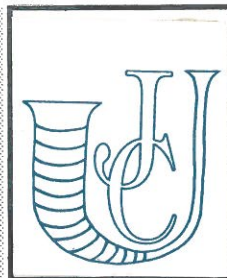


# The Shofar

April, May, 1992



## Georgetown University Rabbi to Conduct Seder, Give Talks

### UJC Given Office Space, Seeks Secretary

In response to an offer from Henry Goldstein of deskmate in the newly-expanded Pacific Link offices in Wanchai (China Resources Building) free of rent, the General Committee is preparing a budget to include professional, parttime staffing and the purchase of office equipment including a computer, fax, and copying machine.

Since the Congregation was established three years ago, secretarial services and office machinery have largely been provided by Committee members at no expense to The UJC. At the same time, the lack of facilities and services independent of individual members was seen as inhibiting continued and projected growth (expected to reach 200 families by year-end).

Expenses for maintaining and staffing the office will come from cash reserves and member donations.

### Help Wanted

UJC seeks executive administrator for 20-hour workweek to: establish and maintain computerized mailing list, files and library; handle inquiries and bookings; coordinate arrangements for religious services and other events; make arrangements for visiting rabbis and others; assist officers with correspondence, secretarial, membership, financial and other functions; help prepare and mail flyers and newsletters; and other functions as may be required. Fluent English, experience, good typing, basic computer skills essential, knowledge of Jewish religion and customs helpful. Salary \$4,000 - \$5,000 per month, depending on experience. Apply with resumé to The UJC, GPO Box 6083, Hong Kong.

### Book Now for Seder, Lunch and Dinner Talks Rabbi Brings Impressive Experience, Credentials

Although the major event on Rabbi Harold S. White's calendar is the Passover Seder Friday, April 17 at the Aberdeen Marina Club, members will also get a chance to meet the Rabbi and hear him speak on several other occasions during his week-long visit. A lunch talk is planned on April 16 in The American Club and Gene and Anne-Marie Marans will host a light buffet dinner at their home April 21 at which he will speak (see pages 2 & 5). Rabbi White married the Marans' in the not-too-distant past and it is through their introduction and help that the Congregation has been able to arrange his visit.

Jewish Chaplain at Georgetown University since 1968, Rabbi White has concurrently held rabbinical and administrative posts also in the Washington D. C. area with Temple Sinai, B'nai Brith Hillel chapter at The American University, and The Inter-American Development Bank. Previously, he was Rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan from 1962 to 1968, and the Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation in Dublin, Ireland from 1961 to 1962. He served as U.S. Navy Chaplain from 1959 to 1961 at Parris Island in South Carolina, the Third Marine Division in Okinawa, and the 7th Fleet in Taiwan.

*'At Passover, we celebrate the planting of our 3,500-year-old family tree. Regardless of how many miles separate parents from children and grandchildren, many families make every effort to have a Passover reunion so that the entire extended family can sit down at one table to recall our roots — the deliverance of our ancestors from slavery in Egypt, the conception of our peoplehood, and with it the birth of an unparalleled sociological phenomenon: our survival. No other belief system of the ancient Near Eastern world has survived intact. Had only the religion lasted it would have been extraordinary. But that the beliefs, practices, and sense of peoplehood have survived in complete dispersion for over thousands of years, despite all odds — including Pharaohs, czars, kings, Hamans, and Hitlers of every variety — is nothing short of miraculous. Thus, at Passover, we celebrate a freedom we have repeatedly fought to maintain at all costs in all times in all generations.'*

A graduate of Wesleyan University in 1954 where he majored in philosophy and minored in German, Rabbi White received his M.A. in Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1956 where he was also ordained as a rabbi in 1959. In addition to publishing in a number of journals, he has taught at Trinity College in Dublin, Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Georgetown University, and Antioch College in Columbia, Maryland.

University courses he has given range from biblical Hebrew and Old Testament literature to contemporary religious philosophers including Paul Tillich, Martin Buber, and Albert Camus. In his course on 20th century Jewish thought he covers Franz Rosenzweig, Hermann Cohen, Abraham J. Heschel, Eric Fromm and Mordecai Kaplan. His classes on Zionist philosophy deal with the political Zionists, cultural Zionists, and secular Zionists.

