

The Shofar

Published by The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

January/February, 1995



Also announce search for Trust funds manager Trustees Counter JCC Concerns with Kosher 'Guarantee'

Referring to 'misconceptions' and 'various concerns' from some members of the Community, Trustees have issued a statement guaranteeing that 'exclusively kosher food and beverage facilities' will be provided in the proposed new Jewish Community Centre on Robinson Road. The Trustees also expressed their wish to 'allay' concerns about the proposed constitution and named Robert Dorfman and Gerald Godfrey to deal with queries from Community members about this and other matters.

The Trustees said that they had 'no doubt that [our] proposals will ensure the provision of facilities for the Community which will equal and may well excel those available anywhere else in the Diaspora.' Promising to keep Community members 'fully informed as to the progress being made in establishing the JCC,' they said it was hoped the new facility would open in June.

The Trustees also announced that they have asked the firm Price Waterhouse to help them find someone to manage trust funds. [See page 6 for full text of both announcements].

'The Greening of Hong Kong' Visit Sparks UJC Interest in Forming Hadassah Chapter

Hadassah International leaders Norman and Carolyn Green may have been a little surprised when seven or eight UJC members rushed up following their presentation at the AGM last month to express their interest in establishing a Hong Kong chapter of Hadassah.

The worldwide organization, established by Henrietta Szold near the beginning of the century at Temple Emanuel in New York City, is involved in a number of charitable activities worldwide, much of them centered on two wholly-owned hospitals in Israel. Unlike Hadassah in the U.S. which accepts only women as members, the international division, with representation in six countries, also encourages men to join.

Mrs. Green brought videotapes and literature about Hadassah to Hong Kong in the hope of finding someone here interested in organizing a chapter. Among those responding were Diane Satok, Elane Fine, Sharon Fine, Ann Friedman, Grace Green, Natalie Richter, and Gideon Shep. If all goes as hoped and planned, Hong Kong will have a representative at Hadassah International's convention this April in Montreal.

Those who would like to help set up a Hong Kong chapter of Hadassah International are urged to contact The UJC office or one of those named above for more information.

The presentation by Norman and Carolyn Green, following the AGM chaired by Bob Green in which Trustee Michael Green fielded questions, prompted one member to describe the evening as 'the Greening of Hong Kong.'

UJC members invited to service, talk British Chief Rabbi to Visit

Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations, has been invited to visit the Colony by The Incorporated Trustees of the Jewish Community of Hong Kong.

The Trustees have not disclosed the purpose of the visit. It comes at a time, however, that a number of Orthodox members of the Community are voicing strong objections to plans by the Trustees to create a Jewish Community Centre in which UJC members would have equal voting rights and access to an auditorium for worship services. The Orthodox position is that UJC members should enjoy social and recreational privileges only in the new Centre. The UJC believes that for the JCC to truly function as a Community Centre, all members should enjoy equal access and use of the facilities.

As the leading Orthodox rabbi in the U.K. and a highly-respected figure in world Judaism, Rabbi Sacks' views are expected to carry considerable weight with respect to matters under discussion here. The Trustees have consequently arranged for visits and private meetings with most of the Community's religious and educational leaders including representatives of The UJC.

Members of all congregations are invited to hear Rabbi Sacks preach Saturday, January 21 at Ohel Leah Synagogue and attend a talk on Sunday, January 22 at the Jewish Club (see page 7).

Antique *Yad* Presented to UJC

Member David Shapiro presented an engraved, antique silver *yad* (Torah pointer) to The UJC at the December 30 Shabbat service.

'The provenance of this *yad* is fascinating,' Rabbi Kosovske said in accepting it on behalf of the Congregation. 'It came from Toledo, Spain. Since the expulsion of our people from Spain occurred in 1492, it has to be more than 500 years old.' An unusual piece, the *yad* is crowned with a small spice box which contains spices that Mr. Shapiro says are the original. 'They still convey a wonderful fragrance,' the Rabbi said.

In formally dedicating it into the religious service of The UJC, Rabbi Kosovske explained that 'religious objects become holy through sacred usage. This *yad*, lovingly used first in Toledo during the time of the Inquisition, already has acquired a holiness that will transcend anything that we might add to it. However, we nonetheless are now afforded an important opportunity: the privilege of taking from its holiness by dedicating ourselves to the spirit of those who once used it. May we seize that opportunity and keep alive their memories. May we commit ourselves to perpetuating what they started and, as they, continue to add to the vitality of Judaism. . .'

Mr. Shapiro and his wife, Hedy, are returning to the United States after living in Hong Kong for 30 years. We wish them every blessing in their new endeavors.

From the Rabbi's Study...

When we were in Thailand last month, it startled me to meet so many people who only reckon time in terms of the number of years since the Buddha died. We encountered a restaurant waiter, for example, the same age as our daughter, who knew the Buddhist year of his birth and the fact that the year was the Year of the Monkey. But he had absolutely no idea what that all translated to in Gregorian terms.

