

Pen-Pal Exchange Blossoms Into Documentary Film

Special To The Post
Take two sets of pen-pals, one in California and the other in Israel. Have them correspond during elementary and junior high school.

Then bring them all together. It's all part of an imaginative program called "We Are All One People," begun by Mrs. Regina Shapiro of Los Angeles and now the subject of a fascinating educational film, with the same title, that has just been made available for purchase and rental.

In 1971, Mrs. Shapiro began tutoring in a poor Los Angeles neighborhood. She selected a class at the Sturn Street Elementary School, and began to work.

When she first arrived, the class was complaining that they had written a letter to President Nixon, but had received no reply.

"I suggested that if they wanted to write to someone, they should write to children in Israel," she says.

"When the children wanted to know why they should write to Israel, I explained how Israel was surrounded by hostile countries, and as a result, children their own age had to



PEN-PALS MEET Sara Batach of Beit Shan (left) greets her pen pal, Valerie Cates of Los Angeles, in Israel after the two girls exchanged letters from six years in an imaginative program called "We Are All One People," begun by a volunteer inner-city teacher in Los Angeles named Genie Shapiro. With the help of L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, actor Tom Bosley and others, the American

teen-agers — three blacks and one Korean Black — flew to Israel to see the country and meet their Israeli correspondents. "What I found was a really friendly country with all kinds of amazing things to see," Valerie said on returning home. The girls' visit is the subject of a prize-winning documentary film, "We Are All One People."

everyone who was discriminated against must be Black. "There was immediate affinity," she says.

Describing the situation in Israel to inner-city children in Los Angeles, took a bit of explanation, she recalls, because they didn't know what shelters were and they thought

"Shortly after I began tutoring, I was coming to Israel for a visit, and I told the children I would bring their letters with me." She

said. Along the way, she hoped to find a place to distribute the letters to children who actually slept in shelters. And so it was then she heard about Beit Shean, along Israel's border with Jordan, and located students at the Gilboa School who would cor-

respond with her children.

At first the exchange of letters took place only occasionally. Pupils on both sides of the ocean had to develop their communication skills. Eventually, however, the classes began sending letters back and forth quite regularly.

"We wrote letters simply because it was a nice thing to do, but after a while it got more serious," says Beit Shean pupil Yael Darmona.

"In my letters from Valerie Cates, she would ask general questions about life in Israel," Sara Batach says. "like how many people live on akibutz, what we do on Shabbat, and what my family and friends are like."

By the time the groups were in junior high, the Americans were at several different schools. But they formed a club and met regularly to continue the correspondence.

The Los Angeles student, Valerie Cates, who had written a 40-page school paper on Israel, thought wistfully about one day meeting her pen-pal, Sarah Batach. Mrs. Shapiro then

set about to raise funds for a trip to Israel to be taken by the American students. Friends urged her to record the visit on film to keep it alive. Eventually more than \$80,000 was on hand, in donations from Jewish groups and from individuals such as actor Tom Bosley, who paid the cost of the students' trip.

The 45-minute film, which has been seen on nationwide TV, covers the flight to Israel, the airport meeting and the 17 days the children spent with their pen-pals. A 28-minute version is also available. Both are in color and may be purchased or rented from Film Fair Communications, 10900 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, California 91604.

Said the director of the National Organizations Advisory Council for Children, Stephen Menchini: "We Are All One People" is a lyric and exciting piece that evokes a strong and telling sense of justice and compassion. It speaks beautifully to the global perspective of a world that is concerned with quality of life."

Public Can Look For Huge Deficits

Continued from Page 1
and arms procurement by 90 percent between 1980 and 1983, compared to an expansion of only 60 percent during the highly inflationary Vietnam War buildup (1965-68). Since the present buildup involves greater relative spending and the economy remains weak and inflation-prone, a quick recovery from the present recession would cause higher inflation than we experienced during either the Vietnam or Korean War periods.

CEP notes that shortages of skilled labor and productive capacity could greatly expand the cost of Reagan's five year defense program if the administration's optimistic inflation estimates are just a few percentage points too low.

