

NEWSLETTER

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

December, 1983

A Message from the Rabbi

One of the first acts of the newly created Israeli Knesset in 1948 was the passage of the dramatic Law of Return which granted to every Jew the unrestricted right to enter Israel and receive automatic citizenship. Jews came from Africa, India, from the Americas, and above all, the survivors of the Holocaust-from wartorn Europe; the Law of Return enabled all to come to Israel as a right.

The religious coalition in Menachim Begin's government urged the passing of a change in the Law of Return. It now reads that a Jew is either a) one born of a Jewish mother or b) one who converts to Judaism. The change that they would like to make is to add to letter b "one who converts according to Jewish law". What they mean is a conversion by an Orthodox rabbi. In deciding whether a conversion performed in the Diaspora is or is not authentic- basing their opinion not on how the conversion was performed, but on who performed it-the Israeli Orthodox Rabbinate would arrogate themselves authority over the religious lives of Jews throughout the world.

Once again the religious coalition has called on Prime Minister Yitzchak Shamir to allow them to introduce legislation to change the Law of Return.

It is contrary to the interests and welfare of world Jewry. It would do violence to the principle of Jewish unity and jeopardize Jewish solidarity.

I am convinced a majority of Knesset members are against a change in the Law of Return. They realize that the Knesset should not attempt to legislate religious homogeneity. Religious differences are not to be resolved by majority vote or coalition politics. The issue of 'Who is a Jew' can only be resolved by good will among the religious movements involved not by railroading unwanted legislation through the Knesset. Let us hope that the Knesset stands firm in its commitment to uphold the Law of Return.

The next meeting of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will be held on Monday, December 12th, 1983 beginning at 8:00 PM with the board meeting beginning at 7:15 PM in the sanctuary. We've got a double feature! Mr. Bill Freund, noted area thespian, will present a surprise skit as part of our evening program. Also on our meeting slate for entertainment is Ms. Karen Trackman, fresh from a trip in Europe and full of excitement and tales to tell, 'A Young Person's Point of View of Europe'.

Bring your appetites as our hostesses for the evening will be Marsha Dowshen, Leah Smulian and Marge Moscovitz.

A very special get well wish is extended to Rita Nissim-your absence is noted and your presence is very much missed.

TODAY!! THANK YOU!!

A thank you to all who baked cookies for the fourteen Johnstone young people as part of their Chanukah treats. Thanks to Randye

Bloom, Charyl Morganstin, Ruth Prins, Ida Reichlin and Candy Singer. A very special thank you to Ida who decorated the cans just beautifully and made certain each person received cookies, gelt and chocolate.

We gratefully acknowledge a contribution made to the Temple Memorial Fund by Mildred Leary in memory of Jennie Rudenstein.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

As her donor project for this year, Charyl Morganstin will gladly bake you a cake or brownies, you name it. Please contact her at 298-2891.

There is a Ways and Means project in the works and here's the information.
Deli Party

Date: January 15, 1984

Time: 6:00 PM

All sorts of Delectable Deli Delights will be served for only \$9.50 per person. And, a stimulating auction will be held after. We do need to know by December 15th how many people will be attending. So please plan to sign up at the December sisterhood meeting-or call Randye Bloom, Rhea Goldman, Joanne Lutz, Phoebe Nissim or Elaine Zeitz.

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 PM and led by Jay Trackman and Mr. Rosenberg. Please join us .
The rabbi will be leading services on Friday, December 2nd beginning at 8:00 PM and again on Saturday morning, December 3rd beginning at 9:15 AM.
The Singer family cordially invites all members of the sisterhood and congregation to join in their celebration of the birth of their daughter, Zara Beth, at the Oneg Shabbat following services on Friday evening.

Candy Singer