

Shalom

Bulletin of the Central Kentucky
Jewish Federation



June-July, 1993

Michael Bar-Zohar, Israeli Political Scientist in Lexington June 20-21

ELLIE GOLDMAN ELECTED CKJF PRESIDENT

Noted Israeli political scientist, Michael Bar-Zohar will be the guest of the Lexington Jewish Community on June 20-21. Bar-Zohar will brief selected segments of the community on the peace process and the current Middle Eastern political process.

Born in Sofia, Bulgaria, Bar-Zohar emigrated to Israel in 1948. He served in Air Force Intelligence and Paratroopers in defense of the new State. He participated in the Sinai Campaign, fought in the Six-Day War and was later appointed spokesman of the Defense Ministry and press secretary to his long time friend, Moshe Dayan.

He was educated at the Hebrew University, where he received his BA in political science and at the University of Paris, where he received his MA and PhD.

His first book, "Suez Top Secret", was based on his PhD. thesis. It quickly became a best seller and won him the Sokolov Prize (Israel's Pulitzer) and the Marechal Foch Award of the Academic Francaise. He has written a number of novels under his pen-name, Michael Barak.

The official biographer of David Ben-Gurion, he spent 1964-1978 researching and writing a three-volume biography of the founder of the State of Israel.

Bar-Zohar lectured in the political science department at Haifa University from 1970-73. During the 1973 war, he was part of the paratrooper battalion that crossed the Suez Canal in the Yom Kippur War.

A member of the Tenth Knesset and re-elected to the Twelfth Knesset, he was a member of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee and from 1988-1992 served as chairman of the Education and Culture Committee.

He was recently appointed as visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Bar-Zohar will meet with the Peer Leadership Campaign and with top-level donors to the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation.



By unanimous vote, the Board of Directors of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation elected Elisabeth (Ellie) Goldman as its 9th president at the May Board of Directors meeting. Ellie, active in Federation activities for many years, assumed the position by stating, "it is an honor and a challenge". Judith Saxe, outgoing President, upon passing the gavel of the presidency, stated that she felt assured that the progress and work of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation would continue under the skilled leadership of Ellie Goldman.

1993-94 CKJF Board

President	Elisabeth Goldman
Vice Presidents:	Arthur Shechet Tomas Milch
Treasurer:	Merle Wekstein
Secretary:	Jo Belin
At Large Members of the Executive Committee:	David Feinberg Michael Grossman
New members elected to serve on the Board:	Michael Adelstein Pam Allweiss Steven Caller

Also by unanimous vote, the officers of the CKJF were elected for the 1993-94 term. See box for full slate.

The Board of Directors is charged with leading the community in its efforts to raise and distribute, through programs and allocations, the proceeds of the UJA/Federation

Annual Campaign. A 11 members of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation are welcomed to become involved in the efforts of the Federation. Each member of the Federation is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, as voted upon by the totality of the membership.

A Muslim Looks at Radical Islam and the Political Agenda

A release from the American Jewish Committee - Recent terrorist activities conceived and carried out by Islamic extremists -- most notably their alleged involvement in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and in the numerous kidnappings and murders in Israel -- have refocused world attention to the dangers posed by these "religious"

zealots. How have these events affected the image of Islam in America?

Gamal Moursi Badr, adjunct professor of Islamic law at New York University, addressed this topic at an American Jewish Committee Interreligious Affairs Commission Meeting.

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see RADICAL

Ignorance of the Holocaust Rampant Among a Significant Portion of the American Population

A release from the American Jewish Committee.

WASHINGTON, DC, April 19 Ignorance of the Holocaust is rampant among a significant portion of American adults and high-school youth, with sizable minorities of both open to the idea that the Holocaust did not happen at all. However, a majority of both adults and youth believe that the Holocaust is relevant today and that it is important for all Americans to know about and understand the Holocaust.

These were some of the key findings revealed in

an American Jewish Committee survey titled "What Do Americans Know About the Holocaust?" The study is the first ever to explore systematically the degree of knowledge that Americans have about the Holocaust and the ways in which Americans view the lessons of the Holocaust.

In general, the survey underscores a serious knowledge gap that exists for both adults and youth in the United States with regard to basic knowledge about the Holocaust. Thus, for each of four questions measuring

basic knowledge of the Holocaust, from over one-third to just under two-thirds of adult Americans and a majority of American high-school students fail to answer correctly.

****Implications of the Holocaust --** Sixty percent of adult Americans agree either strongly (28 percent) or mostly (32 percent), and 53 percent of high-school students agree either strongly (23 percent) or mostly (30 percent) with the statement "The Holocaust makes clear the need for the State of Israel as a place of refuge for Jews in times of persecution." Thirteen percent of adults disagree either strongly (5 percent) or mostly (8 percent), with 14 percent of high-school

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THE TORAH THIS MONTH

by Rabbi Eric Slaton

TORAH SEDRAH SUMMARIES

BHAALOTECHA 16 Sivan, June 5

Four ritual matters begin this portion, the lighting of the 7 branched candelabrum by Aaron, sanctification of the levites, the second Passover and the making of two silver trumpets to be used for signaling the people. The portion relates that Israelites were signaled by God and the people were to remain where they were as long as the cloud covered the Tabernacle, they were to move camp only when the cloud was lifted from the Tabernacle.

Reported are two acts of rebellion. In the first, the people complain about the lack of meat. God causes

quail to be blown into camp and are caught by the people to eat. While enjoying the fresh meat they are struck with a plague. The second act of rebellion is against Moses by his own siblings, Aaron and Miriam who suggest that they too should speak with God. Moses ignores their challenge, however God is angry and only at Moses' prayer is their punishment lifted.

SHELAH

12 Sivan, June 12

Approaching Canaan, Moses sends out 12 spies. They all report the land is rich. Ten of the spies say that the inhabitants are too strong for the Israelites to overcome. Frightened, the people begin to discuss returning to Egypt. Only Joshua and Caleb urge the people to trust in God and move forward, but the people do not listen. God threatens to destroy the people, only Moses' intercession saves them. God says they will indeed not enter the land, but die in the desert, only their children will enter the land. The ten spies who spoke against entering Canaan die immediately.

The people are alarmed and now attempt to enter Canaan. Moses warns them not to transgress God's command, again they do not listen. The Canaanites and Amalakites deliver a crushing defeat.

Some miscellaneous topics conclude the portion, the meal, dough, and sin offerings and the law of fringes (tzitzit). A man who

picks up sticks in violation of the Shabbat is sentenced to death.

KORACH

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz, June 19

This portion is named after one of the men who begins another rebellion. The people are disheartened after learning they will not enter Canaan and are again persuaded to rebel against Moses' authority. Moses tells the rebels to come to the Tabernacle with their incense pans. God is again ready to destroy the entire people who support the rebellion, but Moses persuades God to destroy only the rebels. The earth opens up and they are swallowed alive. Their pans are then taken and beaten into a covering for the altar to remind the people of what happened.

The people are again angry that the rebels dies and begin to demonstrate. Only Aarons' incense atonement saves the entire people by death from a plague. The right of the tribe of Levi to serve in the Tabernacle is proved when each tribe is told to bring a staff with its name written on it before the ark. In the morning, Aarons' staff has sprouted almond blossoms. The portion concludes with the duties and gifts that belong to the Cohanim and Levites.

HUKKAT

7 Tammuz, June 26

This portion begins with the law of the red heifer, whose ash mixed with water are used to purify all who come in contact with a dead body. Miriams' death occurs, and the people again complain about water. Moses and Aaron assemble the people near a cliff. Moses strikes the rock from which water pours forth.