I wonder how many Jews there are who still reckon time only in Hebrew. Certainly it is considered good form in some circles to date things with Hebrew dates. But, then, people who do so usually quickly add the corresponding Gregorian dates to what they have put down.

When I was a child, I met Eastern European Jews, contemporaries of my grandparents, who did not know the Gregorian *date* of their birth. They knew, for instance, that they were born on 'the fifth light of Hanukkah' or 'the first day of Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot.' But at the same time they knew the Gregorian *year* in which they were born.

Many older Hebrew books list their publication dates only with a Hebrew year. But if those books are in libraries, you typically find that the publication dates, at least in the card catalogue but sometimes in pencil in the books themselves, have been converted to Gregorian.

The reason for all of this is that even for the most Jewishly oriented of us, we recognize that we live in a world that uses a dating convention different from our own. And it is convenient to follow it.

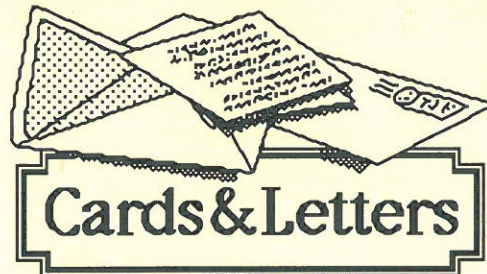
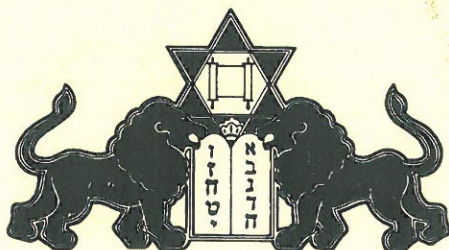
But just the same, it is nice — and Jewishly affirming — not to let ourselves become *solely* hooked into that non-Jewish time convention, to try emotionally to relate to the fact that there is also a Jewish way of marking time.

Let me give an example. I think it would add so much to our Sabbath observance if we were to relate to our Shabbat Friday evening service as coming not at the end of Friday but at the beginning of what we as Jews sense is already Saturday (though we Jews would never call that day anything other than Shabbat). Ending something feels negative to me, but starting something is affirming.

Does viewing time Jewishly make a difference, you ask? Only in the sense that it helps us keep in mind who we are. That is important because it keeps us grounded, keeps us from becoming totally lost in the world around us. And that, especially in a place as bustling as Hong Kong, is crucial.

Certainly, we can't live totally in Jewish time. But if there is to be a Jewish dimension to our lives, we can't live totally outside of it either. So if you ask me the Hebrew year I was born in, I might not be able to tell you. But you should also know that I did make a big deal out of celebrating Rosh Hodesh Shevat just a couple of days ago. You see, that was *my* Hebrew birthday!

Howard A. Kosovske



Dear Rabbi Kosovske,

On behalf of the teachers and all the children in third grade, I would like to thank you for sharing with us the Hanukkah story. You certainly know how to make nine-year olds sit up and take notice. We were answering questions about menorahs all day. Your presentation was informative and our Jewish children especially loved having their Rabbi in our midst. You can be assured that we will take you up on your offer to return to our school in the future.

Again, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit us.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Werderman
Hong Kong International School

Rabbi Extends Outreach

Our new, *very* successful, Outreach Issues Group continues in January as the group gathers at the home of Rabbi Howard and Barbara Kosovske, 28 Bellevue Drive, 1/F, Repulse Bay Gardens, Repulse Bay at **8:00 P.M. Thursday, January 12.**

This group is dedicated to exploring issues that arise in homes where one person is not, or has not been born, Jewish. Additionally, parents of such people are invited to be part of the group. In all cases, meetings are open to individuals and couples, Jews and non-Jews, coming either singly or as couples. Further, because each situation in some way is unique and no two situations are identical, the group establishes, through Rabbi Kosovske's facilitation, its own agenda.

As the first session proved, the existence of this group is *extremely* helpful to people who attend it. If you can be with us on the 12th, RSVP to the Congregation's office by phone (2523-2985) or fax (2523-3961).

If you would like further information about the group or any items that it might consider, please feel comfortable about calling the Rabbi directly at either 2523-2985 or 2523-2663.

More Food for Talk

Following the success of the first-ever bagels and lox Sunday morning cultural gathering, The UJC will be doing it again — this time with Dennis Leventhal as guest speaker. The topic: the Sino-Judaic Connection. Head of the Jewish Historical Society and a fluent Mandarin speaker who travels often in China, Mr. Leventhal has written a number of monographs on the subject. Join us January 8, 11:00 A.M. at the USA Deli, 8-12 Hennessy Road, Wanchai for some good food and stimulating discussion.

