

HEBREW SCHOOL REPORT

by the Grabers

Last month, the students of the Community Hebrew School were busy preparing and celebrating the joyous Holiday of Purim.



Grades 2-3, pictured here, dressed up in costumes and enjoyed a Purim Party. The highlight of the event was a Grogger Contest. The children displayed their ingenuity in creating noisemakers with their very own designs.

Our costume winners were: Peter Segal and David Tabenken who both came as Haman.

J.Y.O. JOTTER

A very successful ski trip to Sugarloaf took place the weekend of March 11th. The chaperones were Lou and Janet Komreich, and Tama Jacobson, a Junior at the University of Maine.

J.Y.O. has been actively engaged in the sale of bagels and onion rolls, and we would like to apologize for the mix-up of the delivery date. The club made approximately \$80.00. Lori Israel was our star sales person selling about 30 dozen.

Once again, the J.Y.O. are selling Bartons Almond Kisses and TV Munch for Passover. Any J.Y.O. teen may be contacted for your order.

Our teens will be participating in the Cancer Drive during the month of April.

Hilary Cooper

THE EVER POPULAR SENIOR CITIZENS FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The popular Senior Citizens Friendship Club has continued to hold winter meetings come rain, snow, sleet or hail. And, their February meeting featured Dr. Aaron Greenwald, a local dentist who gave an informational talk.

The March meeting was enjoyed with the showing of two films - and since it was Purim, the very luscious Hamantashen was served, as only those on the refreshment committee could bake.

The club is looking forward to the Beano for the April meeting with prizes donated by the members.

WARM RECOLLECTIONS OF ERETZ YISROEL

by Gail Plesset

Hanukkah lights at the Kotel (Wall), Shabbos in Jerusalem, climbing Massada at sunrise are memories now. But these warm recollections which stem from my trip to Eretz Yisroel in December, 1976, will be cherished forever.

Selected as the University of Maine representative to the UJA Student Winter Mission, I discovered Israel with 125 of my peers from the United States and Canada. Being with these students was a learning experience itself, and I gained more insight about this country and American Jewry.

We students were there for the same purpose and with the same feelings. In ten days a powerful emotional bond formed amongst us as well as with Israel.

For ten days we toured Israel, seeing sites other tourists cannot. We were based five days in Jerusalem, three days in Tel Aviv and one day in Safed. It was winter there and we had been informed the weather would be cold and rainy. Luck was with us because it was sunny and mild everyday except one.

The reason for this Mission was to provide us with first-hand knowledge about Israel as an ancient holy land as well as a modern day miracle in desperate need of our continuous aid. We returned to our schools to conduct Student UJA campus campaigns.

Ten days was too short a time to spend in the Jewish state. Though I saw much of the land, from the Gaza Strip to the Golan Heights, it only served to deepen my desire to return for a longer stay.

Our pace was constant and sometimes hectic. Wake up everyday was at 6:30 a.m. and we were on the go, often until 10:30 p.m. Although tours and activities

were planned, we were always running behind schedule, actually, we ran on J.S.T. - Jewish Standard Time.

Jerusalem is my favorite city, I feel I left a part of myself there. Nowhere embodies the Jewish spirit more than Jerusalem. And nowhere can you spend a Shabbos as you can here. Businesses and shops close hours before sunset on Friday. Even Egged, the national bus company, stops running busses until Saturday night. Thousands of people flock to the Wall, including students from the many Yeshivas who parade in and out. Shabbos or not, there are always guards perched everywhere as well as searchers at the entrances. They serve as a constant reminder of Israel's struggle to survive.

As a UJA group, we saw strategic areas with military guides including the Darya Bridge, where Jordanians cross into Israel to do business. At the Gaza Strip we viewed the controversial refugee camps, those the Arab refugees built without electricity or running water, as well as the new ones Israel built which were denounced by the UN.