Non-credit courses he has taught include Kabbalistic Mysticism, Mysticism of the Middle East, Post-Biblical Literature — The Mishnah and Talmud, The Apocrypha and Apocalyptic Work, and Judaism and the Koran.

Rabbi White speaks and reads biblical, Talmudic and modern Hebrew, reads Aramaic, and reads and speaks German.



# Meet Rabbi White

**for lunch,  
and a talk on**

**JEWISH MYSTICAL THOUGHT**

Thursday, April 16, 12:30 P.M.  
The President's Room, American Club  
Exchange Square II, 48/f

Send check for \$180 to The UJC  
before April 13

**SEATING LIMITED, BOOK EARLY**

**for dinner,  
and some thoughts on**

**JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY —  
PARRALLELS AND DEPARTURES**

Tuesday, April 21, 7 P.M.

**Light Dinner Buffet**

hosted by Gene and Anne-Marie Marans

27B Kennedy Heights  
10 Kennedy Road  
(half-block up from Peak Tram, lower terminus)

**abundant visitor parking**

**IMPORTANT: RSVP FOR LUNCH AND/OR DINNER**

Angela Chan, 463-8156

**for study session with  
Jews by Choice Group**

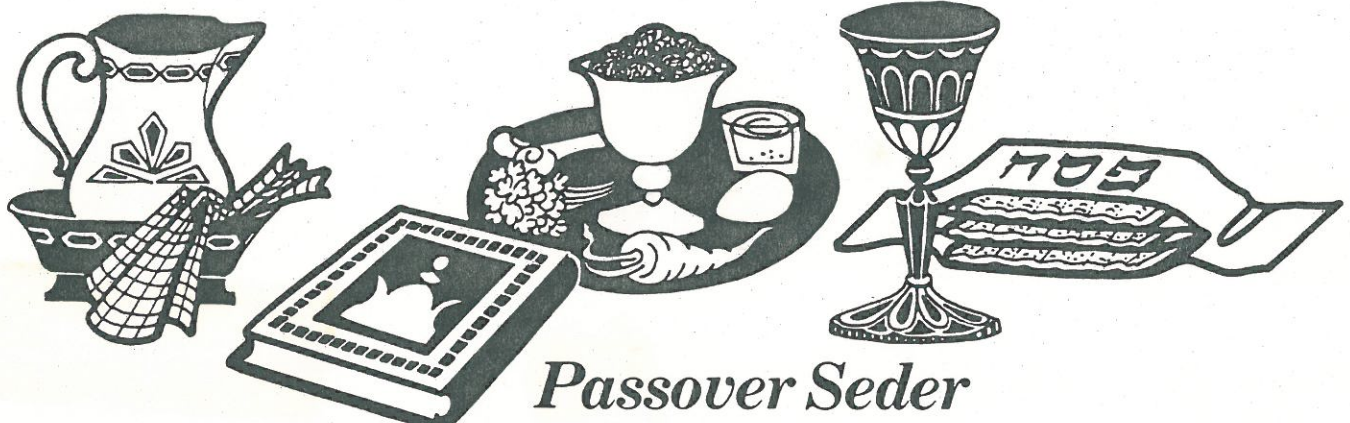
Thursday, April 16,  
7:30 — 9 P.M.

**Venue: to be announced**

Non-members of the JBC Group who wish  
to attend this session are requested to call  
Martha Josephson at 865-0118 or Kathy  
Goeld at 812-6549.

**One  
on  
One**

Those who would like to meet privately with  
Rabbi White may make arrangements by con-  
tacting Bob Green at 735-3037 or calling Rab-  
bi White at Garden View International House,  
1 MacDonnell Road, 877-3737, April 15 - 22.



*Passover Seder*

# **Modern Jewish History**

**Four lectures that will bring the last 200 years closer to your life than ever before**

- 1. Impact of the French Revolution**
- 2. Jewish Responses to Emancipation**
- 3. The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism**
- 4. The Jewish Nationalist Response**

**Free\* crash course in Modern Jewish History  
by Mark Regev, Israeli Vice-Consul**

Tuesday, May 12

## **IMPACT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

Modern Jewish history commences with the French Revolution (1789) which brought about the emancipation of Western European Jewry. For the first time, the Jew attained both legal equality with his Gentile neighbor and full citizenship in the country in which he lived. Emancipation brought about great hopes for a better future but with it also came a host of new problems and dilemmas which were to complicate Jewish existence.