The Edomites refuse permission for the Israelites to pass through their land. The king of Edom attacks and takes prisoners. The Israelites defeat him.

Aaron's death is recorded, and he is mourned for thirty days. His son Eleazar takes his place as Cohen Gadol, High Priest.

The people again complain about water, and poisonous snakes bite the people. Moses made a copper snake and placed it on a pole.

Whoever looked on this snake would survive.

The Kings Sichon and Og refuse the Israelites permission to travel through their land. They too are defeated.

BALAK

14 Tammuz, July 3

Balak is the king of the Moabites who is frightened by the success of the Israelites. He sends for Beelam (or Balaam) to curse the Israelites. At first God warns Beelam not to go, but finally gives him permission. God sends a messenger to kill Beelam, though his donkey saves him by avoiding the messenger twice. Seeing the messenger at a narrow pass, the donkey refuses to go on, and Beelam beats him. God then lets the donkey speak, and Beelam realizes that he has erred. Arriving at Balak's camp, Beelam tells the king that he can only say what God puts in his mouth. Every time Balak brings Beelam to curse Israel, he blesses them.

Unable to fight, the

Midianite women are sent into the camp of Israel to cause them to sin through immoral acts. The idolators are then executed, though a plague kills many until all the idolators are punished.

PINCHES

21 Tammuz, July 10

Pinches, who killed two of the idolators is rewarded with a special covenant by God. A census of all the people is taken to prepare for the dividing up of the land through a lottery.

The daughters of Tzelaafchad come to Moses with a case. Their father had died leaving no male heirs. God tells Moses that they are entitled to their fathers land.

Moses is told he will soon die, and Joshua is chosen to be his successor. The portion ends with a description of the sacrifices for the holidays.

MATTOT-MASE

28 Tammuz, July 17

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340 Romany Road
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(606) 268-0672
fax: (606) 268-0775

■■■

Ellie Goldman, President

Howard L. Ross,
Executive Director

Sharyn Sharer,
Program Director

Kimberly Nye,
Office Manager

Sara Charney-Cohen,
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■■■

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CKJF or any other agency or
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College Students can get Newspaper at School

College life is exciting; living away from home for the first time, without the daily ties to family and community presents opportunities and, for some, loneliness. In an effort to maintain community contact with our college students, the CKJF would like to mail this newspaper and future editions to your sons and daughters living away from home on campus. Just let us know the address and we shall mail a monthly "contact from home."

GREETINGS! Resettlement News

Immanuel Baptist Church, расположенная на Tates Creek Road, предлагает бесплатные курсы английского языка. Занятия проводятся по средам с 6:00 до 7:15 вечера. В зависимости от вашего уровня вы можете посещать занятия для начинающих, для среднего уровня, а также разговорную группу, комнаты 108, 110, 111.

Бесплатные курсы английского языка проводятся также в Catholic Charities по адресу 501 West Short Street, напротив Lexington Children's Museum. Парковка позади здания на Saunier Street, Телефон 233-1750.

Если вы планируете пригласить своих родственников на постоянное жительство, пожалуйста, известите об этом СКЖФ заранее. У нас есть формы affidavit of relationship, а также информация о том, как проходить интервью в INS.

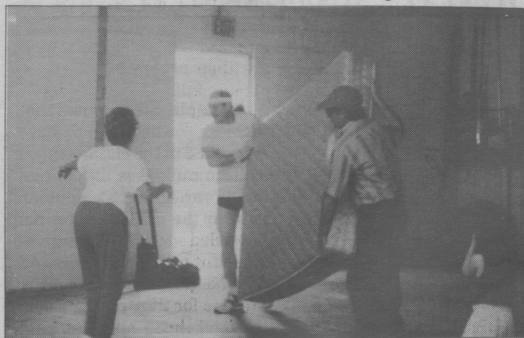
ESL Classes are offered free of charge to anyone at the Immanuel Baptist Church Located on Tates Creek road. There are three levels of classes: beginning, intermediate and conversational. The classes are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. The classes are held in rooms 108, 110 and 111.

Free classes are also offered at Catholic Charities on Mondays at 2:00 pm. Catholic Charities is located at 501 West Short Street. It is across from the Lexington Children's Museum. Parking is in the rear on Saunier Street. The phone # is 233-1750.

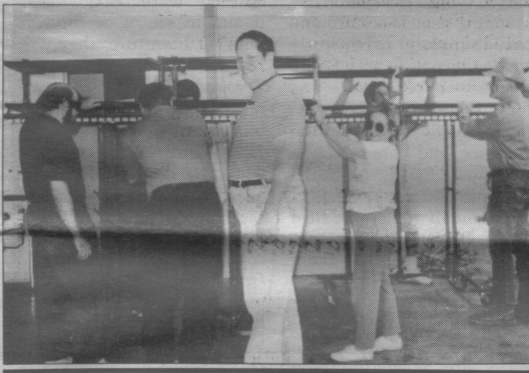
Please let me know if you are planning on inviting a relative to live with you. This will help us in the planning process. We have the affidavit of relationship forms in our office along with information on how to pass your INS interview.

Sharyn Sharer
Program Director
268-0672

Mitzvah Sunday



The 2nd annual Mitzvah Sunday was a huge success thanks to the efforts of many people who volunteered their time to relocate the storage facilities. **Thanks to:** Marty Barr, Jeremy Crystal, Jo Ella Cox, Chip Davenport, Russ Noland, David Doctrow, Bruce Engle, Howard Ross, Boris Shur, Lou Shain, Jack & Sharyn Sharer, Di Sobel, Laura & George Szekely, Rose Rita & Jerry Wurmser, Sasha & Victor Orlov, Austin & Susan & David Cantor, Misha Slepak, Chas Hite, Marvin Heyman, Jim Levenson, Doug Philipps, Ed Hirsch, Jim Hirsch and Ira Cooper donated the use of his truck.



Empire Helps at Audit Time

With April 15 behind us, many people might be worrying about an income tax audit. But take heart. If you are unlucky enough to be singled out for auditing, you have a friend in Empire Kosher Chicken.

They won't help with your return or plead your case to the IRS but at least they can empathize and make you feel better when it's all over. Until the end of the year, if you get audited, all you have to do is send your notice to Empire and you'll get a free kosher chicken, valued at \$5 to \$10, and a recipe booklet.

Why? Because Empire knows what it is like to be inspected. You see, a kosher chicken must pass USDA inspection and then an army of rabbis, before being released to the market. Empire's standards, designed for strict adherence to kosher laws, call for the most rigorous testing in the world.

Empire spokesperson Eric Yaverbaum explains, "When you get audited, you feel like you're the only one who this happens to. Like you are being forced to adhere to a higher standard than anyone else in the world. Well, that's what our birds must face. So, we thought we would run a promotion that would help people realize that they are not alone and when it's all over, they can have a free chicken and can maybe make some chopped liver."

Proof of audits may be sent to Empire Audit, P.O. Box 165, Mifflintown, PA 17059. Reprinted from the *Midwest Foodservice News*.

Volunteer of the Month



Simone Salomon once summed up her community concern with the following words: "As an 'old' civics teacher, I taught my students that one of their responsibilities as citizens was to communicate with their elected representatives. Years later, when I became involved in the process by lobbying for Jewish issues, I learned just how important this practice is to the democratic process."

Simone has spent many days in Washington lobbying our congressmen and senators on behalf of both Jewish and general social

causes; she has written to her representatives on so many issues that she says that she could weigh the collection just as congressman and senators weigh their mail to get the pulse of their constituents.

As one of the most active members of the Community Relations Committee of CKJF, Simone constantly reminds the community that each and every one of us can make a difference.

