

## Centuries Old Dresden Choir Performs in Canadian Synagogue

TORONTO (JTA) — One of Germany's best-known choirs, the Dresdner Kreuzchor, recently marked an artistic milestone on the road to German-Jewish rapprochement when it performed Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elijah" here at Holy Blossom Temple.

For the eternally youthful choir, composed of 150 Lutheran boys between the ages of 10 and 18 — of whom 88 were in Toronto — the Canadian debut was more than just another destination on the choir's 140-concert-a-year schedule. It was the first performance in a Jewish house of worship in the nearly eight centuries of the Dresden Church of the Cross Choir's musical history.

Impresario Claus Kirchhof of Elbe Star Inc. invested three years of planning and considerable personal financial risk in the ecumenical spectacle — which featured the Reform shul's cantor, Benjamin Maissner, and soloists from the Berlin State Opera, the Dresden State Opera and the Leipzig Opera.

For Kirchhof, a 54-year-old native of Dresden, the performance was the culmination of a lifetime identity crisis rooted in his childhood status as an "eighth-degree mischling."

Under the arcane rules of Nazi racial pseudoscience as set out by theorists Hans Gunther and Alfred Rosenberg, those who, like Kirchhof, had one Jewish great-grandparent, were considered Aryan. But for many in that situation, that trace of Jewishness was a cause for racial stigma and social ambiguity.

Seeking to escape his prolonged trauma, Kirchhof moved to Canada in 1956. Today he operates a pharmaceutical supply company in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga — and works to heal the wounds of World War II by promoting German-Jewish dialogue.

Kirchhof originally planned

an ambitious eight-city North American tour that would serve as a "gesture of reconciliation between Germans and Jews," but limited sponsorship forced the cancellation of planned appearances in Boston, Cambridge, Providence and New Haven, and grand finales at New York's Carnegie Hall and Philadelphia's Academy of Music.

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His son, also named Arsenius, converted to Christianity and reached the status of senator in the Byzantine capital Constantinople. Nevertheless, he retained contacts with his family and his hometown, and was even involved in the construction of the city wall.

Silvanus was killed by a Christian mob in 529, during a Samaritan revolt against the Christians. The Christians claimed that Silvanus used his important status to work against their community.

### Dutch Aid Ethiopian Absorption

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — The Dutch government has given Israel emergency assistance in the amount of \$500,000 to help resettle immigrants from Ethiopia, subject to one condition.

The grant, by the Ministry of Development, will be strictly supervised by the Netherlands Embassy in Israel to make sure that the immigrants are not housed or settled in the administered territories.

### German Church to Purge Offensive Texts

BONN (JTA) — The Protestant church in Germany has acknowledged that anti-Jewish passages still exist in its texts and is determined to purge them, the church's central organization, EKD concluded that all texts

Beth Ames Swartz is a seasoned artist who believes artists can lead the way toward a transformation of our culture. She demonstrates this profound belief in her new show, "Of Earth And Spirit," which opens February 5 in Artefino Gallery, 119 East 7th Street.

"Creative people have before them the opportunity to think

of themselves as leaders of a new cultural paradigm rather than reflecting an old one," says Swartz, who divides her time between studios in Arizona and New York. "My art, as well as my life, is devoted to creating images that are not only uplifting but invite the viewer to become a positive change agent in the service of sustaining life on the planet."

This philosophy is aptly reflected in "Of Earth And Spirit," which contains selected works from 1982 through 1992. Included are paintings from the series, "Healing Our Sacred Wounds," which deals with transforming psychological wounds that are projected out toward the planet and reconnecting with the earth as a living organism.

Also in the exhibit are pieces from "Israel Revisited," a historical and visual statement that arose from the artist's study of the Kabbalah, a system of Jewish mysticism. The pieces are mixed media on layered paper and collage on canvas.

### Israeli, Arab Scientists Cooperating

TEL AVIV (JTA) — There is an unusual secret collaboration in animal husbandry between Israeli and Arab scientists from Persian Gulf states.

Scientists from Saudi Arabia and Dubai, one of the United Arab Emirates, have visited Israel on several occasions, although most of the meetings between Israeli researchers and their Arab colleagues have been held in Europe.

But Arab scientists came to Israel in the context of cooperation with a research group at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, which is studying how to improve species of ostriches, camels, sheep and goats. The emirate of Abu Dhabi has also requested Israel's assistance in breeding a species of racing camels.

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Beth Ames Swartz.

exhibitions and three traveling museum exhibits. Her work is featured in many prominent collections including the Jewish Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum and the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. A book documenting her career, **Connecting** by Mary Carroll Nelson, was published in 1984 and, most recently, she was documented in the 1991 **The Reenchantment of Art** by Suzi Gablik.

In a 1988 essay, John Perreault, art critic and past president of the American Section, International Association of Art Critics, identified Swartz as a pioneer. He called for a new world "that is not doctrinaire but forward looking and respectful of others and our environment... Eventually Beth Ames Swartz will be identified as one of the artists who initiated this transformation."

A professional artist for over 35 years, the 55-year-old Swartz has to her credit over 25 solo

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