

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF JEWISH LIBRARIANS NEWSLETTER

HEADQUARTERS

APR 1 1985

LIBRARY



ארגון בין-לאומי של ספרנים יהודים

(Formerly The Jewish Librarians Caucus Newsletter)

Vol. 9, no. 1 (Jan. - March 1985)

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ISJL Officers

Annette Blank, Chairperson
Sylvia Eisen, Treasurer

Stephen Karetzky, Newsletter Editor

Subscriptions to the ISJL Newsletter are
\$7.50 per year. Payment should be sent to:

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Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010

Correspondence and items for inclusion
should be sent to:

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GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF JEWISH LIBRARIANS

1. To promote a sense of identity and community among Jewish librarians.
2. To provide a forum for discussion of issues that affect Jews as Jewish Librarians.
3. To serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of Jewish library information.
4. To offer Jewish viewpoints toward issues that affect society and librarianship.
5. To provide guidance and help for (1) librarians and others concerned with effectively meeting the needs and interests of Jewish library users, and (2) those involved with providing Jewish resources and services in libraries.
6. To support and work together with other ethnic library groups and organizations (within and outside the American Library Association) to foster awareness about, and sensitivity to, the needs and interests of ethnic and minority librarians and library users.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

The ISJL is an entirely independent, self-supporting association which receives no assistance from any institutions or organizations. Our activities, such as issuing the Newsletter and renting space for meetings at ALA conferences, requires some money. Membership and/or a subscription to the Newsletter is only \$7.50 per year. Please pay this nominal amount and encourage others to join with us.

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE ISJL

After a highly successful period as chairperson of the ISJL, Susan Freiband has requested to step down. (She has succeeded David Cohen as head of ALA's Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table.) The new chair of our organization is long-term member Annette Blank. Ms. Blank is the director of children's services for the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, and has been active in numerous professional associations in addition to the ISJL.

Members of the Society are grateful that Sylvia Eisen has agreed to remain the treasurer of this association, a position she has held since its founding ten years ago. Ms. Eisen, a consultant and a librarian at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center on Long Island, is also active in the Association of Jewish Libraries.

The new editor of the Newsletter is Stephen Karetzky, associate professor in the Division of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. A contributor to the Newsletter some years ago, Dr. Karetzky has written a book on media coverage of the Middle East and has taught at Haifa University.

ISJL MEETING AND PROGRAM AT ALA CHICAGO CONFERENCE

Arrangements for the ISJL program in Chicago this summer have been made by David Zubatsky of OCLC. A guided tour of the library (and museum) of the Spertus College of Judaica will be given on Tuesday, July 9th, from 2-4 p.m. This famous institution is located at 618 S. Michigan Avenue, within walking distance of conference headquarters. The membership/business meeting will probably be on Sunday evening, July 7th, 8-10 p.m. (Consult the ALA program guide at the conference for the exact time and place.) Come to both! Annette Blank would like to hear of any suggestions for the business meeting's agenda.

OUR "NEW" NAME

Several years ago, the Jewish Librarians Caucus members voted to change its name to the International Society of Jewish Librarians. (I was at the meeting where it was discussed.) While this change has been noted in some places, e.g. The Encyclopedia of Associations, it has not been generally used for some reason.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to Rose Vainstein, Madeleine Cohen Oakley, and David Zubatsky for their contributions to this issue of the Newsletter.

ALA COUNCIL RESCINDS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL!

Pressure from members and friends of the International Society of Jewish Librarians resulted in the repeal of the ALA resolution concerning censorship overseas which singled out Israel for castigation. This is a victory, but only a partial victory, and Society members are urged to be vigilant for future developments. The repeal of the resolution at the Midwinter meeting of ALA was described in that organization's journal American Libraries (February, 1985, p. 124) thusly:

"Moon [Eric Moon, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee] also moved that the Council statement on reaffirmation of freedom of expression of foreign nationals passed last June 27 be rescinded and referred back to the International Relations Committee and the IFC for further consideration. Moon said the IFC received a number of protests on the wording of the statement. Council passed the motion."

It is important to note the claim that the protests concerned the wording of the statement. Saying this may well have been the best way for the Committees and Council to save face, but of course it was the substance of the offensive resolution--and the way it had been passed--that had resulted in the protests. Note, too, that the resolution has been referred back to the committees that conceived it for additional discussion. It is quite possible that the original resolution could now be split into two separate resolutions--one condemning censorship throughout the world, and the other pertaining solely to Israel. This would eliminate one criticism of the rescinded resolution--that only Israel had been condemned. It is clear that Israel has its enemies, otherwise the original attack would never have had such easy-going the first time around. We should be ready to counter any absurd charges made in the future.

To some extent, Israel has already been damaged. News of the resolution passed last summer, as well as copies of the resolution itself, has received some circulation. Is it far-fetched to believe that the news and the resolution have already been translated into foreign tongues and published elsewhere by the numerous enemies of Israel? Will the news that the resolution has been repealed be similarly noted, or the real reason for the repeal made public in American Libraries?

There are several important lessons to be learned from the events thus far. One concerns the International Society of Jewish Librarians. It was through our Newsletter that many first became aware of the issue, and through our meeting in January that action against it was planned out. If there had been any questions of our significance, this should dispel them.

Events have also made it clear that the ALA establishment has a poor understanding of events overseas, and little concern for Jews in Israel or America. The outrageous resolution of last year was followed by a letter to the Anti-Defamation League by the president of ALA, E.J. Josey. The ADL had expressed several complaints about the resolution, but his response to this organization was almost a word-for-word reiteration of its letter previously sent to me by Judith Krug, Director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom: it endorsed both the resolution and the actions of the library association which led up to it. It is ironic that most of Josey's speeches and writings stress the need within librarianship for greater "social responsibility" and an increased concern for ethnic minorities. His failure to see any problems with the resolution may reflect a blind spot in his vision for an improved profession: perhaps Jews are not eligible for the fair treatment and concern that he touts.

The condemnation of Israel by the American Library Association contrasts with its lack of interest in the direct attacks on the intellectual freedom of Israelis and Jews throughout the world in the past few years. For example, no committees were set up, no studies were made, and no statements were issued about the following: (1) the last-minute prohibition of Israelis from a conference in Cairo which was co-sponsored by the ALA's sister organization, the American Society for Information Science; (2) the destruction of an Israeli book exhibition at a government-sponsored book fair in Egypt; and (3) the inability of Jewish-Americans (and non-Jewish librarians who have visited Israel) to enter many Arab countries. Perhaps Jews within librarianship should also be faulted for failing to publicize these things.