Simone, besides writing, keeps extremely active in her volunteer efforts. She is National Conference co-chair, first vice-president of Ohavay Zion Synagogue, a member of the CKJF Community Relations Committee, President of the Woodlake Way Neighborhood Association and associate member of the Baby Health Board.

It is with pride that we acknowledge Simone Salomon as Volunteer of the Month.

Community Relations Committee

Dr. Arthur Frank, on behalf of the Community Relations Committee, received the following letter:

Dear Dr. Frank:

Your inquiry regarding *Israel: A Nation Is Born* was passed along to me. I am familiar with the series and would gladly carry it in the KET schedule, except that KET and other public television stations don't have the rights to broadcast. There is a story here.

In September, 1992, WNET, the public broadcasting station in New York, announced it was offering the series to all public television stations in the country. The American Programming Service (APS) distributed the series, in conjunction with WNET. The feed came down in early December. KET recorded the five programs, with the intent of broadcasting them after the first of the year. In December, WNET broadcast the series during a fundraising campaign. There may have been other stations which broadcast it as well.

On January 6, however, WNET withdrew as the sponsoring station for the series. There was a contract

dispute with Moreshet Israel, Inc., which produced the series in conjunction with WNET, over which organization had the rights to a national distribution. When WNET withdrew, APS withdrew as the distributor because it could not indemnify any station for broadcast of the series. At this point KET had no rights to broadcast the series.

In February, Moreshet Israel, Inc. was also involved in a dispute with PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service. PBS had apparently rejected the series for national distribution through the National Programming Service. Moreshet Israel, Inc. threatened attacks on the decision and on public television in general. Articles appeared in both the Jewish press and broadcasting trade press over this dispute.

I don't know what to make of the disputes. I have seen a program in the series, which is a personal reflection of Aba Eban. It is a strong product and it would be a good service to our viewers to broadcast it. Unfortunately, until the smoke clears and the rights are granted to public television stations, KET can't schedule the

CKJF Summer Study Scholarship Awarded



Jennifer Bailey, a fourth year student at the University of Kentucky, has been awarded the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation Israel Study Scholarship. The scholarship was established for the year 1993, by Dr. and Mrs. Leon Zolondek as a \$2,000.00 stipend for summer study in a structured program in Israel.

Ms. Bailey will be attending the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she will be studying the immigration and absorption process as well as getting a first hand look at life and politics in the Middle East.

Ms. Bailey will be relating her experiences to groups upon her return in the fall. If an organization is interested in arranging for Ms. Bailey to attend one of their meetings, they can arrange so by calling the CKJF office in August.

WISH LIST

The CKJF Resettlement Committee is in need of the following items:

- bedroom dresser & chests
- nightstands
- bookcases
- lamps
- linens/towels/tablecloths
- toasters/teapots
- shower curtains
- knick-knacks/pictures
- living room chairs
- brooms/mops
- bedspreads/vases
- books/magazines
- kitchen utensils

series.

If the rights to the series are granted, I'll notify you of the broadcast date. Thank you for your interest in and continued support of KET.

Richard Hoffman
Director of Programming

THE Dance

From page 1

students disagreeing either strongly (5 percent) or mostly (9 percent). Twenty-seven percent of adults answer "don't know," as do 33 percent of high-school students.

Sixty-three percent of adults disagree either strongly (46 percent) or mostly (17 percent) with the statement "The Holocaust is not relevant today because it happened almost fifty years ago." Fifty-four percent of high-school students disagree either strongly (35 percent) or mostly (19 percent) with the same statement. Twenty-one percent of adults agree either strongly (8 percent) or mostly (13 percent) with that statement, as do 26 percent of high-school students (8 percent "strongly," 18 percent "mostly"). Fifteen percent of adults and 20 percent of high-school students answer "don't know."

When asked "How important is it for all Americans to know about and understand the Holocaust?" 72 percent of adults say that it is either "essential" (33 percent) or "very important" (39 percent), while 13 percent say "only somewhat important," 2 percent "not important," and 13 percent "don't know." Among high-school students, 64 percent answer either "essential" (26 percent) or "very important" (38 percent), while 18 percent say "only somewhat

important," 3 percent "not important," and 15 percent "don't know."

Holocaust Denial -- When told that "some people claim that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened" and asked whether they have ever heard this claim, 38 percent of adults and 21 percent of high-school students say they have heard it; 54 percent of adults and 66 percent of high-school students say they have not heard it; and 8 percent of adults and 13 percent of youth answer "don't know."

When asked "Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?" one third of all adults (34 percent) and over one-third of all high-school students (37 percent) say either "it seems possible" (adults, 22 percent; high-school students, 20 percent) or "don't know" (adults, 12 percent; high-school students, 17 percent). Sixty-five percent of adults and 63 percent of high-school students say "it seems impossible."

Witnesses Sought

The War Crimes branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is seeking witnesses who may have information regarding mass executions that occurred near the village of Potochuk, as well as information about torture and killings that took place near the town of Snyatyn, located in the Ivano-Frankovsk (formerly Stanislawow) Oblast of Ukraine. The crimes being investigated occurred during the period June 1941 to July 1943. Persons who can assist in the investigation should contact the RCMP directly at (613) 990-8481.

HOLOCAUST DENIAL: ANTI-SEMITISM'S NEWEST LIBEL

A Book Review

combat it.

Mr. Stern stresses that Holocaust denial, promoted by anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi groups such as the Institute for Historical Review and others, is a growth industry that must not be dismissed as the rantings of lunatics. Rather, it must be seen as the newest addendum to the lies that have historically fueled anti-Semitism, in line with the claims that the Jews poisoned wells, killed Christ, or are part of a worldwide conspiracy.

Holocaust denial, Mr. Stern adds, is doubly troubling because it is presented not as crass Jew-hatred, but as reasonable sounding pseudo-science and pseudo-history frequently written by people with PhDs. Deniers, or "revisionists," as they cynically refer to themselves, distort the minutiae and details of the Holocaust, such as the workings of the gas chambers or the number of Jews killed or the Nuremberg trials or Hitler's intentions, to claim that there was no policy to exterminate Jews during World War II. A surprising number of people around the world are open to these bizarre, but made-to-appear-rational claims.

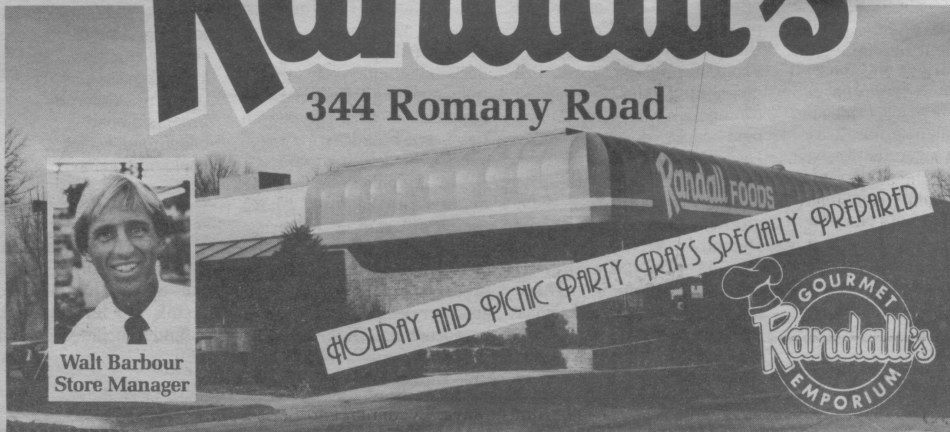
Mr. Stern writes that deniers -- whose claims have appeared in the classroom, on college campuses, in politics, in libraries, on computers, and in the media -- must not be debated, as debate gives them the undeserved legitimacy they crave. Rather, he argues, their neo-Nazi agendas and historical distortions must be exposed. Historians and educational leadership, such as university presidents, have key roles to play in countering the deniers' handiwork, which frequently includes the offering of Holocaust-denying advertisements to student newspapers.