Tuesday, May 19

## **JEWISH RESPONSES TO EMANCIPATION**

The tearing down of the ghetto walls brought about a very new and challenging Jewish situation. Liberal European society promised to accept the Jews on the condition that Jews negate the separate community experience that had characterized their life-style throughout the Middle Ages. Parts of the Jewish community whole-heartedly strove for full integration with their Gentile neighbors and in doing so were willing to thoroughly alter what had been the accepted norms of Jewish community behavior. Others opposed such a position seeing it as eventually leading to the destruction of authentic Judaism.

Tuesday, May 27

## **THE RISE OF MODERN ANTI-SEMITISM**

The rapid spread of modern anti-semitism from the middle of the nineteenth century came as a violent backlash to the process of Jewish Emancipation. Unlike the old forms of Jew-hatred, modern anti-semitism adopted the characteristics of contemporary ideology and based itself upon political, economic and 'scientific' precepts.

The rise of modern anti-semitism in the countries of Western Europe came as a profound shock to those who had based their hopes for the Jewish future on a steady evolution of a tolerant liberal-democratic Europe.

Tuesday, June 3

## **THE JEWISH NATIONALIST RESPONSE**

The apparent failure of the Emancipation in Europe brought about a movement in Jewry that strove for Jewish political independence within the framework of modern sovereignty. Zionism, as it became to be known, saw in the creation of a Jewish state the answer to the problems posed by the modern world.

**A Joint Presentation by The UJC and The Jewish Club  
Tuesdays, 8:00 — 9:30 P.M. at The Jewish Club**

*\*A nominal fee of \$35 per person will be charged to cover room charges, tea/coffee and cookies.*



## Coming Up

### Sat./Sun. April 11/12

Jewish Youth Club  
'All Nighter'  
8 P.M. Sat. — Sun. A.M.  
Ohel Leah Synagogue

### Sunday, April 12, 8:30 P.M.

Talk by Reuven Merhav on  
'Current Situation in Israel'  
The Jewish Club

### Thurs., April 16, 12:30 P.M.

Lunch with Rabbi White  
President's Room  
American Club  
Exchange Square II, 48/F

### Thursday, April 16, 7:30 P.M.

Jews by Choice  
with Rabbi Harold S. White  
Venue to be Announced

### Friday, April 17, 6:15 P.M.

Passover Seder  
Aberdeen Marina Club  
8 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen

### Tuesday, April 21, 7 P.M.

Dinner + talk with Rabbi White  
Gene and Anne-Marie Marans  
27B Kennedy Heights  
10 Kennedy Road

### May 8, 6:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service  
Kam Shan Room  
American Club  
Exchange Square II, 49/F

### May 22

Shabbat Service  
Venue to be Announced

### June 5, 6:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service, Italian Buffet  
with Golan Ben-Chorin  
Kam Shan Room  
American Club, Exchange  
Square II, 49/F

### June 19, 6:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service  
Kam Shan Room  
American Club  
Exchange Square II, 49/F

## Youth Club Plans 'All Nighter' April 11

The Jewish Youth Club has organized an overnight event at Ohel Leah Synagogue that will pack in everything from a bonfire and ghost stories to videos and Israeli folk dancing.

The 'All Nighter' for 14 to 18-year-olds will start at 8 P.M. on Saturday, April 11 and include a Havdalah Service and discussion led by Mark Regev, Israeli Vice-Consul. Breakfast will be sent over from the Jewish Club on Saturday morning around 6 A.M. There will be adult supervision all evening.

The cost is \$40 per person. To book, call Zach (591-6863) or Shelly (523-2711).

## Israel's 'Pioneer' of China Relations to Speak at Jewish Club

Reuven Merhav, formerly Director of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will speak on 'The Current Situation in Israel' at 8:30 P.M., Sunday, April 12 in The Jewish Club's King David Room.

Mr. Merhav, who was also Consul General in the Israeli Consulate in Hong Kong, pioneered Israel's relations with China and is generally recognized as one of the country's top authorities in dealings with East Asia. He is currently special advisor to the Executive of the World Jewish Congress.