Five people from outside the Society were extremely helpful in the recent fight against the resolution: Elliot Abrams, Undersecretary of State for Human Rights; Abraham Foxman, Ken Jacobson and Abba Cohen of the Anti-Defamation League; and Gerald Shields, Assistant Dean of the School of Information and Library Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Thanks!

--Stephen Karetzky

On the following pages is a reprint from the March 1985 issue of Midstream. Written some time before I had official confirmation of events at the ALA Mid-winter meeting, there was no opportunity to update it before publication. It provides information which should be of interest to ISJL members.

For those seeking to become knowledgeable about the situation on the West Bank, I recommend "Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District; A Sixteen Year Survey (1967-1983)," issued by The Coordinator of Government Operations for these areas. On the American media's mistreatment of Israel, see:

Joshua Muravchik [CSIS, Georgetown University] "Misreporting Lebanon," Policy Review 23 (Winter 1983), pp. 11-86; Edward Alexander [University of Washington], The Distorting Mirror (AFSI, 147 E. 76th Street, New York, NY, 1983, \$4.95); Stephen Karetzky, The Cannons of Journalism (O'Keefe Press, Box 3723, Stanford, CA, 1984, \$8.95); Martin Peretz, "Lebanon Eyewitness," The New Republic (August 13, 1982), pp. 15-23; and Rael Jean Isaac and Erich Isaac, "Enemies in the Extreme," Midstream 30 (August/September 1984), pp. 45-50.

--S.K.

The American Library Association Versus Israel

STEPHEN KARETZKY

The American Library Association passed a resolution at its annual conference last year condemning Israeli censorship on the West Bank. It was the arrogant finale to a six-month performance by this organization that can well be described as "sleazy."

The resolution criticizes Israel for what it calls "constraints of individual rights and intellectual freedom in the occupied area of the West Bank of the Jordan." Made in the context of a general "Reaffirmation of Freedom of Expression of Foreign Nationals," which opposes censorship everywhere in the world, Israel is the only country specifically censured. In accordance with its 1974 Policy on Abridgment of the Rights of Freedom of Expression of Foreign Nationals, the Chicago-based professional organization has sent copies of the resolution to the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, international library associations, the Israeli Library Association, the Israeli Embassy, and "other bodies as may be deemed appropriate by the resolution's drafter."

According to Judith F. Krug, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association and the designated spokesperson for this issue, the initial impetus for the action was a letter from one Chicago-area librarian. (She has not furnished a name.) Krug says that "When such a request is obviously frivolous and without merit, it is disposed of quickly. In this instance, however, the request was neither frivolous nor without merit"; hence the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee and its International Relations Committee established a Joint Subcommittee on the matter at the Association's January, 1984 midwinter meeting. This Subcommittee reported back to its parent committees at the annual conference at the end of June. Krug states:

In reporting, the subcommittee pointed out that it was unable to ascertain and verify the details of the alleged constraints, but that there had been general corroboration of the charges from an independent source. Furthermore, the subcommittee pointed out that during the course of its work, the matter seemed to broaden from simply a list of banned books and a question of censorship, to larger concerns, namely, freedom of the press, academic freedom and the general adverse effects of a "military occupancy."

The committees wrote and submitted the "Reaffirmation of Freedom of Expression" to the governing board of the Association, the 100-member Council elected by its 35,000 members. The Council adopted it on June 27, without debate.

Only a handful of individuals knew of the establishment of the Subcommittee, its investigation, or the resulting resolution, until after the latter's acceptance by the Council. Even the Association's bi-monthly *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, edited by Krug, made no mention of the matter during the five-month course of the investigation. It is ironic that an organization ostensibly committed to the free flow of information failed to communicate with its own members on this important matter. Krug attributes it to a lack of space in the *Newsletter*, as well as to the purpose of the journal. Yet a report on alleged Israeli censorship (gleaned from one story in *The New York Times*) was printed during this period; a notice about the study would not have taken up nearly as much room.

Thus Israel was singled out for castigation in a resolution that supposedly covers all the nations of the world. The *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* itself contains scores of al-

leged acts of censorship around the world every year. The 1984 *ALA Yearbook* reports that the most recent assembly of its International Relations Round Table had several speeches on restrictions of free expression in Kenya, the People's Republic of China, and Iran. Furthermore, Israel was not the only country to be investigated last year by a specially-appointed Subcommittee: Amnesty International requested an examination of a case of censorship by the Soviet government. Apparently, allegations of censorship by the most vulnerable and pro-American member of the small community of democratic nations are considered to be of greater significance than the activities of our totalitarian adversary — the Soviet Union — or of the more than 120 non-democratic (and usually anti-democratic and anti-American) governments of the world ruling over most of the human race. There seems to be no sensitivity here, no sense of responsibility, no sense of proportion, no sense *period*.

Bias is apparent in the American Library Association study itself, as well as in the organization's public pronouncements. The final resolution of the last annual conference notes that on the matter of "constraints of individual rights and intellectual freedom in the occupied area of the West Bank of the Jordan," the Intellectual Freedom and International Relations Committees "have been unable to ascertain the details of such constraints, but are convinced that there must be some inequity that has provided the basis for statements of concern." Ignoring all logic, the Association has thus concluded that Israel must be guilty merely because it is alleged to be. Furthermore, the Association even admits that it has arrived at its conclusions despite its inability to discover any evidence. The final reso-

lution echoes the sentiments of the Subcommittee, which, according to Krug, "pointed out that it was unable to ascertain and verify the details of the alleged constraints, but that there had been general corroboration of the charges from an independent source." Again, it is absurd and irresponsible for these jurors to find the accused guilty not from specifics but from "general corroboration" from one so-called "independent source."

All this is ludicrous.

As already noted, the Subcommittee members believed that in the course of their probe, "the matter seemed to broaden from simply a list of banned books and a question of censorship, to larger concerns, namely, freedom of the press, academic freedom and the general adverse effects of a 'military occupancy.'" They would have displayed greater objectivity and wisdom if their inquiry had instead led to questions of PLO terrorism, riots, inflammatory anti-Semitic tracts, and a recent history of massive Arab invasions of Israel. The essential fact is that most of Israel's neighbors are now in a state of war with it for the expressed purpose of expunging what they term the "Zionist Entity" from the face of the earth.

If the American Library Association had been truly concerned about the alleged "inequity" in human rights in that area of the world, its study would have reached the same conclusion as a 1981 report on the West Bank, which appeared in the prestigious *Columbia Journalism Review* (this journal, incidentally, is usually critical of Israel). The report concluded, "...there is no freer press, except in the anarchy of Beirut, anywhere in the Arab world." This is a remarkable accom-

plishment, given the clear and present danger that obtains there.

