur's mother, suggested that he try to organize a Jewish Congregation. Organizational meetings were held at his farm along with meetings at the homes of the *Wilansky, Levitz* and *Rosenberg* families, etc. Forty-five families established a Congregation but experienced difficulties in keeping a Rabbi in residence. In 1930 Arthur, known for his organizational abilities, was elected chairman of a building committee. Land was purchased on Henry Street and the first Synagogue and Congregation became a reality. (Arthur Kolonel at this time was known as Artie Cohen, star catcher on the Grand Falls and St. John's Baseball Teams!).

Arthur, practically lived at the Synagogue while it was being built and other members at that time who were actively involved included the families of *Wilansky, Levitz, Rosenberg, Saxon, Wylan, Swirsky, Cohen, Frelich, I.F. Perlin, Goldstone* and *Sidel* etc.

The maintenance of the cemetery, became one of Arthur's responsibilities and in 1932 he saw that an iron fence was erected, that graves were maintained and

recovered an additional piece of land that had been taken, in error, by the Salvation Army. By the time his mother passed away in November of 1932, the cemetery was in good condition.

In 1940, the Jewish Community in Corner Brook consisted of about sixteen families. With the expert help of Arthur it was decided to build a Synagogue there and he once again became the Chairman of the Building committee. The site chosen was on Callahan's Field. It was with pride that this community acted as hosts, when in 1942 a group of American and Canadian Jewish Servicemen came for the Holidays. Many of the visitors were housed with the sixteen families.

It was not until 1970 that this Synagogue was sold. The sale also included a house which had been built in anticipation of a resident Rabbi. (Unable to obtain a Rabbi, the congregation was able to engage a teacher). The resulting money from this sale was sent to Israel where it was designated for use in "old peoples' homes."

1970, saw the community of St. John's build a modern Temple, which is the centre of Jewish life and tradition.

## New Program Assistant Atlantic Jewish Council

Miss Laura Stock has been appointed Programming Assistant, Atlantic Jewish Council. Miss Stock, who is a graduate of the first Canadian Zionist Federation Teacher Institute in Israel, has extensive background in programming for youth activities. Her duties will be directing all activities for Canadian Young Judaea in the Atlantic Region. A past active member of Young Judaea, she attended Biluim Canada as well as spending two years studying at Bar Ilan in Israel.

Miss Stock, a native of Montreal, is principal of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue Hebrew School, Halifax. She will be ac-



Laura Stock

tively involved in curricula planning for the four Educational Outreach Schools sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council as well as assisting in general and youth programming.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Arthur Kolonel, told his story to *Ellie Marshall* of Glace Bay who submitted the article to *Shalom Magazine*. We have taken the liberty of editing and rewriting portions of this story. However, Mr. Kolonel said that he has tried to remember as much as he could, but would welcome additional contributions from old-time residents. For those who wish to further delve into this piece of history, Mr. Kolonel has placed information in the Archives in the Colonial Building in St. John's, Newfoundland.



St. John's Synagogue circa 1950

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### SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES:

HALIFAX - Saturday, December 19, 1981, Beth Israel Synagogue - 8:00 p.m.

SAINT JOHN - Sunday, December 20, 1981, Congregation Sharrei Zedek - 2:30 p.m.

MONCTON - Monday, December 21, 1981, Tiferes Israel Synagogue - 8:00 p.m.



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### SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES:

GLACE BAY - Sunday, December 27, 1981, Sons of Israel Congregation - 6:30 p.m.

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JEWISH COUNCIL**



**CANADIAN ZIONIST  
FEDERATION  
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**CANADIAN JEWISH  
CONGRESS—  
ATLANTIC REGION**





A high-contrast, black and white illustration. A man, wearing a light-colored uniform with a Star of David on his left sleeve, is kneeling on the ground. He is holding a device with a vertical rod and a rectangular screen or panel. He appears to be operating the device on a person lying face down on the ground. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an outdoor or industrial setting. The style is graphic and stark, with heavy black shadows and bright white highlights.

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# The Magen David Adom Story . . .

On December 22, 1935, the MAGEN DAVID ADOM First Aid Station in Maze Street, Tel Aviv, was dedicated. In 1936, Arab riots broke out and armed bands, commanded by officers of the armies of neighbouring countries and incited by the Mufti of Jerusalem, carried out acts of terror and murder against peaceful citizens—both Jews and Arabs—in favour of moderation and co-existence. The riots continued from April until October and during those six months, ninety-one Jews were killed and three hundred and sixty-nine wounded. Hundreds of houses were destroyed by bombs and fire.

MDA organized First Aid for casualties and help for the elderly and children who had to be evacuated from the threatened localities. Temporary MDA Stations were set up and MDA volunteers frequently stayed at their posts for twenty-four hours, without relief.

MDA served as the Medical Corps of the Hagana and provided doctors, stretcher-bearers, First-Aiders and medical equipment. In addition, MDA furnished the villages and settlements threatened by the attacks with first aid supplies, stretchers and other equipment from its warehouses in Tel Aviv.

In defiance of the riots, a record number of Jewish villages and kibbutzim were set up, many of them in isolated parts of the country. In the north, the new settlements, each clustered around a high watch tower, were linked by a barbed-wire defence line. MDA sent some of its Ambulances to the north, the drivers and vehicles remaining there on duty during the entire period of the setting up of the "Wingate Defence Line".

Upon the outbreak of the disturbance in 1936, the lack of an organized supply of blood for transfusions was sorely felt. On the initiative of Dr. M. Levontin, the foundation was laid for an MDA Blood Donors Association. The blood type of every member and would-be donor was registered so that he or she could be called upon in case of need.

World War II imposed new and difficult tasks on MDA, but having served as the Medical Wing of the Hagana, the organization had attracted many volunteers and had acquired valuable experience so it was fully geared to cope with its new responsibilities.

In 1940, Tel Aviv was attacked repeatedly by Italian and German aircraft during which raids one hundred and four people lost their lives. An Italian bomb fell in the grounds adjoining the Tel Aviv MDA Station in Maze Street, Tel Aviv, killing two children playing in the public gardens.

MDA set up fourteen temporary First

Aid Posts in the city and more than once the MDA volunteers rushing in to rescue and aid the victims of air raids were themselves wounded. About two hundred and forty people injured in the air raids were treated by MDA but more than half could be sent home after receiving First Aid; the others were transferred to hospital. The blood donated by the members of the new MDA Blood Donors Association saved many lives.

Accelerated courses in First Aid were organized by MDA in all parts of the country and thousands of members of the newly-formed Civil Defence as well as workers, housewives and students were trained in the rescue and care of the wounded.

In 1948, the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine recommended the partitioning of Palestine, into independent Jewish and Arab States. Unfortunately, the peaceful life was shattered by continuous attacks by armed Arab bands, supported by forces from across the border—Jewish villages were attacked, buses and cars were ambushed.

MDA, at the start of the riots, distributed medical supplies and first aid equipment to the settlements. Blood banks were established in a number of locations.

Terrorism reached a peak in February with bomb explosions in Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda Street in which over fifty men, women and children were killed. MDA volunteers quickly and effectively went into action rescuing and aiding the wounded. The Blood Bank in MDA Jerusalem supplied the city's hospitals with all the required blood and plasma.

On May 14, the Jewish State was proclaimed and one minute after midnight on May 15 the armies of five Arab countries invaded the newborn State. Heavy fighting went on throughout the country but everywhere the Jewish soldiers held back the invaders despite the latter's overwhelming superiority in numbers and equipment—but this successful resistance was attained at great cost in fatalities and wounded.

It was MDA that provided the Israel Defence Forces with trained medical orderlies and nurses, with medical equipment, and every other help to save lives and alleviate suffering. In fact, MDA constituted the Medical Corps of the new Army.

MDA was active as well on the home front. Jerusalem was cut off from the rest of the country and food and water was severely rationed. During the first truce of the war, MDA in Jerusalem organized a number of convoys for bringing medical supplies and food parcels from Tel Aviv

and Haifa to Jerusalem. In Haifa, MDA announced over the emergency radio network that anyone who wished to send food parcels to relatives in Jerusalem should bring them to the local MDA Stations. On the following day, some three thousand packages piled up at the Stations.

Then the Armistic Agreement was signed in 1949 and the same year Israel became a member of the United Nations . . . To be continued

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



*Morton I. Rosenthal, has been appointed National President*



*Shirley Moscovitch has been appointed National Executive Director*





Painting by Frank Kleinholz ©

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## United Jewish Appeal

**Editor's Note:** The following article appeared in a recent edition of *Canadian Jewish News*.

### Jews in Cape Breton, Glace Bay

#### They meet new challenges facing Israel

by J.B. Salsberg

It is well known that I am soft on the small town Jewish communities. I'm filled with wonderment by the dedication they manifest in their efforts to keep the Jewish flame burning in their tiny Jewish enclaves.

They, and not the Jews on Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, etc., are the true heroes of the battle for Jewish survival and continuity.

That's why I find it so hard to decline an invitation to visit those outposts of our Canadian Jewish community. And, I suppose, that is also the reason why I manage to find so many heartwarming individuals and groups in almost every outpost I visit. On such visits I'm reminded of the legendary Berditcher Rebbe, Rabbi Levyi Yitzchak ben Soreh, who, when shown a Jew with tallith and tefilin greasing the wheels of his wagon said: "Creator of the Universe, what a wonderful people thy Jewish people are; even when they grease their wagons they pray and laud thy name . . ."