Most people, however, will not learn of Holocaust denial in school or through denying literature; they will learn of it through the media. For radio and television -- media that need spicy topics to drive up ratings -- Holocaust denial certainly generates heat. Deniers are prepared with a reservoir of facts, half-facts, quarter-facts, and outright lies to counter any talk-show host -- for what talk show personality can spend the hours of research necessary to expose the deniers' reasonable sounding lies? Another problem is that the people that can appear on these programs to expose the deniers are left in a quandary: if they do not appear with them, the lies are unchallenged; and worse, if they do confront them, the deniers' credibility is enhanced and there becomes a "debate" between "opposing theories," which is exactly what they seek.

In the political arena, Mr. Stern continues, two presidential candidates in 1992 espoused Holocaust denial, one (David Duke) fully, one (Patrick Buchanan) partly. "The troubling thing is that when Holocaust denial has appeared in national politics, it has been seen as quirkiness, not hatred. . . . While no one from a major party has campaigned on a platform of Holocaust denial, the votes of millions of Americans say that this form of anti-

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see DENIAL

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NATIONAL NEWS

Holocaust Survivor's Reparations Don't Count As Income, HUD says

By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

Washington, JTA -- An 83-year-old Holocaust survivor has won a battle with the U.S. government over whether her reparation payments from the German government should count as income. The Department of Housing and Urban Development decided that reparation payments should not be considered part of a survivor's income.

The survivor sought the help of her senator who sent a letter to the HUD secretary stating that the woman could not afford to pay 30 percent of her reparation money in addition to 30 percent of her social security payment for her monthly rent. The senator also wrote to President Clinton. Last month HUD changed its policy. Reparation payments will no longer be a part of a person's income for low income housing. It is estimated that there are thousands of people in similar situations.

Utah Senator Hatch Reaffirms U.S. Commitment To Israel's Security Thursday, May 6, 1993

WASHINGTON, DC, May 6. -- Utah Senator Orrin G. Hatch, speaking about the current round of Middle East peace talks and the role of the United States in the peace process, stressed his commitment to "the territorial integrity and security of the State of Israel."

Commenting on the U.S. - Israel relationship in regard to the peace process, Sen. Hatch noted that "it is imperative that we stand firmly with Israel to demonstrate that the United States will not 'deliver' Israeli concessions in the peace process. Moreover, it is essential that Arab states understand that they have no recourse besides meaningful talks and mutual compromise."

"Only Israel can determine the timing and modalities of any peace treaty or comprehensive agreement," the Senator said. "Hard liners would only seek to exploit differences of opinion between the United States and Israel."

Turning his attention to international diplomatic relations with Israel, Sen. Hatch stated that for more than a year he has been active in a project that seeks to end Israel's diplomatic isolation among certain states in the Third World.

"I am pleased that China and India have recognized Israel within the last year. However, we have to encourage the Jewish community to get more involved and push members of Congress to do something about the failure of a number of states to confer diplomatic relations on Israel. It is time that Israel's diplomatic isolation come to an end. There is simply no excuse for nations to deny Israel this most basic right."

In conclusion, Sen. Hatch noted the Jewish community's concern over passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and said: "This legislation which I have introduced is designed to protect religious freedom and diversity in this country, which is now under greater scrutiny following the Supreme Court's recent Smith ruling. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act will help restore the protection of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment."

RESCUED FROM SARAJEVO

Sharona Marcovitch
UJA Press Service

Tiberias, Israel -- It's a warm day in Tiberias - Israel's winter vacation land. Anna Ergs and her husband, Drazen Gocsip, look like many young couples, basking in the sun and silently planning romantic dinners at one of the restaurants that hover on the shores of Lake Kinneret. But to Anna and Drazen, still caught up in the desperation of Sarajevo, the beauty of the Kinneret seems surrealistic compared to the ravaged streets and pallid faces they recently left behind.

Anna and Drazen were rescued by Israel's Jewish Agency from the bloody conflict and a winter that will leave a trail of cold, starving victims. American Jews help in rescue operations through their contributions to the UJA-Federation Annual and Operation Exodus Campaigns. These campaigns have also helped Israel absorb hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

Hundreds of Jews remain stranded in Sarajevo. Anna explains, "To get out of Bosnia one must pass through various zones, each with its own roadblocks manned by Serb, Croat, or Moslem militias. These people are animals. They think nothing of dragging refugees off the buses and shooting them in the head as deserters." Anna, whose



mother was a famous opera singer before the outbreak of hostilities, has no way of knowing if her mother is still alive. Anna says, "She was scared to leave because her face is known by everyone. Before the war everyone loved her, but she feared that the love would turn to hatred if people saw her leave."

If there is any silver lining behind this cloud, Drazen has managed to find it. Drazen, 26 and a musician, has wanted to live in Israel since he was a child. He says, "I remember when I met Anna I told her that I intended to move to Israel." He continues, "But in reality, I doubt that we would have had the courage to uproot ourselves if it hadn't been for the war."

Anna, 28, fashionably dressed and fluent in English, is puzzled by the turn her life has taken. Unlike her husband, she was born into a highly assimilated family. Nonetheless, she says that

she has fallen in love with Israel and its people and culture. She adds, "I never imagined my children being fully Jewish. But now they will be." Anna is devoting herself to learning the language and exploring her Jewish heritage.

Despite the travails in Sarajevo, Anna and Drazen are die-hard optimists about their futures in Israel. Anna says, "When other immigrants tell me that they're worried about housing or jobs, I always remind them that this is a dynamic country with plenty of opportunities." She adds, "As for us, we'd like to stay in Tiberias, but we'll go anywhere and do anything. We are determined to be successfully absorbed."

Unfortunately, Sarajevo still darkens the future for Anna and her husband. After warmly discussing all the possibilities in Israel, Anna's voice tightens and she says softly, "All I want now is to have my mother safely with me in Israel."

Peer Group

twentysomething?
thirtysomething?
maybe forty?

Please call the CKJF office to have your name added to the Peer Group mailing list if you are not already receiving Peer Group mailings. 268-0672.

OUR LATEST ARRIVAL



Yulius and Lyudmila Shur, parents of Boris Shur, arrived in Lexington from Russia on May 28th. Pictured here are Olga, Yulius, Maya, Lyudmila, and Boris Shur.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
JULY 15, 1993

LOCAL NEWS

Christian Bias on School Test Corrected

The Following Letter And Reply Were Sent And Received By A Member Of Our Community:

I am writing in regard to the "Scrimmage Test" given to my third grader, at the Maxwell Elementary School, Lexington, Kentucky, on Monday, April 19, 1993. I would like, at this time, to register my strongest objection to one portion of the test that was administered to my son. I believe that the content of the writing portion of that test was culturally biased against my son and therefore against his school. The part of the test that I am concerned with included a picture of a young boy in a city carrying a Christmas tree and a wreath. As my son is Jewish, this foreign experience (one that is outside his personal knowledge and belief systems) is discriminatory and unfair to my son, his class and, of course, his school. I believe requesting children to compose a story with obvious christian content, has no place in our public schools, and is in violation of the spirit and content of KERA. My son, has no experience with Christmas wreaths and has only very little experience with Christmas trees. I believe he was put at a disadvantage in trying to describe on his level, a Christmas wreath when he has never been taught about Christmas wreaths either at home or in school. To use this test as a benchmark test is insulting to all citizens of the Commonwealth who do not come from the

mainstream "christian" background which this test assumes.