A glance at the violently anti-Israeli, pro-PLO, pro-Soviet newspaper *Al-Fajr*, which is openly and legally sold everywhere on the West Bank, should disabuse a fair-minded person of false notions concerning alleged Israeli censorship. This newspaper is also available at newsstands and in libraries in the United States, and could have been examined by the Subcommittee in the course of its "investigation." Like many other Palestinian Arab papers it often extols and encourages "armed struggle" and terrorist murder.

Despite the frequent charges by enemies of Israel that "thousands" of books have been banned, the actual number is in the hundreds. Almost all of these have been published in Arab countries officially in a state of war with Israel, and the books clearly and directly incite hatred and violence. Canards about the censorship of "purely literary" works, such as Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, also abound. In this particular case, the truth is that an adaptation of the work geared to inciting Arab children to anti-Semitism was forbidden. The authentic version of the play has always been available.

It is strange that the members of the Subcommittee should express concern over "academic freedom." Such a concern would have been "academic" before the advent of Israeli control in 1967, when the West Bank had no institutions of higher learning. It now has four full-fledged universities. Comparable accomplishments have been made in other areas: general education, freedom of assembly, the right to strike, water supply, electrification, and economic development.

It is possible that the American Library Association committees and Council members have been prejudiced, in part, by the distorted coverage of events in the Middle East by the American media. From the television networks to the prestige press, these agencies have tended to have an anti-Israeli bias. This has been well-documented in numerous studies.

The condemnation of Israel as an enemy of intellectual freedom is outrageous. The charge, morally and intellectually corrupt, corrodes all societies that cherish liberty. It also helps undermine the most besieged democratic nation. It is an addition to the growing international chorus of unfounded condemnations and hostile acts against Israel, and will serve to encourage more of the same.

It is unlikely that most librarians would even suspect that the leaders of their profession would act in the irresponsible manner they clearly have. Thus, the slanderous resolution that censures Israel as an enemy of intellectual freedom will subtly influence the librarians in this country (and abroad) in their selection of books, magazines, and newspapers. This will further add to the enormous misinformation and disinformation about Israel. Repealing the resolution and issuing an apology to the Israeli people would benefit everyone genuinely concerned about intellectual freedom, and restore some credibility to the American Library Association. ■

STEPHEN KARETZKY is associate professor of library science at San Jose State University and author of *The Cannons of Journalism* (O'Keefe Press).

Minutes--Jewish Librarians Caucus [ISJL]

Business Meeting at ALA Mid-winter Conference, Jan. 5, 1985, 8-11 p.m.
Washington, D.C.

1. Eighteen attendees.
2. Minutes approved.
3. New Chairperson, Annette Blank, will preside at Chicago meeting in summer.
4. ALA and ISJL Committees and committee reports:
 - a. Minority Concerns: David Cohen will attend the three mid-winter meetings. (Annette Blank is our representative.)
 - b. Subject Access: Tillie Krieger, Sid August, Harriet Reiter, and Faye Leibowitz will join this committee. It was noted that a good article by Sanford Berman on the development of Judaica access recently appeared in Technical Services Quarterly.
5. Newsletter: Volunteers for vacant editorial position:
 - a. Robert Epstein, Hennepin County Library, by letter. Has not been to JLC.
 - b. Stephen Karetzky (San Jose State University) Karetzky chosen by consensus. Susan Freiband will write to Mr. Epstein suggesting that he contribute.
6. Summer 1985 program in Chicago:

David Zubatsky (OCLC) will contact Richard Marcus, the Spertus College Librarian, concerning a possible visit. Consensus that a business meeting could also be held there too, possibly on Sunday afternoon. Zubatsky will also check with the Chicago Historical Society concerning the possibility of a tour. Ellen Zyroff and Zubatsky will also contact a Jewish data base concern in Chicago. Karetzky will also try to help.

David Cohen (Queens College) suggested that a future program concern educating the public on the Holocaust. This was received favorably.

7. Discussions:
 - a. California Library Association and Holocaust revisionist speaker. Two California librarians present will write about this for the Newsletter. All such items should be sent to Karetzky.
 - b. ALA resolution condemning alleged Israeli censorship: After considerable discussion, a motion was made to bring a resolution to the ALA membership in Chicago to rescind the Council resolution of summer 1984 because it was unsubstantiated, inappropriate, and embarrassing to ALA. It was also deemed grossly unfair to single out Israel of all the nations in the world. Karetzky will draft a motion to rescind it, send it to others for comment, and publish it in the Newsletter. These actions were all passed with one dissenting vote.

--Submitted by Madeleine Cohen Oakley

The Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel, Mordechai Eliyahu, recently visited the National Library of Canada. Below he is shown examining a manuscript of the Pentateuch from the Saul Hayes Collection in the Lowy Rare Book Room. At the bottom is Brad Sabin Hill, curator of the collection; the Chief Rabbi; and Rabbi David Shlush of Netanya.



Notes...Notes...Notes...Notes...Notes...

Myths and Facts, 1985: A Concise Record of the Arab-Israeli Conflict is the new edition of the classic first issued over two decades ago. Its purpose is "...to make the task of refuting the [anti-Israeli] propagandists a little easier, of informing the uninformed a little less complicated." The developments of the past few years make the previous edition, issued in 1982, inadequate. The 261 page paperback is available for \$3.95 from Near East Report, 444 N. Capitol Street, N.W.; room 412; Washington, D.C. 20001. A \$25 subscription to the invaluable weekly, Near East Report, will get you a copy for free.

Tell your public: A three-week introduction to Israeli film and television for people 18-25 will be given at the Jerusalem Film Center this summer. Sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation (WZO), the course is supported by the Center's print and non-print library collections which are housed in a building erected in 1981. They contain 3,500 films from around the world, with the emphasis on Israeli films and films of Jewish interest. Completed applications must be sent to the AZYF (515 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022) by May 15.

Mrs. Estelle Rubin and her family have donated money for a new library wing at Beit Gail in the Ma'agan Mikhael Field Study Center. It will house Gail Rubin's color slides of Israeli nature. Ms. Rubin was murdered by P.L.O. terrorists while taking photographs on an Israeli beach several years ago. (They later hijacked a bus and killed twenty more.) The contribution will be matched by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (4 Hashfela Street, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL). The Society publishes numerous magazines, books, and posters. Its Israel--Land and Nature is issued four times a year and is available in both Hebrew and English editions.

