

The Shofar

Published by The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

May/June, 1996



Search committee arranges adult, children's education programs plus 'get acquainted' meetings Visiting Rabbis from U.S. to Take Pulpit June 7, 14

Read some of Rabbi Marc Gruber's sermons or scan his writings and you will quickly get the impression of someone whose focus is on both spirituality and social action. As he has written, 'Prayer, study, celebration, and social action are all ways of reaching toward *kedusha*, holiness.'

As spiritual leader since 1992 of the 1200-household Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York, Rabbi Gruber, 43, led efforts to make the Congregation more accessible to the disabled. To facilitate Black-Jewish understanding, he expanded upon pulpit exchanges and joint study and dialogue with Mt. Olivette Baptist Church.

Also at Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rabbi Gruber created a monthly Tot Shabbat service for preschool children and their families and a Torah joint-study program for sixth-graders and their parents. In this way, students and parents learned to study Torah together in preparation for bar or bat mitzvah.

Reflecting his diverse talents and interests, Rabbi Gruber developed an intermarried group and outreach program while serving at Community Reform Temple in Westbury, New York from 1985-1992 and designed and implemented a membership and marketing program for the Temple.

At Beth Hillel Temple in Kenosha, Wisconsin from 1983-5, he designed, wrote, and implemented the curriculum for a joint venture religious school between a Reform congregation and Conservative congregation. The objective was to formulate a curriculum that satisfied the needs and orientations of Reform and Conservative Jews.

An honors graduate in sociology from Brandeis in 1975, Rabbi Gruber received an M.A. in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1980 and was ordained at HUC-JIR the following year. He continued his education at Washington University in St. Louis where he concentrated in Jewish Ethics and received an M.A. in Philosophy in 1983.

Rabbi Gruber taught Jewish Studies at HUC-JIR's Community Extension Program from 1985-7 and was an instructor of Jewish History in the University of Wisconsin's Continuing Education Program and Capsule College from 1984-5.

Rabbi Gruber and his wife Renee have three children: Shai, 11, Micah, 8, and Ayal, 5.

We think life in Hong Kong is busy. But what's it like being a rabbi in the Big Apple? Ask Janise Poticha about her duties at Temple Shaaray Tefile on E. 79th Street in New York.

You've got to love your work to handle everything from running adult education programs and lecture series to managing the Young Professional Program, teaching the Confirmation class, and coordinating the adult B'Nai Mitzvah program. Throw in the Youth Group, Saturday morning Minyan and Torah study, the Shared Shabbat Family Dinner Program, and the annual Hebrew Marathon classes.

The list goes on: community interfaith services, fundraising seminars, life cycle ceremonies, conversion study, articles for the Synagogue bulletin, and community and congregational High Holy Day services. It all goes with the territory in the Big City.

Life as a student at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Jerusalem and New York from 1988 - 1992 was also very activity-oriented. Rabbi Poticha was president of the senior class and involved herself in a number of programs including the Soup Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels, Battered Women's Shelter, Social Action Committee, and pastoral visits to hospitals.

A 1977 graduate of University of Oregon where she concentrated in Landscape Architecture and Park Planning, Rabbi Poticha spent four years in Israel from 1984 to 1988 before entering HUC-JIR. While in New York, she taught a 30-week course on Judaism at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA.

She also gave 12-week courses on Judaism for interfaith couples under the auspices of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and taught introductory courses on Judaism for Russian immigrants.

Rabbi Poticha joined Temple Shaaray Tefila in 1992 where she serves as Assistant Rabbi.

Her resumé lists extensive travel including Croatia and Slovenia in 1994 and notes that from 1992 to present, she has been speaker and organizer of the Jewish Ad-Hoc Committee on Bosnia. Other travel includes South Africa, Kenya and Uganda.

Meet our Visitors

(See also page 3)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 7:00 P.M., JCC

Exploring Talmudic Thought

Talk, discussion led by Rabbi Marc A. Gruber

FRI., JUNE 7, 7:00 P.M., AUDITORIUM

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Marc A. Gruber will conduct the service and give a talk at the Shabbat dinner following

SAT., JUNE 8, 10:30 A.M., AUDITORIUM

Shabbat Workshop

Child/parent workshop conducted by Rabbi Marc A. Gruber followed by lunch in the coffee shop

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 7:00 P.M., JCC

What is Holiness?

Talk, discussion led by Rabbi Janise Poticha

FRI., JUNE 14, 7:00 P.M., AUDITORIUM

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Janise Poticha will conduct the service and give a talk at the Shabbat dinner following

SAT., JUNE 15, 10:00 A.M., AUDITORIUM

'Raiders of the Lost Past'

Child/Parent workshop conducted by Rabbi Janise Poticha followed by brunch in the coffee shop

Please book with office for dinners, lunches

From the Rabbi's Study . . .

I am a student of Jewish history. As such, I have a powerful fascination with things from the past. Documents, artifacts, relics, anything that survives from some other time and gives accurate testimony about Jewish life in an age gone by... these like a magnet draw me to them.

That is the reason why the Jewish Cemetery in Hong Kong occupies such an important place in my academic and spiritual life. For me, more than anything else that exists in our city, that place is our ultimate treasure trove of Jewish history. Each of the 350-odd monuments out there, *matzeivot* we Jews call them in Hebrew, tells yet another tale about some important part of the last 140-year history of our community. Not the community that we imagine. The community that was, that *really* was, recorded in stone for all who know how to read the words (and the spaces between the lines) to see and understand.

Some of the *matzeivot* record names that appear over and over. They are names of individuals and families who have been a continuous presence here throughout much of the lifespan of our Jewish community. Names like Sassoon, Kadoorie, Gubay, and Ezra, to name a few. Others, most in fact, appear but once. But they too are a vital part of the history of Hong Kong's Jewish community. Each name represents someone who in some way made a significant impact on our Jewish community.

