

"Only In America" This Could Happen...

By L. Edward Sizemore

It is, as they say, a small world, and the Jewish world is even smaller. The October *CJN* carried an article on Littlesun Bordeaux, who recently was Bar Mitzvahed in Israel. I would like to amplify a bit about this young man and his family. When Faith and I lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, we knew the family quite well: The matriarch was Jean White, the grandmother; her two daughters, and the little kids (one of whom is now a mother!). Jean approached the Rabbi, Bill Gordon, and asked if he would undertake the Jewish education of her grandchildren, then went on to inquire as to which of the two ways he taught the laying of tefillin.

It started over a century ago, when a Jewish peddler married a Native American lady, who later converted.

Jean, her daughters, and the kids are all Jewish by birth, though also Sioux, of course. As best the family can tell, Littlesun (the preferred spelling) is descended from Chief Crazy Horse, though there is some question about this in some quarters. There is no doubt, however, that there were those who felt that Crazy Horse had been reincarnated in Littlesun, and he is highly regarded by the Sioux on the reservations who do consider him to be a Chief.

The family now resides in Spokane, Washington, and attends Temple Beth Shalom. I have no doubt that they contribute to the spiritual life of that synagogue in great measure, just as they did in Colorado Springs. While wishing to take nothing from the Sioux, I will also wish that Littlesun does, indeed, become a Rabbi — he will be a good one!

By Helene Nathanson

In the process of coordinating the Joint Sisterhood's Plea for Soviet Jewry, we were fortunate in being able to arrange for a speaker who is on the Board of the National Councils for Soviet Jews. Presently the Director of the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews, Sandra Spinner was recommended as one of the best speakers representing Soviet Jews in America.

Since I have a great interest in the issue of Soviet Jews and wanted to talk to Sandra at length, I invited her to stay at our home during her Charlotte visit.

I was delighted when, through our "contact person," Sandra accepted our invitation.

The next step was to call her for publicity background information. Although Sandra lives in Cincinnati, I immediately

detected a New York accent in her voice. This was confirmed when she told me she holds a Bachelor's Degree from Brooklyn College. Since my husband, Saul, is from Brooklyn, I asked Sandra what high school she attended.

"LaFayette," she responded. Saul went to Midwood; there was clearly no connection.

Sandra then mentioned that she has family in Brooklyn named Nathanson. "They couldn't be related to me," I replied. "I know all the Nathansons we're related to." "My husband's cousin is Tillie Nathanson," Sandra told me.

"That's my mother-in-law!" I answered. We then discovered that our husbands are second cousins. They remembered each other from Brooklyn 30 years ago!

That evening, "cousin Sandy" called back as we poured over Saul's Bar Mitzvah album — delighted to find that Sandy's uncle and grandparents were at Saul's Bar Mitzvah!

What began as a formal invitation extended to our

distinguished speaker had now become a family visit.

I decided to write about this amusing coincidence to Saul's mother. Sandy and I had the task of identifying those relatives we had in common. We knew that the link in America was her husband Jonathan's grandmother, who was Saul's great aunt.

I asked Sandy, "What was Jonathan's grandmother's name?"

"I really don't know," she replied. "We always called her Bubbe."

Not too helpful. I decided to ask Saul, who has a photographic memory.

"Saul, do you remember your great aunt — Jonathan's grandmother?"

"Yes."

"Did you ever meet her?" "Sure," he answered. "I remember visiting her in Coney Island, as a child."

Great. If Saul ever met this woman, he would definitely know her name.

"Do you remember her name?" I asked.

"Of course I do. Tante."

The mystery remains!

Women's Plea

(cont'd from page 1)

Hadassah and Women's Division of Federation. It is part of "Focus on Soviet Jewry" month which included Women's Division's program featuring Leonid Feldman, the first Russian emigre to obtain a rabbinical degree in the U.S.

Helene Nathanson, a coordinator of this joint Sisterhood event, stated: "A meeting concerning Soviet Jews is very timely in view of the current international political situation. The Soviet Government has previously responded to U.S. pressure and Charlotte presents an additional voice in support of the Refusenicks. The news media has shown great interest in this event and its impact will be determined by community support at this meeting. In the words of Anatoly Shcharansky 'Accept the moral challenge.' We must stand and be counted so that our brethren will know they are not alone."




Next Year in Jerusalem: UJA Nat'l Chmn. Martin Stein (L) & UJA Nat'l Vice-Chmn. Alan Ades and his wife, Ruth, (R) member of UJA Women's Division Nat'l Board visited Prisoners of Zion in the USSR denied emigration. With them are Anya Lifshitz (2nd from L) and her daughter, Masha, in Leningrad. Ades presented colored markers to Masha, who drew a map of Israel and wrote in Hebrew, "Next year in Jerusalem with mother, father and brother."



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