

From Page 10

The Angel

nihilate them.

I am sure we were all much moved by the book written by Mr. Lapid, the Director-General of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. He was only six years old when his mother was taken away. It was a tearful separation. The child was utterly forlorn: he was now motherless. As he was to write later, he was certain that he would never see her again. The mother embraced her son and kissed him, not knowing what would become of this tiny child. But after a while the mother returned. When the child asked her what had happened, she replied with one word; Wallenberg. The survivors called him "The Angel." He made immeasurable efforts to save as many Jews as possible. At the late date of 1944, when Nazi defeat was certain, the diabolical plan to send the Jews of Hungary to Auschwitz was set in motion. Wallenberg indirectly rescued tens of thousands, perhaps a hundred thousand. He personally saved thousands. His deeds are almost unbelievable; he placed his own life in jeopardy, day in and day out, in order to continue his rescue efforts.

Had he been with us today, we would be celebrating his 70th birthday. We Jewish citizens of Israel and millions of Jews throughout the world, as well as millions of people of good will of all nations — we would all have celebrated together. But he had disappeared. We have no definite answer. We know he was not murdered by the Nazis; he was arrested by the Russians. There has been an explicit announcement that he died in prison somewhere in the Soviet Union.

For many years his devoted family, his friends and we could not believe that

he was no longer alive. There were witnesses who claimed to have seen him in a prison camp. We preferred, then and now, to believe that this was so. But we do not know. We can only hope and pray that he is indeed still alive.

A committee composed of important public figures was established in this country, and another in his native Sweden. For many years these committees have tirelessly sought to locate Wallenberg, so that he might be freed, and hear us say this: Raoul Wallenberg: We who witnessed your dedication, your courage and steadfastness and your deeds of rescue — we have not forgotten you for a single moment.

But he is not with us, and we cannot join him in celebrating his 70th birthday. What we can and will do, however, is to declare solemnly — in the name of the entire Jewish people — that Raoul Wallenberg will never be forgotten in the annals of Israel. Every Jew, and every person of good will, bears his noble image — that of one of the most righteous of men, who rose up to help our nation in a time of trouble, distress, persecution and mass destruction. He acted to help us, to save the blameless souls of innocent people.

Raoul Wallenberg, the Jewish people is forever in your debt. In the eyes of the Jewish people, you are a hero of humanity, a person of great deeds. We shall hand this memory down to our descendants, to the generations yet to come, to be cherished always.

New Director

From Page 1

summer pleasure for many Center members; a July 4th picnic was enjoyed by more than 150 people; and a summer concert by the Charlotte Pops highlighted the cultural scene. Additional social and cultural events (including a 50 plus patio party on August 13 and a Luau dinner-dance on September 3rd) are planned for the remainder of the summer.

I want to personally thank the staff for their dedication and hard work. I also want to express my appreciation to all the Board and Center members who have volunteered their assistance during the last two months. It is, perhaps, a cliché, but any organization is what its members make of it, and the JCC has met the needs of the community during this difficult summer largely because of the volunteer effort.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and thanks!

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