

# Scientific Study Measures Attitudes Toward Israel

A new scientific study of the attitudes of American Jews toward the State of Israel has been released by the American Jewish Committee. The study, which was conducted by Dr. Steven Cohen of Queens College, indicates that American Jewish support for Israel is as strong — or stronger — than ever and that "broad psychic attachment to Israel" is widely felt.

Dr. Cohen's technique in producing the survey was to use "distinctive Jewish names" from the telephone book. Thus, his research was not confined to those Jews who are synagogue members or givers to the United Jewish Appeal. He was able to create a fairly representative sample of American Jews — some of whom affiliate with Jewish organizations and some of whom do not.

## Cohen's Findings

American Jews are strongly attached to and interested in Israel; 93% "pay special attention to newspaper and magazine articles about Israel"; 77% agree with the statement: "If Israel were destroyed I would feel as if I had suffered one of the greatest personal tragedies in my life."

One of the survey's more surprising findings is that fully 40% of U.S. Jews have visited Israel at least once; 17% have visited more than once.

There are also strong personal ties; 34% have family in Israel; 35% have friends there; 17% have "seriously considered" moving to Israel themselves.

The report has clear political implications; candidates who are suspected of not being supportive of Israel can write off the Jewish community; 73% of those surveyed agree that "Jews should not vote for candidates unfriendly to Israel." Almost a third have "in the past 12 months contributed money to a political candidate because he/she would support Israel."

## Other Areas

The survey delves into other areas of Jewish commitment as well. It finds that the most popular Jewish practice is to attend a Passover seder (89% do); 77% light Chanukah candles; 59% fast on Yom Kippur.

American Jews—like their brethren in Israel—are divided over particular Israeli politicians and policies. But over Israel's security itself, there is consensus. Steve Cohen puts it this way: "In brief, broad psychic attachment to Israel is still widely felt among American Jews...The findings suggest little or no erosion in the most fervent and passionate support for Israel. Caring for Israel still ranks with attending a Passover seder and lighting Chanukah candles as among the most popular and widespread contemporary expression of American Jewish commitment."

## Comparing Coverage

Dr. Rita Simon, Dean of Justice at Washington's American University, recently completed an analysis of press coverage of two Lebanon wars: the 1975-6 civil war and

the 1982 Israeli operation against the PLO. Simon's findings are summarized in the Fall 1983 *Middle East Review*, the journal of the American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East.

Simon examined coverage in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Los Angeles Times*. She found that "events in the Israel-Lebanon war were twice as likely to draw editorial attention than were those that occurred during the civil war; and three times as many columnists devoted space to the events in the Israel-Lebanon conflict as they did to those in the civil war."

Among the news magazines "the three major weeklies, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report*, were anti Israel" from the start of the 1982 war. "They disparaged suggestions that they, and the media, generally, exaggerated the bloodiness of the Israeli attack and were biased in their coverage of the war...The *New Republic* on the left and the *National Review* on the right, along with the *Wall Street Journal*, were the most pro-Israel of all 14 publications surveyed."

The Simon study confirms the findings of other analyses of Middle East media coverage. Her conclusion is dismal. She expects no change in the media's slant and predicts that—in the future as in the past—"...the PLO, Jordan, and ...even Syria will be portrayed as victims or underdogs in need of U.S. support and patience."

—M.J.R.

# Greenspon

From Page 1

tive on the behalf of the BBYO and Hebrew Academy. Mrs. Greenspon is the founder and first president of the Charlotte Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

In other business, recommendations of the Allocations committee were reviewed and final allocations of the \$777,000 raised in the 1983 Campaign were determined. Sixty percent of the money was earmarked for United Jewish Appeal distribution to Jews and Jewish communities around the world and in Israel. The remaining \$312,000, an all-time high, was allocated to meet the needs of local, regional and national Jewish institutions and organizations. Included were the JCC,

Hebrew Academy, Blumenthal Home, BBYO, Adl and Federation Social Services.

Most of the 19 members who recently returned from the five-day General Assembly of Federation held in Atlanta were at the meeting. More than 3,500 Jewish leaders from the United States and around the world attended. For Charlotte, the culmination of the intensive conference, which examined every aspect of Jewish life, came when Charlotte was presented with the William J. Schroeder Award for Community Excellence for the Charlotte Project. Secretary of State George Schultz was in attendance for that presentation.