Shabbat

Shabbat

Shabbat



Friday, January 13, 7:00 P.M.

preceded from 6:30 by
Shabbat fellowship gathering

Shabbat Service

Conducted by
Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske

Ladies Recreation Club

10 Old Peak Road,
Mid-Levels
Hong Kong

Rabbi Brian Fox

spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel,
Sydney, Australia

will speak following dinner on
'Important Eyewitness
News on the Way Back
from Israel'

Dinner prices as usual
(see right)

**PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL
TIME AND VENUE FOR
THIS EVENING AND
RSVP FOR DINNER
WITH UJC OFFICE**



Friday, January 20, 6:45 P.M.

preceded from 6:15 by
Shabbat fellowship gathering

Shabbat Service

Conducted by
Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske

The American Club

Kam Shan Room
Exchange Square II, 49/f
Central District, Hong Kong

Shabbat services at the
American Club are followed by:

Italian Buffet Supper

Members:
adults \$135.00,
children \$85.00
Non-members:
Adults \$150.00,
children \$100.00

*Join us for large-sized
portions of delicious food,
friendly people, and
stimulating discussion.
Make The UJC part of your family.*



Friday, January 27, 6:45 P.M.

preceded from 6:15 by
Shabbat fellowship gathering

Shabbat Service

Conducted by
Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske

The American Club

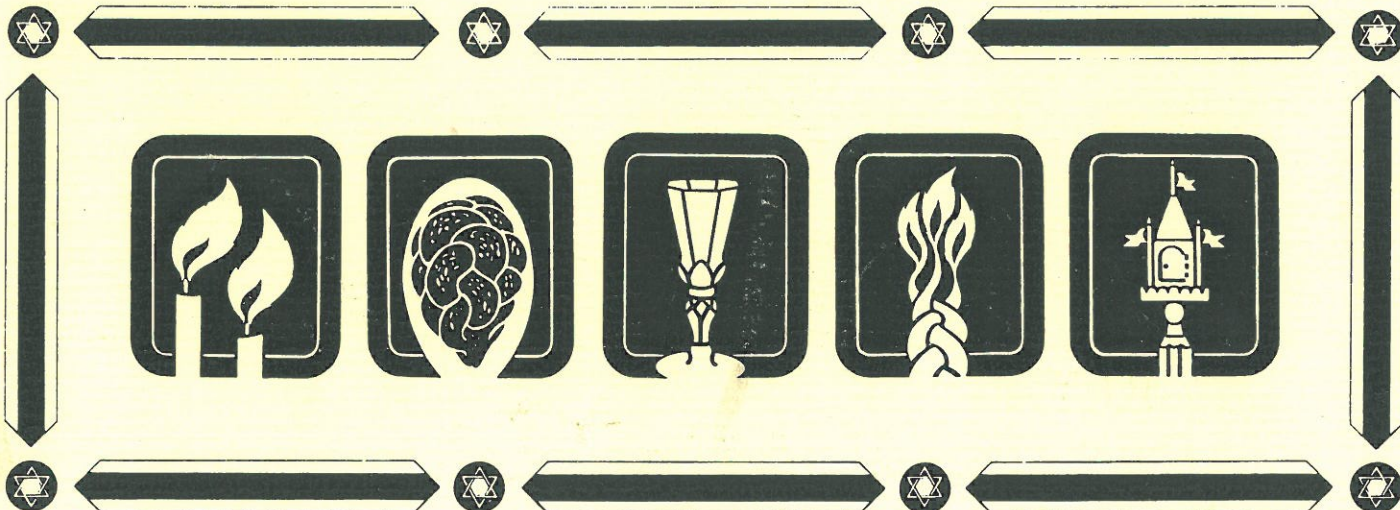
Kam Shan Room
Exchange Square II, 49/f
Central District, Hong Kong

Moshe Sadeh

will speak following dinner on

**'Growing Up Different:
a Sephardic Jew
Looks Back'**

Mr. Sadeh, 66, is an Israeli and Canadian citizen who has served as an officer in a number of prominent Jewish organizations including the Canadian Sephardi Federation, B'nai Brith League for Human Rights, and B'nai Brith Institute of International Affairs. Born in Cairo, he made *aliyah* to Israel in 1946. He joined the Palmach in 1947, fought in the War of Independence, and served as an Israeli army officer until 1955. Mr. Sadeh was also a founder of Kibbutz Brur Chail in 1948.



Coming Events

Special Lecture

The History of Jews in Hong Kong

Dr. Carl T. Smith will speak on 'Personages, Places, and Businesses Connected with the History of Jews in Hong Kong.' The talk will cover the following areas: Jewish sojourners and settlers; the synagogue; the cemetery; the growth of the community; the arrival of the Ashkenazi; Jewish merchants and shopkeepers; and prominent families.

Most of the material will be from the 19th century, spilling over into the 20th. The talk will not cover the history of the community after 1941.

