

Looking Backward This Past Year

"Bloops" — Some Seen; Some Caught

Before each issue goes to press, the paper must be proof-read. Our copy readers would like to share with you some "bloops" that did appear and some they corrected before going to press. They hope they will provide you with a chuckle or two just as it did for them.

If you read a recent article on "The Wall" you probably wondered about the Yeshiva students ... they "cursed" down toward me linked together hand to shoulder ... of course this was meant to read: they cursed down.... Another "bloop" in an article appeared as follows: the terrorists then continued their "rampage" on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway; the word should have been "rampage." If you read the following: classes average 20 students and "leaning" standards are high, you probably wondered what kind of education was given. Of course it should have read "learning."

In one sentence we found the following: "delinquency" (delinquency), drug abuse, and alcoholism ... denial, despair and finally, "hopelessness" (hopelessness). Still another: progress and science have "merchanized" (mechanized) poultry reproduction.

Probably our all time favorites have been: Temple Israel Sisterhood "Broad" Meet-

ing; we apologize for the following "mispellings"; "Suplicate" Bridge every Sunday night; wipe "ne" (out) confusion!

Famous headlines to be remembered: The World "Bean" (Beat), Israel May Be "Heaven" (Haven) in Art Smuggling Racket, Victims of "Member's" (Mengele's) Experiments, and World Law of the Oceans? Narrowing "Opions" (Opinions) for the U.S.? If you were confused about the continuation of the "Big Givers" story in last month's issue, we don't blame you ... the rest of the story was entitled "Afternoon of the Arts"!

We have also discovered a number of new organizations and new names which appeared in "The News." Notably among them have been: "Temple" Beth El, Charlotte "Chater" of B'nai B'rith Women, "Bobbi" Richard Rocklin, "Halalah" BBW, "B'nair" B'rith, "Ester" Naumoff, Ruth "Goldbert," Sandra "Lavine" and with deep apology to Rabbi Harold Krantzler of "Temple Beth Shalom." We beg your forgiveness, Temple Beth El!

As was written in another issue there is "onely only" (only one) thing to remember ... to err is human ... please forgive any future "mispellings."

Tu B'Shvat

Chamisha Asar Bishbat (Tu B'Shvat) occurs on the 15th day of Shevat (February 2nd). It is a little known holiday and is generally called the Jewish Arbor Day or the New Year of the trees.

When the Jews were farmers in Palestine, they planted new trees on this day and blessed the standing orchards. Fruits which ripened after this date might be offered at the Temple. We observe this holiday now by eating fruits (oranges, figs, dates, bokser, which is the dried fruit of the carob tree) and grains grown in Israel, planting trees in Israel, especially through the JNF (Jewish National Fund) and holding a special seder.

The trees have always meant a great deal to the Jewish people, not only for fruit, but for shade and beauty. In the days when the Temple stood, there was a beautiful custom of planting a tree before the house at the birth of a child; a cedar for a boy, a cypress for a girl. Sometimes boughs from these trees were used for the framework of their marriage canopy, when they grew up.

The Tu B'Shvat seder was developed in the sixteenth century in Safed by Jewish mystics and is based on the Passover seder. It was only a few years ago that a multi-media version of the seder was written and is coming to be observed again. The Hebrew Academy has been having a Tu B'Shvat seder for the past couple of years and last year it was open to the Jewish community.

— R.M.

Dry Bones



World Beat

by Marta Garelik

NEW YORK (JTA) — The first commercial travel link between Israel and Egypt was inaugurated Dec. 19 with the beginning of a series of eight-day "peace cruises" between the two countries, it was announced in a press conference here.

Amram Zur, president of the New York branch of Kopel Tours, the Israeli travel agency which organized the "peace cruises," said the ship will sail each Wednesday alternately from Eilat, the Israeli city on the Red Sea, and from Ashdod, the city on the Mediterranean. There will be intermediate stops in Alexandria, Port Said, the Port of Suez and Safaga, Zur said.

The eight-day cruise is priced from \$580 and up per person. The cruise ship will also function as a shuttle between Israel and Egyptian ports. One way transportation between Ashdod and Alexandria and Alexandria-Ashdod; and one way transportation between Eilat and Safaga and Safaga-Eilat will cost \$135 per person provided it is booked 60 days prior to sailing.

In addition to being the only regularly scheduled commercial link between the two countries, the "Melody" will be the first commercial cruise ship to travel through the Suez Canal. Zur said that the cruises make it "clear we are on the brink of a great new era in regional tourism."

Israel and Palestinian Arabs

(Post & Opinion)

There are those who ask why Israel admits Vietnamese but will not admit Palestinian Arabs. The question ignores the political component of the Middle East conflict. The Vietnamese have left or been expelled from their homeland and have nowhere else to turn; those picked up at sea probably would have died. Most Palestinians never left Palestine; they merely moved from one part of it to another (both the West Bank and Jordan were parts of the original Palestine Mandate). And the Palestinians had many other Arab states to turn to for assistance. Those Arab states sent to Israel a group of Jewish refugees somewhat larger than the number of Arab refugees who left Israel.