## Passover Provisions Available at Jewish Club

Passover foods are on sale at The Jewish Club's retail shop from 10 A.M. — 10 P.M., Sunday, April 12 until the end of Passover.

The wide range of items available include meats, wine, juices, gefilte fish, matzos and matzos meal, soups including borscht, condiments, cookies, macaroons, cake mixes, candy, jams, cocoa, dried fruits, and many more products — some 250 in all.

Arrangements can also be made for orders to be delivered from April 14 — 17 for an additional \$100 — \$180, depending on the area.

For non-Jewish Club members, there is a 25 percent surcharge on all prices.

## Why Is Passover So Important?

Pesach has been described as the most popular and cherished of Jewish holidays. Many Jews who are not otherwise particularly observant make it a point to attend a Seder, as if responding to "some stirring in their inmost parts." The celebration of our people's dramatic escape from bondage in Egypt over 3,200 years ago serves to remind us of the importance of continuing the battle for freedom in every generation.

According to Rabbi David Goldberg, "the Exodus from Egypt occupied a unique position, for it was seen as the supreme demonstration of God's love for His people, fulfilling His promises to their ancestors and setting the scene for the consummation of His Covenant with them at Sinai. It marked, in effect, the beginning of their history as a self-conscious people with a sense of common purpose and destiny. Furthermore, because the event was a liberation from slavery, the celebration of it became a celebration of freedom."

The Passover observance is actually a combination of two separate springtime holidays celebrated long before the Exodus — *chag hapesach* (festival of the paschal lamb) when Jews who were mostly nomadic shepherds celebrated the coming of spring with an animal sacrifice — and *chag hamatzot* (festival of unleavened bread), an agricultural festival in which Jewish farmers celebrated the beginning of the grain harvest. Both festivals came in time to be associated with the Exodus.

The Passover service as prescribed in the Torah was not observed for many centuries after the Exodus until King Josiah of Israel instituted reforms mentioned in II Kings 23 and revived the practice. After the establishment of the Second Temple (sixth century B.C.E.), major celebrations were held in Jerusalem at which Jews from all over would come to sacrifice a paschal lamb and then eat it together with their families. Over the years, ceremonies, symbolic foods, psalms, and songs were added to evolve into what we know today as the modern seder.

## \* Matzah Brei — Grandma Bess's Way

6 sheets matzah  
1/2 cup boiling water  
6 eggs  
1/2 cup milk  
salt to taste  
vegetable oil (for cooking eggs)

Break matzah into pieces and put into a mixing bowl. Cover with boiling water to soften. Drain excess water. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs, add the milk and the softened matzah and mix thoroughly. Add the salt. Heat oil in frying pan. Cook the matzah-egg mixture as for scrambled eggs. Serve hot with jam or syrup. For 6 persons.

## \* Passover Popovers

1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1 cup water  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 cup Passover matzah meal  
4 eggs

In a large saucepan, bring to a boil the oil, water, salt, and sugar; add the matzah meal, stir it in, then let cool. After the mixture is cooled, beat in the eggs, one at a time. Grease a cookie sheet and place rounded balls of popover mixture, spaced well apart, on the sheet. (For 16 small popovers, form the mixture into meatball-sized balls. For 8 sandwich-sized popovers, make them larger.) Bake popovers in a 375°F. oven for 20 minutes, then lower heat to 325°F. and bake for another 30 minutes until they are golden brown.

\* From Jewish Family Celebrations by Arlene Rossen Cardozo, 1982, St. Martin's Press, New York



# Passover Seder

Friday, April 17, 6:15 p.m.

The Aberdeen Marina Club

8 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### \* Full cost/Non-UJC member cost:

\_\_\_\_\_ adults at \$330.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ children at \$180.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ toddlers at \$80.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### \* Subsidized cost, option for UJC members only:

\_\_\_\_\_ adults at \$200.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ children at \$100.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ toddlers at \$50.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a check for HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
payable to The United Jewish Congregation of Hong

My group includes \_\_\_\_\_ adults and \_\_\_\_\_ children for  
a total of \_\_\_\_\_ people. Our names are (please indicate  
children's birthdates): \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring a Seder plate \_\_\_\_\_, matzoh plate \_\_\_\_\_, and/or  
Elijah's Cup.

I/we require \_\_\_\_\_ fish dinner (s).