Wednesday, January 25, 8:30 P.M.
Jewish Club
 4/F, Melbourne Plaza

'Hand in Hand' on Thursdays **Yad B'Yad**

Something totally new in The UJC! This twice-a-month Jewish play group is geared to 2-4-year olds and their parents with stories, holidays, music, arts and crafts, and lots of fun. It's a chance to do something Jewish together in a way that is meaningful for both parent and child. The group meets Thursday afternoons. Total cost for all sessions is \$450.00 for one child, \$100.00 for each additional child.

Jan. 5, 19; Feb. 9, 23; March 9, 23
3:30 P.M.

Function Room, Bamboo Grove
 78 Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbats are special Shabbats with stories, songs, arts and crafts, dance and Torah for 2-5 year-olds and their parents.. The focus is on creating a 'together' celebration, and what we do will be moving for everyone. Experience the joy of Shabbat with Rabbi Kosovske.

Saturday's, 10:00 A.M.

January 7, February 11, March 4
Ladies Recreation Club
 10 Old Peak Road, Mid-Levels

Interfaith discussions

Jews and Christians in Dialogue

Rabbi Howard Kosovske and Reverend Gene Preston of Union Church lead a three-part, Monday evening lecture, discussion and fellowship series to foster interfaith understanding among the members of both congregations. There will be a charge of \$75.00 total for the three seminars to cover refreshments (wine, cider and cheese will be served at the 9:00 P.M. break). Enrolment is limited, register now by contacting The UJC office.

Mondays, 8:00 P.M.

February 13

'What Jews Believe'
 led by Rabbi Kosovske

February 20

'What Christians Believe'
 led by The Reverend Gene Preston

February 27

'Talking to Each Other'
 led by both spiritual leaders

Union Church
 22A Kennedy Rd., Mid-Levels

'Together' for Shabbat **B'Yachad**

On these Shabbat occasions, our 6 to 11-year-olds gather with their parents and Rabbi Kosovske for learning and sharing experiences relating to the Jewish holidays and festivals. The January meeting will feature a special Tu B'Sh'vat (New Year of the Trees) seder. February 18 is 'Blast-off with Marvin Levine, the Mystery Man.' Both promise to be family education experiences not to be missed.

Cost of the entire series is \$400.00 for one child, \$100.00 for each additional child. Contact The UJC office for further information.

***Saturday, January 14, 10:00 A.M.**
Function Room, The Manhattan
 33 Tai Tam Road

***NOT 4:00 P.M. as earlier announced**

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 A.M.
Venue to be announced

'Tuesday series'

Brown-bagging with the Rabbi

Fashioned to fit the fast-paced, time-conscious Hong Kong lifestyle, this midday Jewish study program begins and finishes exactly on time.

Become a regular part of these encounters with Jewish tradition — a feast of food and Torah. Come earlier and stay later if you wish, but give us your attention for 40 minutes of study.

If you are in Central at lunchtime on any Tuesday, grab a sandwich and head over to Chuck Monat's office in Dina House. This is definitely the place where the literati gather in Hong Kong. This is where you will find Rabbi Kosovske leading a discussion on some of the most exciting Torah being taught anywhere in Hong Kong right now. Most important, you can be adding to that Torah from your own life's experiences. Moreover, your being part of these sessions makes them just that much richer for everyone else who comes.

January 10, 17, 24, 31

February 7, 14, 21, 28

12:40 P.M. — 1:20 P.M.

702 Dina House
 11 Duddell Street, Central District
 (Chuck Monat's office)

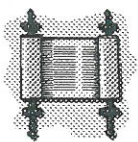
'Jewish Hams'

First Nighters

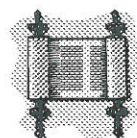
Bring out the Jewish 'ham' in you at the premier of First Nighters. No experience required to read, act or participate as audience. The first play in the series is The Diary of Anne Frank, the wonderful classic play about a young girl's experience coming of age during the Nazi occupation of Holland. Celebrate Havdalah when we bid Shabbat farewell and welcome the first night of the new week. After the reading, join Rabbi Howard Kosovske in a brief discussion about the play's message.

January 7, 7:30 P.M.

2609 Parkside, Pacific Place
 (home of Karen and Len Rushfield)



תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם *talmud torah k'neged kulam*
The study of Torah is the equivalent of all other *mitzvot*
combined (Pe'ah 1:1)



THE UJC OF HONG KONG INVITES YOU TO JOIN...

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

A FOURTEEN-WEEK COURSE OF JEWISH THOUGHT,
HISTORY, AND PRACTICE

taught by

RABBI HOWARD KOSOVSKY

Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:00 P. M.,
starting February 1st at the Hong Kong Diamond Exchange
Building (6th floor), Duddell Street, Central

TUITION (including all textbooks):

HK\$ 850 - single

HK\$ 1350 - couple



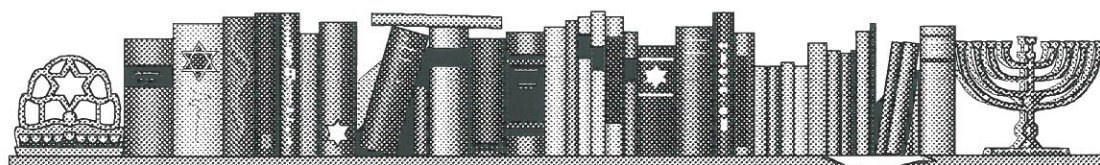
☐ Please enroll me/us in the Introduction to Judaism course.