Computer-based Passover games and educational material are available from Chicago's Davka Corporation for about \$35 each: "How to Conduct a Seder," "Afikomen Adventure," and "Compu Chef." They are the product of the non-profit Institute for Computers in Jewish Life linked to Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv. The Institute produces software on the Hebrew language and the Bible useful for both home and libraries. More information is available from Davka, 845 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

Ernst Zundel, a German citizen living in Canada, has been sentenced to two years in prison by a Toronto court for "telling lies harmful to the public good." Zundel writes and publishes material that maintains that the Holocaust never occurred. This particular charge stemmed from a 1981 pamphlet. Canada, like many other countries (e.g., Britain, South Africa), has laws against making public statements which are untruthful or promote racial hatred. After serving his sentence, Mr. Zundel could be deported.

Nathan Perlmutter, head of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), will be a speaker at the American Library Association conference this summer. His subject will be human rights overseas.

Publications and non-print items produced by the Bureau of Jewish Education in Boston have received national attention. A catalog of these works are available from Daniel J. Margolis, Executive Director, Bureau of Jewish Education, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA 02159.

The Jewish Heritage Writing Project and the Jewish Biographical Project are encouraging the chronicling and preservation of the personal and professional achievements of contemporary Jews. Individuals are being urged to write their autobiographies or have others write about their lives. The results should be placed in Jewish libraries and archives. Those interested in this enterprise should contact the Jewish Biographical Project, 485 Fifth Avenue, Suite 417, New York, NY 10017; or at 27 Bar Ilan Street, Netanya, Israel.

Users of Jewish libraries might be interested in the shortwave radio broadcasts of Kol Israel (the Voice of Israel). Broadcasts are in numerous languages: English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Georgian, and others. This is a fun way to keep up on the news from home (or homeland) or to practice a new language. There are numerous "cultural" presentations, discussions, and sports shows. Broadcast schedules are available from External Services, Kol Israel, P. O. Box 1082, Jerusalem, Israel. Short-wave radios are available for under \$200, and require no technical knowledge to operate. I recommend buying one which has at least six short-wave bands, as well as an "RF gain." A simple wire antenna can greatly increase the reception capability of such radios, but in some geographic areas the built-in antenna is adequate.

A Jewish Children's Book Conference was held in New York City under the sponsorship of the Jewish Welfare Board's Jewish Book Council. It was attended by one hundred librarians, authors, publishers, and illustrators. Jean Mercier, children's editor for Publisher's Weekly, was the guest speaker. She emphasized the need for more high quality biographies and of Jews and works on Jewish feasts and customs. These would benefit not only Jewish children, she said, but all children. In addition to a book exhibition, there was a panel discussion on marketing.

Does your library have room for a garden around it? Temple Israel in Boston has a Biblical garden in which plants and trees mentioned in the Bible are grown and appropriately labelled.

More than any other major Israeli political leader, Abba Eban has refrained from criticizing Egypt for its failure to comply with the commercial, political, and cultural aspects of the Camp David treaty. It is ironic, therefore, that Eban's books were thrown out of the recent International Book Fair in Cairo--a direct violation of the treaty!

A software program for IBM and DEC personal computers which provides full wordprocessing in both Hebrew and English is available from Omnigal Systems, 4170 Wallis Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Exatec, the Israeli computer firm based in the science industries park of The Technion (the so-called "M.I.T. of Israel"), will begin to market a microcomputer in the United States. The Haifa company will advertize it as Israeli made, since market research in America showed that the reputation of Israel's high technology had increased greatly among potential customers as a result of the 1982 war in Lebanon.

A description of the intense controversy surrounding the California Library Association's decision to cancel an exhibition and speech by David McCalden, Director of Truth Missions, appeared in the January issue of American Libraries. (Pp. 5-7.) Truth Missions publishes works which claim that the Holocaust never occurred. The story made front-page headlines throughout California. The American Libraries article was written by Sue Kamm, former president of the International Society of Jewish Librarians.

Israel is depending more and more on the export of computer/hi tech products to improve its economy. Prime Minister Shimon Peres has declared his full support for such a change, which is far more cost-effective than the export of oranges, a rapidly declining enterprise. Israeli firms have been advertizing in American Jewish newspapers and sending recruiters to various parts of the country. At the same time, companies like Gordon H. Wolfe & Co. are serving as conduits for Americans and Canadians interested in investment in these firms. Some are traded on the New York and American stock exchanges, and several have large "branches" in Silicon Valley. Among the leading companies are Elscint, Electronics Corporation, Scitex, and Eldron. Libraries now purchasing Apple's Macintosh computer, may one day be ordering a Hamentosh!

The Church and Synagogue Library Association has just issued the fourth edition of its Church and Synagogue Library Resources. Fully revised by Dorothy Rodda and Rachel Kohl, the twenty-page bibliography contains citations for works on library management, furnishings, equipment, materials selection, and publicity. There are several new areas covered in this edition, including archives, computers, and audiovisual aids. It is available from CSLA, P. O. Box 1130, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. The cost is \$3 prepaid, \$2.40 to CSLA members. There is an additional charge of 50¢ if billing is required.

LET'S STOP CENSORING THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE!

For the past year, the library press--particularly Library Journal--has focused some attention on the Jewish Defense League. (See LJ, 4/1/84, 10/15/84, and 1/1/85.) Most of this centered around the the harassment of some public librarians in Westchester who were conducting a Soviet cultural program. (The JDL denied involvement with most of the actions against the librarians, but declared support for them.) From my experience, most librarians--including Jewish librarians--have strong opinions about the Jewish Defense League, mainly negative. Unfortunately, most of these do not appear to be informed opinions. People's judgments about this organization seem to be based solely on what others claim JDL members think and do. Wouldn't it be better to hear directly what it has to say?--in print or in person. Unfortunately, the JDL's magazine, The International Jewish Activist, is rarely available in libraries, including the libraries of Jewish institutions. I believe it is irresponsible and unprofessional for librarians who serve Jewish patrons to not purchase it.

Whether one likes the Jewish Defense League or not, one must concede that over the past fifteen years this organization has often tried to communicate important messages to the Jewish community long before they became popular subjects in the Jewish establishment. A few of these have been:

1. The necessity for confronting organizations like The Institute for Historical Review which claim that the Holocaust never occurred
2. The anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli attitudes of Jesse Jackson
3. The plight of the Jewish poor in urban areas, particularly among the elderly.

The research of Professor Steven Cohen of Queens College (see Moment [Jan.-Feb. 1985]) indicates more opposition than support for the JDL within the Jewish community. However, his research also shows that there are many more who support this organization than might have been assumed--almost the same percentage of Jews who voted for Ronald Reagan in 1984. (In addition, Cohen's studies reveal that a very large percentage of Jews have "mixed" feelings about the JDL.) Thus, this is not a mere "fringe" group with little popular support. The views of this organization deserve to be heard. It is relevant that Dr. Cohen's research points out the general lack of enthusiasm in the general Jewish community for Hassidic Jews. Most librarians--and their publics--would certainly be pleased that this dislike has not resulted in a dirth of material in Jewish libraries about this group's life and thoughts.

