



Focus on Federation — Part V

By Rita C. Mond

This is the last of a series of articles to better understand the importance and functions of The Charlotte Jewish Federation.

Though much of the money raised by The Charlotte Jewish Federation goes to local constituent agencies, over 60% goes to the United Jewish Appeal (UJA). These funds are transmitted to Israel primarily through the United Israel Appeal (UIA), Inc. which monitors and controls their appropriate and effective expenditure on programs that qualify under American tax laws.

As members of the Jewish community, we hold the Jewish future in our hands. Through the UJA we can help ensure the continuity of Jewish life wherever Jews live — in Israel, in the United States and in more than 30 other countries around the world.

Facing the Challenge

On November 10, 1938, Jewish homes, stores and synagogues were attacked in Nazi Germany and Austria. *Kristallnacht*, "The Night of Broken Glass," left an open wound on the hearts of Jews in every nation. In America, Jewish leaders realized that central fund raising was needed for relief and rehabilitation in Europe, mass resettlement in the land of Israel and aid to refugees in the U.S.

On January 10, 1939, William Rosenwald of the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of the United Palestine Appeal and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee signed the agreement that established the UJA. In its first Campaign, UJA raised nearly twice the amount its component agencies had collected the previous year.

During World War II, contributions of more than \$103 million aided the rescue and resettlement of 162,000 Jews from Nazi-occupied territories. When the full dimensions of the Holocaust became known, UJA leaders set a 1946 Campaign goal of \$100 million. They raised over \$131 million that year from a shocked and united American Jewish community.

Israel's birth in 1948 inspired another peak in contributions — \$147 million in cash. During the next 19 years, \$1.4 billion was raised for immigration and absorption, rural resettlement, education, housing and humanitarian programs. Two Campaign-funded rescue operations airlifted more than 170,000 Jews to Israel from Yemen and Iraq.



Deportation in Czechoslovakia, 1943
Photo credit/State Jewish Museum in Prague



Faces of Youth Aliyah: (L to R) from the devastation of the Holocaust; from the Jewish enclaves of North Africa; to the kibbutzim of Eretz Yisrael.
Photos/Herbert & Lenni Sonnenfeld

Victory Brings New Challenges

In June, 1967, the Six-Day War saw Israel fighting for its life on three fronts, gaining the Sinai and reuniting Jerusalem.

Every war increases Israel's human needs. As Israel struggled with the economic strain of mobilization, American Jews exceeded all previous standards of giving, contributing more than \$235 million to UJA's Israel Emergency Fund.

In the years that have followed, Jews around the world have begun to identify with Israel's success.

In 1978, the UJA, along with the Jewish Agency, the people of Israel and Keren Hayesod campaigns overseas, undertook a program to improve the quality of life in Israel's disadvantaged neighborhoods. During the next nine years, American Jewish communities pledged almost

\$200 million to Project Renewal.

When in 1984, a secret airlift brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, the American Jewish community immediately mobilized its resources. Launching Operation Moses in December 1984, UJA raised \$63.9 million in four months to shelter, clothe and care for these desperate refugees.

Participants in History

The first goal defined in Israel's Declaration of Independence is "Jewish immigration and the ingathering of the exiles." Since its founding year, Israel has taken in 1.8 million immigrants, including 163,000 Soviet and 14,000 Ethiopian Jews. For those seeking refuge in Israel from non-Western countries, the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption services begin outside of Israel and continue until the immigrants are per-

manently settled. Immigrants get financial aid during the transition period, living quarters in absorption centers and Hebrew language instruction. Tuition assistance is available for university students, money and care for families with health or social problems, and special rehabilitation for those unable to integrate into society through the basic absorption process.

Building Israel's Future

Founded in 1934 to bring children from prewar Nazi Germany to Eretz Yisrael, the Jewish Agency's Youth Ali-



Photos/Herbert & Lenni Sonnenfeld

yah schools have cared for 12 to 18-year-olds in each wave of immigration: Holocaust survivors from Eastern Europe, refugees from North Africa, Yemen, Iran and Ethiopia. Youth Aliyah has touched 232,000 children — one out of every 15 Jews in Israel.

In the 1970s, as the long-range effects of too rapid immigrant absorption became apparent, Youth Aliyah began enrolling Israeli youth from impoverished, troubled and disadvantaged homes. Its residential villages and other

schools now provide religious and secular education, vocational training and general care for more than 15,000 immigrant and Israeli-born children. Youth Aliyah has become a major vehicle for the social integration of youngsters who would otherwise remain outside the mainstream of Israeli society.

Developing the Land

Rural settlements have absorbed many immigrants. Since 1948, the Jewish Agency has helped establish 593 *kibbutzim* and *moshavim* inside Israel's pre-1967 borders. High-yield orchards have been planted on barren hills and hundreds of square miles of swamp and desert have been converted into fertile cropland.



Natti Miller examines tomatoes in his glass hothouse at Moshav Talmei Yosef.

Each year, more acres bloom with melons, tomatoes and green peppers. Fish are harvested from breeding ponds in the Negev, and in the Galilee, Israel's latest pioneers are struggling to develop non-polluting, high-tech industries.

The Jewish Agency assists these settlements until they are economically and socially viable. It helps them find the right balance of agricultural

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