

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorial

A Message from Israel

The medieval poet Yehuda Ha-Levi said it best for those Jews who still live in the Diaspora in that strange dichotomy of spiritual longing to be in Israel while one's physical presence is in the Diaspora: "My heart is in the east while the rest of me is in the 'west.'" At no time is this split personality more pronounced than now.

As Scud missiles or Patriot anti-missile debris rain on our brothers and sisters in Tel Aviv, Haifa and environs, fear amidst the certainty of the defeat of Saddam Hussein grips the surest of hearts. Night after night of missile alarms and attacks have become part of the anxious routine. The putting on of masks in sealed rooms, the waiting for the all-clear sirens, and the temporarily euphoric relief of knowing there were only conventional and not chemical warheads on the Scuds gives some consolation — and then the Army Spokesman on TV describes the damage to life and property. Then CNN replays the actual horror minutes after the strike.

These scenes replayed over and over again for the survivors of the Holocaust in Israel, the widows and orphans, and the families of victims of previous acts of war and terror, create a mood of resignation and also of defiance not unlike that which grew to indomitable courage among those who endured the London Blitz. There is the helplessness of the victims, the speed of the impending destruction and the terror of not knowing when the strike will take place. The faces of my brothers and sisters in Tel Aviv, their eyes filled with anxious waiting, do not leave my mind.

I am now in the 'east' — soul and body. My children and grandchildren as well as Israeli children, grandchildren and adults do not leave home without their gas masks. Fifty years after Auschwitz, there is one Saddam Hussein who wants to "incinerate half of Israel" — or "gas it." He will fail — the fire will turn on him; the noxious gases will fill his nostrils. Those who live by the Scuds will die by them.

And yet it is not vengeance that is sought — only justice and peace. Amid the fires of war now raging in the Gulf and in Israel, a victim of that war, there is the hope that through the ordeal that is now taking place a secure peace will emerge for this part of the world — and that children going out to play will not fear the siren's sound with its promise of fire and destruction. Yes, all of us are now 'body and soul' in the *Mizrach*, the east. We pray for the peace of our people and for the entire family of man.

— Dr. Alfred Gottschalk
 President, Hebrew Union College-
 Jewish Institute of Religion

**Jewish Calendar
 Candlelighting**

- Mar. 1 - 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 8 - 6:06 p.m.
- Mar. 15 - 6:12 p.m.
- Mar. 22 - 6:18 p.m.
- Mar. 29 - 6:24 p.m. (1st Seder)
- Mar. 30 - 7:22 p.m. (2nd Seder)
- Apr. 4 - 6:28 p.m. (7th eve of Pesach)
- Apr. 5 - 6:29 p.m. (8th eve of Pesach)
- Apr. 12 - 7:35 p.m.



**Activists, Policy Makers to Examine
 U.S.-Mideast Policy at AIPAC's National Conference**

Over two thousand people from all fifty states will participate when the nation's pro-Israel community assembles Mar. 17-19 in Washington for the 32nd Annual Policy Conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Registration for the conference is now open. Members of Congress, Administration policy makers and Israeli officials will join delegates to focus on current concerns facing the United States-Israel partnership. AIPAC is America's pro-Israel lobby.

AIPAC's conference convenes as important issues challenge Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship. Participants will be briefed on diverse subjects such as the unfolding Gulf crisis, Soviet Jewish immigration, and scenarios for Mideast peace. Delegates will take part in issue-oriented and "how to" workshops on the Persian Gulf, working with the media, and grassroots political activism.

The conference opens on Sunday, Mar. 17, with a keynote address by Yitzhak Shamir,

Prime Minister of Israel. He will be followed by Congressman John Murtha (D-PA) who will give a perspective on Congress' role in shaping U.S. Middle East policy. AIPAC's Executive Director, Thomas A. Dine, will present "The State of AIPAC" report on Sunday evening.

Marina Furman, a leading Soviet-Jewish activist in Israel, will address the conference on Monday morning. Always a highlight of the conference, the banquet, to occur on Monday night, Mar. 18, will feature Senators John D. Rockefeller (D-WV) and Phil Gramm (R-TX), both strong supporters of Israel. Ambassador Zalman Shoval, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., will also address the gathering. The conference will conclude on Tuesday, Mar. 19, with remarks by General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the future of U.S.-Israel relations following the Gulf Crisis.