Position Eroded
The study examines the argument that civilian spinoffs from military research and development stimulate economic growth. While it is true that military research has led to important discoveries in some fields, the United States has had little success in using these discoveries to create and market new products that will provide jobs and economic growth. Our vital high technology industries are being starved for capital and scientific and engineering talent by the diversion of resources into military research and development and procurement. The result: Japanese companies capture larger and larger shares of high technology markets.

Unemployment Crisis

Military spending will not solve the nation's severe unemployment problem. Few jobs will be created for semi-skilled and unskilled workers who are hardest hit by layoffs and recessions. Most jobs will go to technically skilled people who presently enjoy a relatively low unemployment rate. Moreover, military contractors are concentrated in the sunbelt states, not in the older industrial regions of the northeast and midwest where unemployment is felt most severely.

Reductions in human services to finance the military program have already hit the nation's poorest citizens. Over sixty percent of those below the poverty line receive almost no assistance from social

safety net programs.

DeGrasse concludes that "Given our present economic crisis, we can ill afford to waste precious resources on the Pentagon. Our economy is being held hostage by a wasteful defense bureaucracy that has exaggerated the threat we face."

SUBSCRIBE

TO THE POST

Call **376-0496**

Are You Missing Some Of The Happenings? You Can Read About Them In The Exciting New Charlotte Post

Let Us Mail You **The Charlotte Post**

Each Week For Only **\$15.60 Per Year**

Call **376-0496**

SAVE WITH **WINN-DIXIE** play **BAG**

BINGO

COPYRIGHT 1982 WINN-DIXIE CHARLOTTE, INC. QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED. PRICES GOOD THRU SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1982.

PINKY PIG FRESH PORK

FULL QUARTER LOIN PINKY PIG BRAND FRESH ASSORTED CHOPS

\$1.18 LB.

THRIFTY MAID SUGAR

5.98 LB. BAG

LIMIT 1 WITH \$10.00 OR MORE FOOD ORDER

WHOLE W.D. BRAND SMOKED PICNICS

78¢ LB.

4 TO 8 LB. AVG.

WHOLE SLICED . . . LB. 88¢

FAB DETERGENT

\$1.39 49 OZ. BOX

LIMIT 1 WITH \$10.00 OR MORE FOOD ORDER

Southern Pride CUBE STEAK

\$2.48 LB.

W.D. BRAND U.S. CHOICE

WESSON OIL

\$1.59 48 OZ. BTL.

LIMIT 1 WITH \$10.00 OR MORE FOOD ORDER

SUPERBRAND ORANGE JUICE

89¢ HALF GALLON

100% PURE FLORIDA

\$1.77 GALLON . . .

SUPERBRAND MARGARINE

3 1 LB. PKGS. **\$1**

LIMIT 6 WITH \$10.00 OR MORE FOOD ORDER

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY—ALPHA LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER

proudly presents **JAMES BALDWIN'S MASTERPIECE**

AMEN CORNER

... one of those productions you wait years to see and then feel the wait was worthwhile. AMEN!" Atlanta Constitution

... you'll want to laugh, cry, stomp your feet & clap your hands as the cast moves through the story of unfulfilled black love/hate." Atlanta Voice

PERFORMED BY **THE HABARI THEATRE ENSEMBLE OF ATLANTA**

FEATURING: **REV. BENNY LEON DAVIS and the BENNY DAVIS SINGERS**

Coming to you after Smash Successes in Alabama and Georgia
ONE PERFORMANCE—ONE NIGHT ONLY
Sunday, March 14, 1982, 7:00 pm Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte, N.C.

RATED G
RESERVED SEATS ONLY:
\$10.50 ORCHESTRA, \$9.50 MEZZANINE & BALCONY

Secure your tickets early from any member of the sorority or call 372-9360 (day) or 392-4538 (night) to arrange delivery. Additional tickets available at Spirit Square box office (downtown), G.M. Productions (Independence Plaza Bldg.) and the lovely new McDonald's cafeteria (Beatties Ford Road)