My visit to Cape Breton, half a year ago, provided abundant evidence to justify Reb Levyi Yitzchak's admiration for his people.

I went there in the company of Lt.-Col. Yona Gazit (on loan from the Israeli army) who is quite at home with the Jewish communities on the Atlantic coast. We landed at the Sydney airport to be welcomed by the three activists of the region. I was introduced to **Harold Schwartz**, chairman of the Sydney United Israel Appeal campaign for 1981, to **Martin Karrol**, another leader of the campaign, and to **Lloyd M. Newman**, of Halifax, the chairman of the Atlantic Region of UIA.

Lloyd Newman was most intriguing. He just didn't look like the traditional UIA leader. In his appearance, dress and manner, he looked more like a popular stage personality, or like the sportsman who just finished a workout of his favorite riding horse.

How was one to know that this dynamic person, with considerable commercial interests throughout the Atlantic provinces, would drop all his normal duties and come to Cape Breton for the better part of a week to run a blitz campaign for UIA? But that's exactly what he did. His local commanders were all primed for the same offensive.

*... The Israeli crisis was, of course, the rallying cry and the response would have moved Herzl, Ben-Gurion, Begin and the Israeli military units in the remotest Sinai outposts . . .*

To heck with niceties . . . as far as Newman was concerned. The visitors will have plenty of time to reach their rooms or have a rest. Everything had been mapped out for everyone and the launch was to commence with our arrival in town. Harold Schwartz's business establishment became the centre of operations and others, of various walks of life, arrived at the Schwartz location to assume the tasks that Lloyd and Harold had carefully assigned to each of them.

There was no mistake as to who was the chief commanding officer of the operation—it was Lloyd Newman.

*The Israeli crisis was, of course, the rallying cry and the response would have moved Herzl, Ben-Gurion, Begin and the Israeli military units in the remotest Sinai outposts, I know that I was moved and wanted to sing praises to our own Canadian outpost on the rocky shores of the Atlantic.*

I had the stimulating experience of meeting individual Jews who are prominently linked with the Cape Breton and Nova Scotia political, communications and semi-governmental business agencies for the entire Atlantic region who needed little, if any, prodding to meet the new challenges facing Israel.

The same mood and response was found in Glace Bay. Elliot Marshall's highly regarded family store was transformed into another UIA campaign headquarters. The formal, public assembly in the spacious Sydney synagogue and community centre brought our people from every corner of Cape Breton to listen, to be energized and to assume the obligations and responsibilities that are expected of all who are concerned with Israel's safety and continuity.

Was Lloyd Newman, the dedicated commander, satisfied with the blitz? Yes and no. Yes, insofar as the majority of the Cape Breton Jews were concerned. No, with the few dried bones which needed Jewish heart transplants. (I was told of at least one instance where Lloyd Newman lost his temper and there ensued an eyeball to eyeball confrontation with very good results "for a beginning," said my informant).

*Is there criticism of Cape Breton Jewry?*

*I'm sure that one could find room for criticism. But, where does a perfect community exist? On the whole, however, I saw a lot of sunshine over Cape Breton's skies even though our flight was delayed for a few hours due to the Atlantic fog that frequently seals off the airport there.*

*Leyvi Yitzchak would have had good reasons for praising the Jews of Cape Breton.*

## New Instruction Classes—Halifax

### Yiddish

New this year, are Yiddish Classes that are being offered by the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax. Held weekly, the classes have attracted people with varying degrees of expertise, but all agree that the classes are a great deal of fun "while learning". Instructed by **Basja Broches**, who has recently moved to Halifax, these classes will be open to new registrants starting in January 1982.

### Hebrew

Early in January, the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax will be offering classes in conversational Hebrew. Instructed by **Mrs. Laura Stock**, the classes will be held once a week.

For further information or registration for either session, please write or call: The Atlantic Jewish Council, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S., B3J 1H1 (902) 422-7491.

# A Non-Jew speaks out on behalf of purchasing '81 Israel Bonds

*Joan Sutton, a columnist for the Toronto Star was recently named Woman of the Year by the Career Women's Division of State of Israel Bonds in Toronto. Excerpts from her remarks at the dinner in her honour are reprinted below.*

"When you read the papers, you would think that the world is divided into Zionists and non-Zionists; Jews and non-Jews; Palestinians and Israelis. I believe that the world is divided into those people who have been to Israel and those who have not.

When you have been to Israel, you are aware of the POLITICS OF GEOGRAPHY . . . the size of the country and the closeness of the enemy. When people here recommended that Israel concede a mile or two in the interest of peace, they can't visualize that this sacrifice would bring Israel nose-to-nose with the enemy. Another thing you appreciate in visiting Israel is that ISRAEL IS NOT AN ECONOMIC ARGUMENT TO BE DEBATED. Israel exists . . . Israel is . . . Israel is one of the most creative places in

the world today, and much of the money for that creation comes from Israel Bonds. Everywhere you go, there is architecture in the desert . . . There is agriculture where nothing was able to grow . . . There is scientific research going on to help the entire world. Israel is truly a miracle and everyone who has ever bought a Bond or will buy a Bond is contributing to that miracle.

Many people offer excuses as to why they do not want to buy Bonds.

## (a) They don't like Menachem Begin

It would be presumptuous to me to be an apologist for Begin, and impertinent of me to take on the task . . . because my children were not at Mallot or Munich; they do not sleep in a bomb shelter at Metullah or eventually go off to war with a machine-gun on their hip. I don't feel that I have a vote. But I can tell you that I think Israel is bigger and more important than the personality of any of its prime ministers . . . and that long after Begin has been replaced by other prime ministers, Israel will still be on the side of the Western world. We will never have to

worry about arms and technology that we sell to Israel being used against us. We cannot say that about any other country in the Middle East.

## (b) Internal bickering

I am told 'They are always shouting amongst themselves, and even the Israelis don't know what they want to do. Perhaps we are not accustomed to what a real democracy is! Israel is a true democracy. I am reminded of a reported conversation between Chaim Weizmann and America's Harry Truman. Truman supposedly agreed that although Weizmann had a difficult job it was nothing like his . . . 'I am, after all, the president of two hundred million people,' said Truman. 'That's true, sir' replied Weizmann, 'but I am the president of six hundred and fifty thousand presidents.'

## (c) Intransigence

How unfair that Israel be accused of being uncompromising. The only thing Israel is intransigent about is peace. They want peace. I have seen what has happened in Israel to a people living under

*continued on next page*

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# Atlantic Region Youth

by Pam Medjuck

Many parents and concerned individuals have responded to the questionnaire I prepared regarding Young Judaea. The motivation behind the questionnaire was two fold; in order to begin a schedule of youth activities, we needed information and input as to interest and as to the number of volunteers available to help us. Secondly, it was important to reveal to the Atlantic Jewish Council membership, that re-organization was going on behind the scenes and that every assistance possible was desired.

Almost all the responses I received have been encouraging, some even enthusiastic. Only one individual thought to remind me of past difficulties and obstacles.

I would like to thank everyone who returned a completed questionnaire. With the information gained, we can continue to rebuild youth programming and to create programming where there now is none.

The university student and young adult group centered at Dalhousie has been very busy since September. The group called the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation is in its second year of operation. The Executive line-up is as follows: President—**Ken Gordon**; Vice-President—**Ronnie Cuperfain**; Secretary—**Perla Arditti**; Publicity—**Jeff Wolman**.

The "fall semester" budget provided by the Atlantic Jewish Council has been completely spent, and plans are already being sketched for activities to be held after the New Year break from school.

During the fall, the Atlantic Province Jewish Student Federation, held five successful events:

1. Saturday, October 10, 1981—**Ken Gordon** hosted an evening get-together where new students and young adults could meet returning students, and where the years programming commenced with "Marx Brothers" movies, conversation and refreshments. Forty people attended.
2. The next event was scheduled for Erev Simchat Torah. The members participated in Simchat Torah services at the Beth Israel synagogue and afterwards enjoyed a wine and cheese party. **Rabbi Pritzker's** involvement was truly appreciated! About fifteen attended.
3. Simchat Torah was again boisterously celebrated on October 31, 1981 when fifty people showed up at the Beth Israel Synagogue for a masquerade dance. Admission was three dollars per person.

4. Thursday, November 5, 1981, the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation, in co-operation with the Atlantic Jewish Council, presented **Erol Araf**, Director of Communications, Canadian Jewish Congress, in a public lecture at the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Mr. Araf spoke on the "P.L.O. as the Centre of International Terrorism". One hundred and fifty people attended.

5. Finally, on Sunday, November 22, 1981, **Darryl Friedhandler** hosted a brunch. Thirty-five young adults arrived each carrying a contribution to the menu.

It is clear that this semester's program has been an unqualified success for the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation.

## Young Judaea

The Atlantic Jewish Council has hired **Laura Stock** to assist **Shirlee Fox** in the Atlantic Jewish Council office to program for youth of the region. Laura's help is sorely needed because the task is too onerous for volunteers to do well.

In Halifax, with **Darrell Pink** as coordinator, a group of college students and young professionals has been organized to provide educational and social programs for high school ages. We need the high school students to learn to lead activities for younger children, and yet they too desire programming for themselves.

On November 29, 1981, an afternoon workshop was held for ages 14-17. This session was intended to introduce the participants to programming skills and to provide materials and assistance for the actual planning of afternoon activities for younger children. At the end of the workshop, the groups completed programmes, ready to be used on the schedule of events drafted.

