

Spotlighting Federation

*American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee
Feeding The Hungry*

By Richard A. Klein

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, established in 1914, is the overseas arm of the American Jewish community and is devoted to the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of Jews and Jewish communities in over 30 nations around the world. Its 1983 budget of \$43.3 million is funded primarily through Federation—United Jewish Appeal community campaigns.

JDC's first challenge in 1914 was to bring aid to the Jewish communities in Eastern Europe which were trapped by the warring forces of World War I. In Palestine, then a part of the Turkish empire, the heads of many Jewish farming families had been impressed into the Turkish army and into forced labor battalions, leaving their wives and children destitute. In the cities, the people isolated by the war, faced starvation. In response, the JDC mobilized the American Jewish community and sent food and money to the hungry and homeless.

In the years immediately following, many more Jews were brought to the brink of starvation by the fighting that continued in the "Pale of Settlement" along the Polish-Russian border. Hundreds of thousands were made homeless, and at one point as many as 60,000 orphans roamed the land. The JDC sent doctors, nurses, social workers, and most vital—tons of food and clothing.

The Jewish community of

Europe faced another emergency in the years before and after World War II, when the policies of Nazi Germany first stripped the Jews of livelihood and homes, and then systematically undertook their destruction. The care and feeding of the refugees and later, after the war, of the nearly 250,000 survivors in the Displaced Person camps of Europe and Cyprus were awesome tasks taken up by JDC and a responsive American Jewish community at a cost of scores of millions of dollars annually.

In recent years JDC's food-related programs have helped the poor and the elderly and people living in remnant Jewish communities in North Africa and Eastern Europe, who are all that remain of the once great Jewish settlements in Europe and the Levant.

To the aged and sick Holocaust survivors of Eastern Europe, the extra rations provided by JDC can mean longer life, allowing them to spend their remaining years with self-respect and dignity. To the poor children in the JDC-supported schools of North Africa JDC hot lunches mean a chance to grow up healthy and strong. For many it is their main meal of the day.

Throughout its history JDC has also responded to the needs of people of the general community living abroad who have been struck by man-made or natural catastrophe. Though these activities are a small part of JDC's work they represent a practical expression of the concern of American Jewry for all people in need.

Thus, in addition to their

generous individual support of non-sectarian charities, many American Jews also welcome a chance to render aid to non-Jews through JDC, which operates in the name of the American Jewish community.

As a result, in 1979, when Americans became aware of the great suffering of the Cambodians and the starvation there and among the Cambodian refugees in Thailand, they turned to JDC. JDC, in turn, opened its mailbox to donations for Cambodian Relief. In this manner over \$450,000 was collected and distributed.

In 1980, in response to a devastating earthquake near Naples, Italy, JDC again opened its mailbox receiving \$150,000 to alleviate the needs of the homeless and hungry.

JDC was called upon again in 1982, this time as part of an international program of aid for the people of southern Lebanon. Donations in cash and goods-in-kind reached \$2 million. JDC was one of the first voluntary agencies on the scene and as such played a pivotal role in the relief work. Much of the goods-in-kind were donated by voluntary groups in the USA, Europe and Israel and distributed by JDC.

Of particular concern to JDC and the world Jewish community today is the famine afflicting the sub-Saharan countries of Africa. Many hundreds of thousands of people are affected, including the long-suffering Falasha Jews of Ethiopia. Starvation is, regrettably, a fact of life and all people who care about people are urged to help bring this disaster to an end.

"Song of Radauti"

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Using still and moving images, Salzman chronicles Tirnauer's multi-faceted career as rabbi, shoiket (ritual slaughterer of animals for food), moyel (one who performs religious circumcisions) and surviving witness to the Holocaust.

Other community members

featured are: Mr. Beer, a furrier; Mrs. Weber, a hat maker; Mr. Lehrer, the synagogue's gaber (manager/treasurer), and others participating in the ancient Jewish worship services at the two remaining temples in the town.

SONG OF RADAUTI was funded by The Dolores Kohl Educational Foundation, Zuritsky Family and the Trick Foundation. This film is distributed to public television stations by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Chassidic Festival Performers



See ad on page 17 for further information.

Women's Division Plans Excursion To Washington

The Charlotte Federation Women is combining with a United Jewish Appeal mission to take a trip to Washington, D.C. to see an exhibit of Jewish historical and artistic objects and artifacts.

The exhibit, "The Precious Legacy: Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections," will be on display in the Evans Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History from Nov. 9 through Dec. 31.

The Federation trip will be a one-day affair scheduled for Dec. 7. The cost for the trip is \$230, which includes round trip air fare, ground transportation and lunch. The opportunity to take the trip is available to any woman willing to contribute at least \$1 a day to the 1984 Federation Campaign.

A check for \$230 should be made out to the Charlotte Jewish Federation and mailed to Renee Gorelick, 620 Edgemont Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28211 in order to secure reservations. For more information call Mrs. Gorelick at 366-1178, Ruth Goldberg at 366-8903 or Bobbi Bernstein at 364-8880.

- 8 a.m. Depart from Charlotte
- 9:05 a.m. Arrive in Washington
- 10 a.m. Israeli Embassy
- 11 a.m. AIPAC Briefing
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch at Capitol Hill with N.C. Congressional Delegation
- 2 p.m. Czech Exhibit
- 4:30 p.m. State Department or Pentagon
- 7 p.m. Depart for Charlotte

(See page 8 for more on Prague Exhibit and photographs.)



Succos Celebration

"I haven't seen something like this for some time, it brings memories," explained one of the participants upon entering the large Succah covered with fresh pine branches.

It was a Succah celebration at the Lubavitch Residence that brought some 150 people to participate in this traditional custom of rejoicing in the Succah, and partaking of traditional holiday food.

While the hotdogs were being prepared by Gary Waldman, Marty Kleinman, Julius Goldman and Jay

Simkin, many took the opportunity to say the blessings on the Lulav and Ethrog and "shake" them towards all directions.

On Simchat Torah night, there was a special "Hakofos" celebration beginning with a Kiddush and a festive meal, followed by joyous dancing with the Torah. Since the crowd was rather large, the men poured into the Succah and continued dancing for several hours, which left everyone with a warm feeling about "Yiddishkeit."

Swim And Tennis from page 1

ferent awards were presented to selected individual players. David Van Glish and Debbie Ostrow were awarded the "most valuable" players trophy. "Most improved" was earned by Julie Lerner and Mike Goldman for their dedication of practicing and playing. Eric Lerner and Laurie Goldman were honored with the "sportsmanship" trophy for their excellent attitude on

and off the court.

Other players who deserve special recognition in contributing to the teams' success are: Kevin Berzack, Nicole Berzack, Daniel Brenner, Andy Fligel, Carol Karp, Kim Kort, Alexis Lerner, Gary Lerner, Dan Meltsner, Debra Perlin, Lorin Silverman, Shara Silverman, Missy Van Glish and Ronnie Weiner.