Name(s) _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Enclosed is my/our check for HK\$ _____ payable to *The UJC of Hong Kong*

Return this form to: The UJC of Hong Kong, GPO Box 5259, Hong Kong



Trustees' Message

Text in full.

The Trustees are really encouraged by the many expressions of support they are now receiving, from members of the Ohel Leah Synagogue and the Jewish Club, as well as from members of the wider Jewish Community, for their proposals for the new Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

At the Trustees' invitation, the number of representative groups of members of the community have been to view the new premises and the Trustees are pleased that all the comments made after such visits have been favorable and enthusiastic. The Trustees intend to organize further visits.

The Trustees now look forward to the visit, this month, of Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations, who, accompanied by Mrs. Sacks, will be spending a few days here as the guest of the Trustees. The Chief Rabbi will be visiting all our community institutions and the Trustees hope that as many members of the Community as can do so will take advantage of the many opportunities they will have to meet the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Sacks.

The Working Group, selected for their personal experience in communal affairs and drawn from all sections of the Community, set up by the Trustees to prepare for the establishment of the new JCC and to act (until a new Board of Management is elected, probably in June 1995, as the first Board of Management), has held its first meeting. The Trustees look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Working Group as soon as these are ready so that whatever work needs to be done may be completed in time for the opening of the JCC which (it is hoped) will be in June 1995 with the newly elected Board of Management in place.

The Trustees wish to ensure that the Community will continue to be kept fully informed as to the progress being made in establishing the JCC and want to do whatever they can to try to allay the various concerns which some members of the Community have expressed, for example, about the constitution proposed for the new JCC and the provision (which the Trustees have guaranteed) of exclusively kosher food and beverage facilities, for consumption and sale, within the JCC.

Robert Dorfman (one of the Trustees, and Chairman of the Working Group), or failing him, Gerald Godfrey (another of the Trustees) will be happy to deal with any query about the Trustees' proposals which any members of the Community may have.

This seems to the Trustees the best way to dispel the misconceptions under which it appears some members of the Community still labour about the nature of the Trustees' proposals. The Trustees have no doubt that their proposals will ensure the provision of facilities for the Community which will equal and may well excel those available anywhere else in the Diaspora and are delighted that more and more members of the Community are beginning to appreciate this.

Trust Administrator

Our client, the Incorporated Trustees of the Jewish Community of Hong Kong, is a renowned charitable organization within the Jewish community. The members of the board are selectively seeking a mature executive to assume the role of Trust Administrator and serve as the General Manager of the trust.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the appointee will oversee the day-to-day operations of the trust, including the preparation of accounts, managing banking and funding arrangements and handling secretarial and ad hoc duties. As the representative of the Trustees, the incumbent will also be required to liaise with government, civic and other organizations as well as to assist with the identification of worthy projects which the trust may support, subsequently monitoring their progress.

Candidates in their late 40s and early 50s should possess strong administrative, organizational and management skills in order to manage the trust effectively. A good knowledge of accountancy is essential and familiarity with computer systems desirable. Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills are essential to relate to a wide spectrum of people. The attractive remuneration package offered will include the provision of accommodation.

Please apply in confidence with full career details, salary history, and a telephone number quoting Ref. No. 631 to:

Executive Recruitment Services
Price Waterhouse
GPO Box 690 Hong Kong

Special thanks to Chuck, Janet, Peter, Sarah et al

UJC Publishes 1995 Membership Directory

UJC 1995 membership directories were sent out in late December to all members. Those who have not received their copy or would like additional copies should contact the UJC office.

Cost of the directory was again underwritten by founding member Charles Monat. A huge debt of gratitude is also owed to Janet Golden, Peter Kaminsky, Rebecca Haase, Diana Satok, UJC Executive Administrator Sarah Millard, and Peter Kaminisky's office staff for the hours — in some cases, many, many hours — spent on gathering and entering data, programming and creating a database, proofreading, and arranging the mailing.

According to Ms Golden, the total number of UJC members at the time of printing was 378 adults. Membership including children is 598.

'Jerusalem One' Bringing Torah to Internet Jews in Cyberspace

'Jews in Cyberspace' isn't a Mel Brooks movie. It's a growing group of Jews who schmooze on the worldwide Internet computer network.