The senior leaders (college age and up) helped the workshop participants create and plan the programs which will be available later in the year, as well as to review the plan with the youth leaders and to monitor its presentation to younger Young Judaeans.

In December I met with interested parents in Moncton to organize a schedule of events for Moncton youth.

To date, the youth activities themselves are still in the obvious organizational stage but I hope the programs being made will encourage each and every one of you to reflect positively on the enthusiasm prevailing now.

There's no denying the difficulties involved with limited resources and limited

numbers of committed participants, but I feel progress has begun and I look forward to helping in its continuation.

## A Non-Jew speaks out continued

constant tension and threat of annihilation; the creative things that they have been able to do. Imagine what they could do if those beautiful young people could be allowed to fulfill their human potential instead of constantly marching off to war. They are intransigent about peace, but not peace at ANY price. There is said to be a wonderful peace in the grave. This is not the peace the Israelis are going to pay. They will not sit at a bargaining table to negotiate with someone who says 'My goal is to destroy you.'

So, Begin, the divisions in Israel and Intransigence are not sufficient reasons for not buying Israel Bonds. There are far more creative reasons why you should.

ONE is because the projects Bonds finance are so imaginative. Bonds are NOT used for defence or to keep a political party in power. They are used to keep the country alive and vibrant . . . as evidenced by so many wonderful things already achieved.

BONDS are also a very important declaration against anti-semitism, the sensitive subject that everyone would prefer to ignore. I don't want to be an alarmist, but I also don't want to be an ostrich either. Jews who live in North American communities can live a life in which they are not aware of anti-semitism, even though it is growing and is stronger today than it has ever been.

After WWII, when newsreels revealed the stories of the Holocaust, it was unfashionable to be anti-semitic. Now PLO propaganda, the stand of the United Nations, political and economic influences as well as the growing popularity of revisionists who are trying to rewrite history . . . make it fashionable to be anti-semitic. The revisionists are busy convincing people that the holocaust never happened . . . refer to the alleged holocaust and create an element of doubt that must not be permitted to grow.

Anti-semitism IS a fact . . . and don't think it couldn't happen here. A few years ago, when the Arabs were boycotting firms that had Israelis on their Boards as directors, our government put a piece of paper in the passports of people who wanted to do business with the Arabs, stating that they were non-Jews. It shouldn't have happened, but it did.

If anything happened to Israel . . . that wave of anti-semitism that has always

continued on next page

# Opinion:



by Samuel Jacobson

## Opinion . . .

The following article was published in the Halifax Herald almost seven years ago.

Israel should have been an honoured guest at the recent Can-Cum Conference in Mexico. It should have been invited to be the chairman or co-chairman.

Israel has shown how the problem of feeding the starving third world can be solved.

Samuel Jacobson

*"Man has . . . created barren deserts"*

Is the world really running out of food-growing land? Or is humanity more interested in mutual destruction?

France, with an area not much larger than one of the larger provinces of Canada, has a population of more than 50 million and is a food exporter. India, with tens of millions on the verge of starvation and dependent on vast gift food, spends scarce resources to produce an atomic bomb.

The truth is that man has himself created barren deserts out of former fertile soil.

Dr. Walter Clay Loudermill the great soil conservationist, travelled around the world from the deserts of China through

the Middle East and North Africa in 1939. In former times the great civilizations of Persia, Babylonia, Carthage and the whole North Africa were the most fertile areas of the world. These areas had been neglected and abused for centuries and had become the graveyard of their civilizations and people.

However, when he came to the Zionist colonies, he was so impressed that he wrote a book and the 11th commandment as a tribute to these hard-working people that he declared had produced the most outstanding success in soil reclamation in the world's history.

This commandment, which was broadcast over the radio from Jerusalem, was as follows:

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by the herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become stoney, sterile ground or wasteful gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth."

That is exactly what happened.

With the decline of the Roman and Byzantine empire and the invasion, and conquest from Arabia, the decline began. The Tigris-Euphrates area, the centre of great empires and populations, died out. North Africa, the granary of the Roman empire, became a desert. The Arabs conquered many races in this vast area, imposed their religion and language, but certainly did not replace the population. The people of Egypt are Egyptians, not Arabs, the Moroccans are Moors, not Arabs. Tunisians are Cathaginians; Iraqi, Babylonians and Syrians are no more Arab in race than are the Mongolians.

The Zionist coming back to the Holy Land found a neglected, despised country—a land that had not been a homeland, but a conquered province for 2,000 years. It had never been the homeland of any people since the Jews were expelled by the Romans. Restoring fertility was not

easy. Many of the colonies suffered of malaria from the swamps. More died than remained alive. My father lost five of six children, and his first wife was blinded, but survived malaria.

At present, after decades of toil on the land they love so much, the former swamps and deserts provide more than 75 per cent of the food required for the 3 1/2 million residents of Israel. Perhaps that is a lesson the World Food Conference should have thought about—not how to get food donated, but how to grow food on what is now desert in the Arab-conquered millions of square miles of vacant, neglected land.

Really, these enemies of Israel should not hate or even envy them, but should welcome them and learn how to create life, not death. Even the many developing nations, which are starving, should applaud Israel for the wonderful contribution it has made for the benefit of mankind, instead of blindly denouncing and voting against it at the United

continued on next page

## A Non-Jew speaks out continued

been throughout the world would be unleashed and every Jew, no matter how assimilated, would feel it. The anti-semitism does not care if you do not go to Temple; he does not care if you call yourself a Canadian-First; he doesn't care if you eat bacon . . . At Entebbe, when they said, 'We will let the non-Jews go' . . . they did not free the assimilated Jews . . . We all have a stake in Israel that what happened will never happen again.

I am not a Jew, but have for many years been investing some part of my savings every year in Israel Bonds . . . and I am doing so tonight. I am going to ask you, even if you have already bought a Bond, to make it a bigger Bond. You are doing it for yourself. You are buying a Bond because you believe in justice . . . because you believe what is happening in Israel and want to encourage it . . . because you want to take a stand against anti-semitism . . . and because you believe that Israel has the right to survive . . . If you have ever been to Israel, you will know that Israel has the right to survive. It has not been difficult for me to be a supporter of Israel . . ."

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Nations, which is dedicated to world peace.

Unfortunately, many of the leaders of African countries have caused unnecessary hardships, and even death by starvation of hundreds of thousands of their own people. Israel had missions in many of these countries, which were teaching the people how to grow food. They were expelled because Quadafi, the fanatical Moslem from Libya, bribed them to do so with Arab petrodollars. So the love of gold won out. How many will die as a result of this bribery is hard to tell. Certainly, Quadafi and the African leaders are guilty.

Incidentally, while the Zionists immediately established an agricultural school almost 100 years ago, the World Food Conference do not discuss the importance of that at all.

The first step in making any progress is that the farmers grow more food than they need for themselves. Only then can civilization advance. The Arabs who conquered the areas denuded the forests; they did not plant one tree in 1,000 years. They destroyed the pasture lands with their black goats, which ate the roots of the grass. They did not irrigate one acre of land. They did not establish one city. They know only hatred and envy.

If Israel is destroyed, will it put one more slice of bread in the hand of a starving child? But if Israel is allowed to co-operate, then everyone will benefit. They should thank Israel for waking them up from a thousand years of lethargy. They want Israel to absorb hundreds of thousands of additional people.

If Canada were as densely populated, it would have three billion people. Nova Scotia, on the same basis, would contain more than 21 million.

There is room for both the 20 Arab-speaking nations and an Israel nation in the world. They can both serve themselves and humanity by enjoying independence and the right of determination that all people are entitled to.

The World Food Conference decided to give millions of tons of food to the needy. Good, but is that the real solution? Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and feed him for life.

The Israeli missions in many African countries were teaching them how to grow food. They were expelled for short-sighted, stupid reasons and bribed dictators. All these nations now promised food should be compelled to welcome back the Israeli missions to permanently feed their starving millions. The donated food is only a temporary solution.



## Jewish War Veterans of Canada

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada has embarked on "Operation Remembrance" a project to compile a complete list and historical record of military achievements of Jewish men and women who served in the Canadian or Allied Armed Forces during World Wars. With the aid of a grant from the Health and Welfare's New Horizons Program, it is planned to publish the information in book form for the Department of National Defence, archives, libraries, veterans and families of deceased ex-service men and women.

At present, no such record exists anywhere. It is known that the percentage of Jewish participation in the struggles to

safeguard and preserve the ideals of democracy, was greater in proportion to its percentage of the total populations.

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada, a federally chartered, non-profit organization, consists of ex-service men and women who continue to remain in the front line of the ongoing battle against those forces that would destroy the principles of human rights and dignity.

The organization maintains its headquarters in Toronto at 2788 Bathurst Street, Suite 210, M6B 3A3 with branch posts in the major cities across Canada.

## JEWISH SINGLES IN THE ATLANTIC REGION

The Atlantic Jewish Council at its last annual meeting, adopted a resolution that there be a committee established for single activities, soliciting representation from the various constituent communities. This committee shall co-ordinate social events for Jewish singles in Atlantic Canada. Seed money would be available to get this project underway.

The Atlantic Jewish Council wishes to hear from anyone who would like to serve on this committee. Initially, dependent upon the response, a meeting will be called with those people who have expressed a desire to serve to plan social events and other programs.

To help this committee in its plans, the Atlantic Jewish Council would also like to know how many people would be interested in participating in these social events, how often, the different age groups to be served and any other suggestions that would be helpful.

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 5675 SPRING GARDEN ROAD, 3RD FLOOR, HALIFAX, B3J 1H1.