I was overwhelmed at the Golan Heights. The road to the top is a narrow winding one, which left me with the deepest respect for our bus driver who maneuvered our bus up. Israel's capture of the Golan has to be considered a brilliant military achievement and a modern miracle. There are new kibbutzim and lonely military outposts on top.

Other sites we visited included an absorption center for new immigrants, the Good Fence on the Lebanese border, Malben, Yad Vashem, the moving memorial to the Holocaust victims, Haifa University and the JNF Forest.

The survival of Jewry depends on the survival of Israel; therefore, we must continue to realize our commitment to Israel. "This Year in Jerusalem." SHALOM.

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST DAY MEMORIAL PROGRAM THURSDAY, APRIL 14th 7:00 P.M. AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL (Vestry)

On the Holocaust Memorial Day, we recall and identify with the tragedy of our people. We relate to events of Jewish fate and human behavior which, in most cases, are far beyond our own personal experience and understanding.

Please join us for this special program-memorial service, prayers. We will also be presenting a special film entitled "Night & Fog" - a very

shocking, profound and moving film made to protest and awaken mankind to the inhumanities of man. This film is geared toward a mature audience. We strongly recommend that you bring your older children along (6th grade and up).

YOM HA'ATZMAUT - ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

This year, we will be celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut with a late Friday evening service on April 22, 1977 - 8:00 P.M.

Please join us as we commemorate and rejoice on the 29th Anniversary of Israel's independence.

Refreshments following services.

A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN BANGOR

(Continued from last month. Excerpts from sources submitted by Diane Cutler and Henry Segal)

By 1890, an organized group of about twenty men laid the spiritual foundation for what today has evolved into the Congregation Beth Israel. In 1888, meetings had begun in the home of J. Bernstein and Max Goldman was elected the first president. In its conception, it had no formal name nor physical plant but in 1897, a number of men met where the Park Street Theater building now stands, and planned the erection of a Synagogue. A mortgage was signed by L. Goldberg, S. Kominsky, and H. Cohen. A parcel of land was purchased on Center Street, at almost the identical site the present Chapel is situated and a Synagogue was erected there.

Continued on page 4

REALLY? HERE IN BANGOR? WHEN?



Edna Hibel's "La Contessa Isabella" collector's plate to be auctioned May 7, 1977 at B'nai B'rith Art Auction, Holiday Inn, Main St., Bangor.

Yes, right here in Bangor, the Pine Tree Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women will sponsor an unique Art Auction and Dinner on Saturday evening, May 7th.

A collection of some 150 works by well known artists will include oil paintings of every size and price, wall and table sculptures, frescoes, batiks, tapestries and signed graphics will be auctioned by the highly reputable J. Richards Gallery of Englewood, New Jersey.

To complement the excellent works of art a delicious dinner will be served at 9:00 P.M. with a viewing preceding dinner.

This delightful evening that includes outstanding works of art, dinner and the chance to win a signed lithograph will only cost \$18.00 per couple. All proceeds will benefit the community service projects of B'nai B'rith Women.

Reservations and tickets will be available after April 11th.

Please mark your calendar and join us.

Bangor
from page 3

Among the first of Beth Israel's founding fathers was Eziel Lemke who arrived in Bangor in 1882. With increasing numbers, Jewish life began to take on a communal aspect with Lemke Allen and Joe Bernstein playing leading roles as the observant Jews banded together for worship.

Shortly after the organization of Beth Israel, the City of Bangor allocated burial ground to the Sons of Benjamin, a fraternal insurance

association. This replaced, in general, the use of the Ahawas Achim cemetery. Several years later, the Sons of Benjamin gave the cemetery grounds to the Beth Israel Congregation. In 1904, the City of Bangor assigned the Beth Abraham Congregation a parcel of land in the public grounds of Mt. Hope Cemetery. It is here, within the Mt. Hope Cemetery that these combined grounds have served as the Jewish cemetery for most of the Jewish community of Bangor.