I request that you immediately review the content of your tests for further cultural bias. I further request that you void the entire third grade test because of its discriminatory nature and, that you take appropriate steps to insure that such material is not again distributed under the guidance of the Department of Education.

I understand that my requests may be far reaching and may be expensive for the State, however, I do not believe that the validity of culturally biased and discriminatory tests can be maintained. I have notified the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation as well as the Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and we all await your written response.

Reply:

Thank you for your letter of April 23rd regarding the 1993 scrimmage test for third graders.

Without a doubt the writing items to which you refer in your letter should not be on any of our assessments. I respectfully apologize that it was written in the first place and that it was not eliminated through our bias review procedures.

I have asked Scott Trimble, the Division Director for Accountability to immediately determine why this error occurred and to take all necessary steps to see that it is not repeated. I have also asked Scott to have

our contractor review all other items to assure me there is not further cultural bias and to invalidate all student responses to the item in question.

Again, my thanks for forthrightly expressing your concern and for bringing the matter to our immediate attention.

Ed Reidy
Associate Commissioner
Office of Curriculum,
Assessment and
Accountability

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HAVURAH NEWS

May was a busy month for the Havurah. Generally, we meet for services once a month (on Friday night, Saturday morning, or Saturday afternoon); and for holidays. In May, we had a Friday night service on May 7, a potluck dinner and services for Shavuot May 25; and two special events.

On May 13, we had a farewell party for Beth Goldstein, Rafi Finkel and their children who will be residing in Malaysia for the next thirteen months. The potluck menu, featuring Middle Eastern dishes and appetizers, was scrumptious; and lots of our membership turned out to wish the world travelers well. As an integral part of the Havurah, Beth and Rafi, and Penina and Asher will certainly be missed.

Our Annual Retreat took place Sunday, May 16 at the U.K. Faculty Club, and was attended by twenty enthusiastic haverim. Led by Ronnie Levin of the Havurah Institute (who flew in for the weekend from Washington D.C.), we explored two thought-provoking topics. Here is a brief description of the sessions we shared:

What's in a name? In the Jewish tradition, a lot. Names are a compromise between establishing our own independent identity and defining our relationship to our past. We shared our personal compromises and read some contemporary Jewish writings.

Does our God need a house? King Solomon's major achievement was building the Temple. A major tenet of the current Havurah movement is the rejection of an impressive edifice. We studied both Biblical and contemporary Jewish texts to bolster our opinions. We wondered and argued and laughed, and had a wonderful time.

Our Board for 1993-1994 is as follows:

President
Vice President/Bulletin Editor
Treasurer
Secretary
Religious Committee

Kathy Grossman
David Feinberg
Francie Chassen-Lopez
Beth Israel
David Wekstein, Alex
Charney Cohen
Philip Berger
Steve Davis-
Rosenbaum

Education Committee
Membership Committee

Anyone interested in finding out more about our group may contact any of the above individuals. The Havurah not only encourages, but requires participation from its membership.

THANKS!

A special thanks to Ohavay Zion Synagogue Sunday School for their generous donation of the Tzedakah money to help sponsor a child towards a Camp Shalom Scholarship. This money will help afford a child with a wonderful Jewish camp experience.

CKJF COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

- 19 Jason Goldfarb Bar Mitzvah TAI
- 20 Peer Group Meeting - Greenhouse 7:30 pm
- 21 TAI Softball Game 7:15 Athens-Boonesboro Field
- 22 TAI Softball Game 7:15 Athens-Boonesboro Field
- 23 *CKJF Board Meeting 7:30 pm @ OZS
- 25 Last day of Camp Shalom 1993
- 26 Amy Crystal Bat Mitzvah 10:30 am
- 30 Community Relations Committee 7:30 pm @ CKJF office

JULY

- 1 TAI Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm
- 6 TAI Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 15 Social Services Committee 7:45 pm @ CKJF office
- 20 Resettlement Committee 7:30 pm @ CKJF office
- 29 TAI Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm

*There will be no CKJF Board of Directors Meeting in July.

Russian Culture

Have you ever wanted to know what the Russian people are really like? Here is your chance to learn about Russian culture, history, religion, literature, music, customs, traditions and even food! The instructor is a Russian native, a graduate of the University of Kiev and the Teacher's College of Volgograd as a teacher of German. She taught Spanish for Russian students and Russian for foreign students.

This class is being taught by Klara Krasil at Lexington Community College during the 1993 Fall Semester. Call Klara Krasil at 268-8997 for more information.



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Robert Rosenstein - 1st Vice-President
Dr. Austin Cantor - 2nd Vice-President
Holly Barnhill - treasurer
Bobbi Fried - Secretary
Ben Baker - Ex-Officio

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1st Vice-President	Sandy Heymann
2nd Vice-President	Betsy Wides
3rd Vice-President	Shirley Bryan
4th Vice-President	Starr Gantz
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Denial

From page 4

Semitism is no big deal. If a candidate is attractive for other reasons, denial of a recent major historical tragedy involving Jews will be overlooked rather than seen as an irreparable character defect."

In the book's second chapter, Mr. Stern looks at the patterns and purveyors of Holocaust denial around the world, including in Germany, Britain, France, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Romania, Ukraine, former Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, and Arab nations.

Mr. Stern stresses the growth of Holocaust denial in Europe, and especially Eastern Europe, in the aftermath of the fall of communism. In many areas the Nazi puppet states were the last non-Communist governments, and are being rehabilitated. To make these states symbols of a reclaimed nationalism requires a rewriting of Nazism. And, Mr. Stern asserts, among the far-right anti-Semitic groups in Europe today, Holocaust denial is the "ideological glue."

Hatred for Israel appears prominently in Holocaust denial literature, writes Mr. Stern. "Deniers integrally link Holocaust denial with anti-Israel propaganda, for if the Holocaust is a 'hoax,' as they suggest, then one of the justifications for a Jewish State is undermined. Holocaust denial not only attacks Jewish history, its inherent anti-Zionism also targets the Jewish present and the Jewish future."

In the book's third chapter, Mr. Stern debunks

the Holocaust deniers' claims by methodically exposing their scientific, factual, and historical distortions.

In the final chapter, Mr. Stern analyzes the multifaceted ways in which people and institutions can fight Holocaust denial in the long run, including through Holocaust education, speakers, memorials, museums, movies, articles, and books. "All are essential," he says, "but not sufficient."

"We can, and we must, combat Holocaust denial as a falsehood, as hatred, and as a form of politics," Mr. Stern stresses. "If we want to be effective, rather than just feel righteous or 'correct,' we have to have a sophisticated strategy. Jews have to work with other groups, building common lessons from the human tragedy of genocide. We have to exert political power, demanding that our

institutions develop effective means to combat intergroup hatred. We must demand that government create incentives for local institutions to fight bigotry on a day-in, day-out, unremarkable basis. Memory, or logic, or knowledge, or goodwill, by themselves, cannot conquer social hate. Holocaust deniers count on that.

"Holocaust denial is a problem with many dimensions," Mr. Stern concludes. "It is part anti-Semitism, part anti-history, part anti-authority, part anti-democracy. Like all forms of hatred, and all ideologies that promote or apologize for fascism, it must not be dismissed as either something 'silly' or as something to be combatted with platitudes or incantations of 'the truth.' It must be fought as hatred, as ignorance, and as ideology."

Torah Summaries

From page 2

The first part of the double portion begins with the laws concerning vows. The Midianites are engaged in battle and defeated. Eleazar tells the soldier returning that they must purify themselves and their booty taken in battle. The part of the booty was given to the Levites and part was given for use in the Tabernacle.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad wish to settle in the land just captured. They are allowed to settle their families and flock, but the soldiers must continue on to help the rest of the tribes fight.