Since few librarians have ever seen The International Jewish Activist, I am including copies of some of its articles in this issue of the Newsletter. Subscriptions are \$36 per year, \$18 for students and senior citizens. Write to:

Shelley Rubin, Editor
International Jewish Activist
 P.O. Box 480370
 Los Angeles, CA 90048

--Stephen Karetzky

On Spray Paint & Soviets

By Rafi Katz

Recently protesters spray-painted slogans on the Westchester homes of two sponsors of a Soviet film series in Greenburgh, New York. Whether or not the spray-painters were members of the Jewish Defense League--as media reports alleged--may never be known. But an appeal for "a response from anyone willing to put his or her name to an explanation (of the vandalism)" should not be ignored.

"(W)ould you explain, please, what showing or not showing movies of Soviet ballerinas has to do with the Kremlin policy of denying emigration to Jews?" it was asked. The answer is that there is, indeed, an

important connection between the two.

When the Soviets agreed to the establishment of detente with the United States back in the early 1970's, their purpose was clear: to gain trade credits from the United States to aid their ailing economy; to be able to purchase needed products from the West (wheat, for example); and to win military concessions from the Americans which would allow the U.S.S.R. to gain superiority in the arms race.

The Soviet leaders knew that the key to achieving these goals was to break down the psychological barriers--to melt the wall of anti-Communist suspicion which most Americans share. Hence one of the Kremlin's

first steps in securing detente was to dispatch dance troupes, art exhibits and athletic teams to the United States.

These were designed to "prove" to Americans that the Soviets are civilized and cultured--not the barbarians and oppressors which the American media had justifiably portrayed them as. Who, after all, can walk out of a performance by the Bolshoi still convinced that the Soviets are Hitler's heirs.

But the Soviet-American cultural exchange agreement which permitted the dancers, musicians and sportsmen of the U.S.S.R. to visit the U.S. expired in 1980 and the Carter Administration refused to renew it. It still has not been renewed, much to the ire of the Kremlin.

Just last month, The New York Times published on its op-ed page an appeal from the head of the Soviet Dance Ensemble, asking the Reagan Administration to allow Soviet performers to return. And in the meantime, in an effort to arouse the American public's interest in the dancers, a film series of performances by the Bolshoi and others is touring the U.S.

How does the plight of Soviet Jewry fit into this? From the very beginning of the detente period, American Jewish activists launched a series of protests against the Soviets, in order to demand that the question of free emigration for Soviet Jews be tied to any American trade or military agreements with the Soviets.

The Soviets were anxious to improve their relations with the U.S.--as the new Chernenko regime seems to be, today--and they did not want noisy, violent Jewish

THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE

The Five Principles

The Jewish Defense League came into being to educate the Jewish people to the concept of AHAVAT YISROEL--one Jewish people, indivisible and united--from which flows the love for and the feeling of pain of all Jews. It sees the need for a movement that is dedicated specifically to Jewish problems and that allocates its time, resources, energies and funds to Jews. It realizes that in the end--with few exceptions--the Jew can look to no one but another Jew for help and that the true solution to the Jewish problem is the liquidation of the Exile and the return of all Jews to Eretz Yisroel--the land of Israel. It sees an immediate need to place Judaism over any other "ism" and ideology and calls for the use of the yardstick: "Is it good for Jews?"

JDL teaches the concept of HADAR--pride in and knowledge of Jewish tradition, faith, culture, land, history, strength, pain and peoplehood; the need to have pride in Judaism and not allow it to be disgraced and defiled by beating and desecration of Jewish honor.

JDL upholds the principle of BARZEL--iron--the need to both move to help Jews everywhere and to change the Jewish image through sacrifice and all necessary means--even strength and force.

MISHMAAT, discipline and dedication, creates within the Jew the knowledge that he can and will do whatever must be done and the unity and strength of willpower to bring this into reality.

BITACHON, faith, in the greatness and indestructibility of the Jewish people, faith and Land of Israel, a faith that is built by our belief in the Jewish G-d of Hosts and the incredible saga of Jewish history that has seen us overcome the flood of enemies that have arisen to wipe us out in every generation.

SEND US YOUR JEWS NOT YOUR ARTISTS



**THE SOVIET PRISON HOLDS 3,000,000 JEWS.
ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY IS ONE.**

The world is full of injustice and persecution. No injustice is more basic than slavery - the denial to people of the right to leave a country that persecutes them. No persecution is more ancient, so familiar, so easy to pass off among "enlightened" Westerners than Jew-Hatred. The Soviet Union refuses to let its 3,000,000 enslaved Jews emigrate.

A DESPERATE CRY FOR JUSTICE

It is imperative that we bring an end to the cultural entertainment which is used by the Soviets as a political tool with which to deaden the world's conscience and gain sympathy from the Western public.

STOP INJUSTICE. STOP PERSECUTION. ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE CRIES OF JDL.

*Editorial**Love without criticism isn't love*

L.A.'s weekly Jewish newspapers

We have hope that one day, please G-d, The International Jewish Activist will become a weekly Jewish publication that is able to responsibly serve the needs of, and provide the proper guidance for, our Jewish community.

Until then, here in Los Angeles we must depend on the four major weekly Jewish newspapers that are available to the Southern California Jewish community to provide that service. They are: the B'nai B'rith Messenger (no affiliation with the organization of the same name), Israel Today, the Jewish Community Bulletin and the Heritage.

The Messenger gets our vote as the best of this group because of its editorial content and obvious dedication to Yiddishkeit. However, we take exception to the fact that it continues to run ads for non-Kosher restaurants (as do the other three papers). Is the income provided by such ads more important than encouraging Jews to fulfill the mitzvah of Kashrut? We feel that with expanded readership and financial encouragement from the Orthodox community, this newspaper could someday become L.A.'s answer to New York's Jewish Press.

We must, however, vehemently denounce their decision to run an ad placed by the Institute for Historical Review, which offers \$20,000 for information leading to the arrest of whoever burned down their headquarters; and this Nazi ad ran for two consecutive weeks! We were told that the I.H.R. threatened to sue the Messenger if the ad was rejected, but every

newspaper retains the right to refuse ads that are in poor taste. We are stunned that its executive editor, an Orthodox rabbi, would buckle under Nazi pressures. In the future, we implore the staff of the Messenger to heed our motto: Never Again!

Israel Today is a slick production with correspondents around the world giving us a variety of Jewish opinions and thoughts. Unfortunately, Israel Today strikes us with the obvious appearance that it is published only for the profits, not for its readers. Advertising uses up well

over 50% of its pages. Sadly, part of the precious remainder is wasted on such tripe as the rantings of a not-so-funny humor columnist who invariably writes about her excursions to Saks and the miseries of her menopause. We're frankly sick and tired of the "princess" stereotype.