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**JULY 5, 1982**

**CLOSING**  
**AUGUST 16, 1982**

# Camp Kadimah Committee



Left to right: Ben Prossin, Chairman, Pam Medjuck, Jack Yablon, Anna Lee Cohen.



Left to right: Shirlee Fox, Phyllis Chernin, Barbara Gaum, Mark Rosen, Sandra Wolman.



Left to right: Sandra Wolman, Laurie Astroff, Norman Ross, Alan Stern.

**Ben Prossin**, Chairman of Camp Kadimah, is pleased to announce the 1981-1982 Camp Committee:

Ben Prossin, Chairman; Andrew Wolfson; Alan Stern; Laurie Astroff; Norman Ross; Mark Rosen, Mrs. Anna Lee Cohen; Mrs. Shirlee Fox; Jack Yablon; Mrs. Barbara Gaum; Ms. Pam Medjuck; Ms. Sandra Wolman; Dr. Morris Trager; Steven Pink, Dr. Lowell Shore; Melvin Brown - Toronto; Mrs. Phyllis Chernin - Glace Bay; Leon Zelikovitz - Sydney/Halifax; Norman Hamburg - Saint John; Mitchell Budovitch - Fredericton; Mrs. Audrey Lampert - Moncton; Bernard Nathanson - St. John's and Mrs. Rhona Ruben - Fredericton.

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Announced—Opening: July 5, 1982  
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# Mikhail Eidelman Speaks on New Soviet Jewry Crisis



התאחדות היהודית  
Canadian Jewish  
Congress



Mikhail Eidelman

Former refusenik **Mikhail Eidelman** was recently invited to Montreal by the Montreal Committee for Soviet Jewry to describe the tragic plight of Soviet Jews in the USSR today. Mr. Eidelman, President of the Union of Soviet Jews in Israel, was born in Riga in 1916. During the Second World War, while serving in the Soviet merchant marine, he was arrested in Germany and sent to a concentration camp.

The Eidelman family applied to emigrate to Israel in December 1971. While his daughter, grandchildren and sister were permitted to go to Israel, he and his wife, Felgar, a former nurse, had been denied exit visas on the grounds of the "secrecy" of his former work. Originally, the KGB promised he would get permission in 1974 when he would not be allowed to leave for a further seven years. During four years of repeated refusals, Eidelman, a sailor for 42 years, had to work as a stevedore and common labourer under threat of imprisonment for "parasitism".

In an open letter, published in 1976, Eidelman appealed for help:

"... we suffer greatly from the separation from our dear ones. Every day of our forced detention in the USSR deprives us of strength, health and hope. I have exhausted all the methods of appeal in the USSR and I therefore appeal to the world public, to my people: 'HELP ME TO GO TO ISRAEL SO THAT I CAN JOIN MY DAUGHTER, MY PEOPLE, MY HOMELAND.'"

Captain Eidelman was finally granted a visa in 1978 and now resides in Haifa, Israel. He teaches in a seaman's school in Acco.

"When I left the USSR, many of the friends I left behind asked me to speak on their behalf and to try to get them out," says Eidelman. He has kept his promise to his fellow refuseniks by ceaselessly discussing the problem of human rights in the Soviet Union and pointing out the harsh cutbacks in emigration.

Throughout his various public appearances in Montreal, Mr. Eidelman stressed that the emigration rate of Soviet Jews has plummeted to an unprecedented low level in the past few years. In support of his arguments, Mr. Eidelman compared emigration figures for 1979 (51,333), 1980 (21,471), and projections for 1981 (under 9,000). He stated further that while 4,000 Jews were able to leave the USSR in September 1979, the figure has dropped to 1,307 in September 1980, and 405 in September 1981. "It is evident that the door on Jewish emigration is now being closed," he said.

Mr. Eidelman also reminded his audiences that new restrictions governing family reunification were first imposed in Odessa and Kiev in April 1979. "Emigration officials in other Soviet republics and Greater Russia soon followed suit.

"The ramifications of these new restrictions have been severe," said Mr. Eidelman, "because a new category of Jew—the 'waitnik'—is created."

According to Mr. Eidelman, "Those who do not have immediate family in Israel are not allowed to submit their applications for exit visas, after having gone through the perilous process of making out the application."

Mikhail Eidelman frequently reminded his audiences that the general worsening of the Soviet Jewish condition is fully reflected by the systematic campaign waged against the Jewish cultural and scientific communities.

Eidelman also related that scientific seminars run by and for refusenik scientists have been banned. "Since the commencement of seminars in 1973, Jewish scientists are being systematically intimidated by the KGB. 'Hebrew language classes function only sporadically. Students and teachers are threatened with reprisals, as massive sweeps by KGB of houses of Hebrew teachers and confiscations of Hebrew books and dictionaries are taking place almost daily,'" said Eidelman.

While in Montreal, Mr. Eidelman was

interviewed by the media, briefed the community at the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue, addressed meetings sponsored by the parliamentary group on Soviet Jewry, spoke at McGill University and Jewish educational establishments and exchanged views with members of the Inter-Faith Task Force for Soviet Jewry.

Eidelman's story is tragic, but his words are not. His message is strong, warm, filled with humour and courage. Indeed, it is a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit.



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# Nostalgia



*Shown In Photo Are: Gertrude Medjuck, Sharon Cohen, Martha Everett, Sheila Lipton, Faith Guss, Sandra Tanzman, Marcia Budd, Linda Offman, Dorothy Gordon and Joan Ottman.*



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# Nostalgia

## U.I.A. in 1964



*Shown above are some of the men who attended the Special Names function at the home of Frank Zebberman, Honorary Campaign Chairman. Left to right are Dr. Charles Oler, Joseph Glube, Frank Zebberman, Jack Newman and Richard Glube.*



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# The Enigma of Cristobol Colon

by Sidney J. Jacobs

When the Knights of Columbus in their splendid, plumed regalia march proudly with others on Columbus Day in centers of Italian pride and Roman Catholic constituency, they will very likely be unaware of the substantial body of evidence pointing to the possibility that Columbus was—a Jew!

An arcane web shrouds parts of the explorer's dossier. Did he conceal his Jewishness from his contemporaries, except for ambivalent allusions? The facts are obscured in mystery in what the historian De Niabo described as "*el enigma de Cristóbal Colón*."

Consider the era. For decades preceding his birth in 1451, the Jews of Spain had been subjected to an escalating anti-Semitism, the economic consequences of which brought exile or death to thousands and, for an estimated 100,000, a precarious safety at the baptismal font.

Jews (and Moors) who converted to Christianity were designed as *Conversos*. When a considerable number, perhaps the majority, continued to practice Judaism in secret and transmit their heritage to their children, they came to be called *Marranos*, the Spanish equivalent of "swine."

Twelve years before Columbus' voyage to the New World, his royal patrons, Ferdinand and Isabella, authorized a crusade to root out heretics among these Christian converts from Judaism. The Spanish Inquisition was characterized by mass burning at the stake, called auto-da-fé, in public, pageantlike surroundings.

Even *Conversos* who escaped the stigma of being branded as *Marranos* and of facing death by torch still had to bear the stain of having non-Christian blood, with consequent restrictions on their careers.

(The Inquisition was sanctioned as late as 1834 in Spain, and in that country's Balearic Island to this day descendants of the *Marranos* are known as *Chuetas*, another designation for "swine," and as such are isolated and stigmatized.)

On March 31, 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella decreed that all non-converted Jews had to leave Spain by the last day of July. Between 150,000 and 300,000 left the country on August 2, the Jewish fast of Tishah b'Ab, which commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem.

One day later, the small flotilla of Cristóbal Colón sailed to find a western route to Asia. It is entirely possible that there may be more than fancy to the intriguing legend that one or more of the ships carrying the unfortunate Jews away from Spain crossed the wake of the explorer vessels *Nina*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*.

Is it possible that Columbus was of *Marrano* lineage? Since a *Marrano* who confessed to being a backslider and offered penance was often rewarded by being strangled before being put to the torch, it would not be surprising if the *Marrano* explorer preferred to chart an enigmatic course as the most discreet route for his career.

Columbus' writings contain a tantalizing jigsaw of clue pieces more telling in their confirmations than in their evasions. Often the hints are so broad that one cannot escape feeling that Columbus desperately wanted the truth about his origins revealed in spite of the potentially dangerous consequences to his career and his mission.

Let us begin with his name. In Genoa, he was known as Christoforo Colombo (Columbus is the Latinized form), the

eldest son of Domenico and Susanna Colombo. He used several names during his career; Colom, Cristobal Colomo, and, from the fateful year of 1492 until his demise, Cristóbal Colón.

"Colón" was a fairly common surname for Jews. Jewish history between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries records a respectable number of rabbis, scholars, and other Jewish personalities in Holland, France, Italy, and Spain whose last names were, interchangeably, Colón or Colom. In Spain, some who bore the name were burned at the stake by the Inquisition.

In his childhood, Christoforo, or Cristóbal, worked with his father in an occupation common to many poor Italian Jews; they were weavers and wool combers in Genoa.

Another fragment of more than casual interest has to do with linguistics. Although raised in Italy, Columbus never wrote in Italian, only in Latin or Spanish, fluent Spanish. He could read the former, but he thought and wrote in the latter.

If his parents were, indeed, *Converso* or *Marrano* refugees who had fled from Spain to Italy and, in the manner of immigrants or expatriates, continued to employ their native tongue for convenience in the new country, this would explain the family surname as well as their son's predilection for Spanish as his mother tongue.

