

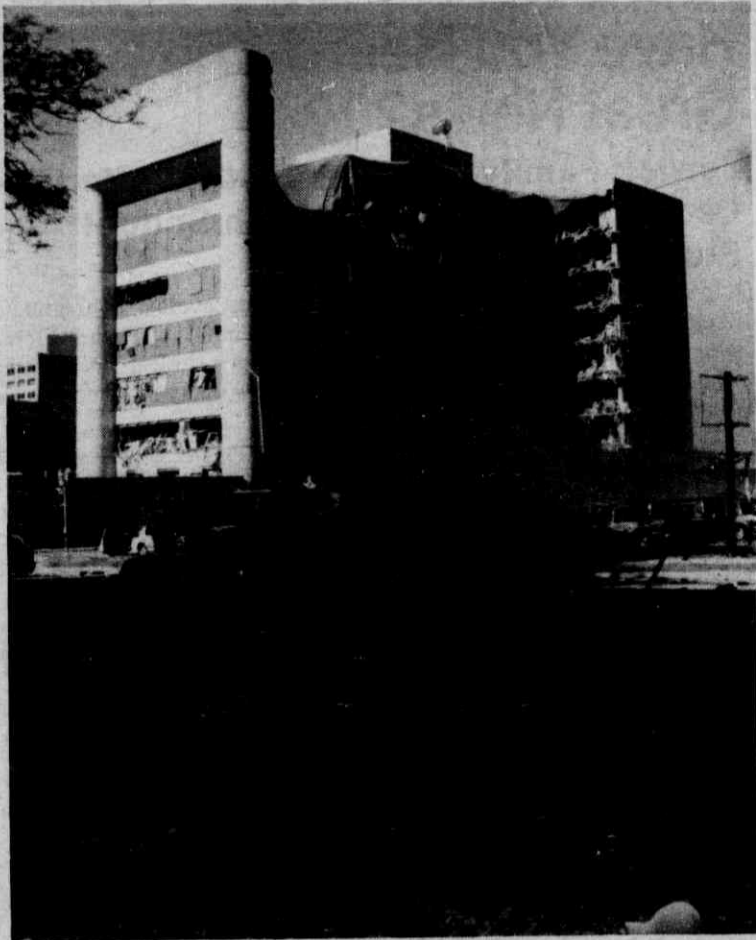
# "No One Can Hide"

by Harvey Cohen

What happened to the Jewish community in Oklahoma City after the horrible bombing in April? How many Jews, if any, were killed? How many were missing? To learn, I called the Federation office there and talked with Edie Roodman and Linda Billen.

Roodman, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City, told me, "Our metropolitan area is just under a million; the Jewish community here numbers about 2,500. But because we are so small, we are very close and we are all feeling the pain from this." She went on to say that the Federation office is about six miles away from the downtown area, so they were all right in terms of damage from the blast. She said, "...no Jewish people were listed as being killed or missing." During a conversation with her days later, she said there might be one Jewish man, a recent arrival to the city, who may be among the missing.

Linda Billen, a staff member of the Federation, was also very helpful. She told me the Jewish community "...has placed close to 100 volunteers downtown. Those volunteers delivered meals, snacks, tools and miscellaneous items to "Ground Zero." This is an area just outside the fence that is closest to the bombed-out building. She added, "Rescue workers and law enforcement personnel received hourly (around-the-clock) visits to boost morale (even in the unseasonably cold and wet weather).



B'nai B'rith International has set up a fund for the victims. Donations can be sent to the B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

The following is an excerpt of a "Letters" column to the editor of the Oklahoma Gazette. The writer states what so many of us think and feel about the Oklahoma City tragedy:

"Editor-Beirut, Lebanon. To-

kyo. New York. Dublin. London. Bosnia. Sarajevo. Bogota. Chechnya. Tel Aviv. Belfast. Oklahoma City? What could we possibly have in common with the "understandable" political targets associated with the wanton taking of lives to make a point? The point? No One Can Hide.

"What can never be forgotten about April 19, 1995, are those men and women who will never know what cause chose them as examples and turned them into statistics. Also marked are the children and babies who will never grow up to find out what a cause is or why a person would choose to die in such an idealistic and noble fashion. There were no such choices on April 19, 1995. It could have been anywhere. There was no such thing as a place to hide."



Thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City for their help and the *Oklahoma Gazette* for permissions.

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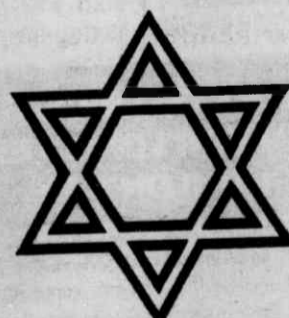
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