For the fact is — and this the documents clearly show — that the history of our Jewish community has been sustained by people who came here from some place else. Typically seeking their fortune, they arrived in this little territory as settlers. Sometimes their sojourn here extended across many generations. Other times it lasted but for a couple of years (in some cases, days). But the one thing all of them shared was their identification as Jews. Their Jewish identity was the constant in their lives. Regardless of where they came from (or where they thought ultimately they were going) the stones reveal that their Jewishness was more often than not central to their lives.

Each of us here now too is a part of that history. In a community where people come and go, where the only thing stable at times seems to be our instability, the reality is that whatever we are doing here as Jews is woven like a vital thread into the story of the Hong Kong Jewish Community.

At some point, most of us will leave and move to a community elsewhere. But wherever we end up, the mark of our Jewishness can remain here just as it has for the last 150 years. Feel important in your being here, therefore, because your presence is making a difference. Every time you embrace a new person, reach out to make someone else feel welcome, help someone find human connection in this jungle of concrete and fast-paced world of commerce, every time you act with *mentchlichkeit* (real human decency), your Jewishness adds to the beautiful legacy that the Jewish community imparts to this city. And you become better yourself for what our community is.

May the lessons that we are learning here continue to guide and serve our lives. May we take from the vibrancy of this place. And may its influence extend to the Jewishness yet of other places.

Howard A. Kosovske

Thanks, Rabbi

On behalf of the Congregation, The UJC's Executive Committee wishes to take this occasion to thank Rabbi Kosovske for the invaluable contribution he has made to the nourishment, promotion and advancement of Judaism in Hong Kong during the past two years. He has endeared himself to a number of members who may not otherwise have been drawn to or inspired to identify with their Jewish heritage. Through his many efforts and conscientious devotion, he has immeasurably strengthened the Congregation and helped prepare it for the challenges that face us in the years to come.

No Free Lunch? So What?

In fact, we're offering something at The UJC's lunch-time Torah study sessions with Rabbi Kosovske that you might find even more valuable than your normal midday nutrition. Especially if you're up to your eyeballs in work and in need a break from it all. It's called spiritual refreshment (ever hear of it?).

If you can live on bread alone, try Olivers, Lucullus, or The Big Apple, all in the neighborhood. If you want more, try us. Each session is new and interesting; no previous background required.

Wednesdays at Chuck's.

Good talk, good Torah.

Always a place at the table.

Conference Room, Charles Monat Limited
702 Dina House, 11 Duddell Street, Central District

***June 12, 19, 26**

12:40 p.m. — 1:20 p.m.

*Please confirm these dates plus dates for any sessions in July with office

Brownbag it with The UJC.

Visitors to Preach, Teach, Lead Parent/Child Workshops

Introduction to Talmudic Thought

Of all the books that ancient rabbis left behind, the most revealing, challenging and rewarding is the Talmud. Ostensibly written as commentaries to the Mishnah, the Talmud is much more: a repository of legend and lore, theological speculation, and the parry and thrust of legal and logical argumentation.

The Talmud often looms before the beginner as an insurmountable Everest. However, by setting realistic goals and using the right tools, one can find a way to scale this peak.

Join Rabbi Marc Gruber on an exploration of different modes of thinking found in the Talmud. Beginning with a general introduction to the origins and nature of the Talmud, we will proceed to examine specific texts including both legal and non legal materials that illustrate various aspects of Talmudic thought.

Thursday, June 6, 7:30 P.M.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please stay for dinner and further discussion
following Rabbi Gruber's talk

Shabbat Service

conducted by Rabbi Marc Gruber

Friday, June 7, 7:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM, ROBINSON PLACE

followed by

Shabbat Dinner

please book with office for dinner

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

'Shabbat Workshop'

Let Rabbi Marc Gruber help you and your children discover hidden talents for making kiddush cups, challah covers, table centerpieces, and other Shabbat-related items. We'll let you loose with tubes of icing to decorate a cake as we celebrate the Birthday of the World. Learn how to use colored paper, paint pens, and other decorating materials in new ways that will make Shabbat a truly special, creative experience.

Saturday, June 8, 10:30 A.M.

AUDITORIUM, ROBINSON PLACE

What is 'Holiness'?

Perashat Kedoshim begins with God's command to the Jewish people: 'You shall be holy (*kedoshim*) for I, the Lord your God, am holy (*kedosh*).' (Leviticus 19:2)

While interpreted in a variety of ways, these words have been a constant challenge to the Jewish people. In some ages they influenced Jews to separate themselves from other cultures and peoples. At other times they were understood as a reminder that the highest aim of Jewish living is to reach a 'holiness' that reflects honor upon God, Torah, and the Jewish people. Today, the ancient words continue to demand new interpretations and standards for defining what is *kodosh* in Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Janise Poticha looks at the Holiness Code in Leviticus and asks how it guides our lives today. Are we to accept the seemingly straight-forward terse language at face-value or do the writers of the Torah and later Halakhic commentary offer us more insight?

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 P.M.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please stay for dinner and further discussion
following Rabbi Poticha's talk

Shabbat Service

conducted by Rabbi Janise Poticha

Friday, June 14, 7:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM, ROBINSON PLACE

followed by

Shabbat Dinner

please book with office for dinner

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

'Raiders of the Lost Past'

If you enjoy role playing, don't miss this exciting opportunity to join Rabbi Janise Poticha on an expedition through time for all children up to 90 years old (give or take a few years). With a little luck, we will discover several ancient time capsules. Participants, divided into groups, will be acting as anthropological sociologists in evaluating their 'finds'. We will discuss the contents of these time capsules and their relationship to the eternal Jewish community.