A peculiar circumstance considering the climate of his times is that Columbus surrounded himself with Jewish friends and associates. For example, in his successful approach to the Spanish monarchs to finance his expedition, he had the support of a group of influential *Conversos*, including Gabriel Sánchez, trea-

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## A Definite Difference

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surer-general to the king, and Luis de Santangel.

When the sovereigns initially rejected Columbus' appeal, De Santangel, their secretary of the exchequer, effectively urged their reconsideration by offering to lend the money needed for the expedition. Certainly, there must have been a prior and close relationship between the explorer and the new Christian, De Santangel, whose cousin and namesake had been burned in an auto-de-fé.

In our pursuit of Columbus' origin, there are also fragments to intrigue the devotee of cryptography.

With but one exception, each of his surviving missives to his son Diego bears above the first letter of the communication the Hebrew letters *beth* and *hé*. This symbol was used then and now by observant Jews on their correspondence to represent the initials of the words *Bah-rookh Ha-Shem*, "Praised be God."

Of equal interest is Columbus' secret signature, a very involved and peculiar complex of letters and dots in a triangular configuration. It has been suggested that the signature has cabalistic, Jewish mystical, significance. In his last will and testament, Columbus commanded his elder son to retain the signature in the family in precisely the manner in which he customarily wrote it, a form that researchers have indicated could lend itself to a Hebraic interpretation.

The same *mayorazgo*, or will, points to his Jewish origins in other ways. Provision is made in it for providing dowries for indigent brides, a custom of long Jewish standing; and the testament concludes with a strange allocation "to a Jew who was living at the entrance of the ghetto in Lisbon."

Further examination of the evidence leads inevitably to the question of why the admiral had a preoccupation with the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, a concern not to be anticipated from a Christian of the period. In the preamble of the journal of his first voyage, he wrote to the Spanish sovereigns: "After having expelled all the Jews from all your realms and possessions in the same month of January, Your Highnesses commanded me to go with a sufficient fleet to the said Indian regions."

In addition to the fact that the reference to the expulsion is gratuitous, he places it in January, although the decree of authorization was signed on March 31. Why January? It was the month when Granada, the last Moorish stronghold, surrendered. The dating of the exile of the Jews is out of sequence and into forced juxtaposition with the final defeat of the Moors; but it is identical to a reference in the Hebrew book *Sefer Yuhasin* ("Book of Genealogies"), by the Jewish astronomer Abraham Zakuta,

who wrote (in Hebrew):

"In 1942, right after the Christian New Year, Granada was taken, and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain was then decreed."

This is the same Zakuta who was selected to draw up the nautical tables for Columbus' voyage of discovery!

The evidentiary spotlight narrows if we consider the abundance of knowledgeable references to the Old Testament in his writings. He displayed a familiarity, as well, with the writings of Josephus, the Jewish historian of Roman times.

In one of his documents Columbus referred to the second temple in Jerusalem as the "Second House," the *Bahyt Shaynee*, familiar to Jews alone. Further, he dated the year of its destruction by the Romans as A.D. 68, which is the Jewish computation, instead of A.D. 70, the general history figure.

He reckoned the age of the world according to Jewish count ("from the beginning of the world to this year 1481 there were 5241 years"), a bizarre calculation when coming from a non-Jew.

The calendar affords still another fragment of evidence. Columbus postponed his sailing, even though "all systems were go," from August 2 to August 3.

Traditionally, Jews have believed that no enterprise should be launched on the ninth date's tragic association with the destruction of both temples in Jerusalem. Only a person with Jewish roots and commitment would respect this feeling and, in this instance, could have regarded August 2, 1492, as unpropitious for embarking on a voyage of exploration.

By no means are all historians of one opinion on the Jewishness of the admiral, John Stewart Collis, in his 1977 biography, concluded that "it is perfectly possible Columbus may have been enriched by Jewish blood, but he was a Genoese and not a Spaniard."

Perhaps. But Yiddish-speaking immigrants to the Americas from Eastern Europe in the closing years of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth often spoke of the New World as "*Columbus's m'deenah*," the land of Columbus. Were they unwittingly identifying their dreams and aspirations with a secret coreligionist, a fallout from the Inquisition?

It is another fascinating fragment of "*el enigma de Cristóbal Colón*."

Rabbi Sidney J. Jacobs, editor of Jacob's Ladder Publications, has taught history at the College of Jewish Studies in Chicago. He lives in Culver City, California.

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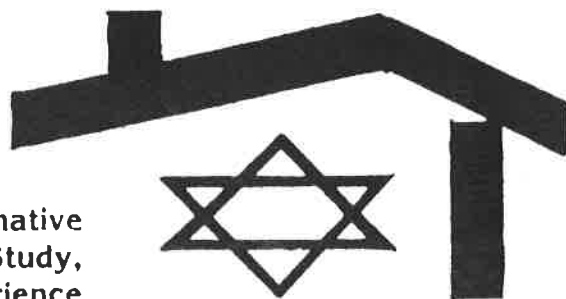
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# Memoirs: The Blizzard and How Nellie Got Her Red Nose

by Nellie Hoffman

While my family was living on that beautiful farm at South Bay, I had to commute by train to Saint John in order to go to High School. That was sixty years ago. Many youngsters came in by train from Welsford, Nerepis, Westfield, Acamac and other stops. Many a time, the conductor would wait and hold up the train while I was running down the hill, a bit late leaving home. Often a kindly gentleman would pass around large polished McIntosh apples to the kids, which we relished. It was rather fun to make the trip each day.

My married sister lived in Saint John, and I often stayed with her and helped with her young children. Mother also wanted me at home, but to get there, I had to take the streetcar to Fairville and then walk to South Bay, which must be approximately five miles. They didn't think anything of walking five miles in those days. When Mother needed me to help her after school, I had to go, since there were six children younger than I.

I have vivid memories of one winter in particular. The days were short and the

sky was dark and threatening. A blizzard was forecast, but I decided to go home, as Mother needed me. I had many books, held together with a strap, which I carried on my shoulder.

We do not get those raging blizzards in recent years. I should not have started so late, but I was determined to get home.

After I reached the end of the streetcar line and walked a few miles, I did not think I could go on much longer in the growing snowstorm. My sister called by telephone for someone to meet me, I was told later. But my older brother Gus, refused to go as the storm worsened. He said that a horse would only sink into the drifting snow and would make no headway.

They expected I would stop off at a neighbour's house on the road. There was only one living on Dever Road, but I was too shy to think of doing that. I plodded along in the snow, falling into the drifts and pulling myself out to get free, making very slow headway. It was like a white desert with dunes of snow, surrounding me and completely obliterating the road. I was lost and I had to trust to

instinct to keep on going. It seemed as if I could hear the weird wailing of wild animals as the wind blew through the heavily laden snow on the evergreen boughs, tossing and turning in all directions. It was very cold too. My nose became stiff, also my hands and the lobes of my ears.

I kept plodding along in the huge drifts, pulling myself out of the heavy snow, step by step. At long last the scene around me looked a bit familiar. I climbed the hill to our home, finally reached the kitchen door and banged with all my might. As the door opened, I fell into my mother's arms.

She screamed with joy. Somebody brought in a pail of water from the well, and I plunged my hands into it up to my elbows to thaw them out. Cloths were placed on my nose and ears and a warm drink tasted very good. The books were safe. The family was grateful that I was not lying under a deep drift and had managed to reach home safely during this fierce howling blizzard. But my nose remained red for a long time.

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# The Saudi Peace Plan: Myths and Facts

In an interview with Saudi radio on August 7, 1981, Saudi Crown Prince Fahd mentioned several principles for a "just and comprehensive settlement" in the Middle East: 1) Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem; 2) dismantling of Israeli settlements built on Arab land after 1967; 3) a guarantee of freedom of worship for all religions in the holy places; 4) an affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and to compensate those who do not wish to return; 5) the West Bank and Gaza Strip should have a transitional period, under the auspices of the UN, for a period not exceeding several months; 6) the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital; 7) states in the region should live in peace; 8) the UN or member states of the UN should guarantee to execute these principles.

Fahd went on to stress three conditions for the implementation of these principles: 1) "an end to unlimited American support for Israel;" 2) "an end to Israeli arrogance, whose ugliest facet is embodied in Begin's government. This condition will be automatically fulfilled if the first condition is fulfilled;" 3) "a recognition that, as Yasser Arafat says, the Palestinian figure is the basic figure in the Middle Eastern equation." In subsequent interviews, Prince Fahd stressed that the Palestinian state must be governed by the PLO: "There is no peace without the Palestinian people and there is no Palestinian state without the PLO."

Fahd himself admitted, in the course of the interview, that these are not new principles, but rather "principles which the United Nations has taken and reiterated many times in the last few years." He also expressed a hope that the Reagan administration "will accept the uselessness of the Camp David agreements as a framework for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and will initiate a drastic change in U.S. policy which would lead to the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Fahd was right: his points are a compendium of UN resolutions, all of which have been acceptable to the anti-Camp David, Arab rejectionist consensus. Israel as such is not mentioned among the "states;" there is no mention of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. The call for UN auspices over the West Bank and Gaza as a prelude to the establishment of a Palestinian state circumvents the necessity of a direct

dialogue with Israel. This Saudi scenario for the future of the territories administered by Israel since 1967 constitutes the PLO's approach to those areas today; the PLO utilizes it in order to avoid having to recognize Israel and negotiate directly, while remaining committed to its programme for the destruction of Israel by stages.