**Mail to: Robin Krieger, 25A Harston, 109 Repulse Bay Road, Hong Kong. As seating is limited, reservations will be accepted on first come, first serve basis. Inquires: Robin at 803-1256.**

Meal is inclusive of wine and grape juice. A cash bar will be available for soft drinks and other beverages. Families with infants up to 12 months are asked to provide their own infant seating. We will be seated at tables of ten. Parking is available at the AMC Car Park, 8 Shum Wan Road.

\* Full cost is based on what UJC is being charged by Aberdeen Marina Club. UJC members may elect to pay this amount or, if they feel they can not afford the full cost, elect the lower price of \$200 per adult, \$100 for children, and \$50 for toddlers which is subsidized by The UJC. Non-members are required to pay full cost.

# Reform marriage: Spiritual icing without the cake

When Israeli television reporter Uri Cohen-Aharonoff wanted to marry pop singer Rikki Gal last year, he ran into a *halachic* brick wall. He's a *kohen*, a member of the ancient Jewish priestly line. She's a divorcee. According to Jewish religious law, they can't marry.

For Cohen-Aharonoff, who grew up in a traditional family, it wasn't the first time his status as a *kohen* brought him into conflict with rabbinic law. When he was 29 the Chief Rabbinate told him he couldn't marry his girlfriend, who was a convert. The same thing happened a few years later with another woman, also a convert. When he fell in love with Gal last year, he was again told the planned marriage was forbidden. That was the last straw.

Cohen-Aharonoff and Gal were married last summer, first in a civil ceremony in Cyprus, and then by a Reform rabbi in Jerusalem. Israeli couples who have a Reform marriage in Israel as well as a civil marriage abroad are considered husband and wife under Israeli law. Their children are legitimate, and inheritance and tax law treats them as a married couple.

For most couples, proximity and price make Cyprus the choice location for a quick civil marriage abroad. Armed with the necessary legal documents attesting to their identity and single status, this can be accomplished within a few days.

In the view of one Reform rabbi in Jerusalem, the situation is more than a little ironic. 'The crazy thing is I can do a wedding here that's *halichically* valid, but isn't recognized by the Jewish state. Then that same couple can go to New York's City Hall, where an Irish Catholic cop signs their civil papers, and that's the wedding the Jewish state recognizes. This must be the only country where the state legally prevents rabbis from performing marriages, and where certain citizens can't get married in their own country.'

According to the Israel Religious Action Center, a Reform-sponsored organization promoting religious pluralism, there has been a marked increase in the number of inquiries received about Reform marriage. This reflects what its director, Rabbi Uri Regev, describes as 'growing dissatisfaction among many Israelis with the Orthodox monopoly over such matters.'

Some couples choose a Reform wedding because they can't be married by the rabbinate; these include a *kohen* and a divorcee, a *kohen* and a convert, a *kohen* and the daughter of a non-Jewish father even if the mother is Jewish, and *mamzerim* (mainly children born of a married woman by a man other than her husband). Some couples, on the other hand, have chosen not to be married by the rabbinate — these are people, Regev explains, who want a spiritually uplifting yet Jewish ceremony, but who for various reasons believe they won't find this in the traditional framework.

Those who choose to go outside the framework of the rabbinate face certain legal complications. Following a landmark decision by the Israeli Supreme Court three years ago, only rabbis authorized by the rabbinate are permitted to register marriages with the Interior Ministry. That means weddings performed in Israel by Reform,

**Whether it's for ideological or practical reasons, many Israelis are being wed by rabbis from the Reform movement. By Sue Fishkoff**

Adapted from The Jerusalem Post International Edition

Conservative or Reconstructionist rabbis have no legal standing.

Are Reform rabbis acting within the law when they perform a wedding here? That, the rabbis admit, is unclear. Regev sighs when asked the ques-

tion, and takes down a heavy legal tome from his top shelf. 'Back in 1952 or 1953, an Israeli attorney conducted a private wedding ceremony to marry a *kohen* and a divorcee,' he says. 'He was charged with 'public mischief' — a criminal offense — was convicted and sentenced. The penal code has since been revised, but the relevant provision is still open for interpretation.'