Saturday, June 15, 10:30 A.M.

AUDITORIUM, ROBINSON PLACE

A delicious kiddush lunch follows both of
these fun-filled Shabbat morning experiences

Adults . . . \$90.00, Children under 12 . . . \$75.00

Important: Please book with office at 2523-2985, fax 2523-3961

CCAR Convention Debates Soul of the Movement

Intermarriage Dominates Reform Parley

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

PHILADELPHIA—Nowhere are Reform movement's tensions between cohesiveness and autonomy, between boundaries and inclusiveness and between authenticity and modernity more apparent than in the debate now taking place about intermarriage.

At the 107th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, held this week, discussion of intermarriage occupied center stage. The conversation among the approximately 500 Reform rabbis gathered at a hotel here was honest and often painful, a discussion that reflected how central the issue is in the life of the Reform movement today.

It quickly became clear that many other related policy positions adopted by the movement, particularly patrilineal descent and an emphasis on inclusion in synagogue life of interfaith families, have so changed Reform Jewish practice that there is no longer a clear sense of where Reform Judaism stands on the issue of intermarriage.

'Community Standards'

Patrilineal descent, adopted by the movement in 1983, accepts individuals as Jewish if either their mother or father is Jewish and they are given a Jewish education. In an effort to clear away the confusion and refocus Reform Jewry on the tenets central to Judaism, including Torah and *mitzvot*, which a new generation of leaders view as vital, the movement begun a new discussion on the implications of intermarriage.

'We have not thought about resolutions, about changes [in our policy], but about talking with each other,' Rabbi Simeon Maslin, president of the CCAR, said in remarks introducing the convention's second plenary session, which was devoted to intermarriage. In his presidential address Rabbi Maslin, who opposes interfaith officiation, called on his colleagues to adopt and live by 'community standards' and to diminish the 'anarchy' in their practices 'that is all too often based on ignorance and convenience.'

The rabbinical organization brought together for the first time congregants and rabbis to address the issue in a major session, which included two Reform temple members and two rabbis.

'Our people need boundaries,' said Rabbi Debra Hachen, who does not, as a rule, officiate at interfaith weddings. She leads Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough, Mass.

Rabbi Harry Danziger of Temple Israel in Memphis disagreed. 'Having changed so much of the context, non-officiation sends a confusing message,' he said. 'Intentional or not, in our context it says, 'We welcome your marriage, but not your wedding.'''

The movement intends to replicate the joint discussion at the regional level, said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, incoming president of the movement's congregational arm, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Although the Reform rabbinical association passed a resolution in 1973 formally discouraging officiation at interfaith marriages, the Reform rabbinate remains deeply divided over the issue. Nearly half—48%—said in a recent survey they are willing to officiate at intermarriages in at least some circumstances. The other 52% said they would not be willing, though most

would refer to a colleague who did officiate. In some cities, such as Boston, it is nearly impossible to find a Reform rabbi willing to officiate at an interfaith wedding. In others, mostly outside of the Northeast, it is easy.

Although there are a number of Reform clergy who hire themselves out solely to perform intermarriages for which they collect sums as high as \$1,500, for the overwhelming majority of Reform rabbis the issue of whether to officiate is a serious one.

During plenary sessions and small discussion groups, many rabbis made it clear just how hard they grapple with their own decision on the issue. Still, the issue is contentious within the Reform rabbinate and between Reform rabbis and their congregations, which often bring pressure to bear on the rabbis to perform the ceremonies.

Tenure Denied

It has become common for synagogue search committees to ask a candidate for the pulpit in the first interview whether he or she officiates at intermarriages. The issue is often used as a litmus test. In some cases contracts have not been renewed because of this issue, said Rabbi Elliot Stevens, executive secretary of the CCAR. Other rabbis here said tenure has been denied or job security threatened.

One rabbi, who asked not to be identified, said in a discussion group that for 15 years he did not officiate at intermarriages because he did not feel that it was the right thing to do. He spent three years looking for a pulpit that would not require him perform intermarriages. In need of a job, he finally gave in to the pressure and agreed to officiate in a congregation that 'made it clear' to him during the interview process that it an important issue for them, he said.

Although most of the debate took place between rabbis, the voices of lay people were also heard at this week's convention.

Jacqueline Guttman is an active member of Temple Emeth in Teaneck, N.J., and has served as the congregation's vice president. When son Edward met a Presbyterian woman, Katherine Daniels, at college, Ms. Guttman feared she would never have Jewish grandchildren.

'Slap in the Face'

But when Mr. Guttman and Daniels became engaged, they decided that they wanted to have a Jewish wedding, would have a Jewish home and raise their children as Jews, though Ms. Daniels was not interested in converting, Ms. Guttman related to the gathered rabbis, her voice cracking with emotion.

Yet even though they fulfill nearly every requirement that a Reform rabbi might have in order marry them, they could not find one willing to do it. In the end, they found a Reconstructionist rabbi to officiate.

The experience left Mr. Guttman angry. 'It is astonishing that Reform Judaism, which has opened up the tent, simultaneously sets up stumbling blocks to those who agree to live by its rules.'

'It was a metaphoric slap in the face,' she said, adding that Ms. Daniels 'got a clear message that she is not good enough for Reform Judaism—this woman who makes *Shabbat*, who makes *seder*.'

The rabbis at the five-day gathering, scheduled to end Thursday, were expected to adopt resolutions later in the week establishing a task force to study patrilineal descent and supporting civil marriages for gays and lesbians.

Bringing the Kadoories Back

On a recent visit to Hong Kong, Israel's Finance Minister Avraham Shohat successfully courted the famous family. Abraham Rabinovich reports in this reprint from The Jerusalem Post International Edition, week ending February 24, 1996.