The Federation-subsidized Jewish Community Bulletin, mainly is devoted to the J.F.C.'s latest fund-raising efforts (necessary to provide cost of living raises for its greatly overpaid staff and expenses for redecorating their plush offices).

By the way, in case the

May this New Year

be one of

love

and kindness

and peace

for all

the Children of Israel

the Editors and Staff of the IJA

Agent Provocateur**LAPD Infiltrates JDL**

By Shelley Rubin

An officer of the Los Angeles Police Department who had been infiltrating the Jewish Defense League for over three and a half years has now been identified as Larry Winston. He had concealed his identity using the pseudonym "Joel Cohen."

"I am more hurt than stunned," said JDL executive chairman Irv Rubin, "because Officer Winston is a Jew." Added Rubin, "Informing on another Jew is one of the worst desecrations of the word of G-d."

According to reliable sources, Winston is employed as an officer/undercover agent of the Los Angeles Police Department. He reports to the Anti-Terrorist Division (ATD), a new department created as a result of the disbandment of the Public Disorder Intelligence Division (PDID). Prior to the formation of the ATD, Winston worked under the PDID. (The PDID unit was recently disbanded by the police commission because of other instances of police spying). He was recruited for the purposes of reporting on the activities of the organization while he was assigned as an L.A.P.D. patrol officer in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles.

Winston joined the Los Angeles Chapter of the Jewish Defense League on September 4, 1979. He applied in person at the former offices of the J.D.L. He was interviewed and accepted after completing a membership application.



Larry Winters, aka Joel Cohen, or is it the other way around? He was planted by the LAPD to spy on and promote violence to the JDL.

Officer Winston managed to conceal his true identity for over three and one-half years. He was provided with an apartment and a telephone, located at 5519 Bonner #6, North Hollywood, California, by the L.A.P.D. He, however, was residing in the Silverlake district of Los Angeles throughout his

spying mission. He was also given a California driver's license under his phony name. During his involvement with the Jewish Defense League, Officer Winston personally tried to incite JDL members into performing various acts of violence and other illegal

WINSTON from page 9

actions. But it was Winston who engaged in illegal actions.

In or around November 1981, Winston physically assaulted a former JDL member because that member had accused him of being an undercover officer. Officer Winston repeatedly kicked the accuser in the face and head, causing lacerations and blood loss.

In the early part of 1982, Winston illegally entered the apartment the aforementioned individual in Los Angeles and stole a 30-odd-6 caliber rifle.

In the latter part of July 1982, Officer Winston urged JDL members, Irv Rubin, Earl Krugel and Kirk Adrim, to fire a .22-caliber rifle into an occupied residence in Los Angeles. Winston even volunteered to drive his automobile to the scene. The deed was never carried out.

On or around January 18, 1983, Officer Winston testified at the trial of Irv Rubin, held at the Van Nuys Branch of the Los Angeles Municipal Court. He was sworn in under penalty of perjury as "Joel Cohen." Rubin was subsequently found guilty of a misdemeanor count of disturbing the peace.

On or around March 12, 1984, Officer Winston telephoned Rubin at the JDL office and stated, "We should take a few guys with balls and go to Jesse Jackson's headquarters (on the 3500 block of Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles) and bomb the place."

Winston, on numerous occasions, advocated and encouraged JDL members to attack the offices of the Institute of Historical Review in Torrance, California.

At other times during this period, he initiated fights with opponents of the JDL.

It was also learned that Winston smoked marijuana in the presence of J D L members. Winston, on various occasions, was warned not to hurl racial epithets at minority groups at JDL functions, a request that was not obeyed. He would call blacks "niggers, apes, knuckle-draggers," among other insults, most notably at a JDL demonstration at the Jackson headquarters. It is assumed it was his goal to provoke a violent confrontation between JDL members and black supporters of Jackson, in order to create the arrests of the JDL members. Winston always displayed a hatred of minorities, especially blacks. He also referred to a reform rabbi (Sanford Ragins of Leo Baeck Temple) as a "chink lover" (Ragins' wife is Japanese) at the occasion of a public forum at the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Memorial. These instances, among others, discredited the honor and the principles of the Jewish Defense League in the eyes of the general public and the Jewish community.

Winston, on numerous occasions, encouraged JDL members to attack . . .

Irv Rubin is particularly upset that Winston accepted of the honor of being the G-dfather of his son. "The thought that this traitor held my son at the 'bris' disturbs me greatly. Needless to say, my wife and I have picked a new G-dfather for Ari," lamented Rubin.

Always available to attend JDL functions, even at practically a minute's notice, Winston was considered one of the most

dependable members of the group. "My mother-in-law once remarked that 'Joel' was 'too good to be true,'" said Rubin, "and he certainly was."

What really infuriates me is that Winston had told JDL members that his mother was receiving reparations from Germany because her parents were executed in Auschwitz. To use the Holocaust as part of a police cover is totally inexcusable," Rubin declared." Winston had also told JDL members that his mother lived in Chicago and was in ill health. In reality, Winston's mother lives comfortably in the San Fernando Valley, as does his sister, Carol. Winston is currently living with a gentile woman by the name of Janet Cosio. Described as a "Minnesota-born, fortyish, dyed blonde floozy, with a police record," she is the owner of a Los Angeles bar frequented by L.A.P.D. officers. Winston reportedly works there as a bartender/bouncer on the weekends.

As a result of the placement by the L.A.P.D. of Officer Winston into the Jewish Defense League for the purposes of spying and encouraging illegal actions,

Rubin has retained the services of Roger Diamond, a noted civil liberties attorney. Diamond has filed a suit on behalf of Rubin and the Jewish Defense League.

Winston was reportedly receiving \$30,000 yearly for his roles as police undercover agent and traitor to the Jewish people. But not even a million dollars will clear this Jew's name and actions with G-d.

ACCEPT NO IMITATIONS!

*There is just one group of people
who has worked for over a decade
to defend this Jewish Community
against Jew-haters!*

Some groups have tried to copy our ideology
and style (and even our name), but no one can
equal our record of service to all Jews.

There is only one JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE!

If you need us, we're just a phone call away.
Our new 24-HOUR HOTLINE number — (213) 259-8JDL
(259-8535).



Jewish Defense League (JDL)

P.O. Box 480370

Los Angeles, CA 90048

The International

Jewish Activist^{לוחם}

An official publication of
the Jewish Defense League

HELP US SMASH NAZIS!



I want the JDL to continue to smash Nazis
the way they did to Rick Rogers (above).'