Some scholars, Regev says, believe that officiating at a private ceremony outside the rabbinate doesn't constitute a criminal offense unless the marriage itself is prohibited by civil law, such as when the couple are under age. Although Reform rabbis are beyond a doubt operating in a gray legal zone, '[they] are aware that in all probability they won't be prosecuted,' according to Regev.

The rabbinate doesn't see anything untoward in the restrictions placed on Jewish marriage in Israel. 'Exactly as a doctor has to be authorized by the Health Ministry, a rabbi has to be authorized by the rabbinate,' says Rami Sadan, Chief Rabbinate spokesman. 'If he's not, he's not considered a rabbi. Every person who wants to register his marriage in Israel has to do it through a rabbi recognized by the rabbinate, by *Halacha*. If the rabbi isn't recognized by the Chief Rabbinate, then it's as if [the marriage] was performed by any other person.'

As for the validity of Reform wedding ceremonies, Sadan gives a firmly negative response. 'These marriages are not done according to Jewish law. Maybe for some people [the ceremony] is nicer, maybe for some it's worse, but it's not Judaism.'

A *halichically* valid Jewish marriage depends on the following three requirements:

- The groom gives the bride an object of value, traditionally a ring, in front of two valid, appropriate witnesses while reciting the formula: 'You are hereby consecrated to me according to the law of Moses and Israel.'
- The groom and witnesses sign a *ketuba*.
- The couple engage in sexual relations for the clear and stated purpose of marriage.

Rabbinic tradition requires that all three conditions be fulfilled for a marriage to be valid; biblical law requires just one of the three — a fact that some couples have used to argue the validity of their non-Orthodox ceremonies. The rabbi's function, according to *Halacha*, is to ensure that the ceremony is performed properly; the rabbi has no consecrating power. That too has been referred to by proponents of Reform weddings, who argue that under Jewish law, a couple marry themselves in the presence of the community. A rabbi's presence, though desirable, is not necessary.

Without wishing to engage in *halichic* polemics in its search for legitimacy, the Progressive (Reform) Movement argues that its ceremonies indeed fulfill all three *halichic* requirements, and should therefore be recognized by the Chief Rabbinate. 'We insist that all these *halichic* ingredients be included in our ceremonies,' explains Regev.



## Service, Songs, and Italian Buffet Planned for Israeli Youth Leader's Visit June 5

Golan Ben-Chorin, son of the rabbi of Jerusalem's pioneer Reform congregation, will conduct Shabbat services for The UJC at the American Club in Exchange Square II on June 5, followed by an evening of talk and lots of good Italian food.

Mr. Ben-Chorin, 25, has been working with the young people of Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne as *Netzer Shaliach* for the past year. The term literally means 'messenger to children' in Hebrew, or figuratively, 'youth director.' Rabbi John Levi of Temple Beth Israel describes him as an 'extraordinary *shaliach*. . . good singer, nice, knowledgeable.'

In Israel, he was director of the Haifa region of the Reform Youth Movement while serving in the Israeli army. Following his military service, Mr. Ben-Chorin worked as educational director at two camps in the U.S. and as a *sheliach* for the Reform movement in California.

At Temple Beth Israel, he was responsible for running the Youth Movement for children 8 to 18 years old, from teaching bar/bat mitzvah lessons to planning social functions.

As presently planned, services will be held at 6:30 P.M. in the Kam Shan room on the 49th floor followed by an Italian buffet supper. For UJC members, cost is expected to be \$98 for adults, \$68 for children, \$115 and \$85 for non-members. Further details will be announced in May.

Planning is also underway for an event with the Jewish Youth Club on June 7.

## Join UJC Members at Israeli Independence Day Ball May 6

Tickets are now on sale for the Israeli Independence Day Ball which will be held again this year at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The evening will include dinner, dancing, an auction, raffle, and Israeli entertainers. For more information, call Mira at 813-2959 or Veronica Frankenberg at 813-0173.

### Host a Service?

Any member(s) willing to host a Shabbat service at home on May 22 is (are) urged to get in touch with Janet Golden at 812-1624.

## Israeli Vice-Consul's Lecture Series Concludes, Wins Warm Praise

by Michel Millodot

The fascinating series of lectures on Israeli politics and society came to an end Tuesday, March, 24, much to the sadness of most of the 25 or so people from The UJC and The Jewish Club who faithfully attended Mark Regev's lucid, informative and entertaining series over the past seven weeks.