After breathtaking diplomatic breakthroughs with China, India, the former Soviet empire and the Arab world, Israel has just patched up another long-standing rift — with the Kadoorie family of Hong Kong.

It fell to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat during his recent tour of the Far East to effect reconciliation after 70 years between the Zionist enterprise and a Jewish family reputed to be one of the wealthiest on earth. Shohat was received by Michael Kadoorie, present head of the family, in his opulent office. Shohat extended a formal invitation to the business tycoon to visit the Jewish state.

In the words of a press release issued by the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem, 'to the delight of those present, the invitation was accepted.'

With strong economic ties to China and other parts of the Far East, the Kadoories are a potentially powerful ally for Israel as it seeks to reach out to that fast-growing part of the world — important enough to warrant personal courting by Israel's finance minister.

According to Ezra Yehezkel-Shaked, author of a recently published book on the Jews of the Far East, the fallout between the Kadoories and Zionism dates to an alleged insult attributed to Chaim Weizmann.

The two brothers heading the Kadoorie family in the 1920's, Elias and Eliezer, had been supportive of the Zionist movement since 1900, and had helped purchase land on Mount Scopus for the construction of the Hebrew University. When Elias died, the stock exchange in Shanghai, where the family then lived, was closed in mourning, as were other public institutions, Shaken writes in his book *Hayehudim, Ha'opium ve Hakimono* ('Jews, Opium and Kimono') published by Reuven Mass.

Eliezer traveled to Rome to discuss with Weizmann ways of memorializing his brother in Eretz Yisrael. They agreed on the establishment of an agricultural school for Jewish youths near Afula. When Britain mandatory officials insisted that the school also accept Arabs, a compromise was struck whereby a separate Kadoorie agricultural school would be established for Arabs near Tulkarm. (The Jewish Kadoorie school would become the center of Palmah training. One of its graduates would be Yitzhak Rabin.)

When Kadoorie and Weizmann met again in Jerusalem at the opening of Hebrew University in 1925, Kadoorie proposed several other projects. Among them was a "garden city" to be financed by Far Eastern Jews most of whom, like the Kadoories, were of Iraqi extraction. The city would be built north of Haifa, on the present site of Kiryat Motzkin. Planned by a Viennese Jewish architect then living in Shanghai, it would have palatial public institutions.

The Zionist leadership, up to its neck in the day-to-day concerns of acquiring land, establishing agricultural settlements and dealing with Arab opposition, was not enthusiastic about this grandiose vision. According to Shaked, the break came when Weizmann

said the money for the project would have to be provided up front before work got under way. Deeply insulted, according to this account, Kadoorie broke off contacts with the Zionist movement.

'Thenceforth,' Shaked wrote, 'Eli Kadoorie focused on establishing educational and welfare institutions for the Chinese and on helping Jewish communities elsewhere in the world.' An Ashkenazi-Sephardi spin was suggested to Shaked by Ya'acov Alkoub, an American Jew who was close to the Kadoories in Shanghai.

'Eli told me about his conversations with Weizmann about Garden City in a bitter tone,' Alkoub recalled. "He said: 'Look, I'm richer than the Rothschilds, yet they do in Eretz Israel whatever they please. Only on me are there strictures.'"

Iraqi Jews first came to China with the British East India Company after the first Opium War, about 150 years ago. Demonstrating a gift for languages and business, they prospered.

The Kadoories arrived in the 1880s and established themselves in Shanghai, then a small town. Profits derived from trading in tea, porcelain and the like were eventually multiplied by their purchase of large tracts of barren land on which China's most dynamic city would grow.

With the arrival of Jewish refugees from Europe at the onset of World War II, the Kadoories and other prominent Iraqi families in Shanghai were instrumental in providing housing and sustenance for close to 30,000 of their Ashkenazi brethren.

Eli Kadoorie died during the war. The family enterprises were reestablished in Hong Kong by his two sons, Horace and Lawrence after their holdings in China had been nationalized by the mainland's Communist regime.

The Kadoories were leading figures in Hong Kong's post-war emergence as an economic power, and they built housing for some 300,000 Chinese refugees who had fled to the colony after the communist takeover. As British subjects, Horace was awarded an OBE for his contribution to the crown colony's development, and Lawrence became a lord.

The severance of Kadoorie-Israel relations was not total. After the establishment of the state, Horace traveled to Israel to discuss the possibility of transferring his fabulous collection of Chinese art to Jerusalem, but that plan never worked out.

Lawrence visited after the Six Day War to attend a conference of Jewish millionaires organized by then-finance minister Pinhas Sapir to raise investments, but this visit too left no echo.

According to Shaked, the brothers maintained close contacts with China over the years, despite the loss of their pre-war possessions there. When China began negotiating with Britain for the transfer of the colony to Chinese rule in 1997, Lawrence expressed support for China's position, says the author.

Horace, who remained a bachelor, died in 1995. Lawrence died in 1993 at age 94, and his interests in the family enterprises were taken over by his son Michael.

These enterprises reportedly include power plants — among them a nuclear plant built in China — shipping lines, luxury hotels and extensive real-estate holdings.

In his visit with Michael, Shohat presented him with photographs of letters sent by his grandfather from Hong Kong in 1913 to Chaim Weizmann. The letters were found in the Zionist Archives. The minister also presented him with an aerial photo of the Kadoorie School.

■ submitted by Robert L. Meyer

*Please join The UJC In Honoring
Rabbi Howard and Barbara Kosovske*

Friday, June 21, 1996

at

Shabbat Service , 7:00 P.M.

Pre-Service Oneg from 6:30 P.M.