The second part of the double portion begins with a review of the journey of Israel from Egypt. God tells Moses that once the people occupy the land, they must destroy all idols. The land will then be divided by a

lottery. The boundaries are established by God directly. A new leader is chosen for each tribe.

Special cities are designated. The Levites who have no land, are given cities in which to dwell. Cities of refuge are set aside for those guilty of committing manslaughter. Outside these cities they may be killed by a family member seeking to punish them. Only inside these cities are they safe. Those guilty of intentional murder are not given refuge.

Finally, the integrity of tribal land is maintained. Women who are in a position to inherit land may not marry outside of their own tribe.

DEVARIM-SHABBAT HAZON

6 Av, July 24

This portion is the first in the book of Deuteronomy. Moses begins a review of what has happened to the Israelites: the division of leadership, the episode of the spies and the decree that only the children will enter Canaan, the peoples' subsequent attempt to enter the land (against God's instructions) and their defeat. Moses avoided war when possible, but when permission for the people to pass through version kingdoms was denied, he was

CLINTON SPEAKS AT HOLOCAUST MUSEUM DEDICATION

Remarks by the President at the dedication of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

APRIL 22, 1993

Washington, D.C.

12:43 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, President and Mrs. Herzog, distinguished leaders of nations from around the world who have come here to be with us today, the leaders of our Congress and the citizens of America, and especially to Mr. Meyerhoff and all of those who worked so hard to make this day possible, and even more to those who have spoken already on this program, whose lives and words bear eloquent witness to why we have come here today.

It is my purpose on behalf of the United States to commemorate this magnificent museum, meeting as we do among memorials within the site of the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, the author of our freedom. Near where Abraham Lincoln is seated, who gave his life so that our nation might extend its mandate of freedom to all who live within our borders. We gather near the place where the legendary and recently departed Marian Anderson sang songs of freedom, and where Martin

Luther King summoned us all to dream and work together.

Here on the town square of our national life, on this 50th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising, at Eisenhower Plaza on Raoul Wallenberg Place, we dedicate the United States Holocaust Museum, and so bind one of the darkest lessons in history to the hopeful soul of America. (Applause.)

As we have seen already today, this museum is not for the dead alone, nor even for the survivors who have been so beautifully represented; it is perhaps most of all for those of us who were not there at all. To learn the lessons, to deepen our memories and our humanity, and to transmit these lessons from generation to generation.

The Holocaust, to be sure, transformed the entire 20th century, sweeping aside the enlightenment hope that evil somehow could be permanently vanished from the face of the earth; demonstrating there is no war to end all war; that the struggle against the basest tendencies of our nature must continue forever and ever.

The Holocaust began when the most civilized country of its day unleashed

Cont. page 10
see CLINTON

left with no choice, the permission given to the tribes given to Reuben and Gad to settle East of the Jordan and the naming of Joshua as successor to Moses.

This Shabbat precedes Tisha B'Av (the ninth of Av, the Anniversary of the Destruction of the Temples), and the special Haftarah from Isaiah serves to rebuke us for failing to follow the precepts of God.

VAETCHANAN-SHABBAT NACHAMU

13 Av, July 31

This portion continues the first speech of Moses to the people. Moses explains that God has denied him permission to cross the

Jordan river. Moses tells the people they must be faithful, unlike in the past. Concluding this speech, Moses creates three cities of refuge for the involuntary murderer on the East Bank of the Jordan. Moses begins a second speech and repeats the Ten Commandments. He reviews the history of the people during their wanderings. He pronounces the Shema (Hear O Israel, the Eternal our God the Eternal is One) and the Vahavta (You shall love the Eternal your God with all Your heart. . .). He strongly warns them to remain faithful to God and not to stray after foreign gods.



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More Money to Public Works in Territories

HADASHOT reports that the Israeli government decided on a series of measures to ease the lives of residents of the Territories. Among the measures to be implemented are adding 30 million dollars over the next two months to initiate public works for the Palestinians. This budget will bring about the employment of about 20,000 additional laborers. Following a seven hour discussion, the government approved the program, scheduling a review in two months. HADASHOT adds that during a Cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat presented a forecast of negative results impacting the Israeli economy caused by a prolonged closure of the Territories. Among the effects mentioned was a greater annual inflation.

Self-Rule in "Gaza First" Okay if Agreement Reached

HA'ARETZ quotes Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who said yesterday that when an agreement in principle is achieved on the establishment of a Palestinian self-government in the Territories, he would not object implementing it first in the Gaza Strip. Speaking during a Cabinet meeting, Rabin said that an agreement on these issues must be reached in the negotiations with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington. According to the newspaper, this is Rabin's first statement as Prime Minister in which he has expressed some support of the idea known as "Gaza first." Several Cabinet ministers have previously raised the idea of "Gaza first." Head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace process, Haider Abdelshafi, said in response to Rabin's statements, that it is too early to discuss the implementation of an agreement on interim self-government in Gaza first. Abdelshafi believes the fate of the Gaza Strip must be connected to the fate of the West Bank. HA'ARETZ quotes PLO Chief Yasser Arafat, who said recently that should Israel withdraw from the Gaza Strip first, his organization would be willing to take control of the administration there. KOL YISRAEL quotes senior sources in Jerusalem who stated that at this point, Israel has no plans prepared for the implementation of autonomy in Gaza first.

Radical Islam

From page 1

Prof. Badr stressed that the current conflicts in the Middle East are over territory and national identity, and "having nothing to do with religion as such." Similarly, the current negative image of Islam in America "is due to the political exploitation of religion by the so-called Muslim fundamentalists whose actions are politically motivated."

"They can quote no verse of the Quran which truly justifies any of their actions. They merely develop themselves in the cloak of Islam to exploit the appeal of the faith to the masses of the faithful," he said.

Prof. Badr went on to state that those who perpetrate such terrorism in the name of religion are, in reality, "political activists with an extremist agenda who mobilize religion in the service of their goals which are nothing short of rebellion against those in power. They

SIMCHAS AND SUCH

Mazel Tov to Sue Ezrine, 1993 recipient of the JC Penny Golden Rule Award as coordinator of Green Circle.

Haggai Elitzur has won the 1993 Governor's Scholar Award. Haggai attends school at Henry Clay High School.

Maya Shur, daughter of Boris and Olga Shur, won the Fayette County Foreign Language competition. She won first place in German reading, writing and oral

comprehension and is going on to the state level competition.

Steven Baumann, son of Judy and Bob, was named "Kitchen Employee of the Year" at Outback Steakhouse and has won a trip to Cancun.

Debra Wekstein, daughter of Merle and David, just graduated from Boston College's School of Law.

Vinnie and Lou Dubilier's Daughter, Ellen, recently had a baby girl named Morgan.

Merle and David Wekstein's daughter, Karen, gave birth to a baby girl, named Rachel.

Leon and Harriet Cooper have a new grandchild.

Ted Friedman's daughter Greta, gave birth to a baby boy, named Ari.

Sympathies to...

Kathy Grosman on the loss of her father, Charles Bridenthal.

Phil Hoffman on the loss of his father.

Cont. page 10
see ISLAM



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Clinton's Remarks at Dedication

From Page 8

unprecedented acts of cruelty and hatred abetted by perversions of science, philosophy, and law. A culture which produced Goethe, Schiller, and Beethoven, then brought forth Hitler and Himmler. The merciless hordes who, themselves, were educated as others who were educated stood by and did nothing. Millions died for who they were, how they worshipped, what they believed, and who they loved. But one people -- the Jews -- were immutably marked for total destruction. They who were among their nation's most patriotic citizens, whose extinction served no military purpose nor offered any political gain, they who threatened no one were slaughtered by an efficient, unrelenting bureaucracy, dedicated solely to a radical evil with a curiously antiseptic title: The Final Solution.