The first lecture set the tone and flavor giving us an overview of the political parties in Israel, a theme which reverberated throughout the series. The second lecture presented the various waves of immigration or *aliyah*, starting in the 1880's following the 1881 Russian pogroms. The third talk gave us an illuminating insight into the various shades of religion in Israel and the ubiquitous link between religion and the state via the religious parties. The fourth talk discussed the involvement of Arabs in Israeli politics through the established parties and some of the small Arab nationalist parties. Interestingly and ironically, one such small party is the Communist Party.

The next presentation was about the impact of the military situation on politics splitting the people into hawks, doves and in-between and how the people espousing these various viewpoints feel regarding the fundamental question of territory (whole or part) and peace. In the next talk, we learned about the media and the wide array of daily newspapers representing the various political and religious shades in the country. Israel is in fact the country with the largest percentage of newspaper readers in the world. The last lecture was about the position of women in Israeli society. Although women played a very important, almost equal role to men when the state was founded, the situation, alas, reverted back to more or less what is in other western countries as the country evolved. However, it is worth noting that in the '60's, one of the greatest prime ministers the country has had was a woman, Golda Meir.

Two short films were also shown — one on the frightening situation of Jews in Syria and the other on the importance of the Golan Heights in the defence of the country.

Although still far from being experts, we are now far more knowledgeable about Israel and have far more understanding of Israeli life and of its geopolitical position in a ruthless region.

Thanks to Mark Regev, the quintessential diplomat, all his presentations gave us facts, clearly and pleasantly, and without ever showing any personal bias. It was a remarkable achievement. The series was so enjoyable that we are hoping Mark will be persuaded to present a new series soon. In the meantime, we are very grateful for giving us his time, expertise and enthusiasm.

## Israeli Film Screens This Month

As part of the 16th Hong Kong International Film Festival, the Israeli film 'Cup Final' will be shown at 5:30 P.M. on April 17 at City Hall Theatre and again on April 25 at 9:30 P.M. at the Hong Kong Space Museum.

The film tells the story of Cohen, an army reservist and rabid soccer fan. Cohen is a victim of circumstances. First, the Lebanese war in 1982 blows apart his plans to attend the World Cup in Spain. Then he is captured by a PLO unit. However, a rapport is established between prisoner and captors when both sides discover their mutual support for his Italian team. Etan Riklis, the film's director takes a comic view of the situation and brings home a thoughtful film of humanity triumphing over prejudice.

## Found at Purim Party

A pair of sun glasses was found at The UJC Purim Party in the American Club, Tai Tam. To claim them, please contact Veronica Frankenberg at 813-0173.

## *The Shofar*

Published by  
**The United Jewish Congregation  
of Hong Kong**

GPO Box 6083, Hong Kong  
Tel. 463-8156 Fax 456-3450

### **General Committee**

Chairman	Bob Green
Vice-chairman	Carol Betson
Treasurer	Victor Falk
Secretary	Martha Josephson
Ritual, Religious	Robert Meyer
Adult Ed.	Jonathan Kriegel
Membership	Mark Michelson
Liaison	Charles Monat
Liaison	Tomas Frankenberg
Publicity	Robin Krieger
Social	Janet Golden
Education	Veronica Frankenberg
Research	Anthony Polsky
Social/Planning	Kathy Goeld
Legal/Adult Ed.	Jeremy Leifer

### *The Shofar*

Editor	Bob Green
Asst. Editor	Martha Josephson



*Elijah's Cup*



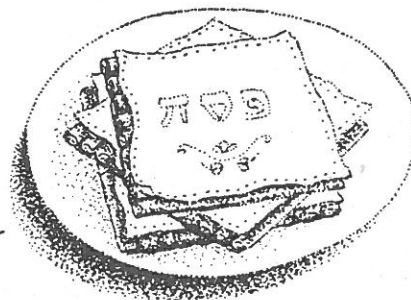
*Charoses*



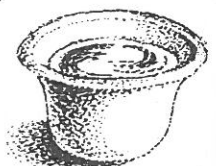
*Bitter Herb*



*Roasted Egg*



*Matzo*



*Salt Water*



*Parsley*



*Roasted Shankbone*

**The United Jewish Congregation  
of Hong Kong**  
G.P. O. Box 6083, Hong Kong