"The challenges for the U.S. and Israel in the Middle East are great, and American pro-Israel political activism is fundamental," says Tom Dine. "Activism

begins with knowing the facts about the issues and about how to be effective in our political system. Building this knowledge base is the goal of the conference. In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to understand the complex problems challenging Israel and to demonstrate our commitment to Israel's safety and security."

This year's conference will introduce AIPAC's Young Leadership Program, which will take place on Friday, Mar. 15 and Saturday, Mar. 16. This exciting event, designed especially for people between 25 and 40-years-old, will include VIP tours of the White House, State Department and Capitol Hill, and a cocktail reception with members of Congress.

"This year's conference theme is 'In shifting sands, America's friendship is Israel's strength,' and this has never been more true than it is today," said Arthur Cassell, North Carolina Chairman of AIPAC. "By continuing the education of this nation's current and future leaders, the AIPAC Policy Conference, and particularly the Young Leadership Program, will strengthen the foundation upon which the U.S.-Israel relationship is built."

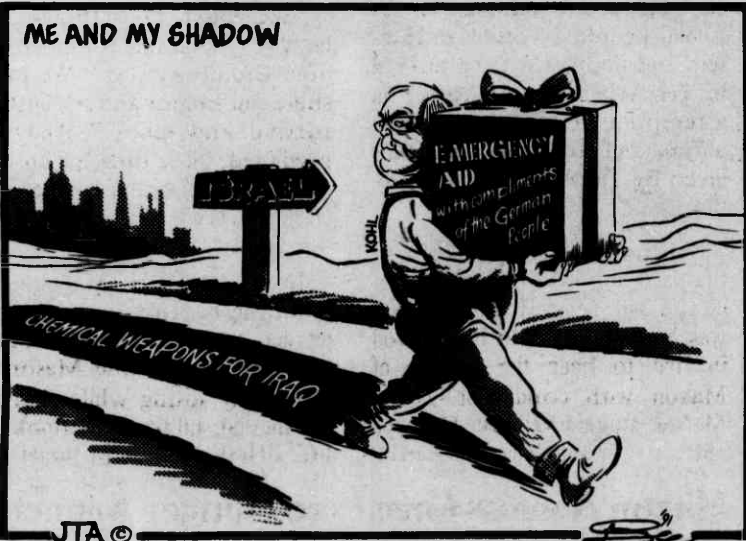
College student participation is an integral part of the policy conference. In addition to social events, student leadership from around the country will participate in workshops on campaign politics and student involvement in the legislative process. There will be a special workshop for students on responding to anti-Israel propaganda. Students may attend the conference at reduced rates. Limited subsidies are available for qualifying students. Call Rachel Weinberg for information, (202) 639-5241.

One-day rates are available, as well as special rates for those wishing to attend only the banquet. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Special room rates and air fares are available for conference participants. Travel arrangements can be made through Paramount Travel Agency, 1-800-852-1020.

To register and for more information on the conference, please contact Mark Moskowitz at AIPAC, (404) 333-8626.

We encourage our readers' viewpoints. Letters should be submitted typewritten and double-spaced and signed. Please include your address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit.

**Deadline for
 all copy for
 April issue is
 March 10.**



**Conference for Children Hidden
 During Holocaust to be Held**

The First International Gathering of Children Hidden During World War II will take place on May 26 and 27 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. The two-day conference is being organized by The Hidden Child Committee, a group of people who as children were hidden from the Nazis. Affiliated organizations are the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Child Development Research.

The purpose of this event will be to gather former hidden children from all over the world so that they may recall the past and understand how their experiences have shaped their lives. Through plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, films and exhibitions they will bear witness to an aspect of the Holocaust which has not been explored.

The conference organizers indicated that they hope to reach others like themselves who spent

the war in hiding; living in woods, attics, orphanages, convents, hospitals — with or without parents — or living openly under false identity.

The conference keynote speakers are renowned Jewish leaders who were themselves hidden as children. They include Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Yaffa Eliach, Broeklundian Professor of Judaic Studies, Brooklyn College and Aharon Appelfeld, noted Israeli author.

The committee planning the event is eager to contact all former hidden children. Initial interest indicates that there will be participants from the United States, Canada, Israel, South America, Holland, Belgium, France and Poland. Those who were hidden children, know someone who was, or want more information may write to The Hidden Child, P.O. Box 1085, Riverdale, NY 10471 or call (212) 886-9898.

**PASSOVER
 GREETINGS**