- Please send me a membership application. Enclosed are my dues of \$36/year (\$18/year--students and senior citizens).
- I want to help the JDL continue its work. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.
- Please accept this contribution of \$ _____ in memory of _____.

Name _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SEND THIS COUPON TO YOUR CHAPTER OF THE JDL:

Los Angeles: P.O. Box 480370, Los Angeles, CA 90048
New York: 1916 Kings Highway, 2nd Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11229
Toronto: P.O. Box 1013, Sta. B, Downsview, Ontario M3H5V5
Tucson: 942 North Swan Road, Tucson, AZ 85711

AMERICAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY IGNORES PLIGHT OF UKRAINIAN COLLEAGUE

In my investigation of the ALA resolution condemning Israel, I discovered that at the same time the allegation of Israeli censorship was brought to the attention of this organization by a single individual, it was also approached by Amnesty International to assist a persecuted Ukrainian librarian. The failure of the American Library Association to take effective action (It passed no resolution on this matter) has been alluded to elsewhere, but it is only recently that I have been able to uncover the details of the case. It would be obscene for someone to note the double-standard of the ALA--its apparent eagerness to publicly condemn Israel on only hearsay evidence, but largely ignore a well-documented case made by an organization of some repute--and to not act on behalf of the librarian being tortured by the Soviet authorities. Below is a word-for-word transcription of a report given to me by Amnesty International which was, apparently, originally written in Europe. As far as I know, this is the first time the full story is being made available to a substantial number of American librarians. Other library periodicals will be urged to carry this story, and library associations urged to take meaningful and effective action.

Soviet librarians may be attending the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference in Chicago this summer. Perhaps our concerns for the imprisoned Hanna Mykhaylenko can be conveyed to them there, as well as to the other librarians of the world who will be attending. My belief is that the ALA's lack of action on this matter is due to its leaders' insensitivity and to their intense desire to eschew any substantial disagreements with the Soviets. One should remember that this national organization was one of the first to break the boycott of the Soviet Union which followed its invasion of Afghanistan. The ALA's professed dedication to such so-called "constructive engagement" is actually selective: it voted at its Mid-winter meeting for the termination of American political and economic relations with the Republic of South Africa.

Those interested in becoming directly involved on behalf of our Ukrainian colleague should contact the Amnesty International coordinator for this case:

Lynn Cannici
4 Warwick Park
Cambridge, Mass. 02140

A French librarian has been very involved with this case, and has endeavored to gather support for Ms. Mykhaylenko:

Philippe David
Association des Bibliothecaires Francais
Commission Droits de l'Homme et Solidarite Professionelle
Section Droit
11, Place Carnot
54042 Nancy Cedex
FRANCE

While I encourage cooperation with Amnesty International in this and in other selected cases, I believe that Jews should not be unaware of the double-standard this organization applies to Arabs and Israelis. According to AI, the PLO is not a terrorist group, but a "liberation movement," and thus it vigorously acts on behalf of PLO members and its supporters. (It has done the same for Baader-Meinhof terrorists in West Germany, which it is apparently beginning to regret.) One example of its charges is the journalist Raymonda Tawil of Ramallah, who is well known for her references to the "Jewish money-lender's mentality" and her belief in the central role played today by the ideology described in the anti-Semitic classic Protocols of the Elders of Zion. (See Rafael Medoff's "Amnesty International's PLO Problem," Midstream 30, Dec. 1984, pp. 6-11.)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

THE CASE OF HANNA MYKHAYLENKO [TRANSCRIPT]

Hanna Mykhaylenko (or Anna Vasilena Mikhailenko) was born in the Ukraine in 1925. She is a single Ukrainian Catholic and worked as a school teacher and librarian in the Odessa School No. 1.

Hanna was known to have been active in Ukrainian human rights circles. In particular, she was in touch with Oksana Meshko, who was the head of the Ukrainian Helsinki Watch Group.

Hanna Mykhaylenko's belief that a Ukrainian has the right to speak in the Ukrainian language and to study the Ukrainian culture attracted the attention of the KGB. The KGB first searched Hanna's home in 1970 or 1971.

Hanna's dedication to the study of Ukrainian culture led to her hosting seminars on Ukrainian art. These seminars were conducted by art expert Vasyl Barladyanu. Hanna Mykhaylenko's name was first mentioned in the reputable Chronicle of Current Events in issue number 42 of 8 October 1976, describing that she was contacted by officials of the Odessa and Ivano-Frankovsk KGB administrations concerning these art seminars.

On 2 March 1977 a series of arrests took place in Odessa (see Chronicle No. 44). Criminal charges were brought against Hanna Mykhaylenko. A character description submitted by the school in which Hanna worked complained of her demanding too much attention be given to the Ukrainian language. Hanna was fired from her job. In March Hanna Mykhaylenko also joined in signing an appeal on behalf of Vasily Barladyanu (see Chronicle No. 45).

Hanna was scheduled to stand trial in the autumn of 1977, but a general amnesty was declared for the sixty year anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The charges against Hanna were dropped.

On 20 and 21 April 1978 Hanna Mykhaylenko was summoned for a "talk" with the KGB. She spoke with KGB official Zavgorodny. Searches were conducted at Hanna's home in the beginning of July (see Chronicle No. 51) and again on September 1979 in connection with the Goncharov case. Notebooks and personal correspondence were confiscated (see Chronicle No. 54). A copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also reportedly confiscated.

In 1979 charges of hooliganism were brought against Hanna Mykhaylenko. The Odessa court ruled that Hanna forfeit 20% of her monthly salary for one and a half years, but since Hanna had been fired from her job when charges were first brought against her in 1977, the judge ruled that Hanna be sentenced to forced manual labor. This was despite evidence submitted to the judge that Hanna suffered from asthma and a heart condition. None of Hanna's friends could help pay her fine since Soviet law prevents this by requiring that the fine be deducted from her salary by the institution for which she works.

On 20 February another search was conducted at Hanna's home, at the end of which she was arrested. She had cancer of the lactic gland and before her arrest she underwent a mastectomy, and had a certificate for hospitalization in a cancer clinic (see Chronicle No. 56). On the same day a search was

carried out in Kiev, in connection with Hanna Mykhaylenko's arrest, at the home of Oksana Meshko, acting chairperson of the Ukrainian Helsinki Watch Group. Hanna Mykhaylenko was charged under Article 62 of the Ukrainian SSR Criminal Code - "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," the maximum penalty for which is a total of 12 years imprisonment and internal exile.

While in custody Hanna Mykhaylenko underwent psychiatric examinations at the notorious Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow.