Auditorium at Robinson Place

followed by

Shabbat Dinner

Jewish Community Center

please book for dinner with office by June 19 (tel. 2523-2085, fax 2523-3961)

Note: this evening replaces the Farewell Dinner planned for June 6



**Sarah
Abrams**

With pride, with delight and mostly with love,
we invite you to worship with us
when our daughter Sarah Choi Abrams
becomes a Bat Mitzvah
on Friday, June 28, 1996
at seven o'clock in the evening

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong
70 Robinson Road
Auditorium of the Jewish Community Center

Dinner following the service

Robin and Michael Abrams

Please RSVP for dinner with office by June 26 (tel. 2523-2985)

Karen Burgman returns with inspiring stories from Jerusalem meeting

UJC delegate to Hadassah Congress seeks support for HK chapter

Jerusalem — A Light unto the Nations

BY KAREN BURGMAN

Shalom! I just returned from Israel two weeks ago after attending Hadassah International Tenth Annual Congress and I'm still dreaming about my journey. What an inspirational and life-changing trip! The sounds, the sights, the colors, the beauty of Jewish culture and the people. I was so moved by individual stories, people's passions, their hopes, strengths and optimism for peace in Israel and its future.

In Jerusalem, Congress members from over 25 countries came to share their knowledge, creating strong ties and gaining inspiration from each other's accomplishments in order to return home and move into creative action.

My experiences included meeting people from all over the world involved in Hadassah at every level, attending seminars for Young Hadassah Leaders, being interviewed on Kol Israel Radio about Hong Kong's Jewish Community, and Hadassah and 1997. I also attended symposiums led by doctors and scientists on 'Gene Therapy', 'Medicine... a Bridge to Peace', and 'Hadassah Responds to Crisis' which was a moving and powerful panel discussion about the scenes at Hadassah Trauma Unit and Emergency Room during the bomb attacks in Jerusalem. There was a reception with Ezer Weizman, President of the State of Israel, a memorial service, a visit to the grave of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a visit to Hadassah Hospital at Ein Karem and Mount Scopus, and meetings with ambassadors to Israel at a banquet. I heard many interesting, moving stories and had the opportunity to build new, long-lasting friendships.

For example, I still remember one morning when an Israeli friend asked me to join him for breakfast. As I was eating herring, olives, pita bread, humus, and salad, he shared with me an incredible story about his 14-year-old daughter who was the only survivor on one of the buses that was bombed in Tel Aviv. As it turned out, she sat down next to the terrorist who was wearing the explosive and started playing with her necklace, as she often did, twirling the *Hamah* (sacred hand) around. Within a split second the *Hamah* flew off to the back of the bus. She went in search and found it under the back seat. At that moment, the bus exploded. My friend so matter-of-factly started telling me his story, I could barely finish my breakfast, moved to tears and gripped by this extraordinary event that his daughter faced and lives with. She is a survivor with a powerful story. I believe she carries both a burden and a blessing, one that she has shared on television in the United States and Israel, to promote peace in the Middle East. And by the way, today she is riding buses again!

This is Israel — intense, alive, strong and hopeful... As I sit down to write this, my first message to you as President of Hadassah International, Hong Kong Chapter, I ask myself where to begin. I'll start from the beginning.

Patients examined by doctors seated on the backs of mules... Refuse overflowing in the streets... these were a few of the sights that 'greeted' Henrietta Szold in 1909 when the teacher, editor and rabbi's daughter toured Jerusalem. Szold, a member of the Daughters of Zion Study Group (then a popular format among women active in social causes), returned to New York determined to do everything in her power to alleviate the suffering she had witnessed.

In 1912, as leader of a small study circle of American women, Henrietta Szold established Hadassah (the Hebrew name for Queen Esther) as an organization committed to bringing modern health care to Israel. The organizers dedicated themselves 'to the health of the daughter of my people.' It is now the largest Zionist organization in the world.

From 1913, when it sent two American nurses to Eretz Israel to set up a maternity center, until the present, healing people by providing outstanding health care is exactly what Hadassah has done. Another Hadassah mandate is accomplished through Youth Aliyah.

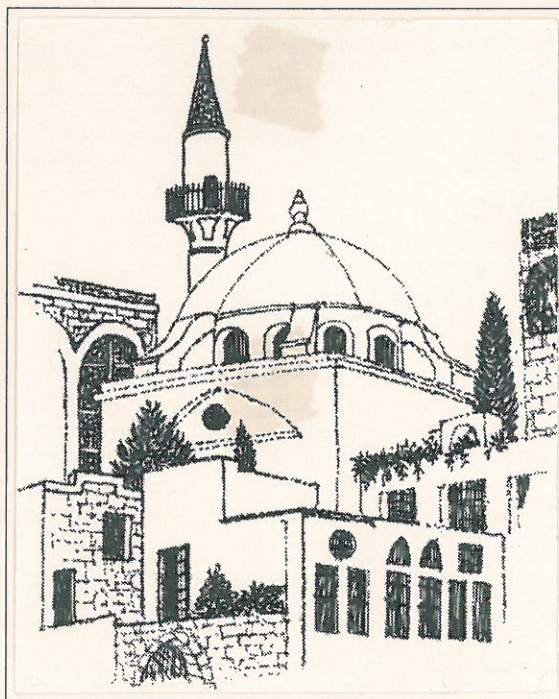
This movement, founded in 1934 to rescue German youngsters (by war's end, 4,300 had been safely spirited to Palestine), has established rehabilitation and training centers for disadvantaged youths. Henrietta Szold served as Youth Aliyah's first director in Eretz Israel, a post she held until her death.

Yet another commitment of Hadassah is to education and vocational training.

