



Staff Photo By: [unreadable]

AT UJA LUNCHEON—Prominent at the United Jewish Appeal luncheon at the Jewish Community Center, Wednesday. From left to right, Mrs. David Berent, Mrs. Arthur Blatt, Mrs. Manuel Plavin, head of the Women's Division; Mrs. Jacob Kesselman, speaker; Mrs. Joseph Wilner, Mrs. Norman L. Zdanowitz and Mrs. Myer Greene.

"In 17 years, the United Jewish Appeal has rescued or aided more than 2,250,000 distressed and oppressed persons—despite threats from the Nazis, the Communists and the Arabs," declared Mrs. Jacob Kesselman as she addressed a gathering of women at the Jewish Community Center, Wednesday afternoon. "The sum and substance of that work has been and remains: To save lives, to build lives and to aid those who aid democracy."

The occasion was a luncheon which climaxed the program carried out by the Women's Division in the United Jewish Appeal campaign in Lewiston-Auburn. Mrs. Manuel Plavin, general chairman of the division, welcomed the group and introduced the speaker.

Mrs. Kesselman could speak of the situation in Israel with authority, since she has visited there frequently.

Tens of thousands of Jews in tension-ridden North Africa plead for the chance to exchange misery for dignity and despair for opportunity, she said. In other words, they want to go to Israel.

But in democratic Israel a million and a half men, women and children face a supreme threat to their very existence—Communist

arms are flowing into a hostile Egypt—jet bombers, MIG fighters, tanks and submarines, and everywhere people are wondering if they will shortly be turned against Israel.

The people of Israel have nothing to match these arms, said Mrs. Kesselman. Their chief resources are their own courage and the hope that those who value freedom will not let them down.

This year the work of the United Jewish Appeal is particularly urgent, since the funds will be used to continue comprehensive programs of human restoration in Israel, Moslem lands, Europe and New York. Mrs. Kesselman pointed out that in Israel alone this calls for agricultural aid to 180,000 immigrants, building of 40 new settlements, irrigation of 30,000 more acres, provision for child care and care of the aged.

The speaker made a stirring plea in behalf of the people of Israel who, in a time of crisis, are giving with courage of their greatest treasure—freedom.

The only other feature of the afternoon was a vocal duet by Naomi Alperen and James Cohen, with Mrs. Arthur Blatt as accompanist. Mrs. David Berent gave the invocation and Mrs. Norman L. Zdanowitz the benediction.