In November 1980, on the day that the Madrid Conference on the monitoring of the implementation of the Helsinki Accords began its work, Hanna's trial began in Odessa. Hanna was ruled "non-accountable" for her actions and was ordered to be forcibly confined in an ordinary-type psychiatric hospital for an indefinite period of time. Hanna was placed in the Kharkov Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Streleche. A little over a year later Hanna was moved to the Kazan special-type psychiatric hospital, which was noted by Communist Party member P. S. Pisarev to particularly stand out as an institution which abuses psychiatry "year after year".

According to Soviet law a person may only be forcibly confined in a psychiatric hospital if they are a danger to themselves or to others. There is no evidence that Hanna Mykhaylenko has ever used or advocated violence or represented a threat to herself or to others.

Since Hanna Mykhaylenko has been forcibly confined for political reasons, in keeping with her right to freedom of expression, Amnesty International has adopted her as a "prisoner of conscience." Amnesty International adoption groups in Rome, Italy and in Cambridge, Massachusetts USA, and several college campus groups now work for Hanna's release.

Testimony has been delivered to the Commission On Security and Cooperation in Europe on behalf of Hanna Mykhaylenko.



4 Warwick Park
Cambridge, Mass. 02140
March 3, 1985

Dear Steve,

Unfortunately, I still have not heard anything back from the American Library Association regarding their position on Hanna Mykhaylenko. Therefore, we would very much appreciate anything you might do in order to get her situation publicized in any of the periodicals or other publications of the field.

Please feel free to use my name, address, phone number and whatever else might be useful in getting people to use the information on Hanna's case. If you need anything in the way of corroboration for these publications, please let me know. I also hope you will consider getting in touch with the French librarian, Philippe David, who address I sent along to you. Perhaps you could work in concert to put international pressure on the Soviets to release Hanna.

Thanks again for the interest you are taking in this case. We very much appreciate your help.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynn'.

Lynn Cannici

These dedicated individuals have circulated the following petition:

Ministru S. Burenko
 USSR Minister of Health
 Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya
 Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3
 Moskva
 Soviet Union

Your Excellency:

We are extremely concerned about Hanna MYKHAYLENKO who is currently being held against her will in the Kazan Special Psychiatric Hospital. She has been held in detention since November 1980 following her trial on a charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." At her trial she was found "non-accountable" for her actions and remanded first to the Kharkov Regional and later the Kazan Special Psychiatric Hospital.

There is no evidence that Hanna MYKHAYLENKO is mentally incompetent or dangerous in any way, and we conclude, therefore, that she is being detained solely on the basis of her political convictions.

We are deeply concerned about her health since she has been suffering from cancer for at least four years and has already undergone one operation. We urge you, therefore, to launch an immediate review of her case and to recommend her release from the hospital.

Respectfully yours,

Name

Address

Book Review

Fisch, Dov Aharoni. Jews for Nothing: On Cults, Inter-marriage, and Assimilation.
New York and Jerusalem: Feldheim, 1984. 368pp. Cloth. \$12.95

Jews for Nothing is one of the most thought-provoking books on cults I've read in a long time. It supplies the reader with a considerable arsenal of material designed to acquaint him or her with the current cults and how they originated. In addition, it offers a dash of comparative religion.

One of the most important parts of the book is how it deals with the dilemma of the Vanishing Jew. Unfortunately, as Fisch points out, many of our young people are fed up with a Judaism devoid of its inner substance. Many young people (such as myself) grew up with the notion that a Bar Mitzvah is an excellent opportunity to make money. Fisch calls this "dollar theology." The merrymaking in many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs too often supersedes the spiritual significance of the day. Some of our nation's rabbis are atheists or agnostics! It is small wonder many of our young people fish in foreign waters to find spiritual meaning.

Fisch points out more Jews disappear from the Jewish scene through assimilation than through the cults. He advocates a return to Jewish fundamentals which emphasize a holistic approach to Judaism and relate to the total person, e.g., keeping kosher as it corresponds to one's diet.

The only criticism I would make of Fisch in his book is his tendency to denigrate other religions--such as Hinduism and Buddhism--in order to build up Judaism; this is unnecessary. (A good book to read is Glazerson's From Hinduism Back to Judaism, which deals with the comparison of Hinduism and Judaism in a more positive, constructive manner.) One example is found on pages 117-19 in the treatment of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha). Buddha comes to the realization that all life is painful, all existence is sorrowful and there is no such thing as happiness. The path to "happiness" is through man extinguishing himself. Unfortunately, Fisch does not document his sources in this case. In addition, there is a parallel to what Buddha taught to be found in the tractate Eruvin 13B:

For 2 1/2 years Beit Hillel and Beit Shamai engaged in debate, the former declaring that it had been better for man not to have been created than to have been created, and the latter maintaining that it was better for man that he was created rather than not created. They decided upon voting, that it had been better for man not to have been created, but now that he has been created, let him examine his (past) deeds; others say let him consider his future actions.

There is a tendency for man to be arrogant, corrupt, and capable of demonic behavior. However, through Torah study and mitzvot one can rise above one's ordinary spiritual limitations. Where Judaism differs from Buddhism is in regards to its solution. Buddhism speaks of "self-annihilation," but it does not mean self-destruction--as Fisch assumes--but rather destruction of the ego. A similar idea is found in Kabbalistic literature as "Bittui Ha-Yesh," Nullification of the Self. This is a common mystical motif universal to most positive religions of the world.

The real difference between Judaism and the religions of the East is their fundamental world outlook. The religions of the East see man as an earth-bound spirit struggling to leave its terrestrial cage to merge with its Source, i.e., G-d. These religions are responsible, in part, for the other-worldly philosophy of the Stoics, Gnostics, and Christians. Judaism differs radically in that it is an affirmation of living a holy life in this world. Judaism believes we must, as the Kabbalists put it, remove the kernal of Holiness out of the Husk of Worldliness and make a dwelling place for G-d in this world (See Midrash Tanchuma Parshas Nitzavim.)

Despite its shortcomings, Jews for Nothing is a must for every rabbi, layman, parent, and teenager who wishes to rediscover the beauty of Judaism and compare it to the cults of today's world.

--Rabbi Michael Samuel

Michael Samuel is the rabbi of Congregation Chevra Thilim in San Francisco. He is currently working on his PhD at Columbia-Pacific University in the area of Transpersonal Psychology.

Rabbi Dov Aharoni Fisch was, until recently, the director of the American branch of the Herut (Freedom) Party of the Revisionist Zionist movement. He is now writing a book on the Sharon-Time trial and will soon be moving to Israel.

NEXT ISSUE: A special report on the world-famous San Francisco Holocaust Library & Research Center

The International Society of
Jewish Librarians
c/o Stephen Karetzky
Division of Library and
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San Jose, California 95192 -0029