The Holocaust reminds us forever that knowledge divorced from values can only serve to deepen human nightmare; that a head without a heart is not humanity. (Applause.)

For those of us here today representing the nations of the West, we must live forever with this knowledge, even as our fragmentary awareness of crimes grew into indisputable facts, far too little was done. Before the war even started, doors to liberty were shut. And even after the United States and the Allies attacked Germany, rail lines to the camps within miles of military significant target were left undisturbed.

Still there were, as has been noted, many deeds of singular courage and resistance. The Danes and the Bulgarians, men like Emmanuel Ringelbaum, who died after preserving in metal milk cans the history of the Warsaw ghetto. Janusz Korczak, who stayed with children until last breaths at Treblinka. And Raoul Wallenberg, who perhaps rescued as many as 100,000 Hungarian Jews. An those known and those never to be known, who manned the thin

line of righteousness, who risked and lost their lives to save others, accruing no advantage to themselves, but nobly serving the larger cause of humanity.

As the war ended, these rescuers were joined by our military forces who, alongside the allied armies, played the decisive role in bringing the Holocaust to an end. Overcoming the shock of discovery, they walked survivors from those dark, dark places into the sweet sunlight of redemption, soldiers and survivors being forever joined in history and humanity. This place is their place, too. For them as for us, to memorialize the past and steel ourselves for the challenges of tomorrow.

We must all now frankly admit that there will come a time in the not-too-distant future when the Holocaust will pass from living reality and shared experience to memory and to history. To preserve this shared history of anguish, to keep it vivid and real so that evil can be combatted and contained, we are here to consecrate this memorial and contemplate its meaning for us; for more than any other event, the Holocaust gave rise to the universal declaration of human rights, the charter of our common humanity. And it contributed, indeed, made certain the long overdue creation of the nation of

Israel. (Applause.)

Now, with the demise of communism and the rise of democracy out of the ashes of former communist states, with the end of the Cold War we must not only rejoice in so much that is good in the world, but recognize that not all in this new world is good. We learn again and again that the world has yet to run its course of animosity and violence.

Ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia is but the most brutal and blatant and ever-present manifestation of what we see also with the oppression of the Kurds in Iraq, the abusive treatment of the Baha'i in Iran, the endless race-based violence in South Africa. And in many other places we are reminded again and again how fragile are the safeguards of civilization.

So do the depraved and insensate bands now loose in the modern world. Look at the liars and the propagandists among us, the skinheads and the Liberty Lobby here at home; the Afrikaaners resistance movement in South Africa; the Radical Party of Serbia, the Russian blackshirts. With them we must all compete for the interpretation and the preservation of history of what we know and how we should behave.

The evil represented in this museum is incontestable. But as we are its witness, so must we remain its adversary in the world in which we live. So we must stop the fabricators of history and the bullies as well. Left unchallenged, they

would still prey upon the powerless; and we must not permit that to happen again.

To build bulwarks against this kind of evil, we know there is but one path to take. It is the direction opposite that which produced the Holocaust, it is that which recognizes that among all our differences, we still cannot ever separate ourselves one from another. WE must find in our diversity our common humanity. We must reaffirm that common humanity, even in the darkest and deepest of our own disagreements.

Sure, there is new hope in this world. The emergence of new, vibrant democratic states, many of whose leaders are here today, offers a shield against the inhumanity we remember. And it is particularly appropriate that this museum is here in this magnificent city, an enduring tribute to democracy. It is a constant reminder of our duty to build and nurture the institutions of public tranquility and humanity.

It occurs to me that some may be reluctant to come inside these doors because the photographs and remembrance of the past impart more pain than they can bear. I understand that. I walked through the museum on Monday night and spent more than two hours. But I think that our obligations to history and posterity alike should beckon us all inside these doors. It is a journey that I hope every American who comes to Washington will take, a journey I hope all the visitors to this city from abroad will

make.

I believe that this museum will touch the life of everyone who enters and leaves everyone forever changed; a place of deep sadness and a sanctuary of bright hope; an ally of education against ignorance, of humility, against arrogance, an investment in a secure future against whatever insanity lurks ahead. If this museum can mobilize morality, then those who have perished will thereby gain a measure of immortality.

I know this is a difficult day for those we call "survivors." Those of us born after the war cannot yet fully comprehend their sorrow or pain. But if our expressions are inadequate to this moment, at least may I share these words inscribed in the Book of Wisdom: "the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them. In the eyes of fools they seem to die. They're passing away was thought to be an affliction. And their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace."

On this day of triumphant reunion and celebration, I hope those who have survived have found their peace. Our task, with God's blessing upon our souls and the memories of the fallen in our hearts and minds, is to the ceaseless struggle to preserve human rights and dignity. We are now strengthened and will be forever strengthened by remembrance. I pray that we shall prevail. (Applause.)

END 12:59 P.M. EDT

Islam

From page 9

to exploit these grievances in the pursuit of their own political goals."

He added that the methods they employ to achieve their goals are "anti-Islamic." Islam does not condone the use of violent means even if the end sought were a worthy one. The peace of society is a major value that Islam promotes and protects.

"Self appointed champions of good against evil always consider violence and evil as an available means to them in the pursuit

of their goals."

Prof. Badr, turning his attention to the relationship between Islam and Judaism, and thus, between Muslims and Jews, noted that Islam's view of Judaism is not that of an alien faith, but rather "as a link in the one message revealed to mankind over time.

"Islam recognizes Judaism as God's earlier revealed message, a phase of the single religion given to mankind from the earliest days. Moses is revered as a prophet; the Torah is recognized as God-revealed scripture. The Quran further refers to the oppression of the

children of Israel under Pharaoh's rule in Egypt. It relates the story of Moses and his God-ordained mission to rescue his people, and tells of the exodus and its major events."

One problem that does arise, said Prof. Badr, is the notion that the later of the revealed faiths claims to supersede the earlier ones.

"It should be emphasized that while seeking, like most other religions, to spread the good word, Islam does not seek to impose its faith on the followers of other religions. Islam's conception of faith is that it is a very personal and private matter and must be

voluntary and correspond to the inner conviction of the individual. Forced faith is no faith."

Prof. Badr concluded his remarks by stating that, based on the teachings of the Quran, there is not problem for Muslims and Jews to coexist either in Muslim countries or here in the United States.

"The common elements between Islam and Judaism are quite obvious, and I see no theological reasons why American Muslims and American Jews cannot live together peacefully and cooperate positively."

Commentary: Jefferson and Religion's New Day

By A. James Rudin

(RNS) - This week is the 250th anniversary of the birth of a man whose intellectual and artistic interests were extraordinary. He was Thomas Jefferson, our third president. Born in Virginia on April 13, 1743, his writings over a 60-year period covered many subjects and numbered over 600,000 words. The elegant writing style of this active political leader still inspires, and his deeply held views on religion and its place in society remain timeless.

Jefferson was a lifelong foe of a religion established or sanctioned by the state. When he was only 33, he declared: "The care of every man's soul belongs to himself."

"No man has the right to abandon care of his salvation to another," he wrote. "No man has the power to let another prescribe his faith." The reason? "The essence of religion consists in the internal persuasion of belief."

Some historians attribute these strong views to his early education by Anglican clergymen; the student rebelling against his teachers. But it is not that simple. Jefferson's commitment to religious freedom was part of his entire philosophic system. He wanted to diffuse power rather than concentrate it in the hands of a few leaders or institutions. He feared all forms of tyranny, religious as well as political. "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God," he wrote.