Today Hadassah Medical Organization comprises the Hadassah University Hospital at Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus, with close to 1,000 beds in total plus associated outpatient and daycare services. Over 600,000 patients from all over Israel and abroad are treated annually without distinction as to race, religion or nationality. Over the years Hadassah has treated and continues to treat patients from neighboring Arab countries, with or without signed peace treaties. Even before the signing of the Oslo Agreement with the Palestinians, the Hadassah hospitals cared for over 60 percent of patients from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip hospitalized in Israel. Hadassah has particular expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of hereditary diseases prevalent in Israel and the Middle East.

To encourage medical progress in Palestinian hospitals, Hadassah conducts training programs for selected physicians in the latest developments and techniques, thus providing them with improved, modern treatment for their patients.

(continued on page 10)



Welcome New Members & Prospective New Members*

DAN & DIANA GOLDMAN (USA)

& RACHEL, 2 1/2; KATIE, 1

(Dan: investment; Diana: teacher

prev. affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore

CHARLES SADOFF AND MARY MATYAS (USA)

Charles: producer, TNT & Cartoon network

Mary: market research analyst, Asia Market Int.

prev. affiliated with Tifereth Israel, Wash. D.C. (Conservative)

JOHN & KRISTINE LUMLEY-HOLMES (USA & UK)

John: attorney, Lovell White Durrant

Kristine: attorney, Michael Page Finance

*includes applications pending approval at next Exco meeting

Received with Thanks

The UJC wishes to acknowledge, with thanks, the generous donations received to date from members and friends for the Robyn Helzner Fundraiser.

Jeff Loeb & Maggie Beal

Mel & Paulette Bazerman

Henry Goldstein and Carol Betson

Elly Brooks

Cara and Andrew Case

Al & Sharon Fine

Alice Freund

Janet Golden

Robert & Grace Green

Ed Hoffman

Keith & Illran Jacobson

Michael & Betty Kadoorie

James & Robin Kaptzan

Daniel Kirwin

Leonard & Christel Lane

Fiona & Jeremy Leifer

Mary & Dennis Leventhal

Bernie & Ruth Miller

Stephanie Mitchell

William & Heather Mocatta

Charles S. Monat

Miron & Roda Mushkat

Dianne & Leonard Patsiner

Terry & Jeffrey Paule

Clare & Robin Ray

Richard Reitknecht

Daniel Shure

MAY THEIR NAMES AND ALL BE INSCRIBED
FOR BLESSING IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

Singapore, Tokyo Communities Open Doors to UJC Members

Congregations in Singapore and Tokyo have extended a welcome UJC members.

Both the Jewish Community of Japan and United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore send their bulletins to the UJC with current information on services and activities. Members planning a visit to either city may contact The UJC for this information. Rabbi James M. Lebeau in Tokyo writes that he 'continues to send people to you [The UJC] who are either moving to Hong Kong or coming for a visit.'

Mr. Jim Busis conducts services as leader of Singapore's Reform/Liberal community. The Congregation will hold pot-luck Shabbat dinners in June, July and August before resuming a normal schedule in September. Call Maureen Kelly at 352-2004 for information. Rabbi Lennord Thal will be returning again this year to conduct High Holiday services, together with a Cantor from the U.S.

Singapore's bulletin notes the recent departure of Dan and Diana Goldman and their daughters Rachel and Katie who have moved to Hong Kong and joined The UJC. 'The Goldmans have been active in our group over the years. The steering committee will especially miss Diana, who has served as vice-president this year. Her hard work, dedication, insights and opinion will all be missed, but not as much as here friendly smile and welcming spirit.'

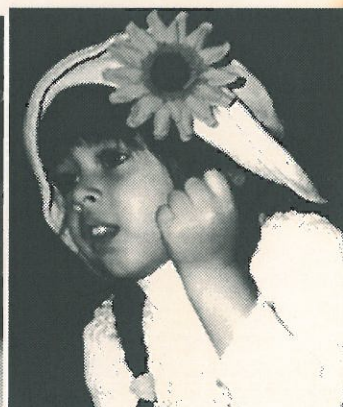
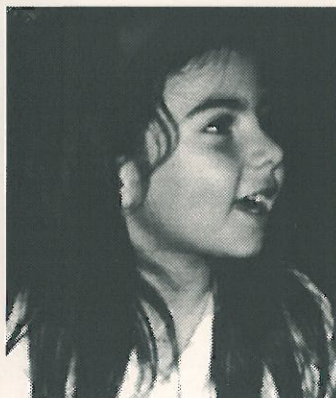
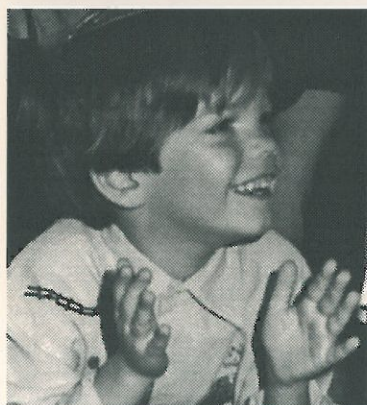
In addition to services attended by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews, the Tokyo JCC has a religious school, kosher kitchen and very active program of adult education classes and young adult activities. The JCC address is 8-8 Hiroo 3-Chome, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 150. The telephone number is 03-3400-2559; fax, 03-3400-1827. Members heading for Tokyo may call The UJC office for a map and directions.





*Help bring The UJC's
favorite performer of Jewish
music to Hong Kong for
High Holidays, 1996 and
concerts & programs in
January and May, 1997.*

*Contribute now to the
Robyn Helzner fundraiser!*



FAX REPLY

2523-3961

I/we wish to purchase ___ notes at \$360.00 per note

I/we wish to purchase ___ songs at \$720.00 per song

I/we wish to purchase ___ medleys at \$5,000.00 each

Name _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Please mail your check to The UJC, GPO Box 5259, Hong Kong. To obtain a U.S. charitable itemized deduction, please make your donation on a U.S. dollar check payable to The World Union of Progressive Judaism.