Picture it: A lonely Jew in Iceland with a laptop computer consults with a Lubavitcher rabbi on the latest Torah reading. A researcher in California printed out a study of Australian Jewish intermarriage from a Jerusalem computer in 10 minutes — for the price of a local telephone call. A campus Hillel in New York state asks other Hillels around the country what to do about an upcoming Nation of Islam rally and gets a dozen responses.

These are all true stories from the annals of the new network, which is bringing the information revolution to the worldwide Jewish community through several fronts. Not only does the system provide access to vast stores of literature of interest to Jews, it also facilitates communication between Jewish users at numerous points on the globe.

The amount of electronically available material is staggering. A computer called Jerusalem One tied into the Internet system and located in Israel provides access to library catalogs of every major Israeli university, Yad Vashem, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Electronic Library, from which entire books can be retrieved instantly. The files also include the complete testimony of Adolf Eichmann, The Holocaust Archives, every word written and spoken by every major Holocaust denier and the Koran. Mostly in English, it also has sections in French and Dutch.

You can 'down load' complex exegeses of explanations of interpretations of the Mishnah, retrieve Hebrew type fonts, track down Kosher restaurants in Nepal, get a date in Tel Aviv or a job in the Israeli computer industry. You can arrange to have data from specialized groups automatically sent to your computer and can 'flame' back if you see something you don't agree with. Information is available on a vast web of Jewish student services run for the World Zionist Organization by Eli Birnbaum (BIRNBAUM@JERUSALEM1.DATASRV.ATASRV.CO.IL), including the Jewish University Network, better known as J.U.N.K. The network also serves the Conservative and Reform communities. Svi Lando, for example, the system's manager, was interviewed electronically for this article.

'Internet is the best medium for any group who is dispersed around the globe but wants to keep together,' Mr. Lando said. 'What I mean is, you won't see an Irish network or a Japanese network like Jerusalem One — ever.'

Internet is the mother of all computer networks, consisting of a web of thousands of smaller networks, mostly linking university computers and built around a 'backbone' of lines interweaving National Science Foundation supercomputers. The American network is in turn linked to networks worldwide by electronic switchboards through phone lines and satellites. Communication is virtually instantaneous, and is never completely out of commission or busy. Indeed, it was designed to be fail-safe in the 1960's by the Defense Department which wanted a communication system impervious to nuclear attack.

The largest American network is SHAMASH, the New York-Israel Project, which links Jewish organizations through NYSErNet, the New York Network. SHAMASH houses, among other things, the network of university Hillel computers and provides electronic conferencing for Jewish organizations. NYSErNet will let you download everything from Bridges (a Jewish feminist journal) and Byteturah to the Sephardic Electronic Archive and the United Jewish Appeal mailing list. ■ Joel Shurkin. Excerpted from *Forward*

*Members of
all Jewish Congregations
in Hong Kong
are invited to hear*

Dr. Jonathan Sacks
Chief Rabbi

of the

United Hebrew Congregations of the
British Commonwealth of Nations

preach

Saturday, January 21

Ohel Leah Synagogue

Morning Service

and

talk

Sunday, January 22

Jewish Club, 8:00 P.M.

*Chief Rabbi Sacks is renowned
as an excellent speaker and
draws large crowds
whenever he talks.*

*Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks
will be visiting Hong Kong
from January 19 — 22
at the invitation of*

*The Incorporated Trustees of the
Jewish Community of Hong Kong.*

Submitted by The Incorporated Trustee
of the Jewish Community of Hong Kong

'Remarkable Triumvirate' of Leaders Passes Torch Reform Jewry Enters a Critical Passage

The Reform movement, the largest and fastest-growing branch of organized American Jewry, is lurching into the unknown.

The trio of rabbis which has guided Reform Judaism since the early 1970s is about to give way to a new — and untested — generation of leaders that will take the movement into the next century. The changing of the guard from the old-school, European-reared leaders to their younger, American-bred heirs apparent can be expected to shake up the spiritual and institutional life of the 1.3 million Americans who identify themselves as Reform Jews.

Rivalries May Re-emerge

The liberal lion of the Reform movement's synagogue wing, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, who is the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will retire in 1996 and a search committee is already looking for his successor, the *Forward* has learned. Another search committee is seeking a replacement for Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, who is the outgoing president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which is both the rabbinical seminary and seat of scholarship for Reform Jewry. At the same time, the death last month of Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, has hastened changes at the helm of the Reform rabbinate.

While the three grand old men of Reform Jewry worked closely together — knitting their movement into cohesiveness, drawing on personal bonds forged over the decades — it is not likely that successors will be able to replicate that seamless tradition. Organizational rivalries which the old friends were able to resolve with a phone call or a sidewalk *tete-a-tete* in front of Temple Emanu-El on Fifth Avenue will be harder to paper over. Once the courtly stewards of the national movement step aside, the executives who take their place will more closely resemble their flock in terms of age and world experience.