He also saw himself as an "organ . . . to abolish" the religious domination of "a privileged church."

"I cannot give up my religious guidance to the magistrate, because he knows no more of the way to heaven than I do," he wrote. "If the Jews had followed their Kings, among so many, how many would have led them to idolatry?"

In 1808, near the end of his presidency, Jefferson wrote to Baptist leaders in Virginia: "We have solved by fair experiment, the great and interesting question whether freedom of religion is compatible with order in government, and obedience to laws." In the United States, he said, all were able to "profess freely and openly" their religious principles, having arrived at them through "reason . . . and inquiries."

Jefferson was especially harsh in his judgement of the Christian church in history. "Why," he wondered, "have Christians been distinguished above all people . . . for persecutions? Is it the genius of their religion? No, its genius is the reverse. It is refusing toleration to those of a different opinion."

"Millions of innocent men, women and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced one inch towards uniformity," he wrote. "What has been the effect of coercion? To make one half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites."

But Jefferson was not anti-religious. Indeed, he described relations between human beings and God as "the most incumbent on his study and investigation." Jefferson endorsed the idea of religious studies within universities, including the one he founded, the University of Virginia. But such studies, he warned, must not violate the constitutional freedom of religion, the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights.

Jefferson wrote extensively about religion, especially the ethics of Christianity, and he was aware that any analysis of the morals of the Old Testament would require attentive study of other Jewish texts, including the Mishna, the Cabbala and the Talmud, in order to do the biblical writings full justice. His argument was with religious institutions and leaders who employed coercion and tyrannical methods to impose their spiritual beliefs on an unwilling populace.

In October 1776 Jefferson wrote, "I may recover health by medicines I am compelled to take against my own judgement, but I cannot be saved by a worship I disbelieve or abhor." Truth, he said, "will do well enough if left to shift for herself." And he had little confidence in the ability of

LETTERS

Camp Scholarship

Dear CKJF:

Thank you very very much for my camp scholarship. Without it I don't know what I would have done. Camp Young Judaea is my favorite place to be. Thanx again.

Name Withheld

(Camp scholarships are awarded to those in financial need. Therefore, CKJF has chosen to withhold the name of the recipient above.)

BBYO Alumni Organization Forming

Shalom. It is my pleasure to inform you that the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) is forming a national alumni association.

BBYO is composed of the Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and the B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG), and is a youth led organization. Members, who are teenagers in the ninth through twelfth grades, participate in religious, cultural, social, and community service programs. In addition, BBYO members receive intensive leadership training from a professional staff.

With this leadership training, many BBYO alumni assume significant roles in their communities. Therefore, if you were a member of BBYO, I would be grateful if you would fill out

an alumni update form. If you were not a BBYO member, I hope you will share this information with other members of your community.

Your assistance in helping the Aleph Zadik Aleph and B'nai B'rith Girls locate "lost" alumni is greatly appreciated. If I can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sam Fisher
International Director

*Editor's note: To receive a BBYO alumni update form, please contact Sam Fisher at:

B'nai B'rith Youth Org.
1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036-3278
(202) 857-6633

Jerusalem 3000 City of David 1996

In 1996, we shall mark the Trimillennium of Jerusalem, 3,000 years since David the King chose Jerusalem as the Capital of the Kingdom of Israel. From that time, the city has become the symbol of the unity of the people of Israel, the focus of the Jewish experience, and an inspiration for musicians and artists and writers over the centuries.

Jerusalem is a city also holy to Christianity and to Islam. In the quarter century since the reunification of Jerusalem, we have made every effort to restore and preserve the

many holy places of the three religions and to ensure freedom of worship to all.

Many wars were fought in Jerusalem. Many peoples ruled Jerusalem. But it was only the nation of Israel which, decisively, made its capital in Jerusalem.

The response of David the King and his legendary being will be the focus of the celebrations. We are planning major cultural events on an international scale. We are planning social and recreational activities for people of all ages. We are planning symposia and conferences on a variety of subjects connected with David the King.

It is our hope that on this occasion, we shall have the pleasure of welcoming visitors from all over the world and that we will forge strong ties which will continue over future generations. Indeed, it is the future generations which we have in our thoughts and one of the focuses of the Trimillennium will be on youth, both here and abroad. Many of the programs being planned are for young people, for it is they who will begin the city's fourth millennium. It is the young people who will ensure the future of Jerusalem as a city of understanding and coexistence, of culture and the arts, of learning and science, of tourism and economic development.

Do join us on this occasion. It happens only once in 3,000 years.
Sincerely yours,
Teddy Kollek

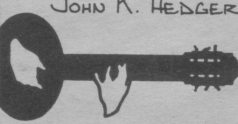
leaders to pass it on. "Truth has seldom received much aid from the power of great men to whom she is rarely known and seldom welcomed," he wrote.

As a result, Jefferson advocated a "wall of separation" between religion and state, and he remained convinced that religious liberty was critical to the American republic. He was the author of the 1779 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, a remarkable law that served as a model for the rest of the country and remains one of the great foundations of our society.

Shortly before his death in 1826, Jefferson requested that only three of his many accomplishments be listed on his tombstone: that he was the author of the Declaration of Independence, the author of the Statute for Religious Freedom and the "father" of the University of Virginia. Missing was the fact he was president of the United States from 1801 to 1809.

An oversight? Not at all. Jefferson knew what is truly important: education, freedom from tyranny and religious liberty.

JOHN R. HEDGER



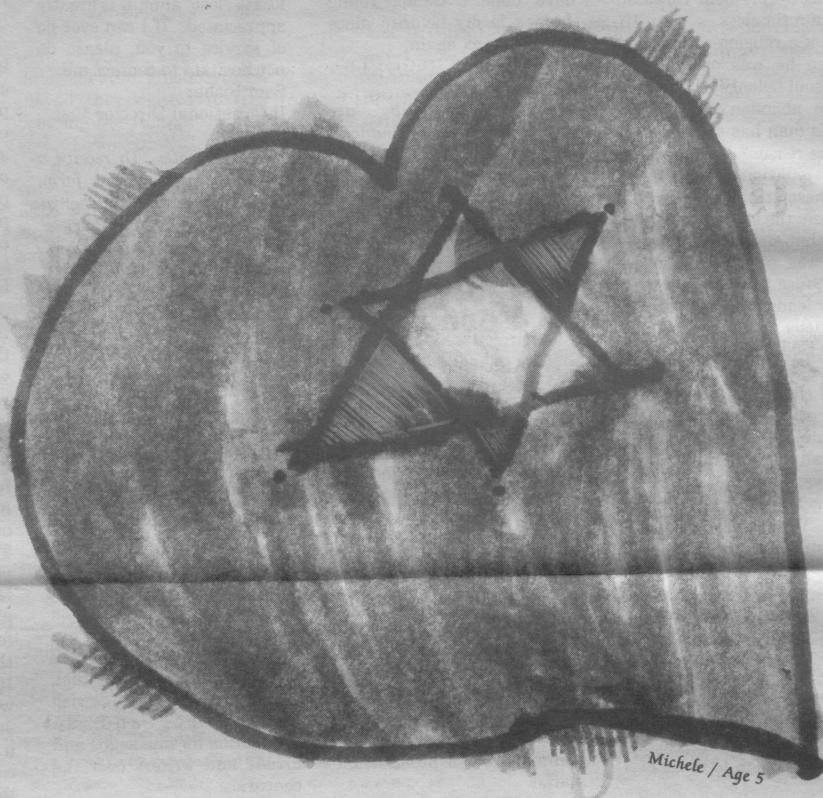
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