# Super Sunday

From Page 1

This kind of one-day drive has been a major success in communities around the nation including our neighboring

Greensboro," Shreibman said. "We feel it will be welcomed in Charlotte by those we call on."

# Hanukkah Lights Military

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Hanukkah lights will be bright this year for U.S. Jewish military personnel, their families and patients in VA hospitals, thanks to the contributions received by JWB's Women's Organizations' Services and the efforts of Jewish chaplains and lay leaders.

In response to hundreds of requests from chaplains and lay leaders throughout the continental U.S., on ships at sea, and installations in Germany, Japan, Hawaii, England, Italy, and Korea, JWB shipped thousands of holiday gift items far enough in advance so that they would arrive in time for the Festival of the Lights.

JWB carefully selected these Hanukkah gifts to help people far from where they normally live create a Jewish ambiance in their temporary homes. The selection included Hanukkah gelt, dreidlach, mezuzot, menorot, candles, spiceboxes, pendants, pen sets, Israeli stationery, Jewish holiday books, alphabet blocks and other specially selected items for children.

Sisterhoods, JWB Serve-a-Committees, Jewish Community Centers and individuals generously contributed funds to JWB's Women's Organizations' Services earmarked for Hanukkah packages for Jews in the military and in VA hospitals.

"When one is stationed in not only a remote country in distance but in Jewish atmosphere as well, a Jewish gift from 'home' means so much," one Jewish chaplain wrote JWB, expressing a typical reaction of other chaplains and lay leaders to the Hanukkah gifts received.

JWB is the U.S. government-accredited agency that provides religious, Jewish educational, and morale services to Jews in the armed forces, their families and hospitalized veterans on behalf of the American Jewish community.

# Jewish Camps Offer Variety

NEW YORK, N.Y. — It began with the grateful words of a Jewish mother: "It was just what she needed. The 'growth' she experienced while at camp was phenomenal and she came home with an entirely new outlook on life and an appreciation of her Jewishness...now she is begging me to let her enroll again next year."

This from the mother of a first-timer at a Jewish communal camp where, besides swimming, playing ball and so on, some 850 boys and girls discovered and affirmed their identity as Jews.

Jewish communal camps, conducted by Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Centers, are living, creative "Jewish communities" where campers not only enjoy all the traditional activities of camping but, in addition, experience Jewish life on a daily basis, and thereby enhance the quality of Jewish life the year round.

The Jewish experience at four Jewish communal camps are described in the "Jewish Camping" theme section of the just published *JWB Circle*, Fall, 1983 edition.

"I know what an enormous impact my Jewish experiences at Camp Wise had on my life," writes Camp Wise Director Scott Brown. "It is my aim to reach other youngsters in the same way."

Shabbat is a highlight at Camp Wise, the resident camp of the Cleveland JCC. Themes include Jewish holidays, Jewish life cycles, the Diaspora and Israel. The preparations and celebrations are described in "The Jewish Experience at Camp Wise," a look at this country camp in Ohio.

Surprise Lake Camp, at Cold Spring, N.Y., a beneficiary of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, has had a lasting impact on its campers during its 81 years of significant life. It now has more Jewish-oriented activities than ever, and the addition of its Israeli staff has been a tremendous cultural force. The camp is one of the oldest, largest and most eminent Jewish camps in America.

Camps also serve as support systems for youngsters who have a hard time relating to other children or who find it

difficult following routines or directions. "A Special Camp for Special Needs" tells of the success of Round Lake Camp — the newest service of the New Jersey Y Camps, located at Lake Como, Pa., in the Poconos.



More than 4,000 Hanukkah gift items have been shipped by JWB to Jewish military personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces, their families and patients in VA hospitals. The gifts were made possible through JWB's Women's Organizations' Services and transmitted through the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. Assembling Hanukkah kits in JWB's Production Department are (left to right): Rabbi David Lapp, director, JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy; Michael Vecchiollo, supervisor, JWB's Production Department; Shara R. Gillman, administrative coordinator, JWC; and Ulysses Doyle, Production Department staff.

JWB Photo by Camera Arts