Nazi-Era Survivors

Rabbis Schindler, 69, and Gottschalk, 64, were Nazi-era survivors

who were born in Germany, where the Reform movement itself was born in the 1840's, while Rabbis Schindler and Glaser, who was 69 at his death, fought as American soldiers in World War II. None of their successors will every again hail from that background. It will be the baby boomers who take over the Reform movement.

'For years, there was no infighting, and the big question . . . is whether the apparent unity of the movement will be replaced by factionalism and squabbles,' says Bernard Reisman, a Jewish Studies professor at Brandeis University. 'It will be quite a statement if they can emerge from this unscathed.'

'Matzah Ball-Memories'

It has never happened before in the Reform movement — or in any other movement — that all the professional heads of its national institutions retired or died at about the same time, say Gerald Bubis, founding director of the School of Jewish Communal Service at Hebrew Union College. He says this 'remarkable triumvirate' leaves a magnificent legacy on which to build, but he warns of challenges ahead, adding, 'there are new constituencies, and new Jews, and to reach those people who have Christmas dinner with one set of grandparents and Chanukah dinner with the other set, you've got to do a lot more than push gefilte-fish-and-matzah-ball memories.'

● Rabbi Schindler, who took over the UAHC in 1973, was the champion of outreach to the intermarried, conversion for non-Jewish spouses and patrilineal descent; he also battled the Orthodox monopoly on government support in Israel and tilted the Reform movement leftward.

● Rabbi Gottschalk, who took over HUC in 1970, began ordaining female rabbis and cantors . . . [and] raised \$150 million and oversaw a building boom on college campuses.

● Rabbi Glaser, who took over CCAR in 1971, developed new prayer books and an ambitious publishing program; he also helped to upgrade the dignity, salaries and pensions of the rabbinate.

■ Excerpted from *Forward*



ESCAPE TO SHANGHAI

UJC 2ND ANNUAL HERITAGE TOUR

DEPARTING LATE APRIL

SEE SHANGHAI
LIKE IT USED TO BE
WITH BIG AL
AND THE BOYS

LIMITED SEATING
LOTS OF FUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 2987-9159

ASK FOR AL, TELL
HIM WE SENT YOU*

*SPECIAL FOR
UJC MEMBERS
& FRIENDS

Silence is golden — in other words, please be quiet

The Virtues of Remaining Silent

Excerpted from *Operation Shylock* by Philip Roth, Vintage, 1994, submitted by Ben Frankel

'The Jew's lack of love for his fellow Jew,' . . . 'is the cause of much suffering among our people. The animosity, the ridicule, the sheer hatred of one Jew for another — why? Where is our forbearance and forgiveness of our neighbor? Why is there such divisiveness among Jews? . . .

It isn't only [today] that there is suddenly this discord — it was in the ghetto, God knows, a hundred years ago; it was at the destruction of the Second Temple two thousand years ago. Why was the Second Temple destroyed? Because of the hatred of one Jew for another. Why has the Messiah not come? Because of the angry hatred of one Jew for another. . .

Angry disputes, verbal abuse, malicious backbiting, mocking gossip, scoffing, faultfinding, complaining, condemning, insulting — the blackest mark against our people is not the eating of pork, it is not even marrying with the non-Jew: worse than both is the sin of Jewish speech. We talk too much, we say too much, and we do not know when to stop. .

"For each and every moment that a person remains silent, he earns a reward too great to be conceived by any created being.' This is the Vilna Gaon quoting from the Midrash. 'What should a person's job be in this world? To make himself like a mute.' This is from the Sages.

"You shall not go about as a tale bearer among your people.' This is what is written. You shall not! It is forbidden! This is law! 'Grant me that I should say nothing that is unnecessary . . .' This is from the prayer of the Chofetz Chaim. No Jew had more love for his fellow Jews than the Chofetz Chaim.

"You don't know the teachings of the Chofetz Chaim? A great man, a humble scholar, a revered rabbi from Radin, in Poland . . . It is he who formulated the detailed laws of speech for our people and tried to cure them of the bad habits of centuries. The Chofetz Chaim formulated the laws of evil speech, or *loshon hora*, the laws that forbid Jews' making deroga-

tory or damaging remarks about their fellow Jews, even if they are true. If they are false, of course it's worse. It is forbidden to speak *loshon hora* and it is forbidden to listen to *loshon hora*, even if you don't believe it. . .

"There is nothing about *loshon hora* that the Chofetz Chaim did not clarify and regulate; *loshon hora* said in jest, *loshon hora* without mentioning names, *loshon hora* that is common knowledge, *loshon hora* about relatives, about in-laws, about children, about the dead, about heretics and ignoramuses and known transgressors, even about merchandise — all forbidden. Even if someone has spoken *loshon hora* about you, you cannot speak *loshon hora* about him. Even if you are falsely accused of having committed a crime, you are forbidden to say who did do the crime. You cannot say 'He did it,' because that is *loshon hora*. You can only say 'I didn't do it.

