

Women's Division Education Day Huge Success!

by Ann Langman

Approximately 75 women attended the Women's Division Education Day program at the JCC entitled "Oil, Islam and the American Jew" on January 15, 1980. Gail Evans and Ruth Katz, partners of Global Research Services, Atlanta, Ga., the keynote speakers, led the group in a most stimulating and exhilarating process of education and discussion. They have lived in Moscow and the Middle East and currently are members of the Southern Center for International Studies advanced seminar programs. The audience was most attentive and responsive.

Ms. Evans and Ms. Katz explored the aspects of the Middle Eastern countries: their

cultures, their geography, and the way the Islamic mind thinks. They addressed themselves to the current situation in the Middle East and its effect on the American Jewish community. They brought out some very important facts, one of which is that only one country in the Middle East is not involved in some territorial dispute, and that is Egypt. This is one reason for her power. Another important point brought out was that between the two countries of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 83% of all oil productivity and profits emerge.

Ms. Evans stressed that in order for Americans to be able to deal with the present situation in Iran and the rest of the Middle East we must educate ourselves in the way the Arab mind functions. "What we are seeing

now in Iran and Afghanistan are the fruits of our ignorance." They pointed out that one of the most significant factors in Arab cultures is that they cannot separate church and state. This is the "walk and woof" of every fabric of society in the Islamic world. Every function of Islam's life is governed by a "shame" oriented society in contrast to western society which is "guilt" oriented. To the Islam, shame is the most devastating emotion they can experience, and dishonor can only be regressed by revenge. They also pointed out that as Americans we should be increasingly aware of the fact that "Westernism and Zionism" are linked together. The Islam feel that by being so "westernized" for so many years that they have lost their Islamic soul. The '67 war for Jews all over the world was one of pride and

honor. For the Arab world their shame was magnified, creating a burning need to recover from this feeling. They think in terms of time, and that in time they will overcome.

Another important factor brought out was that the Saudis cannot protect their oil fields alone and the key will be the U.S., Israel and Egypt working together to help them. Also that the importance of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt cannot be emphasized enough as each day it exists the relationships and friendships are strengthened between the two. This will lead to the creation of a climate for peace between the two nations. The more contact between the two, the more progress is made toward a lasting peace.

The discussion led into how the U.S. presents itself to the

world, how do we go about it in the best way, how to view Russia and deal with her. It was concluded that Americans do not act unless there is a clear and present danger. The rest of the world does not. Ms. Katz stated, "We must go out into the world. Israel needs a strong U.S., we need a strong U.S.; everyone does. And it behooves us to stand behind our country. Our power and effectiveness as Americans is most important. We are a barometer to Congress and our Senators. We help make their decisions regarding the importance of Israel in how much the government should contribute from the amount of dollars we as Jews raise."

Women's Division plans to hold more educational programs in the future. For further information contact Bobbi Bernstein at 366-0358.



Ruth Katz addresses women on Middle Eastern culture and geography. Photo by: Marv Kravitz



"We must educate ourselves in the way the Arab mind functions," said Gail Evans at recent Women's Division meeting. Photo by: Marv Kravitz

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The Fifth Annual Holocaust Essay Contest

When we announced the 4th Annual Holocaust Contest last year, we pointed out the heightened awareness of the Holocaust, aroused by the nine and one half-hour NBC series *HOLOCAUST*, shown from April 16th through April 19th, 1978 and watched by an estimated 122 million viewers.

This year, the President of the United States proclaimed April 28th and 29th, beginning with 1979, as "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust," and appointed a Commission on the Holocaust for the task of designing a fitting memorial in Washington, D.C. for the six million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism. We, therefore, expect to find an even greater response among our youth at this time. Besides, we decided to increase the award amounts and to provide a choice of three topics as follows:

Topic 1: FROM SILENCE TO OUTCRY. How do you account for the relative silence during the period of the Catastrophe and the ever-growing involvement thirty years later?

Topic 2: THE THEME OF



THE HOLOCAUST IN SOCIAL STUDIES TEXT-BOOKS. A survey on how the Holocaust theme is treated by history and social studies textbooks on the high school, college and university levels in your area. Give your response to the results of the survey and your recommendations.

Topic 3: CONFRONTING THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH THE LITERATURE OF SURVIVAL. One of the major methods of comprehending the reality of the Holocaust has been via memoirs, diaries and autobiographies. Indicate how insight into and understanding the reality of the Holocaust can be obtained through the literature written by the survivors of the Holocaust. Choose at least two examples from survivor literature for intensive analysis.

THE RULES OF THE CONTEST ARE:

1) Three prizes are offered, higher than in the preceding contests: first prize — \$400.00; second prize — \$300.00; third prize — \$200.

2) The contest is open to students of high schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions. The contestant agrees to the rules as stated.

3) Each entry shall reflect the independent research effort of the contestant.

4) The entry shall contain no less than 4000 and no more than 7000 words. At least four copies of each entry shall be submitted. Manuscripts shall be typed, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet.

5) Manuscripts shall not be

signed, but marked by a code. The identical code shall be marked on the sealed envelope attached to the submitted manuscript. The envelope should contain the name and address of the contestant, a short biography, name of the school and a bibliography of sources used.

6) All entries remain the property of the American Congress of Jews from Poland, which reserves the right to publish them in their entirety or in part.

7) The prize winners' names will be publicized in the press.

8) The panel of Judges consists of the following experts in the field of Holocaust literature: Dr. Bernard Cohen, Dr. Barry M. Dank, Dr. Judah Pilch and Dr. Abraham Zygielbaum, whose decision is final.

9) The closing date for submitting entries is: Yom Hashoah, April 13, 1980.

10) Manuscripts should be addressed to:

Benjamin Grey
Chairman, Contest Commission
6534 Moore Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90048

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