News from the Thadou Kukis

The UJC has been exchanging newsletters and maintaining correspondence since last fall with the leader of a Jewish congregation in Manipur, a district in the remote, northeastern part of India where the people speak the Thadou Kuki dialect. The members describe themselves as 'lost brethren of the Menashe Tribe of Manipur'.

Dear Mr. Robert,

Please excuse me for replying to your kind letter only today. I'm always late. I'm enclosing two copies of *Quol Ha-Shofar*, latest publication, for you to read at least those lines written in English . . .

Since Hongkong will be under the control of China very soon, aren't you thinking of migrating to Israel? Will it be not better to live with our own Jewish people and as you are just 400 it won't be a big problem. We the Menashe Tribe in Manipur practicing Judaism are about 1,000 and 50 youngsters and 14 young families have gone to Israel and they are very happy there. We are all just waiting for the opportunity to go to Israel.

Rabbi Eliyahu Avichail with Mr. Michael Gross and Mr. Michael Menashe (Our own boy who migrated to Israel) visited us on 15th March 1966 and the Shabbat we observed together was a memorable indeed. Rabbi Avichail is arranging for us to get Giur [conversion] in India.

Thank you very much for your nice Shofar (Jan/Feb 96). It is very interesting to read and know something about our Jewish people around the world. Please keep on sending me copy as and when it is published.

With best wishes and love. Shalom. Sincerely Yours, T. Hangshing

Former resident writes from Israel

It is learned from our friends back in Imphal that a plot of land has been purchased at Imphal for the construction of Beth Kneseth (Synagogue). May Hashem be gracious and help us materialize our dream of having a separate and dedicated place for worshipping Him by His chosen children.

For your personal information it may kindly be noted that after conversion my name has been changed to Gamliel Gangte and this has become my recognized name in Israel. We have remarried in the month of November last and our Honeymoon is also over now. J K Gangte

Australians Donate Books

The Shevet Menashe of Manipur in North Eastern India received 18 boxes containing 426 books and other materials on Jewish themes, generously donated by the Australian Jewish friends.

A library, the first of its kind, has been opened at Imphal, Manipur and individuals of our Jewish communities have started to make good use of it. Anybody can guess as to what extent the Menashe lost Tribe will be benefited and educated by the reading of these Jewish books. It is a pity that they have been practising Judaism for the last two decades without any sort of Jewish literature. They will now have the opportunity to know more about Judaism, Eretz Yisrael, Jewish life and their fellow Jewish people elsewhere.

Manipuris Clarify Name

The Standing Committee of Shevet Menashe, Manipur, in its first meeting held on the 18th February 1996 at Imphal, after thorough discussion, has decided that the most appropriate nomenclature applicable to the Menashe Tribe of Northeast India and Myanmar should be 'Menashe' and not 'Shinlung.' The reasons are as follows:

According to the version of our forefathers, we came out of a cave somewhere in China and we are descendants of Manmashi (Menashe). So we are known as Cavemen. The equivalent word for Cavemen in Mizo and Hmar dialects is 'Shinlung' whereas it is 'Khul' in the dialects of Chin, Gangte, Paite, Simte, Thadou, Vaiphei and Zou of the Menashe Tribe. If we are to be known as 'Cavemen', two nomenclatures viz. 'Shinlung' and 'Khul' will have to be used, which is not at all desirable for obvious reasons. The use of either one will lead to the exclusion of the other group and so, not desirable. Hence the nomenclature 'Menashe' should be used in place of 'Shinlung.'

Hadassah Comes to Hong Kong

(continued from page 7)

Among Hadassah's international outreach programs are a jointly-established hospital in Zaire with the United States Agency for International Development, ophthalmological services in 11 African countries in cooperation with the Israel Foreign Ministry, and an international program for Masters in Public Health. Since the establishment of this course in 1970, more than 400 health-care professionals from over 50 countries have returned to their countries with M.P.H. degrees.

Hadassah has also attained international renown in the field of bone marrow, attracting patients from all over the world. The B.M.T (bone marrow treatment) Center has also played a key part in establishing transplantation facilities in the Far East and South America and training local physicians in this specialty.

The latest projects include an ultra-modern Mother and Child Center designed to create a welcoming and warm environment, reducing the trauma of hospitalization for children, a medical technology park (the first applied medical research center in Israel), a 40-room hotel on the Ein Kerem campus for families of patients, and a hostel for children with cancer.

This was an historic time to visit Israel, the 3,000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem and an opportunity to express solidarity for Israel at a critical period in its history. As I mentioned, over 25 countries were represented at the Congress. Hadassah International is truly a global family, and now Hong Kong is part of the family.

My hope and vision is that here in Hong Kong we will be able to make a contribution to the Hadassah family, exploring local projects and those on a greater scale. Hadassah believes we can bridge peace through healing, teaching, research — and I believe this is one more step toward peace, progress, and innovation in health care in Israel, while at the same time sharing its knowledge and experience for the benefit of humankind.

Hadassah International is open to men and women, and I know there is much creative talent, passion and energy out there in the Jewish Community.

If you would like to know more or help be a part of the birth of this new chapter, please contact me. A time and date will be arranged in the very near future.

I look forward to hearing from you. Call me at 2335-9981, fax 2358-0407.

Shalom,

Karen

Mazel Tov!