## Recognition of Israel?

The world's attention has been riveted to the seventh point, which seems to imply a recognition of Israel in the reference to the right of states in the area to live in peace, thus echoing UN Resolution 242. But while the Western world rushed to embrace the Saudis' new-found recognition of Israel, the Saudis and other Arabs equivocated on this point. Rather than state openly that they were willing to live in peace with Israel, Saudi spokesmen at first avoided the issue and insisted on Israeli recognition of Palestinian self-determination and a dialogue with the PLO. The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, stated that "there is not one word in Prince Fahd's plan that indicates that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia or any Arab party is ready to recognize Israel." The London-based newspaper, *Al Shark el-Assouti*, which is financed by Saudi Arabia, wrote on October 14, "one should recognize the Israelis, but only in their tomb." More recently, Prince Abdullah, commander of the Saudi national guard, conceded that "our plan recognizes the right of Israel to exist only *after* the acceptance of a Palestinian state, the return to the 1967 borders and an end to the state of belligerency" (emphasis added). In a similar vein, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud said that once a Palestinian state was established and points 1-6 were fulfilled, that state would "of course" have to enter into negotiations with Israel. Such ambiguity and equivocation is a far cry from Anwar Sadat's acceptance, in 1977, of a sovereign Jewish presence in the Middle East, to which Israel responded with willingness to sign a peace treaty. Sadat's indictment of Fahd's plan last August was clear: "Unfortunately, Fahd didn't add anything new . . . I should like to see Prince Fahd make a contribution. If he is to ask the United States to do a certain pressure towards the peace process, well, I should like to have him share and contribute, rather than adopting the old ways which I don't agree to at all and I reject."

Reprint: Canadian Middle-East Digest

## Saudi Motives

The Saudi plan reflects long-term Saudi interests. It was timed to coincide with a particular political constellation which seemed propitious to the Saudi regime for the presentation of their plan.

Internal Saudi military, technical and political weaknesses and their vulnerability despite—or perhaps because of—their vast petrowealth, made stability in the region a paramount principle in Saudi policy considerations. They therefore encourage Arab solidarity in order to prevent polarization between conservative and radical states, because they know that their country cannot be an independent operative force. An entire network of alliances, threats, open and covert aid, and promises of financial and military aid serves to consolidate a central position for the Saudis, from which they can control any dispute threatening Arab solidarity. Thus, Saudi Arabia supports Iraq by allowing materiel for Saddam Hussein, a close Soviet ally, to pass through the very ports the United States considers will be key Western assets in any Middle East confrontation with the Soviet Union. Saudi Arabia and Syria also have a good relationship, fostered by the annual transfer of many millions of dollars to economically shaky Syria, despite the fact that Syria is among Iraq's most vociferous opponents in the region. Saudi Arabia funds the PLO and Jordan with the same dispassionate but generous hand, notwithstanding the animosity between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat. The rejection of Israel as a hostile threat to an Arab Middle East, doomed to disappear from the face of the region, has been both a fundamental moral perception and a convenient political rallying point in the search for a difficult Arab consensus.

## Rejection of Camp David

Sadat's trip to Jerusalem in 1977, his full-fledged, unconditional recognition of Israel and the subsequent peace treaty, constituted a break with the all-important front of Arab solidarity. In response, in keeping with the pattern of their policy, the Saudis aligned themselves with the Arab rejectionist camp's boycott of Egypt, joined the Islamic conference's call for a "holy war" against the "Zionist entity" in January, 1981 and continued to back the PLO to the tune of \$100 million annually.

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The Saudis' backing for the PLO and their call for an independent Palestinian state derive from crude political considerations. The reliance of the Saudi economy on the significant Palestinian work force in its midst makes the regime vulnerable to the threat of Palestinian subversion. The establishment of a Palestinian state, led by Arafat and backed by Saudi finances, will in their view be less dangerous to the Saudi regime. It is therefore their minimum requirement for a settlement. On the inter-Arab plane, this position places the Saudis in that central position, reflecting a consensus, which they desperately need.

The Saudis have consistently tried to scuttle Camp David and draw Egypt back into the Arab consensus. They have realized that opposition to Camp David will not necessarily damage their "special relationship" with the United States, since American policy towards the Saudis has been one of consistent acquiescence to Saudi demands, without a *quid pro quo*, due to a perceived dependence on Saudi oil and money. The United States sold Saudi Arabia 62 F-15s in May 1978 despite Saudi opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace; more recently, offensive accessories for those planes, and 5 AWACS radar-surveillance planes, were sold to the Saudis despite their continued opposition to the Middle East peace process.

Prince Fahd's interview took place two months prior to Sadat's death, at the height of the American debate over the \$8.5 billion Saudi arms package, and only a few days after President Reagan reaffirmed his support for Camp David on the occasion of Sadat's visit to Washington.

At a time when American policy-makers were doing their utmost to prove Saudi moderation (and not succeeding too well), it behooved the Saudi regime to present their own peace plan, representative of the Arab consensus, which might be accepted by the United States. They could thereby succeed in driving a wedge between the Americans and Israel, since, to quote Prince Abdullah, the greatest threat to Saudi security is "American aid to Israel." At the same time, they hoped to compete with Sadat for primacy in American eyes.

It should be noted that the Saudis' support for the American "strategic consensus" has thus far been extremely limited. The Saudis have refused the use of facilities to American forces or any joint control over the AWACS, have pressured Oman to withdraw its agreement for American use of bases, and have stated that there is no need for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force "if Americans would recognize . . . their true interests in the region."

## European Acceptance

The positive reaction to the Saudi plan by Western European governments is another stage in their search for an alternative to Camp David that will be acceptable to the Arab rejectionists, thereby ensuring their supply of oil and their extensive arms contracts with the Arab world. The Saudi plan coincides with certain elements of the EEC's Venice Declaration of June 1980, which was meant to offer an alternative to Camp David, by calling the PLO association with negotiations and by accepting the principle of Palestinian self-determination. U.S. Secretary of State Haig has criticized the British position in particular as representing the search for "the perfect in contrast to the good and achievable and the pragmatically desirable."

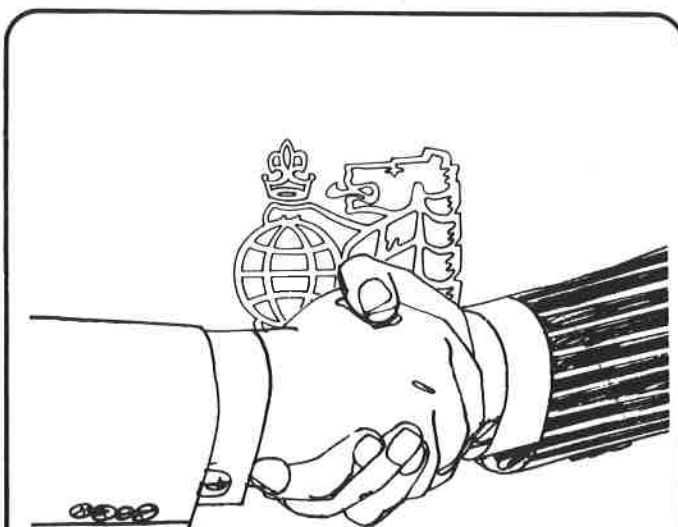
The Camp David Accords remain the only satisfactory framework for peace in the Middle East. Recognizing the needs of both sides to the process, Israel, Egypt and the United States put their faith in the process of negotiations—an essential point which is missing from the Saudi plan—by working

towards a compromise in the present which would allow discussion of more difficult points in the future. Support for any alternatives which represent an Arab consensus still unwilling to whole-heartedly accept Israel's existence in its midst serves only to undermine the existing peace in the Middle East and to make more difficult for Israel the remaining withdrawal from the Sinai in April 1982.

## Number of Families at Poverty Level Has Increased Since 1977

JERUSALEM, (JTA)—The number of Israeli families at the poverty level rose during the years 1977-1980 to the point where it had been 10 year ago, according to the annual report of the National Insurance Institute. The increase was from 2.8 percent in 1977 to 6.6 percent last year, the report said.

The increase was greatest among large families where the percentage of poverty households soared from 4.6 to 11.7 in three years. The larger the family, the greater the level of poverty, the report said, noting that families with six children suffered poverty last year at more than four times the 1977 rate. However, during 1980, and at the beginning of 1981, several measures were taken to alleviate poverty in large families, notably an increase in government allowances for children.



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# Hannukah Is Still Relevant

by Dvora Waysman

We call Hannukah a minor festival. This Feast of Lights is not even mentioned in the Bible, and it celebrates a military event rather more than a miracle. During the eight days of its observance, very little fuss is made—Jews continue their workaday routine; there are no celebrations in the synagogue; few customs associated with it apart from gastronomical ones and the nightly kindling of the "menorah" lights. Why do we still bother to celebrate it at all?

## Revolt

Hannukah celebrates the successful revolt of the Jews in the days of the Second Temple, against the Greeks who had inherited the Syrian part of Alexander the Great's fallen empire. Antiochus Epiphanes, the tyrannical ruler, tried to force Greek religion and culture on Judea, finding the non-conformist Jews a threat to the state. His oppression reached its peak in 168 B.C.E. when his army erected an idol in the Temple of Jerusalem, and he forced Jews to sacrifice swine to the Greek gods.

