

# NEWSLETTER

## SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

November, 1983

### A Note from the Rabbi

So far in 1983, only 936 Jews emigrated from the U.S.S.R. while 300,000 Soviet Jews who have begun the emigration process continue to wait in limbo. During the past ten years, 260,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union; but now the outpouring has come to a virtual halt.

In addition, to bringing emigration to a halt, the Soviets have made every step of the visa application process more frustrating and difficult. There are 20,000 Soviet Jews, known as refuseniks, who have been denied permission to emigrate. Some refuseniks have been waiting five or ten years to emigrate.

While the Soviet Union makes it difficult to leave, it also engages in a methodical effort to sever Soviet Jewry from its cultural heritage. Soviet Jews are not permitted to learn anything connected with their history, language or culture despite the fact that the Soviet Union has signed international laws guaranteeing all citizens these freedoms.

In the face of these harsh facts Soviet Jews have managed to set up a network of unofficial classes, seminars and cultural groups. They have defied the authorities and gathered to celebrate Jewish holidays and sing Hebrew songs. Soviet Jewish cultural activists have brought about an astonishing renaissance of Jewish culture and religious observance in the U.S.S.R. But Soviet threats and the increase in arrests continue to arouse fear in Jewish activists, putting a clamp on much of their activity.

Soviet Jewry needs our help. I encourage you to write to your congressmen and ask them to take political action to remedy the current situation.

The Honorable (Your Senator)  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Your Representative)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The next meeting of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will be held on Monday, November 14, 1983 beginning at 8:00 PM with the board meeting held in the sanctuary and starting at 7:15 PM. We are very proud to have as our speakers for the evening one of our own, Gloria Gary, and her husband, AL. The Garys, both extensive travelers, will present slides and a discussion of Japan as seen through their eyes. They have been to Japan often and will delight you with their information and photos.

Hostesses for the evening will be Elden Benowitz, Randy Bloom, Alice Mervish and Shyrle Kushner.

### CORRECTION

In our last newsletter a contribution made by Lily and Jack Schleider was incorrectly listed; the contribution to the religious fund was made in memory of Nissim and Sultana Crespi.

We're all delighted to hear that both Nathan Smulian and Shelly Gale are making very speedy recoveries.

## IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

Cookies are needed for our annual Chanukah gift project to the young adults at Johnstone. Please do phone Ida Reichlin at 499-0954 and let her know if you are willing to donate cookies and coffee cans for this very worthy cause. Due to the early date of Chanukah, Ida asks that all cookies and cans be available at our November meeting.

Renee Harrison will have much Chanukah paraphrenalia for your choosing at our next meeting. Books, draydels, gelt and wrapping paper will be displayed for your picking. If you have something special in mind do speak to Renee at 298-3173.

Jewish Family Service announces the Henry Sass Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be available to qualified Jewish students from the Delaware Valley area who plan to be or are currently enrolled as full time undergraduate degree students, majoring in nursing, accounting or related fields at accredited colleges or universities in the U.S.A. For further information, please call:

Byron L. Pinsky MSW, ACSW  
Executive Director  
(609) 882-9317 or (215) 493-8224

The first meeting and lecture in the 1983-84 series being sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Trenton will be held on Nov. 3. A short business meeting will be held at 7:30 PM. At 8 PM Jay H. Greenblatt a Vineland attorney, will discuss, "Rediscovering the Lost Jewish Villages of South Jersey" and will deal with a number of small agricultural villages that thrived at the turn of the century before gradually disappearing.

Greenblatt is part of a group that sponsored a reunion of former residents of these villages, along with their descendants. More than 1,000 participated in the reunion. The lecture will be held at the Jewish Community Center's Kramer Lounge and is open to the public.

## PLEDGES AND DONATIONS

Susan and Jules Nissim	
Jeff and Rhea Goldman	Religious Fund Building Fund
Albert and Ida Reichlin	Religious Fund (for shrubbery)
Mr. & Mrs. Grodzin	in honor of the naming of the Zimmitt sisters (grand-daughters of Trudie and Jerry Urken)
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fuccello	in memory of Milton Sender
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Tashlik	in memory of Milton Sender

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00PM; please come and join Jay and Mr. Rosenberg as they lead the congregation for services. You are cordially invited to join in the celebration of the Masciantoni double bar mitzvah as Scott and Jason come to the bema to recite their haftorahs on Friday, November 11, 1983, for their Oneg Shabbat and Saturday morning, November 12th at 9:15 AM. The rabbi will be leading the services for this very joyous occasion.

Candy Singer