Robin and Michael Abrams, whose daughter, Sarah, will celebrate becoming Bat Mitzvah on June 28

Stephanie Mitchell and Johannes Gobel, on their upcoming marriage in Ithaca, New York on June 5

Aline Delpierre and Gary Silberg, who will be married in Aix-en-Provence, France, on July 7

Tamar Shay and Henri Tannas on their engagement

Tamsin Morris and Glen Joss on their forthcoming marriage

Jonathan Feiger on his election to the JCC General Committee

Sean Debeau on his election to the JCC General Committee

Art Belfer on his election to the JCC General Committee as Treasurer

Thanks!

Barbara Kosovske for helping with mailings

Ken Bell for sponsoring flowers for Shabbat

Sean and Jennifer Debeau for sponsoring flowers for Shabbat

Al & Sharon Fine for sponsoring flowers for Shabbat

Terry and Jeffrey Paule for sponsoring flowers for Shabbat

Bob and Grace Green for sponsoring flowers for Shabbat

Charles Monat for playing guitar and leading singing at Shabbat services and 'Shabbat at Sea'

Terry Paule for helping organize 'Shabbat at Sea'

Hillary Tinner for leading the childrens activities on 'Shabbat at Sea'

Mel Bazerman for leading Shabbat services in Rabbi Kosovske's absence

Robert L. Meyer for leading Shabbat service in Rabbi Kosovske's absence

Ben Frankel for helping with mailings

Charles Monat and Robert Meyer for the use of their conference rooms for meetings, classes, etc.

Robert Meyer for hosting visiting Rabbis Marc Gruber and Janise Poticha

Janet Golden, Dan Kirwin, Jonathan Feiger for helping update the membership directory.

Cara Case, Daniel Kirwin and the Fundraising Committee for their work on the Robyn Helzner Fundraiser

Ben Frankel and the Search Committee for all their hard work

Sonia Park, for her donation of a picture

Farewell

Jacqueline, David and Doran Blinderman

Barry & Marlene Gold

Tamar Shay and Henri Tannas (heading for Boston)

Welcome Back

Gideon & Natalie Shep (from Malaysia)

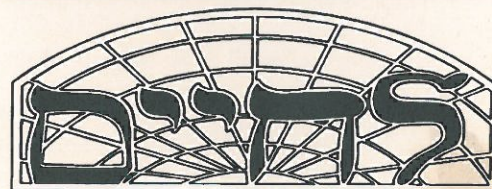
Condolences to

Ed Hoffman, on the death of his grandfather,
Murray Kempner

The memory of the righteous is a blessing

UJC Funds

There are many wonderful ways to honor, thank, and/or memorialize friends and loved ones in our tradition. One special way is to make a donation to one of the UJC Funds. There are the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund which is used by the Rabbi to subvent program expenses and help those who may need financial support to participate in a program; the Services Fund to help defray the expenses of renting function rooms for Shabbat and Holiday services; the Prayerbook Bookplate Fund which enables you to dedicate a prayerbook to a special person or event; the Rabbi's Fund and The UJC General Fund. Each of these funds have specific purposes which in the main help our Congregation with its expenses. Please consider a donation to a UJC Fund as a beautiful tribute to someone or something special.



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

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Vice-chairmen. Mark Michelson, Albert Fine
Treasurer. Jeff Halpern
Secretary. Elane Fine
Robert Meyer Legal, Liaison
Neal Horowitz Ritual, Liaison
Charles Monat Community Affairs
Janet Golden Social/Planning
Ben Frankel Liaison, Programming
Terry Paule Membership/Youth
Cara Case Fundraising, Outreach
Jonathan Feiger Education, Administration
Daniel Kirwin. Fundraising, Administration
Melvin Satok Ritual
Honorary: Carol Betson, Peter Kaminsky

The Shofar is published bi-monthly by The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong. Requests for copies and notification of address changes should be addressed to The UJC office.

Members urged to donate flowers for services UJC Submits Plans to Enhance, Beautify Ark and Auditorium

Executive Committee member Mel Satok has submitted plans to Trust Administrator David Lees that, if approved, will enable The UJC to conveniently store an ark in the Auditorium at Robinson Place used as the UJC's sanctuary.

At the same time, plans are underway to modify and improve the chest used for the last three years as The UJC's ark to better accommodate the Congregation's Torahs and religious articles. Committee members Robert L. Meyer and Bob Green are supervising this effort. Hopefully, the modifications will be complete in advance of the High Holidays.

The objective is to give the place of worship a warm and welcoming feel which some congregants feel is now lacking, despite the beauty of the room. Members have responded enthusiastically to Linda Aurora's suggestion to have flowers on the altar or table at Shabbat services. In response to an appeal by Rabbi Kosovske and Committee members, several congregants have agreed to donate flowers in recent weeks.

Mr. Satok is also lending his talents to the search for an altar table that can be used for reading the Torah. His plan for built-in, multifunctional cabinets at the rear of the auditorium will not only allow The UJC to conveniently store the Ark when the Auditorium is used for other purposes, but will also provide space for various equipment that may be required for non-UJC activities or functions.

Members are urged to submit their suggestions for improvements to the Rabbi and Executive Committee members.



UJC Set to Record Yahrzeit's for Members

To ensure that the *yahrzeits* of loved ones will be noted when *Kaddish* is recited at Shabbat services, members are urged to fill in the form below. This will enable The UJC to enter the information into a newly-purchased database program. Commemoration of the anniversary of a death (*yahrzeit*) is a ritual which began in talmudic times to help meet the crisis of bereavement.

Mail (GPO 5259) or Fax (2523-3961) to The UJC

name of the deceased (Hebrew name is optional)

male or female

date of death

(If known) did death occur before or after sunset? (If after, Yahrzeit is customarily observed the next day)

Who will be observing the Yahrzeit?

Preference for observance date (common or Hebrew date)

Do you want to be notified of upcoming yahrzeit?

Name

Address

Tel

Fax

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong
GPO Box 5259, Hong Kong