This was the final insult that caused the Jews to rise up and revolt, stemming the evil tide of events. On 25th Kislev 165 B.C.E., Judah Maccabee led a victorious band of loyalists and the Temple was recaptured. Eight days were spent in purifying and rededicating it (Hannukah literally means "Dedication"). The Temple service continued for two more centuries until the Romans overthrew Jerusalem in 70 C.E. and again the Temple was destroyed.

Hannukah is the most recent festival in terms of origin, and has the least number of observances connected with it. Although it commemorates oppression and subsequent victory, there are countless examples in our history of Jews driving out oppressors and regaining independence. What makes Hannukah more important?

## The Real Threat

*It was Judaism's first encounter with the danger of assimilation that threatened to wipe out Jewish identity for all time.* It is a similar threat which Jews living in the Diaspora are facing today, and the same question which must be asked: can a small minority, dwelling among a different culture, take part and

contribute to the general society without imitating its customs to such an extent that they are swallowed up?

The masses of Jewish people today face two major threats to Jewish identity—one posed by the cruel repressions of the Soviet and similar regimes, and one posed by the tolerant, seductively attractive societies of the free Western world. It is hard to know where the greatest danger to Judaism lies.

Behind the Iron Curtain, Antiochus lives again where our faith is considered to be superstitious and barbaric. Marxism has replaced God and freedom of worship exists mainly on paper. Jews who wish to practice their religion, study the Hebrew language or make 'aliyah' to Israel are persecuted and placed outside the pale, with all their rights and liberties denied them.

## Subtle Erosion

The opposite is true in the West, yet the danger is greater because the threat is more subtle. There are no restrictions at all on following the Jewish religion and tradition, yet there is the hidden pressure to imitate what many Jews are seduced into believing is a culture superior to their own.

It begins by celebrating Christmas as well as, or even instead of, Hannukah; the New Year rather than Rosh Hashana; Easter instead of Passover; until a Jew sees most of his heritage slipping away as he takes on more and more gentile culture and observance. It is hardly different from the Hellenization that was imposed on Jews in the time of the Maccabees, except that it is a voluntary act.

## The Real Miracle

When we light the Hannukah candles, we're "proclaiming the miracle" of the cruse of oil that lasted for eight days instead of one in the Temple. What we are really commemorating is our whole history . . . the Jewish nation that should have lasted a brief hour yet has never been consumed, and still burns brightly. Israel is a nation again with its own heritage, its own destiny. The miracle of Hannukah is not a supernatural act. Its symbol is the light which emanates from God, but the real miracle is that because of our Torah and the State of Israel, the light is still burning brightly despite the surrounding darkness.

# A Yiddish Folk Story

## Shana Punim (pretty face)

by Leon Sills

A scene in a Jewish home in the small ghetto of Bialystok, Russia in 1912, in the era of Czar Nicholas (before the Revolution).

An English version of a poignant family discussion.

### Mendel, the poor teacher in the Yeshiva:

Gittel, my eldest daughter, Mamma and I have decided that you should marry the Pincus boy, Yitzchak, the tailor's apprentice.

### Gittel, his 17-year old daughter, heatedly:

Poppa! Itzy's ugly! He has a bad eye and a temper. His breath smells of schnapps all the time. He always teased me, when we were children in the Chadah; and he always pulled my braids!

### Mendel, tenderly but firmly:

Dear Child! A nip of Schlivovitz is good for a cold. I take it myself! Looks are not everything. And, as for love, well, ask your mamma—is it important? We know what's good for you. Itzy has a good trade. Why are you so fussy, kindelach? Look at me, am I so handsome? I'll tell you a little secret. Your mamma and I didn't marry for love, and look how happy we are! Right, Sara?

### Mamma Sara (cynically):

E-e-h! But, of course!

### Gittel, pleading:

But, Totta, you're my father, you're not supposed to be handsome. And, I . . . I never looked that close. But, Pincus has crooked teeth!

### Mendel, reassuring:

Excuses! Excuses! Never look at the teeth of a horse or a man! That's no way to bargain! There are more important things for a head of a family to have. Look at me! I'm only 42 years old; and my mouth is almost empty. Is that so terrible? I have a good heart, that's enough for me. G-i-t-t-e-l, darling child! I'm a poor teacher! How much do I earn in the Yeshiva? We have no dowry for you. What shall we use for money, stones from the field?

### Gittel, weeping:

Tottenju! Schloime, the Rebbe's son likes me; and I like him too. How many times has he come here to visit us all? He is an old, dear friend. He says I'm pretty! And, you told me so, too. Boys like me. I want the best!

continued on next page



## Israel Briefs

[JNI—Jerusalem]

### Jewish Oppression Abroad

Jewish oppression abroad returned to Israeli forums last month with both Knesset and organizational debate of reportedly increasing persecution of Falashan Jews in Ethiopia and of Soviet Hebrew teachers and students. As the Jewish Agency announced its plan to establish a Moshav (collective agricultural settlement) for new immigrants from Ethiopia, Chairman of the World Zionist Executive, **Arieh Dulzin**, received the findings of a visiting U.S. Delegation investigating the Falasha issue that "The Jewish Agency and Government are making every effort to rescue Falashan Jews." Attempting to counter the latest wave of official Soviet persecution of 57 Hebrew language teachers and 600 students in Moscow, the World Association for Hebrew Language and Culture appealed to all Hebraists and Human Rights activists to extend moral and practical assistance to those teaching and learning the Hebrew language in the USSR. The association resolved that threats and pressure constitute a grave violation of internal Soviet Law and International Agreements.

### Vacation in Israel

According to a tourism ministry survey, 4/5 of American Jews have never visited Israel and of those 1/3 are not at all interested in seeing the Jewish State. These statistics were cited at a seminar to encourage Jewish tourism to Israel. "We should slow down the 'break-neck' touring pattern", stated Tourism Minister **Avraham Sharir**. When visitors leave Israel, he explained, they have to go somewhere else to rest. Shairir also emphasized that without tourism there would be no investment or Aliyah. First let them come and see that Israel is a good country, he said.

### Co-Production of Film

Israel TV and the West German Second Channel will soon begin co-production of

a film tracing the fortunes of a German-Jewish family in the 1930's. The film, based on Lion Feuchtwanger's novel "Die Geschwister Oppenheim", will be aired in West Germany and Israel on January 30, 1983, the 50th Anniversary of Hitler's assumption of power.

### Beduin Goats

Black beduin goats, superior milk producers and a plentiful meat source, have been shipped from Tel Aviv University to Kenya. The hearty breed, capable of thriving in desert conditions, will be maintained under a joint agricultural production project with The United Nations.

continued from previous page

#### Mamma Sara (insistent):

Listen to your totta! Don't be stubborn. A good man is a good man. Itzy will make a living as a tailor. He'll be able to support you. That's all that counts in life. As for Schloime, well, he's a dreamer, a bookworm. Money he doesn't understand! The Rebbe is poor like us; and his son will be too. Pretty you are, child! But, does it really matter? Beauty doesn't last. You're pretty; make something out it! Can it buy you a pretty shawl and shoes? Don't you know that a rich, ugly girl always gets the handsome fellow? I was poor and without a dowry too. And, I got your poppa. Is he so terrible?—Don't answer! It's none of your business what goes on between father and mother! Look, you can't have what you want in life! Take what you can get and be satisfied!

#### Gittel, sobbing:

Tottenju, mammanyu! Why wasn't I born rich instead of pretty? Then, I could have a dowry and a handsome rebbe's son all for myself!

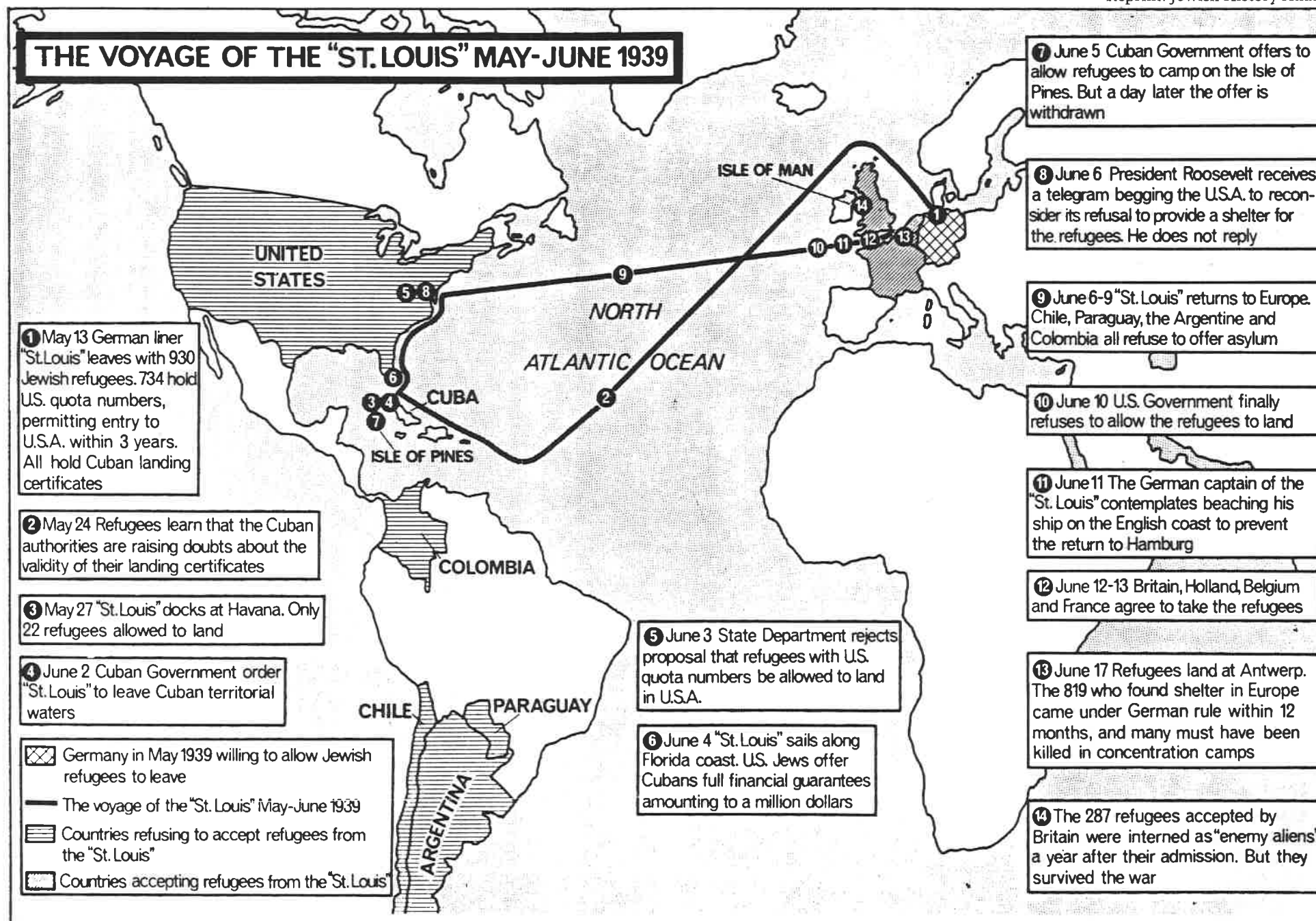
#### Younger sisters Faygele and Rivka (imitating Gittel):

