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Jewish Humanitarian Aid Intensifies as Conflict Continues Local Charlotte Efforts Raise \$9500 to Date

NEW YORK — With no quick end in sight to the Kosovo crisis, Jewish leaders and relief organizations fear continued fighting there will further exacerbate human suffering. That, says Carole Solomon, national chairman of the UJA-Federation campaign for United Jewish Communities (UJC), puts added pressure on humanitarian aid efforts mounted by Jews in North America.

Spearheading the international effort since the second week of fighting are UJC's two overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Israel government.

Jews both here and in Israel have responded to the plight of refugees with donations of food, clothing, medicine, and other assistance. They're doing so through relief mailboxes



Food airlifted from Israel by the Jewish Agency eases the difficulty of life in a Macedonian refugee camp for these Yugoslavian children. More than 100 tons of humanitarian aid, as well as medical facilities staffed by Israeli doctors and nurses, have been provided.

created by United Jewish Communities and its member federations; and by supporting relief

flights from Israel servicing camps in Albania and Macedonia and bringing Jews and non-Jews back to Israel for safe haven.

Israel, the Jewish Agency, and JDC have provided more than 100 tons of humanitarian aid, as well as medical facilities staffed by Israeli doctors and nurses, said Ms. Solomon, just back from a fact-finding mission to Israel, Macedonia, and Hungary. In Budapest, temporary home to increasing numbers of Jews fleeing Belgrade, she described conditions as "extremely tense." At a hotel housing refugees, women and children greatly outnumber men of army age, reflecting their inability to leave Yugoslavia. Many have seen their homes and villages destroyed in the fighting that's engulfing Kosovo and other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

JDC has been assisting some 200 Jews who reached Budapest by bus, setting up temporary shelters in community centers and synagogues. It has also dispatched a team to Albania to link up with other international relief organiza-



Young Jewish refugees from Yugoslavia find safe haven at a temporary shelter in Budapest. They are among some 200 Jews being aided by the Hungarian Jewish community, JDC, and the Jewish Agency, part of a Balkan relief effort supported by the UJA Federation.

tions to determine what further aid is needed.

Solomon, who traveled to the region with Jewish leaders from Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago, praised the Jewish Agency effort to bring some 140 Jewish teens and young adults from Budapest to Israel on pre-aliah programs.

Other non-Jewish refugees coming to Israel will receive full absorption assistance, including work permits. Many will live at a field house in northern Israel once used by refugees from Bosnia.

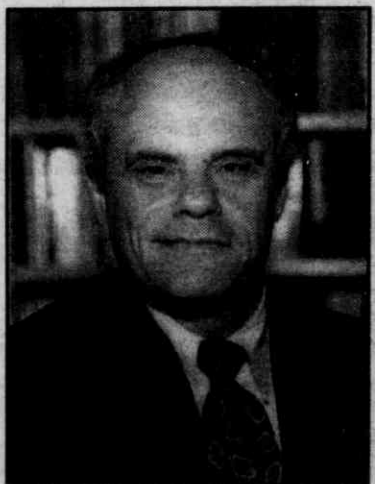
"It was the first time in quite a while they had things given to them instead of taken from them," Solomon said. ✪

The Aftermath of the Israeli Elections Domestic, Regional, and International Implications with Kenneth W. Stein Presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Thursday, June 3, 1999
7:30 PM
Temple Beth El Sanctuary

Leading a historical and analytical insight into the upcoming Israeli elections as Israel enters her second half century of existence, Dr. Stein will discuss how the new alignment of the Israeli parliament will shape the definition of the state internally and externally and how those who are elected will affect the intense debate about critical issues concerning Judaism's role in politics, connections with American Jewry, conduct of negotiations with Arab neighbors, the pace of social integration of immigrant and ethnic groups, and diplomatic relationships with Europe and the United States.

Dr. Ken Stein is the William E. Schatten Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History and Israeli Studies at Emory University and a regular



Kenneth W. Stein

contributor to The Charlotte Jewish News. His insightful and thorough analyses of Israeli and Middle Eastern current events have made him a well-known columnist in Jewish community journalism. ✪

Facility Flashes! New Facilities Will Help Temple Beth El Fulfill Jewish Educational Mission

Each month The Charlotte Jewish News will offer a brief overview of how the Shalom Park expansion will impact the various agencies and institutions that participate here.

Two years ago, the results of Temple Beth El's Project Joseph (their strategic planning research project) gave voice to the preferences of its membership. Unmistakably, what was foremost in the minds of the body of members completely coincided with the visions of its rabbinical and professional leadership - education of the congregation's children is the #1 priority.

Inspired and guided by the vision of Rabbi Jim Bennett, the Temple's leadership defined a three-pronged approach to fulfilling this Jewish educational mission. First, dedicate resources to hiring a quality Jewish educator who would infuse the religious school with dynamic educational thought. Next, the educational director would need to energize the curriculum with innovative approaches and train the teaching staff to implement the new learning agenda with robust, new methodologies. Finally, there was a need to

build state-of-the-art educational facilities to enhance the learning environment.

In relatively short order the Temple's leadership hired Rabbi Judy Schindler, an outstanding and talented Jewish educator. Rabbi Schindler has instilled new spirit and sharpness into the Temple Beth El religious school. Now, according to Holly Levinson, co-chairperson of the Temple's Building Committee, "The Shalom Park expansion and endowment project helps us establish the third component of our campaign to provide the highest quality Jewish education for the children of our congregation."

The Shalom Park expansion will provide Temple Beth El with its own education wing in close proximity to the Temple itself. Levinson adds that, "Having the religious school within a few steps of Temple Beth El helps us accomplish two goals simultaneously. By being part of the overall Shalom

Park building complex, that includes Temple Israel, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Day School and the other Jewish communal institutions, our children remain an integral part of the community and benefit from celebrating all that we have in common as Jews. And, by being so close to the Temple we can more easily expose our students to the sanctified space that will help them develop the unique religious components of their Jewish identity."

The new, three story facilities will give the Temple Beth El Religious School approximately 17,000 square feet of "dedicated" space. This means that there will be age-appropriate rooms and that the same class will use the same room throughout the school year. Teachers will be able to develop consistent and creative educational environments, will have opportunities to exhibit displays to coincide with lesson plans and will have adequate space to exhibit students' work.

Imaginative room design will allow students to learn in pods, creating exciting learning synergies and enabling educators to maximize a variety of resources. A music room with tiered seating and an art room complete with a variety of aesthetic assets enhance the educational climate, giving students

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Teresa Strasser questions what it's all about

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