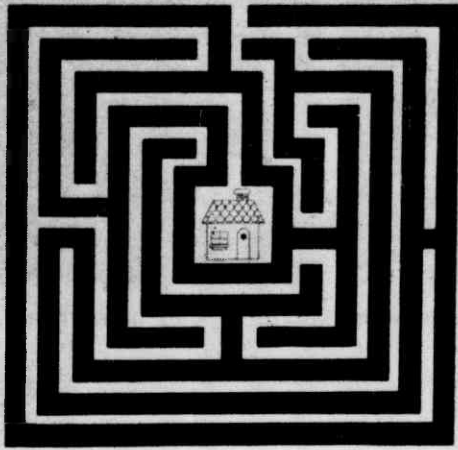


Community-Wide Shalom Newcomers Network Established

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A continent-wide Shalom Newcomers Network has been established by JWB and its affiliated Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHAs to help Jewish individuals and families who are moving to a new community to put down new Jewish roots.

Shalom Newcomers Network will deal directly with reconnecting "newcomers" to their new permanent communities.

The project recognizes the need to deal more effectively with the discontinuity resulting from the high rate of Jewish mobility.

"Various studies reveal that 10 percent of the Jewish population moves each year," JWB President Esther Leah Ritz and JWB Executive Vice-President Arthur Rotman said, "and those who do move need as long as five years to really reconnect, to establish roots in their new communities.

"The challenge to the Jewish community is to develop the kinds of programs that will help people reconnect more rapidly and at the same time strengthen their Jewish identification."

Joseph Kruger, of South Orange, N.J., North American chairman of the Shalom Newcomers Network Project, said, "There are many fine 'Shalom Newcomer' services in existence in numerous Jewish communities, and most of these are sponsored by local Federations.

"However, our concern is that little is being done to help Jewish people who are leaving one community to relocate in their new community.

"It is JWB's recommendation, therefore, that a Shalom Newcomers Network Project be a community-based undertaking, sparked by the Jewish Community Center, in close cooperation with the Jewish Federation, local synagogues and other communal organizations, thus contributing to the well-being of Jews moving from community to community.

"Jewish Community Centers are a primary point of entry for Jews in cities across the U.S. and Canada," Kruger said. "They offer outreach services and easy entry into the Jewish scheme of things.

"This makes JCCs particularly important when you consider that permanent relocation leads to a tremendous loss of connection with supportive Jewish life and a loss of leadership. It offers JCCs the opportunity to provide those services that keep Jews connected.

"JCCs and YM-YWHAs can serve a special function in helping to shorten the period of time of reconnection of Jews on the move with their new communities."

JWB will be a support system to its affiliated JCCs and Ys participating in the Network and will continue to provide them with materials and ongoing consultation.

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Birmingham's 35th Festival of Arts To Honor Israel

The Birmingham (Alabama) Festival of Arts, the World's oldest continuing arts festival, will celebrate its 35th year by honoring the arts and culture of Israel, April 25 to May 5, 1985.

The Festival of Arts, held annually, is a two-week exhibition of Israel's cultural, educational, historical and social accomplishments.

A highlight of this year's Festival will be a 10-day International Fair featuring the sights, sounds and flavor of

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the old City of Jerusalem. The Fair's theme "Shalom... A Trip Home," will be featured in the educational exhibits, popular Israeli foods, craft demonstration and travel information.

Throughout Birmingham, colleges, schools, museums, department stores and organizations will be sponsoring different events in honor of Israel.

The Birmingham Museum of Art will showcase "Israel in Antiquity," presenting artifacts on loan from the Jewish Museum of New York and The Israeli Museum in Jerusalem.

Dr. Ofer Bar-Yosef of Harvard University and Professor Eliezer Oren of Ben Gurion University will present several programs on archaeology. The American Friendship League is assisting in bringing Israeli mime artist Pablo Ariel who will perform throughout the community.

According to Edward Friend III, Festival President, "The Festival is the cultural

highlight of the American Southeast and it is one reason why Birmingham has received the 'Liveability Award' of the U.S. Conference of Mayors."

Support for the 1985 Salute to Israel has been received by El Al Airlines, the Embassy of Israel in Washington, the Consulate General of Israel in Atlanta, the Government of Israel Tourist Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel.

The American-Israel Cultural Foundation will sponsor Israeli Violinist Serqui Schwartz in concert with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Local productions will include the Southern Regional Opera's presentation of Verdi's "Nabucco," based on the biblical character Nebuchadnezzar. The Jewish Community Center Players will give six performances of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and the Birmingham's Children's Dance Company will perform

a musical, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego," based on the Old Testament.

Birmingham-Southern College will present the modern ballet "Waves of Time," and Samford University's "Festival Chorus" and members of the Alabama Symphony will present excerpts from Handel's oratorio "Solomon" and Leonard Bernstein's "Chicester Psalms."

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