The Arabs put most of the Palestinians in refugee camps rather than absorb them. Some Arab countries, hungry for immigrants, have laws that facilitate the naturalization of all Arabs except Palestinians. In the camps, the refugees were bred on hatred of Israel and now many support a leadership that calls for Israel's destruction.

Israel's policy is clear. It extends a hand to refugees who do not threaten its survival.

Cambodian Refugees

One million dollars to aid the Cambodian refugees has been raised in Israel, in part, through the humanitarian efforts and inspiration of Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan. Children have donated money they earned harvesting cotton. Schools and community centers have held special events to raise money. A "Parade of Stars" held at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium, by Israel Television under the patronage of President Yitzhak Navon, raised over \$500,000 in contributions from Israeli citizens.

Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. Yehuda Blum declared at the Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea that the people of Israel, "who have known what it is to suffer and to be refugees could not remain unmoved by this human drama."

Rabbi Rocklin's Views On Women in the Rabbinate

by Estelle Hoffman

In what seems to be the nearly cresting flood tide of the movements for equal rights for women in the United States, there has surfaced the issue demanding the right of ordination of women in the Clergy and Rabbinate. Newspaper reports have dealt with requests for priesthood for women in the Episcopalian and Catholic denominations of Christianity and responses thereto by the churches.

We are hearing the same demands within Conservative Judaism. Although there are female professors and students in the Jewish Theological Seminary, they do not clamor for ordination. Rabbi Richard K. Rocklin of Temple Israel and a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary is in tune with the Seminary and the Conservative sector of Judaism. He states that there is awareness that the issue of ordination for women requires consideration, and because it does, a seminar convened on December 18 in New York City, during which Rabbis in the Conservative movement met to grapple with the question.

While some women serve as

Special Story Of Women's Division

Jewish Women — Jewish mothers — Jewish daughters and Jewish princesses — make good copy in today's world of pre-occupation with women. Everyone seems to be interested in our changing roles, our struggle to redefine ourselves or to reassert our right to "be what we are."

Women's Division is truly a conglomerate. We are a sisterhood — very different women linked together by our shared concern for our fellow Jews. This concern is expressed through our effective and timely action.

We recognize that as Jewish communal leaders we must confront this dynamic turmoil at the same time as we focus on the complexity of the task we face — to continue to help all women express their individual commitment to the survival of Jewish life. A woman's personal gift (the essence of a Woman's Division) is the highest expression of her self image. When we give ourselves — we are acting out our uniqueness, our peoplehood. It is our own expression.

Women's Division has grown from a small group of 300 women on the East coast in 1946 to a national network of over 30,000 dedicated women. Women's Division raised over 80 million dollars in 1979 in 600 campaigns across the United States.

Rabbis in Reform Jewish Synagogues, no woman has served as Rabbi in any Conservative Jewish Synagogue in the United States, and there is only one who shares a pulpit with her husband in a Reconstructionist Temple. Reconstructionism is an offshoot of Conservative Judaism. While females have performed as Cantors, they have done so without title. It is interesting to note that permission has been given by the Conservative movement to honor women with an Aliyah, should any congregation choose to do so.

In a discussion of the matter with Rabbi Rocklin, he defined the conflict as being one between tradition and modern needs. He feels that in this instance no benefit would result to Judaism from a change in the traditional structure. Since the subject of ordaining women for the Rabbinate has arisen, a long list of Conservative Rabbis have signed their names opposing such procedure.

Rabbi Rocklin stated with emphasis, "The acid test of Judaism is that which has withstood the trial of time." He feels that the basic structure of our religion is weakened by a chipping away of the values of tradition. "I am frightened by the freedom to do your own thing," he said, "because I feel that we need the past, and through honoring it, we can protect our future." This brings to mind the admonition that those who ignore the lessons of history may be condemned to relive it. "I owe something to the past," Rabbi Rocklin declared, and quickly added, "and surely to the future. Our traditions are our cement — what has glued us together."

Wishing for his daughters every opportunity, he contends this is not a question of being for or against women. It may be doubtful that the need exists for such sanction. The question arises, would there be positions as Rabbis available to women in Conservative Synagogues, if any were ordained?

In these times it is Rabbi Rocklin's opinion that Judaism is a successful way of life, deserving of preservation in its traditional forms, because Judaism cares about the individual, and it has concern for the world and what we do with it, ecologically and morally. He concluded, "Judaism addresses itself to real people on life's necessities."

RANDOM THOUGHTS
does not appear this month as Muriel Levitt has been ill.

A warm welcome back to Marta Garelik & "The World Beat."



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