relaxing trip.

## **JEWISH TRAVELER**

By Maxine Silverstein





Maxine with Rabbi Gurevich.

Our final port was Aruba and the Beth Israel Synagogue was setting up for their Hanukkah celebration while we were visiting. What a treat to spend Hanukkah in this beautiful Dutch port.

on the Ruby Princess was such a

Dutch influence still lingers on this balmy Caribbean island, part of the Netherlands Antilles until independence in 1986. Aruba is a contrast; the island's arid interior dotted with cactus and windswept divi-divi trees, while secluded coves and sandy beaches form its coast. Aruba's long and colorful heritage is reflected in its language. Called Papiamento, it is a tongue that combines elements of Spanish, French, Portuguese, Dutch, African and English. Jews have been recorded living in Aruba since the 16th century. In 1754, Moses Solomon Levie

Oranjestad Country Club

Aruba share their place

their ancestors.

contains back to 1563. This cemecenturies. The commucially organized. By Jews left Aruba for the closed. On November 4, 1962, the Beth Israel Synagogue was established in Oranjestad. Both Beth Israel and the Jewish Community of

of worship. Today the congregation has about 75 members, plus 180 over-seas members. Due to its small size, the synagogue blends Sephardic and Ashkenazic tradiSupport Local Business

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Sephardic Jewish family in Curacao, established himself in Aruba, with his wife and six children. Maduro worked for the

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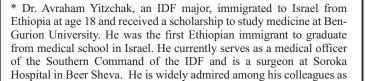
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