Tottenyu, mammanyu! Why wasn't I born rich instead of pretty? Who needs teeth? Shana punim! Bah!

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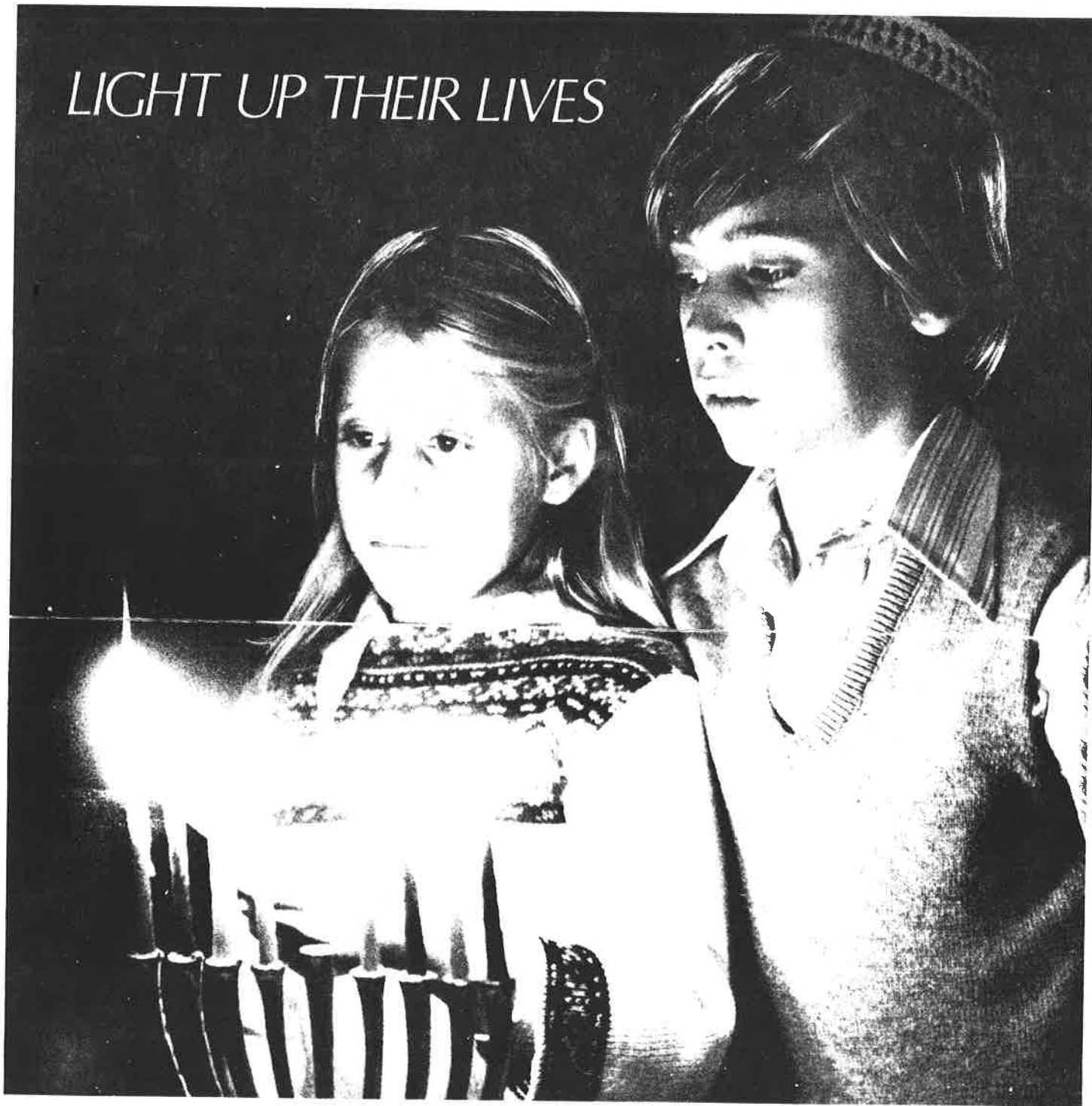
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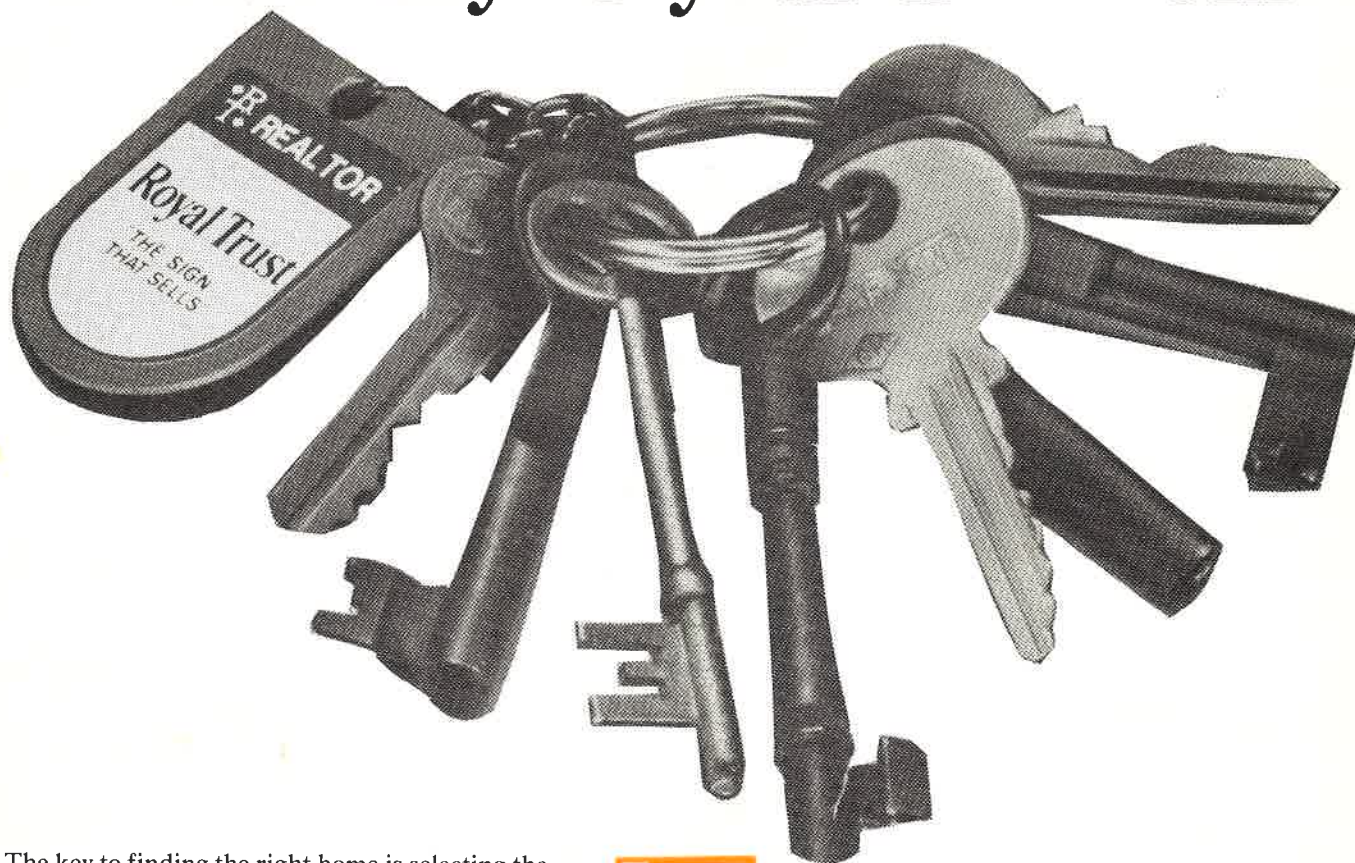
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