The first professional Rabbi was

employed in 1906, Beth Israel's Rabbi Seltzer replaced the lay preachers of the day and also assumed the responsibility of teaching the children Hebrew, a task up until this time performed by the more educated Jews of the community. Around 1908, Rabbi Seltzer left the community for Palestine and a year later, Rabbi Klarchko entered the scene. He remained for two years after which the community survived with the assistance of supplied Cantors, until 1912 when a full time Rabbi was again employed in the person of Rabbi Shoket.

* Cindy Broder, daughter of Charlotte and Irving Broder, and Dr. Howard James Fingert, son of Rosella and Samuel Fingert, Flossmoor, Illinois, on the occasion of their marriage.

SPECIAL MENTION

* Randi Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Miller, on her acceptance at Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven, Conn.

* Andy Chaet, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chaet has been accepted to Quinnipiac College, Hamden, Connecticut.

* Dorothy Kirwan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kirwan on her acceptance at Touro College in New York.

* Marcia Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith has been accepted at Brandeis University.

CONDOLENCES

* To Mrs. Irwin Pasternak, and Sanford Pasternak on the passing of their mother.

* To Dr. Melvin Brown, Bangor, and Dr. Edwin Brown, New York on the passing of their father, Leo Brown.

* To Mrs. Harold Epstein (Ruth) on the passing of her sister, Dora Cohen, Newton, Massachusetts.

* To the family of the late Mrs. Bernard (Sophie S.) Hillson.

* To the family of the late Charles Ginsber, North Miami, Florida, formerly of Bangor.

**YOUTH ALIYAH
THE INSIDE STORY**

IF ISRAEL HAS TAUGHT THE WORLD ONE UNQUESTIONED TRUTH, IT IS THIS: to understand a troubled human being, to reach the heart, open the mind, create a sense of home, one must continually "get in close".

THAT'S WHAT YOUTH ALIYAH, the movement which has successfully resettled, rehabilitated and redeemed over 150,00 children from 80 lands, in Israel, has been doing since 1934. Today, over 13,500 boys and girls, all burdened by stress from social, educational, emotional, even political alienation, are being reached in 270 kibbutzim, youth villages, day centers and other installations.

YOUTH ALIYAH, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...WHEN YOUTH ALIYAH WAS started by Recha Freier in Germany - as Hitler and the Nazis began their insane persecution - every Jewish child they brought to what was then Palestine, was known, and welcomed, by name. The movement was directed by Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, until her death in 1945. She and those who worked with her met every boat, greeted, touched spoke to every child. This one-to-one acceptance keeps Youth Aliyah unique.

Please help by sending in your contribution to Harriet Glass, Rosalie Shapiro or me.

Mildred Kominsky
Youth Aliyah Chairman

During this era, a charitable organization known as the GEMILATH CHESED played a sizeable role. It was founded in 1899 by an early settler, Mrs. Hannah Frank. The original fund was derived from the balance of a savings account left by her deceased son and later supplemented by membership fees. Its sole purpose was to loan money, with no interest charges, to struggling immigrants to purchase the necessities of life. This organization existed until very recently having served its purpose.

To Be Continued

MAZEL-TOV

* Rabbi and Mrs. David Tropper, on the birth of a daughter, Menucha Zlota.

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A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN BANGOR

Ed. Note: By popular request this article will appear in installments in the forthcoming issues of the Community News. Excerpts will be taken from sources submitted by Diane Cutler and Henry Segal.

The Jews settled in Bangor sometime during the 1840's. At this time, Bangor was enjoying closing decade of its lucrative lumber trade. The City had become known from afar for its rich opportunity in timberland investments and a thriving town existed. A City of comfortable homes, substantial

If your office has any of the above available for donation or if you would like to purchase any of the above for the Center. . .

Contact Alan Coren at 945-5631

business and active social life is pictured. It was during this period that about six Jewish families of German origin are known to have resided in Bangor. They established a clothing store, several dry goods stores and the rest earned their livelihood through peddling.

It is supposed that peddling carried most of these people here in the first place, and then they remained on.

To be continued