"Does it give you an idea of what the Chofetz Chaim was up against if he had to go that far to stop Jewish people's blaming and accusing their neighbors of everything and anything? Can you imagine the animosity he witnessed? Everyone feeling wronged, being hurt, bristling at insults and slights, everything everybody says taken as a personal affront and a deliberate attack; everyone saying something derogatory about everyone else. Anti-Semitism on the one side, *loshon hora* on the other, and in between, being squeezed to death, the beautiful soul of the Jewish people! The poor Chofetz Chaim was an Anti-Defamation League unto himself — only to get Jews to stop defaming one another. . .

"He could not stand their quarreling, and so he set himself the impossible task of promoting Jewish harmony and Jewish unity instead of bitter Jewish divisiveness. Why couldn't the Jews be one people? Why must they be in conflict with one another? Why must they be in conflict with themselves? . . . Our poor Chofetz Chaim! He prayed to God; 'Grant me that I should say nothing that is unnecessary and that all my speech should be for the sake of Heaven.'"

Reform college gets first-ever allocation

HERB KEINON

The Reform movement's Hebrew Union College has received NIS 213,000 from the Religious Affairs Ministry, marking the first time a Reform institution has received an allocation from the ministry. The allocation, to the college's Jewish Institute of Religion, is a result of an earlier High Court of Justice verdict whereby the ministry will begin funding non-Orthodox religious groups. The college received the check only after an official called the ministry and threatened to go back to court if the money was not forwarded. A spokeswoman for the Union of Progressive Judaism (UPJ) said that the transfer of funds is significant because it gives HUC government recognition. According to the HUC, the sum represents only 2.6 percent of the school's annual budget. The funding comes from a new budgetary category in the Religious Affairs Ministry labeled "other Jewish religious institutions." This led one senior ministry source to say that the Reform and Conservative movements "will now be placed together in a budget category with the Samaritans and Karaites. That's the type of recognition they seek?"

Meanwhile, the UPJ, together with the Masorti movement (Conservative), petitioned the High Court of Justice to cancel a Kiryat Tivon local council decision disqualifying a Conservative rabbi and Reform activist from sitting on the local religious council.

The petitioners are claiming that the only reason for the disqualification of the two candidates, Rabbi Shalom Kalil Rosenberg and Gabriel Shavit, was because of their affiliation. Six Orthodox representatives were elected instead. Currently there are no members of either group on any local religious council in Israel.

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As dawn broke this morning and a new day began, new life came into the world — babies were born in Jerusalem. Babies were born in Amman. But this morning is different.

The peace that was born today gives us all the hope that the children born today will never know war between us — and their mothers will know no sorrow.

Allow me to end by the simple words: Shalom, Salaam, Peace.

■ Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the signing ceremony of the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan, October 26, 1994

Caring — Not Caring

Caring for our identity

means being proud to be Jewish. It means being conscious of, and actively supporting our unique, historical partnership with the people of Israel. Not caring means returning to the days of vulnerability when we had nowhere to go.

Not caring means assimilation, it means that the only time we are Jews is when our persecutors label us.

Caring for our people

means giving to disadvantaged people in Israel and Jews in distress; if we do not help them, nobody will.

Not caring means that those unfortunate Jews languishing in lands of oppression will continue to suffer. Not caring means leaving the people of Israel to stand alone.

Caring for our tradition

means giving to the next generation. It means playing a part in our living history by supporting the Jewish people's return to Zion. means safeguarding the future of our children.

Not caring means neglecting our sacred inheritance and disregarding our destiny. It means shirking our responsibilities.

Caring for our faith

means respecting our roots and cultivating them through generous provision for the Children of Israel. It means accepting the duties handed down to us. Not caring means putting our faith in the hands of others and risking everything all over again.

Not caring is a refusal to face the responsibility of looking after ourselves.

Caring for our heritage

means helping Jews in distress resettle in Israel. The people of Israel are the guardians of our heritage and we must ensure that they will always be able to welcome all Jews suffering discrimination.

Not caring means our long and often painful history is all in vain, that the lives of our fathers and forefathers, the struggles of our brothers and sisters in lands of oppression, count for nothing.

Caring for our future

means feeling for, participating in, and contributing to the renaissance of Jewish civilization through the people of Israel.

Not caring is to be merely a passive spectator in the most significant event in nearly 2,000 years of Jewish History.

Caring for campaign exodus

means helping one fifth of World Jewry leave the Soviet Union for Israel. It means playing a part in the greatest Jewish Exodus in modern times. It means caring for the most important issue facing us today — the redemption of Soviet Jewry.

Not caring means leaving Soviet Jewry to suffer virulent anti-semitism. It means betraying our people in their hour of need.

**Caring means continuing our wonderful
tradition of looking after each other.**

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

1705 Universal Trade Center, 3-5 Arbuthnot Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong
Tel: 2525 0068 Fax 2869 6753